

Introduction by Rabbi Norbert Weinberg to the programs for absorption of Jews from the former Soviet Union

The Jews of the former Soviet Union ( Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia and Central Asia) since the Communist Revolution of 1918, experienced particular hardships from several ends:

- 1) A historic resentment of Jews in higher positions, dating back to Tsarist times
- 2) A political policy eliminating religion from both the public and private sphere, enforced, in some cases by fellow Jews, the Yevseksia.
- 3) A policy to disconnect Jews from their fellow Jews worldwide, in particular in regards to Zionism and Israel, and concomitant, the gradual elimination of Jewish ethnic identity, again, a continuation of older Russian Tsarist policies.

As a result, Jews of the pre- WW II Soviet territories, over the course of 70 years, were distanced from contact with Jewry outside, Jewish observance was repressed, resulting in a disconnect between the Jew qua Judaism and the Jew as Soviet citizen. The same happened , but to a lesser degree, to the Jews of the territories absorbed into the Soviet Union after WWII, such as western Ukraine. For a description of Jewish life in the Soviet Union, see the book by Elie Wiesel, Jews of Silence.

Starting in the late 1960's, pressure built up, both by Jews inside the Soviet Union, and by Jews outside, to allow Jews to leave. ( Two well known public figures in Los Angeles began their careers in fighting for the rights of Jews in the Soviet Union to leave, former Councilmember of LA City and Supervisor, LA County, Zev Yaroslavsky, and political figure Dennis Prager). There was a small movement of Jews out, under great difficulty, over the decades leading up to the fall of the Iron Curtain. With that "Tear the Wall Down" moment, the great majority of Jews finally were able to leave, seeking better opportunities. Many came to the USA, and Los Angeles became a favorite destination, with West Hollywood and the area around Hollywood Temple Beth El, becoming a significant hub.

Hollywood Temple Beth El became one of the hubs of service for these newcomers, and

one of the key elements was to help them absorb life in this “ Brave New World” in which one could be free to be a Jew and live as a Jew, without questions asked. Through the portals of the synagogue came former Party officials, former Soviet missile and submarine experts, former Soviet journalists, and former popular Soviet entertainers and movie stars!

These are from my personal records regarding the services Hollywood Temple Beth El provided to the newly arrived refugees from the former Soviet Union. This reflects activities in 1993. The Jewish Federation of Los Angeles allocated a total of \$15,000 spread over two years.

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#### Initial Planning

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#### Planning for Absorption of Immigrants from Soviet Union 1992

Note: Council on Jewish Life has allocated \$10,000 for salary only for Russian programmer. All activities must be marked as sponsored by Council on Jewish Life of Jewish Federation & Jewish Community Foundation.

Grant proposal -1992 grant application.

This request should be given the highest priority for funding for Soviet Jewish acculturation.

A. Introduction: Hollywood Temple Beth El is the oldest Conservative congregation in the Hollywood/West Hollywood area. It provides the full range of normal congregational services to its members (i.e., services, programs, religious school, nursery school). Because of its facilities, it also houses the Herzl School, the only communal Jewish private High School in LA, the Creative Arts Temple, the Musical Dramatic Club, Senior Elites, the

American Congress of Polish Jews and Survivors of Concentration Camps, and a senior citizens kosher food program. Its public run the breadth of all ages, all social and economic levels, and Jews from a variety of origins (Holocaust survivors, Iranians, Israelis, North African, Russian, as well as veteran Americans). The synagogue has provided leadership in various Jewish causes, such as the University of Judaism, Jewish National Fund and Israel Bonds, and the pulpit has given constant support to UJA and Operation Exodus.

B. The Program- Hollywood Temple Beth El, a center for experimental programs for acculturation of 60,000 Russian Jews in LA, plans to hire a Russian -speaking program coordinator, with appropriate funds for programming and supplies, to coordinate the on-going activities and to attract this large population to affiliation with synagogue life and involvement.

C.Problem- The turn of events in the former Soviet Union, as is obvious, has resulted in a massive exodus of Jews, many of whom will find their way to Los Angeles and the West Hollywood area in particular. The Los Angeles Jewish community needs to make every effort to absorb both the veteran and the new immigrants who are a potential source of new leadership for the Jewish community. Synagogues, historically, have been the locus of Jewish life; this historical fact must be translated into methods and programs which can speak to Jews who have been estranged, by events, from their heritage.

West Hollywood and the adjacent Fairfax area in Los Angeles is described as Moscow on the Pacific and Hollywood Temple Bet El is the only Conservative congregation located in the heart of that community. Approximately 60,000 Jews of Soviet origin have settled here in the past two decades and many more are expected to come.

Chabad has successfully capitalized on the services of a Russian-born Rabbi and have successfully raised \$700,000 from prominent Russian Jews in the community (none of them Orthodox) to open a center, which drew over 1500 people to High Holiday services on opening day of Rosh Hashanah( with tremendous local media coverage). This is ironic because the bulk of Russian Jews are secular, and Chabad ,it has been claimed, seeks to isolate them from the rest of the Jewish community.

The neighboring Reform synagogue has authorized its assistant Rabbi to handle all

Russian Jews, and has succeeded in augmenting its membership. Furthermore, Young Israel of Melrose has obtained a grant for a coordinator of activities to the Russian public.

Hollywood Temple Beth El alone in this area has not been in a position, till now, to attract this public, for a variety of reasons. We are concerned that this new wave of Jewish immigrants may slip through our fingers, the vast majority assimilating away from Jewish identity altogether, a minority gravitating to Chabad.

This is ironic because this synagogue, over a decade ago, held special High Holy Day services for new immigrants, and housed ,for a while, the offices of a Russian community organization. Because of our attractive sanctuary ,catering facility, and convenient location, many Russian Jews chose to hold their weddings here. This was the cite of the 10th Anniversary celebration of Panorama, the largest Russian-language newspaper in the country, and we have been working with the Association of Soviet Jewish Emigres.

D. Program Objectives- Our objective is very simple:

To consolidate our on-going work, and create further programming, which will draw the newly arrived immigrants to affiliation and involvement in synagogue life and send their children to Jewish schooling, and will involve the veteran Russian Jews, who have acculturated to America, to see their rightful place within the synagogue.

The objectives are measurable by an increase in enrollment of children in religious school, membership growth, and participation by Jews of Russian origin in voluntary and leadership capacities. These results should be noticeable within three years.

E. Methods-- With a new Rabbi and administration, the congregation has begun to make significant outreach once again to this public. Last year, thanks to a grant from the Bureau of Jewish Education we conducted a short- course Bar Mitzvah program for 10 new immigrants, for which we received good local publicity. We have held various events in which Russian immigrants were hosted here for Channukah and Pesah workshop, Shabbat

dinner, Shavuot lel Tikun.

This year, we have continued the Bar Mitzvah program, with 12 students, we are hosting a Sunday school program for 25 children and an adult education class, thanks to the Bureau of Jewish Education. We involve these children in our on-going activities, and the children and parents together share with the rest of our parents of the religious school, who themselves are to a great part not-so=new immigrants as well( Iranian, or Israeli). We offer them membership at a token rate, and, when the children will finish the experimental program, we hope to incorporate them into our regular Hebrew School program. In the planning as well , is a course in English for success, to help new immigrants break into a tight job market, as well as a Russian cultural center, in conjunction with a local organization, the Association of Soviet Jewish Emigres.

We even had started a Russian-counselling program under the auspices of the University of Judaism-Wagner program, which we had to cancel because we could not meet our own expenses and had to find a paying tenant for the office spaces we had allocated.

Our costs, in terms of under-writing these activities, and in terms of offering our services(high holidays and courtesy memberships) is very large. At the same time, as a result of past administrative difficulties of the congregation, we have no funds for any of these activities.

We therefore seek a Russian -speaking program coordinator to take care of all the on-going activities which we have initiated here, to reach out to the local Russian community, and coordinate religious services and Jewish celebrations which can attract them. Such a program coordinator must have a budget for supplies, publicity, and special events. We need religious texts in Russian translation and transliteration for them to join in the services. In addition, we need to be able to underwrite the costs of integrating the children of new immigrants into our on-going religious school until they are ready to pay their own way as members in good standing, costs which we hope the Bureau of Jewish Education will underwrite in the form of scholarships.

F. Evaluation-- As stated in D-growth of enrollment, membership, leadership figures.

G.Future funding- Those programs already funded by the Bureau of Jewish Education will

be continued under the same policy. Costs of the program coordinator should eventually be offset by membership fees as new Russians become veterans and begin to affiliate.

H. This program is approved by the Rabbi and President of the Temple.

#### Ammendment to Budget

Ongoing programs at Hollywood Temple Beth El--Program description, costs, and sources of funding.

##### 1) Intensive Bar-Bat Mitzvah project:

For recent immigrants, ages 12-13.

Six-months, 2-hour per week, survey of Jewish life, customs, basic Hebrew reading, talit& tefillin, Torah blessings. In June, the students each receive aliyah, recite a personal statement in Russian

and English. Taught by Cantor Ralph Goren, with a grant by the Bureau of Jewish Education-Emigre Department.

#### Expenses

Instructor	\$2300	
Classroom costs(heat/ac,janitor)	\$ 800	
Reception for Bar Mitzvah	\$ 500	
Gifts for Bnai Mitzvah		\$ 200
Mailing, phone, publicity	\$ 100	
		<hr/>
		\$3900
Income		
Grant from Bureau of Jewish Education	\$2300	
Donation of reception and gift	\$ 700	
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		\$3000

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##### 2) Experimental Hebrew School-under auspices of Bureau of Jewish Education

For new immigrants, ages 7-12. 9-month

program, 2 hour-per week,

taught by two instructors,

one American, one Russian. General introduction to Jewish life, with presumption that, in following year, they will be mainstreamed into a Hebrew school program. Children participate jointly in special activities with Religious School.

#### Expenses

Teachers, supplies, office & administrative support	\$5,000
Use of classrooms (rent, a/c, heat, janitor)	\$2,000
	<hr/>
	\$7000

#### Income

Bureau of Jewish Education budget	\$5,000
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3) Adult class on American Jewish life-2 nine-week introductions to Jewish Life. Bureau of Jewish Education sponsored.

#### Expenses

Instructor	\$900
Rent of class, a/c, janitor	\$800
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	\$1700

#### Income

Bureau of Jewish Education	\$900
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#### Miscellaneous

1) 2 Shabbat dinners for

Russian,Iranian immigrants (40 each at  
\$7/person \$500

covered by Federation allocation(\$500)

2) 50 free seats at high holidays  
at \$175/seat \$8750

3)Courtesy memberships -25 /\$600 family  
\$15,000

Total cost of on-going outreach to  
Russian Jews \$36,850

Outside funding-Bureau of Jewish Education and miscellaneous  
donations \$9400

Temple cost in service, administration,  
rental, memberships & seating \$ 27,450

These costs will be repeated for 92-93

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Grant request for 5753(1992-93):

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## 1. Expenses

### A.Personnel

1.Salary and Wages-Coordinator.\$1250 for 15 hours/wk  
position, year round.Inclusive of all benefits and taxes \$15,000

2. Contract services-Lecturers, Guest speakers, 2,400  
entertainers

### B. Non-personnel

1.Space costs



a.Office space		\$600
b.Social hall-1/month		1200
2.Postage		1200
3.Consumable supplies		1000
4.Printng, duplication,texts	1000	
5.Advertising and publicity in Russian media	3000	
Total Expenses		<hr/> \$25,400

## II.Income

A.Amount requested from Council on Jewish Life	22,600	
B.Fees		1,000
C.Other revenue-synagogue's operating budget and facilities	1,800	
		<hr/> \$25,400

Council on Jewish Life/Jewish Community Foundation

Synagogue Funding Committe

Final Application

To Be completed by synagogue/ organization

A. Name of Program -Russian Jewish Synagogue Integration

B. Sponsoring Synagogue

C. Number of Family

Units

Hollywood Temple Beth El

206

1317 N. Crescent Heights

Number of single units

West Hollywood ,CA 90046

121

D. Brief statement of purpose

Hollywood Temple Beth El, a center for experimental programs for acculturation of Russian Jews, will establish a position for coordinator of Russian-Jewish activities, to facilitate on-going and future planned events which will integrate the large community of Russian Jews into synagogal life.

