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National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods/
Women of Reform Judaism, 1975-1980.

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MEMORANDUM

Date December 12, 1980

From Eleanor R. Schwartz

To Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Copy for information of

Subject Celebration 33 - Your memo of December 11th.

Of course the Sisterhoods will be the vehicle for supporting this project, but their audience certainly will be the congregational members. If they don't solicit the congregational members, Hadassah, ORT and everybody else will!

We are doing a letter to Rabbis, asking them to be supportive of the Sisterhood effort because most of the Rabbis are solicited directly by Fred for the Israel Scholarship program (first year in Jerusalem - not the Israeli students) and in fact Fred solicits directly or indirectly through the Rabbis many Sisterhoods whose money go directly to the College, not through NFTS and it means, therefore, that the Union is denied some funding. For your information, attached is a copy of the letter that has just gone to our Sisterhoods.

I know your good wishes will be with us for what could turn out to be a great help to our own special interest projects, to say nothing of what it will do for the College.

ERS:mh
Encl.

Fred has agreed!



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT LILLIAN MALTZER (Mrs. Joseph)

December 15, 1980

To: Local Sisterhood Presidents, NFTS Board of Directors

Dear Friends:

A remarkable opportunity has come to NFTS and to Sisterhood. To observe Israel's 33rd anniversary, and as an expression of their devotion to Israel, the producers of Chaim Potok's "The Chosen" are making the proceeds from this film available to support some selected organizations that have special projects in Israel. Our Seminary, the Hebrew Union College and its program in Jerusalem is one of the beneficiaries. As the women's agency of Reform Judaism, which works to support both our parent body, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the HUC-JIR, NFTS has been asked to be the vehicle of cooperation and fund-raising for Celebration 33. Celebration 33, the biggest theatre party benefit probably ever to be held, is described in the enclosed brochure.

The Opportunity

Through Celebration 33, Sisterhoods can raise funds to endow the NFTS Israeli rabbinic student program (at present inadequately funded through the YES Fund), greatly strengthen the HUC-JIR scholarship fund for Israel (where all students must spend their first academic year) and as our success may increase, provide additional assistance for Kibbutz Yahel, and the youth programs in Israel of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the UAHC.

A second and equally important goal is to join with other sponsoring beneficiary agencies in community-wide efforts to celebrate Israel's 33rd Anniversary. The times call for the presence of a strong, united Jewish community in support of Israel. NFTS is honored to be included. Please see the enclosed letter from Consul A. Arazi. Our participation will be identified as the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods for the Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem.

The Process

On Monday, May 11, 1981, the benefit premiere of "The Chosen" will be held in as many as 1,000 theatres. Each sponsoring agency is being asked now whether they believe their constituency can fill a prestige movie theatre in their community, or whether they would prefer to work cooperatively with the local chapters, if any, of the sponsoring agencies which are noted at the bottom of this letter.

It is possible that in certain communities where there are several NFTS constituents they may prefer to work as a group; it is also possible that your community may not be large enough to undertake this effort, even jointly, but you might consider cooperating with another community not too far distant; if yours is a large Jewish community, several theatres may be used.

NFTS is the women's agency of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, is affiliated with the World Union for Progressive Judaism and works on behalf of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

16 Countries • 630 Sisterhoods • 14 District Federations • 100,000 + Members

-over

Financial and Administrative Matters

All efforts and costs to secure and rent the theatre, print tickets, suggest the nature of additional activities and management functions will be provided by the producer. Tickets must be sold at no less than \$100. The sum for each ticket sold by an organization must be remitted to its national organization. 20% is returned to the producer to cover costs, 80% is available for the beneficiary agency. Thus, from every ticket sold \$80 will be available for the Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem, including the endowment for the NFTS Israeli rabbinic student program.

A local organization may charge in excess of \$100 to cover the costs of local publicity (the major national publicity campaign as well as local aids will be available through Celebration 33), costs of a gala event such as a champagne reception or buffet supper and, if feasible within your local community, for an Israel program or project which your Sisterhood sponsors locally (additional funds for Kibbutz Yahel, participation of your young people in UAHC Israel youth programs, etc.). Sisterhoods which participate in Celebration 33 will receive special recognition at the NFTS Biennial Assembly in December 1981.

If You Are Interested

If your Sisterhood wants to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, please complete and return the enclosed form immediately. In turn, you will be advised as to what arrangements can be made for your community and the project can be launched. The national sponsoring beneficiary agencies are cooperating in order to make Celebration 33 a community-wide event to assure its success and to strengthen their respective Israel programs, while minimizing local organizational competition.

As you will see from the sponsoring agencies, your members may belong to several; if your community effort is joint, it may be that a family might decide to buy one ticket from each of their priority organizations. But each organization is credited only for the number of tickets which it sells. No organization is financially responsible for unsold tickets, although it is hoped that every ticket will be sold.

The Sisterhood audience is a large one: your own membership and their families, the congregation, friends and business associates. You may wish to honor an outstanding leader of your Sisterhood, congregation or community. That is up to you.

Our goal

10,000 tickets sold by Sisterhood throughout the United States and Canada. With your help it can be done. With your help future rabbis, educators, communal workers and our young people will be enriched by the immeasurable educational experience in and of Israel. Sisterhood will be strengthened as well.

Time is short, the effort will be a great challenge but the results can be remarkable. Your immediate response will be most deeply appreciated.

With all good wishes,

Lillian Malzer

President

LM:h

Enclosures

Sponsors: American Friends of Haifa University, American Friends of Hebrew University, American Committee for Shaare Zedek, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods on behalf of Hebrew Union College/Jerusalem, Pioneer Women, Women's American Ort, Women's League for Israel, ZOA, Youth Towns of Israel, Inc.



הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו יורק

CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

800 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK N Y 10017

OXFORD 7-5500

21 November, 1980

Mrs. Lillian Maltzer,
President
National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
838 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Mrs. Maltzer,

It is my pleasure to welcome your participation and that of your organization, on behalf of the Hebrew Union College, in the exciting and worthwhile event, the world premier of "The Chosen", on May 11, 1981, in celebration of our nation's thirty third anniversary.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has maintained a high level of esteem among our people for the fine work it is doing. It is fitting that your membership join in this effort which will benefit our educational facilities.

I have been officially informed by the Deputy Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs that our Embassies and Consulates stand ready to assist you in every way possible.

We are delighted to have your cooperation, and look forward to a very successful celebration.

Sincerely yours

A Arazi
A. Arazi
Consul

YOUR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE
WILL BE APPRECIATED

Please complete and
return to:

National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10021
Att: Rose Pearlmutter, Chairwoman
NFTS Committee Celebration 33

1. _____ We are interested in participating in Celebration 33.
2. _____ We can fill a theatre through Sisterhood.
3. _____ We want to work cooperatively with other sponsoring organizations.
(Please list those which have local groups in your community).

4. We suggest the following theatre(s):

Name

Seating capacity

5. Name and address of Sisterhood

6. Your name _____

Address _____

Tel. #: Area code _____

Title _____

Date _____

7. Comments _____

NFTS
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

December 11, 1980

Eleanor R. Schwartz

RE: CELEBRATION 33

Thanks for keeping me posted on this. I see no reason why NFTS should not support this project. I only hope that Fred agrees. However, the congregational mechanism cannot be used, only the NFTS and local Sisterhoods.

For please

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

December 5, 1980

Mr. Theodore K. Broido

Please let me have your reaction to the enclosed memorandum from Eleanor Schwartz. I'd like to give her an answer one way or another before Monday or Tuesday, so scan it quickly and let me have your judgment at once.

Thank you.

MEMORANDUM

3

Date December 4, 1980

From Eleanor R. Schwartz

To Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Copy for information of _____

Subject For your Information - Celebration 33

Although I am sure you've heard of Celebration 33, just in case you haven't, here is a brief description: One of Meshulim Riklis' Company produces movies. They have produced Potok's "The Chosen". He can't afford to make money from it, at least not too much, and in order to guarantee big support, at least among the Jewish community, he has offered the profits to a selected number of Jewish organizations having a physical facility in Israel which is either educational or medical or a social service.

Among these organizations are Shaarai Zedek Hospital, friends of the Hebrew, Tel Aviv and Haifa universities, possibly Technion, the ~~ZOA~~ Hadassah, Pioneer Women, National Council of Jewish Women (although initially there was some question about them), ORT and HUC-JIR. The last, having no constituency, couldn't accept the offer without coming to NFTS to be the implementing agency. When the invitation came, I checked with Ted to see if there was any way that the Union or the World Union could get in (obviously, NFTS would not raise money for someone else if there wasn't also a chance of getting the UAHC in); he said no, but after verifying it with Av Soltes, we realized that the UAHC, World Union and ARZA did not meet Celebration 33's criteria.

But you know that I only take no for an answer after three times and I have checked with Celebration 33 about some projects of our concern in Israel and the word has come back that if it is agreeable to HUC, they would have no complaints if a small portion was not immediately and directly tied in to HUC Jerusalem, as long as it was education.

I tested out the formula described in the enclosed copy of my letter to Fred and the word came back that he had no objection. When he sees it in black and white I hope he still has no objection!

The bottom line is that NFTS must secure the Israel Rabbinic Student program which we do on behalf of the World Union, not for the Hebrew Union College directly. But to be absolutely fair, the cost of the program now is so great that the College must put in as much, if not more, money than NFTS does, which they do from their general scholarship fund. If the project succeeds even at minimal, it will free some NFTS money from our YES Fund which means that the Union probably can get more from NFTS. If we really succeed, then it means that we will be able, however modestly, to be helpful both to the UAHC and to the World Union.

(more)



There will be tremendous local competition since between Hadassah, Council and ORT, our membership is duplicated, but we are counting on the loyalty, as well as the constituency of our Congregations to help sell tickets.

I will share with you the communications we have with our local Sisterhoods so you will be kept informed.

ERS:mh

Encl.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS



838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
TEL. (212) 249-0100, CABLE ADDRESS:
SISTERHOOD NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Eleanor R. Schwartz

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Bunny Kravitz
Baltimore, Md.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lillian Winton
Toronto, Ont. Can.

EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR EMERITUS
Jane Evans

December 3, 1980

Dr. Alfred Gottschalk
President
HUC-JIR
3101 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Fred:

I was pleased to learn from Harold Epstein of your receptivity to guidelines dealing with allocations of funds that could be raised in connection with Celebration 33. After further meetings and discussions, it seems that there is a remarkable potential, although it will take a considerable amount of effort on our part. You know that NFTS would approach any obligation wholeheartedly, but the process for Celebration 33 is quite demanding both of time, personnel as well as real cost. However, the only way to take advantage of the Celebration 33 opportunity is an "all out" campaign, especially since there will be considerable local organizational competition as well as competition with our existing fund raising efforts on behalf of the College. We know that you will cooperate fully and we will do our very best.

We do believe that the concept of an Israel Rabbinic Scholarship and Education Fund will be most appealing and this becomes the premise for our campaign. We, therefore, suggest the following:

Income up to \$250,000 to be earmarked as the NFTS Israeli Rabbinic Student Scholarship Endowment Fund, the annual interest of which will be disbursed by NFTS to HUC-JIR for this purpose. Thereafter, all income will be allocated on the following basis: 75% to HUC-JIR, Jerusalem for its scholarship program (I understand from Harold that is your primary need) and the remaining 25% will be the NFTS Israel Youth Education Endowment Fund, the annual interest of which will be for programs to serve the Leo Baeck High School, Kibbutz Yahel, the youth programs of the Israeli Progressive movement, World Union for Progressive Judaism and/or the UAHC's Youth Department in Israel.

(more)

The first priority is to make financially secure the Israeli Rabbinic Student program. At the present rate of interest, approximately \$25,000 a year would be available which would allow NFTS to expand its support and allow HUC-JIR to reduce its subsidy. Approximately 3200 tickets must be sold to accomplish this. If we fall short, there is every reason to believe that there will still be benefit both to HUC-JIR and NFTS, but we prefer to be optimistic and believe that we will exceed that minimum goal which could then provide far more generous opportunities.

As you know, each ticket must be sold for a minimum of \$100, of which \$20 must be returned to Celebration 33 to cover expenses and \$80, minus in-house expenses, for the Israel programs. Since Celebration 33 is providing P R materials, our in-house costs will be reduced. With the cooperation of members of the Board of Governors and the Boards of Overseers, as well as Rabbis and Congregational leaders, we are confident that Sisterhoods will be able to work within the competitive pressures in local communities.

It would be most helpful if a letter in your name could go to the members of your respective Boards, urging them to cooperate when approached by Sisterhood leaders. We would also appreciate these lists so that we could inform Sisterhood communities that will participate in Celebration 33, of special interested friends in the community.

