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MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 39, Folder 10, National Council of Churches, 1982-1983.



Oh God, the time for weeping's past.
Too late we hear the now still cries
Of those martyred for Your sake.
We do not come to mourn
But to remember
That through them Your legacy lives on--
We are their unknown heirs,
Renewed by the memory of a people
Reborn in the light of Your Torah,
A flame eternal, however dark the hour.
(from "Yom HaShoah Service," Congregation Beth-El of Sudbury River Valley.)

Yom Ha Shoah

"Memory defies oblivion, breaks the coils of the present, establishes the continuity of the generations, and rescues human life from futility. It affords the true resurrection of the dead. The act of remembering is thus in itself redemptive. If, on the one hand, it involves a chastening assessment, it involves, on the other, a comforting reassurance. . . . If it looks backward, it does so only on the way forward."

Theodore H. Gaster

Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) was established in 1951 by the Israeli Knesset in a resolution which proclaims the 27th day of Nisan (March-April) as "the Holocaust and Ghetto Uprising Remembrance Day--a day of perpetual remembrance for the house of Israel."

The word which is used for "Holocaust" in Hebrew is shoah which means wind, a destructive whirlwind which consumes completely, or which sucks life out of all in its path, bringing a return to primal chaos. Shoah stands in opposition to the Hebrew word ruah which means wind as spirit, or living breath: God breathed upon creation the breath of life.

On October 7, 1980, Congress voted unanimously to create the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. In that legislation it directed the Council to create a living museum and memorial to the victims of the Holocaust and to honor their memories in annual Days of Remembrance.

NCCC COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN JEWISH RELATIONS

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 23, 1983

AGENDA

*Fisk - slavery
Suzanna - to Warren
Shalom curriculum -
Covenant*

*videotape -
Phila - the board*

I. Minutes of the April 14, 1983 meeting

II. Staff Reports on Programs

- A. Holocaust Memorial Council Project
- B. Congregations in Dialogue Program
- C. Teacher Education Program

*25 cities - 5 neg training
UJHC*

*- denominations / B Methodist -
Dunbury -
Harriet Miller, Dayton*

III. Meetings and Activities

- ✓ A. Bellingham Forum and World Council of Churches Assembly - NACE
- ✓ B. Future plans with the Synagogue Council of America - Dwayne Epps
- C. Consultation with the American Jewish Committee - nuclear
- D. Presentation to the National Jewish Community Relations Council
- ✓ E. Denominational Consultations

IV. Middle East Concerns

- A. Update on NCC participation in the UN Conference on Palestine
- B. Report on the Middle East Council of Churches meeting in Geneva
- C. Status Report on the Bishop Armstrong trip to the Middle East
- D. Proposed Retreat with the NCC Middle East Committee
- E. MEC Issue Paper on Israeli Settlements

V. Financial Review

- A. Revised 1983 Budget Review
- B. Holocaust Memorial Council Grant
- C. Funding for Teacher Education Program
- D. Funding for Congregations in Dialogue Program
- E. Denominational funding committee

VI. Report on the Office Evaluation Process

VII. Committee leadership

VIII. Plans for the October 20-21, 1983 Committee Meeting

IX. Date for the next Standing Committee Meeting: September 14th?

X. Other

*Bryan
Hehir*



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.

OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

David E. Simpson
Director

Landrum Shields
Chairman

June 7, 1983

Rabbi Seymour Siegel, Executive Director
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council
425 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Rabbi Siegel:

We are pleased to forward to your office the enclosed Final Report on the 1983 Holocaust Remembrance Project which was sponsored by the Office on Christian Jewish Relations of the National Council of Churches in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. The report indicates a successful outcome in response to our collective efforts and a renewed commitment to an expanded scope of Holocaust commemoration activities in the future.

Attached to this report are sample copies of correspondence related to the project, publications which resulted in denominational and ecumenical magazines and newsletters and literature which was developed by our Office for the project.

A proposal is forthcoming from the National Council of Churches recommending a two year program with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council for the future. We look forward to meeting with you and members of your staff to discuss our future plans.

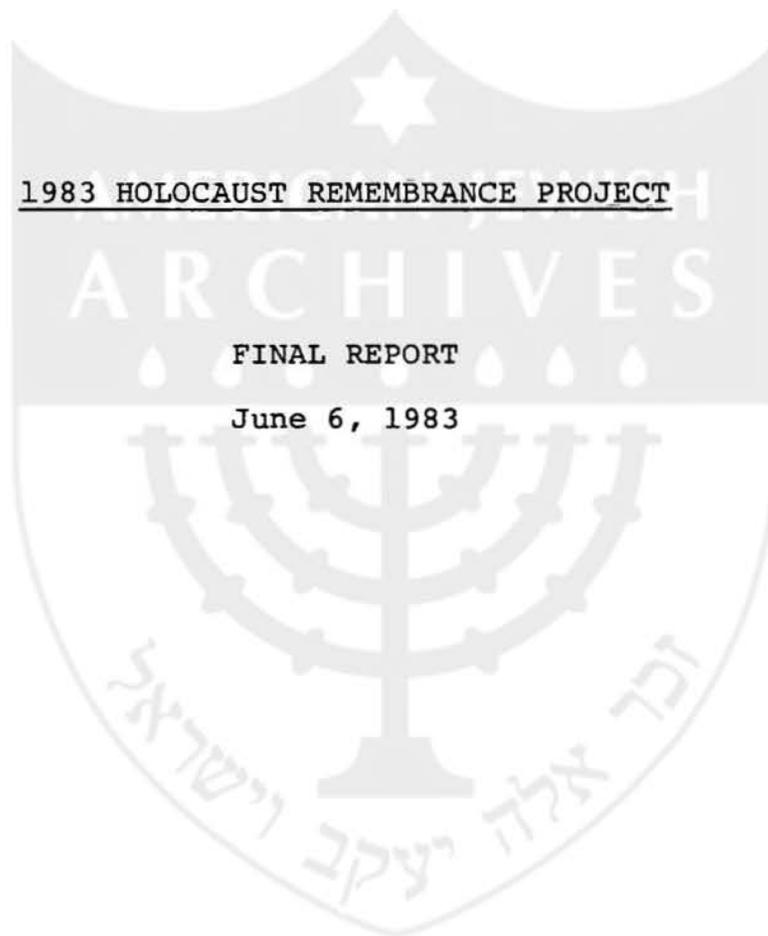
This program would not have been possible without the excellent cooperation of members of your staff. Please convey our sincere appreciation to all concerned.

Respectfully,

The Rev. David E. Simpson
Director

cc: Bishop A. James Armstrong
The Rev. Joan B. Campbell
Dr. Claire Randall

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN JEWISH RELATIONS



Presented to:

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

By:

David Simpson, Director

Mary Edwardsen, Program Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

Outside forces often have a way of causing something significant to happen within institutions that changes the direction of the agency and its response to the human condition. Marion Craig and Monroe Freedman, representing the United States Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, had such an influence on the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations in the beginning of 1982. Their proposal that the National Council of Churches develop a program to increase the participation of the religious community in the recognition of the week of Days of Remembrance of the Holocaust was met with enthusiasm by our Committee and a short term project was immediately initiated.

This activity has since become the major program focus of the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations and it has been the creative influence giving new direction to the ways in which the churches in the United States educate themselves about their relationship to Judaism and engage in an increasingly positive dialogue with the Jewish community. A project that began as a modest effort to encourage churches and ecumenical agencies to conduct Holocaust Commemoration services in local communities has now emerged into an ongoing educational program touching all aspects of the life of the religious community with every intention of becoming a permanent element of the internal educational program of the churches.

The short term project in the early part of 1982 established a foundation and a rationale for a more intensive program. It also provided the motivation for some denominational and ecumenical leaders to request participation in future activities and to develop the resources to carry out such a program. The 1983 project allowed the National Council of Churches to cooperate with its major member denominations in extensive educational activities which significantly raised the level of awareness of the American religious community to the broader need for Holocaust education in the churches and support for the educational goals of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

OVERVIEW OF 1983 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The goals of the 1983 program have been an expansion of the original project objective to increase recognition of the Holocaust and to do so through the denominations and the councils of churches throughout the United States. Specifically they are

- 1) To promote the recognition of the week of the Days of Remembrance in local churches through

the distribution of Holocaust education materials from the denominations,

- 2) To encourage community wide Holocaust commemoration activities in cooperation with councils of churches and interfaith agencies,
- 3) To instill the desire and the commitment within the denominations and the ecumenical agencies to create an ongoing program of Holocaust education in the religious community of the United States.

The expanded timetable of the 1983 program made it possible to reach a substantially increased number of churches with materials to be used for Holocaust education and commemoration. One denomination was able to provide every local pastor (6,000) with materials prepared by the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations. It also became apparent, however, that a multi-year schedule will be necessary if we are to work with religious education departments of the denominations to develop Holocaust education materials within their own church school resources. We must also apply the same long term schedule if we are to publish articles about the Holocaust and the need for Holocaust education and commemoration in each of the major denominational magazines. Some of these periodicals have outlined their publications for at least one year in advance.

The 1983 proposal submitted to the U S. Holocaust Remembrance Foundation in August, 1982 and at a meeting on September 8, 1982, was enthusiastically endorsed by the NCC Committee on Christian Jewish Relations at its meeting on September 9, 1982. Immediately following this approval, a search was conducted for staffing for the project and on September 23, 1982 Mary Edwardsen was selected as Program Coordinator. Meetings with denominational leaders and cooperating agencies to confirm participation on the 1983 project were scheduled and held throughout September and October, 1982. An Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the U.S. Catholic Conference, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, denominations and councils of churches was organized and meetings to establish program direction were held. The following preparatory activities were conducted to formally announce the 1983 program

- September 13-14 Meeting in Washington, D.C. of Christian leaders of the National Conference on Soviet Jewery
- September 19-20 Advisory Committee to the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, Washington, D.C.

- October 1-3 Israel Study Group, distinguished Christian scholars in Christian Jewish Relations, Weston, Vermont.
- October 8-9 NCC Commission on Faith and Order
- October 7 Taping of television program with Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum and Dr. Eugene Fisher, in which David Simpson described the Holocaust project and the need for education in the churches about the Holocaust
- October 12 Interview with independent reporter to prepare major article on the work of the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations in Holocaust education for publication in the January, 1983 issue of the United Methodist Church magazine, New World Outlook. (See attached copy)
- October 13 Meeting with national leaders of the Synagogue Council of America and the National Council of Churches, New York City.
- October 17 Annual meeting of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, New York City.
- October 25-26 National Institute on the Holocaust Conference, Philadelphia, Pa.
- October 31-November 2 NCC Commission on Regional and Local Ecumenism, leaders of the major Councils of Churches in cities across the United States.
- November 3-5 Governing Board meeting of the National Council of Churches, New York, at which a plenary presentation was made on the Holocaust project to more than 300 of the top religious leaders of the major Protestant and Orthodox denominations in the United States.

These and other meetings with denominational leaders established the program and created a responsive constituency for the distribution of materials for Holocaust commemoration activities. Over the months of October and November, additional contact was made with key personnel in each denomination to determine the types of materials and resources they would be willing to advance among their churches and in what ways this distribution could best be accomplished.

In November and December, letters were sent to church leaders and ecumenical executives announcing the program and describing the services that would be offered by the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations. (copy of December 2, 1982 letter attached) In November an exhaustive search of the material about the Holocaust was conducted in preparation for the development of a packet for church leaders. Meetings were held with staff of the Holocaust Council and the authors of existing literature to determine the types of materials to be included in the packet for distribution. Agreements were reached with denominational publishers and permission was secured from authors to develop the appropriate literature. A logo for the NCC 1983 Holocaust Remembrance Day Project was designed and approved by the Holocaust Council. The following materials were developed and printed for circulation to the churches and councils

1. Yom Hashoah History and Relevance (Edwardsen)
2. The Liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camps, (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, 1981 International Liberators Conference, edited by Edwardsen)
3. The Challenge of the Holocaust for Christian Theology (Pawlikowski, edited by Edwardsen)
4. Suggested Liturgies and Readings (Edwardsen)
5. The Uniqueness of the Holocaust (President's Commission on the Holocaust, edited by Edwardsen)
6. Jews and Christians in Joint Worship (NCC and UAHC)
7. A Brief Holocaust bibliography.
8. Yom Hashoah Bulletin Insert (Edwardsen)
9. U.S. Holocaust Council flyer announcing the 1983 Week of the Days of Remembrance.
10. U.S. Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, A Holocaust Commemoration booklet.

Articles of varying length and focus were prepared for publication in denominational magazines and newsletters. Each denomination selected the literature they believed would receive the most positive response from local clergy and would promote our desire to increase participation in the 1983 week of the Days of Remembrance. This activity will be described

in more detail under the section of this report on work with denominations.

In meetings with each of the denominations and council executives, the offer of the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations to provide technical assistance, workshops and training resources for local clergy was explored at length and in some modest ways was utilized. Most of this service was offered in telephone consultations and individual meetings. It was suggested that future services of this type should be made available at the existing meetings of clergy in their professional organizations. Written material supplied by the NCC Office seemed adequate for most local communities to develop local expressions of Holocaust commemoration.

Additional assistance was offered to each of the denominations concerning resources for religious educators and curriculum material for church schools on the Holocaust and the meaning of Yom Hashoah. Most denominations expressed interest and agreed that it should be a major priority for future programs offered by the NCC. A teacher training program was developed and carried out as a pilot project with a local interfaith agency in Danbury, Connecticut in the spring of 1982, which featured Holocaust education and encouraged local Holocaust commemoration. This project has now been expanded into a national program of the NCC to be carried out over the next two years in cooperation with denominations, councils of churches and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in twenty-five (25) cities across the United States.

On February 4, 1983 a second major mailing was sent out to all denominational leaders (150) and Directors of ecumenical agencies (700), including a copy of the complete packet of materials prepared by the NCC Office and encouraging church leaders to take specific actions to recognize the week of the Days of Remembrance and to advance Holocaust education among their congregations and local communities. The letter gave examples of actions taken by several denominations and agencies, suggesting similar activities. In most instances, this mailing was followed up by a telephone call from the NCC staff to further encourage action and to request information on amounts of materials needed and other services that would be expected. (See attached letter)

The announcements of the program and services to be offered by the NCC for 1983 were met with extreme success. From both local churches and ecumenical agencies in almost every state across the nation. In one letter from a deno-

minational executive to a state coordinator for clergy, our project was described as "suffering from success". As requests for material continued to flow in from December, 1982 through April, 1983 the NCC Office was obligated to reprint its original supply of literature on frequent occasions. Most of the items in the packet were dated for the 1983 week of the Days of Remembrance, and overprinting these materials was too costly to risk. The following is a more detailed description of the activities accomplished with each denomination and with the councils of churches.

WORK WITH DENOMINATIONS

United Methodist Church

Working with this denomination was made quite easy and efficient by the existence of an office and staff which is given specific responsibility in the field of Christian Jewish Relations. The UMC has built into their church structure a prominent place for the dispersing of information on the Holocaust and Dr Warren Jacobs, National staff Associate Director, is extremely committed to this effort

Flyers were sent out in the Fall, announcing our project to the regional commissioners. These commissioners, in turn, contacted their ministers who obtained literature from the regional offices. The national office supplied the regional offices with our materials, literally reaching thousands of local clergy through the conferences with which they are affiliated.

Presbyterian Church in the U S. and the United Presbyterian Church, USA

Since these two denominations are in a process of merging, they were linked in terms of the nature of our work with them. Their national offices remain distinct, but they agreed to coordinate their materials and efforts. The Presbyterians chose to approach their clergy directly with a pamphlet, authored by Mary Edwardsen of the NCC staff, which described the relevance of Holocaust Remembrance and also supplied prayers and readings which could be easily incorporated into the Sunday Service on April 10. Though we had hoped that all the Presbyterians ministers would have been reached with these pamphlets, only about 9,000 (3/4) were actually mailed the pamphlet directly. The UPUSA chose to be selective with its mailing. This pamphlet (copy attached) was the article most frequently utilized in all mailings to other sources for the project.

In addition to this work, an article appeared in the Presbyterian Survey, examining the relevance of the Holocaust for modern mass culture.

American Baptist Church

An announcement of the NCC project appeared in Input, a national periodical for ABC Clergy. Requests for materials were directed to the ABC National Ministries Office of International, Intercultural and Interfaith Understanding which, in turn, "called in" these requests to our office. We mailed out the materials.

The ABC news service carried one of our articles as a News Feature. An article in the American Baptist should also be appearing in their summer issue. These publications reach most of the clergy in the denomination, as well as many lay leaders in local congregations.

Lutheran Church in America

A brief article appeared in The Congregation, the LCA newspaper for clergy and lay leaders. The response to this was very good. We can only assume that the LCA clergy and lay people are quite interested in Days of Remembrance and we fulfilled an existing need with our materials.

Episcopal Church

We mailed out a general packet of materials to all the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical Officers in the US with a cover letter from the Episcopal Church Center, Office of the Presiding Bishop. Although this action was requested late in our timetable, it had a very good response.

Roman Catholic Church

The same action was taken with the Catholic Church as was done with the Episcopal Church. The cover letter was written by the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations Office. One relatively substantial response (approx. 300)

resulted from this general packet mailing. The Roman Catholic Church represents approximately 56 million people in the United States, and the services offered by their own Office in cooperation with the NCC Office can have a most powerful influence on Holocaust education in the American religious community. It needs to be developed more fully in future programs.

Southern Baptist Convention

This denomination is the largest organization of Protestants in the United States (26 million) and does not officially belong to the NCC. They are full participants in the NCC Committee on Christian Jewish Relations and are fully committed to making Holocaust education a priority in their congregations. Full access to this denomination should be developed in time for the 1984 program.

We were able to "test" the packet for 1983 in Maryland. Materials were sent to each Southern Baptist Church in the state by the ecumenical officer for the Maryland Convention. 3,000 pieces of each of some of the materials were distributed, 300 pieces of other sets of materials. We were responsible for only the production of the materials. They were distributed by the Maryland Convention. (See attached letter from George Sheridan)

In addition to this limited mailing, the article prepared for the Presbyterians was mailed out by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Interfaith Witness Dept to approximately 300 carefully selected large metropolitan congregations across the United States.

Other Denominations

All of the other denominations affiliated with the NCC were provided with the same material and services as described above. We were not able to develop the specific activities as detailed with other denominations above in most instances because the denomination did not have an office or a staff person specifically assigned to responsibility for Christian Jewish Relations. The United Church of Christ, the Disciples of Christ, the Unitarian Universalist Association and the American Friends have expressed an interest in working with our office to develop a formal mechanism within the denomination through which we can distribute materials and advance Holocaust education.

This development will require preparation activities beginning in the summer of 1983.

Special attention in future years must be paid to the Black Protestant and Orthodox denominations in the NCC to encourage participation in Holocaust education. Although a number of discussions were held with church leaders this year, it is apparent that much more time needs to be spent in dialogue with these churches to establish a rationale for and an adequate response to Christian Jewish Relations. A unique tension exists between Black Christians and Jews emanating from the urban domestic issues of housing and public education and from perceptions about Israel in the Middle East conflict and relations with South Africa. A unique tension also exists between American Arab Orthodox Christians and Jews regarding perceptions about Israel and the treatment of Palestinians in the Middle East. These tensions can and should be addressed by this project and will be necessary before major collaboration can be expected. Holocaust education holds the promise for building partnerships on all levels of the American religious community, particularly among those whose histories and traditions have been acquainted with human suffering.

WORK WITH COUNCILS OF CHURCHES AND
OTHER NATIONAL ECUMENICAL AGENCIES AND EVENTS

The NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations is located within the Commission on Regional and Local Ecumenism, the agency of the NCC responsible for relations with state, regional and local councils of churches and interfaith agencies. As such, we have direct and immediate access to approximately 700 agencies doing a broad range of interreligious programs in every major community in the United States. Many of these agencies continued or initiated a program of Holocaust commemoration in 1982. Although the exact number of councils conducting programs in 1983 is not yet known, early reports indicate that was at least a one hundred per cent increase in activities over 1982.

The focus of our work with ecumenical agencies this year has been utilizing these structures to create a national network for communication with local congregations and local communities to encourage Days of Remembrance activities and Holocaust education programs. As we learned in 1982, one council can reach and influence many local congregations who might not otherwise be involved in the program. Council Directors were used in 1983 as local ad-

vocates and interpreters for our project and the results were excellent. The following is a partial listing, by way of example, of some of the actions taken by local councils and the response. Also listed below are activities which took place at national meetings and events of ecumenical agencies.

- Several Councils of Churches in the San Francisco Bay area coordinated by the Church World Service office of the NCC, sponsored an all day workshop on Christian Jewish relations, February 21, 1983. Holocaust education was one of the central themes of the presentations and a variety of Holocaust Commemoration activities grew out of the workshop. Dr. Robert McAfee Brown, author of a recently published book on Elie Wiesel and the Holocaust was the keynote speaker. Several church agencies in the area have agreed to work with our office in the development of future programs on Holocaust commemoration, teacher education and church and synagogue dialogue.
- The Buffalo (New York) area Metropolitan Ministries, an interfaith agency serving western New York has developed a comprehensive model program in Christian Jewish relations in a cooperative venture with our office. This project is supported by local churches and the local Jewish community and will serve as an example to other ecumenical agencies desiring to make such a substantial commitment. Holocaust education is the central theme that runs through each of the programs being developed in local dialogue and teacher education. The work of this agency will be featured at a presentation made in July, 1983, before a delegation to the World Council of Churches meeting in Bellingham, Washington.
- The Virginia Council of Churches, as did many other State Councils, included an article in one of its newsletters encouraging local communities to develop Holocaust Remembrance programs. Requests to our office for materials and assistance far exceeded our expectations, and in future years we hope to receive a commitment from every state Council of Churches to feature an article on the Holocaust program of our office.
- An increasing number of ecumenical agencies cooperated with the regional chapters of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in their communities, whom we had encouraged them to contact in our earlier correspondence. The NCCJ chapters

have extensive access to the local business and civic leaders, who could be a substantial support group for the plans of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council regarding the establishment of a National museum.

- The NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations held a Yom Hashoah service at the headquarters of the National Council of Churches in New York City on April 13, 1983. A new service designed by Rabbi Leon Klenicki of the Anti-Defamation League and Dr. Eugene Fisher of the U.S. Catholic Conference was adapted for the program with permission. The service is to be published in the summer of 1983.

