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BOLETÍN OFICIAL DE LA LOGIA B'NAI B'RITH MAIMÓNIDES DE CUBA

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SIMÓN WIESENTHAL DIED

Last September 21st, Simon Wiesenthal, "the Nazi hunter of Viena" died at the age of 96 years old. Survivor of the Holocaust, which killed 89 members of his family, devoted his life to tracking down Nazi war criminals, especially those who were associated with the concentration camps. He explained that the driving force behind his work was not revenge, but the desire to make sure that these crimes were not forgotten. "When I die, he said, and have to stand before all the murdered people from the camps, I want to be able to say: I didn't forget you". He did not forget them, but the most important has been that he worked in order that nobody forget and forgive those crimes.



MESSAGES RECEIVED

We received greetings messages for Rosh Hashana from many brothers, sisters and friends from abroad, among them:

Carmen Hakham, from London; from Canada, Moishe Smith, Vice President of B'nai B'rith International and Dr. Barry Schneider, of the University of Ottawa; from the USA, Dr. Heidi Heft LaPorte, from the Yeshiva University Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Eugene Fogel, of B'nai B'rith International, Charles B. Heft, President of Florida Region of B'nai B'rith International; our friends and supporters, Stanley Falkenstein, Stanley Cohen, Miriam Saul, June Safran, Marc Fleischer, Rosemary Hertz, Joel Atlas; from B'nai B'rith Argentina, its Executive Vice President, Jorge Burkman; and from Brasil, the former President of B'nai B'rith Latin America, Francisco Gotthilf; from Israel, Maria Luisa Zayon and Dr. Jay Levinson, of the University of Jerusalem; from Guatemala, Zelik Tenenbaum, President of B'nai B'rith of that brother country. To all of them, many thanks!

HURRICANE "KATRINA": ONE OF THE SADDEST CATASTROPHIC NEWS OF THE YEAR

Once again news with a natural catastrophe shook the world as it happened with the tsunami in 2004. This time due to the hurricane "Katrina" the floods in Florida, Georgia and Alabama were one of the worst occurred in the history of US. It is sad to watch the news about the thousands of people perished, uncountable lost, destruction, sickness, epidemics, water contamination and famine in New Orleans. Most of the people affected were the

poorest and the afro Americans. We wonder if this could be the reason for the delay in receiving help.

We, the members of the Maimonides Lodge, express our true solidarity with the North American people, at this sad time that they are going through. As Cubans, we are very proud of the sincere offering done by Cuba to send 1500 medical doctors. We do believe political difference can not hinder for helping people. So, this is the time for solidarity and support.

SHANA TOVA!

Please receive the greetings of all the members of B'nai B'rith "Maimonides" in Cuba for Rosh Hashana. We wish for the upcoming year peace, health and happiness.



LOGIA B'NAI B'RITH MAIMÓNIDES
Founded on 1943

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GOOD NEWS

We were tall good news last August 10; American authorities decided renewing the license to brother Stanley Cohen, Director of the B'nai Brith Cuban Jewish Relief Committee. Thus he will continue helping the Cuban Jewish Community. After the revocation of the license of so many friends as Stanley Falkenstein, Roe Gruber and June Safran this news is rejoicing. The first days on December we will receive the visit of a group of brothers led by Stanley Cohen.

A SOLVED PROBLEM

Some time ago, our brother David Pernas, who is President of the Jewish Community of Camaguey, stated a problem which required our help to be solved.

As it known, Camaguey is one of regions which is most affected by the drought the eastern regions suffer. The population in the city of Camaguey has to take water from trucks carrying water supplies on daily basis. Our brother David Pernas, asked for help to be given to a woman who lives alone and has problems to carry the buckets of water from the street to her house, so it was necessary to build a well in her house and install a water pump, something she could not afford.

Our Emergency Fund helped this woman from our community. The Community in Camaguey hired the workers and bought the pump and now sister R.R. doesn't need to ask people to carry water for her. The photograph shows the result. Once again, the members of our community are satisfied and they can say: A problem was solved!

A LETTER TO DR. LARRY ADLER.