There is, of course, another side benefit to our participation in Celebration 33. Because of the publicity and our goals, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion will have a lot of grass roots publicity which surely a school of such eminence deserves.

We have started the process and will keep you informed. Would you prefer us to channel the communications through Harold or would you also like to be on the direct mailing list?

Sincerely,



Executive Director

ERS:mh

cc: Lillian Maltzer,
NFTS President

Harold Epstein

MEMORANDUM

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To Mr. Theodore K. Broido

Date December 5, 1980

Copies

Subject

Please let me have your reaction to the enclosed memorandum from Eleanor Schwartz. I'd like to give her an answer one way or another before Monday or Tuesday, so scan it quickly and let me have your judgment at once.

Thank you.

December 10, 1980

I do not understand what it is that you have to react to. If the HUC and Fred agree, it is a perfectly valid project for NFTS to support. How successful they will be, I do not know, since Hadassah, NCJW, Friends of the Hebrew University and others are all involved.

Obviously we cannot urge our congregations to support the project, but it seems to me the burden of support must come through NFTS and the local Sisterhoods. I see no reason to object. It merely involves the selling of tickets and if we get a little more for the Yes Fund, that would be great.

My hunch is that Fred will not agree.



Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

MEMORANDUM

Date December 4, 1980

From Eleanor R. Schwartz

To Rabbi Alexander Schindler

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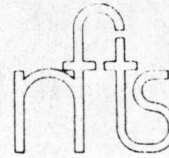
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Eleanor R. Schwartz

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600 SISTERHOODS
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100,000 MEMBERS

December 3, 1980

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(more)

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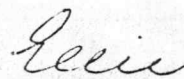
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Sincerely,



Executive Director

ERS:mh

cc: Lillian Maltzer,
NFTS President

Harold Epstein

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS



838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
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SISTERHOOD NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Eleanor R. Schwartz

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100,000 + MEMBERS

NFTS

November 20, 1980

No Answer

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Lillian Maltzer
Huntington Woods, Mich.

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Great Neck, N.Y.

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Toronto, Ont. Can.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR EMERITUS
Jane Evans

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

Although we thanked you in person, we want to take this additional opportunity to more formally thank you for sharing your time with the NFTS Board of Directors. As always, our leaders learn and are inspired when they meet with you and this time was no exception. In fact, your calm and hopeful explanations regarding the political future were especially helpful immediately following the election.

We are grateful for your time and attention.

Warmly,

Executive Director
ERS/LM:h

President

NFTS

November 3, 1980

Mrs. David M. Levitt
15 East 64 Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Norma:

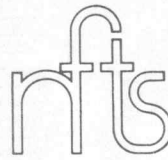
I had just learned of the Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. This beautiful act on your part is a very special and very meaningful undertaking. NFTS will, I am certain, benefit from your generosity in setting up this special Publication Fund. It bespeaks your devotion and dedication to our sacred cause.

With fondest regards to you and David, in which Rhea joins me,
I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS



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Lillian Winton

Toronto, Ont. Can.

EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Jane Evans

October 31, 1980

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

President

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

838 Fifth Avenue

New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

I know that you will rejoice for NFTS at the wonderful gift which Norma Levitt has made possible. Enclosed is a copy of the provisions of an Endowment Fund which she has set up. I am sending this letter to you and the enclosure not only for your information but for the appropriate records of the UAHC in the very unlikely event that sometime in the very long future paragraph 1 on page 2 becomes operative! Be informed, but don't plan to spend it!!

Sincerely,

Executive Director

ERS:mh

Encl.

cc: Lillian Maltzer

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS



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October 31, 1980

Mrs. David Levitt
15 East 64th Street
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Norma:

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods proudly receives the official and final statement of purposes and conditions of the Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. Lillian has already expressed to you, as have I, our deep appreciation for this newest expression of your ever constant and caring concern for NFTS. This generous act is another expression of the spirit turned into action which so characterizes everything you do.

Although we receive and acknowledge the Publication Fund in and for the present, we must also speak for the future which will likewise be enriched by your thoughtfulness. The future salutes you.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

ERS:mh

cc: Lillian Maltzer

The Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund
of the
National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods

Prelude

In tribute to the Honorary President of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, Norma U. Levitt, there is established in her name this special fund. It characterizes a uniquely gifted leader of Jewish and communal causes, a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, who has long had the brilliance of mind and creativity of spirit to be a writer and a poet. Her work, marked with originality, is often entwined with religious themes.

Purposes

The Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund shall be devoted to the following purposes for the benefit of Sisterhood:

- 1) Encouragement of writers, both amateur and professional, on subjects of importance to Sisterhood.
- 2) Development and publication of their and other appropriate studies and work whose subject matter falls within the parameters of NFTS programs for Jewish and humanitarian causes.

Conditions

The Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund shall be an endowment in accordance with the trust provisions of the State of New York and any applicable governmental or IRS regulations. Only the interest therefrom shall be available for expenditure.

Within sixty days from the acceptance of this endowment and its conditions, the Fund shall be established by an initial contribution of ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars which shall be transmitted to the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods Foundation, a corporation organized under the provisions of Section 102 of the Not For Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York. Thereafter, within a period of the years 1981 to 1983 inclusive, additional sums shall be contributed by the donor to bring The Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund to no less than twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars.

If material created or published through the Fund is sold or royalties obtained from publication, the net proceeds from such distribution shall be divided into two equal halves: one half - 50% - shall accrue to the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods; the other half - 50% - shall be added to The Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund endowment.

When any project is initiated or undertaken in whole or in part through The Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund acknowledgment shall be made of the role of the Fund.

Should the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods cease to exist or should its Board of Directors determine at some future date, that it no longer needs nor desires this Fund, the principal shall be transferred and paid over to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to be continued in the name of The Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund as one of its endowments to be used in support of its programs.

However, so long as The Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund is a fund of NFTS, all decisions related to it shall be made by a Committee which shall include the President, First Vice President, a past President who is not the donor, the Executive Director and additionally the Executive Director Emeritus for her lifetime who holds such office as of this date. For her information only, Norma U. Levitt shall annually receive in writing full information about the Fund.

Conclusion

Long ago a writer stated: "Hasten slowly, without losing heart." And the essayist Emerson said: "All writing comes from the grace of God." May The Norma U. Levitt Publication Fund, over the years, prove its value to students, authors and others who through pen and publication serve Judaism and the Jewish people through Sisterhood.

October 21, 1980
Cheshvan 11, 5741

MEMORANDUM

NFTS

Date 2/13/80From Eleanor R. SchwartzTo Rabbi Alexander SchindlerCopy for information of Ted BroidoSubject JCS Board of Directors' Resolution on a Women's Auxiliary

Attached is a resolution on this subject and a copy of my memo to Av Bondarin. It came to my attention this week from an NFTS leader. As you will note, it is undated but when I spoke to Av he indicated that it was prepared by a legal committee of JCS for presentation and discussion at their Board meeting last November. Av tells me no action was taken. From NFTS' point of view and I believe, that of the UAHC, that is a good thing!

Av made very light of it saying that the real intent was fund raising and to provide tax deductions. This is curious motivation since I would presume JCS is tax exempt. However, as you know there are guidelines which the various states follow, while not legal they do have serious implication. Such guidelines do allow higher fund raising costs if solicitation is confined to membership. In other words, United Funds, UJA, etc. must have lower fund raising costs through membership organizations.

But that is not NFTS' concern. Our concern is the dire implication of UAHC affiliates or associated agencies setting up competitive organizations. I think you will agree that it is an unacceptable situation in so far as NFTS is concerned and the principle has equally serious implications for the UAHC.

We have protested previously to NFTB that they have allowed and even encouraged brotherhoods to accept women into membership. We have consistently suggested that NFTB should advise brotherhoods to jointly sponsor certain activities with sisterhoods and to have programs to which spouses are invited just as we suggest to sisterhoods. Cooperation is highly desirable, competition is self defeating.

I would appreciate the opportunity of discussing this with you and Lillian and will look forward to joining in such discussions, perhaps while we are in Israel, away from the jangling telephones.

I am sharing this with the two of you confidentially. I would hope that we could come to an understanding and a suggested course of action that the UAHC might wish to pursue and one which NFTS would undertake on a parallel basis.

ERS/hg

MEMORANDUM

Date 2/12/80

From Eleanor R. Schwartz

To Av Bondarin

Copy for information of _____

Subject JCS Board of Directors' Resolution - Women's Auxilliary

When I return from Israel I'll look forward to talking with you more on this subject but in the meantime, I did want to share some thoughts with you.

I am glad to hear that no action was taken at the Board of Directors meeting last November. However, it is a reality of beaurocracy that once an idea is planted it seldom dies. The idea of a women's auxilliary is dangerous and devastating, not only to NFTS, but to Reform Judiasm.

While I am sympathetic to the desire to raise more money for JCS (who doesn't want to raise more money for their project or a worthy cause?), I am perplexed by your reasoning that a membership organization is the way to do it. Surely the JCS is a tax exempt agency and thus all contributions would qualify for deduction. NFTS certainly would not legislate that any institution of Reform Judiasm does not have the right to receive funds from anyone who is responsive to a program. We have received funds from husbands and wives for our special Israel projects but we have not organized a men's auxilliary to do this, nor would we, due to respect and consideration for NFTB.

I regret that this matter came to my attention through some of our leadership rather than from you to me in advance of its inauguration. Hence, as I am sure you'll understand, I am sharing a copy of this memo with our President, Lillian Maltzer. I'll look forward to discussing this with you in a month or so.

ERS/hg

Resolution of the Board of Directors
of the Jewish Chautauqua Society

WHEREAS, the Jewish Chautauqua Society is engaged in providing religious, educational, and cultural programs in furtherance of its aims and goals.

WHEREAS, in carrying out these activities and the aims and purposes of the Jewish Chautauqua Society it would be appropriate and helpful to establish a voluntary organization for individual members of the Jewish Chautauqua Society who are willing and able to give freely of their time to organize and carry out these activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that there shall be established the "Women's Auxiliary of the Jewish Chautauqua Society" (the "Auxiliary"), whose function it shall be to provide assistance in carrying out the aims and purposes of the Jewish Chautauqua Society by helping to organize and promote the programs of the Jewish Chautauqua Society. The activities of the Auxiliary shall be as follows:

1. Membership. Membership in the Auxiliary shall be open to any current dues paying member of the Jewish Chautauqua Society. No separate dues shall be required for membership in the Auxiliary.

2. Organization and Officers. The Auxiliary shall be organized in the following manner:

(a) An Organizational Meeting shall be held at which a Steering Committee shall be selected. A Secretary shall be chosen to record the minutes of the meeting, compile the membership list, and be responsible for all correspondence. The Steering Committee shall be composed of not more than five persons, plus the Secretary, and shall preside at all meetings of the Auxiliary and serve as liaison to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Chautauqua Society.

(b) Meetings of the Auxiliary shall be held at least annually during which the current year's programs will be reviewed and plans formulated for the future. Additional meetings of the Auxiliary shall be held as often as needed. The time and place of such meetings shall be determined by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall attempt to schedule meetings, whenever possible, concurrently with one or more active programs of the Auxiliary in order to encourage broad participation in and support of these programs.

3. Purposes and Duties. The members of the Auxiliary shall use their best efforts to support the aims and purposes of the Jewish Chautauqua Society by participating in the following activities:

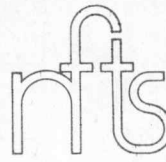
(a) The planning and implementation of programs consistent with the aims and purposes of the Jewish Chautauqua Society in coordination with the Board of Directors of the Jewish Chautauqua Society.

(b) At the direction of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Chautauqua Society, working to increase public awareness, membership and funding of the Jewish Chautauqua Society, both regionally and nationally.

(c) Rendering services as needed to assist and implement programs of the Jewish Chautauqua Society which carry out its aims and purposes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate officers of the Jewish Chautauqua Society are empowered and directed to assist the Auxiliary in organizing its membership in implementing its programs by providing such supplies and services as may be required.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS



838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
TEL. (212) 249-0100, CABLE ADDRESS:
SISTERHOOD NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Eleanor R. Schwartz

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DIRECTOR EMERITUS
Jane Evans

February 7, 1980

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

Although you received in advance of the Biennial Assembly, the NFTS draft resolutions, we are pleased to share with you now a copy of the Resolution on "Women's Rights" adopted during the Biennial Assembly on December 9th.

While all sections of the Resolution are of extreme interest and value, we particularly draw your attention to paragraph 3 and 4.

With particular reference to item 4 we are aware of the fact that the UAHC Constitution explicitly identifies the integrity of a congregation to determine its ritual and worship mode. However, we believe that the UAHC can intensify its efforts to set standards of equality of participation by women in all aspects of congregational life. There are those congregations that make sharp distinction between women and men when it comes to participation in worship activities. We would hope that the Union, as it has done in so many areas, would exert its effective leadership role to break down the barriers against full participation by women in all ritual matters.

