

Koch, Solomon To Receive Honorary Degrees From Bar-Ilan University June 10 In NYC



Mayor Edward I. Koch, Recipient of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Bar-Ilan University.

Bar-Ilan University will award honorary doctoral degrees to Mayor Edward I. Koch and Joseph I. Solomon, attorney and philanthropist, at its annual academic convocation and dinner Tuesday, June 10 at the Pierre Hotel in New York, it was announced by Jane Stern, President of the University's American Board of Overseers.

Dr. Emanuel Rackman, Chancellor of Bar-Ilan, will confer an honorary Doctor of

Philosophy degree on the New York Mayor and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree on Mr. Solomon at ceremonies to be presided over by George Klein, a member of the University's American Board of Overseers and its Global Board of Trustees.

Some 500 persons are expected to attend the \$300 per plate event.

Professor E. Donald Shapiro, who holds a Distinguished Professorship of Law at New York Law School, named for Mr. Solomon, will serve as dinner chairman.

Proceeds of the dinner will benefit the Emanuel Rackman Law Centre, to be located on the Bar-Ilan campus in Ramat Gan, Israel. The Centre, which honors the University's Chancellor -- a lawyer as well as a rabbi and educational administrator -- will house the University's Yaacov Herzog Faculty of Law and its law library. In the last year, \$3 million of the \$4 million needed to build the facility has been raised.

In their rise to prominence, both laureates have steadfastly supported the state of Israel and programs of higher education. Mayor Koch was a 10-year member of the House of Representatives before being elected New York City's chief executive in 1977 -- a post he still holds. He has long been one of the most outspoken and forceful advocates of Israel in public life.

Mr. Solomon, who was born on Manhattan's Lower East Side, was forced to leave school at the age of 15 to help support his family. He found a job in a law office as a messenger and continued his schooling at night. Without benefit of a high school or college education, he passed the Regents qualifying examinations, attended night classes at law school and became a member of the law firm which he had served as a messenger.

Mr. Solomon has served as executor and legal advisor for many artists, industrialists and philanthropists. Among his many honors, he has been knighted by the Italian Government and has been the recipient of a Horatio Alger award. He has been instrumental in providing funding for many humanitarian causes, particularly in education, medicine and the arts.

Serving as associate dinner chairmen are

Burton Joel Ahrens, Chaim Edelstein and Jerome Kowalski, all members of Bar-Ilan's American Board of Overseers, and Belda Lindenbaum, vice president of the Board and a member of the Global Board of Trustees.

Unique among all of Israel's institutions of higher education, Bar-Ilan is that nation's only university to combine general studies with an extensive program of Judaic courses as a requirement of graduation. Some 12,000 students -- about 1,000 of whom come from the United States and other countries outside of Israel -- are pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies at Bar-Ilan in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics, law, education, social work and business administration.

Sierra Signs Pharmacy Contract With Osco Drug, Inc.

LAS VEGAS — Sierra Health Services, Inc. (AMEX: SIE) announced that it has signed a pharmacy contract with Osco Drug, Inc. to provide all pharmaceuticals to the Las Vegas members of the Company's HMO beginning June 16, 1986.

In Las Vegas, the Company had operated its own pharmacy since January 1984. That operation will be phased out and will cease to exist on June 15, 1986.

"The contract with Osco is a mutually beneficial one," said Anthony M. Marlon, M.D., Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. "It will reduce Sierra's pharmacy cost by 25% and provide increased consumer traffic to Osco. Also, the new contract greatly expands our pharmacy provider network from 2 locations to 15. The added convenience to our present and future members should greatly enhance the plan's marketability," he added.

Sierra's Nevada HMO, called Health Plan of Nevada (HPN), currently has 57,000 members in Las Vegas. HPN, Nevada's first HMO, began operations in Las Vegas in October 1982 and was federally qualified two months later.

In addition to Las Vegas, Sierra owns and operates HMOs in Northern Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. The company also has its own insurance company licensed in Nevada and owns a full-service multi-specialty medical group in Las Vegas.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — A direct telephone link between Israel and China was opened. At present calls must be placed through the international exchanges of the two countries, but plans are underway for direct dialling.

perform about a dozen heart transplants a year. The head of the hospital's cardiothoracic department, Dr. Yosef Borman, believes 100 lives could be saved annually in Israel by transplant surgery.

It has been banned until now because of the Rabbinate's objections. The halachic definition of death differs from the medical definition. The medical definition is cessation of cerebral activity. Many rabbis refuse to acknowledge death until the heart has ceased beating. Medical science requires the donor heart to still be beating when it is removed for transplant.

The ban has forced patients requiring heart transplants to seek them abroad. Newspapers carry advertisements from ad hoc aid committees set up to raise funds for Israelis to have the operation abroad where the costs can exceed \$200,000.

Israel Health Minister Gives Permission For Heart Transplant

JERUSALEM (WNS) — The Health Ministry announced that the government has given permission to the Hadassah Medical Center here to perform heart transplant surgery. According to unofficial sources, permission will also be given to the Rambam Hospital in Haifa which considers itself fully equipped to perform the operation.

But, Dr. Sami Penhas, director of the Hadassah Medical Center said that halachic

problems surrounding heart transplants are still unresolved. He said he would meet shortly with the two Chief Rabbis and hopes to reach an agreement based on the principle of "pikuach nefesh" -- saving of life.

The Health Ministry said it expects Hadassah Hospital to

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