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Series A: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1961-1996.

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World Union for Progressive Judaism, 1991-1996.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
American Jewish Archives website.

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WVFG

**UNITED KINGDOM JEWISH AID  
AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



no further  
f. re

Rabbi Alexander M Schindler  
Union of American Hebrew Congregation  
838 5th Avenue  
New York NY10021-7064  
USA

**UKJAI**  
33 SEYMOUR PLACE  
LONDON W1H 6AT  
TEL 0171-723 3442  
FAX 0171-723 3445

2 April 1996

Dear Alex

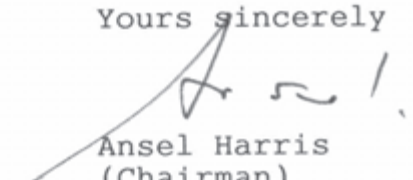
I was delighted to receive your letter and hope you did not regard the comments in mine in any way as a reprimand. We do enjoy seeing you and Rhea and value the friendship and opportunities of talking with you. Indeed we are quite flattered to be counted in your circle recognising as we do the enormous involvements that your personal commitments dictate.

I have of course now received your fax. My initial letter was to float the idea of a forum/public meeting/debate. I was glad therefore of your positive response to the thought of an invitation to you to participate. However, we are a long way from putting it together. Be assured that nothing would be planned and fixed without dialogue with yourself.

I do hope however when you are here in June you will have the opportunity of meeting Georgia (our Director) who in fact was at JDC last week. If additionally there will be some social time available tant mieux.

With our warmest greetings to you for a

Yours sincerely

  
Ansel Harris  
(Chairman)

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

March 27, 1996  
7 Nisan 5756

Professor Fu, Youde  
Institute for Jewish Culture  
Shandong University  
Jinan Shandong Province  
250100 P.R. China

Dear Dr. Fu:

Your letter has reached this office during a time when the President of the UAHC is on a pre-retirement Sabbatical. Thus, I am taking the liberty of replying to your request for assistance.

First of all you should know that ours is a not-for-profit organization which is mandated to provide programs and services for member congregations. Our funds are limited and we are not in a position to provide grants for other organizations, no matter how worthy.

Be that as it may, I am taking the liberty of sharing your letter with the World Union for Progressive Judaism which is the arm of Reform Judaism which provides services for Liberal congregations outside of the United States of America. Perhaps they will be able to help you in terms of books and publications, albeit they, too, do not have funds for grants to other organizations.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President

The Institute for Jewish Culture Shandong University Jinan  
Shandong Province. 250100 P.R. China

Tel: 531 8907259 Fax: 531 8902167

March 13, 1996

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

Dear President,

As the director of the newly founded Institute for Jewish Culture, I take liberty to ask for help from you.

This institute established in 1994. We are now mainly doing two programs, i.e. series of translations and a books on Jewish thought. The translation including *Judaism on Trial* by Hyam Maccoby, *Modern Jewish Religious Movements* by David. Rudvasky, *The Guide for the Perplexed* by Moses Maimonides, *Everyman Talmud* by Cohen, *A short History of the Jewish People* by C. Roth, *Jewish Mysticism* by Martin Buber, etc. The book about Jewish thought covering all Jewish thinkers from Phalli to A. Heschel.

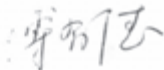
Now I am short of funds for the publications of them. Moreover, as Jewish studies has just been started in China we need many kinds of books and magazines, especially those concerning religion and thought.

I ,together with my colleagues here ,will be heartedly grateful if you can manage to provide some kind of aids.

I look forward to your reply

With Best Wishes.

Yours Sincerely



Fu, Youde  
Professor of philosophy  
Director of the Institute for Jewish Culture

Handwritten signature/initials in the top left corner.

November 8, 1995  
15 Heshvan 5756

Jerry Tanenbaum  
P.O. Box 6196  
Hot Springs, AR 71902

Dear Jerry:

I have your circular letter informing me that there will be a breakfast meeting of the North American Board at the UAHC Biennial in Atlanta. As you can imagine, my many obligations at that time will make it impossible for me to be with you. I hope you understand and understanding, forgive.

All my love to Pat, from Rhea too.

Fondly,

Alexander M. Schindler





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WORLD UNION FOR  
PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM  
האיגוד העולמי ליהדות מתקדמת

#6

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**Director of North  
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Martin Strelzer,  
New York, NY

**Director of International  
Development:**  
Rabbi Clifford Kulwin,  
New York, NY

November 3, 1995

Dear Rabbi:

We are pleased to invite you and your spouse, if he or she is present, as our guest to a breakfast during the UAHC/WRJ Biennial in Atlanta. The date and time:

Thursday, November 30th, from 7am to 8am, at the Hilton Hotel which is directly opposite the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel. The specific room will be listed in your UAHC program.

This will be a special opportunity to hear first hand about all the extraordinary accomplishments of the World Union for Progressive Judaism over the last few years, as well as what is planned for the future. As you are aware, one of the primary purposes of the World Union is to answer the spiritual needs of the Jewish people anywhere in the world.

Please fill out the attached reply form and return it in the enclosed reply envelope which we are providing for your convenience. Kindly return it as soon as possible. Our space may be limited and it is to your advantage to respond quickly.

I look forward to sharing this time with you.

Cordially,

  
Jerry Tanenbaum  
Chairman  
North American Board

JT/  
enc.



\_\_\_I/We plan to attend the World Union's breakfast during the UAHC/WRJ Biennial in Atlanta on Thursday, November 30th from 7am to 8am at the Hilton Hotel.

\_\_\_I/We are unable to attend the World Union's breakfast during the UAHC/WRJ Biennial in Atlanta on Thursday, November 30th from 7am to 8am at the Hilton Hotel.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_



WV 21

COPY

September 5, 1995  
10 Elul 5755

David Walsh, Chairman  
Reform Synagogues of Great Britain  
Sternberg Centre for Judaism  
80 East End Road  
Finchley, London  
N3 2SY England

Dear David:

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of the resolutions passed at the RSGB Convention. It gives me an insight of your concerns and I thank you for allowing me to catch a glimpse of that.

May I take this opportunity to wish and the leaders and members of your association every good wish for the coming New Year.

Cordially,

Alexander M. Schindler

# Reform Synagogues of Great Britain



THE STERNBERG CENTRE FOR JUDAISM 80 EAST END ROAD FINCHLEY LONDON N3 2SY Tel: 0181-349 4731  
0181-346 2288  
Fax: 0181-343 0901

July 1995  
Tammuz 5755

1995 REFORM MOVEMENT CONFERENCE  
IMPERIAL, BLACKPOOL, LANCS  
23 - 25 JUNE 1995

ARCHIVES

I am enclosing copies of the Resolutions passed at the 1995 Reform Movement Conference as they may be of interest to you. These were adopted by the delegates representing over 42,000 members of the Jewish community in this country.

With kind regards

David Walsh  
Chairman

Encs

02\AC30c.let

President: RABBI HUGO GRYN, CBE  
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Chief Executive: RABBI TONY BAYFIELD

WUPJ

August 24, 1995  
28 Av 5755

Zinovi Kogan  
Prospect Budennogo, 20-3-91  
Moscow 195118 Russia

Dear Zinoiv:

It was good to hear from you and I hope that all is well with you and your dear ones.

I wish you well with the RUAPJ and the critical work you are doing. As the UAHC is the parent body of North American Reform congregations, the World Union for Progressive Judaism is the contact for the RUAPJ, and I am therefore turning your letter of August 12 over to the World Union. I am certain they will give your request every consideration.

Thank you for your good wishes for the New Year, they are fully reciprocated. May you have a year of peace and plenty, good health and much happiness.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc; WUPJ



WUPJ



COPY

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

July 20, 1995  
22 Tammuz 5755

Mr. B.J. Tanenbaum, Jr.  
P.O. Box 6196  
Hot Springs, AR 71902

Dear B.J.:

I now have received several of your letters. One sent prior to the WUPJ Convention and one sent afterward seeking my support and my input as you evolve your ideas.

As far as support is concerned, you have that of course, although when it comes to financial contributions and since my resources are limited, I give the bulk of my contributions to the UAHC and to the Fund for Reform Judaism - in fact more than I should and more than Rhea knows. Still, I will make some contribution to the World Union as I have in the past.

As far as input and the evolution of the work is concerned, I am really not in the best position to do so. As you know, I stood at a distance from the World Union for a whole variety of reasons. In the first instance, when I began my career, the leadership of the World Union came to me and said that they resented the "overdominance" of the World Union by the Union and in all truth my predecessor of blessed memory, Maurice Eisendrath virtually dictated every single, solitary appointment of the Board and of the World Union's key committees. They even thought of moving out of our building in order to gain their independence. I promised them to keep my hands off. All the more so - and this is the second reason why I stepped into the background - I made the Union and its evolution an absolute priority of my work.

B.J. Tanenbaum, Jr.  
July 20, 1995  
Page two

Still, I do have some ideas but I had best not put them down on paper. Why don't we get together in the next few months and have a chat. I will then give you whatever input I can.

In any event, you can count on my continued support because the cause of the World Union is close to my heart, my absence to the contrary notwithstanding, and perhaps most important of all because I am so genuinely fond of you and of Pat and I want to do everything possible to help you.

Rhea joins me in sending you our very, very best.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



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Rabbi Clifford Kulwin,  
New York, NY

July 14, 1995

Rabbi and Mrs. Alexander Schindler  
c/o UAHC  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Rhea and Alex:

First of all, I would like to thank you for attending the World Union for Progressive Judaism's International Convention in Paris. I am sure you will agree that it was a mile-stone event which enabled us to share our thoughts with delegates from around the world. I felt the program was excellent, and while the accommodations at the meetings were somewhat less than desirable because of crowding and hot weather conditions, still, on balance, it was a very successful convention.

We now enter the latter half of this decade with new leadership, to be capably provided by Austin Beutel of Toronto, Canada and his excellent group of officers. It becomes our responsibility as North Americans and as the primary population center for Progressive Judaism in the world to enthusiastically support the WUPJ in every way possible.

During the next number of months, I hope that you will be more and more involved with the work of the World Union. The North American Board has also been restructured. Each officer has been given a clear delineation of responsibility and authority. New committees and new strategies have been formed and everyone on the North American Board will have real work to do.

I hope that you will join us enthusiastically to support the World Union for Progressive Judaism. You can help by telling people, both in your congregation and even your close associates, about the dynamic growth of the World Union and about the wonderful work it is doing.



July 14, 1995

Page Two

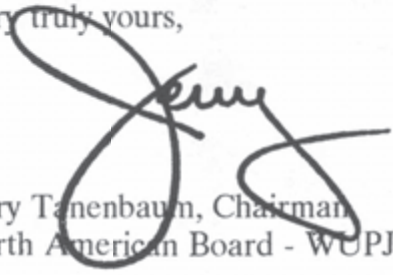
Therefore, please join with me today in helping to make the World Union for Progressive Judaism a household word among our constituency in North America. We are available to add some impetus to your effort by providing printed material if you desire. We also have a bureau of fine speakers who can speak to your congregation or to groups meetings that you arrange.

Please understand that I do not feel that we, as North Americans, have the right to expect that the rest of the world will adopt our brand of Reform Judaism. It is unique to us and emanates from our background and culture. In every country, where Jews live, however, there should be the opportunity to establish and grow congregations to embrace a modern, viable, meaningful, and relevant Judaism that is "right for them."

Our obligation, then is to provide the stimulus for that by assistance in establishing congregations and supporting existing Progressive Movements around the world. Obviously, all of this takes a lot of work and a lot of money. I hope that we can depend on you for "the work," but we also need to ask you to think carefully, now, about your continued support for the World Union for Progressive Judaism and while it is fresh on your mind and your wonderful experience in Paris is a bright light in your memory, please join with us today by renewing your commitment to the World Union for Progressive Judaism, by sending to us as much money as you can afford to support our continuing efforts.

Thank you again for attending the meeting in Paris and I look forward to seeing and meeting with you again. With kind personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom of the name.

Jerry Tanenbaum, Chairman  
North American Board - WUPJ



WUPJ

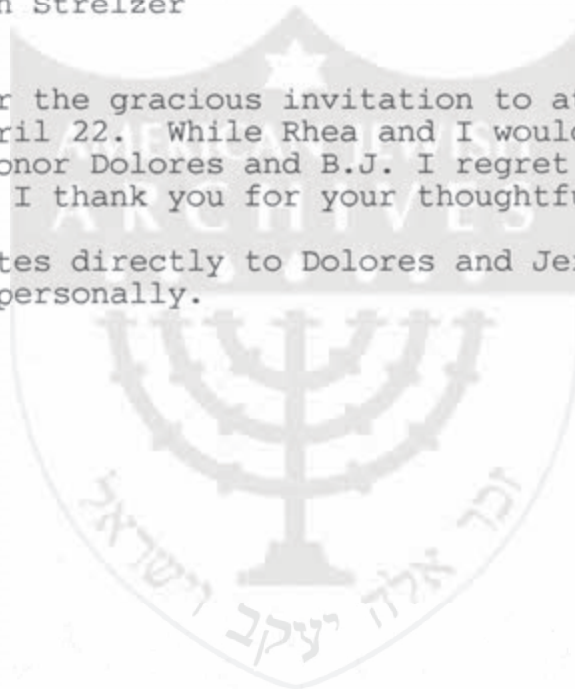
March 17, 1995  
15 Adar II 5755

From: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

To: Martin Strelzer

Thank you for the gracious invitation to attend the WUPJ dinner on April 22. While Rhea and I would want to be present to honor Dolores and B.J. I regret it will not be possible but I thank you for your thoughtful invitation.

I'll send notes directly to Dolores and Jerry to convey our regrets personally.





## NORTH AMERICAN BOARD

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New York, NY

**Director of International  
Affairs & Development:**

Rabbi Clifford Kulwin,  
New York, NY

March 13, 1995

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

Dear Alex::

On the evening of Saturday, April 22nd, the North American Board of the World Union will be holding a dinner prior to its regular meeting, the next day. As a member of that body you had already been notified. The dinner is now scheduled to be at 838 Fifth Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

The plans for the evening have just been finalized. After the dinner, we will have the election and installation of our new officers and the farewells and thank yous to the old. Dolores Wilkenfeld will be leaving her office as Chair of the North American Board and the nominee to replace her is B. J. Tanenbaum, Jr. The installing officer of the evening will be Rabbi Ronald Sobel.

I know that Dolores and Jerry would be very pleased if you and Rhea would be able to attend. Please notify this office if you can make it.

I look forward to sharing this special evening with you.

Warmest regards,

Martin Strelzer  
North American Director

MS:smt

Reggie - Jean's  
Write back Dolores &  
Jerry.

wupj

March 20, 1995  
18 Adar II 5755

Ms. Dolores Wilkenfeld  
121 North Post Oak Lane  
#506  
Houston, TX 77024-7711

Dear Dolores:

Unfortunately, Rhea and I can't attend the WUPJ dinner on April 22 and we want to convey our regrets to you. It would have been an opportune time to convey deepest appreciation for your years of devoted service as chair of the WUPJ North American Board and I want you to know our absence is based merely on a schedule conflict and in no way should be seen as disinterest in the WUPJ or its leadership, past, present or future!

We always marvel at your devoted leadership. Your energy and commitment to the causes so dear to you are exemplary and Reform (Liberal/Progressive) Judaism is certainly the beneficiary of your care and concern. We owe you a debt of gratitude for all that you are and all that you do in behalf of our sacred cause.

With fondest regards to you and Buddy from both of us, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

WUPJ

March 20, 1995  
18 Adar II 5755

Mr. B.J. Tannenbaum  
P.O. Box 6196  
Hot Springs, AR 71902-6196

Dear Jerry:

Just a note to express Rhea's and my regrets, for we cannot be at the April 22 WUPJ dinner when you are to be installed as the new Chairman of the North American Board. I hope you understand that a schedule conflict is the only thing that keeps us from sharing this very special occasion with you and Pat.

I am confident you will lead the North American Board with the caring concern which has become your hallmark! I don't believe you can operate in any other fashion! So, from afar *mazal tov* on your election to this leadership position, may you find your tenure to be a time of great personal satisfaction and fulfillment.

Rhea joins me in sending love to you and Pat.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



wo eg

August 8, 1995  
12 Av 5755

Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick  
West London Synagogue  
33 Seymour Place  
London W1H 6AT England

Dear Jacqui:

Please forgive this delayed response but I have been travelling again, albeit here in the States this time.

I've finally had an opportunity to read the text of my lecture you were kind enough to share. It seems fine to me and you may certainly distribute it as you had planned.

Friends of my assistant, Edie Miller, were at West London Synagogue and they simply could not get over your warm and gracious welcome and the delightful Shabbat evening they spent at the Synagogue. You made quite an impact on them!

With fond regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Did you  
review?

I'd have it done  
in Westport -  
Remind me to buy  
if in



COPY

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

May 23, 1995  
23 Iyar 5755

Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick  
West London Synagogue of British Jews  
33 Seymour Place  
London W1H 6AT England

Dear Jacqui:

Yes, of course I heard about John Rayner and I am happy to learn that he is making a steady recovery. As a matter of fact, he and I plan to be on one panel come the World Union Convention.

I really don't have the time to go through the manuscript now. You have no idea how overpressed I am and how many deadlines are looming in the days ahead, never mind the endless meetings that I must attend.

Be that as it may, I will not get to reviewing this manuscript until the summer. I hope you understand and in understanding, forgive. As a matter of fact, I am inclined to use some of it for the forthcoming sessions of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

There is no hurry for this I am sure. As a matter of fact I don't even why this has to be distributed. In any event, I will return it to you in good shape and I hope you understand my predicament.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



JT/ELW

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
World Union for Progressive Judaism  
(North American Board)  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10021  
U.S.A.

28th April 1995

Dear Alex

You may have heard that unfortunately John Rayner has had to have a second heart by-pass. After several weeks recuperation and build up he has now had the operation and so far, thank God, all is going well.

But, as a result, things with your lecture got rather delayed. I had sent him the copy of your lecture to check it over before we distributed it, at his request and I was a little unsure whether he'd looked at it or whether it was still lying around. I am still unsure. I really don't want to worry Jane or John at this moment about anything to do with work, so I thought the best course of action would be to send the copy of your lecture as we now have it, to you. If you could just look at it and if you agree with the text, then perhaps you could drop me a note to that effect and then I would be delighted to distribute it to my colleagues.

I do hope that both of you are well and I look forward to seeing you when next you're in London.

With many good wishes.

Yours sincerely

  
**Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick**

enc.



WUPJ

August 8, 1995  
12 Av 5755

Rabbi Alejandro Lilienthal  
ARI  
Rua General Severiano 170 Botafogo  
Rio de Janeiro, CEP 22290-040, Brazil

Dear Alejandro:

Whole I regret you weren't in Paris, it pleased me to learn of the fine reports your congregants gave on my presentation to the WUPJ.

A copy of my remarks is enclosed but I must explain that it is a working text from my computer therefore un-paragraphed; however, I have noted the paragraph breaks.

May I also extend to you and all your dear ones my warm good wishes for 5756, may it be a year blessed with good health, happiness and fulfillment.

Sincerely,

Alexander N. Schindler

*Edie  
Please meet  
Paul at end of  
my computer  
It's in Westport*



Rio de Janeiro, July 24, 1995.  
26 of Tamuz, 5755.

Alejandro Lilienthal  
Rabino

Rabbi Alexander M. Shindler  
President  
U.A.H.C.  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021-7064

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Several of my congregants were in attendance at the last World Union for Progressive Judaism meeting in Paris.

