

Helping Feed The Hungry

In keeping with the Jewish tradition of aiding the poor and hungry, Jews throughout the United States are being asked to contribute funds, not through the customary channels but via a voluntary surcharge on Jewish "life cycle" festivities such as weddings and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs.

The idea originated in an article published last Spring in Moment magazine, according to Irving Cramer of Los Angeles, national executive director of the new Jewish organization called Mazon, which in Hebrew means sustenance. The uniqueness of Mazon lies in the voluntary surcharge. With Jews spending some \$500 million on such life-cycle festivals a year, Mazon expects the surcharge to bring in \$5 to \$6 million annually, Cramer said.

The organization, based in Los Angeles, is structured to work through participating synagogues and temples. "When the rabbi talks to the family about the logistics of a festivity, he also talks about its spiritual aspects. He will talk about Jewish values and how they can be translated" into the family adding the surcharge for Mazon, Cramer says.

At a later stage, Mazon expects to branch out to reach hotels and country clubs where so many of these affairs are held. Some participating caterers will put the Mazon logo on their letterheads as "Mazon partners." Funds for the organization will be used for projects on the local, national and international level designed to feed Jews and non-Jews and to attack the root causes of hunger.

Mazon, as an idea and a working organization, will take some time before it can begin to reap some of the financial benefits of the intended voluntary surcharge on Jewish festivities and distribute them to needy causes. The idea is already spreading throughout the country. By tapping into the Jewish tradition of tzedakah and concern for the hungry, its success should be assured.

FCC Rules Out Anti-Semitism Issue In Station License Case

NEW YORK (WNS) — The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) turning down a petition by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, has ruled that the anti-Semitic and racist messages in programs broadcast by KTTL-FM of Dodge City, Kansas will be excluded from consideration when the case on the radio station's license application comes up. The FCC, however, did permit the ADL to be a party in the case, the agency announced.

The owners of the station, Charles and Nellie Babbs, broadcast taped messages from rightwing extremist organizations. For example, a 1983 broadcast by William Gale, a retired army colonel who has long been associated with ring wing groups, told listeners "We're gonna cleanse our land...And

we're gonna do it with violence."

"You better start making dossiers, names, addresses, phone numbers, car license numbers, on every damn Jew rabbi in this land, and every Anti-Defamation League leader or JDL leader in this land, and you better start doing it now," Gale was quoted as saying in the broadcast.

Gale continued: "And know where he is. If you have to be told any more than that, you're too damn dumb to bother with. You get these roadblock locations, where you can set up ambushes."

The ADL, in reacting to the FCC ruling excluding consideration of KTTL's anti-Semitic and racist messages on First Amendment grounds, said that "what is at issue is the use of the airwaves for inciting to murder."

Nikki Brown Bat Mitzvah At Temple Beth Am



(Photograph by Marvin)

Nikki Brown, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Donald Brown, was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah, recently. Rabbi Mel Hecht officiated.

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