- The National workshop on Christian Jewish Relations held its seventh meeting in Boston, April 24 through 28, 1983. Our Office sponsored a pre-workshop seminar, at which Holocaust education was featured and the seminar was concluded with a very meaningful Yom Hashoah service. Also at the workshop an entire afternoon was devoted to the Holocaust Remembrance activities. Please see attached program description. Another major contribution to the workshop from our Office was the presentation of the film "To Bear Witness," created by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council as a documentary of the experience of the liberators of the Nazi concentration camps and the 1981 Liberators Conference. Many workshop participants requested information on the availability of the film for educational use in local communities.

- The NCC Committee on Christian Jewish Relations held its semi-annual meeting on March 22-23, 1983 in Rye, New York, at which a major focus was the work of the Office on the Holocaust Project and its resources for denominations and councils of churches. Micah Naftalin of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council made a presentation on the expectations of the Council in their work with the NCC. The film, "To Bear Witness" was presented with an extremely positive response. The Committee approved a considerably expanded future program plan for the Office in relation to the Holocaust education project.

ACTIVITIES WITH THE HOLOCAUST COUNCIL

Throughout the duration of the project the staff of the Holocaust Council requested assistance and participation from our staff in activities concerning the development efforts of the Council and its goal to establish its program and museum as mandated by the U.S. Congress. Numerous meetings were held in New York and Washington among our staff and consultants to plan specific programs and events. An increasing amount of our work with the Council will be the assistance the NCC Office can offer to build a network of support in the American religious community to advance the goals of the Council.

The Holocaust Council secured an agreement from the AEC television network to offer public service announcements on the programs of the Council and the 1983 Week of the Days of Remembrance through its affiliate stations. On February 4, 1983 the NCC Office sent a mailing to church leaders and directors of councils of churches throughout the United States requesting local advocacy and assistance in promoting the local use of the public service announcement with local affiliates of ABC stations. This mailing was followed up by telephone from the NCC Office staff to further encourage this local advocacy initiative. It proved most helpful in a number of local cities. (See attached letter)

The NCC staff made contact with each of the councils of churches in cities where the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council was attempting to develop a civic program of Holocaust Remembrance in state capitals with State government endorsement, encouraging cooperation and participation in these activities.

Secretary and Mrs. James Watt offered to host a White House event featuring the film "To Bear Witness" and presenting the goals of the Holocaust Council to national religious and civic leaders in Washington on March 14, 1983. Staff of the NCC Office collaborated with the Holocaust Council staff to plan the event and to develop an invitation list of national church leaders. The NCC office personally contacted each of the top NCC and Roman Catholic leaders to encourage their participation in the meeting. The event in Washington was extremely well attended and it secured a commitment from top religious leadership to support the long range goals of the Holocaust Council.

Further assistance has been and continues to be offered to the Holocaust Council in developing contacts with potential funding sources in the non-Jewish American religious, civic and philanthropic community to support the goals of the Council. Specific assistance will be offered to select and secure religious leadership to serve on the Advisory Committee to the development program for the museum. As this committee and its program is established the NCC office will make contact with all funding sources which can be appropriately approached for this purpose, such as national foundations having leadership active in the religious community.

The NCC Office staff conducted research and assisted the Holocaust Council staff in the development of resources for other activities of the Council, such as the Holocaust Survivors Conference in Washington, April 11-13, 1983. We also presented a draft version of the film "To Bear Witness" to denominational leaders and secured a commitment for wide distribution and use of the film as an educational resource for the churches in future years.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 1983 project reached a far greater audience than had been anticipated at the onset. The NCC Office staff often found itself conflicted between a commitment to increase participation in the 1983 week of the Days of Remembrance or assist the denominations in the development of their own resources and commitment to advance the ongoing work needed in Holocaust education among the churches. This report indicates that considerable time and effort was devoted to both types of activities. It resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of Holocaust observances held in cities and churches across the nation. We also made substantial progress with most of the major Protestant denominations toward institutionalizing a commitment and a mechanism for continuing recognition of Holocaust Remembrance and ongoing Holocaust education in the religious community.

A proposal for a continuing program between the NCC and the U S. Holocaust Memorial Council will be submitted to the council immediately following this report detailing specific recommendations as a result of our experience with the 1983 project. The following are the highlights of these suggestions for future programming.

- Continue developing and offering printed resources and assistance on the week of the Days of Remembrance and general Holocaust education to local churches through the national denominations.

- Expand above efforts to new denominations within and outside of the NCC.
- Continue providing resources and assistance on Days of Remembrance and Holocaust education to local communities through the Councils of Churches and Interfaith agencies in cities across the United States.
- Expand and confirm an ongoing network of support for the goals of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and its programs through the Councils of Churches, specifically establishing a formal working group within each of the 150 state and major metropolitan councils.
- Develop a dialogue program between churches and synagogues in at least 25 major communities across the United States, featuring, Holocaust education and a working commitment to observe Holocaust Remembrance and support the long range goals of the Holocaust Memorial Council.
- Develop a teacher education program for religious educators in at least 25 communities across the United States, featuring Holocaust education and recognition of the Week of the Days of Remembrance among children in church school classes.
- Assist the U S Holocaust Memorial Council in securing support and encouragement for its programs from the American religious community through an ongoing program of awareness, advocacy and interpretation, based on the premise the Holocaust education is an essential element in the self-education of the Christian Community in its historical and current relationship with the Jewish Community.

The staff and membership of the NCC Committee on Christian Jewish Relations are extremely grateful to the staff of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council for their continuing support and advice that made this program possible. Without the frequent assistance over the telephone and in our meetings in Washington and New York, we would not have been able to develop the quality of the resources we were able to make available to the churches and local communities throughout the United States this year.

The program we have just completed is yet another beginning on a much higher level than we had anticipated would be possible. It is very gratifying to enable the American religious community to assume increasing responsibility for and commitment to a program in Holocaust Remembrance and Education and to watch it come into its own.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A

OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

December 2, 1982

David E Simpson
Director

Landrum Shields
Chairman

Dear Executive Director,

We are pleased to state that we have received our requested grant for 1982-83 from the Holocaust Remembrance Foundation which will enable us to assist with the building of a firm foundation for instituting the Days of Holocaust Remembrance in local communities and churches. The receipt of this grant is largely the result of the cooperation we experienced from several councils in last year's pilot project. Our offer of assistance this year is extended, therefore, with a sense of appreciation and the hope that our expanded program can better serve your membership. Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) will be observed on April 10, 1983.

We realize that only the denominations and the ecumenical/interfaith councils themselves can understand the needs of their local churches and communities, and that the efforts of our Office will be useful and effective only if they are placed within and guided by the denominations and the councils. Hence, we appreciate the assistance of the Memorial Remembrance Foundation for enabling us to be in the fortunate position this year to assist with the development of programs according to the specific needs and interests of the denominations and church councils.

Our assistance can take the form of articles, sample services and civic commemorations, guidelines for ecumenical/interfaith dialogues, papers on the relevance of the Holocaust for today, and historical information. We are also available to provide technical assistance, such as regional workshops and training seminars on the development of commemorative programs.

If your council desires to use our offer of assistance--in the form of written materials, technical assistance, and/or the development of new materials for your own constituency--please contact our office.

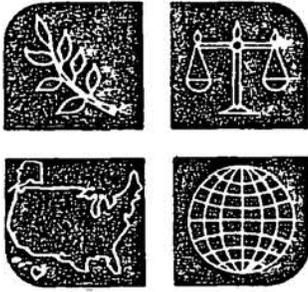
We look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or need further information, please call or write to us.

Sincerely,

Mary Edwardsen

Holocaust Remembrance Project

'1E/aeg



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A

OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

February 4, 1983

David E Simpson
Director

Landrum Shields
Chairman

Dear Church Leaders and Council Directors

We are very pleased to send to you the enclosed sample materials which have been prepared by Mary Edwardsen, Program Director of the 1983 Holocaust Remembrance Project of the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations.

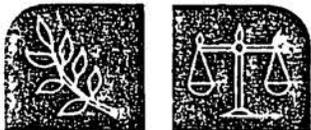
April 10 begins the week of the Days of Remembrance of the Holocaust for 1983. We have agreed to work with the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, which was created by Congress in 1980, to encourage recognition of the week of the Days of Remembrance in the Christian community across the country. To do so, we would like to make available our materials and our technical assistance to enable local communities to observe this time with Holocaust commemoration programs and to encourage local churches to incorporate some aspect of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance) in their regular worship services. You can help us now by informing your local congregations of this program and these resources. The following is a partial list of the materials we have provided for church denominations

- 1) Articles for United Methodist and United Presbyterian magazines,
- 2) Bulletin inserts for use by local churches in their Sunday services (copy enclosed),
- 3) A brief statement announcing the Holocaust Remembrance Project for the American Baptist and American Lutheran all church newsletters,
- 4) A Fact Sheet (copy enclosed) for distribution to all clergy in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and a more limited distribution in other denominations

Please let us know if we can help you do any of these for your local clergy and church membership. We appreciate your interest and continued encouragement.

Sincerely,

The Rev. David E. Simpson
Director



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A



OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

David E Simpson
Director

February 4, 1983

Landrum Shields
Chairman

To Council Directors and Church Leaders

From David Simpson

Re ABC TV Public Service Announcement

As you know, the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations is currently engaged in a cooperative program with the United States Holocaust Memorial Council to encourage the Christian community to recognize the week of the Days of Remembrance of the Holocaust. Enclosed are some materials we have just prepared to assist local clergy and community leaders in these activities.

One of our cooperative goals is to inform the public about the programs of the U. S Holocaust Council as mandated by Congress. The American Broadcasting Company has agreed to carry a public service announcement about the work of the Council and the establishment of a Museum to the Holocaust in Washington, D.C. Each local affiliate of ABC has been given a 30 second spot announcement and is being asked to air it during February and April of this year.

You can be very helpful to us in this effort if you would be willing to do the following

- 1) Contact your local ABC affiliate station and encourage them to run the public service announcement. Not only will this help our work, but it will inform members of our local churches about the Council and the importance of Holocaust commemoration.
- 2) Ask local clergy to mention the announcement and the importance of Holocaust commemoration for Christians.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council was established by Congress in 1980. Its Chairman is Elie Wiesel and its Executive Director is Seymour Siegel.

Please help us to encourage these announcements. ABC has established a toll free number to call for support and information 1-800-626-6000 Thanks again. You can also call us if you have any other questions.

March 8, 1983

Dr. Minor Davidson
Baptist Convention
1313 York Road
Lutherville, Md. 21093

Dear Minor;

I spoke again to Mary Edwardsen today and confirmed your order of materials for distribution to your churches in hopes that they will in some way observe Yom Hashoa (Holocaust Day, April 10, 1983).

We understand that you will send out some materials to be used by the pastors of the churches in your state convention (about 300) and others for wider distribution (about 10 per church). Thus, your order is as follows.

	<u>no. of copies</u>
<u>Holocaust Commemoration for the Days of Remembrance</u> (booklet)	300
"The Challenge of the Holocaust for Christian Theology"(1 sheet)	300
"Brief Bibliography"	300
"The Uniqueness of the Holocaust" (one sheet)	3,000
"The Liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camps" (two sheets)	3,000

These materials are being sent to you by the Office of Christian-Jewish Relations of the National Council of Churches as part of a program funded by the National Holocaust Commission. There is no charge at all, Ms. Edwardsen said, but the program is suffering from success, and the office has already exceeded its grant. Thus, if you care to donate to offset the expense, the check should be made to the "National Council of Churches of Christ" and designated for "Office of Christian-Jewish Relations".

I understand that you are having envelopes and cover letter prepared so that these materials can be sent out soon after arrival in your office (within two weeks, Ms. Edwardsen said) and before the April 10 observance date.

I am very glad for your openness to this new program, Minor. I hope to see you in Louisville in February. Regards to Mary.

Best wishes,

George
George J. Sheridan

CC: Ms. Edwardsen ✓
Dr. Glenn A. Igleheart

APRIL 8, 1983

LET US REMEMBER

I think it is the numbers which overwhelm me each time I think about it. We are all familiar with the figure of 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Six million--it is simply too vast. There are six million people living in greater New York. It is beyond human comprehension.

Even if we reduce the figure and speak only of the children, thereby limiting the numbers to about 1.5 million, it is still beyond human comprehension.

Allow me to place the matter in slightly altered form. What is six million? Take your own parents and, say, a brother and a sister. Now, add your best friend for a total of five people. You would have to murder them again and again. Five people taken out and shot, gassed, starved, beaten, hanged, buried alive, burnt. Five people a minute, sixty minutes every hour, twenty-four hours a day. That would be 7,200 people per day. Multiply that by a month and you have the figure of 216,000. Remember, this is five people every minute. It would take you nearly 2½ years to murder six million people. What an incomprehensible horror!

The Nazis did not kill Jews only. They murdered anyone they considered unacceptable, for whatever reason! Gypsies, Poles, Russians, homosexuals and Catholics were also singled out to be rejected, reviled and destroyed. Add to those all who differed politically with the party in power.

Could such an atrocity occur again? Could it happen among people such as ourselves? The unequivocal answer to that question is yes! It is so easy for us to keep religion and life in airtight compartments, to separate the ritual of worship from the relationships of life. Let us not forget that the Nazi terror arose in the midst of a nominally Christian nation, and there were far too few church people who opposed it. Numbers of Nazi leaders, persons of responsibility in the Third Reich, remained in full communion with their churches, even while engaging in murderous acts. Members of churches simply did not hold one another responsible for the hurt they inflicted upon others. Whenever we allow human beings in our religious communions to hurt any other person or group without protest, atrocities can and will, occur again!

Let us remember!

Not only did religious people refuse to hold one another responsible within their own communions, they also refused to oppose openly the evils of which they were aware in government. You know how it is. . . we rarely resist or raise a voice in protest when someone else is treated unfairly. The majority of us tend to see and respond actively to injustice only when it touches us, personally--or when it involves people to whom we are closest. Usually our motto is: "If it doesn't affect me or my family, stay out of it!" Take a safe position on the sidelines, pretending to see no evil and hear no evil.

One of the few heroes who resisted Hitler in Germany, Pastor Martin Niemöller, made his own confession:

"When they came after the trade unionists I did not protest, for I was not a trade unionist.
When they came after the Jews I did not protest, for I was not a Jew.
When they came after the Catholics I did not protest, for I was not a Catholic.
Then, when they came after me, there was no one left to protest."

People of God, can we learn from that? Can we learn from history instead of merely repeating it? Hear this. Whenever there are good people who remain silent when another person or another group is being hurt or treated unjustly, atrocities can and will occur again -- and again, and again! And we will be responsible.

Let us remember!



(Mary Anne Forehand)



HOLOCAUST SUNDAY

APRIL 10, 1983



AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

THE HOLOCAUST

INTERFAITH PROGRAM

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tuesday, April 12, 1983

7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. - Fellowship Times

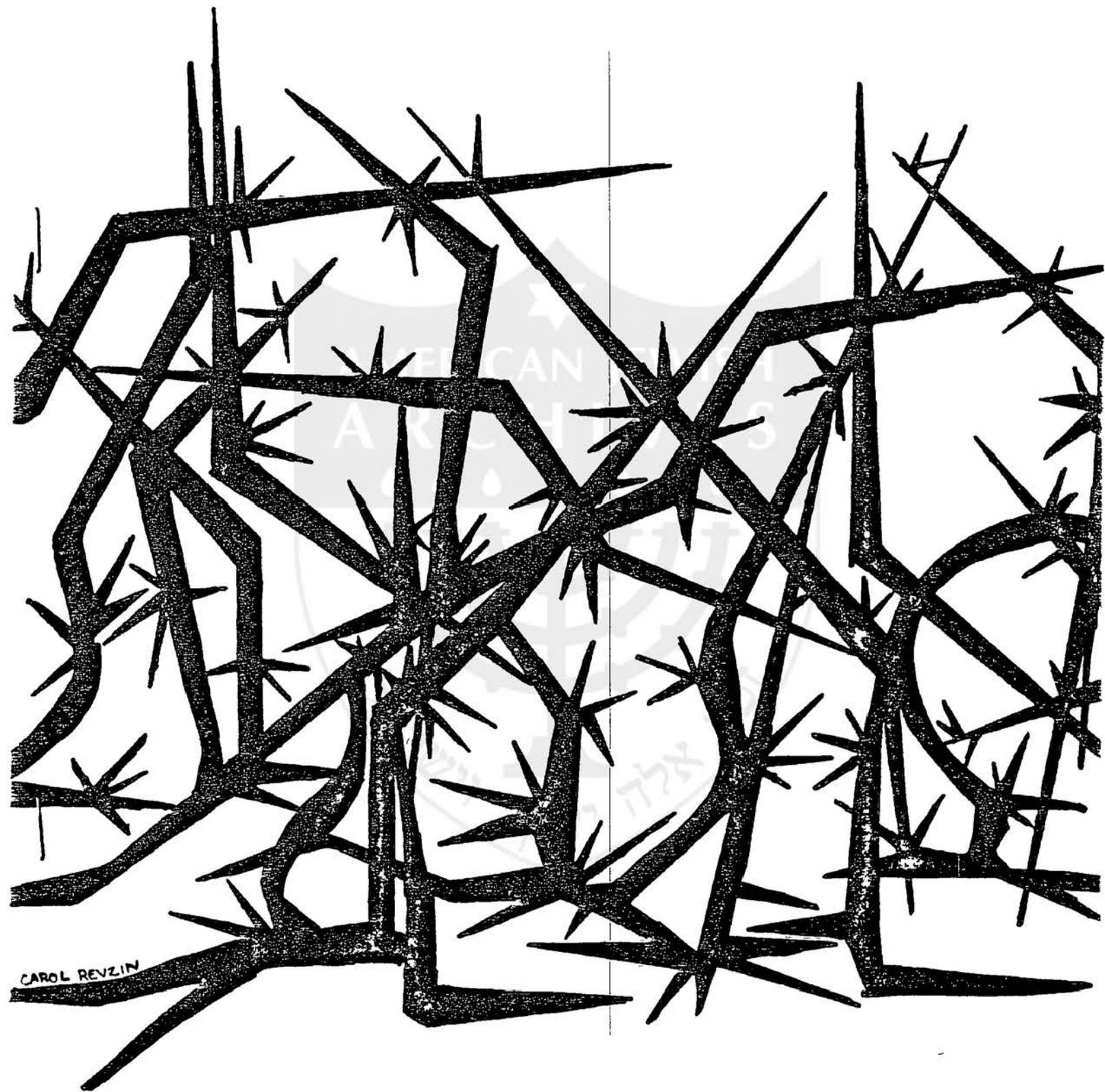
7:30 p.m. - Program

8:30 p.m. - Fellowship & Dialogue with Dr. Gould
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

INTERFAITH HOLOCAUST OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE:

Rabbi David Packman, Temple B'Nai Israel;
Rabbi Charles Shalman, Emmanuel Synagogue;
Mr. Earnest Siegel, Jewish Community; Mrs.
Rosalee Jackson and Mrs. Jeanne Koons, CWU.

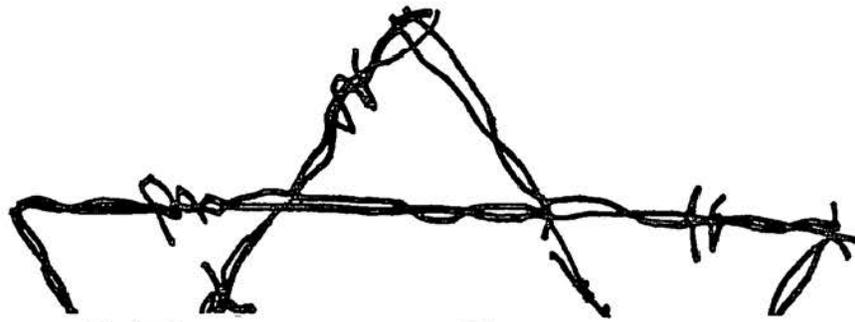
HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION



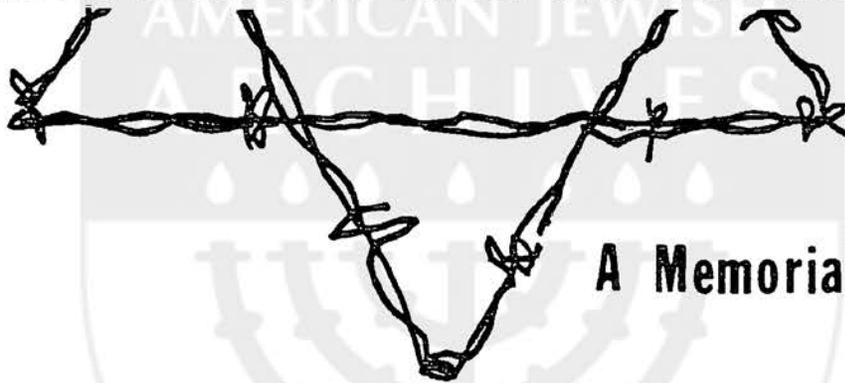
April 10, 1983

Syracuse, New York

The Oneonta Interfaith Committee invites you to



Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust



A Memorial Service

Sunday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 12 Ford Avenue

**THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
PUBLIC LAW 96-388, PROCLAIMS**

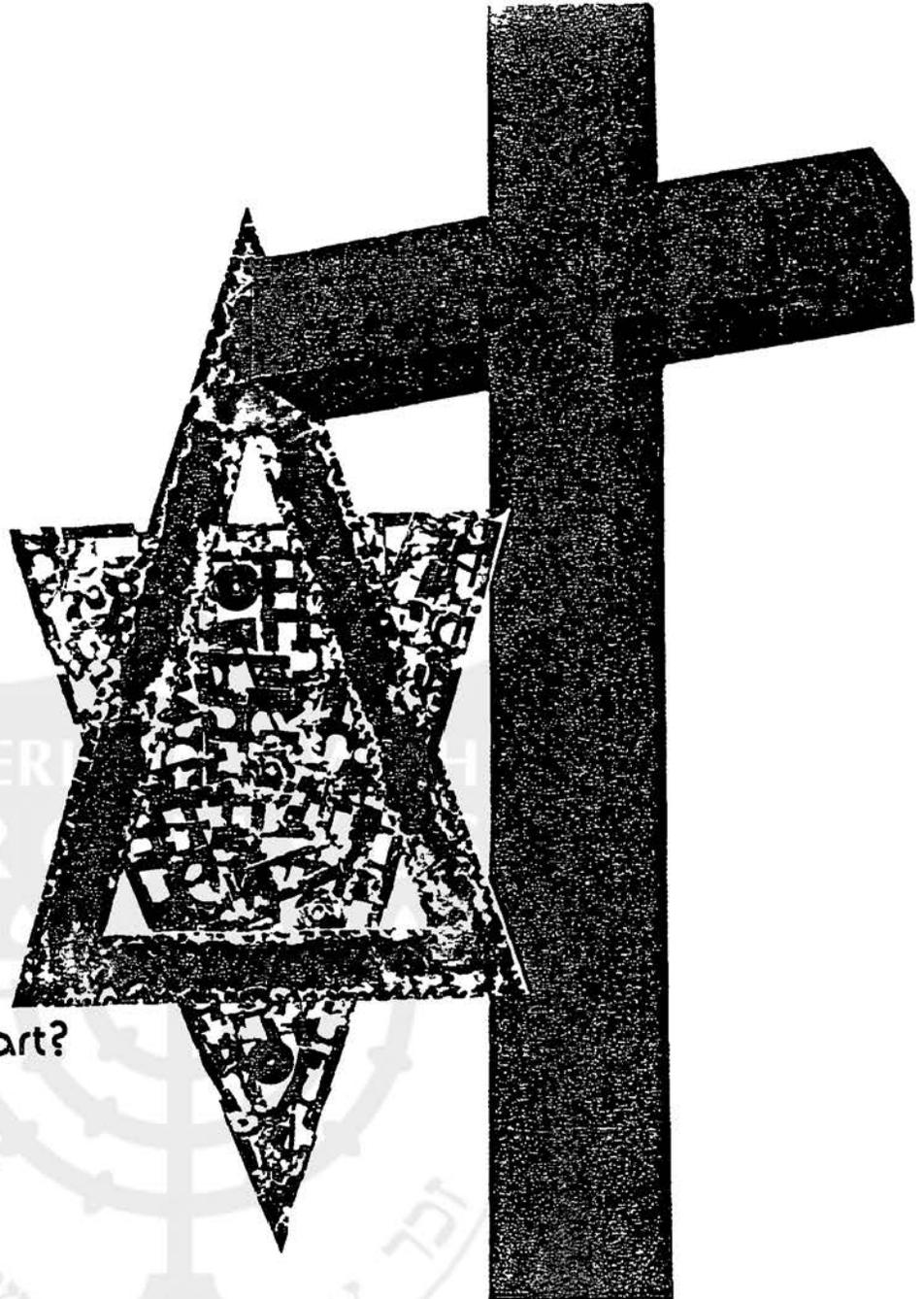
The week of April 10 through April 17, 1983

**In memory of the victims of the Holocaust, and with the
hope that we will strive always to overcome prejudice
and inhumanity through vigilance and resistance.**

Jewish-Christian Relations—

A basis for a fresh start?