They came back very impressed by your presentation at the conference, and asked me that I remind you of their interest in receiving a written copy of your remarks. This way they will be able to share your thoughts with those of us who were not present in Paris and therefore missed something good.

If you wish to send me your text, please feel free. I will be happy to pass it on.

Thank you very much.  
Shaná Tová.

Yours,



COPY

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

November 3, 1994  
29 Heshvan 5755

Rachel Kazaryan  
All Ways International  
5 Penn Plaza Suite 102-ADP  
New York, NY 10001

Dear Ms Kazaryan:

Thank you for your letter of explanation in regard to the complaint of Mr. and Mrs. Kahn.

I am sharing this correspondence with Rabbi Clifford Kulwin of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. It was he who recommended All Ways International to me and he spoke very glowingly of your service. There is no need to apologize for this situation, I deal with similar complaints very often and most of the time they are due to immediate negative reaction on the part of people who have not bothered to listen to what is being explained to them. I regret that there was a misunderstanding and thank you for writing to clarify the situation.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President



# World Union For Progressive Judaism

האיגוד העולמי ליהדות מתקדמת

838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021 • (212) 249-0100 / 13 King David Street, Jerusalem, Israel 94101 • 2-203-452  
FAX # (212) 517-3940 FAX # 2-203-446

November 10, 1994

Editor  
Belgisch Israelitisch Weekblad  
Pelikaanstraat 106  
B-2000 Antwerp  
BELGIUM

Dear Sir:

The September 23, 1994 edition of your paper published an article in which the author claimed that by the time Liberal Judaism in the United States had reached one hundred years of age, no descendants of the founders remained within the Jewish community.

This is utter rubbish. It is only with much reluctance that I dignify the charge with a response.

If the author wishes to denigrate Liberal Judaism in North America, that is certainly his right. But let him do so based upon fact, or at least honest, personal opinion, and not outright lies.

Cordially,

Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin  
International Affairs Director

cc: Rabbi Schidler

Send copy to  
guy who wrote in  
cc: to Hoffmeyer King  
11/15



# MEMORANDUM

November 2, 1994

COPY

**FROM:** Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

**TO:** Marty Strelzer

**COPY:**

The enclosed is self-evident. Please make certain that some response is forthcoming.

Many thanks.



**Union of American Hebrew Congregations**

**SERVING REFORM JUDAISM IN NORTH AMERICA**

838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212) 249-0100



COPY

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

November 2, 1994  
28 Heshvan 5755

Geoffrey King  
Rue du Roetaert 147  
B-1180 Brussels  
BELGIUM

Dear Mr. King:

Thank you for the article from the Belgisch Israelitisch Weekblad. I appreciate your calling this matter to our attention and I write to advise that I am turning it over to the office of the World Union for Progressive Judaism for handling. Since it appeared in an overseas newspaper, I think it is proper that it be brought to the attention of this arm of the Reform movement.

Many thanks for your concern and should the WUPJ require a translation, I am certain they will be in contact with you.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

① Please let the  
world know how  
the hell Geoffrey King  
feels we do

Rue du Roetaert 147  
B-1180 Brussels  
Belgium

October 27, 1994

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I enclose a cutting from the Belgisch Israëlitisch Weekblad (the Belgian equivalent of the UK Jewish Chronicle) of 23 September 1994, concerning the Brussels Liberal synagogue in which the author, who while praising the work done by our community, attacks Liberal Judaism for the following reasons (I translate the marked text):

Because its dogma is bristling with pitfalls which undermine the continuity of Judaism. Look at the United States. On the occasion of the centenary of Liberal Judaism in that country, it was desired to interview the grandchildren of the founders.

This was out of the question: These descendants were so assimilated that they had broken all Jewish connections.

I first heard this statement about the assimilation of the descendants of the founders of (presumably) the UAHC from a French orthodox rabbi about 15 years ago but now it has appeared in print you can, under Belgian law, use your right of reply and demand the publication of a correction.

May I suggest you draft a letter to the Editor, Belgisch Israëlitisch Weekblad, Pelikaanstraat 106, B-2000 Awtwerpen, Belgium saying he must be referring to the UAHC, giving its date of foundation together with anything you think appropriate concerning its centenary. I can have your letter translated into Dutch and return it to you to send directly.

If it is more convenient, you can send me a fax c/o Beth Hillel at +32.2.376.7219.

Yours sincerely

  
Geoffrey King

Rabbi A. Schindler  
President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10021  
U.S.A.

kantoren op dinsdag en woensdag 28 september de ganse dag gesloten.

B.W.

23 oct. 99

## OVERPEINZINGEN

### Shofar

De Liberale Joodse Gemeente van Brussel (een poging om een filiaal op te richten in Antwerpen, liep op een sisser uit) is ontstemd. Zeer ontstemd. Het waarom daarvan heb ik gevonden in de "Shofar", het maandblad van deze gemeente. Het Centraal Israëlitisch Consistorie van België weigert namelijk pertinent haar als lid te aanvaarden. En dat nemen de hoofdstedelijke liberalen niet. Zij schreeuwen moord en brand. Maar lievemoeieren en dreigementen met een proces brachten geen aarde aan de dijk. Het bleef en blijft een "njet".

Nu heb ik geen afliusterapparaten laten installeren in de vergaderzaal van het Consistorie, maar ik meen toch te weten waarom de liberalen tevergeefs op de Consistoriale deur blijven kloppen. Daar stelt men zich op het standpunt, dat mensen, die de religie uithollen door sommige essentiële basisprincipes ervan over boord te gooien, er niet thuis horen.

Ik ben een verdraagzaam man en respecteer eenieders overtuiging en levensvisie. Ik ontken geenszins de verdiensten van het Liberale jodendom. Maar toch heb ik er geen moeite mee om het standpunt van het Consistorie bij te treden. En weet u waarom?

Omdat hun dogma bezaaid is met voetangels en klemmen, die de continuïteit van het jodanisme ondermijnen. Kijk naar de Verenigde Staten. Ter gelegenheid van het 100-jarig bestaan van het Liberale jodendom in dat land, wou men de kleinkinderen van de oprichters een interview afnemen.

Daar kwam niets van in huis: de gezochte nazaten waren dermate geassimileerd, dat zij elke binding met het jodendom hadden verbroken.

Spijtig dat men dit in Brussel niet wil inzien.

L.



sent 9/29



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

September 29, 1994  
24 Tishri 5755

Via Fax one page

TO: Rabbi Maya Leibovich  
FROM: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Thank you so much for the invitation to be at the wonderful dedication ceremony of the Sefer Torah being given to Kehilat Mevasseret Zion. Unfortunately, I will not be in Israel until October 18th, thus, I shall have to miss the pleasure of sharing in this wonderful occasion with you and the families of your fledgling congregation.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you well, I am confident Kehilat Mevasseret Zion will flourish and grow under your spiritual leadership.

Warm regards from house to house.

13'9'2



# World Union For Progressive Judaism

האיגוד העולמי  
ליהדות מתקדמת

13 King David Street, Jerusalem, Israel 94101  
TEL: 02-203447, 203452

FACSIMILE: 972-2-203446 מוקסימיליה:  
TELEX: 26144 BXJML EXT. 7302 טלקס:

רח' המלך דוד 13 ירושלים, 94101  
טל. 02-203447 - 203452

September 29, 1994

Rabbi Alex Schindler  
UAHC  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
Fax: 212-570-0895

*for Alex - not arriving for 182*

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I am told that you will be in Israel during the month of October. As you probably know, I serve as Rabbi of the fledgling Kehilat Mevasseret Zion.

On October 14, 1994 we shall receive a Sefer Torah, donated by congregation House of Israel, Hot Springs Arkansas. Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Tanenbaum, whose efforts on our behalf made this donation come true, will represent congregation House of Israel.

If you are indeed in Israel during this time, it will be a great honor if you and your wife could attend the dedication ceremony. We have long hoped to see you in Mevasseret.

Please inform me if this visit is possible.

Yours respectfully,

*Maya Leibovich*

Rabbi Maya Leibovich  
Tel: (02) 438-428 (H) / (02) 203-479 (W)  
Fax: (02) 203-446

*972*

*not yet*





838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021-7064  
TEL: (212) 249-0100, FAX: (212) 517-7968

## ASSOCIATION OF REFORM ZIONISTS OF AMERICA

An Affiliate of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations

### Memorandum

To: Alex Schindler  
Eric Yoffie  
Edith Miller

From: Ammi Hirsch

*Ammi*

Re: 1995 Israel Day Parade

Date: September 28, 1994

In response to Edie's memo of September 16, 1994, I have looked into the dispute regarding the above matter, and have pieced together the following background:

The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors ("The American Gathering") and the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization ("WAGRO") are the two primary organizations which organize the annual Holocaust commemoration in New York. These commemorations are generally quite large, and are usually held in central locations. Last year, Elie Wiesel was the featured speaker at Avery Fischer Hall; two years ago Al Gore spoke at Madison Square Garden; and Dan Quayle was the guest three years ago. By order of a proclamation issued by the United States Congress, the week in the secular calendar corresponding to the week of the 27th of Nissan (the date of Yom Hashoah in the Jewish calendar) has been set aside as a week of remembrance. Additionally, in the early 1970's, the Knesset, by letter to WAGRO, expressed its approval of holding an annual Holocaust commemoration on the Sunday nearest the 27th of Nissan. The Knesset recognized WAGRO's concern that an event which would attract large segments of the community must be held on a Sunday - and not necessarily the 27th of Nissan - which could fall during the week. Thus the Holocaust commemoration in New York is always held on the Sunday closest to the 27th of Nissan - this year, April 30.

Whether due to AZYF's ignorance of the above, or because it simply could not find another date to hold the Salute to Israel Parade, it scheduled the Parade on April 30. The AZYF claims that it cannot hold the Parade during Sefirat Ha'Omer, (with the exception of April 30, which is Rosh Hodesh) and it cannot postpone it until after Shavuoth because school for the day schools will have been completed for the year.

What began as a misunderstanding over scheduling has mushroomed into an angry and needless debate about the value of memory versus the value of Israel. I have enclosed recent press releases for your review.

In my opinion, we should stay out of this one. I see no value in our involvement. Firstly, under the terms of the public discussion, it is a no win situation. How can an argument in

the Jewish community be won when the terms are Israel versus the Holocaust? With all of our disappointment in the past with the AZYF and the Orthodox community, these are not people who seek to diminish the importance of the Holocaust. Those who get involved publicly in this matter will be criticized by all sides. The emotions are very high.

Secondly, other organizations are working to resolve the matter, including JCRC and the Israeli Consulate. Colette Avital appears to be sympathetic to WAGRO. We cannot really add to the efforts currently being made. Our influence in the AZYF is not great.

I recommend that we sit tight and see how the matter is resolved. In the unlikely event that the two sides do not reach an agreement, then we shall have to make our decision. I think it is premature at this point to do so.







## CALENDAR

Oct. 4-5 — Council of Jewish Federations, New Professionals Institute, Chicago.

# HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, PARADE PLANNERS DEADLOCKED OVER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

By Stewart Alm

The New York Jewish Week

NEW YORK (JTA) — The thousands of marchers in next year's Salute to Israel Parade will have to step over Holocaust survivors, their canes and wheelchairs, if a scheduling conflict is not resolved.

That was the threat made by Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, after being told that parade organizers refused to reschedule the April 30 event so it would not conflict with the annual commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The New York City parade's sponsor, the American Zionist Youth Foundation, said it has no desire to conflict with the survivors' observance and would select another parade date were one available, according to its chairman, Julius Berman.

But he said a review of the academic calendar — tens of thousands of youngsters make up the parade — and the Jewish calendar that governs when such a parade is permissible, rule out all other dates.

The events are two of the city's major Jewish communal functions and annually draw thousands of participants. That they should be scheduled for the same day has turned from being an embarrassment to what several people have called a "shanda," the Yiddish word for a great embarrassment.

Several leaders of other Jewish organizations said they hoped to find a solution.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York was said to be working behind the scenes to mediate the dispute, and Israeli Consul General Colette Avital spoke by telephone with both sides to resolve what some privately term an "unseemly" affair.

The Salute to Israel Parade is no stranger to controversy. It came under criticism earlier this year for not doing enough to stop a handful of marchers from using the parade to protest Israeli government policies.

Last year, several Orthodox yeshivas threatened to pull out if members of a gay synagogue were allowed to march under the congregation's own banner.

In the current dispute, Berman suggested in a letter to Meed that both events could take place the same day at different times.

He said the 2 1/2-hour breakfast normally held on the morning of the parade could be canceled to avoid a conflict with the Holocaust commemoration, which could be held in the morning, something unusual for the observance, which until now has been held in the afternoon. The parade could take place in the afternoon, he said.

Berman, who said he has attended every Holocaust commemoration and himself lost rela-

tives in the Holocaust, said he would provide transportation for dignitaries who wished to attend both functions.

In addition, he said leaders of the Holocaust commemoration would be invited to march at the beginning of the parade to "thematically focus upon the transition from the Shoah (Holocaust) to the "gavurah" (greatness) of the establishment of the State of Israel."

But, Meed, referring to that offer in a letter he sent to several Jewish communal leaders, said New York's annual Holocaust commemoration is "under attack — not by fascists, nor by deniers, but by Jewish organizers of the Salute to Israel Parade."

"Vanish, move the commemoration to another day, we are told; or, make an early minyan and quickly recite Kaddish for our 6 million so that we can rejoice and dance in the afternoon. How rude and disrespectful," he said.

"Do not be a partner, behind closed doors, to the shameful and indecent attempt of the parade organizers," Meed wrote.

Berman, in his letter, said he does not have to be "lectured upon the importance of Yom Hashoah and what it represents — the one day on which the Jewish people throughout the world pause and remind themselves of what they lost, individually and collectively, while the world's nations stood silently by."

Israel Consul Avital appears to side with Meed. She told The Jewish Week that she believes the two events should not be held on the same day.

She said she spoke by phone with both Meed and Berman, and told Berman that to have both events on the same day would display a "lack of sensitivity. The memory of those who perished should be observed."

Avital said that just as one observes the period of semi-mourning that occurs during the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot, "one should also remember more recent history" and remember those murdered in the Holocaust.

Meed said the decision to hold the Holocaust commemoration on April 30 is "irrevocable" because that is the "holy day" established by the Knesset for the observance.

He said survivors are "bombarding" him with phone calls, pleading with him not to "betray" them and knuckle under to pressure from AZYF.

But Berman questioned that, pointing out that the official day established by the Knesset to commemorate the Holocaust actually falls on April 27, not April 30.

"I am sure they had good cause when they decided to have their commemoration on a day other than the one dedicated by the Knesset, a day uniformly observed by Jewish people throughout the world as the day of commemoration," said Berman.

"I find it difficult to conceive that anyone can then transfer not only the solemnity and sanctity of the day for this commemoration but to also impose that transfer on others," he said.

But Meed countered, saying he has a copy of a document from the Knesset that clearly states that if the commemoration cannot be held in the



middle of the week, it should be observed on the Sunday closest to the actual date.

Avital has suggested that the parade be moved to May 21 and that it end at the 67th Regiment Armory on Park Avenue, the site of the weeklong Israeli Expo being planned by the Israeli Consulate.

Berman promised to suggest that date to the yeshivas that participate in the parade, but said they might find it objectionable because it falls within the seven-week mourning period between Passover and Shavuot.

He added that if they do not agree on that date, he will have no choice but to proceed with the parade on April 30 or cancel it.

He said the first Sunday after Shavuot, June 11, is already too late for the parade because by then the afternoon Hebrew schools have already finished for the year and yeshiva high school students are studying or taking final exams.

Should both events be held the same day, Avital said she does not know if she would march in the parade or if the Israeli government would send an official representative to march, as it has in the past. She said those decisions would be made by the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Several other Jewish leaders said they were also in a quandary over the conflict.

Rabbi Herschel Schacter, a leader of the New York Jewish Community Council's Holocaust Observance Committee and the first Jewish chaplain to enter Buchenwald, said he can appreciate both groups' dilemma.

But he said a compromise must be found. For this he suggested the parade be held April 23, even though there will have been no school the previous week because of the Passover holiday.

Avital, too, said it is her "firm belief that where there is a will, there is a way."

She said the "AZYF should make an effort to move the date."

Michael Miller, the executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, said he is looking forward to an "early resolution" of the dispute.

"Both events will happen," he said. "As to when they are going to happen and whether everyone will be happy with the solution . . ." He left the sentence hanging. "But the issue for New York is that the youth of New York must celebrate Israel's very being, and there must be a Holocaust commemoration."

#### 50 YEARS AGO IN JTA DISPATCHES: Sept. 23-Oct. 6, 1994

##### 35,000 JEWS SURVIVED IN BULGARIA

**SOFIA, Sept. 24 (JTA)** -- Thirty-five thousand Jews have survived the German occupation of Bulgaria, but not a single Jew remains in Macedonia from where the entire Jewish population was deported to extermination camps in Poland, the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency established upon his arrival here today. Before the war there were about 50,000 Jews in Bulgaria.

##### CHIEF RABBI OF FRANCE, BELIEVED DEAD, RETURNS FROM HIDING

**MARSEILLE, Sept. 25 (JTA)** -- Chief Rabbi Issaye Schwartz of France, who disappeared in December 1943, and who was believed to have been deported by the Germans, succeeded in escaping from the Gestapo and has returned to Lyon after hiding in the mountains for eight months, it was learned here today. Rabbi Schwartz, who is over 60, had been in ill health even before he was seized by the Germans. He is reported to have arrived in Lyon in a complete state of exhaustion and hardly recognizable as a result of his ragged appearance and the fact that he shaved off his beard in order to protect himself while a fugitive.

##### JEWS BRIGADE WILL PARTICIPATE IN OCCUPATION OF GERMANY, CHURCHILL ANNOUNCES

**LONDON, Sept. 28 (JTA)** -- Prime Minister Winston Churchill, addressing the House of Commons today, announced that the Jewish brigade now being formed will participate in the occupation of Germany. The British Prime Minister said that it seemed to him appropriate that a unit of the race which suffered indescribable torments from the Nazis should be represented in the forces gathered for the final overthrow of the tormentors. "I do not doubt that they will not only partake in the struggle, but also in the occupation which will follow," he declared.

##### JEWS DOCTORS WITH U.S. FORCES IN GERMANY GIVE TREATMENT TO GERMAN CIVILIANS

**WITH AMERICAN TROOPS IN GERMANY, Sept. 29 (JTA)** -- Jewish doctors serving with American advance units are now treating German civilians in the liberated parts of Germany, though most of them refrain from informing the patients that they are being treated by a Jew, the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told today by military medical authorities.

##### BERLIN REPORTS "EXTENSIVE ROUNDUP" OF JEWS IN BRATISLAVA

**WASHINGTON, Oct. 1 (JTA)** -- The Berlin radio said today that the puppet government of Slovakia had carried out an "extensive roundup" of Jews in Bratislava.

The broadcast, directed to the German armed forces and reported by United States Government monitors, claimed that it was the first such roundup undertaken in the capital of the puppet Slovak state but did not disclose when it had occurred.

##### TRAPPED YUGOSLAV JEWS ASK TO BE RESCUED BY ALLIED SUPPLY PLANES

**NEW YORK, Oct. 3 (JTA)** -- An appeal for aid was received today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from 1,000 Yugoslav Jews, mostly aged men and women and young children, who are living under the most difficult conditions, isolated in the Nazi-puppet state of Croatia, surrounded by Germans and lacking food and clothing. The group asks that they be rescued by Allied planes bringing food and medical supplies to the partisans of Marshal Tito operating in that region.



