

1980 Interfaith



Human Rights Day

Wednesday, December 10, 1980
12 NOON

Plum Street Temple (8th & Plum Streets)

Sister Ann Gillen is working to ease the plight of Jews and Christians behind the Iron Curtain

The Soviets are quite familiar with Ann Gillen.

Actually it is Sister Ann Gillen, who belongs to the Catholic Society of the Holy Child. Since 1972, she has served as the executive director of a Chicago-based religious coalition working to improve the plight of Soviet Jews and aid those attempting to emigrate.

She is a stubborn, determined Irish Catholic who reads and speaks Hebrew, has studied comparative religion and has even offered to exchange places with Soviet "refusnik" Ida Nudal, who was sentenced to Siberian exile for "malicious hooliganism." She met Mrs. Nudal on her last trip to the Soviet Union, just before the woman was to go on trial for having hung a sign in her Moscow apartment that read, "KGB, give me my visa."

Her involvement in the plight of Soviet Jewry began when she attended a meeting of religious organizations organized in 1972; she vividly recalls a plea made by R. Sargent Shriver, who was chairman of the conclave.

"He said it was too late to help the Jews who died in the Holocaust, but it's not too late to help Soviet Jews and it's not too late to try to turn the direction of history."

At the time, she was a program associate for the National Conference of Christians and Jews and was also serving as the executive director for the National Coalition of American Nuns. She decided to accept leadership in a new organization that was an outgrowth of that meeting. The National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry.

"We try to bring to both the Jewish and the Christian community the message of the common suffering of both Jews and Christians in Eastern Europe."

"There is something in being in a situation where it's possible to do something...I've given it a lot of thought, and I think it's simply a sense of duty. I think that everyone has a responsibility to pay rent for the space they occupy; not in a sense of the government giving everyone a card and taxing you, but rather a psychic rent, not to just be on this planet taking up space."

And so, Sister Ann Gillen brings her message of the common suffering of both Jews and Christians.

1980 Interfaith Women's Plea
for
Soviet Jewry

Wednesday, December 10, 1980 - 12 noon
Plum Street Temple
Cincinnati, Ohio

Invocation.....	Rev. Noel Julnes, Church of the Ascension and Holy Trinity
"America The Beautiful".....	Sally R. Finestone, Rabbinic Student, Hebrew Union College
Welcome.....	Sheri Norton, WLW-TV Channel 5
Greetings from the City..... (Proclamation)	David S. Mann, Mayor, City of Cincinnati
Film	
Message from a Soviet Immigrant.....	
Address.....	Maria Meitus * Sister Ann Gillen, Executive Director, National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry
Benediction.....	Rev. Shirley K. Cadle, Church Women United
Closing Song..... "Let There be Peace"	Sister Betty Richardson, Director Campus Ministry, College of Mount St. Joseph on the Ohio

Reception following program -
Sponsored by Church Women United and Adath
Israel Synagogue Sisterhood

OUR SPECIAL THANKS

"Skyline of Cincinnati" postcards courtesy of City
of Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau

Alta Kreindler for baking the brown bread

* Michael Meyer spoke at this point about
the work of the American Jewish Archives

"LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH"

(Let It Begin With Me)

By Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father,
Sisters all are we.
Let me walk with my sister
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.

CONVENING ORGANIZATIONS:

Cincinnati Chapter, American Jewish Committee; B'nai B'rith Women; Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

Adath Israel Synagogue Sisterhood, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Campus Ministry, College of Mount St. Joseph on the Ohio, Council of Christian Communions, Church Women United, Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, Hadassah, Jewish Community Relations Council, Mizrahi Women, Cincinnati Section, National Council of Jewish Women, Northern Hills Synagogue Sisterhood, Rockdale Temple Sisterhood, Ohav Shalom Synagogue Sisterhood, Wise Temple Sisterhood, Women's American ORT, Women's Board, Jewish Federation of Cincinnati

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Dabby Blatt and Fran Cohen, Co-chairmen;
Judy Ball, Diane Belinky, Mary Bohlen, Jenny Broh, Rev. Shirley Cadle, Tulane Chartock, Virginia Collins, Sue Doan, Janet Duff, Candy Gellen, Elaine Hordes, Rev. Noel Julnes, Dolly Kopin, Anne Margorian, Hope Metzger, Evelyn Pollak, Sister Betty Richardson, Nancy Rosenthal, Virginia Ruehlmann, Gari Silverblatt, Sandra Spinner, Louise Tatgenhorst, Kattleen Werle, Loraine Witten

If you are interested in more information or wish to work for the release of minorities in the USSR, please call:

American Jewish Committee, Cincinnati Chapter
105 West Fourth St., Cinti, Ohio 45202
Marilyn Slome, Area Director 621-4020
or

Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews
320 Straight St., Cinti, Ohio 45219
Sandra Spinner, Director 221-7134

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