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Handwritten signature

Joshua L. Becker
400 North Flagler Drive
Suite 1902
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Handwritten signature

TELEPHONE
407-655-5988

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER, PRESIDENT
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

JANUARY 7, 1991

DEAR RABBI SCHINDLER:

WHILE WE APPRECIATE YOUR HAVING TAKEN THE TIME TO RESPOND TO OUR LETTER AND TO SEND THE COPY OF "REFORM JUDAISM", WE FEEL THAT PERHAPS YOU HAVE EITHER OVERLOOKED OR GREATLY DOWNPLAY-ED THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT OF OUR COMMUNICATION WITH YOU I.E., WE RESIGNED TEMPLE ISRAEL OF WEST PALM BEACH (WHICH WAS DONE WITH A GREAT DEAL OF SADNESS AND PERSONAL PAIN ON OUR PART) ONLY BECAUSE THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO RESIGN FROM REFORM JUDAISM. IT WAS NOT TEMPLE ISRAEL THAT HAS SET THIS NEW POLICY BUT THE UAHC THAT HAS SET THIS COURSE. THIS IS A POLICY WHICH, THROUGH PAYMENT OF OUR DUES, WE WOULD BE FORCED TO UNDERWRITE VIS A VIS A PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THESE FUNDS BEING FORWARDED TO THE UNION. WE HAVE DEEP FEELINGS FOR THE TEMPLE AND FOR ITS SPIRITUAL LEADER, RABBI HOWARD SHAPIRO. IF THE TEMPLE LEFT THE UAHC, WE WOULD RETURN. IF THE UAHC RESCINDED ITS NEW POLICY, WE HAPPILY WOULD RETURN TO TEMPLE ISRAEL. IT IS THE UAHC WHICH HAS FORCED US TO MAKE THIS DECISION.

QUITE SIMPLY, IT IS NOT UP TO UAHC TO REWRITE LEVITICUS.

SINCERELY,

Handwritten signature of Patricia Becker
PATRICIA BECKER

Handwritten signature of Joshua L. Becker
JOSHUA L. BECKER

JLB;PB/ps
COPY: RABBI HOWARD SHAPIRO



cc: RABBI HOWARD
SITAPERD

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

December 13, 1990
26 Kislev 5751

Mr. & Mrs. Joshua L. Becker
400 North Flagler Drive
Suite 1902
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Becker:

I thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. I am sorry that you felt it was necessary for you to take steps to resign from your congregation because of the CCAR resolution. I have a feeling that you misread the resolution and I am enclosing herewith a copy of the recent edition of Reform Judaism, the magazine of our movement which you undoubtedly do receive. But I call your particular attention to the article on page 4 by Janet Marder, who reviews the resolution in a more appropriate context. I hope you will take the time to read this piece.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Joshua L. Becker
400 North Flagler Drive
Suite 1902
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

TELEPHONE
407-655-5988

RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER
UAHC
838 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10021

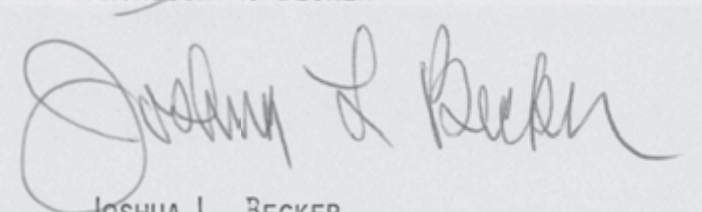
DEAR RABBI SCHINDLER:

THE ENCLOSED LETTER IS SELF-EXPLANATORY. PERHAPS THE LOSS OF ONE CONGREGANT IS UNIMPORTANT TO THE UNION. IT JUST MAY BE, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE NOT THE ONLY FAMILY THAT WILL SEVER TIES TO THE REFORM MOVEMENT OVER THIS ISSUE. IT IS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT AFTER BEING TOLD THAT WE SHOULD DECIDE FOR OURSELVES HOW WE WOULD BEST FOLLOW OUR ANCIENT LAWS, WE ARE NOW HAVING THE HIERARCHY OF THE MOVEMENT DECIDING WHICH RULES ARE TO BE BROKEN AND TO BE RAMMED, WITHOUT CHOICE, DOWN THE THROATS OF THOSE OF US WHO HAVE PROVIDED FINANCIAL AND VOCAL SUPPORT FOR MANY YEARS FOR PROJECTS OF THE UNION.

THIS ENTIRE MATTER IS WITHOUT DOUBT THE MOST DIVISIVE ELEMENT IN JUDAISM TODAY.

SINCERELY,


PATRICIA N. BECKER


JOSHUA L. BECKER

PNB;JLB/ps
ENCL.

Mr. STEVE RAUCH, PRESIDENT
TEMPLE ISRAEL OF WEST PLAM BEACH
1901 NORTH FLAGLER DRIVE
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33407

NOVEMBER 29, 1990

DEAR STEVE:

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT AS OF THIS DATE, WE ARE RESIGNING OUR MEMBERSHIP IN TEMPLE ISRAEL AND LEAVING REFORM JUDAISM. THIS IS DONE WITH A GREAT DEAL OF REGRET AND IT IS A DECISION NOT MADE LIGHTLY. WE CANNOT JUSTIFY SUPPORTING REFORM JUDAISM WHEN ITS GOVERNING BODY HAS TAKEN A STAND OF OPENLY FLAUNTING ANCIENT PROHIBITIONS BY ORDAINING SELF-PROCLAIMED HOMOSEXUALS AS RABBIS. REFORM RABBIS MUST BE REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, MUST BE IN THE MAINSTREAM OF FAMILY LIFE, MUST BE BEYOND REPROACH AND A SYMBOL OF OUR TEACHINGS. OUR TRADITIONS AND LAWS ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE VOTED DOWN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE VOCIFEROUS FEW.

THE ENCLOSED CHECK IS FOR THE BALANCE OF OUR DUES BASED ON THE COST FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS. IT IS OUR FINAL PAYMENT TO THE TEMPLE FOR MONIES DUE.

AGAIN, WE REGRET HAVING BEEN FORCED INTO MAKING THIS DECISION.

SINCERELY,

JOSHUA L. BECKER

PATRICIA N. BECKER

JLB/PS

COPY: RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER

August 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 5th Avenue
NYC, NY 10021

sent 8/21
cc DBL
AV
D. Saper

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I want to take a moment to say thank you for your recent call on President George Bush to ban discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the U.S. military by Presidential order.

You are correct in pointing out to the President that ten percent (at least) of the military officers who served in Kuwait are homosexual despite the public knowledge of their existence. It is true that they would be denied their rights if discovered and that their commitment to patriotism must be strong to endure such injustice while fighting for the rights of others.

I openly support the UAHC in this endeavor and thank you for your continued commitment to equal rights for all humanity.

Sincerely,

Shalom Chalk M.A. M.F.C.C.

We Received
many of
these
letters
from
Hearts.

August 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 5th Avenue
NYC, NY 10021

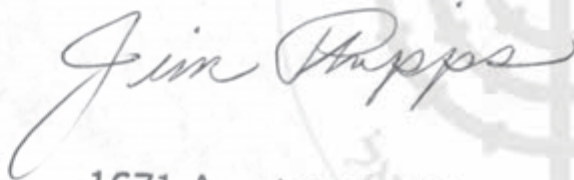
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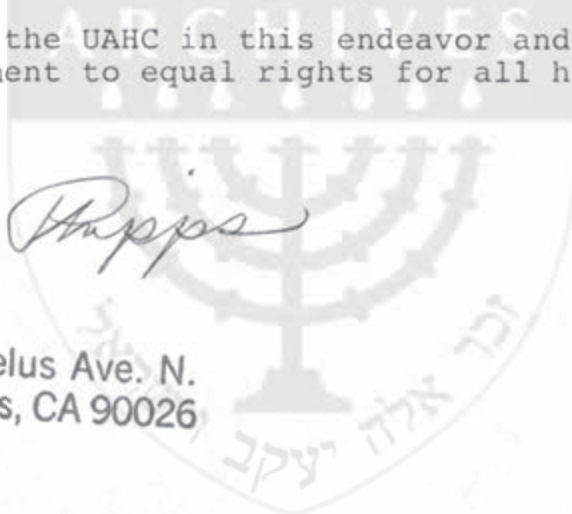
I openly support the UAHC in this endeavor and thank you for your continued commitment to equal rights for all humanity.

Sincerely,



Jim Pappas

1671 Angelus Ave. N.
Los Angeles, CA 90026



von Zerneck • Sertner Films

August 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 5th Avenue
NYC, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I want to take a moment to say thank you for your recent call on President George Bush to ban discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the U.S. military by Presidential order.

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I openly support the UAHC in this endeavor and thank you for your continued commitment to equal rights for all humanity.

Sincerely,



Randall Sutter
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER



August 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 5th Avenue
NYC, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I want to take a moment to say thank you for your recent call on President George Bush to ban discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the U.S. military by Presidential order.

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I openly support the UAHC in this endeavor and thank you for your continued commitment to equal rights for all humanity.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Stodol





Michael A. Ross
Senior Vice President
Business Affairs

August 12, 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I want to take a moment to say thank you for your recent call on President George Bush to ban discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the U.S. military by Presidential order.

You are correct in pointing out to the President that ten percent (at least) of the military officers who served in Kuwait are homosexual. It is true that they would be denied their rights if discovered; their commitment to patriotism is certainly strong to endure such injustice while fighting for the rights of others.

I openly support the UAHC in this endeavor and thank you for your continued commitment to equal rights for all humanity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Michael A. Ross'.

Michael A. Ross

August 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 5th Avenue
NYC, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I want to take a moment to say thank you for your recent call on President George Bush to ban discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the U.S. military by Presidential order.

You are correct in pointing out to the President that ten percent (at least) of the military officers who served in Kuwait are homosexual despite the public knowledge of their existence. It is true that they would be denied their rights if discovered and that their commitment to patriotism must be strong to endure such injustice while fighting for the rights of others.

I openly support the UAHC in this endeavor and thank you for your continued commitment to equal rights for all humanity.

Sincerely,

Jonathan A. Mundale





SPECTACOR

films



THE DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA BUILDING
920 SUNSET BOULEVARD, FOURTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90046

Friedman
4643 Willowcrest
Toluen Lake CA 91602



August 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 5th Avenue
NYC, NY 10021

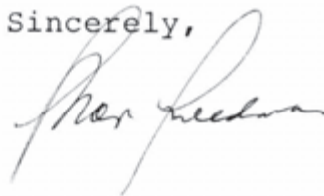
Dear Rabbi Schindler:

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I openly support the UAHC in this endeavor and thank you for your continued commitment to equal rights for all humanity.

Sincerely,



August 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 5th Avenue
NYC, NY 10021

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I openly support the UAHC in this endeavor and thank you for your continued commitment to equal rights for all humanity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alexander Schindler", written over a large, faint, circular watermark. The watermark features a menorah in the center and Hebrew text around the perimeter: "וְכָרְאֵלֹהִי יִעֲקֹב" (And he called the name of the Lord Jacob) and "וְיִשְׂרָאֵל" (and Israel).

August 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 5th Avenue
NYC, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I want to take a moment to say thank you for your recent call on President George Bush to ban discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the U.S. military by Presidential order.

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I openly support the UAHC in this endeavor and thank you for your continued commitment to equal rights for all humanity.

Sincerely,

Shari Kainer Attorney at Law
15120 VENTURA BLVD. #607
ENCINO, CA 91436
Thank You again for your
efforts.

August 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 5th Avenue
NYC, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I want to take a moment to say thank you for your recent call on President George Bush to ban discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the U.S. military by Presidential order.

You are correct in pointing out to the President that ten percent (at least) of the military officers who served in Kuwait are homosexual despite the public knowledge of their existence. It is true that they would be denied their rights if discovered and that their commitment to patriotism must be strong to endure such injustice while fighting for the rights of others.

I openly support the UAHC in this endeavor and thank you for your continued commitment to equal rights for all humanity.

Sincerely,

Faith C. E. O. N. A.





COPY

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

August 27, 1991
17 Elul 5751

Dr. Alfred A. Messer
3332 Valley Road, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30305

Dear Dr. Messer:

Following the receipt of your letter, I re-watched a tape of the particular program and what you report as having transpired - my silence in response to the questions - simply did not transpire. Either you did not watch the program, or you weren't listening with care. Obviously, you have some strong feelings on the subject which, understandably enough, incline you to hear what you want to hear or see what you want to see.

