The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.

"...an eighty-year-old shows strength..."

Ethics of the Fathers, 5:25

1993 Annual Report
With 1994 Program Highlights
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Historical photo on this page: Waiting for the opening of the "Joint" soup kitchen in the Yekaterin Oslav district of Russia, 1921.

The photos on the cover and flyleaf of this report are representative of JDC’s worldwide programs. Photo credits are provided alongside each photo where it appears in the text.
In August 1914, Henry Morgenthau Sr., then United States Ambassador to Turkey, cabled Jacob Schiff, the New York philanthropist, asking for $50,000 for the relief of Palestinian Jews caught in the agony of World War I. The money was raised within a month, and shortly thereafter, in November, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee was established to channel funds being raised to aid Jews in Europe and Palestine by the Orthodox Central Committee for the Relief of Jews, the American Jewish Relief Committee, and the People’s Relief Committee.

Today, 80 years later, JDC is still serving as the overseas arm of the American Jewish community, sponsoring programs of relief, rescue, and reconstruction, and fulfilling its commitment to the idea that all Jews are responsible for one another and that “To save one person is to save a world” (Mishna, Sanhedrin 4:5).

The number of people aided by JDC since 1914 reaches into the millions. There has been a JDC presence at one time or another in more than 85 countries on every continent. Since 1939, support for JDC’s activities has come primarily from the United Jewish Appeal (UJA), which in turn receives its funds from campaigns conducted in 447 American communities. When men and women contribute to UJA/Federation campaigns in 164 federated communities and to UJA campaigns in 283 non-federated communities, they support humanitarian work at home, in Israel, and around the world. JDC also receives funds from CBF World Jewish Relief (U.K.), from the United States government, and from a number of foundations and international organizations.

For 80 years, JDC has been working to meet Jewish needs around the globe. In Eastern European countries struggling with vast economic and political changes, JDC today provides life-sustaining assistance to elderly and infirm Holocaust survivors, even as it continues to help young and old renew their Jewish heritage. In the former Soviet Union, JDC is helping to rebuild the Jewish communal infrastructure and nourish the quest for Jewish knowledge. It has been part of the U.S. government’s non-sectarian program of food assistance to the former Soviet Union and has also been distributing food packages to the neediest members of the Jewish community. In Africa and Asia, JDC helps dwindling Jewish communities maintain essential services for their elderly and provide their children with a Jewish education. In Latin America and in Western Europe, the emphasis is on increasing communal self-sufficiency.

In Israel, JDC is helping the country absorb its newest immigrants while continuing to enrich the lives of the disadvantaged and improve the quality of services for the aged and the disabled. Through the JDC-International Development Program and the “Open Mailbox” campaigns, JDC also enables the American Jewish community to provide non-sectarian disaster and development assistance worldwide.

JDC today continues to function as a vital instrument of American Jewry, reaching out to Jewish communities in distress and improving the quality of Jewish life around the world.
As JDC celebrates its 80th anniversary year, it is ironic to note that the world in which we live today would be all too familiar to those who founded this organization. It is a world in which long-simmering local tensions constantly threaten to burst into open conflict, a world in which, as President Clinton recently described it, “militant nationalism is on the rise, transforming the healthy pride of nations, tribes, religious and ethnic groups into cancerous prejudice, eating away at states and leaving their people addicted to the pain-killers of violence and demagoguery.”

And yet our world today is also a hopeful one! It is too recently freed from the cold war’s icy grip to abandon its sense of new found possibilities for achieving a better life for ourselves and our children.

JDC has paid careful attention to both aspects of this new world as we carry out our mission as the overseas operational arm of American Jewry. We continue to help local Jewish communities in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union take full advantage of their new freedoms, enabling them to reconnect with world Jewry and strengthen their identities as Jews. At the same time, we have repeatedly come to the aid of less fortunate Jews caught in the crossfires of recent conflicts in this same area of the world, a world that sometimes seems to have gone mad.

In Makarska, Croatia this past February, as I greeted JDC’s latest evacuees from Sarajevo, I was proud of our people for what they had achieved. I was proud, too, that JDC has not hesitated to use its operational expertise and its standing as a neutral party to effect the rescue of Christians and Moslems as well as Jews. I am equally proud of our current rescue efforts on behalf of the remaining Jews of Yemen, which are described in this annual report, and of other rescue efforts that will take their rightful place in JDC’s historical pantheon.

Less dramatic perhaps, but as important to the people whose lives we help sustain, are JDC’s various relief efforts—the food packages, the cash assistance, the winter fuel and clothing, the social service and medical programs. These efforts mean life itself to many and a measure of dignity to all of our mostly elderly Jewish beneficiaries; we could not cut back on these programs and still call ourselves decent human beings, or decent Jews.

In Israel, we continue to play a vital and creative role as we concentrate on developing programs that will improve the lives of those with special needs and thereby enhance the quality of national life for all. Our $21 million program
in Israel is in reality worth $71 million. The funds that we allocated for our activities there last year were leveraged with an additional $50 million of support from government ministries and other agencies.

In the former Soviet Union, our staff each day is opening up new frontiers of Jewish identification, discovering towns and villages with 10,000 or 15,000 Jews. These are people who survived as Jews despite Hitler’s attempt to obliterate them and the Communists’ best efforts to destroy their religious and cultural identity. But their links to our people, if not reinforced, will grow increasingly tenuous with the simple passage of time. So it is frustrating indeed to know that although we are accomplishing much in this area of the world, we simply don’t have the funds to reach out to all of these people and help ensure that they and their children will continue to survive as Jews. Yet what we have at stake here is enormous: the destiny of some one to one-and-a-half million of our people is in our hands.

In my travels on behalf of JDC this past year I have seen directly the vital difference our efforts are making in the lives of Jews from Cuba to Uzbekistan. And it struck me over and over again that the task that our founders set for themselves—to rescue Jews in danger, to help them live in dignity, and to help them live as Jews—is still our essential goal. But our resources are finite; furthermore, as a responsible organization we need to reserve contingency funds should new emergencies arise. For the nightmare of the nineties is that our work in Bendery, Dushanbe, or Sarajevo may be just the beginning and we may need to rescue Jews caught in new zones of fighting in the years ahead.

I am pleased to report that our new allocation agreement with the United Israel Appeal—our partner organization—can help us secure the additional funds we need to meet our expanding obligations and responsibilities, but only if you do your part. Your strong support for the regular campaign of the United Jewish Appeal and federations across the country is in the best tradition of our people, and I am confident that the Jews around the world who continue to look to us for assistance will not be looking in vain.

Sincerely,

Amb. Milton A. Wolf
June, 1994
INTRODUCTION
by
Michael Schneider
Executive Vice-President

In contrast to the years in which our attention was dominated by one particular country or situation, last year JDC was called upon to respond to major events and changes in nearly all of its areas of operation. Indeed, it was a year which offered us no respite in the series of earth-shaking events that have fundamentally changed our world. This is a pattern that has continued in recent months and is amply illustrated, I believe, in the report that follows.

In Israel, important progress was made in JDC's efforts to help the country deal with acute social needs and thereby ameliorate the tensions that can strain the nation's social fabric.

One example is the substantial increase in the number of nursing home beds that will be available to the elderly as a result of the work of a national consortium that JDC helped put together. This will help relieve the consternation felt by many Israeli families when they see their parents forced to compete for scarce nursing home space with the large number of elderly new immigrants whose needs have overwhelmed the system.

In other spheres of activity in Israel, because of JDC-sponsored job-training and placement programs that have been under way since Operation Moses, most work-eligible Ethiopian adults are now employed. JDC continues its special efforts to facilitate the upward mobility and the social and cultural integration of this population group in order to ensure that the Ethiopian immigrants become part of the Israeli mainstream.

In a somewhat similar vein, JDC's Mifteh programs for disadvantaged youth have been helping to return high school dropouts to mainstream settings with new hope for their future as productive citizens. These computer-based learning systems have now been adapted for use by a wide range of young people in Israel with special needs. They are also being made available here in the United States as a result of an exciting new partnership venture between JDC-Israel and the New York-based FEGS (Federation Employment and Guidance Service).

JDC-Israel continues to focus on efforts for other immigrants with special needs—those with disabilities, for example, or the many single-parent families and older immigrants who have had particular difficulty finding employment. JDC is also helping to strengthen Israel's public sector through management training programs and high-quality applied research, particularly in the areas of health care reform and policies for children and youth.

Given the strategic situation described by Ambassador Wolf in his introductory letter, JDC continues to face
three basic challenges in its other worldwide operations: We must maintain enough flexibility to be able to respond to short-term crises, particularly when rescue or evacuation efforts are needed, working as we always do in concert with the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency. In light of continuing economic difficulties in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, we must also be prepared to address the increased relief and welfare needs of those Jews who depend on us for essential food and shelter. And we must continue to help renascent Jewish communities in that area of the world and elsewhere to reclaim and strengthen their Jewish heritage.

We are proud that the Council of Jewish Federations saw fit to recognize our rescue and relief efforts in Bosnia by presenting JDC with a special Shroder Award last year. As the former Yugoslavia section in this annual report makes clear, these efforts are continuing, and they have been supplemented by a new relief initiative for Jewish refugees and others in need in Belgrade. The Sarajevo evacuation effort that Ambassador Wolf and I witnessed this past February was a JDC field operation at its best. It exemplified the tactical skills, flexibility, determination, and sheer courage that have characterized JDC staff members throughout the organization’s 80-year history.

This is the first annual report in which we have been able to describe JDC’s current efforts on behalf of the Jews of Yemen. These efforts began soon after the two republics were reunited in 1990, when the change in political climate made access to this long-isolated community of some 1,000 Jews possible once again. In addition to opening two Jewish schools, sending in books and religious supplies, and providing welfare assistance, JDC has helped to arrange and to facilitate the departure to date of nearly half that community. We are hopeful that Yemen’s renewed civil war will not impede this continuing exodus.

Last fall, the JDC Board voted to increase its total commitment for activities in the former Soviet Union by about 30 percent. Demands elsewhere in the Jewish world precluded us from doing even more, for the needs here are so vast that a 50 percent increase in funding would be fully justified. Nevertheless, we have been able to add to our all-important field-based staff, and we had 19 area directors and program specialists in place in 15 cities by the beginning of 1994. To enlarge our area of impact even further, we have developed a program of “magnet” cities, using major Jewish population centers to help provide a variety of services to smaller communities in the surrounding area.

We now have emergency food packages stockpiled in warehouses in five cities in different areas of the former Soviet Union—including the Asian region—and the number of JDC-initiated Jewish welfare societies continues to increase. JDC has been working to enhance the societies’ level of professionalism, and it has encouraged local communities to undertake additional social service initiatives. The Hesed Avraham Center in St. Petersburg is one example; it is a new medical equipment lending program that was established by the community with the aid of experts from Israel’s Yad Sarah who were brought
in by JDC. Our training programs for community workers, educators, and religious leaders are another growth area, and JDC has been reaching ever further into the Asian regions to help Jewish communities there continue to meet their religious needs.

We continue to help facilitate the process of Jewish renewal that is under way in the former Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe, but let me emphasize that it is the communities themselves who are spearheading this effort and it is the talents and enthusiasm of local activists that will determine its ultimate success. If the current proliferation of cultural and educational activities is any guide, however, the communities seem well on their way here.

Meanwhile, JDC staff members have been carefully monitoring economic conditions in the various Eastern European countries. In keeping with our new welfare policy guidelines, periodic adjustments have been made in assistance levels to ensure that the elderly Holocaust survivors whom we help to support can weather this period of drastic economic change with some measure of dignity. A new community welfare program implemented in Poland last year will radically change the nature of our assistance efforts there, with social workers making home visits—an impossibility during the Communist era—to determine individual needs.

Interestingly, a world away in India, we implemented a similar program last year with the aid of a dedicated American volunteer and an enthusiastic board of local advisors. Other talented volunteers and staff members have enabled us to expand our cultural activities and youth programs in that country, while elsewhere in Asia and North Africa we help maintain Jewish education and other essential services in communities that grow smaller with each passing year. In Europe, our community development program has begun to move in exciting new directions as we concentrate there, as well as in Latin America, on providing technical assistance and help with model projects and training programs. We have also encouraged the establishment of regional forums and inter-community networks; the latter have proved particularly helpful to us in our current efforts on behalf of the Jews of Cuba. This is a Jewish community that has literally come back to life amid the most difficult of economic circumstances—being able to help our people there is really what JDC is all about.

JDC’s global operations are made possible by the generous support it receives from the American Jewish community through the United Jewish Appeal. UJA provided JDC with $55,650,000 last year toward its 1993 budget of $61,156,200. Additional funds were received for various programs from the United States government, from charitable foundations and private donors, from other governments and international organizations, and from CBF World Jewish Relief (U.K.). CBF is a partner in our rescue efforts and has carved out a niche of support for selected programs that has proved invaluable to JDC’s worldwide efforts.

JDC coordinates its activities with the Jewish Agency, with ORT, and with other organizations in the field, and we value our partnership with the United Israel Appeal, UJA, and the Council of Jewish Federations. We regularly consult with the leaders of individual federations and keep them abreast of JDC’s activities, and last summer we held a special consultation in Jerusalem with the leaders of some of the largest federations, providing them with an in-depth account of JDC’s work in Israel and in the former Soviet Union.

In the non-sectarian sphere, JDC’s International Development Program continues to provide the American Jewish community with the opportunity and the means to respond to disasters and contribute to development efforts in different areas of the world.

As a newspaper columnist observed not long ago, we really cannot plan for the surprises that have always dominated history’s landscape; we must just try as best we can to ride these “tidal waves of change.” I think it is fair to say that with Ambassador Wolf at the helm and the aid of JDC’s dedicated lay leaders and staff, the JDC “ship of state” is riding these waves quite well.
Israel is at a major turning point in its history. On the one hand, there are the encouraging developments of the peace process and renewed economic growth, which bode well for the stability and growth of Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people. On the other hand, there are discouraging trends such as rising poverty rates, family violence and child abuse, an emerging homeless problem, and serious educational difficulties and delinquency among immigrant youth.

Israel has prided itself on the strength of its basic human fabric and family structure and its strong commitment to social justice and equal opportunity. A number of factors are now challenging these cherished social achievements and values:

- The reality that a third generation is trapped in a culture of poverty — the grandchildren of those who immigrated to Israel in the 1950’s and whose families never “made it.”
- Universal trends, such as rising substance abuse and high unemployment, which affect all modern societies.
- The fact that Israel has had to come to terms with the social consequences of the recent mass immigration, which included the arrival of 60,000 olim (immigrants) over age 65; 90,000 between the ages of 45 and 65 (many of whom have a hard time finding a job); 10,000 disabled individuals; and 15,000 single-parent families.
- In addition, there is growing concern about the ability of the health and education systems to meet the needs of the population in general and of the disadvantaged in particular, and widespread recognition of the need for systemic reform.

JDC’s major commitment is to provide new hope and opportunity for the most disadvantaged Israelis.

Addressing the challenges requires innovative and creative responses and basic reform of the country’s public systems. If Israel should succeed, it will have much to share — as a light unto the nations — with other countries and communities struggling with these same challenges.

JDC-Israel is a proven ally of Israeli society in these efforts, as is reflected in the program descriptions that follow. JDC’s activities demonstrate how the commitment of even relatively small amounts of financial resources have had a major impact on the shape and direction of life in Israel.
JDC’s Objectives in Israel

To help Israel address its most urgent social challenges by serving as a force for reform and system-wide change.

JDC’s major commitment is to provide new hope and opportunity for the most disadvantaged populations in Israel.

JDC’s current priorities include addressing the problems of:

- The elderly;
- Ethiopian Jews;
- Disadvantaged groups among the immigrants;
- Disadvantaged youth;
- Family violence and children-at-risk;
- Individuals with disabilities.

A second focus is on strengthening the basic public service systems through:

- Senior management training in the public sector;
- Strengthening planning on the local level;
- Applied social research—the JDC-Brookdale Institute and the Center for Social Policy Studies;
- Developing and cultivating a strong voluntary sector.

**Statistics**

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<td>Total Population:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewish Population:</td>
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<td>JDC Appropriation:</td>
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**Principles of Operation**

- As an American-based organization, JDC is strictly non-political.
- JDC focuses on helping organizations to develop new and improved policies and programs and does not operate any programs or services on a long-term basis. JDC has gained unique expertise in developing new responses and ensuring their broad dissemination and impact.
- JDC focuses on multi-year, multidimensional approaches to problems. Its efforts combine demonstration programs, manpower training, applied research, and the dissemination and advocacy of proven innovations.
- JDC plays a major role as an honest broker among conflicting interests within Israel and develops strategic partnerships among national ministries, local governments, voluntary associations, and the private sector.
- JDC is a force for sharing expertise and knowledge in addressing social challenges among Israel, Diaspora communities, and the non-Jewish world.
- The $21 million that JDC invests in its programs in Israel is matched by $50 million from local partners, resulting in a total budget of $71 million.
Disadvantaged youth who have dropped out or are in danger of dropping out of all educational or employment frameworks are a major concern in Israel, and JDC has developed effective programs to help these young people realize their potential. Starting with its intensive Mifne (Hebrew for turnabout) project, which returns high school dropouts to mainstream settings, JDC programs now reach a wide range of youngsters with special needs.

The focus today is on curbing the dropout phenomenon before it arises by helping the classroom underachiever. To do this, JDC developed The Mifne Environment (TME), a program in which a group of teachers, working as a team, tailors the educational environment to fit the individual student. TME uses specially designed computer-based learning materials to create a customized program that is modified as the student’s needs change.

In 1993, TME was introduced into a wide range of educational networks on an experimental basis. The TME project at the Kannot Youth Aliyah Village is serving as a model for the 40,000 pupils of the Youth Aliyah network, and TMEs were introduced to the rural population at the Ma’aleh Yosef School on Israel’s northern border. With the help of the Bader Foundation, TMEs were established in two high schools in Beersheba, with the aim of developing a citywide program. A TME staff training center will begin operating there in 1994 and TMEs will be established in additional schools.

After research showed that girls within the marginal youth population have distinct needs, a program was initiated to show what could be done especially for them at vocational high schools. Using the Mishlav School in Jaffa/Tel Aviv as a pilot site, JDC completely revamped the secretarial track, establishing a work/study program that is producing computer-literate secretaries with positive career potential. The program is so successful that the Amal technical high school network is replicating it in 1994.

In fact, the introduction of TMEs holds out new hope for disadvantaged students throughout the educational system. JDC, together with the Rashi Foundation and the Youth Protection Authority, has now taken on the challenge of developing a project for severely delinquent adolescent girls who must be assigned to a locked rehabilitation framework.

At three Youth Aliyah villages last year, young Ethiopian men used Mifne materials to help develop their basic cognitive skills, while a pilot project in 1994 is focusing on immigrant teenagers from the former Soviet Union who are not integrating into the school system. Mifne materials are also helping youth at Youth Protection Authority institutions; mentally ill adolescents at JDC-Falk Institute rehabilitation centers; and juvenile offenders at the Sharon Prison. The program for teenage dropouts in the Arab sector is in its third year of operation in Nazareth, and it has been initiated in Tamra at the request of the local council. Similar programs are planned for other Arab and Druse localities.

In a major new venture, JDC-Israel and FECS (Federation Employment and Guidance Service), a member agency of New York UJA-Federation, have entered into a partnership arrangement to disseminate Mifne computer-based learning units (including staff training materials) in the United States. The first version is to be tested and then distributed in 1994.

JDC seeks to provide challenging educational experiences for gifted children, many from disadvantaged families, who live far from the metropolitan areas in commu-
nities with limited resources. Over 800 students are participating in JDC-initiated regional “projects for excellence” in the Negev and Upper Galilee, and talented Soviet immigrant children are benefiting from special programs at Givat Olga, in the central region, and Sde Boker. The ultimate goal is the development of regional “centers for excellence” that will improve the education of all children in these peripheral areas. A start has been made in the Negev with a new scientific research project that involves both mainstream pupils and gifted children.

NEGLECTED AND ABUSED CHILDREN

In response to the growing alarm in Israel over the neglect and abuse of young children, JDC launched a new program in 1991. It views the problem in the broader context of family violence and affects the life chances of significant numbers of women and children. While some 40,000 Israeli children are already in community-based or institutional programs, 1993 figures show that 261,700 children, or 23.1 percent, have families living below the poverty line, a particularly high risk group for family violence. The aim of JDC’s pioneering program is to strengthen efforts to rescue children from danger, enhance their prospects, and help avoid institutional placement whenever possible.

Working together with partners who will eventually expand the projects, JDC has focused on developing and evaluating innovative models that deal with both the family and the child. The Jerusalem Emergency Center for Children-at-Risk is one example. The first of its kind in Israel, the center combines a shelter with diagnostic and outpatient treatment for children and their families. It will move to a permanent location in 1994, with the help of donations from the Schusterman family of Oklahoma, the Rashi Foundation, and New York UJA-Federation’s Legacy Fund. Based on the experience and knowledge gained in Jerusalem, two new emergency centers were opened in 1993, one in the central region and the other in the north, with a center in Beersheba planned to serve the south.

The first center in Israel to address the problem of all forms of family violence was opened last year in Holon; it emphasizes early intervention. A model community institution that integrates efforts to rehabilitate children and their families will open in 1994 in Lod.

An expert committee set up by JDC and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs will publish new standards of treatment for residential institutions in 1994, assisted by JDC-Brookdale research. Together with the National Council for the Child, the second “State of the Child” report was published last year and has become an invaluable tool for policymakers.

The development of suitably trained professional staff is a crucial part of JDC’s efforts for children-at-risk. New projects last year included a pilot program to instruct health workers in their vital role in identifying such children and the development of a kit for child abuse teams that will be distributed to all hospitals. In addition, work began on a training kit for new workers in institutions for children. JDC also funds annual scholarships to develop professional leadership in the field as well as a course for child protection officers on the legal aspects of their work.

An attempt to pull together all the pieces of the child welfare system is being undertaken in Haifa and Beersheba with JDC’s support. As part of the process, JDC-Brookdale is conducting a thorough assessment of needs and options.

THE DISABLED

JDC has long worked to improve services for Israel’s physically and mentally disabled citizens and enhance their opportunity to participate in and contribute to community life. In 1993, the JDC-initiated Commission on Services for the Mentally Disabled completed its report, which recommended sweeping changes in national policy. JDC has been approached by the government to help implement the recommendations.

