

### Immigration To Israel Up 35 Percent In 1987

TEL AVIV, (JTA) — A total of 13,658 immigrants arrived in Israel during 1987, a 35 percent increase over 1986, when only 9,500 arrived, according to figures released Friday by the Absorption Ministry and the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Provisional figures released by the Central Bureau placed Israel's population at 4,404,000 at the start of 1988, of which 3,611,000 or 82 percent is Jewish.

Absorption Minister Yaacov Tsur said the rise in immigration was attributable mainly to the increased number of Jews leaving the Soviet Union. Of 8,080 who emigrated last year, 2,180 came to Israel.

Tsur said the 74 percent "drop-out" rate in Vienna, the transit point for Jews leaving the USSR, is very worrisome and jeopardizes the continued exit of Jews.

He noted that among the Soviet Jews who came to Israel, 550 are university graduates, some 300 of them in the free and technical professions. Ninety of the immigrants are researchers in the social sciences, humanities, physical sciences, and medical and life sciences.

Immigration from

South Africa, Argentina and Romania also increased by about 35 percent last year. But the numbers from South Africa were below expectations, Tsur said. As among Soviet Jews, most Jews who left South Africa went to countries other than Israel.

The Central Bureau reported that there are 615,000 Moslems in Israel, comprising 14 percent of the population; about 102,000 Christians (2.3 percent); and 75,000 Druze and other faiths (1.7 percent).

The mortality rate was close to 30,000, about the same as last year.

### B'nai B'rith Lodge News

Shalom! A few days ago, the Lodge sponsored along with caring business and professional people of the Greater Las Vegas Valley, the Greater Las Vegas Salute to Seniors at the Riviera Hotel. Free medical service and information were provided to seniors as a community wide public service and tribute. We applaud Lodge brother B.J. Black who did an outstanding job in chairing this First Annual Greater Las Vegas Salute to Seniors.

On January, 24, Lodge brothers, wives, families and friends will attend the Union Plaza dinner show at 5:30 p.m. This is another fund raising activity. A few tickets remain. You are urged to call now for reservations brothers Sol Singer 731-6856; Mort Kirsch 451-6647; Art Brand 734-1581.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the Lodge's Super Bowl Sunday Party on January 31 at 2 p.m. This historic and memorable event will take place at the Heritage Square South Club House which can be reached by going west of Sandhill between Twain and Viking.

For \$5.00 a person there will be an assortment of cold cuts, potato salad, coleslaw, beer, soft drinks and many other goodies. Last, but certainly not least, bring a few sheckels to enter the football pool. Bring a friend, your wife, your

family for an afternoon of friendship, camaraderie and fun. No reservations necessary — see you there!

On February 4, an executive board meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom. Everyone is invited to attend and participate.

On February 18, a general meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom. As always, members and non members and their friends and family are urged to attend. Another interesting and entertaining program is scheduled. Details will follow. Refreshments will be served and there is, of course, no admission charge.

On February 20, the Lodge will again be having its Annual Progressive Dinner. If you have never participated in a progressive dinner, then you haven't lived! For more information on this as well as other Lodge activities and membership, please contact Lodge President and Brother Mort Kirsch at 451-6647.

Shalom.

### Spiritual Thought For The Week

The wicked one borrows and does not repay but the righteous acts graciously and gives.

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