



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

**MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.**  
Series F: Life in Israel, 1956-1983.

---

Box  
19

Folder  
3

Miscellaneous projects. 1973-1975.

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

---

## LIST OF PROJECTS

1. Write "Cry of Joy - Cry of Pain"
2. Write more prosaic memo on what's wrong and how to fix it:
  - a. immigration - how to increase it
  - b. housing - esp. slums
  - c. tight economic policy - austerity
    1. set goals of what you want to achieve -  
e.g. increase foreign currency reserve
    2. set methods of how to achieve it
    3. set sacrifices each sector will make - begin  
with something very demonstrative on part of govt itself
    4. give timetable when restrictions will be lifted
3. Think of some monumental tribute to Teddy for what  
he has created in Jerusalem - and Risk of who can  
get in back of it.



CRY OF JOY  
CRY OF PAIN

And the prophet stood, <sup>overlooking the city from</sup> ~~on the highest roof,~~ entangled in the TV antennae, bewildered by the rush of traffic which outraged his nose and blurred his eyes. He cried to the blue skies, but his sounds were heard not in the heavens above, for the roar of machines ~~and~~ in both peace and war washed away his single voice. And the prophet cried yet again & again in vain until he cried tears of rage and ~~frustration~~ <sup>fear</sup> that never more would he reach heaven ~~because~~ <sup>through</sup> of the barriers ~~at~~ which man <sup>had erected.</sup> ~~blocked himself off.~~

The prophet had come from out of the cool and blinding desert to see what his people had wrought because the stories of miracles had been carried to him on the whispering winds which flew into the furthest fastness where he had waited for ~~hundreds~~ tens of centuries. The stories told of strange and wonderful happenings - ships and birds carrying his people from every corner of the earth, and houses and workshops spreading everywhere in the land, and lights and pictures being used to teach the children, and warriors with great skill repulsing the enemies. All this and more the prophet heard, so that his heart rejoiced and he thanked God that the time had finally come when the land breathed life again. So he sang a song of great joy and planned to go forth to see.



הועדה המיעצת לענין רחבת הכותל וטביעתה

ירושלים, 1.7.75

תצוגת הצעת תכנון של רחבת הכותל

מבקר/ת נכבד/ה,

תצוגה זו שהנך מבקר בה מהווה סיכום של עקרונות תכנון של רחבת הכותל כפי שגובשו עד כה.

ממשלת ישראל החליטה על תצוגה זו על מנת לאפשר לכל המעוניין לראות את התכניות כמות שהן על מנת שיוכל להעיר הערותיו ולהשיג השגותיו לגבי עקרונות התכנון.

הנך מתבקש איפוא במידה ויש לך הערות או השגות כלשהן להעלותן על הכתב ולהפנות אותן אל הועדה המיעצת לתכנון רחבת הכותל ת.ד. 14012, ירושלים.

הערות והשגות אלו ישמשו את הועדה בבואה להגיש סופית את מסקנותיה והמלצותיה בפני ועדת הסרים לעניני ירושלים.

בכבוד רב,

א.ש. שמרון  
יו"ר הועדה המיעצת  
לענין רחבת הכותל



הוועדה המייעצת לענין חכנון רחבת הכותל וסביבתה

ירושלים, ת.ד. 14012

30.6.75

הצעת חכנון לרחבת הכותל וסביבתה

החכנון מתבסס בין היתר על העקרונות הבאים:

- א. הנמכת רחבת הכותל המערבי למפלס המקורי מחקופת בית שני. על-ידי כך ייחשפו 12 נדבכים נוספים באבני הכותל ויתווספו 9 מטרים לגובהו החשוף. המפלס החדש צריך להיות קטור עם המפלסים שבסביבתו, שער האשפות, רחוב השלשלה והשווקים, שער ברקלי והעיר העליונה.
- ב. מתן פתרונות לצירי התנועה, כניסות ויציאות לרחבת התפילה ולהר הבית, חנופה משער האשפות לעיר העתיקה ותוספת כניסות ויציאות כנדרש לתנועה המונית לאחר.
- ג. מתן משקל ציבורי הולם לצד המערבי של הרחבה, על-ידי שילוב מוסדות בעלי חייבות כגון - בית הדין הרבני העליון, ישיבת "פורת-יוסף" ועוד.
- ד. דאגה לאספקה סדירה של שירותים למיבני השירותים אשר ישמשו את באי הרחבה, דרך שער האשפות ובאמצעות בינוי מעבר מקורה.
- ה. הצגה ושימור של מימצאים ארכיאולוגיים, שייצגו את התקופות ההסטוריות במפלסים השונים.

הפתרונות שגובשו

הפתרונות שגובשו מבוססים על רעיון מרכזי והוא - יצירת סדרה של רחבות מדורגות, העולות ממפלס בית שני שליד הכותל אל מיפלס הרובע היהודי במערב.

הגדולה שברחבות אלו היא הרחבה שליד הכותל, בעוד שהבאות אחריה נעשות צרות יותר ויותר עד הגיען לרובע היהודי. בניני מוסדות הציבור משתלבים ברחובות המסקיפים אל הכותל, כמסקתן.

