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American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. 1947-1948.

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AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
East Sixteenth Avenue at Pearl St.
Denver 5, Colorado
U. S. A.



VIA AIR MAIL

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EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL

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PARIS (8^e)

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CABLES & TELEGRAMS
JOINTFUND-PARIS

October 27, 1947

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
East Sixteenth Avenue at Pearl St.
Denver 5, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

May we, on behalf of Dr. Schwartz, who is not in Paris at the present time, acknowledge receipt of your letter expressing congratulations on Dr. Schwartz' nomination to the Legion of Honor.

We shall, of course, hand him your letter immediately upon his return to Paris.

Sincerely yours,

Melvin S. Goldstein
Melvin S. Goldstein
Assistant Secretary

MSG:mb

August 29, 1947.

Mr. Jack Joslow,
American Joint Distributing Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

Dear Jack:

I should like to bring to your attention the availability of Miss Fannie Fox, registered nurse, for overseas work with the JDC. Miss Fox had sixteen years experience in orthopedics in Kansas City under Dr. Frank Dixon. During the war she joined the Army Nurse Corps in which she served for over four years, recently being discharged with the rank of captain. Almost all of this Army time was overseas--three years in Cairo and one year in French West Africa.

Miss Fox is anxious to return overseas, this time in any capacity which would enable her to help our Jewish people. She speaks some Yiddish and some German; has had group work experience in addition to her nursing training; and is prepared to be stationed anywhere in Europe.

My own impression of her is a self-controlled and capable person, and I imagine would have a sympathetic approach to the DP's. She happened to be travelling through Denver and was referred to me by one of the members of my Congregation. I think it would be definitely worth while for you to see her at your earliest convenience in order to determine whether she could fit in with the JDC overseas staff.

With fondest regards,

As ever,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF:EW

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September 11, 1947

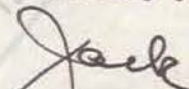
Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
E. 60th Avenue at Pearl St.
Denver 5, Colorado

Dear Herb:

I have your letter concerning Miss Fannie Fox as well as a letter from her. Bob Pilpel will write to Miss Fox of opportunities for overseas employment. Thank you for calling her to our attention. I am sure that serious consideration will be given to her application. News from Germany is not too cheerful at the moment and there does not seem to be much chance for improvement for the time being.

With kindest greetings for the New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,



M. Jacob Joslow
Executive Assistant

MJJ:PG

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Rackets.....	2,500	"
Shuttlecocks.....	10,000	"

Basketball

Balls.....	500	
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Striking Bags.....	100	
Skipping ropes.....	500	
Striking gloves.....	250	

Games

Checkers.....	5,000	Sets
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Dominoes.....	5,000	"
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Lotto.....	2,000	"
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Balls.....	30,000	
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Net Posts.....	600	Pairs
Nets.....	1,000	

Soccer Balls.....	500	
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(Continued.....)

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Balls.....6,000
Rackets.....500

Volley Ball

Balls.....500
Nets.....250

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Crayons (assorted colors).....5,000 "
Weaving.....2,000

cf



October 21, 1947

Mr. Henry Levy,
Joint Distribution Committee,
10 Stephan Karadja,
Sofia, Bulgaria.

Dear Henry:

I read your letter during Rosh Hashonah Services, when I gave a sort of world review of the Jewish picture in various countries. Your letter was an important source of information about Jewish life in Bulgaria.

I saw you become famous before 1500 people, and if you ever come back to the States long enough to make a tour of America, I'd like to have you out here in Denver to talk to the people first-hand--now that they know your name.

I just learned that Joe Schwartz was awarded the Legion of Honor by the French government for the work he did in assisting Frenchmen, Jews and non-Jews alike. I also got a wedding announcement from Berlin from Max Helvarg. He married that girl with whom he took up after he left Katcha. The third item of gossip comes from New York, where, it seems, Eli Rock has been appointed the chief legal counsel for the JDC headquarters. Beyond these few items, I don't know what has been happening to anybody. I haven't heard from Fishbein or from Abramowitz, and have written them both berating them soundly for their negligence.

Life in America is still somewhat strange to us. It really takes much longer than one thinks to adjust properly to the problems which are agitating people here, which seem rather petty in the face of the things we saw overseas. I suppose a time will come when we will once again consider these local affairs in their proper perspective.

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America as a whole today seems to be in a mood of terrific red-baiting, which makes the position of all liberals very difficult. It is hard to steer a course between friendship with Russia and an explanation of her motives, and the other extreme of criticizing every deed and every action.