With all good wishes

Sincerely,

Eleanor R. Schwartz
Executive Director

Lillian Maltzer

President

cc: Albert Vorspan
Ted Broido

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 32nd BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
TORONTO, CANADA

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods organized in 1913 is a visible national presence of the equality and influence of women of Reform Judaism within our movement and in the Jewish and secular world. One of its purposes is to implement full partnership in congregational life. NFTS and Sisterhood leaders affirm a commitment to full and secure rights for women in our respective countries to insure equality as Jews and to serve as advocates for all disenfranchised or disadvantaged women.

For almost seven decades the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has adopted positions and inaugurated programs dealing with varied aspects of the status of women. These include equal employment, salaries, legal rights, civil rights, societal attitudes and opportunities to participate in decision-making processes and leadership positions at all levels. NFTS continues to affirm the right of women to choose patterns and priorities of life style and to have such choices receive full respect and equal treatment.

In affirmation of these fundamental commitments, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods resolves that:

- 1) On behalf of United States members Sisterhoods shall continue their efforts to achieve the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Sisterhoods in states where ratification has not occurred are urged: to make every effort to be fully informed about the provisions of the ERA and to share such information; to serve as a counter-force against misleading and inaccurate information; to exercise their citizenship responsibility by communicating to appropriate government officials the critical necessity of prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex. Sisterhoods in states which have already ratified the ERA have a special responsibility: to act against efforts towards rescission; to challenge calls for constitutional conventions and other actions which threaten existing ratification.
- 2) On behalf of United States members, Sisterhoods should continue efforts to keep in force laws in consonance with the Supreme Court decision for freedom of choice on abortions, recognizing that such freedom of choice does not deny any religious community the right to establish its own patterns of moral or ethical behavior. We also urge Sisterhood and members to maintain vigilant and persistent attention to pending legislation that is designed to erode, limit or countermand the Supreme Court decision upholding the option of legal abortion - the freedom of choice - for all women.
- 3) Sisterhoods should participate actively in efforts to implement acceptance of women as rabbis, cantors, educators and other professionals in congregations and Jewish communal agencies. Full acceptance means equal recruitment and employment opportunities, equal salaries and non-discriminatory conditions of work, and promotional opportunity at all levels of responsibility, based on ability, not sex.
- 4) We call upon the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to inform congregations that there should be no distinction between men and women as participants in the ritual and leadership in policy-making activities of the congregation. Sisterhoods are urged to encourage their congregations to eliminate such discriminatory practices if they exist.

December 9, 1979

NFTS

January 2, 1980

Dear Ellie:

It was a pleasure to learn of the gift of \$1,000. from NFTS toward the salary of an intern at the Religious Action Center. We are deeply grateful to Sisterhood, you strengthen our hands and support our sacred cause in all that you do.

With gratitude and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Ms. Eleanor R. Schwartz
Executive Director
NFTS
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Rabbi Schindler

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Eleanor R. Schwartz

838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

TEL. (212) 249-0100, CABLE ADDRESS: SISTERHOOD NEW YORK

*Thank you
note*

December 27, 1979

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Mr. Albert Vorspan, Vice President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Al:

It is a very great pleasure for NFTS to enclose a check for \$1,000.00. This represents a NFTS contribution towards the salary of an intern working at the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C.

We are very happy to be able to support this very important work.

With all good wishes

Sincerely,

Executive Director

ERS:gt

cc: Mrs. Lillian Maltzer, NFTS President
Rabbi Alexander Schindler, UAHC President
Rabbi David Saperstein, Religious Action Center

Encl:

PRESIDENT
Lillian Maltzer
(Mrs. Joseph)
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Jane Evans

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH - CREATING OUR FUTURE
NFTS 32nd Biennial Assembly, Toronto, Canada, December 6-11, 1979

NFTS

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

July 19, 1979

Eleanor R. Schwartz

I received your memo of June 28 in Geneva, of course, and you are absolutely right. NFTS should have been consulted concerning the projected move. Unfortunately, the matter is now water under the dam and there's nothing to be said except that I am sorry that the courtesy of consultation was not extended to you.

Commitments have now been made and nothing can be done.

On the other hand, the proposal has the full blessing of Ben Dardig, who is working out exceedingly well and has proven himself to be most responsible. He assures me that far from interfering with the work of Sisterhood the move will be beneficial and will probably give added improvement to the work being done for all of us.

Theodore K. Broido

July 17, 1979

Eleanor Schwartz

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, AI Vorspan

Alex asked me to reply to your memo of June 28th concerning the decision of the Management Committee to move the Production Department. This decision has already been made. The space, indeed, has been rented. I do not believe that it will have "any serious implications for NFTS both in the matter of service received and costs. . ."

I do agree that in futuro the Management Committee, of which I now serve as chairman, should involve NFTS and other affiliates in a discussion where the decisions reached might have far-reaching implications for the affiliate. In this case, the deed is done and the decision made. Therefore, your last sentence of your memo to Alex asking for assurance that the action to make this move will not be implemented cannot be given. We are committed.

However, I do think that at an early opportunity we should sit down and talk about how and when the move will take place so as to be the least disruptive, not only to Sisterhood, but to other organizations as well as the UAHC itself.

*You should have
been consulted —
that was wrong —
I am sorry —
Ben is looking out well, however.
I am sure that the new
system*

MEMORANDUM

Date June 28, 1979

From Eleanor R. Schwartz

To Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Copy for information of Mr. Ted Broido, Mr. Al Vorspan

Subject The UAHC Management Committee

I have just learned via the grapevine that the Management Committee has made a most significant decision regarding moving the Production Department. This decision has serious implications and consequences for NFTS both in the matter of service received and costs.

I am very surprised and disturbed that such a decision would be made without consultation with those affiliates or Department heads who are serviced by the Production Department and especially those who bear considerable financial responsibility for maintaining it. I cannot protest too strongly what I believe is a most cavalier and high handed manner of decision making. I would strongly recommend that the action be deferred until there is an opportunity for a full discussion including an explanation of the anticipated work processes and estimated increase in cost.

There is another point. While I do believe that it is efficient for a relatively small and manageable group to do some initial thinking and develop suggested and alternate plans of action, to implement such actions without thoughtful discussion with other executives who are involved not only creates exceedingly bad morale, but denies the UAHC additional expert guidance.

I would appreciate very much if you can assure me that the action to make this move will not be implemented until there is a full discussion.

I will be interested in your response.

Many thanks for your attention.

NFTS

May 21, 1979

Mrs. Joseph Maltzer
2607 Hendrie Boulevard
Huntington Woods, Mich. 48070

Dear Lil:

E. B. Hirsh represented you very graciously at the Board meeting and presented Sisterhood's YES Fund Allocation to the UAHC in the sum of \$22,500. We are very grateful to you and all the women of NFTS for your continued support and sustenance. You strengthen the work of our hands.

I'm sorry we couldn't call upon you for the presentation before you had to leave to catch your flight. It's always so good to have you at the podium --- and Matt and I missed the special extra benefit of getting a kiss from you!

With gratitude to NFTS and with warmest personal regards to you and Joe, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT LILLIAN MALTZER (Mrs. Joseph)

May 17, 1979

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Mr. Matthew Ross
Chairman, Board of Trustees, UAHC
16 Sutton Place
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Alex and Matt:

When you read this letter I will have had the opportunity, I hope, to have spoken briefly at the Board of Trustees meeting and have handed you a check in the amount of \$22,500. This represents the second half of the \$45,000 budgeted commitment from NFTS during its fiscal year, November 1, 1978-October 31, 1979. A third check will come to you over the next several months which, hopefully, will match our contributions last year.

As you know, these funds are from our Youth, Education and Sisterhood (YES) Fund and represent contributions from thousands of Sisterhood women. They support this project in large measure by finding hundreds of thousands of opportunities each year to send someone a message of greeting on a Uniongram. And each time a Uniongram is used not only is our project receiving support but the great institutions of Reform Judaism, our own parent group, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and our seminary, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, receive attention and recognition which they richly deserve. So our "message bearer" is a bearer also of good will.

From partner to partner it is a privilege for NFTS to meet its special commitments to the UAHC and by so doing strengthen our common goals.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

President

LM:h

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

May 21, 1979

Mr. Joshua Dwork

Enclosed herewith is a check from the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in the sum of \$22,500 payable to the UAHC. This represents Sisterhoods' allocation from their "YES" Fund.

NFTS
May 25, 1979

Mrs. Lillian Maltzer, President
Miss Eleanor R. Schwartz, Executive Director
National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Lil and Ellie:

The NFTS is a devoted and strong support to the UAHC and we are so very blessed in having you work with us. I hope you know how very grateful the Union is to the women of Sisterhood for their work in behalf of Reform Judaism.

Your letter of May 24, indicating that NFTS has voted an allocation of \$1,000. towards the salary of an intern at the Religious Action Center in Washington, is much appreciated. I express heartfelt gratitude for the Union and for the Social Action Department. The intern program is an important and meaningful one and while it is affected by our fiscal problems and the number of interns we are able to employ lessened, it is gratifying to know that NFTS is helping us to maintain one intern this summer. Please convey our deep appreciation to the women of NFTS.

With gratitude and fondest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Eleanor R. Schwartz



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TEL. (212) 249-0100, CABLE ADDRESS: SISTERHOOD NEW YORK

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May 24, 1979

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

As you know, NFTS actively participates in the work of the Commission on Social Action. We appreciate and are grateful to the staff of the Commission and of the Religious Action Center in Washington for their cooperation with and assistance to NFTS on many occasions in carrying out our agency's concerns with many social action issues. We particularly appreciate the assistance that has been available by the young people serving as interns both in Washington and in New York. We have expressed our appreciation in the past by contributions that help to defray the salaries of these splendid young people.

We are truly sorry that UAHC budget limitations may not allow the Commission or the Religious Action Center to maintain the complement of interns which it has had in the past, but regrettably all of us are affected by fiscal realities.

However, at its recent meeting, the NFTS Executive Committee voted to allocate \$1,000.00 towards the salary of an intern at the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. The funds will be disbursed to the UAHC for the Commission when a new intern starts work for this coming season. We will anticipate word from Al Vorspan or Rabbi David Saperstein as to the date when the intern will start work. We will look forward to a continuation of the cooperative efforts between the Religious Action Center and NFTS and especially working with the intern.

Although there probably is no need for us to say it, yet we must say how privileged NFTS is in having opportunities to tangibly express our partnership with the UAHC and gladly assuming responsibility in carrying out our mutual goals.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Lillian Maltzer

President

Eleanor R. Schwartz

Executive Director
LM/ERS/h

cc: Mr. Matthew Ross
Mr. Albert Vorspan
Rabbi David Saperstein

PRESIDENT
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Huntington Woods, Mich.

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Toronto, Ont. Can.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR EMERITUS
Jane Evans

NFTS

February 27, 1979

Mrs. Joseph Maltzer, Pres.
Nat'l Fed. of Temple Sisterhoods
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Lil:

For myself and for all of us of the Union I want to express deep felt gratitude to you and the women of Sisterhood. You strengthen and support us in so many ways, by deed as well as word.

Thank you for the check in sum of \$22,500 which represents one half of this years NFTS allocation to the Youth, Education and Sisterhood (YES) Fund. We are deeply grateful for this beautiful contribution.

With fondest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT LILLIAN MALTZER (Mrs. Joseph)

February 26, 1979

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
UAHC

Matthew Ross, Chairman
UAHC Board of Trustees

Dear Matt and Alex:

I am pleased that I was able to be at the UAHC Executive Committee and personally hand the enclosed check to you.

For the record, this \$22,500 is half of the NFTS budgeted commitment from the Youth, Education and Sisterhood (YES) Fund and is the first allocation for the current NFTS fiscal year, 1979 - 80. In the early summer we will transmit the balance. Hopefully, in the fall, there will be an additional allocation over and above the budgeted commitment.

Sincerely,

Lillian Maltzer
President

LM:pp

Enc: \$22,500 check.

NFTS
August 7, 1978

Mrs. Lillian Maltzer, President
Ms. Eleanor Schwartz, Exec. Dir.
National Federation of
Temple Sisterhoods
838 Fffth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Lil and Ellie:

It was most gratifying to receive Ellie's letter of August 3. All of us of the Union, and especially our Religious Action Department, are grateful to the women of NFTS for their continued support of our programs. The contributions you have made toward our religious action intern program are deeply appreciated.

Please convey heartfelt gratitude to the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

With fondest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Edith J. Miller

August 4, 1978

Joshua M. Dwork

Enclosed are two NFTS checks in the sum of \$500. each, payable to the UAHC. These represent contributions from NFTS to the UAHC for interns at the Religious Action Center in Washington and the Commission on Social Action here in New York.

