

# CENTRAL KENTUCKY JEWISH FEDERATION

VOL. XIII

DECEMBER, 1990

NO. 9

#### DECEMBER DILEMMA

One of the functions of the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation Community Relations Committee is to act on behalf of community members with problems in the schools and/or work at holiday times. Please contact CKJF (252-7622 or 252-7600) for assistance.

This bulletin includes a pullout section with guidelines for what should and should not be acceptable in our public schools in terms of religious observance. These were taken from "The Art of Jewish Living; Hannukah" by Dr. Ron Wolfson published by The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, New York, and The University of Judaism, Los Angeles.

The School Liasion Committee, a subcommittee of the CKJF Community Relations Committee, is in the process of being reinstated. This committee will be composed of volunteers who will act as liasion between the Jewish community and schools within our area to discuss any matters of mutual concern which arise (usually relating to holidays).

The chairperson of this committee is Emily Shraberg. Anyone interested in becoming part of the committee should contact CKJF at 252-7622 or 252-7600.

## GO TO ISRAEL? WHY NOT! by Judy Saxe

Why not indeed! If one is to believe all the headlines and editorials in the media, one could easily say, "of course not!"

The reality of Israel, however, is much different. Having been in Israel only two weeks ago, I can attest to that.

The priorities of the Israelis are focused on the most recent Jewish miracle, the massive aliyah of Soviet Jews to Israel. Everyone is committed to making this aliyah a success. Reading the papers, walking on the streets, one sees signs in Hebrew, English, and Russian, and hears Russian spoken everywhere.

The joy of visiting Israel today is to see this all happening. To breathe in and soak up the special atmosphere that is Jerusalem. To watch the crowds surging up and down Ben Yehudah Street just off Zion Square; to stroll along the new magnificently landscaped promenade that connects East Talpiyot to Abu Tor; to visit a small congregation on Shabbat and "kvell" when one's niece is called to the Torah for her Bat Mitzvah.

The joy of visiting Israel is to see family and friends, American olim and sabras. At the same time it saddens me to hear from their perspective their amazement that American Jews seem to have abandoned Israel at a time when she needs our support the most.

(continued pg. 4)

#### HANNUKAH HIGHLIGHTS

#### CKJF PRESCHOOL HANNUKAH PARTY Sunday, December 16, 1990 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Ohavay Zion Synagogue

Children ages 2 1/2 - 5 are invited to attend. Parents of children under 3 must accompany their child. Each child is asked to bring a gift of value not to exceed \$3 with his/her name on it. RSVP to CKJF (252-7622 or 252-7600) or Sandy Adland (271-3568).

Preschool parties are sponsored by OZS, TAI and the CKJF Community Activities Committee, and made possible through your contributions to the CKJF/UJA Campaign.

## CKJF PRESENTS EXHIBIT AT LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

## "HANNUKAH THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS"

During the month of December, CKJF and the Lexington Public Library are hosting an exhibit on Hannukah. The exhibit, under the auspices of the CKJF Community Relations Committee which is chaired by David Kaplan and Bill Leffler, will be in the display cases on the second floor of the Lexington Public Library, 140 East Main Street.

#### CKJF SPONSORS HANNUKAH PROGRAM ON WUKY

CKJF is pleased to sponsor "Chanukah Lights", a program of Jewish holiday lore on WUKY, FM 91.3. The program will air on Wednesday, December 12, 1990, from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m.

National Public Radio's Susan Stamberg and Murray Horwitz share the classic stories of Sholom Aleichem to the contempory humor of Pulitzer Prize winner Wendy Wasserstein. These stories relate the cultural meaning of the holiday linking traditions of the past with celebrations of the present.

#### CKJF LONG RANGE PLAN COMMITTEE HARD AT WORK

The Long Range Plan Committee is hard at work preparing a survey to be sent to the community. Committee members are: Michael Ades, Bruce Broudy, Steve Caller, Gail Cohen, Bruce Engel, Gloria Katz, Lenny Lerner, Judy Levine, Marty Luftman, Ira Mersack, Jack Miller, Penny Miller, Judy Saxe, Phyllis Scher, and Dave Wekstein.