As indicated, since I was out of town when the program was aired, I listened to it once again and I must say that I am not regretful of anything I said or of my views on the subject.

I am not sure that we do, in fact disagree on the subject. I really can't tell from your letter, but if so, let us disagree agreeably.

Cordially,

Alexander M. Schindler

Alfred A. Messer, M. D.

3332 Valley Road, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

(404) 233-0468

August 21, 1991

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, U.A.H.C.
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY., 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

During the summer you participated in a television seminar on prejudice against homosexuals. I believe "hatred" was in the title.

One man commented that the prejudice against homosexuals was "just like" the prejudice the Nazis visited on the Jews.

You said nothing, repeat, nothing. That is inexcusable.

So you will know my position up front: if I were your superior, I would place you on immediate leave. Perhaps you are tired or burned out.

Yes, there is prejudice against homosexuality, but not necessarily or universally against homosexual people. Society always has a prejudice against any practice, that, in the end, means decline of the species.

Further, I did not hear anyone on the program make mention of the fact that, where the desire and motivation exists, there can be re-orientation to congenial heterosexual and family life.

Won't you please sit down with someone like Dr. Charles Socarides in New York and educate yourself? He and I were trained at Columbia and share another experience. We've presented some of our clinical findings, and instead of being listened to, are shouted down as "unrepentant homophobes."

Some correspondence with Rabbi Greenberg is attached.

Yours truly,

Alfred A. Messer

Alfred A. Messer, M.D.

AAM/h1

Enclosure

Alfred A. Messer, M. D.

3332 Valley Road, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

(404) 233-0468

C-0-P-4

August 16, 1991

Rabbi Julie Greenberg
Jewish Renewal License Center
Room B 202
6445 Green Street
Philadelphia, PA., 19119

Dear Rabbi Greenberg:

Two letters written by you are attached, one to The Family Therapy Networker, May/June, 1991, the other to the Reform Magazine, June, 1991. Also, attached is a copy of my correspondence with Dr. Simon and Ms. Markowitz of The Networker.

Are you not being disingenuous? In the spring you write about the "joyous decisions" of both parents and children -- presumably your congregants -- coming out; in the summer, you now identify yourself as homosexual. If you have a moment, I would ask three questions:

- 1) Two of our closest friends are physicians and both identify themselves as homosexual. Both are brilliant and gifted, a credit to the medical profession. Isn't it a shame that their genetic inheritance is lost?
- 2) What happens when you and your 31 rabbinic colleagues preside over enough "joyous decisions" so that the next generation and the generation after that are depleted?
- 3) Are you aware that people who are homosexual, and who have the desire and motivation, can move to a congenial heterosexual life?

If you take such pleasure in people making the "joyous decision" to come out, I hope one day you will have the experience of an obligatory homosexual or a pseudo-homosexual marrying and celebrating the birth of a child or two.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred A. Messer, M.D.

AAM/hl

Enclosures



COPY

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
 PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

December 9, 1991
 2 Tevet 5752

Dr. Abram Hodes
 604 East Avery Street
 San Bernardino CA 92404

Dear Dr. Hodes:

I have your recent letter, and although I don't remember meeting you when I visited San Bernardino, I do remember the function quite well and of course I, too, am exceedingly fond of Hillel Cohn.

I understand the inner turmoil which you are going through in confronting this issue as I had to over the years on several levels. I, too, had to wrestle with some demons in my own soul.

Obviously, I cannot give you a full recording my spiritual journey in this regard, as it were, but since you focus on the question of the rabbi as role model, let me tell you only this:

It is impossible for a single rabbi to embody all of those ideals which we want to transmit to others. Our tradition has always upheld the ideal of the family, the nuclear family, as a case in point, the image of a father and a mother and children sitting around the Sabbath and festive table, etc. Since this is so, does that mean we have to exclude the widowed rabbi as a role model, or the divorced rabbi, or the rabbi who for one reason or another never was married? Obviously not. Rabbis whose own lives, for one reason or another, are circumscribed, nonetheless can function effectively as teachers of the wider view.

I do wish that you would take the time to speak to Janet Marder. She is the Associate Regional Director of the Union's Pacific SouthWest Council and she had vast experience in this field. I think she would be able to afford you the kind of dialogue which your serious question merits.

To all of this I only want to add that throughout the history of American Reform, there have been rabbis who were clearly homosexual, although in those early days they did not come out of the closet, who nonetheless served their congregations with a rare sensitivity and understanding and did not at all present the wrong kind of model to future generations.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Alexander M. Schindler



#6 ABRAM HODES, M.D. 12-4-91

Rabbi Schindler
838 5th Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi,

My wife and I have had
the honor and pleasure of
meeting you when you visited
our city, San Bernardino, Ca.

I am writing to you in
your capacity as head of the
W. H. A. C.

As a congregant here for
over 40 years, I have found
both Rabbi Feldheyman and
his successor Rabbi Hillel Cohn
to be very competent. Services
and overall involvement have



Free report

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

*Homosexual
Data*

January 30, 1992
25 Shevat 5752

Rabbi Mordechai Liebling
Executive Director
Federation of Reconstructionist
Congregations & Havurot
Church Road & Greenwood Ave. Suite 300
Wyncote, PA 19095

Dear Mordechai:

It was thoughtful of you to send me a copy of
"Homosexuality and Judaism: The Reconstructionist
Position". I am grateful to you.

The report will, of course, be kept confidential by me.
As a matter of fact, I have just returned from travels
which kept me out of the office for about three weeks.
Thus, a mountain of mail and reading material awaited my
return and it will be quite some time before I have an
opportunity to quietly review the position of the
Reconstructionist movement. I am, of course, very
interested in this report.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot

Church Road and Greenwood Avenue, Suite 300, Wyncote, PA 19095-1898 (215) 887-1988 FAX: (215) 576-6143

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*Past Presidents

January 24, 1992

Rabbi Alex Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021-7064

Dear Alex,

I am enclosing a copy of "Homosexuality and Judaism: The Reconstructionist Position." It was written by the movement's Joint Commission on Homosexuality and just approved by the Board of Directors of the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot. The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association will be discussing the report at its March convention.

The report remains confidential, but given your interest in the issue I wanted you to have a copy. I believe that the report is in harmony with many statements that you have made in the past. I would look forward to hearing your comments.

B'Shalom,


Rabbi Mordechai Liebling
Executive Director

RML/mwb
Enclosure

Copy

Handwritten signature

June 19, 1992
18 Sivan 5752

Mrs. F. Greenebaum
3823 Monterey Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94619

Dear Mrs. Greenebaum:

Your query of Rabbi Schindler reached our office after his departure for meetings in Europe and Israel. He will be overseas for an extended period of time and thus I am taking the liberty of responding to you.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations does not have a policy on a service of commitment between a lesbian or gay couple. Officiation at such a service, as with an interfaith marriage ceremony, is left to the discretion of the rabbi. I do know that Rabbi Schindler feels strongly that every rabbi has the right of conscience in determining his or her stance in regard to such ceremonies.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

Mrs. F. Greenebaum
3823 Monterey Blvd.,
Oakland, CA 94619

6/12/92

Rabbi Alex Schindler
c/o Union of American Hebrew
Congregations
838 Fifth Ave.,
New York, New York 10021

Dear Rabbi,
I am a member of a Reform Congregation
and I would appreciate your answer to the
following question.

Our Rabbi is planning a marriage of 2 women
under a Chuppa in the Social Hall from the
Temple. Neither of the women is a member,
one is Gentile.

Would this meet with your approval?
Looking forward to your answer,

Very Truly Yours,

Mrs. F. Greenebaum



Homosexual

August 25, 1992
26 Av 5752

Howard L. Hurwitz, Ph.D.
Family Defense Council
P.O. Box 734, Village Station
New York, NY 10014

Dear Dr. Hurwitz:

In response to your letter of August 12, I write to advise that the figures cited in my statement on homosexuals were obtained from the UAHC National Committee on Aids.

In re your question concerning why I gave this figure to the interviewing journalist, I must note that we cannot turn our backs on the fact that there is a large Jewish homosexual community. Many wish to be affiliated with the synagogue and are very devoted to their Judaism. Silence on our part and non-acceptance of gays and lesbians will not change the figures nor the facts of life in America today. We must provide more than compassion for our brothers and sisters, and they are our children!

You should also know that Congregation Beit Simchat Torah was founded in 1973. It has obviously responded to a need for it has some 1,150 members and while not all of their members are gays or lesbians, they do make up the vast majority of the congregation. Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Seminary, has just become their spiritual leader. Although the congregation is not affiliated with any of the synagogue movements, they do tend to be quite traditional in their approach to Judaism.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

COPY

August 17, 1992
18 Av 5752

Howard L. Hurwitz, Ph.D.
Family Defense Council
P.O. Box 734
Village Station
New York, NY 10014

Dear Dr. Hurwitz:

Just a note to advise that Rabbi Schindler is out of the city. Your letter of August 13, which reached our office today, will be held for his return. I regret that I do not know where Rabbi obtained the figure of 500,000 Jewish homosexuals and therefore a proper reply must await his return.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

FAMILY DEFENSE COUNCIL



P.O. Box 734 • Village Station • New York, NY 10014-0734 • Tel: 718-591-6392

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In Memoriam

Rev. Edward Hogan, S.J.
(1905 - 1989)

Founder, Council for
Community Consciousness

August 13, 1992

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 5th Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10028

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

It has only just come to our attention that the Jewish Week, June 19, published a statement attributed to you that there are 500,000 Jewish homosexuals.

This works out to about 8 percent of American Jews, a figure far in excess of the 2 percent of the general population that may be homosexual. I would hope that you have not accepted the 10 percent figure propagated by gay organizations, and so widely adopted by the media. In this connection, see the marked passage in the August issue of our enclosed NewsLetter.

How did you arrive at your estimate of 500,000?

I would respectfully dissent from any publicity being given to Jewish homosexuals. Only a few months ago New York Newsday, notoriously pro-gay, did a feature on a lesbian rabbi (Reconstructionist), who is supposed to be opening a synagogue catering to gays in Greenwich Village, this fall. As editor of our NewsLetter, I was tempted to use the item as another example of the lengths Newsday will go to promote gays, who seek "domestic partnerships" and acceptance of their sodomy as an "alternative lifestyle." I decided not to use the item, because I did not wish to reflect on the Jewish people. You will note that there are several Orthodox rabbis on our Board of Directors and Advisory Board, although we are a non-sectarian organization.

On two counts, then, I would welcome your response. First, how did you arrive at the 500,000 figure? Second, why did you publicize the figure? Nothing in the foregoing should suggest that we lack compassion for the homosexual. The homosexual activist (gay) is something else again.

Sincerely yours,

Howard L. Hurwitz

Family Defense Council, Inc. is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit corporation in New York State organized primarily to promote family life and public morality in the City of New York

Marked
copy, p. 1;
see also,
p. 2

FAMILY DEFENSE COUNCIL



NewsLetter

P.O. Box 734 • Village Station • New York, NY 10014-0734 • Tel: 718-591-6392

Howard L. Hurwitz, Editor

AUGUST 1992

No. 8

HOMOSEXUALITY: THE 10% LIE

"A score of scientific surveys put the lie" to the claim of homosexual activists (gays) that they are 10% of the general population. The lie is widely disseminated in the media. "(T)he following studies are representative....Of 6,300 randomly drawn Norwegians in 1987, 0.9% of the men and 0.9% of the women claimed a homosexual experience at some time in their life....

"In a 1989-1990 British survey of 2,171 youth aged 16-20 years, 2.5% of the males and 2.4% of the females reported ever having had a homosexual experience....

"The National Opinion Research Center questioned 904 U.S. men aged 21 or over in 1989 and 1990. Only 1.3% reported sex with men in the past year....A number of things are noteworthy about this investigation. First, the authors are staunch gay rights supporters, so the collection of these data cannot be charged with anti-homosexual bias of any sort. Secondly, the results fit right in with the bulk of the rest of the surveys carried on across the developed world. Most importantly, they suggest that, at most homosexuals make up about 1% and bisexuals perhaps 2% of the male population...." (Family Research Report, D.C., May-June '92).