#### E. Brief Statement of Methods

Coordinator will over-see on-going educational programs of the Bureau of Jewish Education, create new programs, reach out and invite members of the Russian Jewish community actively into the synagogue through special events, personal contact, and integration with the synagogue members.

F. Total Budget \$ 25,400

G. Total amount requested from

Council on Jewish Life

\$22,600

H. Date submitted Feb 19,1992

I. Contact: Rabbi Norbert Weinberg

213-656-3150

Ongoing programs at Hollywood Temple Beth El--Program description, costs, and sources of funding.

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and English. Taught by Cantor Ralph Goren, with a grant by the Bureau of Jewish Education-Emigre Department.

#### 2) Experimental Hebrew School-under auspices of Bureau of Jewish Education

For new immigrants, ages 7-12. 9-month

program, 2 hour-per week, taught by two instructors,

one American, one Russian. General introduction to Jewish life, with presumption that, in following year, they will be mainstreamed into a Hebrew school program. Children participate jointly in special activities with Religious School. Parents have been involved in discussion groups with the Rabbi, and are planning

"havurah" type activities.

3) Adult class on American

Jewish life-2 nine-week introductions

to Jewish Life. Bureau of Jewish Education sponsored. Alternated with a course on Advanced Spoken English, also Bureau sponsored.

### Miscellaneous

1) 2 Shabbat dinners last year, one this year, another planned in May, for Russian, Iranian immigrants, in conjunction on school shabbat dinner.

Subsidized by Federation allocation

2) 50 free seats at high holidays

3) Courtesy memberships

4) Incidental to congregational events, most of our weddings are of Russian immigrants. About 30 a year.

We have put in a request for funding from the Council on Jewish Life for a Russian - speaking program coordinator to take care of all the on-going activities which we and the Bureau of Jewish Education have initiated here, to reach out to the local Russian community, and coordinate religious services and Jewish celebrations which can attract them. Such a program coordinator must have a budget for supplies, publicity, and special events. We need religious texts in Russian translation and transliteration for them to join in the services. In addition, we need to be able to underwrite the costs of integrating the children of new immigrants into our on-going religious school until they are ready to pay their own way as members in good standing, costs which we hope the Bureau of Jewish Education will underwrite in the form of scholarships.

We estimate our need to be about \$25,000 for a part-time coordinator, and an operating fund for special programming.

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II Request for recognition of our efforts

Pacific Southwest Region

15600 Mulholland Drive  
Los Angeles , CA 90077

June 11, 1992

## Regional Awards Nomination

### Outreach to Soviet Jewish Immigrants

West Hollywood and the adjacent Fairfax area in Los Angeles is described as Moscow on the Pacific and Hollywood Temple Beth El is the only Conservative congregation located in the heart of that community. Approximately 60,000 Jews of Soviet origin have settled here in the past two decades and many more are expected to come. This synagogue, over a decade ago, held special High Holy Day services for new immigrants, and housed ,for a while, the offices of a Russian community organization. Because of our attractive sanctuary ,catering facility, and convenient location, dozens of Americanized-Russian Jews chose to hold their weddings here. This was the cite of the 10th Anniversary celebration of Panorama, the largest Russian-language newspaper in the country.

With a new Rabbi and administration, the congregation has begun to make significant outreach once again to this public. Last year, thanks to a grant from the Bureau of Jewish Education we conducted a short- course Bar Mitzvah program for 10 new immigrants, for which we received good local publicity.

We have held various events in which Russian immigrants were hosted here for Channukah and Pesah workshop, Shabbat dinner, Shavuot lel tikun.

This year, we have continued the Bar Mitzvah program, with 13 students, we are hosting a Sunday school program for 25 children and an adult education class, thanks to the Bureau of Jewish Education. We involve these children in our on-going activities, and the children and parents together share with the rest of our parents of the religious school, who themselves are to a great part not-so=new immigrants as well( Iranian, or Israeli). We offer them membership at a token rate, and, when the children will finish the experimental program, we hope to incorporate them into our regular Hebrew School program.

We have begun to draw the families into congregational participation through courtesy memberships for new immigrants and have begun the process of their integration into synagogue life.

The following pages describe our programs in detail.

Respectfully submitted,

Rabbi Norbert Weinberg

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### III Formal proposal to Executive of Hollywood Temple Beth El to adopt program

To: Mr. Joe Heller and Executive of Hollywood Temple Beth El

Hollywood Temple Beth El has been granted special funding from the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles and the Jewish Community Foundation for hiring a Russian program coordinator, in recognition of the unique role we can play in integrating the Russian speaking community into the mainstream of American Jewish synagogue life. As is obvious, the Russian -emigre community, numbering 10's of thousands is the largest as yet unaffiliated Jewish public in the Hollywood-West Hollywood area, and forms the natural audience for the largest body of future membership, if properly cultivated .

The grant is for \$10,000, to be used solely for salary( presumably inclusive of taxes and insurances). We would be responsible for providing whatever funding would be necessary to be effective.

We now must begin to seek a Russian -speaking program coordinator to take over the on-going activities which we have initiated here, work with the families of those already participating and who have displayed interest in involvement in HTBE, and with their involvement, reach out to the local Russian community( both new immigrants and veterans.

The candidate should be a native Russian speaker, also fluent in English, who has a general knowledge of Jewish practice and thought and familiarity with American Jewish life, and a potential leadership type. Presumably, the \$10,000 can provide us with a 1/4 to half time worker. The prime candidate is someone who has been here long enough that a part time position is sufficient at present for their needs. As added incentive, the position can grow as enough Russians join on as members, thereby off-setting costs for the program coordinator.

Furthermore, someone capable of community work, whose English is sufficiently good can also take on a second job, for membership growth and programming in general.

Program Objectives- Our objective is very simple:

- 1) To consolidate our on-going work.
- 2) To build a leadership cadre of new and veteran Russian Jews
- 3) With them, create programming, which will draw the newly arrived immigrants to affiliation and involvement in synagogue life and will interest the veteran Russian Jews, who have acculturated to America, to see their rightful place within the synagogue.

The objectives are measurable by an increase in enrollment of children in religious school, membership growth, and participation by Jews of Russian origin in voluntary and leadership capacities. These results should be noticeable within three years.

.Future funding- Those programs already funded by the Bureau of Jewish Education will be continued under the same policy. Costs of the program coordinator should eventually be offset by membership fees as new Russians become veterans and begin to affiliate.

Ongoing programs at Hollywood Temple Beth El--Program description, costs, and sources of funding.

Budget proposal for Russian program coordinator for 5753(1992-93):

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## 1. Expenses

### A.Personnel

1.Compensation -Coordinator.\$1000 for 10 hours/wk/month

position, spread over 10 months.Inclusive of all benefits and taxes ---\$10,000

2. Contract services-Lecturers, Guest speakers, entertainers for special events	1,000	
B. Non-personnel		
5. Advertising and publicity in Russian media	500	
Total Expenses		<hr/>
		\$ 11,500

II. Income		
A. Amount from Council on Jewish Life	10,000	
B. Fees from program activities, possible fund- raising	1,500	
C. Other revenue-synagogue's operating budget and facilities		<hr/>
		\$11,500

Other operative expenses and incomes for subsidiezed projects

1) Intensive Bar-Bat Mitzvah project:

For recent immigrants, ages 12-13.

Six-months, 2-hour per week, survey of Jewish life, customs, basic Hebrew reading, talit& tefillin, Torah blessings. In June, the students each receive aliyah, recite a personal statement in Russian

and English. Taught by Cantor Ralph Goren, with a grant by the Bureau of Jewish Education-Emigre Department.

Expenses

Instructor	\$2300	
Classroom costs(heat/ac,janitor)	\$ 800	
Reception for Bar Mitzvah	\$ 500	
Gifts for Bnai Mitzvah		\$ 200
Mailing, phone, publicity	\$ 100	
		<hr/>
		\$3900

#### Income

Grant from Bureau of Jewish Education	\$2300
Donation of reception and gift	\$ 700

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\$3000

#### 2) Experimental Hebrew School-under auspices of Bureau of Jewish Education

For new immigrants, ages 7-12. 9-month

program,2 hour-per week,

taught by two instructors,

one American, one Russian. General

introduction to Jewish life, with

presumption that, in following year,

they will be mainstreamed into a

Hebrew school program. Children participate

jointly in special activities with Religious

School.

#### Expenses

Teachers, supplies,office

& administrative support \$5,000

Use of classrooms(rent. \$2,000

a/c,heat, janitor)

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\$7000

#### Income

Bureau of Jewish Education budget \$5,000

#### 3) Adult class on American

Jewish life or English as Second language-2 nine-week introductions

to Jewish Life. Bureau of Jewish Education sponsored.



Expenses

Instructor	\$900	
Rent of class,a/c, janitor	\$800	
		<hr/>
		\$1700

Income

Bureau of Jewish Education	\$900
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Miscellaneous

1)2 Shabbat dinners for Russian,Iranian immigrants (40 each at \$7/person covered by Federation allocation(\$500)	\$500
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Letter sent for candidate search:

Dear

We are pleased to announce that Hollywood Temple Beth El has been awarded a grant from the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles and the Jewish Community Foundation to hire a coordinator for outreach to the Russian Jewish community. This is a welcome addition to the programming which we are already doing, in conjunction with the Bureau of Jewish Education, in supplementary religious and Bar Mitzvah studies for new immigrant children.

I ask your help in referring to us possible candidates for such a position. It is at present only a part-time position; however, there is the likelihood that it can grow to a major position if properly executed.

The candidate must be a native- born Russian speaker, fluent in English, with some general background of Jewish life and thought, comfortable in a traditional, but non-

Orthodox environment, and enjoy working with individuals on a personal basis.

The key objectives of the position will be to involve and integrate into the synagogue those families whose children have joined in our educational programs, cultivate leadership potential, and through support networks, encourage involvement of the Russian Jewish public in the daily life of the synagogue.

Potential candidates can send their resumes to our office. We greatly appreciate your help in this effort.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi NW

Russian Outreach coordinator

Position

Objectives:

To create and lead religious, educational and cultural activities which introduce new immigrants to Jewish life in USA, in consonance with the ideals of Conservative Judaism, respecting Jewish observances while emphasizing open intellectual inquiry and respect for other streams in the community.

To integrate new immigrants into community of Hollywood Temple Beth El.

To cultivate potential leaders among the Russian community.

To involve veteran Russian Jews in Hollywood Temple Beth El.

