HAT FEDERATIONS AND CJF

A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT • FRANK STRAUSS, DIRECTOR

FEDERATIONS MOBILIZE FOR SOVIET JEWRY RALLY

The story beyond the numbers

n the day of the rally, the Washington Metro system, never known for a predominance of Jewish ridership, reminded many ex-New Yorkers of the D-Train to Brooklyn. In an effort to assist the novice Metro riders among its readers, the pre-rally issue of the Washington Jewish Week featured a special pictorial article with instructions about how to use the system...Many rally-goers reported that the button-trading business was brisk. Buttons from Western states were particularly in demand...On the way to the Ellipse, the Canadian delegation stopped at the Soviet Embassy, where they were confronted by police in riot gear who warned that they would be arrested if they did not turn back. Needless to say, they went via a different route..."Jewish Geography" was one popular pastime at the rally, as marchers from communities across North America mingled on the mall...Twelve-year-old Henry Bronshpits of the Hartford area marched with his mother, former refusenik Mara Bronshpits, carrying a sign which read: "Let my Dad Grigory Bronshpits Go Out." Henry has not seen his father in seven years...At 4:30 a.m. on the day of the rally, there was a traffic jam at Fairmont Temple in Cleveland, as the last buses departed for Washington...Six members of the Springfield (IL) delegation stayed overnight in the apartment of their congressman, Dick Durbin ... Tidewater chartered Il buses to make the four-hour trip to Washington. However, on the way out of the parking lot, one bus broke down, forcing passengers to squeeze onto the remaining 10 buses. Although some riders sat three to a seat, the atmosphere was cozy and familiar and no one complained...Two 13-year-old members of the MetroWest (NJ) delegation had a



Debra Goldstein, 11, a member of the Omaha delegation, displays the buttons she collected during the December 6, 1987 Soviet Jewry rally.

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HEAD COUNT

Letting the numbers tell the story

he local Washington area contingent was estimated at 50,000, many of hom rode the Metro to the rally site...600 people came from Central New Jersey, including 170 who rode the Amtrak "Freedom Train"...77 people came up from South Broward... The Bridgeport delegation totalled 300... A group of 58 left Omaha on Sunday on a 6:20 a.m. flight and were flome by midnight...90 people made the bus trip from Reading... Delaware sent over 300 community members...A contingent of 50 left Syracuse on a bus at 2:30 a.m...150 people represented Worcester...Rochester transported a delegation of close to 500, which travelled by bus, plane and car...156 people from Dallas travelled over 2,200 miles...Five buses carried 180 people from Virginia Peninsula...The St. Louis delegation numbered 300...There were 200 marchers from Springfield (MA) and a total of 600 from the entire Pioneer Valley area...The Denver group was 100 strong...Southern New Jersey sent a delegation of 1,600, filling 35 buses, and many other area residents travelled on their own by car...The Hartford delegation, which totaled about 400, included 120 people who took commercial flights, 184 who went by bus and nearly 100 who drove and spent the weekend in Washington...38 Memphis residents flew to the rally...Over 150 people from the Youngstown area participated...740 of the 3,000-member MetroWest delegation rode the Amtrak "Freedom Train," while most of the others travelled aboard 36 buses...Close to 300 Allentown residents went by bus, chartered plane or car...A joint delegation of 130 from San Francisco and East Bay took a red-eye flight that departed at 10 p.m. Saturday...Ocean County (NJ) sent 343 people on seven buses and 24 others drove on their own...200 Indianapolis residents went on two planes...Miami chartered three planes and sent a total of more than 1,000 people from the area...Scranton sent almost 50 people by bus...Houston chartered a plane for 130...The San Diego contingent numbered 50 and travelled by plane...Baltimore estimated its delegation at 12,000, with many travelling by bus...The Dayton delegation numbered 75...Over 500 people representing Tidewater took the four-hour bus ride to Washington...Wilkes-Barre sent six buses with a total of 221 participants...Southern Maine sold all of the 40

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ON THE HOME FRONT

A review of local Soviet Jewry events

In Columbus...Foggy weather was to blame for the cancelation of the community's trip to Washington. The Columbus group of over 375 waited five and a half hours at the airport in hopes that their chartered plane would be allowed to leave. As an alternative, the Federation organized a local rally, which was held at a synagogue, followed by a march downtown to the Ohio Statehouse.

