

WASHINGTON DATELINE

By TRUDE B. FELDMAN

ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

GOLDA MEIR came, saw and was enraptured by the magnificence of the exhibit of Israeli art which graces the Concert Lounge of the John F. Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts. The permanent exhibit is Israel's contribution to the sumptuous center, overlooking the Potomac.

Mrs. Meir made a personal, unpublicized pilgrimage to the lounge during her recent visit to the nation's capital.

"The room speaks for itself," she said as she surveyed the 60 by 20 foot lounge. She looked up to the ceiling and inspected the walls and took pride in the art work.

"It's very pretty," she said approvingly.... and it's wonderful that such a room exists."

She related that the designer of the room's interior -- Raphael Blumenfeld -- is one of Israel's leading architects, who designed the interior of the Knesset in Jerusalem.

The lounge's main motif is the continuous bond between Judaism and music, from Biblical times to modern Israel. This is illustrated by 3-works of art, each in a different medium. The ceiling, by painter Shraga Weill, describes in royal colors, blues and reds, biblical scenes which are remembered for the part music played in them. The ceiling's 40 panels were painted in Weill's home, Kibbutz Ha'Ogen. They were fixed to the ceiling to create a large mural. The north wall is covered with a walnut wood carved panel by sculptor Nehemia Azaz. Its main subject is based on ancient biblical musical instruments.

During her 40-minute visit--accompanied by Ambassador and Mrs. Yitzchak Rabin, Counsellor to The Embassy Asher Naim and the center's general director William McC. Blair, Jr. -- Mrs. Meir looked at every piece of art and asked for the details about the designs and the artists.

Mrs. Rabin presented Mrs. Meir with a plaque made out of bronze of the sculptured wall by Azaz.

The lounge was formally dedicated a few days prior to Mrs. Meir's visit. So, she stood and listened attentively to a recording of what Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D. Mass) had said on that day in which he accepted the gift (the Lounge) to the American people from the people of Israel.

"Certainly, this room must stir feelings of familiarity in anyone who has ever been to Israel," Sen. Kennedy began. "It weaves together the warmth and vibrance of the Israeli people, the color and excitement of Israeli life, the biblical traditions and sights and history that abound throughout the land, the great devotion to culture and art, which have thrived in Israel even during her most trying times.

"Beyond that, it will be a new and dramatic symbol of the strong bonds between our two nations. We usually think in terms of what we have had to offer Israel, from trees to planes, from immigrants to technology, from hospitals to Yeshivas. But, rarely do we think of what Israel has offered us--the modern miracles, of biblical dimensions, giving us proof of the power of faith and courage and determination; the incredible models of accelerated economic and social resource development that await only our will to be translated throughout the world; a shining example of the preservation of human values and human priorities despite the most severe and external threats and barriers; and finally, evidence that dreams, even the most distant and difficult dreams, can come true if we do not lose sight of why we want them and what we must do to make them come true."

He added that the room will remind us of those lessons and inspirations, and of the debt we owe for them to the Israeli people.

"Our feelings of gratitude will be expressed in the eyes and hearts of those who will have the pleasure of enjoying this special island of tranquility and beauty in the years to come..."

Sen. Kennedy told this writer the room is a "thrilling gift."

"I know President Kennedy would have been honored by this unique tribute in his memory..." he added.

Upon leaving the lounge, Mrs. Meir walked down the red-carpeted corridor and stopped at the John F. Kennedy Bust, sculpted by Boston-



GOLDA MEIR PASSING UNDER BUST OF JOHN F. KENNEDY IN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS NAMED AFTER HIM IN WASH. D. C. AT LEFT IS ISRAELI AMB. RABIN.

PHOTO BY APTER

born Robert Berks.

"It's very unusual, very impressive," she said in a hushed tone.

Then she paused, paid tribute to the slain president, and reflected on the time he visited her in Israel -- when he was a Senator, and she, a Foreign Minister.

Israel's Prime Minister then entered the nearby Eisenhower Theatre at the Kennedy Center where she took time out to see a 2 1/2 hour play, "The Country Girl." Written by Clifford Odets and directed by John Houseman, the play starred Jason Robards, Maureen Stapleton and George Grizzard.

Since it was a last-minute decision, 54 ticket holders "graciously" gave up their seats for Mrs. Meir's entourage and security.

"It was a fine show," Mrs. Meir remarked. "I relaxed and was entertained."

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Tell:

A donation in your name has been made to THE OPEN HEART FOUNDATION.

PEACE,
Bobby Darin

(ED. NOTE: The Open Heart Foundation was founded by Bobby Darin. It is located at 190 No. Canon Dr., Bev. Hills, Cal. 90210.)

