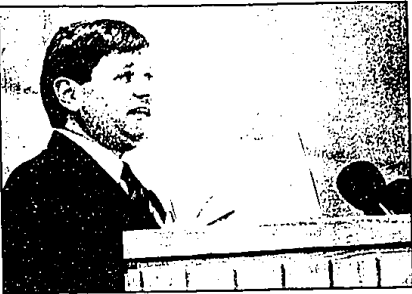


Rally planned for Washington

Continued from Page 1

gogue that year as part of a Western appeal to rally support for her husband's release.

SHARANSKY, A computer tech-



photos by JOHN STORMZAND

Rabbi Elye Spectre of Adat Shalom Synagogue holds a box that once held medallions and bracelets given to each boy on his Bar Mitzvah during the years of Natan Sharansky's imprisonment. The boys returned the "call for release" items after Sharansky was freed in 1986.

nologist and human rights activist, was freed in February 1986 after nine years of Soviet imprisonment and interrogation by the KGB, the Soviet security police. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison and labor camps following his 1977 conviction for espionage, treason and anti-Soviet agitation. Both he and U.S. officials denied he spied for the CIA.

His wife was granted an exit visa shortly before their wedding and was told the visa would expire in two weeks. She emigrated to Israel the day after their 1974 wedding, believing Natan would join her in a few months. They didn't see each other for another 12 years.

In prison, he spent 400 days in solitary confinement and refused solid food for at least two periods of nearly 100 days each to protest his treatment. He said he suffered physical and mental torture but was not beaten.

Sharansky visited the Detroit area as part of a national tour to build support for a national march for Soviet Jews, dubbed "Let Our People Go." The march is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6, in Washington, D.C.

That's the eve of the historic four-day summit between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan. Thousands of Jews and non-Jews of all ages are expected to take part in a march to keep the issue of human rights high on the summit agenda. The ultimate goal: freedom for all

Soviet Jews who want to emigrate.

THE NEW openness in the Soviet Union, called glasnost, suggests a more liberal emigration policy. So does the modest increase in emigration numbers as well as the publicized release of high profile dissidents. No Hebrew teacher has been arrested in more than a year.

But new emigration obstacles may reflect a decision to allow short-term gain for a few thousand individuals while closing off future possibilities, Sharansky said.

Since 1968, 650,000 affidavits of invitation have been sent from Israel to Soviet Jews; 270,000 permits have been granted. Another 383,000 are waiting to leave.

Since Jan. 1, despite glasnost, only Soviet Jews with parents, children and siblings abroad can receive the necessary invitation for family unification. "So more than 90 percent cannot even apply," Sharansky said.

Even if this hurdle was removed, Soviet officials increasingly have used possession of state secrets as a reason to deny exit visas.

Still, Sharansky sees Gorbachev as a new type of leader. "He's a realist. He's not a champion of human rights. But he's realistically concerned about the economic situ-

ation in the Soviet Union. He's concerned about the technological gap between the Soviet Union and the United States of America."

GORBACHEV NOT only sees the importance of Western ties, but also the influence of human rights. "He understands he must urgently change his image. If such a leader will see he cannot crush us, that he can't make us complacent, if he understands there is no other way to reach his aims in the West without meeting our demands, he'll have more chance for success than any of his predecessors," Sharansky said.

If Jews are complacent toward the "looser" Soviet emigration policy, "then the doors of the Soviet Union will be closed." That's why, Sharansky said, "it's very important what kind of historical message Gorbachev receives when he comes to Washington."

Gorbachev must see American unity of support. "Each of you has a unique opportunity in your lifetime to make a difference to influence the fate of our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union," Sharansky said.

"The KGB was trying to convince me that my fate was in their hands and not in your hands. And they were wrong. Today, you must



Jeff Spoon of Farmington Hills listens to Natan Sharansky's speech at Adat Shalom Synagogue Sunday.

try to show them again that they are wrong, that the fate of our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union is not in their hands, but in our hands."

Rabbi Elye Spectre of Adat Shalom Synagogue reminded Sharansky's audience that "our joy is only half realized. For those who have been freed, we are grateful for their freedom, for the lives they now can lead outside the Soviet Union in the free world, and for their inspiration. But we know yet what has to be done.

"The call to action, the call to responsibility," he added, "is the voice of Natan Sharansky."

Years in captivity are recounted

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Freed Soviet dissident and former prisoner of conscience Natan Sharansky traced the roots of his struggle for independence from religious persecution to pre-1967, before Israel's historic victory in the Six-Day War.

Before then, most Soviet Jews were completely assimilated. "We knew nothing about our culture, our religion. We didn't know our own language. Even if we wanted, we couldn't study," the Israeli resident said during a visit to Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills Sunday.

Special identification cards subjected Jews to restrictions even if

they wanted to attend a university or apply for a job. "Our experience as Jews was only negative," said Sharansky, 39.

When he was 17, his best friends beat him up when they learned he was Jewish. That transformed him into a Zionist. His activism led him to join the unofficial Helsinki Monitoring Committee to publicize Soviet violations of the international agreements on human rights. Israel's historic military victory reinforced Sharansky's belief that a struggle for dignity and freedom among Soviet Jews wasn't folly. Soon, underground religious schools sprang up. Soviet Jews started to learn about their cultural heritage through books that Western tourists brought in.

From 1974 to 1977, Sharansky, while taunted relentlessly by the KGB, was an international freedom fighter for oppressed Soviet Jews.

AFTER HIS conviction for treason, espionage and anti-Soviet agitation in 1977, Sharansky learned that the KGB, the Soviet security police, viewed his crusade "as one international plot of Zionists. All those hundreds and hundreds of American Jews with whom I was meeting were called my accomplices in crime."

While imprisoned for 13 years, surviving attempts to break his soul was his greatest challenge.

"At my very first interrogation, I was told, 'The doors are closed for

you. There will be no more press conferences, no more criminal contacts. Nobody will ever find out what's happening with you. Your fate is in our hands and also in your hands because if you behave yourself enough, then we are not bloodthirsty. Then you'll be able to soon be released to leave for Israel to join your wife.'"

Both he and U.S. officials denied he spied for the CIA.

The KGB taunted Sharansky for years before his arrest. He said the KGB "almost becomes part of your family, and you are no more afraid of them. You know how to speak to them. You know how to protect yourself."

But eventually, he realized they would kill him if he didn't change

his attitude. "I really struggled. I started listening to their arguments. I started almost losing control over myself."

To help combat that emotional breakdown, he grew accustomed to the word that, in English, means firing squad — the word that triggered heart pain, a dry throat and fear whenever he heard it.

THEN HE noticed the KGB talking about family needs and concerns.

"I started thinking they were the same type of people as I am. Why shouldn't I try to compromise with them, to find camaraderie with them? Why should they want to kill me?"

That thought quickly vanished.

"I knew from the experience of many others that the moment you start looking for compromise with them, the moment you start listening to the KGB and thinking they are the same type of people, then you are in real danger. I knew their system of values and my system of values were different. They needed to change my brains. That was their aim."

Closed off from the world, Sharansky realized he had to harden himself from the KGB and summon up mental pictures of his pursuit of dignity and freedom. He couldn't abandon his mission. As he put it: "The moment you feel that they're no better than you, there is a wall through which they cannot penetrate."

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police, fire and court cases filed during the past week.

● SUSPICIOUS CAR

A man and a woman in a car approached a 6-year-old girl walking along South Farm and asked her if she wanted a ride home at 1:45 p.m. Nov. 21.

She said no and went home. The man and woman were each thought to be about 30 years old, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● SHOT FIRED

A customer was seated within 10 feet of the front window that was the target of a BB at Little Caesar's Pizza, 29235 11 Mile, Nov. 21.

No one was hurt in the 8 p.m. incident. Damage was estimated at \$100, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● SUITES BROKEN INTO

Four suites in an office building at 32605 12 Mile were broken into Nov. 18-19.

Computer equipment valued at \$9,000 was reported missing from two of the suites. Nothing was reported missing from the other suites, according to Farmington Hills police reports.