JDC is engaged in a major effort to make some of Israel’s main historical and natural sites accessible to the severely disabled. In April 1994, as the result of
a project funded by the Zusman family of Dayton, Ohio, visitors with disabilities gained access to many of the unique historical sites in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, including the recently uncovered Western Wall tunnels, magnificent Hasmonean underground structures that reveal the Western Wall in all its glory. Paths at the Neot Kedumim Gardens have been adapted to the needs of the physically disabled, who are now able to appreciate the thousands of Biblical plants there. With assistance from the Leff family of New York, planning is under way to improve accessibility at nature sites in the north and at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. JDC has established a database that will provide the disabled and the professional community with information on accessibility at 1,200 recreational and cultural sites.

Prompted by the scarcity of residential arrangements for the mentally disabled, JDC since 1987 has been emphasizing the development of community-based alternatives. Supported by a grant from the Cohen Foundation of Montreal, JDC was a partner last year in the establishment of a customized housing complex in Beersheba that now accommodates 40 residents. A similar project is currently under way in Rishon LeZion, and JDC has embarked on a new program that encourages the integration of the disabled in community center activities. Efforts to promote community living go hand-in-hand with the promotion of employment opportunities that are meaningful, productive, and remunerative. Regular jobs are encouraged, with the disabled now proudly working as kindergarten aides and dog trainers, while sheltered workshops are being steered by JDC to more commercial products.

The Falk Institute for Mental Health and Behavioral Studies is a research arm of JDC-Israel. In 1993, the Institute studied various aspects of immigration, service utilization, and the problems of children- and adolescents-at-risk. The Institute also provides consultation services to other JDC programs and is planning to implement several new projects in 1994.

JDC helped develop Israel’s network of services for the elderly in the early years of the state, while responding to the emergency needs of the many elderly new immigrants. Although it has long since turned over the provision of services to the government and voluntary sectors, JDC plays a leading role in the network’s continuing development and adaptation through JDC-ESHEL, a unique association that pools the resources of all major organizations in the field. JDC-ESHEL has become the predominant force in developing new services for the elderly. It emphasizes community-based services that allow the elderly to remain at home, close to family and friends, as long as possible: day care centers for disabled elderly, programs to educate their families, and extensive training of field professionals.

Four new comprehensive day care centers were opened in 1993, including one in Nazareth for the Arab population, making a total of 68 centers nationwide. Another 16 centers are in the planning, construction, or expansion stage. The centers provide the elderly with meals and laundry services and help with bathing: professional staff members monitor health and provide physical therapy and other treatments. Social programs for elderly Russian and Ethiopian immigrants provide meaningful activity and ease the difficult transition to a new language and culture; some centers also provide help with employment.

To help provide the additional institutional services for the elderly needed as a result of the recent massive
immigration, ESHEL is implementing a multi-year plan together with the government, the National Insurance Institute, and the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany. Under this plan, 1,259 new nursing home beds have been built to date and another 1,700 are in the process of planning, construction, or renovation. For the well elderly, special housing projects are being planned with the Ministry of Housing in a program that will be greatly expanded in 1994.

ESHEL’s commitment to technology is exemplified by the development of the “Hi-Riser,” an innovative chair that is now on the market. Meanwhile, health promotion — through seminars, publications and videos, as well as the development of new volunteer roles — remains important. “Stay Well,” a health maintenance program adapted from an American model, operates in three cities and will get under way in three more in 1994.

With ESHEL’s assistance, the Israel Alzheimer’s Association became a member of the International Alzheimer’s Association last year and will host its 1996 conference in Jerusalem. In order to inform the elderly and the professionals who work with them about available services and expert advice, ESHEL publishes booklets and manuals on a wide range of subjects, including healthy eating habits, keeping warm in winter, and appropriate physical activities. In addition, the ESHEL Center for Continuing Education and Training annually provides courses to 2,000 professionals to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

BETTER HEALTH CARE

JDC and the JDC-Brookdale Institute are playing a crucial role in the reform of Israel’s health services. They were called in to serve as non-partisan, professional consultants to the parliamentary committee reviewing new health insurance legislation aimed at providing coverage for all, with competition among the insurers. At present, five percent of the population, including over 70,000 children, have no insurance coverage, and the level of services for those who are insured varies significantly.

JDC and JDC-Brookdale have also been assisting Kupat Holim Clalit, Israel’s largest health maintenance organization, in its efforts to turn its clinics into autonomous units, with each one responsible for its own budget and for maintaining patient satisfaction. A region-

PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED

The disabled, single parents, older workers, and immigrants who require special assistance, such as those from Ethiopia or the Caucasus Mountains, are among the disadvantaged groups currently benefiting from a variety of JDC training, placement, and entrepreneurship programs designed to promote self-reliance.

To enhance employment opportunities for immigrants from the former Soviet Union, JDC developed model training, refresher, and retraining courses that were implemented in cooperation with government ministries, local authorities, the Israel Manufacturers’ Association, and the Israel Chamber of Commerce. On-the-job-training was emphasized, with JDC helping to forge partnerships between the public and private sectors. Over the past five years, more than 23,500 Soviet immigrants participated directly in the programs, while thousands of others have benefited from government programs based on these models. JDC’s extensive efforts on behalf of Ethiopian immigrants are described in the following section.

JDC has developed a number of innovative approaches to help single parents cope with their special problems, including a women-to-women mentoring project. It also implemented several programs on the local level to meet the needs of those aged 45 and over. After these proved successful, a national program was initiated with the Ministry of Absorption, which included the first-ever job fair specifically for this age group, special training courses, and, above all, programs that encourage
employers to hire people over 45. JDC is also developing employment programs for the physically and the developmentally disabled.

The JDC-initiated network of Small Business Development Centers continued to expand last year, with new centers opening in Ra'anana and Rishon LeZion. The centers are open to all but put special emphasis on the needs of immigrants. In just three years, 2,500 businesses have been assisted, over 5,000 jobs have been created, and about $20 million in loans have been extended through the centers. JDC is encouraging the centers' staff to assist those groups having an especially hard time finding employment. Consequently, entrepreneurship courses were targeted for the first time to single parents, immigrants from Ethiopia and the Caucasus Mountains, the disabled, and residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The government's newly established Small Business Authority has recognized the JDC centers as the model it wishes to adopt to serve small businesses nationwide. The existing centers are slated to become local branches of the Authority, with JDC phasing out its commitment in the course of the next two years as the government takes over increasing responsibility.

ETHIOPIAN JEWS IN ISRAEL

Ethiopian immigrants continued to be a major focus of JDC attention in 1993. Most of those who arrived in Operation Solomon were still living in temporary caravan (mobile home) sites at the beginning of 1994. In striking contrast to previous years, however, there were few scenes of idleness or apathy as the employment efforts of JDC's network of job coordinators, partly staffed by veteran Ethiopian immigrants, bore fruit. As a result of intensive searches for appropriate job opportunities and careful matching of employee with employer, nearly all of the employable immigrants were placed in jobs or in vocational training courses.

JDC's second major thrust is to create opportunities for upward mobility. This program includes university preparatory courses, training courses for a variety of professional and highly skilled technical occupations, and even an innovative course to impart the skills needed to combine stage production with community social work as a community theater coordinator.

Over 400 Ethiopian students are now attending colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher learning. The majority of them receive scholarship assistance and enrichment support from JDC. Some put their experience and understanding to use in JDC programs where they tutor and serve as role models for younger Ethiopian pupils.

A major project fosters the work of Ethiopian artists, helping them to create and sell original works that embody their past and present. A Gondar-born sculptor has been chosen to be the sole Israeli representative at a 1994 international sculpture exhibition in England.

Life skills training also continued in order to strengthen the immigrants' skills in household and budget management and encourage them to take responsibility for the health and welfare of their families. Health education programs were integrated further into the regular health system, while efforts continued to develop trained Ethiopian educators and culturally sensitive educational materials in the areas of mental health and communicable diseases. JDC continued its social integration programs for Ethiopian elderly through ESHEL; for adults and children in permanent housing through community centers; and for those with special needs, such as single parents.

Ethiopian children have switched schools as many as
four times in four years as they moved from their villages to Addis Ababa and then through different temporary accommodations in Israel. This adds a particularly urgent dimension to efforts to integrate them into the school system, especially since they often constitute 30-40 percent of the pupils in a given school. JDC’s programs to strengthen the students’ educational achievements and the skills of their teachers were expanded last year to cover much of the southern and northern regions. Previously developed educational materials were more widely distributed, new ones were developed, and techniques for improving teaching methods were broadly disseminated. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, there will be a major effort in the current year to upgrade the professional leadership in schools with large concentrations of Ethiopian pupils.

A project that helps talented Ethiopian children participate in enrichment programs will expand in 1994, while science enrichment programs continue. In one innovative nature project, Ethiopian children from the Mabuim caravan site and children from the local moshav are raising animals together, using computers to record feeding and growth charts in a meaningful introduction to scientific methods.

Betachin, the Center for Information and Counseling on Family Issues, continued to train professionals who work with Ethiopian immigrants. Its councils of elders consulted on cases of family conflict that were referred to them by the religious courts.

The first surveys of Ethiopian communities were conducted by JDC last year in three localities — Afula, Kiryat Gat, and Netanya — they provide a critical base for policy-making and planning. A national conference was organized by the JDC-Brookdale Institute to assess the accomplishments and remaining challenges. The studies revealed dramatic success in securing employment for the Ethiopian immigrants and enabling a very significant number of them to move into skilled professions.

Hopefully the Ethiopian Jews’ long odyssey is nearing its end. In 1993, they were offered generous government-sponsored mortgages to help them move out of the caravan sites into permanent housing in the central part of the country. JDC assisted the Ministry of Absorption by arranging for veteran Ethiopian immigrants to explain the mortgage system and help with the search for apartments and the legal and financial details. By the end of December, about 2,000 families had purchased apartments, with 1994 expected to be a year of critical transition. JDC will be helping those families who have at last attained their own home in Israel adjust to their new communities, while it continues to help foster the independence of those remaining behind in the caravan sites.

EMPOWERING LOCAL AUTHORITY

A recent process of decentralization has placed local governments in Israel at the hub of most of the systems providing human services. In recognition of this historic change, JDC has developed an array of programs to help strengthen local government, train senior staff members, and promote a better dialogue between local authorities and community organizations.

The Municipal Strategic Planning Unit (MPU) program addresses local authorities’ need for high-level policy analysis, interdisciplinary planning, and efficient decisionmaking. While the operating costs of the 17 MPUs initiated by JDC have been assumed by the municipalities and the Interior Ministry, JDC continues to provide professional support and funds for staff training and special projects. MPUs are operating today in all types of government authorities: large and small, Jewish and Arab, two rural councils, and a Regional Planning Center for Arab communities. A major expansion of the program is planned for 1994.

JDC last year widened its range of activities that seek to improve local services by fostering the growth of local democracy, government accountability, and the establishment of neighborhood organizations. Community activists took part in training programs in areas such as supervision and leadership, neighborhood elections, and resource development, and JDC is helping to facilitate the merger of Jerusalem’s neighborhood self-management councils and community centers. Meanwhile, Kiryat Gat and Rosh Ha’ayin were the first towns to utilize JDC expertise in developing systems for the comprehensive planning of community services.

Plans for 1994 include the expansion of the Program for Mayors in a new format. JDC-ELKA is teaming up...
with Sikkuy (The Association for the Advancement of Equal Opportunities) and the Meyerhoff Foundation to create The Lyn Meyerhoff 21st Century Forum. The Forum will help local mayors address the challenges they face in these times of rapid change.

COMMUNAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

JDC-Israel was instrumental in the establishment of Israel’s network of community centers and continues to work closely with the centers to help them improve their programs and meet new needs. A major initiative is currently under way to develop new activities for teenage youth, both Sabras and immigrants, with special emphasis on those living in disadvantaged neighborhoods for whom the community center may be the central positive force. The aim is to prevent the consequences of alienation, such as violence and delinquency.

The immigrant moving into a new neighborhood finds that the local community center is a critical address in helping to meet the family’s needs. Soviet and Ethiopian olim, in 22 and 18 communities respectively, benefited last year from JDC-sponsored programs designed to facilitate their absorption into Israeli society, including Jewish heritage classes for adults, preparation for army service for youth, courses in basic home maintenance, and activities that promote community responsibility and improve inter-group relations.

Special emphasis is placed on activities for immigrants with special needs such as single parents and those over 50; the communal bar mitzvah that was held last year in Karmiel for older immigrants who had never celebrated their Jewish “coming-of-age” is one example. In 1994, programs will be extended to immigrants from the Caucasus Mountains and Bukhara.

Arab citizens also benefit from JDC communal and social development programs. The “Youth Who Sing A Different Song” project encouraged coexistence between Jewish and Arab youth, while in the Bedouin town of Rahat, JDC provided an enrichment center for school-

children last year. In 1994, it will focus on programs for illiterate mothers.

While JDC continues to work with the Israel Association of Community Centers, it has expanded its activities to the community centers of the Tel Aviv municipality and to some operated by the Histadrut. The aim is to increase the centers’ effectiveness and foster citizen involvement and local democracy.

The different streams of Judaism in Israel benefited last year from JDC support for a variety of educational programs. This included scholarship assistance for rabbinical students in the Reform and Conservative movements; support for training Russian-speaking lecturers in Secular Humanistic Judaism; and enrichment studies for immigrants at the Conservative movement’s Jerusalem high school.

IMMIGRANT YOUTH

From 1990 through 1993, some 53,000 adolescents between the ages of 12 and 19 immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union. Increasing evidence shows that their school dropout rate is high with many factors believed to have contributed to this situation. Adjusting to a new society, having to meet educational requirements in an unfamiliar language, parental (or often single mothers’) difficulties in finding jobs and housing are but a few, all of which have compounded the usual complexities of adolescence.

JDC has a major inter-divisional effort under way to help reverse this alarming trend. Over 1,000 social service professionals have participated to date in JDC-ELKA training courses designed to give them the tools they need to reach these youngsters. Participants came from the Ministries of Education, Absorption, and Labor and Social Affairs, the Jewish Agency, the Israel Army, youth movements, voluntary associations, local authorities, and the Israel Police. In 1994, work will begin with the staffs of mainstream schools.

Twenty different programs for immigrant youth are currently being carried out through community centers, youth groups, and local organizations, and JDC’s Mi/ne
Emphasis is placed on activities for immigrants with special needs.

Program in Jerusalem has absorbed a group of 20 immigrant dropouts. The first major survey of the problem will be completed by JDC’s Brookdale and Falk Institutes in 1994, with policymakers anxiously awaiting the results.

VOLUNTARISM AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

JDC is the founder and continues to be a major supporter of the Non-Profit Sector Association. An umbrella group founded by JDC to enhance the organizational effectiveness of the voluntary sector, the association now has 250 member organizations.

Major emphasis was placed in 1993 on enhancing the organizations’ capacity to raise funds in Israel. This went hand-in-hand with a new program, initiated with the Ministry of Economics, to encourage Israeli businessmen and women to contribute time and money to social causes. As part of this effort, the government agreed to raise the tax deduction ceiling for charitable business contributions.

During last July’s Katyusha shelling in the Upper Galilee, the program provided assistance to area residents.

Four hundred and fifty self-help groups are currently registered with the JDC-supported National Self-Help Clearinghouse in Tel Aviv, and immigrants from the former Soviet Union benefit from many of its services. Over 600 individuals participated in self-help conferences in 1993; 25 groups used the clearinghouse premises for meetings and telephone hotlines; a quarterly newsletter was published; and a branch was opened in Haifa.

The Thousand Families Association is a voluntary self-help association of over 4,000 Soviet immigrant families who, with JDC assistance, have taken responsibility for their absorption into their own hands. JDC helped the association establish a solid professional and administrative infrastructure and linked it with the relevant ministries and agencies. The association’s unique approach combines all aspects of absorption, providing its members with housing and jobs while facilitating their social integration. The association’s largest housing project, for 1,500 families at Or Akiva, is in the final stages of completion and 380 families have already moved in. In 1994, construction begins on a new neighborhood for 1,200 families in Pardes Chana. JDC’s efforts are now focused on association members’ employment needs and on facilitating their social integration in their new communities.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS

As part of JDC’s efforts to strengthen the public service infrastructure, JDC-ELKA designs and implements unique tailor-made management training programs for senior management at headquarters and in the field. Two strategies are employed: courses that train managers on the same level, cutting across organizations, and courses
that focus on a specific organization or ministry. **ELKA** is the Hebrew acronym for The Association for the Development and Advancement of Public Service in Israel, and it is a consortium of the government and JDC.

In 1993, **ELKA**'s College for Senior Civil Service Personnel helped develop the managerial skills of a prominent group of mayors, city managers, and directors-general of government ministries and voluntary organizations, as well as some 40 mid-level managers. It carried out special programs for senior personnel of the Employment Service and the Ministries of Absorption, Education, and Health. In addition, **ELKA** trained directors of institutions for youth, caravan site managers, and staff working with immigrant youth.

A formal association of **ELKA**'s 800 graduates is currently being organized which should be able to provide important support for efforts to implement improvements and changes in the public service. The association's first national conference is planned for 1994.

The first Elaine K. Winik Workshop on Women in Leadership and Management took place last November. It covered topics such as equal opportunity in the public sector, management styles, and career planning.

To help bridge the cultural gap between veteran Israelis and new immigrants, **ELKA** has developed an extensive cross-cultural instructional program. In 1993, the program was expanded to help the Israeli army, which has been swamped by the influx of new immigrant soldiers, provide its officers with cultural sensitivity training. Another **ELKA** project provides social workers with training in conflict resolution to help them resolve conflicts that arise between new immigrants and longer term residents.

**RELIGIOUS / CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS (YESHIVOT)**

In 1993, the JDC Yeshivot Department continued to emphasize immigrant absorption activities as the religious institutions within JDC's program opened their doors wide to new **olim**. Over 3,000 youngsters from the former Soviet Union and about 1,200 Ethiopians are full-time students in these yeshivot, and the Jewish educational needs of adult **olim** are also receiving sympathetic attention.

Immigrant students require total care: they need additional schooling to reach the level of their contemporaries, and they need clothing and money for transportation and incidental expenses. For the learning process to succeed, the yeshiva must involve the entire family, so there are evening courses for parents, Shabbat programs, and family outings to historical sites. A serious effort is being devoted both to raising the immigrants' level of Jewish learning and to easing their cultural absorption.

In addition, 30,000 **olim** participated last year in a variety of yeshivot outreach activities: classes, seminars, summer schools, holiday celebrations, bar and bat mitzvah preparations, and various teacher and leadership training programs. In one "Big Brother" outreach project, 2,500 high school students "adopted" younger **olim**, helping them with homework and day-to-day problems. Another project has hundreds of yeshiva students traveling every weekend to cities in the north with large numbers of new **olim** in order to make Shabbat a meaningful experience for them and reinforce their Jewish studies.

An outreach program to veteran Israelis is part of a different effort: an attempt to build bridges between religious and non-religious Jews and remove some of the prejudice and stereotypes that exist on both sides. The program addresses itself to the tens of thousands of Israelis seeking their spiritual roots: youngsters and adults, both male and female, who want to learn more about their Jewish heritage and traditions. Their demand for lectures, courses, lessons, seminars, and Shabbat programs increases each year, and yeshiva students are currently teaching outreach courses that cover all aspects of Jewish knowledge in every part of the country. The army, for example, which was once closed to lectures of a religious nature, now regularly invites speakers on religious topics. These lectures are primarily opportunities to
inform the curious and help quench the thirst for knowledge; they aim to teach, not to convert.

Within the yeshivot, JDC funds student-centered projects to improve nutrition and provide the students with a sound physical environment. For the many students who come from deprived families, the yeshiva must also provide a home and extend the learning process to the dining room and dormitory. During the last school year, JDC helped improve hygienic conditions in 18 yeshivot and dormitory conditions in 40, and it helped 43 institutions to upgrade the quality of their food programs.

It is JDC's consulting services, and not the provision of funds, that is the most important aspect of JDC's aid here. JDC will provide experts to visit institutions and advise, for example, on the purchase of kitchen equipment or guide the staff in producing balanced menus at a reasonable cost. The visits are made at the request of the institution, which shares the cost of consultation, and there is always a waiting list.

Most yeshivot were set up by a scholar who had a vision and urge to transmit the Talmudic heritage; many have subsequently grown into institutions teaching hundreds. The administrators have usually learned their skills on the job and are often not equipped to handle the managerial problems of a large institution. JDC has funded a year-long in-service management training program provided through JDC-ELKA, which teaches administrators how to make effective use of modern office equipment to monitor and control school income and expenditures.

With JDC assistance, six yeshivot have been developed to date solely for students with learning limitations, as part of the department's efforts to sensitize the yeshiva community to these special students' needs. JDC helped purchase the equipment needed for the schools' vocational courses; it insisted that qualified professionals be added to the staffs; and it provided a year-long training program to help yeshiva teachers handle pupils with special needs.

The department encourages all yeshiva students to learn vocations that will enable them to be active participants in the modern Israeli economy. JDC has been helping many of the schools incorporate innovative learning tools in their general curricula, and last year it helped 32 vocational yeshivot purchase the modern equipment they need to teach their students up-to-date, marketable skills. These vocational yeshivot have been helping to absorb many of the country's younger olim.

JDC has also been providing scholarships for particularly bright students with future leadership potential. In 1993, it provided 70 scholarships to students training for the rabbinate or other religious vocations who will eventually be serving communities in Israel and throughout the Diaspora.

JDC's Yeshivot program has concentrated on improving areas that have generally been neglected; it has also helped to introduce and support new ideas and programs that otherwise might not have been implemented. With JDC's encouragement, the yeshivot have turned their attention to the needs of the general population through outreach activities; they have initiated special programs for the prison population that have reduced recidivism; and they are taking an active part in the national effort for immigrants, thereby doing what they can to help enhance life in Israel today.

The JDC-Brookdale Institute is a leading center for applied research in aging, health policy, immigration, and social welfare. A partnership between JDC and the Government of Israel, the Institute works closely with government ministries to ensure that its program is relevant to national priorities. This program is focused more than ever on identifying cost-effective ways of meeting social needs. For example, a study last year of a new model of family-centered day care—which provides accommodations for small groups of disabled elderly in private homes—revealed that this more "homelike" approach is no more costly than traditional day care.
Massive immigration has increased Israel’s elderly population by some 65,000 since 1990 and necessitated many changes in service plans and policies. As a result of a major 1993 Institute survey of the health, social, and housing needs of elderly immigrants from the former Soviet Union, the government has been expanding housing alternatives for elderly immigrants, 75 percent of whom now live with their children.

