

Temple Israel

BULLETIN

January, 1992 VOL. 62, NO. 12
COLUMBUS, OHIO

from the Rabbi

1992: year of self discovery



Seeds of spring

Pre-schoolers and their families will plant parsley seeds as part of the Tot Shabbat activities around the theme of Tu-B'Shevat. Sisterhood sponsors the craft, activity and lunch program following the service led by Rabbi Bleefeld, Rabbi Engel and Cantor Axe on Saturday, January 11, at 10:30 a.m. RSVP's should be made to the temple office. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youngest congregants to enjoy a family program planned just for them. With a green thumb and some good luck, the parsley should be ready for Passover!

History records 1491 as a year of upheaval and dismay. The Spanish monarchy, under increasing pressure from political forces within the organized church, reluctantly agreed to the forced conversion or expulsion of Spain's Jewish inhabitants. The Jews of Spain prepared to dismantle their thousand year community and, with it, their culture and way of life. When the expulsion edict is ultimately declared in 1492, giving only several months notice of eviction, our Sephardic ancestors became masters of their own fate. The majority fled hostile Spain and, with it, the initial acts of the inquisition. These Jews could neither abandon their faith, nor sub-

jugate it to the open arms of easy assimilation, and so they chose to leave their roots and traveled throughout southern Europe and across the Atlantic to the Americas.

Others chose to remain in their homeland, converting to the Christian faith of their neighbors. They could be assured of continued acceptance and prosperity as long as Spain fared well.

Still others, perhaps the most heroic, risked certain torture and death by retaining their Jewish identity secretly while assimilating through outward conversion. These hidden Jews became the source of legends, no less than hope, for generations to come. Doors to success in Spain slammed shut. Doors to new worlds flung open.

Five hundred years later, we face eternal dilemmas, original by no means to Spain, nor reserved for them alone. The Cyrene song of easy assimilation still entices. Maintaining Jewish identity is still a difficult task requiring effort and sacrifice.

And doors close and open for us and our people worldwide still today.

As we embark on the confident, yet unknown seas of 1992, we would do well to remember back 500 years and chart a new course for self discovery, both personal and communal. What potential lies unawakened in each of us? Are we satisfied merely to be as we are, or is it our time to live not only in Columbus but of Columbus...

A time and place of new hopes and dreams or hopes and dreams renewed?

A time and place of new horizons to reach or horizons restored?

A time and place of new challenges met or challenges reviewed?

Sail on! For new worlds within us and beyond us await our discovery. Doors will

always close and open for people like us, people who dare to dream and tempt failure as we attempt new achievements of faith. The Santa Maria stands ready in the harbor. Louis de Torres, Christopher's Jewish navigator, again charts the night sky canopy and three ships await the tide. Each christened with reinvested Jewish living, a fresh commitment to Torah values, and anticipated joy in making spiritual landfall. New religious dimensions now lie waiting to be discovered by each of us. Earlier uncovered by others, just as Columbus found natives already living on the land, those who came before us perhaps knew a fuller Jewish life than we. But, like Columbus, it is our turn to claim such a life as our own. And, yet, 1992 need not wrench such a spiritual landscape from others as did the new explorers of 500 years ago. Those who live what we wish to conquer by faith are willing to share it with all who venture forth.

So this '92 revisited, explore with me, challenge with me, discover with me, a new world! The world of religious self-discovery. The world within and the world beyond.

Rabbi Bradley N. Bleefeld

Dues revision plan update

We are happy to report that the response to our new dues program has been overwhelmingly positive. To date, half of the returned cards have indicated increases in dues on an average of 29%. The congregation truly appreciates the support and commitment of those responding in such a wonderful manner.

Listed below are the original members of the Leadership Council who have set their annual dues at \$5,000 or more.

Leadership Council

Robert & Joan Aronson
Sidney & Sally Blatt
Michael Bloch
Anonymous *
Millard & Diane M. Cummins
Jeffrey Epstein
Robert & Marjorie Garek
Kenneth Gilman
William & Sally Glick
Elliott & Pat Grayson
Howard & Marcy Gross
Henry & Marjorie Gurvis
Thomas & Merilynn Kaplin
Arthur & Sara Jo Kobacker

A list is being compiled of those members who have added 20% to the highest level associated with their income, thereby entitling them to be part of the Leadership Council. Their names will be published in future updates.