In Tucson...On Saturday night, December 5, people were footstomping and clapping to the lively music of the six-member troupe from Boston, SAFAM, whose recording "Leaving Mother Russia" is the anthem of the movement to free Soviet Jews. The next day, at the 8th Annual Freedom Run, Mayor Lew Murphy, Mayor-elect Tom Volgy, 40 elected officials and personalities, and over 1,000 community members turned out in support of Soviet Jews.

In Ottawa...A Human Rights meeting featured Keith Spicer, Editor of the Ottawa Citizen.



200,000 people from communities across North America gathered in Washington D.C. to march in support of freedom for Soviet Jews.

San Diego's noon-time rally, which took place the day after the Washington mobilization, was one of many local Soviet Jewry events held locally in November and December.

In Allentown...A special program was held just prior to bus departure, featuring Allentown Mayor Joseph Daddona, who proclaimed December 6 Freedom Sunday on behalf of the communities of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. Congressman Don Ritter and State Senator Jeanette Reibman also participated in the program.

In Buffalo...Four days after the Washington rally, area residents held their own march and "Community Plea for Soviet Jews." Organized by the Greater Buffalo Region Women's American Ort and the Federation, the event was sponsored by over 40 Jewish, interfaith and community organizations. About 375 people carried signs and flashlights, gathered at a synagogue and marched around the block. David Harris of the American Jewish Committee, National Coordinator of "Freedom Sunday" in Washington, gave a stirring and emotional talk. There was also a candle-lighting ceremony featuring the children of recent Soviet immigrants to the Buffalo area. In an emotional moment, Father Francis Mazur, President of the Buffalo Area Metropolitan Ministries, held up his Ida Nudel refusenik bracelet and broke it in two.

In Pittsburgh...A city-wide youth rally and march for Soviet Jewry was held on Sunday, November 22 and the day was proclaimed "Soviet Jewry Day" in Pittsburgh. That evening, the Soviet Emigre Orchestra performed in conjunction with the Federation's Annual Meeting and the Annual Plea for Soviet Jewry.

In **Boston**...Area synagogues conducted a ceremony on Sunday, December 6 at 7:00 a.m. at Terminal E at Logan Airport. Rabbis marched through the crowd carrying torahs and there was a short program, featuring remarks by community leaders and freed refuseniks, which ended with the blowing of a shofar.

In Scranton...Residents who didn't march participated in a special function dedicated to Soviet Jews. A guest speaker addressed the audience and an empty table, reserved for Soviet Jews who are not free to emigrate, was set up and highlighted with a spotlight. On the walls were posters and signs calling for the freedom of Soviet Jews and the unity of our Jewish people.

In Kansas City...The Jewish community kicked off a week of Summit activities with a rally featuring Natan Shcharansky on Monday, November 30. Shcharansky addressed a crowd of more than 1,000 people. Representative Alan

Wheat (D-MO) and Suzanne Parelman, Federation President, were also part of the program. For the next three days, noon-hour vigils were held in downtown Kansas City. Hundreds of people gathered in a park to hear presentations by elected officials and Christian clergy and to sing Jewish songs. On Friday night and Saturday morning, Soviet Jewry Shabbat was held in area synagogues.

In Dayton...There was a record turnout at the Womens Division "Plea for Soviet Jewry," held just after the rally.

In Tidewater...On Thursday, December 3, there was a special "Freedom Sunday" pep rally, cosponsored by Virginia Peninsula. The event was led by Natan Shcharansky, who urged the crowd of about 1,500 to send Gorbachev a message of solidarity, reaffirming that the Soviet Jews will not be forgotten.

In South Broward...Three days after the rally, the Federation held its local Human Rights Plea for Soviet Jewry, featuring Jerry Goodman, Executive Director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Because of the excitement generated by the Washington mobilization, the Human Rights Plea received the most extensive media coverage ever. Jerry Goodman also participated in a Community Plea For Soviet Jewry on December 10 in nearby Palm Beach County...