The 10% lie was exploded in 1990 by Judith Reisman and Edward Eichel, in Kinsey, Sex and Fraud: The Indoctrination of a People. Reisman, 57, is president of the Institute for Media Education in Arlington, VA. She earned her doctorate at Case Western Reserve University. In his studies of men and women's sex practices, Kinsey interviewed only volunteers. He was warned that "volunteer bias" could distort his findings. Reisman and Eichel, who is a N.Y. psychotherapist, point out that Kinsey interviewed hundreds of prison inmates about their sex habits. Many were convicted sex offenders. Because convicts are more likely to have homosexual experiences, Kinsey badly overestimated homosexuality. "Kinsey's own writings identified some of his volunteers as prostitutes and pimps....The implication that such a collection could be used to predict the sex habits among mainstream American men was at best foolish, and at worst, according to Reisman, a 'brazenly bizarre' ploy to color the findings." (Focus On The Family Citizen, Sept. 16, '91)

GAYS GLEEFUL AT DEM CONVENTION

"On the convention floor, reporters were faced with a sea of signs, pins and buttons embracing abortion-on-demand and the militant gay agenda. One memorable picture...showed a pregnant woman wearing a tee shirt with the inscription, 'Lesbian With Child.'....There were 104 openly identified gay and lesbian delegates, alternates and committee members, with the Lesbian and Gay Caucus claiming their people outnumbered 33 of the state delegations." (Human Events, The National Conservative Weekly, D.C., July 25)

NEWSDAY BASHES VATICAN AND GUSHES OVER GAYS

New York Newsday, notoriously anti-Church and unfailingly pro-homosexual had a field day (July 24), as it bashed the Catholic Church for "opposing civil rights protection for gays." The Vatican "told U.S. bishops that laws blocking homosexuals from adopting children, working as teachers or joining the military are not 'unjust discrimination.'"

The Family Defense Council from its inception a year ago has taken precisely these stands on homosexuality.

In a special article, supplementing the report on the Vatican's position, Newsday ran "Letter Called 'Act of Hatred.'" It quoted John McNeill, "a theologian, psychotherapist and the author of two books about homosexuality and the Catholic Church." Newsday is aligned with McNeill's pro-sodomy stance.

The Family Defense Council boycott of Newsday continues.

MORE MONEY FOR AIDS RESEARCH?

AIDS originated in the homosexual community. It spread to the drug users by male addicts who prostituted themselves for money to feed their drug habit. To listen to the cries of homosexuals that not enough is being done to save them from the deadly disease they brought on themselves, you might think they were engaged in knitting antimacassars while the band played on.

AIDS spending has climbed from only \$39 million in 1984 to nearly \$2 billion in 1992. Yet, The Advocate, a homosexual publication, in its March 10, '92 issue, complains it is not enough. What is especially outrageous about homosexual whining is that the expenditures for AIDS research is grossly disproportionate to outlays for far greater killers, such as cancer and heart disease.

AIDS aid has been politicized. Too many politicians have been waylaid by homosexual lobbyists. We believe that AIDS research should take its proper place in the long line of killing diseases. "AIDS is the first virus in history which has a political constituency." (The New York Guardian, Feb. '92)

✓ AIDS may yet become first in a long line of killers. It can be assessed without reference to the Bible, but it is of interest to read in Liviticus, 20:13 (King James Version): "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." Compassion for homosexuals rules out death as punishment, but it appears that the ancient Biblical injunction against homosexuality is being realized in the final decade of a century in which sodomists have become savvy politicians.

MTV CANCER

MTV--the music video channel on cable is "a cancer eating away at the moral fiber of our young." West VA Sen. Robert Byrd warned parents: "The central message of most of these music videos is clear: human happiness and fulfillment are experienced by becoming a sociopath and rejecting all responsibility. If we continue to sow the images of murder, violence, drug abuse, sadism, arrogance, irreverence, blasphemy, perversion, pornography and aberration before our eyes of millions of children, we should not be surprised if the foundations of our society rot away as if from leprosy."

Let your cable company know that you want MTV off the air. (Donald Wildmon, president, American Family Association, Tupelo, MS)

CONDOMS IN SCHOOLS BAFFLES JUDGE AND EXCITES MEDIA

A military judge recently dismissed the case against an officer who infected several women with HIV, because he had used a condom. When prosecutors argued that condoms weren't perfect protection, the judge countered, "If condoms don't work, why do we hand them out in schools?"

Judge, you should be benched for such ignorance. Condoms are being given to school kids because school boards have swallowed the gay bait that lives of sexually active children will be saved by condoms. Boards have ignored the heavily documented high risk factor in using condoms. What is more ignominious, they have scuttled traditional morality.

Biggest befouler is NYC Schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez who boasts he has influenced superintendents nationwide to distribute free condoms to schoolchildren. Joe is the guy who sees condoms as a "love glove," so described in the Teenager's Bill of Rights that he has distributed to NYC high school students.

In recent months, a slender NYC Board of Education majority has voted to stress abstinence, while continuing with the distribution of condoms. Major dailies have divided over the stress on abstinence. The Wall Street Journal quoted parents in Los Angeles, Chicago, Baltimore, Falmouth; also, Martha's Vineyard in Mass. and, of course, NYC, who are infuriated with leaders "sending a tacit message to kids that premarital sex is O.K." New York Newsday, to be sure, opposed the board's curb on condoms. The N.Y. Daily News lashed the board for a "fundamentally dimwitted decision" and was, in turn, thrashed by your editor in a letter the News published. The N.Y. Post supported the board's vote.

The Home Times (Palm Beach County, FL) remarked, "Our youngsters are not told that the pores in latex condoms are 5 to 10 microns and the AIDS virus is 0.1 micron. Students deserve to be told the truth: using a condom to prevent AIDS is analagous to standing behind a screen door to keep from becoming wet when someone is squirting water on you."

NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN GAY MODE

"Formation of a Department of Transportation Gay and Lesbian Employee Association ('DOT-GLEA'), to provide a network for support and address issues of concern to lesbian and gay employees at our agency" is the subject of a DOT communication on the department's stationery. The letter, addressed to "Fellow Transportation Employees," announced a meeting of gays and lesbians to be addressed by Tom Duane, a homosexual City Council member.

In a release to the media, the Family Defense Council denounced DOT's misuse of taxpayers' money. "It is another example of penetration by homosexual activists of City government," Dr. Howard Hurwitz, chairman of the Family Defense Council, declared. There is reason to believe that other City departments are being similarly organized by homosexual activists. The approval of Mayor David Dinkins is not questioned, since the mayor is totally committed to homosexuals as evidenced by numerous appointments of homosexuals to high office, frequent meetings with gays and his promise of Olympic-style Gay Games '94, a sodomite festival.

FIRE ISLAND FIRED UP BY HOMOSEXUALS DRESSED AS WOMEN

Fire Island, a thin strip off the southern coast of eastern Long Island, NY, is a famous summer resort. Two of the 25 communities on Fire Island, Cherry Grove and the Pines, are heavily populated by homosexuals. Some 140 homosexuals celebrated the Fourth of July by dressing as women. "This is patriotic," a reporter was told. "Each year one of the men dressed in feminine fashion is judged queen of the event; of the past winners, half have died of AIDS." (The New York Times, July 6, '92)



TOP TV SHOWS SOAKED IN SODOMY

Among the liberal shows on television are "'L.A. Law'...probably the most outspoken prime-time series in terms of supporting a radical homosexual-rights agenda. The show...promoted gay marriage and child custody rights for gays...."

"Dear John" consulted "the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) while preparing an episode in which a man learned his ex-wife was to marry another woman. Originally presenting a character who opted for lesbianism, producers were persuaded by GLAAD to alter the script in order to assert that she was born with her sexual preference."

Not soaked in sodomy, but bathed in immorality, is "Murphy Brown's promotion of abortion, single motherhood....promoted throughout the series' opener; all discussion of Murphey's unplanned pregnancy revolving around Murphy's career and the child's quality of life, but never the child's right to life. Additionally, the importance of a father in the baby's life was discounted."

"Whether through comedy, drama, or cartoon, 'political correctness' is the golden calf of the Hollywood left." (L. Brent Bozell III, in Human Events, July 25, '92)

HELP DAVID OVERCOME GAY GOLIATH

Gays have 60 organizations in NYC alone. One of them is the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) that publishes guides for homosexual sex so lewd that there is no general circulation publication in the land that would publish so much as a single sentence or illustration. GMHC publications find their way into the schools. GMHC has a \$20 million annual budget.

IN JOINING OR CONTRIBUTING TO THE FAMILY DEFENSE COUNCIL, Inc., YOU ARE BACKING DAVID AGAINST THE GAY GOLIATH.

() \$25 annual membership

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RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

September 4, 1992
6 Elul 5752

Belinda Ganon
President
World Congress of Gay and
Lesbian Jewish Organizations
P.O. Box 18961
Washington DC 20036

Dear Belinda:

Thank you for your note of appreciation. Thanks are really not necessary. We only did what was the right and proper thing to do.

You ought to know that most of the negotiations with the JNF were conducted by Rabbi Syme, the Vice President of the UAHC to whom your thanks are really due. He serves on Board of that organization and as a consequence, was effective in asserting our views.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Daniel B. Syme
Melvin Merians



THE WORLD CONGRESS OF GAY AND LESBIAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

2 Elul 5752
31 Aug 92

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York NY 10021-7064
USA

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

On behalf of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, I wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude for the steadfast support we have received from you and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in our dispute with the Jewish National Fund.


I am pleased to report that at the World Congress' Board meeting last month in Atlanta, Stuart Paskow, the JNF's Director of Communications and Information, flew down to meet with us, and to inform us that the JNF was acceding to our wishes and would put up a plaque at Lahav inscribed "Fourth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews." This plaque, as confirmed by subsequent conversations with Mr. Paskow, should be in place shortly, perhaps within the next several days.

It is always difficult to take any intra-family dispute public, but quiet discussions and negotiations with the JNF proved to be fruitless. The support we received from you and the UAHC was invaluable, and played a large role in our successful resolution.

Our Executive Director, Barrett Brick, will inform you when the plaque is finally in place, and, of course, of what future work the World Congress will be doing with the JNF---a relationship we are looking forward to renewing.

Thank you and the UAHC again for all your help. May you be inscribed for a good and sweet year.

Shalom,


Belinda Ganon
President



COPY

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

September 9, 1992
11 Elul 5752

Handwritten signature

Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, CA 94114

Dear Yoel:

Thank you for your note of appreciation concerning our effort to alter the JNF policy. I am glad that our labors were not in vain.

You ought to know that Dan Syme carried on most of these negotiations so that thanks are really due to him.

All the very best to you. You know how much I admire you and your work.

Marginally noted, I am just in the midst of writing my installation sermon for Sharon Kleinbaum who will assume the leadership of Congregation Simchat Torah this coming Friday evening. She is a remarkable young lady and I know that she will do well.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Dr. Mike Rankin
Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

5
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Member, Union Of American Hebrew Congregations

שַׁעַר זָהָב

Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn

220 Danvers at Caselli

San Francisco, California 94114

(415) 861-6932

August 19, 1992
20 Av 5752

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President, UAHC
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021


Dear Alex:

On behalf of our Board and Congregation, I want to thank you for your strong lobbying efforts with the JNF in the cause of our plaque. As you know, the JNF has finally agreed to mount our plaque and honor their original agreement. I have no doubt that this action would not have occurred without the strong vote of support from the UAHC.

Rarely have our resolutions had such an immediate and direct result! I hope that this important accomplishment, using the moral and political suasion of our movement, will be widely reported in Reform Judaism and other appropriate forums.

Thank you for your leadership in this important matter.

Warmly,


Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn
cc: Dr. Mike Rankin
YHK/jcc

NANCY J. MERTZEL

Attorney-at-Law
300 East 40 St., #29M
New York, NY 10016
Work: 212-949-9022
Home: 212-557-9798

Via Facsimile
5 Pages
(212) 570-0895

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

January 20, 1993

Re: Jewish War Veterans

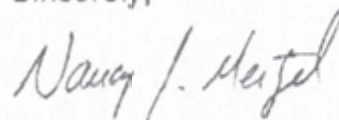
Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am a member of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah (CBST) and am currently working with Rabbi Kleinbaum to put pressure on the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) over its resolution supporting the the ban on gays and lesbians serving in the United States military. I am aware of your support for gay and lesbian rights, and greatly appreciate the leadership role you have taken on this and other issues of importance to our community.

We would like permission to quote from a September 30, 1992 letter you apparently sent to the JWV (see attached - note the copy we have is unsigned). We would like to incorporate the quote into a Press Release (copy attached) describing the pressure being placed on the JWV in response to an article I wrote for CBST's newsletter (also attached).

Please let me know whether your letter was indeed sent, and if so, whether we may quote it in the Press Release.