#### CKJF MAKING PLANS FOR YOM HA'ATZMAUT ACTIVITIES

CKJF plans to stage a play depicting scenes from different stages of immigration for Yom Ha'Atzmaut. We need costume seamstresses, actors, narrators, musicians, singers, scenery artists and anyone else willing to help. Tentative performance date for our community Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration is Sunday, April 14, 1991. Please contact Carmit Sadove (266-2494), Tamara Lenhoff (269-8248), or CKJF (252-7622 or 252-7600) to volunteer.

This program is sponsored by the CKJF Community Activities Committee and made possible through your participation in the CKJF/UJA campaign.

#### HADASSAH WELCOMES NEWCOMERS

Attention all New and Prospective Members! Hadassah invites you to be our guest at our New Members "Nosh", Tuesday, January 22, 1991, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Norma Allweiss, 500 Laketower Drive, Apt. 95. There will be lots of new friends to meet and plenty to eat! Please join us for a fun evening. For further information contact Marcia Epstein (269-7071) or Kathy Grossman (268-2596).

#### CKJF TO PUBLISH DONOR LIST

CKJF will publish a list of those donors who have honored their 1990 Campaign and Operation Exodus pledges and indicated that their gift may be published by category. Please pay your pledge so that your name may be included.

#### SKETCHES OF ISRAEL

The following article was written by Nina Davidson, a 1990 CKJF Israel Scholarship Recipient. This scholarship was made possible by your contributions to the CKJF-UJA Campaign.

My trip to Israel this summer was a great experience. I love to travel, and I was really excited to go overseas for the first time. Our group, NFTY Archaeology/Hagigah, met at the airport 42 strong in New York and then flew to Tel Aviv. Israel is a tiny country compared to the U.S., so the bus ride from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem only took one hour. I was surprised as I looked out the bus window to see the rolling Judaean hills covered with dry brush and yellow grasses, not at all like the parched desert I expected. We stayed in Jerusalem for a week at Beit Shmuel, the local reform youth hostel. Jerusalem is a beautiful city. All the buildings are made of the same sun bleached stone, which takes on a pearly or rosy glow depending on the angle of the sunlight. While in Jerusalem, we went to Herzl's grave, the Israel Museum, a model of the second temple, and the Western Wall. I touched the stones of the Wall almost in awe, their rough texture smooth and well-worn in patches, hardly able to believe that they were the 2,000 year old remnant of the second Temple. It struck me what an enduring faith Judaism is, ancient with history but still vital and alive in this modern world.

We further explored the ancient history of Israel in the Archaeological Dig part of the program. Our dig site was at Beit Guvrein in Tel Maresha; Tel is a Greek word referring to a complex of buildings atop a hill. The layer we were digging at was during the Hellenistic period (around 200 B.C.E.), before the fall of the second temple. Our duties included digging, schlepping, and sifting. Digging was the most fun because it was the most exciting. Armed with spades and picks, we'd shovel the soft dirt into buckets, carefully checking for pottery or any object not bearing a resemblance to dirt or rocks. I found several pottery fragments, including jug handles and pieces of bowls. Since we were digging in a cave that was thought to serve as a stable -- the heat was so strong that the animals had to be underground during the day -- goat skulls and animal bones were also found frequently. Schlepping, as the name implies, was a chore. The schleppers lifted the heavy buckets out of the cave and carried them to the sifters, who dumped the buckets onto a sifting frame and sifted all the dirt out. Sifting was usually interesting because we could find the small objects, like nails or coins, that had escaped the digger's attention. Coins were especially valuable to the archaeologists because they could then date the site.

Hiking was also a large part of the trip, and of course we hiked up Masada. Climbing the steep, zigzagging trail to the fortress was rigorous, to say the least. Even at 4 a.m., the temperature still hovered around 100 degrees. Masada is right next to the saltscalloped Dead Sea, so it was humid too. The view at the top was breathtaking, though. The red sandstone cliffs and desert dunes stretched out for miles through a curtain of hazy sunlight. We also hiked through the Negev desert, which was one of the best parts of the trip. The sky was a dazzling cobalt blue, clear and cloudless. The wind sighing through the caramel cliffs was the only sound for miles; otherwise the landscape was completely still. We camped out in the middle of nowhere beneath the stars, which were so bright that we could see the whole Milky Way. After the Negev, we returned to Jerusalem for our last days in Israel. We were all saddened to leave the Holy Land. The trip was a great way to spend the summer, learning about archaeology and the vibrant heritage of Judaism. I want to thank CKJF very much for giving me a scholarship in order to make this trip possible.

#### CAMPERSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Based on need, **camperships** are available from CKJF to community children who wish to attend a non-profit Jewish camp. All information is kept strictly confidential.

CKJF also has **scholarships** (not based on need) available to students wishing to study/travel in Israel.

Scholarships (not based on need) are available for Anytown, a one week summer leadership program of the National Conference of Christians and Jews aimed at junior and senior high school students.

For additional information about these camperships and scholarships, contact the CKJF office (252-7622 or 252-7600).

Deadline for applications is February 28, 1991.

Camperships and scholarships are made possible through your contributions to the CKJF/UJA campaign.

#### **KENTUCKY**

By I. J. Schwartz. Translated by Gertrude Dubrovsky. Adapted from a book review by Barbara Zingman in the <u>Courier-Journal</u>.

Kentucky is a long narrative poem written in Yiddish and translated by Gertrude Dubrovsky, who offers an excellent analysis of Kentucky's contribution to both American and Yiddish literature.

I.J. Schwartz, the author, emigrated to New York in 1906 and moved to Lexington, Kentucky, in 1918. Writing his poem shortly thereafter, Schwartz tells of Joshua, a European peddler, who comes to Kentucky soon after the Civil War.

The poem, the first Yiddish literary work with the American experience as its subject, reveals the values of American rural life to Jewish readers, many of whom lived in New York tenements.

Writing mainly as a poet rather than a historian, Schwartz presents an emotional picture of how Joshua, though assimilated, keeps his own values in marrying, raising children who intermarry, and dying.

"Rock me to sleep in my old Kentucky home, and cover me with Dixie's blue sky."

#### PLANS ARE FINALIZED FOR RIO DE JANEIRO'S 1ST WORLD JEWISH SINGLES HAPPENING

The agenda is set, the price is in and Jewish singles from around the world have begun to respond. They are signing up for the "1st World Jewish Singles Happening" scheduled to take place February 15-22, 1991, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Tailor made for Jewish singles, widowed and divorced men and women between the ages of 20 to 120 from every corner of the world, the event will include one week of relaxation and entertainment in Paradise. The eight day, seven night package includes airfare, five star hotels, eight full breakfasts, six lunches and five dinners, gala evenings, tours, parties, and first class tickets to the final event of Rio de Janeiro's Carnaval.

For further information contact CKJF (252-7622 or 252-7600) or Chas Hite (266-0246).

#### GO TO ISRAEL (continued)

The joy of visiting Israel is spending a day in Tel Aviv with Mimi Moosnick and Jacob Wertschafter, former Lexington residents, and visiting their favorite haunts such as the Carmel market.

The special satisfaction I derive from Israel comes from personal encounters, rediscovering the familiar things I love, and knowing I will always find something new to cherish. I renew my sense of Jewish self.

Life in Israel goes on as usual! You, too, can share these joys by visiting Israel as soon as possible. Take advantage of the UJA Midwest "Discovery" Mission in March, 1991 (call CKJF 252-7622 or 252-7600 for more information) or the Family Mission led by Rabbi Jon and Sandy Adland in June, 1991 (call TAI 269-2979 for information), or the Hadassah National Convention next July in Jerusalem (call Kathy Grossman 268-2596 for information). Each trip will give you a special perspective of this land and new insights of yourself.

CENTRAL KY. JEWISH FED. NEWSLETTER
333 Waller Avenue, Suite 5
Lexington, KY. 40504
(606) 252-7622 or 252-7600
Michael L. Ades, President
Linda Ravvin, Executive Director
Sharyn Sharer, Program Coordinator
Betty Hickey, Office Manager
Member of Council of Jewish Federations

#### MAZAL TOV

• Susan Goldstein: exhibit at Airport Gallery

•Jack Sharer on being commissioned to design and create the donor wall sculpture at the Lexington Children's museum.

