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## New K'tonton Cassette By 90 Year Old Weilerstein To Be Featured At Women's League Biennial Convention

"K'tonton in Israel," a new audio cassette with script and lyrics by award-winning children's author Sadie Rose Weilerstein, will be formally launched at the Biennial Convention of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism to be held November 11-15 at the Concord Hotel. The cassette is based on Weilerstein's book of the same name, which was published by Women's League. Narration and original music for the cassette are by Judy Chernak of Judy Chernak Productions, co-publisher of the tape with Women's League.

Now age 90, Weilerstein is still creating new K'tonton adventures. Her Jewish Tom Thumb character first appeared in print 54 years ago, as a children's story in the first edition of OUTLOOK, the quarterly publication of Women's League. The largest synagogue women's organization in the world, Women's League in 1935 published the first collection of K'tonton stories in a book called "The Adventures of K'tonton."

"If it were not for the first editor of Women's League OUTLOOK, Carrie Davidson, my K'tonton stories might have remained stories I told my own children," Weilerstein says. "She kept after me, because she needed items for her children's page in the magazine. Finally, I wrote down the first K'tonton story."

Weilerstein began her writing career "by accident," when she made up stories and poems for her young son's pleasure. At that time, there were no children's books on Jewish themes, so she had to improvise. "In the early days, I never considered myself a writer," she said. "I signed myself 'housewife,' until I earned over \$400 and realized I had to pay income tax on my earnings."

"I'm so happy to this day when I see a good

Jewish children's book, or a good children's book in general," she continued. She was especially pleased when a Jewish Theological Seminary rabbinical student told her, "K'tonton bought me here."

Three generations of children claim K'tonton as a friend. "The Best of K'tonton (an anthology of stories from "The Adventures of K'tonton," "K'tonton in Israel," and "K'tonton on an Island in the Sea") was jointly published by Women's League and the Jewish Publication Society to mark the character's fiftieth birthday in 1980. In the fall of 1981, "K'tonton at the Circus" was published.

The author confides that K'tonton's adventures are usually based on real events, on bits of reality that emerge into a story. "What you feel deeply remains in you and eventually comes out." She often tells the story to a child, and later writes it down. "Each story has a story behind it," she explained. "An idea gets into my head, and stays in the back of my mind. The next thing I know, I have a story, and a need to tell it. Then comes the hard part -- writing it down. Some stories can take six years to grow in my mind, and some can happen in a minute."

"K'tonton came into being one evening when my husband found a story by the Hebrew writer S.Y. Agnon, and read it aloud to me," she recalled in the story, the hero, Rabbi Gadiel Hatinok, a tiny rabbi, finger-sized but adult, saves the Jewish people from a blood accusation.

When her son asked what his father was reading, she answered him, "About a tiny person, so high," sticking up her thumb. He insisted on hearing the story, but she didn't want to tell a five year old about a blood accusation. "So I turned the tiny person into a thumb-sized boy much like himself, except for size, who took a ride on a chopping knife and wished he hadn't. It was my husband who gave him his name, meaning 'very tiny' in Hebrew.

Weilerstein, who now lives in Rockville, Md., was born in Rochester, New York on July 28, 1894. In addition to the K'tonton stories, she has written such Jewish children's books as "What Danny Did," "Little New Angel," and "What the Moon Brought."

### Public Service Commission will hear two Nevada Power Company rate applications November 15, 1984 in Las Vegas

Two separate Nevada Power Company rate applications will be heard before the Public Service Commission starting at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 15, 1984 at 2501 E. Sahara Avenue.

The first application deals with a request to recover costs for developing a Resource Plan, mandated by the 1983 Nevada Legislature. The actual increase amounts to .016 cents per kilowatt hour and represents an average monthly increase on a residential customer's bill of 18 cents. In preparing the Resource Plan the company spent \$471,753.

On the same date the Company will also present its request for a deferred energy adjustment increase of \$13,150,546. This amount represents expenses for fuel and purchased power not collected in rates during the March 1/August 31, 1984 period. The Company also seeks to decrease its base tariff energy rate. If this application is approved, the average residential customer's monthly bill would increase 9.6 per cent or \$5.61 for six months beginning December 1, 1984.

The Public Service Commission hearings on November 15, 1984 are open to the public.

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Robert Lukowski, General Manager of Railroad Pass Casino, announces the First Annual Railroad Pass Casino "St. Jude's" Chili Cookoff for Saturday, November 10, 1984, 9:00 A.M. to 6 P.M. on the Railroad Pass Casino Parking Lot.

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