Temple members are reminded that their easy to use Fair Choice Plan response card, which they will use to set their dues, is to be sent to the Temple as soon as possible.

Charles & Dorothy Lazarus
Stuart & Paula Levine
Thomas & Nancy Lurie
David & Bonnie Milenthal
Stephen & Lynda Nacht
Eleanor Resler
William & Ann Roth
Jeffrey & Jody Scheiman
Earl & Rachel Schnitz
Herbert & Betty Schiff
Ernest & Aurelia Stern
Steven & Judith Tuckerman
Michael & Arlene Weiss
Gloria & Ray Wells
Les Wexner

Sisterhood outreach program

Sisterhood will hold an outreach program in the Temple library on February 6, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. Our speaker will be Beverly Shafran and the program will be geared towards parents whose children are interfaith dating. This program will be open to the community. We welcome anyone interested in a warm group discussion.

All in the family

...Congratulations to Howard and Wendy Rood on their marriage November 9, 1991. Howard is the son of Ruth and Leonard Rood. Wendy is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Becker of Dayton. The couple are presently living in Novi, Michigan.

...Mazel tov to Rabbi Steven and Beverly Engel on the birth of their new son, Jory Noam, born on November 21.

Sisterhood on Ohio RCAR board

Temple Israel Sisterhood has been granted representation on the Board of Directors of Ohio Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights. This decision by the Sisterhood board is in accordance with the pro-choice position of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. Representation affords Sisterhood an opportunity to participate in educational and advocacy programs.

Feed the homeless project

Temple Israel Sisterhood will again be cooking and serving meals at the Open Shelter on W. State Street on Thursday, January 23, 1992. Sisterhood members will cook the food at 12:30 at the Temple kitchen and will meet back at the Temple kitchen at 5:00 p.m. to transport and serve the food. Anyone wishing to participate in either cooking or serving, please contact Marci Delson at 764-8618.

TEMPLE ISRAEL
5419 E. Broad St.,
Columbus, Ohio 43213-1499
(614)866-0010, Fax: (614)866-9046
RABBI.....BRADLEY N. BLEEFELD
ASSOCIATE RABBI.....STEVEN W. ENGEL
CANTOR.....VICKI L. AXE
RABBI EMERITUS.....JEROME D. FOLKMAN
TEMPLE PRESIDENT.....Fred Sumner
VICE PRESIDENT.....Henry L. Epstein
VICE PRESIDENT.....Robert Garek
VICE PRESIDENT.....Steven Tuckerman
TREASURER.....Jody Scheiman
ASST. TREASURER.....Mary Warren
SECRETARY.....Kenneth Gilman
ASST. SECRETARY.....Marcy Gross
IMMED. PAST PRESIDENT.....Rita K. Cohen
ADMINISTRATOR.....Linda G. Simchon
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR.....Linda Hayon
FOUNDATION PRESIDENT.....Robert Shamansky
SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT.....Tussy Shnider
BROTHERHOOD PRES.....Michael Kravitz
YOUNG ADULTS CONGREGATION
PRESIDENT.....Bonnie Rubenstein
YOUTH GROUP PRESIDENT.....Alan Galan
BULLETIN EDITOR.....Neal Oxman
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James Brenner
Sidney I. Blatt
Norman Folpe
William L. Glick
Charles Y. Lazarus
Ernest Stern
Seyman L. Stern
Joseph Sumner
Raymond Wells

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL BULLETIN USPS
537600 is published monthly by Temple Israel,
5419 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43213-1499.
2nd class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Temple
Israel Bulletin, 5419 E. Broad St., Columbus,
Ohio 43213-1499.

