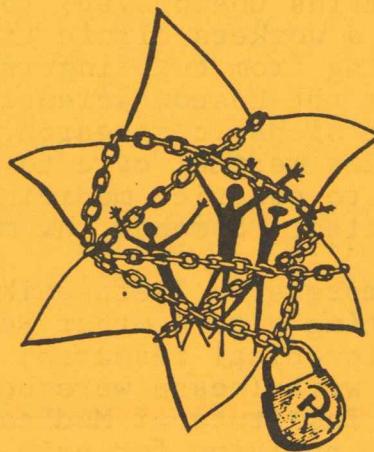


soviet jewry report

Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews

FALL 1986

Vladimir Alterman, Kishinev
Vladimir Apekyn, Moscow
Adir Aranovich, Tallin
Alexander Balter, Riga
Svetlana Balter, Riga
Mark Brodkin, Saratov
Inna Brokhina, Moscow
Georgy Elizarov, Baku
Ilya Essas, Moscow
Elene Fainshtein, Moscow
Yevgeny Finkelberg, Moscow
Grigory Goldshtein, Tbilisi
Isai Goldshtein, Tbilisi
Rosa Gorelik, Moscow
Alexei Golubchikov, Kiev
Grigory Goman, Leningrad
Yakov Gorodetsky, Leningrad
David Greenstein, Mukachevo
Oksana Grossman, Moscow
Boris Kalendarov, Leningrad
Khona Karpul, Kaunas
Armen Khachaturyan, Moscow



Ella Litvak, Moscow
Rina Nudler, Moscow
Ailia Rotman, Moscow
Mark Namirovsky, Moscow
Mark Weisblat, Moscow
Yakov Fishman, Moscow
Vadim Maller, Leningrad
Olga Levinson
Yevgeny Briskman, Moscow
Oksana Brosman, Moscow
Mark Lisniansky, Moscow
Elizarov family, Baku
Shamaev family, Derbent
Zeltzer family, Faleshty

Mark Kaliuzhny, Odessa
Anatoly Khazanov, Moscow
Alexander Khozin, Kishinev
Alexander Kopelovas, Vilnius
Anatoly Linetsky, Kharkov
Roman Levin, Leningrad
Valery Reishman, Minsk
Zigmund Rosental, Kishinev
Vladimir Sorkin, Moscow
Aron Bukhman, Kiev
Mikhail Gart, Barnaul
Mark Reitman, Moscow

Exodus has come for these Soviet Jews recently. Thousands more are waiting for their chance.

Dimitri Khazankin, Moscow
Isaac Khaimchaev, Moscow
Avrely (Avraham) Koifman, Odessa
Alex Makmudov, Leningrad
Igor Malishev, Riga
Yakov Mesh, Odessa
Leonid Praisman, Moscow
Alexander Prutkov, Odessa
Aron Raskin, Elektrostal
Mayor Rogalin, Dnepropetrovsk
Sofia Rosenkrantz, Moscow
Ozernoy family, Moscow
Liya Orhekhovsky, Kiev
Dmitry Shagal, Donetsk
Berta Shakovskaya, Moscow
Boris Shamaev, Derbent
Isaac Shkolnik, Vinnitsa
Haim Solovei, Riga
Isaac Tsesler, Chernovtsy
Leonid Umansky, Riga
Grigory Vigdarov, Moscow*
Alexander Kushnir, Odessa

*Only Grigory left USSR

SOVIET SCIENCE - OPPRESSION AT ITS BEST

Refuseniks pay a tremendous price for the "right" to emigrate. Virtually all of them lose their jobs and are subject to harassment and often physical abuse by the authorities. As a scientist, I was asked to contact Refusenik scientists in both Moscow and Leningrad and obtain current information about their status.

The first contact in Moscow was Iosif. He is an MD/PhD and had been a senior staff scientist at a Moscow Research Institute. He is a distinguished virologist with scientific contacts in the West that include, among others, Nobel laureate Howard Temin. His wife Tatiana was also a physician. Shortly after their request to emigrate, both were fired from their jobs. Today, Tatiana remains unemployed; Iosif works as an entry level clinician at a workers clinic treating 80-100 patients a day for anything from cut fingers to stuffed noses. He has been isolated from the Moscow scientific community and unable to pursue any type of basic research. Perhaps most importantly, Iosif provides medical care to the Moscow Refusenik community. He struggles to practice medicine without access to any diagnostic facilities. Somehow, he manages.