Tracy Early



Christian-Jewish relations had their worst year for a long while in 1982. But the year also brought some developments that could give Christians and Jews a basis for a fresh start.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon created an even wider gulf than before, dividing the many church leaders condemning and Jews defending it. Further tension arose when Pope John Paul II agreed to meet with PLO leader Yasser Arafat on September 15. This brought severe attacks on the Pope from Israeli officials as well as Jewish organizations and individuals in the U.S. and elsewhere. These attacks in turn aroused resentment among many Catholics.

Though some individual Jews in the U.S. charged the Israeli government with unnecessary killing and destruction in Lebanon, the American Jewish community as a whole defended the invasion as a necessary response to PLO "terrorism." But the news of the September 16-18 massacres in the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Shatila, with some degree of Israeli complicity in allowing the Phalangists a free hand, may have shaken enough Jews to allow for a new dialogue on the Middle East. A significant number of Jews have been thrown into agony over the question of whether they are obligated to support any Israeli government, no matter what.

This, at least, is the analysis of David Simpson, a United Church of Christ minister who has the Jewish relations desk at the National Council of Churches (NCC). "I don't know if we're in trouble or falling on good times," he says with a mixture of irony and hope.

He is, of course, by now well aware that he's got trouble enough, if he wants to look on that side. People who come to handle Jewish relations for the NCC arrive idealistic and full of plans for transcending the tensions of two thousand years, after a few months they are sadder and wiser.

Jewish Relations Office

The NCC established a Jewish relations office for the first time in 1973, financing it with a five-year grant from the Lilly Endowment. As the first director of the office, it secured William Weiler, an Episcopal minister with an academic background and an interest in theological issues. On his arrival in 1974, he found, to his chagrin, that the job was largely a matter of hard ball politics. Jews came to him far more interested in what the NCC might say about the Middle East than in sharing insights into the Psalms. A study by the Anti-Defamation League in 1977 found the NCC "anti-Israel," and one by the American Jewish Committee in 1979 came to the same conclusion.

Dr. Weiler also discovered that trying to find permanent funding for the office was a worrisome task. NCC programs are usually supported by counterpart agencies in the denominations, and no NCC denomination has a Jewish relations office. In 1979, about the time the Lilly grant ran out, he was offered another job and took it.

Since funding was limited, maybe a part-time director would do. So next came Rufus Cornelsen, a Lutheran minister who had directed the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia, and thought handling Jewish relations for the NCC would be a nice part-time activity for his retirement years. He had the ill fortune to arrive just as the NCC was producing a new Middle East statement that Jews would describe with such words as unconscionable.

This was a major league affair, involving a fact-finding panel headed by NCC Vice-President Tracey K. Jones, then general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries. The statement, adopted in November, 1980, upheld the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state, but it outraged Jews by also supporting the right of Palestinians to a state and declaring that Israel should negotiate with the PLO. Mr. Cornelsen decided that he was in a position needing "at least" full-time attention, so he relinquished it.

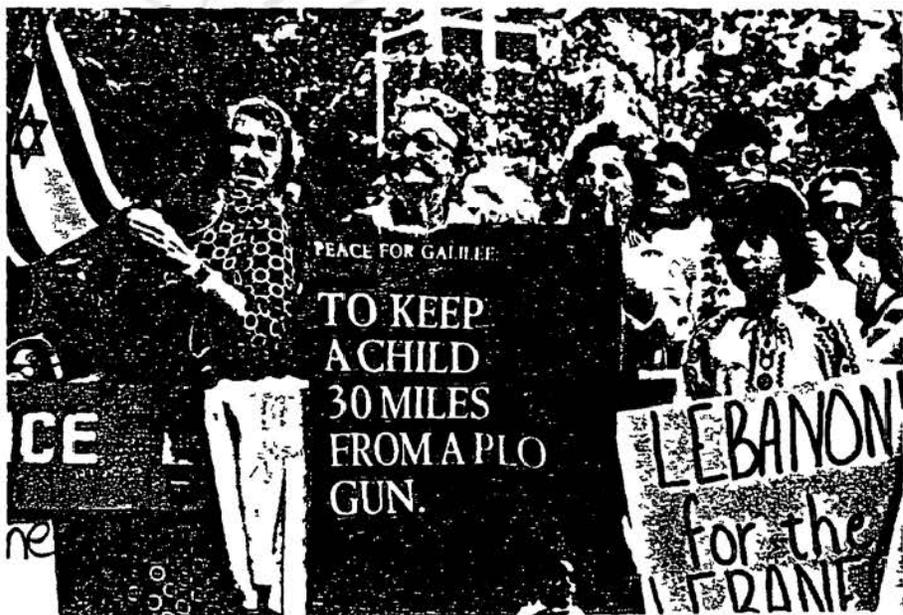
Meanwhile, the NCC had decided to move Jewish relations from its independent office status and make it part of the Commission on Regional and Local Ecumenism (CORLE). That was partly to give it structural support. But the move also represented a decision to reorient it away from the apparently unresolvable issue of Mid-



"The Israeli invasion of Lebanon created an even wider gulf than before."



Recent developments include the Reagan Middle East peace plan and its rejection by the Begin government (above), the Israeli invasion of Lebanon (below), and Pope John Paul II's private audience with Yassir Arafat (left).



dle East politics and toward local programs

So in 1981, David Simpson joined CORLE to work in Jewish relations. He had been in Danbury, Conn., directing an interfaith Association of Religious Communities. Because of budget problems, the NCC situation was iffy, and he came initially as a consultant on a one-year leave of absence from Danbury. But last September, the Committee on Christian-Jewish Relations, which oversees the work of his office, decided it would ask the NCC to employ him on a regular basis.

"The first year was overwhelming to me," he says with some understatement. "Just to get a handle on the magnitude of the task was difficult." He was helped, he says, by close association with Eugene Fisher, a layman who is his counterpart for the U.S. Catholic Church. They are taking basically the same approach and dealing with basically the same problems, Mr. Simpson says.

As he arrived, the pot was still boiling from the Middle East policy statement. Atop that came the Israeli actions that kept drawing more church criticism—bombing Beirut and Baghdad in 1981 and the Lebanon events last year.

Criticize Invasion

Major voices on both the Protestant and Catholic sides, nationally and internationally, criticized the invasion and called for Israeli withdrawal. Many Jews reacted to this criticism with indignation and bitterness. To help alleviate the strain, Mr. Simpson arranged a meeting last August between Jewish leaders and NCC officials, including President James Armstrong, United Methodist Bishop of Indiana. It did not produce agreement, of course, but it helped keep relationships alive. "Bishop Armstrong is highly respected in the Jewish community, and this meeting gave us a chance to clear the air and say we'd like to start over," Mr. Simpson says.

Just one of many indications that a clearing of air was needed could be seen in the October issue of *Commentary*, monthly publication of the American Jewish Committee. In a review of *The Real Anti-Semitism in America* by Nathan and Ruth Ann Perlmutter, Lucy Dawidowicz commented:

"Because Israel has become the most precious collective entity of the Jewish people, the embodiment of Jewish civilization, and the hope for Jewish survival, it has; most glaringly

since 1967, become the primary target of anti-Semitism throughout the world. As one reads the documentation which the Perlmutter provide on the presence of anti-Semitism on the Left, among liberal Protestant church groups—not least the National Council of Churches—and among blacks, it becomes clear that nowadays all the old anti-Semitic stereotypes have been displaced onto Israel."

Although many Jews dislike its neo-conservative policy, *Commentary* is the most prestigious publication of the American Jewish community. So this charge of anti-Semitism is a sign that such views are not just the sensationalizing of something like a tabloid weekly published in Brooklyn, *The Jewish Press*, which carries attacks on Christians by the columnful.

Does Mr. Simpson find the NCC anti-Semitic? "Just as liberals in the 1970s became aware of institutional racism," he answers, "so now we are become aware that Christian institutions are guilty of institutional anti-Semitism. The NCC is no more or less so than any other." As one example of built-in bias, he notes that the NCC does not have Jewish members but has the Arab viewpoint represented through membership of the (Syrian) Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese.



(Right) A symbolic seder for Soviet Jews is celebrated by Christians and Jews. (Above) A model Jewish-Christian religious service is held at New York's St. Peter's Lutheran Church.





A Rabbi blows the Ram's horn to mark the Jewish New Year observance of Rosh Hashanah

and other Eastern Orthodox bodies. He also points out that U.S. churches are influenced—legitimately, he acknowledges—by concern for their mission programs in Arab countries.

Black-Jewish Relations

The issue of black-Jewish relations carries special interest for Mr. Simpson. He was formerly associated with Saul Alinsky's Industrial Areas Foundation, made civil rights a central concern of his ministry and has an adopted black daughter. "I came into this job with black-Jewish relations as a big agenda item, and we had some consultations trying to help bring them together," he says. "But they (both blacks and whites) said that was not something for a white Christian to do. What they told us essentially was, when we're ready to talk, we'll talk."

So what is the plan now? On the national level, Mr. Simpson says, the Committee on Christian-Jewish Relations decided in September that it should work more at developing relations with the religious sector of the Jewish community, particularly the Synagogue Council of America, and with Jewish peace groups. That does

not mean, he says, dropping relationships with other agencies. In fact, the NCC is engaged with the American Jewish Committee in one of the four local programming efforts that constitute the other part of the NCC strategy. This is a program for training Sunday school teachers so they will have a better grasp of Judaism and can avoid planting the seeds of anti-Semitism.

United Methodists are participating actively in these programs, and serving the NCC as the pilot denomination for one called "Congregations in Dialogue," which has the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform) as the Jewish sponsor. On the United Methodist side, primary responsibility for this effort is carried by Warren Jacobs, a minister who joined the staff of the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns last July. Previously, he did ecumenical and interreligious work as assistant to the bishop of the Boston area.

"We hope to find fifteen or twenty cities across the country where we can carry out programs of dialogue with synagogues," Dr. Jacobs says. "The standard format will be one church paired with one synagogue, but in some cases we may have more than

one church, and in some cities a seminary may be involved. We are working through our conference chairpersons to find places where we can use this program to develop something that will continue and have a potential for growth." To deal with black-Jewish tension, "Congregations in Dialogue" will discuss racism and economic issues as well as anti-Semitism. Dialogue topics will also include South Africa, important for blacks in this context not only for its own sake but also for its ties with Israel.

Another part of this program is study of the new World Council of Churches "Guidelines for Christian-Jewish Dialogue." This remains a "usable document" despite being "watered down" from an earlier draft, Mr. Simpson says.

He reports that United Methodists increased their budget support of his office from \$4000 to \$6500 last year, but are still second to United Presbyterians, who gave \$7400. The office has an annual budget of about \$80,000, with half sought from denominations and half from foundations, local councils of churches, individuals and miscellaneous sources.

**“Congregations
in Dialogue
will discuss racism
and economic issues
as well as
anti-Semitism.”**

Tuition tax credits, proposed by President Reagan, has been a divisive issue in the religious community

The Holocaust Remembered

A third NCC program area is in Holocaust awareness, and financing for it has come from the U S Holocaust Remembrance Foundation “We consider this program a valuable entre for increasing Christian awareness,” Mr Simpson says A doctoral student at Union Theological Seminary in New York, Mary Edwardson, has been employed as a part-time worker to help with it

Words such as “Holocaust” and “genocide” often are cheapened by use in relation to any and every kind of group oppression To some people, that may seem only another example of devaluing language, but Jews see it as evidence of the world’s unwillingness to face up to the depths of evil in anti-Semitism

Brutal killing and oppression on a mass scale have indeed occurred in many places, and keep occurring But the Holocaust remains unique as the only occasion when the government of a modern state has officially and cold-bloodedly pursued a systematic plan to exterminate an entire race of people For the Nazis, it was not enough that Jews should be subjugat-

ed, deprived of all rights, imprisoned, rendered totally helpless and forced to serve their captors, the Nazis sought to make the entire Jewish race cease to be That is what deserves to be called “the” Holocaust

Failure to understand this point handicaps Christians in two ways First, they cannot understand why Jews are acting as they are When people are in great pain, they often speak and act in ways that seem strange to the casual bystander The Holocaust is the pain in the heart of Jews, and Christians cannot understand Jewish behavior without looking at it squarely The other handicap is that if Christians do not take full cognizance of the Holocaust, if they resist facing up to its unique horror and the role of Christians in giving it active or passive approval, if they perhaps even try to throw Holocaust words back as propaganda against Israel, they cannot expect Jews to believe they have a serious interest in better relations Whatever crimes Israel may have committed, it has of course never attempted to exterminate a whole race of people, and the fact that such an obvious truth needs to be pointed out is to Jews an ominous sign



Mr Simpson does not suggest that Christians will necessarily agree with Jews about what lessons are to be drawn from the Holocaust. Often, Jews seem to expect an automatic movement from agreeing that the Holocaust was evil to agreeing that the Israeli government is justified in whatever it decides it must do to prevent another one. Jews do some devaluing of language themselves in reacting to criticism of Israel with charges of anti-Semitism. Christians grow increasingly resentful of that, and an anger likely to produce unchristian reactions has been generated. A fresh start in all this would be welcome.

In the past, American Jews have tended to give Israel total support, and often appeared to demand of Christians as the price of friendship that they do likewise. Those Jews who did not throw in their lot with their fellow Jews in Israel have felt they had no right to second-guess decisions made by those risking their lives. And Israeli Jews often intensified that pressure, saying to their American cousins, "If you won't come join us, at least don't criticize from your position of safety."

But as Mr Simpson notes, that pattern seems to be breaking up under the stress of the Lebanon invasion and the Palestinian massacres. So a new discussion may now be possible, and on the local level it may be possible to carry out joint enterprises despite differences over Israel.

Even at the local level, however, people do want to—and need to—discuss the Middle East. So Mr Simpson's office has as its fourth program a Middle East seminar for local church use.

On the national level, movement continually circles back to the Middle East, whether anyone wishes it to or not. Mr Simpson reports, "At a meeting we had with some people at the Synagogue Council, one of their leaders finally said, 'We thought we should avoid the Palestinian issue since it's a topic we can't agree on, but if it is so crucial, it is ridiculous to try to avoid it.'"

Last year was a difficult year for Christian-Jewish relations, but some committed people kept the conversation going. This year they might be able to get it going in new directions. ■

Tracy Early, a free lance writer based in New York, is a frequent contributor to New World Outlook.

"Last year was a difficult year for Christian-Jewish relations, but some committed people kept the dialogue going."

(Below) Christian new right support for Israeli policies have led to meetings like this one by Menachem Begin and Jerry Falwell. (Bottom) Groups like the interreligious Appeal of Conscience Foundation work to strengthen ties. Here, Rabbi Arthur Schneier welcomes Russian Orthodox Patriarch Pimen to the U.S.



Presbyterian

April 1983

SURVEY



18



24



36

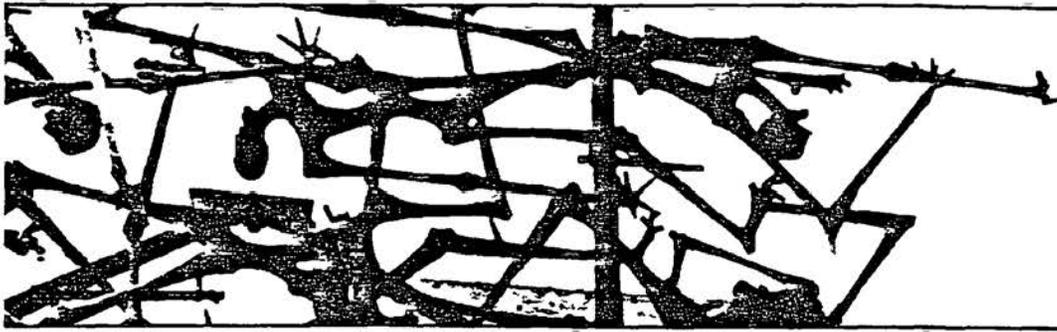
Features

- 12 **The Astounding Victory of Easter** Jesus' resurrection turned night into day for all of mankind By Morton Kelsey
- 17 **New Directions for Iona** Robert Gustafson explains what "chasing the wild goose" means for the Iona Community in Scotland
- 18 **Words of Hope and Promise** What Jesus said *after* his "seven last words" has special significance, too By William R. Buitendorp
- 22 **From Back of the Bus to Front and Center** Dr. Lawrence Bottoms told Marj Carpenter it has been a long journey—for him and for the church
- 24 **Making a Difference** Douglas Oldenburg and Kandy Perrin Cospers report on the Haiti Project of Mecklenburg Presbytery
- 27 **Remembrance and Relevance** The lessons of the Holocaust could be falling on deaf ears, warns Mary Edwardsen
- 28 **Off-Scarred But Enduring** Philip Leon writes with pride about a Charleston church that reflects both Scottish heritage and pluckiness
- 30 **The Family That Talks Together Stays Together** Marvin Simmers takes a look at what families do that make them strong and healthy
- 31 **A Birthday Offering for White Cross** The Women of the Church are doing it again—helping overseas missions By Margaret Montgomery
- 32 **When Love Came Late** Linda Hager Timberlake found more than she expected at a singles conference at Montreat
- 34 **"And You Welcomed Me"** A center in Wilmington, N.C., offers assistance to seamen away from home By Susan Cromartie
- 36 **Reunion: A Family United Again** Augusta-Macon Presbytery put it over the top on Feb. 22. Bill Lamkin reports the big story of the year

Departments

- 2 Bill Lamkin
- 4 Readers Write
- 7 Ben Lacy Rose
- 8 As I See It
- 10 George Chauncey
- 16 John Killinger
- 36 News
- 46 Tots-to-Teens
- 47 Mission Briefs
- 48 Prayer List
- 49 Jack Moore
- 50 Books
- 51 Ina Hughs

On the cover A new day dawning represents the Easter promise of new life as well as the promise of new life in the reunited Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) now approved by the presbyteries. Photo by FourByFive



Remembrance and Relevance

The Holocaust was a product of the indifference of our times

By Mary Edwardsen

The Holocaust was the systematic bureaucratic extermination of 6 million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators as a central act of state during the Second World War, as "night descended millions of other peoples were swept into this net of death" (1979 Report of the President's Commission on the Holocaust).

The Holocaust was conceived as the annihilation of the nameless undesirables—not the murder of men, women and children, but the "extermination" of societal "vermin." The lives of the victims were dehumanized and made expendable; their humanity was brutally wrested from them. This understanding is graphically expressed in the petrochemical plant adjacent to the death camp at Auschwitz, which reduced human beings "to consumable raw materials from which all mineral life was systematically drained before the bodies were recycled into the Nazi war economy, [providing] gold teeth for the treasury, hair for mattresses, ashes for fertilizer."

To begin to understand the Holocaust, we must recognize not only the forced dehumanization of the victims but also the passive dehumanization of the persecutors. The massive bureaucracy that was necessary to carry out the Holocaust required people who would not or could not question what they were doing. It required the blindness and indifference of a "mass mentality." The commission's report states: "The division of labor that separated complete operations into fractions of the whole permitted thousands to participate in a massive bureaucracy of death without feeling responsible. For example, Adolf Eichmann, who supervised the roundup of Jews for deportation, could claim he never personally killed a single person; employees could insist they did not know what they were doing; executioners could explain they were only following orders."

The lessons of the Holocaust lie in the warning that the dehumanization and indifference of our times made it possible for the annihilation of millions of innocent human beings to occur. It would be wrong to suggest that another Holocaust is on the horizon, but it is significant that the lessons of the Holocaust fall now on the deafened ears of a self-absorbed society. We have become a society that grows more and more indifferent to human suffering, not because we are more "evil," but because we can absorb or accommodate the Holocaust. We unleashed the awesome destructiveness of the Holocaust into the world, and we have now learned to live with it. We grow more silent and

less able to question and respond to the events around us.

The Holocaust was in many ways the extermination of the "no ones" by the "everyones"; humanity lost itself to its own destructive creation. And the degree to which we have found ourselves is painfully hard to see. In *One Generation After*, Elie Wiesel writes: "If society has changed so little, if so many strategists are preparing the explosion of the planet and so many people willingly submit, if so many men still live under oppression and so many others in indifference, only one conclusion is possible: namely, that the failure of the black years has begotten yet another failure. Nothing has been learned. Auschwitz has not even served as a warning. For more detailed information, consult your daily newspaper."

Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah), established by the Israeli Knesset in 1951, will be observed this year on April 10. The Knesset's resolution proclaimed the 27th day of Nisan (March-April) as "the Holocaust and Ghetto Uprising Remembrance Day—a day of perpetual remembrance for the house of Israel." On Oct. 7, 1980, the U.S. Congress created the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and directed it to create a living museum and memorial to the victims of the Holocaust and to honor their memories in an annual Day of Remembrance.

Yom HaShoah, however, will always be more than a civic commemoration; it is also a religious remembrance. And many Christians have come to recognize the significance of this remembrance. As Theodore Gaster has written: "memory defies oblivion, breaks the coils of the present, establishes the continuity of the generations and rescues human life from futility. It affords the true resurrection of the dead. The act of remembering is thus in itself redemptive. If, on the one hand, it involves a chastening assessment, it involves, on the other, a comforting reassurance. If it looks backward, it does so only on the way forward."

The Office on Christian-Jewish Relations of the National Council of Churches, in cooperation with the Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, has developed a program to assist local churches to recognize Yom HaShoah. Resources, including sample services, prayers, guidelines for interfaith services, and historical information, are available from Room 870, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10115-0050.

ABOVE: MEMORIAL AT DACHAU, W. GERMANY. RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO.

the Interpreter

MARCH-APRIL 1983



**Can We
Feed
Everyone?**

See page 4

Holocaust Service Invokes Grim Past

by Mary Edwardsen

On April 21, 1981, in Grand Rapids, Mich., participants from the National Workshop on Christian Unity gathered in the early evening for a Holocaust Remembrance Service, (Yom Hashoah) The readers consisted of a group of Christians and Jews, children and adults, civic and religious leaders

Using "A Holocaust Commemoration for Days of Remembrance," published by the Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, the readers spoke in a chapel which was darkened to accentuate lighting the candles as each speaker concluded his or her reading

What is the effect of a Yom Hashoah service on its participants?

The Yom Hashoah service is a graphic reminder of the systematic annihilation of more than 6 million Jewish men, women and children

It is understandable why the word *holocaust* is used to describe this historical event The etymological root of the word in Hebrew is *shoah* which, Eugene Fischer explained in his homily, means wind, a destructive whirlwind which consumes completely, or which sucks the life out of all in its path, bringing a return to primal chaos It is the wholly consumed sacrifice

The Yom Hashoah service allowed us to face this destructive whirlwind of human creation, and to face the darkness and evil of the human soul Facing evil generates fear—fear of our own capacity to destroy, to abandon and to discard human life

The fear was magnified by the realization that this destructive capacity has been realized We usually prefer to assume that such evil is beyond us, or outside of us

To remember the Holocaust is to realize that the Nazis were not lesser beings, nor a remote, primitive species They were people, living but 40 years ago The difference between them and us—as historical beings—is the knowledge which the actualization of our capacity for evil now can give to us

The whirlwind of annihilation by our own human hands has a past re-

ality If the Jew must ask, "Where was God to have let such a thing happen?" then the Christian must ask "What am I that such a capacity for evil can exist in me?"

Remembering the Holocaust allows us to move from nightmare as dream to nightmare as historical reality It is not possible to remember this event without facing human suffering and death

The Holocaust reveals to us not only the reality of evil but the reality of suffering and death The degree of irrationality that determined the choice of victim for such horror causes any possible distinction which might give us a feeling of protection to break down

There is no reason for the Jews to have been annihilated We become terrified by the frailty of our humanity in the face of our capacity for evil These people were human beings—our brothers and sisters—who were starved, brutalized and murdered by the millions

One cannot impersonally remember the victims They were real people, who might still be living among us To realize our shared humanity with these victims is to participate in the anguish of their suffering in a world of hatred and indifference

To remember the Holocaust is thus to face our capacity for evil and our terror in the face of it We exist in our humanity as both persecutor and victim, the terrorist and the terrified It is understandable why we may wish to forget the Holocaust or to view it as something which cannot happen again

Our desire to deny the reality of such death and suffering as well as the reality of our capacity for such evil is strong As parts of our being and our history, however, neither of these two realities can be denied

To face the evil and terror within us requires strength and protection It is only within the dimly lit sanctuary that the whirlwind (*shoah*) truly can be faced

Shoah stands in opposition to the Hebrew word *ruah* which means the living breath or spirit of God If the



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whirlwind of our souls and our history is to be confronted—as it must—there may be no other place than in the presence of ruah for such a warring confrontation

When the service was finished, a silence fell over the gathering We had been in touch with the "awful" past We were deeply moved We left with new awareness of the fragility of life And we left committed to the promise "Never again"

Materials are available to help your congregation with a Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration (see coupon on page 51)

Ms Edwardsen is a Ph D candidate at Union Theological Seminary, New York City and a staff associate in the National Council of Churches Office on Christian Jewish Relations

Scriptures for Blind

Scriptures for blind people or those whose vision is impaired long have been a special concern of the American Bible Society

A gift of \$1,000 from the American Bible Society in 1835 helped Dr Samuel G Howe of Boston develop his pioneer system of raised Roman lettering known as Line Letter type A person could read Line Letter type through the fingertips Later it was supplanted by Braille

Now the Bible society has issued a 12-page catalog of Scriptures that lists 131 items designed for use by the visually impaired

The complete 18-volume Braille Bible comes to \$235.80, which is

what it costs the society to have it produced But price never is allowed to be a barrier to a blind person who asks for one

There are also sections from the Scriptures in extra large print for the partially sighted at no more than a nickel apiece Complete Gospels in both the Good News and King James versions can be ordered for only one dollar each

Recorded English Scriptures both on cassettes and records, and Spanish readings on cassette only, are also among the items

For 166 years the American Bible Society has reached out to the people in all conditions of life all over the world through its Scripture ministry The society receives support for its work from World Service

The new catalog of Scriptures may be obtained from American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 12023

A Home Away from Home

Ana Gonzaga cared about children in poverty areas, children who either had no set curfew or bedtime or were virtual prisoners while their parents worked

In 1930, she donated a tract of land about 35 miles from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on which a children's home was built.

Now youngsters find the discipline, Christian education, good nutrition and playtime they often cannot get at home They attend public school half a day and participate in a work program for two hours, learning crafts and receiving assistance with their homework

Children need a home filled with love, care and attention Support the Ana Gonzaga Children's Home



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The United Methodist Child Support Program is a part of the worldwide ministry of The General Board of Global Ministries, as with child care institutions approved as Advance Specials

Insurance Grants Given

More than \$48,000 in grants have been made to 27 churches in 16 states to help them reduce their risk of loss from fire or some other casualty

Made from funds of the United Methodist Insurance Trust, the grants are a feature of the church insurance program sponsored by the General Council on Finance and Administration Many churches voluntarily donate all or a portion of the dividends they receive from the program to the trust

The grants ranging from \$300 to \$3000 are intended to reduce safety hazards to persons and property They will pay for improvements such as replacing dangerously antiquated electrical wiring, installing fire alarms, correcting structural problems and installing new heating systems

The Rev K Joan Cole, of the General Council on Finance and Administration staff, said that priority in awarding grants is given to churches where life threatening conditions exist and there are no other resources to correct them The 27 recipients were chosen from among 130 churches which had applied to the insurance trust for grants

Local Church Planning Process Workbook (LD012B), by Sidney R Nichols General Board of Discipleship \$4

This manual, a complete planning guide for a local church, leads the user step-by-step through the planning process, with examples at each step. Included is guidance for the leader, worksheets for each step, a church planning calendar and bibliography.

Order from Discipleship Resources, PO Box 840, Nashville, Tenn 37202

Meditations on Peace With Justice (CSE2088) General Board of Church and Society 60¢, 10-99 copies, 55¢ each, 100 or more, 50¢ each

Meditations on Peace With Justice is a booklet that contains 31 undated meditations dealing with biblical themes of peace with justice.

Order from Service Department, General Board of Church and Society, 100 Maryland Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002

Covenant Relationship Missionary and Congregation Joining Together Through the Advance (5309) General Board of Global Ministries Free for postage

This revised and updated brochure explains missionary salary support

CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS

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_____ *A Holocaust Commemoration for Days of Remembrance* A source book for remembrance of the Holocaust in public community services in churches and home devotional meditation and prayers Free

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for persons overseas and home missionaries in the United States. Guidelines for a covenant relationship with a missionary through the Advance are included.

Order from Service Center, General Board of Global Ministries, 7820 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237

Journey of Faith A Century of Women in Mission Photo Packet (4158) General Board of Global Ministries \$28 50

This resource is a historic photo set for display in connection with United Methodist Women's Centennial observance but also significant for groups focusing on church history or Bicentennial concerns. Early mission leaders in evangelism, medicine and education are featured, along with persons who shared in their ministries world wide.

The packet includes 34 captioned photos in sepia ink on 24 posters, 11" x 17". Included are quotations, display headings and suggestions for setting up the exhibit.

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_____ *The Organization of the United Methodist Church* (294444) \$6 96

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Bible People Who Knew God (Vacation Church School, 1983), by Norma Jean Perkins General Board of Discipleship and Graded Press Teacher book, \$2 50, church and home leaflets, \$1 10, class packet, \$5 95, media resource, \$14 95

The overall emphasis of vacation church school units for children is "Ways Bible People Lived." Five sessions (that can be expanded to 10) for elementary children in grades 1, 2 and 3 explore how persons in Bible times experienced God's presence in their families, in their work, in travel and in appreciation of the world around them. The children will dis-

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

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_____ *From These Roots: The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church* A 12-minute color filmstrip. Tape and leader's guide available in English or Spanish \$15 plus \$1 postage. Both English and Spanish \$18 plus \$1 postage and handling.

_____ *Created in God's Image* A 97-frame color filmstrip on how people live out the Social Principles \$10

_____ *Social Principles* (CS-1) 25¢ 10-99 copies 20¢ each 100 or more 18¢ each

_____ *Social and Economic Welfare Issues* (CS-5002) Packet with 22 General Conference statements \$2 50

_____ *Concern for Persons in Poverty* (CS-50) 25¢ 100 for \$7

_____ *National Incomes Policy and Social Welfare* (T-431) 25¢ 100 for \$8

_____ *Unemployment* (H-55) 25¢ 100 for \$9

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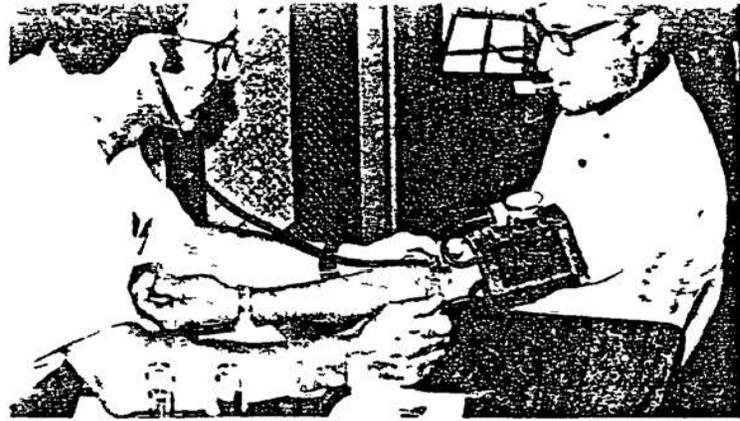
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...stresses of an improvement
 ce persons have spoken on
 -ramp utility bills, personal
 ting and career exploration
 grew out of a need in the
 unity and a need on my part
 ve others," says Zesiger
 is a time of economic crisis
 we need our faith to get us
 h. The congregation has been
 g to put forth the effort and to
 -support without any fanfare
 ty Dexter a Davenport farm
 devotes countless hours to the
 -school board. She talks of the
 ations in dealing with board
 ers who are unwilling to com
 e on difficult issues, and who
 d to pressure groups rather
 working toward solutions."
 ter's votes and positions
 as her witness. "There are

...to be a problem even though
 the economy may recover because
 industry simply can't afford to hire
 substandard performers." Miller

LCA World Gives Global Dimension

Church members continue to inquire about the availability of the 1982 edition of *LCA World*. This 144 page picture and text guide to the churches and countries to which the LCA relates around the world is available at \$2 per copy from the DWME Interpretation Office, 231 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016. A study guide is also available from the same address at 35c per copy.



The annual blood drive at St Paul's involves scores of health professionals and donors in an important community service.

Holocaust Is Remembered

Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) was established in 1951 by the Israeli Knesset in a resolution which proclaims the twenty seventh day of Nisan (March/April) as "Holocaust and Ghetto Uprising Remembrance Day—a day of perpetual remembrance for the house of Israel."

For Christians to remember the Holocaust is to proclaim that the lessons of history are not futile expressions. We are called to remember not only for the sake of the past, but also for the sake of the future. Both Christians and Jews celebrate God's presence in human history. If the lessons of this history are forgotten or made meaningless, this presence of God will also be made meaningless.

WCC and LWF Books Are Available in US

Persons seeking publications of the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation should be aware that these two Geneva based ecumenical organizations have distribution offices in the United States and Canada.

Publications of the Lutheran World Federation are available in the USA from Lutheran World Ministries, 360 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010, and in Canada from the National Committee for Canada—LWF, 365 Hargrave Street, Room 500, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2K3.

Publications of the World Council of Churches are available in the USA from the WCC Publications Office, Room 772, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, and in Canada from the Anglican Book Centre, 600 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2J6.

Price lists of WCC and LWF publications can also be requested of these offices.

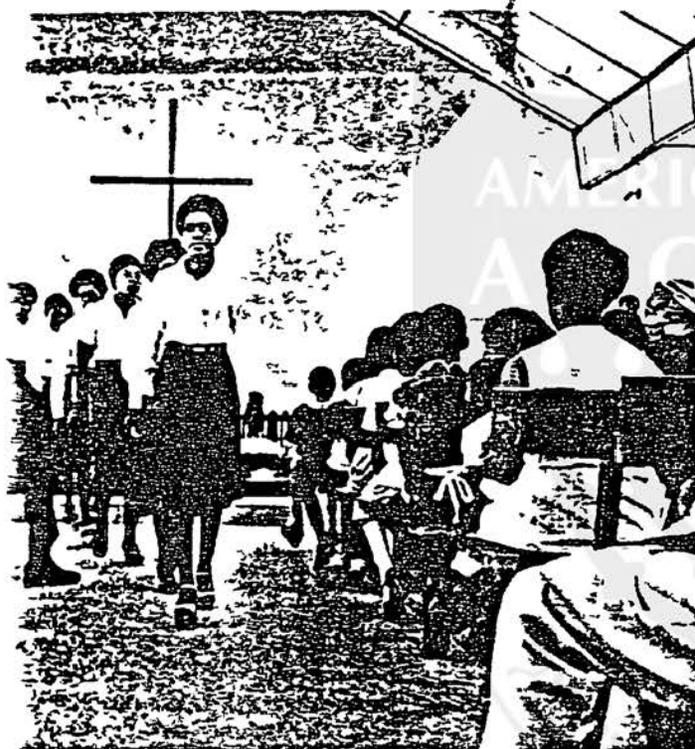
Yom HaShoah will be observed on April 10, 1983. The Office of Christian Jewish Relations of the NCCC in cooperation with the Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, has developed a program to assist local churches to recognize Yom HaShoah or the Week of the Days of Remembrance Resources which are available include sample services, guidelines for interfaith services, prayers, readings, and historical information. Also available is technical assistance, such as regional workshops and training seminars on the development of these commemorative programs.

If you are interested in receiving any or all of these materials please write to: Office of Christian Jewish Relations, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive—Room 870, New York, NY 10115.

Temporary Dividers Move Them Up Front

Good Shepherd Church in Concord, California has come up with a novel idea that may be useful in many parishes. Senior pastor, Ross F. Hidy, reports that a pair of movable banners, designed to fit on pew backs, can help transform a large nave into space that is more suitable for a small gathering of worshipers. These artistic "walls" have a way of urging worshipers to seek the front pews. Even in an oversized nave, worshipers gain a greater sense of intimacy as these pew banners help conceal the unused spaces.

Pastor Hidy has provided some sketches and photos to illustrate this concept and to make it possible for other parishes to consider a similar project. If you would like a copy of these sketches write to *The Congregation*.



Communion at altar. More than half of Namibia's people are Christians.

Americans' Prayers

...of believers to support them in
 struggle for justice and peace in
 land.

...ever there was a time when a
 of Christians have needed the
 ance that there are brothers and
 s in other places who are praying
 hem and advocating in their
 f that time is now for the people
 mbia.

...e above words come from a
 nure entitled *A Call to Prayer
 e People of Namibia to the Peo
 of North American Churches
 nging to the Lutheran World
 ration*. This eight page booklet
 developed to assist congrega-
 s in preparing a service of

prayer and preaching for the people of Namibia. It contains a sermon on a portion of the second lesson for the fourth Sunday in Lent, 13 March 1983, prepared by Namibian church leader and Lutheran pastor, the Reverend Zephaniah Kameeta.

There are also suggestions for hymns and prayers, an update on the situation in Namibia, and suggestions for advocacy by North American Christians on behalf of their Namibian sisters and brothers. Look for this brochure in your March AIM packet. For additional copies write: Dr. Edward May, Lutheran World Ministries, 360 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010.

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American Baptist Churches in the USA
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 19481

THE HOLOCAUST: SUFFERING WITHOUT RELIGIOUS VALUE
by Mary Edwardsen

Karl Barth writes in Dogmatics in Outline:

If as Christians we thought that Church and Synagogue no longer affected one another, everything would be lost. And where this separation between the community and the Jewish nation has been made complete, it is the Christian community which has suffered. The whole reality of the revelation of God is then secretly denied

When the Christian Church confesses Jesus Christ as Savior and the Servant of God for us, for all men, also for the mighty majority of those who have no direct connection with the People Israel, then it does not confess Him although He was a Jew

No, we must strictly consider that Jesus Christ . . . was of Necessity a Jew. We cannot be blind to this fact; it belongs to the concrete reality of God's work and of his revelation.

The inability of our world to have learned from the Holocaust is rooted in two principal causes of the Holocaust: the dehumanization and indifference of mass culture. However, why the causes, implications, and reality of the Holocaust have been held distinct from Christianity is a more complex issue which, I believe, takes Christians to the very core of their relation to Jews and Judaism.

The most difficult, yet pervasive, Christian response to a remembrance of the Holocaust is our apparent resentment. This resentment often takes the form of understanding a remembrance of the Holocaust to be a form of emotional self-indulgence or an unnecessary return to old horror stories. The Holocaust is often perceived by Christians as an irrational, "freak" event, done by others to others. It is viewed as essentially distinct from us; it has nothing to do with Christianity itself. Consequently, we wish to let the event be forgotten. We are weary of hearing about it.

The desire to separate oneself from the Holocaust is understandable. One cannot blithely enter Auschwitz: it is terrifying. However, the resentment which Christians have held toward the remembrance of the Holocaust goes beyond the desire to protect oneself in the face of unspeakable horror. Within Christianity there is an apparent resentment of Jewish suffering. This resentment has often been viewed as a derivative of guilt. Christian guilt over what was allowed to occur may be a factor, but it is unconvincing to assume it is the key to understanding the nature of the resistance which Christians have maintained toward Holocaust remembrance. More central to an understanding, I believe, is Christianity's unique relation to Judaism, which has caused the crucial lessons of the Holocaust--as the most terrifying expression of the dehumanization, indifference, and sickness of modern culture--to be defused and muted.

Christianity is rooted in Judaism. Israel's redemptive history--its Exodus--is our Exodus. God chose Israel as his people, and, consequently, Christians--as people who share this redemptive history--were likewise chosen. The Hebrew Bible is our Old Testament. This shared religious tradition--this identification with Judaism--is yet, however, with an equally powerful desire to separate from Judaism. Richard Rubenstein's Freudian analysis of the "Son's" (Christianity's) need to identify and to usurp the Father (Judaism) is striking. Christianity's desire to claim the history and promise of Judaism in its autonomy from

Judaism has created fascinating theological contortions as well as a tragic breeding ground for anti-Semitism. As Christianity became a dominant world religion, our desire for separation became a voice which threatened the very right of Judaism to an autonomous existence. It is one thing for an oppressed minority to claim its rights, its truth, and its autonomy with the words, "We shall overcome", it is an entirely different expression when these words are spoken by a dominant, powerful group.

This historical change of political status was compensated for by Christianity's notion of "The Church." Unlike Judaism, which has maintained its strong historical basis (i.e., Judaism is the people of Israel), Christianity, as "The Church" is and can only be--by definition--the pure, the innocent, the truth. The notion of "The Church" can serve as a perpetual calling for Christians back to its "true" self. It can serve to prevent Christianity from identifying with the status quo. However, it also has blinded Christians to history and their role in history, as "The Church" we refuse to see ourselves as other than righteous and innocent. This essential identification with righteousness is inextricably linked to our tie to the suffering and the oppressed. Our desire to be autonomous from Judaism, however, has caused Christians to strip Jewish suffering, distinct from our snared redemptive history, of its religious significance. This is, I believe, the central reason why Zionism is rarely recognized as a theology of liberation: it speaks of Jewish oppression distinct from Christianity and, consequently, it cannot be seen by us as a truly religious struggle.

The need to "secularize" Jewish suffering, distinct from Christianity, stems from Christians' need to maintain their religious identification with the oppressed. The Jews may be the people of God, but we are the children of God: we are the innocent. The Holocaust threatens our innocence. As distinct from Christianity, the Holocaust tears at our identification with the oppressed. Indeed, our very claim of autonomy as Christians--as non-Jewish--was the principal criterion which separated us from Auschwitz. It is hence only by stripping Jewish suffering, distinct from Christianity, of its religious significance that our religious "innocence" can be preserved. The price for this protection of innocence is great: we cannot listen to the suffering of the Jewish people.

The tragic irony of this situation cannot be overlooked. Christianity's essential identification with the oppressed is rooted in God's having chosen Israel in its suffering to be the people of God.

For Christians to recognize Holocaust Remembrance Day (April 10) is for us to risk our desire for innocence for the sake of the truth of the Christian message. If we have become a religion which can affirm only the religious significance of suffering that is claimed as Christian, we will make ourselves blind to the reality of our world and the meaning of our Judaic heritage.

Mary Edwardsen is a member of Holocaust Remembrance Day Project.



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MR MATTHEW R GIUFFRIDA C21
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JEWES AND CHRISTIANS IN JOINT WORSHIP PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

(The content of this article was taken from a larger work of the same title, published jointly in 1979 by the Office on Christian Jewish Relations, NCCC and the Dept of Interreligious Affairs, Union of American Hebrew Congregations)

PURPOSE

A joint service is intended for the worship of God and for the expression and enhancement of the gathered community's sense of comradeship and unity before God. We come together, despite our theological and historical differences, to stand before God as one body and to join hands in that which calls for the highest within us. We seek to transcend the divisions of the past to build a better relationship based on respect, justice and good will toward one another. Joint worship is the uniting--for a sacred and over-riding purpose--of those who are otherwise divided.