The UJA Appeal seems to be rolling along and will probably be successful everywhere else in the country except in New York. If the national quota of \$170,000,000 is not met, the deficit will be a result of the failure of New York to reach its quota. That seems strange, and yet understandable because it is very difficult if not impossible to reach all the Jews of New York. I was with Morgenthau in Oklahoma last week, and we had a wonderful response from two little towns of Tulsa and Oklahoma City. This response was encouraging because it indicates how Jews living out in the grass roots of the country feel about problems overseas.

As far as personal data is concerned Elaine and I bought a house in which to live, because the rental and housing situation in Denver, as all over the States, is really terrific. We have a brand new modern house with room to accommodate you anytime you come through town. I am now in the position of having to worry about watering the lawn and other menial household tasks which I have never done before. I really enjoy performing these tasks and must admit that the feeling of proprietorship is a new one for me.

I find that people are very elated over the United Nations decision on Palestine and can just imagine how it must be in Europe. You said in your letter that not many Bulgarian Jews are interested in leaving to go to Palestine. Could you elaborate on that a bit further, and give me some background information as to the reason for this mood.

I've already gotten some reports from the camps to indicate that on the night that American policy was decided and enunciated before the General Assembly, there were almost riots of exhilaration and exaltation all over Germany. Actually, it means freedom for the first time in two or three years, and the prospect of finally

October 21, 1947

having all the most precious hopes realized evoked a rioted celebration in Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin among other places.

I have heard also Roumanian Jews are most delighted and that many of them planned to leave Roumania and go to Palestine. I hope that their situation will be taken into account--otherwise the westward flow from Roumania will continue, and the situation in Vienna, which is already pretty bad, with about ten or twelve thousand Roumanian Jews bottled up in the Rothschild Hospital, will get even worse.

There really isn't much else to describe; congregational life is assuming greater and greater proportions--there seems to be more and more to do here, and the Temple keeps growing so that eventually we shall need the services of another Rabbi. If you ever decide to leave the JDC, we can always find a job for you here. Seriously, though, without any kidding, I'd like to hear from you again, and I want you to know that I appreciate very much the long careful detailed analysis which you sent before which I would like to have just as often as you find time to do.

Give Pat my best regards, which come from both Elaine and myself, and always remember this one thing--that if there is ever anything you ever need personally or for your work, which is difficult to obtain through channels, we want you to feel that you can always write to us directly, and we will do everything possible to send you anything which might be necessary. That applies to any special delicacies for yourself or any materials necessary for your work in general. Let's hear from you just as soon as possible, and we will try to keep up a mutually valuable correspondence.

As ever,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF:EW

JDC

October 17, 1947

Mr. Eli Rock, Legal Counsel,
American Joint Distributing Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York City, New York.

Dear Eli:

You gonoff--you momzer--you big-shot--the only way I can find out where you are is to read about you in the JTA dispatches. So you are now the highly esteemed legal counsel of the JDC! Poor Moe Leavitt is probably going to have to hire three legal firms to get the Joint out of the trouble into which you will undoubtedly propel it. Why don't you go back to Berlin and keep Abramowitz company?

Seriously, though, what is new? I haven't heard from anybody in weeks and don't know what's going on. How can I continue running around the country raising money for your outfit, unless you keep me posted on all the gossip?

I have had one letter from Henry Levy from Sofia and one wedding announcement from Max Helvarg in Berlin. I feel like a parched traveller thirsting for water--so put aside all the international problems with which you are struggling and give the old man out in Denver a shot in the arm.

In other words, write me a letter--you louse--and tell me what's happening all over the world.

Elaine joins me in these imprecations.

As ever,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF:EW

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October 22nd, 1947

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
East 16th Avenue at Pearl Street
Denver 5, Colorado

My dear Chaplain:

Unlike yourself I shall restrain ^{myself} from language of extreme vulgarity and shall attempt to write to you in the dignified, mature style which is befitting when one addresses himself to a member of the cloth. I trust that you will not in the future embarrass me with language of the type contained in your last, almost obscene missile. After all, my dear Rabbi, some of us feel pretty keenly the need for maintaining a cool head and a spirit of detachment in these days of reckless recrimination and irresponsible name-calling. That kind of thing is definitely out.

I shall remain coolly aloof to most of the insinuations cast upon my legal talents. Although I have considered the matter somewhat, at the moment I decided not to press libel proceedings--for the sake of unity among Jews and for the sake of avoiding a scandal which might involve an alleged religious leader. I am not sure, however, that I shall be able to restrain myself in the event that such ugly pronouncements pass my secretary's and my eyes in the future.

