



# THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

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

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 46, Folder 2, Stapleton, Ruth Carter, 1978.

May 16, 1978

Mrs. Ruth Carter Stapleton  
P.O.B. 53757  
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28305

Dear Mrs. Stapleton,

I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of a newspaper story which appeared in The New York Post of May 15th. As you will see, it reports that you have accepted to address a June 8th "crusade" of B'nai Yeshua, a group whose primary purpose is proselytizing among Jewish people, especially Jewish young people.

My purpose in writing to you is to ask for the opportunity to meet with you as early as possible prior to the June 8th date in order to discuss with you our concerns over your participation in this proselytizing conference. Would you, therefore, kindly let me know by return mail or by telephone what would be a convenient time and place for us to meet?

I should like to discuss with you the theological issues raised by what, in our judgment, is a completely inadequate and defective understanding of so-called Hebrew-Christian movements, such as B'nai Yeshua, of the validity of God's eternal covenant with Israel. In particular, I wish to discuss with you in all candor and friendship what to us has been the moral offense of their methods involving the use of sacred Jewish concepts, religious traditions and practices of living Judaism in an altogether deceptive and, at times, fraudulent manner in order to ensnare unsuspecting or ignorant young Jewish people. Our files are filled with documentation of such "unfair practices" and "deceptive packaging" and I would want to share such evidence with you for your reflection.

May I look forward to hearing from you at your early convenience?

Faithfully,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Interreligious Affairs Director

MHT:RPR



# Carter sister aborts mission date, didn't know it was to convert Jews

By ANDY EDELSTEIN

"This is my press conference," Ruth Carter Stapleton told the crowded room of reporters listening to her announcement that she will not address this week's convention of Bnai Yeshua, a Long Island "Hebrew Christian" missionary group. "No one else is sponsoring it."

Mrs. Stapleton, sister of President Carter and a prominent Evangelical Christian adjusted her bifocals and smoothed her peach-colored dress. Speaking softly, she continued: "I made the decision after many sleepless nights and much prayer. I tried to put myself into the mind of Jesus Christ. What would He do, I asked myself."

Having made her decision, Mrs. Stapleton came to New York last Friday to hold a press conference, which was held in a ninth-floor conference room at 342 Madison Avenue. The location was chosen to emphasize the independence of Mrs. Stapleton's decision. The American Jewish Committee had sent a mailgram to the press announcing her appearance.

In addition, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, the AJC's director of inter-religious affairs, was present as a "consultant" to Mrs. Stapleton. He said he had written and conversed several times with Mrs. Stapleton about Bnai Yeshua.

Nonetheless, it seems as if there is one member of the Carter family who is listening to Jewish leaders.

## Long Island Jews dismayed

Jewish community leaders on Long Island expressed dismay when it was learned last month that Mrs. Stapleton had accepted the invitation to speak at the Bnai Yeshua gathering.



Ruth Carter Stapleton

Bnai Yeshua is a Texas based organization which last year purchased the Stony Brook Girls Academy as a center from which they proselytize their odd mixture of Jewish and Christian customs. Their office has recently issued a barrage of press releases (which are mailed in envelopes whose postmark reads "shalom") predicting that thousands of Hebrew Christians would attend the June 8-10 gathering billed as "Shechinah '78" (Glory of God). Having Mrs. Stapleton as keynote speaker, it seemed to most

observers, lent a certain legitimacy to the Hebrew Christians' practices which have been roundly condemned by both Jewish and Christian groups.

Mrs. Stapleton, however, said that she was unaware of the precise nature of Bnai Yeshua. She told the press conference that her secretary had made the appointment without consulting her. It is the nature of her work, Mrs. Stapleton maintained, that she speak to groups of all faiths to share her "psychological and spiritual insights."

"I am a Christian and my faith stems from my perception of God's love through Jesus Christ," she said, smiling in a manner reminiscent of her brother. "Yet I have never attempted in any way to negate the faith and practices of any sect, however far they might be removed from my own personal beliefs nor would I ever willingly be used by any group to attack the faith of others."

## Not influenced by brother

"I would not associate myself with any effort that would seek to undermine the survival of the Jewish people as a distinctive religious-ethnic group."

Mrs. Stapleton explained that her work as president of Behold, Inc., a non-profit, non-denominational religious organization, involves reconciliation and "inner healing" — a complicated process in which tensions and pressures are released through acceptance of Jesus. She maintained that she has not now and never has been actively seeking to convert Jews.

"Conversion is Bnai Yeshua's calling. It is not mine," she said.

Was she influenced at all by her brother? "Well, the last time I saw Jimmy was at Billy's daughter's wedding two weeks ago. He came up to me and asked me if I was aware of the Jewish reaction to my appearance at Bnai Yeshua. And I told him, quite honestly that I hadn't."

She smiled again, this time warmer and more sincere than the President's Ultra-Brite grin.

"Jimmy what must I do?" I asked him. And he looked at me and he said 'Ruth, I've never told you what to do and I'm not going to tell you now. You must seek your own guidance — do what is right in your heart.'"

## Will visit Holy Land

"Amen," mumbled a member of Mrs. Stapleton's party sitting next to me. He absent-mindedly thumbed through a copy of the Bible.

Michael Stolorow, an Israeli who runs the World Christian Travel Service in California, was brought up to the lectern. A balding, goateed man in a white safari jacket, he explained that he was the booking agent for Mrs. Stapleton's forthcoming trip to the Holy Land. "I've been with her constantly for the past two months and I've never heard her mention anything of the sort that she is trying to convert Jews," said Stolorow, who added that he had lost members of his family in the Holocaust.

"Mrs. Stapleton, what would you do if one of your children decided to convert to Judaism?" The question was posed by Frank Casey, a Black reporter for WPIX-TV.

Mrs. Stapleton remained silent for forty-five seconds. At that moment, the light in the room pointed up the resemblance between her and her other brother, Billy.

"I wouldn't object to anything my child would do," she said finally. And then she added "Some of my best friends..." The laughter of the audience drowned out the last two words.



# Composite picture of Jewish New York

## *It's being pieced together at Yivo*

By RICHARD YAFFE

"Jewish" New York, the cradle of the largest concentration of Jews in the world, has never really had its picture taken and its story told, and now a couple of people, backed by that unique underpublicized institution, YIVO, are going to do it. Or, at least they are laying a solid groundwork for having it done.

And when you hear Barbara Dash Moore and Marvin Herzog talk about it, you wonder why, oh why, it hasn't been done until now, and you begin to realize that only bits and pieces of the story are really known.

Morris Laub, the chairman of YIVO, thought we ought to know about it and got us together with Dr. Moore, who is assistant professor of history at the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies at YIVO and at Vassar, and Dr. Herzog, professor of linguistics and Yiddish studies at Columbia and acting dean of the Weinreich Institute.

The project, they told me, is the "Research Program for the Study of New York Jews," and it grew out of a number of meetings beginning about a year ago among people of YIVO and the Institute. The meetings came about in response to queries posed by Judah Gribetz, counsel to the Governor, Hugh Carey, and a man much active in the Jewish community, YIVO included. Gribetz wanted to know what was being done to preserve and encourage the study of New York Jewish life.

### Not just immigrant story

"He had come to YIVO and been very impressed with its holdings of East European Jewish life and all the research that was going on in conjunction with it, and as sort of a next ques-



Prof. Marvin Herzog

came "recognition that there was a lot that was being studied about New York Jewish life, but it really wasn't systematized. People were approaching it through a whole variety of disciplin-

to begin with things that we could do in the cheapest way and yet stick to the heart and soul of the project." The decision was to conduct a workshop on research techniques, topics and theories for the study of New York Jews.

"What we did in the workshop was to bring together a group of mostly young scholars, but not exclusively so. The young people were there because a lot of research is being done by young people."

The workshop wasn't well publicized, "because we are inexperienced in this, I especially." Notices were sent out to the general mailing list of YIVO, but 150 people showed up and "stayed all day." That was, to put it mildly, heartening.

"It was a very good crowd," said Dr. Herzog, who seemed to prefer throughout our talk to let Dr. Moore do most of the speaking. There was a lot of "give and take," and more questions were raised than answers given. But "it was a good way to start," said Dr. Moore, good enough for the Research Program to plan a large-scale conference which will be held next January on "Culture and Community Among New York Jews."

### To attract scholars

The conference, it is hoped, will "attract scholars with world-established reputations who have thought along this topic or have thought in areas relating to it," and who, it is hoped, will "make the connection between the community and the culture it has produced."

The group went to the New York State Council for the Humanities which agreed to fund the conference, and "hopefully out of it will come some volume of procedures," Dr. Moore said.

At the moment, it looks like the

## Help is wanted! Send material to the Yivo Institute

This newspaper is happy to cooperate with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and with its Research Program for the Study of New York Jews, and their search for materials and documents relating to the community. This included the story of the *landsmanshaften* which played an important role in American Jewish life for 150 years.