התוכנית שואפת ליצור מעבר הדרגתי אל המרכיבים וילה מקנה המידה הממלכתי, הלאומי, של הכותל וחומת העיר העתיקה אל קנה המידה הפרטיקולאריסטי של אזורי המגורים והמסחר ברובע היהודי.

הפתרונות המוצעים מדברים על הגדלת מסת ההתוועדות וההתכנסות של רחבת הכותל פי 3 משטחה כיום - לכדי 20 אלף מ"ר. המקום יכלול את כל השירותים הנדרשים לציבור הרחב - כולל גנים ארכיאולוגיים.

לפי הערכת המתכננים - אם יימצא התקציב הדרוש לכך, ניתן לבצע את התכנית במשך 6 שנים. לתקופה ביצועה מתוכננת הקמת פלטפורמה ארעית לביצוע העבודות מתחתיה על-מנת לאפשר תפילה סדירה ברחבת הכותל.

mel

## THE KIRKUS REVIEWS

ger, Ruth & Peggy Mann.  
*Movement of All Time.*

THE LAST ESCAPE: *The Launching of the Largest Secret Rescue*  
Doubleday \$9.95.

7-15-73

(9/21)

Maybe not the largest, maybe not the most secret, but damn near the most exciting — at least as recollected by real-life Ruth Kluger whose operations with the Mossad in World War II make *Exodus* seem like kid stuff. That was a group of ten top-secret individuals (nine men and a woman) who tried to smuggle Jews out of Europe into Palestine as Hitler was making his final decision between deportation and incineration — and every country in the world (with the exception of Shanghai) “regretfully” barred its doors to six million future corpses. Unbelievable obstacles — finding ship owners willing to lease even moribund vessels at premium in wartime to an organization disowned even in its own non-country; cajoling sailors into riding the leaky boats; calming down passengers confined to a few feet of a darkened, airless hold for sometimes weeks on end; endless bak-sheesh (bribes) to border officials, stationmasters, harbormasters, embassies (for phony transit or entry visas); evading British ships and border patrols which sent illegal immigrants (only 10,000 legal per year) back to where they came or, at best, to some Palestinian prison; and finally, money, money, money from rich Jews unwilling to believe their civilized world was collapsing all around them. This is truly a tragic, heroic tale of individuals who sacrificed their private selves and often their lives for their fellow man — a story no one, Jews, gypsies, or the great untouched, should ever forget.





### THE LAST ESCAPE

"Poignant and beautifully written. This book is both an important contribution to history, and a gripping personal story of courage, intrigue and adventure laced throughout with the leitmotif of madness and destruction that characterizes the Nazi era. It should be required reading for anyone who would truly understand the history of the creation of Israel reborn, and the extraordinary people whose humanity and indomitable will in the face of unbelievable adversity makes that nation one of the world's best hopes."

Congressman Ogden Reid.

Former Ambassador to Israel; former publisher New York Herald Tribune.

## AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

One of the most moving and dramatic stories I have read. Here is a new, vital chapter, revealed for the first time in the saga of smuggling thousands of Jews out of Hitler's Europe to safety in the Promised Land. An incredible tale of heroism, love, adventure, written with the suspense of a novel, yet pulsating with a truth that no novelist could invent.

Ruth Kluger, the Israeli heroine, and Peggy Mann, the American writer, are to be congratulated; the one for her courage and will, the other for her gift in telling this historic story.

Ruth Gruber, author of "Israel on the Seventh Day", "Israel without Tears", "Destination Palestine; the Story of the Haganah Ship", "Exodus 1947", "Israel Today".



"Absolutely and entirely enthralling. At long last here is the history of the passionately dedicated, beautiful young woman who succeeded in swaying everyone she encountered, from contrabandist to king, in the cause of human rescue. Ruth Kluger's story of hairbreadth escapes, of impossible undertakings, of the surmounting of every danger, from attacks by murderous Iron-Guardists, even to natural disasters such as conflagrations and ice-floes while organizing the movement of illegal rescue ships for Jews fleeing the holocaust, is epic in scope, and yet a poignant personal tale. She and her group merge their lives with the movement of a people, with the tragedies and yet the ultimate successes in an epic resistance to doom. Her tale becomes legendary, like the tale of Lawrence of Arabia, a personality immersed in a historic movement, like the tale of the parachutist poetess, Hanna Szenes, fatefully engaged in the same rescue mission, like the life of Anne Frank, like the tale of Yehuda Arazi, whose exploits engendered Exodus. That Ruth Kluger lived through it all is a succession of miracles, emerging from indomitability. As written with Peggy Mann, the book has enormous candor, incessant tension, a heart-rending account of love subordinated to her rescue mission, and, despite all the horrors, human triumph.

Meyer Levin

#### JACKET QUOTE FOR "THE LAST ESCAPE"

This is an extraordinary story. More than 25 years ago Ruth Kluger, then operating out of Paris, was already a legend to foreign correspondents passing through the French capital. Here at long last are her own experiences from 1939-1941; Ruth, a 25 year old girl from Palestine was sent on a quixotic impossible assignment - without money or influence, having only intelligence and ingenuity, her eloquence and remarkable presence of mind, she was able to persuade many of Europe's leaders ranging from powerful bankers to royalty itself to support and finance a secret "illegal" operation.