Other Institute surveys conducted in 1993 are helping municipalities and the national government develop more effective absorption policies. A national survey of employment and vocational training among 1,200 Russian immigrants dispelled the prevailing view of high immigrant unemployment, while at the same time showing the particular problems faced by single parents and those over 50.

New studies in 1994 will focus on the needs of immigrants who are finding it more difficult to “make it” in Israeli society. In-depth surveys will be conducted of adolescent immigrants and their parents in order to more effectively address their educational and social needs.

The first significant studies of the Ethiopian population in Israel were completed by the Institute in 1993. At the request of JDC-Israel, an evaluation was made of the impact of training programs on Ethiopian young adults who arrived in the mid-80’s. In 1994, the Institute will continue to monitor the Ethiopians’ integration in their permanent communities and to identify specific employment, social service, and educational needs.

A national health insurance bill was submitted to the Knesset in 1993. The select parliamentary committee responsible for its review called on the Institute to serve as a non-partisan, professional consultant throughout the hearing process and as a source of information on the bill’s implications for equity, costs, competition, and quality of care.

The Institute continued to assist Kupat Holim Clalit in decentralizing its primary care clinic system last year, and it has been asked to help in expanding the process to the national level. A parallel project is examining the effect on patient satisfaction of increasing the autonomy of government hospitals.

A conference was held in Jerusalem in 1993 to introduce new hospital management systems, including Total Quality Management, to health professionals in the Middle East. The conference, organized by the Institute, JDC-Israel, Harvard University’s Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East, and the Alumni Association of the Middle East Institute, included official delegates from the Ministry of Health in Egypt and the newly formed Palestinian Health Council.

The first systematic data on the characteristics of children- and youth-at-risk and their families was provided this year. This information is being used to develop comprehensive plans for community services for this population group.

A comparative evaluation of residential facilities for children was completed, which will serve as a basis for improving the standards of care and for developing intervention programs. New initiatives in community care are being evaluated by the Institute, including emergency centers in Jerusalem, Haifa, and Tel Aviv, a center for the treatment of family violence in Holon, and a program for immigrant children with specific learning disabilities and emotional problems.

At the request of the National Insurance Institute, JDC-Brookdale initiated a study of the adequacy of existing services for disabled children, and JDC-Israel requested help in analyzing the cost effectiveness of model programs of sheltered employment and community housing for the disabled.

International links continued to be a vital part of the Institute’s work in 1993. The Institute made a major contribution to the meetings of the International Association of Gerontology in Hungary and continues its collaborative work with the World Health Organization. The Institute has been asked to join a project to develop indicators for evaluating the delivery of health and social services to the elderly in their homes; the project is sponsored by the European Commission for the Development of Information Systems. In addition, the health policy group is participating in an international comparative study of primary care. Strong links with research centers abroad have been formed by the research programs on aging, health, immigration, and children and youth.
THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES IN ISRAEL (CSPS)

The Center's goal is to improve the well-being of Israel's citizens by helping the nation to arrive at better social policy decisions. It does so by identifying strategic issues and providing policymakers and the public with the advanced knowledge they need to improve the decision-making process and make the most effective use of the country's limited resources.

The Center is an independent, non-partisan institution funded primarily by JDC. Its distinctive approach encompasses the entire range of human services: income maintenance programs such as pensions and child allowances, education, housing, health, and the provision of social services to individuals with special needs.

The Center's comprehensive annual analysis of the government's social outlay is the cornerstone of its operation and the major monitor it uses to analyze the development of the Israeli social service system. The publication of this analysis was advanced last year in anticipation of earlier budget deliberations, and the new timing did indeed allow the report to serve as an important instrument of policy debate. Its findings indicated a deterioration of several social services over the previous decade, while noting some change in government priorities in the 1993 budget. It indicated, however, that greater government effort was needed in job creation and the stimulation of economic growth.

The Center's annual analysis has now been augmented by the work of area teams covering each major field of social policy: the educational system, health services and needs, the social aspects of national economic policy, and the provision of personal welfare services. Social indicators, demographic developments, and the non-profit sector are also under study.

The coordinators of the area teams constitute the Center's senior staff; they are prominent experts who have been drawn from the highest ranks of government, business, and academia. As policy issues in each area are selected for examination, additional experts are brought in to prepare initial position papers, which are analyzed and discussed by the respective area team. The results—and the various policy alternatives that have been developed—are then debated by the inter-disciplinary senior staff and the findings presented to policymakers and other interested groups at a CSPS public forum.

One of the most significant strategic issues studied last year was the development of colleges as an educational alternative for young adults unable to gain admission to the nation's universities, or those who prefer the college alternative. This conventional alternative has been largely unavailable to Israeli youth, inasmuch as the country's higher education system was developed almost solely on the basis of research universities. Both the Minister of Education and the Chairman of the Knesset Education Committee expressed strong support for the Center's findings and joined in the CSPS public forum that reviewed the issue. The findings are being used by the Knesset Education Committee to formulate new legislation that would open up higher education opportunities to many more high school graduates, including many from disadvantaged population groups.

Another area team analyzed the provision of personal welfare services over the past decade, concentrating on the way fiscal trends have affected Israel's weaker population groups, including the physically and mentally disabled, the frail elderly, and children-at-risk or in distress. It also focused on the division of labor between the central government and local authorities. It found that decentralization and the encouragement of local initiative in social service delivery have created widening disparities between localities in the level of service provided to these population groups. The study considers various alternatives for streamlining the partnership among the central government, local authorities, and the non-governmental sector and improving the lives of those in Israel who need special help.
THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

A pervasive feeling of uncertainty characterizes the lives of the citizens of the Soviet successor states as they confront economic deterioration, political turmoil, social disintegration, and a hyper-inflation that has eroded savings while making current earnings virtually worthless. Political instability in Russia, culminating in the armed clash between President and Parliament in October 1993, sent shockwaves through the other vulnerable new states. And the collapse of entitlement programs for the needy injected a strong element of fear in the lives of those dependent on outside support, such as the elderly and the handicapped.

At the height of the October turmoil, when the ultimate outcome was far from clear, one of the JDC offices received a phone call late at night from an anonymous caller. “I just wanted to know whether you’re still here,” he said. “Now I feel better.”

What he was seeking was reassurance that the lifeline that JDC represents was still there for him, and indeed for the Jewish community. With all that is familiar and comfortable disintegrating and the general situation becoming increasingly tenuous, the human instinct is to look for an anchor of stability, a community that can provide a sense of shared destiny and mutual support. And JDC was the appropriate address for that call, precisely because it is engaged in helping to nurture that sense of Jewish community in localities throughout the former Soviet Union. JDC is working to strengthen local communities so that Jews of all ideological persuasions will feel that they share a common responsibility to ensure that their elderly live their final years in dignity, and their children have access to schools and programs that will give them a sense of Jewish values and a desire to be part of the Jewish people.

While JDC offers various kinds of assistance unavailable locally, it is the notion of partnership that informs its actions as it challenges each community to step forward, establish its own agenda, and work to realize it. Ultimately, it is the quality of human resources available to the Jewish communities in the various successor states that will determine the extent to which these communities will be able to face the challenges of the coming years.
JDC's Objectives in the Former Soviet Union

While recognizing the paramount importance of aliyah, JDC seeks to ensure that both Jews intending to make aliyah and those not yet prepared for this step will have viable, autonomous communities and Jewish services to meet their needs, as they define them, thereby helping them to reconnect to world Jewry and maintain their identity as Jews.

Working in partnership with local Jewish communities, JDC seeks to:

- Promote Jewish knowledge;
- Rebuild communal services and infrastructure;
- Advance the reestablishment of Jewish culture and religion;
- Facilitate the social, economic, and human resource development of Jewish communities throughout the former Soviet Union.

As a consequence, JDC has developed programs in all spheres of community life to enhance the communal services provided throughout the former Soviet Union to:

- Jews of all age groups;
- Both Sephardi and Ashkenazi communities;
- Jews living in large cities as well as those in small villages and isolated areas.

JDC's prior involvement in the former Soviet Union, its historical experience in the field, and the expertise gained through its global program operations make it uniquely positioned to provide important assistance to Jewish communities in their rebuilding efforts.

JDC functions primarily as an enabler and facilitator, working with the communities to set priorities and establish agendas.

In keeping with its global policy, JDC, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency and the Government of Israel, will continue to respond to emergency situations with speed and flexibility.

Statistics

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*RIT is the designation for activities initiated four decades ago to bring vitally needed items to Jews in Eastern Europe. These funds are now being used primarily in the former Soviet Union for various program efforts described in this section, in addition to JDC's regular appropriation.*
Much of what JDC was able to achieve in the former Soviet Union in 1993 was due to the increase in its field-based staff. Thirteen area directors and six program specialists now reside in 15 cities. Through a program of magnet cities, major Jewish population centers provide services to smaller communities with JDC help. This enlarges the field staff’s area of impact and allows communal resources to be targeted more effectively. It is difficult to quantify the value of having representatives in the field. A two a.m. conversation with a JDC staff member in Moscow last year led to the salvaging of a communal organization torn asunder by warring factions. In St. Petersburg, a forum for school principals, initiated by JDC, now permits parties with common interests but divergent agendas to meet under neutral auspices. In Georgia, the JDC representative invited community leaders to a conference that ultimately led to the establishment of a national umbrella organization that serves as the legal heir to the property of abandoned communities.

HELPING TO MEET SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS

Services to the needy was the JDC program area that saw the greatest growth in 1993. In keeping with JDC’s determination to try to see that no Jew in its area of operations goes hungry, emergency food packages were stockpiled in warehouses in five cities throughout the former Soviet Union. The last of the five warehouses was established in Tashkent to facilitate a response to potential emergencies in the Asian region. An urgent report from field staff in December indicated that certain small, isolated Jewish communities in Ukraine were at risk because their ration of heating material had been radically reduced. Staff members in the surrounding region were immediately mobilized. They were able to use the Jewish welfare societies that had been established months earlier in neighboring communities to implement a quick response to the crisis, thus illustrating once again the value of emphasizing from the outset the development of local infrastructure.

These JDC-initiated welfare societies continued to sprout in 1993, with 136 established by year’s end in 108 cities throughout the former Soviet Union. Most offer a similar array of services, including home visits and attendant services for elderly shut-ins, food distribution to the indigent, and medical care for those who cannot access municipal services. The societies’ level of professionalism continues to improve as more and more workers benefit from JDC-sponsored training seminars, instructional material, and field demonstrations, with 700 workers from 54 cities reached last year.

Various communities have undertaken additional social service initiatives with help from JDC. Experts from Yad Sarah in Israel were brought by JDC to St. Petersburg to establish a new medical equipment lending program, the Hesed Avraham Center, that is being run by and for local Jews. The center’s executive director is a graduate of the JDC leadership development program, and its policies and programs are set by a board of directors comprised of local gerontologists, figures in the academic and medical community, and Jewish communal activists. The first wheelchair loaned by the center went to a woman in her mid-70’s who had been bedridden for the past 12 years because of the lack of equipment. Now she takes her new found mobility for granted.

Developing the wellsprings of talent that exist in the local Jewish communities is a priority.
In Moscow, at JDC’s impetus, a community-run pensioners’ club was opened last year for the mobile elderly. Within three months, five more clubs had been opened in three cities, and plans are in place for more. The clubs give a respite to elderly Jews otherwise confined to crowded dreary apartments. For many, it is the only opportunity they have to be in the presence of other Jews, or even other human beings interested in them as people.

To help meet the needs of the elderly, JDC encourages communities to take advantage of existing services in different spheres of community life. School cafeterias in three cities, for example, now serve hot meals to mobile elderly, who are happy to exchange the drudgery of their everyday lives for some time spent in an environment full of smiles and laughter of children. A curriculum for summer camps published by JDC that explains the Jewish concept of tzedaka (charity) and the importance of communal responsibility contains a list of projects like this one in which children, their families, and their schools can help strengthen Jewish community life.

In Kiev last year, JDC staff became aware of a large population of Jewish blind whose needs were being ignored. A survey was done in partnership with the Jewish Braille Institute of America, and blind Jews of all ages now have access for the first time to “talking books” with Jewish content. They have also been encouraged to become full participants in Jewish communal life. Similar programs were subsequently begun in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

CULTIVATING HUMAN RESOURCES

Once the wellsprings of talent that exist in the local Jewish communities are recognized, developing that talent becomes a priority. In addition to its social service training programs, JDC sponsored eight training seminars last year in various fields of education and 11 in religion and culture. In addition, 55 librarians participated in programs designed to help them promote the use of Jewish libraries as a base for community educational and cultural activities, and librarians from Israel visited Jewish libraries in four successor states to provide advanced training and guidance.

The Israel-based Buncher Community Development Program, together with JDC’s program staff for the former Soviet Union, trained 36 community activists from 29 cities last year. The trainees developed personal projects in keeping with their particular communal interests.
A student from Baku, for example, learned how to organize communal holiday celebrations; a program graduate from Mogilev refined plans for an adopt-a-grandparent scheme; and a small city in Ukraine gained an innovative parent-child school program. The quality of this leadership training program was enhanced last year by the decision to assign mentors to follow the progress of graduates after their return to the field and provide them with ongoing personal attention. Reunions and update seminars will also be held in the former Soviet Union.

Recognizing the need to develop a core of indigenous educators who will eventually be able to determine the direction of Jewish education in their local communities, JDC, in cooperation with the Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education and the Melton Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora at Hebrew University, co-sponsored an intensive six-month program for senior educators from various successor states. These educators are now serving as advisors to JDC on Jewish education projects and publications. By pinpointing needs and suggesting appropriate responses, they are helping JDC make the most efficient use of the resources available for Jewish education.

HELPING JEWS LEARN ABOUT THEIR HERITAGE

JDC made a commitment two years ago to provide every student at a Jewish school in the former Soviet Union with a set of Jewish texts. There are currently 207 Jewish schools, many of which meet in makeshift settings, with volunteer teachers drawn from the community. These schools depend on JDC to supply their students with basic learning aids; by the end of 1993, a total of 112,000 textbooks had been distributed. The new and attractive books—some of them specially developed in Israel by JDC—bring the children an important message about the beauty and excitement of their Jewish heritage, which most are learning about for the very first time.

After 10 months of planning, JDC held a seminar in Moscow last August for 37 early childhood educators. For a week, the teachers were immersed in theoretical discussions and practical demonstrations about Jewish kindergartens. The goals were threefold: to encourage the opening of new Jewish kindergarten programs; to raise the level of existing ones; and, perhaps most important, to stress how kindergartens can be used as a programming tool to attract young parents, who are often preoccupied with establishing their families, into the orbit of Jewish communal life and learning. By the end of December, 22 kindergartens were functioning in 19 communities.

JDC’s Jewish libraries program has become a mainstay of both formal and informal Jewish educational efforts, with specialized libraries developed to serve a variety of needs. The libraries have also become a key tool for both Jewish outreach and community-organizing activities. Close to 100 functioning Jewish libraries have been established to date as a result of JDC’s efforts. In addition to establishing new libraries in the coming year, JDC will continue to update and add to existing collections.

One kind of specially tailored library was developed for the Jewish summer camps that have proliferated throughout the former Soviet Union. Last summer, JDC supplied libraries and a variety of educational materials—including the *tzedaka* curriculum described above—to 60 Jewish summer camps. It also sent 243 children from eight
JDC’s Jewish libraries program has become a mainstay of educational efforts and outreach activities.

different successor states to the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary. The JDC Jewish Music and Arts Center in Moscow continues to provide Jewish youth with the opportunity to develop their particular talents while fostering a renewal of Jewish artistic expression.

JDC expanded its efforts last year in the area of academic and adult Jewish education. Courses that had been developed in previous years together with the Open University of Israel enjoyed broad publicity in 1993 and the sponsorship of local community partners. By the end of 1993, 1,100 individuals had registered for courses on the Holocaust, the history of Eastern European Jewry, and the Oral Law. Jewish universities in both Moscow and St. Petersburg also benefited from JDC support in 1993 as they expanded their programs; their efforts to train Jewish professionals and produce a body of educated laity have already begun to bear fruit.

NURTURING THE JEWISH CULTURAL RENAISSANCE

Jewish communal life in the former Soviet Union has been enriched by the renaissance in cultural life currently under way. JDC has been supporting a variety of artistic endeavors, in addition to the youth-oriented activities of the Jewish Music and Arts Center described in the previous section. Migdal Ohr, the JDC-sponsored musical theater in Odessa, is one example. The troupe’s success was immediate; one of its concerts last year drew an audience of 750 — in a Crimean city with a Jewish population of 1,100. Aliya, a popular band from Samara with a large Jewish repertoire, has been playing at holiday celebrations in nine Volga communities. JDC provided the band’s equipment and musical notations and organized the regional network that hosts the concerts in each city.

For the past three years, JDC has sponsored an intensive week-long training program for teachers of Israeli dance, under the auspices of the Israel Folk Dance Institute. Participants in each session have returned to their home communities and introduced this aspect of Jewish culture into communal life, while passing their newly gained skills on to students of their own. In October, the Odessa community hosted Israeli dance teachers from 19 communities in Ukraine and Moldova at a JDC-supported seminar that was organized and run by graduates of the Institute program. One teacher came from an isolated community of 300 Jews near Donetsk in the Donbass region; she explained that Israeli dance is the only regular Jewish communal activity in her city today.

For years, Jewish culture was suppressed under the Soviet regime. Artists were forced underground; many were victims of periodic purges. JDC is helping to resurrect their material—plays, musical compositions, even operas. A committee of Moscow Jewish intellectuals was formed to establish a resource collection for the Jewish
arts, with researchers gathering material from secret archives as well as from sources around the globe. The collection will be available to all groups, faculties, and individuals interested in the Jewish arts throughout the former Soviet Union. If the Kharkov Jewish theater, for example, wants to stage a performance of a play in Yiddish about regional Soviet life, they can turn to this center, as can the Jewish orchestra in Omsk that needs music for a Jewish wedding.

HELPING JEWS TO LIVE AS JEWS

In many instances, cultural life is centered around the Jewish calendar, with holiday celebrations providing the showcase for group performances and other forms of artistic expression. But religious life in the former Soviet Union today extends beyond holiday celebrations, and here too JDC plays a key role.

Synagogue leaders had long complained to JDC staff of the absence of a modern Russian translation of the prayerbook (siddur). Jewish educators added their voice to the chorus, citing their need to use the siddur as a basic school text and an important part of camping and other informal education programs. JDC responded with a year-long project that saw the publication in 1993 of Russian-language siddurim for both the Ashkenazi and Sephardi communities; a Russian translation of the Pentateuch was also republished by JDC. Synagogues, schools, and camps are now well stocked with these essential items of Judaica.

A variety of other Jewish ritual items, unavailable in the former Soviet Union, were supplied by JDC to synagogues and schools last year. The list included lulavim and etrogim for the Sukkot holiday, as well as the sukkot themselves, menorahs and candles for Chanukah, and Passover Haggadahs.

Throughout the years of Communist rule, Soviet Jews who traditionally purchased matzah for Passover each spring saw their action as a tangible way of identifying with the Jewish people. The current Jewish renaissance has caused demand for matzah to far outstrip supply as more and more Jews adopt this practice. To enable them to do so, JDC has provided money and expertise to help both the Moscow and Kiev communities significantly increase their matzah production. JDC also responded to special requests last year from 11 small communities that had never before experienced a public seder, and provided personnel and supplies to enable them to do so. The seder in Minsk was made particularly special by the participation of five Jewish soldiers who were able to obtain a leave from the Belarus army with JDC's help.

Jews throughout the former Soviet Union welcome the reassurance of JDC's continuing intensive presence.

HELPING JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE ASIAN REGIONS

The Jewish communities in the Asian regions of the former Soviet Union present unique problems. Many individuals in these Sephardi communities were able to maintain a traditional Jewish lifestyle throughout the Soviet era, but the massive Jewish exodus of recent years
has left them bereft of religious leadership. JDC brought nine rabbis from Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Tajikistan together last year, many of whom had been performing circumcisions and serving as ritual slaughterers in addition to carrying out their rabbinic functions. They met for a week and held master classes in their various areas of expertise. JDC provided them with a forum in which to share their professional concerns and helped them create an ongoing network; they left with an added dimension of enthusiasm for their work.

Some rabbis have requested and received extra training. A rabbi in Georgia, for example, spent three months studying the laws of ritual slaughter in Israel. He now leaves Tbilisi every Monday in a JDC-supplied car and makes a tour of small Georgian communities that depend on his weekly visit to provide their kosher meat. In a similar vein, St. Petersburg now has a resident mohel (one who performs religious circumcisions). The community requested JDC help, a training program was arranged, and the parents of Jewish newborns no longer have to wait for visitors from abroad in order to fulfill this mitzvah.

Recognizing the impact these rabbis have made in their communities, JDC, in partnership with other international Jewish organizations, has embarked on a program to place additional rabbis in local communities for extended periods of time, with six rabbis placed in 1993.

Synagogues provide the backdrop not only for religious life, but for Jewish communal life as well. In most communities the synagogue is the only existing Jewish communal property, and in many cases the buildings are in terrible disrepair. JDC has been helping communities reclaim and renovate communal properties. The Jewish community of Nalchik in the Caucasus, for example, now has a functioning synagogue in a building that can also house a school and a variety of community activities, and the same is true for Yevpatoria in the Crimea. Dozens of other cities throughout the former Soviet Union have been able to recover communal properties as a result of JDC intervention.

Jewish communal life in the former Soviet Union is still tenuous in nature, with much work yet to be done to ensure the provision of services to those Jews who are beginning to look to their communities to fulfill their spiritual, emotional, and often physical needs. During this period of communal growth and increasing Jewish identification, against a background of great uncertainty and turmoil, Jews throughout the former Soviet Union need to know that there are those elsewhere who stand with them. That phone call received by the JDC office last October gave voice to a need for the kind of reassurance that JDC's continuing intensive presence can provide: "I just wanted to know whether you're still here. Now I feel better."
Now that the European continent is no longer artificially divided into competing geo-political blocs, Jewish communities from the Atlantic to the Urals have been reestablishing traditional connections and relationships that were torn asunder by the Holocaust or frozen by east-west tensions during the cold war. This continental coming together is part of a concerted effort by the European Jewish community to reclaim its traditional role in world Jewry.