Sincerely,



Nancy J. Mertz

cc: Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 338 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7084 (212)249-0100

*Steven
He invited
He wrote you with
all*

September 30, 1992
3 Tishri 5752

Mr. Howard Metzger
Associate Editor
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
1811 R Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Metzger:

I have your letter of September 24th and I read the resolution in the booklet attached which states JWV's official policy supporting the ban on homosexuals serving in the United States armed forces.

Quite frankly, I am appalled that such an antediluvian attitude still persists within a group that calls itself Jewish. We, who were beaten in the streets of Berlin cannot turn our backs to the plague of gay-bashing. We, who were Marannos in Madrid, who clung to the closets of assimilation and conversion in order to live without molestation, we cannot reject the demand for gay and lesbian visibility.

If the national statistics on the subject apply to Jews as well (and there is no reason to think otherwise) there are approximately 400,000 gays and lesbians within the Jewish community and it is high time that the Jewish War Veterans recognize that they are part of our family. They are our sons, our sisters, our neighbors, our fellow Jews - - and your policy reads them out.

Lest you think that these are the comments of an otherworldly rabbi, you ought to know that before ordination, I spent four years in the United States

Army, was a volunteer in the Ski Troops, fought in three campaigns, was wounded in action, and I have a bronze star for bravery. And I can tell you that the only moral problems we ever encountered were from our heterosexual comrades in arms.

I hope that someone in your organization will have the moral courage to revise your stance. It is unbefitting an organization which calls itself Jewish.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Congregation Beth Simchat Torah

GAY & LESBIAN SYNAGOGUE NEWS

January 1993 - Tevet/Shevat 5753

JEWISH GROUPS SPLIT OVER BAN ON GAYS IN US MILITARY

by Nancy Mertz

At least two national Jewish organizations have joined the fray over repeal of the ban on gays and lesbians serving in the United States military. The ban, which president-elect Bill Clinton promised to repeal, is one of many gay rights issues which came to the forefront of public attention during the 1992 elections. Indeed gay and lesbian rights may have replaced abortion as the premier social issue dividing Americans.

The conflict is reflected among Jewish organizations as well. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), headed by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, has called for an Executive Order and legislation eliminating discrimination against gays and lesbians in the military. Rabbi Schindler, who is himself a decorated veteran, recently wrote to President Bush to urge a change in the policy. In his letter, Rabbi Schindler reminded the President that the same arguments used today to justify exclusion of gays and lesbians were advanced to bar Blacks from equal participation until President Harry Truman issued an historic Executive Order integrating the military in 1948.

The UAHC's support of gays and lesbians is in stark contrast to the position of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV). At its 1992 national convention, the JWV adopted a resolution urging the Department of Defense to enforce regulations forbidding homosexual

acts amongst US military personnel. In support of its position, the JWV claimed that the presence of homosexuals in the military has an insidious effect upon morale, that a large percentage of soldiers testing HIV-positive had engaged in homosexual sex, and that the cost of caring for these personnel was high. The JWV described its "official policy supporting the ban on homosexuals serving in the US armed forces" in response to a request for support from Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum and the UAHC.

The JWV's discriminatory policy appears to contradict one of its fundamental purposes. When Congress granted the JWV a federal charter, it stated that the organization's objectives and purposes shall include a continuing commitment to "encourage the doctrine of universal liberty, equal rights and full justice to all men" and to "combat the powers of bigotry and darkness wherever originating and whatever the target." Apparently, the JWV feels it can even encourage bigotry and the denial of equal rights and justice to gay men and lesbians.

The JWV needs to hear from those who disagree with its policy, especially gay and lesbian Jewish veterans. Write their National Headquarters at 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009, and send a copy of your letter to Rabbi Kleinbaum c/o CBST.



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7084 (212)249-0100

*Shimon
He is a cat
He loves you and
will love you*

all right

September 30, 1992
3 Tishri 5752

Mr. Howard Metzger
Associate Editor
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
1811 R Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Metzger:

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If the national statistics on the subject apply to Jews as well (and there is no reason to think otherwise) there are approximately 400,000 gays and lesbians within the Jewish community and it is high time that the Jewish War Veterans recognize that they are part of our family. They are our sons, our sisters, our neighbors, our fellow Jews - - and your policy reads them out.

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Army, was a volunteer in the Ski Troops, fought in three campaigns, was wounded in action, and I have a bronze star for bravery. And I can tell you that the only moral problems we ever encountered were from our heterosexual comrades in arms.

I hope that someone in your organization will have the moral courage to revise your stance. It is unbefitting an organization which calls itself Jewish.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Homosex

✓
✓

October 2, 1992
5 Tishri 5753

Russell Pearce
Associate Professor
School of Law
Fordham University
140 West 62nd Street
New York, NY 10023-7845

Dear Russell:

Thank you for your gracious expression of appreciation for my efforts in behalf of the rights of gays and lesbians. I appreciate your thoughtfulness in taking the time to write.

I am pleased to enclose herewith a copy of my address at Beth Simchat Torah on the occasion of Sharon's installation.

With best wishes for a sweet New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

FORDHAM

University

School of Law

140 West 62nd Street, Lincoln Center, New York, NY 10023-7485

Faculty

September 30, 1992

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Ave.
NY, NY 10021-7064


Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am writing to ask for a copy of the sermon you gave at Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum's installation at Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, and, if you have it, a citation for your quote from Rabbi Leo Baeck. I plan to use the quote from Rabbi Baeck or an alternative quote from your sermon in a comment I am writing on being a Jewish lawyer.

Your sermon was one of the most thoughtful and moving I have ever heard. As a Jew (and as a member of the Social Action Commission of Reform Judaism), I am deeply grateful for the leadership you displayed through your prophetic words at Sharon's installation.

Shana Tova.

Sincerely yours,


Russell Pearce
Associate Professor



COPY

Sharon
RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

September 30, 1992
3 Tishri 5752

Mr. Howard Metzger
Associate Editor
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
1811 R Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Metzger:

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CC: AC



COPY

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

October 21, 1992
24 Tishri 5753

Warren S. Dolny
National Commander
Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Inc.
1811 R. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Dolny:

Just a line to note that your letter of October 14, 1992 reached our office after Rabbi Schindler's departure for meetings of the Jewish Agency in Israel. This correspondence will, of course, be held for his return from Israel.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

cc Ref



JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.

Chartered by an Act of Congress

*Office of the
National Commander
Warren S. Dolny*

October 14, 1992

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021-7064

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I am in receipt of your letter of September 30, 1992 regarding JWV's opposition to homosexuals serving in the United States military.

Although many Jewish organizations support your position, being Jewish does not require conformity to the ideals of one particular group. I doubt that you would find such conformity on this position from every Jewish organization. I can probably say with some certainty that the Orthodox Jewish organizations, who for the most part, do not consider groups such as the one you represent as being part of the Jewish world, would join with JWV in opposing homosexual participation in the military.

Furthermore, you stated that you are a veteran of the U.S. Army, yet you are not a member of the Jewish War Veterans. I cordially invite you to become a member, and I have enclosed an application. By becoming a member of JWV, you have the opportunity to make your voice heard on subjects in which you believe. You can attend our convention, and influence the policies of JWV, both as a Jew and a veteran.

The National Resolutions Committee was overwhelmingly in support of this position, and the resolution passed on the convention floor by a wide margin. As JWV is a democratic organization, in which our members determine its direction, the majority position was enacted as official policy of JWV.



JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.

Chartered by an Act of Congress

*Office of the
National Commander
Warren S. Dolny*

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
page 2

If you look through the remainder of our resolutions, I think you will find many positions which JWV and UAHC are in agreement. The beauty of the American Jewish community is our ability to disagree, yet remain a strong, united presence against those who wish to defeat us. Conflicts within our community must be expected, and should not be seen as signs of a failure of moral courage or societal decay.

Sincerely,



Warren S. Dolny
National Commander

enclosures

cc: Jane Cohen Smith, Critical Issues Chair, UAHC
Col. Herb Rosenbleeth, JWV National Executive Director
Howard Metzger, JWV Associate Editor

JWW

**Jewish
War
Veterans
of
The
United
States
of
America**

Entering
Our 10th
Decade of
Service

**Why
Yet Another
Jewish
Organization?**

**Why
Should I
Bother
To Join?**

**If I Join
What's In It
for Me?**

**What About
Israel?**

**Does Your
Organization
Project A
Contemporary
Image?**

**How
Do You
Fight Anti-
Semitism?**

THE ANSWERS

To some frequently asked questions

Why yet another Jewish organization?

We're not just another Jewish organization. We are the nation's *oldest, active* veterans organization, and we're *proud* of it. We got started over 90 years ago (founded in 1896) when a group of 78 Jewish Civil War veterans

united to fight anti-semitism and to show the country just how much we had contributed to America's military history. We still do the same kind of important work today.

Chartered by an Act of Congress, JWV is unique in the Jewish community because we can lobby without affecting our tax exempt status as a veterans organization.

Where are you located?

Although we are headquartered in Washington, D.C., with ready access to all branches of government, we have over 600 Posts spread out across the nation, where members are eager to offer advice, help, and a hand of friendship.

In the Capital, we work closely with this nation's lawmakers supporting veteran's entitlements; national defense; education for the handicapped; America's security interests around the world; and domestic issues such as separation of Church and State and Civil Rights.

Why should I bother to join?

As a thinking person, you know that numbers are a powerful and persuasive weapon. As effective as we are at 100,000, we can be doubly so at a membership level of 200,000.

There are still many Americans who feel that Jews are guests in this country. As a veteran and a member of the Jewish War Veterans, you are living proof of our first-class citizenship.

If I join what's in it for me?

The Jewish War Veterans lobbies for veteran's entitlements. We maintain service offices across the country that see to the needs of all veterans, regardless of race, color, or creed.

As a member of the JWV, you may enlist in our exclusive insurance program, as well as avail yourself of special travel rates through our travel program.

Jewish War Veterans are busy, in communities throughout America, seeing to it that their fellow veterans are being cared for. Our volunteers go into VA Hospitals and give of their time and their caring, along with donations of tangibles.

Do I have to be an active volunteer?

As you know, you can never have too many volunteers. However, if you're too busy to be an active participant, we still want your membership because, by joining, you give us your moral support.

Does your organization project a contemporary image?

Maybe other organizations don't, but we do. Our membership includes Vietnam veterans as well as currently active in-service members.

In fact, we even offer them free membership.

We also involve ourselves in the lives of the very young, and support Jewish Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts. We raise funds and distribute scholarship monies to worthy high school graduates. Many of our members lecture on Jewish military history to community groups.

How do you fight anti-semitism?

We work closely with the Office of Special Investigations in efforts to prosecute Nazi war criminals living in the USA. We openly confront the activities of the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party, and the East European Emigre groups.

We are founding members of the National Conference of Soviet Jewry and have an on-going program, "Project Yachad," in which we work for the emigration of Refuseniks, many of whom are WWII veterans.

What about Israel?

We are proud to have always been in the forefront of the struggle for the State of Israel. Pressing for the establishment of a State from 1942 on, the Jewish War Veterans marched on Washington in 1946 and, on April 4,

1948, rallied a march down New York's 5th Ave., which included 50,000 war veterans. It was the largest pro-Zionist demonstration in history.

Today, the Jewish War Veterans continues its close ties with the Jewish state. We are working constantly with the Jewish National Fund and have planted forests and financed a recreation center in the name of the Jewish War Veterans. Currently we are donating monies for a new forest for which we have already raised more than \$50,000.

- We built the Israeli Soldier's R&R Home in Beersheba.
- We lobby Congress on Israel's behalf and work to educate other veterans' groups, eliciting their support on issues relating to Israel.

How do you preserve our history as Jews in America?

We have established the JWV, USA National Memorial, Inc., chartered by an Act of Congress in 1958. We are building a Museum, Archives, and Research Library dedicated to portraying our history—from our Found-

ing Fathers up to the present day—when our comrades serve in every branch of the Armed Services and even reach to the limits of outer space.

The Museum, and its Archives, holds more than one million pieces of documentation and memorabilia. We actively solicit membership in the NMI—which is available to all—Jews & non-Jews, military, non-military, vet & non-vet.

For membership information, write
1811 R St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

THIS ALL SOUNDS TERRIBLY FASCINATING. BUT WHAT IF I DON'T FULFILL THE "VETERAN" REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP? IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY I CAN GET INVOLVED?

Absolutely. We offer patron status to all those who subscribe to, pursue, or reflect the purposes, policies, and aims of the JWV. We are always happy to welcome ALL supporters.