Iosif, through an impressive "Refusenik communications network," arranged a meeting with 4 other Refusenik scientists. Three were involved in biomedical research; the fourth was a physicist. Igor and his wife Inessa were both Distinguished Scientists at the Moscow Institute of Medical Parasitology and Tropical Medicine. After applying for exit visas, both were fired. Today, Igor is an elevator operator; Inessa does private typing at home. Iosif I., a molecular oncologist, former director of a Moscow Research Institute, and recipient of a prestigious award from the French Academy of Science, was also fired when he applied for an exit visa. Today he does translating in his home to provide enough money to survive. Michael, the physicist, experienced a similar fate. He, too, is unemployed and finds enough translation work to sustain himself.

Astonishingly, all were still on top of their respective fields. Their intellects were untarnished despite the repression and isolation. One of the first things I noticed when I entered the apartment in which we all met was the May 1986 issue of Cell, one of the foremost journals in the area of molecular/cellular biology. Every two weeks, these Refusenik scientists hold a scientific seminar. Either a "visitor" speaks or these individuals discuss aspects of science that interest them. They were all eager to learn about the work I do, as well as that of my colleagues. Their questions indicated that despite their isolation, they were familiar with the latest technologies and advances in their fields. Amazingly, one of them (Iosif I.) was actually familiar with my own work -- he had read some of my publications. There are people in my own

department that know less about what I do than this scientist who lives 8000 miles away and is prevented from working in his chosen profession.

In Leningrad, the stories are much the same. Boris, himself an engineer, is doing menial repair work. His wife, a physician, cares for the Leningrad Refusenik community. Boris V. was a scientist at the Marine Hydro-Physical Institute of the Academy of Science in Sevastopol. He, too, was fired, is currently unemployed, and does menial jobs as a repairman.

Throughout the trip, what impressed me most about all the Refuseniks I met was their incredible courage, motivation, desire, and perseverance. They have managed to sustain themselves, and even grow, under impossible conditions. They have stood up to the Soviet government, exposed the hypocrisy and repression that are the true forces behind the "great proletariat society," and are willing to pay the price, and a costly price at that, for their convictions. Somehow, it makes my submitting an NIH grant application a fairly insignificant exercise by comparison.

Someday, I hope to see these people again -- but not in the Soviet Union. Until then, I will work tirelessly through both professional and political channels to expose Soviet oppression and hopefully convince the Kremlin to "Let My People Go."

--BY DR. JOEL SCHINDLER

Rabbi Pesach Sobel was Joel Schindler's travel partner. Their trip was sponsored by the Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews and the grant from the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation.



Pesach Sobel and Joel Schindler visited with Anna Lifshitz. For more about the Lifshitz family, see page 5.

a page from...

Ordination Program

Saturday Morning, June 7, 1986

Iyar 29, 5746

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-
JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION



This past year the members of the ordination class of 1986 chose to dedicate their senior sermons to the Hebrew teachers of the Soviet Union. Each Shabbat, in order to publicize the case histories of these courageous souls, different Hebrew teachers were paired with members of the senior class. While we are free to study and teach our heritage, Soviet Jews cannot. While we are free to celebrate and observe the occasions that mark a Jewish life, Soviet Jews cannot. While we are free to live wherever we choose, Soviet Jews cannot. In order to keep alive the spirit of Jewish resistance in the face of oppression, these modern day Maccabees bravely teach Hebrew to eager students at the risk of great personal peril. Their bold commitment to perpetuate the teachings of our faith ensures that the light of Jewish learning will not be extinguished behind the Iron Curtain.

On this day of our ordination, we affirm the indestructible bonds that link us to our twins and to all who yearn to be free. We pledge to struggle for their liberation; we will not rest until all our brothers and sisters are free to live openly as Jews. We will not forget them.