● CART FOUND

A golf cart valued at \$1,000 was found on the east side of Highmeadow Community School, 30175 Highmeadow, Nov. 23, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● TICKETS ISSUED

A 21-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for violating the controlled substance act when a canister of marijuana was found in his possession following a traffic stop at Forest Elementary School, 34545 Old Timber, at 9 p.m. Nov. 19, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

A 33-year-old Village Lane man was ticketed for the open burning of leaves, in violation of city ordinance, Nov. 22, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● THEFTS REPORTED

More than \$8,000 in money and receipts was reported stolen from Speed Lube, 32686 Grand River, between Oct. 30 and Nov. 9.

About 500 pounds of scrap aluminum coils valued at \$300 were reported stolen from the yard at Trane Co., 24380 Indopex, Nov. 12-20.

A cellular telephone valued at \$2,500 was reported stolen from a car parked at the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River, Nov. 19.

2 charged in stickup of Taco Bell in Hills

The manager of a Farmington Hills Taco Bell conspired with another man to rob the restaurant of more than \$1,000 shortly before closing early Saturday, police allege in warrants issued Tuesday.

Charged with conspiring to rob the Taco Bell at 29925 Orchard Lake were the manager, David Bradley, 20, of Farmington Hills, and Erik Hans Rasmussen, 18, of Detroit.

In warrants signed Tuesday by Magistrate James Brady of the 47th District Court in Farmington, both were charged with four counts of armed robbery and one count of conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

At Rasmussen's arraignment Tuesday, Brady entered a not-guilty plea in the defendant's behalf. No plea was given. Personal bond was set at \$1,000, pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court. Bradley was expected to be arraigned Wednesday, said detective Brian DeGrande of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

The penalty for conviction of either charge is up to life in prison.

ACCORDING to the police report:

A 1976 Ford Mustang valued at \$1,500 was reported stolen from an office building at 32600 Northwest Highway Nov. 19.

Jewelry valued at \$600 was reported stolen from a room at the Dillon Inn, 30715 12 Mile, Nov. 19.

Cash totaling \$40 was reported stolen from Fotomat, 34251 Grand River, Nov. 19-20.

Tools valued at \$510 were reported stolen from Kale's Collision, 31500 Eight Mile, Nov. 20-21.

Sport wheel covers valued at \$760 were reported stolen from four 1988 cars parked at Farmington Hills Chrysler Plymouth, 29301 Grand River, Nov. 20-23.

A gas-powered generator, a power drill and other construction equipment were reported stolen from a construction trailer parked on Inkster Nov. 20-23.

A calculator and a wallet and contents valued at \$140 were reported stolen from a house on Fernhill Nov. 21.

A radar detector valued at \$215 was reported stolen from a car parked at Gaynor's, 30905 Orchard Lake, Nov. 21.

A man wearing a werewolf mask and holding a long-barreled pistol wrapped in newspaper confronted the manager outside the restaurant at 1:10 a.m. Saturday and ordered him inside.

After the gunman ordered four employees into the cooler, the manager was ordered to put the receipts into a garbage bag. The manager then was ordered into the cooler and the gunman left.

There were no customers at the time. No one was hurt. Several rolls of coins were found nearby in a drainage ditch and on the roadway — believed dropped by the gunman.

Officers Michael Farley and Patrick Conini arrested Rasmussen following a traffic stop at Grand River and Purdue Monday evening. During an inventory after the car was impounded for improper license plates, a werewolf mask and a long-barreled toy pistol were found.

Follow-up investigation led to the conspiracy charges. Police believe a third man may have been involved in the conspiracy, but no other warrants have been issued.

Part of the stolen money has been recovered, DeGrande said.

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AUTOGRAPHING SESSION

Monday, November 30

2:30 to 4 p.m.

Slide Presentation, 7:30 p.m.

Livonia

Tuesday, December 1

1 to 2:30 p.m., Birmingham

Author Stuart Jacobson will sign

his latest book, a glamorous

account on gifts from and to

famous personalities. Full-color

photos enhance the stories.

The Art of Giving, \$40.



Happy Holidays

Jacobson's

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Shop Saturday Until 6.