JDC's 80-year history of European operations makes it uniquely positioned to help facilitate this trend. Its community development program operates in partnership with the local communities and with two umbrella organizations, the EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES and the EUROPEAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS. Utilizing European personnel and Western European expertise as much as possible, JDC provides technical assistance to communities and institutions via professional consultations and furnishes seed money for innovative approaches to communal needs. Its community development office has become a communications center and information exchange, with a growing data bank of available expertise that is being developed in cooperation with the European Council. JDC is increasingly able to put communities that turn to it with a given problem in contact with those who can help.

Leadership training for lay leaders and professionals is a key element of JDC's community development program. Training programs targeted to local needs were implemented in 1993 in a variety of European countries in cooperation with the European Council, CBF World Jewish Relief (U.K.) and the Doron and Rich Foundations.

THE BUNCHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, which was launched in 1989 as a partnership of
JDC has determined that its involvement in Europe should focus on community development, although it continues to maintain relief programs for Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe.

In addition to assisting individual communities, JDC has a role to play in helping the renascent Eastern European Jewish communities draw on and benefit from the resources and experience of the Western Europeans, who were able to begin rebuilding their own communities immediately after the end of World War II.

- JDC provides technical assistance in community development as necessary and feasible. It also helps communities to maximize their human resources through training programs for current and emerging lay and professional leadership.

- JDC works to promote mutual assistance by linking communities together and helping the European Council and other pan-European Jewish bodies establish arenas in which to address issues of regional or continental concern.
the Buncher Family Foundation, the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, and JDC had 15 trainees in its initial year. Last year it had 41, and 48 participants are expected this year. A manpower training and development structure for Jewish community leaders that is operated by JDC's community development department, the program centers on an intensive training experience in Israel, with special tracks tailored to the needs of individual participants from Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, and India. Preliminary seminars are held locally to select program participants, and the Israel-based activities are followed by periodic regional seminars. The Buncher family has recently provided additional funds to establish a new “alumni” program that will include visiting tutors and annual update seminars, and it is supporting the publication of new case material based on current experience in the field.

Three REGIONAL PROJECTS were launched last year in cooperation with the European Council and local communities. These projects link together communities in different countries that share a common geographic, cultural, and historic base. The objective is to raise the critical mass of participants needed to improve the quality of a variety of Jewish communal activities and promote the sharing of expertise, social services, programs for different age groups, and new regional initiatives. The Central European Region encompasses seven countries and eight cities from Venice-Milan to Zagreb; the Nordic Region brings the Baltic states together with the Scandinavian countries and the city of Kaliningrad; and the Mediterranean Region includes Jewish communities in the south of France as well as those of Italy, Spain, Greece, and Morocco. These projects are seen as an important weapon in the fight against assimilation, with Jewish youth expected to benefit the most as regional exchanges widen their circle of Jewish contacts and enhance the attractiveness of Jewish communal life.

In SPAIN, JDC funds were again provided in 1993 to help support four World War II era refugees who live in Barcelona; the funds are channeled through EZRA, the local Jewish welfare agency. In partnership with the local communities of Madrid, Barcelona, and Malaga, JDC began a pilot training program for young leaders and communal professionals last year that had 25 participants, with 25 more set for 1994. Funds were also allocated in ITALY last year for an elderly, handicapped transmigrant who died during the course of the year.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES

JDC helps fund the activities of the European Council of Jewish Communities, which was formerly known as the European Council of Jewish Communal Services. The Council's dynamic new leadership has, over the past year, spearheaded a major restructuring of the organization that was reflected in this change of name. No longer focusing on the delivery of services, the Council has become a vital inter-community network. In addition to co-sponsoring the Regional Projects, the Council is actively promoting the exchange of information on issues of mutual concern and working to bring the experience and support of the larger, well-established communities to bear on the problems of smaller, struggling communities throughout the continent.

Over 200 lay and professional leaders from 20 countries participated in a three-day series of Council meetings in London last September that focused on a variety of issues. Rethinking the type of services needed for the elderly in Europe was one important topic, as was the fashioning of a community center model geared specifically to European needs. Plans for 1994 include a series of training seminars based in a new European leadership
center (LEATID—Europe), which is being established as a cooperative effort of the European Council, JDC, CBF World Jewish Relief (U.K.), ORT, and the Doron Foundation. Plans are also well under way for the first CAJE-style conference of European Jewish educators; it will be held in Holland in July.

THE EUROPEAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS (EUJS)

JDC continues to support EUJS’ activities, which have been focused for the past few years on helping to develop local and regional student unions in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. EUJS’ training seminars and its summer university, which was held last summer in Barcelona and had 400 participants, bring together Jewish students from across the continent, thereby strengthening the ties between Jewish communities while helping to develop future leaders.

THE BALTIC STATES

JDC’s community development program has been helping the Jewish communities of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, as well as the Russian city of Kaliningrad, to develop their communal infrastructures, with a particular emphasis on establishing social services for the elderly and the disadvantaged. These communities are fully oriented toward the Scandinavian countries and Central Europe; they have been eager to participate in a variety of pan-European Jewish activities and are investing heavily in Jewish schooling. JDC is helping to coordinate and oversee the various forms of relief currently being provided to those in acute need in conjunction with the Swedish Committee for Ex-Soviet Jewry, the Jewish community of Finland, and other expatriate donors. In Riga, after community leaders developed an operational plan for the Jewish hospital that the government had returned to the community, a training program was arranged at Stockholm’s main hospital; the program is being funded by the Swedish government.

JDC sponsors the participation of young Jewish activists and communal and educational professionals from these countries in various training programs in Europe and Israel. It is helping to develop Jewish cultural and educational activities for different age groups, with a club for the elderly launched last summer in Riga and a family program initiated there in December. Similar projects are being planned for Tallinn and Vilnius. A variety of religious supplies were provided to different communities in 1993; 550 Chanukah kits were distributed to school children; financial assistance was provided to schools seeking to upgrade their educational material and equipment; and exchange visits were facilitated with various European Jewish schools. Half of the Baltic states’ 14 Judaic libraries were established over the past few years through JDC, and JDC is planning to upgrade all of them in 1994 with a major shipment of additional books and videos from JDC-Israel.

TRANSMIGRANTS

For the past few years, most of JDC’s transmigrant operations have been concentrated in Vienna and 313 Jews in transit were assisted there in 1993. Since 1991, JDC has expected all transmigrants to be self-supporting or to receive financial assistance from relatives already in the United States. JDC assistance is of a technical nature only, with transmigrants helped to find housing and medical care. No funds are provided by JDC for care and maintenance expenses, except for medical or other emergencies. Cultural and educational programs continue to be provided for children and adults awaiting processing, with special celebrations for the Jewish holidays. JDC’s Rome office continued to provide technical assistance last year to a small number of residual transmigrants in Ladispoli, and help was provided to a few Jewish transmigrants in Greece. The Rome office also provided help to various groups of Jews who passed through Italy in 1993 after leaving their country of origin, caring for 207 individuals in all.
FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
[CROATIA, SLOVENIA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA and MONTENEGRO), and the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA]

JDC's ability to mount relief and rescue efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina over the past two years is testimony to the generosity of the organized American and European Jewish communities and the caring concern of other international humanitarian organizations as well as individual benefactors. The necessity for these efforts, however, is testimony of a very different sort that speaks to the tragic state of human affairs and unrelenting horror that had come to define that area.

This contrast was never more apparent than on February 5, 1994 when JDC mounted its most dramatic rescue to date, a multi-ethnic convoy that brought nearly 300 people out of Sarajevo just as a mortar attack on the city's central market killed 65 civilians and injured hundreds more. The six-bus convoy was organized by JDC and La Benevolencija, the Sarajevo Jewish community's cultural and philanthropic organization, which has been JDC's partner in relief efforts in Bosnia since the war there began in April 1992. The Jewish community of Zagreb, Croatia, governmental and military authorities on all sides, and the United Nations forces all helped with arrangements.

After an arduous overnight journey, the convoy made it safely to JDC's refugee center in Makarska, Croatia, where it was met by JDC's President, Ambassador Milton A. Wolf. Many of the elderly Jewish evacuees, nearly all of whom were Holocaust survivors, hastened to point out that this was the second time in their lives that "The Joint" had come to their aid. As in previous evacuation efforts, JDC coordinated its operations with the Jewish Agency, which took immediate responsibility for transporting to Israel those Jews wishing to make aliyah. Other Jews among the evacuees were cared for by JDC. They thus joined the approximately 1,600 other Bosnian Jewish refugees for whom JDC, with the cooperation of local Jewish communities throughout the former Yugoslavia, has provided temporary financial assistance, housing, and medical care over the course of the past two years.

From the beginning, CBF World Jewish Relief (U.K.) has shared in the cost of these operations as well as in other JDC relief and rescue activities throughout the former Yugoslavia.

Many of the Bosnian Jewish refugees have by now resettled in Israel, Western Europe, or Canada. Some—particularly the elderly—elected to remain in more familiar surroundings, daunted by the prospect of moving so far away at their age. Others—including the most recent refugees—await resettlement or reunion with separated
STATISTICS

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
Jewish Population: .......... 5-7,000
JDC Appropriation: .......... $1,202,000

BULGARIA
Jewish Population: .......... 6,000
JDC Appropriation: .......... $405,500

HUNGARY
Jewish Population: .......... 130,000
JDC Appropriation: .......... $3,011,400

CZECH REPUBLIC
Jewish Population: .......... 3-6,000
JDC Appropriation: .......... $169,500

ROMANIA
Jewish Population: .......... 22-24,000
JDC Appropriation: .......... $2,724,200

SLOVAKIA
Jewish Population: .......... 3-6,000
JDC Appropriation: .......... $106,500

POLAND
Jewish Population: .......... 5-10,000
JDC Appropriation: .......... $937,100

'Figures are approximate.

JDC'S OBJECTIVES IN EASTERN EUROPE

- JDC helps individual communities provide elderly Holocaust survivors with the material assistance they need to live out their lives with dignity as Jews.
- JDC works to ensure that benefits are provided in a regionally equitable manner, and that those assisted will come as close as possible to having the modest minimum income needed to maintain acceptable living conditions.
- Local communities are also being helped to develop additional services to relieve the loneliness of the elderly while meeting their physical needs.
- JDC continues to encourage the process of Jewish renewal under way in these renascent communities by stimulating the reestablishment of Jewish cultural, religious, educational, and youth activities.
- JDC helps individual communities to organize themselves effectively and rebuild needed services; it promotes the development and training of lay and professional leaders and encourages actions to increase self-sufficiency.
- All of these efforts are designed to help ensure, where feasible, a viable and dynamic Jewish life for the future.
- In keeping with its global policy, JDC, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency and the Government of Israel, will continue to respond to emergency situations, helping to rescue and care for Jews in danger or distress, as it has been doing in the former Yugoslavia.
family members. By the end of the first quarter of 1994, JDC was still providing assistance to about 160 refugees in Croatia and Serbia.

Nearly two-thirds of February's 296 evacuees were non-Jews—Croats, Serbs, and Muslims; indeed, of the approximately 2,100 individuals rescued by JDC in the three airlifts and eight land convoys mounted since April 1992, about 1,100 have been members of other religious and ethnic communities. This is in keeping with the spirit that has motivated the relief efforts of local Jewish communities throughout the former Yugoslavia, for, as the head of the Zagreb community explained, “If these people were our friends before the war, they are our friends in the war.”

The same feeling underlay the Sarajevo community's refusal to accept the evacuation offer made by JDC's Executive Vice-President in April 1993, when he flew in to help organize a public Passover seder as a symbol of support for all those under siege. That seder became in addition a demonstration of ecumenical unity, with the President of Bosnia and the heads of the three major religious communities joining the 250 Jewish participants. Sarajevo's remaining Jews indicated at that time that, in addition to their wish to perpetuate their 500-year-old community, they felt an obligation to continue their important role of providing aid to both their Muslim and Christian neighbors. For, as an acknowledged neutral party, the Jews of former Yugoslavia have been able to secure the trust of all the warring factions, and they have been able to get relief and rescue convoys through the lines when no one else could.

Food, clothing, medicines, and medical supplies donated by CBF and by other European Jewish communities, by U.S. and Canadian donors, by European governments, and by other international relief agencies, including the Moslem Merkhamet and Catholic Caritas, were shipped over the past two years through the supply lifeline established by JDC and La Benevolencija between Split and Sarajevo. The transport network was funded by contributions to JDC's Open Mailbox, and goods were distributed on a non-sectarian basis. JDC established an International Interfaith Network of Aid Donors in 1993 to assure continuing support for this operation.

Between November 1992 and the end of 1993, some 500 tons of food were shipped to Sarajevo, along with more than 80 tons of medicines and medical supplies, 160 boxes of clothing, and nearly 20 tons of other material. When land routes were closed last summer, JDC arranged to have medicines and other goods flown into Sarajevo on U.N. planes. A 14-truck convoy brought a 350-ton shipment into Sarajevo in October 1993, the first convoy to reach that city in five months.

Since early 1993, aid has also been reaching some of the smaller communities in Bosnia that have been suffering as much as Sarajevo, and supplies are periodically shipped to Croatia to benefit those who have taken refuge there. A generous donation from MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger enabled JDC to replenish food and fuel stockpiles last fall after they had become dangerously low.
La Benevolencia's humanitarian operations have been truly remarkable, particularly in light of conditions on the ground throughout 1993. Its three pharmacies dispensed between 3,000 and 4,000 prescriptions a day as well as formula and other infant needs, all at no charge to recipients; over 1.6 million medications were distributed last year, meeting half of the city's needs. Additional medicines and other supplies were sent to hospitals, health centers, and first aid stations. With the wounded filling the city's hospitals, La Benevolencia's own first aid station devised a unique system of "home hospitalization;" its team of doctors and nurses made daily house calls to treat the "regular" patients for whom the hospitals no longer had room.

Through its open soup kitchen, La Benevolencia provided over 110,000 hot meals in 1993, feeding 320 individuals each day from all of the city's communities, including 90 Jews. It also distributed over 28,000 10-kilogram food parcels to the city's neediest and donated 42 tons of food to other humanitarian organizations, making a total of 358 tons of food that was distributed through its warehouse last year.

Nor did JDC and La Benevolencia neglect other human needs. The same convoys bringing supplies to Sarajevo from the logistics center in Split carried mail back and forth between family members and friends separated by war; over 100,000 letters were sent in or out in 1993 via these convoys as well as a special courier traveling on U.N. flights. The names of those who received mail were posted daily outside the Jewish community building. In November 1992, JDC operatives set up a radio-telephone link between the Jewish communities of Sarajevo and Zagreb that enabled the citizens of Sarajevo to reestablish direct communications with the outside world. Over 10,000 calls were made through this connection in 1993, and an additional 10,000 messages were sent back and forth. Again, all services were provided free of charge to all groups.

By the middle of 1993, it had become apparent to JDC that many members of the Jewish community in Belgrade—who had welcomed Bosnian Jewish refugees with open arms and continued to provide material aid to Jewish communities in Serbian-controlled areas of Bosnia—would themselves be needing special assistance to make it through the winter and beyond. As the U.N. sanctions bit deeply into the Serbian economy and normal supply channels for food and medications ceased to function, black market prices for basic necessities soared. Unable to meet those prices, the community's many elderly pensioners (Holocaust survivors all) and its ill or unemployed members faced a real danger of starvation. All, however, were increasingly affected as inflation continued to rage, medicines became virtually unobtainable, and getting adequate food became a real problem. The number of social cases handled by the Jewish Federation nearly doubled in the last months of 1993.

Although JDC had been providing food packages on a modest scale since the previous winter, with CBF's support and the generosity of an anonymous European
donor, it was able to help the Federation and the Belgrade community organize a broadened relief effort. An emergency food distribution was made to all community members in December from reserve stocks purchased earlier in preparation for the winter; similar distributions were made in the Jewish communities of Novi Sad, Subotica, and Pancevo.

JDC, CBF, and the anonymous donor also financed a shipment of 3,500 family packages containing a variety of staples. These were distributed during the course of the past winter to those households deemed most vulnerable. Their needs had been evaluated through home visits made by the Federation’s new social relief team, which continues to monitor the situation of pensioners, resettled Bosnian refugees, social cases, and families with small children. Packages were also distributed to old age homes on a non-sectarian basis. A new shipment of packages this spring included a large quantity of antibiotics donated to CBF that will be distributed to public hospitals and nursing homes.

Additional food, medicines, and new clothing have also been donated by various European Jewish communities. The clothing is particularly needed by the Bosnian refugees, many of whom came with little but the clothes on their backs. In this, as in all other matters, Belgrade’s Jews had been most helpful, but they no longer have clothing to spare.

Through its office in Vienna, JDC organized its shipments of medications after obtaining the necessary U.N. authorization for these as for all other shipments. By early 1994, the community pharmacy set up by the Federation with active JDC support was serving 1,000 chronically ill individuals and others with temporary needs in Jewish communities throughout Serbia and Serbian-controlled areas of Bosnia. Medications were also distributed to Righteous Gentiles and to area hospitals and nursing homes.

Rent subsidies are being provided to resettled refugees forced to pay Belgrade’s exorbitant prevailing rents. Meanwhile, JDC’s regular programs continued last year throughout the former Yugoslavia. Its financial support enables local communities to operate cash assistance programs for mostly elderly assistees, with 90 individuals helped in Croatia and Slovenia last year, eight in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (including four refugees), and 103 in Serbia. JDC continues to support the Svarc Old Age Home in Zagreb which remains the only Jewish old age home in the former Yugoslavia. It is filled to capacity with 80 residents, including more than a dozen Bosnian refugees and other non-Croatians. A waiting list of about 90 includes 55 refugees, and JDC is seeking to strengthen home care services and exploring the possibility of developing an outpatient facility to help those awaiting placement.

In the areas of Jewish educational and cultural activities and leadership development and training, JDC has enabled the local communities to continue in the direction they were headed before Yugoslavia’s break-up, despite the ongoing crisis. In Zagreb, for example,
the new Jewish community building is the site of a flourishing social and cultural program for Jews of all ages, and the Jewish kindergarten continues to maintain a quality program, funded equally by parents, the government, and JDC. With JDC's encouragement and support, the Croatian Union of Jewish Students began an educational outreach project in 1993 to the smaller Jewish communities in Croatia. Even in its time of crisis, the Sarajevo community was able to print a Jewish calendar last year—the first since 1941—as well as a community bulletin, all with JDC’s help.

The Jewish communities in Belgrade and elsewhere in Serbia continue to function within what one Jewish leader there termed “two realities,” attempting to expand Jewish community life even as they grapple with the day-to-day struggle for existence. The building housing the Federation and community offices in Belgrade is currently being renovated with help from JDC and an outside donor. Local cultural, social, and youth groups are eager to make use of the upgraded facilities to help meet the increasing demand for Jewish knowledge and involvement in Jewish activities. Sixty-five children from Serbia attended the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Camp at Szarvas, Hungary last summer, and 300 mostly younger members of Jewish communities in both Croatia and Serbia, including resettled Bosnian refugees, participated in the “family camp” held at the summer's end.

JDC is subsidizing the training in Israel of two rabbinical students, one from Serbia and the other from Sarajevo; both have been returning periodically to conduct educational workshops and holiday celebrations, including communal Passover seders. JDC continues to ship Passover supplies to Croatia, Slovenia, and Serbia, and its Executive Vice-President personally delivered the ingredients needed for the special seder that was held in Sarajevo last year.

Two local community members participated in the Israel-based Buncher Community Development Program in 1993, and JDC plans to send two others this year. One of that program's first Yugoslav participants is now a leader of the Belgrade community. JDC also sent community members from Skopje, Subotica, and Split last year for training at the Israel Folk Dance Institute in London.

In July 1993, JDC convened a meeting in Budapest of leaders of all the successor organizations to the old Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia. The major topic of discussion was the eventual disposition of federation assets. JDC is helping to facilitate ongoing negotiations on this topic; it is also encouraging a continuing dialogue on issues of common concern to those who till very recently comprised one larger Jewish entity.
JDC continues to implement its social welfare program for elderly Holocaust survivors through the Hungarian Jewish Social Support Foundation, which was established in November 1990. At JDC's initiative, the composition and activities of the board of directors were restructured last year to conform to Western democratic practices. A new system was implemented to determine eligibility for cash support and social assistance; it includes a detailed questionnaire designed to elicit clients' special needs. The Foundation instituted a number of important organizational changes in 1993 to improve its delivery of services, and its computerized records provide up-to-date information on the physical and mental condition of those needing help.

In the coming year, Foundation social workers will expand their reach to elderly Jews who have been living in virtual isolation in various provincial areas. In addition to home visits, the social workers will make transportation arrangements that will enable these individuals to participate on a regular basis in appropriate programs at nearby old age homes.

Social assistance was provided through the Foundation to more than 3,000 individuals in 1993, 2,268 of whom received cash support grants. A drastic, 15-20 percent increase in the price of basic commodities went into effect on January 1, 1994; medication prices have risen an average of 44 percent; and water, utility, and housing maintenance fees have all gone up sharply. All of this would seem to presage an inflation rate far above the 10 percent originally anticipated for 1994. Adjustments in support may therefore have to be made in the coming year in order to maintain the modest minimum income that JDC aims to assure through these grants, without which this aging population of survivors would be unable to afford adequate food, heat, or clothing.

In addition to cash grants, food support was provided to over 1,100 people in Budapest last year via hot lunches at kosher canteens and a meals-on-wheels and food package delivery program. JDC also supports three kosher canteens in the provinces that provide warm meals to about 120 individuals each day, and it helps the Orthodox community with its food program for the impoverished elderly. A special JDC grant enabled the community to hire a dietician in November to improve nutritional quality at the Budapest Central Kitchen, and three additional social workers have joined the food delivery program to monitor the everyday problems of the homebound. An experimental use of community volunteers has now become a permanent fixture of this program; they are helping to deliver 25-kilogram food packages to the homebound every second month, with a special package distributed last November in time for Chanukah.

Special attention was paid last year to improving conditions in the three old age homes that JDC helps to support. At the recommendation of visiting experts, changes were made in the composition of the staff, and health care was given a higher priority. Two new clubs for pensioners were opened in Budapest in 1993, while support continued for the existing club and day care center. Counting an additional club scheduled to open in 1994, some 600 older individuals are expected to benefit this year from a range of activities and services that is enhancing their quality of life. With the help of the Jewish Braille Institute of America, one club specializes in services for the visually impaired; it has a lending library of talking books and listening equipment that serves about 130 individuals.
As part of the outreach program to the provinces, a pensioner’s club was established in Szeged last year with the help of a Foundation social worker who had moved to that city, and JDC is currently helping to open a similar club in Debrecen. To help build meaningful relationships between the generations and teach students the importance of community involvement and bikkor cholim (visiting the sick), JDC has encouraged volunteer groups of students from the Jewish schools to pay regular visits to the clubs and old age homes; both generations seem to have much to gain from these visits. A special study curriculum has been developed that emphasizes the Jewish tradition of social assistance; it is expected to be implemented in the Anne Frank High School in 1994.