Dear Sirs:

Let me also take this chance to tell you how much I enjoy the Israelite. Keep up the good work, especially the Jewish News Briefs.

Thank you,
Alan Levitt
(Rochester, N.Y.)

Dear Bea and Jack:

Since I don't send Christmas cards, I felt it would be better if I sent you this personal note to tell you that we wish you every good wish for the years ahead. The wonderful family you have makes everyone proud of you.

If I had to choose which of your boys I thought was the greatest, I'd have the same problem that you would have, they are specialists in their own fields. I happen to favor you

because you speak your mind.

Please convey our very best wishes to our friends in Las Vegas. Yes we will be back when the city becomes alive again. Miriam and I are working very hard and we are getting along.

Please write, my regular readers, if you decide to print this will expect humor - but tell them I still miss them all.

Al Kirschner

(ED. NOTE: We miss you too, J.T.)

Dear Mr. Jack Tell,
In your Dec. 17 issue of the Las Vegas Israelite you had an article by Chaplain (CPT) Harold Axelrod.

May you please be so kind as to send me his address. We were classmates and I have been trying to contact him for some time.

Thanking you in advance,

Sincerely,
Rabbi Hirsch Rosenblum
(Cong. Beth Israel, Schenectady, N.Y.)

(ED. NOTE: Rabbi Harold Axelrod, Jewish Chaplain, Military Region I, Saigon, Vietnam.

LETTERS

Dear Mr. Tell,

Last November marked one year that Beth Sholom Seniors Club came into being.

The month of December was busy as the proverbial "bee-hive," with both social and worthy functions.

In that one month, under a B'nai B'rith project, the ladies of our club knitted afghans which were donated to the Leo N. Levi memorial Hospital. We donated and packaged gifts suitable for teen-age boys and girls in a Las Vegas hospital, and sent \$50.00, realized from small donations, to the Entratter Orphanage in Israel.

On the social side there was a Chanuka "latke" party and a stage play tendered by Sisterhood; Hadassah gave us a luncheon and a movie, and B'nai B'rith came in with an evening "feed" plus entertainment. And Sisterhood gifted us with a gavel.

We meet every Monday at 1 p.m. A table is set with coffee, tea and goodies before each meeting -- courtesy of Sisterhood, and there are cards and bingo after adjournment.

The last meeting of the month includes a movie - either a travelogue or some interesting subject.

Our club is non-sectarian and open to anyone 55 years of age or older. We invite people to come and make themselves known to Fay Colen, President, or any of the officers or membership, so that we may welcome you and introduce you around. Come as our guest and if you should decide to join, the annual dues of \$2.00 are so nominal and well worth the return.

You have favored us in the past, Mr. Tell, with notices in "The Israelite," and we really need some help now. Whether due to the cold weather or lack of knowledge of our existence to both old residents and newcomers, we find attendance diminishing. We should be very grateful if you would use as much as possible of the above either in whole or separate issues of your paper.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Very truly yours,
Edith Robbins, Secretary
Beth Sholem Seniors

Dear Volunteer:

Our Judy has left us.

Yesterday we said good-bye to one of the finest Ladies Las Vegas has ever known, Judy Bayley was loved by everyone. As Gus Giuffre so eloquently said in his eulogy at the Funeral, Judy is now in peace with her God Whom she served so well by her love and charity for her fellow man.

Judy was very proud of the American Cancer Society Auxiliary named in her honor. Now it will continue, even more strongly, in her memory. Last week, in her final hours of suffering, Judy still thought of humanity by telling her beloved friends attending her to have the January Auxiliary luncheon as planned no matter what happened. Why? Because, she wanted the Ladies of the Auxiliary to keep working to conquer the disease which finally conquered her.

On December 4, the evening of the Trail Ride at the Hacienda, was the last time I spoke with Judy. May I share with you her words: "Joe, no matter what, please keep having these trail rides for Cancer. And Joe, please ask everyone to work hard to end this disease. Joe, please." I couldn't answer Judy in words but could only clasp her hand and walk away.

Yes, our Judy is gone from us. All of us are a little better because Judy passed our way and we learned from her an example of kindness and love. The news media called her the "First Lady of Gambling" in Las Vegas. We knew her as the "First Lady of Charity."

Judy, good-bye. But only for awhile. The final curtain of the drama of life came to you too soon. It will come to all of us. As the song writer titled so well, "We'll Meet Again," Judy, enjoy the rewards and blessings God is giving to you now. He is doing this for you because you did the same for so many of us. As we do, God loves you.

May Judy rest in peace,

J. E. Smith, Executive Director
Clark County Unit
(American Cancer Society)