January calendar

Jan. 5—	9:30 a.m.	Adult Ed	Library
Jan. 10—	6:00 p.m.	YAC Dinner & Service	
Jan. 11—	10:30 a.m.	Tot Shabbat	
Jan. 11—	5:00 p.m.	YFTL Dinner & Torah Study	
Jan. 11—	7:00 p.m.	TIFTY Program	Off Premises
Jan. 12—	12:00 noon	YFTL Board Mtg.	Youth Lounge
Jan. 12—	9:30 a.m.	Parent Assn. Steering Comm. Breakfast	Library
Jan. 13—	7:30 p.m.	Executive Comm.	Library
Jan. 14—	6:30 p.m.	Brotherhood Dinner & Speaker	Library
Jan. 15—	7:30 p.m.	Youth Act. Comm.	Library
Jan. 21—	6:15 p.m.	Sisterhood Program	Social Hall
Jan. 23—	12:00 noon	Sisterhood Feed the Homeless	
	5:00 p.m.	Meet to Serve	
Jan. 24—	8:00 p.m.	Founders Sabbath	Temple Beth Shalom
Jan. 25—	9:30 a.m.	Founders Sabbath Breakfast & Program	Social Hall
Jan. 25—	2:00 p.m.	YAC Social	Off Premises
Jan. 28—	7:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Library
Jan. 29—	9:00 a.m.	Sisterhood Bake Day	

VAN DATES—JANUARY 10 AND 31

The Jewish perspective

Plan to attend an informative and provocative program on January 21, 6:15 p.m., Temple Israel. Rabbi Bradley Bleefeld and Dr. Eric Handler, Medical Director of the Nisonger Center will present Jewish views, options and perspectives on controversial end-of-life issues including suicide, living wills and physician-assisted "death with dignity".

Everyone is welcome to

attend. End-of-life concerns affect men and women of every age. Your check for \$9.00 for Sisterhood members, \$10.00 for non-members, payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood, is your reservation for dinner and the program. Please mail it to Bev Koenigsberg, 647 Boxford Lane, Columbus, Oh 43213, no later than January 15, 1992. Dinner begins at 6:15 p.m. and program at 7:15 p.m.

College student Passover project

Each year Temple Israel Brotherhood mails Passover packages to our college students living away from home. Each package contains Passover foods to help our students remember the holiday and commemorate the exodus. Our mailing list is both out of date and incomplete.

Please fill out and return the address form below if you wish your child to be included in the list. This form will be the address label, so please print clearly.

Only those names and labels we receive by March 1, 1992 will be included in this year's mailing.

Name _____
Address Room or Apt. No. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Return to: Passover Project, Temple Israel Brotherhood,
5419 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43213-1499

A giant thank you...

...to Jody and Jeff Scheiman from the Preschool staff and children for their generous gift which made it possible to purchase new riding toys, play equipment and other items for the Preschool. The preschoolers love all the new equipment! Our warmest thanks to the Scheimans.

ENTERED SECOND CLASS COLUMBUS, OHIO

HUC-JIR Library
3101 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati OH 45220

In Memoriam

We record with deep sorrow the passing of:

Molly Caplan
Mother of
Maurice Caplan

Sadie Gordon Chernoff
Mother of
Irving Chernoff *

Maurice Coen
Brother of Jack Shaucet,
Uncle of Mitzi Lichtenstein
and Jeffrey Lichtenstein

Else Kaelter
Mother of
Bonnie Milenthal

Marvin Levick
Brother of Tudy Krupnick

Eva Stan
Mother of Edward Stan

Samuel Valcov
Father of Ina Sue Rosenthal

Gertrude Watters
Mother-In-Law of
Charles Lazarus

Only relatives of Temple
Israel members are listed in
In Memoriam.

In appreciation

Temple Israel Sisterhood wishes to thank Phyllis Greene for her generous donation of sterling silver and china bouillon/candy dishes. Once again, Mrs. Greene's thoughtfulness will enhance Sisterhood's culinary presentations.

Nominating committee

The Nominating Committee is in the process of putting together a slate of trustees to be voted on at Temple Israel's Annual Meeting. If you have names you would like to submit for consideration, please call the Committee Chairperson, Rita Cohen, at 258-0444.

**SISTERHOOD
BOOK REVIEW LUNCHEON**

**Rabbi Bradley Bleefeld will review
Dr. Seuss' "Oh, The Places You'll Go!"
New York Times bestseller list
for two years**

**Come and enjoy an afternoon
of fun and laughter
Delicious food by Joyce
Park Towers is the place
February 19 is the date
11:45 a.m. the time**

ALL FOR \$4.50.