PRINCIPLES OF PLANNING

Those who plan joint services should proceed boldly, assured that those who attend them know that Judaism and Christianity are distinct religious faiths, each possessing its own integrity. We dare to come together as Jews and Christians not because we are of the same religious faith, but because we share a sacred Scripture, worship the same God, and live in the same community.

Given these assumptions, a great responsibility devolves upon those who plan the service, who formulate for the disparate, gathered community a communal word--a word to which all should be able to respond, "Amen." Joint worship is, first of all, corporate worship. In such worship, we, the participants, stand together to offer to God and to one another a pledge of what we believe, what we mean, and what we intend to do. For this reason, the planning group should be as broadly based as possible, and should not be restricted to clergy. Plenty of advance time should be allowed to accommodate more than one planning session, so that differences of opinion, which are bound to surface, may be talked through to the satisfaction of all.

Two planning principles cannot be overstressed: (1) that all prayers, readings, homilies--every aspect of the service--should use inclusive language; and (2) that the emphasis should be on that which points us to our common heritage in God and to our mutual desire for a peaceful and just society.

Ultimately, of course, it is the local planning group that must assess the current state of the interreligious relationship in the community. The group must then decide what is appropriate and what is not. It is conceivable, for instance, that the principle of "emphasizing that which unites" might, in certain communities, be consciously and temporarily set aside for the purpose of learning something about each other.

interreligious service might then include some exclusively Jewish and exclusively Christian elements--to be recited, sung or prayed separately by each faith group (In such a case, education, and not joint worship would be the reason for their inclusion) Such elements would be appropriate, however, only where sophisticated understanding born of long and close association had removed the potential for embarrassment and had replaced suspicion with strong mutual trust Whether a community is ready for such an experience must be determined by the local planning group The suggestions given here are offered as merely workable norms which we believe will prove useful in a great many situations

SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

1 Occasion of Service In addition to worship and a sense of unity, there might be an additional focus thanksgiving, either for the holiday or for some commonly-achieved goal, common concerns. peace, human rights, civil holidays, etc., commemoration of the tragic the Holocaust, prisoners of conscience, celebration of values we share as Jews and Christians the human family, sanctity of life, etc., community or national penitence

2 Site and Symbols It is generally preferable to set the worship service in the "sacred space" of a synagogue or church It is assumed that worshippers are prepared to accept the physical integrity of the house of worship in which the service takes place The addition of a banner or some other device to act as a welcome to visitors might be in order a menorah or Ten Commandments in a church, alpha and omega or a fish in a synagogue The planning group should be aware that Jews cannot be expected to use a cross or crucifix in a synagogue This is so for a variety of reasons--historical, theological and personal Jews should be prepared, however, to accept these symbols in a Christian place of worship as part of Christian architecture and liturgical art If the service is held in an auditorium or another "neutral" place, a symbol of each faith might be present

3 Welcome Strong effort should be made to make all who enter feel that they are most welcome Ushers might well include leaders of the several congregations A cordial welcome to everyone who enters, deliberate seating together of people from various faith communities, promotion of conversation before worship, even if that is usually not appropriate in regular services The intermingling of people creates a feeling of unity even before we begin to pray

4 Participation All congregations in the community should be invited to participate and should be included in some way in the service. That the community may be faithfully represented, there should be a proper balance of clergy and laity in visible leadership roles Opportunities for singing, responses, and other acts of worship should be provided for all assembled

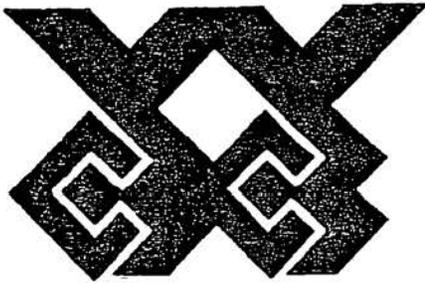
5 Music Music should be planned for maximum participation. Hymns should be sung by the congregation. Many Christian and Jewish hymns are suitable for this purpose. The adaptation of trinitarian or christological hymns, however, should generally be avoided, since such "camouflaging" of the text is potentially offensive to Jew and Christian alike. Choose instead hymns whose texts deal with such universal themes as peace, the human family, and, of course, the special occasion for the service.

If special choral music is to be included in the service, joint choirs are a most fitting vehicle. Here, as with hymns, the text is a more important consideration than the source of the music. The service might be further enriched by music sung by a Jewish cantor or choir in Hebrew and/or an Orthodox Church cantor or choir in Greek. In such cases, translations of the texts should appear in the program. All texts should, in any case, be inclusive of everyone present. Instrumental music is always appropriate.

6 Prayers Prayers should be addressed to God alone, and should not be in the name of Jesus or of the Trinity. Forms of address such as God, Creator, Source of Our Being are appropriate. Again, the language of prayer should include all present--Christian and Jew. Fitting prayers of praise, petition, and penitence might be written for the occasion, or might be extracted from our various prayer books. Use of the Lord's Prayer, however, is inadvisable--not because of the text itself, but because of its strong historical identification with the Church alone.

Corporate or responsive prayer can be an especially appropriate way to begin the service. Such prayers should affirm the uniqueness, integrity, and validity of each of our faith communities, and should express clearly the fact that we come together before God not because we are or should be one body, but because the oneness of the God we worship at once includes and transcends even our honest differences.

7 Readings Use of Jewish and Christian Scripture is fully in accord with the intent of the service. The aim should be to select the universal. The principle to be observed is to emphasize that which unites, and not to point up that which divides. The non-polemical use of Jesus's name and teachings in readings from Christian Scripture or in homilies is perfectly in accord with this principle. Readings from world literature, too, might well be in order. It should be borne in mind, however, that this is to be an experience of worship and that such materials should not, therefore, be overly prominent.



**WYOMING
CHURCH
COALITION**

*Rev Robert E Thomas
1601 South Melrose
Casper, Wy 82601*

**(307) 234-2964 Study
(307) 237-6606 Home**

**AMERICAN
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

December 14, 1982

**AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Mrs. Mary Edwardson
Office on Christian-Jewish Relations
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115

**CHRISTIAN
CHURCH
(DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST)**

Dear Mrs. Edwardson

The Wyoming Church Coalition would like to participate in the Yom Hashoah on April 10, 1983.

**EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

We would appreciate several copies of the suggested worship service as well as the other reference materials and technical assistance.

**LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN
AMERICA**

Please send the materials as soon as possible to give us all available lead time

**ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert E Thomas
Executive Secretary

RET bp

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

**UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

**UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

2/4/83

Ok (Des)

Bamm

BUFFALO AREA METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES, INC / 100 Wadsworth / Buffalo, New York 14201 / 716-883-7717

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Chairman of the Board

January 3, 1983

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BUFFALO AREA BOARD OF RABBIS

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AMERICAN MUSLIM MISSION
Masjid Muhammed Buffalo

THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY
of Niagara Frontier

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THE REV CHARLES R WHITE
Executive Director

ELIZABETH KASH
Executive Secretary

BONNIE JEHL
Bookkeeper

Ms. Mary Edwardsen
Holocaust Remembrance Project
National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115

Dear Ms. Edwardsen

Congratulations on the grant from the Holocaust Remembrance Foundation.

Yes, as David Simpson may have told you, Bamm is interested in working with your project. Specifically, this is in the area of involvement assigned by the Bamm Board of Directors to our Commission on Inter-religious Dialogue. Dave met with this group in December, 1982.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that we have invited you to come to Buffalo for the purpose of providing technical assistance. Therefore, we would like for you to confirm your availability. And I look forward to meeting you when you are here.

Yom Ha Shoah, April 10, 1983, will benefit, I'm sure, from the work you will do and the leadership you'll provide. Please let us know how we can assist you in this project. All best wishes for you.

Sincerely yours,



The Rev. Charles R. White
Executive Director

CRW/ek



CHURCHES UNITED OF SCOTT COUNTY IOWA
& ROCK ISLAND COUNTY ILLINOIS

639 38th STREET
ROCK ISLAND ILLINOIS 61201
309 786 6494

Thomas N. Kalshoven
Executive Director

Sheila D. Fitts
Program Coordinator in
Ministry and Justice

January 10, 1983

Mary Edwardsen
Holocaust Remembrance Project
Office on Christian-Jewish Relations
NCCC
475 Riverside Dr.
New York, N.Y. 10115

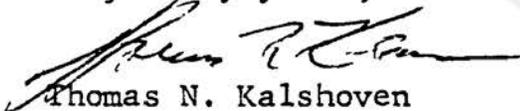
Dear Ms. Edwardsen:

Thank you for your letter of December 2, outline the services available from your office. We would like to take you up on some of them.

Specifically, we would appreciate your sending the written materials referred to in your letter, including background papers, and sample services, etc.

We are in the process of planning our annual observance of this year's Yom HaShoah, and would appreciate receiving these materials by January 24, to be used at our next planning meeting.

Very truly yours,


Thomas N. Kalshoven

)
sent to [unclear]

The Council of Churches

404 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill CA 94523
(415) 689 4363



of Contra Costa County

Dorothy Sargent Executive Director

January 24, 1983

Mary Edwardson
- Holocaust Remembrance Project
National Council of the Churches
of Christ
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115

Dear Ms Edwardson:

The Council of Churches of Contra Costa County would appreciate samples of articles, services, and guidelines for ecumenical/interfaith dialogues, or study papers you may have to help our local churches, synagogues and civic groups observe Yom HaShoah on April 10.

Our Social Education and Action Committee will sponsor study groups and encourage local observances if the material received is helpful and if it can be duplicated.

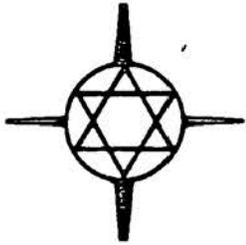
Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Sargent

Dorothy Sargent,
Executive Director

2/3/83



INTER-FAITH MINISTRIES — WICHITA . . .

(WICHITA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES)

216 EAST SECOND • WICHITA, KANSAS 67202 • (316) 264-9303

February 7, 1983

Ms. Mary Edwardsen
Holocaust Remembrance Project
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10115

Dear Ms. Edwardsen:

Please send us information about Holocaust Remembrance Day. We would especially like to have copies of sample services, civic commemorations, guidelines for dialogs, etc.

We are hoping to work with the National Conference of Christians and Jews in a city-wide remembrance on April 10.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

James M. Bell

James M. Bell
Executive Director

JMB/eay

2/14/83

TEMPLE COVENANT OF PEACE

FOUNDED AUGUST 26, 1839

NORTHAMPTON AND FIFTEENTH STREETS EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18042 215-253-2031

RABBI JERALD BOBROW

February 9, 1983

Mary Edwardsen
475 Riverside Dr.
New York, NY 10115

Dear Mary:

Our community is planning an inter-faith program for Yom HaShoah and we will be meeting with clergy of our community at a special institute on the Holocaust to plan the observance.

We would appreciate it if you could send us 30 packets of Holocaust materials for distribution to the clergy at our March Institute. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Sincerely,



RABBI JERALD BOBROW

JB:jms

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 363D COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (TAC)
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE SOUTH CAROLINA 29152



11 March 1983

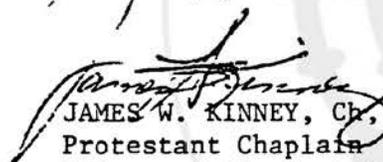
Office of Christian Jewish Relations
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive, Room 870
New York NY 10115

Dear Friends

Please send me any available aids to worship and historical information for Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day 1983. Our chapel plans to observe the day in Catholic Masses and Protestant Services, with each group giving its offering toward the erection of a Holocaust Memorial in downtown Sumter, South Carolina, an endeavor being undertaken by a wide spectrum of the local religious and civic community.

Looking forward to hearing from you and with prayers for your continual ministry, I am

Sincerely yours


JAMES W. KINNEY, Ch, Major, USAF
Protestant Chaplain
Office of the Installation Staff Chaplain

Readiness is our Profession

United Churches' News

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

202 E THIRD STREET • WILLIAMSPORT PA 17701

Telephone (717) 322-1110 or (717) 322 6796

REV ALTON M MOTTER, D D

Executive Director & Editor

VOL. IV, No. 3.

March 16, 1982 *

RETURN POSTAGE REQUESTED

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US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 307
Williamsport PA
17701



#10 White Envelopes \$4.70/500
Stencils \$4.75- \$5.22/quire
Mimeo Ink \$3.95- \$7.30/tube

A complete price list will be sent to anyone interested. The Co-op is open for new members, particularly for the 1982-83 heating season. The one-time membership fee is \$100. Membership fees are invested in inventory. All sales are cash and carry. The co-op is located at Church of the Savior, Lutheran, 522 N. Grier Street, and is presently open on Wednesday mornings.

For further information please contact the Church Supply Co-op, 326-7082, and ask for the Rev. Ronald F. Mease.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 18th-24th is National Volunteer Week. The Interagency Council is planning a number of activities to honor all volunteers of Lycoming County. Church volunteers, we want your picture! It should be a picture of volunteers in action. Please do not send more than five pictures and please specify if you want the pictures returned to you. Pictures can be mailed to:

Mary Beatty
1202 Clayton Avenue
Williamsport, Pa. 17701
Telephone: 323-9891

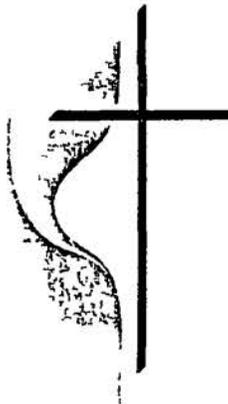


HOLOCAUST DIALOGUE — APRIL 27TH

Protestant and Catholic clergy are cordially invited to share in a Jewish-Christian Dialogue on April 27th, the Jewish "Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust". The dialogue will take place between Rabbis David L. Schwartz and Norman E. Singer and Msgr. Eugene J. Clark and Dr. Alton M. Motter in Temple Beth Ha Sholom at 425 Center St., Williamsport from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The theme will be "The Challenge of the Holocaust. Interested pastors should call the United Churches, 322-1110.

WILLIAM SLOAN COFFIN TO SPEAK

William Sloan Coffin, pastor of Riverside Church, New York, will speak twice on Thursday, March 25th at Penn State on "Reversing the Nuclear Arms Race". He will speak at 4 p.m. at the Music Theatre and at 8 p.m. in the Schwab Building. Both sessions are open to the public. There will be no admission charge.



First United Methodist Church

41 EAST BLACKWELL STREET • DOVER, N J 07801-3975 • 201/366-1804

Pastor The Reverend Norman E Smith, D Min • 201/366-2123

February 11, 1983

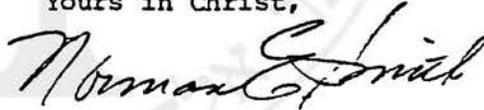
The Office of Christian Jewish Relations
of the National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115

Gentlemen:

I am interested in obtaining a copy of the materials you have available for the celebration of Yom HaShoah, the Week of the Days of Remembrance. They may be sent to me at the church address listed above.

I am chairperson for the Northern New Jersey Annual Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

Yours in Christ,



Norman E. Smith
Pastor

NES.k

2/15/83



Park Street Baptist Church

FRANKLIN AND PARK STREETS
FRAMINGHAM MASSACHUSETTS 01701
(617) 879-1091

REV JAMES T HEGLEY
879 4119

March 14, 1983

National Council of Churches
Office of Christian Jewish Relations
475 Riverside Drive, Room 870
New York, New York 10115

Dear Friends,

Last Thursday I made a presentation in our area clergy meeting encouraging everyone to remember HOLOCAUST SUNDAY in their worship services and/or education programs on April 10. It seems that I am the only clergy in our town who has done such in the past. For that reason I was able to explain why I thought it was important and I was able to share what resources I have acquired over the last two years. The bulk of those resources have come from the National Conference of Christians and Jews (43 West 57th St., NY). At our meeting the Rev. Mason Wilson of St. Andrews Episcopal Church shared a packet of materials he had just received from you folks, and I would like to request that you send me that same collection of resources. If there is any charge for such please bill me.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping me attempt to creatively confront the Christian community with the message, NEVER AGAIN.

Appreciatively,

Rev. James T. Hegley

3/18



University Baptist and Brethren Church

411 S BURROWES ST
STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801

Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches in the USA and the Church of the Brethren

ROBERT G WITHERS
MINISTER AND UNIVERSITY PASTOR
506 WEST FOSTER AVENUE
237 7920 OR 237 2708

IRENE V GRINDALL
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
1218 HOUSERVILLE RD
238-3646 OR 237 2708

March 17, 1983

Office on Christian - Jewish Relations
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive, Room 870
New York, New York 10115

Dear Friends,

Please forward 250 bulletin inserts and worship aids for
our April 10 observance of Holocaust Sunday.

If there is any cost involved please bill the church.

University Baptist and Brethren Church
411 S. Burrowes Street
State College, PA. 16801

Sincerely,

Lewis J. Wenzel

Mrs. Lewis J. Wenzel,
Church Secretary

HOLDEN VILLAGE
CHELAN, WASHINGTON 98816

March 29, 1983

Office of Christian Jewish Relations
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive Room 870
NY, NY 10115

Dear friends,

We would like to receive the materials you have available to help congregations observe Yom HaShoah on April 10, 1983. The type of materials we are interested in are the ones listed in the March/April edition of "The Congregation": sample services, guidelines for interfaith services, prayers, readings, and historical information.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Dan Erlander/kk

Dan Erlander

DE/kk

St John's Lutheran Church

370 MCKENZIE STREET, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R2W 5B2 — TELEPHONE 586-2207

Pastor

JOHANN F KUNKEL, B.A. M.Div.
TELEPHONE 589-8979

April 7, 1983

Office of Christian Jewish Relations,
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive
Room 870
New York, N.Y.
10115

Dear Sir/Madam:

As part of our celebrations for the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther, the Winnipeg Task Force is exploring the possibilities of some form of Lutheran-Jewish dialogue. We would be very interested in having any materials you have available on the Holocaust Remembrance Day, and also such other information that would be helpful for mutual discussions and learning.

Very Sincerely,

J.F. Kunkel, Co-ordinator,

Luther-500 Task Force

JFK/am

The United Church of Los Alamos

2525 Canyon Road - P O Box 103 1286
LOS ALAMOS NEW MEXICO 87544
Telephone 662-2971 — 662-2221

Serving the

American Baptist Churches U S A
Presbyterian Church in the U S
United Church of Christ
United Presbyterian Church in the U S A
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Moravian Church in America
Reformed Church in America

April 18, 1983

GEORGE S EASLEY
Pastor
DAVID B HAMMAR
Associate Pastor

Ms. Mary Edwardsen
Office of Christian Jewish Relations
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive
N.Y., N.Y 10115

Dear Mary:

Thank you for sending me the materials on the Holocaust.
They were extremely helpful.

We did observe Holocaust Rememberance Day on April 10th.
I used as my topic, "The Holocaust and the Forgiveness of
Enemies," referring not only to the Jewish Holocaust but
the geneside of the Armenian people in Turkey as well as some
from biblical times and working that into the problem that
exists for all people in terms of forgiving those who have
damaged us deeply.

Thank you again for your help.

Shalom,



George S. Easley

GSE/at



St. Mary's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

146 Twelfth St., Pacific Grove, California. 93950
Telephone Area 408. 373-4441

April 18th, 1983

Ms. Mary Edwardsen,
Office on Christian-Jewish Relations,
475, Riverside Drive,
New York, N.Y. 10115

Dear Ms. Edwardsen,

Thank you for the materials on Jewish-Christian relations and Yom HaShoah. These have been made available to our congregation - see the announcement on the insert in last Sunday's service bulletin. (The Rector spoke about remembering the Holocaust at the point in the service for announcements.) The materials referred to on my shelves are primarily the works of Elie Wiesel, with whom I studied for 2 years while in Boston.

We did not do much this year regarding Yom HaShoah, I know, but wanted to let you know what we did.

Please let me know of any further resources and materials. Thank you again.

Peace,



Martin Yabroff

Assistant to the Rector

MY/DJ

OFFICE MEMORANDUM ●

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To David Simpson

Date April 19, 1983

From Claire Randall CR

Subject

I have received two items from George Sheridan, Secretary of the Committee on Christian-Jewish Relations. You will need to do something in regards to one of them and perhaps to both of them.

The first one I want to refer to is the one in which you resolve to request that the Council go on record about Israel and the United Nations. I think you know that the only way to get the Council to pass a resolution is to go through the resolution process. A letter such as this is not the way to get a resolution handled. Therefore, I am not sure whether you expect to go through the resolution process or think you have already gone through it. Either way, you will have to do something different and more than you have done at this point. It is quite late to put another resolution on the Governing Board agenda and, therefore, I am hesitant to encourage further activity. Perhaps this can wait until the next Governing Board meeting or an Executive Committee meeting, if something is apt to be coming up in the United Nations before the next Board meeting. I am not aware of what's going on right now that makes this come forward.

The other question I raise is that I had heard from Gene Stockwell that you all were working on something together. Is that not correct? If it is correct, where does he fit into this and can you all get together and make this a more effective resolution? I have no great zeal for throwing this hot issue into the arena of the Governing Board at this May meeting when we already have so many hot issues - as our attacks and the Metropolitan Church. The agenda is also completely full and I do not know where I would put this anyway. But, if before the mailing goes out you happen to get it in proper resolution form, I will have to accept it and move it forward to the Governing Board and somehow find a place in the agenda for it. However, I do encourage you that if it can wait, that it be done later rather than now since there is very little time to get it in shape. This office does not take the responsibility for writing or preparing such resolutions. That responsibility lies with the initiating body.

I am not at all sure what it is that I am supposed to do about the other action of your committee regarding the meeting in Paris. Dick Butler spoke briefly to me about it, but I have heard nothing more about any formal plans. I would have to have considerably more information before I could have some influence on that situation.

It is obvious I will need that information very soon, if the meeting is to be anytime soon. But I do not know what date it is set for, since the action did not indicate that. I presume that you had discussions with Dick Butler who I

(over)

MEMO: David Simpson
April 19, 1983

also presume would be responsible for some decision being made about this. On the other hand, it may be that Dwain Epps is involved. If so, then some further discussion would have to be had with him. Until I get further information on this, I will not be able to know precisely how I can help effect the situation. I will be gone for the next two weeks and, therefore, I trust that this can be handled after I get back.

