

and Munich with events that will supplement our general activities, and we are sure other cities will follow soon.

Secondly, the postwar Jewish community in Germany was very small until recently, making it difficult for us gays and lesbians to form the network necessary to put together a strong group. In the last few years, however, it has been transformed into the fastest growing Jewish community in the world. Over 80,000 Jews now live in Germany, among them many from the former Soviet Union (20% of our members are Russian). Still, although the presence of so many newly arrived Jews in Germany is a great opportunity, and it is vitally important to make contact with the gays and lesbians among them, it is a challenge for us to find the best way.

In addition to these internal challenges, we also find it takes work to strengthen our contact with members of the gay/lesbian Jewish community outside Germany. Many people simply assume that there can't be many Jews here, let alone gay and lesbian Jews. ("So you're going to a meeting of gay German Jews? I hope you and the other person have a good time.") Others have such trouble dealing with the idea of Jews living in Germany after the Holocaust that their fear and bewilderment tends to shut off further communication. For this reason, we think it is important to get to know the people of Yachad and our work and to visit us, either in groups or individually, as we have visited groups in London, Paris, and Amsterdam, for celebrating, singing, talking, or just hangin' out. We'll all have a good time, and you will discover that we share the aims and hopes of all the other gay and lesbian Jewish groups around the world.

"Mir sajnen do!"

Mazel Tov!! This year is the 25th anniversary of the Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group in London. The JGLG was formally started at the London School of Economics in 1972.

Since then, the group has co-hosted both regional and the 13th World Conference in London in 1993. The group currently runs a monthly Chavurah and Friday night service led by Rabbi Mark Solomon at the Montague Centre, a Liberal synagogue in central London. We also have a monthly Shabbat morning service at the Sternberg Centre, the headquarters of Reform Judaism in the UK, which were initiated and led by Rabbi Elizabeth Sarah, Programmes Director of the UK Reform Synagogue.

In the past few months, we have chosen specific chavurot and services to focus on different sections of our community. So far we have held an extremely successful women's focus chavurah, another was a friends and family focus chavurah which was also very well attended. We had a successful disability awareness chavurah in February. As well as other regular coffee evenings, we now have two evenings specifically for women each month.

Our Jubilee weekend was on the 14-16 March 1997. We started the weekend with a Friday night service followed by kiddush and buffet. On Saturday morning we had a Shabbat service. Saturday evening was our big Jubilee party in central London. The event was very special, featuring the Klezmer Klub, a London-based band. Cabaret included 'Kosher campster' Helena Goldwater and other performers. Finally, there was a disco to schmooze and schmaltz to. On Sunday we had an afternoon of lesbian and gay films with a Jewish flavour.

During the weekend there was a second meeting of representatives from European groups to discuss European matters, in particular proposals for locations of the 1998 European/Israeli conference.

The JGLG extends a warm welcome to all visitors from Europe and further afield. You may telephone the JGLG group Line at +44-181-905-3531 (please note this is a new number). Or E-mail Amanda on asudic@lbs.lon.ac.uk.

Documentary: *Trembling Before G-d*

I am making a feature-length film/video documentary called *Trembling Before G-d* about Hasidim and Orthodox Jews who have left from communities to come out as lesbian, gay, bi, and/or transsexual and those who choose to remain Orthodox and how they negotiate their sexuality and identity in religious communities. So far, I am filming with women and men in Brooklyn, London, Amsterdam, San Francisco, and Jerusalem.

I am looking for any interviewees in any city or country — especially women, those still Orthodox/Hasidic, and/or HIV+ or living with AIDS. People can participate in the project in whatever way they feel comfortable — from filming with voice/face to just voiceover to someone else performing their words, to just us talking. People have also written me anonymous letters about their experiences. Strict confidentiality will be respected.

Trembling Before G-d is also seeking interns and donors (donations are tax-deductible). Archival photos, videos, music, stories, help with transcription and Hebrew/Yiddish translation are also appreciated. If you would like to add your name to the mailing list or if there is any way you feel you can contribute to the project, please contact me at:

Sandi DuBowski, Tomboychik Productions
25 Bleecker Street, New York, N.Y. 10012
tel: +1-212-677-6852 email: simcha2000@aol.com

I look forward to communicating with you.