Charles Lawrence Arian	Lev Shapiro
Steven Adam Ballaban	Evgeny Koifman
Eve Deena Ben-Ora	Aba Taratuta
Bradd Howard Boxman	Alexander Yakir
Ellen Sue Levi Elwell	Nadezhda Fradkova
Steven Arthur Hart	Yuli Edelshtein
Louis Jack Lander	Marc Nepomniashchy
Ruth Langer	Leonid Volgovsky
Clifford Eliot Librach	Alik Zelichonik
Michael Bruce Lustig	Zachar Zunshain
David Joel Meyer	Alexander Khomiansky
Margaret Jane Meyer	Judith Nepomniashchy
Linda Jean Motzkin	Iosif Berenshtein
Jordan Matthew Parr	Vladimir Lifshitz
Joshua Eli Plaut	Ida Nudel
Jonathan Lieblich Rubenstein	Iosif Begun
Julie Sue Schwartz	Yacov Levin

In a letter to Vice President Bush dated July 27, in which she implores him to use his influence to save her husband's life, Anna Lifshitz accused Soviet authorities of trying to destroy Vladimir. The evidence reaching the West this year certainly supports her assertion! Here are the facts of Vladimir's treatment, following his 1981 application for an exit visa, which was turned down because it was "hot in the interest of the State."

Refuseniks typically face dismissal from their jobs after applying to leave. Vladimir, too, was forced to resign his supervisory post in a research institute. For over a year, neither he nor his wife could find work. Finally, his hunger strike attracted world attention and put pressure on the Soviets to guarantee him a job in his engineering profession.

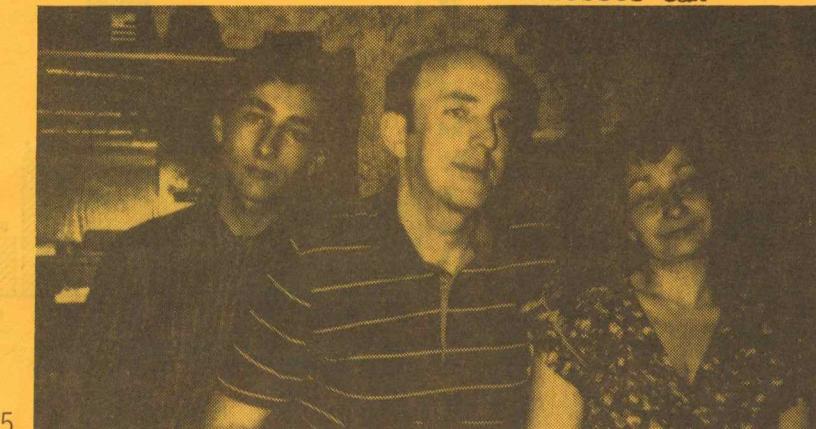
Last year, after his mail had been confiscated, Vladimir again undertook a hunger strike. In retaliation, the KGB raided his apartment to take possession of some personal effects. Lifshitz' phone was disconnected and he was arrested and held for questioning. One month later, while he spoke over the phone in the Leningrad Post Office, his conversation was interrupted and he was again arrested. The message was clear--the Soviets would not tolerate Vladimir communicating with the West.

Last January, Vladimir became the first Soviet Jew to be arrested after the Reagan-Gorbachov summit talks. The charge was defamation of the state through the spread of slander. During the trial, Lifshitz was badly beaten in his holding cell, suffering a concussion and a broken nose. He was found guilty, and sentenced to three years imprisonment in a remote region of the USSR. His appeal was overturned. Vladimir was just delivered to Kamchatka prison in August after spending time in a hospital.

The Soviets have also persecuted Lifshitz through his 19 year old son Boris. Two years ago, Boris was expelled from his university. Protests from his father and others were to no avail. Four months ago, Boris was drafted for military service and conscripted despite a medical deferment for ulcers. This case was brought before the Senate Armed Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Glenn. Congressional protests have recently gone to the Kremlin.