Tasks:

1) Work with the Rabbi in establishing a task force for Russian outreach, to consist of veteran members of the congregation and new Russian members, who will assist in logistics of various special events, i. e. Shabbat dinners, concerts. Task force will advise the synagogue leadership on best approaches to involving and integrating new Russians to the congregation and obtain leadership support for projects. Task force chairperson will

coordinate with lay leadership of various synagogue committees: i.e, program, membership, School, Sisterhood, Men's Club.

2) Coordinate between Rabbi and synagogue leadership and the agencies which work with the synagogue in acculturation projects:

a) Bureau of Jewish Education Emigre department head, Esther Krisman, associate, Margie Zinman, and New Immigrant Religious school project teachers.

b) Bar Mitzah course instructor, Cantor Ralph Goren.

c) Other Federation offices: Immigration and Acculturation, Council on Jewish Life, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Vocational Service.

3) Form connections and obtain support for programs from individuals and organizations in the established Russian community: i.e, American Association of Soviet Jewish Emigres, Panorama, KMNB Russian Radio.

4) Work with Rabbi in teaching adults and youth.

5) Coordinate and lead services in conjunction with the Rabbi using basic elements of the liturgy in Hebrew and explanation in Russian, with goal of integrating participants into main services.

6) Prepare bulletin for distribution to the Russian community covering activities offered, create or find appropriate material in Russian language and transliterations for use in activities.

7) Other projects and activities as shall be developed over the course of the program.

#### Conditions of Remuneration:

Total remuneration: \$10,000, a self-employed, for 1992-93 year, beginning October 1, 1992 continuing through Sept.30,1993. To be disbursed bi-monthly, over the course of the year. One month in the summer shall be designated as a vacation month.

All taxes and health payments are responsibility of the outreach coordinator. A portion of the remuneration can be designated for business and travel costs, as per synagogue's tax adviser.

Coordinator shall be directly responsible to the Rabbi. Budget for programs shall be

devised with Rabbi, subject to approval of synagogue executive.

Total hours of position--15. To be divided, in consultation with Rabbi, between set office hours, teaching and program leading, and meetings ,as needed. A desk with phone and a cabinet for storage of papers shall be provided in synagogue grounds.

This agreement is for one year, only, subject to review after first three months probationary period. Renewal of position is conditional upon satisfactory job performance, and continuation of grant from the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation or from other sources.

This contract is contingent upon final approval of the candidate by the Council on Jewish Life.

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V 1<sup>st</sup> activities

Suggested members of Task Force for Outreach to Russian Jews:

Asya Marder, Alex and Mary Reznik, Arkady and Anna Bernshteyn, Irina and Mikhael Beylin, Natalie Bykova, Nonna Khinich, Larissa Wain.

First Shabbat dinner of Outreach program,in conjunction with Bureau of Jewish Education- Friday, Oct 30, 6:30 PM, services and dinner.

All arrangements to be made through Esther Krisman at BJE.Open to 1) BJE study group participants 2) Russian members of HTBE 3) Families enrolled in Sunday program.

Youth Enrichment Center:

Such a Center would capitalize on the great need and hunger expressed by members of the Russian community, both veteran and new imigrant, for quality supplemental educational programs in the areas of Music, Math,Sciences and English language. These families are keenly pained by the absence of such quality programs in the public school sector and see this as essential to the emotional and intellectual development of their children. Such a program would address needs of families of Iranian and Israeli background.

Such a program could be opened in our facilities, and an trained Russian-speaking educator can be offered to act as director on a commission basis. If properly run, there can be generated net income for the congregation from the program. Other benefits include:

Bringing youth into the Temple facilities who can then be channeled into other Temple activities.

Gaining good will and loyalty of the families for the service made possible to their children and drawing them to the congregation.

Create quality cultural activities under the auspices of the congregation.

Notes on search for personnel. Names and personal information has been redacted for privacy.

#### Russian Outreach

##### Candidates:

Please note the candidates that we have interviewed to date for the position of Russian program coordinator funded by the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles and the Jewish Community Foundation.

Please inform me if the candidates are known to you, if you have had any working experience with them, positive or negative, and if you feel they would be qualified for the position.

1)

Professional background--architecture, has administrative experience in Russia. Stronger than average Jewish background from grandparents home, has attended Jewish lectures here, as well. Also, her sister,xxxx, is actively working in Jewish community, and has a cousin who is US- trained Rabbi. In US 11 months. Has had some limited work experience in US.

2)

. Professional background-Librarian, Training in secretarial skills. Jewish involvement-has worked w/ Jewish Vocational Service as volunteer, edited Kompot for Council on Jewish Life. Coordinated activities for seniors in Leningrad.

Now, activities assistant at Westside JCC for seniors program(non-Russian). Here approx 1 1/2 years. Has developed skills in organizing and volunteer activities.

3)

Professional background-Political science and English language specialist. Professional translator, interpreter for high government officials, Has organized and taught English as foreign language, both in USSR and LA, as well as for Jewish federation. Emphasis in approach--use of English language studies, programs in English as key to encouraging Russian participation. 2 years in US

4

Professional background: Training in Mechanical engineering, administrative experience, Computer trained. Also, ran a travel agency in Kiev. Recently studied computerized accounting at ORT in LA. Likes interaction with people. Wants to leave engineering altogether. 1 year in US.

5)

Professional background; Musician and music educator. Ran school in Angask( Siberia). Built it from 10 to 1000 students. Has taken computer training in the US. Tutors music here. Displays initiative in use of music as a key to attract youth, and parents with them. Music

Education is serious issue with Russian youth who do not have opportunities to further their talents here. Here 1 1/2 year.

6).

Professional background: Mathematician. Was active in refusenik community, organized Jewish programs in USSR, until visa was approved. In US, has worked with Bureau of Jewish Education, the Westside Kehilla, and Temple Beth Am in acculturation. In US 4-5 years

7)

Professional background: English language, Translated & published English books into Russian and vice versa. In LA, has done translation and writing for Bureau of Jewish Education, & Jewish Family Service. Served as secretary to Etz Jacob school. Took paralegal studies, now works fulltime as paralegal. Would be available weeknights and weekends. In US 2 years.

8)

Professional background: Professor of Music, Violinist. Instructor and teacher of music academicians. Has begun concert performing in US, has founded a quartet, and led concert at Beth Am this year. She will be playing for Beth El at Slichot night.  
In US 1 year

Final candidate:

Candidate for Russian Outreach coordinator:

Leonid Litvachuk

1802 S La Brea #10

Los Angeles ,CA 90019

Education: Moscow University, BA, MA-Mathematics, specializing in math education.

Occupation: Math education, high school instruction and research in the field of math education.

Administrative experience: ran and organized summer camp for high school youth in the Moscow area.

Jewish background: In depth interest in philosophy and humanities led to independent study of Jewish history and thought. In 1989, became one of the first participants in the academy for Jewish studies opened by noted Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, the first such institute in modern Soviet Jewish history.

Experience in the United States:

Arrived two years ago. Has been working on English and learning licensing requirements for math education and computer sciences. Is currently employed part-time as math instructor at Santa Monica Community College and private math tutoring.

Has been active with Outreach program at Young Israel of Melrose, has worked with Alla Feldman, and was recommended by her.

Through his involvement, he already has a general idea of the nature of such programs and is well familiar with synagogue life.

He is available on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays-all day, as well as Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

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II.

Russian Outreach coordinator

Position

Objectives:

To create and lead religious, educational and cultural activities which introduce new immigrants to Jewish life in USA, in consonance with the ideals of Conservative Judaism, respecting Jewish observances while emphasizing open intellectual inquiry and respect for other streams in the community.

To integrate new immigrants into community of Hollywood Temple Beth El.

To cultivate potential leaders among the Russian community.

To involve veteran Russian Jews in Hollywood Temple Beth El.

Tasks:

1) Work with the Rabbi in establishing a task force for Russian outreach, to consist of veteran members of the congregation and new Russian members, who will assist in logistics of various special events, i. e. Shabbat dinners, concerts. Task force will advise the synagogue leadership on best approaches to involving and integrating new Russians to the congregation and obtain leadership support for projects. Task force chairperson will coordinate with lay leadership of various synagogue committees: i.e, program, membership, School, Sisterhood, Men's Club.

2) Coordinate between Rabbi and synagogue leadership and the agencies which work with the synagogue in acculturation projects:



a) Bureau of Jewish Education Emigre department head, Esther Krisman, associate, Margie Zinman, and New Immigrant Religious school project teachers.

b) Bar Mitzvah course instructor, Cantor Ralph Goren.

c) Other Federation offices: Immigration and Acculturation, Council on Jewish Life, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Vocational Service.

3) Form connections and obtain support for programs from individuals and organizations in the established Russian community: i.e., American Association of Soviet Jewish Emigres, Panorama, KMNB Russian Radio.

4) Work with Rabbi in teaching adults and youth.

5) Coordinate and lead services in conjunction with the Rabbi using basic elements of the liturgy in Hebrew and explanation in Russian, with goal of integrating participants into main services.

6) Prepare bulletin for distribution to the Russian community covering activities offered, create or find appropriate material in Russian language and transliterations for use in activities.

7) Other projects and activities as shall be developed over the course of the program.

Conditions of employ: This is a part time position. Hours and remuneration to be worked out with Mr. Joe Heller, president of the congregation. It is dependent on Jewish Federation approval, and limited to the amount of the grant money received for 1992-93. Future of the program will depend upon renewal of the grant.

Suggested members of Task Force for Outreach to Russian Jews:

Asya Marder,

Arkady and Anna Bernshteyn,

Irina and Mikhael Beylin,

Natalie Bykova,

Nonna Khinich,

Sara Lvovskaya

Larissa Wain.

Outside advisors--Esther Krisman, BJE;

Gregory Makaron, Association of Soviet Jewish Emigres;

Alexander Polovets, Panorama;

Miriam Prum-Hess, Immigration Acculturation Dept., Jewish Federation;

Elaine Alpert and Alla Feldman, Council on Jewish Life, Jewish Federation

1) Intensive Bar-Bat Mitzvah project:

For recent immigrants, ages 12-13.

Six-months, 2-hour per week, survey of Jewish life, customs, basic Hebrew reading, talit&

tefillin, Torah blessings. In June, the students each receive aliyah, recite a personal statement in Russian and English. Taught by Cantor Ralph Goren, with a grant by the Bureau of Jewish Education-Emigre Department.

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2) Experimental Hebrew School-under auspices of Bureau of Jewish Education  
For new immigrants, ages 7-12. 9-month. program, 2 hour-per week,  
taught by two instructors, General introduction to Jewish life, with presumption that, in following year, they will be mainstreamed into a Hebrew school program. Children participate jointly in special activities with Religious School.

3) On-going Russian discussion club- led by Natalie Bykova and Sarah Lvovskaya- beginning and advanced levels. Sundays, 11:00-12:00  
It will be possible to include a guest lecture once a month.

4) Twice a month, the Rabbi leads a general class on Jewish life and customs for Americans and new immigrants together. from 10-11:00 AM

How Does a Jew. . . Continues--Sunday Mornings

10:00- 11:00 AM

Mar 14      The Secret of Shabbat -a

Mar 28      Shabbat-b

April 4      The beginning of life

April 18     Married Life

May 2      Dealing with illness and death

May 16     The Jewish Diet

Also, there will be several sessions for a Bible group:

Next dates:

April 11     Song of Songs- Making eating matzah romantic.

