

Survival Thru Education

The "Survival Through Education Drive" to enroll every Jewish school age child in Jewish school, which was launched by the Board of Jewish Education immediately after the New Year was heightened according to the Passover message of Dr. Alvin I. Schiff, BJE executive vice-president.

"Although the tragic events of the Yom Kippur War forced a temporary suspension of the Drive," said Schiff, "The experiences the Jewish community has undergone since then should have

taught us that the term 'survival' has very real meaning for all Jews."

In his message to parents, Schiff pointed out that "we have learned, as our ancestors have learned since the first Passover, that Jews remain isolated and without any real allies in the world. We must then strengthen our commitment, and the commitment and identity of our children, if Judaism is to continue."

In announcing the heightened efforts of the Survival Drive, Schiff said that BJE will embark on a two-pronged approach to the enrollment problem. One dimension will be the recruitment of new students through a strong promotional campaign, and the introduction of new programs into the school system.

The second dimension will be the merging of small neighborhood schools or the development of community schools. Where making small schools more viable through enrollment increases is not possible, he pointed out, consolidation becomes a prime method of ensuring viability.

The first steps in the new Drive have already been taken. On March 17, a meeting of 50 key lay and professional leaders in education was held. At the meeting, BJE presented a comprehensive working paper on enrollment, outlining the projected activities for the next year. Following a subsequent evaluative meeting on May 5, schools should begin to receive enrollment aid packages, called "Survival Kits."

"During this Passover holiday," Schiff concluded, "we are asking every parent of a school age child to search his own mind, and when his children ask the four questions to ask one of himself -- 'Am I doing all I can to insure the Jewish future of my child?' If the child is not enrolled in a Jewish school, and the answer is no, he must remember that the burden for Jewish survival now rests with him."

The Board of Jewish Education, a member agency of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies is the world's largest central agency for Jewish education. Providing consultation and pedagogic services, as well as curricular material to 120,000 students in 680 Jewish schools, it strives to offer more and better Jewish education to a greater number of Jewish children. Frank Heller of White Plains is President, Dr. Alvin I Schiff of Oceanside is Exec. V.P.

LOS ANGELES: Two interesting new paper back books, "Poor Cousins" by Ande Manners, and "The Kids Who Went to Israel," by Harold Flender, are now available through the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 590 No. Vermont Ave., #217, L.A., Calif. 90004.

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