In San Diego...A community-wide gathering was held downtown at the Federal Court House on Monday, December 7, at noon. Over 250 people, including Jewish day and high school students, heard speeches, the reading of a list of refusenik names and a proclamation supporting Soviet Jewry. Many local politicians, rabbis and community leaders were present. Capping off the week of awareness was the annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast.

In Worcester...As a follow-up to the rally, 500 people attended a lecture/concert Plea for Soviet Jewry, featuring Mary Travers of Peter, Paul and Mary.

In Omaha...On December 13, there was a Soviet Jewry Marathon Run through the city.

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WHO'S WHO

Communities bring VIPs, non-Jews to Washington

Dayton: The local chapter of the International Christian Embassy.

Hartford: Congressman Barbara Kennelly; Connecticut Attorney General Joe Lieberman; State Representative Miles Rapoport; Bloomfield Mayor David Baram; and Christian and Black leaders.

Buffalo: Reverend Chuck White, Executive Director of the Buffalo Area Metropolitan Ministries; Joanne DiPasquale Way, Executive Director of the Western New York chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and State Assemblyman L. William Paxon.

Pittsburgh: City Council members Sophie Masloff and Mark Pollock; NAACP leader Harvey Adams; and Pennsylvania Senators Arlen Specter and John Heinz.

Boston: Sister Maren Karen Powers, Chaplain, Harvard/Radcliffe, who represented Cardinal Bernard Law; Dr. James Nash, Executive Secretary, Massachusetts Council of Churches; and Reverend E. W. Jackson, Sr., New Corner Baptist Church, Roxbury.

Kansas City: Mayor Richard Berkley; Kansas Attorney General Robert Stephan; four students from a Baptist college in Liberty (MO); and three Kansas and Missouri farm leaders who have adopted Soviet Jewish families.

Palm Beach County: Florida Senator Lawton Chiles.

Delaware: Delaware Attorney General Charles Oberly, who had recently participated in an Attorney General's Mission to the Soviet Union.

St. Louis: O'Ray Graber, Regional Director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and Monseignor Edward Sudekum, Editor of the St. Louis Review, a weekly paper published by the Archdiocese.

Denver: Congressman Patricia Schroeder; Colorado First Lady Bea Romer; Colorado Attorney General Duane Woodard; Colorado Senator Dennis Gallagher; State Representative Wilma Webb; and Wellington Webb, Denver's Auditor.

Des Moines: Iowa Senator Tom Harkin; representatives from the Des Moines Area Religious Council; the Iowa Inter-Church Forum; the National Conference of Christians & Jews; the Church World Service; the Catholic Diocese of Des Moines; and the American Friends Service Committee.

Detroit: Michigan Senator Carl Levin; Congressman Dale Kildee of Flint; and Congressman Sander Levin of Southfield.

Canton: Members of Haverim, a Christian prayer group based in North Canton that is active in the cause of Soviet Jewry.



Participating in the Washington rally were (from left): former Soviet refuseniks Natan Shcharansky and Vladimir Slepak; Nobel Prize winner Elie Weisel; Shoshana S. Cardin, immediate past President of the Council of Jewish Federations; Jacqueline Levine, Chair of NJCRAC; and Robert E. Loup, Honorary National Chairman of UJA. Cardin and Loup co-chaired the mobiliztion effort.





In Cleveland...On November 20 and 21, Natan Shcharansky met with about 2,000 area residents, including the mayor, Catholic bishop, students, Federation leadership, synagogue members and the media. The Soviet Jewry theme was also emphasized in several other local events in December.

In Somerset-Hunterdon Counties (NJ)...A local Freedom Rally was staged with participation from five congregations, featuring the lighting of a giant chanukiah.

In Denver...Four days after the Washington rally, area residents rallied again at an event featuring the Slepaks.

In Milwaukee...Natan Shcharansky spoke at a community forum at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Monday, November 30. The following Thursday, the Slepaks attended a noon-time community forum as well as an evening campaign event. On Friday, Soviet Jewry Week culminated with a Milwaukee Jewish Day School school-wide rally.