An absorbing tale of derring do, that is at the same time a legitimate chapter of history.

Gerold Frank



Aug. 12th 1973

רות עליאב

DEAR HERB,

I AM TERRIBLE SORRY THAT  
YOU ARE ILL AND HOPE WITH  
GODS BLESSINGS, YOU WILL SOON  
RECOVER. —

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT  
ACTION, HERB, I COULD NOT  
REACH DOMINITEZ, BUT I  
SPOKE TO HER SECRETARY  
AND SHE PROMISED TO  
REMIND HIM, TO SEND  
A TELEX TO GALEVSKI

TO VIENNA AND CONFIRM TO ME  
THAT IT HAS BEEN DONE, -  
I WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH  
IRVING BERNSTEIN IN N.Y.  
I WILL SEND YOU MY BOOK  
FROM N.Y. THE TITLE IS  
"THE LAST ESCAPE". -

ENCLOSED SOME WRITE-UPS, -

FONDEST SHALOM, GET  
WELL

YOURS

AWTH



~peter larsen f.r.p.s.  
~p.o. box 7535  
~jerusalem, israel.

Address; July 12th-Aug 28th

373 Chiswick High Rd. London W 4, U.K.

# LARSEN AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTIONS

## SLIDE SHOW: ISRAEL AND THE YOM KIPPUR WAR

Structure; 170 color transparencies synchronised with 40 minute  
sound program on cassette tape.

Contents; Complete commentary interspersed with interviews, music, battleground sound, TV and radio broadcasts. Photos and sound include scenes and interviews with people from all spectrums of Society in Israel, and visitors during the Yom Kippur War and since. Included are; President Ephraim Katzir, Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, Henry Kissinger, Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Shimon Peres, Danny Kaye, Ephraim Kishon, Menachem Begin, Uri Avnery, Meir Wilner, Sheikh Mohamed Ali Ja'abari, Father Pax, Bishop Worthy, Gen Silasvuo Egyptian and Israeli officers at disengagement agreement Km. 101. Israeli soldiers in battleground areas of Egypt, Syria and Israel, Syrian prisoners, wounded soldiers, grieving families, mothers, wives girl friends, member of Army Rabbinate Corps. Russian immigrants, American volunteer on kibbutz in Gush Etzion area, Rabbi Levinger and Kiriat Arba, victim of terrorist attacks in Kiriat Shmone and Metulla, American fund raiser, Arab politicians and workers, and many Israelis from different walks of life, all effected by the Yom Kippur War and its aftermath.

Price; \$200 per set of slides with cassette and instructions.  
(\$150 per set if more than 10 ordered at the same time)  
Hiring or other arrangements can be made.

Brief biographical details; Peter Larsen (born Peter Lehrburger) Germany 1933, educated England, 6 years as photographer in Royal Australian Air Force, then travelled world as photographer journalist for United Nations and Agencies, major corporations and publishers. Fellow of Royal Photographic Society, Royal Geographic Society, Associate of American Society of Magazine Photographers, member of National Union of Journalists. member of Professional Photographers of America and receiver of Jerusalem Seal of Quality. Books published include; 'United Nations At Work' (Lothrop Lee & Sheperd, NY, J.M. Dent London) 'Young Africa' (JM Dent) 'Boy of... Nepal... Bolivia... The Masai... Dahomey' (Dodd Mead & Co. N.Y.) 'Museums of Israel' (Secker and Warburg, London) 'Three Faces of Jerusalem' (Keter Publishing Co. Jerusalem). Temporary Resident in Israel since 1971.

With my best wishes,

*Peter Larsen*



ג'נט קפלן  
JANET KAPLAN

Re-publication Lark.

Dear Herb,

2 fabulous secret finds in  
"Jerusalem Underground"

① Mr. Yoav Sasson  
Yissah Biracha, 2  
upstairs

off Bar Ilan  
(Main Rommana Road)

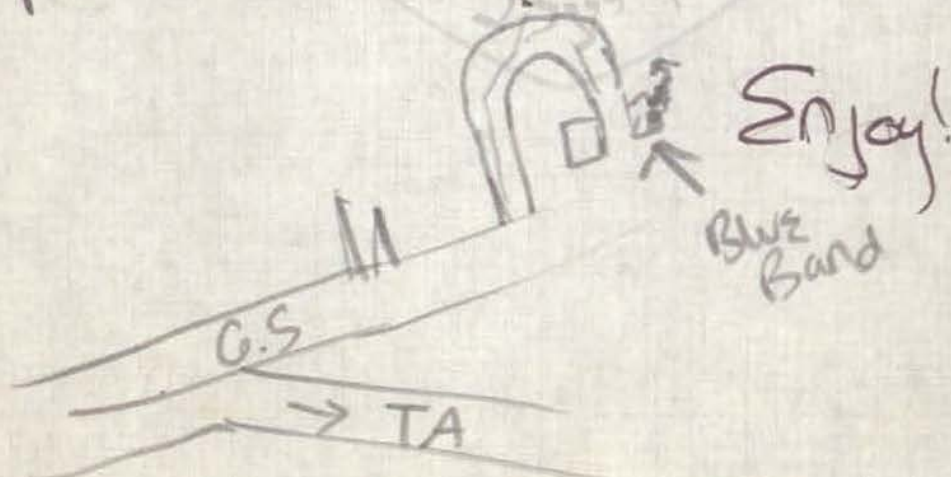
glass  
ceramic antiquities

② Avraham Levy  
Gust Shaul  
2nd left off main street  
around corner -  
across from Blue Band Margarine