CC. Joan Campbell





NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U S A

OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

April 21, 1983

David E Simpson
Director

Landrum Shields
Chairman

To: Claire Randall

From: David Simpson

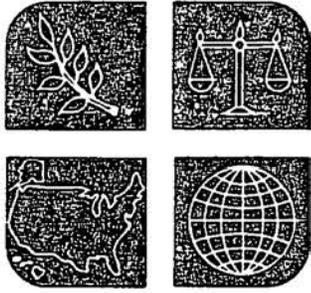
Re: Correspondence from the NCC Committee on Christian
Jewish Relations

In response to your memo of April 19, 1983 I would like to give you the following updated information on the actions taken by the Committee at its meeting on March 22, 1983 and the letters to you from George Sheridan, Secretary of the Committee.

- 1) The Committee adopted a resolution of its own to be communicated to you on the issue of Israel and the United Nations. This action came as a result of the discussion about the upcoming UN Conference on the Question of Palestine. Subsequently, we found out that the NCC Governing Board had adopted a similar Policy Statement on the United Nations in May, 1977. Gene Stockwell was interested in cooperation on such a resolution as a result of his participation in a meeting with the American Jewish Committee in November, 1982. Our Committee is not proposing a resolution to go before the NCC Governing Board in May, 1983. We will continue to monitor the actions of the United Nations with respect to Israel and will propose appropriate actions in the future in cooperation with the other units of the National Council of Churches who might be involved. We are aware of the resolution process and will keep you informed.
- 2) The action of the Committee regarding the UN Conference on the Question of Palestine in Paris in August, 1983 is something about which we have a clear position and proposal for NCC response. As indicated in the letter from George Sheridan, the Committee believes that NCC participation in the Conference would be counterproductive to Christian Jewish relations in the United States at this time. Perhaps we should meet with you and representatives from the Middle East Committee when you return.

Thank you for your quick response to these communications and I will be happy to discuss them with you at your convenience.

cc: Joan Campbell
George Sheridan



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U S A

OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

May 5, 1983

David E Simpson
Director

To: Members of the CORLE Commission

Landrum Shields
Chairman

From: David Simpson, Director

Re: Status of the Office on Christian Jewish Relations

It is a great pleasure to bring before the members of our Commission an update on work in Christian Jewish Relations which shows some tangible degree of success and results from your efforts.

Enclosed is a Report which I shared with the members of the NCC Committee on Christian Jewish Relations when we met in Rye, New York on March 22-23, 1983. It summarizes the goals and programs of our Office since I joined the staff two years ago and points to our vision of the future. In this brief report to the Commission I would just like to lift up a few of the most important highlights for your consideration and response.

1) Our Committee has expanded considerably and we are now beginning to enjoy the fruits of working relationships with agencies in the Jewish community and with the Middle East Committee, the Christian Muslim Task Force and the Commission on Faith and Order of the NCC. The Middle East Committee and our Committee are planning a joint session in the near future and our office will be responsible for a presentation on the Christian Jewish implications of a major Faith and Order Study of the Nicene Creed at their meeting in October, 1983.

2) The program in Holocaust education has become a major activity of our Office, and we have just completed a second project with the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Council, for which we received a grant of \$24,000. We have proposed an expanded program with the Holocaust Council, which will include ongoing work with denominations and local councils of churches on Yom Hashoah services and recognition of the week of the Days of Remembrance, a unit on Holocaust education in our proposed teacher training program for religious educators and a section on the Holocaust in our church and synagogue dialogue program. A request for funding has been submitted in the amount of \$75,000 for each of the next two years. If adequate funding is secured by June, 1983 the Office on Christian Jewish Relations will expand its staff as required to carry out this important program.

3) Our Office sponsored a Pre-Workshop Seminar at the recent National Workshop on Christian Jewish Relations in Boston, April 24-28, 1983, which was considered very successful. It is expected that I will share in the leadership of the next Workshop in October, 1984.

4) Although the media seems to imply that our relations with the Jewish community at the national level is strained and tense, we just completed meetings on May 5, 1983 with leaders of the five Jewish agencies with whom we affiliate and with the leadership of the Synagogue Council of America, both led by Bishop Armstrong, President of the NCC. Claire Randall concluded that we are "light years ahead" in our relations with Jewish leadership from where we were just a few years ago. These joint meetings will continue to be convened on a regular basis by our Office.

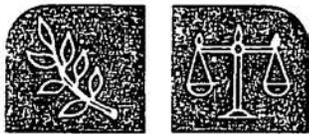
5) Everyone concludes a meeting about Christian Jewish Relations by suggesting the need to do something concrete at the local level. We are pleased to be located in CORLE so that we can help make that happen. The United Methodist Churches and the Reformed Synagogues through the Union of American Hebrew Congregations have also agreed to sponsor with us a local dialogue program which will begin taking place in 25 communities across the United States this Fall. We will be conducting five regional training sessions for leaders from local churches and synagogues who will carry out the dialogues locally. Councils of Churches and Interfaith agencies will be invited to share in this project.

6) The Interfaith agency in Buffalo, New York, Buffalo Area Metropolitan Ministries, is currently developing with our Office a model program in Christian Jewish Relations, which will implement all of the local programs suggested by our Committee. We have just been invited to meet with ecumenical leadership in Harrisburg, Pa. to assist in the development of a similar program for that community. It is our goal to assist as many local communities as possible in the development of their own creative programs in Christian Jewish Relations.

7) The Office will present the workshop on Christian Jewish Relations at the local level at the NAES/Bellingham meeting this Summer in conjunction with the WCC meeting. We will be inviting leaders from local councils to share with us in this presentation.

8) We will soon begin a series of consultations with the top leadership of each of the major denominations affiliated with the NCC to assist in their determination of priorities for work in the field of Christian Jewish Relations, and as a result of these meetings and their support, the future direction of the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations will at least in part be shaped.

By way of conclusion, I continue to be extremely grateful to Joan Campbell for her personal support and direction with this sometimes difficult task at an unusually challenging time in my life. The encouragement of all the members of the staff, of the Committee and members of the Commission are great sources of spiritual energy for this ministry. It is deeply appreciated.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A



OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

David E Simpson
Director

June 14, 1983

Landrum Shields
Chairman

To: Members of the Standing Committee

From: David Simpson

Re: June 23rd meeting, mailings, reports, etc.

At our meeting on April 14, 1983 the Standing Committee agreed to meet again on Thursday, June 23, 1983 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We have confirmed the location for the Ohio Baptist Conference Room on the eighth floor of the Interchurch Center. Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of the April 14th meeting. Please let our Office know if you will be able to attend the meeting.

Enclosed is a copy of the Report on the 1983 Holocaust Remembrance Project prepared for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. Mary Edwardson and I will be meeting with the staff of the Council on June 17th and with the Council on June 29th to determine future funding. Should this entire report be sent to the full membership of our Committee?

Bishop John Burt will be sending a report to our office on the May 15-19, 1983 meeting of the Middle East Council of Churches in Geneva, which can be sent to the Committee. The Bishop Armstrong trip to the Middle East has been cancelled, at least for now.

The Middle East Committee met on May 31-June 1, 1983 and I will prepare a full report for the Committee when the minutes are available. Enclosed is a draft of a paper that is being developed by the Middle East Office for circulation among the churches. Perhaps someone from our Office or Committee can participate in the final editing of the document? The Middle East Committee received with interest the suggestion from our Standing Committee that we convene a meeting of the constituent members of our two Committees.

Please let Warren Jacobs (870-3800) or myself know if you have anything to add to the agenda for the June 23rd meeting. Is Wainright House an acceptable location for our meeting in October? If so, I will make the reservations now. Thanks again for your help and advice.

Jim,

please let
me see the
back-up
documents
for this -

→ more



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.

OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

David E. Simpson
Director

Landrum Shields
Chairman

June 7, 1983

Rabbi Seymour Siegel, Executive Director
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council
425 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Rabbi Siegel:

We are pleased to forward to your office the enclosed Final Report on the 1983 Holocaust Remembrance Project which was sponsored by the Office on Christian Jewish Relations of the National Council of Churches in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. The report indicates a successful outcome in response to our collective efforts and a renewed commitment to an expanded scope of Holocaust commemoration activities in the future.

Attached to this report are sample copies of correspondence related to the project, publications which resulted in denominational and ecumenical magazines and newsletters and literature which was developed by our Office for the project.

A proposal is forthcoming from the National Council of Churches recommending a two year program with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council for the future. We look forward to meeting with you and members of your staff to discuss our future plans.

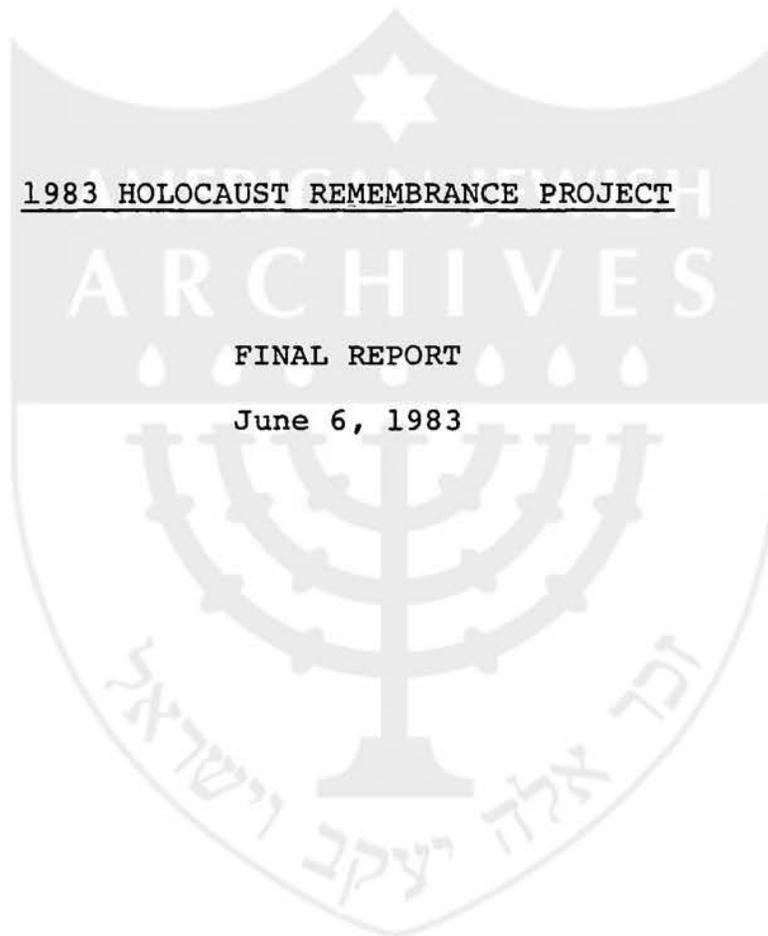
This program would not have been possible without the excellent cooperation of members of your staff. Please convey our sincere appreciation to all concerned.

Respectfully,

The Rev. David E. Simpson
Director

cc: Bishop A. James Armstrong
The Rev. Joan B. Campbell
Dr. Claire Randall

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN JEWISH RELATIONS



Presented to:

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

By:

David Simpson, Director

Mary Edwardsen, Program Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

Outside forces often have a way of causing something significant to happen within institutions that changes the direction of the agency and its response to the human condition. Marion Craig and Monroe Freedman, representing the United States Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, had such an influence on the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations in the beginning of 1982. Their proposal that the National Council of Churches develop a program to increase the participation of the religious community in the recognition of the week of Days of Remembrance of the Holocaust was met with enthusiasm by our Committee and a short term project was immediately initiated.

This activity has since become the major program focus of the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations and it has been the creative influence giving new direction to the ways in which the churches in the United States educate themselves about their relationship to Judaism and engage in an increasingly positive dialogue with the Jewish community. A project that began as a modest effort to encourage churches and ecumenical agencies to conduct Holocaust Commemoration services in local communities has now emerged into an ongoing educational program touching all aspects of the life of the religious community with every intention of becoming a permanent element of the internal educational program of the churches.

The short term project in the early part of 1982 established a foundation and a rationale for a more intensive program. It also provided the motivation for some denominational and ecumenical leaders to request participation in future activities and to develop the resources to carry out such a program. The 1983 project allowed the National Council of Churches to cooperate with its major member denominations in extensive educational activities which significantly raised the level of awareness of the American religious community to the broader need for Holocaust education in the churches and support for the educational goals of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

OVERVIEW OF 1983 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The goals of the 1983 program have been an expansion of the original project objective to increase recognition of the Holocaust and to do so through the denominations and the councils of churches throughout the United States. Specifically they are

- 1) To promote the recognition of the week of the Days of Remembrance in local churches through

the distribution of Holocaust education materials from the denominations,

- 2) To encourage community wide Holocaust commemoration activities in cooperation with councils of churches and interfaith agencies,
- 3) To instill the desire and the commitment within the denominations and the ecumenical agencies to create an ongoing program of Holocaust education in the religious community of the United States.

The expanded timetable of the 1983 program made it possible to reach a substantially increased number of churches with materials to be used for Holocaust education and commemoration. One denomination was able to provide every local pastor (6,000) with materials prepared by the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations. It also became apparent, however, that a multi-year schedule will be necessary if we are to work with religious education departments of the denominations to develop Holocaust education materials within their own church school resources. We must also apply the same long term schedule if we are to publish articles about the Holocaust and the need for Holocaust education and commemoration in each of the major denominational magazines. Some of these periodicals have outlined their publications for at least one year in advance

The 1983 proposal submitted to the U.S. Holocaust Remembrance Foundation in August, 1982 and at a meeting on September 8, 1982, was enthusiastically endorsed by the NCC Committee on Christian Jewish Relations at its meeting on September 9, 1982. Immediately following this approval, a search was conducted for staffing for the project and on September 23, 1982 Mary Edwardsen was selected as Program Coordinator. Meetings with denominational leaders and cooperating agencies to confirm participation on the 1983 project were scheduled and held throughout September and October, 1982. An Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the U.S. Catholic Conference, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, denominations and councils of churches was organized and meetings to establish program direction were held. The following preparatory activities were conducted to formally announce the 1983 program

- September 13-14 Meeting in Washington, D C. of Christian leaders of the National Conference on Soviet Jewery
- September 19-20 Advisory Committee to the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, Washington, D.C.

- October 1-3 Israel Study Group, distinguished Christian scholars in Christian Jewish Relations, Weston, Vermont.
- October 8-9 NCC Commission on Faith and Order
- October 7 Taping of television program with Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum and Dr. Eugene Fisher, in which David Simpson described the Holocaust project and the need for education in the churches about the Holocaust.
- October 12 Interview with independent reporter to prepare major article on the work of the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations in Holocaust education for publication in the January, 1983 issue of the United Methodist Church magazine, New World Outlook (See attached copy)
- October 13 Meeting with national leaders of the Synagogue Council of America and the National Council of Churches, New York City.
- October 17 Annual meeting of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, New York City
- October 25-26 National Institute on the Holocaust Conference, Philadelphia, Pa.
- October 31-November 2 NCC Commission on Regional and Local Ecumenism, leaders of the major Councils of Churches in cities across the United States.
- November 3-5 Governing Board meeting of the National Council of Churches, New York, at which a plenary presentation was made on the Holocaust project to more than 300 of the top religious leaders of the major Protestant and Orthodox denominations in the United States.

These and other meetings with denominational leaders established the program and created a responsive constituency for the distribution of materials for Holocaust commemoration activities. Over the months of October and November, additional contact was made with key personnel in each denomination to determine the types of materials and resources they would be willing to advance among their churches and in what ways this distribution could best be accomplished.

In November and December, letters were sent to church leaders and ecumenical executives announcing the program and describing the services that would be offered by the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations. (copy of December 2, 1982 letter attached) In November an exhaustive search of the material about the Holocaust was conducted in preparation for the development of a packet for church leaders. Meetings were held with staff of the Holocaust Council and the authors of existing literature to determine the types of materials to be included in the packet for distribution. Agreements were reached with denominational publishers and permission was secured from authors to develop the appropriate literature. A logo for the NCC 1983 Holocaust Remembrance Day Project was designed and approved by the Holocaust Council. The following materials were developed and printed for circulation to the churches and councils

1. Yom Hashoah History and Relevance (Edwardsen)
2. The Liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camps, (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, 1981 International Liberators Conference, edited by Edwardsen)
3. The Challenge of the Holocaust for Christian Theology (Pawlikowski, edited by Edwardsen)
4. Suggested Liturgies and Readings (Edwardsen)
5. The Uniqueness of the Holocaust (President's Commission on the Holocaust, edited by Edwardsen)
6. Jews and Christians in Joint Worship (NCC and UAHC)
7. A Brief Holocaust bibliography
8. Yom Hashoah Bulletin Insert (Edwardsen)
9. U.S. Holocaust Council flyer announcing the 1983 Week of the Days of Remembrance.
10. U.S. Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, A Holocaust Commemoration booklet.

Articles of varying length and focus were prepared for publication in denominational magazines and newsletters. Each denomination selected the literature they believed would receive the most positive response from local clergy and would promote our desire to increase participation in the 1983 week of the Days of Remembrance. This activity will be described

in more detail under the section of this report on work with denominations.

In meetings with each of the denominations and council executives, the offer of the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations to provide technical assistance, workshops and training resources for local clergy was explored at length and in some modest ways was utilized. Most of this service was offered in telephone consultations and individual meetings. It was suggested that future services of this type should be made available at the existing meetings of clergy in their professional organizations. Written material supplied by the NCC Office seemed adequate for most local communities to develop local expressions of Holocaust commemoration.

Additional assistance was offered to each of the denominations concerning resources for religious educators and curriculum material for church schools on the Holocaust and the meaning of Yom Hashoah. Most denominations expressed interest and agreed that it should be a major priority for future programs offered by the NCC. A teacher training program was developed and carried out as a pilot project with a local interfaith agency in Danbury, Connecticut in the spring of 1982, which featured Holocaust education and encouraged local Holocaust commemoration. This project has now been expanded into a national program of the NCC to be carried out over the next two years in cooperation with denominations, councils of churches and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in twenty-five (25) cities across the United States.

On February 4, 1983 a second major mailing was sent out to all denominational leaders (150) and Directors of ecumenical agencies (700), including a copy of the complete packet of materials prepared by the NCC Office and encouraging church leaders to take specific actions to recognize the week of the Days of Remembrance and to advance Holocaust education among their congregations and local communities. The letter gave examples of actions taken by several denominations and agencies, suggesting similar activities. In most instances, this mailing was followed up by a telephone call from the NCC staff to further encourage action and to request information on amounts of materials needed and other services that would be expected. (See attached letter)

The announcements of the program and services to be offered by the NCC for 1983 were met with extreme success. from both local churches and ecumenical agencies in almost every state across the nation. In one letter from a deno-

minational executive to a state coordinator for clergy, our project was described as "suffering from success". As requests for material continued to flow in from December, 1982 through April, 1983 the NCC Office was obligated to reprint its original supply of literature on frequent occasions. Most of the items in the packet were dated for the 1983 week of the Days of Remembrance, and overprinting these materials was too costly to risk. The following is a more detailed description of the activities accomplished with each denomination and with the councils of churches

WORK WITH DENOMINATIONS

United Methodist Church

Working with this denomination was made quite easy and efficient by the existence of an office and staff which is given specific responsibility in the field of Christian Jewish Relations. The UMC has built into their church structure a prominent place for the dispersing of information on the Holocaust and Dr. Warren Jacobs, National staff Associate Director, is extremely committed to this effort.

Flyers were sent out in the Fall, announcing our project to the regional commissioners. These commissioners, in turn, contacted their ministers who obtained literature from the regional offices. The national office supplied the regional offices with our materials, literally reaching thousands of local clergy through the conferences with which they are affiliated.

Presbyterian Church in the U S and the United Presbyterian Church, USA

Since these two denominations are in a process of merging, they were linked in terms of the nature of our work with them. Their national offices remain distinct, but they agreed to coordinate their materials and efforts. The Presbyterians chose to approach their clergy directly with a pamphlet, authored by Mary Edwardsen of the NCC staff, which described the relevance of Holocaust Remembrance and also supplied prayers and readings which could be easily incorporated into the Sunday Service on April 10. Though we had hoped that all the Presbyterians ministers would have been reached with these pamphlets, only about 9,000 (3/4) were actually mailed the pamphlet directly. The UPUSA chose to be selective with its mailing. This pamphlet (copy attached) was the article most frequently utilized in all mailings to other sources for the project.

In addition to this work, an article appeared in the Presbyterian Survey, examining the relevance of the Holocaust for modern mass culture.

American Baptist Church

An announcement of the NCC project appeared in Input, a national periodical for ABC Clergy. Requests for materials were directed to the ABC National Ministries Office of International, Intercultural and Interfaith Understanding which, in turn, "called in" these requests to our office. We mailed out the materials.

The ABC news service carried one of our articles as a News Feature. An article in the American Baptist should also be appearing in their summer issue. These publications reach most of the clergy in the denomination, as well as many lay leaders in local congregations.

Lutheran Church in America

A brief article appeared in The Congregation, the LCA newspaper for clergy and lay leaders. The response to this was very good. We can only assume that the LCA clergy and lay people are quite interested in Days of Remembrance and we fulfilled an existing need with our materials.

Episcopal Church

We mailed out a general packet of materials to all the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical Officers in the US with a cover letter from the Episcopal Church Center, Office of the Presiding Bishop. Although this action was requested late in our timetable, it had a very good response.

Roman Catholic Church

The same action was taken with the Catholic Church as was done with the Episcopal Church. The cover letter was written by the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations Office. One relatively substantial response (approx. 300)

resulted from this general packet mailing. The Roman Catholic Church represents approximately 56 million people in the United States, and the services offered by their own Office in cooperation with the NCC Office can have a most powerful influence on Holocaust education in the American religious community. It needs to be developed more fully in future programs.

Southern Baptist Convention

This denomination is the largest organization of Protestants in the United States (26 million) and does not officially belong to the NCC. They are full participants in the NCC Committee on Christian Jewish Relations and are fully committed to making Holocaust education a priority in their congregations. Full access to this denomination should be developed in time for the 1984 program.

We were able to "test" the packet for 1983 in Maryland. Materials were sent to each Southern Baptist Church in the state by the ecumenical officer for the Maryland Convention. 3,000 pieces of each of some of the materials were distributed, 300 pieces of other sets of materials. We were responsible for only the production of the materials. They were distributed by the Maryland Convention. (See attached letter from George Sheridan)

In addition to this limited mailing, the article prepared for the Presbyterians was mailed out by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Interfaith Witness Dept. to approximately 300 carefully selected large metropolitan congregations across the United States

Other Denominations

All of the other denominations affiliated with the NCC were provided with the same material and services as described above. We were not able to develop the specific activities as detailed with other denominations above in most instances because the denomination did not have an office or a staff person specifically assigned to responsibility for Christian Jewish Relations. The United Church of Christ, the Disciples of Christ, the Unitarian Universalist Association and the American Friends have expressed an interest in working with our office to develop a formal mechanism within the denomination through which we can distribute materials and advance Holocaust education.