A letter from Lifshitz written in June has reached the West after a period of silence over his whereabouts. In it, he reflects on the future of Soviet tactics of oppression. "What will take place first: will they silence us or will their attacks on the truth be stopped?...."But really how many tragic events do we need so that enough people will understand?" His letter closes, "And yet I want to hold on to optimism. I remember you and I believe."

Your words can add courage for Vladimir and Anna. Their addresses can be found in this newsletter.



NEWS BRIEFS OF PROMINENT REFUSENIKS

LEV BLITSHTEIN of Moscow has not seen his wife and children for over 10 years, since the time they were granted permission to emigrate. Soviet authorities have repeatedly refused Lev a visa for possession of "state secrets." Lev worked as an administrator in the meat industry until 1972, and is privy to the secret of sausage-making in the USSR. He has befriended many Cincinnatians through visits sponsored by CCSJ.

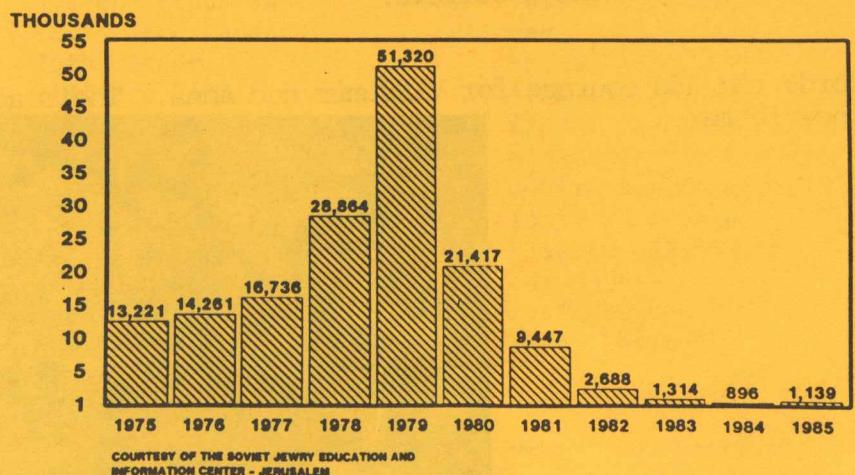
Our last issue reported on the fall that YULI EDELSTEIN (POC) suffered while in a prison camp last winter. He sustained serious injuries to his bladder, which required delicate surgery. A doctor has described Yuli's condition as very weakened and his previous hospital treatment as very poor. He is due to be transferred back to the prison in 3-4 months. Edelstein, a former Hebrew teacher, is serving a 3 year sentence for possession of drugs, which were planted in his apartment by the KGB.

NADEZHDA FRADKOVA, the only female Jewish POC, has just completed a 2 year sentence and was released to Leningrad. She is under constant KGB surveillance. Nadezhda has no apartment nor a residency permit, and fears that she will be rearrested for "parasitism" or interned in a psychiatric hospital as before. Telegrams and letters should be sent to the OVIR in Leningrad at 26 Zheliabova St. urging proper housing or emigration for Fradkova.

ALEXEI MAGARIK, of Moscow, was another victim of KGB treachery. The 28 year old cellist and Hebrew teacher was on a visit to Tbilisi when he was picked up at the airport. Drugs were "found" in his suitcase. Alexei is now serving a 3 year term in a Georgian prison. His wife was allowed a 2 day visit in August.

After fourteen years, VIKTOR and BATSHVA YELISTRATOV of Moscow are still waiting for an exit visa. The couple, now in their 60's, are separated from children, grandchildren, and Batsheva's three sisters, who now live in Israel. Viktor was fired from his profession in 1972, and has held menial jobs to support himself and his wife. The ordeal has taken a great toll on their health, and they are without anyone to care for them. Their phone service was disconnected recently by the authorities. Appeals on their behalf are being made by their relatives.

JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE USSR



This letter was received
by a friend recently.

01.08.86.

I've received your letter (NY). Thanks a lot! Really I must say that your letters became a part of my life. I'm waiting for them and the great thing I'm sure that I'll receive them!

It was very interesting to read about your trip to Israel. The words fail me when I think about your care of the memory of my father. Now I know that there is a father's tree in Israel. It's a pity that you had no opportunity to meet with my sister. I hope that some day you'll see her.