P.S. Some people may have seen *Tomboychik*, a video I made with my 88 year-old grandmother. It played at the "Too Jewish?" show at The Jewish Museum in New York and will travel through 1997 to museums in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Baltimore, and Philadelphia.

Other news

Leadership Weekend in Chicago May 16-18

World Congress and Or Chadash in Chicago sponsored the third leadership seminar weekend for the Western Hemisphere from May 16-18. Representatives from World Congress member groups had the opportunity to share organizational success and learn from each others' experiences. Topics such as programming ideas, fundraising planning and leadership development were covered during the weekend. The seminar opened with a Shabbat service and oneg hosted by World Congress member group Or Chadash.

Holocaust Claims Program

The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States is taking claims under the Holocaust Claims Program from Sho'ah survivors who were:

1. US citizens at the time of their Nazi persecution;
2. were interned in a concentration camp and
3. have not previously received any compensation from the German government.

Claims forms are available from the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission by calling 1+202-616-6975. Claims will be accepted only until September, 1997.

Jewish AIDS Memorial Day

The International Jewish AIDS Network sent a press release to the Digest informing us about the institution of a Jewish AIDS Memorial Day. The date that has been chosen is Lev B'omer. From the press release we quote:

"Lev B'omer is the 32nd day of the Omer, the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot, which has been traditionally seen as a season of mourning for the Jewish People. The Hebrew letters for 32, "lamed" and "bet" spell out the word "lev," which means "heart." A Jewish AIDS Memorial Day "touches directly the hearts and minds of all us who have loved and lost people to AIDS, and will, we hope, touch the hearts of the people who have tended to ignore this growing, unending epidemic," said Rabbi Rafael Goldstein in making this announcement.

This year, Lev B'omer falls on Friday night, May 24 and Saturday May 25. "We are urging all synagogues and religious Jewish institutions in our Jewish communities to observe Jewish AIDS Memorial Day with special prayers of comfort and hope and the opportunity to remember the people whose lives have touched our own, each in their own unique way" announced Norman Sandfield. The International Jewish AIDS Network will gladly provide resources and advice on setting up memorial programs in communities throughout the Jewish community in the USA and around the world."

Names and addresses:

Rabbi Rafael Goldstein, Director of the Los Angeles Jewish AIDS Services, 6505 Wilshire Blvd., #502, Los Angeles, CA 90048, phone: +1-213-653-8313, fax: +1-213-655-1978,

e-mail: rafaeljas@aol.com and

Norman L. Sandfield, Co-Chair of the Jewish AIDS Network, Chicago, c/o AIDS Pastoral Care Network, 4753 N. Broadway, Suite #800, Chicago, IL 60640-4907, phone: +1-773-275-2626, e-mail: JANCatAPCN@aol.com, home page: <http://www.shalom.com/janc.htm>.

Editorial note

This *Digest* is the first issue produced since the board of the WCGLJO decided in July 1996 to appoint me as the editor. From the beginning of my duties, it was clear that an attractive and useful *Digest* would only appear with the full cooperation of many people within the World Congress. And on that principle a network of correspondents was established. Most of the articles in this issue are written by the correspondents (and some members of the Steering Committee), for which I am very grateful. Without their contributions there would be no *Digest*. The regional correspondents are:

David Freedman (France)

Ira Kulkin (USA, Southwest)

Toby Neiman (USA, Midwest)

Luis Perlman (Mexico)

Deborah Rustin (USA, Northwest)

Avi Soffer (Israel)

Amanda Sudic (UK)

Lee Walzer (USA East)

There will always be a correspondent for the World Conference; this year the task is given to Steve Shatsky for the 1997 World Conference.

And of course information of the steering committee will be put in the *Digest*.

The *Digest* will appear twice a year. This doesn't mean that there are no means within the World Congress to spread information between the two issues. We will go on to use the internet site of the World Congress as a means of spreading actual information between the appearance of *Digests*.

