

THE VOICE OF MICAH

AN OCCASIONAL JOURNAL OF FACT, OPINION & CHUTZPAH FROM 'THE COMMUNITY OF MICAH'

P.O. BOX 19162 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202-462-1982)

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Hi!

I'm currently in the process of watching myself get snowed-in. The weatherman said it wouldn't snow much in Washington, D.C. but it seems to just keep coming down.....and it's really pretty.

This might be the last mailing you receive. There are currently something in the area of 2000 or so people on our mailing list. That's too many for us to send a regular mailing to regularly; not to mention the expense.

We're sorry. What we tried to do is send this kind of 'formal' mailing out every few months or so.....we've been doing that for about a year now. What we've also done tho, is to send out other mailings regularly to a 'select' group of about 350 people who've been in contact with us on a regular basis.....they usually send us their mailings, write letters, talk with us, come to conferences, belong to collectives struggling with the same questions we are, send money, etc. What we send them are invitations to meetings, books, info, personal letters, free newspapers-----whatever we thought would be nice to share with our friends.

If you haven't gotten any of those goodies I've mentioned, it doesn't necessarily mean you aren't a friend-----it could also mean we're sloppy & misplaced letters or requests for information you might have sent us or whatever. Or, it could mean that with all the other things you have to do, you don't have time to write or send money.

Okay! We understand. But here's what we'd like to do. We want to send out a more personal mailing on a more or less regular basis to a smaller group of people. It will vary in format from month to month. They'll be no 'subscription' cost-----just send in some bread whenever you can. We'll try a number of different formats-----ranging from a sort of Jewish radical I.F. STONE to a kind of 'gossip' sheet of things happening around the country you might be interested in.

Re money.....we can always use some. Send whatever you can afford & whatever you think we're worth-----not just for the cost of the newsletter but for our organizing. If you can afford something like \$25.00 or any large sum, remember that we're tax-deductible (make it out to the 'Religious Community of Micah, Inc.'). Unfortunately, we've got no Jewish 'sugar-dadies' (if you know of any who'd be interested in us tho, please pass this on). Sooooooo....remember us during our forthcoming holiday of Jewish resistance, Hanukkah (Dec. 18th) or whenever you have some spare bread. Okay!

The struggle is hard; especially when you feel you're by yourself. Send us your newsletters, reactions, letters & Hanukkah gelt. We try to answer any letter we receive with an honest, personal answer.

SHALOM



Mike Tabor for the Community of Micah.

P.S. Please don't address your letters 'sir' or 'gentlemen'.....try 'people' or 'friends' or something.

P.P.S.-----Enclosed you'll find 2 attachments. One concerns our 'TREES FOR VIETNAM' project. Please post it in your synagogue, community center...wherever you think people might see it. Also, you'll find a publicity sheet on Art Waskow. Art contributes his speaking money to 'Micah'. It's the best fund-raiser we have. So pass it onto your rabbi, Hillel director, etc.....whoever might be interested in having him speak.

HAVE YOU SIGNED THE JEWISH CAMPAIGN FOR THE PEOPLE'S PEACE TREATY YET?

HAVE YOU BOUGHT A TREE IN VIETNAM?

By Peter A. Jay

Washington Post Foreign Service

ABOARD THE USS ENTERPRISE—Navy pilots, flying off this huge floating airfield and other carriers in the Tonkin Gulf, are playing a bigger role than ever in the continuing American air war.

The nuclear-powered Enterprise is launching nearly 100 planes a day, most of them laden with thousands of pounds of high explosive or napalm and bound for the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

In a few days another carrier, the Constellation, will join the Enterprise here at Yankee Station off the coast of the two Vietnams.

"The Army's going home," one young pilot here said cheerfully, "but the planes are going to be busy for a long time."

TREES FOR VIETNAM- A Way Out of the De-Humanization?

Just as some of us look back at the Holocaust & ask our selves 'What did our parents do to stop it?', we might suspect our children look back at Vietnam & ask us what did we do to end it? How will we reply? The excuse 'We didn't know it was happening' won't be valid. Will we tell them we wrote letters to Congressmen, marched on demonstrations, refused to pay taxes, refused to serve in the military.....remained silent?

The most common complaint one hears is that it seems impossible to influence this Administration. Maybe so. But people now almost refuse to believe & don't want to hear about things like an escalation in the Air War-----they'd like to think the troops are being pulled-out & it's ending.