May 9      Ezra-Nehemiah--The first Zionists before Herzl

Concluding special

June 26-Leil Tikun - Shavuot Night of Study:

**Why Did Ruth Follow Naomi?**

8:00 PM

Follows Religious school Shavuot service and Dairy potluck dinner at 6:30 PM.

Conditions of Remuneration:

Total remuneration: \$10,000, a self-employed, for 1992-93 year, beginning October 1, 1992 continuing through Sept.30,1993. To be disbursed bi-monthly, over the course of the year. One month in the summer shall be designated as a vacation month.

All taxes and health payments are responsibility of the outreach coordinator. A portion of the remuneration can be designated for business and travel costs, as per synagogue's tax adviser.

Coordinator shall be directly responsible to the Rabbi. Budget for programs shall be devised with Rabbi, subject to approval of synagogue executive.

Total hours of position--15. To be divided, in consultation with Rabbi, between set office hours, teaching and program leading, and meetings ,as needed. A desk with phone and a cabinet for storage of papers shall be provided in synagogue grounds.

This agreement is for one year, only, subject to review after first three months probationary period. Renewal of position is conditional upon satisfactory job performance, and continuation of grant from the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation or from other sources.

This contract is contingent upon final approval of the candidate by the Council on Jewish Life.

Suggested office schedule:

Office hours:

Sundays 9:30-12:00

Mondays 4:00-6:00

Wednesdays 4:00-6:00

Total:6 hours

Teaching time

2 hours per week- to be allocated in conjunction with Rabbi

Shabbat Services-

2 hours per week to be allocated in conjunction with Rabbi

Program time

2 hour per week , Wednesday evening or special event.

12 hours on-premises. Balance of time, 3 hours, to be used at discretion for preparation time.

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First Shabbat dinner of Outreach program,in conjunction with Bureau of Jewish Education-

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Friday, Oct 30, 6:30 PM, services and dinner.

All arrangements to be made through Esther Krisman at BJE.Open to 1) BJE study group participants 2) Russian members of HTBE 3) Families enrolled in Sunday program.

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III

Letter to Rabbi Marvin Labinger, United Synagogue Office  
c/o UJ 15600 Mulholland, LA

Dear Marvin,

As you may be aware, we have received a grant for a Russian outreach coordinator, and at present we have a viable candidate, a young Russian who has completed undergraduate studies in Jewish history, is currently in a masters' program, and has applied for admission to the UJ Rabbinics program for next year. The grant is to be applied to salary only, and, because of the economy and our own weak financial position, we don't have anything available for program expenditures or advertising.

Our program is very ambitious in scope:

To create and lead religious, educational and cultural activities which introduce new immigrants to Jewish life in USA, in consonance with the ideals of Conservative Judaism, respecting Jewish observances while emphasizing open intellectual inquiry and respect for other streams in the community.

To integrate new immigrants into community of Hollywood Temple Beth El.

To cultivate potential leaders among the Russian community.

To involve veteran Russian Jews in Hollywood Temple Beth El.

I believe that this project should receive maximum support from our movement, and I was very disappointed that the Rappaport Fund did not come through. Chabad is having a field day to itself with the Russian community, they have made direct overtures to take over our facility at HTBE, and our movement is sitting idly.

Please see what channels of support may be available to us within the movement or such organizations as may be favorable to our outreach work.

I greatly appreciate your help,

Sincerely yours, NW

Received reply with suggested avenues.

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IV

Mr. Avraham Y. HaCohen

Avi Chai

52 Vanderbilt Ave

New York, New York 10017 3808 tel 212-697-8836 fax 212-697-8879

Dear Mr, HaCohen,

I greatly appreciate your sending me the volume on the teaching of Rav Kook, zt"l . I had served in Israel as the Director of the Central Institute for Jewish Studies for the Histadrut at Bet Berl, and had opportunity to become acquainted with several contributors to the volume.

This is a felicitous circumstance, since I have been informed that your organization has sponsored various projects of outreach to the Russian Jewish Community in the Los Angeles area, and it was suggested to me that I contact you.

Hollywood Temple Beth El is at the center of the influx of new Russians, as well as the veteran Russian settlement in Los Angeles.

We have served, in the past, as the host to the Russian Community Center, and recently, to an experimental Hebrew School and Bar Mitzvah program under the auspices of the Bureau of Jewish Education. We, on our part have extended special introductory membership offers to these new Russian families and have begun to integrate them into the congregation.

In light of our prime location and activities, the Council of Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation has recently given us a grant for the hiring of a part time outreach coordinator. However, this covers salary only, and we have no spare fat on our budget to allow for serious outreach activities. These would include subsidies for Shabbat dinners, guest lectureships, publications and advertising in the local Russian language media, basic Jewish books such as siddur, humash in Russian translation and transliteration, a Judaica resource library in Russian.

I would greatly appreciate it if your organization is in a position to assist us in this outreach effort and what needs to be done to obtain such support, if available.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Norbert Weinberg

enc. copies of our program objective and letter of grant from Council on Jewish Life.

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V

Schedule of Upcoming events for Russian coordinator

1) Simhat Torah-introduce to congregation Mon Oct 19, 6:30 PM

2) Sunday, Oct. 25, opening session of Bureau of Jewish Education

special supplementary school. 10:00 AM. Preliminary meeting with parents of the children

and other Russian members of the Temple,

3) Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 PM--Introduce to the Board of the Temple

4) Friday, Oct. 30, 6:30 PM Shabbat Service and Dinner for Russian participants of Brandeis-Bardin weekend and parents of children in the school program. Take part in service and lead discussion. Prepare a brief dvar torah in Russian.

### Programs

1) Adult Bar-Bat Mitzvah class--Sunday mornings, twice a month to rotate with Rabbi's class( on Jewish observances)Basic Hebrew reading, basic prayers, synagogue customs, blessings for Torah. To culminate with group Bar Mitzvah ceremony. to be held June 5.

Nov 8( Rabbi will be away) Nov 22Nov 29Dec 13Jan 17Jan 31Feb 14Feb28Mar 7Mar 21April 25May 9May 23

### 2) Shabbat Shalom Project

An Worship service for beginners, especially new immigrants.

To be held Saturdays, 10:15-11:30 AM, parallel Shabbat Club sessions. Parents will be introduced to the prayers and their meanings, as well as synagogue customs.

Begin Nov 21,(Parents will join in Family Shabbat Service andPotluck, run by Hebrew School, Fri Dec 11, 6:30 PM)Dec. 19, Jan16, Feb 6, Feb 20(Family Shabbat Dinner, Friday, Feb 26)(PurimMegillah reading, Sat Mar 6, at 6:30)(Purim Carnival Mar711-3\_)Mar 20, April 3, April 17,(April 30 Family Shabbat dinnerand service, Fri)May 1,( May 9 Russian Bureau class ends) May 15, June 5--all will join in adult bar mitzvah celebration

Once a month-guest speaker, and music program.

Can use Sapper Hall--Wednesday evenings are best time, 2nd best-Monday evenings. Avoid those dates scheduel for Rabbi class( see list below, avoid 4th wednesday of every month( board meeting)

Never do program on a Tuesday!

Double check all dates in advance with office staff.

### Other key activities

Bureau of Jewish Education classes for Children

Sundays, 10-12 am. Begins Oct. 25, ends May 9

Conducted by Bureau of Jewish Education

Youth Bar Mitzvah class- taught by Cantor Ralph Goren

WEdneseays, beginning end of December, beginning of January,93. To culminate in group Bar Mitzvah ceremony , tentative date June 19.

## Task Force for Russian Jewish Synagogue Integration at Hollywood Temple Beth El

### I.Objectives:

To create and lead religious, educational and cultural activities which introduce new immigrants to Jewish life in USA, in consonance with the ideals of Conservative Judaism, respecting Jewish observances while emphasizing open intellectual inquiry and respect for other streams in the community.

To integrate new immigrants into community of Hollywood Temple Beth El.

To cultivate potential leaders among the Russian community.

To involve veteran Russian Jews in Hollywood Temple Beth El.

### II.Tasks:

1) The task force for Russian outreach shall consist of veteran members of the congregation and new Russian members, who will assist in logistics of various special events, i. e. Shabbat dinners, concerts. Task force will advise the synagogue leadership on best approaches to involving and integrating new Russians to the congregation and obtain leadership support for projects. Task force chairperson will coordinate with lay leadership of various synagogue committees: i.e, program, membership, School, Sisterhood, Men's Club.

2) Outreach Program Coordinator will work with Rabbi, task force leadership, and synagogue leadership and the agencies which work with the synagogue in acculturation projects:

a)Bureau of Jewish Education Emigre department.

b)Russian Bar Mitzah course instructor.

c)Other Federation offices:Immigration and Acculturation,Council on Jewish Life,Jewish Family Service, Jewish Vocational Service.

3) Form connections and obtain support for programs from from individuals and organizations in the established Russian community: i.e, American Association of Soviet Jewish Emigres, Panorama, KMNB Russian Radio.

4) Work with Rabbi in teaching adults and youth.

5) Coordinate and lead services in conjunction with the Rabbi using basic elements of the liturgy in Hebrew and explanation in Russian, with goal of integrating participants into main services.

6) Prepare bulletin for distribution to the Russian community covering activities offered, create or find appropriate material in Russian language and transliterations for use in activities.

7) Other projects and activities as shall be developed over the course of the program.

### III. Proposed initial activities:

- 1) Sunday, Oct. 25, opening session of Bureau of Jewish Education special supplementary school. 10:00 AM. Preliminary meeting with parents of the children and other Russian members of the Temple,
- 2) Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 PM--Introduce to the Board of the Temple
- 3) Friday, Oct. 30, 6:30 PM Shabbat Service and Dinner for Russian participants of Brandeis-Bardin weekend and parents of children in the school program. Take part in service and lead discussion. Prepare a brief dvar torah in Russian.

### IV. Programs

- 1) Adult Bar-Bat Mitzvah class--Sunday mornings, twice a month to rotate with Rabbi's class( on Jewish observances) Basic Hebrew reading, basic prayers, synagogue customs, blessings for Torah. To culminate with group Bar Mitzvah ceremony. to be held June 5.

Dates: Nov 8, Nov 22, Nov 29, Dec 13, Jan 17, Jan 31, Feb 14, Feb 28, Mar. 7, Mar 21, April 25, May 9, May 23.

#### 2) Shabbat Shalom Project

A Worship service for beginners, especially new immigrants.

To be held Saturdays, 10:15-11:30 AM, parallel Shabbat Club sessions. Parents will be introduced to the prayers and their meanings, as well as synagogue customs.

Begin Nov 21,

(Parents will join in Family Shabbat Service and Potluck, run by Hebrew School, Fri Dec 11, 6:30 PM)

Dec. 19, Jan 16, Feb 6, Feb 20

(Family Shabbat Dinner, Friday, Feb 26)

(Purim Megillah reading, Sat Mar 6, at 6:30)

(Purim Carnival Mar 7 11-3\_)

Mar 20, April 3, April 17,

(April 30 Family Shabbat dinner and service, Fri)

May 1, ( May 9 Russian Bureau class ends) May 15, June 5--all will join in adult bar mitzvah celebration

#### 3) Once a month-guest speaker, and music program.

Can use Sapper Hall--Wednesday evenings are best time, 2nd best-Monday evenings. Avoid those dates scheduled for Rabbi class( see list below, avoid 4th wednesday of every month( board meeting)

### IV. Other key activities

- 1) Bureau of Jewish Education classes for Children



Sundays, 10-12 am. Begins Oct. 25, ends May 9

Conducted by Bureau of Jewish Education

2) Youth Bar Mitzvah class- taught by Cantor Ralph Goren

Wednesdays, beginning end of December, beginning of January, 93. To culminate in group Bar Mitzvah ceremony, tentative date June 19.