# Shutdown Over Yom HaShoah

*Holocaust survivors, Salute to Israel Parade organizers deadlocked over scheduling for annual events.*

STEWART AIN  
STAFF WRITER

**T**he thousands of marchers in next year's Salute to Israel Parade will have to step over Holocaust survivors, their canes and wheelchairs, if a scheduling conflict is not resolved.

That was the threat last week from the president of the American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, Benjamin Meed, after he was told that parade organizers refused to reschedule the April 30 event so that it would not conflict with the annual commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The parade's sponsor, the American Zionist Youth Foundation, said it has no desire to conflict with the survivors' observance and would select another parade date were one available, according to its chairman, Julius Berman. But he said a review of the academic calendar — tens of thousands of youngsters make up the parade — and the Jewish calendar that governs when such a parade is permissible rule out all other dates.

The events are two of the city's major Jewish communal functions and annually draw thousands of participants. That they should be scheduled for the same day has turned from being an embarrassment to a what several people have called a *shanda* (disgrace). Several leaders of other Jewish organizations said they hoped to find a solution.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York was said to be working behind the scenes to mediate the dispute, and Israeli Consul General Colette Avital spoke by phone with both sides to resolve what some privately term an "unseemly" affair.

The Salute to Israel Parade is no stranger to controversy. It came under criticism earlier this year for not doing enough to stop a handful of marchers from using the parade to protest Israeli government policies. Last year several Orthodox yeshivas threatened to pull out if members of a gay synagogue were allowed to march under their own banner. The threat was called off when Congregation Beth Simchat Torah agreed to march under the AZYP flag.

In the current dispute, Berman suggested in a letter last week to Meed that both events take place the same day. He said the 2 1/2-hour breakfast normally held on the morning of the parade would be canceled to avoid a conflict with the Holocaust commemoration in the morning, and that the parade would be held after the commemoration in the afternoon.

Berman, who said he has attended every Holocaust commemoration and lost relatives in the Holocaust, said he would provide transportation for dignitaries who wished to attend both functions. In addition, he said leaders of the Holocaust commemoration would be invited to march at the beginning of the parade to "thematically focus upon the transition from



Benjamin Meed: The annual Holocaust commemoration "under attack ... by Jewish organizers of the Salute to Israel Parade."

the Shoah [Holocaust] to the *gavurah* [strength] of the establishment of the State of Israel."

Late last week, Meed referred to that offer in a letter to several Jewish communal leaders in which he said the annual Holocaust commemoration in the city is "under attack — not by fascists, nor by deniers, but by Jewish organizers of the Salute to Israel Parade."

"Vaniah, move the commemoration to another day, we are told; or, make an early minyan and quickly recite Kaddish for our 6 million so that we can rejoice and dance in the afternoon. How rude and disrespectful. ... As Rosh HaShanah approaches, we appeal to you to stand with us and speak out. Do not be a partner, behind closed doors, to the shameful and indecent attempt of the parade organizers."

Berman said in his letter that he does not have to be "lectured upon the importance of Yom HaShoah and what it represents — the one day on which the Jewish people throughout the world pause and remind themselves of what they lost, individually and collectively, while the world's nations stood silently by."

Avital told The Jewish Week that she believes the two events should not be held the same day. She said she spoke by phone with both Meed and Berman, and told Berman that to have both events on April 30 would display a "lack of sensitivity. The memory of those who perished should be observed."

Avital said that just as one observes the period of semi-mourning that occurs during the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot, "one should also remember more recent history" and remember those murdered in the Holocaust.

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## NEW YORK

## AMERICAN JEWISH

He said survivors are "bombarding" him with phone calls, pleading with him not to "betray" them and knuckle under to pressure from the AZYF.

Berman questioned that, pointing out that the official day established by the Knesset to commemorate the Holocaust actually falls on April 27, not April 30.

"I am sure they had good cause when they decided to have their commemoration on a day other than the one dedicated by the Knesset, a day uniformly observed by Jewish people throughout the world as the day of commemoration," said Berman. "I find it difficult to conceive that anyone can then transfer not only the solemnity and sanctity of the day for this commemoration but to also impose that transfer on others."

Meed said, however, that he has a copy of a document from the Knesset that clearly states that if the commemoration cannot be held in the middle of the week, it should be observed on the Sunday closest to the actual date.

Avital has suggested that the parade be moved to May 21 and that it end at the 67th Regiment Armory on Park Avenue, the site of the weeklong Israeli Expo being planned by the Israeli Consulate. Berman promised to suggest that date to the yeshivas that participate in the parade, but said they might find it objectionable because it falls within the seven-week mourning period.

Berman added that if they do not agree on that date, he will have no choice but to proceed with the parade on April 30 or cancel it. He said the first Sunday after Shavuot, June

11, is already too late for the parade because by then the afternoon Hebrew schools have already finished for the year and yeshiva high school students are studying or taking final exams.

Should both events be held the same day, Avital said she does not know if she would march in the parade or if the Israeli government would send an official representative to march, as it has in the past. She said those decisions would be made by the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Several Jewish leaders said they too were in a quandary about the conflict. Rabbi Herschel Schacter, the first Jewish chaplain to enter Buchenwald, said he can appreciate the dilemma of both groups. But he said a compromise must be found and suggested that the

parade be held on April 23, even though there will have been no school the previous week because of the Passover holiday.

Avital too said it is her "firm belief that where there is a will, there is a way, and the AZYF should make an effort to move the date."

The executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Michael Miller, said he is looking forward to an "early resolution" of the dispute.

"Both events will happen," he said. "As to when they are going to happen and whether everyone will be happy with the solution ...

"But the issue for New York is that the youth of New York must celebrate Israel's very being and there must be a Holocaust commemoration." □



WUPJ

April 12, 1994  
2 Iyar 5754

Andrey Kobzar  
Poccuя Mockba, 111531  
Wocce, 3HTY3NACTOB  
A 98, Kopm.4, KB. 609

Dear Andrey:

Your letter was incorrectly addressed to me for it should have been sent to the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) for they are the body which deals with Reform congregations outside of the United States. I am sharing your letter with them and will ask them to send you information on Hineni, the Liberal synagogue in Moscow.

Enclosed herewith is a pamphlet which provides information on the beliefs and practices of Reform Judaism (also referred to as Progressive or Liberal Judaism). I believe this will be of help to you.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: WUPJ



COPY

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

April 6, 1994  
25 Nisan 5754

Sherman Naymark  
218 Forrester Road  
Los Gatos, CA 95032

Dear Sherman;

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of March 25th. It reached me after I returned from an extensive road trip. Hence, the belated reply.

You raise an important issue. While the idea which you have is intriguing, I am not too hopeful that it can be effected. The other continental groupings affiliated with the World Union for Progressive Judaism resent the "dominance" of America's Reform Jews in their affairs and they would be loathe to join an even larger entity.

Moreover, there are some serious ideological differences which divide us as an American Reform Jewish community from our counterparts elsewhere. I refer particularly to the Israeli rabbinate which is aghast at some of the innovation which we in Reform have been able to effect such as Outreach and Patrilineality.

In addition, I don't even think that it will lead to increased funds. I don't know whether you know this or not, but in Canada we have a joint campaign with the World Union for Progressive Judaism for work to be done in North America and in Israel and this combination has not led to an increase in the overall donations to our work.

Sherman Naymark  
April 6, 1994  
Page 2

Still, just because something did not work in the past doesn't mean that it cannot work in the future. Accordingly, I will certainly see to it that this matter is further explored. I hope that Dick will share his answer to you with me even as I am going to share my answer with him. Perhaps through the involvement of our leadership we can carry this further.

You are right, this is no matter to be discussed by mail alone and requires a personal encounter.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch

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~~XXXX~~  
Sherman Naymark  
218 Forrester Road  
Los Gatos, California 95032

March 25, 1994

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President UAHC  
Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, President WUPJ

Dear Alex and Dick:

I had hoped to personally share what I believe to be an important concept when I had planned to see Dick in Jerusalem in late April and possibly Alex in New York upon a trip East; but, by your recent letter, Dick, we will miss contact due to your other commitments. So, allow me to raise an idea to you both by this letter. Your response might allow some later personal follow up.

As a Jewish lay person involved in Reform Judaism, and in a concern for world Jewry from an organizational standpoint, I am apprehensive of the ineffectiveness of Jewish organizations to solve the key global Jewish problems. American Reform synagogues are understandably so involved in their own and their congregants agendas, that they have set aside little time and money to support national Jewish religious organizations such as the UAHC. Their mission has not included help to suffering or denied Jews throughout the world. The synagogues have not, to this point, taken any responsibility for religious and physical survival of world Jewry- be it in Israel, or the Former Soviet Union. That effort has been assumed by the Jewish Federations, with their own fractious partners world wide.

The work and support given by Federations to organizations and needs beyond the local community goes to the Jewish Agency, whose primary mission is to support Israeli needs in the manner that the state of Israel prescribes. That prescription does not encourage a religious way of life beyond Orthodoxy or Secularism.

The result is that many non-Orthodox American Jews feel that they have no outlet through which they can support the saving and propagation of the modern Jewish faith into the now small (and getting smaller) Remnant Jews, no matter where they may be scattered. It is incumbent upon you two, as our leaders, to organize



Reform/Progressive Judaism so that American Jews do not lose their enthusiasm for supporting organizations that propagate our modern Jewish faith in America, Israel and the FSU. I am an avid supporter of your *Outreach* program, Alex, and yet, think how much greater that appeal can be if we are chartered to reach out to Jews in Israel, the FSU countries, and elsewhere, as well as to those in our own country. Of course, I understand that the UAHC, as now chartered, has a limited geographical charter that stops at the shoreline of our country.

On the other hand, Dick, you have the charter for the rest of the world's Progressive Jewry. And I marvel at what you have been able to do with so little support. But the truth of the matter is that America's liberal Reform/Progressive Jews do not have the same knowledge of, or enthusiasm for supporting an organization based outside the country as they do for one that they associate within the country. And without that financial and political support and enthusiasm, I am concerned how much must be left undone that might be done under a different banner and a broader mandate.

The question therefore is: Why not consider combining the two organizations into one and changing the scope of that one organization so that it becomes **The World Union for Reform Judaism**? With such a move, the strength of each separate former organization is multiplied greatly, and the scope of American Jewish support for non U.S. Jewish needs is enhanced.

I realize that there might have been important reasons for the rise of two different organizations at one time, and that there may still be some merit in such a split. But we live in a new world and a new situation, and CHANGE has become accepted where needed, and sought after for survival. Both of you have been magnificent in what you have been able to accomplish within your organizations. Both of you are accepted as the leaders of Reform Judaism with its role in bringing a great measure of religious and social progress into acceptance by Jews and peoples of other faiths. Both of you, collectively, have that level of acceptance that is needed in order to propose and affect the needed major changes in the two organizations. Both of you yet have the time in the remaining years of your leadership to propose and implement improvements that your successors could not bring about for at least a decade after they take office, even if they wanted to. And, most important of all, both of you can make changes affecting personal responsibilities and



איחוד  
ליהדות  
מתקדמת  
באמריקה

# Union of American Hebrew Congregations

SERVING REFORM JUDAISM IN NORTH AMERICA

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

November 16, 1993

Mr. Donald S. Day  
Saperston & Day, P.C.  
1100 M& T Center  
3 Fountain Plaza  
Buffalo, NY 14203-1486

Dear Don:

Thank you for your memo outlining the critical questions facing the World Union as it plans for the future. Below are my thoughts for consideration by the Ad Hoc Transition Committee.

1. I strongly recommend that the World Union plan to open a European office in the very near future. Such an office should have at least one full-time professional staff member, with adequate clerical and secretarial back-up.

There are both administrative and programmatic reasons for opening a European office at this time. With the collapse of Communism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the program of the World Union has increasingly focused on developing a progressive Jewish presence in those areas. Such development will remain a top priority of the World Union for the foreseeable future. Because of geographic proximity, an office in London, Paris, or Amsterdam will be able to supervise World Union activities in Eastern Europe with greater effectiveness than will the Jerusalem office.

Furthermore, it has been apparent for some time that the World Union must develop more aggressively congregations in Western Europe, particularly in France. Once again, an office in Europe will facilitate effective programming in this area, and will demonstrate a seriousness of purpose about European activities.

Finally, it is important for the health of the World Union that a committed lay leadership be developed in Europe, beyond what has been done up until now. There is a desire on the part of European progressive leaders to play a more significant role in World Union affairs, as well as resentment by Europeans of the dominance by North Americans in the organization. The creation of a European office with a strong staff would send a message to European progressive Jews that their leadership is welcome and necessary.

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Mr. Donald S. Day  
November 16, 1993  
Page 2

Obviously, substantial costs would be incurred by the World Union in operating a European office. However, it is reasonable to expect that a stronger, more prominent European leadership would also assume greater responsibility for funding World Union activities, in Europe and elsewhere. The office would provide the tools necessary for an aggressive European fundraising campaign.

The location of a European office could be determined at a later time. The largest World Union presence in Europe is to be found in Great Britain, and therefore a case can be made for a London office. However, if the next lay leader of the World Union were to be a European, it might be sensible to open the office in his/her home country.

2. As your memo notes, for some years the president of the World Union has been a North American. In view of the points made above, it would seem that the time has come for the World Union to have a European lay leader. At the same time, it is important that the World Union retain the involvement and commitment of North American Jewry. Therefore, I believe it would be advisable to consider devising a new structure which would allow for a strong partnership and also rotation of leadership between North America and Europe.

Specifically, I would suggest the following: the senior lay leader of the World Union will have the title of Chairperson, and initially will be European. The second-ranking lay leader will have the title of President, and initially will be North American. The expectation will be that the Chairperson and President will work in close consultation, and whenever possible will operate by consensus; final authority, however, will rest with the Chairperson and the board.

After three years, the President will become Chairperson, and a new President will be elected, this time from Europe. The benefits of this system are obvious: every 3 years the senior lay leader will rotate from Europe to North America or back, and the chairperson will have already served 3 years as President and therefore will be experienced and fully prepared for the task.

Mr. Donald S. Day  
November 16, 1993  
Page 3

3. The World Union office in New York will expand its fundraising and programmatic operations, and will also be responsible for supervision of World Union activities in Central and South America.

4. I believe that the headquarters of the World Union should remain in Jerusalem.

5. I agree that a precise job description is necessary for the next World Union executive director, specifying in detail the nature of his/her responsibilities. In determining these responsibilities, the following are some of the considerations that I would bear in mind:

-- The Israel Movement for Progressive Movement has been assuming, and should continue to assume, an identity independent of the World Union. It is in the interests of all concerned that this increased independence, both financial and programmatic, be encouraged. Therefore, it should be made clear that the responsibilities of the executive director of the World Union do not include directing or supervising the activities of the Israeli Progressive Movement.

-- As noted above, the headquarters of the World Union will remain in Jerusalem, and it is clearly necessary that a World Union professional be based there to oversee Beit Shmuel and other World Union programs in Israel. However, this professional need not be the executive director of the World Union.

-- I recommend that the executive director be based in the European office. This is advisable for two reasons: first, since the World Union faces enormous challenges in the years ahead in both Eastern and Western Europe, special effort will be required to initiate activities there, and the chief professional of the organization should supervise this work directly; second, an executive director sitting in Europe is more or less centrally located between the Israel and North American offices, and will be in the best position to oversee and maintain close contact with both operations.



Mr. Donald S. Day  
November 16, 1993  
Page 4

-- In general, the responsibilities of the executive director would be to supervise and coordinate all worldwide activities of the organization through close administrative contact and fundraising and speaking tours.

The model that I have described envisions three offices, each fully staffed and exercising a measure of independence and initiative in the programmatic and fundraising areas. The North American office would take responsibility for North, South, and Central America, the European office would direct activities in Eastern and Western Europe, and the Jerusalem office would supervise activities in Israel. (A determination would have to be made about which office would supervise Australian and Asian activities.) Still, the professional head of the organization would have a critical role to play in unifying, coordinating, directing, and taking ultimate responsibility for the work of all offices.

I do not think that it is possible to assert that the director should give priority to any one area: fundraising, coordinating, or programmatic tasks. Inevitably, they are closely interrelated, and the director must be responsible for all three. Thus, even while I believe that all of the regional offices must have top staff and must assume additional burdens, I also believe that there is no alternative to a "strong" executive director who is charged with giving coherence to the organization and with assuring that it functions smoothly and is true to its mission of building a worldwide progressive movement.

Sincerely



Melvin Merians

MM:da



COPY

*Handwritten signature/initials*

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

June 2, 1993  
13 Sivan 5753

Mrs. E. Sterngold  
Yad Voezer  
80 Queen Elizabeth's Walk  
London N16 5UQ England

Dear Mrs. Sterngold:

Thank you for sending me information about your fine organization. It is good to know of your Helping Hand and Outreach to special people.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to be of assistance. We are a not-for-profit organization mandated to serve our member congregations in every area of synagogue life. Our funds cannot be used to assist other organizations, no matter how worthy the cause.

I do hope you understand our situation and in understanding forgive our inability to provide financial assistance.

With every good wish for your continued good work, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

A HELPING HAND - SPECIAL



CARE FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

## YAD VOEZER

80 Queen Elizabeth's Walk London N16 5UQ

Tel: 081-809 4303

20th May 1993

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York NY 10021  
U S A

Dear Rabbi Schindler

I am writing to you on behalf of Yad Voezer, an organisation which was founded in 1976, concerned with the provision of various facilities for the benefit of almost 200 learning disabled children and adults in the nationwide Jewish Community.

Some of the services offered include a Boys Activity Club, a Sunday and School Holiday Play Group for school children, Advisory and Counselling services, and their most ambitious project so far is the opening of one of two Residential Homes. I enclose a brochure for your perusal.

As a growing organisation, we have several major capital projects in the pipeline. The building of our second Residential Home has now been completed, and will be opening in **June 1993**. This will house eight learning disabled young men and provide them with a Jewish environment in which they can feel a sense of identity and purpose, learning to live more independently.

The very substantial building and associated costs have been funded by the Housing Corporation. However, Yad Voezer has to supply the furnishings, fixtures and fittings at a total cost of £40,749. To date £20,749 has been raised. We are appealing to 400 trusts and individuals who have shown a sensitivity to Jewish causes, in the hope that we can raise the balance so that our Home may open as scheduled. If each recipient of this letter were to donate **£50.00** then we will have reached our target.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely

  
Mrs E Sterngold





# YAD VOEZER

A HELPING HAND.  
SPECIAL CARE FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

*Towards Independence!*





HELPING HAND  
- SPECIAL CARE  
FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE



## YAD VOEZER

*PATRON:* The Rt. Hon. Lady Jakobovits

*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:* Mrs. Zelda Landau

### ORIGINS

**Y**ad Voezer (a Helping Hand) was started by a group of concerned parents, to provide greater opportunities for their Learning Disabled children.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Since 1978 Yad Voezer has helped hundreds of people to lead more independent lives....

### CHRONICLE OF ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1978 Yad Voezer launches its own Day Centre
- 1980 Counselling and Advice Centre set up
- 1981 Survey undertaken to assess local needs
- 1982 Workshop Club opened for people with Special Needs
- 1983 Activity Club for young men started
- 1984 Public Awareness campaign inaugurated
- 1985 Research Department opens
- 1986 Volunteer Training scheme set in motion
- 1987 Teenage Club is launched
- 1988 Living Skills Course set up with Hackney College and the Adult Education Institute
- 1990 Residential Home opened its doors to seven young women with Learning Disabilities.
- 1991 Laying the foundations for the second Residential Home for 10 young men with Learning Disabilities - due to open in 1993.
- 1992/1993 Yad Voezer plans to open Neighbourhood Community Centre and Sheltered Workshop.

## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

### *Our primary aim for children*

and adults with Learning Disabilities is to provide them with the opportunity to live as normal a life as possible and to encourage their maximum integration into the community.

### CASE HISTORY - DIANA

**D**iana is a Learning Disabled woman of 41. Her speech is unclear and when people misunderstand her she becomes very upset and angry. She has a mind of her own and has been fighting all her life to be understood.

Diana has always felt inadequate and a failure amongst her competent and capable family. Now for the first time in her life, she feels she is a success and is valued for herself and her newly acquired skill as an expert biscuit and apple pie maker! (There is just one problem, that is all the Residents in the Home now have to watch their weight!)

**"I LOVE IT HERE" SAYS DIANA. "NO ONE ASKED THEM TO HAVE SECOND HELPINGS!"**

### *Our main objectives are*

to promote the widest possible range of activities in the spheres of education, social activities, leisure and employment, for the Learning Disabled.



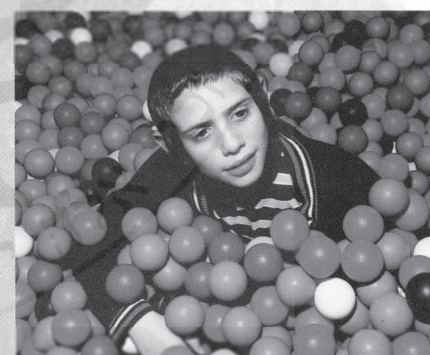
To create a caring and stimulating environment for life long, loving care where required, and to assist people living in their own homes to live as independently as possible.



To encourage self expression and personal choice by supporting the development of each person's individual lifestyle and self esteem.



To continue to foster a greater understanding and awareness of the Learning Disabled and their needs, amongst the community at large.





# RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR WOMEN

*"IT'S A REAL HOME, A PLACE WHERE WE BELONG."*

The Residents live in the Home and run it together with a team of caring and committed Staff. Together they plan out their meals, shopping, cooking and housework. Family and friends are encouraged to join and take part in a wide range of leisure and social activities.

Houseparents live in the Home and this creates a homely feeling of normal daily life, whilst providing a supportive and stable environment. For some of the Residents this is the first time in their lives that they have been treated as adults.

In addition to the educational and therapeutic experiences provided by the Staff, the Residents receive round the clock care and personal attention.

Comments from our Residents and their families show how worthwhile all this is.

*"We're really part of a happy, loving family."*

*"We're important here, we belong, we're just like you."*



**A VISITOR FROM ABROAD WROTE:** *"It was a wonderful experience . . . the beauty of the home and surroundings, together with the atmosphere of warmth, harmony and peace that reign in the house, made a deep impression on me."*

## RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR MEN

A similar Residential Home for men, in the same street is due to open in January 1993. This will accommodate 8 Learning Disabled men of varying abilities and will provide a full stimulating programme and 24 hour day care.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our efforts for the Learning Disabled cannot continue without your financial support, but we need much more for our work to be successful; we need your understanding, your empathy, your friendship and your ideas.

Here are some suggestions of ways in which you can help us to expand and accomplish more...

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Each of the Yad Voezer projects thrives on the enthusiasm and dedication of its volunteers, both men and women of all ages and diverse nationalities and backgrounds. They all share a common aim of helping the Learning Disabled to live as full and satisfying a life as possible. Our volunteers constantly claim that they themselves benefit more than those whom they try to help.

Everyone can spare an hour or two a month. A few minutes each week can make a big difference in the life of one of our Residents or Club Members.



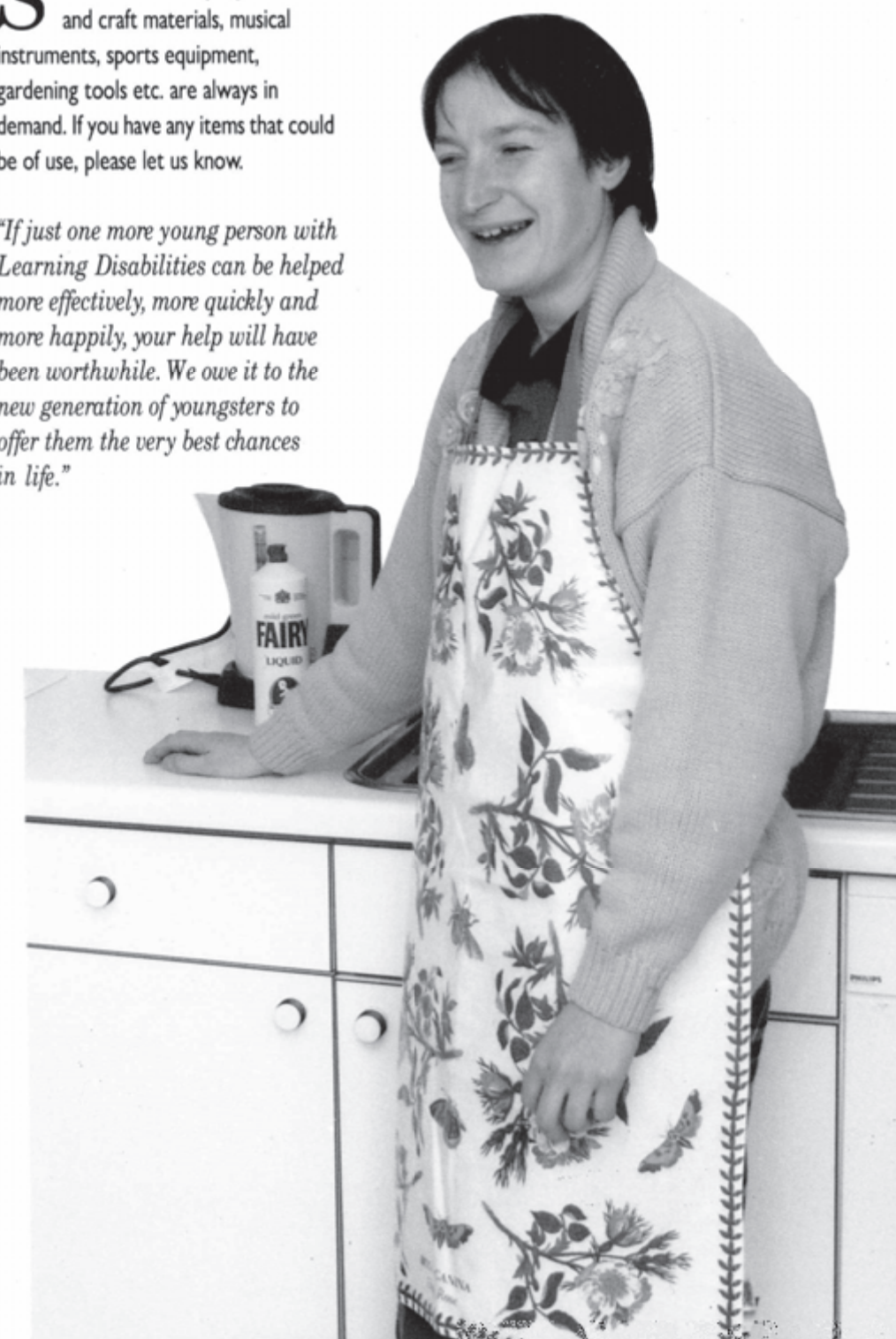
## JOIN A 'FRIENDS OF YAD VOEZER' GROUP

Yad Voezer owes much of its success to a loyal and energetic core of supporters who organise regular fund raising events. To date they have arranged a number of Raffles, Sponsored Swims, Coffee Mornings, Sale of Arts and Craft kits, Production and Sale of a children's colouring book etc. They are always looking for new participants, and bright and original fund raising ideas.



Suitable books, toys, games, arts and craft materials, musical instruments, sports equipment, gardening tools etc. are always in demand. If you have any items that could be of use, please let us know.

*"If just one more young person with Learning Disabilities can be helped more effectively, more quickly and more happily, your help will have been worthwhile. We owe it to the new generation of youngsters to offer them the very best chances in life."*



HELPING A  
- SPECIAL CARE  
FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE





# CLUBS FOR ALL AGES

## HOLIDAY CLUB

**T**his club is for juniors between 9 and 16 years old, and is open every Sunday and daily during school half terms and holidays. A varied programme of outings, sports activities, indoor games, music and arts and crafts are offered. It is now growing fast in popularity with children coming from right across Greater London.

## TEENAGE CLUB

**T**his Club is held once a week for a group of teenage Learning Disabled girls. They enjoy a wide range of educational computer games, as well as more traditional board games. These activities are designed to provide them with an enjoyable evening amongst friends, an opportunity to make themselves a snack, and to participate in a homely, pleasant, comfortable environment away from home and family.

## WOMEN'S CLUB

**T**his Club is held once a week as a club evening, and an outing at weekends, and during holiday periods. Our members have recently joined the Youth Hostel Association and look forward to planning overnight trips. Puppetry and Drama are very popular activities, as well as jewellery making, and music.

*"It's the highlight of my week. The best bit is having a good laugh with my friends."*

## MEN'S ACTIVITY CLUB

**T**his Club is for a group of Learning Disabled men, and offers a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities. Photography and boating are very popular, as well as sports activities and indoor games.

FOR MANY OF OUR CLUB MEMBERS THIS IS THEIR ONLY REAL OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN JUST LIKE THEIR CONTEMPORARIES.

## CASE HISTORY - JOE

**J**oe is a young man of 35 with severe communication problems. He lives at home with an elderly mother who is herself partially deaf. When she does not hear or understand him he becomes very disturbed and sometimes violent. Joe needs help with dressing and bathing, and this is becoming increasingly difficult for his mother.

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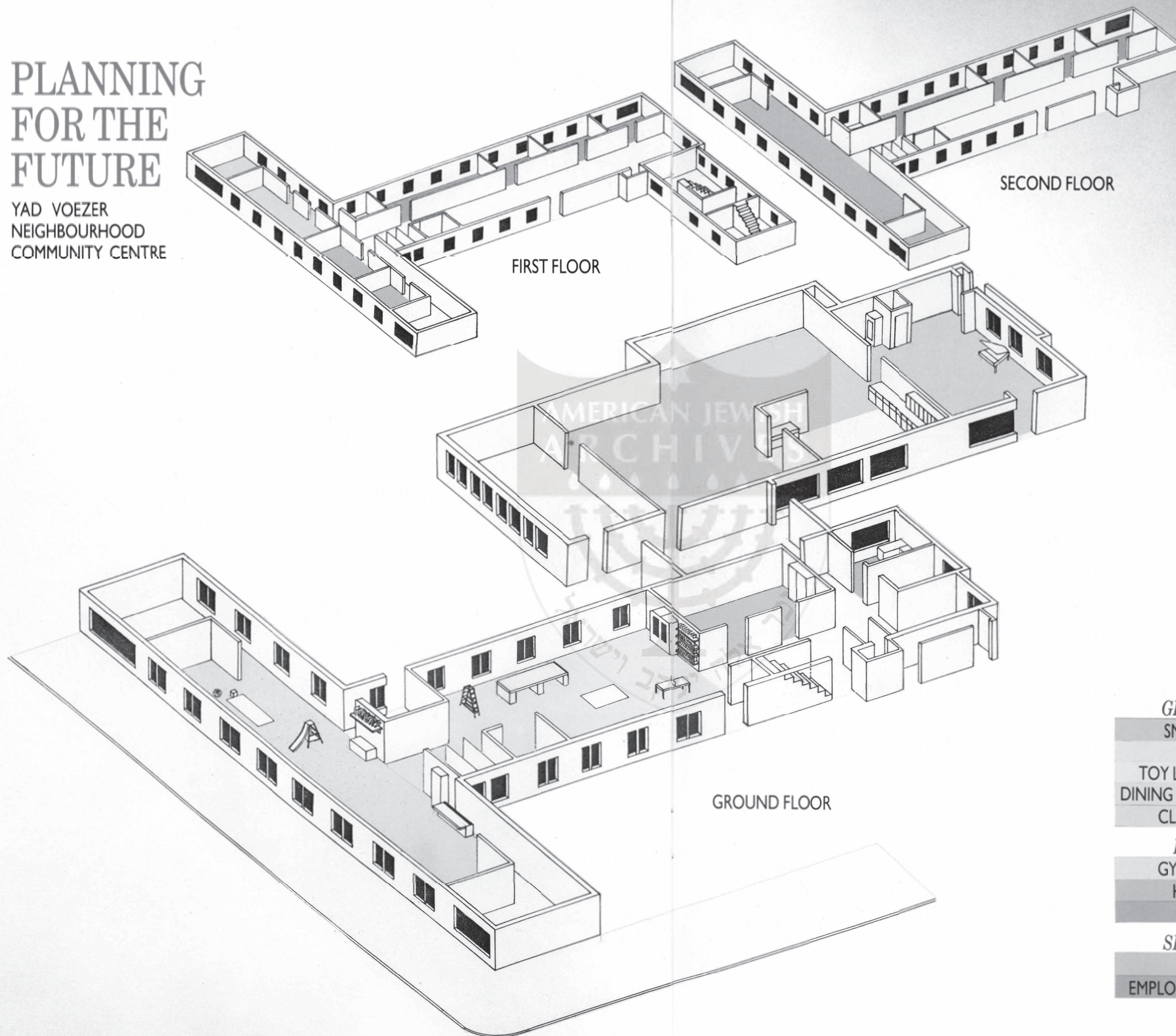




# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

YAD VOEZER  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

HELPING A  
- SPECIAL CARE  
FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

GROUND FLOOR

## GROUND FLOOR

SNOEZLEN ROOM

NURSERY

TOY LIBRARY/PLAY AREA

DINING ROOM/LECTURE HALL

CLUB/MUSIC ROOM

## FIRST FLOOR

GYM/GAMES ROOM

HOBBY ROOMS

CLASS ROOMS

## SECOND FLOOR

OFFICES

EMPLOYMENT/WORKSHOP



# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

YAD VOEZER  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Y**ad Voezer is now in the planning stages of establishing a Neighbourhood Community Centre in North London, which will be the focal point of all our present activities and will enable us to expand our range of services for the local community.

The Centre will house a Workshop for Employment Training, Counselling Rooms, a Speech Therapy department, Classrooms for Remedial lessons, a Snoezzen Room for Relaxation and Therapy, Sports and Club rooms, a Toy and Leisure Library, as well as a number of projects aimed at integrating Learning Disabled people into the local community. We plan to utilise the large garden for a Horticultural Project and a Hydrotherapy Pool, and there will be a Play Area for Mothers and Babies.

YAD VOEZER WILL CONTINUE ITS DEDICATED WORK AS LONG AS THERE IS EVEN ONE MORE PERSON TO WHOM HELP CAN BE GIVEN - THROUGH ITS HELPING HAND POLICY OF LOVING CARE.

## WORKSHOP

**A** large number of young people remain unemployed due to insufficient local training opportunities. Our Workshop will remedy this by providing employment training in a sheltered supervised environment and will be geared to the abilities and aptitude of each person.

## GYMNASIUM

**T**here is a great need in the local community for increased health and fitness awareness. Our Gymnasium will provide opportunities for men and women of all ages to take part in a variety of Sports and Fitness activities.

## SNOEZZEN ROOM

**A** multi-sensory room to stimulate a person's hearing, seeing, feeling and smelling senses. Soft surfaces with background music and optic fibre lighting creates a dream-like environment for adults and children to promote relaxation and freedom from tension and stress.

## HOSTEL

**A** small Residential Hostel for people who are suffering from a psychiatric or psychological problem which requires specialised care and support. Residents of this unit will be able to make use of the Centre's facilities, but it will be separate from the main building and will be run independently.

## SPEECH THERAPY

**T**he Centre will incorporate a Speech Therapy department with special emphasis on stuttering and related speech problems. Regular Speech Therapy sessions for children and adults of all ages will be available.

# WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

OTHER YAD VOEZER SERVICES:



## ADVICE AND COUNSELLING SERVICE

**Y**ad Voezer runs a busy Advice and Counselling Service for the Learning Disabled and their families. Appropriate referrals are made to suitable professional agencies, with whom Yad Voezer have a close working relationship.

Most enquiries are from families requesting information on products, schools, rehabilitation programmes, social opportunities, advice on family or financial problems. But people phone regularly just to have a chat with a sympathetic and patient listener.

## LEISURE AND TOY LIBRARY

**T**his is one of the most popular services available to families with a Learning Disabled member. Special toys and educational equipment are lent out and we are constantly adding to our stock.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL COURSES

**C**ourses are regularly held for Staff Training, Volunteer Training, Special Needs Courses for Residents and non-residents. Also activity sessions in Cookery. There are also Bread and Cake baking, Sewing, Discussion groups and Educational visits to Fire Stations, Post Offices, Factories etc.

Each of these courses and special activity sessions are of vital importance in encouraging self expression and self confidence in its participants.



## INFORMATION AND RESEARCH UNIT

**Y**ad Voezer has developed a considerable data base on new teaching methods and new therapies available. We are in direct contact with clinics around the world and are able to advise parents and offer suggestions on dealing with problems they encounter in dealing with their Learning Disabled child.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

**A**n important part of the work of Yad Voezer lies in publicising the needs of the Learning Disabled in society. We arrange talks in schools, clubs and women's groups, and regular articles in local newspapers.



HELPING HAND  
- SPECIAL CARE  
FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE





THIS BROCHURE IS BEING FUNDED BY SEVERAL CHARITIES AND TRUSTS



# YAD VOEZER

A HELPING HAND.  
SPECIAL CARE FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

80 QUEEN ELIZABETH'S WALK  
LONDON N16 5UQ  
TEL: 081-809 4303



MEMORANDUM

COPY

March 11, 1993

FROM: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

TO: Rabbi Richard Hirsch

The enclosed letter from Haim is self explanatory.

It would be very difficult for me to go up to Har Halutz again. If you think it is truly important, I will make a special effort. Please let me have your thinking in this regard.

Fondest regards to you and Bella.



*Chet has  
response  
go 2 June*

To: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
From: Haim Sharett

---

H A R H A L U T Z C O N G R E G A T I O N  
THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM IN ISRAEL  
MP, Ma'ale Hagalil 25129 ISRAEL FAX:04-803-030 Tel:04-802-444

---

2.24.93

Dear Alex,

In the name of all the Chaverim and our Rabbi Yael, I want to thank you and Rhea for your continuing friendship. We deeply appreciate your spending last Shabbat with us and sharing in our very special dedication ceremony.

We apologize for the length of the ceremony. It seems that we had the ambition to press into one evening a Simcha of seven days and seven nights... Dick's overflow (vowed for seven, spoken thirty) didn't add to the ceremony waistline either.

Your words, Alex were very important for all of us. Unfortunately they were curtailed under the circumstances. We would like and need to hear more from you. Our Yishuv is at a crossroads. The continued connection with the Movement is very important to us. We are on the verge of embarking on a building project which will double the population of the Yishuv. The question is: Will the above letterhead continue to dominate our Yishuv? It is one thing to draft it on my computer and another to have it as a guideline for our growing community.

We would like to host you for a 'solo' visit with Rhea for a heart to heart discussion. We appreciate your continued encouragement and we look forward to seeing you here on your next trip to Israel.

