

"Death And Burial Of The Helsinki Accords"



The occasion of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Accords was marked by a funeral procession and burial in front of the Soviet Consulate by the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews and the Jewish Community Relations Council. Encased in a black coffin, the documents were carried by scores of Bay Area residents to the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco, where eulogies were given including one by Yuri Yarim-Agaev, a former member of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group.

The Helsinki Accords were signed in 1975 by 35 nations, including the United States and the Soviet Union, and were aimed at progress in issues including human rights, reunification of separated families, cooperation among States, and confidence-building measures. However, the ten years which followed brought news to the West of continuous violations within the Soviet Union, primarily against its Jewish citizens and human rights activists. According to Lillian Foreman, president of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, "There has been a complete disregard for certain human rights issues, accentuated by the arrests of those people in the USSR who tried themselves to monitor Soviet compliance with the Accords. Those arrests were the first nails in the coffin."

The Helsinki Accords, which were signed ten years ago, stated that "...participating States will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion." Activists had hoped that the treaty would provide protection for Jews and dissidents in the USSR and would facilitate increased Jewish emigration. Hopes were dashed when the number of exit visas granted steadily declined from 51,000 in 1979 to 896 in 1984.

Foreman went on to say, "The Helsinki Accords were an offer of hope and peace. They have, however, been killed both by the Soviet Union's failure to follow them and the West's failure to enforce them."

3 M.K.s Refuse Eviction From House In Hebron

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Three Knesset members representing the right wing Techiya party locked themselves inside an apartment in the Arab Casbah (central marketplace) quarter of Hebron. The trio — M.K.s Geula Cohen,

Ort Provides Help To Troubled Israeli Teenagers

ORT Israel is providing valuable assistance to troubled high school dropouts in over 50 Israeli towns through an innovative program called HILA. Entering its third year, the project is carried out in cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Education and Culture and local municipalities. It provides basic education and skills to high school dropouts aged 15 to 18, one third of whom have difficulty in reading and writing. The approach is to force close relationships and communication between the ORT teachers and the students.

Study sessions take place at students' homes, community centers, or at ORT schools, and are planned for afternoons and evenings to avoid conflict with the students' work schedules. The study program, which varies in length from three months to a year, is planned individually for each participating youngster according to his or her potential, knowledge and field of interest. The curriculum is jointly planned, thus involving the students as active participants in the learning process. The program also offers students the opportunity to acquire a certificate from the Ministry of Education and Culture upon successful completion of an examination. Many of the students continue their studies at ORT vocational and technical high schools around the country.

Dan Meyer left school at age 15 to work as an assistant electrician. Feeling bored and restless within a few months, he was on the verge of quitting his job. He met an ORT teacher from the HILA program and persuaded him to join a study session and improve his knowledge of Hebrew and mathematics. Slowly but surely, he progressed in his studies and now, at age 17, is studying motor mechanics at the ORT Technical High School in Ashkelon. He says, "I would not have come this far without HILA's help."

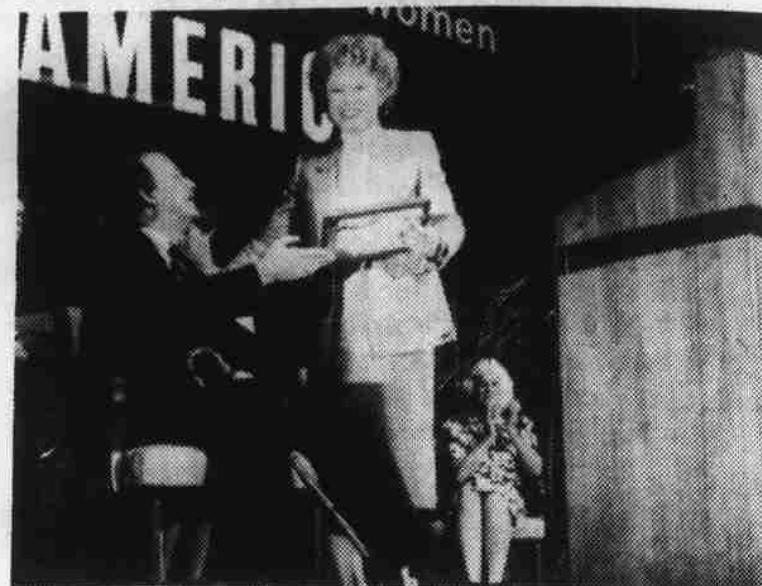
Yoni Neyman, a young Russian immigrant to Israel, moved from one school to another and finally dropped out altogether in order to take a job. "All I wanted to do," he said, "was to make lots of money and have a good time. A few months later I attended a community center where HILA operated, and together with other youngsters and a teacher from ORT we discussed our problems and the way we felt about things. Soon we all agreed to study mathematics, Hebrew and other subjects, in small groups, starting with six hours per week. Three of us met at our teacher's home and soon we were also learning biology, civic education, philosophy and accounting. Today I am a completely different person. I'm looking forward to obtaining a tenth grade graduation certificate and next year I plan to study computers at the ORT Technical High School in Afula. I would still be on the streets if HILA hadn't found me."