Antiq of the Holy Land.

tel: 526602 appmnts best.

"executive gifts"  
special boxed antiquities



Mail to:  
P.O.B. 4180  
Jerusalem  
Israel

דאר:  
ת.ד. 4180  
ירושלים  
ישראל

22 Rehov Hanotrim  
Katamon Chet  
Jerusalem  
Tel 02-38373

רחוב הנוטרים 22  
קטמון ח'  
ירושלים  
טל. 02-38373



12.1.75

31225

ד"ר הרב הרב הרב  
Hebrew Union College

. J. L. C.

שלום וברכה,

האבות והאמהות  
ביתם וכל ביתם  
ועל כל בני ישראל  
ועל כל ארץ ישראל  
ועל כל מדינת ישראל

אל פי האצבע ברכתי שני אבותי  
אל אבותי ברכתי ואל פתח שמים  
אשר את אבותי ואל פתח שמים  
אשר את אבותי ואל פתח שמים

דברי זכרונות ופזמונים  
על ידי אברהם, יואל, וזלמן  
בשנת ה'תרס"ד.

פער געבן דאס יאָר  
 חוץ געבן אלץ דאס אלטעס  
 פער דאס יאָר פער דאס יאָר  
 פער דאס יאָר פער דאס יאָר

ברוך אלוהים, אלן גאון גדולה לך אל האל מן  
 ויבא נחמד בשריף אל אפסית ה' כאלו לך  
 בשריף ל', אלן הורישין.  
 אלן ברוך אלוהים אלן חורב גרמניה אלן

77 9/27

אלחנן גורן  
רח' גדלי' 7, ת"א  
452385 :טל

החברה לא תוכל  
לעמוד על הרגליה  
אם לא תהיה.

מפעל אירוח בינלאומי  
ת.ד. 16120  
ירושלים

ירושלים,

לכבוד

א.ג.ג.,

הנדון: ארוח הדדי בין ישראלים לבני קהילתך  
הנתמך מוסרית ע"י ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית

המפעל לאירוח הדדי הנו גוף התנדבותי א-פוליטי, מפועל ביצירת קשר ישיר בין ישראלים ליהודים בלל רחבי העולם, בדרך של אירוח הדדי.

הארוח אצל המשפחות הנו ל- 2-4 ימים, 1-2 איש למשפחה, והמשפחות מתארחות אצלנו בבקרון בישראל (ארוח הדדי). תאום מועד הארוח נעשה בהתכתבות ובהסכמת המארחים מראש. המשפחות הישראליות הם סטודנטים, אנשי אוניברסיטאות וקיבוצים וכו'. יחידים וזוגות נשואים, בגילים 20-40 שנה, היוצאים לטייל בחו"ל (על חשבונם), בקבוצות קטנות של 4-20 איש. אנו מראיינים את היוצאים ומדריכים אותם לתת ערב הווי ישראלי בקהילה, באם יש ענין בכך. נסיון העבר הראה על קטרים נפלאים שנוצרו בין המארחים למתארחים, בחו"ל ואח"כ בארץ, קטרי התכתבות ארוכים, בקורים הדדיים נוספים, ועד דאגה הישראלית לקליטת אותן משפחות שהחליטו לעלות לארץ.

להרחבת פעולתנו בטנה זו היינו שמחים להצטרפותן של משפחות רבת בקהילות שונות, גדולות וקטנות.

נודה לך מאד באם תעלה ענין זה בעיון הקהילה ובאמצעי התקשורת האחרים בקהילה, כדי להרבות משפחות ובודדים שישתתפו במפעל זה. התוכל לעזור לנו במציאת מרכז/מרכזות לפעילות זו בקהילה, אשר יהיה איש הקשר בין הקהילה ובינינו?

תודתנו נתונה לך מראש על עזרתך.

בידידות

מפעל אירוח הדדי  
ד"ר וייס, מרכז



GUEST EXCHANGE PROGRAM

ITSHAK WEISS, M.D., M.P.H.

P.O. Box 16120  
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear

I would like to introduce a group of English speaking Israelis, aged between 20-50, who have volunteered to be in the above program. Many of the participants are in the academic field, students, lecturers, doctors from the universities as well as kibbutzniks, etc. They all vary in their religious affiliation.

The aim of our group is to have direct connections with Diaspora Jewry and the non-Jewish world through exchanging hospitality with families abroad and in return reciprocating with the same hospitality in Israel.