A letter of thanks will be sent and all concerned have been apprised of this contribution.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Eleanor R. Schwartz



838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
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August 3, 1978

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Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

I am writing on behalf of Lillian Maltzer, President, the officers and members of the NFTS Board of Directors. It is with great pleasure that we send you two checks, each in the amount of \$500.00, to assist the UAHC in its program of interns for the Religious Action Center in Washington, D. C. and for the Commission on Social Action headquartered here in New York City.

As you know NFTS has made contributions towards the intern program, whether rabbinic or lay, in the past, most recently for the rabbinic interns working on the study materials for the joint sessions at the last Biennial Convention. While our hopes aspire to a more consistent opportunity to continue this activity, we are certain that you can understand it depends upon the contributions which we receive from local Sisterhoods which in turn provides NFTS with the funds for this kind of enrichment program. You may be certain that we will all do our very best to sustain this kind of activity if not annually, at least on a somewhat more regular basis.

We are grateful for the opportunities to help expand the work of the Union, and in particular in the areas of Religious Action and the work of the Commission.

With all good wishes

Sincerely,

Executive Director

ERS:gt

cc: Lillian Maltzer, NFTS President
Matthew Ross, Chairman, UAHC Board
Albert Vorspan, Director, Commission on Social Action
David Saperstein, Associate Director

Enclosures: NFTS checks #4332 & #4333 each in the amount of \$500.00

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June 15, 1978

Joshua M. Dwork

Enclosed is a check from the NFTS "YES" Fund in the sum of \$18,860.50m payable to the UAHC. Please see that \$9,430.25 of this money is designated for the College age Ma'aser program, in accordance with the request of NFTS.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Resolutions on
Contemporary Issues
adopted by the
NFTS 30th
Biennial Assembly

National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021

In addition to these resolutions or statements on Contemporary Issues, the NFTS 30th Biennial Assembly also adopted resolutions in memory of distinguished leaders of the Reform movement and the Jewish people.

Profound sorrow was expressed over the passing of two very distinguished former Presidents of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, (Mrs. Merryle S.) Marjorie B. Rukeyser and (Mrs. Hugo) Helen M. Dalsheimer. A special tribute was also recorded to the enduring memory of Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath who, at the time of his death, was the President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of the World Union for Progressive Judaism as well as a leader of the Jewish people in many fields. In a separate booklet of Memorial Resolutions tributes are recorded to these and other leaders, both of our Reform movement and in Jewish life.

* * *

Resolutions on Contemporary Issues have been adopted at Biennial Assemblies of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods throughout the years since its founding in 1913. Many of these issues remain of current and often urgent significance. Where the resolution remains relevant, it generally is not re-introduced for repetitive action; however, when new expressions are necessary, a revised resolution may be presented. Therefore, among NFTS resolutions are those adopted several or many years ago, which still remain current and applicable. For further information, please write to:

National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Statement from the NFTS Committee on Resolutions	1
Credo of Peoplehood and Jewish Responsibility	2
Israel and the United Nations	3
Status of Women	5
Rights of Individuals	9
Certain Problems of the Family of Humankind	14
Children and TV	17
Centennial of the Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion	19
The Bicentennial of the United States of America	22

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Statement from the NFTS Committee

on Resolutions

Credo of Peoplehood and Jewish

Responsibility

Israel and the United Nations

Status of Women

Rights of Individuals

Certain Problems of the Family of

Humankind

Children and Youth

Central role of the Jewish Woman College-

Jewish Institute of Religion

The Sisterhood of the Jewish People

of America

A STATEMENT FROM THE

NFTS COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The Committee wishes to remind the Assembly of the basis on which resolutions are adopted:

1. When accepted by majority vote they represent action taken by the authorized delegate body of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in convention assembled.
2. Such a vote neither requires nor implies unanimity either in the delegate body nor among all Sisterhoods or all members of Sisterhoods.
3. When action is taken by a majority of the delegate body of a convention, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods does not at any time presume that it represents unanimous opinion of its more than 600 affiliates and over 100,000 members even if the delegate body were unanimous in its vote.
4. But Resolutions adopted by the Convention delegate body are meant to serve as guidelines for information, education and action by NFTS local Sisterhoods and District Federations through Programs, Seminars and direct communication with appropriate agencies, as well as through suitable communal activity.
5. Therefore, the majority vote of the delegate body acts as a guideline for NFTS programs and those of its affiliates and allows the voice of a major religious organization of Jewish women to become a significant force in the issues of our time.

CREDO OF PEOPLEHOOD AND JEWISH RESPONSIBILITY

We affirm anew in our generation the covenant which God made with Moses on Sinai, that we are and shall be a Holy People. From this covenant of peoplehood comes our Judaic genius for community, and from our Prophets the never-ending call to social justice. So do we assume the mantle of our responsibilities for ourselves as we adopt at each Convention our resolutions of social concern, and as we embrace into the community the aged and the young, the strong and the infirm, the single person and the family, the rich and the poor.

In an era of transition, we believe that secular forces may be infused with spiritual values, that the alienated may find connectedness with others, and that the loneliness of isolation may be overcome by community. As we believe in our active participation in the concerns of K'lal Yisrael and all humanity, we also resolve to strengthen ourselves and our people through Jewish education, through maintaining the sanctity of marriage, through nurturing children of Jewish faith, and through adherence to the religious mandate of Rabbi Hillel: "Separate not thyself from the congregation."

Thus, in this spirit, do we in convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, in November, 1975, Kislev 5736, spread upon the record of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods our statements which seek to inform and educate, to intensify understanding and to lead to action our Sisterhoods, District Federations and members.

ISRAEL AND THE UNITED NATIONS

When the United Nations was created at the end of World War II, the hopes of humanity rested upon the ringing words of its Charter and the agencies it developed. Now in the year of its 30th Anniversary, the imperfect world which the UN reflects has seen the world forum achieve many triumphs and many tragic defeats, some of which now threaten the very existence of the United Nations itself.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods hailed the birth of the UN, worked strongly for the adoption of its Charter, and believed that its various divisions could indeed assist the nations and peoples of the world toward peace, security and development. We welcomed the birth of new nations and their admittance to the United Nations, even though the differing goals of so many diverse nations could and did add to grave tensions and difficult decision making in the UN. We recognize and applaud much of the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice which, regrettably, is not adequately used by the States of the world, and the successes of the Security Council, although the latter have too often been limited in number and content. We are particularly mindful of the great gains for humanity made through UN programs and the Specialized Agencies, some of which are the World Health Organization (WHO); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA); the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHC); the World Food Program (WFP); United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). However, we deplore the distortion of humanitarian purposes by the recent politicizing of non-political UN agencies such as UNESCO.

As women and as Jews we were also offended by the subversion of the original agenda of the Mexico City Conference for International Women's Year. We support the IWY program adopted to raise the status of women throughout the world during the next decade. But we sharply criticize and deplore the introduction in Mexico City of rude, crude and unjust attacks upon Zionism and Israel.

Regretfully, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods must record the depth of its distress at the increasing efforts, spearheaded by Arab and some Third World nations, to isolate Israel, a member State of the United Nations. We abhor the unjust attacks on Zionism. This latter must be construed not only as an assault on Israel but also an expression of anti-Semitism which insults Judaism and the Jewish people throughout the world.

The most recent and reprehensible of these actions occurred last month before the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, the committee which covers social, cultural and humanitarian subjects. In its draft resolution on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, after bitter debate, Zionism was included as a form of racism and racial discrimination. Branded an obscene act by the United States, this false charge is the worst of all anti-Israel attacks as well as a virulent expression which impugns our faith and people.

Therefore, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in 30th Biennial Assembly convened in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in Texas in November, 1975, expresses its profound regret at the aberrations of fact and sentiment in the United Nations which threaten and weaken the UN far more than the State of Israel. We warmly commend those nations which vote against these great distortions of truth and urge those who either

vote for them or who abstain to reconsider their stance. Furthermore, we urge all Sisterhoods, their individual members and NFTS District Federations to communicate forcefully with their respective governments to make known their approval or disapproval of their country's position.

All humanity and all nations should stand together firmly in opposition to apartheid, colonialism and all other forms of racial discrimination. But the most recent deliberate falsification of the meaning and intent of Zionism can only impede the struggle against genuine racial discrimination, diminish the strength and jeopardize the life of the United Nations.

* * * *

STATUS OF WOMEN

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, long an outspoken exponent of full equality for women in religious and secular life, is cognizant of the progress made toward that goal slowly over the years and at a more accelerated pace in the last decade. Nevertheless, women in most countries of the world as well as in the United States have yet to achieve in this year designated by the United Nations as International Women's Year, full equality in all aspects of the economic, social, educational, religious, and political arenas of their respective nations.

Therefore, in convention assembled in November 1975 in Dallas, Texas, while addressing ourselves to issues in the United States on behalf of our United States

members, we urge our associated members in fourteen other countries of the United Nations to intensify their own study and action programs to improve the status of women.

In the United States we of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods especially deplore:

- the opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution;
- the minor role assigned to women in political decision-making;
- the various inequities in the present Social Security system that discriminates against women, especially working women who, for example, if married may receive less benefits on their husband's social security than they would have received for the years of their own coverage as a single woman;
- the unfair credit regulations that assign her husband's credit rating to a married or recently singled woman and those that prevent, in some states, married or single women from obtaining mortgages, loans, and other forms of credit;
- the low image some women, engaged full time in child rearing and other home oriented work, hold of themselves;
- the attempts to negate service-oriented volunteerism as a valid option for today's woman;
- the lack of understanding by women as well as men of the goals of the women's movement;
- the paucity and stereotyped reporting of women's activities in the communications media.

At the same time, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods commends the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion for continually affirming the equality of women in Reform Judaism by:

- stimulating young women to pursue religious careers;
- continuing to educate, ordain, invest and place women rabbis and cantors;
- encouraging congregations to elect women officers and trustees;
- including more women in policy making roles within the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, without implying in so doing that their or other women's involvement in the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods nationally, District-wise, or locally should be in any way lessened.

FURTHER, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods:

- in reaffirming its support of the proposed 27th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, the Equal Rights Amendment, which makes gender based discrimination unconstitutional, appeals to its District Federations, local affiliates and individual members to work vigorously for the ratification of this amendment in the legislatures of their individual states;
- urges its members to implement the resolution on Women in Decision Making passed by NFTS in Los Angeles in November 1971, by increasing, on every level, their participation in the elective process.

ALSO, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods presses for reforms:

-- of the present Social Security system that deprives the working woman of all the benefits she paid for and earned;

-- of all credit and property laws that discriminate against women.

AND, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods calls upon its affiliates to enlarge their advocacy role by continuing to:

-- educate themselves, their members and the public about proposed legislation affecting women;

-- to take public positions on such proposals;

-- to make effective use of all forms of communication media;

-- to use their platforms for programs concerned with the goals of women;

-- to use their vote judiciously.

MOREOVER, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods:

-- endorses the concept that child-rearing and home centered work are proud and respected occupations for women;

-- recognizes the contributions made to our society by service-oriented volunteers who chose to work without monetary compensation, and whose efforts and talents have established and continue to support our great religious institutions, health facilities and community welfare organizations.

FINALLY, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods restates the preamble of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women of November 7th, 1967:

...discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and the welfare of the family and of society, prevents their participation on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and humanity.

* * * *

RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS

I

MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND SECRET SURVEILLANCE

Recent events in the political and economic lives of United States citizens have revealed an alarming threat to our human and constitutional rights. As a consequence of this threat, there is an erosion of trust in some of the federal agencies whose uncontrolled excesses have now come to light. Modern technology has made it possible to maintain secret surveillance, to collect personal data illegally and to store such data in files which are in the hands of police and intelligence agencies at various levels of government. Such activities, if not vigorously supervised and controlled, destroy those very liberties which guarantee and are, in turn, guaranteed by true democracy.

Therefore, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in convention assembled in Dallas, Texas in November 1975, on behalf of its United States members supports congressional action (1) to halt immediately all illegal government surveillance and collection of data, (2) to destroy existing dossiers, files and

banks of information obtained by these means, and (3) to maintain supervision over government agencies so that they function within the law and the Constitution. Further, through its affiliates, NFTS supports the dissemination of information about the rights of people under the "Freedom of Information Act," so that by individual action false, misleading or illegally obtained information may be expunged from all records.

Of equal importance is the fact that individuals have the right to have access to their credit records, and to correct or erase information which could effectively bar them from full participation in our economic system.