For the general Research Program all kinds of archival materials are wanted related to all aspects of Jewish life in the city — books, articles, pamphlets, pictures, programs, monographs — anything and everything. For the *landsmanshaften* aspect of the program, the requirement, newsletters, autobiographies, memorial books, and photographs taken in the Old Country and in America.

To arrange for the transfer of materials, please write:

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research,  
1048 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y. 10028  
Or telephone (212) 535-6700.

*landsmanshaft* meeting only the week before where the president was an American-born attorney only 30 years old whose father-in-law got him interested in the organization although he, himself, does not stem from the town of the *landsmen*.

"There were four generations present, and there were 50 people there out of a total membership of 100," Mrs. Schwartz said. "Pretty good, I would say."

# Jews criticize Carter's sister

5-23-78

NY 19



**RUTH STAPLETON**  
Keynote speaker.

By ELI TEIBER

A Long Island Jewish group has assailed Ruth Carter Stapleton for allowing her relationship to the President to be "exploited" in a campaign to convert Jews.

In a letter to President Carter's sister, the American Jewish Congress Long Island chapter has asked Mrs. Stapleton to withdraw as the keynote speaker at the fifth annual world conference of B'nai Yeshua, a "Jews for Jesus" organization.

The conference is scheduled to open in Stony Brook June 8.

"It is regrettable that a woman and an ordained minister of your stature

should demean herself by participating in the latest effort to convert us from the faith of our fathers," the letter declared.

Mrs. Stapleton an evangelist who has drawn national attention with her conversion of Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt, could not be reached for comment.

The AJC letter, signed by nine members including Leona Schwab executive director of the Long Island division, pointed out that Jews have been "constantly subjected to conversion efforts," including a campaign during the Spanish Inquisition where death was used as a threat.

As an alternative the AJC suggested, Mrs. Stapleton should direct her efforts toward "making better Christians out of those who were born into your faith."

Dolores Herne, a member of B'nai Yeshua, said the organization was "distressed but not surprised" by the AJC's stance.

She said she endorses the AJC's statement calling for religious freedom but added that as "messianic Jews" the B'nai Yeshua ("brethren of Jesus") must be permitted the same freedom.

The three-day convention will take place at the group's headquarters, 1226 N. Country Rd.



RUTH CARTER STAPLETON

Biographical Notes

Ruth Carter Stapleton, internationally known speaker on spiritual therapy, serves as president of Behold, Inc., a nondenominational, non-profit religious organization.

Mrs. Stapleton has conducted healing and teaching missions in England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Portugal, Japan, and other countries. She will be leading a nondenominational trip to Israel for ten days beginning September 2, 1978.

A member of the first graduating class of Methodist College, Fayetteville, she also did graduate work at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Mr. Stapleton is the author of two books: The Gift of Inner Healing (Word Books, 1976); and Experiencing Inner Healing (Word Books, 1977). The Gift of Inner Healing was also published in paperback by Bantam Books in 1977.

Mrs. Stapleton and her husband, Robert, a veterinarian, make their home in Fayetteville, N.C. They have four children.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1977

To Reverend John F. Steinbruck

Several weeks ago, I conducted a Bible study class during which the subject of the role of the Jewish people in the Crucifixion of Christ was discussed. A number of newspaper reports have appeared about my comments which have led to some questions about my views on this subject. I am glad to have this opportunity to set forth my personal position and to clarify any misunderstandings which may have resulted from these incomplete accounts of my convictions:

The Christian religion, according to my understanding, holds that Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Jew, gave His life to redeem the sins of humanity. The Gospels declare that His death was foreordained and without that death and the resurrection which followed it Christians would not be saved in Christ. Yet the Crucifixion required human instruments.

Among these were Judas, who was a Christian disciple, Caiaphas, who was a Jewish priest appointed by the Roman authorities, and Pilate, a gentile, who actually condemned Jesus to death.

In accordance with the Gospels, I know that Jesus forgave the human instruments of His death but I am also aware that the Jewish people were for many centuries falsely charged with collective responsibility for the death of Jesus, and were persecuted terribly for that unjust accusation which has been exploited as a basis and rationalization for anti-Semitism.

I know and am personally gratified by the fact that the highest authorities of the major Christian Churches, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox, have totally and decisively rejected the charge that the Jewish people as a whole were then or are now responsible for the death of Christ. My own denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, adopted an official resolution on June 7, 1972, declaring "anti-Semitism as un-Christian" and as being opposed to any and all forms of it. Further, the Baptist Churches have resolved that "we covenant to work positively to replace all anti-Semitic bias in the Christian attitude and practices with love for Jews, who along with all other men, are equally beloved of God."

To that, I can only say "amen" with all my heart.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed address. A faint, large watermark of the American Jewish Archives logo is visible in the background, featuring a menorah and the words "AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES" and "ארכיון יהודי אמריקני".

Reverend John F. Steinbruck  
Luther Place Memorial Church  
Fourteenth and N Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20005



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212-751-4000 x377

FOR RELEASE AFTER 11 A.M.  
FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1978

NEW YORK, June 2...Ruth Carter Stapleton announced today that she had cancelled the speaking engagement she had originally scheduled for June 8 at the opening of a three-day conference of B'nai Yeshua, a group whose primary goal is to proselytize the Jewish people.

President Carter's sister, who is known for her spiritual healing activities, made her announcement at a news conference in response to widespread protests from leading Christians as well as Jews who have been objecting to the conversionary tactics employed by B'nai Yeshua.

The "Hebrew-Christian" group, these critics maintain, tries to lure Jews away from Judaism and the Jewish community by maintaining a variety of Jewish symbols and rituals while asserting that acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah makes a person a "fulfilled Jew."

Mrs. Stapleton made her decision to cancel the speaking engagement, she said, because she "did not wish to become involved in any controversy that sets one group against another."

She added that she "would not associate myself with any effort that would seek to undermine the survival of the Jewish people as a distinctive religious-ethnic group."

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee, who also participated in the news conference in a consultant capacity, termed Mrs. Stapleton's actions "an expression of moral courage, civility and decency," and added that it was "an important gesture of respect for the integrity of Judaism and for the Jewish people, and thereby contributes to strengthening the American traditions of religious liberty and religious pluralism."

Explaining the reasoning that prompted her decision, Mrs. Stapleton stated:

"I am a Christian, and my faith stems from my perception of God's love through Jesus Christ. Yet I have never attempted in any way to negate the faith and practices of any group, however far they might be removed from my own personal beliefs, nor would I ever willingly be used by any group to attack the faith of others."

"In the seventeen years that I have been conducting what I call a ministry of inner healing," she added, "I have tried to be a force of reconciliation among various Christian denominations, and between Christian and non-Christian faiths. In speaking before a great variety of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and other groups, I have stressed the universality of God's concern for all of us, His children, and the possibility that all of us may draw upon inner spiritual resources provided to us through His wisdom and His love."

Discussing further the wide variety of groups before which she had appeared as a speaker, Mrs. Stapleton declared:

"It should go without saying that I did not pass judgment nor necessarily endorse the beliefs of those who invited me. In accepting the invitation to speak before the B'nai Yeshua organization, I was simply responding to an opportunity to share with another religious group some of the psychological and spiritual insights that have come to me over the years concerning how individuals can be made more nearly whole and healthy in their totality as human beings.

"However, the controversy surrounding the conflict between various Jewish organizations and B'nai Yeshua is not something in which I would willingly become embroiled. In terms of what I would have said about individual inner healing, it would have been the same kind of message to all groups, the same message I would give to both of those opposing groups, separately or together."

Rabbi Tanenbaum, commenting on the controversy that had engendered today's news conference, noted that a number of leading Christians, as well as Jewish organizations, had spoken out against Mrs. Stapleton's announced appearance at the B'nai Yeshua meeting.

Among those who had registered protests, he said, were "such respected Christian bodies as the Long Island Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, and numerous Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Evangelical Christian theologians and religious authorities," as well as such Jewish organizations as the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

Speaking for his own organization, Rabbi Tanenbaum stated:

"The American Jewish Committee defends the right of every group to testify to its truth as it sees it. But that right must be compatible with the duty in a democratic society not to defame nor misrepresent the cherished beliefs and religious practices of another group.

"B'nai Yeshua, together with other so-called Hebrew-Christian fringe groups, has consistently offended the Jewish people by characterizing our sacred religion of Judaism as 'inadequate' or 'unfulfilled,' thereby invoking the worst anti-Jewish stereotypes of medieval Christendom. They have also abused the religious traditions of Judaism, manipulating and distorting such fundamental Jewish observances as the Sabbath, the Passover, the Jewish Torah scrolls and prayer shawls in order to mislead young Jews into believing that B'nai Yeshua is simply another Jewish sect."