By staying with a family for three or four days, we feel that there would be a good opportunity for an exchange of ideas and understanding of another way of life and it is doubtless to say that travelling is the most rewarding education.

We would like your help in diffusing our ideas by advertisement in your local community (e.g. bulletin boards, newsletters, etc.)

If you would like to participate in our efforts, I would be most grateful if you would correspond with me personally at the above address.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

Itshak Weiss, M.D.

Tel.: 60410

Room 512  
Paul Baerwald School of Social Work  
Hebrew University  
Givat Ram, Jerusalem

November 12, 1975

Dear *Herb & Franine*

Enclosed is my report of last year's work which I think will be of interest to you. I have tried to keep it brief in order to make it easy reading.

If you wish to have more information on any of the topics covered in this report, I shall be happy to send it on to you.

Kind regards,

Cordially,

*Louis D. Horwitz*

Louis D. Horwitz.

Enc.

*Reynolds*

*for*



## COMMUNITY WORK IN ROMEMA

This is intended to be not so much a report as a looking-back on a year's voluntary social work at a grass-roots level in Jerusalem. Professionally, it turned out to be a most satisfying experience. In order to be as brief as possible, I shall give only highlights of my activities and concentrate instead on lessons learned. The reader should look, therefore, not for statistics but for my own observations, judgments, conclusions and proposals concerning some of Israel's social problems.

I left Geneva, where I had been Director-General for Overseas Operations of the American Joint Distribution Committee, in May 1974 for Jerusalem. With the blessings of Mayor Teddy Kollek and a grant from the Jerusalem Foundation for administrative expenses, and with the generous offer of a rent-free office from the Jewish Welfare Board, I began to work in Romema.

Romema, though not the worst district in Jerusalem, was chosen by Mayor Kollek because it offers a full spectrum of the social ills that beset Israel. For my purposes it had certain added advantages: it is a small and compact area, with a mixed population of large families with low incomes, and it boasts a Community Center with a community worker on its staff.

The 10,000 inhabitants of Romema include a self-contained religious community of about 3,000, some 6,000 "old" immigrants who arrived from the Moslem countries in the early '50's, and about 1,000 new immigrants from Russia. The focus of neighborhood activity is the Joseph and Caroline Gruss Community Center, erected in 1972. It was Romema's and my good fortune that a new director was appointed to the Community Center at about the same time I began my work. In Mr. Avraham Goren I found a dynamic leader with initiative and the desire to institute changes, and an active collaborator who saw the Center as an instrument for social betterment.

A word about my set-up. I had no budget, except for some money I brought with me from Geneva from Mr. Gabriel Tamman, whose only stipulation was that it be used to help the disadvantaged. I had no staff, except for a part-time secretary and the part-time assistance of Mr. Dov Ancona, whose help has been beyond my capacity to pay for.

What I did have, and far beyond my expectations, was the unqualified support of Teddy Kollek and every department of his city administration concerned with health, education, welfare, youth and labor; the enthusiastic participation of the staff of the Gruss Community Center and specifically of my counterpart, the community worker; and, to my surprise and gratification, financial contributions for specific projects from personal friends in the U.S. and Jerusalem who became interested as the work progressed and the results were obvious immediately. So immediately, in fact, that the programs tested out in Romema have already been extended to three other districts in Jerusalem and constitute, in my opinion, the basis for a national program of community work radiating out of community centers. But more about that later.

What was the first thing we tackled in Romema? Housing.

It seems an unlikely choice. Though everyone agrees that to relieve overcrowded housing is a matter of highest social priority, the sums required are such as to daunt the boldest. However, for a family of ten or twelve living in two rooms, even the addition of a single room - by closing in a balcony, or extending the side of the building - can bring blessed relief. And here came the first lesson we learned in Romema, our first "discovery".

There exists in Jerusalem a municipal housing company, "Prazot", whose mandate includes giving low-interest loans to poor families for the purpose of improving their housing. However, there are conditions attached: the consent



of every tenant in the apartment building is required in order to carry out the enlargements; an architect's plan must be provided; building permits are necessary, endless and complicated paper work is involved. What under-privileged, over-harassed family is likely to thread its way through the maze?

It took Dov Ancona and myself, with the assistance of Mr. Goren and the Neighborhood Council, one year to reach the green light in Romema; work will soon begin in the first block of 24 flats which will add a sizeable room to each. However, we learned as we went along in this first try. In the district of Shmuel Hanavi, one of the three districts to which we have extended our programs, we accomplished the same job in three months. Construction will begin soon in a block of 40 flats. The loan funds involved, to be repaid by the residents in both Romema and Shmuel Hanavi, will amount to IL 1,600,000.

Conclusions? 1) Loan money for housing improvements is available. It has only to be tapped. 2) Large families with more problems than they can cope with are unable to take advantage of the help available to them. They need a "facilitator".