II

EQUAL ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods supports legislative and administrative reforms which provide legal and financial assistance to those who would otherwise be deprived of adequate representation in the courts. In accordance with our tradition which says, "You shall not judge unfairly; you shall show no partiality...justice, justice, shall you pursue,"* we call upon the respective governments of our members to provide for all people equal administration of justice without consideration of wealth, race or positions of power.

*Deuteronomy Chapter 16, verses 19-20

III

THE CRIME OF RAPE AND ITS VICTIMS

Because the crime of rape has frequently left its victims subject to further trauma inflicted by police, courts and publicity, it is a crime which is often not

reported by the victim, with the result that the perpetrator is neither subject to punishment by law nor treated for deviant behavior. NFTS supports efforts to establish "Rape Centers" and we encourage the cooperation of Sisterhoods and their members with volunteer and governmental agencies in furthering such centers where the victim may be helped to recovery and legal steps may be taken to bring the rapist to justice.

IV

THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

Our concern for justice and individual rights cannot overlook the juvenile offender. We particularly note that in secure detention facilities, pending court hearings, are large numbers of juveniles, more than a third of whom are "status offenders." Status offenses are acts such as truancy, curfew violation, disobeying parental authority--none of which would be considered crimes if committed by adults. The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods urges the removal of status offenses from the category of criminal acts, and the effective implementation of alternative community agency action to assist troubled youth.

We further advocate the establishment of separate detention centers for those juveniles who must be held--centers which are removed from adult criminal prisons where juveniles are very often physically and psychologically abused, making less likely their return to an open society as productive, law-abiding persons.

Since we believe that juvenile justice need not always be punitive, we urge our governments--national, state and local--to appropriate sufficient funds for community agencies to provide, when suitable, non-criminal resources for juveniles, and to offer to our troubled young people alternatives to destructive life styles.

Regrettably serious crimes of great violence are increasingly being perpetrated in some areas by the very young. Careful studies which include evaluations of background and other factors need to be undertaken by both private and governmental agencies in order to address properly this area of specialized gravity. All persons of good will should be concerned with study and action to overcome maladjustments. But in all circumstances, the youthful offender, no less than the adult offender or victim, needs full protection of his civil rights.

V

LEGAL ABORTION

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods affirms our previously adopted strong support for the right of a woman to obtain a legal abortion, under conditions now outlined in the 1973 decision of the United States Supreme Court. The Court's position established that during the first two trimesters the private and personal decision of whether or not to continue to term an unwanted pregnancy should remain a matter of choice for the woman; she alone can exercise her ethical and religious judgment in this decision. Only by vigorously supporting this individual right to choose can we also ensure that every woman may act according to the religious and ethical tenets to which she adheres.

We oppose laws which would remove abortion from the category of medical assistance, as well as any discriminatory laws which would effectively prevent women from making the choice which is their right, by denying them access to proper medical care.

NFTS reaffirms our commitment to "Taharat hamishpachah"--the purity of the family--and supports the dissemination

of birth control information as well as other education for family planning as a contribution to responsible family life. Such education and parallel efforts to eradicate ignorance and poverty would substantially reduce the need to make the choice for abortion.

VI

HEALTH INSURANCE

Judaism teaches us that where there is a way to alleviate suffering, not to do so is to deny our responsibility to humankind. The question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" has always been answered affirmatively by Jewish tradition. In modern society, which places a very high value on good health as a necessity for full participation in the benefits of our secular culture, the financial costs of medical care have risen to a level which effectively bars large numbers of people from relief of suffering. With this in mind, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods supports the proposal that:

- 1) In the United States there should be made available through the government a comprehensive single benefit health insurance to cover all aspects of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation in all fields of medical practice.
- 2) This insurance should be made available to all on a cost-sharing basis, according to their ability to pay.
- 3) Standards of health care service as well as standards of licensure and professional competence should be established and be continually reviewed by a board on which consumers are represented, but specifically excluding lay participation on boards of licensure.

4) Both private and government efforts should be made to enlarge the supply of health personnel and to make more effective use of all professional resources.

5) The rights of persons to choose among doctors should be assured. Equally, the rights of doctors to practice according to their judgment must be assured, provided they meet appropriate standards of competence and responsibility.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods is aware of the enormous costs of such a program, but we hold that in addition to the humanitarian benefits to those who are presently denied full access to health care, the ripple effect of better medical care would ultimately benefit every citizen socially and economically.

SPECIAL NOTE

While NFTS appreciates that material in this and other Resolutions may seem particularly pertinent to United States members, we urge associated Sisterhoods and members in the fourteen other countries of the worldwide circle of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods to translate the underlying warnings and meanings of these statements--where this has not yet been done--into terms applicable in their nations and societies. Thus shall each of us be a guardian of the rights of every individual and a builder of a better society for all humanity.

* * * *

CERTAIN PROBLEMS OF THE FAMILY OF HUMANKIND

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; ... a time to keep silence and a time to speak."

It is a time to speak. Time for Jewish women in this age of recognition of the equal rights and responsibilities of both men and women to exert their efforts towards solving some of the many complicated and seemingly insolvable catastrophes that keep sweeping over this earth in waves of destruction. Humanity has come through centuries which too often have been marked by oppression, starvation, genocide, war, and other tragedies. Yet these awesome blights have surely left some residue of courage and experience with which to overcome, even to prevent in the future, these very scourges that have enveloped the human family of many lands, races, and creeds.

Therefore, in convention assembled in Dallas, Texas in November, 1975, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods on behalf of its United States members and, when appropriate, its members in other countries who may wish to study, adapt and then act, we declare:

(1) Thousands of refugees of the Vietnam War have been admitted to the United States after fleeing their own country in fear. They are in need of a new emotional security and economic opportunity through homes, education, and jobs. As Jewish women who know from the experience of our own people the pain of the refugee, we must fully cooperate in our congregations and communities with those agencies which seek to help Vietnamese now within our borders who are struggling to build a new life through which they may contribute to themselves, their families, and society.

(2) We continue to commit ourselves to principles of free emigration and the right to return, which has been included in documents of the United Nations, such as the Declaration of Human Rights. Therefore, we urge, through all means available to us--including our respective governments and national and international agencies as well as any contacts we may have

with the non-Jewish community--that all who desire to practice Judaism in their country shall be free to do so without restriction as well as to emigrate from or return to their land of birth or adoption without penalty. As examples of particular, deep concern to members of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, we mention, for varying reasons, Soviet, Syrian, and Romanian Jewish men, women and youth, although our concern is not limited only to our own people.

(3) We likewise commit ourselves to deep concern for the rights of all minorities within the United States--the American Indians, the Blacks, the Hispanic population, the Mexican-Americans and other ethnic groups. Each minority, and especially the native inhabitant who is an Indian, should not be treated as a lesser citizen placed under constrictive protection. The Indian and all other minorities shall be given full respect and equal educational, economic, political and social opportunities as part of the inherent rights of people of the United States of America. It is our responsibility, as women of Reform Judaism who, through the tradition of our faith and people, are dedicated to social action, to further the rights of minorities, and to help develop a better climate of respect for and understanding of differences.

(4) World hunger becomes an increasing problem for millions of inhabitants of the planet Earth. At a time when blight, flood and other catastrophes of nature and humanity have wrought devastation, bringing starvation and death to millions, we must rededicate ourselves to efforts to alleviate suffering through international, governmental and private agencies as well as personal resources. On behalf of United States and Canadian members who, through NFTS, are members of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, we call for study of and action

on the many programs for individuals and organizations described in the booklet "To Deal Thy Bread to the Hungry," published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods resolves to continue unabated, through study and action, as it has throughout 62 years of its history, its deep concern with the condition and plight of the family of humankind.

* * * *

CHILDREN AND TV

Television broadcasting is an ever available and very influential part of a young child's life. In the United States it is estimated that the average child spends 21 hours a week viewing TV and it becomes his window on the world. All television makes an impression on the mind of a child, for better or for worse. Therefore the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in 30th Biennial Assembly convened in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in Dallas, Texas in November, 1975, calls attention to the subject of television broadcasting with the following statement:

In March of 1972, following extensive study by teams of independent social scientists working on twenty-three separate research projects, the Surgeon General of the United States, Jesse Steinfeld, made the following unequivocal statement before U.S. Senator Pastore's Subcommittee on Communications:

Certainly my interpretation is that there is a causative relationship between televised violence and subsequent anti-social behavior, and that

the evidence is strong enough that it requires some action on the part of responsible authorities, the TV industry, the Government, and the citizens.

In the same hearings, leaders of the TV industry themselves noted:

Now that we are reasonably certain that televised violence can increase tendencies in some children, we will have to manage our program planning accordingly...

We agree that the time for action has come and of course we are willing to cooperate in any way together with the rest of the industry.

Despite the definitive findings and statements, the overall deluge of crime and brutality in entertainment readily available to children in daytime and evening television hours has only slightly diminished, if at all.

In view of obvious abuses whether of excessive violence or the promotion of non-nutritional foods, we urge producers to design more creative and constructively entertaining programs for children. Toward these ends we recommend that:

1. Children's television be considered a public service which requires a changed attitude on the part of producers, advertisers and all connected with the television industry.
2. Every station shall provide an adequate number of hours of desirable children's programs every week.
3. More of the public be encouraged to finance public television since it tends to meet, to a larger degree than commercial television, the

needs of children through a daily schedule of diversified children's programs.

We advocate that all Sisterhood members, when seeing undesirable children's programs, make their displeasure known to the stations and networks. Likewise we urge the expression of approval and appreciation to the station, network and sponsor involved in fine programs in order to encourage future programming of a high quality for the benefit of all children.

* * * *

CENTENNIAL OF THE

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods warmly congratulates the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion on its hundredth anniversary. For all the members of Sisterhood, this oldest continuing Jewish seminary in the world as well as the first in the New World, is the wellspring of spiritual leadership. More than 1,500 Reform rabbis, holding pulpits and organizational posts in many lands, have been ordained. Some 150 Cantors have been invested and other Jewish educators and communal workers--in addition to Christian scholars--have also been trained and graduated for the preservation of Judaism, the enrichment of Jewish life, and the furtherance of religious knowledge.

Under the guidance of seven distinguished presidents--Isaac Mayer Wise, the founder; Moses Mielziner and then Gotthard Deutsch as Acting Presidents; Kaufmann Kohler; Julian Morgenstern; Nelson Glueck; and, presently Alfred Gottschalk--the College-Institute has steadily advanced in size and strength. Its faculty of more than 125, including scholars of internation-

al renown, on its four campuses in Cincinnati, New York, Jerusalem, and Los Angeles, have in their classes both Jewish and Christian students from many lands, so that the influence of the College-Institute on the religious life of the world is truly incalculable.

This year of 1975 also marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the merging of two fine seminaries into the one great institution we know as the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In 1950, new dimensions were added to the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati when the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York joined with it. The HUC-JIR then was imbued with the fresh and innovative spirits of two giants of Jewish history: Isaac M. Wise who, with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations as its patron, founded the College in Cincinnati in 1875; and Stephen S. Wise who, three-quarters of a century later, merged his New York Jewish Institute of Religion with it.

In countless ways, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion has pioneered. The Jerusalem campus five years ago became the site of the first compulsory year-in-Israel study program for rabbinical students from the United States and a number of other countries. The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods notes with special pride and gratification that the first woman rabbi was ordained and the first woman cantor trained and certified by the College-Institute, and that they have been, and will continue to be, followed by other women in service to Judaism and the Jewish people through the honored careers of Rabbis, Cantors and educators.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods deeply cherishes the association it has had with the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion since its

own founding in 1913. We rejoice that a dormitory stands on the Cincinnati campus as testimony to our early interest and endeavors on behalf of the Hebrew Union College and that we are able each year, through the NFTS Youth, Education and Sisterhood (YES) Fund, to provide scholarships and student aid for rabbinic and cantorial students who will go forth to serve congregations in this country and in far-flung places.

As we felicitate the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion on its hundredth anniversary, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, which represents more than 100,000 women in Sisterhoods throughout the United States, Canada, Panama, Netherlands Antilles, Guatemala, Argentina, United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Israel, Republic of South Africa, Rhodesia, India, Australia, and New Zealand, pledges its continued support and its most dedicated efforts for the benefit of HUC-JIR. NFTS is deeply aware of what these past hundred years have meant to Judaism, to every Reform Jew and to K'lal Yisrael, and therefore affirms this resolution of congratulations and of its own renewed commitment, with prayerful wishes for the College-Institute's future service, inspiration and achievement.

This resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the 30th Biennial Assembly of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and copies sent with most cordial greetings to the one living past President, Dr. Julian Morgenstern, and to Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, the President, and to Judge Theodore Tannenwald, Jr., the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

* * * *

THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On the eve of the Bicentennial of the United States of America, we are reminded of the exalted words of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness..."