**CALL TEMPLE ISRAEL
FOR RESERVATIONS NOW!**



Temple Israel Sisterhood

5419 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43213

December 20, 1991

Dear Temple members,

Temple Israel Sisterhood is a vital part of Temple life and is involved in a multitude of the projects, programs, and events that are Temple Israel. Below is a brief description of some of the ways Sisterhood contributes to the well-being of Temple Israel and its members. I hope you will take time to read this list. Please do so with the understanding that there is a place for every Temple woman in Temple Israel Sisterhood.

SISTERHOOD PROVIDES PROGRAMS.

- Luncheon and dinner programs five times a year
- A program at Heritage House each year
- Library luncheon/Book reviews three times a year
- Outreach activities and gift baskets for newly-converted women
- Educational classes
- Luncheon and program for Life Members
- New members desserts
- Social events (with Brotherhood)

SISTERHOOD PROVIDES SERVICES FOR TEMPLE MEMBERS.

- Shabbat Van for senior citizens
- Temple Directory (with Brotherhood)
- Oneg Shabbat every Friday evening, arranging sponsorships for congregants and Bake Days to provide pastries

SISTERHOOD SUPPORTS OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS.

- An annual subsidy of \$6,000 to our Religious School
- Tot Shabbat Services three times a year
- Scholarships for camps, preschool, religious school, and leadership training programs
- Furnishings for the Youth Lounge
- Assistance with conventions hosted by our YFTL
- Matching funds for travel expenses for youth group activities
- Gifts to Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and Confirmands

SISTERHOOD ORGANIZES SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS.

- Meals for 160-175 homeless men three times a year
- Household and personal items for a women's shelter

SISTERHOOD ENHANCES HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS.

- Arranging and providing the Selichot Dessert
- Organizing and publishing the Yom Kippur Book of Remembrance
- Providing a "nosh" to break the fast on Yom Kippur
- Organizing and funding the decorating of the Sukkah
- Organizing and subsidizing the Sukkot Family Dinner
- Participating in the funding of inviting the New Americans to the Brotherhood Chanukah Dinner

- Arranging and providing the Passover Yiskor Brunch
- Assuming the role of caterer for the Confirmation Reception

SISTERHOOD PURCHASES NECESSITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TEMPLE.

- The organ in the Sanctuary
- The cushioned seats in the Chapel
- The window treatment for the Library

(over)

The renovation of the Ladies Restroom and Bride's Room
The drapery for the stage in the Social Hall
The chairs and round tables in the Social Hall (with Brotherhood)
All of the appliances and cooking utensils in the Kitchen
All of the china, flatware, glassware, skirting, and silver serving pieces (except those items that were donated)

The portable podium

SISTERHOOD MANAGES, STAFFS, AND SUPPLIES THE TEMPLE LIBRARY.

SISTERHOOD MANAGES, STAFFS, SUPPLIES, AND STOCKS THE JUDAICA SHOP.

SISTERHOOD ADMINISTERS FUNDS.

Five local funds (Century Social Action Fund, Gift and Memorial Fund, Give-ty Fund, F. L. Gundersheimer Fund, Oklander Fund)

Three NFTS funds (Service to the Blind, World Union for Progressive Judaism, YES Fund)

SISTERHOOD HAS FUNDRAISING PROJECTS.

The annual Good-As-New Sale

Selling Entertainment Books

Selling Covers for the NFTS Art Calendar

SISTERHOOD HAS NEW PROJECTS IN PROGRESS.

Developing a new Commemorative Cookbook

Purchasing an amplification system for congregants with hearing loss to use in the sanctuary and other meeting rooms

IN ADDITION, SISTERHOOD

Gave \$5,000 to the Future is Now Campaign.

Presented \$10,000 to Temple Israel in honor of Sisterhood's 100th anniversary.

Participated in a project with the other synagogue sisterhoods, sending 100 Passover boxes to Jewish military personnel in the Persian Gulf in the winter of 1991.

Has assisted our clergy in preparation of Kiddush Luncheons following the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of their children.

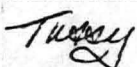
Published a new Sisterhood brochure.

Is affiliated with the Ohio Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights.

Is affiliated with the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and the Ohio Valley Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and is regarded as a model sisterhood by national and district leadership.