Last July 20, we sent a letter to Dr. Larry Adler, and eminent cardiologist who lives in Pittsburg, and member of the B'nai Brith in this city, who, when our community asked for, willingly volunteered to collaborate with his Cuban colleagues and even to receive, if needed be, Adalberto Gonzalez, a relative of various member of our Community, who was operated on his heart at the Hermanos Almejeiras Hospital in Havana. In this letter we told him: "Your answer came immediately. We were told ready to lend a hand in this case...All of us were involved in the efforts, when on July 15, the patient died... Notwithstanding the sad ending of the event, no one would forget your disposition to help. It would be pleasant if we could have the chance of having you in Cuba, to give you our personal gratitude ..."

TERRORIST ATTACKS IN LONDON

Last July 7, the news shook the world. In London, there were blasts in the subway and in a bus, precisely at rush hour. The toll was more than 50 casualties and 700 wounded. The terrorist attacks of the railway station in Madrid were repeated.

This is the terrorist way; their philosophy is to kill, above all killing innocent people. This was it in London, this was the case in Atocha, Madrid, this was the way in the Twin-Towers in New York, on September 11, 2001. This is the way in the crimes in Israel. This was the case with the Cuban airplane in Barbados, on October 1973, and the list is never ending.

After the philosophical justification, supposedly patriotic, supposedly anti-imperialist and in defense of the oppressed, we could wonder and analyze who the victims are; Are there the high-government officials? or the military invading troops? No! The victims are always innocent and defenseless people. Service worker or employees in the Twin Towers, pedestrians or customers in a shopping mall in Israel, sportsmen or students coming back to Cuba in a commercial flight, and Italian tourist in the lobby of a Cuban hotel, workers going to their working places in Madrid first and then in London. Neither patriots, nor martyrs, just killers.

But if the executors are despicable, the ones who train them, give them orders and finances are much more hateful.

In some cases with money, in other encouraging religious fanaticism, they always get a mercenary or an ultra radical whose own hot-headed propaganda is an incitement to commit these crimes exposing themselves to suicide or imprisonment, while the masterminds are self-confident in the rear-guard. Being Osama Bin Laden or Posada Carriles, they all deserve punishment; the world demands justice.

The same day the crimes took place, July 7, as a suggestion from the President of the XIII District; Daniel Belozerkovsky, our community sent a condolence letter to the British Ambassador in Cuba, expressing the grief of all member of our community because of this barbaric deed and expressing our solidarity with the Londoners.

Following is the letter:

July 7, 2005.

*Honorable Ambassador of the U.K.
City of Havana.*

Excellency:

The news about the monstrous attack against the Londoners today has caused much distress among the members of the B'nai Brith.

Our congregation, the Cuban branch of the Jewish Fraternity B'nai Brith energetically disapproves this savage aggression against innocent people, the typical terrorist behavior.

We, as all the Cuban people condemn terrorist acts wherever they happen and whoever the perpetrators or instigators are, no matter if they are in the London subway, in Madrid railway station, in one street of Jerusalem or in a hotel in Havana. We also condemn whoever protects terrorists, encourages, feeds or sponsors them with money. The many victims of these terrorist acts deserve our solidarity and that of humanity which demands to put a halt to these brutalities. Our condolences to the British people, especially to the relatives of the deceased.

With kind regards,

B.A Isaac Rouso (President)

Engineer Simon Goldstein (First Vice president)

Samuel Zagalov (Second Vice president)

Some days after we received a kind response from the U.K Ambassador Mr. John Dew, in which he appreciates our supportive message he states:

"...The barbaric act of July7, was not only an attack against London. It was against all of us. We are determined to be together against these violent acts. People of all religions and nationalities need to be together calmly and with the purpose of fighting against the threat of international terrorism. We are glad to know the U.K can count on your support against this universal menace..."

A FRUITFUL VISIT

From July 14 through 21, we had the visit of our fraternal brother Stanley Cohen, accompanied by brothers Marc Fleisher and Barry Steinberg, both important collaborators of the B'nai B'rith Cuban Jewish Relief Committee.