Although independence was secured by force of revolution, freedom was conceived in the minds and hearts of human beings through years of reasonable discourse, strong leadership, and idealism based on the Judeo-Christian heritage. The ringing phrases and sentences that gave birth in 1776 to the United States of America have remained through the ensuing centuries as a standard of human aspiration for many nations and diverse peoples. Thus, the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States of America is meaningful not only to its own citizens but also to youth, women and men throughout the world.

The union that became the United States was forged by differing individuals who, through both war and peace, learned to dedicate themselves to the common good. So shall we, in our generation, accept again our responsibility for a future consistent with our religious ideals and Judaic tradition which stress the worth and dignity of every individual. However, the integrity of our celebration leads us to recognize, with profound regret, the areas within the United States and other nations in which men and women have failed to achieve the liberty and justice for all people which is so often professed.

We of the United States of America can best mark the Bicentennial of our country through rededication to

our national as well as religious heritage, even as we ask our associated members in other countries to pledge themselves to strive, as must we, on behalf of a humankind that shall yet learn to live in harmony, responsive to the changing needs of society.

Within the United States, in special celebration of the Bicentennial Year, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods will undertake increased dialogue with non-Jewish women in the Conference of Church and Synagogue Women in a nationwide program of conversations of mutual concerns, called "Frontiers of Understanding." Perhaps in other appropriate ways the Sisterhood women of our non-U.S. affiliates may wish to note the legacy of the Declaration of Independence.

Therefore, assembled in convention in Dallas, Texas in November, 1975, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, with its membership of more than 100,000 women in 15 countries, applauds the United States of America, the oldest continuous Federal Republic in the world. We celebrate two centuries during which ideals have been embodied in the law of the land and people have breathed the air of freedom. We hope and pray for a future consistent with our ideals. We pledge ourselves to continue to struggle for the translation of these ideals into the service of our respective countries and the family of nations. Ours is the task to seek and reaffirm freedom with justice in a diversified one world under God.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods

is

the women's agency of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (central organization of Reform or Liberal Judaism in America) and a member agency of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. The Federation is comprised of more than 110,000 members in over 620 local units throughout the United States and in cities of Canada, Panama, Netherlands Antilles, Guatemala, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Israel, Republic of South Africa, Rhodesia, India, Australia and New Zealand.

The NFTS program, which is devoted to the advancement of Jewish and humanitarian causes, is carried forward through four Departments: Advancement of Judaism; Human Relations; Membership and Administrative Services; Religion and Education. A number of Committees and projects are grouped in each Department. Affiliated units of the Federation appoint locally the four Departments and as many of the Committees as they desire, as do the fourteen District Federations which are part of the organization.

Printed in the U.S.A.

NFTS

March 22, 1976

Mrs. Irving S. Benjamin
5300 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

Dear Betty:

I'm just back from a long stretch of travel and want to thank you for your letter of March 5. I very much appreciate your "putting it on the agenda now in writing" because it certainly does help what with the crisis-crowded days that we are living in.

I am sorry that you've had a bout with the flu and I hope that by the time this reaches you all is well and that you are fully recovered.

I can well understand your concern about the phraseology contained in the UAHC resolution on Long Range Planning. Certainly no one in the Union considers the NFTS as solely "a vehicle of necessary administrative support.....". Our perception of the UAHC's relationship with the NFTS and its Sisterhoods is precisely the same as yours; namely, "a friendship of creative programming....financial support." You should know that the entire first paragraph of the Long Range Planning resolution is precisely the language that was submitted to the Biennial by the sponsor of the resolution, Rockdale Avenue Temple of Cincinnati. It was their phraseology and not ours that was carried forward into the final draft. However, Betty, I would not be too concerned about this. It is, after all, only a "whereas" clause and its passage in no way affects our own understanding as to the relationship between Sisterhood and the UAHC.

With regard to point #4 of the operative section of the resolution, this did not come from the original draft submitted by Rockdale Avenue Temple, but rather, I am informed, was added by the members of the Resolutions Committee when they considered the resolution in the wee small hours of the morning at the Biennial. Although I was not present during their deliberations, Ted Broido tells me that there was much agitation on the part of a number of members of the Committee that such an "equal rights" section be added to the resolution.

It again in no way should be regarded as a slap at Sisterhood but rather indicative of how democracy works, and that the whole problem of the status of women in the Reform movement is of concern to many people in our constituency.

Mrs. Irving S. Benjamin
March 22, 1976
Page -2-

Insofar as Matt's appointing a woman experienced in Sisterhood to the Committee, I, for one, have no objection and I certainly will discuss it with Matt as soon as we begin to activate the group! Since most of the Committee will be picked by the regions, it is altogether possible that some women, experienced in Sisterhood, will find their way on the Committee via regional appointments, but if this does not happen, I would certainly urge Matt to affirmatively respond to your suggestion.

I do hope this letter clears up any misunderstanding that you may have had and that it provides the information you seek.

With fondest regards, in which Rhea joins me, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Matthew H. Ross

bcc: Rabbi Leonard A. Schoolman
Theodore K. Broido



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MRS. IRVING S. BENJAMIN

March 5, 1976

*Ashted
In re plus
to do about
June -*

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

When we have been together recently, it has been under circumstances of "crises" conferences or other meetings where I have been reluctant to intrude upon your time and attention on one or two matters which have become increasingly troublesome. While I would much prefer to talk with you personally, I know the demands on both our time, but at least one point has such critical time value that I felt at least "putting it on the agenda now in writing" might be helpful.

While recuperating from my bout of the flu, I read a lot of material which time did not permit doing earlier - including the recent Resolutions adopted by the UAHC at its General Assembly in Dallas, Texas. Many of them were on subjects familiar to me, having seen them in draft form or heard them, but one struck me with considerable force - namely, the Resolution on Long-Range Planning. I don't know whether I could have or should have seen a draft of this or heard about it at a meeting; whatever - I was not aware of it until reading the Resolutions. You can imagine my astonishment, and I must admit distress to see NFTS described as "a vehicle of necessary administrative support..." For more than 63 years NFTS and its affiliated Sisterhoods have been under the impression that our goal and relationship to our respective agencies - whether the local Congregation or the UAHC - included a partnership of creative programming input, Jewish education, living and standard setting, as well as financial support. To say the least, it is a shock to become aware of how we are perceived - and I wonder by whom!

In the same Resolution the standing Long-Range Planning Committee is charged with four responsibilities, all of them necessary and desirable to keep our movement at a dynamic level. Point #4, "Drafting plans for the development of programs to implement full religious and political equality for women within the Synagogue and the UAHC," is of particular interest to us, not only intrinsically, but also because NFTS brought the question of the status of women to the attention of both the CCAR and the UAHC several times over the years. And in recent times - 1970 to be precise - we initiated

- more -

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Page 2

March 5, 1976

the action for the UAHC to intensify its efforts in making Reform Judaism practice what it has preached.

In the course of events, I would anticipate that a woman experienced in Sisterhood would be in the appointments made by Matt Ross, Chairman of the Union Board, to the Long-Range Planning Committee. Is this a correct assumption on my part or does the designation of NFTS as an "administrative vehicle" preclude our participation in a creative process that certainly involves our future?

I will be most grateful for your response.

With warm and affectionate greetings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Betty".

President

BB:vjg

cc: Mr. Matthew Ross, Chairman
UAHC Board of Trustees

March 27, 1947

SISTERHOOD FUND PUBLICATIONS

Bible Tales, Book I, by Lenore Cohen
 Bible Tales, Book II, by Lenore Cohen
 Now We Begin, by Rosenzweig
 Israel in Canaan, Teacher's Book, by Edward I. Rudelman
 In the Days of the Second Temple, Workbook, by Dr. Jacob S. Golub
 When the Jewish People Was Young, by Mordecai I. Soloff
 When the Jewish People Was Young, Workbook, by Mordecai I. Soloff
 When the Jewish People Was Young, Teacher's Book, by Mordecai I. Soloff
 How the Jewish People Grew Up, by Mordecai I. Soloff
 How the Jewish People Grew Up, Workbook, by Soloff
 Into the Promised Land, Workbook, by Azriel Eisenberg
 Into the Promised Land, Teacher's Book, by Eisenberg
 In the Land of Kings and Prophets, Workbook, by Samuel Zaretski
 Gilenu II, by Gamoran and Friedland
 Gilenu II, Exercise Book, by Gamoran and Friedland
 Gilenu Primer, by Gamoran and Friedland
 Gilenu Primer, Exercise Book, by Gamoran and Friedland
 Watchmen of the Night, by Betty Kalisher
 1496 Pictures, by Azriel Eisenberg
 Gilenu III, by Gamoran and Friedland
 Gilenu III, Exercise Book, by Gamoran and Friedland
 The Jew in the Medieval World, by Dr. Jacob R. Marcus
 In the Land of Kings and Prophets, Teacher's Book, by Azriel Eisenberg
 The Quest for Peace, by Dr. Abraham Cronbach
 Hillel's Happy Holidays, by Mamie G. Gamoran
 The Great March, Book II, by Rose G. Lurie
 Torah-Li, by Gamoran and Friedland
 Torah-Li, Exercise Book, by Gamoran and Friedland
 The Stream of Jewish Life, by Dorothy Alofsin
 Confirmation Workbook on the Religion of the Jews, by Helen K. Hennig
 Michael Turns the Globe, by Deborah Pessin
 Modern Jewish Problems, Problem Book, by Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn
 Modern Jewish Problems, by Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn
~~Leading a Jewish Life in the Modern World, by Dr. Samuel H. Markowitz -~~
~~Sisterhood-Correspondence School Fund~~
 Down Holiday Lane, by Rose W. Golub,
 In God's Way, by Hortense F. Hahn

The New Jewish History Books 1, 2, & 3 by Mamie G. Gamoran
Activity Books for same
Jewish Liberalism Since the Bible, Book by Anna Eisenberg

June 17, 1977

Ms. Eleanor Schwartz
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Ellie:

The NFTS check for \$450 is much appreciated. Please convey our gratitude to the women of Sisterhood. We are blessed by all that they are and all that they do.

With fondest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

TEL. (212) 249-0100, CABLE ADDRESS: SISTERHOOD NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Eleanor R. Schwartz



June 16, 1977

15
COUNTRIES

625
SISTERHOODS

14
DISTRICTS

100,000 +
MEMBERS

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

Dear Alex:

In keeping with my promise (and I suppose one could say my compromise!) attached is an NFTS check for \$450.00 to help relieve the budget of the UAHC for work done through its various departments and commissions. You will note that in this case, the sum is to help defray some of the expenses for a rabbinic intern assigned to the Religious Action Center in Washington.

Rather than burden you with the check, it has already been transferred to Josh Dwork with a copy of this letter.

Sincerely,


Executive Director

ERS:ds

cc: Josh Dwork
Al Vorspan

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(Mrs. Irving S.)
Cincinnati, O.

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NFTS 31st BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA - NOVEMBER 18-22, 1977

NFTS is an agency of the UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS and is affiliated with the WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM.

NFTS

April 28, 1977

Mrs. Irving S. Benjamin, President
National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Betty:

The support and sustenance which NFTS provides for the various special programs and projects of the UAHC strengthen us in our work. All of us of the Union are deeply grateful to you and NFTS for your generosity and by means of this letter I express deepest gratitude to NFTS. We are blessed by the work of your hands and the warmth of your hearts.

With affectionate greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

memo

from

Eleanor R. Schwartz
Executive Director



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

Date April 27, 1977

To Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Subject A Contribution from NFTS

Attached is a check in the amount of \$500.00, payable to the UAHC, to help relieve the Budget of the Commission on Social Action in connection with the Machon-Kaplan Program held over the summer at the Religious Action Center. This sum is the equivalent of the cost to the Commission and the Religious Action Center for one faculty member to handle this program (as per information from Rabbi David Saperstein and Rabbi Ramie Arian- both of whom work and coordinate their efforts in connection with this program).

While it is not a requirement to name the particular faculty member as "NFTS" it would be extremely helpful if recognition of some sort could be given. Thank you very much.

ERS/eh

cc: Joshua Dwork
Albert Vorspan

P.S.- Check attached to copy of memo to Mr. Dwork.

memo

from

Eleanor R. Schwartz
Executive Director

lis



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 Fifth Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10021

Date April 27, 1977

To Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Subject A Contribution from NFTS

It is a great pleasure to enclose a check in the amount of \$500 to relieve the budget of the UAHC in connection with the work of one summer Rabbinic Intern, employed, according to Rabbi Schoolman, in the preparation of the study materials for the study sessions of the joint NFTS-UAHC Biennial Convention.

Since the cost of one Rabbinic summer intern is \$1000, we gladly contribute to half this sum and would appreciate it very much if all the study materials therefore prepared for the convention could read that they are prepared for the joint sessions and the name of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods along with that of the UAHC appeared on all such study materials.