JWV 1896 to the Present

In the 1890's, a generation after the close of the Civil War, a war in which there were at least six Jewish Medal of Honor recipients, aspersions were cast on Jewish patriotism in general, and on Jewish service in the military, in particular. Amongst those slurs was a letter published in the *North American Review* of December 1891. The writer, a Civil War Veteran, noted:

"I have served in the field about 18 months... but I cannot remember meeting one Jew in uniform or hearing of any Jewish soldier..."

Patently untrue, and proven to be so by the service of upwards of between 8-10% of the Jewish population and by the very lives of those Jewish Veterans who had survived the bloody battles of that war, 78 Jewish men who had served gathered together, on March 15, 1896, for the first meeting of the Hebrew Union Veterans. At the opening meeting, the 78 men pledged to maintain their true allegiance to the United States of America; to combat the powers of bigotry wherever originating and whatever their target; to uphold the fair name of the Jew and fight his battles wherever unjustly assailed; to assist such comrades and their families as might stand in need of help, encouragement or protection; to gather and preserve the records of patriotic service performed by men of Jewish faith; and to honor the memories and shield from neglect the graves of the Jewish heroic dead.

Eighty-nine years after that first meeting, during the controversy surrounding President Reagan's visit to Bitburg Cemetery in Germany, on May 5, 1985, the Jewish War Veterans headquarters received a call from a teacher who wanted to know why the Jewish War Veterans were so vocal in their protest against the visit. "After all," she said, "Jews never served in America's armed forces."

There are always people who don't want to be confused with facts. Those facts, however, speak for themselves. Jews have been woven into the fabric

that we call America from the earliest history of this country, beginning with Columbus' voyage; from Asser Levy, often referred to as "the first fighting Jew in the New World," to the young Jewish men and women who serve in today's military.

From our inception in 1896, Jewish War Veterans have also been activists in defense of human rights through the decades.

In the early years of this century, when pogroms against the Jews of Russia reached a peak, Jewish veterans of the Civil War and the Spanish-American war stirred up public opinion against Russia's murderous actions. Diplomatic pressure from the U.S. followed, and the pogroms came to an end.

- At the close of W.W.I., the Jewish War Veterans actively campaigned against racial slurs and anti-semitism and concerned itself with the general well-being of veterans the world over.
- In 1933, JWV was the first Jewish organization to adopt a boycott of German goods, and JWV's lead was followed by others.
- In 1944, JWV effectively campaigned for the G.I. Bill.
- In 1951, during the Korean War, the Jewish War Veterans undertook the obligation of being a prime factor in assuring adequate blood supply for servicemen and civilian population, achieving a 100% record of Post cooperation across the nation.
- In August, 1963, JWV was the only national veterans organization to join in the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic March on Washington.
- In the 70's, JWV established a program for volunteers in Vietnam Veteran Outreach Centers.
- In 1985, the JWV spearheaded a drive, in response to President Reagan's visit to Bitburg, to have Allied Veterans Councils hold memorial ceremonies honoring American war dead who gave their lives to fight fascism.

The JWV of the USA continues its proud record as the Patriotic Voice of America Jewry. We bear witness to the ongoing participation of Americans of Jewish faith in the defense of this country's principles and freedom.

This is a permanent record
—Type or print in ink.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Record all data in post records
before mailing.

in JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry

Name _____
Last First Middle

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Res. Phone _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. I certify that I am a citizen of the United States and of Jewish Faith, that my Service was honorable, that I have never subsequently been discharged from Military or Naval service under dishonorable conditions and that I am not a member of any Fascist, Nazi or Communist organization.

Signature of Applicant _____

Post Name _____ Post No. _____

Date _____

(IMPORTANT - Be sure to complete all information on reverse side.)



FOR POST USE

We have examined the within applicant's qualifications
and certify that he is eligible for membership.

SPONSORS 1. _____
2. _____

Rec'd by QM (Date) _____

ANNUAL DUES vary from Post to Post. Please check
amount with your local Post Commander or with National
Headquarters.

Membership-at-large is available for ~~\$25.00~~ **\$35.00** annually.
Send your check and application to Headquarters.

Life membership is \$200.00. For more detailed information,
write to:

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.
1811 R Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

"Every Member Get A Member"



Jewish War Veterans
of The United States of America
1811 R Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Enlist your friends and associates in the oldest active
veterans organization in the United States.

If you do not receive your membership card within one
month please notify:

JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A.
National Headquarters
1811 R Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

FOR POST USE

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____ Social Sec. No. _____
Age _____ Occupation _____ Marital Status _____ Blood Type _____
Name of Nearest Relative _____ Relationship _____
Address _____
Date of Enlistment _____ Date of Discharge _____
Arm of Service (check one) Army _____ Navy _____ Marines _____ Air Force _____ Coast Guard _____
Rank _____ Serial No. _____ VA Claim No. _____
Unit Designation _____
(State Company, Regiment, Division, Ship, Station, etc.)
Decorations or Medals _____
Were you ever a member of JWV? _____ Number of Post _____
Post Name _____



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

October 28, 1992
1 Cheshvan 5753

Rabbi Emanuel Rose
Temple Beth Israel
1931 NW Flanders Street
Portland, OR 97209

Dear Manny:

In 1977, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, with a membership of more than 850 congregations throughout North America, adopted a resolution opposing discrimination against homosexuals, and committed itself to support and defend their civil and human rights. In subsequent resolutions, the UAHC has called upon Congress to enact legislation eliminating discrimination against gays and lesbians in the armed forces, and has called upon all Americans to make hiring decisions without regard to sexual orientation.

The UAHC has also affirmed its belief that private sexual acts between consenting adults are not the proper province of government or its agencies.

We Jews have long suffered from intolerance and ignorant hatred; we know all too well the pain of exclusion and discrimination. For that reason, I am especially grieved by the discrimination to which gay men and lesbians are being subjected in Oregon, and by the attempt -- through Ballot Measure 9 -- to enshrine this discrimination into law. This effort to legislate intolerance makes a mockery of the democratic process.

Ballot Measure 9 has received a great deal of national and international attention. I therefore feel it important to share with you -- and through you, with the citizens of Oregon -- the position of our movement on discrimination against gays, and my strong opposition to Ballot Measure 9.

Rabbi Emanuel Rose
October 28, 1992
Page 2

The residents of Oregon have a reputation in our nation for fairness and decency. I am confident that they will enhance this reputation by rejecting Ballot Measure 9 in the Tuesday election.

Sincerely,



APPOINTMENTS

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Mark Levin, acting executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry since July 1 and a member of the organization's professional staff since 1980, has been appointed NCSJ's executive director.

DETROIT (JTA) -- Attorney David Page was elected president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit at its 66th annual meeting. Outgoing President Mark Schlusel will become chairman of the executive committee.

HONORS

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, past president of the New York Board of Rabbis, principal of the Ramaz School and religious leader of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in New York, was voted the Board of Rabbis' Maria and Joel Finkle Rabbi of the Year. The award recognizes the rabbi who exemplifies the highest ideals of the rabbinate, serves a congregation in exemplary fashion and reaches out to the broad community.

POLL FINDS HALF OF NEW YORKERS SEE JEWS AS WIELDING TOO MUCH INFLUENCE

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Nearly half of New Yorkers believe Jews wield too much influence in city life and politics, according to a recent survey commissioned by the American Jewish Committee.

Forty-seven percent said Jews possess too much influence, a figure more than twice the percentage of the next group, Italians, at 20 percent.

Precisely one-third of the respondents said that Jews have the right amount of influence, and six percent said they have too little.

The perception of undue influence is most prevalent among Hispanics and blacks. Almost two-thirds of Hispanics (66 percent) and nearly as many blacks (63 percent) agreed that Jews have too much influence, according to the poll.

A minority of the Jews surveyed said their own community had either too much influence or too little. A 61 percent majority said it was about right.

The Roper Organization randomly called 1,057 adult New Yorkers between July 27 and Aug. 10, in all of the city's boroughs.

A majority of the 137 Jews who responded reported that anti-Semitism in the city was a problem.

More than half of the Jewish respondents (54 percent) said it is "somewhat of a problem," and 37 percent said it is a "very serious problem."

Just eight percent of Jewish respondents said that anti-Semitism is "not a problem at all."

And 58 percent of Jewish respondents said that anti-Semitism in the city has increased over time, while 36 percent said that it has stayed about the same.

What is true in New York may not be true in other cities, according to David Singer, director of research and publications at the American Jewish Committee.

The high level of suspicion of Jewish influence expressed in the poll, for example, markedly

contrasts with the findings of a 1990 nationwide survey by the National Opinion Research Center. The poll found that 21 percent of Americans nationwide think that Jews are too powerful.

But the possible uniqueness of New York doesn't mitigate the importance of the findings, Singer said.

With 1,049,000 Jews, New York has the largest Jewish population of any city in the world, he pointed out, and 18 percent of the American Jewish population.

"To the degree that there is a center of Jewish life in the U.S., it's the institutional center," said Singer.

He called the perceptions of Jewish influence "troubling."

"Given the right kind of conditions and leadership, these attitudes can be mobilized," he said. "That's why attitudes need to be monitored. It gives you a sense of the potential."

CJF GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING JEWISH IDENTITY

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The 61st annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations will devote special attention and a full day of programming to the issue of strengthening Jewish identity and continuity.

The largest annual gathering of Jewish lay leaders and professionals in the world, to be held Nov. 10-15, is the first ever to be hosted in New York City. At least 3,500 participants from the United States, Canada, Israel and other Jewish communities worldwide are expected to attend.

Thursday, Nov. 12 will be dedicated to the federations' response to the 1990 CJF National Jewish Population Survey, which was released last year, and to how the federation system is preparing for positive and creative actions in the coming years.

"A full day on a single theme is very rare for a General Assembly, where such a wide range of critical concerns must be considered," said CJF President Charles Goodman.

"But Jewish identity and continuity is an issue of such magnitude for the future of the North American Jewish community that it was clearly necessary to allocate an entire day of programming to provide an opportunity for a variety of approaches and for wide-ranging discussions."

The Thursday morning plenary, "Building Renewed Jewish Communities and New Jewish Meaning: An Historic Challenge for the Federation Movement," will feature speeches by Shoshana Cardin, past president of CJF and current chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Professor Arnold Eisen of Stanford University. It will be followed by small groups and study sessions.

These sessions will be the "most innovative part of the day," according to Carl Sheingold, CJF assistant executive vice president and program coordinator. Sessions will be led by "an extraordinary range of teachers, including many from New York's remarkable wealth of rabbis and scholars," he said.

"Participants will engage in direct dialogue on the issues of Jewish continuity and identity combined with learning."

"Thus the day will not only provide opportunities to hear thoughtful and provocative presentations, but also to confront the most interesting and difficult aspects of the challenge in an informal setting of learning and conversation."

Afternoon programming will include major forums on such topics as Jewish identity, the Jewish community, financial resource development, North American society and Israel-Diaspora relations. A series of 18 workshops will follow, addressing issues such as Jewish education, resettlement and acculturation, and building Jewish identity in Sunbelt and growth communities.

The final event of the day will be another convention highlight: a tribute to Israel's retiring President Chaim Herzog at the international plenary in Radio City Music Hall. Herzog's address will be preceded by a video on his career specially prepared for the occasion by CJF.

"We anticipate that President Herzog will galvanize the audience exactly as he did two years ago (at the G.A.) in San Francisco," said CJF Executive Vice President Martin Kraar.

"It will be a stirring end to a stimulating day. By starting with Jewish identity and finishing with Israel, we will be emphasizing how the strength of our local communities is vital for

Israel and how the strength of Israel is vital for our local communities."

The New York location will offer G.A. participants many benefits, including tours of Ellis Island, the Lower East Side, local synagogues, art galleries and community agencies. Freddie Roman will be performing excerpts from his current Broadway show, "Catskills on Broadway," at the international plenary in Radio City.

"The unparalleled resources of New York's Jewish community, including its extraordinary collection of rabbis and scholars, will be fully available to and utilized by this General Assembly," said Goodman.

"At long last, New York is going to have the opportunity to show the entire continent of North America what it has to offer to the Jewish community," declared Peggy Tishman, chair of the UJA-Federation of New York G.A. steering committee.

Other notable events at the G.A. include a lecture entitled "Blacks and Jews: Conflict and Coalescence," to be delivered by Cornell West of Princeton University on Nov. 11. The program also highlights a post-election analysis and forums on topics such as Jews in distress, AIDS and refugee resettlement funding.