Pointing to what he called "an extensive series of dialogues with major Evangelical Christian leaders and institutions in the United States" now being conducted by the American Jewish Committee, Rabbi Tanenbaum declared:

"Those dialogues are based on relationships of honesty and full disclosure of our respective theological similarities and differences. Our opposition to the so-called Hebrew-Christian movements such as B'nai Yeshua, therefore, is not based on any anti-Evangelicals bias. On the contrary, B'nai Yeshua would have much to learn from the responsible major Evangelical leaders on how to relate to Judaism and the Jewish people in a spirit of mutual respect."

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A, COL, CP, EJP, PP, REL, NPL



keeping job, Zuckerman said. She was represented by Leo Kimmel, a COLPA volunteer attorney, and Dennis Rapps, COLPA executive director.

#### MIAMI FEDERATION STARTS TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR ELDERLY

MIAMI (JTA)--A coordinated transportation service for elderly residents of south Miami Beach, using nine vehicles, was officially dedicated this week at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation by Morton Silberman, Federation president.

Project VISTA, for Vehicles in Service for the Aged, is funded by the Federation and through Article VII of the federal Older Americans Act. It is being coordinated and operated by the Jewish Community Centers of South Miami, a Federation affiliate.

Project Vista is designed to provide door-to-door transportation for any resident of south Miami Beach aged 60 and over. A central telephone number and a dispatcher on call from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday are elements of the project. Trained staff workers accompany riders on each vehicle which have a total seating capacity of 176. Some of the vans have special facilities for easy boarding by wheelchair users, Silberman said.

The service was developed to transport the elderly to and from medical appointments, visits to Federation social service agencies, shopping, nursing home visits, recreational outings and emergencies. Silberman said there is no fee for the service but voluntary contributions are acceptable.

The program was created after a year-long study by the Federation committee on services to the elderly. The study indicated that existing transportation services, particularly for the handicapped elderly on south Beach, were "grossly inadequate" to the need.

The report, submitted by Joyce Sumberg, committee chairman, declared that "when the lack of mobility of the aged, particularly the handicapped aged, is coupled with inadequate financial resources, the loss of family and friends, and the complexity of securing the social services they require, a situation is created which hastens their deterioration, dependence and eventual institutionalization."

Three of the vans have general routes in the area. The other six will have specialized routes, such as carrying residents to the out-patient clinics at Mount Sinai Medical Center and to the Jewish Vocational Service hot meal program site, as well as delivering meals to the homebound.

A van for frail adults will transport users of the South Beach activities center to recreational and cultural outings. Another van will carry residents of the rent-subsidized Rebecca Towers to medical appointments and shopping trips. Another van will carry users of the day care facilities at the Miami Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged.

The project is one of the many Federation services to elderly residents of Miami Beach, Silberman said. The services are planned and coordinated through the Federation's committee on services to the elderly. The services receive funds from the annual Federation campaign.

Among the major programs now in operation, with the aid of federal grants, are the JVS nutrition program, providing 1400 hot meals daily at seven different sites as well as delivering meals to the homebound. Another is the Jewish community center day care program for the frail elderly

described as an alternative to institutionalization.

Others are the Jewish Home and Hospital out-patient mental health clinics and the JCC South Beach Activities Center, which each month provides some 2200 elderly residents with a variety of educational and social programs.

The need for such services is dramatized by the population data. The Jewish population of Greater Miami is estimated at 225,000, of which about one-third are 60 years and older. The national average is slightly under 22 percent. About 25,000 of Greater Miami's estimated 75,000 Jewish elderly men and women have no local family.

Silberman noted that in the past, it has been the family which was "a significant and supportive resource" in times of need and crisis but "unfortunately, many of our community's aged find their world bounded by low income, poor housing, high rents, failing health, inadequate transportation and isolation."

He added that as the older people age, "these problems tend to multiply and intensify, making it necessary for the Federation to act as the surrogate family in many cases."

#### FIRST CHABAD HOUSE IN SUFFOLK COUNTY OPENED NEAR STONYBROOK

NEW YORK (JTA)--The Lubavitch Youth Organization has announced that a full-time Chabad-Lubavitch House, the first in Suffolk county, is functioning in Centerreach, about five miles from the campus of the State University of New York at Stonybrook.

Rabbi Shmuel Butman, director of the Lubavitch youth group, said one of the reasons for opening the Lubavitch House last September at Centerreach, was because the campus has become a target for missionaries. He said the Chabad House is directed by Rabbi and Mrs. Tuvia Teldon. He said there are 10,000 Jewish students at the state university.

The Teldons, who began their work in Suffolk county last July with the opening of a summer day camp at the Hebrew Academy of Suffolk County at Smithtown, now concentrate their activities on a full schedule of campus activities, Rabbi Butman said.

Rabbi Teldon spends the Sabbath, both Friday night and Saturday on the campus. There is a Friday night meal for which he must bring all the food since there is no kosher kitchen on the campus. He also gives lectures after classes at the university.

The Teldons also work with adult Havurah groups. There are 10 in Suffolk county and 15 in Nassau. The latter are handled through the Brooklyn headquarters of the Hasidic movement. The Havurah consists of 10 couples, which meet with Rabbi Teldon weekly in the homes of havurah members. Many synagogues invite the Teldons for an evening. Rabbi Teldon was instrumental in the establishment of the county's first Jewish coffee house, a project of the Suffolk county community planning council. The coffee house is located in Stonybrook International Mall, a shopping center, Rabbi Butman said.

The Chabad House sponsors an out-reach program on Sunday mornings, Rabbi Butman said. The Lubavitch headquarters sends a Mitzvah Mobile van to the area, with Lubavitch youth inviting passing Jews to don phylacteries, and distribute Sabbath candles. The van visits are made on an irregular basis. The Teldons also visit Jews in schools, hospitals and prisons.

Their operating base is a private home presented to the Hasidic group on very favorable rent terms, for an indefinite period.



## HONORS AND APPOINTMENTS

LOUISVILLE (JTA)--Frank Lipschutz has been elected president of the Jewish Community Federation.

NEW YORK (JTA)--David P. Tulin has been elected executive vice-president of the Americans for Progressive Israel.

TAMPA, Fla. (JTA)--Gary S. Alter has been appointed executive director of the Tampa Jewish Federation.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Susan Grossman has been appointed editor-in-chief of the Jewish Student Press Service.

DAYTON (JTA)--Bruce J. Yudewitz has been named assistant director of the Jewish Community Council of Dayton.

BUFFALO (JTA)--Morris Rombro has been appointed executive director of the United Jewish Federation of Buffalo, succeeding Lester Levin, who was named regional consultant of the Council of Jewish Federations in Denver.

## CONSTRUCTION STARTED IN PEORIA ON B'NAI B'RITH HOUSING UNITS

PEORIA, Ill. (JTA)--Ground-breaking ceremonies have been held here for Covenant House, a \$4.9 million, 12-story, 201-apartment complex, another low-cost housing project for senior citizens sponsored by B'nai B'rith.

Sam Stone, president of B'nai B'rith Covenant House, said the project, scheduled for occupancy in mid-1979, will have 190 one-bedroom units and 11 two-bedrooms.

Stone said that Covenant House apartments, like all B'nai B'rith apartments, will be available to persons 62 or older on a non-sectarian basis and will have features designed specially for the comfort and safety of the elderly.

Plans also include public rooms to serve senior citizens in the community, as well as tenants. There will be a large social hall, a library, game room, a classroom, beauty shop, pharmacy, delicatessen and a greenhouse with space for small gardens of tenants. A fully equipped kitchen and laundry rooms will be included.

Construction, as well as tenants' rent, will be financed under guarantees of the federal Housing and Urban Development department.

Including Peoria, B'nai B'rith housing totals 2523 units valued at \$128 million. Apartments are functioning in Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg, Pa.; Albany, N.Y.; St. Louis and Baltimore. In various stages of construction are projects in Houston, Silver Spring, Md. and in Reading and Allentown, Pa.

## ORTHODOX WOMAN WINS \$5000 IN POST OFFICE JOB BIAS SUIT

NEW YORK (JTA)--An Orthodox Jewish woman has been paid \$5000 by the United States Postal Service in settlement of her claim of job discrimination, according to Howard Zuckerman, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA).

Zuckerman said that on June 9, 1975, Mrs. Rita Auman was interviewed for a position as a payroll change clerk at the Postal Data Center in Manhattan. She informed the interviewer that, as a Sabbath observer, she could not come to

work from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.

Because there was occasional Saturday work, the interviewer told Mrs. Auman he would have to check further on whether she could be hired and that he would contact her later. She said she never heard subsequently from any postal official about the job.

Mrs. Auman then filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity office of the Postal Service, charging bias because of her religion. Federal law requires that employers make "reasonable accommodation" to an employee's religious needs unless this would create "undue hardship" for the employer.

Zuckerman said the complaint was dismissed for "untimely" filing, though records of the Postal Service clearly proved otherwise. He said an appeal to the Appeals Review board of the federal Civil Service commission led to a reversal of the dismissal of Mrs. Auman's complaint and its reinstatement.