Any information for this WEB-site can be sent to me (preferably to my e-mail address: lodewyjk@worldaccess.nl). If suitable for the WC web site it will be put on the site within a week.

The address of the WEB-site is: <http://www.wcgljo.org/wcgljo/> Have a look every now and then to see if there is news from your Jewish gay and lesbian friends somewhere in the world.

The closing date for articles for the next *Digest* (Fall 1997) will be July 10, 1997.

I would appreciate receiving comments and suggestions about the *Digest* and the Web site from all readers.

— Lodewijk de Zwart, Editor

A Gay Space, a Jewish Space, Finding a Safe Space

April, gay/lesbian/bisexual Jewish students were welcomed to a dinner and Shabbat by the World Congress, along with the Los Angeles Hillel Council and local organizations in southern California. This first-ever event drew some forty college-age students to a hearty dinner and Shabbat services at Beth Chayim Chadashim, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Representatives of eight Los Angeles organizations, many of them World Congress members, informed students of the many community organizations ready to welcome them, and Hillel organizer Paul Entis commented that he was "excited to see so many G/L/B Jewish groups represented" at the evening.

The event, titled "A Gay Space, a Jewish Space, Finding a Safe Space" was considered a big success. The next student Shabbat event is to be hosted by Congregation Kol Ami in the fall.

Also in southern California, there was no shortage of matzah in the gay/lesbian Jewish community this year. Beth Chayim Chadashim had its traditional second night seder, the Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Havurah had its annual seder on a Saturday night in the Jewish Community Center library, and Congregation Kol Ami held its 5th annual community potluck seder on Sunday night. Further down the Pacific Coast, Congregation Kol Simcha of Orange County and Yachad of San Diego also held seders this year. All were well attended.

Finally, Los Angeles is buzzing with excitement over the news that Rabbi Lisa Edwards of Beth Chayim Chadashim and Cantor Don Croll, formerly of BCC, will be leading Friday night services at the 15th World Conference of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jews this summer in Dallas. Travel agents are busy making travel arrangements for all of us to get to Dallas, and it promises to be a wonderful summer!

Raising Funds for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

The lesbian and gay community has come together and pledged \$1.5 million to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, \$1 million as an unrestricted gift, and \$.5 million to create an endowment for lesbian and gay programs, lectures, and exhibits. It will also ensure continued funding of the Museum's worldwide search for specific lesbian and gay information and stories.

The Board of the World Congress voted to play a leadership role in raising the community's gift, pledging to raise \$50,000 toward the campaign goal — and challenge the other national and international faith organizations to do the same.

We ask you to be a part of the World Congress' leadership drive by considering a contribution in the \$50 - \$100 range.

Please complete the contribution/pledge form and mail it with your contribution soon. Those wishing to make a contribution or pledge of \$1,000 or more can do so with either a one time gift or with a minimum monthly contribution of \$50 for up to 5 years.

Participate in this wonderful mitzvah — and feel proud to have recognized the past and strengthened the future of our great and growing community.

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
If I am only for myself, what am I?
If not now, when?"

Hillel

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION/PLEDGE CARD

Yes, I want to be a part of the World Congress' leadership drive to raise \$50,000 for lesbian and gay programs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. No question, nationally and internationally, we can raise the campaign target of \$1.5 million!

_____ My/Our contribution of \$_____ is enclosed.
(Our hope is that members and friends of the World Congress will consider contributions in the \$50 - \$100 range.)

(Make check payable to the USHMM. Note that it is for the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations pledge.)