Biydidut Amuka,

Yours,



Haim

*pls send along with letter dictated yesterday*

# MEMORANDUM

WUPJ

December 15, 1992

COPY

FROM: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
TO: Martin Strelzer  
COPY:

In regard to your memo of December 3 concerning the March International Convention of the WUPJ, I believe you should determine Eric's availability and if possible, he should attend. Danny is going to be in Israel for another conference at a time fairly close to yours, therefore I believe Eric should be the one at the WUPJ.

Many thanks.



Union of American Hebrew Congregations

SERVING REFORM JUDAISM IN NORTH AMERICA

838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212) 249-0100



# MEMORANDUM

From Martin Strelzer

Date 12/3/92

To Rabbi Alexander Schindler

As we begin to fill in program spots for our International Convention in Jerusalem next March, we of course would like to include as many UAHC people as possible.

We know that Mel Merians is coming and we will give him a proper spot. Do you think Danny and/or Eric could come under your budgeting constraints? We would see that they too were very visible.

I would appreciate an answer as soon as possible so we can make our plans.

Thanks.

MS:smt

3/14-21-1004.

3/18-21 Pa Coenae

Eric OK

MS



**World Union for Progressive Judaism**

838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021-7064 • (212) 249-0100 • FAX # (212) 517-3940  
13 King David Street, Jerusalem, Israel • 02-203-447 / 8 • FAX # 02-203-446

MEMORANDUM

COPY

November 16, 1992

FROM: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
TO: Martin Strelzer - Dir. North American Board WUPJ

I regret that I will not be able to attend the World Union Convention in Jerusalem. Mel and I decided that only one of us should go - for financial reasons among others - and as a consequence I deferred to him.

I do hope that you will find a good slot for him as well. He will be the primary representative of UAHC.







# World Union For Progressive Judaism

האיגוד העולמי ליהדות מתקדמת

838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021 • (212) 249-0100/13 King David Street, Jerusalem, Israel 94101  
FAX # (212) 517-3940

02-203-447/8 • FAX # 02-203-446

November 12, 1992  
16 Cheshvan 5753

3/2-13  
S.7  
3/16 Budget  
Cabinet  
3/19-21  
Pa Council

PRESIDENT:  
Mr. Donald S. Day (U.S.A.)  
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Rabbi Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath\*  
(1972-1973)  
Rabbi Dr. David H. Wice  
(1973-1980)  
Gerard Daniel  
(1980-1988)

\*Deceased

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DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS & DEVELOPMENT  
Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin (U.S.A.)

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
UACH  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Alex:

I do not know whether or not you are aware of it, but the World Union is having its 26th International Convention in Jerusalem from March 15th to March 21st 1993.

We are beginning to prepare the program and of course we would be very pleased if you would participate with us in making it a memorable one. There are two or three important slots in which your presence will add high dimension.

I and all our leadership hope you are able to be with us. Please respond as soon as you are able.

Warmest regards.

With all good wishes,

Martin Strelzer, Director  
North American Board

MS/rp



# World Union For Progressive Judaism

האיגוד העולמי ליהדות מתקדמת

838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021 • (212) 249-0100/13 King David Street, Jerusalem, Israel 94101  
FAX # (212) 517-3940 02-203-447/8 • FAX # 02-203-446

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Mr. Martin Strelzer (U.S.A.)

## DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL

AFFAIRS & DEVELOPMENT

Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin (U.S.A.)

October 29, 1992

Ms. Susan Cartun  
29 Hemlock Road  
Livingston, NJ 07039

Dear Ms. Cartun:

Edith Miller, Rabbi Schindler's Assistant, has forwarded to me your very thoughtful and perceptive letter relating to your concerns about the new Judaism available to those who are remaining in the former Soviet Union.

Happily, I can tell you that the World Union for Progressive Judaism has made giants steps in the very direction that you talk about.

I am enclosing some material which should be more specific on what I am referring to.

Thanks for your interest. If there is anything further you would like to talk about, please call me at the office.

Cordially,

Martin Strelzer  
North American Director

MS/v

enc.

cc: Rabbi Peter Kasdan  
Mr. Melvin Merians  
Ms. Edith Miller ✓



October 27, 1992  
30 Tishri 5752

Ms. Susan Cartun  
29 Hemlock Road  
Livingston, NJ 07039

Dear Ms. Cartun:

As Rabbi Schindler is out of the country, I take the liberty of responding to your letter of October 24. I will, of course, see that Rabbi Schindler is apprised of your concerns when he returns to his desk a week hence.

In the meantime, please know that I am sharing your letter with the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the arm of our movement directly involved with congregations outside of the U.S. The WUPJ has a representative in Moscow who works closely with Hineni, the Liberal congregation there, which was formed with the aid of the WUPJ. They are also seeking to provide assistance for other groups of Russian Jews, outside of Moscow who are interested in Liberal Judaism. The WUPJ can provide you with more detailed information on their work in the former Soviet Union.

Alas, would that the Reform movement had the funds which are made available to the Lubovitch Movement. We know the message of Reform (Liberal/Progressive) Judaism is the best hope for our brothers and sisters in the former USSR but we simply do not have funding required to provide the kind of material support and sustenance required to build viable congregations and schools.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President

cc: WUPJ  
Rabbi Peter Kasdan  
Mr. Melvin Merians

Susan Cartun

29 Hemlock Road, Livingston, N. J. 07039, 201-992-2898

October 24, 1992

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
U.A.H.C.  
838 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

As part of our recent visit to the shtetls where our ancestors were born, my mother and I traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, and Riga, Latvia. In both these cities we visited functioning synagogues. We were thrilled to find that these beautiful synagogues survived the destruction of both the fascists and the communists and were delighted to hear the laughter of children from the day school in the St. Petersburg synagogue. (In Riga, the Jewish Day School is run by the Latvian Society of Jewish Culture in the former Jewish State Theater Building.)

To our surprise, Rabbi Schnerson's photograph was hanging in the lobby of both buildings. When we expressed our astonishment to the Chair of the Latvian Society of Jewish Culture, she told us that the new rabbi sent by the Lubovitch Movement is warm, charismatic and brilliant. She went on to explain that she expects few people, if anyone to follow the ways of Lubovitch Judaism. In fact, nearly all the children in the Society's school are from mixed marriages. But, she was grateful that he was available to teach them about Judaism.

I was very disappointed that the Jewish residents of the former Soviet Union were being taught about Judaism as practiced by Lubavitch Jews. The living standards and mind set of the people we met are back in the beginning of the twentieth century. I think they disparately need to gain a knowledge of modern Jewish thought. This is especially true for Jewish parents of young children who have no plans to emigrate and no knowledge of their heritage. Is the U.A.H.C. doing anything to promote Reform Judaism in the former Soviet Union?

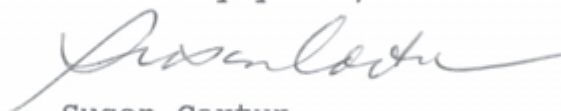
With our limited resources and many world-wide problems, I realize that any program sponsored by U.A.H.C. would be geared to the cities where there are sizeable numbers of Jews. But, what of the Jews scattered in the small cities? In Daugavpils, Lativa, (formerly Dvinsk), we met with the local Chair of the Society of Jewish Culture. (Daugavpils is supposedly the second largest city in Latvia, but it did not seem very large.) There are 600 Jews still living here. We were told that most are very old and simply living out their days with the help of the Society. But, the Society's Chairman, who was teaching himself



Hebrew from an elementary school workbook, and his assistant are in their mid-thirties. They hope to emigrate; should they be ignored until then?

I do not think that funds should be distributed to help Jews "survive" in communities where there is no future for them or their children. But, from the conversations I had with Jews in St. Petersburg, Riga, Daugavpils and Zarasi (Lithuania), I strongly believe that there is a need to educate Jews in these cities in the modern practices and culture of Reform Judaism. Please let me know if any such programs exist.

Sincerely yours,



Susan Cartun  
Member of Temple Emanu-El  
Livingston, N. J.

cc: Mr. Mel Merians  
Rabbi Peter Kasdan



MEMORANDUM

COPY

August 14, 1992

FROM: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
TO: Martin Strelzer, Rabbi Clifford Kulwin  
COPY: Melvin Merians

I know that your convention is drawing near and I want to avoid a difficulty which we had last time round when you invited four or five members of the Union staff to address your delegates. This burdened the Union's budget unduly. As you recall it, I did not find out until just before the convention when your program was already printed and I didn't want to interfere with your program.

As I told you then, I would like you to contact me first before you extend these invitations. I extend the same courtesy to Fred Gottschalk before each Biennial and the total cost of travel and hotel expenses to Union Biennials is not nearly as high as is the cumulative cost for UAHC staff to the World Union Convention.

Thank you very much



WUPJ

June 16, 1992  
15 Sivan 5752

Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch truly merits this special expression of tribute. He has served our people with rare and precious dedication for many years.

Dick Hirsch has been a friend and colleague since our days as students at the Cincinnati campus of HUC-JIR. Ordained but two years apart, our careers have taken parallel paths: we both became UAHC regional directors after serving as congregational rabbis; following many years as associates involved in varying activities at the UAHC, life's path brought me to my current position as president of the UAHC and about the same time, Dick became the executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

Dick has moved the WUPJ forward and directed its activities with fervor. Exciting world events have involved the WUPJ in all manner of activities, visits to Eastern Europe, renewed activity in Australia, New Zealand, Latin and Central America foremost among them. And, of course, the growth of Liberal congregations in Israel also gives us a renewed sense of pride and achievement.

Most exciting of all,, I believe, is the creation of a liberal Jewish community within the former USSR. The birth of Hineni, the Progressive Congregation of Moscow, along with groups of progressive Jews forming congregations in other CIS communities represents the blossoming of a Progressive community in that area of the world where for many years religious men and women of all faiths were not free to worship in any but a surreptitious fashion. The rebirth of an open and free Judaism and the critical role of the WUPJ are a milestone in the history of Liberal Judaism.

For these reasons, Dick merits our appreciation. May he and his lovely wife, Bella, be granted many more years of life and health and creative endeavor.

WUPJ

June 16, 1992  
15 Sivan 5752

It is a joy to be a part of this tribute to a dear friend, Donald S. Day, a man I hold in high esteem and affection. Working with him when he served as Chairman of the Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations was a special privilege which led to a deep and abiding friendship between the Schindlers and the Days.

When Don Day's tenure as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the UAHC (1979-83) concluded, the 1983 Biennial expression of appreciation, in the form of a Resolution in behalf of the entire Reform community, spoke of Don as an "extraordinary leader blessed with wisdom and integrity who has won the personal affection and respect of our membership by reason of his scrupulous protection of the rights of all, combined with his judicious recognition of the critical and impelling needs of our movement.....and with the light of reason and the light of faith has led this Union into new and uncharted areas of spirit of harmony and mutual understanding between the Union and its member congregations."

Today, almost a decade later, Liberal Jews the world over might utter the same words in regard to Don's caring and creative leadership of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. His name is now known far beyond the boundaries of the U.S. and Canada, by people in liberal congregations in every corner of the world, including the former USSR where Progressive congregations are burgeoning in many communities. Don Day has made his mark as a precious and unique leader: warm and wonderful, affectionate and articulate, caring and concerned. No task is too great, no person too insignificant, no request too difficult, no cause too inconsequential. Don always stands ready to respond to a need, human or institutional. He is a born leader and Liberal Judaism is most fortunate to be blessed with the guidance of Don Day, a man of quality, a mensch in every sense of the word.

The WUPJ honors itself in honoring Don Day! May he continue to serve our mutual sacred cause for many years to come, in good health, with much joy and fulfillment and always with his lovely Edye at his side.





# World Union For Progressive Judaism

האיגוד העולמי ליהדות מתקדמת

838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021 • (212) 249-0100/13 King David Street, Jerusalem, Israel 94101  
FAX # (212) 517-3940 02-203-447/8 • FAX # 02-203-446

8 Sivan 5752  
June 9, 1992

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**AFFAIRS & DEVELOPMENT**

Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin (U.S.A.)

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

Dear Alex:

Just in case you have not marked it indelibly in your mind, but more important on your calendar, let me remind you that on September 12th of this year, we will be honoring Don Day and Dick Hirsch for their immense contributions to the World Union and the Movement. The event is being chaired by Iris and Paul Vanek of Toronto.

Formal invitations have already been sent out and we hope that you will be able to be there to share in their "cuvet". It is a wonderful opportunity to honor two of our very own, both of whom have made such significant contributions to Progressive Judaism throughout the world and here in North America.

I know both the honorees would be especially pleased to receive a personal greeting from you which would be printed in the Tribute Journal and will be widely distributed. It would be one of their everlasting memories of such a meaningful evening. May I request that you send that greeting in to our New York office by July 10th, 1992.

Warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Dolores Wilkenfeld, Chairman  
North American Board

DW:smt

*No further*



**COPY**

*[Handwritten signature]*

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

*Wool*

July 21, 1992  
20 Tammuz 5752

Mr. Ernest D. Bello  
60, Avenue Close  
Avenue Road  
London NW8 6DA England

Dear Mr. Bello:

Your letter arrived on the day of Rabbi Schindler's departure for Israel where he will be attending the meetings of the World Zionist Organization.

Your letter will be held for his return sometime in mid-August, but in order not to delay matters overly much I have taken the liberty sending a copy of it to Rabbi Clifford Kulwin, the Associate Director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Hopefully, he will be in touch with you forthwith.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Marian Brewer  
Rabbi Schindler's office

*cc: both Rabbi Kulwin*



60, Avenue Close,  
Avenue Road,  
London NW8 6DA  
Telephone: 071-586-3532

14th July 1992

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

The last time I had the pleasure of meeting you and your wife was when you passed through London and visited our West London Synagogue.

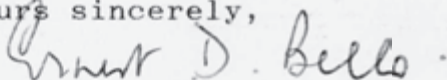
Our mutual friend Albert Friedlander suggested to me that I should approach you. I have for some time associated myself with the revival of Jewish life in central and Eastern Europe and especially in Hungary. For the past two years I have been one of a team who are assisting small and medium sized businesses in these countries and this work is financially supported by the Foreign Office of the British Government. We have also brought over for the past two or three years students - both lay and rabbinical - to study at the Leo Baeck College.

We are now ready to rent premises in Budapest and to start our first Progressive Jewish Community in Hungary. I am looking for a Torah scroll for this reviving community which exists, in the main, of young families. Whilst there are scrolls in Hungary and elsewhere in disused synagogues, we have not been receiving much assistance from the Orthodox community. It has occurred to me that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations might like to associate themselves with that congregation and that you may be able to offer us such a scroll.

I will be only too happy to keep you advised of further developments.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,



Ernest D Bello

MEMORANDUM

July 21, 1992

FROM: Marian Brewer of Rabbi Schindler's office  
TO: Rabbi Clifford Kulwin

When I told Rabbi Schindler - who is on his way to Israel - of the enclosed letter, he suggested that I send it to you in the hope that you could expedite matters.

Thank you very much.





**MEMORANDUM**

July 13, 1992

From: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

To: Sandi Rogoff, Assistant to Executive Director

You were most gracious in regard to the length of my message. I do hope the enclosed will not be too long but I feel the topic is of great import to the entire Jewish community and thus my message is a bit lengthy...I hope not too much so!

Many thanks and kindest greetings.



July 13, 1992  
12 Tammuz 5752

Temple Israel  
Capetown Progressive Jewish Congregation  
Upper Portswood Road  
Green Point  
Cape Town 8001  
Republic of South Africa

Dear Friends: AMERICAN JEWISH

These greetings are being penned quite some time before the High Holydays when my message will appear in Temple Israel's Rosh Hashanah Annual. I do want to take this opportunity to express to one and all my warm good wishes for the New Year. May all of you be blessed with good health, happiness, fulfillment and continued service to our people and our sacred cause.

On the threshold of a New Year, thoughts turn to matters of personal concern as well as those which impact upon the entire Jewish community. Certainly the future of Judaism for our children and our children's children is a shared concern of the entire Jewish people. The enclosed comments are extracted from a paper I delivered some years ago at a CLAL Conference on Jewish Unity. They relate to recent innovations by America's Reform Jewish community and have had a wide resonance in the larger Jewish world. Indeed, they are the cause of much mis-understanding between Orthodox and Reform: (1) Intermarriage-conversion and (2) patrilineal descent.

(Please continue this message with the attached pages).

Again, Shana Tova and all good wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.





Temple Israel  
Upper Portwood Road  
GREEN POINT  
CAPE TOWN  
8001 South Africa

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Telephone (021) 4349721 Number of pages ( 1 ) sent.  
Fax (021) 4342400 Including this header page.

To: UAHC	Fax No: 212-570-0895
Att: Edith J Miller	
From: Sandi Rogoff	
Subject: Article	

Edith J Miller  
Assistant to the President  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York N.Y. 10021  
United States of America.

Date: 10 July 1992  
9 Tammuz 5752

Dear Ms Miller,

Many thanks for your letter received today.

In response to your queries, a previously published article will be most appreciated. As to the topic, we will leave it to your discretion but please be aware that it is a Rosh Hashana Edition. However, any recent information concerning the UAHC would be most interesting to South African Congregants.

In the same light the number of words we will also leave to your discretion.

Of course Greetings from abroad are most welcome.

Our fax number is 011-27-21-434-2400.

With Temple Greetings,  
Yours sincerely,

*Sandi Rogoff*

Sandi Rogoff  
Assistant to the Executive Director

*July 31  
Deborah*



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

One Page Fax

July 1, 1992  
30 Sivan 5752

Victor Philip, Executive Director  
Temple Israel  
Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation  
Upper Portswood Road  
Green Point 8001  
Capetown  
Republic of South Africa

Dear Mr. Philip:

Rabbi Schindler is currently out of the country and thus I am responding to your letter of June 24.

Just as soon as Rabbi Schindler returns your letter will be shared with him and I am certain he will wish to send something for inclusion in Temple Israel's Rosh Hashana Annual. As he is here for but a brief time before he must leave for Israel and the World Zionist Congress, I do not believe there will be time for him to prepare an article for the annual.

If you wish, it might be possible for him to forward a previously published article. You did not, however, indicate a topic or the number of words feasible for inclusion in the annual. That information would be helpful and can be faxed to this office: 212-570-0895.

In any event, if not an article, Rabbi Schindler will certainly send a letter of greetings to the congregation and we have noted your July 31 deadline.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President

*Mailed via  
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☎212 570 0895

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Cape Town  
Rep South Africa

Salisbury Road WYNBERG 7800  
Telephone 762-1745

24 June 1992  
23 Sivan 5752

Rabbi Dr Alexander M Schindler  
President  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10021  
United States of America

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I am communicating with you on behalf of our President, Executive and Council regarding the honour of having you present an article for inclusion in Temple Israel's Rosh Hashana Annual.

This year's Annual will be of a different format, with international distribution and we therefore wish to secure articles, matters of interest and greetings from prominent members of the local and international community.

If you have a photograph available, preferably a head shot, kindly submit same for inclusion in the annual. Kindly note that for publication purposes, we desire your submission by 31 July 1992.

We truly thank you for your assistance in making this a most memorable publication.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

VICTOR PHILIP  
Executive Director

WJL

July 2, 1992  
1 Tammuz 5752

Mr. John Andersen  
P.O. Box 820131  
Vicksburg, MS 39182

Dear Mr. Andersen:

As I told you, I have discussed your letter with the World Union for Progressive Judaism. They advise that there is an organized Jewish community in Prague and this group has dominion over the buildings at the Ringhoffer factory. The WUPJ office does not have direct contact with any individuals but you might wish to write to the group and share your concerns with them. The address is:

Jewish Community of Prague  
Maiselova 18  
110 00 Prague  
Czechoslovakia                      Phone: 42-21-231-8559

As you know, the UAHC represents Reform Judaism in North America, and the WUPJ is our world-wide grouping. The members of the Prague Jewish community are of a more traditional persuasion and do not respond favorably to our efforts. Thus, contact from the UAHC or WUPJ would not be well received.