50 YEARS AGO IN JTA DISPATCHES: Oct. 22-28, 1942

NAZI GENERAL ORDERS MINSK JEWS TO BUILD GHETTO WALLS WITH THEIR OWN MATERIAL

KUIBYSHEV, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- The ancient barbaric methods of the Pharaoh who forced the Jews in Egypt to build cities without supplying them with straw for bricks was emulated by the Nazis in Minsk who ordered the Jews there to build ghetto walls without supplying them with materials. Russian guerrillas returning from Minsk, where they operated in the rear of the German armies, reported here.

NAZIS COMPELLED TO STOP DEPORTING GREEK JEWS: FORCED LABOR FOR JEWS IN HUNGARY

ZURICH, Oct. 23 (JTA) -- The German military command in occupied Greece is reported today to have been compelled to cancel an order for the deportation to Nazi-held eastern territory of all Jews of Salonika between 17 and 45 years of age. The cancellation of the order was due to the strong opposition displayed by the Greek Orthodox Church. Leaders of the church called upon the Greek population to openly resist any Nazi attempt to deport Jews from Greece.

DUTCH JEWS IN LABOR CAMPS FORCED TO USE CUPPED HANDS AS PLATES

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 23 (JTA) -- Dutch Jews confined in labor camps by the Nazi occupational authorities are forced to use their cupped hands to carry their meals from the camp kitchen, since authorities refuse to provide any eating utensils, according to a report reaching here today from Amsterdam.

ONLY 500 JEWS LEFT IN BESSARABIA: JEWS IN CZERNOVITZ FORBIDDEN TO PRAY

ISTANBUL, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- A reliable survey of the position of the Jews in Rumania reaching here today reveals that only 500 Jews remain in Bessarabia where the Jewish population numbered more than 200,000 last year. In Bukovina, where more than 100,000 Jews lived, there are about 15,000 left, all of them concentrated in the city of Czernovitz.

NAZIS APPEAL TO ARABS FOR AID AS THEIR LINE ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT CRACKS

CAIRO, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- With the Axis line in Egypt cracking, the German radio station in Zessen today broadcast an appeal in Arabic asking the Arabs of Egypt, Syria and Palestine to come to the aid of the Axis powers "who intend to protect them from Jewish domination."

"Germany considers the Arabs to be a superior race," the Nazi broadcast said. "The political struggle of the Arabs for the liberation of Palestine from Jewish hands entitles the Arabs to a special place in Germany's new order."

QUISLING ORDERS CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY OF ALL JEWS IN NORWAY

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- A decree confiscating all Jewish property in Norway was promulgated yesterday by Vidkun Quisling, premier of the pro-Nazi Norwegian government, it was reported here today. The measure is considered to be prelude to the deportation of all 1,600 Jews in Norway to occupied Russian territory. Half of the Jewish population in Norway is already imprisoned or interned.

ABOUT TWO MILLION JEWS ALREADY EXTERMINATED BY NAZIS. BRITISH PAPER REPORTS

LONDON, Oct. 27 (JTA) -- Estimating that "almost two million Jews have already been destroyed in Nazi-occupied Europe, excluding those massacred in the parts of occupied Russia," the Manchester Guardian, one of Britain's leading newspapers, in an editorial today draws the attention of the United Nations to the process of Jewish extermination conducted by the Nazis.

JEWISH GROUPS IN OREGON OPPOSE ANTI-GAY MEASURE

By Paul Haist

The Jewish Review

PORTLAND, Ore. (JTA) -- Nearly two dozen Jewish congregations and community organizations across Oregon have joined together to oppose an amendment to the state constitution that would require all governments to discourage homosexuality.

Representatives of Jewish groups condemned Measure 9, which is on the ballot on Nov 3, asserting it would create "a community climate conducive to attacks on minorities of all types."

The group pointed out that the Holocaust "began with laws exactly like Ballot Measure 9. Those laws first declared groups of people to be sub-human, then legalized and finally mandated discrimination against them."

Measure 9 is "the start of hatred and persecution that must stop now," the group said.

Measure 9 would amend the state constitution to require that all governments discourage homosexuality and other listed behaviors, and not facilitate or recognize them.

The Oregon Citizens Alliance, which sponsored the initiative that led to its placement on the ballot, meanwhile, paid for a trip to the state by Yehuda Levin, an Orthodox rabbi from New York.

Levin said he came to Oregon last month to "clean up the mess" made by the local Jewish community in opposing the amendment.

Levin, who follows the traditional view that homosexuality is an abomination prohibited in the Torah, told reporters: "I came to Oregon to set the record straight, because of the near unanimity of the Jewish community in actively promoting the agenda of the militant homosexual network."

Levin, who has long actively opposed gay rights legislation and supported "family issues," said he was representing the Rabbinical Alliance of America, which is composed of 200 to 400 rabbis.

Board Of Rabbis Strongly Opposed

Levin, an associate rabbi of Temple Beth Isaac in Brooklyn, added that he was authorized by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis to distribute letters from the group's leadership clarifying the traditional Jewish view on homosexuality.

Levin called the joint public denunciation of Measure 9 by the Oregon Jewish groups "shameful," and said that likening the measure to certain laws in Nazi Germany was the act of "ignorant people."

He compared opposition to Measure 9 to arbitrarily changing the commandment prohibiting adultery on the grounds that a large percentage of married people have extramarital experiences today. He said that contemporary circumstances, whatever they may be, cannot justify the changes. Man, he said, cannot change God's word.

Levin said he had spoken with Yonah Geller, a local rabbi, and another local rabbi before coming to Oregon. He characterized his conversation with Geller as unsatisfying.

Geller, who leads the traditional congregation of Shaarie Torah, was quoted as opposing Measure 9 for violating civil liberties.

The Oregon Board of Rabbis has declared strong opposition to Measure 9.

The board's president, Rabbi Joey Wolf, said, "The OCA is trying to muddy the waters by

obscuring the truth that Measure 9 is discriminatory and seeks to marginalize a segment of our population. When people are dehumanized, it is only natural that they will be deprived of their dignity and rights."

Charles Schiffman, executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Portland, pointed out that "a religiously based opposition to homosexuality as a lifestyle does not imply support for or approval of the kind of regulation called for in Measure 9. The Torah says that 'thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.'"

Therefore, he said, "even though the Torah may say that homosexuality is an abomination and not an authentic Jewish lifestyle -- if we believe in the Torah, it does not follow that part of our job on Earth is to hunt down and persecute those who practice this lifestyle."

Wolf said Levin was an outsider unfamiliar with and "unanswerable to the ethos" of this area.

Levin said there was no geographical limitation to his ordination and that he has an obligation as a Jew to act.

"I don't want to go to Hell because I didn't set the record straight," he said.

Levin argued that "a moral wrong cannot be the basis of a civil right."

AJWS RAISING FUNDS FOR SOMALIA, BOSNIA

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The American Jewish World Service, an international development and relief organization, has announced a special appeal to American Jews for funds to assist in relief efforts in Somalia and Bosnia.

"The disasters in Somalia and Bosnia are occurring in perhaps the most complex and chaotic political context in which we have ever worked," said AJWS Executive Director Andrew Griffel. "We need to have the emergency assistance lined up and be ready to act immediately."

The funds collected by AJWS will make possible the provision of emergency medical and health services and their delivery to where they are needed most in Somalia and Bosnia.

Elie Wiesel, nobel laureate and AJWS board member, said, "In recent years I have rarely been as moved to anger as when I watched the tragic events in Bosnia and Somalia. The horrors that are beginning to come to light cannot be ignored by the American Jewish community."

"Emergency supplies of food and medicine are desperately needed and must be delivered as soon as humanly possible. We must raise a concerted voice to stop the killing, the starving and the ethnic cleansing. Otherwise, the most vital lessons of our recent history will have gone unheard," Wiesel said.

The projects with which AJWS works in Somalia differ from those which Israeli philanthropist Abie Nathan is working on and for which the Jewish community has appealed.

AJWS is a member of Interaction, a 140-group coalition of international humanitarian organizations. Griffel said that AJWS had "many months ago already made a commitment to work through Interaction."

Griffel described AJWS as "a bridge between the international development community and the American Jewish community."

For more information or to make a donation, contact American Jewish World Service, 15 West 26th St., New York, N.Y. 10010, or call (212) 683-1161.

SEMINARY FOR DEAF JEWS OPENS ITS DOORS IN SKOKIE

By Lainie Blum-Cogan

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The opening of the Hebrew Seminary of the Deaf earlier this month in Skokie, Ill., represents the beginning of the end of the Jewish community's long silence over its deaf and hearing-impaired members.

The seminary will be the world's first "deaf-friendly" facility for advanced Jewish studies, according to Allen Meyer, co-chairman of the seminary's public relations committee.

"The truth is that organized Judaism has been sadly lacking in the accommodation of the deaf. Yet all major cities have deaf Jews who deserve to lay claim to their heritage and have accessibility to their faith on an equal basis with hearing Jews," said Meyer.

Under director Rabbi Douglas Goldhamer, the seminary offers Jewish deaf men and women advanced studies in Jewish disciplines. Goldhamer is the founder of Skokie's Congregation Bene Shalom, Hebrew Association of the Deaf. It is housed at the synagogue, although there is no direct affiliation.

"Our purpose is to educate the Jewish deaf so that they can go out to the various Jewish deaf communities in the country and world and serve as educators in these communities," Goldhamer explained.

"Also, it gives the opportunity for Jewish deaf to serve as educators in hearing communities."

The seminary also welcomes hearing students who want to teach the Jewish deaf.

Founded 20 years ago, Bene Shalom is one of the country's few integrated congregations of deaf and hearing people.

Seminaries 'Didn't Want To Do It'

According to Goldhamer, the seminary is a "natural" outgrowth of the synagogue. "Right now, Jewish institutions of higher learning do not have facilities and interpreters to train Jewish deaf. Our facilities do," he said.

"We're a deaf synagogue with a ready-made deaf community. We have classes and services for deaf people. We have a setting in which deaf students can intern with a deaf community right here."

Goldhamer originally approached the established institutions of Jewish higher learning to discuss the accommodation of deaf students in their programs.

"Frankly, they didn't want to do it," he said.

"Ideally, it would be wonderful if existing institutions could do it, but they couldn't because of finances. It is too expensive to hire interpreters."

Meyer added, "Building wheelchair ramps is a one-shot deal, but the accommodation of the deaf" is an ongoing commitment.

Goldhamer explained that because the deaf congregation is well established in Skokie, he has been able to find adequate resources for the seminary, as well as volunteers to teach and interpret the classes.

A grant from the Nathan Cummings Foundation and individual donations got the school off the ground.

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia agreed to an arrangement, with the seminary for the deaf offering a two-year aca-

demic program similar to RRC's mechina program, which prepares pre-rabbinical students for the college's entrance exams.

RRC has committed itself to making its rabbinical program deaf-friendly at the point when the new seminary produces students who can pass the rabbinical school's entrance exams, according to Meyer.

RRC Was 'The Most Enthusiastic'

Though the arrangements have not been finalized, Goldhamer said that he has been in contact with RRC administrators about establishing signing for the deaf there.

"Those details need to be worked out," he said. "The commitment we have is that we are going to use the curriculum from their mechina to prepare our students to enter RRC."

In his contacts with Jewish seminaries, Goldhamer found RRC to be the "most enthusiastic. RRC was the most flexible and interested. RRC appeared to be the most liberal, and the most enthusiastic about having deaf students."

"The whole nature of RRC seemed very creative, which would be very important in having deaf students preparing for the rabbinate," he said.

"It's a very exciting program and a real mitzvah," said Arthur Green, RRC president.

"The deaf community is a Jewish population that has too often been neglected. We're glad Rabbi Goldhamer has this commitment, and we hope to have qualified rabbis who can serve that community."

However, ordination is not Goldhamer's main goal for the new seminary.

"Our main goal is to advance the education of the Jewish deaf in the different fields of Jewish study. If the student excels and wants to pursue (rabbinic) ordination, he or she will be encouraged to do so," he explained.

The new seminary's curriculum includes rabbinic literature, Hebrew Bible, liturgy, modern Hebrew, Jewish history and Jewish philosophy and theology. The school does not offer an academic degree program.

The faculty will include eight local rabbis, most of whom are affiliated with the Conservative movement. Goldhamer himself was ordained by Hebrew Union College, the Reform movement's seminary.