Over the past two years, JDC determined that in Budapest alone there were hundreds of Jewish elderly who had to be integrated into the municipal home care program if they were to receive the help they needed. To facilitate this, JDC established an extension course for municipal social workers on the subject of modern home care; the course had 42 participants last year and it is continuing.

JDC organized a visit to Vienna for course participants to study that city’s welfare structure as well as the social care system and old age home maintained by the Jewish community. To date, 100 Jewish cases have been integrated into the municipal home care system, with the number of cases expected to reach 150 this year.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas continues to attract more and more Jewish children from Hungary and from neighboring countries that were formerly part of the Communist bloc. There were 1,455 children at the camp last summer, up from 1,199 in 1992 and 583 just two years earlier. Construction is once again under way to increase the camp’s capacity so that it can accommodate about 15 percent more children in the 1994 summer season.

Many of the children come from localities with no active Jewish communal services; the everyday Jewish life of the camp brings the stories told to them by their parents and grandparents to life. And what they see with their eyes leaves an indelible impression on their hearts and minds; they learn for the first time that there are places in the world where being Jewish brings one a sense of pride, joy, and happiness. When they return home, they bring with them a new knowledge and appreciation of their Jewish identity, and they bring the older generation a torch of hope.

Last summer saw a repeat of the previous year’s successful “family camp” after the close of the regular sessions. About 300 participants from various parts of the former Yugoslavia and from the Czech Republic and Slovakia enjoyed a full range of Jewish programming and camp activities. Earlier in the summer, during one of the bi-weekly “open” days for parents and other adults, 45 of the Support Foundation’s elderly assistees visited the camp. Young and old found the occasion very special, with the Holocaust survivors deeply moved to be witnessing the open pride of this new generation of Jewish youth. A special pre-season session for the elderly is planned for this year; not only is the locale expected to work its usual inspirational magic, but two physical therapists will be on hand to teach the elderly exercises appropriate to their needs.
JDC continues to provide technical advice and support to Budapest’s two Jewish day schools, and it helps fund the operating costs of the community’s Anne Frank High School, which had 190 pupils enrolled for the 1993-94 academic year. JDC also helps the Orthodox community with its Talmud Torah and kindergarten programs.

JDC supported a variety of informal Jewish educational and cultural activities last year, in cooperation with a whole series of partners. Programs included a Sukkot “happening” for families wishing to celebrate this Jewish festival; a seminar for youth movement leaders in Budapest in December; and a sports day at the close of the school year last June that brought together all three Jewish schools and five youth movements. A week-long cantorial training seminar sponsored by the Lorbeer family has had a dynamic effect on the entire cantorial community, and a special performance in Debrecen by the Lauder-Yavneh School Theater succeeded in attracting many Jews heretofore unaffiliated with the community. The theater is continuing its visits to provincial towns in 1994 as other communities clamor for a chance to see similar performances.

A two-day conference on social involvement and voluntarism that was convened by JDC in June attracted over 200 participants and much positive press coverage. It drew attention to the importance of volunteer activities, a feature new to Hungarian life, and stressed the value of coordinating the efforts of those organizations interested in voluntary work.

JDC was also involved in the selection and support of participants in a variety of leadership training programs in 1993, including the Israel-based Buncher Community Development Program. In partnership with Jerusalem’s Schocken Institute, the Budapest Rabbinical Seminary, and the local community, JDC instituted a three-year teacher training program, or Pedagogium, in 1989 that includes community work among its requirements. The program, which now has seven alumni and 42 students,

... learning ways and means to deepen their identification as Jews.

is helping to provide a core of potential Jewish educators and community leaders. JDC also continued its support last year for the Hungarian Union of Jewish Students, which is becoming a vital part of the European Jewish student movement.

JDC is currently helping to establish a community center complex in a building that was recently returned to the Jewish community. The complex is being renovated with the help of a generous donor to CBF World Jewish Relief (U.K.) and is expected to open later this year. In addition to a community center, which will serve as a focal point for Jewish cultural activities, the complex will house the Jewish Youth Documentary Center that was established two years ago and reorganized and upgraded by JDC last year. This center provides written and audio-visual resource materials to the various Jewish schools and youth movements. The new Holocaust Survivor Crisis Intervention Center that just began operating will also be moved to the complex; its location there will serve to further encourage the kind of inter-generational ties described earlier.

JDC continues to help community members meet their religious needs; it provides many assistees with a small
supplementary grant to help with their Passover expenses and supplies various religious items to those lacking the means to purchase them. It also subsidizes the operation of the Rabbinical Seminary and participates in the cost of a rabbi for the Orthodox community and a ritual slaughterer who provides kosher meat for the community canteens.

Late in 1993, a Chanukah conference of Jewish educators from Eastern Europe was convened by JDC in conjunction with the Schocken Institute of Jerusalem, with additional support from the European Council of Jewish Communities, CBF World Jewish Relief, and the Rich and Doron Foundations. The conference was designed to satisfy the hunger that exists among Eastern European Jewish educators and community leaders for a more thorough knowledge of Jewish history, tradition, and thought, and for additional tools to use in their work. The 151 participants included representatives from nine countries and teachers of all age groups, as well as rabbinical students and community leaders. Jewish leadership through the ages was an important conference theme, which was developed by distinguished guest lecturers and staff members of JDC and the European Council. The conference as a whole proved to be a positive communal experience and an important forum for the exchange of ideas and initiatives. It left participants with a feeling of strength and a variety of thoughts to be transmitted to their home communities. The conference also showed just how great a Jewish void exists in Eastern Europe, and how fervently the Eastern European Jews desire to fill that void by learning ways and means to deepen their identification as Jews.

ROMANIA

In May 1993, the Romanian government removed most subsidies and price controls from basic food items as well as transportation and energy costs, resulting in a 350 to 900 percent run-up in the prices of daily necessities. Many elderly Jews not previously assisted by the community needed emergency help to keep from going hungry in the face of these sharp increases, and all were frightened by these dramatic changes. JDC responded quickly, allaying the community's shock and anxiety by swiftly approving a six-month emergency food program that ultimately served 1,600 individuals. This program was terminated on December 31 and replaced with a much more limited one for some 200 to 400 of the elderly who were still having difficulty tightening their belts and adapting to the new economic realities. JDC will continue to monitor the situation and remain alert to the needs of the community should another emergency develop.

Adjustments in aid were also made last year so that the 1,300 elderly Holocaust survivors and their families whom JDC helps sustain with monthly cash grants could...
cope better with the new price situation. Though spot shortages still exist, most foods and other basic goods are no longer scarce in Romania; however, they are now well beyond the reach of much of the general population, and especially of pensioners.

The cash grants are made by the social assistance department of FEDROM, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, through which JDC operates its country programs. In view of the huge run-up in energy costs and an early start to the cold season, JDC allocated additional funds last fall so that winter relief grants could be expanded. This helped needy Jews get through what indeed proved to be a difficult winter.

JDC also helps fund FEDROM’s network of 11 kosher canteens, which served over 500,000 subsidized hot meals last year, providing both nutritional and social benefits to the lonely elderly. Meals-on-wheels were delivered four times a week to some 650 homebound elderly in Bucharest and 300 in the provinces; they include enough food for one main meal a day. About 2,700 assistees and community workers received food packages last year that they consider critical to their survival; this is the most visible and valued program supported by JDC, and its impact is tremendous. In view of the emergency food situation, JDC provided funds for 11 packages last year for all participants; the program normally consists of eight packages a year, with four additional packages provided to the 600 assistees living in smaller towns with no kosher canteens.

About 2,000 elderly also benefited last year from a clothing distribution program for which JDC secured large-scale in-kind donations. FEDROM’s comprehensive medical program served 1,750 elderly Jews in 1993 at the Bucharest Polyclinic and in small clinics in 19 other communities, and home care was provided to 714 individuals. Many of these small clinics now have part-time physicians; some have been “adopted” by doctors from the Bucharest Polyclinic who provide regular consultations; and a new “roving” physician was hired to supervise medical care in the provinces. To help the FEDROM medical staff with the difficult task of keeping professionally up-to-date, JDC has been organizing periodic training sessions with prominent foreign specialists and sending in medical journals and other professional literature. A leading Israeli geriatrician conducted last year’s seminar and at least one session is planned for 1994.

In a country where medications are often difficult to find, major improvements were made in 1993 in the medication distribution program run by the Bucharest Polyclinic. A newly hired professional pharmacist reorganized and streamlined the system, and optimal use is being made of both purchased and donated medications as well as existing entitlements for government subsidies. This program currently benefits some 2,100 assistees and nursing home residents and is available to serve the needs of Jewish communities throughout the country.

The community continues to maintain two old age homes in Bucharest with JDC’s help, as well as two smaller, family-style homes in Transylvania. One of the latter will be closed over the next few years as the size of the population continues to decline. In Bucharest, the more modern 215-bed Rosen Home is expected to serve 180 elderly in 1994, including 35 former residents of the Balus Home. The latter were transferred to the Rosen Home last year in order to improve their living conditions and in keeping with the plan to downsize and eventually close the Balus facility, which now has 60 residents. JDC is sending an Israeli occupational therapy consultant to Romania in 1994 to evaluate the possibility of implementing new treatment programs that can improve the quality of life for residents at the Rosen Home.
The Jewish Braille Institute of America expanded its program for the visually impaired elderly in Bucharest last year and is implementing a variety of activities at the Rosen Home and at the two homes in Transylvania. Additional “talking books” in Romanian are currently being produced for this program, and the Institute purchased an advanced glaucometer for use by FEDROM.

As in previous years, JDC supplied the community with various religious items purchased abroad in 1993, as well as the services of a ritual slaughterer and a mashgiach (a kashrut supervisor). Special packages and cash assistance are provided to assistees and community workers before Passover, and matzah purchased in Israel by JDC is distributed to the entire community by FEDROM.

JDC continues to support the administrative costs of the FEDROM social assistance department, most of whose staff members are themselves partially compensated pensioners. In collaboration with JDC-Brookdale in Israel, a computerization program for FEDROM and the social assistance department was completed late in 1993 and is currently being implemented. This will facilitate the handling of the social assistance caseload as well as of the accounting and property management departments. It will add to the many improvements in FEDROM’s programs and management that were implemented over the course of the past year by the new FEDROM director-general, a Romanian speaker from Israel who has concentrated particularly on maximizing FEDROM’s income from communal properties.

Both FEDROM and the local Jewish communities seem stronger now than they had seemed in the past year or two. This renewed political and managerial strength was apparent in the traditional Chanukiada, an annual barometer of the community’s resilience and status that would bring Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen and an entourage of FEDROM leaders to the provincial communities in Moldavia and Transylvania each year to celebrate this winter festival. The Chanukiada of 1993, which was to be the last one led by the late Chief Rabbi, was particu-

ularly well organized; it received extensive media coverage, and both the national and local governments used this opportunity to publicly exhibit their strong support for the Romanian Jewish community.

**POLAND**

In April 1993, Ambassador Milton A. Wolf led a special JDC Board Mission to Poland to show solidarity with the Jewish community and represent North American Jewry at the international events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. The ambassador was the only North American speaker at the Nozyk Synagogue and at the main ceremony at the Palace of Culture. During the course of the mission, JDC’s office in Krakow was formally dedicated, and Ambassador Wolf signed a new contract with the Polish government defining JDC’s status and broadening its ability to operate in this changing country.

The economic outlook for Poland, already one of the brightest in Eastern Europe, further improved in March 1994 when Western banks agreed to a reorganization and reduction of the country’s commercial debt. Real wages rose last year, but the country’s inflation rate, while five percent lower than in 1992, was still high at 38 percent.

Poland has begun to look more and more like a Western nation, with Western-style prices for energy and other basic necessities. This means that the plight of the elderly remains very difficult inasmuch as pensions and services for senior citizens continued to lag behind.

About 2,800 elderly Holocaust survivors, many of
whom are in increasingly poor health, received cash assistance from JDC in 1993. The periodic support payments, which were increased in January 1993 to help compensate for inflation, are now made through JDC’s office in Krakow, thus greatly reducing the time and expense previously involved in this transfer effort. JDC continues to fund the seven kosher canteens maintained by the Jewish Religious Community of Poland; they provided 78,000 free meals last year to needy, elderly Jews throughout the country. Medications unavailable in Poland or beyond the financial reach of the elderly are purchased abroad by JDC; in the face of increasing needs, CBF World Jewish Relief (U.K.) provided funds in 1993 to supplement JDC’s purchases.

With JDC’s support and professional assistance, a social service department was established in 1993 by the Central Jewish Welfare Committee, which is comprised of representatives of the major Jewish organizations in Poland. The Committee determines who qualifies for welfare assistance based on criteria agreed upon with JDC, and it has begun to assume greater responsibility for the care of the elderly. Enough social workers were hired by the year’s end to cover almost the entire country, and over 200 initial home visits were made to the sickest and poorest Jews. The visits enable the social workers to see how assistees are managing, uncover changes in welfare needs, and help the elderly apply for whatever public entitlements or voluntary agency services are available. The social workers also provide some companionship to these lonely Jews and help with their daily problems. The department is currently computerizing its caseload data to gain a better understanding of individual and overall welfare needs.

The new social service staff visited JDC-Budapest last December for a training seminar at the local Support Foundation. Additional seminars and in-service training by JDC’s welfare consultant are planned for 1994. In Warsaw last August, JDC sponsored the first training seminar for members of all local Jewish welfare commissions in order to review the criteria for assistance and explain the role of the social workers; an expanded three-day session will be held this year at the community camp in Srodborow.

A special welfare fund was established by JDC in 1993 to provide additional help to the most disadvantaged assistees as well as to Jews with special medical needs. A decision was also made to provide limited help to younger, unemployed Jews in economic distress—including members of the Holocaust Children’s organization described below. Many of these younger Jews have been living with elderly parents and have become a drain on their parents’ meager income. The Jewish Braille Institute of America is providing special materials and social service help for the visually impaired; this program is not limited to those qualifying for welfare assistance.

JDC formalized its relationship last year with the Association of Holocaust Children in Poland, a self-help organization for those who were hidden by non-Jews during the Holocaust. Many of the association’s 300 members only recently discovered their Jewish origins, and some have children and grandchildren who are now becoming involved in Jewish communal activities. In addition to limited but regular organizational support, JDC is helping the association develop a mental health program and Jewish cultural activities for its members. JDC-Israel hosted a large group of visiting members in October 1993 and provided support to those with disabilities and special needs.

JDC continues to be the primary funder of the Jewish Religious Community of Poland (JRCP), which maintains synagogues and religious services in 15 localities, organizes
public holiday celebrations, and publishes a calendar-almanac. JDC provides the community with religious items, with kosher food for its canteens, and with special Passover supplies; it has encouraged the JRCP to pursue other sources of income such as kashrut supervision and property rentals.

Ever since JDC was able to resume operating in Poland in 1981, it has helped provide a variety of Jewish cultural activities through its support for the TSKZ, the Social and Cultural Association of Polish Jews, which has 15 branches throughout the country. Over the past year, the TSKZ has developed a host of new activities for children, young adults, and women in response to the demands of a population eager to learn more about its Jewish roots. These include a Sunday School for 25 children, a new youth section with Sunday afternoon activities for teenagers coordinated by Israeli counselors, and a 50-member women's group which holds bi-monthly programs. It is also sharing its facilities with other Jewish groups and has become much more receptive to the needs and ideas of an emerging group of younger Jewish leaders.

Many of these younger Jews have “graduated” from the programs instituted over the past few years at the community camp in Srodborow, including monthly Jewish cultural retreats, holiday celebrations, winter seminars, and a Jewish summer camp that had 225 young participants last year. The first stage of vitally needed renovations to the campsite was successfully completed in 1993 with technical and financial assistance from JDC and additional financial support from the Doron and Meyerhoff Foundations. Funding has now been secured from those same foundations to continue the renovation process. The TSKZ also sent 48 youngsters to the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary last summer, with JDC’s help.

JDC hopes to recruit a new Polish-speaking staff member to help the TSKZ and other local Jewish organizations intensify their Jewish programming and leadership development activities, and an Israeli teacher has been hired to direct Jewish educational and cultural activities at the Srodborow camp this summer. The Resource Center for Jewish Education, for which JDC has provided technical assistance and financial support, along with the Doron and Meyerhoff Foundations and the TSKZ, has compiled an extensive collection of Polish language materials that can be used to support these efforts.

In December 1993, a 43-member Polish delegation attended the Chanukah conference for Jewish community leaders and educators organized by JDC in Hungary. With the TSKZ leadership open to new and more intensive Jewish programming, especially for the younger generation, but cognizant of the fact that trained Jewish workers were sorely lacking, the conference was seen as a perfect opportunity to begin to rectify the situation. Hence the large size of the Polish delegation and the fact that it included young activists from all the local Jewish organizations, as well as three national TSKZ leaders. The delegates found the experience electrifying; they were able to deepen their knowledge of Israel and Judaism and establish important relationships with their compatriots. One conference result was immediate: a first-ever seminar on the Passover holiday was held in Warsaw early in 1994, in time to train local activists who would return to organize similar educational events in their home communities. This was a new departure for the TSKZ and a harbinger, hopefully, of more to come.
Almost no Jewish communal life existed in Bulgaria during the Communist era, but the picture today, just a few years later, is entirely different. The Bulgarian Jewish community is represented by Shalom, which is comprised of 17 local branches and a central body that includes an elected president and board as well as a commission dealing with socio-economic issues facing the Jewish community. Shalom runs a variety of Jewish cultural and educational activities as well as social welfare programs. JDC, which was invited to return to Bulgaria in 1990 and opened an office in Sofia in 1992, works closely with Shalom on many of these programs.

Since 1991, JDC has been providing Shalom with funds for small cash grants to elderly Jewish pensioners living below the poverty line. Most have no families left in Bulgaria and have only the Jewish community to turn to for help. Shalom has very clear eligibility criteria and computerized data on each assistee. The caseload has grown considerably over the past three years to its current level of 1,700. Many of the elderly were initially reluctant to accept assistance, but deteriorating economic circumstances left them no choice. Although Bulgaria reached an agreement with the international banks last year that cut its commercial debt in half, its economic situation remained grave, with inflation hovering around 70 percent. The fact that more of the Jewish population has reached pension age and is willing to openly declare its Jewishness has also contributed to the growth of this caseload.

A government program that provided children and ailing pensioners with free medications was terminated in March 1993. The neediest of the Jewish pensioners can still make subsidized purchases at state pharmacies, but these frequently have shortages; those who are ineligible for subsidies increasingly find that the medications they need are beyond their means. As a result, Shalom is now operating a central dispensary for medications purchased with JDC funding both locally and abroad. It also operates a dental clinic in the Jewish school, again with JDC funds, that provides services to the elderly in the afternoons for a token fee. The clinic was renovated and equipped through a generous donation from CBF World Jewish Relief (U.K.)

In the spring of 1993, in the face of an expected flu epidemic, both Jewish children and the elderly were supplied with multivitamins.

At JDC's encouragement, Shalom initiated and currently operates a pilot home care program that is providing 32 homebound elderly Jews with food for three meals a day, cleaning services, and regular visits from an inter-disciplinary team that includes a doctor, a nurse, and a social worker. The program is funded jointly by JDC and the Sofia Municipality, and both the Municipality and the Bulgarian Ministry of Social Affairs view it as a model for expanding their own services to the aging. The homebound are particularly appreciative of their visits with the program's Jewish staff members. To further relieve their loneliness, JDC has helped the community organize a group of young volunteers who visit on a regular basis.

The kitchen that provides food for the home care program also prepares subsidized hot lunches that are served in the community house dining room each day to 85 other elderly Jewish pensioners. Under the guidance of two experts from Israel's Wingate Institute, 20 pensioners were trained last summer to lead physical activities and other programs for the elderly in clubs like the one in Sofia that began operating on a regular basis in November. Called "Health," it offers exercise geared to the elderly, Jewish dancing and singing, and
lectures on medical and social topics of particular interest to this age group. Preparations are under way in Plovdiv to open a similar pensioners’ club.

For the younger members of the community, Bulgaria has developed a model of Jewish education that is unique: Shalom arranged with the government to enroll all Jewish children in one particular elementary school. There, in addition to the regular curriculum, Hebrew is being taught in eight classes that have a total of 120 students this year out of a school population of 500. Shalom provides transportation for the Jewish children and, with JDC’s help, certain services, such as a dental clinic, for use by the entire school. It is also training community members to teach at the school. The very youngest tots are being handled the same way: one of the four classes at a municipal early childhood center now has an enrollment of 40 Jewish children. A Jewish teacher funded by the community teaches them what is taught in Jewish nurseries and kindergartens the world over.

A growing number of Jewish children eager to learn more about their heritage are participating in Jewish clubs, camps, and supplementary schools. In many cases, it is they who are encouraging their parents to become involved in community life. In the summer of 1993, 160 children participated in a summer camp at the Black Sea, and 80 children and five counselors attended a two-week session at the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary. In each case, the parents covered some part of the costs. In 1994, a winter camp will be held in Bulgaria and one of the sessions at Szarvas this summer will be devoted almost entirely to the Bulgarian community, with some 200 children and 10 counselors expected to participate in a program devised largely by the Bulgarians themselves.

Many camp “alumni” have gone on to sign up for Talmud Torah classes. The community Sunday School in Sofia now has about 120 students. In addition to learning about Judaism and Jewish history, the oldest take Hebrew language lessons and are learning all about Israeli society. For those of university age, JDC helped establish and continues to support the Union of Jewish Students in Bulgaria. Its membership rose to 160 last year, and its activities included a three-day seminar on Jewish identity that had 100 participants and an ongoing culture club.

Two JDC-sponsored Jewish Service Corps volunteers began working in Bulgaria in the summer of 1992 and agreed last fall to extend their service for an additional year. They have been teaching a variety of subjects at the Sunday School as well as most of the Hebrew classes at the Jewish school. They have also trained youth counselors for the various camps and run an adult education and leadership training program. In response to recent missionary activity, they developed a new program that includes a class in prayerbook Hebrew
JDC-sponsored Jewish Service Corps volunteers have been teaching a variety of Jewish subjects, training youth counselors, and organizing outreach activities in communities with sizable numbers of young Jews.

and a weekly study group. The two volunteers have been organizing monthly outreach projects in the provinces; this year they have been concentrating on four communities with sizable numbers of young people and a significant interest in local community organization.