3) Other significant events:

a) Dec. 20 Chanukah Celebration, MC by Larissa Eryomina-- to publicize in Russian community, and to help in planning of the celebration.

b) Jan. 31, Family Day Tu B'shvat program- for congregation families.

c) Men's Club and Sisterhood- to invite participation in these branches of Synagogue affairs.

Follow up Programs which committee can adopt--Not to be administered by program coordinator.

#### Youth Enrichment Center:

Such a Center would capitalize on the great need and hunger expressed by members of the Russian community, both veteran and new immigrant, for quality supplemental educational programs in the areas of Music, Math, Sciences and English language. These families are keenly pained by the absence of such quality programs in the public school sector and see this as essential to the emotional and intellectual development of their children. Such a program would address needs of families of Iranian and Israeli background.

Such a program could be opened in our facilities, and an trained Russian-speaking educator can be offered to act as director on a commission basis. If properly run, there can be generated net income for the congregation from the program. Other benefits include:

Bringing youth into the Temple facilities who can then be channeled into other Temple activities.

Gaining good will and loyalty of the families for the service made possible to their children and drawing them to the congregation.

Create quality cultural activities under the auspices of the congregation.

1) Possible coordinator for music courses: Sheva Barsky.

2) Possible Coordinator for dramatics program: Eugene Alper

Answer to question #1:

Please discuss your program's goal and discuss whether or not you have been successful in meeting these goals:

1)To create and lead religious, educational and cultural activities which introduce new immigrants to Jewish life in USA, in consonance with the ideals of Conservative Judaism, respecting Jewish observances while emphasizing open intellectual inquiry and respect for other streams in the community.

2)To integrate new immigrants into community of Hollywood Temple Beth El.

3)To cultivate potential leaders among the Russian community.

4)To involve veteran Russian Jews in Hollywood Temple Beth El.

We have begun to meet the first and second goals, and to some extent, the third goal as well.

Answer to question #2: Were your goals realistic

These goals are realistic, with the understanding that these are to be developed over a period of time, because we are faced with changing the mind-set of a population historically distanced from any contact with Judaism and the rest of the Jewish world.

Question # 3: When did your program start?

Our program has been in effect, through our cooperation with the Bureau of Jewish Education , since 1991, through our Bar Mitzvah program for Russian youth and the Bureau's Sunday School project which meets in our building.

We suffered two major delays in our implementation. First, from the time of notification of official grant approval, which only came in the summer, we were not in a position to begin searching for the proper candidate till after summer vacations.

It has proved to be very difficult to find qualified Russian outreach workers with a combination of some Jewish knowledge, experience in the local Russian community, and an ability to work effectively.

After extensive interviews through August and September, Eliyahu Abramson, a graduate student in history, was hired as our outreach worker.. For a variety of reasons, he was not able to carry out our expectations effectively and was released from the position in the beginning of January, 1993.

Once again, we began the search process, and settled on Leonid Litvachuk. Mr. Litvachuk had been a teacher of Mathematics Education on college and high school level in Russia, has been here for two years, and was actively involved both in Russia and here in Jewish programs, in particular with the Outreach program at Young Israel of Melrose.

Litvachuk has been working with us since April 1.

Despite these two setbacks, we have been able to undertake some significant activities, beginning immediately after the High Holy Days.

## VII Response to inquiry on program progress by Federation

# 4) Describe the manner in which your program is presently operating:

We are maintaining on going programs:

1) Intensive Bar-Bat Mitzvah project for recent immigrants, ages 12-13. It is a Six-month, 2-hour per week, survey of Jewish life, customs, basic Hebrew reading, talit& tefillin, Torah blessings, and a visit to the new Museum of Tolerance. On June 19, the students will celebrate a group Bar Mitzvah. The class is taught by Cantor Ralph Goren thanks to a grant by the Bureau of Jewish Education-Emigre Department. This is in its third year.

2) Experimental Hebrew School-under auspices of Bureau of Jewish Education-for new immigrants, ages 7-12. It is a 9-month, 2 hour-per week program taught by two instructors. It covers a general introduction to Jewish life, with presumption that, in following year, they will be mainstreamed into a Hebrew school program. ( This has begun to happen). Children participate jointly in special activities with Religious School.

We have initiated the following classes:

1) Originally, we had planned a class run alternately between the Rabbi and the Russian Outreach worker. The Rabbi was to teach basic Jewish observance twice monthly, to both Americans and Russian, and the outreach worker would lead follow -up discussion in Russian and on alternate weeks, teach Jewish history(since he was a history major). The Rabbi still continues his twice-monthly session on Sundays, from 10-11:00AM.

2) Since March, we have initiated an English Discussion club led by volunteers Natalie Bykova and Sarah Lvovskaya on beginning and advanced levels on Sundays, 11:00-12:00.

3) Our new outreach worker, Leonid Litvachuk, is initiating, this week, a discussion group of Jewish and American life, also to meet on Sunday mornings, with the parents of children in our Sunday program and others. He will use this as an opportunity to create a core that will get to know him and work with him.

4) In the near future, we will begin the use of feature films of Jewish content( i. e. Fiddler on the Roof, Yentl, Exodus) with follow up discussion as a vehicle for stimulating Jewish consciousness.

We have held the following special events:

1) Slichot services-we held a special pre-slichot music concert with Russian musicians, Natalie Vaiman and Irina Nagorskaya. We have used Russian musicians at various special functions as well.

2) Shabbat Dinners--

a) Friday, Oct 30, 6:30 PM, service and dinner in conjunction with the Bureau of Jewish Education with their study group participants, Russian members of HTBE, a families enrolled in Sunday program.

b) Second Shabbat service and dinner, with children of the Sunday program and their families, on Jan. 29.

3) Dec. 20 - Community wide Channukah Celebration, MC'd by Larissa Eryomina, noted Russian actress, featuring two entertainment teams of new immigrants, Alex & Jane Sinitsa and the Trojan family. This was heavily publicized in the Russian community and we had a significant turnout.

4) Our new Outreach worker will bring the families of the Russian Sunday School program to our upcoming general family events( April 30-Shabbat service and pot-luck dinner, May 8-Family Shabbat Morning service, May 26, Shavuot service and Learning session, and June 18-Graduation Shabbat service and dinner.

5) Other projects-to be developed in the next months-

- a) Special cultural-entertainment events with local Russian talent.
- b) Youth oriented activities.

Question #5 What problems did you experience?  
Refer back to question #3.

Question #6 Refer back to question #3.

Question #7 Are you planning to make changes in your original goals and program planning?

Our general goals remain the same. We are adjusting our programs as we see them working.

Question #8. Staff, volunteers, & Resources

As mentioned, Leonid Litvachuk is our coordinator, with a committee of several members of the congregation who are of Russian origin.

We have office space, with access to our computer( with Russian word-programming) and other office equipment, and assistance from the secretary as needed.

We utilize several classrooms, plus our large school assembly room for our Russian programs.

Question #9 How were grant funds spent?

All funds are spent on salary for the outreach coordinator, in accord with the conditions of the grant.

Up to \$2500 was spent in salary from October-Jan, and salary payments will now again be made on a regular basis to the new outreach director.

Question # 10

This program will be continued for the next year, with the balance of funds not covered by the grant provided from the synagogue budget.

Question #11

We anticipate sufficient interest and growth in the congregation from the Russian community to justify specific funding from the synagogue budget for the outreach coordinator.

12. Our activities are unique because of our location as the only Conservative congregation in the midst of the area of greatest Russian settlement.

13. It has served to highlight to the synagogue membership the possibilities of greater cooperation with the Federation.

14. We have received extensive cooperation from the Council on Jewish Life offices, through Elaine Alpert and Alla Feldman, as well as with the other related Agencies( Bureau of Jewish Education and the Emigre acculturation office.

Introduction by Rabbi Norbert Weinberg to the programs for absorption of Jews from the former Soviet Union

The Jews of the former Soviet Union ( Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia and Central Asia) since the Communist Revolution of 1918, experienced particular hardships from several ends:

- 1) A historic resentment of Jews in higher positions, dating back to Tsarist times
- 2) A political policy eliminating religion from both the public and private sphere, enforced, in some cases by fellow Jews, the Yevseksia.
- 3) A policy to disconnect Jews from their fellow Jews worldwide, in particular in regards to Zionism and Israel, and concomitant, the gradual elimination of Jewish ethnic identity, again, a continuation of older Russian Tsarist policies.

As a result, Jews of the pre- WW II Soviet territories, over the course of 70 years, were distanced from contact with Jewry outside, Jewish observance was repressed, resulting in a disconnect between the Jew qua Judaism and the Jew as Soviet citizen. The same happened , but to a lesser degree, to the Jews of the territories absorbed into the Soviet Union after WWII, such as western Ukraine.

Starting in the late 1960's, pressure built up, both by Jews inside the Soviet Union, and by Jews outside, to allow Jews to leave. There was a small movement of Jews out, under great difficulty, over the decades leading up to the fall of the Iron Curtain. With that "Tear the Wall Down" moment, the great majority of Jews finally were able to leave, seeking better opportunities. Many came to the USA, and Los Angeles became a favorite destination, with West Hollywood and the area around Hollywood Temple Beth El, becoming a significant hub.

Hollywood Temple Beth El became one of the hubs of service for these newcomers, and one of the key elements was to help them absorb life in this " Brave New World" in which one could be free to be a Jew and live as a Jew, without questions asked. Through the portals of the synagogue came former Party officials, former Soviet missile and submarine

experts, former Soviet journalists, and former popular Soviet entertainers and movie stars!

These are from my personal records are regarding the services Hollywood Temple Beth El provided to the newly arrived refugees from the former Soviet Union. This reflects activities in 1993. The Jewish Federation of Los Angeles allocated a total of \$15,000 spread over two years.

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I

Report prepared by Rabbi Norbert Weinberg for the grant from the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles

Question #1:

Our goals are four-fold.

1)To create and lead religious, educational and cultural activities which introduce new immigrants to Jewish life in USA, in consonance with the ideals of Conservative Judaism, respecting Jewish observances while emphasizing open intellectual inquiry and respect for other streams in the community.

2)To integrate new immigrants into community of Hollywood Temple Beth El.

3)To cultivate potential leaders among the Russian community.

4)To involve veteran Russian Jews in Hollywood Temple Beth El.

We have begun to meet the first and second goals, and to some extent, the third goal as well.

Question #2: Were your goals realistic

These goals are realistic, with the understanding that these are to be developed over a period of time, because we are faced with changing the mind-set of a population historically distanced from any contact with Judaism and the rest of the Jewish world.

Question # 3: When did your program start?

Our program has been in effect, through our cooperation with the Bureau of Jewish Education , since 1991, through our Bar Mitzvah program for Russian youth and the Bureau's Sunday School project which meets in our building.

We suffered two major delays in utilizing an outreach worker. First, from the time of notification of official grant approval, which only came in the summer, we were not in a position to begin searching for the proper candidate till after summer vacations.

It has proved to be very difficult to find qualified Russian outreach workers with a combination of some Jewish knowledge, experience in the local Russian community, and an ability to work effectively.