The second highest priority in Romema, we were told by the staff of the Gruss Center, were Day Care Centers. This was confirmed by the city expert in charge of pre-school education. Romema, she said, needed at least four such centers for the 2 to 4-year-old age group. As the result of prompt and vigorous action, we managed to open one, by holding on to premises formerly used as a kindergarten which was being discontinued. We will get a second one when the city transfers the kindergarten now housed in the Gruss Center to new space under construction in a nearby school. A third has been promised, but not yet delivered, by a youth center which is used only after 4 o'clock. Still not enough, but progress...

It is worth noting that the day care center we will run in the Gruss Center will stress the involvement of parents in the activities and development of their children, by means of discussions, by assisting the teachers from time to time, etc. This is of vital importance to both children and parents. A headstart for 2 to 4-year-olds will strengthen their later school performance and reduce the vast number of under-achievers with whom the schools now cope.

We learned several lessons from Romema. 1) There is an acute shortage of day care centers in Israel. 2) With enough energy and pressure these can be created - and inexpensively, if one utilizes wherever possible existing space that is unoccupied for a part of the day, and where flexible pre-school furniture can be easily set up and removed. 3) -And this is not only important, but crucial: the vast majority of teachers in today's day care centers are untrained for the work. It is folly to entrust the earliest education of Israel's future citizens to unqualified personnel. It becomes, then, a major national problem to provide facilities for the in-service training of existing teachers and the formation of future ones.

Services for the Aged - this was the next project we undertook, in cooperation with a number of agencies: Kupat Holim, the Ministry of Health, Department of Welfare of the Jerusalem Municipality, the Shaarei Zedek Hospital and, of course, the Community Center in Romema, which already had a well-functioning Club for the Aged.

The opportunity for creating our program was provided by the fact that Kupat Holim runs an excellent clinic in the neighborhood and is prepared to give care to all aged who need it. We ascertained that Shaarei Zedek would admit those requiring either full or day-care hospitalization or rehabilitation services. On the assumption that 75% of the needs of aged revolve around medical care, we sought to make the best use of these already-existing facilities. Our goal was to provide care for all the aged in Romema, estimated to number between 500 and 600 persons.

The first problem was to find them. The Ministry of Health provided the budget (IL 30,000) to pay for the half-time services of a professional public



health nurse, to be stationed at the Gruss Center. She, together with a social worker and the staff of the Center, proceeded to do case-finding. The nurse will open a file for each and every aged person living in Romema. Where needed and possible, she provides home care; when necessary, she refers them for welfare and medical services.

There are two main lessons to be learned from this project.

1. All the services already existed in Romema: hospitalization, hospital day-care, an excellent medical clinic, social workers, a first-rate club for 120 aged at the Community Center, and the enthusiastic support of the Ministry of Health and the Center staff. The central piece which pulled them together was the public health nurse.
2. The amount of money involved was minimal. In its first months of operation this pattern of service to the aged has proved so successful that the Brookdale Institute of Gerontology plans to study it in order to determine if it can be duplicated elsewhere in Israel.

Laundry Clubs - a project we can put in the plural, since we helped create three in community centers in Jerusalem. Two of them, in Romema and Kiryat Menachen, were financed by Mr. Gabriel Tamman of Geneva, with the participation of the Jerusalem Municipality and the centers; the third, at Beit Pomerantz, was financed by the Sephardi Federation together with the same partners.

What is a Laundry Club? It is a space set aside in the Center for coin-operated automatic washing machines and dryers, supervised by the director of the Mothers' Club, to which mothers of large families bring their weekly or daily wash. While the machines work, the mother uses the mangle or sewing machine, or has a cup of coffee with her friends. Or she attends one of the social, cultural or study groups organized for her by the Mothers' Club and the Center. A professional teacher teaches knitting and design. A class in cosmetology has proved a major attraction; remember, the mothers are young. While all this is going on, a baby-sitter looks after the infants who come along. For most of these women, these few hours at the Laundry Club are the only ones in their harassed lives when they are freed from the daily pressures.

The Laundry Clubs have more than proved their worth:

1. They represent a considerable saving to a poor family, since commercial laundries charge much more than the coin-operated machine.
2. They are inexpensive to create. The machines cost nothing at all (the companies collect the coins) and the Community Center pays only for electrical and water installation.
3. They offer relief to the most penalized portion of the disadvantaged population - the mothers of large families.
4. They can be duplicated, almost overnight, in Community Centers throughout Israel.

Absorption of Immigrants is one of the many problems in Romema. About 1,000 newcomers have arrived since 1972, mainly from Georgia and Bokhara in the U.S.S.R. Coming as they do from an authoritarian regime, they find it even harder than other immigrants to adjust to the democratic, free society of Israel. Added to their natural shyness and reserve is the fact that they live at some distance from the Gruss Center, so that very few of them participated in the activities which could help toward their integration into the neighborhood.

It took the staff of the Community Center over fifteen months - and they finally succeeded only after two direct appeals on my part to the Mayor of Jerusalem - to obtain an empty apartment in the section of Romema where these immigrants live. Here they have established a "mini-Center" where group



activities for children and adults are already in full swing. Two student volunteers from the Schwartz Center for training senior community center personnel, together with the assistance and guidance of the community worker at Gruss, are doing devoted and productive work among the immigrants in Romema. Among other things, they have been encouraging the formation of house committees which will take collective action in solving their own neighborhood problems.