_____ Charge my/our contribution of \$_____ to: Visa / Mastercard (circle one)

#_____ Expiration Date _____

_____ I/We wish to contribute/pledge a gift of \$1,000 or more and would like to receive the major donor pledge card.

_____ I/We wish to be entered as member(s) of the Museum. Minimum contribution to be included as a member is \$25.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONES: HOME _____ WORK _____

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION: _____

Send to: WCGLJO, c/o Beth Cohen, 6725 Fairfax Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Aleph Australia
Private Mail Box 120, 60 Blair Street
Bondi North, NSW 02026
Australia
tel. + 61-2-300-9700

Am Chofshi
c/o Horowitz
RR1 Box 686
South Harpswell, Maine 04079
tel. + 1-207-833-6004

Am Echad
c/o Metropolitan Region Office
6505 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90048
tel. + 1-213-852-1234

Am Segulah
P.O. Box 271522
West Hartford, Connecticut 06127
tel. + 1-203-676-9245

Am Tikva
P.O. Box 11
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238
tel. + 1-617-926-2536

Aviv of Arizona
c/o Koenigsberg
4704 East Paradise Village Parkway
North #314
Phoenix, Arizona 85032
tel. + 1-602-996-8622

Beit Ha Chidush
Zaagmolenstraat 20
1052 HE Amsterdam
The Netherlands
tel. + 31-20-686-8082
<http://huizen.dds.nl/~chidush/>

Beit Haverim
B.P. 375
75526 Paris Cedex 11
France
tel. + 33-1-44 84 08 54

Beit Klal Yisrael
P.O. Box 1828
London W10 5RT
England, U.K.
tel. + 44-181-960-5750

Bet Haverim
P.O. Box 54677
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-0677
tel. + 1-404-642-3467
<http://www.mindspring.com/~cbh/>

Bet Mishpachah
P.O. Box 1410
Washington D.C. 20013
tel. + 1-202-833-1638
<http://www.betmishpachah.org/>

Bet Tikvah
P.O. Box 10140
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232

Beth Chayim Chadashim
6000 West Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90035
tel. + 1-213-931-7023

Beth Rachameem
c/o Unitarian Universalist Church
719 North Arlington Avenue
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
tel. + 1-813-839-4911

Beth Torah
5750 West 95th Street, Suite 30
Overland Park, Kansas 66207-2969

B'nai Jeshurun Gay and Lesbian Committee
270 West 89th Street
New York, New York 10024
tel. + 1-212-787-7600

B'nai Shalom
P.O. Box 6861
Louisville, Kentucky 40206-0861
tel. + 1-502-896-0475

Chevrei Tikva
P.O. Box 18120
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
tel. + 1-216-932-5551

Congregation Ahavat Shalom
P.O. Box 14392
San Francisco, California 94114-0392

Congregation Beth Ahavah
8 Letitia Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-3050
tel. + 1-215-923-2003

Congregation Beth El Binah
P.O. Box 191188
Dallas, Texas 75219
tel. + 1-214-497-1591
<http://www.global.org/beth.el.binah/>

Congregation Beth Simchat Torah
57 Bethune Street
New York, New York 10014
tel. + 1-212-929-9498
<http://www.cbst.org>

Congregation Etz Chaim
3970 Northwest 21st Avenue
Oakland Park, Florida 33309
tel. + 1-954-714-9232
<http://www.etz-chaim.com>

Congregation Keshet Shalom
P.O. Box 6103, Station A
Toronto Ontario M5W 1P5
Canada
tel. + 1-416-925-1408
<http://www.magic.ca/~faygelah/Keshet.Shalom.html>

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers Street
San Francisco, California 94114
tel. + 1-415-861-6932

Emunah
P.O. Box 13089
08080 Barcelona
Spain

Galej
c/o Wirschubsky
St. Eriksgratan 69
11332 Stockholm
Sweden
tel. + 46-8-322314

Hineinu
5 Frome Street
Islington, London N18 P13
England, U.K.
tel. + 44-171-226-8769

International Association of Lesbian & Gay Children of Holocaust Survivors
c/o Congr. Beth Simchat Torah
(see address above)

Israel AIDS Task Force
P.O. Box 867
61008 Tel Aviv
Israel
tel. + 972-3-566-1639

Jewish Adelaide Feminist Lesbians
37 South Terrace, Semaphore 5019
Adelaide S.A.
Australia
tel. + 61-8-492988

Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group
BM-JGLG
London WC1N 3XX
England, U.K.
tel. + 44-181 9053531

Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group - North
c/o Simons
41 Stainton Road
Sheffield S11 7AX
England, U.K.