All faculty members will volunteer to teach one morning a week. Other than Goldhamer, the rabbis have no special training for teaching the deaf.

'Deaf Community Deserves Rabbis'

Earlier this month, it welcomed its first student, who is a hearing son of deaf parents and a longtime member of Congregation Bene Shalom. Joining the class later in the year will be two students from Israel and one from Paris.

Arrangements were being made for housing in local apartments, dormitory rooms at a local college and the homes of local deaf families.

Students will be charged tuition for the program, and financial aid will be available.

"We certainly don't want to make tuition something that hangs over anybody's head," Meyer commented.

Asked about jobs for its graduates, Meyer explained, "Mainstream deaf Jewish America has a great need for rabbis. The deaf community deserves rabbis. And the hearing community deserves to know about deafness."



איחוד
קהילות
מחברות
באמריקה

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

SERVING REFORM JUDAISM IN NORTH AMERICA

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212) 249-0100 FAX (212) 734-2857

December 28, 1992

Statement on Colorado's Anti-Gay Amendment

By: Melvin Merians, Chairman of the Board
and
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

We are profoundly disappointed at the passage by the State of Colorado of Amendment Two, which bans ordinances protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination and which bars any legal claims of discrimination by homosexuals. In adopting such a measure, Colorado became the first state in the Union to permit what might be called "open season" on gay men and lesbians. Not surprisingly, incidents of gay-bashing have risen sharply since the Amendment was adopted.

Discrimination is wrong, whether it be on the basis of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, physical handicap -- or sexual orientation. To any historically conscious Jew, this Amendment raises dangerous warning signals. The history of our people is rife with the pain of bigotry resulting in discrimination -- and worse.

We believe that all gay people are entitled to protection from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. Colorado's Amendment Two denies these fundamental rights to gays and lesbians and prohibits any attempt to mitigate discrimination in the future.

The UAHC supports state and federal legislation to protect the basic rights of gays and lesbians and we will urge UAHC constituents to join those working to repeal Amendment Two.

Unless Amendment Two is speedily reversed, we intend to call on our constituency to refrain from meeting in the State of Colorado as long as Amendment Two is in effect. Any such meetings would pose the risk of embarrassment and humiliation to those of our members who might be gay or lesbian. It would also signal a disregard for their rights and the rights of all gays and lesbians on the part of the UAHC. We cannot be party to such an eventuality.

Colorado was wrong to enact this discriminatory legislation. It should be repealed.

Chairman
Melvin Merians
President
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Honorary Chairpersons
Matthew H. Ross
Donald S. Day
Charles J. Rothschild, Jr.
Immediate Past Chairman
Allan B. Goldman
Vice Chairpersons
Judge David S. Davidson
Jan Epstein
Harry Helft
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Stanley R. Loeb
Marvin Novick
Evelyn Laser Shlensky
Leonard Teitelbaum
Dr. Paul Vanek
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Assistant Secretary
Mark C. Levy
Counsel
Hon. Solomon H. Friend



איחוד
היהדות
מתקדמת
באמריקה

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Alan Belinkoff
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Lawrence A. Sherman
Assistant Secretary
Mark C. Levy
Counsel
Hon. Solomon H. Friend

May 26, 1991
18 Sivan 5751

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

I am writing on behalf of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to urge you to issue an executive order to rescind Directive 1332.14 to end the Department of Defense's official policy of discrimination against people on the basis of sexual orientation.

It is almost certain that at least 10 percent of those who fought to liberate Kuwait, and who now care for refugees in Iraq, are homosexual. They were there despite the knowledge that if their sexual orientation is discovered, they will be summarily dismissed from the military, no matter how long or how well they served our country. Their patriotism must be strong indeed to endure such injustice.

The same arguments that were used to bar Blacks from equal participation and opportunity in the military before 1948 are used today to justify discrimination against gay and lesbian people who wish to serve their country and have access to the opportunity that come from military service.

Openly gay and lesbian people are not permitted to enlist in the armed forces, and receive discharges if discovered to be gay or lesbian while serving. This policy continues even though many objective studies, including those commissioned by the Pentagon, have shown that gay and lesbian people can and do serve as well as their heterosexual brothers and sisters.

As you know, President Truman issued an historic executive order in 1948 that integrated the armed forces. Subsequently, all fears that integration would disrupt the efficient and harmonious operation of the armed forces of integration proved to be unfounded.

The Hebrew prophets, Mr. President, demand that we pursue justice. Please -- act in their spirit. Bring justice to these, our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters, our friends and ourselves, who have been denied it for so long.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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Dick Cohen

Thus is the approved letter...undoubtedly sent out from RAC
cause this isn't my style draft...an example of how our arms
speak to each other!! Even when they are immediate family
they communicate badly....or feel it's easier to have me
search my files....

E



✓
January 7, 1993
14 Tevet 5753

Norman S. Beier, Esq.
18 Whitewood Road
White Plains, NY 10605

Dear Mr. Beier:

Thank you for sharing with me a copy of your letter to the Jewish War Veterans of the USA on the matter of homosexuals in the military.

I have had extensive correspondence with the JWV concerning their resolution. It is good to know there are others who make their views known to the leadership of the JWV.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander N. Schindler

NORMAN S. BEIER

COUNSELOR AT LAW

18 WHITEWOOD ROAD

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. 10605

914/946-3718

January 5, 1993

Mr. Howard Metzger,
Associate Editor
JEWISH WAR VETERANS of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.
1811 R. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20019-1659

Dear Mr. Metzger:

As a Jew and as a war veteran, but not a member of your organization, I am highly offended and incensed at the resolution entitled "Military Homosexuality" adopted by the 97th National Convention of the Jewish War Veterans.

Your organization's charter states that it is designed to fight bigotry, not encourage it.

I trust that your membership will, in its collective conscience, reexamine the issue.

Sincerely,

Norman S. Beier

NSB:lg

cc: Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President, UAHC



January 13, 1993
20 Tevet 5753

His Excellency the Governor Roy Romer
Executive Mansion
Denver, Colorado

Dear Governor Romer:

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations is the parent body of more than 850 Reform synagogues of the United States and Canada. Our one hundred and twenty year history is a proud one of always standing at the forefront in the fight for human rights and dignity of all humankind. We have fought bigotry and discrimination wherever they arise. In 1977, our highest body, the General Assembly, adopted a resolution opposing discrimination against homosexuals, and committed itself to support and defend their civil and human rights. In subsequent years, the UAHC has called upon Congress to enact legislation eliminating discrimination against gays and lesbians in the armed forces, and has called upon all Americans to make hiring decisions without regard to sexual orientation.

The UAHC has also affirmed its belief that private sexual acts between consenting adults are not the proper province of government or its agencies.

As you can appreciate, we were deeply distressed by the State of Colorado's passage of Amendment Two. The chairman of the Board of the Union, Melvin Merians, and I issued the enclosed statement which I bring to your attention.

We Jews have long suffered from intolerance and ignorant hatred; we know all too well the pain of exclusion and discrimination. For that reason, we are especially grieved by the prejudice to which gay men and lesbians are being subjected in Colorado and the passage of Amendment Two now enshrines this discrimination into law. To thus legislate intolerance is a mockery of the democratic process.

Governor Roy Romer
January 13, 1993
Page -2-

Knowing of your efforts to seek to have this amendment overturned by the courts, I write to share the concern of the Reform Jewish movement. If we can be of assistance in any way to the forces seeking to right a grievous wrong, we stand ready to be of service.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

cc: Rabbi Steven E. Foster
Ted Ruskin

G. Rabbi
Geo. Markley
E4
D8

January 13, 1993
20 Tevet 5753

His Honor the Mayor Wellington Webb
City Hall
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mayor Webb:

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations is the parent body of more than 850 Reform synagogues of the United States and Canada. Our one hundred and twenty year history is a proud one of always standing at the forefront in the fight for human rights and dignity of all humankind. We have fought bigotry and discrimination wherever they arise. In 1977, our highest body, the General Assembly, adopted a resolution opposing discrimination against homosexuals, and committed itself to support and defend their civil and human rights. In subsequent years, the UAHC has called upon Congress to enact legislation eliminating discrimination against gays and lesbians in the armed forces, and has called upon all Americans to make hiring decisions without regard to sexual orientation.

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Mayor Wellington Webb
January 13, 1993
Page -2-

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Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

cc: Rabbi Steven E. Foster
Ted Ruskin
Rabbi Raymond A. Zwerin

January 15, 1993
22 Tevet 5753

The Honorable Patricia Schroeder
United States Congress
Washington, DC

Dear Representative Schroeder:

Let me wish you all the best as the 103rd Congress begins. I am confident you will continue to represent the people of Colorado and all Americans with great dedication and devotion for yours is a proud record of achievement.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the parent body of 850 North American Reform synagogues, has a long and proud history of activity in the struggle for civil and human rights. As part of this tradition, as early as 1977 our National Biennial Assembly passed a resolution calling for equality for all peoples, no matter what their sexual orientation.

Needless to note, we were distressed by Colorado's passage of Amendment Two and the Chairman of the UAHC Board and I issued the enclosed statement which I believe will be of interest to you. I also enclose a copy of a letter I sent to Governor Roy Romer and similarly to Mayor Wellington Webb of Denver.

It is my fond hope we will have the opportunity to see each other once again before too long. With repeated good wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

January 15, 1993
22 Tevet 5753

The Honorable Hank Brown
Senator from Denver
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Brown:

Let me wish you all the best as the 103rd Congress begins. I am confident you will represent the people of Colorado and all Americans with great dedication and devotion.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the parent body of 850 North American Reform synagogues, has a long and proud history of activity in the struggle for civil and human rights. As part of this tradition, as early as 1977 our National Biennial Assembly passed a resolution calling for equality for all peoples, no matter what their sexual orientation.

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It is my fond hope we will have the opportunity to meet before too long. With repeated good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

January 15, 1993
22 Tevet 5753

The Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Senator from Denver
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Campbell:

First of all, let me express my warm and hearty congratulations and good wishes as you undertake your responsibilities in the United States Senate. I am confident you will represent the people of Colorado and all Americans with great dedication and devotion.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the parent body of 850 North American Reform synagogues, has a long and proud history of activity in the struggle for civil and human rights. As part of this tradition, as early as 1977 our National Biennial Assembly passed a resolution calling for equality for all peoples, no matter what their sexual orientation.

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Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.



COPY

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

January 12, 1993
19 Tevet 5753

Mr. Ted Ruskin
4517 West Ponds Circle
Littleton, CO 80123

Dear Mr. Ruskin:

Your letter of January 5th has reached our office during Rabbi Schindler's absence. Inasmuch as he will not return to his desk until the end of the month, I take the liberty of writing to you directly.

Enclosed herewith is a statement on Amendment 2 which was made by Rabbi Schindler and our Chairman of the Board, Melvin Merians. This was picked up by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency news bulletin dated January 11 and I am certain it will also receive coverage in newspapers across the country.

Your letter will, of course, be shared with Rabbi Schindler on his return. Perhaps he will then take the opportunity to write to Governor Romer and Mayor Webb, sharing with them the statement that he and Mr. Merians have made.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

4517 West Ponds Circle
Littleton, CO 80123
January 5, 1993

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021-7064

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Please excuse my delay in sending this letter to you. Once again, it was a pleasure seeing and listening to you in Cincinnati.

As we discussed, the passage of Amendment 2 on the Colorado ballot was a terrible defeat to the Colorado gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities. Bigotry has now become officially sanctioned as part of the Colorado constitution. The home rule laws passed by the citizens of Denver, Boulder, and Aspen are now nullified.

Our governor, the Honorable Roy Romer, and Denver's mayor, the Honorable Wellington Webb, have been trying to get this amendment overturned by the courts. Proving it unconstitutional will be a difficult task at best. Colorado's Attorney General is opposing the reversal stating that the citizens of Colorado have spoken.

If only for moral support, a personal letter to both Governor Romer and Mayor Webb supporting their efforts in repealing this injustice would be truly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Ted Ruskin
Vice President
UAHC Midwest Council

Hanna

January 15, 1993
22 Tevet 5753

Hanna M. Weininger
6711 E. Camelback Road #4
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Dear Ms. Weininger:

Thank you for taking the time to share with me your concerns regarding the statement Mr. Merians and I made concerning Amendment 2. For your information, I enclose herewith the text of our statement and you will note the headline of the item you shared was incorrect. We have not called for a boycott at this time.