Nathan Cohen honored by the Clark County

•(Kentucky), Association for Handicapped Citizens, Inc. as one of its Charter Members and a valued member for twenty-five years.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING
Monday Nights
8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Temple Adath Israel
All Ages Welcome
For more info contact Meg (887-1250)

#### THANKS

•Jana De Benedetti, Aviva Bowling and Kathy Schattner for a well received performance at the Lexington Public Library on Sunday, December 2, in conjunction with the CKJF showcase exhibit: Hannukah: The Festival of Lights.

•Leslie Brownstein and Kim Slaton for presenting the program on Hannukah at the Lexington Children's Museum on Sunday December 9.

•Eugene Doren for doing a presentation at the Unitarian Church on Sunday, November 11.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!
OZS ANNUAL MASQUERADE BALL
March 16, 1991
Additional Info to Follow



will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, December 15, 1990 10:30 a.m.

Temple Adath Israel.

A Kiddish luncheon in her honor will follow services.

Bobbi and Drew Fried invite the congregation to join them in this joyous occasion.

Emily will be sharing her Bat Mitzvah with Edna Kasseh, an Ethiopian girl who has immigrated to Israel.

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph H. Miller
invite you to share their happiness
at the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter
Deborah Barron
on Friday, December 21, at 8:00 p.m.
Temple Adath Israel.
Please join us for a reception
following the service.
Deborah will symbolically share this occasion
with Esther Davit of Ethiopia.

Jessica Leigh Kemp
will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on
Saturday, December 29, 1990
10:30 a.m., Temple Adath Israel.
Howard and Stephanie Kemp
invite the congregation to join them
in celebrating this joyous occasion.
A Kiddish luncheon in her honor
will follow services.

Amy Joy Nigoff
will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah
on Saturday, January 12, 1991
10:30 a.m.
Temple Adath Israel.
A Kiddush luncheon in her honor
will follow services.
Lowell and Betty Nigoff
invite the congregation to join them
in celebrating this joyous occasion.
Amy will be sharing her Bat Mitzvah
with Anna Shifrin of the U.S.S.R.

#### COMBATING THE HOUSING SHORTAGE

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was taken from <u>Babayit</u>, a publication of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Jerusalem, October-November, 1990.

Housing and employment are the two major concerns of new and veteran Israelis. As the number of olim increases and the supply of rental housing diminishes, the need for immediate, even temporary, housing solutions is rapidly becoming the predominant concern of Israeli policy makers. As many as 3,000 needy veteran Israelis are currently unable to find affordable housing in today's housing market.

The arrival of 100,000 immigrants during the past 12 months created a demand for some 25,000 housing units, the majority from available rental

At present there are no more than 25,000 to 30,000 vacant housing units. These include several hundred new apartments which are either complete or in the final construction stages. There are also about 14,000 government-owned apartments, most of which require renovation. An additional 10,000 to 15,000 apartments are available for rent from privately owned sources.

The past decade marked a decline of construction in the public sector, particularly of residential housing for subsidized rental or sale. Of the approximately 20,000 annual construction starts in the past few years, the government accounted for 2,700 units in 1988 and 7,000 units in 1989. A total of 60,000 new residential construction starts are planned for this year, of which 45,000 units will be government initiated public housing.

Building these homes often takes between 18 to 21 months. Anticipating that not all the necessary apartments will be complete in time to meet the immediate demand, the government is planning to import 5,000 caravans and 9,000 prefabricated homes which can be assembled in a very short time. The government also intends to provide land for the private sector to import 6,000 prefabricated houses. Eight sites in development areas have been prepared for the caravans. There are also plans for temporary accommodations of new olim in hotels and IDF army bases until permanent housing is available.