Under all the circumstances, I believe that your "thirst for information" deserves at this time no more than a few drops of water. Accordingly, I am happy to inform you that the weather in the East has been beautiful--a real Indian Summer--and that the problems of Europe seem far away.

I shall consider giving you further "water" at such time as I receive a letter (at first I slipped and said "litter"--make what you will of that), a letter which bears the restraint and dignity which one should expect from a man in your position.

Please extend my best wishes to your dear wife, but only to her.

Respectfully yours,

Eli Rock, Esquire
Eli Rock

ER:AU

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May 7th, 1948

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
Denver, Colorado

My dear and esteemed ex-Chaplain:

Yours of May 4th duly received. Yours of May 4th was duly forwarded. It is now, I trust, in the hands of Mr. Arthur Greenleigh, who (in case you don't know it, and I don't see how anyone as fat and slothful as you would know anything about anything) is now executive director of the United Service for New Americans. *Associate*

The fact of the matter is that the JDC handles no immigration problem in the U.S., not even where the problem is related to Jews who are still overseas. All of the work in this country is handled by the USNA, and of course they are completely au courant on problems such as the one outlined in your letter. I am hopeful that you will be hearing from them very soon, or from a sub-office of theirs, but in the event there is no early response, let me know and I shall be happy to follow up.

One of these days, why don't you unwrap that ivory tower from around yourself and come back East where people are *alive*. I suppose you have heard from mad Mike Abramowitz, who incidentally passed through this office about a month ago; I have not as yet succeeded in re-arranging my clothes, papers on my desk, and all the other things which were set a-flutter on that occasion. Also, I saw Phil Bernstein in Rochester last weekend and enjoyed it very much. For your information, he seemed to me to be more militant and more determined than ever on those major problems which have concerned us so much these last few years.

Everything else aside, it was good to hear from you and I hope you may be able to drop me a line again--without benefit of a pretext. Give my very best to your lovely and charming wife. (My commiseration too.)

Regards,

Eli
Eli Rock

ER:AU

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Dear Friend:

I thought that the enclosed material on the educational and religious program of the JDC overseas would be of special interest to you. In the multitudinous activities that the JDC has had to assume to recreate Jewish life overseas, it has not overlooked these aspects, which it is encouraging for us to note, in the eyes of the Displaced Persons, is as important as the means of survival itself.

We will be glad to have any comments or suggestions you have on these reports.

Sincerely yours,

N. Rosenberg
Nathan Rosenberg
Regional Representative

NR/fb
encs.

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EDUCATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. ZONE
OF GERMANY DURING NOVEMBER 1947

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The training courses for Kindergarten teachers in the Bamberg and Regensburg Areas, and Berlin had to be postponed because of a previous arrangement with JAFP according to which similar courses were to be held in Austria during November. The continuation of these courses for the U.S. Zone is, therefore, scheduled for December, 1947.

The following figures (subject to adjustment) have been submitted regarding the Jewish schools in the U.S. Zone: 76 schools; 9,597 children; and 759 teachers.

On November 9th, the first meeting of the school supervisors was held in Munich. The agenda included discussion of the school regulations prepared by a special committee of Supervisors (Regulations for teachers and school principals). It was also decided to work out labor regulations for the school supervisors. The duties of the school supervisors have been defined as follows:

1. To supervise the entire pedagogical activity of the schools
2. To give model lessons in schools
3. To discuss pedagogical difficulties and problems of methods with the teachers.
4. To supervise the physical aspect of the schools, cleanliness of the premises, as well as the behaviour and appearance of teachers and pupils.

On November 7 and 8 the Annual General Meeting of the Union of Writers, Journalists and Artists took place. About 100 persons attended this meeting which demonstrated the progress in cultural work and the growing interest for higher spiritual activities in the Shaarith Ha-Platah.

A statement was issued by the conference denying the allegations of certain journalists that Yiddish is being boycotted by the responsible authorities among the Displaced Persons.

On November 10, a Press Conference was held by the Education Board during which members of the Board reported to the journalists on the activities of the Board for Education and Culture. The Publishing Department has set up a printing schedule for the coming six months. Books are distributed to the districts on the basis of requests submitted by the School Supervisors.

The Education Board in Berlin experienced some difficulties with the special food allocation for teachers, and it was decided to make a monthly bulk allocation to the Teachers' Board for direct distribution to the teachers.