Zuckerman said an investigation of Mrs. Auman's complaint and unsuccessful attempts at informal resolution of the issue followed. The matter was then set for administrative trial before the federal Civil Service Commission on September, 1977.

Zuckerman said that, at the hearing, the Postal Service conceded Mrs. Auman was not hired because of her unavailability on Saturday. The Postal Service argued that because of occasional Saturday work, one of the necessities of the job was that the worker be available on Saturdays.

The Postal Service also argued that because of its contract with its employees' union, it could not accommodate Mrs. Auman by arranging for her not to work on Saturday.

Zuckerman said both claims were held to be unsubstantiated and the Civil Service Commission ruled in Mrs. Auman's favor. The Postal Service was ordered to offer Mrs. Auman a comparable position, with her religious needs to be accommodated, and to pay her the difference between what she would have earned with the Postal Service if she had not been discriminated against, and the salary she was earning as a bookkeeper.

Mrs. Auman declined the postal job, accepting the \$5000 settlement and remaining on her book-



From a public statement by the Rev. Lawrence McCoombe, chairman, Commission on Christian-Jewish Relations, Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, New York. (The statement has the full support of the Rt. Rev. Jonathan G. Sherman, Bishop of Long Island.)

\* \* \* \* \*

We are beginning to be able to acknowledge and respect each other's religious traditions as representing positive ways of life. Christians are realizing that Judaism has its own integrity and needs no Christian correction. Together we are beginning to see that we can behave as equals, that we do not need to make each other's belief systems "wrong." We are siblings, each possessing his own validity, vitality and wholeness. Christians no longer pray for the conversion of the Jews. It is all right now with most Christians for Jews to be Jews and Christians Christians.

This climate of growing respect and understanding is now threatened by the recent growth of something called -- for want of a better name -- "Jewish-Christianity." The zealous proponents of "Jewish-Christianity" aim their proselytizing activities specifically at Jews. They maintain that real fulfillment for a Jew consists in accepting Jesus (they call him Yeshua) as messiah. Their message is grounded in the notion that to accept Jesus "is the most natural wonderful, and, above all, spiritual thing that can happen to a Jewish person." Once again the "incompleteness" of Jewish faith is being preached.

The current rise of "Jewish-Christian" missionary activity in Long Island is distressing to both Jews and Christians. It is upsetting to Jews because it impugns the integrity of Jewish belief. It is alarming to Christians because it misrepresents Christianity. It is disturbing to both Jews and Christians because it undermines the basis of mutual respect which it has taken so long for us to establish.

Perhaps the greatest danger in this "Jewish-Christian" missionary activity is that the Jewish community may draw back from interfaith dialogue, convinced that the "Jewish-Christian" movement is simply a highly visible manifestation of the otherwise tacit intent of all Christians to convert Jews to Christianity.

We wish, therefore, to make it clear that as Christians we acknowledge and affirm the integrity of Judaism and disavow completely the message and the methods of these "Jewish-Christian" groups.



# Jews and Christians: No room for sharing?

By Jeffrey Hart  
King Features

WASHINGTON — This is a very touchy subject, but readers of this column know that touchiness has never been an inhibition. My assumption has been that anything is discussible, given common sense, love, and good humor.

Last week, President Carter's sister, Ruth Carter Stapleton, canceled an appearance before a New York group consisting of ethnic Jews who accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah foretold by the Old Testament prophets.

Why did she cancel? Answer: She was bullied, culturally and politically.

I would like to set aside here any peculiarities of the local Jewish-Christian group involved. It is called B'nai Yeshua and operates in Stony Brook, Long Island. This group has been charged with using brain-washing tactics. Maybe so, but frankly I am skeptical.

The issue of converting Jews to Christianity has become one of the most explosive, though little discussed, issues around.

Ruth Carter Stapleton's projected appearance was widely denounced on the grounds that she might, just by speaking, convert some Jews to Christianity. This censorship is simply unacceptable, and it is poisonous for relations between Christians and Jews.

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, the national inter-religious affairs director



Ruth Carter Stapleton

of the American Jewish Committee, charged that Mrs. Stapleton's Christian proselytizing threatened the existence of the Jewish people. "There are only 14 million Jews in the world today," he commented. "We cannot afford to lose one or 10."

There is both pathos and tragedy in Rabbi Tannenbaum's remark.

He seems to be saying that converting a Jew to Christianity is the equivalent of exterminating him. But why should a Jew not change his mind, see things in a new and different way? Are Jews not free individuals like other free individuals?

In its tragic dimension, the rabbi's remark strikes at the heart of Christianity. After all, the first Christians were converted Jews.

It is extremely interesting that some prominent Protestants have been publicly disavowing any mission to the Jews. Thus, in the midst of the Stapleton controversy, she was indirectly attacked by the Rev. William L. Weiler of the National Council of Churches. He charged that the Long Island group of converted Jews is trying to "exploit Judaism and make Jews the object of evangelism."

The same could be said of St. Peter or St. Paul. What is this Protestant minister talking about?

Does he really mean to say that a Christian cannot talk, with love and respect, to a Jewish friend about Christianity? About something that the Christian values supremely? Is this not an ultimate refusal of love?

Yet Mrs. Stapleton, a fundamentalist Protestant, who knows all about the text of scripture, and about the duty to evangelize, caved in to these cultural pressures. "I am a Christian," she said, "and my faith stems from my perception of God's love through Jesus Christ. Yet I have never attempted in any way to negate the faith and practices of any other group, however far they may be removed from my own personal beliefs."

Does Mrs. Stapleton think Christian claims are true or not? Presumably she thinks they are true, and that the Resurrection was not just a matter of her "perception." Is it not a catastrophic failure of love to cancel conversation on these issues?



Dr. Clarence Solberg, Seattle, president of the North Pacific District, said he had made repeated efforts during the past year to counsel with Central Church. However, he said both the Central Church Council and the congregation as a whole have refused to meet with him.

Mr. Redal said he doubted his congregation would make any changes. "It's a stacked deck against us," he said, adding that the ALC District was "not dealing with the real issue. It's a theological problem, not a political one."

The congregation and Lutherans Alert criticized the ALC for not teaching that the Bible is totally without error.

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LEADER OF B'NAI YESHUA REPORTS  
PRAYERS 'FOR THOSE WHO OPPOSE US'

By Religious News Service (6-5-78)

STONY BROOK, N.Y. (RNS) -- Mike Evans, president of B'nai Yeshua, said here that his group is "praying for those who oppose us" and also for Ruth Carter Stapleton, who cancelled a speaking engagement with the group after receiving pressures and threats.

Ms. Stapleton announced at a press conference that she had cancelled her engagement to address a rally of the Hebrew Christian group "because I do not wish to become involved in any controversy that sets one group against another." Several Jewish groups and Christian leaders had urged her not to speak to the group, and she acknowledged that she had received threats.

Mr. Evans said that his group understood "what tremendous pressures she must be under as sister of the President." He told Religious News Service that B'nai Yeshua sent Ms. Stapleton a telegram after learning of her cancellation saying, "We deeply regret the great pain you have suffered because of the pressure."

Denying charges that have been made against B'nai Yeshua by several Jewish groups, Mr. Evans said, "We haven't abused, manipulated or distorted anything. On the contrary, those accusing us often distort our position and seem intent on undercutting our constitutional right to spread our faith freely. But I think the public can see through these tactics."

The B'nai Yeshua leader added, "We are praying for those who oppose us. We believe the reason for the accusations is that they know we have something attractive to offer in the form of personal relationship with Jesus the Messiah. No matter how fierce the opposition, we intend to keep proclaiming our message with love."

Mr. Evans announced that Jamie Buckingham, a charismatic and author of some 25 books, will take Ms. Stapleton's place at the Shekinah '78 rally, to be held at Stony Brook, N.Y., June 8-10.

The B'nai Yeshua leader told RNS that his group is a charismatic organization, and that its members engage in speaking in tongues and other charismatic practices. He asserted that "the majority of Jewish believers in the United States are charismatic."

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M.T.

6-3-78

D. News 4

Another member of the Carter family, Ruth Carter Stapleton, the President's evangelist sister, announced in New York City yesterday that she has canceled a talk next week before a group dedicated to converting Jews to Christianity. "I do not wish to become involved in any controversy that sets one group against another," she said. Stapleton had agreed to speak next Thursday at a meeting in Stony Brook, L.I., sponsored by a group known as B'nai Yeshua — Sons of Jesus. Said Stapleton: "I would not associate myself with any effort that would seek to undermine the survival of the Jewish people as a distinctive religious group." She appeared at the press conference with Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of inter-religious affairs for the American Jewish Committee.



# Carter's Sister to Shun Hebrew Christian Meeting

By GEORGE VECSEY

Ruth Carter Stapleton, the President's sister, has canceled her scheduled appearance at a Long Island convention of a Hebrew-Christian group because, she said, "I might have been used to convert, which is against my calling."