But the cost to the potential buyer of permanent housing is perhaps the more serious problem. The demand has driven prices up by as much as 34 percent in the past year, while the cost of rental apartments has doubled in prime areas. The Government of Israel provides rental subsidies

to needy families and together with the Jewish Agency funds a "basket of services" for new immigrants in their first year to cover rent. Olim are entitled to a subsidy in their second year if required. Steps are now being taken to increase the allotment to needy families and extend the period of subsidy for olim to bridge the gap between affordable rent and what entrepreneurs would regard to be an adequate return on their investment in the construction of rental housing.

The chronic shortage of housing in the private rental market is expected to continue as long as the cost of land and construction do not allow for a good return on investment capital. Among the incentives already implemented by the government is to provide land to building contractors at no cost in peripheral areas of the country. The cost of construction is also being reduced through the introduction of more modern methods and wider use of industrialized building.

#### UNUSUAL FACT ABOUT THE ARAB BOYCOTT



In The Economic War Against The Jews, by Terence Prittie and Walter Henry Nelson, an interesting item included in the Arab boycott of Idsrael is revealed.

The film Snow White and the Seven Draws was blacklisted because the Prince's horse was called "Samson"--a clear Zionistic allusion." The Arab boycotters suggested that film could be taken off the blacklist if the horse was given a new name. Damascus suggested "Simpson."

# December 1990/January 1991 KISLEV - TEVETH 5751

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9	10 TAI Hebreu Sch. 4:15pm Adult Ed. 7pm CKJF Exec. Comn. Mtg. 7pm	Erev Hannukah	12 TAI Adult Ed 7:30pm HANNUKAH	CKJF Soc. Serv. Comm. Mtg. 8pm CKJF Forum Comm. Mtg. 8pm	TAI Potluck	Enily Fried Bat Mitzyah TAI
CKJF Preschool Hannukah Party 3:30-5:00pm at OZS	TAI Hebrev Sch. 4:15 pn Adult Ed. 7 pm	18	CKJF Board NCg. 8pm	20	21	Deborah Miller Bat Mitzyah TAI
23	24	25	26	27	28	Jessic Kemp Bat Mitzyah TAI
30	31	New Year's Day CKJF Office Closed	2	TAI Exec. Conn. Htg. 7:30pm	4	5
6	7 TAI Hebreu Sch. 4:15pm	8 TAI Bd. Htg. 7:30pm Hadassah Bd. Ntg. evening	g TAI Adult Ed 7:30pm	OZS Sister- hood - pn	11	Amy Nigoff Bat Mitzyak TAI



PLAN TO ATTEND THE

CKJF HANNUKAH EXHIBIT AT THE LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBARY
DECEMBER 2 - JANUARY 7



# The oil that lit the first menorah was provided free.

Now we need your help in continuing the miracle.

Your contribution makes the difference in Israel and for Jews around the world and here at home.

It's a gift that tunns Jewish existence into Jewish life.



This
Chanukah
help light
someone's
world.

Please pay your pleage today.

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#### RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

One of the terribly difficult problems for Jews during December is the celebration of Christmas as an official "legal" holiday. Offices, banks, and virtually every retail establishment are closed on Christmas Day. Public schools close, not just for the day, but for a two-week "Christmas Vacation" surrounding the holiday. And, in many cities and towns across North America, government property features holiday displays, ranging from Christmas trees to Nativity scenes.

For Jewish children who attend public schools, the introduction of Christmas into the curriculum during the weeks preceding the holiday throws them and their parents into a yearly confrontation with their minority status. More than one Jewish parent has marched into a principal's office when their child brought home a Christmas art project or tree ornament, or debated the singing of Christmas carols in the annual winter concert, or agonized over a child's taking a role in the Christmas

pageant.

Most Jewish organizations with interests in this area--community relations councils, the America Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League--have strongly pressed the case for the separation of church and state as reason enough for the elimination of religious holiday celebrations in the public schools. They maintain that neither Christmas nor Hanukkah should be celebrated in this setting.

Yet, most officials of the Jewish community realize that it is difficult, if not impossible, to police thousands of teachers throughout the land to prevent these celebrations. Much work is done to sensitize school personnel to the feelings of Jewish children at this time of year. Alternative celebration suggestions are made: produce a "winter festival" that preserves the holiday atmosphere, but removes the religious connotations. Study about different religious celebrations around the world at this time of year. Use the holiday season as an opportunity to celebrate the unity of humankind.

Some Jewish groups have distributed brochures which state the position of the community. Here is an example from a booklet entitled "December Dilemma," published by the Jewish Community

Council of Detroit, Michigan:

#### WHAT IS APPROPRIATE?

The following are examples of activities which are appropriate (during the holiday season):

Education about the principles of religious freedom and religious liberty.

- Intercultural programs which focus on the role religion has played in the development of society.
- Factual and objective teaching about 0 religion.
- Religious symbols used by individual 0 students as a model of self-expression
- The study of religious music as part of a music appreciation course, or as part of a study of various lands and cultures.
- Recognition of a student's absence from school due to a religious holiday as an excused absence.

#### WHAT IS NOT APPROPRIATE?

- Organized prayer. 0
- 0 Distribution of Bibles.
- 0 The public display or presentation of religious symbols by school authorities.
- 0 Presentation of religious plays and films in a religious context.
- Religious programs or prayer meetings 0 during the school day.
- Penalizing students for an absence due to 0 a religious holiday.
- Singing of Christmas carols and/or 0 Hanukkah songs.

Another arena of conflict is the public display of religious symbols on government property. For years, Christmas trees and Nativity scenes figured prominently in holiday displays at city halls, county courthouses, and public parks. Most Jewish leaders joined groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union to argue in the public press and even in court that these religious symbols violate the separation of Some Jewish groups, one in church and state. particular, took another tack and fought for the inclusion of Hanukkah symbols in the holiday decorations.

A key argument in the debate surrounds the definition of what constitutes a "religious" symbol. In a landmark decision reached in 1988, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Christmas trees are not religious symbols and may therefore be placed on government property. The court also ruled that Hanukkah menorahs are also not religious objects. Nativity scenes were ruled "religious" and discouraged by the court.

This decision, of course, did nothing to help those who argue against Christmas trees on government property. But, it did open the door for fundamentalist Jewish groups to place Hanukkah menorahs right next to the Christmas tree in the lobbies of city halls across the land.

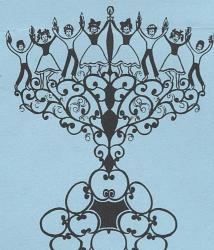


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#### HANNUKAH MUSICAL PROGRAM

A Musical Program will be presented on Sunday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m., also at the Lexington Public Library, 140 Main Street. The performers will be Aviva Bowling, Jana De Benedetti and Kathy Schattner and will also focus on Hannukah.

Please bring your family and friends. This free program sponsored by CKJF is made possible by your contributions to the CKJF/UJA Campaign.

#### ADLAND PRESENTS PROGRAM ON OPPRESSED JEWRY

#### "ARE WE OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER"

Rabbi Jon Adland will present an update report and lead discussion on Ethiopian, Soviet, and other Jewry at Temple Adath Israel on Thursday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting is a joint program of the Lexington Chapter of Hadassah, TAI Sisterhood, OZS Sisterhood and CKJF. Rabbi Adland chairs the Community Relations Committee subcommittee on Oppressed Jewry for CKJF and is a national board member of the National Conference for Soviet Jewry representing CKJF.

Refreshments will be served. The



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# MUSICAL TRIP THROUGH ISRAEL WITH GALGALIM A DELIGHTFUL EXPERIENCE

Those who attended the November 11 performance of Galgalim were treated to a superb performance. The entire audience seemed captivated by the program; even the toddlers, who didn't have a chance to become restless. It was a polished, moving show which brought tears and joy to the hearts of those attending. Highlights of the show included Brynie's rendition of the song "My Zayda" and "Exodus."

#### OZS TO PRESENT PROGRAM ON LIVING WILL AND HEALTH CARE SURROGATE

Ohavay Zion Synagogue will sponsor a program on Tuesday, November 27th, 7:30 p.m., dealing with the issues of the Living Will Declaration and the Designation of Health Care Surrogate. The legal issues and the medical point of view of both documents will be presented. Rabbi Slaton will discuss the documents in terms of Jewish Law. A notary public will be present, and those who wish may sign either or both documents.

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