As you can see, our projects are social, social action, and religious in nature, serve our youngest to our oldest congregants, sustain our minds, hearts and bodies, and provide improvements to our Temple facility. It takes many dedicated women to carry out all of these projects. It is these women, who care about Temple Israel and the future of Reform Judaism, that are the "heart" and "hands" of Sisterhood. Please let us know in what way you wish to participate in Sisterhood life. If you cannot participate, your dues will convey the message of your support and will be greatly appreciated. For membership or involvement information, please call our membership chairmen, Ellen Half at 231-4253, or Vicki Zwelling at 864-7395.

Sincerely,



Tussy Shnider
President

PLEASE NOTE

**FOUNDER'S SABBATH
JANUARY 24-25, 1992**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 24 - 8:00 P.M.
SHABBAT SERVICES
BETH SHALOM
3100 East Broad Street**

**All clergy from the Reform Congregations
in Columbus will be participating**

The guest speaker will be

**RABBI ERIC YOFFIE
Vice President - U.A.H.C.
Executive Director - ARZA**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25 - 9:00 A.M.
BREAKFAST
TEMPLE ISRAEL
5419 East Broad Street**

**9:30 - 11:30 A.M. - RABBI YOFFIE
WILL BE PRESENTING A SEMINAR**

**This seminar is for all Board and Committee
members, as well as other leaders
in Reform Congregations**

**11:30 A.M. - SHORT TORAH SERVICE
All clergy from the Columbus
Reform Congregations
will be participating**

A Visit to TEMPLE ISRAEL



ANNOUNCING
A CELEBRATION OF TU B'SHEVAT

A SISTERHOOD TOT SHABBAT

A service led by Rabbi Bleefeld, Rabbi Engel & Cantor Axe

FOR 2-6 YEAR-OLDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1992
10:30 A.M.

SONGS ... STORIES ... CRAFTS ... LUNCH

For information & reservations, call Temple 866-0010

At the End!

Jan.21,'92: Temple Israel

Sisterhood Program

Medical & religious views on
controversial end-of-life ideas.

6:15pm appetizers --- 7:15pm program

- dinner is included -

Eric Handler, M.D., Medical Director of Nisonger Center and Rabbi Bradley Bleefeld, Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel will discuss how scientific and Jewish law merge and differ on challenging topics including "death with dignity," living wills, suicide.

The speakers will present case studies for audience reaction and discussion based on "real life" situations. Everyone, men and women of all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend for a thought-provoking evening. Please join us by sending the following registration form with your check.

***** tear here *****

YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION

The deadline for registration is January 17, 1992.
\$9.50 Sisterhood Members -- \$10.50 for Non-members
- includes dinner -

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Number of Reservations: ____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO TEMPLE ISRAEL
SISTERHOOD Mail to Bev Koenigsberg, 647 Boxford
Lane, Columbus, OH 43213

YOUR CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 17, 1992

1492 - 500th ANNIVERSARY DATES - 1992

By Rabbi Bradley N. Bleefeld

March 31, 1492 - King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella Issue the Edict of Expulsion of all Jews from Spain.

The decision to expel the Jews of Spain came as a tragic blow to the Jewish community that was able to trace its history on Iberian shores for fifteen centuries. The first Jewish settlers probably came during Roman times and the earliest evidence of their existence is a tombstone inscription in Adra dating back to the third century of the common era.

In Spain under both Moslem and Christian rulers, Jews and Jewish culture flourished. Medicine, agriculture, commerce, scholarship, poetry, mathematics and astronomy were all fields in which Jews excelled and often advanced that sphere of human exploration and achievement.

With the advent of the tenth century a golden age had begun for communities of Jews in Lucena, Granada, Cordoba, Seville, Saragossa, Barcelona, Tudela and Toledo. Physicians, scientists, diplomats, financiers, poets, mystics and intellectuals of every variety attained prominence, power and position. Names like Maimonides, Jehuda HaLevi, Abraham Ibn Ezra, Bahya Ibn Pakuda and Solomon Ibn Gabirol became known far and wide for their philosophy as well as their poetry. One unique individual, Shmuel HaNagid, even rose to the rank of vizier and Commander of the Army of Granada.