After extensive interviews with over a dozen candidates, through August and September, Eliyahu Abramson, a graduate student in history, was hired as our outreach worker.. For a variety of reasons, he was not able to carry out our expectations effectively and was released from the position in the beginning of January, 1993.

Once again, we began the search process, and settled on Leonid Litvachuk. Mr. Litvachuk had been a teacher of Mathematics Education on college and high school level in Russia, has been here for two years, and was actively involved both in Russia and here in Jewish programs, in particular with the Outreach program at Young Israel of Melrose. Litvachuk has been working with us since April 1.

Despite these two setbacks, we have been able to undertake some significant activities, beginning immediately after the holidays in the fall of this year. I have personally supervised these activities when we did not have an outreach worker.

Question # 4) Describe the manner in which your program is presently operating:

We are maintaining on going programs:

1) Intensive Bar-Bat Mitzvah project for recent immigrants, ages 12-13. It is a Six-month, 2-hour per week, survey of Jewish life, customs, basic Hebrew reading, talit& tefillin, Torah blessings, and a visit to the new Museum of Tolerance. On June 19, the students will celebrate a group Bar Mitzvah. The class is taught by Cantor Ralph Goren thanks to a grant by the Bureau of Jewish Education-Emigre Department. This is in its third year.

2) Experimental Hebrew School-under auspices of Bureau of Jewish Education-for new immigrants, ages 7-12. It is a 9-month,2 hour-per week program taught by two instructors. It covers a general introduction to Jewish life, with presumption that, in following year, they will be mainstreamed into a Hebrew school program.( This has begun to happen). Children participate jointly in special activities with Religious School.

We have initiated the following classes:

1) Originally, we had planned a class run alternately between the Rabbi and the Russian Outreach worker. The Rabbi was to teach basic Jewish observance twice monthly, to both Americans and Russian, and the outreach worker would lead follow -up discussion in Russian and on alternate weeks, teach Jewish history(since he was a history major). The Rabbi still continues his twice-monthly session on Sundays, from 10-11:00AM.

2)Since March, we have initiated an English Discussion club led by volunteers Natalie Bykova and Sarah Lvovskaya on beginning and advanced levels on Sundays, 11:00-



12:00.

3) Our new outreach worker, Leonid Litvachuk ,is initiating, this week, a discussion group of Jewish and American life, also to meet on Sunday mornings, with the parents of children in our Sunday program and others. He will use this as an opportunity to create a core that will get to know him and work with him.

4) In the near future, we will begin the use of feature films of Jewish content(i. e. Fiddler on the Roof, Yentl, Exodus) with follow up discussion as a vehicle for stimulating Jewish consciousness.

We have held the following special events:

1) Slichot services-we held a special pre-slichot music concert with Russian musicians, Natalie Vaiman and Irina Nagorskaya. We have used Russian musicians at various special functions as well.

2) Shabbat Dinners--

a)Friday, Oct 30, 6:30 PM, service and dinner in conjunction with the Bureau of Jewish Education with their study group participants, Russian members of HTBE, a families enrolled in Sunday program.

b)Second Shabbat service and dinner, with children of the Sunday program and their families, on Jan. 29.

3)Dec. 20 - Community wide Hanukkah Celebration, MC'd by Larissa Eryomina, noted Russian actress, featuring two entertainment teams of new immigrants, Alex & Jane Sinitsa and the Troyan family. This was heavily publicized in the Russian community and we had a significant turnout.

4)Our new Outreach worker will bring the families of the Russian Sunday School program to our upcoming general family events( April 30-Shabbat service and pot-luck dinner, May 8-Family Shabbat Morning service, May 26, Shavuot service and Learning session, and June 18-Graduation Shabbat service and dinner.

5) Other projects-to be developed in the next months-

a) Special cultural-entertainment events with local Russian talent.

b) Youth oriented activities.

Question #5 What problems did you experience?

Refer back to question #3.

Question #6 Were problems resolved

Refer back to question #3.

Question #7 Are you planning to make changes in your original goals and program planning?

Our general goals remain the same. We are adjusting our programs as we see them working.

Question #8. Staff, volunteers, & Resources

As mentioned, Leonid Litvachuk is our coordinator, with a committee of several members of the congregation who are of Russian origin. AS Rabbi, I have undertaken oversight responsibility.

We have office space, with access to our computer( with Russian word-programming) and other office equipment, and assistance from the secretary as needed.

We utilize several classrooms, plus our large school assembly room for our Russian programs.

Question #9 How were grant funds spent?

All funds are spent on salary for the outreach coordinator, in accord with the conditions of the grant.

\$1666 was spent in salary for November and December, and salary payments will now again be made on a regular basis to the new outreach director.

Question # 10

This program will be continued for the next year, with the balance of funds not covered by the grant provided from the synagogue budget.

#### Question #11

We anticipate sufficient interest and growth in the congregation from the Russian community to justify specific funding from the synagogue budget for the outreach coordinator.

12. Obviously, other synagogues with large Russian immigrant populations in the area can copy our activities, just as we are in contact with other congregations here and elsewhere active in Russian integration.

Nevertheless, we are unique in one respect because of our location as the only Conservative congregation in the midst of the area of greatest Russian settlement. We offer the best opportunity for acculturation of new immigrants into American Jewish life because of our location and orientation.

13. It has served to highlight to the synagogue membership the possibilities of greater cooperation with the Federation. We have effectively utilized and cooperated with such agencies as the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Family Service.

14. We have received extensive cooperation from the Council on Jewish Life offices, through Elaine Alpert and Alla Feldman, as well as with the other related Agencies (Bureau of Jewish Education and the Emigre acculturation office, both in terms of guidance on problem areas and on programming, help in publicity, and some extra funding as needed.

Attached is budget summary and copies of publicity used this year.

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II

Programs for 1993

Spring and Summer

1) Leonid Litvachuk- Absorption program Sundays, 10AM-12noon. 10 students

2) Wednesday session-6-8 students.

3) Jewish and American History through Cinema= Sundays, 12:00n-3PM

20-25 people

4) Lectures on Absorption-guest speakers -weekly( not in summer) Sunday mornings.

5) English studies

a) Basic English-Sarra Lvovskaya- Sundays 10-12 noon. 15-20 people.

b) Advanced English-Natalya Bykova-Sundays 10-12 noon. 15-20 people(now summer break)

6) Children & Youth Outreach

1) Art program-Thursdays in summer-to start pending final approval. Awaiting use of upstairs classroom.

2) Math, English studies-for fall for Highschool, college prep level. Students will pay costs of instruction. Money accrued above costs will go back to Temple.

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III Preparations for programming

To: Frances Linsk, Leonid Litvachuk, Marcia Nalivansky

From: Rabbi

October 13, 1993

Re: Russian Outreach

Based on discussion of Oct. 3, the following fee scale for Russian activities was proposed:

1) Art Class: Children age 6-12 Thursdays 3:30-4:30, Sundays, 12:00-1:00

Fee \$40/ month for eight 1-hour sessions( 2 per week)

## 2) English & math classes

group 1-ages 10-14 group 2-ages 15-18

Thursdays, 3:30-5:30, Sunday 12-2:00 PM

\$80/ month, for eight 2-hour sessions(2 per week).

Membership incentive:

Full price for non-members.

Discount for members--

1/2 of fees, plus first year membership dues.

Fees go to pay teachers, supplies-balance of moneys collected-to synagogue.

3) Americanization course for adults.Sundays, 12-2.-Guest lecturer. \$5/lecture . Maximum to be collected for teacher, Alex- \$40 per session. All money collected above that- to synagogue.

4) All other courses- the English language groups taught by Sara, Natalya, & Leonid-- ask for \$5/ month activities fee.

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## IV

Determining if we have finances to cover further engagement of Leonid Litvachuk

Re: Leonid Litvachuk.

November 4, 1993

Note: We will need to decide in the spring, if we will retain Leonid as Russian director, or keep him for some other job here, or let him go. I estimate that we have enough money left from the grant for another 6 1/2 months-(into Mid-May).From Mid-May on, we will need to determine viability of position for Leonid. We should let him know by March if his position is viable, so that he can know that he is staying, or prepare for another job.

(Original grant, first year \$10,000, second year-\$5000. These have been given to us, and may be used only for salary of director, for no other purpose. We have used \$1666 to Eliyahu, 7,000 to Leonid to date. He gets \$1,000/ mo. We have \$6,344 left in the balance, or enough for 6 1/2 months). Double check the figures with Anna, but I think I am correct.

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V Announcement of fall programming

Press Release

Contact: Leonid Litvachuk

For Immediate Release

Director of Outreach

### Fall Program for Russian -Language Immigrants at Hollywood Temple Beth El

"Making It in America" will be the theme of a lecture series to begin on Sunday, October 3, at 12:00 PM, at Hollywood Temple Beth El, 1317 N. Crescent Heights in West Hollywood, as part of the Outreach Program to Russian-speaking Immigrants.

Leonid Litvachuk, Director of Outreach, announced the continuation of English as Second Language Classes on Sundays, 10-12 AM and Thursday, 3-5 PM, and American Jewish Life through Cinema, Sundays from 2-4 PM.

Beginning on Wednesdays from 3-6, in October, there will also be an Art Enrichment Program for children. Math and English language programs for youth will also open shortly.

The program is sponsored by the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and funded by the Jewish Community Foundation.

For more information, call Leonid Litvachuk at 213-656-3150 .

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VI Meeting with West Hollywood City Hall

December 10, 1993

To: Frances Linsk

From : Rabbi    copy to : Leonid Litvachuk

Results of meeting Dec 10 with Leah Archibald, assistance to West Hollywood Councilman, Paul Koretz, and Daphne Dennis, Head of Social Services.

Councilmen Heilman, Koretz, and Land agreed to establish task force to meet needs of families in West Hollywood, especially of Russian new immigrant families. One key area of interest is support or establishment of after school educational activities. Two follow up meetings in Jan and Feb --we will be invited to attend.

Very likely that major funding will be available through recreation and family services budgets. Some of this funding could be applied to after-school educational activities at Hollywood Temple Beth El for english, math, music and arts classes.

It is suggested that we look to California Community Foundation for search for grants.

In the interim, it is possible that if we set up our own program, the city might be able to provide transportation from Laurel and Gardner schools to the synagogue.

Ms. Sunny Caine  
Synagogue Funding Evaluation Committee  
Council on Jewish Life  
6505 Wilshire Boulevard ,Suite 907  
LA, CA 90048

Dear Ms. Caine,

Enclosed is an extensive evaluation of our Soviet Jewry program, funded by a grant from the Council on Jewish Life.

I recognize that we are not eligible for any extension of the grant moneys, and our financial situation prevents us from continuing with our outreach worker. However, we will be continuing with much of our activities, run by volunteers. I believe the evaluation will be of benefit for future planning of programs with Russian immigrants.

The key problems are:

- 1) The difficulty to find a qualified worker for a synagogue.
- 2) The difficulty in moving beyond free participation to active participation on the part of the immigrant community, whether because of continued financial troubles, or lack of commitment.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Norbert Weinberg

Report prepared by Rabbi Norbert Weinberg

Synagogue Funding Evaluation

Question #1:

Have program objectives been met.

Our goals were four-fold:

1) To create and lead religious, educational and cultural activities which introduce new immigrants to Jewish life in USA, in consonance with the ideals of Conservative Judaism, respecting Jewish observances while emphasizing open intellectual inquiry and respect for other streams in the community.

