## Soviet emigrants battled, won passage to Israel

By Shirlee Rose Iden

Several years ago, a tall, alender law student from Southfield visited the Soviet Union. During a stay in Leningrad, he met Irina and Evgeny

Leningrad, he met irina and newgon.

Since hat vigit almost a decade
ago, Keith Braun, now a Detroit attorney and do Los counted themtone and the loss counted themtone and the loss of the loss of the loss of the loss

The Leins, recent emigrants to Israel, endured an II-year struggle "to
save our lives and go out (of the
USSR)," In Evgeny's words.

During the years, the friendship
was maintained and communication
continued. Braun always urged interested Americans to visit the Leins
when traveling in the USSR.

SVETLANA BRAUN joined ber husband and came to live in South-field in November 1987. The Lein's long ordeal ended on Jan. 22, 1989, when they arrived in

Israel.
On a tour of U.S. cities, they visited with friends in Farmington Hills, Lenny and Olga Makar-Limanov, and spoke of the odyssey that has led them to freedom.

"Until the last minute when we got permission to leave, we thought it was a ploy of the KGB, that they might punish us by draftling our son, Alex, and separating us," he said.

The Leins first applied for permission to leave the USSR in 1978 and were refused.

were refused.

IN THE time before refusal, they courted, married and had Nehama and Alex. Evgeny Leln was a mathmatician with a doctoral degree, Irl, na, also with a Ph.D., worked as a chemist.

Evgeny and Irina lost their jobs on the same day. He became a watchman, and later a building worker. Attending a seminar to keep his mind active, Evgeny was arrested and imprisoned. Although his lawyer advised himself and was sentenced to three years loo for "resisting authorities."

In ensuing years, his daughter was expelled from the Geology Institute for "activities." He was standered in the newspaper "irvestial" and was dragged from his apartment and severely beaten by the KGB.

The Lein phone was disconnected and Alex was made to stand in class while his father was villited.

trina (left) and Evgeny Lein believe Glasnost hasn't had that much effect on the ability of Russian Jews to emigrate. The couple are on a tour of the United States but are adjusting to life in tereel. believe Glasnost hasn't had that

Evgeny participated in a hunger strike in 1986 and was detained by the police when he joined a group attempting to visit the U.S. Consulate. In 1987, the Lein's daughter, her husband, and their two children, were given permission to leave.

TIME AND again, the family was used as an example by the KGB, which caused them to be dismissed from the jobs, have their mail stopped and their phones cut off. "They were always trying to show our colleagues and neighbors what could happen," he said.

During the 1988 summit in Mocore, the Leins and 14 other families met with Ronald Resgan. Before the

meeting, they were told they could reapply for a visa, but afterward they were refused again. "Every one of the families who met with Reagan were punished in some way after he left," Evgeny said.

AN OLD adage states that life be-gins at 40. For Irina and Evgeny Lein, a new life started when they arrived in Israel in time to be feted

arrived in Israel in time to be feted for their Soth birthdays.

Greeted by their daughter and her family, they met their young grandson, Peretz, and Alex has passed his exams for entrance to the electrical engineering program at the Technion.

## City residents face tax hike

Farmington residents will face a property tax increase averaging 5.8 percent beginning in July to cover the city 8.6.8 million annual budget, adopted June 5.

But the city is rathing book its

the city \$6.8 million annual budget, adopted June 15. Folling back its property tax rate from 10.55 to 10.4 mills. It's just that a mill is now worth more because of increased state equalized values, or \$EV\$. In addition to the increased recognition of the \$68,000 doubt a \$2.9 percent increase in expenditures and declaing revenues. The bulk of the budget, \$4.3 million, will be used to operate the city. The remainder includes the water and sewer, highway and capital funds. The debt service rate of 0.98 mill will remain unchanged. Not addressed in the budget are increased costs for changes in garbage collection and disposal, expect-

ed to come to light in the next year

ed to come to ngm in the control of two.

The public safety department will receive the largest portion of the general fund budget at \$1.33 million, followed by general government expenses, public services, insurance and other fixed expenses,

SOME OF the changes in the coming year include:

• Reorganization of the city assessor, clerk and treasury staffs, as renovations continue at city hall.

• Additional training for public safety officers.

• Street projects, including the city's share of the widening and storm water changes on Orchard Lake Road.

Sewer and water rates are expect-

Sewer and water rates are expected to remain stable in the coming year, as the city received no whole-sale increase from its supplier — the city of Detroit.

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## Officials will look into keeping weight room open

Farmington Public Schools ad-ministrators say they will look into why the weight room at Farmington High isn't open and being used. The issue was raised by graduate and former Farmington High track

star Chris Inch, who said his class helped raise money to open the room, but now it's closed because of lack of supervision. "Coaches are boycotting bringing their teams in there," said Inch, who

oom.
"It's the responsibility factor. This

Inch is the son of trustee Jack Inch, who was teaching class and not at the school board meeting June 6 when the comments were made.

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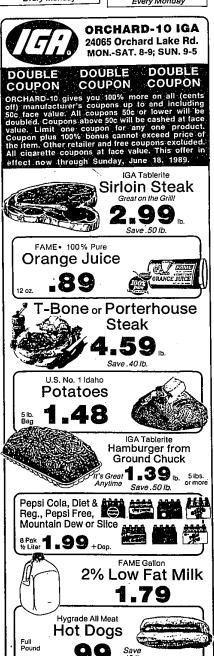
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