Perhaps the greatest communal leader of the times was Hasdai ibn Shaprut who, as the trusted physician to the court, attained the exalted position of chief of customs and foreign trade. His diplomacy, support of scholarship and community leadership became legendary.

But even though the Jews of Spain could find themselves employed in the highest financial and administrative positions, they had little if any real political power. So with the first blood libel initiated in Saragossa in the middle of the thirteenth century, followed by disputations in Barcelona and Tortosa, the Jews of Spain began to witness and then feel the changing world around them. Persecutions became commonplace, as all of Spain turned against her Jews.

Finally the Inquisition insured that Spanish Jewry was truly threatened. In 1483 Tomas de Torquemada was named Inquisitor General and it would only be a matter of time before Spain would be persuaded to expel its Jews.

Ferdinand and Isabella issued their proclamation on March 31, giving Spanish Jewry four months to settle their affairs, sell their property and arrange to leave their homeland. All were to be gone by July 31, but two days grace was given. This extension produced the tragic coincidence of the day of expulsion falling exactly on the ninth day of the month of Av, the anniversary of the destruction of both the first and second Temples in Jerusalem, the saddest date in Jewish history.

August 2, 1492 - Jews leave Spain after 1500 years.

Four months from the issuance of the royal Expulsion Edict the Jews were forced from Spain. The majority of over 150,000 hapless souls crossed the border into Portugal where they faced only greater persecution. Taking pity on these new exiles, the Turkish empire opened its doors. The grateful Jewish refugees now streaming easterly would insure that Christendom's loss was Turkey's gain.

No greater disaster than the expulsion had befallen world Jewry since Jerusalem fell to the Romans in the year

seventy. Their rejection by the Spanish monarchy prompted them to seek alternatives for security in any corner of the known or the soon to be known world. Little could the Jews of Spain themselves know that in only a few months time a new world would open to Europe and to the Jews.

The expulsion from Spain sowed the seeds for what would become the greatest Jewish community the world has ever known: American Jewry. Once across the Atlantic in a territory opened by Columbus' exploration, Jews could find new havens for safety. In the "New World" Jews found themselves on the threshold of opportunity. In 1654, just over one hundred and sixty years since Columbus' voyages, twenty-three Jews disembarked at the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, later to be renamed New York. With their energy, resolve and determination came the basis for the present American Jewish community, the largest and most prominent the world has ever seen.

From 1492-1992 it can be said that for these five hundred years Spain's loss has truly been the world's gain.

October 12, 1492 - Opening of New World For Jewish Resettlement

On October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus sighted an island in the Bahamas he was to name San Salvador. At this landfall he was under the impression that an out island of the Indies had been found. Little did he know at the time that he was opening up a new world and that within a year an initial European colony would be functioning in America on the island of Hispaniola.

Columbus, soon to be titled the Admiral of the Ocean Sea, was given the royal and financial support his exploration needed through the efforts of a group of recently baptised Jews termed New Christians. Luis de Santangel and Gabriel Sanches, prominent amongst these individuals, arranged for him to build his ships and underwrite his voyage with the full support of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

Speculation by some scholars even makes the Admiral himself a possible descendant of converted but secretly practicing Jews known as Marranos. Curious as it may be, Columbus demonstrated an uncommon affinity for Jewish associates and things Jewish. He began his account of his voyage with a reference to the expulsion of the Jews from his native Spain.

The sailing of his three vessel fleet was specifically postponed from August 2 to August 3, perhaps because the second was the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av, an inauspicious day to sail for anyone of Jewish awareness. The nautical instruments Columbus used were of Jewish production, his maps by the Jewish mapmaker Abraham Zacuto and his interpreter and first mate was Luis de Torres, the first known Jew to set foot on American soil.

Columbus' identity is widely accepted to be an enigma. Yet the controversy is further sharpened by the fact that his name in Italian, Colon, was a common Jewish name during the medieval period. He is known to have made reference to his relation to King David and, when writing about the Second Temple in Jerusalem, used a decidedly Jewish phrase in description. If there was intent to hide his true identity, the world so far has yet to uncover the reason. But no doubt that regardless of origin and background, Admiral Columbus' discovery insured not only a new world of security from religious persecution but a world of opportunity maximized over the past five hundred years.