2) To integrate new immigrants into community of Hollywood Temple Beth El.

3) To cultivate potential leaders among the Russian community.

4) To involve veteran Russian Jews in Hollywood Temple Beth El.

We have met these only partially. We have created programs of



religious education, both through our own activities, and relying on programs of the Bureau of Jewish Education held in our facilities. Several families from the school programs have become members, with children registered in the Hebrew School and volunteering in our office or other aspects of the Temple. A good number of the senior citizens among them have become regular participants at Shabbat worship, and our Shammes has been effective in enlisting some as "Tenth" at minyan. It is very difficult, however, to translate this into a membership which, in any significant number, can actually give support in turn to the synagogue and help defray our operating expenses.

We have made the Temple available to the Association for Soviet Jewish Emigres for an emergency meeting in regards to social security for immigrants; 1600 senior citizens showed up. We have had great success in making our main sanctuary available for special concerts by Russian artists, run by outside entrepreneurs, wherein over 1000 people show up each time.

We have found it difficult to create a leadership out of the new immigrants, presumably because their experience of acculturation is itself overwhelming. Our greatest need, however, is to involve the veteran Russian community in the Temple. To this end, we have begun discussions with the Association for Soviet Jewish Emigres for greater involvement.

#### Question #2-Methods

We did not rely on any preset timeline, but have run our activities for the most part on a regular basis. Those programs that did not succeed in drawing attendance were closed down shortly; others, with good attendance, have been maintained.

We have reached our general geographic area, and have utilized volunteers in teaching English synagogue Hebrew with great success. Our first professional staffer was released from the position shortly after he began; our current staffer, Leonid Litvachuk, has carried out a consistent effort. Unfortunately, we had not been able to find someone of Russian origin who has both Judaic knowledge, familiarity with the synagogue, and a background in volunteer organization. We have just recently been fortunate to obtain the voluntary services of Yelena Yustis, recently from the Soviet Union, and we can highly recommend her for such work in the future, if funding were to be made available.

Our two other resources community resources have been very effective-namely, the Sunday program for children as well as the grant for the Bar Mitzvah class, both from the BJE.

All funds were spent, as specified in the grant, on salary for the outreach worker.

Unfortunately, the grant specified salary only, and we did

not have our own finances to better underwrite programming expenses.  
The following is a list of the activities we undertook:

We are maintaining on going programs:

1) Intensive Bar-Bat Mitzvah project for recent immigrants, ages 12-13. It is a Six-month, 2-hour per week, survey of Jewish life, customs, basic Hebrew reading, talit& tefillin, Torah blessings, and a visit to the new Museum of Tolerance, a group Bar Mitzvah. It is sponsored by a grant from the Bureau of Jewish Education-Emigre Department. This is in its fourth year.

2) Experimental Hebrew School-under auspices of Bureau of Jewish Education-for new immigrants, ages 7-12. It is a 9-month, 2 hour-per week program taught by two instructors. It covers a general introduction to Jewish life, with presumption that, in following year, they will be mainstreamed into a Hebrew school program.( This has begun to happen). This is in its third year.

3)English Discussion club led by volunteers Natalie Bykova and Sarah Lvovskaya on beginning and advanced levels on Sundays, 11:00-12:00 and our outreach worker, Leonid Litvachuk ,leads a discussion group on American Jewish Life.

4) Basic Synagogue Hebrew--Every Sunday, we have a short course on Hebrew for all our participants, led by Yelena Yustis, a volunteer. Yelena is a recent arrival from Russia who studied Hebrew there.

We have held the following special events:

1) Slichot services-we held a special pre-slichot music concert with Russian musicians, Natalie Vaiman and Irina Nagorskaya. We have used Russian musicians at various special functions as well.

2) Several Shabbat Dinners--

Service and dinner in conjunction with the Bureau of Jewish Education with their study group participants, Russian members of HTBE, a families enrolled in Sunday program.

3)Community Chanukkah celebration( Dec. 92) with Larissa Eryomina, noted Russian actress, featuring two entertainment teams of new immigrants, Alex & Jane Sinitsa and the Troyan family.

4) On numerous occasions, we run discussions, led by the Rabbi, in English, with simultaneous Russian translation, for our Sunday participants. Through the Bureau of Jewish Education, we recently hosted a model Seder for adults.

5)We have held several sessions of the American Jewish Life course of the BJE and are planning to run another series shortly.

The following activities were of short run duration:

1) Children's Group: Math for ages 8-10. Despite much expectation, parents were not willing to pay fees of \$5/ session.

4) Americanization Class- with Alex Binstock- 25 students showed up at first session. Were willing to attend for free, but not for fee.

Agreed to pay \$2 per session, but did not show up again.( These participants are not working people, but adults who came here too young for social security benefits, but too old to be hired in California job market( ages 55-65). They are on welfare, and there payments have been cut.

5) Cinema group-- Ran through the summer- 30 people in attendance--Never grew beyond an entertainment program and it was not financially feasible to keep the building open for this activity.

### 3 Evaluation:

1) Attendance--this was an easy factor to evaluate. Regular attendance at the Sunday sessions, with an extra session in easy English led by Mr. Litvachuk averaged 50-60 senior citizens, plus approximately 25 children in the Sunday School program and 4 in the Bar Mitzvah group.( It has been as high as 14 in previous years).

2) In terms of paid membership, response has been weak. There is no response at all to pay for quality programs, even on a nominal basis. The elderly immigrants clearly are severely limited in the ability to pay even minimal fees, and the younger families, while perhaps earning income, have decided to put their money on their immediate needs first. We are also dealing with a community which has still been used to fully subsidized services in all other aspects of life and for whom voluntary association is still a foreign notion.

#### 3)Analysis of Russian program:

According to our outreach director, there are other limitations of dealing with LA's Russian Jewish community--in addition to the basic absence of Jewish training and loyalty to Jewish tradition which was result of 70 years of Soviet indoctrination. The local community is a working class public for the most part, not the academics( from Moscow-Leningrad) who make up Russian communities in New York or other US cities. 85% are from Kishinev(Moldova) or Kiev-Odessa in Ukraine and this affects their interests and needs. Why so--Anti-semitism in Ukraine was blatant, Jews could not get better jobs, promotions, could not get into academic studies. Therefore, they entered either into small businesses( cottage industries) or, if they were " Engineers", that meant, for the most, technicians or mechanics. He claims that their interest in intellectual or spritual matters is low. Life in America also affects the intellectual community here- within a few years, they too discover that money talks. For example- new arrivals still go to concerts at Hollywood Bowl, but after a few years they stop that too.

An outreach program must meet a specific need, for which Russian immigrants are willing to pay.

One such suggestion is a significant need in this area for extended care for grade school children. This extended care would incorporate guided assistance in homework and school studies, as well as art, music activities-It would be billed as a Learning Enrichment center. In order to succeed it must not be seen as a Russian program but as a general study program for area youngsters. It would run weekdays, 3:30-6:00, and would need a staff of credentialed teachers of Russian and American background. Financing could be through fees and cover expenses of teachers, administrators, overhead, as well as possible government funding.

We have followed up this idea with one meeting with representatives of the City of West Hollywood, who have expressed an interest. However, this is a project far greater than we are capable of undertaking with our current resources. The Emigre Department could conceivably undertake such a project.

#### Question #4

We have received our funding from the Bureau for its sponsored programs. We did not, however, receive any kind of fees from the participants. This has killed those programs for which we could not have volunteers work for us.

We have now spent all of the moneys from the Council on Jewish Life. This totaled \$10,000 the first year and \$5,000 the second year. This will have been spent in full by the first week of May. Due to the severe financial crisis our Temple is facing, we will not be able to retain Mr. Litvachuk beyond that date. We will, however, continue with our weekly classes, led by our volunteers. At the same time, we will explore alternative activities for Russian immigrants, perhaps in conjunction with the Association for Soviet Jewish Emigres.

#### Question #5

Clearly we have a consistent good working relationship with the different Federation agencies involved with Russian immigrants-i.e., the Council on Jewish Life, the Emigre Dept of the BJE, the Immigration & Absorption office.

We do not have a UJF campaign per se. However, we have always dedicated a Shabbat to Tzedakah in line with UJF Super Sunday. Our current financial difficulties do not enable us to undertake any more serious campaigning at this stage.

In regards to Synagogue- Federation relationships, since both institutions, in the Los Angeles area have been facing serious funding crises, I believe that the Federation may well be in a position to serve the synagogues, through direct input on demographics, membership campaign, leadership training. In these ways, the synagogues can be strengthened, and in turn, create potential leadership for collective communal leadership.

Question #6-

Surely there are aspects which can be applied in other synagogues with heavy Jewish population, and we would be happy to share information.

To: Fran  
From: Rabbi

In fairness to Leonid, we should prepare a letter to him explaining that the position of Russian Outreach Director is ending.

Dear Leonid,

As you know, the position of Outreach Director for Russian Immigrants was contingent upon funding by the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

That funding originally was expected to have been for three years, in which the second year would have been two-thirds, and the third year, only one-third, the base grant. However, due to changes in the nature of the council's funding, only a second year was funded, and again, only to 1/2 the original amount.

That total funding, of \$15,000 will have been expended by the last payment to you, in April, with a balance of \$332, which will be paid for the first week of work in May. (You can add: we will cover you through the month of May)

As you understood from Joe Heller, the hopes were that the Russian participants would become members in full, or that programming could be created which would help cover your payment, in order to continue the position after the end of the funding. Unfortunately, that has not been feasible.

We appreciate your good efforts, and you have been a good asset to us, in many ways, during this period. We are sorry, indeed, that our financial situation does not allow us to continue with your position when these grant moneys are paid out.

With best wishes for your future,

Sincerely yours,

Frances Linsk

*From the Rabbi's desk  
Rabbi Norbert Weinberg*

*Hollywood Temple Beth El  
1317 N. Crescent Heights  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
Tel.: 213-656-3150  
Fax: 213-654-1791*

Memo to: Frances Linsk, Miriam Prum-Hess, Eugene & Helen Levine  
From: Rabbi Norbert Weinberg  
Re: Meeting of April 13, 1994

1) Nature of working with Russina community discussed. Up till now, under Leonid Litvachuk as outreach director, we have succeeded only in drawing in elderly immigrants on limited income, who are not capable of becoming active supporters of the synagogue, either in income, or in volunteer efforts.

We have not had success in drawing in veteran Russians, who are self-supporting.

2) The Association of Soviet Jewish Emigres is funded, by the city of West Hollywood, and has significant contacts in the established Russian community of veteran members who are currently active in other synagogues( VBS, Stephen Wise, etc) but would become active here if they felt there was programming offered of interest to them and not under the auspices of Chabad.

3) The current President, Eugene Levin, is an active member of VBS, understands the nature of synagogue affiliation, unlike his predecessor, Mr. Makaron.

4) The Association is interested in active involvement with HTBE, in activities that would benefit us both, in terms of members and in terms of potential income.

5) Through Miriam Prum hess, we have discovered that we are eligible for City of West Hollywood full funding for children of new immigrants to our nursery school. Harriet has informed me that the nursery school has at present 6-7 available spaces, which could be very shortly filled in this way. Mr. Levin has been given the details about the nursery, and will begin to canvass the new immigrant community for potential candidates. This will give the synagogue an immediate extra cash income of 3,000-5,000 per child, a potential of an additional \$ 18,000-30,000.

6) I am recommending the following format of events:

a) Series of concerts, at relatively low cost, profits to be split between HTBE and the Association.