We are certain you can understand that it would be extremely helpful if I would have the opportunity of reviewing the material before it goes into final production. Two years ago some of the material that was prepared for the joint sessions was not entirely satisfactory to NFTS- and since they are joint projects it is only appropriate that there be some joint development of ideas as well as joint approval of the finished product- in addition of course to the material carrying the notation that indicates that it is for joint study sessions.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

ERS/eh
enc.

cc: Joshua Dwork
Rabbi Leonard Schoolman

P.S.- Check attached to copy of memo to Mr. Dwork.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Eleanor R. Schwartz

April 27, 1977

MFBS

Todah rabbah! We are grateful for your gracious contribution which will assist the UAHC budget and make it possible for the Department of Jewish Education to participate in the Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education.

memo
from

Eleanor R. Schwartz
Executive Director

ers



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

Date April 25, 1977

To Rabbi Alex Schindler

Subject It's a Pleasure to be of Service

Attached is a check from NFTS in the amount of \$150.00 payable to the UAHC. This represents a contribution from NFTS to assist the UAHC budget and allow the Department on Jewish Education to be a participant in the Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education.

Please note that the check is transmitted to Mr. Dwork with his copy of the memo.

ERS/eh

cc: Joshua Dwork

Enc.

NFTS

March 1, 1977

Dear Betty:

You're looking great and it was a joy having you with us for the Executive Committee and attendant meetings this week-end. You always have much of value to contribute to our deliberations.

While you received a "thank you kiss" for the gracious gift from NFTS, I do want to reiterate in writing our deepest gratitude to the women of NFTS. They are a strong support and give substance to our Union in so many ways. All of us are grateful to all of NFTS.

Rhea joins me in sending our best wishes and warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Mrs. Irving S. Benjamin
5300 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224



**NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS**

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MRS. IRVING S. BENJAMIN

February 28, 1977

Mr. Matthew Ross, Chairman
Board of Trustees

- and -

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Friends:

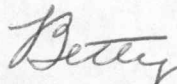
I was deeply sorry that it was not possible for me, at the very last moment, to be at the Board of Trustees meeting last December in Los Angeles. But I do hope that my message did finally reach you with the good wishes that I was privileged to convey on behalf of the officers and Board of Directors of NFTS and, not so incidentally, our NFTS check in the amount of \$20,000.00. As you know, this represented the first disbursement of funds for this fiscal year from the Youth, Education and Sisterhood (YES) Fund to the UAHC for the work of its Youth Department. We are happy now that it is possible for me to turn over to the UAHC the additional \$20,000.00 towards our budgeted \$40,000.00 commitment of support for the wonderful work that is done on behalf of our high school and college age youth.

Lest you think that this completes our commitment for the present year- let me assure you that when the NFTS Executive Committee meets in mid-May, one of our tasks will be to allocate additional funds from the YES Fund, and we dare to hope that this coming year there might be even some funds in excess of what is our usual third contribution.

While we know that the UAHC looks to its woman's affiliate, NFTS, as a full partner in carrying forward the work of Reform Judaism on all levels we are always pleased to transmit funds- a practical expression of our deep concern.

With all good wishes.

Warmly,


President

BB/eh

Enc. NFTS Check #3722 in the
amount of \$20,000.00

memo

FROM

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
838 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

Miss Eleanor R. Schwartz
Executive Director

DATE: December 21, 1976

TO: Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President, UAHC

NFTS

Dear Alex:

The enclosed copy of Betty's letter - dictated by her over the telephone and mailed to her in California - could not be given to you or Matt because Betty, at the last minute, could not get to California. She was anxious, however, for you to receive your copy; it just was returned to us by the Century Plaza Hotel.

E.R.S.

ERS:vjg
Encs.

Said Thanks

11
NFTS
December 14, 1976

Dear Betty:

We missed you at the Los Angeles Board meeting. Somehow things are not quite the same when you are not with us and I want you to know that many of your Board colleagues asked about you and expressed their regrets that you were unable to be with us. The reaction to the various sessions attendant upon the Board meeting itself and the meeting were heartening and we had some excellent programs.

For all of us of the Union I want to express profound gratitude to you and NFTS for the generous gift of \$20,000. from the NFTS YES Fund for our youth program. You strengthen the work of our hands and we are deeply grateful for the devotion and dedication of the women of NFTS to our sacred cause.

With heartfelt thanks and fondest regards, in which Rhea joins me, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Mrs. Irving S. Benjamin
5300 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224



**NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS**

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MRS. IRVING S. BENJAMIN

November 24, 1976

Mr. Matthew Ross, Chairman
Board of Trustees
- and -
Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Postmark letter of Nov

Dear Friends:

At this moment I am not certain whether or not I will have the privilege of being in Los Angeles to participate in the coming UAHC Board of Trustees meeting, therefore, I am sending with this letter our NFTS check in the amount of \$20,000.00 which represents the first transmittal to the UAHC of our YES Fund contribution for youth work.

It is always a great pleasure to have this task and to know that the women of Sisterhood and of Reform Judaism make possible our continued tangible efforts of support for our young people and through them the future of Reform Judaism and the Jewish community.

Warmly,

(Mrs. Irving S.) Betty E. Benjamin
President

BB/eh
enc.

*Sent cc + check to Josh Duwork
Dec. 6th*



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MRS. IRVING S. BENJAMIN

December 1, 1976

Mr. Matthew Ross, Chairman
Board of Trustees

- and -

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
c/o Century Plaza Hotel
Los Angeles, Calif. 90067

Dear Friends:

I bring to you and through you to the Board of Trustees, good wishes for your productive deliberations from the Officers and Board of Directors of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. We, too, have just recently completed the annual meetings of the NFTS Board of Directors and then immediately left for the Golden Jubilee International Conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in Jerusalem. It was these busy but happy events which kept us from transmitting to you a little sooner in the year the first disbursement of our annual commitment to the Union for the support of the National Federation of Temple Youth and the work of the Youth Department. Let me assure you that by the time you read this there will already be credited to the UAHC the sum of \$20,000 for this important work.

Within the next several months you will receive from NFTS an additional \$20,000 for the Youth Department, which will complete our NFTS budgeted commitment of \$40,000 per year. As you well know, however, we always look forward to an additional allocation toward the close of the UAHC fiscal year and while our books have not as yet been audited, we do hope that these extra allocations will show an increase for this year. This additional contribution, which includes funding for the Ma'aser Program of the College Youth Department, has special significance since during our most recent visit to Israel two weeks ago - at the dedication of Kibbutz Yahel - we had the opportunity to meet many of the fine young men and women of our congregations, who are part of this exciting landmark event; we would like to think that some of them had their lives touched by the possibilities offered through the National Federation of Temple Youth as well as the special Sisterhood college program, and that in some way Sisterhood is intrinsically responsible for these young pioneers of the land and of the spirit.

While financial support is of serious consequence and a responsibility which the women of Sisterhood gladly meet, I also wish to reassure

- more -

Mr. Matthew Ross
- and -
Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Page 2

December 1, 1976

the UAHC leadership that NFTS and Sisterhood pledge their continued efforts to develop and maintain a Jewishly educated and committed constituency to work to strengthen the synagogue and the Jewish community, that we stand ready to meet new challenges in the pursuit of justice and that, as in the past, Sisterhoods will continue to provide leadership to all levels of Reform Judaism.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

(Mrs. Amiry S.) Betty E. Benjamin

President

BB:vjg

NFTS

January 24, 1977

Ellie Dear:

Many thanks to you, and through you to NFTS, for the wonderful gift of audio-visual equipment to the Department of Education. The spirit in which this gift has been made is a source of joy and inspiration. Todah rabbah.

Fondest regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Miss Eleanor Schwartz
NFTS
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

memo

FROM

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
838 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

Miss Eleanor R. Schwartz
Executive Director

DATE: January 21, 1977

TO: Rabbi Alexander Schindler

In the spirit of cooperation but not to be entered in terms of any fiscal record, I just wish to inform you that NFTS has turned over to the Department of Education a piece of audio visual equipment - never having been used or even unwrapped - which, while far more costly when initially purchased, today would sell for \$130.00. We have a second piece of that equipment which we will happily turn over to the Youth Department if it is useful at one of their camps.

I repeat - no "cash credit," but a credit of the spirit!

ERS:vjg

cc: Mr. Joshua Dwork

Y/S

NFS

October 12, 1976

Dear Betty:

It was good hearing from you and I thank you for sharing with me the various matters which have been on your mind. I know that you have written as you did because of your deep concern and commitment and I am grateful to you.

Before determining that our Board meeting would indeed be held at La Costa, we checked many sources and were advised that many of the west coast Community Relations Councils meet at La Costa, as do many other Jewish organizations of high regard. In addition, Al Vorspan checked the matter with the Chairman of our Social Action Commission, Al Arent, who said that were we to check other hotels we would find all kinds of fishiness in regard to initial financing and we might really have some difficulty finding a suitable hotel on that basis. We can only judge on the basis of the hotel's present status and it appears that La Costa has been cleaned up and at this time enjoys a good reputation. With this reaction from Al Arent and the fact that other Jewish organizations meet there, we determined to have our Board session at La Costa.

I have shared with Al Vorspan your comments on the women of Ireland and the "people's peace prize" suggested by the Norwegian newspaper. You are absolutely correct that we should be supportive of these efforts for we do seek peace not alone for Israel but peace in the world, in every corner of our universe. Just how we can provide that support I am not certain, but perhaps Al will have some suggestions to make.

I learned a long time ago that what we read in the press or even in the headlines of articles is not always what was meant to be. Your article is a fine statement and I thank you for sending me a copy.

Jane was in for a few days last week and I pray that all will be well with her. Your gift was a source of delight, she is still chuckling about it! She hasn't worn it to the office as yet, but I told her she really should when she goes about the building checking wires, partitions, etc.

Rhea joins me in sending fondest regards to you and our warm good wishes for a healthy, happy and fulfilling New Year.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Mrs. Irving S. Benjamin
5300 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224



**NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS**
838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

Eren Yom Kippur

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MRS. IRVING S. BENJAMIN

Dear Alex -

As usual, I am neglecting the mountains of work to do what I want to do - which is a letter to you Eren Yom Kippur. First, I wish for you, Phea and the family - a good year of health, happiness and accomplishment. Then I wish for you - a rationing of your time, a sensible giving of self and the realization that we are all in mortal bodies. We like your mortal body and hope you will treat it kindly.

I am truly sorry to have missed the Exec. meeting and so many meetings of the Conference of Presidents. Unfortunately, the traumatic illness surrounding me in my family has finally made me vulnerable. I seem to pick up illnesses I never did before. My own job demands here are greatly enlarged and our (NFTS) deficit budget is always in mind when meetings come along and someone who lives nearby can go. Of course, I consider UATC and HUC BO meetings very important and would never miss them voluntarily.

Immediately after the UATC Exec. meeting, I was informed the next meeting would be at La Costa, Calif. in Dec. I tried here then, which was quite a while ago, that La Costa was built, owned and



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MRS. IRVING S. BENJAMIN

Moroged by the Teamsters Union with Mafia money. Since I am the original "naif", if I know it, everyone knows it. I have never been there but I know it is lovely and a great place for personal relaxation as well as organizational accomplishment. I also know that it is very hard to arrange these meetings. Ellie tells me that others have made comments. Alay, beyond this, La Costa is on the list of Spas where the attendants (some, I imagine) supply sex for a price.

I am far from a prude and I would not dictate anyone's behavior if I could. Nor do I think we would be involved in that - if I know our schedule of meetings we'll be lucky to see the outdoors. More than anything else, I dislike our money going knowingly into Mafia pockets. I know it goes there in a thousand unknowing ways. I am not writing this to cause a crisis or make anyone uncomfortable - just to say that this is so and we should be aware of it.

Another recent thought on which I would like your opinion and that of Al Karspan, is the women of Northern Ireland who have joined for peace against monumental odds. I shall bring this up with Ellie and Jane and hope to bring it to the Board meeting.



**NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS**
838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MRS. IRVING S. BENJAMIN

Naturally, I feel a message should go to them. If we stand for Peace in Israel, we stand for Peace in Ireland. Further more, I also feel a contribution should be sent to the Norwegian newspaper, *Dagbladet* - *venner Høll*, in its drive for a "people's peace prize" for these Irish heroines. You may have already considered this. I have not brought it to the attention of Ellie or Joe, yet - between Ellie's move and Joe's accident.

Re: Joe's accident, I sent her a football helmet, marked NFTS Team - when she goes to the Union & starts investigating basement to roof which she will do, I suggest that she wear it. She swears it's becoming - funny - I only look good in men's hats.