In South County (FL)...More than 300 area residents reconvened on Thursday, December 10 in a Plea For Soviet Jewry. The event featured Dr. Galina Vileshina, whose ailing husband is still in the Soviet Union awaiting permission to join her and her daughter in South Florida. Her story brought tears to the eyes of the audience. The program included remarks by two rabbis and the singing of Jewish songs.

In Houston...A concert on behalf of Soviet Jewry was held on the night of December 6. Participants in the Washington rally were able to return home in time for this annual event, which featured Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary. The concert, attended by 1700, was a cooperative effort by over 40 community organizations and agencies. The evening also included a pre-concert press conference and a special reception for those who purchased patron tickets.

In San Francisco...A local rally took place on Monday, December 7, featuring ex-refusenik Vladimir Lifshitz. Some 500 area residents braved stormy weather for the hourlong Soviet Jewry Vigil.

IN THE NEWS

Notes on media coverage from across the nation



Reporters and cameramen from media outlets around the world converged on Washington D.C. to cover the historic Soviet Jewry rally.

everal camera crews from local Los Angeles television stations went to the airport Saturday night to do live remotes for their nightly news programs as the L.A. delegation departed...Buffalo television newsman Rich Kellman, who is Jewish, was assigned by his station to travel with the Buffalo delegation. His experience in Washington was made even more exciting by an unplanned reunion with his sister, a Philadelphia resident, who went to the rally...Two television stations in Dallas sent reporters and film crews to Washington to meet the local delegation and cover its activities. One paper's reporter joined the group on its 7:00 a.m. flight...A reporter from the Syracuse Herald-American, circulation 232,000, accompanied the Syracuse contingent, leaving with them on the bus at 2:30 a.m. Local media coverage of the rally and the Soviet Jewry issue was extensive...The local ABC-TV affiliate in Madison conducted an interview at the home of the Federation's President, Louis Swedarsky, which included him, the Community Relations Council Co-Chair and the Soviet Jewry Chair, all of whom were planning to march...Key local media from Chicago, including reporters and cameramen from the local ABC-TV affiliate, the Chicago Tribune and major suburban newspaper chains, were among the passengers on the Federation's chartered flights...The Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council's banner made a page-one photo in the New York Times...WBAL-TV in Baltimore covered the rally live from Washington. Other local Baltimore stations provided pre-rally coverage...United Press International ran a photo showing the message on the coat of an Omaha marcher, which read "Glasnost-Shmasnost! Summit-Shmummit! Just let our people go!"



Rally participants share their feelings

teenage girl from South Broward told her parents: "Thank you for taking me. I've never been so proud to be Jewish in my whole life." Her father said he could not have given his daughter this feeling even if he had spent \$1 million...A Baltimore participant said of the rally, "It changed my life. I'll never forget it"...Harvey Adams, President of the NAACP, who travelled with the Pittsburgh delegation, said "I feel starry-eyed. I haven't felt this way since we marched together in the '60s. I think we can make it work together again"... According to a 9-year-old Milwaukee day school student, "It was hard to believe how many people they had there. It was fun and I could understand what they're trying to do"...A Chicago rally-goer quipped, "Not since Sinai have so many Jews been in one place at one time"...A Hartford teenager commented, "Before the





The rally had meaning for marchers of all ages, including (top) Robert
Turetsky, Neshama Avrahami, Shari
Jawetz and Milana Kronenberg from the Hillel Academy, Clifton-Passaic
(NJ); and (bottom) Gerald Levy and Morris Resnick of Tidewater (VA).

rally, I felt that being Jewish did not mean very much to me. But when I heard 200,000 people singing together in Hebrew, I realized that I felt very connected to all those people and that we are united not only by this language but by our concern for Jews everywhere" ...A marcher from San Francisco explained, "Even though I found myself totally separated from my travelling companions, it didn't matter. The people surrounding me were all my family"...Renata Sadetsky, 17, who came to Memphis from Russia ten years ago, said, "The only way we can help Russian Jews is by rallying ourselves. They can't do it and we can"...According to Dr. Eugene Bass, President of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey, "It was the most exciting event I ever had the privilege of attending. When I looked out into that sea of Jewish faces before me, I experienced the most intense sense of warmth and belonging imaginable. I'm sure that every person there from our community shared those feelings"...A leader of the American Agricultural Movement, who was part of the Kansas City delegation, summed up the feeling of many in the group about the rally by stating, "I think the world is a better place today because