Be that as it may, I do not profess to speak for all Jews and I never have. The statement which Mr. Merians and I made has the backing of many UAHC Resolutions on the subject of rights for gays and lesbians. The first such Resolution was passed by the 1977 Biennial Assembly of the UAHC and there have been subsequent resolutions on this subject. The UAHC stands firmly for the human and civil rights of all peoples.

With every good wish, I am
Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

RELIGION

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

RELIGION BRIEFS

Jewish leaders call for boycott of Colorado

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations is asking its members to boycott Colorado until the state reverses a law barring civil-rights protection for gays and lesbians.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler and Melvin Merians, leaders of Reform Judaism's congregational arm, said they are "profoundly disappointed" at the state's new Amendment 2.

"To any historically conscious Jews, this amendment raises dangerous warning signals," they said. "The history of our people is rife with the pain of bigotry, resulting in discrimination — and worse."

H. M. Weininger #44
6711 E. Camelback Rd.
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

January 9, 1993

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Att: Rabbi Schindler and Mr. Merians:

The enclosed article was in our morning paper.
I called a friend who works with many Temple
affairs. She gave me your address.

I resent your high-handedness in assuming you
talk for all Jews. My son has just started a business
in Telluride, Colorado--and does not need your type
of preaching to keep tourists away.

m You are safe in your Rabbi jobs--so do not
speak for me or everyone.

It is this very manner of Jewish religious leaders
that has kept us from joining a Temple when we moved
here.

Friends (who are Temple members) agree with me--

This Colorado vote will be over-turned without
your misguided help!!

Hanna M. Weininger



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

January 26, 1993
4 Shevat 5753

Mr. Elton V. Ball
17808 Teri Drive
Rockville, MD 20855

Dear Mr. Ball:

It is obvious that we are of differing opinions on a number of issues including service in the Armed Forces of the United States for homosexuals as well as the right of choice. I respect your differing view from mine, even as I trust you will respect my right to hold views which do not match your own.

Let me correct your impression that I do not know about life in the military. Before I became a rabbi, I served in the Armed Forces during World War II, was in combat, wounded twice, and received a bronze star for bravery in action.

My schedule is far too busy to enter into a lengthy dialogue with you. I write now merely to thank you for sharing your position with me.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

17808 Teri Drive
Rockville, MD 20855
January 20, 1993

Dear Rabbi Schindler

According to an item appearing in the Washington Times on Saturday, January 16, 1993, you and three other religious leaders want President Clinton to follow through on his campaign promise to end the ban on homosexuals in the U. S. Armed Forces.

You probably have not served in the armed services and therefore do not have firsthand knowledge of life in the military. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my thinking and experience concerning homosexuals serving in the U. S. Armed Forces.

I recently wrote President Clinton a letter expressing the deep concern my family and I have regarding his promise to allow homosexuals to serve in the U. S. Armed Forces. I have also written letters to over sixty persons in power in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill.

In my letter to President Clinton, I let him know that I pray for him and his family regularly. I also informed him that my prayer and wish is that he will go down in history as the best president this country ever had.

I had the honor of serving our country, in the U. S. Navy, for almost twenty-nine years beginning in World War II and am now retired. I have personally experienced how the presence of a known homosexual in a military unit demoralized and completely destroyed the camaraderie and cohesion of the unit. It is very offensive to live with and having to shower in a small open area with a homosexual showering at the same time. (I can imagine a closeted lesbian taking a shower with a heterosexual man would be equally offended.)

The men I served with believed, as I did, that homosexuality is a perverted lifestyle and felt they should not have to live in close quarters with another man who might be lusting after their body. I have heard men speak of doing physical harm to the homosexual if he even laid a hand on them.

I have no hatred toward the homosexual as a person. I have pity for them and my heart goes out to them because of the lifestyle they have chosen. The Bible teaches us to love the sinner but hate his sin. The Bible also tells us that the homosexual lifestyle is an abomination to God. (Leviticus 18:22 - "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.") There are several other Bible verses that make it very plain that homosexuality is considered an abomination and therefore is forbidden by God. God does not change. Homosexuality is the most abnormal lifestyle anyone can participate in. God created Adam and Eve - not Adam and Steve. Those involved in the homosexual lifestyle make a mockery of God.

Since President Clinton does not have military experience, I urged him to consult with a good sampling of both officer and enlisted personnel before making good his promise to the homosexuals. Officers usually have more privacy in their living quarters than do the enlisted personnel. Both often have to live in very confined spaces.

One reason the homosexuals give for their being allowed to serve is that the armed services resisted racial desegregation and were forced to desegregate. Racial segregation is wrong and President Truman did the right thing in desegregating the U. S. Armed Forces. This is a civil rights matter. I do not recall this being a problem.

There should not be any such thing as "homosexual rights" - theirs is not a civil rights issue. Homosexuality is a spiritual, moral and social issue. Homosexuals deserve every right and protection under the law that you and I have and no more. No person has a right to serve in the U. S. Armed Forces. If the needs of the service permit and a person measures up to the citizenship, physical, mental and moral standards of the armed service, then and only then should they have the privilege of serving. If a person is too fat, can't see well enough, is too short, is too tall, is a diabetic or can't pass the armed forces entrance tests, they are denied entry. Is this discrimination? The armed forces must be free to set their own standards as long as they do not discriminate against anyone because of sex, religion, color or national origin. Women should not be given combat assignments. There are so many other jobs they can do and do well. It is my belief that God did not give women the role of warrior.

President Clinton believes that the homosexuals in the armed forces should be judged solely on their behavior and performance. Some homosexuals are able to hide their lifestyle and remain in the military for a long period of time. I believe this to be the exception. It has been my observation that most homosexuals are exposed during their first enlistment. Many times it happens after a few drinks ashore and then trying to "hit on" one of their shipmates. I have no doubt about their performance but the presence of a known homosexual in a military living quarters or work place creates an unfavorable living and working atmosphere that is damaging to the morale and cohesion of the unit.

I recently read that twenty-four states, including Arkansas, and the District of Columbia have anti-sodomy laws on their books. The Uniform Code Of Military Justice also makes sodomy a crime for those serving in our armed forces. The U. S. Supreme Court recently upheld Georgia's anti-sodomy law. These laws were passed in order to strengthen the moral fabric of the state and to uphold public morality.

A recent article in The Washington Post, "Clinton's Voice For Gay Rights", by Lois Romano stated, "Mixner raised an extraordinary \$3.4 million for the Clinton campaign from the gay community." No doubt most of the voting homosexuals voted for President Clinton. Opening the gates of the U. S. Armed Forces to homosexuals is an exorbitant price President Clinton is asking this country and more specifically the men and women serving in the U. S. Armed Forces to pay for the homosexual support he received during the election.

I feel without any doubt that God will not bless a person or country that aids and abets the homosexual lifestyle by giving homosexuals special rights and preferred ~~STATUS~~ under law just because they have chosen to live an abnormal lifestyle that includes engaging in aberrant sexual practices. (Proverbs 17:15 - "He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord.")

Several other military personnel that I have talked to, both active and retired, agree that to lower the standards of the U. S. Armed Forces to accept homosexuals would not be in the best interests of our beloved country. As Commander-in-Chief, President Clinton will be dealing with the morale and lives of dedicated young Americans he may have to order into battle to fight and die for our country. Those presently serving, at the time they took their oath of service, had every right to believe that while losing most of their rights to privacy, would not have to live and work with persons whose lifestyle is an abomination to the God who created them. I hope and pray President Clinton doesn't sell our country and our troops short.

My family and I are also deeply concerned about Present Clinton's stand on abortion. We believe that to still a beating heart is murder. It is our prayer that the Lord will cause him to have a change of heart.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. May God bless you.

Sincerely

Elton V. Ball
ELTON V. BALL

DANIEL JAKUB STAUB SLADEK

done 1/27
cc MT
27

January 20, 1993

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I was quite pleased to read in the Intermountain Jewish News of the UAHC's decision to join the Colorado boycott until Amendment 2 is revoked.

As a politically active, young gay reform Jew born and raised in Denver who is a former TYG officer, youth group adviser and religious school teacher, I am thankful for your leadership on this matter. I am quite angry with the lack of response from the Jewish community at large and am thrilled to see strong direction from the UAHC.

I want to encourage you to force dialogue on this issue among the leadership of the Colorado Jewish community. I feel there is a need for the development of a direct educational campaign aimed at both adults and students focusing on the issues of homosexuality and gay rights from a Jewish perspective. This subject matter is not discussed openly & is not taught to Jewish high school students even though it effects the lives of every Jewish young adult I know.

In actuality, unless you are living in a farm or lost in a world of your own, it is impossible to be a young today and not know directly, or know of, someone who is gay. In addition, more and more people in the public eye are 'coming out' and therefore a clear understanding of this lifestyle is necessary in order to combat naive homophobia, a disease that leads to hate, blind judgement and, as we are now experiencing in Colorado, the violation of basic civil and human rights.

Again, thank you for your efforts and may the year ahead be filled with tremendous growth and fulfillment for both you and the UAHC.

Sincerely,

D. J. Sladek

Daniel J. Sladek
DJS/ms



BCC: ALL TO:
RABBI SHARON KLEINBAUM
RICHARD COHEN ASSOC.

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

February 5, 1993
14 Shevat 5753

Warren S. Dolny
National Commander
Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Inc.
1811 R. Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20009

Dear Mr. Dolny:

Your letter troubles me for several reasons, not the least of which is that you personalize public debate. I am under constant private and public attack for what I believe and the views which I express, and if I were to personalize these issues as you seem to have done, I would have been six feet under long ago. So relax, my friend.

You ought to know that I did refer to the Jewish War Veterans by name in my conversation with Mr. Niebuhr, but I did not really use the word, "ashamed." The precise adjective which I employed was, "embarrassed."

And I am "embarrassed" by the stance of the Jewish War Veterans. I cannot, for the world of me, understand why Jews, who have been subject to persecution over the centuries, should countenance any form of discrimination - especially in this post-Auschwitz age.

Let me assure you also that I have not, as you say, "contacted" others in support of upholding the ban, that is to say, I made no private contacts urging people to write you (your misconception explains why you took the trouble of sending me copies of your replies - and I agree with you that the tone of some of them was uncalled for).

This is not to say that I have not and will not continue to take a public stance in support of President

Clinton's position which, so it appears now, also has the support of an Appellate Court decision. In this stance, I have the full and near unanimous support of our constituency. We, too, are a national organization. Our last convention was attended by nearly 5000 delegates most of whom have affirmed that the words "discrimination" and "Jewish" are an oxymoron.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler





JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.

Chartered by an Act of Congress

*Office of the
National Commander
Warren S. Dolny*

February 2, 1993

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021-7064

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I read with interest your comments in the January 30 issue of The Washington Post, in which you stated that you were "ashamed" of a "Jewish veterans group" that was opposed to lifting the ban of homosexuals serving in the military. I can only conclude that since the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. is the only known Jewish veterans group, you must mean us.

I am also curious as to why you chose not to refer to our organization by name. Is it because you did not want to concede that JWV is taking a stand with which you do not agree, and by omitting our name, decreasing the likelihood that JWV might gain some support for taking this stand?

We have received many letters from individuals who you contacted regarding our support of upholding the ban on homosexuals serving in the military. Of course, none were complimentary. Unfortunately, some were unnecessarily venomous. It is a shame that some people could not disagree without reverting to ugly name-calling. However, we have received countless letters of support from our members, military officials, other veterans' organizations, and most importantly, fellow Jews, who do not think that you speak for, or control the thinking of the Jewish community.

By way of an update, JWV was invited to Capitol Hill, along with representatives of twenty (20) veterans' organizations, to voice its opposition to lifting the ban. Speaking in a loud, clear voice, these fellow veterans told a group of distinguished U.S. Senators of their opposition to President Clinton's proposal to unilaterally end the ban on homosexuals serving in the military. JWV, I might add, was the only non-secular veterans' organization invited, a testament to the respect afforded us by our veteran comrades and lawmakers in the Congress.



JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.

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*Office of the
National Commander
Warren S. Dolny*

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
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February 2, 1993

JWV will continue to reflect our membership (Reformed, Orthodox, Conservative and unaffiliated - male and female) and oppose any action by President Clinton to rescind the ban, so long as there are no hearings on the subject and studies made by those experts which can gauge the effect of homosexuals on military discipline, readiness, morale, recruitment and retention.

We have nothing to be ashamed of in rejecting your call for monolithic thinking in the Jewish community, while at the same time, hand in hand with you, praying to a monolithic G-d.

Sincerely,

Warren S. Dolny
National Commander