

**WASHINGTON DATELINE**

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN

ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

*A Woman of Valor*

"Wither thou goest, I will go...."

In emulating the Biblical Ruth, Ruth Rackman followed her husband, Rabbi Emanuel Rackman of Manhattan's Fifth Ave. Synagogue, when he was called to Israel in 1977 as president of Bar - Ilan University. Leaving behind her three sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren, Ruth Rackman, after 46 years of marriage, moved with her husband to Ramat Gan, where a new "family" awaited her -- some 10,000 students at Israel's "Jewish University" -- so called because every undergraduate must complete a curriculum in Jewish studies amounting to 25 percent above and beyond the requirements for graduation.

Mrs. Rackman was honored by the American Women for Bar-Ilan at a luncheon Monday in the Waldorf Astoria, highlighted by a telephone call from her husband in Israel telling how much she meant to him and to the university community of which she is a part.

The presentation of a scroll at the event was made by Mrs. Jerome L. Stern, president of the American Board of Overseers, who described her friend as a true 'Eshet Chayil,' "woman of valor."

"Ruth Rackman is a genuinely warm human being who has excelled in a wide variety of roles -- teacher, wife, mother, guidance counselor and communal activist," Mrs. Stern said. She was a teacher in the New York City schools when she met her husband - to - be, a promising young rabbi. After her own children were grown, she returned to graduate school, earned a master's degree and became an assistant professor of counseling at Bronx Community College, where she worked mainly with culturally - and economically-deprived children.

At Bar Ilan, the students and faculty have a real friend in Ruth Rackman. In a new country, she has found a place for herself -- as she did in New York -- not only at her husband's side but in the hearts of the young men and women who are training to be tomorrow's leaders of Israel and of the Jewish community.

Mrs. Stern told how Ruth Rackman managed to find friends for the student counseling center "by using her influence with President Rackman."

Mrs. Rackman's special interest in disadvantaged students was also remarked by Mrs. Stern, who spoke of "the special pride" everyone at Bar - Ilan took at commencement exercises last year when the son of the campus da gardener was awarded a Ph.D in theoretical physics.

Ruth Rackman's response was particularly moving. She spoke not of herself but of some of her best friends in Israel -- the local plumber, the campus carpenter, the laundromat repairmen -- "warm, wonderful people whom I have come to know and to trust and to enjoy."

Proceeds of the luncheon -- attended by more

than 300 women -- will go to launch a Ruth Rackman Scholarship Fund for American Students at Bar - Ilan.

New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams, the featured speaker at the luncheon called Bar-Ilan an "extraordinary institution that imbues its students with the roots of our sacred tradition. He asked for increased Jewish unity in supporting the State of Israel at "this critical juncture in its history."

Luncheon chairman Mrs. Estelle Goldman outlined Bar - Ilan's programs to serve Israeli youth from disadvantaged backgrounds and stressed the university's central role as a bridge between the observant and non - observant elements in Israeli society.

Thus, Bar - Ilan will have its own Book of Ruth.

**MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN BEIRUT EXPANDED**

WASH. (WNS) -- The State Department announced here that functions of the 4,000 Multinational Force (MNF) in Beirut will be extended. At the same time, the Department indicated that no troops from Morocco or other countries would be added to the force now in Lebanon until an agreement on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon is completed. The MNF is composed of 1,200 U.S. marines and French and Italian troops confined to Beirut and its environs.

Department spokesman John Hughes declined to comment on reports that President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon was offered Moroccan troops for the MNF during his visit to that country. But Hughes indicated that no troops from Morocco or any other country would be added to the MNF until an agreement on the withdrawal of all foreign forces-- Israeli, Syrian and PLO forces -- is completed. He said there are a "variety of questions that would have to be answered

if we get to the point where an enlargement of the MNF is contemplated. I don't think we are at that point." (In Jerusalem, Israeli sources promptly rejected any suggestion of Moroccan participation in the MNF because Morocco is officially in a state of belligerency with Israel. But the sources seemed willing to consider the deployment of Egyptian units as part of the MNF.)

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**7,000 PLO FIGHTERS RETURN TO LEBANON**

NEW YORK (WNS) -- An Israeli official told the national executive committee of the Anti - Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at its meeting in Houston October 28 - 31 that as many as 7,000 PLO fighters -- almost half the number of those evacuated from Beirut -- have filtered back into Lebanon.

Benjamin Netanyahu, minister and deputy chief of mission of the Israel Embassy in Washington, said these terrorists are now redeployed in the Bekaa Valley. Another 1,000, he said, are in the Tripoli area of Lebanon. Israeli forces which entered Lebanon to end the PLO terrorist threat to the northern border area, Netanyahu said, expected to deal with a total terrorist force in Lebanon of 10,000 to 15,000.

"But we under-

estimated the threat," he told the ADL leaders. He said Israeli forces discovered a PLO force estimated at 30,000 with enough weaponry to arm an additional 30,000 terrorists. "In fact," he declared, "we realized we were dealing with a PLO army or a force in the developmental stage of 60,000 to 70,000 -- and it is not improbable to assume that this force could have reached 100,000. That would have meant a complete PLO takeover of Lebanon."

Referring to Syrian forces still in Lebanon, Netanyahu said all indications are that the troops are "prepared" to evacuate the Bekaa Valley. "When they do so," he said "the thousands of PLO infiltrators under Syrian aegis will probably go with them."

Temple Emanu-El holds services every Friday nite at the Community Room of the First Western Savings & Loan, Rainbow Blvd. & Flamingo. Services are conducted by Yaacov Levy. A social hour follows services.

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