STAND-OUTS

Personalized items unify local delegations

A huge banner reading "Buffalo, N.Y. Speaks Out for Soviet Jews" helped keep **Buffalo** residents together as they made their way to the mall and the rally...Members of the Canadian delegation wore red and white tuques and carried the Canadian flag...Wisconsin stocking caps, buttons and signs reading "Madison Marches to Free Soviet Jews," all in red and white, were used to distinguish the Madison delegation...Boston participants wore a green ribbon, pinned diagonally from shoulder to hip, for easy identification...The Birmingham group sported red-and-white sweatshirts with "Birmingham, Alabama" emblazoned on the front and "Free Soviet Jewry-December 6, 1987"

mementos of their participation in the rally.

printed on the back, as well as large black-and-white buttons that carried the same message...White paper hats with red lettering were responsible for keeping Detroit area marchers from disappearing into the crowds...Canton marchers were easily recognized by their bright blue and white ski hats...Standing out from the crowd was a sign brought along by Cleveland, which was 12 feet high, three-dimensional and printed in Cleveland Browns colors...The Worcester group was identified by red scarves, lapel buttons and pre-printed signs that were taped to the marcher's backs...Red hats with the Federation name on them were distributed to members of the Ocean County (NJ) delegation.



(Between the Lines— Cont'd from pg. 1)

special mission during the rally. Jackie Newmark and Audra Dranikoff wanted to return a prisoner of conscience bracelet bearing Ida Nudel's name to the former refusenik. To do so, the two girls dashed under police barricades, sneaked around a trailer, passed through an opening in a fence and went up to the stage. They told someone there of their mission and were soon summoned to where Nudel sat. "We gave her the bracelet and she gave us both a kiss, shook our hands and said, 'Thank you,'" said Audra, whose mother had received the bracelet. Audra had based her bat mitzvah speech on Nudel... Twenty members of the **Dayton** delegation attracted attention by dressing in prison outfits to dramatize that refuseniks are virtual prisoners in the Soviet Union...The delegations from Dayton and Akron met at the Mayflower Hotel prior to the march to be briefed by Mark Talisman, Director of the Washington Action Office of the Council of Jewish Federations. Talisman brought former Congressman Charles Vanik (co-sponsor of the Jackson-Vanik amendment) with him to address the group and both men received standing ovations. Talisman recalled that in the same room of the Mayflower, in the early 1940s, a meeting was called to raise money to buy trucks to ransom 77,000 Rumanian Jews; no one came and the Jews of Rumania were sent to the death camps. The contrast between yesterday's inaction and apathy and today's action and concern were striking. Talisman's emotional appeal on behalf of Jewish unity and action electrified the audience and his remarks were cited by participants as one of the day's highlights...At the Ellipse, the South Broward delegation met Galina Khatutsky, the daughter of refuseniks Yuri and Tanya Zeiman, who held a sign reading: "My father is very ill. Please allow Yuri Zeiman's family to be with me." The Zeimans have been South Broward's refusenik family for the past three years...Due to the outstanding efforts of Marc Epstein (Milk Street Cafe) and Larry Green (Green Manor), Boston had the best-fed delegation. Each bus rider was provided with three kosher meals and plane passengers each received a bag lunch and beverage