The volunteers have also been involved in the activities of the new Jewish Resource Center, which opened in Sofia in May 1993. The Center was established with JDC’s help and a grant from CBF, which has been working closely with JDC in support of the Bulgarian Jewish community. CBF has also joined JDC in a number of non-sectarian relief efforts that have been much appreciated in Bulgaria.

In addition to its support for Shalom and its programs, JDC, through the Jewish Religious Council, has been providing the community with religious items and financial assistance for bar and bat mitzvah programs and other life cycle activities. Since 1991, it has helped to organize and support communal Passover seders in Sofia and the provinces which have been drawing some 2,000 participants. CBF has supplied the food and, together with JDC, co-sponsored the publication of a Bulgarian/Hebrew Haggadah, the first to appear since World War II. JDC allocated funds this year to help the community recruit a rabbi from abroad who can serve its growing needs. In the course of the May 1993 events celebrating the 50th anniversary of Bulgarian Jewry’s salvation from the Nazis, the community took the opportunity to thank JDC for its current efforts by according its country director the honor of cutting the ceremonial ribbon at the opening of the Jewish Museum.

CZECH REPUBLIC

On January 1, 1993, the Czechoslovak Federation split into two separate nations: the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In contrast to many of its neighbors in the former Eastern bloc, the Czech Republic has been flourishing, despite a zero growth rate last year. Its unemployment rate of 3.5 percent was the second lowest in Europe; it ended its 1993 budget year with a surplus, even as its step-by-step transformation from Communism to a market economy continued; and most economists predict that the 18 percent inflation rate will fall in the coming year. Many also believe, however, that unemployment will begin to rise as privatization and restructuring advance and additional steps are taken to foster economic growth.

Although the Prague Jewish community is financially self-sufficient as a result of the income it earns from restored communal property, the renewal of Jewish life in the Czech Republic does not depend only on the availability of financial resources. JDC therefore directs its efforts to assuring that qualified persons will be available to lead local initiatives and programs. In addition to these leadership development activities, JDC continues to provide technical assistance for the community’s social welfare program and support for its Jewish educational activities. Outside Prague, 55 elderly Holocaust survivors received financial support and free medications from JDC in 1993. JDC also continues to support the infrastructure of the Czech Federation and of local communities other than Prague, and it helped the Federation last year to cover legal costs related to the restitution of communal property.

While JDC has been helping the local communities to develop pensioners’ clubs and home assistance services
for the elderly, the need for various types of residential facilities for this major segment of the Jewish population has been apparent for some time. Increasing numbers of aging survivors find themselves no longer able to live on their own as their physical mobility decreases; with no families to turn to for help, they must look to the community for assistance.

A first step in addressing this problem was taken in 1993 with the opening of the Charles Jordan Home in Prague, a sheltered housing project for 30-40 residents that was named in honor of the former JDC Executive Vice Chairman who was killed in Prague in August 1967. JDC contributed to the renovation and equipment of the new facility and, together with the local communities, intends to make a full assessment of the needs of the elderly in 1994 in order to help fashion a comprehensive response.

JDC continues to support a variety of programs and activities that are part of a Czech Jewish cultural and religious revival which is becoming more purposeful each year. The Prague community established a Center for Jewish Education in 1993 with help from the Pincus Fund, the Jewish Agency, and JDC. Afternoon and evening classes for children and adults — including many not previously identified with the community — in Hebrew and a variety of Jewish subjects have been organized by the Jewish Agency representative.

To help overcome the shortage of teaching materials, JDC sent a shipment of Czech/Hebrew prayer-books and Bibles and initiated the printing of Czech/Hebrew versions of two basic Jewish texts. JDC also continues to subsidize community Passover celebrations; it sends in religious supplies and kosher food; and it helped to underwrite the educational and religious activities organized by the rabbi in Prague.

In each of the past few years, JDC has been sending a lay leader or community professional to participate in the Israel-based Buncher Community Development Program. One program graduate is currently teaching at the Prague Jewish education center, another serves as the community treasurer in Brno, and a third was recently hired by the Federation to promote and coordinate Jewish cultural and educational activities in Bohemia and Moravia. JDC sponsored Czech participation in various other training seminars abroad last year, sending nine Czech Jews to the Chanukah conference on Jewish education that it organized in Hungary and 10 youth leaders to a special program in Israel.

In the coming year, JDC will arrange training for the senior staff of the Charles Jordan Home at the old age home operated by the Jewish community in Vienna.

Since 1992, JDC has been sponsoring the work of an arev, or volunteer, from the World Union of Jewish Students who helped to coordinate and encourage the growth of Jewish youth activities and informal educational programs in both parts of what was formerly Czechoslovakia. He organized family workshops to celebrate Passover and other festivals, for example, and taught Hebrew classes in Prague. The first arev set a high standard for his successors; his efforts won high praise from community leaders who credited him with attracting most of the young people who are now taking part in community life. His primary achievement was to strengthen the Union of Jewish Students, which in a sense is one of the few remaining Czechoslovak institutions. In addition to weekly meetings in Prague, and in Kosice and Bratislava in Slovakia, the Union continues to hold periodic weekend seminars for Jewish students from both republics, and the newspaper the arev helped the students to initiate continues to be distributed on both sides of the new border.
As part of its summer work/study camps, the Union has a special project under way helping to clean and repair old Jewish cemeteries and the synagogues and historic houses that remain from the old ghettos. The project has been helping these young Jews to learn more about their heritage and appreciate the kind of Jewish life that once existed in this part of Europe.

JDC continues to work with the Federation and with local communities to enhance Jewish educational activities and outreach efforts and encourage the renewal of Jewish life.

SLOVAKIA

The bleak economic situation in Slovakia stands in sharp contrast to the brighter trends in the Czech Republic. Only about five percent of Slovakia’s state-owned enterprises had been privatized by the end of 1993; many potential foreign investors had been turned away; inflation, at 22 percent last year, was four points higher than in the Czech Republic; unemployment was five times higher at 15.1 percent; and Slovakia’s growth rate was minus 3.8.

These economic conditions also made life more difficult for the population of Holocaust survivors that JDC helps to support through the Federation of Jewish Communities in Slovakia. About 145 individuals received cash grants last year, and a needs assessment currently under way may cause that number to increase in 1994. In addition, JDC support for the community kosher restaurants in Kosice and Bratislava enables all the elderly to eat hot lunches at low prices in a community setting. Special funding was provided by JDC last year to renovate the community’s existing ritual slaughter and meat processing facility so that it was able to supply meat to Prague as well as Kosice.

With the assistance of CBF World Jewish Relief (U.K.),

JDC has helped the communities in both Kosice and Bratislava to establish Emerald Age Clubs where the mobile elderly can meet for social and educational programs. The Jewish Braille Institute of America provided the club in Kosice with the equipment needed to establish a lending library for the visually impaired, thus giving them access to a host of specially recorded Jewish books on tape. The club’s new coordinator, whose work is sponsored by JDC, was trained by JDC in 1993 in the Buncher Community Development Program in Israel. JDC has also been helping the communities to develop or improve home care services for the elderly.

As a result of the severe restrictions of the Communist era and the inroads of assimilation, many Slovak Jews had remained outside the recognized community, but this situation is gradually changing. JDC continues to work with the Federation and with the local communities to enhance Jewish educational activities and outreach efforts and encourage the renewal of Jewish life. These communities consider having a rabbi to be a necessity for this revitalization process. Responding to their wishes, JDC helped both Kosice and Bratislava to install rabbis over the past two years — the first to serve in Slovakia in a generation. The rabbis are employed by the Federation, with their salaries paid from government funds. They have launched new Jewish educational programs and activities for children, young people, and adults. JDC has helped to support these efforts, particularly those reaching out to smaller, outlying communities. JDC also continues to subsidize community Passover seders and to
send in kosher food and religious supplies.

Jewish educators from abroad received JDC support last year for their work in the two main cities, and JDC helped convert former community offices in Bratislava into living quarters for a Canadian volunteer couple doing outreach work as well as classrooms for a children's program. The new facilities for the Jewish kindergarten in Kosice were renovated with a grant from the Doron Foundation, while CBF donated the minivan used as a school bus. JDC sponsored the kindergarten teacher's training in Helsinki, and it helped the community to hire a teacher and youth leader for the older children.

Next door to the kindergarten, the younger members of the community have established a new exercise club which is very popular; JDC's role in helping to equip it is much appreciated. Across the courtyard is the newly renovated synagogue, which reopened in time for last Rosh Hashana, a new mikvah or ritual bath, and the youth club and classroom. JDC funding, including extra-budgetary grants, and professional support played a key role in all these developments.

The JDC-sponsored participation of Jewish children from Slovakia in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary has grown tremendously over the past three seasons. In the summer of 1993, over 100 children attended the regular camp sessions, and 70 Slovak Jews participated in the Jewish educational activities of the special "family camp" organized by JDC at summer's end.

JDC has also been sending enthusiastic young people each summer to the Israel Folk Dance Institute in London to learn how to teach folk dancing in their home communities. The program includes lectures and discussions on Jewish history and provides each participant with special teaching equipment. These newly minted instructors have been attracting large numbers for regular classes in both Bratislava and Kosice.

To train Slovak Jews to care for their own future, JDC sends several local leaders each year to participate in the Israel-based Buncher Community Development Program. Other community leaders and professionals were sent to a variety of training seminars in 1993, including one held in Vienna in November on home care, and an eight-member contingent from Slovakia participated in the Chanukah conference on Jewish education and community leadership that was organized by JDC in Hungary this past December.
**MOROCCO**

The Jewish population of Morocco has undergone a gradual but significant decline in size over the past five years, particularly in the provincial communities. All Jewish schools and old age homes apart from those in Casablanca have been closed, except for two small homes in Tangier. Nevertheless, Moroccan Jewish life retains a vibrancy that belies this population’s dwindling numbers. Over 30 synagogues function on a regular basis in Casablanca, and nearly all the community’s school-age children, some 1,320 youngsters, attend Jewish day schools.

JDC helped the Casablanca Jewish community maintain a monthly cash assistance program that benefited 254 individuals last year, and it helped 11 provincial communities provide monthly grants to a total of 175 individuals in 1993. JDC also provided the Casablanca community with a special fund to care for those with extraordinary needs, and it helps pay the salaries of the community’s social service staff.

About 1,700 needy Jews benefited last year from the health services provided by OSE (*Oeuvre Secours aux Enfants*) with JDC support at central clinics in Casablanca, Marrakesh, and Rabat. OSE also serves the medical needs of the residents of the Jewish old age home in Casablanca and the pupils in that city’s Jewish schools. Over 100 surgical procedures were performed through OSE last year, a 30 percent increase over the previous year that reflected the expanding medical needs of an aging population.

Additional JDC funds have been allocated for 1994 to facilitate implementation of a plan for improving OSE’s services to the provincial communities. The plan is based on recommendations made following a JDC-OSE assessment of the health needs of the Jewish poor in these localities.

JDC continues to help support the Jewish home for the aged in Casablanca, which provides its 100 residents with a full range of services. JDC-sponsored Jewish Service Corps (JSC) volunteers who had been assigned to the home over the past few years developed a variety of cultural and recreational activities there; these will be continued in 1994 by a newly trained local worker. JDC also helps the Tangier community maintain its two small nursing homes which together house 28 elderly Jews. The JSC volunteers also played an active role in two clubs for the elderly that JDC developed in Casablanca in partnership with Lubavitch and *Ozar Hatorah*. About 200 senior citi-
JDC's Objectives in Africa and Asia

- In North African countries where the Jewish populations are slowly but steadily diminishing in size, albeit at different rates, JDC helps communities to maintain the communal institutions necessary for Jewish life.

- Throughout this area, it is a primary JDC objective to ensure that children will have access to Jewish education wherever possible.

- JDC provides various forms of social welfare assistance and institutional support to enable the Jewish aged, sick, and poor to live out their lives with dignity. Those in need have come to represent an increasing proportion of these declining populations.

- Wherever possible, JDC encourages the consolidation of facilities and other ways to utilize communal resources to the fullest.

- In communities with sizable populations of young Jews, like India, JDC has been placing increasing emphasis on cultural and educational activities that strengthen Jewish identity.

- In recent years, JDC has been helping to rescue entire Jewish communities, and it continues to work to assure the safety and well-being of all Jews who reside in these volatile areas.
zens participated last year in the clubs' daily activities and Jewish holiday celebrations. JDC also funds a two-week vacation colony for the elderly at the community campsite in Imouzzer which had 60 participants in 1993.

At the other end of the age spectrum, enrollment in the four Jewish school systems that JDC subsidizes—Ozar Hatorah, Lubavitch, Ittihad, and ORT—continued to decline last year in keeping with the decline in population. JDC is encouraging consolidation and cost cutting measures where appropriate. To assist the schools with in-service teacher training and curriculum improvements, JDC provides an educational development fund, and it pays stipends to the teachers participating in two evening study programs. JDC is hoping to strengthen the Jewish curriculum of the Ittihad schools and began transferring its support funds directly to Ittihad-Maroc in 1993 to increase its leverage in this area. It is also helping to assure that the educational needs of Jewish children in the provinces continue to be met despite the school closings there.

JDC supports the Lubavitch movement's high-quality programs for Jewish youth in Casablanca, Marrakesh, and Meknes; they include cultural events, informal educational activities, and sports and attract about 300 participants. Funds were provided last year for the youth programs of the revamped DEJJ, the Department Educatif de la Jeunesse Juive au Maroc, and for summer camps at Imouzzer for about 450 children that were run by these two organizations and by Ozar Hatorah and Aide Scolaire.

JDC is providing funds this year for a new Jewish Heritage Research Project that will collect and assess Jewish books and manuscripts that have been sequestered in genizot (caches for sacred Jewish texts) around the country. This project is being developed in partnership with the local community.

As part of JDC's efforts to increase communal self-sufficiency, JDC's country director is taking an active part in the work of the Casablanca community's new Real Estate Commission, which is seeking to increase local income from communal properties. The Tangier community has already succeeded in one such venture, and JDC has been able to decrease its 1994 allocation there by 30 percent. JDC's 1993-94 Ralph I. Goldman Fellow was assigned to Morocco in November and began putting together an inventory of communal properties to assist in this effort. Other community fundraising activities have also borne fruit: the DEJJ compound was renovated last fall with funds collected by its board of directors, and the efforts of a new Casablanca Women's Committee have been crowned with success. The women began in 1992 with a small-scale fundraising effort to provide the needy with Passover food packages; they now have a well-organized team in place and have quadrupled their results. They are using the surplus funds collected to purchase school clothing and supplies for children from the poorest families and to help provide stipends to needy students continuing their studies abroad.
A Jewish Service Corps volunteer couple helped JDC address the problem of caring for the aged in a community that no longer has Jewish professional workers.

TUNISIA

In 1993, the Tunisian government, in cooperation with Jewish community leaders, began a program designed to attract Jewish tourism and investment. The September signing of the peace accord between Israel and the PLO brought much additional attention to the Tunis Jewish community, and much to the surprise of Tunisian Jews, it also brought Israeli diplomats into the country. This was something community members never thought they would experience in their lifetimes.

Visits made last year by JDC’s President and Executive Vice-President, by two former JDC presidents, and by an area committee study mission have made JDC lay leaders and staff more aware than ever of JDC’s current programs in Tunisia.

JDC funded cash grants to 142 individuals living in Tunis and in three provincial towns last year to help them pay for food, rent, and other basic necessities. The recipients are almost all elderly Jews living alone, some of whom subsist entirely on these grants, while others use them to flesh out meager retirement funds. Welfare payments are being increased this year to help compensate for a continuing rise in the cost of living. JDC also provides funds to purchase clothing and household items for assistees and for other needy community members; the community has agreed to increase its share of these costs in 1994.

Under the aegis of the Tunis community, JDC continues to fund medical care for all indigent Jews in six localities. In recent years, many lower middle class Jewish families have also needed community help to meet escalating health care costs.

JDC has been supporting two homes, or foyers, for the aged in the Tunis area which had a total of 47 residents in 1993. Financial considerations, a need to improve services, and the increasing difficulty in finding qualified staff have made a merger imperative, and the community has decided to renovate the La Goulette facility so that it will be able to accommodate the residents of both homes. JDC is providing an interest-free loan to help fund the renovation work; it will be repaid from the proceeds of the sale of the other facility. JDC is also providing funds to cover the cost of training a new director for the merged homes.

In December, JDC recruited a Jewish Service Corps (JSC) volunteer couple with backgrounds in social work and public health to help JDC deal with the problem of caring for the aged—at home or in institutions—in a community that no longer has Jewish professional workers. The JSC volunteers focused on recreational and nutritional needs in the two foyers and suggested ways to improve services at the renovated facility. They also worked with the country director to get a better picture of welfare clients’ needs through a series of home visits.

JDC helps support the only Jewish school still operating...
in Tunis today; it is run by the Lubavitch movement and has an enrollment of 75 children aged 3 to 16. Funds are provided to two Jewish schools in Jerba with a total enrollment of 245, and JDC supports Talmud Torah classes for boys and girls in Hara Sghrira and Zarzis. A third kindergarten class had to be added to the girls’ school in Jerba last fall to meet the increasing need, and the boys’ yeshiva will be renovated this year with funds provided by JDC and the local community.

JDC continues to supplement the salaries of the community’s two ritual slaughterers, and it helped five local communities last year provide matzah and other Passover items to some 170 individuals. Other religious needs and institutions are funded entirely by the Tunisian community.

YEMEN

Somewhat more than 1,000 Jews remained in Yemen when JDC began funding activities there after the merger of the northern and southern republics in May 1990; they were scattered in small villages across the north and comprised the last remnant of a proud community. With Western visitors allowed to enter the country following reunification, JDC, operating initially through the International Coalition for the Revival of the Jews of Yemen (ICROJOY), began sending in books and religious materials with American visitors. JDC-funded schools were opened in Sa’ada and in Reida in 1991, and JDC began providing welfare assistance to the many poor Jews in the community.

In 1990, the first Jew to leave Yemen in over 20 years was brought out. Meanwhile, JDC was developing a two-pronged strategy to deal with the rescue of this community. Working together with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), JDC put together a coalition of national Jewish agencies and groups representing the American Yemenite community to work with the various branches of the U.S. government. Key congressmen were involved in this effort, and the State Department treated the plight of Yemen’s Jews as a priority issue in its discussions with the Yemenite government.

While these high-level negotiations were under way, JDC began sending in teams of expatriate Yemenite Jews to prepare community members for departure and to help them deal with local officials and the logistical aspects of their impending journey. The details of this heretofore secret operation were revealed after the story broke in the world press in July 1993.

Between 1992 and the beginning of May 1994, 430 Yemenite Jews arrived in Israel, and some 520 are currently estimated to remain in the country.

Civil war between north and south broke out anew this May; its impact on this Yemenite Jewish exodus is presently unclear.

OTHER MOSLEM COUNTRIES

The Jewish community of TURKEY is financially self-sufficient but has requested JDC’s technical assistance in the areas of services for the aged, Jewish education, and programs for young leadership. A small group of JDC leaders visited Turkey in December 1992 to establish an ongoing relationship with this community and help strengthen its connections with other world Jewish communities on issues of mutual concern. JDC sent two Israeli experts from JDC-ESHEL to Istanbul last year to recommend ways to improve the community’s old age home and hospital, and JDC’s 1994 budget allocation for Turkey provides seed money for technical assistance projects in both Istanbul and Izmir.

In EGYPT, JDC, in partnership with the remnant Jewish communities in Cairo and Alexandria, provided
Cash assistance to 45 elderly and impoverished individuals last year, most of whom had no other source of income. JDC also provides funds for medical care and assists with burial costs. The communities’ dwindling income has necessitated an increase in JDC’s share of the welfare program to ensure that those assisted will have the means to purchase basic necessities in the face of rising living costs. JDC also continues to support a small old age home in Cairo, while the community home in Alexandria was closed in 1993 and its four residents transferred elsewhere. JDC encourages and supports communal holiday celebrations—providing a cantor whenever possible, Passover supplies for the seder, and kosher foods for other holidays.

Algeria’s tiny Jewish community continues to look to JDC for support as the country’s political and economic situation becomes increasingly volatile. Supplementary welfare grants were provided last year to seven elderly Jews, and JDC’s representative maintained close and caring contact with these frail assistees. JDC is grateful to the members of the Little Sisters of the Poor, a Catholic religious order, who stand ready to provide JDC’s assistees with subsidized medical care if needed.

In the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, JDC has succeeded in its efforts to encourage communal self-sufficiency. The Melilla community has been financing its school and welfare needs without JDC support since 1992. JDC maintains contact with the community and is available to provide technical assistance if needed. In Ceuta, JDC helps the community provide Hebrew classes for about 40 youngsters. In other parts of the Moslem world in 1993, JDC continued to help remaining Jewish communities meet their health, welfare, and Jewish educational needs.

Ethiopia

JDC continued its assistance programs for Felas Mora in Addis Ababa in 1993, and care and maintenance was arranged as needed in both Addis and Gondar for those among the few remaining Ethiopian Jews who left their villages to make aliyah. The JDC caseload in Addis last year, maintained at the request of the Israeli government and in consultation with the Jewish Agency and the Council of Jewish Federations, consisted of approximately 2,800 Felas Mora whom JDC has been supporting since they arrived in the capital with the mass influx of Ethiopian Jews prior to Operation Solomon. The Felas Mora are descendants of Jews who converted to Christianity, and many of them have relatives among the Ethiopian Jews who have already made aliyah.

JDC has been providing this group of Felas Mora with monthly cash grants, food, social service help, and medical care when needed, including free medications and a special feeding program for malnourished children. As a result of this care, the group has maintained a low mortality rate (0.4 percent) and a high birth rate (5 percent), giving it a growth rate that is among the world’s highest. Some 1,300 other Felas Mora who arrived in Addis after explicit messages were sent to the villages in the north that no newcomers would be added to the caseload have nevertheless received food and medical assistance on an ad hoc basis in response to an Israeli government request.
Early in 1993, a decision was made by the Israeli authorities not to accept the Falas Mora as a group under the Law of Return but rather to consider individual applications on a humanitarian basis, generally for family reunification of first degree relatives. Given the lengthy case by case processing this seemed to entail, JDC began evaluating its programs in Ethiopia in light of other pressing global responsibilities. Summarizing its position last December, JDC reaffirmed that it would continue its current assistance programs and retain its presence in Addis in keeping with the Israeli government’s wishes. However, it also reiterated that it would accept no additions to its caseload in Addis and would not reenter Gondar.