Looking forward to our time together in November (God-willing)

Be love - All my best -

Becky

P.S. I am enclosing a letter I wrote to the *Engineer* after they printed a quarter page article with large headlines about Jewish women and mob jing. I am told the *Jewish Post and Opinion* published my letter



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Under a different headline which slightly
distorts my point as I have nothing against men
going or the women who play it. I hope they did
not edit my letter so I wanted you to receive the
original. I sent Jane the article.

B.

Cincinnati
Enquirer
Rodeo Column
August, 1976

'Fill Your Void'

The article by Mike Duffy of Knight News Service (July 23) on Jewish women and Mah Jongg makes me ill. Of all the sexist, racist, unimportant drivel, this must be a first-rate example. What is the trouble? Is there not enough news to fill the space in your paper?

If you are going to be sexist and racist and your subject is Jewish women and how they spend their time, let me be the first to fill your void.

Besides being superb homemakers—I have at least 100 cookbooks put out by Jewish women's organizations—and mothers, whose children are, as a rule, better educated to make more important contributions to our society in almost every category than any other small segment of our population, why not write about Jewish women who are authors, artists, professionals in every field, businesswomen, entrepreneurs, athletes, in government, religion and history (the Bible, for instance)? I could go on, ad infinitum.

Oh, but this is not the end. The best is yet to come.

What about the Jewish woman volunteer? In addition to the usual areas of volunteer work she takes part in, there are 30 Jewish women's organizations devoted to various facets of Jewish and humanitarian causes. Each has a national or even international organization covering special areas of need, but also taking into account comparable needs of the whole community or country. She may serve one or several of these organizations besides the usual community organizations, while she is wife, mother, homemaker and/or back to school, employed, etc.

The money she gives in greater amounts than ever before in the history of the world goes like a rainbow across the needs of all peoples everywhere. Her money is not from oil or banking, and it is rarely older than two generations. Until recently in world history, she and her people had their money taken from them, along with their lives. She and her people are passionately patriotic to the country in which they live as long as they are allowed to live in freedom as Jews.

My answer to Duffy's article is sexist and racist because of the subject. I am not. If I have learned anything at all, it is that people of good will of every race and every creed speak the same language, work for the same ideals, give love, care and concern in overflowing abundance, and often sacrifice above and beyond their means—sometimes their very lives.

On my team, for whatever the cause, I would want normal, well-rounded people—Mah Jongg players, if you will.

BETTY E. BENJAMIN, President, National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, 5300 Hamilton Ave.

NFTS

February 1, 1977

Mrs. Irving S. Benjamin
5300 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

Dear Betty:

I want to express my deepest gratitude to you and NFTS for the gracious gift for the National Conference on Special Education to be held later this year. We are gratified by your support of this most worthy undertaking by our Education Department. You strengthen the work of our hands.

With repeated thanks and warmest regards, in which Rhea joins me, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MRS. IRVING S. BENJAMIN

January 31, 1977

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

It is a very great privilege to send you the enclosed check in the amount of \$300.00. It represents a contribution from NFTS for lecture fees in connection with the National Conference on Special Education which will be held later this year.

It is always a joy for NFTS to be able to aid the UAHC, particularly in such important work as this Conference under the auspices of the Department on Jewish Education. We are proud that we can be one of the sponsors.

With all good wishes,

Warmly,

Betty E. Benjamin
President

BB:vjg

Enclosure: NFTS Check #3708

February 1, 1977

Edith J. Miller

Joshua M. Dwork

The enclosed check from NPTS for \$300. is a contribution for lecture fees in connection with the National Conference on Special Education which will be held later this year. We are not sure if this is a direct gift or a special gift to relieve the UAHC in re its additional subvention to NPTS. Please check to be sure.

XFTS
February 10, 1976

Dear Betty:

I'm making a note for follow-up -- the next NPTS gift is to be placed in my hand! That's your promise.

Seriously, I do want to express heartfelt appreciation to you and the women of NPTS for the generous gift to the UAHG. We are all deeply grateful to you and to Sisterhood for all that you do, all that you stand for, and for the support and sustenance we receive in every way.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Brussels, perhaps we'll find out something about the program once we get there!

With repeated thanks and fondest regards, in which Rhea joins me, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Mrs. Irving S. Benjamin
5300 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

cc: Miss Jane Evans

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

October 8, 1975

Rabbi William J. Gordon
Temple Shalom
1523 E. Monument Street
Colorado Springs, Colo. 80909

Dear Bill:

NFTS does have a policy on Open Membership for Sisterhoods, based on several sound reasons:

- a. With an affirmative Membership Committee, the Sisterhood membership is often a fruitful source of congregational membership.
- b. Frequently, especially in smaller communities, there may be reasons why a family has an affiliation with another congregation and yet a woman wishes to maintain a link with and offer support to the Institutions of Reform Judaism.
- c. In larger communities - in addition to reason (a) above - this Open Membership provides needed sources of woman power and financial support for critical Sisterhood programs and projects. Also, it of course fulfills one of the purposes of the Synagogue/Sisterhood - namely, a place of coming together and fellowship.

However, at the same time that NFTS recommends Open Membership, we do believe that because the Sisterhood is the woman's agency of the Synagogue, in order to be eligible to be elected to serve on the Board or as an Officer a woman should be a member of the congregation either in her own right or through family membership.

Please understand that while the above is the NFTS policy, the question of whether membership is Open or Closed in any affiliate must be determined in a manner agreeable to the congregation and not in conflict with its own policies.

We do hope that this will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Associate Director

ERS:vjg bcc: Edie Miller

15 COUNTRIES

620 SISTERHOODS

100,000 MEMBERS

14 DISTRICTS

NFTS

October 7, 1975

Rabbi William J. Gordon
Temple Shalom
1523 E. Monument Street
Colorado Springs, Co. 80909

Dear Bill:

In response to your letter of October 2nd, I advise that only one of our affiliates, The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, has a definitive policy on membership in Sisterhood sans congregational affiliation. While the ultimate decision is up to the individual temple, NFTS feels that Sisterhood membership should be open to non-members of the congregation. They do have a proviso that anyone elected to the Board or Office in Sisterhood should be a member of the congregation.

The other affiliates follow this pattern but do not have any written policy, nor has the UAHC ever made a policy statement on this subject. We do feel that the Sisterhood policy has merit for such an open membership policy does provide for potential members for the congregation. And I reiterate that the final policy decision on this matter lies with the individual congregation.

With warmest regards and every good wish for the New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

TEMPLE SHALOM
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

William J. Gordon
Rabbi

Study and Office
1523 E. Monument Street
80909

Oct, 2, 1975

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UAHC
838 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Alex,

A question was raised at our last Board meeting regarding our affiliates, Temple Shalom Sisterhood, Temple Shalom Men's Club, Temple Shalom Youth Group, as to whether one can be a member of the affiliate and not a member of the Temple itself.

Is there a suggested national policy?

From house to house, a very happy and healthy New Year.

Shalom,

William J. Gordon

Rabbi William J. Gordon

WJG/cc

*Ask Jane or Ellie
how I should answer
that -
Alexander Schindler
has some 2 yrs
to check.*

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potential
in the
NFTS
Bla off
Cong
man*

*no Pol.
upl. open
your
going*

MEMORANDUM

Date September 3, 1975

From Theodore K. Broido

To Jane Evans

Copy for information of Matthew Ross, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Subject _____

Per Rabbi Schindler's request, I have discussed with Matt Ross the request made in your letter of August 27th, concerning the incorporation of NFTS. None of us see any problem with it.

As I indicated to you in person, the Union would be perfectly satisfied to have NFTS incorporated for the purposes outlined in your letter provided that the certificate of incorporation and/or other legal documents connected with it, recite the fact that the NFTS is an "affiliate of the UAHC" and that it is to be bound by the UAHC Constitution and By-laws with respect to such national affiliates. As long as this is included in the legal papers involved in your incorporation, go right ahead.

Theodore K. Broido

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

August 27, 1975

Matthew H. Ross

Do you see any problem in regard to the attached letter from NFTS regarding their incorporation?

If there is no problem, I think we should certainly grant permission. Can Matt and I grant it unilaterally or do we require Executive Committee action? If the latter, please note this matter on your agenda.

NFTS 30TH BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY

Dallas, Texas
November 6-11, 1975

NFTS - SERVICE THROUGH SISTERHOOD

1913-1975

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF
TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

Executive Director: Miss Jane Evans
Associate Director: Miss Eleanor R. Schwartz



838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
TEL. (212) 249-0100, CABLE ADDRESS: SISTERHOOD NEW YORK

August 27, 1975

Mr. Matthew Ross, Chairman
Board of Trustees
and

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Friends:

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has very quietly, for a long time, encouraged its Presidents to think about NFTS when writing their wills, and some have been kind enough to do so. We are now organizing a Committee on Legacies and Bequests, not for a large public campaign of any kind, but for a continuing quiet one among our Officers and present and former Members of the Board and any other particularly interested Sisterhood women. There will be no conflict with campaigns of the Union and the College as our effort will not be in any sense a "campaign" but only a reminder to women particularly interested in NFTS.

In this day and age of women's sensitivities, as you can well understand, we neither can nor should tell women to name in their will the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, signifying that the money is to be turned over to NFTS. Therefore, we wish to incorporate the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods as a necessary step in overcoming the reluctance of lawyers to write a non-incorporated agency into the wills of their clients and to protect without question the state and federal tax deductibilities of such contributions, and to seek to place NFTS on the IRS list of acceptable organizations for such deductions of contributions received.

We anticipate that this will meet with your approval since both of you and all leaders of the Union know, without reservation, the unquestioned loyalty to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and the entire Reform movement of our agency and its leaders.

With warm good wishes always, and with the hope that through ultimately strengthening the strained financial resources of NFTS, we will be in a better position to continue to add our strength to the Union, the College-Institute, and our movement,

Warmly and sincerely,

Jane Evans
Executive Director

(Mrs. Irving S.) Betty E. Benjamin
President

15
COUNTRIES

620 +
SISTERHOODS

14
DISTRICTS

100,000 +
MEMBERS

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Alexandria, Louisiana

TREASURER
Mrs. Frederick H. Theodore
New York, New York

RECORDING SECRETARY
Mrs. J.H. Wilkenfeld
Houston, Texas

NFTS

Ever Can

August 26, 1975

Mrs. Irving S. Benjamin, President
National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
5300 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

Dear Betty:

You and the women of NFTS have every right to be pleased and proud of your efforts in behalf of the Reform movement, even as we of the UAHC are proud of all that NFTS is and does! You are a strong support of Reform Judaism and the contributions Sisterhood makes, programmatically and materially, are a source of strength to our movement.

We are deeply grateful for the \$13,525.69 contribution to NFTY and Ma'aser which we just received from the NFTS Youth, Education and Sisterhood Fund. In these financially difficult times for all organizations it was especially gratifying to receive this fine contribution from NFTS.

With our deepfelt thanks and with every good wish to you and your loved ones for the coming year, we are

sincerely,

Matthew H. Ross
Chairman of the Board

Alexander M. Schindler
President

cc: Miss Jane Evans
Rabbi Stephen A. Schafer

NFTS 30TH BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY

Dallas, Texas
November 6-11, 1975

NFTS - SERVICE THROUGH SISTERHOOD

1913-1975

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF
TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

Executive Director: Miss Jane Evans
Associate Director: Miss Eleanor R. Schwartz



838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
TEL. (212) 249-0100, CABLE ADDRESS: SISTERHOOD NEW YORK

August 21, 1975

15
COUNTRIES

620 +
SISTERHOODS

14
DISTRICTS

100,000 +
MEMBERS

Mr. Matthew Ross, Chairman
of the Board of Trustees
and

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

Dear Friends:

It is always a very great privilege to present a check from the NFTS Youth, Education and Sisterhood Fund to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. I am certain that I speak for the members of our Federation as well as for myself personally when I say we wish that our tangible expressions of devotion to the Reform Movement could be even larger than they are, although we know that over the years they have indeed been of extraordinary proportions.

The enclosed check in the sum of \$13,525.69 is from the surplus of the NFTS collections for its Youth, Education and Sisterhood Fund in the NFTS fiscal year 1973-1974. As has been our custom for several years, we desire this check to be divided equally towards the budgets of the National Federation of Temple Youth and the Ma'aser project for college youth.

As you know, women's organizations including ours are under very heavy pressures these days. I am justifiably proud of the continued dedication to the Reform Movement of the women of Sisterhood.

Warmly and sincerely,

Betty E. Benjamin

President

BB:sg

Enclosure

cc: Rabbi Stephen Schafer

MNR - JD.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Irving S. Benjamin
Cincinnati, Ohio

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Joseph Maltzer
Huntington Woods, Michigan

VICE PRESIDENTS

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