



**JEWES AND JUDAISM
BY BARUCH LEVINGER
RELIGIOUS EDITOR**

LV Jewish Singles

Here in "Glitter City" Jewish Single People of all ages have exceptional problems getting to meet and know one another. For the youth 12 and under we have a few organizations like JR. USY but for every one member there are 10 who would like to belong and probably 1000 who don't even know there is such a Jewish group for them to join.

As teenagers when they are learning to date and growing into adulthood these same children need other Jewish peers to identify with but because of the work schedules of their parents, the divorce statistics and other obvious factors (like intermarried parents), these kids just do not get to meet each other at this critical time in their lives.

As these Las Vegas Jewish Youths mature into marriage eligibles, this same lack of Jewish exposure still exists.

Now we come to the 20 to 40 year old Jewish Singles. How in the Glitter City can these people seek each other out. On any Friday evening there may be 15 at Temple Beth Shalom and possibly the same at Temple Ner Tamid. There is a single Jewish adult group at Beth Shalom but it is also extremely limited in scope and members.

What are the alternatives? Singles Bars? When is the last time a nice Jewish Lady of any age met a nice Jewish Man who met her standards at the Local Pub. A Fine Lady can always visit the art museums and wait to be approached in front of a portrait of a "Rabbi" by a Jewish Man her age with her standards but the last time I looked we had no museum let alone an art museum. The same holds true for concerts but alas "No Las Vegas Symphony." No Las Vegas Opera house, not even a Legitimate theater that Jewish Singles can patronize and get acquainted.

The purpose of this article is to shed light on this problem. What are we as good Jewish Las Vegans going to do to develop a dialogue and an acquaintanceship amongst all Single Jews at all age levels. Dances work for the kids but for the adults, who all work different schedules, who may have children, who may not drink, etc. What do we do for them?

Tevia turned to Yente the Match Maker. Dolly Levi introduced Matches to each other and here at long last in Las Vegas, where it is so dearly needed, we have a Jewish Introduction Agency. Let's hope that they succeed in bringing together eligible singles for the purpose of finding happiness with a Jewish Spouse-Making a Jewish Family and strengthening Jewish Life in Las Vegas.

Because the Single People's Problems are many in addition to the inability to meet each other the Jewish Introduction Agency offers Free counseling by a qualified individual in problems of the Singles. And for a follow up the Jewish Introduction Agency have their own Rabbi that will marry you free as a final follow up to their service. This Las Vegas Agency though new here is part of a National Affiliation of Jewish introduction Agencies that are sprouting up in every city in America.

I sincerely wish this agency will help the city of Las Vegas, the Jewish Community and every Single Jewish Person you know of any age. Spread the Word & Save the Faith. Do A Mitzvah and bring happiness to someone.

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BAR MITZVAH IN MOSCOW

This Shabbat, January 6, a Bar Mitzvah will take place. David Shwarzman is 13 years old, a good student and an avid stamp collector. Like other Bar Mitzvah boys, David will be nervous and Anatoly and Eugenia Shwarzman, like other parents, will be proud.

But this is not a Bar Mitzvah like others, for the Shwarzman family will celebrate David's coming of age in Moscow, where they have been awaiting permission to emigrate to Israel since 1975.

David has not attended Hebrew school to study for his Bar Mitzvah, because the maintenance of a school to teach religious precepts to children would be illegal in the Soviet Union. Even the teaching of the Hebrew language is forbidden.

His preparation for this important day has taken place at home where his parents have tried to teach their son the religious values which are so important in their lives--not an easy task in a society where atheism and anti-Semitic versions of history are taught in the public schools.

Raising a Jewish son is difficult for any Soviet family. For the Shwarzman's the problem became especially acute after they applied for an exit visa in 1975. Eugenia lost her job as an engineer and has been unable to find another. Anatoly lost his position as an electronic engineer, and, after applying and being turned down for 40 jobs because of his refusenik status, finally located a low-level post. The family are sustained by the hope that soon,

they may live in Israel.

Of vital importance in sustaining the hope and courage of families like the Shwarzman's is the knowledge that they have friends who care about them. In a recent letter to a family in Boston, the Shwarzman's wrote:

"Thank you for your invariable kind wishes, for your encouragement. I am always glad to get your wonderful letters. I drink

them like balsam. I look forward to have some words from you soon. Peace and love, Eugenia, Anatoly,

Davy."

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