

HOLOCAUST IGNORED BY JEWISH LEADERS

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Holocaust has become an "uncomfortable" subject in the Jewish community, Sigmund Strochlitz, vice-president of the American Friends of Haifa University who is a Holocaust survivor, said at the 70th anniversary celebration of Congregation Machzeh Avraham.

The meeting honored Strochlitz, who was an inmate of the Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz camps, for his contributions to the congregation. The oldest Polish Jewish congregation in the U.S. It is now comprised of Holocaust survivors. The Holocaust "that should serve as a reminder that it can happen again is being pushed away and ignored even by our own leaders," Strochlitz said.

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shima, Korea, Vietnam and the fact that our own people are supposedly tired of what happened to their parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents, is being used as a reason and maybe an excuse."

Meanwhile in Israel, Hillel Seidel of the Independent Liberal Party, a Holocaust survivor, criticized German Jews for not taking part when Serge Klarsfeld and his wife Beate protested at a Nazi rally held in the Munich beer cellar where Hitler planned his 1923 unsuccessful putsch. Klarsfeld was beaten and he and his wife were ejected from the beer hall.

NEW SECRETARY'S FAMILY FLED NAZIS

WASH. (WNS) -- Bendix Corporation chairman W. Michael Blumenthal is the second refugee from Hitlerism to become a Cabinet member with his selection by President-elect Jimmy Carter for the post of Secretary of the Treasury.

Like Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Blumenthal's family fled Germany after the Nazis came to power. Blumenthal, who was born in Berlin in 1926, is described as a "baptized Presbyterian." The Blumenthal family after fleeing Germany stayed in Shanghai where they were sheltered in a camp conducted by the Joint Distribution Committee. They came to United States in 1947.

Man for All Seasons

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

A man for all seasons and for many reasons was Gustave Lehmann Levy, who died in New York last November at the age of 66.

By profession an investment banker who chaired the New York Stock Exchange for two years, Mr. Levy maximally followed the Jewish dictum that a man should be as helpful as possible to others. From humble beginnings in New Orleans, he became one of the nation's leading philanthropists.

One of the eulogists at the funeral in Temple Emanu-El, Manhattan, was Nelson Rockefeller, who, among other labels, characterized Gus Levy as "fabulous."

The overused adjective is an understatement applied to Gus Levy.

To give you an idea how wide a range of activities Mr. Levy encompassed, let me merely list the names of some of the organizations that saluted him in paid obituaries in the New York Times. Most of these long tributes were spangled with such terms as "dynamic," "extraordinary," "towering," and the like.

Here's the partial list: Gustave Levy Medical Memorial Fund of Mt. Sinai Medical Center, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, United Hospital Fund, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies (over which he once presided), United Jewish Appeal, Beth Israel Medical Center, American Jewish Committee, Gustave and Janet Levy Library of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, (which he helped to found), Fund for Higher Education in Israel, College of Business and Adjunct Administration (where he taught), Institute of Judicial Administration, Tulane Medical Center, B'nai B'rith, New York University Medical Center, Fordham University (where he was a Science Fellow), Synagogue Council of America, the International Synagogue of Kennedy Airport, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Israel Bond Organization, American Friends of the Hebrew University, Museum of Modern Art, Congregation Rmanu-el of New York City, Eisman Day Nursery, Jewish Publication Society, The New School for Social Research, and the Jack Martin Fund.

We offer our sympathy on the loss of this marvelous man to the family and to his army of friends.

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) -- The General Assembly adopted by consensus December 15 a resolution calling for the establishment of a 35-member committee to draft an international convention against the taking of hostages. The resolution did not mention terrorism.

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JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Leaders of the West Bank and East Jerusalem chambers of commerce met here December 16 and said they would seek a meeting with military government officials in order to ask that the value added tax (VAT) be lifted or modified. The VAT was the official reason given for the one-day general strike December 15 which paralyzed the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Four Jewish Defense League members were sentenced on weapons charges in a federal court.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Rabin government barely defeated a no-confidence vote December 14 based on its alleged desecration of the Sabbath during the welcome of the three F-16 interceptor jets from the United States. The motion was defeated 55-48 with nine abstentions.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Defense Minister Shimon Peres returned from the United States December 14 and said there was an agreement in principle that Israel would receive the American F-16 jets in the 1980s.

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