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LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

"For Those Who Deserve The Best"

The Only English - Jewish Newspaper in Nevada

Published Bi-Weekly in Las Vegas

Friday, December 6, 1985

P.O. BOX 14096, LAS VEGAS, NV. 89114

876-1255

Vol. 21, No. 23

HAPPY CHANUKAH

The Geneva Summit: Another View

By Rabbi Avraham Weiss

Hermenda was in for pushing drugs. Jimmy for armed robbery. And I for refusing to leave the Aeroflot Soviet Airlines office in Geneva. How I found myself in a cell with hardcore criminals is a story that should be told.

Together with Joseph Mendelvich, who survived 11 years in the Russian Gulag, I felt it imperative to be in Geneva during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. Our goals were clear: to demand of the USSR that they allow all their Jews to emigrate, to insist that the United States raise the human rights issue on the highest priority level with the Russians, and to remind the Jewish community that they ought not be lulled into complacency by Soviet disinformation which indicated that an airlift of thousands of Jews direct to Israel was imminent.

Upon arriving in Geneva, we quickly realized that we would receive little help from Geneva Jewry. At a Soviet Jewry rally just prior to the summit, demonstration leaders refused to conclude the proceedings with the Hatikvah. They claimed that Soviet Jewry had little to do with

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Hanukah Feature

IN HONOR OF HANUKAH, JEWISH 8 - DAY TRADITION OF SACRED CANDLE LIGHTING THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF STORIES TO COMMEMORATE THE HOLIDAY WHICH COMMENCES AT SUN-DOWN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, AND LASTS UNTIL THE EVENING OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15.

(NO MATTER HOW YOU SPELL IT - CHANUKAH, HANUKKAH, HANUKA, HANUKAH - IT ALL ADDS UP TO HAPPY HOLY DAYS WITH SUCCESSIVE CANDLES ON THE MEMORAH.)

Ian Segal -- Eagle Scout



Mazel tov Ian Segal, son of Ivan & Marlene Segal, who is now an Eagle Scout. At Valley High School Ian is a member of the Valley Marching Band, Valley Symphonic Band, Soccer Team, Cross Country Team, Varsity Track and is in the top 10% of his class. He and his family are members of Temple Beth Sholom and his interests include racquetball and swimming. He is interested in pursuing the career of a marine biologist or an astronomer.

Community Wide Sabbath Service - A Plea For Soviet Jewry - Friday, December 6, 8:15 P.M. - Temple Beth Sholom

By Dr. Louis M. Lederman, Rabbi and Spiritual Leader, Temple Beth Sholom

If there ever was a time in recent years for a sustained community plea on behalf of Soviet Jewry it is precisely right now following the summit in Geneva. While there has not yet been any overt evidence that a thaw may develop and result in the exodus of more Jews from the Soviet Union, there is every reason to believe that the private discussions between President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev had to include the plight of Soviet Jewry. Russia has absolutely nothing to gain from keeping the exodus of Jews to a mere trickle, only a few hundred per year unlike the more than 50,000 just a few years ago. On the contrary, one of the easiest ways for the Soviet Union to establish closer and warmer ties with America is by permitting the free exit of Jews from Russia. It would not take a mass exit to accomplish the best interests of Soviet policy vis-a-vis the United States. Any significant escalation of exit permits for Jews from Russia to Israel or elsewhere would be most effective. And we have good reason to believe that it could well happen and happen soon. But it won't just happen. We must keep up the pressure on the Soviet Union to permit those Jews, who so desire, to leave Russia.

One highly effective means of applying pressure on the Soviet Union, a country also concerned with good public relations, is through the very simple but highly effective community-wide pleas and demonstrations on behalf of Soviet Jewry. And we here in Las Vegas, as Jews in other communities, are in an excellent position to make our voices heard. Even if it is only an echo that is finally heard in Moscow, what is just as important is that our non-Jewish fellow Americans know that we are concerned. A passive attitude by Jews in any American city or community conveys the wrong message. Our communal leaders: Congressmen, Senators, Mayors, Commissioners plus each and every citizen, private or public, must know that the Jews of Las Vegas are concerned about our

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Yahrzeits Tonight At Beth Sholom

(Friday, December 6, 1985)

Ethel Hornsby
Abe Liebovich
Lena Burger
Ellie Basso
Hattie Werksman
Herman Block
Rudolph Golden
Esther Dvorak
Herman Rubin
Nancy Jennifer Greene
Solomon Rosenberg
Morris A. Carr
Bertha Adler
David Sirota

Louis Spiegel
Samuel Goldman
Saul Kaufman
Mildred Berner
Rita Pearlmutter
Naomi Yoffe
Yicusiel Davidovitz
Jennie Mack
Ida Kamm
Goldie Merkin
Robert Lewis
Lillian Brutowsky
Ben Wallach
William Isquith

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