This development will require preparation activities beginning in the summer of 1983.

Special attention in future years must be paid to the Black Protestant and Orthodox denominations in the NCC to encourage participation in Holocaust education. Although a number of discussions were held with church leaders this year, it is apparent that much more time needs to be spent in dialogue with these churches to establish a rationale for and an adequate response to Christian Jewish Relations. A unique tension exists between Black Christians and Jews emanating from the urban domestic issues of housing and public education and from perceptions about Israel in the Middle East conflict and relations with South Africa. A unique tension also exists between American Arab Orthodox Christians and Jews regarding perceptions about Israel and the treatment of Palestinians in the Middle East. These tensions can and should be addressed by this project and will be necessary before major collaboration can be expected. Holocaust education holds the promise for building partnerships on all levels of the American religious community, particularly among those whose histories and traditions have been acquainted with human suffering.

WORK WITH COUNCILS OF CHURCHES AND
OTHER NATIONAL ECUMENICAL AGENCIES AND EVENTS

The NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations is located within the Commission on Regional and Local Ecumenism, the agency of the NCC responsible for relations with state, regional and local councils of churches and interfaith agencies. As such, we have direct and immediate access to approximately 700 agencies doing a broad range of interreligious programs in every major community in the United States. Many of these agencies continued or initiated a program of Holocaust commemoration in 1982. Although the exact number of councils conducting programs in 1983 is not yet known, early reports indicate that was at least a one hundred per cent increase in activities over 1982.

The focus of our work with ecumenical agencies this year has been utilizing these structures to create a national network for communication with local congregations and local communities to encourage Days of Remembrance activities and Holocaust education programs. As we learned in 1982, one council can reach and influence many local congregations who might not otherwise be involved in the program. Council Directors were used in 1983 as local ad-

vocates and interpreters for our project and the results were excellent. The following is a partial listing, by way of example, of some of the actions taken by local councils and the response. Also listed below are activities which took place at national meetings and events of ecumenical agencies.

- Several Councils of Churches in the San Francisco Bay area coordinated by the Church World Service office of the NCC, sponsored an all day workshop on Christian Jewish relations, February 21, 1983. Holocaust education was one of the central themes of the presentations and a variety of Holocaust Commemoration activities grew out of the workshop. Dr. Robert McAfee Brown, author of a recently published book on Elie Wiesel and the Holocaust was the keynote speaker. Several church agencies in the area have agreed to work with our office in the development of future programs on Holocaust commemoration, teacher education and church and synagogue dialogue.
- The Buffalo (New York) area Metropolitan Ministries, an interfaith agency serving western New York has developed a comprehensive model program in Christian Jewish relations in a cooperative venture with our office. This project is supported by local churches and the local Jewish community and will serve as an example to other ecumenical agencies desiring to make such a substantial commitment. Holocaust education is the central theme that runs through each of the programs being developed in local dialogue and teacher education. The work of this agency will be featured at a presentation made in July, 1983, before a delegation to the World Council of Churches meeting in Bellingham, Washington.
- The Virginia Council of Churches, as did many other State Councils, included an article in one of its newsletters encouraging local communities to develop Holocaust Remembrance programs. Requests to our office for materials and assistance far exceeded our expectations, and in future years we hope to receive a commitment from every state Council of Churches to feature an article on the Holocaust program of our office.
- An increasing number of ecumenical agencies cooperated with the regional chapters of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in their communities, whom we had encouraged them to contact in our earlier correspondence. The NCCJ chapters

have extensive access to the local business and civic leaders, who could be a substantial support group for the plans of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council regarding the establishment of a National museum

- The NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations held a Yom Hashoah service at the headquarters of the National Council of Churches in New York City on April 13, 1983. A new service designed by Rabbi Leon Klenicki of the Anti-Defamation League and Dr. Eugene Fisher of the U.S. Catholic Conference was adapted for the program with permission. The service is to be published in the summer of 1983.

- The National workshop on Christian Jewish Relations held its seventh meeting in Boston, April 24 through 28, 1983. Our Office sponsored a pre-workshop seminar, at which Holocaust education was featured and the seminar was concluded with a very meaningful Yom Hashoah service. Also at the workshop an entire afternoon was devoted to the Holocaust Remembrance activities. Please see attached program description. Another major contribution to the workshop from our Office was the presentation of the film "To Bear Witness," created by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council as a documentary of the experience of the liberators of the Nazi concentration camps and the 1981 Liberators Conference. Many workshop participants requested information on the availability of the film for educational use in local communities.

- The NCC Committee on Christian Jewish Relations held its semi-annual meeting on March 22-23, 1983 in Rye, New York, at which a major focus was the work of the Office on the Holocaust Project and its resources for denominations and councils of churches. Micah Naftalin of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council made a presentation on the expectations of the Council in their work with the NCC. The film, "To Bear Witness" was presented with an extremely positive response. The Committee approved a considerably expanded future program plan for the Office in relation to the Holocaust education project.

ACTIVITIES WITH THE HOLOCAUST COUNCIL

Throughout the duration of the project the staff of the Holocaust Council requested assistance and participation from our staff in activities concerning the development efforts of the Council and its goal to establish its program and museum as mandated by the U.S. Congress. Numerous meetings were held in New York and Washington among our staff and consultants to plan specific programs and events. An increasing amount of our work with the Council will be the assistance the NCC Office can offer to build a network of support in the American religious community to advance the goals of the Council.

The Holocaust Council secured an agreement from the ABC television network to offer public service announcements on the programs of the Council and the 1983 Week of the Days of Remembrance through its affiliate stations. On February 4, 1983 the NCC Office sent a mailing to church leaders and directors of councils of churches throughout the United States requesting local advocacy and assistance in promoting the local use of the public service announcement with local affiliates of ABC stations. This mailing was followed up by telephone from the NCC Office staff to further encourage this local advocacy initiative. It proved most helpful in a number of local cities. (See attached letter)

The NCC staff made contact with each of the councils of churches in cities where the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council was attempting to develop a civic program of Holocaust Remembrance in state capitals with State government endorsement, encouraging cooperation and participation in these activities.

Secretary and Mrs. James Watt offered to host a White House event featuring the film "To Bear Witness" and presenting the goals of the Holocaust Council to national religious and civic leaders in Washington on March 14, 1983. Staff of the NCC Office collaborated with the Holocaust Council staff to plan the event and to develop an invitation list of national church leaders. The NCC office personally contacted each of the top NCC and Roman Catholic leaders to encourage their participation in the meeting. The event in Washington was extremely well attended and it secured a commitment from top religious leadership to support the long range goals of the Holocaust Council.

Further assistance has been and continues to be offered to the Holocaust Council in developing contacts with potential funding sources in the non-Jewish American religious, civic and philanthropic community to support the goals of the Council. Specific assistance will be offered to select and secure religious leadership to serve on the Advisory Committee to the development program for the museum. As this committee and its program is established the NCC office will make contact with all funding sources which can be appropriately approached for this purpose, such as national foundations having leadership active in the religious community.

The NCC Office staff conducted research and assisted the Holocaust Council staff in the development of resources for other activities of the Council, such as the Holocaust Survivors Conference in Washington, April 11-13, 1983. We also presented a draft version of the film "To Bear Witness" to denominational leaders and secured a commitment for wide distribution and use of the film as an educational resource for the churches in future years.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 1983 project reached a far greater audience than had been anticipated at the onset. The NCC Office staff often found itself conflicted between a commitment to increase participation in the 1983 week of the Days of Remembrance or assist the denominations in the development of their own resources and commitment to advance the ongoing work needed in Holocaust education among the churches. This report indicates that considerable time and effort was devoted to both types of activities. It resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of Holocaust observances held in cities and churches across the nation. We also made substantial progress with most of the major Protestant denominations toward institutionalizing a commitment and a mechanism for continuing recognition of Holocaust Remembrance and ongoing Holocaust education in the religious community.

A proposal for a continuing program between the NCC and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council will be submitted to the council immediately following this report detailing specific recommendations as a result of our experience with the 1983 project. The following are the highlights of these suggestions for future programming.

- Continue developing and offering printed resources and assistance on the week of the Days of Remembrance and general Holocaust education to local churches through the national denominations.

- Expand above efforts to new denominations within and outside of the NCC.
- Continue providing resources and assistance on Days of Remembrance and Holocaust education to local communities through the Councils of Churches and Interfaith agencies in cities across the United States.
- Expand and confirm an ongoing network of support for the goals of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and its programs through the Councils of Churches, specifically establishing a formal working group within each of the 150 state and major metropolitan councils.
- Develop a dialogue program between churches and synagogues in at least 25 major communities across the United States, featuring, Holocaust education and a working commitment to observe Holocaust Remembrance and support the long range goals of the Holocaust Memorial Council.
- Develop a teacher education program for religious educators in at least 25 communities across the United States, featuring Holocaust education and recognition of the Week of the Days of Remembrance among children in church school classes.
- Assist the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in securing support and encouragement for its programs from the American religious community through an ongoing program of awareness, advocacy and interpretation, based on the premise the Holocaust education is an essential element in the self-education of the Christian Community in its historical and current relationship with the Jewish Community.

The staff and membership of the NCC Committee on Christian Jewish Relations are extremely grateful to the staff of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council for their continuing support and advice that made this program possible. Without the frequent assistance over the telephone and in our meetings in Washington and New York, we would not have been able to develop the quality of the resources we were able to make available to the churches and local communities throughout the United States this year.

The program we have just completed is yet another beginning on a much higher level than we had anticipated would be possible. It is very gratifying to enable the American religious community to assume increasing responsibility for and commitment to a program in Holocaust Remembrance and Education and to watch it come into its own.

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Standing Committee
NCCC COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS
Minutes of the April 14, 1983, Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. Members present: Warren Jacobs, chair pro tem; Dale Bishop, George Sheridan. Staff present: Byron Haines, Jeff Gros, David Simpson, Joan Campbell, Mary Edwardsen.

I. The minutes of the March 22-23, 1983, full committee meeting were read, and the following corrections made:

A. page 3, item IV, paragraph 3 should read:

"The committee also discussed a resolution proposed by the Antiochian church on "Israel's violations of human rights" and decided a wider study of human rights violations and arms sales throughout the area should be conducted, but did not determine a resolution would be advisable."

B. page 5, last full paragraph, line 2:

the words "Standing committee" should be deleted and replaced with the word "Constituent".

C. page 5, next to last line, after the word "evaluation" insert:

"with the intention such evaluation be concluded before the CORLE meeting in May"

II. Regarding cooperation with the Middle East Committee, Joan Campbell reminded members that she had been designated as the committee's liaison with the Middle East Committee and the general secretary in the period when there was no director of the Office on Christian-Jewish Relations and the Middle East Policy Statement was being devised. This assignment had not been reconsidered because of David Simpson's continuing interim status.

A. It was reported that Bishop John Burt had been named to replace Bill Harter in the delegation to the Middle East Council of Churches meeting on the Middle East in Switzerland in June. This determination was made by David Simpson on the basis of a telephone poll of standing committee members. Bishop Burt is a full committee member and will be attending the WCC sessions in Vancouver. Dr. Harter has a problem getting away for the June dates.

B. The letter informing the general secretary of the full committee's resolution re the August UN Conference on the Question of Palestine had not been delivered to her. The standing committee directed that delivery be made.

C. The standing committee was informed by Joan Campbell that only associate general secretaries would be accompanying NCCC President Armstrong to the Middle East in June. The secretary was instructed to replace a previous letter to the general secretary with one informing her of the committee's hope that David Simpson would be included in a forthcoming trip to the Middle East.

D. Warren Jacobs proposed that there be a joint retreat of members of the staffs and committees on the Middle East and on Christian-Jewish Relations. Byron Haines proposed that representatives of the Task Force on Christian-Muslim Relations be included. Dale Bishop is to initiate discussion of the proposal with the Middle East Committee. Purpose of the retreat would be attainment of some level of mutual understanding. Simpson, Bishop, Jacobs and Haines are to confer and bring a more specific proposal to the next session.

(over)

MINUTES

April 14, 1983

page two

III. Office functions

- A. Dale Bishop resigned from the office and staff evaluation committee, and George Sheridan was selected as his replacement. The secretary was instructed to notify Joan Campbell of the make-up of this committee, and to determine from Bob Huston who the Methodist member of the review committee would be.
- B. There was no membership committee report.
- C. David Simpson reported that the chairperson has not yet appointed a fund-raising committee. Warren Jacobs said he would discuss the matter with Dr. Shields within the next two days.
- D. There was some discussion of the use of the director's time. Warren Jacobs suggested that he tell the denominations of the programs in place and make them available to them.

IV. Progress on Programs

- A. David Simpson reported no progress regarding the Theological Consultation planned by Grover Hartman in Indianapolis. He said that Martha Miller had expressed concern that there be greater involvement. The standing committee instructed the secretary to inform Dr. Hartman that Landrum Shields is the committee liaison for the consultation and of Ms. Miller's interest in the matter.
- B. Members also discussed in general the Holocaust Council project, the teacher training program, the congregations in dialogue program and the Buffalo program.

V. May, 1983, Governing Board Meeting in San Francisco

- A. It was suggested that Ray Sano be or suggest a speaker for an interfaith breakfast on Thursday, May 12. David Simpson and Byron Haines were delegated to handle the breakfast arrangements.
- B. It was suggested that the Task Force on Christian-Muslim Relations prepare now for the interfaith breakfast during the Governing Board meeting at Hartford in November, 1983.
- C. It was suggested that opportunity be sought to present the Holocaust Council film on the liberators' conference to the Governing Board.

The meeting concluded at approximately 2:30 p.m. The next standing committee meeting was set for Thursday, June 23, 1983, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Respectfully,



George J. Sheridan, Secretary

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.



OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

December 2, 1982

David E. Simpson
Director

Landrum Shields
Chairman

Dear Executive Director,

We are pleased to state that we have received our requested grant for 1982-83 from the Holocaust Remembrance Foundation which will enable us to assist with the building of a firm foundation for instituting the Days of Holocaust Remembrance in local communities and churches. The receipt of this grant is largely the result of the cooperation we experienced from several councils in last year's pilot project. Our offer of assistance this year is extended, therefore, with a sense of appreciation and the hope that our expanded program can better serve your membership. Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) will be observed on April 10, 1983.

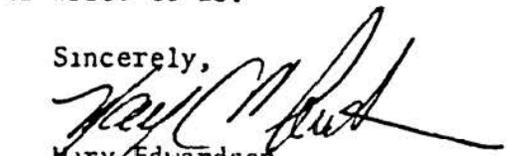
We realize that only the denominations and the ecumenical/interfaith councils themselves can understand the needs of their local churches and communities, and that the efforts of our Office will be useful and effective only if they are placed within and guided by the denominations and the councils. Hence, we appreciate the assistance of the Memorial Remembrance Foundation for enabling us to be in the fortunate position this year to assist with the development of programs according to the specific needs and interests of the denominations and church councils.

Our assistance can take the form of articles, sample services and civic commemorations, guidelines for ecumenical/interfaith dialogues, papers on the relevance of the Holocaust for today, and historical information. We are also available to provide technical assistance, such as regional workshops and training seminars on the development of commemorative programs.

If your council desires to use our offer of assistance--in the form of written materials, technical assistance, and/or the development of new materials for your own constituency--please contact our office.

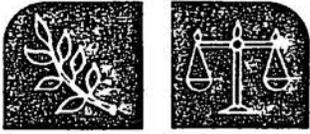
We look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or need further information, please call or write to us.

Sincerely,



Mary Edwardsen
Holocaust Remembrance Project

ME/aeq



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U S A



OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

February 4, 1983

David E Simpson
Director

Landrum Shields
Chairman

Dear Church Leaders and Council Directors

We are very pleased to send to you the enclosed sample materials which have been prepared by Mary Edwardsen, Program Director of the 1983 Holocaust Remembrance Project of the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations.

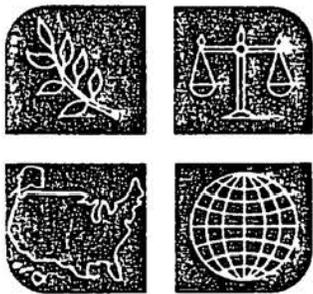
April 10 begins the week of the Days of Remembrance of the Holocaust for 1983. We have agreed to work with the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, which was created by Congress in 1980, to encourage recognition of the week of the Days of Remembrance in the Christian community across the country. To do so, we would like to make available our materials and our technical assistance to enable local communities to observe this time with Holocaust commemoration programs and to encourage local churches to incorporate some aspect of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance) in their regular worship services. You can help us now by informing your local congregations of this program and these resources. The following is a partial list of the materials we have provided for church denominations

- 1) Articles for United Methodist and United Presbyterian magazines,
- 2) Bulletin inserts for use by local churches in their Sunday services (copy enclosed),
- 3) A brief statement announcing the Holocaust Remembrance Project for the American Baptist and American Lutheran all church newsletters,
- 4) A Fact Sheet (copy enclosed) for distribution to all clergy in the Presbyterian Church in the U S and a more limited distribution in other denominations

Please let us know if we can help you do any of these for your local clergy and church membership. We appreciate your interest and continued encouragement

Sincerely,

The Rev David E. Simpson
Director



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A

OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2156

James Armstrong President

Claire Randall General Secretary

David E. Simpson
Director

February 4, 1983

Landrum Shields
Chairman

To: Council Directors and Church Leaders

From David Simpson

Re ABC TV Public Service Announcement

As you know, the NCC Office on Christian Jewish Relations is currently engaged in a cooperative program with the United States Holocaust Memorial Council to encourage the Christian community to recognize the week of the Days of Remembrance of the Holocaust. Enclosed are some materials we have just prepared to assist local clergy and community leaders in these activities.

One of our cooperative goals is to inform the public about the programs of the U. S. Holocaust Council as mandated by Congress. The American Broadcasting Company has agreed to carry a public service announcement about the work of the Council and the establishment of a Museum to the Holocaust in Washington, D.C. Each local affiliate of ABC has been given a 30 second spot announcement and is being asked to air it during February and April of this year.

You can be very helpful to us in this effort if you would be willing to do the following:

- 1) Contact your local ABC affiliate station and encourage them to run the public service announcement. Not only will this help our work, but it will inform members of our local churches about the Council and the importance of Holocaust commemoration.
- 2) Ask local clergy to mention the announcement and the importance of Holocaust commemoration for Christians.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council was established by Congress in 1980. Its Chairman is Elie Wiesel and its Executive Director is Seymour Siegel.

Please help us to encourage these announcements. ABC has established a toll free number to call for support and information 1-800-626-6000. Thanks again. You can also call us if you have any other questions.

March 8, 1983

Dr. Minor Davidson
Baptist Convention
1313 York Road
Lutherville, Md. 21093

Dear Minor;

I spoke again to Mary Edwardsen today and confirmed your order of materials for distribution to your churches in hopes that they will in some way observe Yom Hashoa (Holocaust Day, April 10, 1983).

We understand that you will send out some materials to be used by the pastors of the churches in your state convention (about 300) and others for wider distribution (about 10 per church). Thus, your order is as follows.

	<u>no. of copies</u>
<u>Holocaust Commemoration for the Days of Remembrance</u> (booklet)	300
"The Challenge of the Holocaust for Christian Theology"(1 sheet)	300
"Brief Bibliography"	300
"The Uniqueness of the Holocaust" (one sheet)	3,000
"The Liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camps" (two sheets)	3,000

These materials are being sent to you by the Office of Christian-Jewish Relations of the National Council of Churches as part of a program funded by the National Holocaust Commission. There is no charge at all, Ms. Edwardsen said, but the program is suffering from success, and the office has already exceeded its grant. Thus, if you care to donate to offset the expense, the check should be made to the "National Council of Churches of Christ" and designated for "Office of Christian-Jewish Relations".

I understand that you are having envelopes and cover letter prepared so that these materials can be sent out soon after arrival in your office (within two weeks, Ms. Edwardsen said) and before the April 10 observance date.

I am very glad for your openness to this new program, Minor. I hope to see you in Louisville in February. Regards to Mary.

Best wishes,

George
George J. Sheridan

CC: Ms. Edwardsen ✓
Dr. Glenn A. Igleheart

APRIL 8, 1983

LET US REMEMBER

I think it is the numbers which overwhelm me each time I think about it. We are all familiar with the figure of 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust Six million--it is simply too vast. There are six million people living in greater New York. It is beyond human comprehension.

Even if we reduce the figure and speak only of the children, thereby limiting the numbers to about 1.5 million, it is still beyond human comprehension.

Allow me to place the matter in slightly altered form. What is six million? Take your own parents and, say, a brother and a sister. Now, add your best friend for a total of five people. You would have to murder them again and again. Five people taken out and shot, gassed, starved, beaten, hanged, buried alive, burnt. Five people a minute, sixty minutes every hour, twenty-four hours a day. That would be 7,200 people per day. Multiply that by a month and you have the figure of 216,000. Remember, this is five people every minute. It would take you nearly 2½ years to murder six million people. What an incomprehensible horror!

The Nazis did not kill Jews only. They murdered anyone they considered unacceptable, for whatever reason! Gypsies, Poles, Russians, homosexuals and Catholics were also singled out to be rejected, reviled and destroyed. Add to those all who differed politically with the party in power.

Could such an atrocity occur again? Could it happen among people such as ourselves? The unequivocal answer to that question is yes! It is so easy for us to keep religion and life in airtight compartments, to separate the ritual of worship from the relationships of life. Let us not forget that the Nazi terror arose in the midst of a nominally Christian nation, and there were far too few church people who opposed it. Numbers of Nazi leaders, persons of responsibility in the Third Reich, remained in full communion with their churches, even while engaging in murderous acts. Members of churches simply did not hold one another responsible for the hurt they inflicted upon others. Whenever we allow human beings in our religious communions to hurt any other person or group without protest, atrocities can and will, occur again!

Let us ~~remember!~~

Not only did religious people refuse to hold one another responsible within their own communions, they also refused to oppose openly the evils of which they were aware in government. You know how it is. ..we rarely resist or raise a voice in protest when someone else is treated unfairly. The majority of us tend to see and respond actively to injustice only when it touches us, personally--or when it involves people to whom we are closest. Usually our motto is "If it doesn't affect me or my family, stay out of it!" Take a safe position on the sidelines, pretending to see no evil and hear no evil.