Mrs. Stapleton, who conducts a Christian healing service, had been criticized by some Jewish and Christian leaders for accepting a bid to be the keynote speaker for the group, B'nai Yeshua of Stony Brook, next Thursday.

At a news conference in Manhattan yesterday, she said she was concerned about the possibility of angering American Jews. There was no pressure from the President on her decision, she added.

B'nai Yeshua, which says it reaches thousands of converted Jews, has been an irritant to some Jews on Long Island, where its members seek to proselyte, using a mixture of Jewish and Christian symbols.

## Spent 'Many Sleepless Nights'

"The controversy is not something in which I would willingly become embroiled," Mrs. Stapleton said.

She said an aide had booked her to speak at B'nai Yeshua, whose members say they can remain Jewish while accepting Christ as the Messiah.

Two weeks ago, Mrs. Stapleton was criticized by officials of both the American Jewish Committee and the National Council of Churches.

Mrs. Stapleton said she was in Georgia, at the wedding of Billy Carter's daughter, when she learned about an article on the groups' criticism published in The New York Times. She said she learned about the article "when Jimmy arrived."

Mrs. Stapleton, who has been given credit as the human instrument in the President's "born-again" experience, acknowledged that she had spoken with him about the controversy.

"Jimmy said he would never tell me what to do," she said. "He said he knew Jesus would guide me in what I must do."

Mrs. Stapleton said she had spent "many sleepless nights trying to see this



The New York Times/Jack Manning

Ruth Carter Stapleton at news conference in New York City yesterday

through the eyes of Jesus Christ, to do what was right."

She said she had received "some threats," but not from "responsible people," and insisted that she did not consider the political implications of the Jewish community's being angry with her brother.

However, Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, the national interreligious-affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, had pointed out that Mrs. Stapleton's appearance at B'nai Yeshua would come while many Jews were angered over the sale of American jets to Arab countries. This concern is believed to have been directed to at least one White House aide who recently visited New York.

Rabbi Tanenbaum had charged that proselytizing threatened the existence of the Jewish people.

## Conference Set for 3 Days

"There are only 14 million Jews in the world today," Rabbi Tanenbaum said yesterday. "We cannot afford to lose one or 10."

Christian proselytizing has often raised problems in Jewish-Christian relationships. Many confirmed Christians interpret their duties as trying to convert all people to Christianity.

The Rev. Dr. William L. Weiler, an official of the National Council of Churches, had charged that groups like B'nai Yeshua "exploit Judaism and make Jews the object of evangelism."

Mrs. Stapleton commented: "I am a Christian, and my faith stems from my

perception of God's love through Jesus Christ. Yet I have never attempted in any way to negate the faith and practices of any other group, however far they might be removed from my own personal beliefs."

B'nai Yeshua, whose name means "Children of Jesus" in Hebrew, has settled in new headquarters at the edge of the State University campus at Stony Brook.

The group has met with some success in attracting Jewish teenagers with a careful blend of Jewish symbols, rock music, parties, attentive new friends and a slow, deliberate exposition of Christian beliefs.

Some Jewish leaders and parents admit that a disproportionate number of Jewish teenagers seem attracted to the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, meditation groups and other cults.

Tradition-minded Jewish leaders insist that young people with solid religious training at home and temple are not attracted to such groups, and several Jewish groups have stepped up their educational techniques.

However, the proselytizers are often carefully trained to seek out personal problems in a visitor, to express concern, to perform some good deed and later to reveal the Christian aims of the group.

B'nai Yeshua's conference, scheduled for next Thursday, Friday and Saturday, is entitled "Shechinah," a Hebrew term denoting the dwelling place of God. Rabbi Tanenbaum said yesterday that the use of the name in a title was "offensive."



# PRESIDENT'S SISTER PRAISED FOR CANCELLING SPEECH TO PROSELYTIZERS

NEW YORK, June 4 (JTA)--Ruth Carter Stapleton, President Carter's evangelist sister, announced here that she has cancelled a scheduled appearance before a Hebrew Christian group devoted to proselytizing Jews. Mrs. Stapleton said she called off the engagement "because I do not wish to become involved in any controversy that sets one group against another."

She made the announcement in a statement read at a press conference Friday convened with the assistance of the American Jewish Committee. She had planned to address the opening of a three day conference of the B'nai Yeshua group June 8. She said it was her brother, the

President, who first made her aware of the strong feelings aroused in the American Jewish community when she accepted the B'nai Yeshua's invitation "some months ago." She said the President spoke to her about it at a family wedding two weeks ago. He did not advise her what to do and the decision to cancel was her's alone, Mrs. Stapleton said, "I am a Christian," she said. "I have never attempted in any way to negate the faith and practices of any other group, however far they might be from my own personal beliefs, nor would I ever willingly be used by any group to attack the faith of any of us. I would not associate myself with any effort that would seek to undermine the survival of the Jewish people as a distinctive ethnic group," Mrs. Stapleton declared. Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Interreligious Affairs Director of the AJCommittee, praised Mrs. Stapleton's decision at the press conference. He said her action "is an expression of moral courage, civility and decency. It is above all an important gesture of respect for the integrity of Judaism and for the Jewish people, and thereby contributes to strengthening the American traditions of religious liberty and religious pluralism, the keystones of American democracy."

The American Jewish Congress also expressed gratification at Mrs. Stapleton's decision to cancel her appearance at the B'nai Yeshua conference. "Her action, we believe, will be welcomed by Jews and Americans of every faith, who recognize that respect for the rights and beliefs of others lie at the heart of the American social compact," Richard Cohen, AJCongress associate executive director, said.



## Carter's sis yields, won't appear in L. I.

By JOHN MULLANE

Ruth Carter Stapleton announced today that she was canceling a controversial speaking engagement scheduled for next Thursday before a Long Island group that has been proselytizing Jews for Christianity.

Speaking at a packed press conference in midtown today, President Carter's evangelist sister said she was withdrawing because she did not wish to become involved "in any controversy that sets one group against another."

National and international protests had greeted the announcement that Mrs. Stapleton was going to address a three-day conference of B'nai Yeshua (Sons of Jesus) in Stony Brook.

"I would never ever associate myself with any effort that would seek to undermine the survival of the Jewish people as a distinctive religious-ethnic group," she said.

"In accepting the invitation to speak before B'nai Yeshua, I was simply responding to

an opportunity to share . . . some of the insights that have to come to me over the years."

Mrs. Stapleton has been conducting what she calls a "ministry of inner healing" for 17 years. She said that she was unaware of the B'nai Yeshua group until last month.

"I didn't know I'd accepted the invitation because my staff made the appointment for me," she said.

She said she learned of the controversy from her brother, the President.

"I was at Billy's daughter's wedding when the story broke and it was Jimmy who told me. I said: 'What must I do?' Jimmy said: 'I never told you before and I won't tell you now, but I know you will do the right thing.'"

Mrs. Stapleton, who was joined at the press conference by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, a director of the American Jewish Committee, said she reached her decision after "many sleepless nights of prayer."



MINISTRY OF  
INNER  
HEALING  
with Carter Stapleton

Associated Press Photo

Ruth Carter Stapleton, the President's sister, who has canceled a Long Island appearance.

# Carter's Sister Urged to Shun Group Aimed at Converting Jews

M.T. 5-27-78  
By Marjorie Hyer

Washington Post Staff Writer A2

Evangelist Ruth Carter Stapleton, sister of the president, is under fire both Jewish and Christian groups for agreeing to address an organization committed to converting Jews to Christianity.

Stapleton is the scheduled keynote speaker for a national gathering of B'nai Yeshua—Hebrew for Sons of Jesus next month at the group's headquarters on Long Island in New York.

B'nai Yeshua is an aggressively evangelistic movement of Jewish converts to Christianity who lean heavily on their Jewish heritage in their efforts to convert other Jews. Traditional Jewish leaders as well as most liberal Christian bodies repudiate missionary efforts directed at Jews, although most evangelical Christians

consider the Jews fair game for conversion.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, has written asking Stapleton to cancel her appearance, charging that B'nai Yeshua's evangelical campaign "constitutes an ultimate threat to the spiritual liquidation of the Jews."

He accused B'nai Yeshua of using the concepts, traditions and practices of Judaism "in an altogether deceptive and at times fraudulent manner in order to ensnare unsuspecting or ignorant Jewish young people."

An even stronger letter from the American Jewish Congress told Stapleton that B'nai Yeshua was trying to "exploit the name of the sister of the president of the United States . . . to convert us from the faith of our fathers."





