

Suburban Life

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'What we need in that region (Mideast) is a peace policy, not an arms policy. What we do not need is more missiles and bombs aimed at Haifa, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and the Western Wall.'
— Sen. Edward M. Kennedy



Attorney General Frank Kelley (left), received the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award at an Israel Bond tribute dinner in Farmington Hills on Sunday. What he asks of producer Ivan Bloch is a good table at Sardi's, the eatery Bloch recently acquired in the Big Apple.

Irish friends boost Israel

By Shirlee Rose Iden staff writer

AS A KEYNOTE speaker, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy hit all the right notes at a tribute dinner for state of Israel Bonds last Sunday evening. "It is time for King Hussein of Jordan to stop talking about peace in the abstract, and start talking directly with Israel at the conference table," the Massachusetts Democrat said. "He may bring Palestinians with him, but he must not bring killers, kidnapers or members of the PLO." Kennedy addressed about 500 persons gathered at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills to honor Michigan Attorney General Frank J. Kelley for his help in raising develop-

ment funds for Israel and for his long record of humanitarianism.

Kelley, in whose honor some \$1,196,500 in Israel Bonds were sold, received the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award.

AMONG those attending were Michigan Supreme Court Justice G. Mennen Williams and his wife, Nancy; Doug and Sydel Schobot of Franklin, U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, D-Southfield; Rick Weiner, Michigan Democratic Party chairman; and Ivan and Linda Bloch.

Doreen Hermelin represented her husband, David, national chairman of Israel Bonds, holding the fort in California with Gen. Ariel Sharon at another bond tribute dinner. The honoree, keynoter and Gov.

'When President Reagan meets with General Secretary (Mikhail) Gorbachev in Geneva this week, he will make the case for arms control, but he must also make the case for justice, human rights, and for an end to religious persecution by the Kremlin.'

— Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

James Blanchard were knee deep in media when the senator requested a photograph with several of the waitresses from "On the Rocks" Service who were busily serving guests at a private reception preceding dinner.

Wendy Boettcher of Grand Blanc, Haley Mills of Detroit and Jean Smyka-Warner reported: He just came up and asked if we wanted a

picture. The women added they did and posed with Kennedy, Gov. Blanchard, and Kelley.

Also part of the celebration were Stratton Brown, dinner chairman; George Roumell, representing the Michigan Bar; Dennis Archer, newly appointed justice of the Michigan Supreme Court; and D. Dan Kahn, Metro Division chairman of state of Israel Bonds.

"What we do for Israel is good for the U.S.," Kahn emphasized in his words on behalf of the state of Israel. He urged the audience to go to Israel to see the great system of highways and other parts of the infrastructure that bond money has made possible.

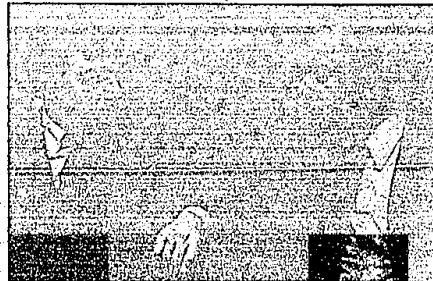
"AND GO SEE the beautiful roses packed carefully each night to go to

Europe for sale." Kahn reported that of \$14,000,000 sold in Michigan during 1985, some \$5,000,000 were purchased by the state of Michigan "only after assurance of what a good investment they are."

Blanchard greeted Frank Kelley as "a great public servant and a Michigan public institution" and told how, as a member of Kelley's staff more than two decades ago he "had to decide whether to get pretzels or potato chips for campaign parties."

The governor in presenting Kelley with the humanitarian award called him "a great Democrat, a great defender of the Constitution and a great friend of Israel."

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Rick Weiner, Democratic party leader (above, left), pays attention to U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, D-Southfield, in above photo. At left, Gov. James Blanchard, U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley pose with cocktail waitresses: Wendie Boettcher, Haley Mills and Jean Smyka-Warner.