more than 6,000 individually-pack-

commercial airline seats it was able to secure out of Portland and had a waiting list...Charleston (SC) was able to arrange for a block of 20 seats on a Piedmont Airlines flight ...200 of the 325-member Los Angeles delegation took a Saturday night red-eye flight and arrived back in L.A. in the early hours of Monday morning...A group of 800 people from Mercer and Bucks Counties (NJ/PA) joined the massive bus caravan...More than 300 people from Kansas City travelled on five different commercial airlines beginning at 6:30 a.m. Sunday... Most of the 83 people from Birmingham flew up on Saturday... Cleveland sent 26 bus-loads of people and its delegation totalled nearly 1,700...150 Clifton-Passaic (NJ) residents rode the Amtrak "Freedom Train," while others joined the bus caravan or went by car...The contingent from Michigan included almost 1,300 from the Detroit area, most of whom took chartered airplane flights... A group of 25 from Toledo accompanied the Detroit delegation on a chartered plane, while other Toledoans flew to Baltimore where they took a bus to Washington... About 100 Buffalo residents left at 10:00 p.m. Saturday on two buses, which travelled through the night, and another 100 people went by plane Sunday morning... Louisville took 55 people by plane and bus... Nearly 100 people left Columbus by bus at 2:30 a.m. Sunday...The 12-member Ottawa delegation made their way individually to Montreal, where they joined over 120 Montrealers on a chartered aircraft called "Flight for Freedom"... Madison sent 85 people on a bus and three vans that left on Friday and filled 13 seats on a Milwaukee charter flight. A total of 451 Wisconsin residents participated... The Canton group of 130 boarded buses at 1:00 a.m. Sunday morning ... There were 12 people in the Springfield (IL) delegation...Most of the 4,000 participants from the Boston area went by bus or plane, including two chartered flights that left Logan Airport on Sunday morning and 37 buses that departed at about 10 p.m. Saturday. Others drove independently or took Amtrak...Greensboro (NC) mobilized 150 people, most of whom travelled by bus...The Pittsburgh contingent, which went by bus, was over 2,000 strong...South County (FL) had a group of over 100...About 75 people came from the Des Moines area...Chicago mobilized more than 1,000 members of the community. Most people were transported on three chartered planes, while others went by bus, car or train...A contingent of more than 70 took buses from Somerset and Hunterdon Counties (NJ)...39 members of the Palm Beach County (FL) community travelled on a commercial flight...Cincinnati sent 200 people to the raily, half on a commercial flight, the rest on two buses...The New York City area produced the largest out-of-town delegation with a turnout of about 40,000. A total of three planes and 400 buses were chartered.



Top: A special Amirak "Freedom Train" transported many New Jersey residents to Washington, including this contingent from Central New Jersey waiting at the Metro Park Station.

Right: Boston was just one of the communities which opted to charter planes for the trip to the rally.

aged meals were prepared. The food surplus was shared with people from other cities, some of whom thought Boston had provided food for all 250,000 participants! The bounty included 1,600 bran muffins, 5,000 pita breads, 1,000 bagels, 7,000 pieces of fruit, 5,000 slices of cheese, 2,500 sodas, 800 pounds of tunafish and egg salad and 2,500 cups of hot, freshly-brewed coffee. Boston also boasted a top-notch communications system, including five cellular telephones, four bull horns and six walkie-talkies, which permitted constant communication between the rally site, Dulles Airport, RFK Stadium and Federation headquarters in Boston...Over 1,000 letters from religious school children, teens and adults from the St. Louis area were left in the care of Missouri Congressmen Jack Buechner and Ike Skelton. The letters, addressed to Gorbachev, were personally delivered to the Soviet Embassy in Washington by Buechner and Skelton...A rabbi travelling with the Ocean County (NJ) group ran into his son who came in from Michigan...During the rally, a chance meeting occurred between Vladimir Slepak and a member of the Worcester delegation, who had received a refusenik bracelet bearing Slepak's name. Together, they broke the bracelet. In order to preserve all the memorable events of the day, an 18-minute professional videotape was made by a member of the Worcester group. The tape is being offered to major Jewish organizations nationwide...Staffers at the Detroit Jewish Community Council unexpectedly became travel agents while trying to ensure transportation for their delegation. The staff ran a special computer program to arrange the constantly changing seating needs...Omaha sponsored the participation of a non-Jewish lawyer, an activist for Soviet Jewry who lives 100 miles away in a small Iowa town...More than half a million dollars was granted by the New York Federation to its Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, to cover rally expenses.

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