I am sorry to provide so negative a response but, alas, that is the situation.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President



# World Union For Progressive Judaism

האיגוד העולמי ליהדות מתקדמת

838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021 • (212) 249-0100 / 13 King David Street, Jerusalem, Israel 94101 • 02-234-748  
FAX # (212) 517-3940 FAX # 02-203-446

June 30, 1992

FROM: Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin

TO: Edith J. Miller

In re the enclosed....

Efforts of this type, to the extent they exist, are under the aegis of the Prague kehilla. I do not know any individuals in a position of authority there, but the overall address and phone number is:

Jewish Community of Prague  
Maiselova 18  
110 00 Prague  
Czechoslovakia

42-2-231-8559 (phone)

The kehilla itself has dominion over these buildings. It is quite "anti" our efforts so there is nothing we can do directly. I hope this helps





MEMORANDUM

June 22, 1992

FROM: Edith J. Miller  
TO: Martin Strelzer

We had a letter from a non-Jew who has suggested that an effort be made to support the restoration of the Synagogue at the Ringhoffer factory in Prague. It so happens that this gentleman is not Jewish, but did visit Prague and the house where he was born which stands next to the synagogue. He is looking for moral support and wondered if some rabbinical council could not address this issue to the Czech Government. I am writing to you to see if you know of any effort in this connection. Do you?

Pls Program to Edith.



COPY

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

June 22, 1992  
21 Sivan 5752

Mr. John Andersen  
P.O. Box 820131  
Vicksburg, MS 39182

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Your letter of June 17 has just reached our office. Unfortunately, Rabbi Schindler is out of the country and will not return to his desk until mid-July. I will certainly bring your letter to his attention, for I know he will be interested in the comments you made about the synagogue in Prague, even as he will be grateful for your kind comments about his work.

The world movement of Liberal Judaism, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, has offices in this building. I am going to check with them to determine if they know of any plans to restore the synagogue at the Ringhoffer factory in Prague. They may be able to provide some pertinent information in this regard.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President

17 June 1992

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
838 Fifth Ave  
New York  
NY 10021

Dear Rabbi:

I was delighted to read your "From Discrimination to Extermination". I saw you on television program and was impressed with your ideas. I share them 100%.

About a month ago, I went for the first time to my native Czechoslovakia for a visit. I saw familiar faces, but they were foreign to me as was the city of Prague. The house where I was born stands next to a synagogue built about in early thirties, just before Hitler got to power in Germany. It is a plain and simple but a good architecture. The large letters in Czech and Hebrew proclaim: "Peace and success to neighbor and distant". The synagogue was closed during the war and then we went to a camp. I was always the smallest kid in class, after the war, because I did not eat first three years of my life. But I am alive.

I saw again the synagogue facing the streetcar station which later on served as storage of eggs and burned out and then was transformed into a coop storage which is now. The trip to Prague seeing my dying father and seeing this synagogue did not cheer me up. As an east european immigrant, I never got any scholarship and never was able to complete my doctorate, please pardon my English. The things went worse when I was getting older and was not married- I think the puritanism and false moral did not help in any country. People often wonder why someone wants to be a homosexual, it is such a depressing state. I wish God made different selection. Not because I feel less than other people, but because I am vulnerable to be exploited and discriminated in every instance.

I have written to president Havel requesting the restoration of the synagogue in some more cultural form. After all the crowds at old jewish cemetery around Rabbi Loew's grave could pay entrance fee which would be used for restoration. I thought how many of those people leaving their wishes on Rabbi's grave did harm to jews! I was so overwhelmed I could not swallow.

I decided to ask for you moral (not financial) support to restore the synagogue at Ringhoffer factory in Prague. I would appreciate if rabbinical council could address this issue to Czech Government in some way. I am not jewish. But I feel that this is important to me.

Thank you for your concern. Thank you for doing so.

John Andersen  
P.O. Box 820131  
Vicksburg, MS 39182





MEMORANDUM

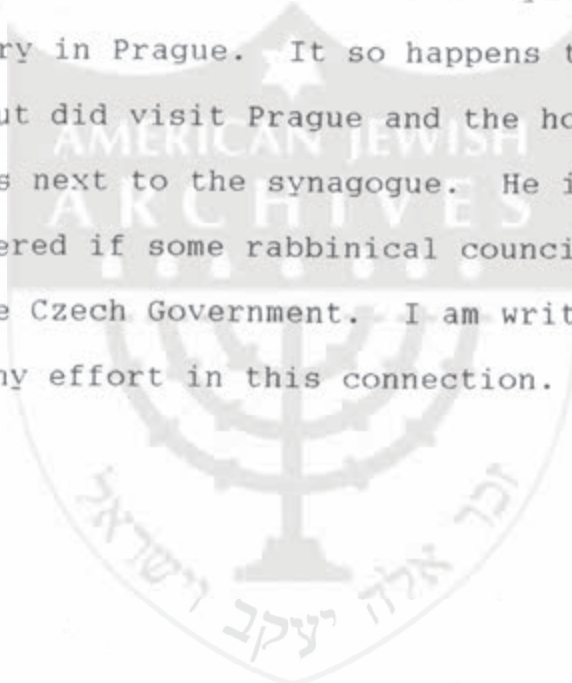
COPY

June 22, 1992

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TO: Martin Strelzer

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COPY

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

June 18, 1992  
17 Sivan 5752

Bernice S. Tannenbaum  
World Zionist Organization  
110 East 59th Street  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Bernice:

I have your letter concerning the UJA action in the realm of informal Jewish education and the Israel experience programs and I have taken note of it.

I notice, incidentally, that on the listing of people who will be at the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, my name is not included. You ought to know that I will be staying at the King David Hotel and I plan to arrive on the 23rd of June, God willing.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION-AMERICAN SECTION  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: June 16, 1992  
TO: MR. SIMCHA DINITZ  
FAX NUMBER: 011-972-2-252-352  
FROM: BERNICE S. TANNENBAUM  
FAX NUMBER: (212) 750-5769  
NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET) 2

At the closing session of the recent UJA Conference, the newly elected Chairman, Joel Tauber, made the following statement in his acceptance speech.

"We know the answer to assimilation. The answer is: a better educational system. We will work along with all Federations and all agencies to play an important role. In that sense, we have a specific role. We have to talk about why being Jewish and not just taking them from place to place. We are much better than that.

UJA will become a coordinating agency to see that every Jewish child has that experience in Israel. It is very important. UJA will play its role in this task. We will be there to see that those young people who go to Israel have the proper programs in Israel. We will be enhancing and strengthening that experience."

Since the UJA Conference, Brian Lurie has indicated he will call together those who presently handle Israel Experience programs.

At the meeting of the Executive of the American Section held on Wednesday, June 10, the possible ramifications of the above actions were discussed. While everyone appreciated the desirability of sending maximum numbers of American Jewish youth to participate in the Israel experience, great concern was expressed that the UJA, the major source of funds for the Jewish Agency programs of Aliyah and Klitah, is embarking upon a new program, the planning and implementation of which has always been recognized as the responsibility of the WZO in Israel and of the AZYF in the United States,



Jacques Torczyner advocated that a solution be found through cooperation and that a new entity be created to handle this entire program.

All present agreed that I urgently call this matter to your attention and considered action.

Warmest regards.

*Bernice*



MEETINGS OF THE JEWISH AGENCY BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
JUNE 24 - JULY 1

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOTEL</u>	<u>ARRIVING</u>	<u>DEPARTING</u>
L. Bernstein	daughter 734-311	6/29/92	7/5/92
Z. Chinitz	MORIAH	6/21	7/3
M. Kagan	MORIAH	6/21	7/1
U. Narkiss	home 669-695	6/22	7/5
S. Reich	KING DAVID	6/28	7/3
S. Schwartz	Greenberg 240-054	6/18	7/2
S. Shalom	HILTON	6/22	7/5
K. Sultanik	HILTON	6/21	7/2
P. Sutker	MORIAH	6/24	7/2
B. Tannenbaum	JER. PLAZA	6/21	7/3
H. Taubenfeld	MORIAH	6/24	7/3
J. Torczyner	HILTON	6/24	7/5

*I will arrive on 6/1.*

COPY

WPP

May 4, 1992  
1 Iyar 5752

Donald S. Day, Esq.  
Saperston & Day  
Goldome Center  
One Fountain Plaza  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Don:

Thank you so much for sharing with me the ULPS  
Affirmations of Liberal Judaism. From a quick perusal,  
it looks very interesting and I will, of course, read it  
with more care. I did, however, want to thank you for  
your thoughtfulness.

With fondest regards from house to house, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc M.M.



# SAPERSTON & DAY, P.C.

DONALD S. DAY  
FRANK T. GAGLIONE  
FREDERICK A. WOLF  
ROGER B. SIMON  
GARY L. MUCCI  
RICHARD J. DAY  
LAWRENCE A. SCHULZ  
WILLIAM G. GANDY  
ROBERT W. MICHALAK  
TIMOTHY C. CASHMORE  
JAMES W. GRESENS  
DAVID C. FIELDING  
BRUCE S. ZEFTEL  
BRIAN N. LEWANDOWSKI  
CHERYL A. POSSENTI  
THOMAS E. LIPTAK  
CATHERINET. WETTLAUER

LAWRENCE J. GALICK  
JOHN L. KIRSCHNER  
NEIL A. GOLDBERG  
THOMAS F. SEGALLA  
THOMAS C. BAILEY  
NEIL J. KATZ  
SAMUEL GOLDBLATT  
ROBERT E. SCOTT  
CHARLES C. SWANEKAMP  
WILLIAM A. LUNDQUIST  
RAYMOND L. FINK  
DENNIS R. MCCOY  
THOMAS S. GILL  
JOSEPH M. SCHNITTER  
DANIEL P. JOYCE  
GARY J. O'DONNELL  
GEORGE G. MACKAY

## ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GOLDOME CENTER

ONE FOUNTAIN PLAZA

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THOMAS B. CRONMILLER  
ANTHONY J. PIAZZA  
PETER L. ELLIOTT  
WILLIAM C. ALTREUTER  
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ALBERT J. D'AQUINO  
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JAN ROBERT MCCONNAUGHEY  
RICHARD J. COHEN  
PETER L. POWERS  
JAMES P. DOMAGALSKI

VINCENT P. HAUBER  
ROBERT M. SHADDOCK  
PATRICK S. KENNEY  
CRAIG A. SLATER  
STEPHEN E. BARNES  
MARGARET LILLIS SNAJCZUK  
LINDA CALLAHAN LAING  
KENNETH M. ALWEIS  
CHARLES R. NOTARO  
PATRICIA GILLEN  
STEPHEN L. BARUFFI  
ROGER F. COMINSKY  
CATHERINE HABERMEHL  
MERIDETH H. SHAFER  
THOMAS F. KNAB  
HARRY E. WERNER  
TIMOTHY L. KANE  
KATHLEEN A. BURR  
LAWRENCE J. FINEBERG

BRIAN D. KNAUTH

## COUNSEL TO THE FIRM

HOWARD T. SAPERSTON, SR.  
MORTON MENDELSON

April 28, 1992

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

Dear Alex:

Thanks for your call. I am delighted that you met with the Hadassah people and hope that the meeting was productive.

Alex, while I was attending the Meeting of the European Board of the World Union in Brussels, I received a copy of the enclosed Affirmations of Liberal Judaism as published by ULPS.

I thought you might want to see it.

Cordially

Donald S. Day

DSD:csa

Enclosure

cc: Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

cc: [Handwritten signature]

*WUPJ*

April 16, 1992  
13 Nisan 5752

Rabbi William Leffler  
3441 Belvoir Drive  
Lexington, KY 40502

Dear Bill:

It was nice hearing from you and I hope all is well with you and your dear ones.

I appreciate your informing me about the video, "The Melody of a Jewish Street." I am going to arrange to have the World Union for Progressive Judaism obtain a copy and view it as this is the kind of thing that fits right into their program. As you undoubtedly know, there is a WUPJ synagogue in Moscow and the WUPJ is working with groups in a number of other cities.

With best wishes for a sweet Passover and warm regards from house to house, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc; WUPJ

*WUPJ*



COPY

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

February 3, 1992  
29 Shevat 5752

Editor of The Forward  
45 East 33rd Street  
New York, NY 10016

Dear Editor:

Orthodox Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt is off the mark in attacking Moscow's Reform congregation, Hineni, as a "minor separatist group" that "disseminates a brand of Judaism that was never known in Eastern Europe." (letter, Jan. 10).

Rabbi Goldschmidt is apparently resentful because Reform Judaism has a special appeal for Jews in the former Soviet Union who are seeking a religious faith that has a special relevance to contemporary moral, social and cultural issues. Moreover, this "brand of Judaism" has a long and honored history in Eastern Europe - especially in Hungary and Poland, where before World War II many of the largest synagogues followed the Reform ritual.

Reform is authentic Judaism, recasting tradition as Jews have always done. We do not deem sanctity synonymous with immutability. We do not equate holiness with a rigid immobility, nor do we see halachah frozen like ice. For us, the Jewish tradition did not end in 18th century Poland.

Reform Judaism's great contribution - among them, the full equality of men and women in the religious life, Outreach to the intermarried, patrilineality - underscore the idea of Judaism as an ever-evolving tradition. It is this commitment to Judaism as a living, dynamic faith that explains why Jews everywhere, in the former Soviet Union as in the United States, are choosing Reform as their form of Jewish identification.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



February 3, 1992

Editor, Forward  
45 E. 33rd Street  
New York, NY 10016

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Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

*Please process*  
*See: HM*  
*sent 2/3*

MEMORANDUM

COPY

January 30, 1992

FROM: Edith J. Miller  
TO: Melvin Merians  
COPY:

The enclosed will be of interest to you. I spoke to Dick Hirsch who indicated that David Littman no longer represents the WUPJ, his association was terminated last October. Dick Hirsch is aware of the situation and is handling it for the WUPJ. Alex asked me to share this with you so you are apprised of what is going on.



# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRÈS JUIF MONDIAL

CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1211 GENÈVE 20	NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016	LONDON W1Y 7DX	75008 PARIS	JERUSALEM
1, RUE DE VAREMBÉ	ONE PARK AVENUE	11, HERTFORD STREET	78, AV. CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES	P. O. B. 4293
CASE POSTALE 191	TELEPH. 679-0600	TELEPH. 491-3517	TELEPH. 359.94.63	4, ROTENBERG STREET
TELEPH. 341325	TELEX 236129	TELEX 21633	TELEX 650320	TELEPH. 635546-635544
TELEX 289876				

Geneva, 23 January 1992

The Hon. James A. Baker IIIrd  
The Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington D.C.  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We have learned that Me Michel Blum, Chairman of the Special Committee of International NGOs on Human Rights (Geneva), of which the undersigned organizations are members, has recently transmitted to you a complaint by Mr. David Littman against your Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Mr. Morris Abram.

We attach herewith for your information, our letter of protest to Me Blum of even date.

At the same time we must affirm on the basis of our own knowledge and experience that Ambassador Abram has shown the highest consideration and respect for the integrity and independence of Non-Governmental Organizations in Geneva.

Yours sincerely,

International Council of Jewish Women

  
Andrée Farhi

World Jewish Congress

  
Daniel Lack

Womens' International  
Zionist Organization

  
Alena Lourie



# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRÈS JUIF MONDIAL

CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1211 GENÈVE 20	NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016	LONDON W1Y 7DX	75008 PARIS	JERUSALEM
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TELEX 289876				

Geneva, 23 January 1992

Me Michel Blum  
Chairman  
Special Committee of  
International NGOs - Geneva  
1, rue de Villersexel  
F - 75007 Paris

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

Dear Me Blum,

The undersigned representatives of the following organizations: International Council of Jewish Women, World Jewish Congress and Womens' International Zionist Organization, have learned with amazement that you have transmitted in your official capacity a complaint of Mr. David Littman concerning the US Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Mr. Morris Abram, to the US Secretary of State, without any prior enquiry or consultation with the members of your Committee concerning the facts alleged.

We vigorously protest your action which exceeds the prerogative of the Chairman as established by our rules and past practice.

As is generally known to the NGO community, the judgment and action of Mr. Littman are questionable.

This is in particular confirmed by the fact that his own organization has withdrawn his accreditation as its representative at the UN in Geneva as of 1 January 1992.

Yours sincerely,

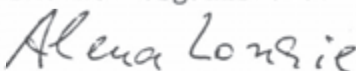
International Council of Jewish Women

  
Andrée Farhi

World Jewish Congress

  
Daniel Lack

Womens' International  
Zionist Organization

  
Alena Lourie



COPY

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

December 16, 1991  
9 Tevet 5752

Dagmar Baldwin  
Consul  
Austrian Press and Information Service  
31 East 69th Street  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Consul Baldwin:

Thank you for the material and information you shared with me regarding the Jewish community of Austria. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

The Liberal Jewish congregations of the overseas community are members of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. That is the organization under whose purview non-North American congregations fall. I am, therefore, sharing your recent letter and the materials you so kindly sent with the WUPJ. I do not know what, if any, contact they have with Or Chadash congregation of Vienna, but you may be certain they will look into this matter without delay.

With kindest greetings and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch

AUSTRIAN PRESS AND INFORMATION SERVICE  
31 EAST 69TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 288-1727

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

13 December, 1991

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

May I draw your attention to an article "A 'New Light' for Judaism in Austria" on page 12 of enclosed AUSTRIAN INFORMATION Nr. 10/11 written by Prof. Mark Bernheim (see enclosed bio).

Apart from the fact that Vienna is the third United Nations City in the world which houses a large international community and numerous conferences etc., Vienna is catching up again with its historical role as mediator in the center of Europe. The vital task of EDUCATION requires more attention than ever, especially in these difficult times of social and political reorganization and reorientation.

Therefore I strongly believe, a permanent rabbi would definitely soon proof his/her justification and that all efforts have to be made to help new Jewish life grow in Vienna in order to fight ignorance and irrational anti-semitism. You know very well from the media-reports that there is a strong drift to the right in Vienna, in Europe, in USA and all over the world.

Dear Rabbi, this is a serious request and I am asking you to investigate if and how we can help to strengthen the new Hebrew Congregation "Or Chadash" in Vienna.

Please let me know if and how I can help.

Yours sincerely,

*Dagmar Baldwin*

Dagmar Baldwin  
Consul

Enc.

P.S.: I enclose a few copies of the (Viennese) Jewish Institute for Adult Education (fall semester 1991) in German language which is extremely successful and popular.



wopg

December 19, 1991  
12 Tevet 5752

Harold M. Shapiro, Chairman  
The South African Union for  
Progressive Judaism  
P.O. Box 51400  
Raedene 2124, South Africa

Dear Harold:

As I started to respond to what I thought was a letter from you, I noted your good wishes for an easy Fast and the date of September 2! This letter and the enclosed materials were obviously sent overland rather than by air and thus the long delay in acknowledgement to you!

Be that as it may, I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sharing the SAUPJ Biennial minutes, revised Constitution and special mailing roster. It was most thoughtful of you to do so.