Recent Israeli decisions making various categories of Falas Mora potentially eligible to invoke the Law of Return could have far reaching effects on the entire situation. It has now been agreed that Falas Mora still in the north who are declared eligible should remain in their villages until shortly before their scheduled departure for Israel.

INDIA

The past year saw JDC continue in the direction it has been heading in India for a number of years, with a greater emphasis on outreach efforts to deepen Jewish identity and on Jewish cultural and informal Jewish educational activities for the younger generation. JDC hired a country manager in 1993 to administer its Bombay office and assist JDC’s Honorary Representative in overseeing this expanding program.

The professional youth worker who joined JDC’s Bombay staff in 1992 has been responsible for a proliferation of activities, some of which were initiated by his predecessor, and all of which bore fruit in 1993. His series of Shabbat and week-long camps focusing on different Jewish topics have become the talk of the community and are enormously popular with all age groups; at one session in Cochin he brought 80 Jews of various ages together to review the history of the Jews of India. Hundreds of Jewish youngsters and young adults in Bombay and five other communities have also continued to benefit from other JDC outreach activities, including public Passover seders and other holiday celebrations, after-school and weekend activities, and classes in the Hebrew language and a variety of Jewish subjects for youth group leaders and others.

The JDC newspaper, Kol Bombay, now reaches 900 Jewish households and has become the prime source for local Jewish news, articles about Judaism, and special features for youngsters. An editorial board was formally organized last year to increase local input. A female JDC-Jewish Service Corps volunteer began serving in India late last year primarily to work with the young women who remain a group apart in that country. She is also chairing the editorial committee for Kol Bombay and teaching two Hebrew classes in Thane. This spring, she helped organize a public Passover seder for the Jews living in Alibag and the surrounding villages along the Konkan coast that was judged a great success; many of the participants had never before seen this important Jewish celebration.

Working together with a local volunteer educator,
JDC’s youth worker also organized a Sunday School kindergarten in 1993 that meets twice a month and has been increasing its enrollment. Parents accompany their children and are invited to join a seminar of their own to discuss upcoming Jewish holidays and explore questions of Jewish identity. The youth worker has succeeded in bringing some completely alienated Jews back into the fold, and he has recruited some 50 volunteers ranging in age from 22 to 72 who are completely committed to JDC’s efforts. The latter have turned JDC’s Bombay office into a veritable beehive of activity as they come and go working on various projects or visiting with the elderly who use the office as a day center.

In response to the growing demand for Jewish books, JDC opened Jewish libraries in its Bombay office and in Ahmadabad two years ago, and a special library for children was established in the Thane synagogue. The number of library patrons has been steadily increasing, and funds have been requested to open additional libraries. In 1992, JDC arranged for the first Indian Jew to participate in the Israel-based JDC Buncher Community Development Program. By the end of 1994, there will be nine graduates of this leadership training program serving in various capacities in their home communities. JDC is working to recruit a new rabbi for the community, and it has allocated funds in 1994 to reprint copies of the English-Marathi prayerbook.

The renovation of the ORT boys’ school dormitory was completed in 1993; it was funded by JDC as part of a mutual agreement with ORT that also entailed transferring to ORT all ongoing responsibility for the hostel and the feeding programs at its two schools. Nevertheless, JDC hopes to continue working with ORT on other projects for Jewish youth in India.

JDC continues to provide modest monthly grants to about 155 individuals to supplement the meager amounts they receive from synagogue trusts. With food costs in particular rising rapidly, these small sums are a lifeline to those whose salaries remain at subsistence levels. A new fund is being provided this year to cover one-time and emergency needs—items that assistees cannot afford on their own—sandals, a comb, a blanket, and other such basic necessities. JDC also pays for medical care for the neediest and for residential care in the Bene Israel Home for ten individuals who had been living in synagogue courtyards or street huts. It provides meals to 14 elderly Jewish poor who spend their days in the JDC office; this caseload is expected to increase in 1994.

A local advisory committee was established in 1992 to oversee the social assistance program and other JDC activities. The committee was expanded last year, and it has been instrumental in turning this program into a more professional, service-oriented operation. A JDC Jewish Service Corps volunteer social worker contributed much to this effort during her three-month stay in India last summer. She provided technical assistance to the local staff, emphasizing the importance of home visits and a needs assessment for each case. Staff is now involved in job search activities for many assistees, particularly those under 40.

In both China and Myanmar (formerly Burma), JDC funds continue to help sustain a small number of aging and impoverished individuals. Assistance was provided last year to seven members of the remnant Jewish community in Myanmar, which is now concentrated in Yangon. Quarterly pension payments were made to two individuals in China last year in a last echo of JDC’s World War II Shanghai refugee operations; four others received quarterly relief grants.
JDC continued its support in 1993 for LEATID, the Argentina-based training institute that has come to serve Jewish lay leaders and professionals from all of Latin America. A second group of 25 community professionals completed LEATID’s two-year training program in 1993, and 20 lay leaders participated in the Amit program that has been set up for young leadership, the second such group to do so. JDC also helps local communities provide their professionals and lay leaders with a variety of training opportunities abroad.

With JDC’s technical assistance and encouragement, the leaders of Latin America’s Jewish communities and institutions have been organizing an annual assembly patterned on the North American Council of Jewish Federations’ General Assembly or GA. In November 1993, 320 leaders from eight countries gathered in Curitiba, Brazil for the fifth such meeting, which has come to be known as the EDEL, its Spanish acronym. The presence for the first time of a representative from Cuba generated much emotion among all the participants.

The assembly’s main theme was the transmission of Jewish identity and values to the next generation. This topic was of particular interest to the 100 young representatives of various informal Jewish educational organizations who for the past few years have been holding one of their own twice yearly meetings in conjunction with this leadership assembly.

JDC Board members who participated in last spring’s Latin America study mission were concerned that many of the local leaders seemed to feel isolated from the rest of the Jewish world. Two efforts were launched last year that should help combat this feeling. A Jewish electronic network, called Shadar, was set up by JDC and ORT in Buenos Aires in order to link together Jewish communities and organizations in Argentina, with the intention of expanding coverage to all of Latin America. Different data bases will be added to the network in 1994 to serve the needs of Jewish educators as well as job seekers, and the Shazar College of Jewish Education is making a credit-bearing course in modern Judaism available through the network.

Another effort to improve communications got under way last fall when the first issue of Contacto was published. A JDC newsletter written in Spanish and Portuguese for distribution throughout Latin America, Contacto will provide up-to-date information about JDC’s global programs, the activities of local communities, and articles of interest to those involved in community work.

JDC also continues to work with the small and often isolated Jewish communities in Peru, Bolivia, and Paraguay, most of which are grappling with the need to sustain community life and combat a high rate of assimilation while lacking the resources to do so on their own. In La Paz, Bolivia, JDC provided the 400-family community with technical help in establishing various programs...
JDC's Objectives in Latin America

JDC aims to strengthen the capacities of the Latin American Jewish communities to address problems which affect them individually or collectively.

It does this by responding to the communities' requests for technical assistance and by helping them to mobilize and make the fullest use possible of their own resources.

Since Latin American Jewry is able to finance—albeit with increasing difficulty—its own institutions and services, JDC only provides seed money for innovative, standard-setting model projects, with all financial commitments of limited duration. These funds have generally produced a multiplying effect equivalent to 250 percent of the initial contribution.

JDC promotes regional meetings and cooperative interchange and coordination among communities, and it assists in the development of the smaller communities. It seeks to make strong Jewish communities even stronger and encourages them to reach out to their weaker and more isolated neighbors.

JDC provides technical assistance and expertise to train lay leaders and professionals, and it is helping to strengthen community organization, planning, and fundraising capabilities.

In Cuba, JDC is now working in partnership with the local community to promote Jewish knowledge, advance the reestablishment of Jewish culture and religion, and rebuild communal structures; it is also helping to meet basic needs for food and medicines.

Statistics

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<th>LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL PROGRAMS</th>
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<td>JDC Appropriation: $516,800</td>
<td>JDC Appropriation: $46,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jewish Population: 15,000</td>
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<td>ARGENTINA</td>
<td>URUGUAY</td>
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<td>Jewish Population: 250,000</td>
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<td>JDC Appropriation: $137,500</td>
<td>Jewish Population: 23,000</td>
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<td>BRAZIL</td>
<td>CUBA</td>
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<td>Jewish Population: 130,000</td>
<td>JDC Appropriation: $33,000</td>
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<td>JDC Appropriation: $50,000</td>
<td>Jewish Population: 1,200</td>
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1 Figure is approximate.
and hiring an executive director. In Caracas, Venezuela, JDC helped the Hebraica develop an instructional program in Hebrew dancing that is being used as an educational resource in Peru, Bolivia, and Costa Rica, with plans to extend the program to all of Central America. The program is particularly useful as a way of involving teenagers in Jewish community activities.

JDC has been urging the larger communities to assist their smaller counterparts, and it has been working to build regional networks to share professional resources in key areas such as Jewish education and leadership development. In 1993, JDC supported the efforts of the Conservative (Masorti) movement, the Seminario Rabinico, and the Confederation of Latin American Maccabian Centers (CLAM) to strengthen their intercommunity networks, and it intends to work with additional continental umbrella organizations in 1994.

ARGENTINA

For the first time in the history of the Jewish community of Buenos Aires, which has about 200,000 Jews and some 60 Jewish schools, a systematic analysis and evaluation of the system of formal Jewish education was undertaken by AMIA (the Ashkenazi community federation) with support and technical assistance from JDC and the Pincus Fund. The 35-member commission that was appointed to conduct the study considered the issues and prioritized the needs in this vital area before recommend-

ing ways to improve the system. JDC will be providing seed money to encourage the implementation of these recommendations.

JDC has also been assisting the development of the Tzedaka Foundation, which was established by community members in Buenos Aires two years ago to raise funds to support children's continued attendance at Jewish schools despite parental economic difficulties. The foundation's success has inaugurated a new style of local fundraising to assure the continuity of Jewish institutional life.

JDC continues to provide consultation and guidance to community institutions in the areas of fundraising and the marketing of programs, and it has been helping a variety of community organizations to revamp their services in order to combat a decline in membership caused by economic and cultural factors. JDC supports a training program for lay leaders of Conservative congregations that is conducted by the local Masorti federation, and it has been helping the Federation of Maccabian Community Centers expand its informal Jewish educational activities and training seminars for youth leaders.

JDC encourages and supports the efforts of various local organizations to reach out to the small and distant communities of the Argentine Interior. A similar outreach effort is also being promoted in those Buenos Aires suburbs where communal participation has been low.

BRAZIL

JDC has worked closely with the Jewish federation in Rio over the past few years, and it has been supporting the efforts of a variety of local institutions to recruit and train lay leaders and professional staff and enhance fundraising capabilities. In 1993, JDC began working with the Sao Paulo federation to help improve its social services, and it has been asked to develop a leadership training program designed to meet that community's specific needs. JDC has also been providing technical assistance to those building a new community center complex—with a synagogue, school, and activity center—
for the Jewish population that has been moving into the Barra de Tijuca area of Rio.

JDC was instrumental in 1993 in helping to arrange training seminars and exchange visits for Jewish educational professionals, and it worked to strengthen Mitgash, the association of Brazilian Jewish educators that was formed in 1992. In Rio, JDC has been helping to rebuild the Board of Jewish Education, which runs five Jewish schools. The board held its first seminar on leadership development in 1993 with JDC's assistance, and JDC helped prepare a training plan for pre-school professionals that will be used in both Rio and Buenos Aires. In Sao Paulo, home to the continent's largest Conservative congregation, JDC is involved in the congregation's efforts to develop a Jewish education department and teachers' center.

JDC continued to provide support last year for the Confederation of Brazilian Maccabian Centers' (CBM) outreach efforts to Jewish communities in the Brazilian Interior, including Recife, Manaos, Curitiba, Porto Alegre, and Fortaleza. JDC has also been assisting the Jewish federation of Paran State, which is based in Curitiba, to develop new community programs and more professional management. CBM has begun a program to train 20 young couples as potential leaders of these small communities, and it will be taking over the full financing of these outreach efforts in 1994. Last year, JDC also helped CBM put together a team of disabled athletes who participated in Israel's Maccabia Games; it was the first such effort by the Brazilian Jewish community.

**CHILE**

JDC helped provide training programs in three areas last year in order to meet the needs of Chile's Jewish community. Both lay and professional leaders from a variety of local Jewish organizations participated in a year-long seminar on fundraising, with monthly sessions conducted by a visiting Argentinean expert. Participants drew up fundraising programs for their respective institutions; two of these programs are to be implemented in 1994. The expert also provided local institutions with technical assistance in analyzing and improving their fundraising techniques.

Twelve representatives from several organizations participated in a year-long professional development seminar designed to train coordinators of programs for the community's senior members. JDC also helped organize a training course for local Israeli dance instructors; the course concluded with an intensive seminar in Israel.

**URUGUAY**

Concerned by the diminishing number of students enrolled in Jewish schools, JDC collaborated with the Board of Jewish Education on the design of a study analyzing how the existing schools and the overall concept of Jewish education are perceived by the community. The results will help define future policies in this field. JDC also helped the Yavneh School complete a planning and feasibility study last year.

JDC has undertaken a complex two-year process of organizational analysis and planning with the Nueva Comunidad Israelita (NCI), one of the country's distinct Jewish communities or kehillot. NCI, a kehilla whose founders came from Central Europe, is very much in the traditional mold. JDC is helping to evaluate whether its present structure should be modified or whether it provides an interesting alternative for the Jewish population.

**CUBA**

Working with and through a network of Latin American Jewish communities, JDC has been engaged in a systematic effort to help foster the remarkable revitalization of Jewish life that has been taking place in Cuba since official restrictions on religious beliefs and practices were relaxed late in 1991. JDC's President, Ambassador Milton A. Wolf, led a JDC delegation to Cuba last summer to meet with the Jewish community, see what has already been accomplished, and determine how JDC can best continue to help.

Over the past two years, JDC has arranged and sponsored regular visits to the island by a rabbi from Guadalajara, Mexico and a team of youth workers from Argentina. Together they have helped promote a renewal of Jewish religious and cultural activities in a community that had been isolated from the rest of the Jewish world for more than 30 years. The rabbi has been providing spiritual leadership and helping to strengthen Jewish identity through teaching sessions and discussion groups. During a week-long visit that he made in January 1993 with a colleague from Bogota, Columbia and a mohel (ritual circumciser) from Mexico, 25 ritual circumcisions were performed (half on adult males) and 12 Jewish weddings were conducted in one night. More than 300 people joined the couples in celebration after the ceremonies in an outpouring of joy rarely experienced by this community. In September 1993, JDC sent a rabbi to help the community celebrate the High Holidays; it was the first time in decades that a rabbi had
officiated at High Holiday services in Cuba. This past December, the community saw its first bar mitzvah celebration in some 20 years.

In addition to organizing a variety of Jewish cultural and educational activities, the Argentinean youth workers have been training their Cuban peers to run these programs on their own and pass on what they have learned to other community members. The Havana community now boasts a newly revived Jewish youth group, a new women’s group, a Jewish choir, an Israeli dance group, a theater troupe, and a community newsletter, all of which have benefited from JDC’s encouragement and input. The women’s group has begun a program of home visits to look in on the elderly and infirm, and it is keeping tabs on the community’s precious supply of medications. JDC successfully urged an expansion of the community’s coordinating committee last year to include these newly formed associations.

JDC has been sending Hebrew and Spanish books to update the community’s Jewish library, and it established a new video library of tapes in Spanish on Jewish topics. One of the Argentinean professionals helped organize this library, trained a local youth worker to run it, and developed a program of activities utilizing these videotapes. JDC has also been helping to strengthen the programs at Tikkan Olam, the Jewish Sunday School, which now has an attendance of about 120 individuals ranging in age from kindergartners to octogenarians. Some of the students spend five to six hours each Sunday traveling to and from these classes that they hold so dear.

Together with the Havana community, JDC has been assisting the small Jewish communities in Santiago, Camaguey, and Cienfuegos in their efforts to organize communal activities. JDC has arranged for one of the Argentinean youth workers to spend a full year in Cuba beginning in April 1994; he will be involved in all of these program efforts and help develop additional activities in cooperation with local community leaders.

The Canadian Jewish Congress, aided by the Mexican Jewish community, has for years been sending in large supplies of kosher food for Passover, supplies that were actually meant to last the community for a year. With needs now so much greater, JDC has obtained permission to ship additional kosher food before other Jewish holidays and will coordinate these shipments with other interested groups. JDC has also been sending in scarce medications, vitamins, and basic hygiene items, particularly during last year’s optical neuritis epidemic; these supplies have been shared with hospitals serving the general population.

In January 1994, JDC convened a meeting in New York of all those organizations, communities, and individuals who have been working on behalf of the Cuban Jewish community or are interested in doing so. It was agreed that JDC should act as a coordinator of aid activities and a repository and disseminator of information to the group. The objective is to avoid a duplication of efforts and, equally important, to ensure continuity in this vital endeavor. Perhaps the rabbi from Guadalajara put it best when he expressed his appreciation to JDC for giving him “the honor and joy” of participating in that ceremony-filled mission last January, which gave him a “new appreciation of what it means to be a Jew.” “In the world that I just left,” he wrote, “all they have now is the strong desire to live a Jewish life and the hope of not being forgotten by us. I can’t find the words to express what I lived. But I’ve got the tears, the emotion, and the love from the Cuban Jews. All I can say is thank you!”
GLOBAL PROGRAMS

JDC—INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
(JDC - IDP)

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

JDC's two-pronged project to help modernize the treatment of the disabled in what was formerly Czechoslovakia was recently extended through the end of 1994. With funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Desider Galsky Training Institute (DGTI) was established in partnership with Charles University in Prague to train those serving the disabled in Western methods of care. Some 800 Czech and Slovak professionals have benefited from DGTI programs to date, 90 of whom have completed an in-depth training course taught by IDP experts. As these professionals implement DGTI's philosophy and methods in their respective workplaces, the Institute's impact on the field will continue to grow. The in-depth training course will be replicated in the Slovak Republic later this year.

In the second part of the project, two model apartments, known as community living arrangements or CLAs, were set up for young adults with mental disabilities. The aim was to demonstrate that these individuals, with appropriate supervision and supporting services, can live as productive members of their communities and need not be placed in institutions, as was normally done during the Communist era.

JDC-IDP is currently engaged in efforts to foster the self-sufficiency of its local partners to ensure that these endeavors will continue after IDP's support ends. A highly successful workshop was held in February 1994 for 30 representatives from 15 local non-profit organizations, and another is planned for the fall. IDP is also helping two organizations establish a project to provide information and community-based services to the physically disabled.

HUNGARY

In a second social service project funded by USAID, JDC-IDP trained teams of physicians, nurses, physiotherapists and home health workers to provide home care services for the elderly in Budapest's Eighth District. This kind of multi-disciplinary approach to home care was new to Hungary, and the project demonstrated how its use could help the elderly avoid expensive hospitalization while improving their quality of life. Over 475 elderly individuals participated directly in project activities, and thousands more will ultimately benefit from the services provided by the 175 professionals trained by IDP. Although IDP's involvement in the project ended on September 30, 1993, it has maintained communication with
STATISTICS

JDC Appropriation: $160,000

JDC-IDP’s OBJECTIVES:

- JDC-IDP embodies the Jewish principle of “tikkun olam,” the admonition to engage in efforts to alleviate suffering and repair the world's inequities and imperfections as part of one's moral responsibilities.

- JDC-IDP’s non-sectarian projects provide the American Jewish community with the opportunity to participate in international development efforts and respond to natural or man-made disasters, and they involve resident Jewish communities wherever feasible.

- By using Israeli experts as much as possible in its work, JDC-IDP enables developing countries throughout the world to benefit from Israel’s own development experience and its agricultural and technological innovations and products.

- Training is an essential part of all JDC-IDP development efforts and is intended to enhance the self-reliance of the local partners and ensure that projects will be self-sustaining after IDP’s departure.

- JDC-IDP uses its budget and Open Mailbox contributions as seed money that it leverages each year many times over with funding secured from the U.S. and other governments, international agencies, and private foundations.

- JDC-IDP projects have also benefited from the pro bono services of American Jews and from a variety of in-kind corporate contributions.
local staff members. They report that these professionals have gone on to train new multi-disciplinary teams, further widening the project’s impact.

In a new dental project undertaken by JDC-IDP in partnership with the Hungarian Dental Association and Alpha Omega, the international Jewish dental fraternity, two three-day workshops were held in October 1993 for 50 Hungarian dental practitioners. In the first, a core curriculum was developed for use in Hungary’s four dental schools; in the second, a pediatric oral hygiene demonstration program was devised that will be implemented first in one Budapest elementary school and then in four additional schools in Budapest and the countryside. Four Alpha Omega members—three from Israel and one from the United States—served as trainers for the workshops, and additional support for the project was provided by the Colgate-Palmolive Company.

ZIMBABWE

JDC-IDP’s two-year comprehensive eye treatment project aims to improve eye care and provide comprehensive treatment for the one million people living in Zimbabwe’s Mashonaland Central Province. Designed also to train local medical personnel—doctors, nurses, and medical assistants—in the latest ophthalmological techniques, the project has five other basic components: a full-service eye clinic at Bindura Provincial Hospital; a mobile eye unit to provide outpatient and minor surgical care in outlying areas; centers for primary care to provide basic treatment and preventive care at the grass roots level; day camps that will be set up in the remotest areas of the province; and an eye glasses production unit.

The project was developed in partnership with Zimbabwe’s Ministry of Health and Child Welfare; its Agricultural and Rural Development Authority; the University of Zimbabwe Medical School; the Zimbabwe Council for the Blind; and Zimbabwe Jewish Aid for Rural Development, an arm of the country’s resident Jewish community. A major grant was received from the British government’s Overseas Development Administration through UKJAID (United Kingdom Jewish Aid and International Development), and additional project funds have been provided by the Rashi, Rich, and Anonymous (E) Foundations.

