

Former Expatriate's Reunion With Son Completes Circle Of Events That Spans Six Decades



86-year-old Irving Milman of New York City (right), greeted son, Aaron (center), after a nine-year-long separation on Friday, February 14. On hand at JFK International Airport to welcome Aaron Milman, his wife and son on their arrival from the Soviet Union (via Zurich), was Robert L. Israeloff (left), President of HIAS (the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). So ends a story that has spanned six decades. Born in the U.S.S.R. in 1900, Irving Milman emigrated to the United States in 1920 and became a citizen in 1930. In 1936, the Milman family returned to the Soviet Union, maintaining dual citizenship. When Irving was granted permission to exit the Soviet Union in 1977, his son's family was not. Finally, in January of this year, the families learned that they would be reunited. At the request of the U.S. State Department, HIAS helped to oversee their reception and initial resettlement plans. NYANA (the New York Association for New Americans) will assist the family during their first weeks here, should the need arise.

NEW YORK, N.Y. — 86-year-old Irving Milman welcomed his son, Aaron, his daughter-in-law,

and grandson at JFK International Airport. Their arrival from the Soviet Union completes an intricate circle of events that began in the 1920's.

Irving Milman was born in the Soviet Union in 1900. He emigrated to the United States in 1920, becoming a citizen ten years later, after the birth of his son, Aaron. With the onset of the Depression, the employment situation for him in the United States grew untenable, and, in 1936, the family returned to the Soviet Union. Forty years later, Mr. Milman's sister, still living in New York, became seriously ill. He was granted permission to leave the Soviet Union, and saw her only 15 days before she died. Deciding to remain in this country, Mr. Milman had his U.S. citizenship reinstated. Meanwhile, in the Soviet Union, Aaron applied to join his father and was denied permission to exit.

Finally, nine years later, in January of this year, Aaron, his wife, Alexandra, and their adopted son, Alexander, received word that they would be allowed to emigrate. Upon receipt of this news, in New York, Irving Milman purchased and sent to the Moscow Milmans airline tickets to the United States via Zurich. As a dual national, Aaron Milman will be readmitted to the United States as a returning American. His wife and son are entering as immigrants, beneficiaries of a petition that he submitted in Moscow.

Because of this series of unusual circumstances, the U.S. State Department called upon HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, for help in the Milman's reception and in overseeing the preliminary stages of the family's resettlement. NYANA, the New York Association for New Americans, the agency that handles the

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Shalom Wagon is looking forward to hosting a number of functions this spring, including an afternoon tea and a Shabbat dinner.

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resettlement of immigrants in the New York area, will assist the family in their initial weeks here, should the need arise.

"For more than a century, HIAS has had the privilege of taking part in the reunification of families," said HIAS President Robert L. Israeloff, who was among those at Kennedy Airport to greet the Milman family. "While HIAS is always happy to save even one life, to reunite even one family," he said, "it should not be forgotten that there are thousands more who wish to leave the Soviet Union and other oppressed lands. We look forward to the day when they too, will be free to live their lives in freedom and dignity."

(HIAS is the international migration agency of the organized Jewish community. HIAS is a beneficiary of the UJA of Greater New York and Jewish federations across the country.)



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cordially invite you to join Rabbi Mel and Micki Hecht for
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GRAND BALL ROOM

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