As for me I have no news.

I received a letter from your friend _____ (and the picture of his beautiful little daughter), and already wrote him.

It is very pleasant that I _____ has remembered me. My best regards to her.

Continue to write.

It is very pleasant to know that you are my friend.

Excuse my poor English and mistakes!

Kiss you.

Shalom. side
Tena.

TWINNING

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah twinning experience is a unique opportunity designed to carry on the tradition of uniting Jews around the world. American B'nai and B'not Mitzvah are paired with their peers in the Soviet Union. Information about backgrounds, interests, and families is exchanged. The feeling that the American youth celebrates in freedom that which his Soviet brother or sister cannot, provides an important theme to the ceremony. It is hoped that this will become a meaningful, ongoing relationship between the young people involving the families as well, in order to provide a greater hope for freedom for the family in the U.S.S.R.

The Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews arranges about fifty such twinnings each year. Most of our American twins come from Cincinnati, but we have also arranged twinnings in Oregon, Louisiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. It is an extraordinary growth experience for the American twin from which he can learn the responsibility of one Jew for another. It is also an excellent opportunity to generate the publicity from which comes the public support on which the freedom and well being of the refuseniks is dependent.

To arrange for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah twin, please contact the CCSJ Office.

MONTHLY MEETINGS
Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews will hold its monthly meetings regularly on the second Tuesday of each month. These meetings are open to our membership and to the public and we strongly encourage all to attend. Meetings are held at the Rose Warner House/Hillel Jewish Student Center, 2615 Clifton Avenue in Clifton, at 7:30 P.M.



Officers for 1986-1987 were elected at the May, 1986, meeting. Joanne A. Sudman will serve as President. Paul R. Ostend and Rabbi Alan D. Fuchs are Vice Presidents. Completing the officers are Rabbi Judith A. Bluestein, Secretary, and Cynthia S. Thomas, Treasurer. Sandra Spinner is Director of the Council.

Many new faces have joined the expanded Board. This year's Board consists of: Dr. Stanford M. Goodman, Penny F. Hair, Frank Harkavy, Rabbi Abie Ingber, Susan Katz, Rhua Kepferle, Vickie Klein, Dr. Benny Kraut, Marilyn Krug, Miriam Medow, Robert Mermelstein, Barbara H. Rabkin, Jan B. Robbins, Dr. Jonathan D. Sarna, Rabbi Pesach Sobel, Suzanne Sobel, Edie Solomon, Raphael Warren, Rita Zimmerman.



CCSJ salutes five of its members who resigned from the Board this summer upon departing Cincinnati:

ROB KAPLAN (President, 1984-85) and BARB KAPLAN (Twinning Chairperson) who have moved to Williamsburg, Virginia. Rob will become a dean of admissions at William and Mary College.

BRADD BOXMAN (HUC liaison) became ordained and accepted a rabbinical position in Indianapolis.

ELIZABETH FRANK (Telegram Bank) is pursuing graduate studies at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles.

REV. DAVID MISICA has left the University of Cincinnati Campus Ministries for a pulpit in Ada, Ohio.

We will truly miss their contributions to the Council's work, and wish them and their families good fortune and lots of accomplishment.

TELEGRAM BANK

In the beginning of June the CCSJ Emergency Telegram Bank sent telegrams on behalf of Boris Lifshitz. Twenty-year-old Boris suffers from a duodenal ulcer; after the KGB intervened in his case, he was declared medically fit for military service. His father Vladimir is a well-known jailed refusenik. Conscribing Boris into the military is the government's way of punishing his father and the rest of his family further for wishing to emigrate to Israel.

Upon hearing of Boris's forced military duty we immediately sent telegrams of protest. Six telegrams were sent to Colonel Gregori Yakovlev, Military Attaché at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., while five telegrams were delivered to Marshall Sergei Sokolov, Minister of Defense in Moscow. These telegrams called for the immediate release of Boris from military service.