A prime issue

## Sister Ruth acts to convert Jews

RUTH CARTER STAPLETON, President Carter's evangelist-preacher sister credited with the "born-again" conversion of Hustler publisher Larry Flynt, has a new mission: to convert Jews. Ruth (who wowed 'em over the weekend in Giants Stadium in New Jersey) will make her first public pitch on behalf of this latest crusade on June 8 in Stonybrook, L. I., where she's been booked as the keynote speaker at the opening of B'nai Yeshua's fifth annual three-day world conference. B'nai Yeshua, which means Sons of Jesus, was among the groups cited exactly one year ago

by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, the influential Jewish leader, when he warned the annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee against certain "well-funded...Hebrew-Christian" evangelical groups which were asking Jews "to become a 'better' Jew by accepting Jesus." Of course the sins of the sister should not be visited upon the brother, but it was during this very same speech that Tanenbaum praised Jimmy Carter for his strong stand against anti-Semitism and for voicing the belief that "Jews...are equally beloved by God." As for Ruthie's thoughts on the subject, B'nai

Yeshua spokeswoman Dolores Herne says she assumes Mrs. Stapleton's oration at Shechinah '78 (Shechinah means the Glory of God in Hebrew) "will be in reference to God's will among the Jewish people" and that she "will be talking to us knowing we are messianic Jews." Herne won't give a figure, but says we can be sure Mrs. Stapleton (who's made a bundle since Brother Jimmy moved into the White House) will be paid for her appearance. "There's a scripture that says the workman is worthy of his hire," says Herne — and we're sure Sister Ruth would agree.



# Carter's Sister Cancels LI Visit

By Mitchell Freedman

NEWSDAY 6/2

Stony Brook—President Carter's sister, evangelist Ruth Carter Stapleton, has decided against being the keynote speaker next week at a national Hebrew Christian conference here, officials of the American Jewish Committee said yesterday.

Mrs. Stapleton's impending appearance had been protested by local and national organizations, both Jewish and non-Jewish, for several weeks. She was expected to hold a press conference this morning to announce her decision not to appear at Thursday's opening of B'nai Yeshua's "Shechinah '78."

Some critics of the Hebrew Christian movement had said that an appearance by Mrs. Stapleton, a prominent evangelist, would have aided the movement. "We felt she should not lend her name to an organization of that nature," said Rabbi Louis Stein, president of the Long Island Board of Rabbis. "By doing so, she enhances their stature and gives respect to [the] movement."

Carolyn Watts, coordinator of the program—which is expected to attract 1,000 people a day for three days—said last night she was unaware of Mrs. Stapleton's deci-

sion. Mrs. Stapleton could not be reached for comment.

Organizations that have written to Mrs. Stapleton in the past few weeks urging her not to attend Shechinah '78 included the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the Long Island Council of Churches, and the National Council of Churches.

Mrs. Stapleton's press conference was arranged by the American Jewish Committee. Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, its national director of interreligious affairs, said that this had been done at her request and added that her decision "reaffirms her respect for the integrity of Jewish people and the Jewish religion."

Tanenbaum said he had received a letter recently from Mrs. Stapleton in which she said she "did not wish to be involved in any controversy that sets one group against another" and "would not associate myself with any effort that seeks to undermine the survival of the Jewish people as a distinctive ethnic group."

Members of B'nai Yeshua consider themselves Jews who believe in Jesus Christ, and use the term "fulfilled Jews" or "born-again Jews." Numerous Jewish and inter-

faith groups have challenged that statement, saying it is impossible to believe in Christ and still be Jewish. Jewish groups have said the idea that Jews are somehow "incomplete" could provide the rationale for religious persecution. They also have called B'nai Yeshua a thinly disguised proselytizing organ for Christianity. Officials of the group have denied that charge.

When B'nai Yeshua moved its national headquarters from Texas to Stony Brook in the fall of 1976, it drew criticism from many groups, including the Long Island Council of Churches and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

In reaction to Mrs. Stapleton's appearance, the Long Island Board of Rabbis had scheduled a "pre-Shavuot Torah celebration and rally" at the North Shore Jewish Center in Port Jefferson Thursday at 8 PM.

Stein said the program would still take place as "an affirmation of the authentic values we find in this holiday. . . . There is a tendency to forget the essential values behind our heritage. Its good periodically to meet and affirm these values." Shavuot is a Jewish festival commemorating the presentation of the 10 commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

Ruth Carter Stapleton

Cc. H. Applebaum



H. Appleman MT

## President's Sister Cancels LI Plans

Evangelist Ruth Carter Stapleton, the President's sister, said yesterday that divine guidance had led her to withdraw from a speaking engagement at a national Hebrew-Christian conference at Stony Brook next week.

"I have been in prayer. I spent several sleepless nights," Mrs. Stapleton said at a press conference in Manhattan. "So what I tried to do is get into the mind of Jesus Christ and see what he would do. . . . Several days ago, I received what I would call guidance."

As had been expected, Mrs. Stapleton announced she would not be the keynote speaker at the opening of B'nai Yeshua's "Shechinah '78" conference Thursday night.

Members of B'nai Yeshua, which moved its national headquarters from Texas to Stony Brook in 1975, consider themselves to be Jews who believe in Jesus Christ. The organization is part of the "Jews for Jesus" movement that has been attacked by traditional Jews, who say it is impossible to believe in Christ and remain Jewish.

"I would not associate myself with any effort that would seek to undermine the survival of the Jewish people as a distinctive religious group," Mrs. Stapleton said.

During the past few weeks several prominent Jewish organizations wrote to Mrs. Stapleton, urging her to withdraw from the conference. She said she also had received several calls from Jews threatening violence.

A spokeswoman for the conference said B'nai Yeshua officials are studying Mrs. Stapleton's remarks and would not comment on her decision. A spokesman for "Hakotel," a Long Island Jewish student activist group that opposes B'nai Yeshua, said members of the organization would hold a counter-conference outside

"Shechinah '78." He said they had planned to demonstrate against Mrs. Stapleton.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national director of inter-religious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, which had arranged the press conference, said Mrs. Stapleton's announcement was "an expression of moral courage, civility and decency." —Amanda Harris

NEWSDAY, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1978

Hit Evangelical Campaign Among JewsEVANGELIST'S APPEARANCE AT CONFERENCE  
PROTESTED BY CHRISTIANS, JEWS

By Religious News Service (5-23-78)

NEW YORK (RNS) -- Some Jewish and Christian leaders have opposed the scheduled appearance of the evangelist Ruth Carter Stapleton at an international Hebrew-Christian conference at Stony Brook, N.Y. in June.

Mrs. Stapleton is scheduled to open the June 8-10 conference at the B'nai Yeshua (Sons of Jesus) center, one of the most active of Messianic Jewish groups. These groups accept Jesus as Messiah but retain many Jewish traditions and forms of worship.

Letters to Mrs. Stapleton, asking her to cancel her engagement with B'nai Yeshua, have been sent by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee and Dr. William L. Weiler, director of the office on Christian-Jewish relations, National Council of Churches.

Rabbi Tanenbaum said his opposition to Mrs. Stapleton's proposed appearance is based on his overall concern with the evangelical campaign directed specifically at the Jewish community. He said this campaign "constitutes an ultimate threat to the spiritual liquidation of the Jews."

"Mrs. Ruth Carter Stapleton must be helped to understand the seriousness of her acceptance to promote that unacceptable objective through her appearance at the B'nai Yeshua conference," Rabbi Tanenbaum said.

White House staff members, he added, have "communicated to me their concern with Mrs. Stapleton's appearance, understanding the potential negative consequences to President Carter, whether Mrs. Stapleton intends it or not."

Rabbi Tanenbaum said he was informed by an associate of Mrs. Stapleton that she was not immediately available, but would reply to him as soon as possible.

In his letter to Mrs. Stapleton, Rabbi Tanenbaum said he was especially critical of B'nai Yeshua's "moral offense" in using sacred Jewish concepts, religious traditions and practices "in an altogether deceptive and, at times, fraudulent manner in order to ensnare unsuspecting or ignorant young Jewish people." The charges have been denied by B'nai Yeshua.

Dr. William Weiler said in his letter to Mrs. Stapleton that his main objection to B'nai Yeshua was "not that they evangelize" but that they use "deceptive, dishonest and unChristian methods" to lure people.

He said that "we as Christians are committed to proclaiming the good news to everyone," but not to using "deceptive literature and worship services."

(more)

PAGE -23-



Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, a coordinating agency for 24 Jewish groups, said many of the Jewish organizations have joined in protesting Mrs. Stapleton's appearance at the B'nai Yeshua conference. The Long Island American Jewish Congress chapter has asked Mrs. Stapleton to withdraw.

The Long Island Council of Churches has long opposed activities of B'nai Yeshua and last Summer issued a statement expressing concern about "dishonest conversionary tactics" used by such groups as Jews for Jesus, B'nai Yeshua and Unification Church.

B'nai Yeshua's scheduled conference, "Shecinah (glory of God) '78," is expected to draw more than 1,000 people from across the U.S. and other countries, according to Dolores Herne, press liaison.