Let me take this opportunity to express every good wish for a Happy and Healthy secular New Year.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



# SAUPJ

## THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

(Affiliated with the World Union for Progressive Judaism)

P.O. Box 51400  
Raedene 2124

Tel: (011) 640-6614  
Fax: (011) 640-5051

2 September 1991

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
President - UAHC  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
UNITED STATES

*Admittedly  
of thanks*

Dear Rabbi Schindler

At the request of our Chairman, Harold Shapiro, I enclose  
herewith copies of:

1. Minutes of our recent Biennial Conference.
2. Revised SAUPJ Constitution.
3. List of SAUPJ Executive and important names and  
addresses.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and an easy Fast.

Yours sincerely

  
HAROLD M. SHAPIRO  
CHAIRMAN



COPY

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

October 23, 1991  
15 Heshvan 5752

Mr. Gerard Daniel  
70 Polly Park Road  
Rye, NY 10580

Dear Gerard:

Thank you so much for your fine report on what is transpiring in Eastern Europe. I was delighted to have your accounting.

I am also so gratified to know that the dedication of Beth Daniel was such a magnificent event. It was a happy report and one which pleased me very, very much. I am confident that Beth Daniel will flourish and grow from strength to ever greater strength as it becomes a central institution of our movement in Israel. Indeed, a beacon for all Israel.

With fondest regards to you and Ruth, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



GERARD DANIEL

70 POLLY PARK ROAD  
RYE, NY 10580  
914 967-1975

From: Gerard Daniel  
To: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Rabbi Daniel B. Syme  
Rabbi Eric Polokoff, Lawrence A. Sherman

Oct. 18, 1991

Subject: Corps of Service to the Jewish People

On the occasion of the World Union Governing Body meeting in Jerusalem beginning of this month, I had the opportunity to arrange a meeting of World Union individuals engaged in efforts to develop progressive Jewish communities in Eastern Europe.

Their main thrusts are in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. WUPJ North America has undertaken a modest program with the help of an American Rabbi (Joan Friedman) to create a small liberal Community in Prague, whereas the English branch of WUPJ maintains quite a lively contact with the Budapest Jewish Community, by bringing young people from Hungary to London, where they take courses in Jewish studies of varying lengths. (One candidate, I believe, is enrolled in the full rabbinical program at Leo Baeck College.) English Rabbis are starting regular visits to Budapest every few weeks.

From these reports it became quite clear that the large Hungarian Jewish presence, with its close to 100,000 Jews, would lend itself best as a first target for our brand of volunteerism. Help is needed in many fields, especially education, hi-tech training, small business starts and health.

While our English friends are endeavoring to start a nucleus of Reform presence, we would be needing for a well planned and advertised program of volunteerism from here, close cooperation with all levels of Jewish and Government organisations. If our leadership still considers this extension of the Corps of Service to be of priority, the study trip recommended by me previously, should be undertaken as soon as feasible. Contacts with Jewish and Hungarian Government leaders would have to be established well before such a visit takes place.

GERARD DANIEL

POLLY PARK ROAD

RYE, NY 10580

914 967-1975

- 2 -

Just an example, how volunteer help can succeed: The english branch of B'nei Brith started a modest program of volunteer assistance to newly formed business enterprises in Hungary. This undertaking showed success and promise to such an extent , that the British Government is now allocating considerable sums of money to enlarge the program.

While we would draft our volunteers from our Reform member body, beneficiaries in Hungary should not necessarily originate from our emerging Reform community there , but comprise all Jews and - indeed- in some special cases non jewish projects of merit.

Continued close cooperation with the above mentioned WUPJ affiliates as well as with the JDC should of course continue.

Your recommendations and comments would be appreciated.

Gerard Daniel, Co- Chairman Corps of Service to the Jewish People.

*Dear Alex : The dedication of Beth Daniel  
was indeed a wonderful event. All past problems  
disappeared, watching the humming activity in this  
building - attendance is always in the hundreds  
and our young Rabbi - Meir Asari - quickly  
established a distinctive role for himself and the  
Center. Warmest regards  
Gerard*

10/09/91

11:53

212 570 0895

U A H C

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# ACTIVITY REPORT

TRANSMISSION OK

TRANSACTION #

CONNECTION TEL

CONNECTION ID

START TIME

USAGE TIME

PAGES



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WUPJ ISRAEL

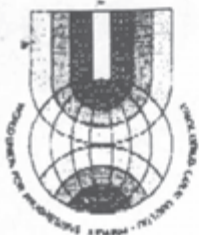
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*WUPJ*





# World Union For Progressive Judaism

האיגוד העולמי  
ליהדות מתקדמת

13 King David Street, Jerusalem, Israel 04101  
TEL: 02-203447, 203452

FACSIMILE: 972-2-203446 פקסימילית  
TELEX: 26144 BXJML EXT. 7302 טלקס

רח' דוד המלך 13 ירושלים, 04101  
טל. 02-203447 • 203452

October 9, 1991

VIA FAX  
fax no. 212-570-0895

From: Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch

To: Rabbi Alexander Schindler

cc: Professor Alfred Gottschalk, Rabbi Uri Regev, Rabbi Eric  
Yoffie

Dear Alex,

Uri and I have been discussing the matter of the Jewish  
Material Claims Conference and the potential compensation  
from East Germany related to my previous memo and the memos  
which you have written. I think it would be worth our while  
meeting for 15 minutes to a half an hour during the Biennial.  
I know your schedule is terribly crowded. I will be staying  
on after the Biennial but Uri Regev will be leaving  
immediately after. Since he is our "legal authority" I  
suggest that we try to squeeze in some time during the  
Biennial. The participants in this meeting should be all of  
those receiving copies of this memo.

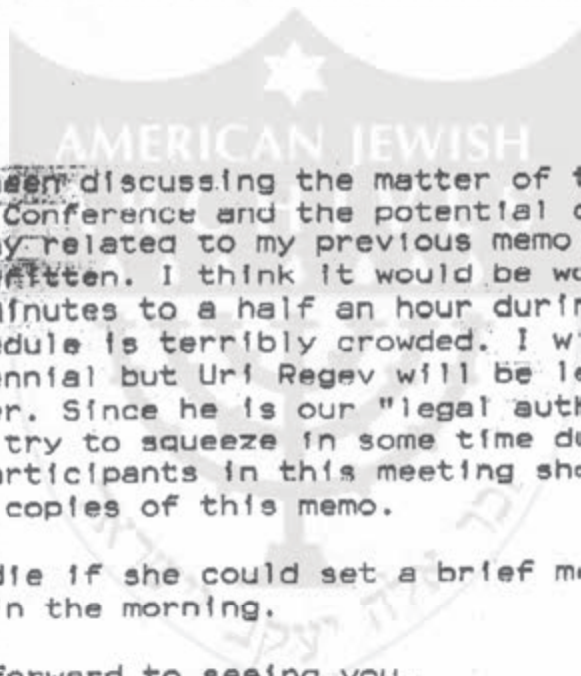
Would you ask Edie if she could set a brief meeting late at  
night or early in the morning.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

Bivracha,

Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch

*Supposed to be  
not during*



September 26, 1991  
18 Tishri 5752

Mr. and Mrs. William Daniel  
and  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Daniel  
Kedem-Beit Daniel  
Tel-Aviv, Israel

Dear Lotte and Bill, Ruth and Jerry:

As the exciting and historic day of the Kedem Beit Daniel Synagogue Center dedication draws closer, I write to express a warm and hearty mazal tov. You have good reason to be proud for it was your magnanimous gift which made the creation of this important and beautiful new synagogue center in Tel Aviv possible. Kedem Beit Daniel will be a critical center for Progressive Judaism in Tel Aviv and a jewel among the growing number of Liberal installations in Israel.

I have no doubt that the very existence of Kedem Beit Daniel will be a source of new and pulsating life's blood for our Progressive Movement in Israel. It will broaden Reform Judaism's horizons and make Liberal Judaism available to Israeli's who have not had the benefit of such a Progressive Center in the Tel Aviv area. In addition to providing worship opportunities for men and women of a Liberal persuasion in a beautiful and spacious setting, Kedem-Beit Daniel affords a magnificent center for cultural activities, music, art, education for adults as well as young people. I am confident Tel Avivans will flock to Kedem Beit Daniel and as the word of its exceptional program goes out to the wider citizenry it will, indeed become a popular and much appreciated center for Jewish life and thought in the Tel Aviv community.

With heartfelt gratitude for all that the distinguished Daniel family does for Liberal Judaism, and with fondest regards to all of you, in which Rhea joins, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



COMUNIDAD ISRAELITA DE EL SALVADOR

APARTADO POSTAL (06) 182

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, C. A.

August 22, 1991

*cc a.v. draft*

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler :

I have always appreciated the way we have been able to discuss with you in the past the concerns of the Salvadorian Jewish communities.

It has come to my attention that the Social Action Committee of Reform Judaism, a component of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, has endorsed a boycott of Salvadorian coffee. The response of the Jewish Community is, first of all, that a "Jewish" boycott of Salvadorian coffee will have a negative effect for Salvadorian Jews. Secondly, since I have represented the Salvadoran Jewish community at two meetings with the Social Action Committee in Washington, D.C., we are surprised that no representative of the Committee has contacted us to ask our opinion on this matter.

The government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front ( F.M.L.N.) are involved in negotiations to end the conflict. These negotiations are being supervised by the United Nations and there has been progress in these discussions. Especially at this point, external pressure aimed at one side of the negotiating table would be counterproductive. In addition, the position of the Social Action Committee ignores the human rights violations of the FMLN, almost all of which have been aimed at innocent civilians (the mining of village paths, car bombs place in civilian areas, etc.)

The coffee industry is one of El Salvador's important export crops. The industry is the livelihood of many in the private sector ( many Salvadorian Jews are directly or indirectly involved in the coffee industry ). It is also, of course, the only source of income for tens of thousands of peasants and urban laborers. A boycott of Salvadorian coffee would hurt these workers more than anyone else. As a result, the majority opinion among labor unions, peasants groups, civic associations and the Catholic Church, is that a boycott would only have negative effects.

I read in The San Diego Union that Dr. Michael Schatz, who lead this boycott effort in the Social Action Committee, "has been studying El Salvador intensively for the last year." Salvadorian Jews have been here all our lives. Among us, you



will not find an opinion supporting a boycott.

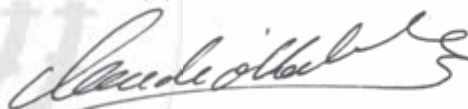
There have been positive changes in El Salvador over the last few years. The process of democracy and liberalization of society, as well as reconciliation of parties involved in the conflict, have begun to take hold. The changes may not be as dramatic or fast paced as some in the United States would like, but we in El Salvador recognize the progress. These changes have required, and still require, time and patience.

I urge you to respect the position of the Jewish Community of El Salvador. I urge the Union of American Hebrew Congregations not to support a boycott. I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about this matter.

Thank you.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

Sincerely,



Jean Claude Kahn,  
President  
Jewish Community of  
El Salvador

cc Rabbi David Harris, Executive Vice President  
American Jewish Committee  
Shoshana Cardin, Chairman  
Conference of Presidents of  
Major American Jewish Organizations



# Jewish group presses firm to boycott Salvador coffee

## UCSD physician led way; envoy assails tactics

By Arthur Golden, Staff Writer

In a move spearheaded by a San Diego physician, a nationwide Jewish committee has urged the Procter & Gamble Co. to suspend its purchases of coffee from war-torn El Salvador.

The Committee on Social Action of Reform Judaism accused El Salvador's coffee growers of supporting death squads, which it claimed had slaughtered tens of thousands of people and prolonged the nation's 11-year-old civil war.

The committee's allegations drew immediate fire from a Salvadoran diplomat, who said the panel would be better advised to criticize human rights abuses in Israel instead of making "unfounded" statements about his homeland.

And a spokesman for Procter & Gamble, denying any link between the coffee growers and death squads, said his company would never allow "special interest groups" to interfere with the conduct of its business.

For more than a year, human rights activists in the United States have been demanding a boycott of Folgers coffee, which is a Procter & Gamble product.

The activists argue that loss of hard currency earnings from a boycott of coffee — El Salvador's leading cash crop — would force the nation's conservative government to accept a political solution to the war.

Since April 1990, the United Nations has been mediating peace talks between the government of President Alfredo Cristiani and the leftist Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

The negotiations have stalled over a rebel demand for a reform of El Salvador's armed forces and a drastic reduction in its size. The talks were scheduled to resume today in Caracas, Venezuela.

In a resolution approved last month in Washington, D.C., but made public only last week, the Reform Judaism social action committee called El Salvador's coffee growers a major obstacle in the path of peace.

"They use their enormous coffee profits to maintain their life styles and support death squads," the resolution said. "Tens of thousands of deaths have resulted from extrajudicial executions at the hands of these squads."

"Although precise statistics are not available, the vast majority of victims have been civilian peasants associated with the coffee industry or with labor organizing."

The committee said it was calling on Procter & Gamble "to suspend purchases of coffee from El Salvador until a negotiated settlement to the conflict is achieved in that country."

If Procter & Gamble refuses to comply, the committee said it will ask its parent group, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which represents some 1.5 million Reform Jews, to approve a boycott of Folgers coffee.

In 1981, the committee passed its first resolution in opposition to U.S. military aid to El Salvador. The committee reaffirmed its opposition in a resolution approved in 1984.

But, a committee staff member said, it was only through the efforts of Dr. Michael Schatz, an associate clinical professor at the UCSD Medical School, that the coffee issue came to the panel's attention.

The San Diego allergist "was the one who said we should do something about the coffee," the staff member said from Washington, D.C. "He was the driving force on it. Without him, it wouldn't have passed."

Schatz said yesterday that he promoted the resolution

because of his "outrage at the situation" in El Salvador, a country he said he has been studying intensively for the last year.

The 105-member committee backed the "the basic principle" of urging Procter & Gamble to stop buying coffee from El Salvador, Schatz said, although the panel declined to seek an immediate boycott of the product.

Schatz, who has been a member of the national committee for seven months, is chairman of the social action committee of Temple Emanu-El in San Diego. He also is a member of the Central American Information Center, a peace group at SDSU, which has demonstrated in support of a coffee boycott.

The resolution was condemned by Carlos González, consul general of El Salvador in San Francisco, who has repeatedly spoken out in recent months against the SDSU peace group.

"Before the Jewish committee starts shooting from the hip and taking actions of this sort, based on unfounded second-hand information, it should look into his own house," González said from San Francisco. "If the committee is sincere, it should go after Israel."

"How about the murder of unarmed Arab youths on the streets of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?" González asked. "How about the bulldozing of the homes of suspected opponents of the Israeli government? How about the indiscriminate aerial bombing of suspected enemy headquarters in Lebanon?"

González said that none of his remarks "should be taken as even the shadow of anti-Semitism." He said he admired Israel, Israelis and American Jews.

"However, the government of Israel has done wrong things," González said. "What I find unfathomable is how this Jewish community has the audacity to overlook that and attack El Salvador."

Another critic of the resolution, Procter & Gamble spokesman Don Tassone, complained that the committee had never contacted anybody in his corporation to get its side of the controversy.

"We really do believe that we are doing the right thing by buying even a small amount of coffee from El Salvador," Tassone said. "We have gotten strong support for that from various knowledgeable and respectable groups, such as the Catholic bishops of El Salvador and the U.S. Catholic bishops."

Only 2 percent of Folgers coffee blend comes from El Salvador, Tassone said, and he acknowledged that Procter & Gamble "could easily" replace the Salvadoran coffee "without any economic impact to us and without changing the flavor" of the product.

"But that's not the issue," Tassone said from corporate headquarters in Cincinnati.

"This isn't an economic issue for us. We simply can't let special interest groups — even though they are well intentioned — thrust our company or our brands into disagreements between them and the U.S. government over foreign policy. That's the broader issue."

Tassone added: "Each issue like this needs to be decided on its own merits. And in this case, based on all the information we have, we know of no linkage between our coffee purchases and wrongdoing in El Salvador."

"If there is something to substantiate that claim, we would certainly like to have that evidence. If someone can provide me with that, I'll make sure that my management sees that."





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

September 19, 1991  
11 Tishri 5752

Jean Claude Kahn  
Comunidad Israelita de El Salvador  
Apartado Postal (06) 182  
San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.

Dear Jean Claude Kahn:

I thank you so much for your letter regarding the position of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on the boycott of Salvadoran coffee. Let me begin by apologizing that our Social Action Commission did not consult the Salvadoran Jewish community on this very important matter. This is a regrettable oversight.

As you are well aware, the political situation in El Salvador has long been of grave concern to us. For ten years the American Jewish community has debated how to best confront human rights violations in El Salvador and to bring about peace. Recently, an aspect of the debate has focused on supporting a national campaign to boycott Procter and Gamble's Folgers Coffee, the largest importer of Salvadoran coffee in the United States.

In April, the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism considered participating in this boycott. Due to progress in the United Nations' sponsored negotiations, it was decided that the best action by the American Jewish community was not to participate publicly in the boycott.

The Commission resolved instead to urge Procter and Gamble to use their influence on El Salvador's coffee industries to promote a successful peace, and to end the ongoing civil war. In addition, the Commission on Social Action voted to reconsider the entire issue before lending support to a boycott of Procter and Gamble's Folgers Coffee. The Commission has not yet made a recommendation to the UAHC itself and therefore the UAHC has no position on this issue.



Jean Claude Kahn

-2-

September 19, 1991

The Folgers issue will be reconsidered by the Executive Committee of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism in the light of the delicate and promising peace negotiations now underway which we all hope will end the bloodshed in El Salvador. I assure you that your letter will be carefully considered in this process.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



September 13, 1991

5 Tishri 5752

50,5  
#6Revised

Jean Claude Kahn

Comunidad Israelita de El Salvador

Apartado Postal (06) 182

San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.

Dear Jean Claude Kahn:

*Thank you so much for*  
~~I recently received~~ your letter regarding the position of the Union of American  
Hebrew Congregations on the boycott of Salvadoran coffee. Let me begin by  
apologizing ~~that our social action commission did not~~  
~~consult~~ *regrettable* the Salvadoran Jewish community on this  
very important matter. This is a ~~gross~~ oversight.

*long*  
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concern to us. For ten years the American Jewish community has debated how to  
best confront human rights violations in El Salvador and to bring about peace.  
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In April, the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism considered  
participating in this boycott. Due to progress in the United Nations'  
sponsored negotiations it was decided that the best action by the American  
Jewish community was not to participate publicly in the boycott. ~~We were~~  
~~however sufficiently concerned about the Salvadoran government's military~~



~~approach to a nonmilitary problem, namely land reform, which has resulted in over 75,000 deaths. The staunchest supporters of this policy are the~~

~~Salvadoran families who control El Salvador's coffee industry, and who have been implicated in funding themselves fund extrajudicial death squads.~~ *Some of whom then*

*instead*  
The Commission resolved to urge Procter and Gamble to use their influence on El Salvador's coffee industries to promote a successful peace, and to end the ongoing civil war. In addition the Commission on Social Action voted to

reconsider the entire issue before lending support to a boycott of Procter and Gamble's Folgers Coffee. *The Commission has not yet*

*made a recommendation to the UAHF staff, I believe the UAHF has no position on this issue.*

The Folgers issue will be reconsidered by the Executive Committee of the

Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism ~~at its forthcoming meeting on~~

*in the light of the*  
~~September 16. We are grateful for your letter and very much aware of the~~

*and promising*  
~~delicate peace negotiations now underway which we all hope will end the~~

~~bloodshed in El Salvador.~~

*I assure you your letter will be carefully considered in this process.*

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander Schindler



COMUNIDAD ISRAELITA DE EL SALVADOR

APARTADO POSTAL (06) 182

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, C. A.