Jewish Lesbian and Gay Helpline
BM Jewish Helpline
London WC1N 3XX
England, U.K.
tel. + 44-171-706-3123

Jewish Lesbian Daughters of Holocaust Survivors
P.O. Box 75
Hadley, Massachusetts 01035
tel. + 1-888-340-1122 (U.S. and Canada)

Keser-gé,
(Óvegylet Alapítvány)
Zichy Utca. 29
H-1066 Budapest
Hungary
tel. + 36-1-112-5844

Keshet
3500 Holmes Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55048
tel. + 1-612-824-4226

Keshet
807 - 40 The Driveway
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2C9
Canada
tel. + 1-613-234-2714

Keshet Tikvah, the Gay and Lesbian Havurah of Baltimore
c/o Barry Kessler
1273 Battery Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
tel. + 1-410-225-0888

Kol Ami
9056 Santa Monica Boulevard Suite 100
West Hollywood, California 90069
tel. + 1-310-248-6320

Kol Simcha
P.O. Box 17871
Irvine, California 92623-7871
tel. + 1-714-551-2072

L'Cha Dodi of the Gay and Lesbian Concerns Committee of the JCRB/AJC
5801 West 115th Street, Suite 203
Overland Park, Kansas 66211-1824
tel. + 1-913-469-1340

Long Beach Jewish Community Center Lesbian & Gay Havurah
3801 East Willow Street
Long Beach, California 90815
tel. + 1-562-426-7601
<http://www.compupix.com/gay/havurah.htm>

Mishpachah Alizim
P.O. Box 980136
Houston, Texas 77098-0136
tel. + 1-713-748-7079

Nayim
P.O. Box 18053
Rochester, New York 14618
tel. + 1-716-441-3386

New Jersey Lesbian & Gay Havurah
P.O. Box 2576
Menlo Park, New Jersey 08818-2547
tel. + 1-908-549-6032

Or Chadash
c/o Second Unitarian Church
656 West Barry Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60657
tel. + 1-773-248-9456
<http://www.shalom.com/coc.htm>

Re'uth
c/o John Clark
Scheugasse 12/18
A-1100 Vienna
Austria
tel. + 43-1-6024056

Shalomo Belgique - Sjalhomo België
Rue de l'Epargne 10 bte 4
1000 Bruxelles
Belgium

Shalom Amigos
Apartado Postal 105-67, Colonia Polanco
11581 Mexico DF
Mexico
tel. + 52-5-281-3401

Shalom Chavurah
c/o Kleinerman
1617 Chevy Chase
Brea, California 92621
tel. + 1-714-529-4201

Simcha
P.O. Box 652
Southfield Michigan 48037-0652
tel. + 1-810-353-8025

Society for the Protection of Personal Rights
P.O. Box 37604
Tel Aviv 61375
Israel
tel. + 972-3-620-4327/629-3681
<http://www.gays.israel.net/>

St. Louis Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Chavurah
c/o Central Reform Congregation
77 Maryland Plaza
St. Louis, Missouri 63108
tel. + 1-314-391-3919

Stichting Sjalhomo
Postbus 2536
1000 CM Amsterdam
The Netherlands
tel. + 31-53-4334044
<http://www.worldaccess.nl/~lodewijk/>

Tikvah Chadashah
P.O. Box 2731
Seattle, Washington 98111
tel. + 1-206-329-2590

Tikvat Shalom
P.O. Box 6694
Denver Colorado 80206-6694
tel. + 1-303-331-2706

Valley Beth Shalom Response
15739 Ventura Boulevard
Encino California 91436
tel. + 1-818-788-6000
<http://www.vbss.org>

Yachad
P.O. Box 3114
Johannesburg 2900
South Africa
tel. + 27-11-8032013

Yachad
P.O. Box 3457
San Diego California 92103-1457
tel. + 1-619-492-8616

Yachad Deutschland
c/o Sozialwerke e.V.
Kartäuserwall 18
50678 Köln
Germany
tel. + 49-221-19446

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P.O. Box 661, Snowdon Station
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tel. + 1-514-993-7387
<http://www2.accent.net/yakhdav>