She said "our invitation to Mrs. Stapleton to speak is based on our awareness of her deep and total commitment to the Messiah in whom we believe. We see no conflict and we regret that the American Jewish Congress has chosen to take issue with our freedom to express and share our faith."

"As Jews we carry the same burden of history (as other Jews)," she said. "Yet because of our beliefs in the Messiah we are subjected to continuing criticism, rejection and ostracism by the rest of the Jewish community." There are about 40 to 50 members affiliated with the Stony Brook B'nai Yeshua group.

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#### They'll Be Mailed To Majority of Seniors

BOYS WHO SKIPPED CLASSES BARRED  
DIPLOMAS AT SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

By Religious News Service (5-23-78)

MILWAUKEE (RNS) -- A private graduation ceremony was held for about two-thirds of a senior class at a Roman Catholic boys school here -- all had been barred from receiving diplomas at the regular commencement as a penalty for skipping classes.

Brother Joseph Grieshaber, principal of Thomas More High School, said 107 of the 154 seniors skipped classes to attend a picnic despite his warning not to do so.

As punishment, the boys were initially barred from attending the regular commencement exercises altogether. But following protests from the students and their parents, Brother Joseph eased the penalty. He allowed the boys to march in the processional wearing caps and gowns, but not receiving diplomas or awards at the ceremony.

The punished seniors received their diplomas at a private ceremony at a hall in suburban Cudahy. Dressed in caps and gowns, they marched across the stage and received an empty diploma jacket from one of the parents. Their diplomas and awards will be sent by mail.



B'NAI YESHUA, INC.

June 5, 1978

American Jewish Committee  
165 E56  
New York, NY 10021

Gentlemen:

We were extremely distressed over the assimilation of misinformation regarding B'nai Yeshua, our goals and purposes. We are keenly aware of the position Mrs. Stapleton was placed in representing two families. We also represent two families as Jewish Christians. Our concerns are delicate ones. Our deep concern is particularly about this extremely diabolical attack upon us as Jewish Christians, and we fear that this may produce a seed of anti-semitism in the hearts of the public towards our people. It goes without saying that B'nai Yeshua is accepted by the Evangelical community. If that were not the case, I would not have been asked to speak at the Giant Stadium Rally of 50,000, or the Kansas City Rally of 45,000, nor would we be constantly invited internationally through television, radio, and conferences to express our views.

Enclosed is a ticket to the Shechinah Conference. Hopefully you will attend in order to better understand what we believe and teach. You are also invited to our rally in support of Israel, and enclosed is a statement (prepared months in advance) which is going to be signed by Christians and Jews throughout America and sent to the President.

We are praying for you.

Sincerely,

*Mike Evans*

Mike Evans  
President & Founder  
B'nai Yeshua

daa

Enclosures: statement & ticket  
cc: Attorney Herman Tranow



Dear President Carter:

I, the undersigned, affirm my belief in the right of Israel to exist as a free and independent nation within its Biblical boundaries. In this light I am voicing my grave apprehension concerning the recent direction of American foreign policy concerning the Middle East.

While I am sympathetic to the human needs of all the peoples of the Middle East, I affirm my belief that God has promised the land of Israel to the Jewish people. This promise was first made to Abraham and repeated throughout Scripture and has never been abrogated.

I believe the rebirth of Israel as a nation and the return of the Jewish people to their land is clearly foretold in the Bible and this fulfillment in our time is one of the most momentous events in all of human history. As six million Jews were exterminated in Europe a generation ago the world saw the need for Jewish people to have their own homeland. Zionist settlers transformed malaria-infested swamps into a productive land. This too is a fulfillment of the Biblical promise of Isaiah 35:1, "The desert shall blossom as a rose."

I understand the Jewish homeland to include Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza strip and the Golan Heights as recorded in Genesis 15:18. The government of Israel has not initiated warfare to secure these lands but have possessed them as a result of defending themselves against the perpetual attacks of their neighbors.

Many nations have condemned Israel when they have defended themselves against guerilla raids while they have made peace with the people responsible for these terrorist actions.

I am concerned for America, a nation founded on justice and committed to human rights, that we are leaning more toward joining ranks with those who unjustly oppress the nation and people of Israel. I would remind our leaders of another promise that God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:3, "I will bless those that bless thee and curse those that curse thee." This promise has been proven true throughout world history. God has sovereignly blessed those nations that have been kind to the Jewish people and has cursed those who have cursed them. I believe that one reason why the United States has been so abundantly blessed is that they have been kind to the Jewish people in the past. I urge you not to waver in this commitment and by giving into the demands of oppressors.

I believe that Israel's future should not be determined by political intrigue, fluctuating world opinion or the imposition of world powers. Rather, we put our trust in the words of the prophet Amos.

"And I will plant them upon the land and they shall no more be pulled up out of the land which I have given them, saith the Lord, thy God."

I therefore urge the leaders of our nation to strengthen their support toward these goals on a Biblical and on a moral basis. Then I believe that we shall be continually blessed and sustained by the hand of the Almighty.

Sincerely yours,

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## URGENT

It is urgent that you mail these immediately because these are going to be combined with statements from people that are coming to Shechinah which will be sent to President Carter on behalf of the State of Israel. You can mail these in our return envelope.

We love you and appreciate you. Don't worry about this little note. We will cut this off of your letter when it is returned, before it is mailed to Washington.

## APPLICATION FORM

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons. Enclosed is US \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for full payment.

US \$200.00 per person deposit or US \$ \_\_\_\_\_ representing

NAME(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Ho) \_\_\_\_\_ (Off.) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you wish: ☐ Single room US \$125.00 ☐ Non-Smoking.

I will depart from: ☐ NEW YORK US \$1,295.00 or ☐ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLYLAND** and mail with this application form to:

**TOURING EXPRESS, INC.**  
9841 Airport Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90045



### PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLYLAND with RUTH CARTER STAPLETON

Depart: Sept. 2, 1978 ■ Return: Sept. 11, 1978



Dear Friend,

One of the most unique and exciting experiences a Christian can have is to retrace the steps of Jesus and to rekindle the spirit of Jesus in the land where His ministry took place. I have experienced this and I want to share it with you.

I am happy to inform you that I have the opportunity to host a tour to the Holy Land. I am not able to take everyone, but I would like for you to go.

I am asking hundreds of you to join me on this special ten day tour. Please let us know immediately if you are interested, so that others may have the opportunity, if you cannot go.

I know it will be a life-changing experience for each of you.

Sincerely,

*Ruth Carter Stapleton*

Ruth Carter Stapleton

- UNIQUE SPECIAL EVENTS
- SCHEDULED AIRLINES ONLY
- DELUXE/FIRST CLASS HOTELS
- ALL SIGHTSEEING INCLUDED
- ISRAELI BREAKFAST AND DINNER DAILY

VALID FROM SEPTEMBER 1978 to MARCH 1979

ישראל  
ISRAEL



DEPART: SEPT. 2, 1978

RETURN: SEPT. 11, 1978

From New York \$1,295.00

(Plus US \$3.00 Dep. Tax)

For Other Cities Refer to Inside.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Due to the limited rooms available in the Deluxe Category, rooms will be assigned on "First Come, First Serve" basis. Passengers accommodated in the first class hotels will be offered also lunches to compensate for the difference in the categories.

For further information please write or call:

**WORLD**  
Christian Travel

9841 Airport Blvd., No. 1120  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90045

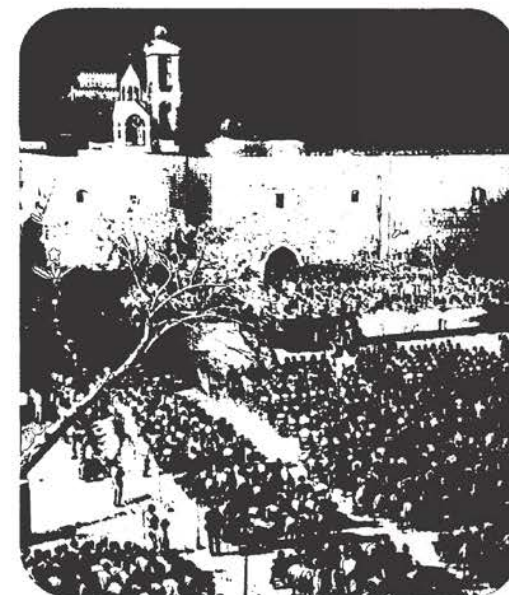
Phone: (213) 776-2615

Ruth Carter Stapleton



Hosts

### Pilgrimage to The Holyland



"Walk about Zion, and go about Her; . . .  
that you may tell it to the next generation."

(Psalm 48:12, 13)

ישראל  
ISRAEL



## ITINERARY

IT80A15272

### Pilgrimage To The Holyland

#### DAY 01 NEW YORK/TEL AVIV

Depart New York's Kennedy Airport by Jumbo jet to Israel.

#### DAY 02 TEL AVIV

Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. You will be escorted and transferred to your hotel in Tel Aviv where you will be served a welcome dinner.