The Association will arrange for the concert, advertising, and sale of tickets. This would be quality entertainment for American as well as Russian audiences.

By past experience, up to 600 people easily show up for such concerts, at \$10 ticket=\$6,000. Expenses for the concert would be

kept modest( entertainer, Alexander Zhirov, noted copncert pianist, at low cost, free advertsing in Russian Panorama, radio, TV, etc)Even with expenses of up to \$2500, leaves a balnce of \$3500. Split equally= \$1700.

Possible dates: Sunday evenings, 5:00-7:00 PM .May 22, June 5, June 19, June 26. Based on first experience, can suggest follow up concerts in August, avoid Sept. holidays, go to October, etc on a monthly basis. This can become a source of regular income to the Temple. Small scale Cabaret-type events can also be carried out, which we are not capable of doing, but the Association can put on to the benefit of both of us.

b) Follow up concert with a series of Friday evening services, which would copy the Creative Arts Service, but utlize local Russian talent. i.e.. A noted Russian woman vocalist who is also a cantor, Svetlana Portnanskaya, others would provide music, readings in English, Russian. Temple Israel of Hollywood added 100 paying Russian members to its list in the past years, primarily because they have a good evening service, and make translation available.

Even at a reduced rate of \$200 per member, that would be an additional \$20,000 a year.

I suggest August 12 or 19 as a first time, coming two-three weeks before High Holy Days. Cantor Erman would also be involved. We would then follow up with a publicized evening of music before slichot. , on Saturday, August 27. This would give us excellent puiblicity before the high holy days and promotion for sale of tickets.

*From the Rabbi's desk  
Rabbi Norbert Weinberg  
Hollywood Temple Beth El  
1317 N. Crescent Heights  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
Tel.: 213-656-3150 Fax: 213-654-1791*

Memo to: Frances Linsk, Miriam Prum-Hess, Eugene & Helen Levine,  
Svetlana Portnyanskaya, Asya Marder  
From: Rabbi Norbert Weinberg  
April 21, 1994  
Follow up to meeting of April 13, 1994

Meeting with Eugene Levin and Svetlana Portnyanskaya.

- 1) Portnyanskaya is a noted Russian born vocalist who has cantorial training with Cantor Fordis, appears frequently on local Russian television. She is willing to work with HTBE and the ASJE to put together concert and other programs.
- 2) Agreed-- We will confirm one of the following dates for a concert in Sanctuary
  - a) Sunday, May 22, at 5 or 7 PM
  - b) Sunday, June 5 at 4:30 (to conclude by 6:30, because we will have another program that evening at 7:00 for our members)
  - c) Sunday, June 26 at 5 or 7 PM
- 3) Contents: Musical program for 1 1/2 hours of classic and popular song and music, with Portnyanskaya and three or four other musicians, geared to Russian audience tastes.
- 4) ASJE will handle publicity, advertising, ticket sales to Russian speaking public. HTBE will publicize in anglo-Jewish and local press. ASJE will arrange for technicians, musicians, etc. Expenses to be paid out of proceeds of ticket sales. No up front expenses.



5) Estimated expenses and income

Expenses:

Piano moving \$150, sound equipment-\$200, ushers-\$75, security-\$125, valet-\$200

Performers-\$1500 maximum total, 200-300 each performer.

Promotion-

flyers, posters.\$250.

tickets-\$200-reserved seating

Advertsiing in Panorama, Radio, TV-\$450.

Total projected expenses--\$3,000

Income:

sale of 600 tickets( past attendance has suggested paying audiences of up to 800 and above). 100 @ \$20, 200 @ \$15, 300 @ \$10. Total projected sale \$7,000

Difference, \$4,000 to be split between the two associations.(\$2000 each or more).

Event is sponsored by Hollywood Temple Beth El, and is therefore covered by our insurance.( I have checked with Bachenheimer).

6) On the basis of this first attempt, we will judge possibility of future joint events. Ten such events a year can bring the Temple an additional \$20,000 income.

7) Future program;

Slichot services--Saturday night,August 27, would be sponsored jointly. Starting time: 9:30 PM.

Entertainment portion-Svetlana Portnyanskaya and accompanist.

She will volunteer her services.

10:30 PM Social hour,refreshments, sponsored by ASJE

11:00 PM Slichot service--Rabbi and Cantor.

ASJE will get free publicity in Russian media. We will coordinate this with our advertising in Russian media as a lead item for High Holy Day ticket sales.

8) I have discussed with Cantor Erman possibility of incorporating Portnanskaya into High Holy days service as member of choir, with some solo participation. He has already offered the positions to his previous years vocalists, but is still awaitinga response from his soprano. Should she not be available, he will contact Portnyanskaya. This too will serve as a positive attraction for additonal high- holy days ticket sales and membership.

9) In the fall, we will begin the process of creating our own "Creative Arts service" sharing the effort with the ASJE.

*From the Rabbi's desk  
Rabbi Norbert Weinberg  
Hollywood Temple Beth El  
1317 N. Crescent Heights  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
Tel.: 213-656-3150  
Fax: 213-654-1791*

Fax to: Eugene & Helen Levin, ASJE  
818-906-8995

1) Re May 18-- Please be sure to contact Alex Polovets and anyone else whom you believe is needed for our program on May 18, at 7:30 PM. Also, please make sure that we can get people in the

audience who are Russian immigrants.

## 2) Cultural center:

I have spoken with Andrea from Council of Jewish Life at Federation. We might still be able to get a grant for this year.

We would need to prepare a proposal for Jewish Cultural Center, sponsored by the Association and Hollywood Temple Beth El, for funding for such a center. The main expense would be to cover janitorial and maintenance overhead, since otherwise our building is closed at night--That is a minimum \$100 a night for our classrooms, . One night a week or one Sunday morning , for 40 weeks( excluding holidays) is \$4000. This would be the minimum amount we would need to request. Since it would be a joint venture, and might be considered a new project, there might be a possibility of having it approved, even though we have passed the deadline for this year. Otherwise, we will have to wait for next year. Might it be possible to get such a grant from the city of West Hollywood?

Tuesday nights is definitely impossible on a regular basis, as there are too many complicating factors.

## 4) Impresarios

I have spoken to our insurance agent. Any outside impresario would need independent liability coverage. This costs about \$1000 !!

However, if the event is sponsored and advertised as a Hollywood Temple Event, to Hollywood Temple members, the our liability would cover it.

I want to make the following recommendation. I do this with the consideration that I want fewer programs, with security:

a) We jointly host the event. All publicity is in our names.

b) We will agree on four such events during the year. The impresario will have to coordinate with you and us, and will need to put rental money in advance to reserve the date. He will place our names as hosting the event and give us copies of his flyer, in English, to put in our publicity. Also, he will prepare a brief notice to go to the Jewish anglo-press as well as local papers. Thereby, this is certifiably a Temple event, and would be protected by our insurance.

c) We would reduce the rate to \$1500 for use of the sanctuary ( 1100 seats) on Saturday nights or \$500 for use of the Garden Room on weeknights, without use of kitchen( when we have less catering business--seats 390 maximum, at tables) This is ideal for cabaret settings--

d) Since we have success in getting impresarios who do have

insurance and can afford our regular fees, we can not publicize this reduced rate or arrangement in any way. The arrangement would have to go through the Association, and you would need to decide who and what event is under your auspices. I also believe that the Association should also make some arrangement whereby it, too, could get some extra income from this, such as having reserved first row seating for patrons, whose tickets would go to the Association as a benefit. Or, get a block of tickets to sell, and keep the proceeds.

e) Both of our organizations avoid the logistics nightmare of arranging and hosting a concert.

From the desk of  
**Rabbi Norbert Weinberg**  
**Hollywood Temple Beth El**  
1317 N. Crescent Heights , West Hollywood, CA 90046  
Tel.: 213-656-3150 Fax: 213-654-1791

Fax to : Eugene & Helen Levin  
1 818-783-4073

Enclosed is a copy of an ad which I would like to have redone in Russian to publish in Panorama. I want to run it twice, 1/12 page , which I believe is about \$100 for each ad. You notice that I put ASJE as sponsor. Can you get Panorama to run the ad for us free or for large discount. Also, please confirm with Svetlana that she will perform for that evening.

What I would like from you, in exchange, is that you prepare flyers in Russian to give to prominent people in the Association as well as to pass out in the community. I am enclosing some of our flyers in Russian for your use.

Also, this year, as last, we are hosting a Bar Mitzvah class for new immigrant youth from the former Soviet Union.

This year four youngsters will celebrate their Bar Mitzvah at Hollywood Temple Beth El on Saturday morning, June 18, at 9:00 AM. They are: Nathan Barshak, Alex Fridman, Anna Fridman, and Gennie Moshkovich.

I would very much appreciate it if, as in the past years, you or a representative of the Association would present some memento, be it a medallion, or a book, to each youngster in the name of the Association.

Please confirm your participation as soon as possible, Thank you.

August 3, 1994

To whom it may concern:

Leonid Litvachuk worked for Hollywood Temple Beth El from April 1993 till May 1994 as Director of Outreach to Russian Immigrants, under a special one-time grant from the Council on Jewish Life of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles and the Jewish Community Foundation.

His task was to facilitate the acculturation of new Jewish immigrants from Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union into American civil life and the Jewish heritage.

To this goal , he organized and taught classes on English as a Second Language, American governmental and legal system, the Constitution, American history, and common customs and practices in American life. He also taught math bilingually to recently arrived Russian immigrant children, ages 6-10 . He also participated in programming activities within the framework of the synagogue in conjunction with me as the Rabbi.

His activities were noted in a recent feature article in the

Los Angeles Times and the participants of our programs appreciated his intellect, his dedication, his commitment and his concern for their needs. He has been a very welcome asset to our staff. We are sorry that when the grant funds were expended, we were not eligible for renewal and therefore could not continue with his position.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Norbert Weinberg

To Jule from Rabbi: November 23, 1994

This is a summary of my meeting with Eugene Levin, of the Association of Soviet Jewish Emigres ( phone # 213-969-0919), and Sy Frumkin, noted LA Soviet Jewish activist.

They have received a grant from the Federation for two courses, one in the valley one in this side of town, for New Immigrants on Judaism and Russian Jewish history. They would like to hold these classes here, twice a week for two hours, somewhere between 1-4 PM.

They have access to Plummer park for free from the city of West Hollywood. However, we are a preferable location.

They do not have funds for rent, and the Federation grant requires that they do not take fees from the students. However, in exchange, we can request free publicity for all Temple affairs in Russian on Russian language radio as well as extra publicity in the local Russian newspaper, Panorama.

We can also dove-tail with another program, which reinstates what we had already done last year, English language classes. We have a volunteer, Maryiam Millstein, who is available to teach in the time slot preceding this lecture series. Since this is a necessity, and Chabad charges \$10 a month for their classes, we can easily charge \$5 a month. If we get 20 people regularly, we will have \$20 a week, \$80 a month, \$1000 a year for our efforts.

We can use the chapel for this purpose. If they need a blackboard, we can ask them to provide us with one as part of their

condition. Also, we can ask them to take responsibility for clean up.

English tutor: Maryam Millstein 655-3048

from Latvia( Riga). Univ of Riga. taught English as a second language. In US 1 1/2 years. son & daughter live here. husband is retired enigneer. We will charge \$5/ month per person. Association should getr us a blackboard. Habdkle regustration & payment in office.