Staff photos by Randy Borst

Activists exult as Soviet Jew gets an exit visa

By Shirlee Rose Iden staff writer

Has Sharfman couldn't stop crying: Bill Brodhead was elated and mildly surprised; and Phil Jordan was simply delighted.

The news this weekend that the Soviets will grant exit visas to about a dozen people of the Jewish faith as they can be reunited with families in the west has coaxed a smile to many a face.

For these three, the joy is something extra.

The news that one family being allowed to leave Moscow is the Abe Stolar family is a meaningful gift to some who worked to free him, to allow him to enjoy the freedom that "is his birthright."

Stolar is one of many, many Soviet Jews who languish in the USSR, unwell, malnourished, but not allowed to leave.

There is a difference though — Stolar, now 76, is an American, a midwesterner, a Chicagoan trapped in Moscow for over a half century. Stolar went to Russia from Chicago with his parents in 1931. His parents, both born in Russia, had left in 1920.

In Russia, the family worked on the English language newspaper, Moscow Daily News, but Stolar never planned to stay. He knew he was American and didn't let it concern him when his passport, along with the families', was exchanged for Russian identity papers.

LATER he found he was not free to leave.

His father disappeared in the Stalin purges in 1938 and a year later, his mother and sister were arrested and sent to Siberia where they died.

Stolar became an announcer, married Gita in 1956 and in 1974 the family applied for a visa to leave the Soviet Union.

'In all my years, it was the first time I had a choice of who to vote for.'

— Abe Stolar

The next year, the Stolars and their son got exit permits and prepared to leave. But on June 19, 1975, as they were boarding the plane to emigrate, the family was detained by passport control on the pretext that Gita had been engaged in secret work.

"The Soviets would never have issued the exit permits if that were true," Sharfman said.

At first they were told there would be a two-year secrecy delay. Stolar and his son obtained U.S. passports, while Gita was granted Israeli citizenship.

Eight years later, they were told to apply for exit visas, but permission

was denied. In a catch-22 situation, the Russians claimed the Stolars as USSR citizens, while U.S. authorities claim they hold dual citizenship that the Soviets do not recognize.

NEITHER Stolar nor his wife have been allowed to work since they applied to leave. A sister who often traveled from Israel to the U.S. worked on their behalf, but died several years ago.

"They lived on gifts from outside the country and may have been granted a small pension," Sharfman said.

Through the long years, Sharfman has arranged birthday remembrances

for Stolar, made phone calls to him and written to him, as have others.

When Brodhead was congressman for the 17th district, his office took an activist attitude on Soviet Jewry in general and Abe Stolar in particular.

"The Congressman and even the Governor (Blanchard) would write letters, make phone calls and urge others on too," said Jordan, now a Blanchard aide, but formerly Brodhead's top aide.

"Abe Stolar's case was special for us," he recalled. "He would write to us and he wrote and spoke idiomatic English, which was so good for us."

"The Chairman would give me stamps from his letters for my kids and then she told Abe my kid saves stamps, so he would send them."

A YEAR AGO, for the first time in his life, Abe Stolar, American citizen voted in the presidential election.

From Sharfman's Southfield home, a call was placed a week in advance to Stolar to offer support, check on the

family and find out how the new voter felt.

The Eccentric was invited to monitor the call between Stolar and his friend in Southfield, a friend to any Soviet Jew in difficulty.

"In all my years, it was the first time I had a choice of who to vote for," Stolar said. "Four years ago someone sent me an absentee ballot but it came too late. This time it was easy. I voted at the American Embassy."

The call was one of hundreds Sharfman has placed in the past decade and a half to the Soviet Union.

She can't recall how many she has made to an elderly aunt of Stolar's in Israel, who has stayed close and tried hard to get her nephew and family out.

"But I know I just have to call her now," Sharfman says.

Brodhead, who met Stolar and his family in the USSR in 1982, said: "We really have something to celebrate now."