#### DAY 03 TEL AVIV/TIBERIAS

Israeli breakfast at hotel.

Drive through the main thoroughfares of TEL AVIV, continuing on the coastal road to the ancient town of CAESAREA where we shall visit the Roman Theatre and the Crusader's Castle. Our next stop is the city of HAIFA with its breathtaking view from the top of Mt. Carmel. Then on to NAZARETH to visit the Church of Annunciation, the Bazaar, and Mary's Well. Proceed via CANA OF GALILEE to TIBERIAS on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. And on to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

#### DAY 04 TIBERIAS/UPPER GALILEE

Israeli breakfast at hotel.

Drive along the Sea of Galilee to CAPERNAUM. Visit the remains of the second century synagogue. Proceed to Tabgah, site of the multiplication of loaves and fish. Continue to the MOUNT OF BEATITUDES to visit the church. Visit the upper Galilee area including the famous GOLAN HEIGHTS. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

#### DAY 05 TIBERIAS/JERUSALEM

Israeli breakfast at hotel.

Start our day with a boatripe across the Sea of Galilee then on to the JORDAN RIVER. On the way to Jerusalem we shall drive through the Jordan Valley passing new settlements which were established after the six-day war. Visit the oldest city in the world - JERICHO. Arrive in JERUSALEM for dinner and overnight.

#### DAY 06 JERUSALEM/BETHLEHEM/HEBRON

Israeli breakfast at hotel.

Drive to the Mount of Olives for a breathtaking view of Jerusalem. Pass the Chapel of Ascension and the Pater Noster Church. Visit the Garden of Gethsemane, the Grotto of the Agony, and the Tomb of the Virgin Mary. Continue to the Kidron Valley to view Hezekiah's Tunnel and the Pool of Siloam. Tour Mount Zion, visiting the Room of the Last Supper and King David's Tomb. Drive via St. Elijah's Monastery to Bethlehem. Visit Rachel's Tomb, the Church of the Nativity and the Crypt of the

Manger. Continue to Hebron which was once King David's capital. Visit the Cave of Machpelah, burial site of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob. Return to Jerusalem via King Solomon's Pools and Shepherd's Fields. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

#### DAY 07 JERUSALEM/OLD CITY & NEW CITY

Israeli breakfast at hotel.

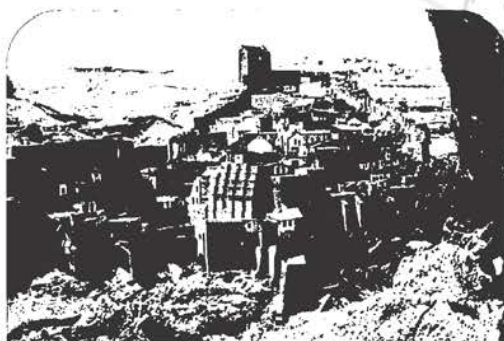
Enter the Old City through St. Stephen's Gate to visit the Christian Quarter. Walk along the Via Dolorosa, otherwise known as the Way of the Cross, passing the Church of St. Anne, the Pool of Bethesda, Pilate's Judgement Hall, and the Convent of the Flagellation. Visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Continue through the narrow streets to reach the heart of the main Bazaar. Leave the Old City through Damascus Gate to Gordon's Calvary and the Garden Tomb.

Drive through residential areas to the Israeli Museum and visit the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are exhibited. Continue via the Knesset and the Hebrew University to Mt. Herzl. Visit Yad Vashem, tribute to the Holocaust martyrs. Continue to Ein Karem, birthplace of St. John the Baptist. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

#### DAY 08 DEAD SEA/MASADA/JERUSALEM

Israeli breakfast at hotel.

Drive via Bethany, the home of Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus and the site of the resurrection of Lazarus. Pass the Inn of the Good Samaritan and continue through the Wilderness of Judea to the DEAD SEA, the lowest place on earth, 1292 feet below sea level, and visit the ruins of QUMRAN where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Continue to the mountain fortress of MASADA, built by Herod the Great, overlooking the Dead Sea. On this mountain 960 Jewish zealots held out for three years against the Roman legionnaires until finally in the year 73 A.D., they chose mass suicide rather than slavery. Return to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.



#### DAY 09 JERUSALEM/OLD CITY

Israeli breakfast at hotel.

Enter the Old City through Jaffa Gate and visit the Citadel and David's Tower. Walk through the exciting Old City, Reach Mount Moriah, and the Temple Mount. Visit the Dome of the Rock, the Aksa Mosque, and the Wailing (Western) Wall. Stroll through the picturesque Oriental Bazaar. Return to hotel or continue on your own.

Afternoon is free.

#### DAY 10 JERUSALEM/TEL AVIV/NEW YORK

Israeli breakfast at hotel.

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for departure. Arrive at New York's Kennedy Airport the same day.

#### TOUR CONDITIONS

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** By scheduled IATA/ATC carriers on Jumbo Jet 747 from New York. Air fares are based on 8/21 non-affinity group fares and are subject to minimum of 10 participants, traveling together at all times throughout the itinerary in the economy section of the aircraft.

**HOTELS:** Hotels are deluxe/first class with twin-bedded rooms and private facilities. Single Supplement US \$125.00 per person. In the Galilee area - Hotels/Kibbutz guest houses will be used.

**MEALS:** Throughout the itinerary Israeli breakfast and dinner, daily.

**SIGHTSEEING and TRANSFERS:** By deluxe air-conditioned motorcoaches, where available and needed. All entrance fees and local English speaking Guides are included in the tour price.

**TIPS and TAXES:** Price of the tour includes service charges and taxes at the hotels, sightseeing and excursions. Tips to guides, drivers, hotel personnel not included. AIRPORT TAXES not included (approximately US \$10.00 per person)

**BAGGAGE:** Maximum free baggage allowance per person 44 lbs. (airline regulations). Portage for two (2) pieces of luggage per person included. A small overnight case or light bag carried by the passenger is recommended. Maximum care to safeguard your luggage will be taken, but the tour operators accept no responsibility for loss or damage. Baggage insurance forms will be sent to you upon receipt of your deposit, please read it carefully before declining.

**DEPOSIT:** A deposit of US \$200.00 per person is required to secure reservations, balance to be paid in full forty-five (45) days prior to departure.

**CANCELLATION:** Cancellations for unforeseen and valid reasons in advance of forty-five days of departure, full refund less actual expenses incurred. If cancellation occurs less than 45 days before departure, the deposit of US \$200.00 will be forfeited. If less than 21 days before departure, 25% of the airfare and 25% of the land cost will be forfeited.

**NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE:** Tour price does not include baggage insurance, excess baggage charges, laundry, valet service, food and beverages not included in regular menus, and all other items and expenses of a purely personal nature, as well as cost of passport. Transportation to and from your home town to the airport of departure. Tips to guides, drivers and hotel personnel (a suggested schedule for tipping will be sent to you before departure).

**PASSPORT:** A valid passport is required for this tour. Be sure your passport will still be valid for approximately three months upon your return to the United States.

**VISA:** Not required for this tour.

**VACCINATION:** None required at time of publishing (March 1978). Should these conditions change prior to departure, you will be informed as to what will be required, provided the tour operator received information in reasonable time prior to departure.



**IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE APPLYING**  
**PROTECTION OF YOUR FUNDS:** All monies received for this tour are deposited in TRUST ACCOUNT with United California Bank, 9841 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.

Tour price is based on rates of exchange for foreign currency as of February 1978. Airfares are based on rates and tariffs in effect as of February 01 and are subject to Government approval and adjustment without prior notice.

**RUTH CARTER STAPLETON, BEHOLD, INC.**

**WORLD CHRISTIAN TRAVEL AND**

**TOURING EXPRESS, INC. RESPONSIBILITY**

Touring express, Inc. and their agents act only in the capacity of agents matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing tours, transportation whether by railroad, motor bus, motor car, steamship, boat, or any other means, and as such, are not responsible for any damage, expense, inconvenience caused by late train, plane or ship arrival or departure, or change of schedule or other condition, nor the loss of or damage to baggage or any article belonging to the passenger, nor any loss, injury or damage to person or property from any cause whatsoever. The sponsoring organization reserves the right to withdraw the tour to refuse to accept or retain any person or member of the tour at any time, or to make changes in the published itinerary whenever in their sole judgment conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour. All prices are based on rates existing on the printing date of the brochure and while every effort will be made to hold them firm, they are subject to change. The airlines concerned are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use is the airlines concerned, when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tours and/or passengers. The services of IATA/ATC carrier may be used in connection with this tour.

#### ADD ON FARES

(Please add to the price from New York)

<input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles	US \$ 225.00
<input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco	US \$ 225.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Seattle	US \$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta	US \$ 154.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Miami	US \$ 45.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicago	US \$ 76.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland	US \$ 56.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Dallas	US \$ 191.00

Further add-on fares available upon request.