One of the few heroes who resisted Hitler in Germany, Pastor Martin Niemöller, made his own confession:

"When they came after the trade unionists I did not protest, for I was not a trade unionist. When they came after the Jews I did not protest, for I was not a Jew. When they came after the Catholics I did not protest, for I was not a Catholic. Then, when they came after me, there was no one left to protest."

People of God, can we learn from that? Can we learn from history instead of merely repeating it? Hear this: Whenever there are good people who remain silent when another person or another group is being hurt or treated unjustly, atrocities can and will occur again -- and again, and again! And we will be responsible.

Let us ~~remember!~~

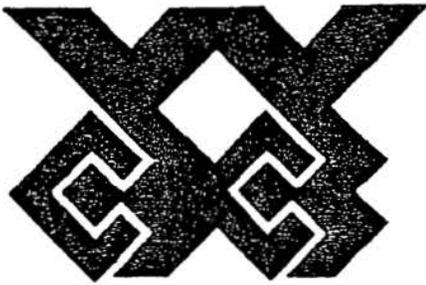


HOLOCAUST SUNDAY

APRIL 10, 1983

(Mary Anne Forehand)





**WYOMING
CHURCH
COALITION**

*Rev Robert E Thomas
1601 South Melrose
Casper, Wy 82601*

(307) 234-2964 Study
(307) 237-6606 Home

**AMERICAN
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

December 14, 1982

**AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Mrs. Mary Edwardsen
Office on Christian-Jewish Relations
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115

**CHRISTIAN
CHURCH
(DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST)**

Dear Mrs. Edwardsen

The Wyoming Church Coalition would like to participate in the Yom Hashoah on April 10, 1983.

**EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

We would appreciate several copies of the suggested worship service as well as the other reference materials and technical assistance.

**LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN
AMERICA**

Please send the materials as soon as possible to give us all available lead time.

**ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert E Thomas
Executive Secretary

RET bp

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

**UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

**UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

2/4/83

Ok (DES)

Bamm

BUFFALO AREA METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES, INC / 100 Wadsworth / Buffalo, New York 14201 / 716-883-7717

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Chairman of the Board

January 3, 1983

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AMERICAN MUSLIM MISSION
Masjd Muhammed Buffalo

THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY
of Niagara Frontier

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THE REV CHARLES R WHITE
Executive Director

ELIZABETH KASH
Executive Secretary

BONNIE JEHLE
Bookkeeper

Ms. Mary Edwardsen
Holocaust Remembrance Project
National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115

Dear Ms. Edwardsen

Congratulations on the grant from the Holocaust Remembrance Foundation.

Yes, as David Simpson may have told you, Bamm is interested in working with your project. Specifically, this is in the area of involvement assigned by the Bamm Board of Directors to our Commission on Inter-religious Dialogue. Dave met with this group in December, 1982.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that we have invited you to come to Buffalo for the purpose of providing technical assistance. Therefore, we would like for you to confirm your availability. And I look forward to meeting you when you are here.

Yom Ha Shoah, April 10, 1983, will benefit, I'm sure, from the work you will do and the leadership you'll provide. Please let us know how we can assist you in this project. All best wishes for you.

Sincerely yours,



The Rev. Charles R. White
Executive Director

CRW/ek



CHURCHES UNITED OF SCOTT COUNTY IOWA
& ROCK ISLAND COUNTY ILLINOIS

639 38th STREET
ROCK ISLAND ILLINOIS 61201
309 786 6494

Thomas N. Kalshoven
Executive Director

Sheila D. Fitts
Program Coordinator in
Ministry and Justice

January 10, 1983

Mary Edwardsen
Holocaust Remembrance Project
Office on Christian-Jewish Relations
NCCC
475 Riverside Dr.
New York, N.Y. 10115

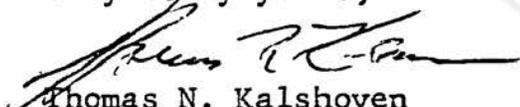
Dear Ms. Edwardsen:

Thank you for your letter of December 2, outline the services available from your office. We would like to take you up on some of them.

Specifically, we would appreciate your sending the written materials referred to in your letter, including background papers, and sample services, etc.

We are in the process of planning our annual observance of this year's Yom HaShoah, and would appreciate receiving these materials by January 24, to be used at our next planning meeting.

Very truly yours,


Thomas N. Kalshoven

)
sent / enclosed

The Council of Churches

404 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill CA 94523
(415) 689 4363



of Contra Costa County

Dorothy Sargent Executive Director

January 24, 1983

Mary Edwardson
- Holocaust Remembrance Project
National Council of the Churches
of Christ
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115

Dear Ms Edwardson:

The Council of Churches of Contra Costa County would appreciate samples of articles, services, and guidelines for ecumenical/interfaith dialogues, or study papers you may have to help our local churches, synagogues and civic groups observe Yom HaShoah on April 10.

Our Social Education and Action Committee will sponsor study groups and encourage local observances if the material received is helpful and if it can be duplicated.

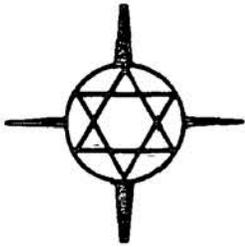
Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Sargent

Dorothy Sargent,
Executive Director

2/3/83



INTER-FAITH MINISTRIES — WICHITA . . .

(WICHITA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES)

216 EAST SECOND • WICHITA, KANSAS 67202 • (316) 264-9303

February 7, 1983

Ms. Mary Edwardson
Holocaust Remembrance Project
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10115

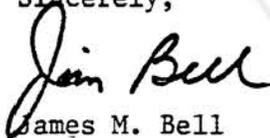
Dear Ms. Edwardson:

Please send us information about Holocaust Remembrance Day. We would especially like to have copies of sample services, civic commemorations, guidelines for dialogs, etc.

We are hoping to work with the National Conference of Christians and Jews in a city-wide remembrance on April 10.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



James M. Bell
Executive Director

JMB/eay

2/14/83

TEMPLE COVENANT OF PEACE

FOUNDED AUGUST 26, 1839

NORTHAMPTON AND FIFTEENTH STREETS EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18042 215-253-2031

RABBI JERALD BOBROW

February 9, 1983

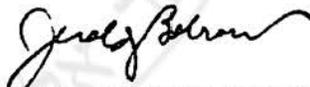
Mary Edwardson
475 Riverside Dr.
New York, NY 10115

Dear Mary:

Our community is planning an inter-faith program for Yom HaShoah and we will be meeting with clergy of our community at a special institute on the Holocaust to plan the observance.

We would appreciate it if you could send us 30 packets of Holocaust materials for distribution to the clergy at our March Institute. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Sincerely,



RABBI JERALD BOBROW

JB:jms

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 363D COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (TAC)
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE SOUTH CAROLINA 29152



11 March 1983

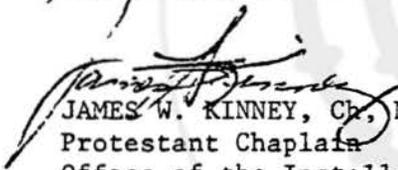
Office of Christian Jewish Relations
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive, Room 870
New York NY 10115

Dear Friends

Please send me any available aids to worship and historical information for Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day 1983. Our chapel plans to observe the day in Catholic Masses and Protestant Services, with each group giving its offering toward the erection of a Holocaust Memorial in downtown Sumter, South Carolina, an endeavor being undertaken by a wide spectrum of the local religious and civic community.

Looking forward to hearing from you and with prayers for your continual ministry, I am

Sincerely yours


JAMES W. KINNEY, Ch, Major, USAF
Protestant Chaplain
Office of the Installation Staff Chaplain

Readiness is our Profession

United Churches' News

Published Monthly by the

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

202 E THIRD STREET • WILLIAMSPORT PA 17701

Telephone (717) 322-1110 or (717) 322-6796

REV ALTON M MOTTER, D D

Executive Director & Editor

VOL. IV, No. 3.

March 16, 1982 *

RETURN POSTAGE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 307
Williamsport PA
17701



#10 White Envelopes \$4.70/500
Stencils \$4.75- \$5.22/quire
Mimeo Ink \$3.95- \$7.30/tube

A complete price list will be sent to anyone interested. The Co-op is open for new members, particularly for the 1982-83 heating season. The one-time membership fee is \$100. Membership fees are invested in inventory. All sales are cash and carry. The co-op is located at Church of the Savior, Lutheran, 522 N. Grier Street, and is presently open on Wednesday mornings.

For further information please contact the Church Supply Co-op, 326-7082, and ask for the Rev. Ronald F. Mease.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 18th-24th is National Volunteer Week. The Interagency Council is planning a number of activities to honor all volunteers of Lycoming County. Church volunteers, we want your picture! It should be a picture of volunteers in action. Please do not send more than five pictures and please specify if you want the pictures returned to you. Pictures can be mailed to:

Mary Beatty
1202 Clayton Avenue
Williamsport, Pa. 17701
Telephone: 323-9891

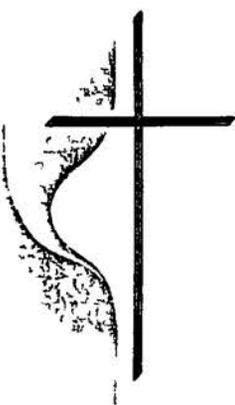


HOLOCAUST DIALOGUE — APRIL 27TH

Protestant and Catholic clergy are cordially invited to share in a Jewish-Christian Dialogue on April 27th, the Jewish "Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust". The dialogue will take place between Rabbis David L. Schwartz and Norman E. Singer and Msgr. Eugene J. Clark and Dr. Alton M. Motter in Temple Beth Ha Shalom at 425 Center St., Williamsport from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The theme will be "The Challenge of the Holocaust. Interested pastors should call the United Churches, 322-1110.

WILLIAM SLOAN COFFIN TO SPEAK

William Sloan Coffin, pastor of Riverside Church, New York, will speak twice on Thursday, March 25th at Penn State on "Reversing the Nuclear Arms Race". He will speak at 4 p.m. at the Music Theatre and at 8 p.m. in the Schwab Building. Both sessions are open to the public. There will be no admission charge.



First United Methodist Church

41 EAST BLACKWELL STREET • DOVER, N J 07801-3975 • 201/366-1804
Pastor The Reverend Norman E Smith, D Min • 201/366-2123

February 11, 1983

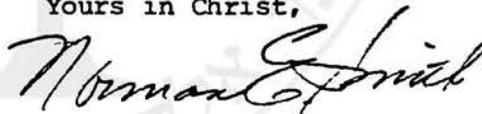
The Office of Christian Jewish Relations
of the National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115

Gentlemen:

I am interested in obtaining a copy of the materials you have available for the celebration of Yom HaShoah, the Week of the Days of Remembrance. They may be sent to me at the church address listed above.

I am chairperson for the Northern New Jersey Annual Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

Yours in Christ,



Norman E. Smith
Pastor

NES.k

2/15/83



Park Street Baptist Church

FRANKLIN AND PARK STREETS
FRAMINGHAM MASSACHUSETTS 01701
(617) 879-1091

REV JAMES T HEGLEY
879-4119

March 14, 1983

National Council of Churches
Office of Christian Jewish Relations
475 Riverside Drive, Room 870
New York, New York 10115

Dear Friends,

Last Thursday I made a presentation in our area clergy meeting encouraging everyone to remember HOLOCAUST SUNDAY in their worship services and/or education programs on April 10.

It seems that I am the only clergy in our town who has done such in the past. For that reason I was able to explain why I thought it was important and I was able to share what resources I have acquired over the last two years. The bulk of those resources have come from the National Conference of Christians and Jews (43 West 57th St., NY). At our meeting the Rev. Mason Wilson of St. Andrews Episcopal Church shared a packet of materials he had just received from you folks, and I would like to request that you send me that same collection of resources. If there is any charge for such please bill me.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping me attempt to creatively confront the Christian community with the message, NEVER AGAIN.

Appreciatively,

Rev. James T. Hegley

3/18



University Baptist and Brethren Church

411 S BURROWES ST
STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801

Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches in the U S A and the Church of the Brethren

ROBERT G WITHERS
MINISTER AND UNIVERSITY PASTOR
506 WEST FOSTER AVENUE
237 7920 OR 237 2708

IRENE V GRINDALL
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
1218 HOUSERVILLE RD
238-3646 OR 237 2708

March 17, 1983

Office on Christian - Jewish Relations
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive, Room 870
New York, New York 10115

Dear Friends,

Please forward 250 bulletin inserts and worship aids for
our April 10 observance of Holocaust Sunday.

If there is any cost involved please bill the church:

University Baptist and Brethren Church
411 S. Burrowes Street
State College, PA. 16801

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Wenzel

Mrs. Lewis J. Wenzel,
Church Secretary

HOLDEN VILLAGE
CHELAN, WASHINGTON 98816

March 29, 1983

Office of Christian Jewish Relations
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive Room 870
NY, NY 10115

Dear friends,

We would like to receive the materials you have available to help congregations observe Yom HaShoah on April 10, 1983. The type of materials we are interested in are the ones listed in the March/April edition of "The Congregation": sample services, guidelines for interfaith services, prayers, readings, and historical information.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Dan Erlander/kk

Dan Erlander

DE/kk

St John's Lutheran Church

370 MCKENZIE STREET, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R2W 5B2 — TELEPHONE 586-2207

Pastor

JOHANN F KUNKEL, B A M Div
TELEPHONE 589-8979

April 7, 1983

Office of Christian Jewish Relations,
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive
Room 870
New York, N.Y.
10115

Dear Sir/Madam:

As part of our celebrations for the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther, the Winnipeg Task Force is exploring the possibilities of some form of Lutheran-Jewish dialogue. We would be very interested in having any materials you have available on the Holocaust Remembrance Day, and also such other information that would be helpful for mutual discussions and learning.

Very Sincerely,

J.F. Kunkel, Co-ordinator,
Luther-500 Task Force

JFK/am

The United Church of Los Alamos

2525 Canyon Road - P O Box 1286
LOS ALAMOS NEW MEXICO 87544
Telephone 662-2971 — 662-2221

Serving the
American Baptist Churches U S A
Presbyterian Church in the U S
United Church of Christ
United Presbyterian Church in the U S A
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Moravian Church in America
Reformed Church in America

April 18, 1983

GEORGE S EASLEY
Pastor
DAVID B HAMMAR
Associate Pastor

Ms Mary Edwardsen
Office of Christian Jewish Relations
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive
N.Y , N Y 10115

Dear Mary

Thank you for sending me the materials on the Holocaust
They were extremely helpful

We did observe Holocaust Rememberance Day on April 10th
I used as my topic, "The Holocaust and the Forgiveness of
Enemies," referring not only to the Jewish Holocaust but
the geneside of the Armenian people in Turkey as well as some
from biblical times and working that into the problem that
exists for all people in terms of forgiving those who have
damaged us deeply.

Thank you again for your help.

Shalom,



George S. Easley

GSE/at



St. Mary's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

146 Twelfth St., Pacific Grove, California. 93950
Telephone Area 408. 373-4441

April 18th, 1983

Ms. Mary Edwardsen,
Office on Christian-Jewish Relations,
475, Riverside Drive,
New York, N.Y. 10115

Dear Ms. Edwardsen,

Thank you for the materials on Jewish-Christian relations and Yom HaShoah. These have been made available to our congregation - see the announcement on the insert in last Sunday's service bulletin. (The Rector spoke about remembering the Holocaust at the point in the service for announcements.) The materials referred to on my shelves are primarily the works of Elie Wiesel, with whom I studied for 2 years while in Boston.

We did not do much this year regarding Yom HaShoah, I know, but wanted to let you know what we did.

Please let me know of any further resources and materials. Thank you again.

Peace,



Martin Yabroff

Assistant to the Rector

MY/DJ



C/c Ellerin
Rudin
Joel

Chuck Lipton
Burt Levy
Tom Asher

Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc

848 PEACHTREE STREET, N E / ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308 / TELEPHONE 404-881-9890

June 6, 1983

To: Atlanta Religious Leaders

Dear Friends,

I enclose items released to the press on two issues which may be of interest to you, and on which I would welcome your comments. These are unofficial comments and questions by staff in response to inquiries.

We hope for dialogue with leaders of each of the groups.

Grace and peace,

Donald O. Newby

bw
Enclosure

STAFF COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS PROVIDED
TO JIM GALLOWAY, STAFF WRITER FOR THE
CONSTITUTION AND JOURNAL

Two "Christian Business" shows are scheduled for the Atlanta Civic Center in June and September. The first, called Christian Business Show and sponsored by WAEC Radio and PTL Enterprises, of Oklahoma City, will be held June 3-5. The second, Christian Business Showcase, is sponsored by Exposition Enterprises, Inc. of Roswell, Georgia and will be September 2-4.

The material being distributed by the promoters of the Christian Business Showcase states in part: "The purpose and design of this annual show is to bring together, under one roof, a wide variety of Christian business people, services, ministries and artists who are committed to God, their families and their churches.

"Christian consumers are looking for business people they can trust and depend upon to provide quality products and services at a fair market price.

"If confidence and trust can be placed, we believe it should be within the Christian business community."

Serious questions must be asked on both theological and business grounds.

The clear implication is that Christians ought not to patronize non-Christians and, that non-Christians are less likely to be honest and fair. It also assumes that all businesses owned or operated by Christians are just. However, are we not all sinners who fall short of the righteousness of God? Who among us has the ability, the right or prerogative to determine for others which business persons are Christian or honest? Such judgments we believe belong to God alone.

Is it not likely that these "Christian Business" shows will encourage more divisiveness within the community which is unhealthy for the community and, therefore, for business. In the pluralistic society in which we live such an approach can all too easily contribute to anti-Semitism and can exacerbate existing divisions among Christian Citizens and between Christians and those of other faiths.

Compounding the present issue is the fact that each of these particular business shows is scheduled for the Civic Center, a public facility of the City of Atlanta. Thus, the city becomes a partner to a seemingly discriminatory venture. Those who acknowledge the sinfulness of all humankind, those who believe in a free and open marketplace in a pluralistic society and in a business environment free of religious, racial, ethnic and sexual discrimination must oppose such endeavors.

We believe that the "Christian Business" shows are a mistaken application of the Christian faith which is concerned with the well being and right relationships of all of God's creation. We urge sponsors of such events to reconsider their assumptions, and we invite them to dialogue and discussion on the basic principles involved.

NOTES FOR CHANNEL 5 INTERVIEW

1. We are all sinners. Claims to a greater righteousness contradict that confession. We risk becoming like the publican who prayed, "God, I thank thee that I am not as other men."
2. Who among us has the ability or right to determine for others which business leaders are Christian or honest? Judgement is God's prerogative.
3. How would we respond to a Catholic, Jewish or Presbyterian Business Show which made such claims to superior morality? We now live in a very pluralistic society.
4. Do we not contribute to the commercialization of religion by such events?
5. We are called to seek unity among Christians and reconciliation between all who differ. Such events may rather contribute to divisiveness.
6. Our intent is to raise questions, not to condemn. Many of those who participate in these shows are members of congregations which are members of the Christian Council. These are my personal comments. There has been no official action of the CCMA Board of Directors. Those of us in the Christian community always stand in need of mutual correction and support.
7. It is much more difficult for those of a religious majority group in any society to distinguish between their faith and culture than it is for members of minority religious groups. Often our words or actions are not intended to be harmful or malicious, but reflect this lack of clarity in our understanding of the distinction between our religious faith and our cultural "way of life."

bw
6/6/83

LETTER TO EDITORS RE KLAN

We commend the elected leadership and clergy of College Park for their efforts to discourage the Klan from creating disturbance and turmoil.

The community leadership made it clear that the majority of the citizens of College Park wish to continue the journey of this nation toward mutual respect among all persons of different religions, races and cultures.

We deplore the actions of the Klan and other extremist groups, right or left, who attempt to undermine the basic constitutional rights and freedom on which this nation is building.

We deny the claims of the Klan that they are guardians of the Christian faith or of the American heritage.

Their use of the cross as a symbol for fear, hatred and bigotry is totally contrary to the testimony of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose death on a cross transformed it into a symbol of love and forgiveness. We invite Klan leaders to explore with us the message of our Lord for these times.

We reaffirm the oneness of all of God's children across all differences of race, religion, sex, language, culture or nation.

We rejoice in that dignity of difference in our society and world which is God's creation.

We call on all persons in the metro Atlanta region to "do justly; to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God."

bw
6/6/83

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Gabriel J. Rudin

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

sherry frank



The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States

341 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N E , Atlanta, Georgia 30365 / (404) 873-1531

June 7, 1983

Mr. Marvin Schpeiser
Atlanta Jewish Federation
1753 Peachtree Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

Dear Mark:

I have made some marks on a very sketchy program for the events taking place during the Presbyterian meetings in Atlanta June 7-15. The red marks indicate the celebration aspect, including an informal parade in downtown Atlanta on the afternoon of June 10 and a major Service of Worship that evening. For people who are interested in liturgical developments or who want to see what Presbyterians do when they have unlimited resources, this would be an interesting experience.

On Saturday morning we will have our first joint Business Session and elect the first Moderator of the Reunited Church. I think that would be an interesting experience for people who would like to see how we make decisions.

The Robert Shaw Concert on Saturday afternoon will be interesting and Sunday is primarily devoted to worship activity. The Sunday Morning Service will be pretty much an ordinary Service of Worship, but the Sunday evening Service does present one of the major proponents of liberation theology. People who are interested in how some members of our group are approaching support for revolutionary movements will get a glimmer in this one.

The major business sessions begin on the morning of Monday, June 13. We are building up to a significant debate around our paper on Christian and Jewish relations. I believe it will come to the floor sometime on Tuesday (June 14) but I can't be too sure at this point so I will keep in touch with you by phone. In general, the early part of the week will be devoted to business related to how we run the system, and the latter part will deal with the issues of theology, justice,

James E Andrews, Stated Clerk / Flynn V Long, Associate Stated Clerk
Lucille S Hicks, Assistant Stated Clerk / Catherine M Shipley, Assistant Stated Clerk
Eugene D Witherspoon, Assistant Stated Clerk / Patricia Bent, Assembly Services Coordinator

Mr. Marvin Schpeiser
June 7, 1983

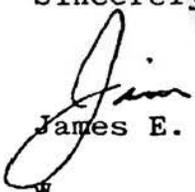
Page Two

and public affairs.

For a real outburst of Southern emotionalism, I would suggest the late morning session on Friday, June 10. At that point we will adjourn the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States for the last time and it will be a classic exhibit of public ambivalence.

When you have a chance to look it over, please let me know, if it is possible for you, when you expect some folks to appear. I would like to alert our welcome desk and make sure they get the right kind of welcome.

Sincerely,


James E. Andrews