One thing for sure, outside of passing a lot of nice motions, Jewish organizations have done very little to end the war....& some of them haven't even said they're opposed to it. Aid for Jewish c.o.'s, resistance work, counseling, etc., have received very low priority amongst Jewish establishment organizations. JPF is having it's worst financial crisis, the LAHC prefers to spend its time quibbling over its dues structure, the Reconstructionists are afraid to take a stand, the Zionists have been all but bought-off by the Administration & its Jets for Israel (with the exception of the Radical [student] Zionists & the Hasbomer Hatzair).

So what are we doing? Well not much, actually. We've tried to work against the dehumanization effect the War has on us. We speak at synagogues, temples, youth groups, etc., but mostly they don't want to hear from the War.....'what have the Vietnamese ever done for the Jews?' a man asked me recently. Mordecai Kaplan recently asked that his name be withdrawn from the Peace Treaty ('I thought it was another petition' he said), because it was associated with known New Leftists. Oy, Oy, Oy!

One of the things we've tried to do which is not, by any means 'radical' or 'new Leftist,' or whatever bad or negative connotations people use nowadays, is try to raise money for something the Vietnamese people want & need....& something which is very Jewish-----TREES! It's only a symbolic gift, but it can represent the extent to which people feel themselves not at war with the Vietnamese people. As the enclosed leaflet explains, we're currently working on specific villages which badly need the vegetation & fruit the trees can provide. Will you help? Will you try & approach your local 'receptive' Jewish group, rabbi, friend, etc.? If you want to help but don't know who to contact, send us your name & we'll try & put someone in your community in touch with you. Okay!

A CONFERENCE ON THE REVITALIZATION OF AMERICAN JEWRY

It all wasn't as impressive as the title suggests. On the weekend of October 22nd about 103 people got together at Washington, D.C.'s Jewish Counter-Cultural Center, The FABRANGEN. They came from about 40 different cities, towns, campuses---hitching, riding, flying. The people ranged in age & background but most were in their early 20's & were, what you'd call 'alienated' from things called Jewish until recently. People were & are still involved in abortion counseling, consciousness-raising, Venceramos Brigade, etc. It started on Friday night with a Kabbalat Shabbat service of singing, dancing, music & vegetarian kosher food. Some stayed for the whole weekend but others only caught bits & pieces & then had to leave. It ended with singing & dancing & communal collapse & good feeling. There were some 17 workshops which were scheduled----about 14 actually came-off. They included topics like: 'Resistance in the Jewish Community or Where's our Berrigan?' 'Reaching the Jewish Working Class---Is there an Alternative to JDL?' 'Jewish Racism & Black Anti-Semitism,' 'Women & Judaism,' 'Coming Out Jewish & Gay,' 'New Alternatives in the Middle East.' Very few of the better-known Jewish counter-cultural people came...some were speaking, others performing weddings, etc. Many came with doubt about their ability to maintain a dual identity of gay, revolutionary, etc. & Jewish. Others came & left with strong re-inforcement & pride in their identity. The conference generated all kinds of feelings, vibes; the most common talk was of another meeting or meetings sometime in the future. We'll try & keep you informed.

A RADICAL JEWISH SUMMER CAMP, ANYONE???

A group of Jews living in the Washington area hope to start a 'Jewish Communitarian Work Camp' this summer. It will be run on a shared, democratic basis with a 'staff' of about 20 & about 50 or 60 campers (from 13 to 18 years old). The camp will be based in part on Martin Buber call for a 'full cooperative in which celebration, social action & productive work are fused as activities of one community.' It will also be based on our belief that the Jewish People in North America must rediscover its own basic needs & vision if it is to be free'.....'We see the Israeli kibbutz as the nearest model of what we seek to build.....' (from their proposal). They have already located & secured a site in the Washington/Baltimore/Philadelphia area. If you, or you know of any friends, relatives, etc. who might be interested, please write: Camp Working Group, 2158 Florida Ave., N.W. Washington, D. C. for further information.

INTELLIGENCE-----WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OTHER CITIES, GOSSIP, RUMOR, ETC. *

A group in Baltimore which originally started out as a support group for the 'Jewish Campaign for the People's Peace Treaty' turned into a group called 'Baltimore Jews for Peace.' They had a 'peace service' which attracted about 500 or so people. Rabbi Balfour Brickner came down from N.Y.C., to conduct the service. If interested in conducting such a service in your city, try writing or being in contact with Thea Braiterman (311 Tuscany Road, Baltimore, Md., 21210).