The lessons are obvious:

1. Community Centers are effective tools for the social integration of immigrants.
2. If the immigrants don't come to you, you go to them.
3. "Mini-centers" are even less expensive to create than full-blown ones.
4. It is easy to attract volunteers to worthwhile projects. In this connection, let me say briefly here - more to follow - that our work in Romema has been assisted by some 25 volunteers.

No one doubted that Supplementary Education was needed in Romema. One teacher of a 7th grade told the community worker that of the 25 pupils in her class, 20 needed extra help. Mr. Goren had already started informal, once-a-week study groups at the Center. My role was to help him extend this project with funds provided by an interested friend through the Jerusalem Foundation.

The results were phenomenal. In a short time, some 80 elementary school (7th and 8th grade) pupils and 30 high-schoolers were attending study sessions at the Center - sitting with their coats on, in under-heated rooms during a Jerusalem winter, to get the help they needed to keep up with their peers. Alongside this program, the B'nai B'rith, assisted by 15 high-school volunteers, helped other Romema youngsters in their homes, either individually or in small groups.

It seemed alarming to me that a teacher, asked to refer under-achievers to the Center for supplementary help, found it necessary to refer not the occasional child but 80% of her class. With so many children not making the grade, and with so much talk about the large number of drop-outs, we started to do case-finding in Romema. Just what was the extent of the problem? And what could we do about it? This led directly to the next project:

Adolescents in Trouble. We enlisted the help of the Ministry of Labor, since drop-outs are their responsibility. As a result of our case-finding, two needs became apparent:

1. Workshops, and
2. a program for assistance to individual adolescents.

The Ministry of Labor met the first need by creating a workshop for 20 boys at the Gruss Center. Mr. Goren and I undertook to meet the second need.

We went into the project on the basis of giving help to every adolescent in Romema who needed it - and by adolescent we meant boys and girls from 12 up to 25, including soldiers returning from the army. The criterion would be not what kind of help they needed, but the fact that they lived in the neighborhood. What we would provide would be one address to which they could come with their questions and problems, and from which they would be referred for help and follow-up.

Many services for youth exist in Jerusalem. The problem is that they are fragmented among various offices (both national and municipal), are separated into rigid age groups, and are scattered in different locations throughout the city. The result is that only too often the youngster who needs help fails to find his way to the place offering it. The Gruss Center provided a single



address, near his home, where a troubled adolescent could come for professional help to obtain the services he needed.

In the four months since the inauguration of this program, about 50 young people have showed up at the Center and were referred by the social worker to the agency dealing with their particular problems. Some needed care only briefly. Others required lengthy follow-up. The cases ranged from a psychotic requiring serious attention to a young Iraqi girl who needed help to meet her university tuition.

As might be expected, the many projects generated out of the Gruss Center caused ripples throughout Romema and led eventually to a vehicle for more active local participation: a Council of Members and Trustees of the Community Center. This Council was created by a student of the Schwartz Training Center, with the help of the community worker at Gruss.

From the beginning, Mr. Goren and I had talked about bringing volunteers to help in Romema. We both agreed that it would be best if those volunteers came from the neighborhood itself. What is distinctive about this Community Council is that all of its 55 members are volunteers living in Romema.

The Council meets once a month and has divided itself into sub-committees. One of these committees deals with preparations for emergencies. In only a few months it completed a survey of existing shelters in the area, and learned that 30% of the houses have none. The committee has now started action to provide a shelter for each building in Romema, so that every family will be fully protected.

A second committee concerns itself with the clean-up of the neighborhood; a third with the improvement of the kindergartens in the two elementary schools; a fourth publishes "Romemon", a bulletin aimed at informing local residents about local problems and projects.

The main addition Dov Ancona and I made to the Romema Community Council was to urge leadership training for its volunteer members. Recently, a two-day seminar was held for them (together with their peers from the Kiryat Menachem Center), and a year-long program has been planned during which national, city and neighborhood problems will be discussed in monthly meetings.

A word about Volunteers. In addition to the 55 neighborhood volunteers and the 15 highschool students recruited by B'nai B'rith, the work in Romema has attracted 25 other volunteers from outside the district. They include students from Hebrew Union College, the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and the Joseph J. Schwartz Training Center for Community Center Personnel. They are into everything: sports, club for the aged, programs for youth and children - the whole gamut of Center activities. One volunteer, a college wrestling champion now at Hebrew Union College, has had great success among the Georgians, who love this particular sport. It is easy to imagine what extraordinary additional manpower - and activities - volunteers can add to a Center.

Success in Romema led me to extend my efforts to three additional districts in Jerusalem where there are Community Centers. They are:

1. The Pomerantz Community Center in Shmuel Hanavi. Here the programs already in operation include Block Committees (a forerunner of the Community Council), housing, laundry club, supplementary education and a program for assistance to adolescents.
2. The Scheuer and Bressler Community Center in Kiryat Menachem, where most of the programs I have described are already functioning. Noteworthy in this center is the Day Care Center, where a remarkable degree of parent education and participation has been achieved. A new program under way is the creation of a mini-center for families with many serious social problems who live on the outskirts of the district.