Telegrams are sent whenever a crisis situation arises. To send telegrams we need your help. Money designated for sending telegrams may be sent to the CCSJ Emergency Telegram Bank. Each telegram costs \$10. When a telegram is sent in your name, you will be notified and sent a copy of the text. All contributions are tax deductible.

I authorize the number of telegrams checked below to be sent in my name in periods of emergency for Jews in the Soviet Union.

1 telegram 2 telegrams 3 telegrams 4 telegrams
\$10 \$20 \$30 \$40

Enclosed is my tax-deductible check for \$. Please make check payable to: CCSJ Emergency Telegram Bank.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

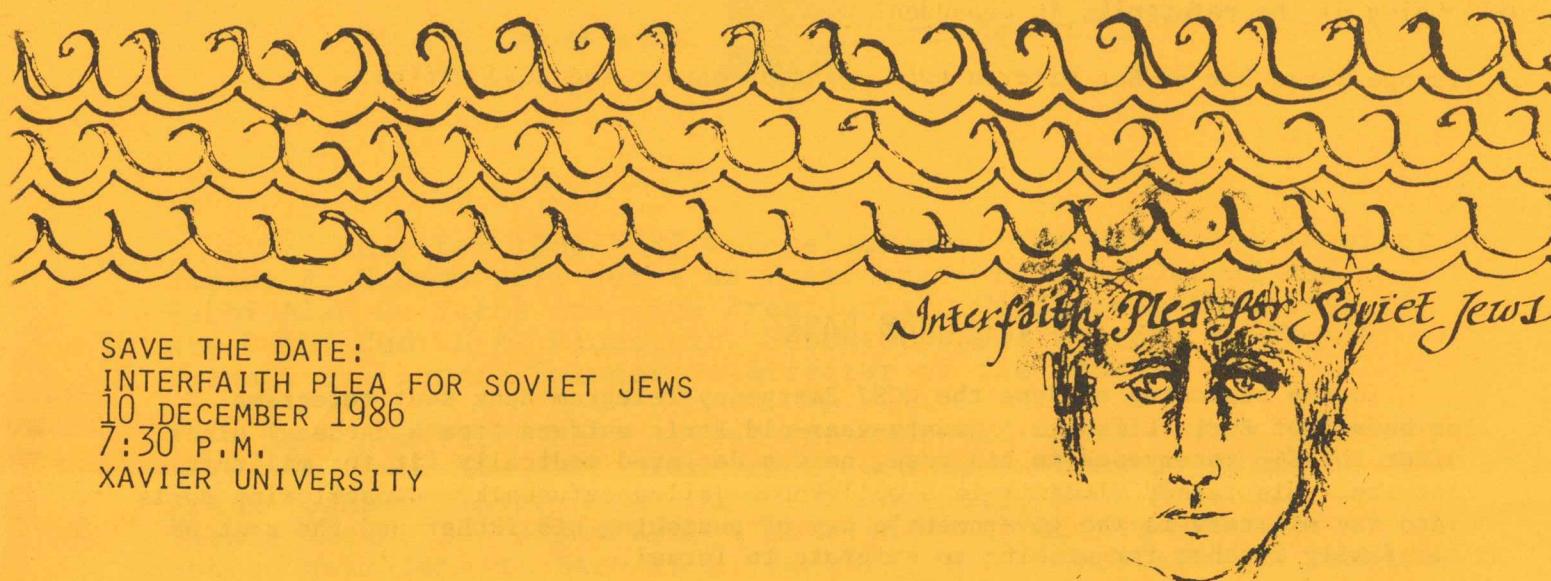
Please send to: CCSJ Telegram Bank, 2615 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220.

INTERFAITH PLEA

Plans are now under way for this year's Interfaith Plea for Soviet Jews which will take place on Wednesday evening, 10 December, at Xavier University. The Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews along with the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Jewish Committee, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati, Women's American ORT, and Xavier University are co-convening organizations for the thirteenth annual Plea. Last year the Plea expanded from the Women's Plea for Soviet Jews to the Interfaith Plea for Soviet Jews. This year's steering committee, headed by Rabbi Judith A. Bluestein and Rev. Benjamin Urmston, S.J., includes groups from the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant communities of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

The program will be an adaptation of the play "The Utopian Chronicles" directed by Marcia Weiland. This play depicts several Soviet Jews as they struggle for their human rights.