In Philadelphia, shortly after we planted our tree on the Capitol grounds (see picture on enclosed leaflet), a group of people got together in Philadelphia to also plant a tree to symbolize peace between the Jewish & Vietnamese people. This was planted in front of Independence Hall. A wide variety of groups took part. Since the tree planting, they've formed a group called the 'Jewish Radical Community.' A person who could tell you a lot more is Peter Braun (3425 Powelton Ave., Apt. C-6, Philadelphia, Pa. 19104) who is a student at the Reconstructionist Seminary.

Also in Philadelphia, Shoshana & Mel Silberman are trying to work within the confines of a synagogue to try to establish a feeling of community (impossible you say?). A couple of Friday nights ago they had their first Shabbat celebration. 50 women, men & children came, sang, danced, & welcomed the Sabbath Queen together---they also shared a potluck dinner. All this before the ~~service~~ began. For further info write to the Silberman family.... 526 Westview Street, Philadelphia, Pa. They're really good people!

A number of people have come together in Chicago under the name 'Am Chai.....they have been meeting, consciousness-raising, speaking, etc. for a number of months now. A number of them are into starting their own Jewish newspaper. Others are involved in draft resistance, gay liberation, Jewish working-class organizing, gay liberation, the rabinat(!) They're really still trying to get their heads together on a number of things and would probably be open to hearing from you... if you're in the Chicago area. Try writing to Myron Perlman (2118 N. Clifton St., Chicago, Ill.) Also, if you're interested in being in touch with a gay brother whose into Jewish things, try writing Robbie at 1918 N. Dayton Street, (Rear), Chicago, Ill.

One group which has been meeting on a weekly basis for over a year now is the 'N.Y. Jewish Women's Group' If you'd like info on starting one in your city or in finding out what kind of things they've been talking about, try writing to Carol Grosberg (310 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.) Also, Ruth Balsler in Boston, who has been involved in Women's liberation groups for a while now, has said she wants to start a Jewish Women's group in the Boston area. Try writing her at 43 Willow Ave., if you're interested. Oh yes that's in Somerville, Mass.



Rob Schachter is the person to write to in Washington, D.C. if you're interested in knowing when the meetings of the 'Greater Washington Jewish Revolutionary Cabal' take place. The group has been meeting weekly, has had guerilla theatre, performed a 'cranky' show, & is trying to figure out which way it wants to go. If interested, write Robin & say something about where your head's at Jewishly & politically (some would not separate the two!). Write him at: 3650 Alton Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

In Ithaca, N.Y. a group of people hve been meeting regularly to try & determine direction, action, Jewishness, etc., Contact Howard Bergman (206 Cascadilla Ave., Apt. 9, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850) for more info.

Past the Great Divide, out in the wilds of Los Angeles, a group called the Jewish Radical Community has been flourishing. They've been doing all sorts of interesting things for a while now. Recently, they leafletted a JDL Kahane talk with their special 'leaflet/criticism/analysis'-----'Is Kahane Our Golem?' which was really an impressive, together kind of thing. They've also formed a 'non-Zionist Caucus'. Write: Jill, 900 Hilgard Ave., L.A. 90024 for further info.

Burton Weiss, Jewish movement poet, writer, teacher, was fired from his teaching job at a 'religious school' in Buffalo, N.Y. He went to the congregation to bring his case before the community & with a shout 'not on our Bar Mitzvah you don't' was beaten to the floor. Don't have his address handy in Buffalo....he's recovered, tho.

The people who have been listed as contact people, are not necessarily 'leaders' for the various groups. But they'll probably be helpful or forward your letter to the appropriate person .

If you ^{have} information, gossip, rumor, etc. you'd be willing to share with others, please send it to Box 19162, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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B'NAI B'RITH'S DEFAMATION LEAGUE

The turning-over of info by a ADL person to the FBI is not something new. They've been doing it for years now. The question is now over whether a Jewish group should be informing on other Jews---whether or not they agree or disagree with the purposes of the group.

If you have additional info on ADL spying, informing, etc. type work. If so, please feel free to mail it to us--anonymously or whatever. We're collecting a file. What we'd like to do is publish ADL memos to the FBI, info re their work on paying 'informers' to work in Jewish Movement groups, etc. Thanks.