The AJDC representative on the Berlin Education Board arranged to be present at the Boards' office daily to meet with the various youth group leaders. There are at present in Berlin one senior group which meets at the Chaplains' Center, and two junior groups who meet regularly twice weekly at their own centers in two different sectors of the city.

A meeting was held in Berlin for the parents of most of the children who were at Bruningslinden summer camp during the summer months. The aim of the meeting was to stimulate the parents' interest and cooperation in giving the children the benefits of the Jewish companionship, and encouragement of the use of the recrea-

tion facilities offered. In order to carry out a properly organized program, weekly Sunday seminars were arranged at the town youth centers, to which some of the camp youth leaders are invited to assist because of their wider knowledge of Jewish life and experience in group activities.

RELIGIOUS

Close cooperation has been maintained with the Supply Department in regard to the Matzos baking program. For the ultra-orthodox, satisfactory clearance through Army and Military Government offices have been made for the planting and harvesting of wheat in a number of the kibbutzim. The Agudat Harabonim is entrusted with the exclusive supply and distribution of this wheat and the Matzo Shemure that will be produced.

The Religious Consultant visited the British Zone in order to get a clear picture of the actual religious life and needs of the Jews living in that Zone. While there he met with the Mapilim of the "Exodus". Most of the religious problems in Bergen-Belsen, where exist the largest concentration of Jews in the Zone, are quite normal and easily handled. There is a regular flow of kosher meat and the Synagogue and Talmud Torahs are satisfactorily maintained and administered. They are subsidized by the AJDC in the British Zone. The Mischling problem in the 36 communities of the British Zone is a complicated one. A Beth Din has been established and is functioning, paying regular visits to these communities for the purpose of dealing with these knotty problems. Two DP Rabbis are being selected in the U.S. Zone for service in the British Zone where a need exists for such additional Rabbis.

The Mizrachi and the Aguda, the Religious Consultant reports, are working in close harmony and all religious groups are functioning under the Rabbinate.

The one Yshiva in the Zone is in need of Talmuds, Schulchan, Aruch and other Seforim. The Rabbis are inadequately supplied with the necessary basic Rabbinic library as the Yoreh Dach, Midrashim, etc.

Since in all of Germany there is but one place - Fuerth - where divorces may be written according to Jewish law, arrangements have been made with one Rabbi in Fuerth and one in Feldafing to continue the issuance of these decrees. Transportation and all other preliminary arrangements are being made through the AJDC Religious Department. In the last two months 22 regular divorce decrees were issued and 7 shliach gitin were forwarded to various parts of the world.

In order to meet the acute religious needs of the organized kibbutzim of the Mizrachi and the Aguda, the method of distribution of Chumoshim and Neviin was organized. In the past regular allocations were made to the respective districts which proved unsatisfactory. The system of distribution has been re-organized so that the books are now shipped direct to the kibbutzim thus guaranteeing the delivery of the books to the groups who actually need and use them.

During the first ten days of November the Religious Consultant accompanied a delegation of the Central Orthodox Committee on an inspection tour of the various installations in Germany. While they showed considerable interest in the overall conditions of the Displaced Persons in camps and communities, they were particularly concerned with Kashruth, religious education, the status of Rabbis, emigration of Rabbis and Yeshiva students and Yeshivas. In visiting these installations they were able to secure a rounded picture of the best and worst camps and installations.

Visiting the above mentioned installations convinced the Committee that there is a healthy orthodox element in Germany, who have remained true to their traditions. AJDC has adequately provided all these camps with Mikvahs, basic religious supplies such as sidurim, talaisim, etc.

Several conferences were held with the following groups: Agudah Harabonim, Mizrachi Aguda, Central Committee of Liberated Jews, Federation of Landsmanschaften and with Judge Levinthal. A strong appeal was made by members of the delegation to the three religious groups to find a basis of unity in the formation of a Religious Board of Education. While there seemed to have been a promise of such a united front, to date new differences have entered the picture and the Board is as yet not established. In the event that it will not be possible to create such a Board, the AJDC Religious Department will be compelled to develop and administer independently a plan of material assistance to the respective schools of the Agudah and Mizrachi.

The Religious Consultant visited Paris where he again met with the Delegation and the situation in Germany was further reviewed. It was agreed that a wider printing project of religious books should be launched, that there was a need for additional kosher kitchens and greater support for the existing yeshivas. During the Paris visit the situation of the Windsheim and the Lubovitcher Yeshivas was further examined. In the past few months half of the Yeshivas have been removed to Paris awaiting emigration to the States. The Yeshivas in Germany, as a consequence, have been left without the essential leadership. It is hoped that the emigration of the rest of the schools can be facilitated in the near future.

