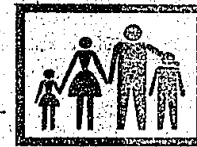


# Suburban Life

Loraine McClish editor/477-5450



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## Mission accomplished There's a bit of James Bond in trip to Russia

By Loraine McClish  
staff writer

Five area people traveled to Russia this fall, each with baggage that weighed about 125 pounds, and returned to Farmington Hills, Southfield and Birmingham with not much more than the clothes on their backs.

With suitcases, carry-ons and pockets filled with gifts, their purpose was to visit the Russian Jews who have been refused papers to leave the country while the five were ostensibly on tour in the Soviet Union.

"You could hardly call it a vacation," said Gershon Weiner of Farmington Hills, who told of making phone calls three blocks away from the hotel and talking in code in attempts not to make any more trouble for a Jewish family whose life was already made difficult by its government.

"It really did smack a bit of James Bond," his wife Jeannie said. She told of making circuitous routes by the metro and cab, and then walking the rest of the way to visit one of the Refuseniks on the list of those they wanted to see.

The couple traveled with Alan and Beverly Yost of Southfield and Rabbi Norman Roman of Temple Beth El, in Birmingham, whose passport listed him as "educator."

THE FIVE travelers, who entered the country with a tour group, went under the auspices of Detroit Metro Chapter of Jewish Community Council and its committee to aid Soviet Jewry.

Similar groups have gone before them and similar groups will follow in the efforts to let the Soviet Jew know, in Jeannie Weiner's words, "somebody is keeping track of what is happening to you."

The travelers brought in books, Jewish articles, prayer shawls, tape recorders, Jewish music, food, medicine; anything they thought the Refusenik could use or sell or give away to another Refusenik and abundant amounts of clothes.

"We wore as much clothing as we could wear without looking outrageous. My purse was actually a second carry-on, and we all left our coats there," Jeannie Weiner said.

But even as the couple can talk lightly about their laborious job of packing and planning for the trip, the gifts they took were secondary in their mission.

"The most important thing we did was let them know that others know of their plight. They know that we know who they are. We know their backgrounds; how they've been bugged and

harrassed; how many times they've been refused emigration," Gerson Weiner said.

"The moral support we gave with our presence is much more important than dollars or gifts."

ANOTHER factor in the mission was getting information in and out of the country.

"I'm calling someone's sister in Massachusetts this week and someone else's daughter in Houston, with messages, personal things," Jeannie Weiner said. "Letters are sometimes censored and sometimes just don't get there, but we keep writing."

The letters she refers to are, in part, personal letters from one family to another, and, in part, letters written through the Adopt-a-Family program where Jews here commit themselves to writing to one Refusenik family a month.

"Whether they get the letter or not is not important in this case," Jeannie Weiner said.

"The government knows there is someone who is going to be upset and make a fuss if that family suddenly disappears. It is our way of keeping those people in the limelight and at the same time letting them know that somebody in the world is concerned about their welfare. So if the government is reading our mail that's OK with us."

There are about 100,000 Jews in the Soviet Union on record who are known to want to leave the country, and not many more than a few are leaving every month.

The travelers from the Detroit area made contact with seven families whose phone numbers they had been

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— Jeannie Weiner



given in the Moscow and Leningrad areas, many of whom called others for gatherings in their homes.

"ONLY ONE person we contacted told us 'no good' (in Hebrew) over the phone," Jeannie Weiner said after she identified herself. "But most of them made a party of it."

The gatherings were accomplished while the five were still posing as tourists, seeing the sights, visiting museums and places on the tour agenda.

"They had to know something was

funny about our actions," Gershon Weiner said. "We would be out until 2 in the morning and up to catch the tour bus at 8 a.m. and in between away from the group making bone calls, and our luggage getting lighter every day, walking blocks away from the hotel to get a cab."

One of the boons for the travelers was at the very end of the tour, after they had cleared Soviet air space, when they told fellow tourists what their purpose in being there was.



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## Botsford to give free blood tests for diabetes

Free blood tests to help detect diabetes will be offered by 180 Michigan hospitals, including Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, during Diabetes Detection Week, Nov. 6-12. Tests at Botsford will be given 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 7-11. Participants should report to laboratory reception area.

sponsored by the American Diabetes Association, Michigan affiliate and is open to people over 18 years of age who have not previously been diagnosed as diabetic.

An estimated 240,000 people in Michigan have diabetes and don't know it. Those most likely to develop diabetes are over 40, overweight and have a

family history of diabetes. They should be checked once a year for diabetes, advises Dr. Nancy Caputo, detection chairman.

Diabetes is a serious disease that is a major cause of heart attack, kidney failure, blindness and death. The symptoms of diabetes, when present, may include frequent urination, abnormal

thirst, unusual hunger, rapid weight loss, itching, fatigue, blurred vision and slow healing of cuts and scratches.

FOR BEST results, a meal high in carbohydrates with large amounts of starches and sugars should be eaten two hours before the tests. Breakfast could be fruit or juice, cereal with milk

and sugar, two slices of buttered toast with jam, and coffee or tea.

A person planning to take the test after lunch could have soup, a sandwich, cake or pie and a glass of milk. The meal should be eaten within a 15-minute time period and nothing else except water should be taken before the test. If the test indicates that a person

may have diabetes, he/she will be advised to their own physician for further evaluation.

This screening test and the recommended high carbohydrate meal are not appropriate for people who have been told that they have diabetes.

For further information about Detection Week and other programs and services of the Association, call 553-5450.

## Band kicks off 18th season

The Farmington Community Band will open its 18th concert season at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, with "Fall Classics," a salute to the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) on its 50th anniversary. The performance will be held at Farmington Harrison High School, 29995 12 Mile.

The guest conductor will be Ted Smith, the president of the MSBOA and music di-

rector of the South Redford Schools.

Conductor R. Paul Barber will open the concert with the brass fanfare "La Peri" by Paul Dukas followed by the Wind Ensemble in Overture for Band by Felix Mendelssohn.

The full concert band will continue with La Fiesta Mexicana by E. Owen Reed, Arranged by Antonia Lotti, March from Symphonic Armenian Dances Part I by Alfred Reed. Guest conductor Smith will conduct the Armenian Dances

The concert will conclude with the Norman Dello Joie composition Variations on a Medieval Tune.

Tickets at \$5 per family, \$2 per adult and \$1 for senior citizens and students will be available at the door. Tickets for the annual food-raiser Valentine Dinner Dance also will be available.

Additional information may be obtained by calling 661-4604.



## Murder Among Friends

"Murder Among Friends" opens Friday, Nov. 11, and continues Nov. 12, 19 and 20 in Novi Community Building on Novi Road and Grand River. Stage One Productions players are from left

Tom Artushin, Susan Borin, Roger Walker, Anthony Love, Jannette Artushin, and Stephen Tezyk. Tickets are available by calling Chris Rouns, 669-4050.

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