Eliezer Waldman and Gershon Shafat — asserted they would remain in the building until the Cabinet discusses the question of expanding the Jewish presence in Hebron.

Their action took place after a group of Kiryat Arba settlers took over the apartment — and were evicted from it by the Israel Defense Forces — twice, recently. Kiryat Arba residents said the apartment was one of about a score bought in recent months from Arab owners with money raised in Israel and abroad for the purpose of "liberating" Hebron houses from Arabs.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said that the settlers' action in expanding their presence in the Arab city of Hebron was a contravention of the status quo. Deputy Premier and Foreign

Stein And Bush Honored For Volunteerism



Sandra Stein of Los Angeles, CA (center) was recently presented the NFRW "Best of America" award for her leading volunteer efforts to help LA youths kick drug habits. Stein was one of nine women honored by NFRW at a luncheon in Washington, D.C., including Mrs. Barbara Bush (back right) for her work to eliminate illiteracy in America. White House Press Secretary James Brady (center left) presented the awards.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sandra Stein, prominent member of the Jewish community, was honored in Washington, D.C. recently at the National Federation of Republican Women's celebration of the "Best of America" — a tribute to outstanding American volunteers.

Governor Pierre duPont served as honorary chairman of the honorees' luncheon sponsored by members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Also honored with Mrs. Stein were Mrs. Barbara Bush, wife of the Vice President, and U.S. Senator Paula Hawkins of Florida.

The National Federation of Republican Women's tribute to concerned Americans focused on individuals who have led volunteer efforts to make life better for others. Mrs. Stein, an attorney and ardent community leader, was recognized for aiding the youth of Los Angeles through a precedent-setting anti-crime project offering free services to the needy.

Youngsters in Los Angeles have for years tattooed themselves with visible crude marks signifying drug use and gang membership. "When these young people try to leave the clutches of the gangs and drugs," Mrs. Stein explained, "they find the stigma which their tattoos project to be an almost insurmountable barrier to employment and social acceptance."

Together with her husband, Dr. Karl Stein, a noted Los Angeles plastic surgeon, she organized a unique tattoo removal program to assist these unfortunate youths. Without any public or private funding the Steins have provided free surgical services and counseling to thousands of young people in Los Angeles.

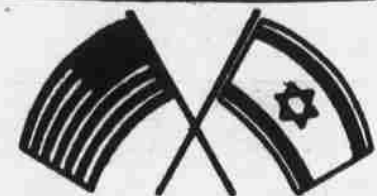
In addition, Mrs. Stein has produced an award-winning, Emmy-nominated film entitled "Un-Tattoo You," which illustrates the consequences of youth tattooing.

Mrs. Stein has been the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, most notably from President Ronald Reagan, the California State Senate, California Assembly, and the Los Angeles City Council. She has served on a number of boards and commissions at all levels of government, and is co-founder and national director of The Washington Connection.

She resides in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters, Laura and Leigh.

Minister Yitzhak Shamir could not be removed of Likud charged that because of their the IDF had acted im- parliamentary im- properly in ejecting the community. settlers from an apart- ment they had bought.

The Knesset members refused to obey eviction orders and



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