The ship which carried the Chanuka supplies, was quarantined in Marseilles, making it impossible to deliver the supplies in time for the holidays. Arrangements have been made for an increased supply of regular candles to substitute for the missing Chanuka candles. It has been possible to provide enough Chanuka candles from other available sources to the schools and chedorim. 248 Chanuka Menoroth, produced on AJDC work projects, were also distributed.

A conference of the United Jewish Communities in Germany took place in Berlin. This was attended by about 100 delegates from 60 Gemeinden in all four zones. At this first gathering from all over Germany a number of resolutions were passed aiming at coordinating all the Gemeinden. Discussion centered around the acceptance of the rules set up by the Germany Rabbinate in order to put an end to the mass applications for membership by former Jews or their spouses which in many cases are for only practical reasons.

The supervision of Kashruth in the Berlin district has improved since the employment of two more supervisors. Through a gift of pliers, seals, etc., by the Chief Rabbi's Emergency Council in London, a better control system has been introduced in the slaughterhouse.

A systematic and planned coordination between the various rabbinical groups in the Communities and camps of all Zones has turned out satisfactorily.

Dated: January 8, 1948

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

Munich, Germany
December 19, 1947

Mr. Edward Phillips
Committee on Cultural Affairs
AJJDE, New York

Dear Ed:

Since my return to Germany I have been so tied up with the day by day problems of our religious Yishuv here in Germany that I could not keep the promise that I made myself to be in closer contact with you and the Committee.

As the whole German operation is a dynamic one, we are in a constant state of change. The sharp party frictions manifest themselves, most realistically in the organizational pattern of the religious community in the Sherith Hapleithah. First we have a three-way split in the Rabbinate - the Mizrachi, the Agudath, and the Agudath Tachas. After much pain and effort and pressure, including a trip to Czechoslovakia, we succeeded to bring the split to a head, the differences are now resolved, and we have one Agudath Harabonim.

We have been sending our people into the camps with supplies and ideas for the strengthening of the Talmud Torahs and Chadorim. This approach was not the solution to the problem, so we made an attempt at the organization of the Board of Religious Education to deal exclusively with Talmud Torahs and religious schools, and to consist of the Agudath Harabonim, the Agudath Mizrachi, and our department. This would have meant the centralization of the work of Chinuch with tremendous possibilities of bringing in order in place of chaos. After weeks of negotiations and planning it appeared as if this Board was to come into existence. Again the sharp party distrust manifested itself, and the whole scheme for the time being must be abandoned.

We are planning to deal with the parties directly, as well as to take over those schools that are non-partisan. This of course will mean the increase of our Staff, and we hope to find qualified people among the indigenous population. I am now working on a standard pay scale for the teachers which will be similar to that of the secular schools.

We take a special pride in having finally concluded a satisfactory program of relief for the Yishuvath. As of this month we have placed all the Yishuvath under our direct supervision, and they are receiving monthly supplementary rations, sufficiently large to guarantee their maintenance within the framework of the German economy.

You may be interested in some of the impressions of the delegation of the Central Orthodox Committee during their visit with us in Germany. It is my feeling that in Germany they found a very healthy, sound and cooperative interest on the part of our Directors and our Department for Welfare of the Religious People.

We are now engaged in a big printing program (10,000 Prayer books, 5,000 Prophets, 10,000 Hagedtah, and 5,000 Schulchan Orach) and matzoh baking project.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Solomon Shapiro
JDC Religious Advisor in Germany

JDC

October 17, 1947

Dr. Joseph Schwartz,
American Joint Distributing Committee,
19 Rue de Teheran,
Paris, France.

Dear Joe:

I cannot tell you how thrilled and delighted I was to see the article, together with your picture, in the New York Times a few days ago describing the award to you of the French Legion of Honor.

I truly think that you deserved every word of the citation and wish to add my congratulations to the many others which you are receiving.

I was with Mr. Morgenthau again in Oklahoma last week, and we had a long talk about you. He really feels that you are doing a remarkable job, and I think you should know, Joe, that there are men in every community around America who feel the same way. One of my Denver people, Charles Rosenbaum, has just returned from Europe, and, although he did not get to see you personally, says that he heard your praises sung all over the map.

I would also like you to know, Joe, that if there is ever anything I can do, or any way in which you think I can be helpful, please feel free to call upon me. I would like to remain active in the whole picture, and frankly miss the work overseas very much.

Elaine joins me in sending you our sincerest compliments and fondest regards.

As ever,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF:EW