Between September 1993, when the project’s temporary eye treatment clinic opened in Bindura, and the end of May 1994, when the permanent clinic was officially dedicated, the project medical director—an Israeli ophthalmologist—and his small staff treated over 3,600 patients and restored the sight of 180 individuals. Along with the mobile unit, the eye clinic is currently serving about 100 patients a week who range in age from infants to the elderly. It was recently certified as a teaching facility by the University of Zimbabwe Medical School. Beginning in July, medical students specializing in ophthalmology will be training at the Bindura clinic under the project director’s supervision.

SOMALI REFUGEE RELIEF

In the spring of 1993, JDC-IDP sent four mobile medical units to Somalia to replace the rented trucks that the International Rescue Committee had been using in its medical project in the Bardera region. The units have been used to provide general health care, immunizations, maternal and child care, and training programs for traditional birth attendants. JDC-IDP also funded the salaries of two Somali doctors, an expatriate nurse, and three supporting staff members for a period of one year. At the request of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and in cooperation with Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan, JDC-IDP established a tent city in Ruiru, Kenya last summer for 3,000 Somali refugees with medical problems too severe for them to be treated in existing refugee facilities. The camp was turned over to the UNHCR on September 9, 1993.
These projects were funded by JDC; the Jewish Coalition for Somali Refugee Relief, a consortium of 18 North American Jewish organizations; a group of Israeli donors spearheaded by Abie Nathan; and UKAID, through a grant from the United Kingdom’s Overseas Development Administration.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Funds contributed to the JDC Open Mailbox continued to support the JDC-La Benevolencija non-sectarian aid activities in Bosnia last year, as well as new relief activities in Belgrade, with additional support provided by a variety of other organizations and international donors. (See the section on the former Yugoslavia for complete details.) Concerned about the psychological well-being of women and children caught in the conflict, JDC joined forces with UKAID and UNICEF in March 1994 to send 20 mental health professionals from the former Yugoslavia to Israel’s Carmel Institute to learn state-of-the-art techniques for dealing with trauma. The Israeli expert who conducted the 10-day seminar will be making periodic visits to the former Yugoslavia to advise these professionals and provide follow-up training in the field.

ARMENIA

In May 1993, the JDC Children’s Rehabilitation Center in Gyumri, Armenia was formally renamed in memory of Aryeh Cooperstock, JDC-IDP’s founding director, who was instrumental in the Center’s establishment. An orthotics laboratory was added to the Center last summer, just before JDC’s official involvement in the project came to an end on September 30. Responding to the needs of the community, the Center’s newly trained Armenian therapists have expanded their services to include adults as well as children. The Center has become a major regional medical facility for those living in northern Armenia; it is now run entirely by Armenians and is funded by the Armenian government.

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

Among the JDC-IDP projects that are currently in the planning or development stage is an urban project in Shanghai, CHINA. The project would introduce the kind of social service programs that JDC pioneered in Israel’s community centers in one of Shanghai’s workers’ clubs, the nearest local equivalent. These clubs currently offer only recreational programs to the surrounding community, and Chinese officials responded enthusiastically to IDP’s initial proposal. Early in 1994, IDP sent two Israeli agricultural experts—one in poultry raising and the other in vegetable cultivation—to VIETNAM to give on-the-spot courses at the University of Agriculture and Forestry in Ho Chi Minh City and to gather data for a larger project to improve agricultural management in the region. Two other Israeli experts—in early childhood development and neonatal care and nutrition—recently paid a month-long return visit to the women of the squatters’ collective in Jinja, UGANDA whom they had advised in an earlier IDP project. Delighted to see how many of their original suggestions the women had implemented on their own, the Israelis provided some reinforcement to day care, health, and nutrition efforts already in place and broached the possibility of helping the women develop an income-generating cottage industry making toys.
The Interfaith Hunger Appeal was established in 1978 to increase public awareness of the problem of world hunger and to involve unaffiliated members of the community in the work of IHA's sponsoring agencies. In addition to JDC, these include Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service and Witness, and Lutheran World Relief.

IHA aims to increase the public’s understanding of international development activities that are designed to enhance food security and help alleviate global hunger and poverty. It believes that if hunger is to end, serious commitment must be given to long-term development at the grassroots level that will enable the poorest of the poor to become self-reliant. Through its Office on Education, IHA has been working to make world hunger and development education a key part of the undergraduate curriculum and has held a series of curriculum development institutes at various colleges and universities. JDC’s education director conducted a workshop describing JDC’s own experiences in community building at the 1994 institute, which was held at Spelman College in mid-June.

*Teaching Global Development: A Curriculum Guide*, which was recently published by IHA in cooperation with USAID, includes six inter-disciplinary essays on development education, seven course outlines, and an annotated bibliography. Together with IHA’s quarterly newsletter, *Hunger TeachNet*, the guide will provide educators with pertinent source materials for their courses and up-to-date information on activities in the field. The guide emphasizes the importance of development education in our increasingly interdependent world.

**JEWISH EDUCATION**

In addition to allocations for formal and informal Jewish educational programs made as part of various country budgets, JDC has historically made global allocations on a subsidy basis to the *Alliance Israelite Universelle* (AIU) and to the Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training (ORT). The AIU is a French organization that operates schools in eight countries, including Israel, France, Morocco, and Syria. In the 1993-94 school year, AIU served 986 students in Morocco (in its Ittihad schools), 858 in France, and 8,000 in other countries outside of Israel. Over the past several years, in accordance with a decision of its Board of Directors, JDC has moved from a system of global subsidies to one of country specific and programmatic funding. Accordingly, JDC country budgets in 1993 included specific allocations for the *Alliance* schools where relevant, and there is no longer a global allocation to *Alliance*.

ORT received $4,035,000 from JDC in 1993 in support of its worldwide educational and vocational training programs. In 1993, over 159,000 students in Israel, Western Europe, North Africa, India, and South America benefited from those programs. The JDC allocation, made through the American ORT Federation, assists the World ORT Union and provides subventions to its Jewish schools in countries in which JDC operates.
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

Board of Directors
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. as of December 31, 1993, and the related statements of support, revenue and expenses, changes in fund balances, and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the JDC’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. as of December 31, 1993, and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was made for the purposes of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information in schedules 1 through 3 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Lazarus, Trop & Company
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

April 26, 1994
### CURRENT UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

#### OPERATING FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash in bank - interest-bearing</td>
<td>$2,213,997</td>
<td>$1,052,212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans to communities and other receivables (net of allowance for uncollectable accounts of $620,000 in 1993 and 1992)</td>
<td>$1,253,352</td>
<td>$1,520,591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due from employees</td>
<td>$380,500</td>
<td>$402,100</td>
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<td>Advances on account of future year's programs</td>
<td>$358,159</td>
<td>$311,992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid pension costs (Note 2)</td>
<td>$2,627,964</td>
<td>$1,803,095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due from U.I.A., Inc.</td>
<td>$10,500,000</td>
<td>$12,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,371,397</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,435,465</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

| Unpaid appropriations, accounts payable, and allowance for severance and supplementary pension obligations | $18,865,431 | $26,512,878 |
| Interfund payable - Brookdale restricted fund (Note 6) | $3,089,401 | |
| Deferred revenue (Note 2) | $2,627,964 | $1,803,095 |
| Loans payable (Note 3) | $23,011,783 | $17,309,023 |
| **Total liabilities** | **47,594,579** | **45,624,996** |
| Fund balance (deficit) (Exhibit C) | (26,223,182) | (24,189,531) |
| **Fund balance deficit** | **$21,371,397** | **$21,435,465** |

#### LEGACY AND OTHER FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Cash in bank - interest-bearing</td>
<td>$6,722,419</td>
<td>$7,008,266</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments (market value - $76,748,086 in 1993 and $65,328,362 in 1992) (Note 5)</td>
<td>$61,518,604</td>
<td>$52,843,933</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>$369,845</td>
<td>$564,486</td>
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<td>Mortgage receivable - 10 1/4%, due 2/1/2000</td>
<td>$72,042</td>
<td>$79,309</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$68,682,910</strong></td>
<td><strong>$60,495,994</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

| Accounts payable | $39,400 | $41,878 |
| Fund balances (Exhibit C) (Schedule 1) | 68,643,510 | 60,454,116 |
| **Total** | **$68,682,910** | **$60,495,994** |
**Exhibit A**

(continued)

## Current Restricted Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash in bank - interest-bearing</td>
<td>$1,239,856</td>
<td>$4,177,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposit with Israeli Treasury - interest-bearing</td>
<td>2,332,786</td>
<td>1,928,725</td>
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<td>Investments (market value - $9,532,032 in 1993 and $4,592,629 in 1992) (Note 5)</td>
<td>7,640,546</td>
<td>3,714,965</td>
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<td>Accounts receivable - USDA</td>
<td>27,025</td>
<td>247,476</td>
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<td>Accrued interest receivable</td>
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<td>17,631</td>
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<td>Advances - Hungary</td>
<td>40,716</td>
<td>48,182</td>
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<td>Interfund receivable - operating fund (Note 6)</td>
<td>3,089,401</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$14,370,330</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,134,190</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Fund Balances

| Accounts payable                | $855,907   | $137,266   |
| Fund balances (Exhibit C) (Schedule 2) | 13,514,423 | 9,996,924  |
|                                  | **$14,370,330** | **$10,134,190** |

## Endowment Funds

### Assets

<table>
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<th>1992</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Cash in bank - interest-bearing</td>
<td>$647,500</td>
<td>$398,069</td>
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<td>Deposit with Israeli Treasury - interest-bearing</td>
<td>4,399,992</td>
<td>4,399,992</td>
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<td>Investments (market value - $12,054,740 in 1993 and $11,357,289 in 1992) (Note 5)</td>
<td>9,662,662</td>
<td>9,186,880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued interest receivable</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>$14,714,008</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,984,941</strong></td>
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</table>

### Liabilities and Fund Balances

| Fund balances (Exhibit C) (Schedule 3) | **$14,714,008** | **$13,984,941** |

See independent auditor's report.
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
### CURRENT FUNDS

#### UNRESTRICTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Operating</th>
<th>Legacy and Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Restricted Funds</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>United Jewish Appeal, Inc.</td>
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<td>$11,250</td>
<td>$55,661,250</td>
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<td>$56,167,500</td>
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<td>Government grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewish communities</td>
<td>157,302</td>
<td></td>
<td>157,302</td>
<td></td>
<td>157,302</td>
<td>132,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legacies and bequests</td>
<td>$3,087,505</td>
<td>$3,087,505</td>
<td>7,038,168</td>
<td></td>
<td>773,025</td>
<td>77,633,465</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total public support</strong></td>
<td>$55,807,302</td>
<td>$3,098,755</td>
<td>$58,906,057</td>
<td>7,038,168</td>
<td>66,717,250</td>
<td>77,633,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>315,247</td>
<td>$8,336,190</td>
<td>$8,651,437</td>
<td>$1,756,345</td>
<td>3,854</td>
<td>10,411,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total public support and revenue</strong></td>
<td>$56,122,549</td>
<td>$11,434,945</td>
<td>$67,557,494</td>
<td>$8,794,513</td>
<td>776,879</td>
<td>83,193,719</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### EXPENSES

<p>| | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>13,203,347</td>
<td>13,203,347</td>
<td>529,368</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,732,715</td>
<td>21,072,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>3,152,130</td>
<td>3,152,130</td>
<td>946,094</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,098,224</td>
<td>3,991,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>6,688,835</td>
<td>6,688,835</td>
<td>2,643,903</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,332,738</td>
<td>14,349,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>11,049,620</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>11,069,620</td>
<td>331,279</td>
<td>11,400,899</td>
<td>9,569,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower development</td>
<td>2,393,140</td>
<td>12,268</td>
<td>2,405,408</td>
<td>652,507</td>
<td>3,057,915</td>
<td>9,124,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>9,382,357</td>
<td>9,382,357</td>
<td>979,830</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,362,187</td>
<td>10,632,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>3,455,533</td>
<td>900,643</td>
<td>4,356,176</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,470,426</td>
<td>3,100,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
<td>49,324,962</td>
<td>932,911</td>
<td>50,257,873</td>
<td>6,197,231</td>
<td>56,455,104</td>
<td>71,841,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supporting services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters*</td>
<td>$6,014,253</td>
<td>$968,581</td>
<td>$6,982,834</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,982,834</td>
<td>$5,928,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td>2,484,154</td>
<td>2,484,154</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,484,154</td>
<td>2,552,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement costs</td>
<td>332,831</td>
<td>471,654</td>
<td>804,485</td>
<td></td>
<td>804,485</td>
<td>397,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td>8,831,238</td>
<td>1,440,235</td>
<td>10,271,473</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,271,473</td>
<td>8,878,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong>*</td>
<td>58,156,200</td>
<td>2,373,146</td>
<td>60,529,346</td>
<td>6,197,231</td>
<td>66,726,577</td>
<td>80,719,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess (deficiency) of public support and revenue over expenses</strong> (Exhibit C)</td>
<td>$(2,033,651)</td>
<td>$9,061,799</td>
<td>$7,028,148</td>
<td>$2,597,282</td>
<td>$776,879</td>
<td>$10,402,309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes interest expense of $467,240.

See independent auditor’s report.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
## Exhibit B

### Current Funds

#### Unrestricted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund balances (deficit) - beginning of year</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>24,189,531</td>
<td>24,189,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy and Other</td>
<td>60,454,116</td>
<td>60,454,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36,643,647</td>
<td>36,643,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>9,996,924</td>
<td>13,984,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Funds</td>
<td>13,984,941</td>
<td>13,984,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57,772,588</td>
<td>57,772,588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Reclassifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund balances (deficit) - end of year (Exhibit A)</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>(872,405)</td>
<td>(24,189,531)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy and Other</td>
<td>(872,405)</td>
<td>60,454,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>920,217</td>
<td>36,264,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Funds</td>
<td>(47,812)</td>
<td>9,996,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>(53,624)</td>
<td>57,772,588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Exhibit C

#### Current Funds

#### Unrestricted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excess (deficiency) of public support and revenue over expenses (Exhibit B)</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>(2,033,651)</td>
<td>(2,033,651)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy and Other</td>
<td>9,061,799</td>
<td>9,061,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,028,148</td>
<td>7,028,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>2,597,282</td>
<td>2,597,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Funds</td>
<td>776,879</td>
<td>776,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,402,309</td>
<td>10,402,309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Reclassifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decrease (increase) in loans to communities and other receivables</th>
<th>194,641</th>
<th>194,641</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>267,239</td>
<td>267,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in due from employees</td>
<td>21,600</td>
<td>21,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in mortgage receivable</td>
<td>7,267</td>
<td>7,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease (increase) in advances on account of future year's programs</td>
<td>(46,167)</td>
<td>(46,167)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease (increase) in accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>17,631</td>
<td>17,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in due from U.I.A.</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in unpaid appropriations and accounts payable</td>
<td>(10,447,961)</td>
<td>(10,447,961)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in interfund payable (receivable) - Brookdale</td>
<td>3,089,401</td>
<td>3,089,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in allowance for severance and supplementary pension obligations</td>
<td>(2,478)</td>
<td>(2,478)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in loans payable</td>
<td>2,800,514</td>
<td>2,800,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalents and investments - beginning of year</td>
<td>5,702,760</td>
<td>5,702,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalents and investments - end of year</td>
<td>5,397,687</td>
<td>5,397,687</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Cash and equivalents and investments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning of year</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ending of year</td>
<td>74,492,445</td>
<td>14,710,154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See independent auditor's report.
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 1993**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**
- The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis.
- Appropriations for grants are expensed in the year authorized.
- Investments are recorded at cost or market value.
- The U.S. dollar equivalents of the local currencies were calculated either at the actual rates of exchange realized or at an average of the rates during the year.

**NOTE 2 - PENSION PLAN**
- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan covering its New York staff and overseas foreign service personnel. For 1993 and 1992, no pension contributions were required to satisfy the minimum funding requirements of the IRS. Prior service cost has been fully funded. The JDC's policy is to fund pension cost accrued. As of January 1, 1993, there were 71 participants.

The following table sets forth the plan's funded status and amounts recognized in the JDC's balance sheet at December 31, 1993:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actuarial present value of benefit obligations:</th>
<th>$7,183,664</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated benefit obligation, including vested benefits of $6,918,065</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected benefit obligation for service rendered to date</td>
<td>$7,990,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan assets at fair market (primarily marketable securities)</td>
<td>19,484,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan assets in excess of projected benefit obligation</td>
<td>11,403,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrecognized prior service cost</td>
<td>214,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrecognized net gain from past experience different from that assumed and effects of changes in assumptions</td>
<td>(5,220,983)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrecognized net obligation at January 1, 1988 being recognized over 15 years</td>
<td>$3,859,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid pension cost</td>
<td>$2,627,964</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net pension cost for 1993 included in the following components:
- Service cost - benefits earned during period | $370,705 |
- Interest cost on projected benefit obligation | 576,927 |
- Actual return on plan assets | (2,680,574) |
- Net amortization and deferral | 908,073 |

Net periodic pension cost (credit) | ($824,869) |

The weighted average discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 7.75% and 5.0%, respectively. The expected long-term rate of return on assets was 7.5%.

**NOTE 3 - LOANS PAYABLE**
- The JDC obtained a $13,500,000 loan on March 29, 1991 from Chase Manhattan Bank. The loan will be repaid in nine annual installments of $1,500,000 commencing March 1, 1992 and concluding August 31, 2001. The JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance at 3/4% above the LIBOR rate. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 1993 is $12,000,000. The JDC has pledged investments held at Chemical Bank and Bank Leumi totaling approximately $18,300,000.
- The JDC obtained, in prior years, a noninterest-bearing loan from United Jewish Appeal of $4,900,000. The loan is reduced by the interest on the loan to Chase Manhattan Bank. The outstanding balance at December 31, 1993 is $511,783.

**NOTE 4 - LEASE COMMITMENTS**
- The JDC is committed under a lease for office space, which expires December 31, 2000. Minimum rental commitments under the terms of the lease are $400,860 per annum, subject to adjustments for escalation.

**NOTE 5 - INVESTMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost or Recorded Value</th>
<th>Market Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government obligations</td>
<td>$31,207,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Israel bonds</td>
<td>3,780,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate bonds</td>
<td>1,484,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common and preferred stocks</td>
<td>31,068,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash equivalents</td>
<td>206,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual funds</td>
<td>3,962,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial paper</td>
<td>1,988,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited partnerships</td>
<td>9,000,000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other investments</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The JDC has pledged investments totaling approximately $2,000,000 as collateral on their outstanding loan to Chase Manhattan Bank and the revolving credit agreement with Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York.


**NOTE 6 - INTERFUND PAYABLE/RECEIVABLE - BROOKDALE**
- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. entered into a $3,000,000 ten year loan agreement with JDC - Israel Brookdale Institute of Gerontology and Adult Human Development on April 1, 1993. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 1993 is $3,089,401, which includes accrued interest of $89,401. The principal amount of the loan will bear fluctuating interest at a rate of 1% in excess of the highest alternative interest rate that the Brookdale Institute can receive from Israeli banks at the beginning of each month on a compound interest basis. At December 31, 1993, the interest rate is 3.9%. The schedule for payment of the loan and interest will be based on an annual principal reimbursement of $300,000 plus the annual interest calculated at the rate adopted each year. Payment of principal and interest shall be made in U.S. dollars at the end of each year of the period of the loan beginning March 31, 1994.

**NOTE 7 - COMPARATIVE TOTALS**
- The amounts shown for the year ended December 31, 1992 in the accompanying financial statements are included to provide a basis for comparison with 1993 and present summarized totals only. Accordingly, the 1992 amounts are not intended to present all information necessary for a fair presentation in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

**NOTE 8 - TAX STATUS**
- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is a not-for-profit organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
PROGRAM BUDGET 1993

**DISTRIBUTION BY PROGRAM AREA**

- 5% Manpower Development
- 6% Health Services
- 7% Multifunctional
- 7% Religious Activities
- 12% Services to the Aged
- 12% Program Operations
- 14% Relief and Welfare
- 17% Social & Community Development
- 20% Jewish Education

**GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION**

- .3% International Development
- .6% Transmigrants
- .9% Europe Community Development
- 1.6% Latin America
- 1.9% Special Grants
- 2.2% Africa and Asia
- 7.5% Moslem Countries
- 7.8% ORT
- 16.5% Eastern Europe
- 19.9% Former Soviet Union
- 40.8% Israel
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Yona Goldberg, Washington, DC
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Sam Oolie, MetroWest, NJ
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Harriet Sloane, New York, NY
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Constance Smukler, Philadelphia, PA
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Jack J. Spitzer, Seattle, WA
Jane Stein, Tidewater, VA
Carol Stern, Tucson, AZ
Susan Stern, New York, NY
Gloria Stone, San Diego, CA
Roselyne C. Swig, San Francisco, CA
Joel Tauber - UJA
Norman Tilles, Providence, RI
Warren M. Toltz, Denver, CO
Esther Treitel, New York, NY
Claire Vogelman, New York, NY
Bernice Waldman, Hartford, CT
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1993 ANNUAL REPORT

Written and Edited by Ilana Stern
Designed by Chase/Temkin & Assoc., Inc.
Project Manager, Miriam Feldman

Many thanks to JDC’s Country and Program Directors for their assistance and to the members of the New York Headquarters staff who helped in the production of this report.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>Felix M. Warburg</td>
<td>1914-1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Baerwald</td>
<td>1932-1940; 1944-1945</td>
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<td>Chairman</td>
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<td>Edward M. M. Warburg</td>
<td>1941-1943; 1946-1965</td>
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<td>Chairman</td>
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<td>Louis Broido</td>
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<td>Edward Ginsberg</td>
<td>1972-1974</td>
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<td>Chairman</td>
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<td>Jack D. Weiler</td>
<td>1975-1977</td>
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<td>Donald M. Robinson</td>
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<td>President</td>
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<td>Henry Taub</td>
<td>1981-1984</td>
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<td>Heinz Eppler</td>
<td>1985-1988</td>
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<td>President</td>
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<td>Sylvia Hassenfeld</td>
<td>1989-1992</td>
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<td>Ambassador Milton A. Wolf</td>
<td>1993-Present</td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Joseph C. Hyman</td>
<td>1924-1939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary &amp; Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Vice-Chairman</td>
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<td>Moses A. Leavitt</td>
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<td>Charles H. Jordan</td>
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<td>Samuel L. Haver</td>
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<td>Saul B. Cohen</td>
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<td>Michael Schneider</td>
<td>1988-Present</td>
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<td>Executive Vice-President</td>
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