August 22, 1991

*For FV.*

*cc a.v.  
draft*

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler :

I have always appreciated the way we have been able to discuss with you in the past the concerns of the Salvadorian Jewish communities.

It has come to my attention that the Social Action Committee of Reform Judaism, a component of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, has endorsed a boycott of Salvadorian coffee. The response of the Jewish Community is, first of all, that a "Jewish" boycott of Salvadorian coffee will have a negative effect for Salvadorian Jews. Secondly, since I have represented the Salvadoran Jewish community at two meetings with the Social Action Committee in Washington, D.C., we are surprised that no representative of the Committee has contacted us to ask our opinion on this matter.

The government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front ( F.M.L.N.) are involved in negotiations to end the conflict. These negotiations are being supervised by the United Nations and there has been progress in these discussions. Especially at this point, external pressure aimed at one side of the negotiating table would be counterproductive. In addition, the position of the Social Action Committee ignores the human rights violations of the FMLN, almost all of which have been aimed at innocent civilians (the mining of village paths, car bombs place in civilian areas, etc.)

The coffee industry is one of El Salvador's important export crops. The industry is the livelihood of many in the private sector ( many Salvadorian Jews are directly or indirectly involved in the coffee industry ). It is also, of course, the only source of income for tens of thousands of peasants and urban laborers. A boycott of Salvadorian coffee would hurt these workers more than anyone else. As a result, the majority opinion among labor unions, peasants groups, civic associations and the Catholic Church, is that a boycott would only have negative effects.

I read in The San Diego Union that Dr. Michael Schatz, who lead this boycott effort in the Social Action Committee, "has been studying El Salvador intensively for the last year." Salvadorian Jews have been here all our lives. Among us, you



COMUNIDAD ISRAELITA DE EL SALVADOR

APARTADO POSTAL (06) 182

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, C. A.

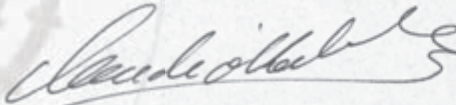
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I urge you to respect the position of the Jewish Community of El Salvador. I urge the Union of American Hebrew Congregations not to support a boycott. I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jean Claude Kahn,  
President  
Jewish Community of  
El Salvador

cc Rabbi David Harris, Executive Vice President  
American Jewish Committee  
Shoshana Cardin, Chairman  
Conference of Presidents of  
Major American Jewish Organizations



# Jewish group presses firm to boycott Salvador coffee

## UCSD physician led way; envoy assails tactics

By Arthur Golden, Staff Writer

In a move spearheaded by a San Diego physician, a nationwide Jewish committee has urged the Procter & Gamble Co. to suspend its purchases of coffee from war-torn El Salvador.

The Committee on Social Action of Reform Judaism accused El Salvador's coffee growers of supporting death squads, which it claimed had slaughtered tens of thousands of people and prolonged the nation's 11-year-old civil war.

The committee's allegations drew immediate fire from a Salvadoran diplomat, who said the panel would be better advised to criticize human rights abuses in Israel instead of making "unfounded" statements about his homeland.

And a spokesman for Procter & Gamble, denying any link between the coffee growers and death squads, said his company would never allow "special interest groups" to interfere with the conduct of its business.

For more than a year, human rights activists in the United States have been demanding a boycott of Folgers coffee, which is a Procter & Gamble product.

The activists argue that loss of hard currency earnings from a boycott of coffee — El Salvador's leading cash crop — would force the nation's conservative government to accept a political solution to the war.

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In a resolution approved last month in Washington, D.C., but made public only last week, the Reform Judaism social action committee called El Salvador's coffee growers a major obstacle in the path of peace.

"They use their enormous coffee profits to maintain their life styles and support death squads," the resolution said. "Tens of thousands of deaths have resulted from extrajudicial executions at the hands of these squads."

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If Procter & Gamble refuses to comply, the committee said it will ask its parent group, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which represents some 1.5 million Reform Jews, to approve a boycott of Folgers coffee.

In 1981, the committee passed its first resolution in opposition to U.S. military aid to El Salvador. The committee reaffirmed its opposition in a resolution approved in 1984.

But, a committee staff member said, it was only through the efforts of Dr. Michael Schatz, an associate clinical professor at the UCSD Medical School, that the coffee issue came to the panel's attention.

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because of his "outrage at the situation" in El Salvador, a country he said he has been studying intensively for the last year.

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The resolution was condemned by Carlos González, consul general of El Salvador in San Francisco, who has repeatedly spoken out in recent months against the SDSU peace group.

"Before the Jewish committee starts shooting from the hip and taking actions of this sort, based on unfounded second-hand information, it should look into his own house," González said from San Francisco. "If the committee is sincere, it should go after Israel."

"How about the murder of unarmed Arab youths on the streets of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?" González asked. "How about the bulldozing of the homes of suspected opponents of the Israeli government? How about the indiscriminate aerial bombing of suspected enemy headquarters in Lebanon?"

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"If there is something to substantiate that claim, we would certainly like to have that evidence. If someone can provide me with that, I'll make sure that my management sees that."



MEMORANDUM

COPY

May 28, 1991

FROM: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
TO: Rabbi Clifford Kulwin  
COPY:

Please note the enclosed. If there is any further information that you can send to Bernie Lown before his June trip to Stockholm, by all means do so. He has contacts on the highest levels of the Soviet government and he could conceivably be of help.



COPY

May 28, 1991  
15 Sivan 5751

Bernard Lown, M.D.  
Lown Cardiovascular Group  
21 Longwood Avenue  
Brookline, MA 02146

Dear Bernie:

Thank you for your prompt response to the problem which we are encountering in the Soviet Union. I certainly agree with you that you should wait until you get to Stockholm. I am grateful to you for keeping this issue in mind.

Life has been hectic for me. Mother had a severe heart attack about a month ago and they did an emergency valvoplasty; for a while she was on life support systems. Ultimately, she fought her way through, but it was an emotional drain on me as you can imagine. Accepting things intellectually is one thing, to be able to deal with them on an emotional level is quite another as you so well know.

I have made a determined effort to say "no" to virtually everything for the year ahead so that I ought to be having a less hectic existence, at least once I get by these summer months. Do you believe it?

My friend, Maury Leibovitz, is beholden to you for all of your good offices and so am I of course. He is an interesting character and I do not at all regret having led him to you - for his sake above all, but no less for yours as well.

Rhea joins me in sending you and Louise our fondest good wishes.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

LOWN CARDIOVASCULAR GROUP, P.C.

21 Longwood Avenue • Brookline, Massachusetts 02146  
(617) 732-1318 • FAX (617) 734-5763

BERNARD LOWN, M.D.  
THOMAS B. GRABOYS, M.D.  
STEVEN LAMPERT, M.D.  
CHARLES M. BLATT, M.D.  
SHMUEL RAVID, M.D.

21 May 1991



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

Dear Alex,

Your letter about Hineni and what Chabad has initiated is not unexpected, but no less outrageous. I do not know what I can do from Boston, but late in June I will be in Stockholm for the IPPNW Congress and will meet with many Soviet friends. I could raise with them this issue and seek their counsel. If I were to send a letter or telex, it would be difficult to explain the issues and it would remain long unanswered.

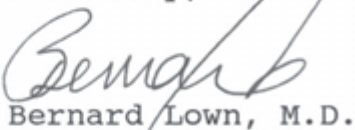
While this is the long road, it may be the shortest to our objective. Hopefully, no definitive decision will have been reached by that time. In this case it may be fortunate that the Russian bureaucracy permits only snail pace advance, there may, therefore, be time.

I get specks of information about you from Maury Liebowitz.

Louise joins me in conveying warmest regards to Rhea and yourself.

With all the best,

Sincerely,

  
Bernard Lown, M.D.

BL/VI

N.B. I welcomed your statement in response the Lubavitch's rather outrageous celebration of the Gulf "victory".



To Rick Weisk, Cliff Kalwin, David Moldstein, Alex Schindler

JOHANNES GUTENBERG-UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

LEO TREPP

Fachbereich Evangelische Theologie

4-29-91

Rabbi Joseph B. Glasser

Exec. V.P. - CCAR

New York, N.Y.

Dear Joe:

What can we do?

univer  
sität  
mainz

Let me see  
under the union  
I can't

I have been here for about 2 weeks, have large classes, read galley's of my German books on "Worship" and "American Judaism", and have made contacts. My initial impression of the situation of the Russian-Jewish immigrants has given me deep concern. The Jewish congregations seem to be swamped and unable to cope. I can see a grave danger that these immigrants who could replenish German Jewry may be largely lost. Let me give you a few examples.

At Mainz I was told by university colleagues that many of these Jews have not even contacted the congregation. There is no outreach. I spoke with one family who attended services. We conversed in English. They had sat through an orthodox service understanding neither the Hebrew nor my German sermon. The family made a very good impression. The father, a young man, has no work, they are housed in a small village, obviously in substandard housing. The daughter, who has completed the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in a Moscow High School, has no idea how to complete her education, a little boy of kindergarten age has no schooling since there is no public transportation. They have a car but no idea how to schedule the various required trips. The congregation offers no guidance, but expects these Jews to adjust to its ways (Mainz has approx. 830 Jews). Wiesbaden has a congregation of approx. 350 Jews and 300 immigrants, whom they have sent to German language school. The religious services are orthodox. The "Landesrabbiner" who sits in Frankfurt has even forbidden the congregation to invite me, "a Reform Rabbi" to preach a sermon. What understanding can these immigrant Jews expect? The president of the congregation at Qasabnick, a dedicated man, is desperate. His congregation of approx. 80 members (souls) has to absorb 200 Russian Jews. He will, most likely, find housing & jobs for them, but integrating <sup>them</sup> Jewishly is beyond his capacity. I do not know what the "Zentralrat" of the German Jews is doing in Berlin and hope to find out, but obviously it has done nothing outside.

The congregations have neither the man power, nor the know-how, nor the language ability nor the psychological understanding, nor the will required to help these Jews open up to them and make them feel at home in Jewish life and worship. It worries me deeply.

Is there anything we can do? These Jews need text books and prayer books in Russian (If the person who approached me is legitimate I shall permit a translation of my "History of the Jewish Experience" into Russian). Above all we need man- and woman power.

Were it possible to prepare Russian Jews in America, giving them a crash course in Judaism, and send them temporarily over! It might help. We need guides, counselors, persons able to conduct religious services.

Appealing to the immigrants, to teach them and help them and draw them



<sup>many</sup> The congregations in Germany have sufficient means to fund these <sup>projects</sup> ~~services~~, but may not wish to release them. Expecting to make the immigrants over in the image of Orthodoxy they would possibly oppose any project by non-orthodox Jewry. But since non-orthodox Jewry is the only one equipped for the task the alternative may well be the loss of the majority of the Russian Jews to Judaism. Please be mindful that these are preliminary impressions. I believe however that they reflect the total picture.

I shall be grateful to you if you will consider whether we can do anything at all, whether we should enter the difficult negotiations with the German-Jewish representation, whether a "neutral" organization, such as the Jewish Congress might find a better response, or whatever may be appropriate to you - even if it means staying out. I have turned to you in the belief that it is a matter of saving Jewish lives to Judaism.

Please accept my apologies for burdening you and my gratitude for the consideration you may be able to give this letter. With warmest regards for you and your dear ones and my most sincere thanks for your sustaining friendship -

Most cordially

Leo



WSP

I spoke to David and Al about Cliff's letter concerning Harry Schwartz. Both agree that while it would be a good idea to invite Schwartz to meet some of our leadership, we really need not be in a position of hosting a function for him for the entire community. Undoubtedly each and every organization will be doing something to welcome him to our midst.







# World Union For Progressive Judaism

האיגוד העולמי ליהדות מתקדמת

838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021 • (212) 249-0100 / 13 King David Street, Jerusalem, Israel 94101 • 02-234-748  
FAX # (212) 517-3940 FAX # 02-203-446

February 20, 1991  
6 Adar 5751

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AFFAIRS & DEVELOPMENT  
Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin (U.S.A.)

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

As I am sure you are aware, Harry Schwarz arrives in Washington next month to assume duties as South Africa's ambassador to the United States.

His nomination is a shrewd move by the South African government. For years Mr. Schwarz has been the second best-known (after Helen Suzman) liberal opposition member of Parliament. The combination of his unquestioned long and colorful history of antiapartheid rhetoric and activism in conjunction with his blunt opposition to sanction strategies have the potential to make him uniquely effective in promoting the current administration's foreign policy. Without question that is what President De Klerk is hoping.

For our part, what makes Schwarz particularly interesting is not merely that he is Jewish, but that unlike other leading South African Jewish liberals, including Mrs. Suzman, he has a strong affiliation with the organized Jewish community. While not, I believe, a member of a synagogue of the Southern African Union for Progressive Judaism, he nonetheless has friendly ties with our movement.

I would like to suggest that shortly after Mr. Schwarz arrives, you host a luncheon (or some other appropriate affair) for him here with a few leaders of other national Jewish organizations. I think it appropriate that you host such an event since, in my opinion, it is only the UAHC -through its affiliation with the World Union- of the national Jewish organizations which can be said to be itself active in South Africa.

Further, recent grants from Peter Kovler and Mazon, totalling \$30,000, were the result of personal efforts on my part; again, activism by our movement for works inside South Africa. I know of no other segment of North American Jewry which supports Jewish antiapartheid efforts in such a way.





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*We gave him Kovler and Mazon helped push this through board called Cliff and told him he should have been more generous. See attached.*

*gave with Adie, this should be small + UAHC only*



I have taken the liberty of discussing this subject with Chris Badenhorst, South African Counsel General in New York, whom I know well, and who is eager for such a function to take place. He would be very pleased to have you as its host. Mr. Schwarz would probably not be presented until mid-April and Badenhorst suggests the event take place in the middle of that month.

Obviously, the nature of the affair could range from a small luncheon to something much larger. That would be decided, of course, after you have agreed in principle that this is an idea worth pursuing.

Please let me know what you think, as well as if and how you would like to proceed. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

I am sharing this letter with David and Al as I assume you would solicit their input in any case.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin

cc: Al Vorspan  
Rabbi David Saperstein

CLIFFORD M. KULWIN  
APARTMENT 4 J  
400 WEST 58TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10019

2/25/91

AL -

YOU WERE  
RIGHT  
OUCH  
Lae,  
cld





~~well~~

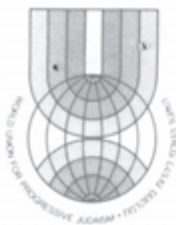
3/26



Well  
Orel on  
return.

4/4

Well well  
Orel  
When 1909



# World Union For Progressive Judaism

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FAX # (212) 517-3940 02-203-447/8 • FAX # 02-203-446

*Make appointment*  
האיגוד העולמי ליהדות מתקדמת  
*Rise*

February 25, 1991  
11 Adar 5751

*3/5*  
*2/11*

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Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin (U.S.A.)

FROM: Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin

TO: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Enclosed is a draft of a letter I would like to send Jerry Hochbaum. I think both the text and the subtext are pretty clear.

Please return it to me along with any comments you have. I would also welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you.

In six years I have probably raised a dozen different project ideas with Jerry. Every one of them was rejected out of hand for the reasons described inside.

Considering that our movement has not (I believe) gotten a dime in years from the Memorial Foundation, and that the scholarships for rabbinical students would no doubt continue under any situation, is right that a) the World Union and the UAHC continue to pay expensive yearly dues to the Memorial Foundation and b) give it the "sanction" of equality by our presence on its board?

I look forward to learning what you think. Thanks as always for your time.

Sincerely,

*CD*



February 25, 1991

11 Adar 5751

Dr. Jerry Hochbaum  
Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture  
15 East 26th Street  
New York, NY 10010

Dear Jerry:

It was with great interest that I read the February 14, 1991 "Board Briefings" you sent out. The efforts of the Memorial Foundation on behalf of Soviet Jews are certainly intensifying; I look forward to the World Union's receiving its fair share of the funds being applied in this area.

First, I would like to point out that our Congregation Hineni in Moscow has become an overwhelming success. From nowhere two years ago, the congregation has nearly 200 members, regular shabbat attendance of some 400, and the use of its own building.

A Russian-speaking rabbi will shortly move to Moscow for a period of at least one year. "Correspondent" groups have been established in several other cities and these will certainly become congregations over time.

I would hope that we could nominate individuals from among our activists who would participate in the Nahum Goldmann seminar you intend to hold in the Soviet Union. The Union of Synagogues has been blatantly hostile to our Hineni effort; I trust you will not allow that to keep worthy individuals from participating in the seminar.

The Russian-language newspaper Rodnik, a copy of which is enclosed, is published six times a year, and will soon be published monthly. Some 10,000 copies, many of which are printed in the Soviet Union, are distributed in the U.S.S.R., as well as Israel and North America.

We will shortly be preparing a grant to the Memorial Foundation for funding for Rodnik. It is an



excellent, informative, publication, and the size of its readership is limited only by the number of issues we are able to produce. I hope we will be able to count on your support during this process.

We will also prepare grant requests to aid in the training programs we are running, in Israel, for Soviet Jews who will be working as Jewish professionals and para-professionals in the Soviet Union. We would welcome your guidance in which of our other projects would merit Memorial Foundation support.

Finally, I note that you will again be holding Nahum Goldmann seminars in both East and West Europe. Again, I hope that we might have the opportunity to recommend participants from among the outstanding young adults involved in our movement.

Jerry, with the exception of scholarships for seminary students, where our 100% "rate of return" is two or three times that at several institutions of which I am aware, every effort we have made at receiving funding, no matter what the cause, has been stymied. Every prospect we have wished to discuss has always been labelled "overly partisan."

If this continues to be the case, I think it may be appropriate to hold a meeting to discuss the nature of ties between our movement and the Foundation to determine what sort of future we have. We are clearly getting nothing out of the relationship.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, by letter or phone, and discussing the matter further.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin

cc: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Dr. Alfred Gottschalk  
Rabbi Hugo Gryn  
Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch  
Donald S. Day



*WPP*

**SAPERSTON & DAY, P.C.**

*no futher*

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COUNSEL TO THE FIRM  
HOWARD T. SAPERSTON, SR.  
MORTON MENDELSON

February 25, 1991

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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

Dear Alex:

Thanks for your note about David Lippman. I was aware of the difficulty he has had with Morris Abram, and Dick has talked to Morris about it within the past several days. Since the session ends next week, there is nothing that should be done at this time. We are going to completely review the situation, however, before the August sessions.

Dick indicated to Morris Abram that we would be happy to meet with him personally and discuss the problem.

As you know, David has very strong support within the European Board and a number of Israelis also feel that he should be retained despite the fact that he can be and often is extremely difficult.

Whatever decision we make will present some problems but we definitely are going to completely review the matter. In the meantime, David is writing a letter of apology to Morris Abram and will circulate it to those who were copied on his very injudicious letter.

Warmly

*Donald S. Day*  
Donald S. Day

DSD:csa



COPY

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

CONFIDENTIAL

February 20, 1991  
6 Adar 5751

wab  
Donald S. Day, Esq.  
Saperston & Day  
Goldome Building  
One Fountain Plaza  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Don:

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

I had a conversation with Morris Abram, the American Ambassador to International Organizations in Geneva, and he tells me that Lippman is an embarrassment to the Jewish community. While I do hope you will not use Morris' name in this connection, I did want you to know of his comment. This is not another organization complaining, this is a respected member of the world Jewish community.

Now that I have shared this information, I leave it in your good hands.

With fondest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler