

**FEDERATIONS CRAM FOR CONTINUITY:  
IS \$10 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR THE CAMPUS?  
By Larry Yudelson**

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- This semester, Tammy Schachet-Briskin transformed a Hofstra University dance studio into a stage for Jewish identity.

Schachet-Briskin is a "continuity fellow" at Hofstra Hillel, an outreach worker whose job is to meet students and find ways to involve them in Jewish life.

For a group of dance majors that Schachet-Briskin met, the way was through dance. At her suggestion, the students choreographed and performed a dance piece expressing what Judaism meant to them.

Schachet-Briskin doubts any of the troupe would have gotten involved in other Hillel activities. Because "dance is their priority," the project has generated "pride and excitement that they can take something they love and combine it with who they are," she said.

That pride and excitement in Jewish identity has become a priority for Hillels around the country, as they pick up on communal concerns over assimilation and intermarriage.

But making Jews is more time-consuming and staff-intensive than making kosher meals and Shabbat services.

**Federations Are Being Asked To Pay Up**

And now, after more than 25 years of talking about problems of Jewish life on campus, federations are being asked to pay up -- or shut up. This month, they are examining a proposal to double their allocations to college campuses from \$10 million to \$20 million annually.

The proposal, which was released in November at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations, will be voted on by the CJF Board of Delegates on Jan. 31.

It consists only of guidelines and recommendations, which means federations will be free to ignore the proposed increases, which are to be phased in over seven years.

But with attention being focused on Jewish identity, the burden may be shifting to those who choose to ignore college students.

A CJF report issued early this year declared the campus "a key gateway opportunity for strengthening Jewish identity."

And it stressed the need for Schachet-Briskin's sort of work in "creating Jewish pride" through welcoming "entry points to Jewish involvement."

The report estimated that such programs could reach some 60 percent of the Jewish student body otherwise untouched by traditional Hillel activities.

This shift in Hillel's orientation comes as the decades-old system in which B'nai B'rith took Hillel under its wings has collapsed.

Once the largest Jewish service and fraternal organization, B'nai B'rith in recent years has slashed its contributions to national Hillel by almost \$2 million, or 50 percent.

Some Hillel programs were closed; others were left reeling. Hillel directors began to turn their attention away from students to concentrate on fund-raising.

Hillel has now struck off independently from B'nai B'rith, reconstituting itself as Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, an independent organization now finding a place within the federation system.

Hillel's newly independent status enabled CJF to propose the new funding plan. It also means that Hillel will be free to raise additional funds on its own.

Besides the federation money, another \$15 million comes to campus services from other sources, including local Hillel fund-raising. Hillel hopes to double that amount, as well.

Federations are not only being asked to pay more, but also to rethink the way they approach the campus.

Traditionally, federations have viewed campus life as a local issue.

They looked after campuses in their own backyard, and sent a small amount of money to national Hillel to help out campuses without local federations.

**CJF Plan Includes Precise Dollar Targets**

The CJF plan replaces this patchwork system with precise dollar targets for each local federation. The plan gives each federation a share based on the size of its campaign and population.

Each federation gets two bills -- one for national Hillel, and one for its local and regional campuses.

The objective is to even out the funding. Currently, some federations allocate more than 7 percent of their campaign revenue to college services, and some allocate none. The national average is 1.5 percent, according to the report.

Many of these inequities come from the tendency to pay attention to the campuses in town, rather than to the students who grew up in town and are now studying elsewhere.

In Texas, for example, the Austin campus of the University of Texas draws 3,500 Jewish students.

For Austin, whose entire Jewish population is only slightly larger than that, the result is a hefty bill. Some 2.5 percent of its campaign, or \$14,500, is allocated to campus services.

Presumably, many of these students come from Dallas, a city with about 10 times as many Jews as Austin. And yet, proportionate to the size of its campaign, Dallas allocates to campus services barely a quarter as much as Austin.

The major school in Dallas -- Southern Methodist University -- attracts only 250 Jewish students.

The CJF plan calls on Dallas to raise its campus allocation by \$17,000 for each of the next seven years.

"For this community, that is a very large growth rate for dollars for one service," said Avrum Cohen, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas.

If Dallas does go along with the CJF plan,

students at Austin will be the primary beneficiaries. That is because the CJF plan has federations getting together on a regional basis to discuss allocations.

Federations will make their own judgments of how to divide their campus allocations between local campuses and a regional funding pool. The federations sitting around the regional table would then divide up that money.

"We're not looking in this regional concept to build up cost-consuming infrastructures," said Richard Joel, international director of Hillel.

"We are saying that the Jewish community has to look a little more broadly on how they deliver services on campus and shouldn't look only in their backyard," he said.

The regionalization will not eliminate all inequities, since some regions have more college campuses than others. Much of the increased funding to national Hillel will be used to remedy this imbalance.

Dallas is not the only federation affected by the new regional thinking and budgeting.

### Overlooked And Unfunded

At the UJA-Federation of New York, "the conclusion was always that our responsibility was to serve the campuses in our eight-county service area," said Jeffrey Solomon, chief operating officer for program services.

Overlooked and unfunded were more than an estimated 27,000 students studying on campuses in upstate New York, where the Jewish population totals only 80,000.

Particularly at state schools, such as the State University of New York at Binghamton, most of the Jewish students come from New York City.

"How can you expect a community to take care of students that outnumber them?" asks Avi Schwartz, president of Binghamton's Jewish Student Union, referring to the local Binghamton community.

Schwartz, who is from Long Island, said four-fifths of his executive board is from the New York City area.

"I definitely think some kind of allocation would be beneficial," he said.

Solomon said the new CJF report is moving his federation to accept the idea that "New York college students, from our eight-county area, wind up in a number of campuses, and that there is a more collective responsibility toward serving those students."

Solomon acknowledged that in a previous example of federations signing on to a national plan of "collective responsibility," New York was a clear beneficiary.

That was for the arrangement where federations resettling relatively fewer immigrants from the former Soviet Union have been sending money out of town to aid communities resettling disproportionately more.

New York City, where half the new arrivals settle, was the biggest single beneficiary of this program.

"We have to be consistent," said Solomon. "If we're going to make college students the priority the national community believes they should become, we have to take a look at how we reorder priorities and how we excite the philanthropic community to the process."

### **FOUR ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED AS HAMAS OBSERVES ITS FOUNDING** By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- Four Israeli soldiers were wounded in three separate attacks in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

The attacks occurred despite stepped-up security by the police, who were guarding against possible terrorist attacks by Palestinians observing the sixth anniversary of the founding of the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas.

In the Gaza Strip, an Israeli soldier was stabbed and seriously wounded near the settlement of Ganei Tal in the Gush Katif bloc of settlements. Soldiers standing nearby shot and wounded the lone assailant.

In another incident, an Israeli army reservist was moderately hurt when he was attacked by a mob in the center of the West Bank town of Ramallah. The soldier was driving to his base when he took a wrong turn and ended up in Ramallah. Dozens of youths surrounded the vehicle, throwing rocks and iron bars.

The violence ended when an officer with the border police arrived on the scene.

In a third attack, two Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded near the West Bank town of Tulkarm when a roadside explosive was detonated near their patrol car.

### **HISTORIC VISIT TO FAR EAST PRODUCES ACCORDS AND A 'NEW PAGE' IN RELATIONS** By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin this week became the first Israeli head of state to visit Japan and South Korea.

Accompanied by Israeli business leaders, Rabin arrived in Japan on Monday for two days of meetings that included the signing of new cooperative agreements in cultural affairs and science.

During his visit, Rabin met with the Japanese imperial family and with government officials and business leaders.

At a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, Rabin said Israel and Japan were opening a new page in their relations.

Japan, heavily dependent on oil from Arab countries and therefore sensitive to the Arab boycott, traditionally maintained a cool attitude toward Israel. But that posture has changed as the Middle East peace process slowly has advanced over the past year.

During his discussions with Murayama about the peace process, Rabin emphasized the need for Japanese investment in Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

While Rabin was in Japan, the Tokyo government announced it would allow Japanese companies to invest in the Tel Aviv stock exchange.

Rabin, accompanied by the Israeli economic delegation, traveled on to South Korea on Wednesday for meetings also aimed at encouraging increased investment in Israel.

The two countries were scheduled to sign agreements on establishing direct Tel Aviv-Seoul air links, cultural exchanges and cooperative ventures in agricultural technology.

**AS NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE WIND DOWN,  
E.U. BESTOWS SPECIAL STATUS ON ISRAEL**  
By Joseph Kopel

ESSEN, Germany, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- The European Union has declared that Israel should be granted a "privileged status" in its relations with the organization's member states.

Meeting here this week for a summit conference, the leaders of the E.U.'s 12 member states said Israel should be given the new status "because of its high level of economic development."

The decision "will profit the general economic development of the Middle East," the E.U. said in a statement.

Israel and the E.U. are currently negotiating the specifics of a final accord that will enable the Jewish state to be associated with the E.U.'s research and development programs. The negotiations, which began in January, are expected to be completed before the end of the year.

The new accord will complement a separate trade and cooperation pact that Israel and the E.U. are currently negotiating in order to update a 1975 agreement between Israel and what was then known as the Common Market.

In recent years, Israel has tried to elevate its trading status to gain better access to the European market. Israel is currently suffering a \$5 billion trade deficit with the E.U., which is its main trading partner.

The E.U.'s 12 member nations decided to strengthen their relations with Israel after it signed the Palestinian self-rule accord in Washington last year.

In their joint statement this week, the 12 E.U. heads of state pledged a "substantial economic contribution" to support the Middle East peace process.

The E.U. leaders also endorsed a new southern policy that envisages the creation of a free-trade zone among countries throughout the Mediterranean basin, including Israel.

**OSI FILES CASE AGAINST MICHIGAN MAN  
SAID TO HAVE BEEN SS GUARD AT CAMPS**  
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- Forging ahead with prosecutions against alleged Nazi war criminals, the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations has launched proceedings to denaturalize a third American citizen in a week.

The Nazi-hunting unit filed suit Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Detroit against Ferdinand Hammer, a 73-year-old retired tool and die maker from Sterling Heights, Mich.

OSI charges that when he applied to immigrate to the United States in 1955, Hammer concealed his service as a guard at Auschwitz, as a guard of prisoners on transports and as a member of the SS Death's Head Battalion.

The complaint against Hammer, who was born in Croatia, alleges that he served as a guard at the Auschwitz death camp until just prior to its liberation in 1945 by Allied troops.

The complaint also charges that Hammer escorted prisoners during their forced evacuation from Auschwitz, in Poland, to the Sachsenhausen camp, in Germany. According to the complaint, Hammer then served as an armed guard at Sach-

senhausen until he was assigned to guard a transport of prisoners to the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria.

The opening of proceedings against Hammer follows the Dec. 7 filing of a complaint against Algimantas Dailide of Brecksville, Ohio, who is charged with having served in the Nazi-sponsored Lithuanian security police in Vilnius during World War II; and the Dec. 9 filing against Wiatscheslaw (Chester) Rydlinskis of Bloomingdale, Ill., who is charged with having been an SS Death's Head Battalion guard at Auschwitz and Buchenwald camps.

OSI is currently investigating more than 300 persons for war crimes and has to date striped 50 Nazi persecutors of their U.S. citizenship. Of the 50, 42 have been removed from the United States since OSI began operating in 1979.

**GOVERNMENT ACCEDES TO DRUSE DEMANDS  
WITH MORE FUNDING FOR LOCAL COUNCILS**  
By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Avraham Shohat signed an agreement with Druse leaders this week, ending a crisis over Druse demands for more government funding.

The agreement, which was signed Sunday, ended a monthlong conflict that at times turned violent. It also averted threats by Druse Knesset members to support no-confidence motions in the government.

Under the agreement, some \$50 million will be added immediately to the 1995 budget for Druse local councils. The group will also get up to \$33 million in additional aid under the agreement.

Israel's 80,000 Druse citizens, clustered in 18 villages in the north of the country, have been complaining that the Israeli government is allotting them only a fraction of the sums given to Jewish development towns. Another 15,000 Druse live in villages on the Golan Heights.

The Druse are ethnic Arabs who split from Islam in the 11th century to form a new religion. The majority of the Druse community in the Middle East, an estimated 200,000 total, live in Lebanon and Syria.

Since the 1948 War of Independence, the Druse in Israel have served in the Israeli army, siding with Israel in its conflicts with its Arab neighbors.

**SPECULATION ON CAPITAL GAINS TAX  
LEADS TO FLUCTUATIONS IN STOCK MARKET**  
By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Avraham Shohat has quashed speculation that the Israeli government might back away from implementing the recently enacted capital gains tax.

The Tel Aviv stock market has fluctuated recently in response to rumors that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would shelve the controversial 10 percent tax on Israeli investors that was enacted in November.

At a stormy Labor Party caucus meeting on Monday, Shohat lashed out at party members opposed to the tax. He dismissed the rumors that Rabin was considering abolishing or delaying the tax and said it would take effect as planned.

**JEWISH FEMINISM IN THE '90s:  
NEW RITUALS CREATED BY AND FOR WOMEN  
ENHANCE WOMEN'S CONNECTION TO JUDAISM**  
[Part 4 Of A Series]

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) -- On the occasion of her 60th birthday, Edie Cohen had a croning ceremony.

On a luminous autumn day her best friends gathered in her backyard and listened to Edie speak about her life.

Dressed in a kittel -- the simple white garment in which she will be buried -- Cohen spoke about the joy and the pain of her first six decades, raising her children, being divorced and learning self-sufficiency in midlife. She spoke of her grandchild and the daughter she had lost in an accident. She spoke of her development as a Jew.

She also spoke of the passage from midlife into old age and what she hoped to accomplish in her years ahead.

Then she and her friends recited a "Shehecheyanu," the blessing of thanksgiving, and a prayer created to mark the occasion of her croning.

"Crone" was once used as an epithet, meaning an old hag. But the term has been reclaimed by feminists, including Jews, who have developed ceremonies to honor women as they turn 60.

Croning ceremonies -- sometimes called Simchat Chochmah in Hebrew, or Celebration of Wisdom, and occasionally celebrated by men -- are but one type of the dozens of new rituals and blessings that have flourished under the influence of feminism.

Although first introduced in the early 1970s, there has been a proliferation of new rituals and blessings in the last decade.

In the tension between canon and creativity, "canon usually has primacy in Judaism," according to feminist Arlene Agus. "Women have begun elevating the role of creativity so it has become incorporated into our daily life."

**New And Expanded Blessings Created**

New rituals have been created to mark the birth of a daughter, to welcome an adopted baby, to celebrate a child's weaning from her mother's breast, to honor a first menstruation and to celebrate a new home.

They have also been developed to grieve a miscarriage and infertility, and to mark the beginning of recovery from rape or surgery.

Other rituals have been created to expand and replace traditional brit milah, wedding and divorce rituals.

The mikvah, the ritual bath in which observant women immerse themselves seven days after monthly menstruation ends, has also been "reclaimed" by liberal Jewish women and integrated into rituals of healing and renewal.

New and expanded blessings are being created -- sometimes spontaneously -- to mark daily occurrences as well as life-cycle events.

Bedtime blessings for children, adapted from traditional liturgy, are one example of the type of ritual Jews are seeking out for "a sense of security and equilibrium in a world shaking beneath our feet," said Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell.

Elwell, a Reform rabbi, is founding director

of the American Jewish Congress' Jewish Feminist Center in Los Angeles and rabbinic director of Ma'ayan, a new feminist center in Manhattan.

New blessings have also been written, both for the new rituals and as part of regular prayer. Some contain new names for God.

When Marcia Falk, a leading feminist liturgist, first introduced the term "Ain HaChayim," or Wellspring of Life, as a grammatically feminine alternative to the Hebrew words "Lord" or "King" when addressing God, response was sharply divided. People either hated it or loved it, she said.

That was 10 years ago. Today the term, and others that she and other feminist liturgists have developed, are widely accepted in liberal Jewish circles.

"It shows you how quickly tradition can move to change when innovation responds to a hunger," she said.

The "Hebrew liturgical tradition ossified and we ended up with a limited number of terms with which we point to divinity. I want to set in motion a process of naming the divine from our experiences that would flower to include the full diversity of the Jewish community," Falk said.

The one new ritual observance that has become most widely accepted, especially among liberal Jewish women, has been the celebration of Rosh Chodesh, the beginning of the new month.

**Flexible Rite For Newly Observant**

For women who are new to Jewish observance, Rosh Chodesh is a flexible point of entry without a set liturgy. It provides a Jewish connection to feminism, as well as a uniquely female connection to Judaism.

For more traditional Jews, current observance is legitimated by the history of the day. Jewish tradition holds that God gave Rosh Chodesh to Jewish women as their own minor festival as a reward for refusing to contribute their jewelry to help build the Golden Calf in the desert.

Contemporary Rosh Chodesh observance, first begun in the early 1970s, takes many forms.

For some, it means studying Jewish texts and creating midrash, or feminist commentaries. For others, it means discussion of a topic related to the month, or an art project.

Observance of Rosh Chodesh "has helped connect women horizontally and vertically to one another, and given us an unbroken link to biblical history," according to Agus, who began holding ceremonies to mark the new month in 1972.

Adaptations of existing blessings and the creation of new rituals have, for many Jewish women, bridged a chasm between their own experiences and the practice of Judaism.

"It's about connection, being able to put ourselves in the prayers. People want to hear their own experience in the prayers and when they do, they feel connected, part of a greater whole," said Falk.

According to Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, who teaches theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary and edits the publication Sh'ma, the benefits of this new liturgical creativity reach beyond Jewish women to the whole of the Jewish people.

"If women are ignored by the tradition, they don't have to suffer or leave. They can affect the tradition," said Cardin.