3. The Philip Lowne Community Center in Kiryat Yovel. Here we have just begun to work, and propose to initiate the kind of projects tested out in Romema and elsewhere in Jerusalem.

In Conclusion I want to stress just three points:

1. Community Centers have a special role to play in ensuring that already-existing social services get delivered to the people who need them. The Center provides everyone in the neighborhood with a single address, where - without run-around or frustration - he can come for advice, referral and follow-up.
2. Community Centers, rooted in the neighborhoods, are sensitive to the unmet needs of the local population. They can be inexpensive, flexible vehicles for creating new services to meet these needs.
3. What began as a "pilot project" in Romema has been extended to a "demonstration project" in Jerusalem. If it proves successful, it could set the pattern for a national program of community work radiating out of Community Centers. There are at present 50 such centers in Israel, most of them in development towns. All with community workers on staff, they could provide a tremendous thrust for social improvement in Israeli society.

Jerusalem  
November, 1975

Louis D. Horwitz

NOTE: The Community Centers in Jerusalem were created by both the Jerusalem Foundation and the Israel Education Fund of the United Jewish Appeal. The Community Centers in the rest of the country were built through contributions to the Israel Education Fund in the U.S.A.



FEDERATION EXECUTIVES' RETIREES  
AND  
ALIYAH TO ISRAEL

The impetus for this memo was occasioned by the impending retirements of a number of community organization personnel in the Federation field, myself included. The expertise of these professionals, as well as their deep interest in Israel, is well demonstrated. The needs for their services in Israel, coupled with the possibility of continuing with their professional career, could well motivate them to spend the major part of each year in that country. Having discussed this with some of my colleagues and generally receiving encouragement, I would suggest that this project be explored with such appropriate bodies as the CJFWF, UJA, and Jewish Agency.

Efforts on the part of Israel to develop aliyah from the U.S., and especially of professional groups and their expertise, have been rather unsuccessful. Moreover, of the relatively few who have made aliyah many have returned to the States expressing frustrations over the unhappy results, blaming Israel's bureaucracy for their failures.

There are many instances where professionals have come to Israel to settle or for a particular task and have returned disillusioned because of their inability to cope with the situation in Israel.

Insofar as the social workers are concerned, the problems they have faced, and will continue to face in their Israeli experience, largely stemmed from the fact that they functioned there as individuals and were wholly supervised within the bureaucratic structure. Moreover, their specific assignments in Israel often brought them into conflict with Israeli personnel who ultimately questioned, for one reason or another, the applicability of their recommendations. The following points are being suggested as a basis for further exploration towards the development of a more comprehensive program which will be beneficial to Israel while enabling the retirees to find new satisfactions in their professional input.

1. The most important ingredient in the utilization of the Federation Executives is that they would be working on projects in Israel in group units and not individually. In this way they would be supportive of each other, professionally and personally, while also being part of the bureaucratic structure in which their project is involved.
2. The executives would obligate themselves to spend in Israel at least 6 to 9 months each year so that they could effectively carry out their assignments. This would also enable the executives to return to the States each year for family reunions or for other needs.
3. Presumably, these professionals will have adequate retirement incomes from their individual communities and not be dependent on Israeli salaries. They should, however, be provided with housing and travelling expenses for their services in Israel.



4. The assignments in Israel would be in accordance with the administrative and functional skills of the executives as they would operate in the various group units. These may include, in addition to the programs of the Jewish Agency and welfare programs of the Government, such other services which could utilize their expertise, including the absorption of immigrants from countries behind the Iron Curtain as well as aliyah from western-oriented countries.
5. These executives would also function, individually or in groups, in relation to their home communities. They would be available to community missions to Israel. They would encourage investments in Israel by serving in some form of representation in behalf of the investors from their former communities. They would encourage tourism from these communities through the welcome reception they would provide for those with whom they had worked closely in the States. And their very presence in Israel might well encourage families of their former communities to consider aliyah.
6. This beginning project for Federation Executives would be continually replenished by such retirees in the future for whom plans could be made sufficiently in advance in the interest of all parties.
7. An organization would be established in the States, consisting of representatives of CJFWF, UJA, United Israel Appeal and of the retirees, which would be responsible for the supervision of the program, recruiting candidates and receiving regular reports of the programs in Israel, and working with the appropriate bodies in Israel.
8. While primarily intended for retirees, the project would eventually be opened to other social workers who would be willing to be incorporated into this team work operation or who could be counselled regarding work opportunities in Israel.
9. This project for Federation Executives with expertise in community organization, and related and special skills, should be analyzed once implemented to determine its applicability to other professions. JWB and the group work field might be similarly involved, as would psychologists, educators, academicians and scientists. While some of the points above would apply to all those groups, working with their respective professional associations would undoubtedly bring out particular aspects of mutual benefits to Israel and to the professionals.
10. The spin-offs of the above to aliyah generally from western countries, and its effect on Israel could be far-ranging and productive.

M. C. Gettinger  
Atlanta, Georgia  
October 1975