Please join us for this important event.



SAVE THE DATE:
INTERFAITH PLEA FOR SOVIET JEWS
10 DECEMBER 1986
7:30 P.M.
XAVIER UNIVERSITY

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE

If you have not yet made your 1986 tax-deductible membership contribution, please do so today along with the tear-off below.

I/We want to continue the fight to secure freedom for Soviet Jews. Enclosed is my/our tax-deductible contribution of

\$100 \$50 \$25 Other

Please make checks payable to CCSJ and return to: CCSJ, 2615 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

Please send the Rosh Hashanah greeting card to one of the individuals whose story appears in this newsletter. Affix 33¢ for air mail postage.

ADDRESSES

Vladimir Lifshitz
Kamchatski 326/1 UCHR, YUF
683019 Petropavlovsk USSR

Anna Lifshitz
Kirovsky Prospekt 64/5 Apt. 139
Leningrad 197022 RSFSR, USSR

Lev Blitshtain
Bolshaya Pereyaslovshaya St. 3/2/2
Moscow 129041 RSFSR, USSR

Tatiana Edelshtein
Leningradskaya PR. 33/6 Apt. 505
Moscow 125284 RSFSR, USSR

Alexei Magarik
Georgian Republic 384230
Tsulukidze P. Ya. 123/2
Zone 1 USSR

Natasha Ratner (Magarik's wife)
ul. Russakovskaya 27/88
Moscow 107113 RSFSR, USSR

Viktor & Batsheva Yelistratov
ul. Cherkizovskaya Bolshaya 1/2 Apt. 50
Moscow 107061 RSFSR, USSR

LECTURE SERIES

This fall the Department of Judaic Studies of the University of Cincinnati will sponsor a series entitled "THE POLITICS OF FREEDOM: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SOVIET UNION." Outstanding speakers will participate. The program includes:

Wednesday, 15 October, 8:00 p.m.

Prof. Robert Sharlet, "Dissent and Political Justice: Human Rights in the USSR"

Wednesday, 22 October, 8:00 p.m.

Prof. Leon Lipson, "The Soviet Constitution and Legal System"

Tuesday, 28 October, 12:30 p.m.

Prof. Gila Naveh, "Grass Forcing Its Way Through Asphalt: The Theme of Human Rights in Soviet Women's Literature in the 20th Century"

Thursday, 6 November, 8:00 p.m.

Dina Kaminskaya, "Defending Dissidents and Human Rights Activists - My Life as a Soviet Defense Attorney"

(This lecture will be in Russian with simultaneous English translation.)

Tuesday, 18 November, 8:00 p.m.

Prof. Murray Feshbach, "Population, Religious and Nationality Aspects of Human Rights in the USSR"

Tuesday, 25 November, 8:00 p.m.

Dr. William Korey, "Linkage and Leverage: American Policy and Soviet Jewry"

For additional information, contact the Department of Judaic Studies, 475-6774.

Yakov Gorodetsky visited Cincinnati in June. During his whirlwind two-day visit, the former refusenik met with the press, spoke at the Anderson Hills United Methodist Church, and attended a reception graciously hosted by Barbara and Mort Rabkin.

Gorodetsky was a major figure in the activist movement in Leningrad. He led the movement for repatriation to Israel and became chief organizer of the Leningrad Society for Jewish Culture. He also was a leader in the movement of those renouncing Soviet citizenship. In a move to destroy the leadership of the Leningrad Jewish community, Gorodetsky was finally given permission to emigrate to Israel with his wife, daughter, and mother-in-law in February, 1986.

Gorodetsky who describes himself as "rather religious" was not permitted to take his tefillin with him when he emigrated to Israel. So it happened that in March Dr. Benny Kraut and Dr. Jonathan Sarna were given Gorodetsky's tefillin and asked to get the tefillin to Gorodetsky in Jerusalem. Instead they were able to return the tefillin to him in Cincinnati.



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Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

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Robert Mermelstein
Judith A. Bluestein

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“С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ”

