



JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

HEBREW SPEAKING CIRCLE OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - 1946-1976

PROGRAM

- Dinner - Hamotzi . . . . . Philip Liebman
- Birkat Hamazon . . . . . Rabbi Kenneth Cohen
- Opening Remarks . . . . . Simon Steinberg, President
- Remarks . . . . .
  - Harry Bluestone
  - Rabbi Simon Krinsky
  - Rabbi Jacob Kraft
  - Rabbi Herbert Drooz
  - Rabbi Leonard Gewirtz
  - Rabbi David Geffen, Ph.D.
  - Dr. Philip Birnbaum
- Greetings . . . . . Bernard Siegel, President  
Jewish Federation of Delaware  
  
Frank Chaiken, President  
Jewish Community Center  
  
William Penn Frank, Vice President  
Jewish Historical Society of Delaware
- Address . . . . . Professor Uziel Adini, Ph.D.  
"HEBREW - CONTINUITY OF NATIONAL UNITY"
- Selections . . . . . Choral Group  
Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth  
Faith Brown, Director

Wine - compliments of Vera Steinberg

"Behold how pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity"

May 30, 1976 - 1 & 2 Sivan 5736



I have my orders. Not more than a minute or two.

So I said to myself, "What can you say or should say within a minute or two?"

First, I said to myself, "But of course, you should say something in Hebrew."

So ~~ix~~, upon reflection I decided -- "mah nishta nah a ha-liela azea michol a lay lot--"

Why is this night different from others? Because (1)

I am in a group dedicated to speaking Hebrew.

Next because I have been able once ~~x~~ more to <sup>renew</sup> know acquaintances Mr

with the greatest scholar we've had in Wilmington--Dr. Philip

Birnbaum whose books are ever fresh ~~xx~~ on my bookshelves.

Next--because Hug Ivri is proving a point I once made. And to be a name <sup>d</sup> dropper.

Some of my ~~x~~ best friends have been bishops--Catholic and

Episcopal. And one of them was the late beloved Bishop Michael

Hyle. I remember when he returned from Rome with the news that

the mass would be in English. I said to him Why? He said Catholics

can't cope with Latin. <sup>l</sup> "Why not popularize Latin?"

He said it can't be done. I said the Jews <sup>have</sup> are popularizing Hebrew. ed

And if they can do that, why can't Catholics do the same with Latin? "

to X...  
ahm

In his fascinating and extremely readable book,

Jewish Concepts. Dr. Birnbaum ~~wrote~~ wrote:

"It has been asserted ~~that~~ that any one with a sense of language and history, irrespective of religious or national sentiment, is ~~sure~~ thrilled to hear the majestic sounds of ancient Hebrew roll ~~off~~ off the tongues of little children in modern Israel. ~~Modern~~ revival of the Hebrew language is an unprecedented phenomenon. One must not forget that the Hebrew language has persisted as a functional organ and not as a museum ~~exhibit~~ exhibit under the most adverse conditions.

✓

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~~I told of some of experiences in Israel~~

~~children and adults talking away in Hebrew.~~

Hyle  
^

I told ~~him~~ there was a group of men and women in Wilmington meeting regularly and talking in Hebrew/

He seemed interested.

But poor Bishop Hyle never got beyond that point. He was caught up in the great change over in the Catholic ritual.

He became sick. We both seemed to have ~~confest~~ -- who could ~~smokd~~ more cigarettes at a sitting. ~~But~~ I recall one of the last times we met in his home on Saturday morning, he said to me, "Frank,

I want to sit in on that Hebrew speaking group you told me about.

start  
}

Maybe we could ~~popilzrizing~~ Latin among the good people of St. Anthony's."

The Italian group. Unfortunately, Bishop Hyle died before ~~we~~ I could arrange that. I wish ~~xxx~~ he were here tonight. It just might have

xL

been an incentive. As a spokesman tonight for the Jewish Historical Soc.,

of Del., I want to say this is an important night--a different from

many other nights. Your 30th anniversary. Maybe some one skilled

in music can tell us the significance of 30. The best I can do is

to ~~xxx~~ discover there are 30 words in Hebrew expressing justice and

humanity. and according to Dr. Birnbaum not a single adequate term for slave.

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But ~~st~~ I'd like to challenge the Hug Ivri-- to write down to record the nitty gritty details of the group.

What obstacles you had and overcame. The human interest details.

What were the conversations all about?

And now a final note, in keeping with the B. centennial---

I have finally tracked down a report--

During the American "evolution, there arose this ~~intense~~ intense hatred of anything that smacked of English. Extreme patriots detested the report that Americans were speaking the English language. So somewhere around 1778, it was seriously suggested ~~in~~ in Congress that Hebrew become the national language of the new nation. It wasn't as startling then as it may seem now, since scholars all over the nation were very proud of their skill in Hebrew. Just think of the impact upon the world, if this had happened. It might have hastened the arrival of the Messiah.

May 12, 1976

Mr. Nathan Barnett  
Jewish Federation of Delaware  
701 Shipley Street  
Wilmington, Delaware, 19801

Dear Nate:

Pursuant to our conversation yesterday, let me make the following points about the 30th anniversary celebration of the Hug Ivri:

1. The Wilmington Hug Ivri is the oldest continual Hebrew speaking circle in America.
2. The fact that the Hug Ivri is sponsored by the Jewish Community Center is quite unique.
3. The Hug Ivri has a rich history and the group has had a significant impact on Jewish education in our state.
4. A page in the Jewish Voice marking this 30th anniversary on May 30 would be most appropriate because of the uniqueness of this organization.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Simon Steinberg  
President, Hug Ivri