Among the activities, there was a long and important meeting held with the visitors and the Cuban executive board on Friday 15. In this meeting Stanley Cohen explained the strategy of the Committee as a result of the current situation regarding the new restrictions of the U.S government. As we know, the new measures include the prohibition to travel to Cuba and the decision of not renewing the licenses that some of our friends and collaborators have, to bring visitors to Cuba from the US. These visitors would know more and share with the Jewish people in our country. This is the case of Stanley Falkenstein, June Safran and Roe Gruber, whose licenses were revoked once they were reaching the date limit. In the case of our community this implies a decrease of the incomes from the donations we used to receive from them. Stanley explained that the Committee, with the sponsorship of the B'nai B'rith International has the services of a renowned lawyer in Washington, who is preparing a petition for the renovation of the license granted for religious and humanitarian matters. They are optimistic about the outcomes.

On the other hand, and taking into account the funds of the Committee, the Tzedakà project is guaranteed for the next two years, no matter what the result of the appeal would be. Knowing this was a relief for us, as there are 60 families receiving a monthly aid through this project and we had a deep concern about what the future of this project would be in this new current state of affairs.

We also discussed the destination of the Emergency Fund. This project has been helping the families with problems such as the repairing of houses or electrical appliances. We analyzed the applications for help we had in this moment, and we agreed on preparing a detailed budget for them to raise the necessary funds. Obviously, on our part we have to continue using the policy of giving loans which are returned with low or no interests, or easy to pay back.



In this meeting we also had the visit of our sisters Esther Jequin, Aylet Ojeda and our treasurer David Behar, who had a very ill relative and who we have called to debate with Stanley Cohen about the possible help he could offer. In the section News about The Congregation the events are explained. On Saturday 16, we the monthly meeting in which our three visitors participated as guests of honor. In this moment, Stanley Cohen addressed the participants to explain all the aspects he had explained to the executive board about the consequences of the news regulations of the U.S. government, and also about the certainty that no matter what happens, the Tzedaka Fund is guaranteed for two years. He also informed that he had been invited by the B'nai B'rith International to participate in a VIP meeting to be held early in August. There he told us he would explain the job our Community does for all the participants to know. He concluded his speech by assuring that as time goes by he is more proud of working with the members of the B'nai B'rith Maimonides from Cuba.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA AND ITS "HATIKVA" COMMUNITY.

On Sunday July 17, when we arrived at Santiago de Cuba escorting Stanley Cohen, Marc Fleisher and Barry Steinberg there was a bright sun and no one would have thought two weeks before, hurricane Dennis had brought widespread destruction along the coastal zone in this province.

The temperatures turn out too high for the visitors coming from Pittsburg and

Rochester. But if the sun heat was suffocating, the human warmth from the brothers and sisters who welcomed us at the community Synagogue "Hatikva" was on the contrary not only pleasant but also touching.

There were three moments in which our sister Eugenia Farin, Presidents of the Hatikva Community took the floor. Stanley Cohen addressed the Community once on behalf of the Cuban Jewish Relief Committee and I did it on behalf of our Community.

The Jewish from Santiago de Cuba showed that besides being active in the activities of the synagogue, they also have a beautiful artistic movement. There is a great Rikudim group a folklore dancing group from Santiago de Cuba which openly showed its quality. Young Marcos Frometa Farin made an exhibition of his paintings Roberlan Sanchez Segal showed his craftsmanship wood carvings. The young child Ruben Dorado, Lourdes Levy's grandchild presented his miniatures, all with Jewish motives. The language was not a barrier and the three visitors interchanged with the members of the community. Interpretation was hardly necessary. There are things which need no words to be expressed.

The morning after, we visited the community cemetery situated in El Cristo a town near the city. There, we saw the work being done to keep it as it should be. Sister Eugenia showed us the fence they are building, the tombs that have been repaired, the gravestones they have set, two of them with funds from the donation made by our Community out of the Emergency Funds.

Dr. BARRY LEONARD

This is the first in a continuing series of articles that will discuss those special friends of the Jewish Cuban Community. The "Quiet Friends", those who never have been to Cuba and may never come to the island. But, through a warm and caring heart, give of their time, money and expertise with no thought of gain or return to themselves, other than the satisfaction of helping others.

The first person I have selected for this series is Dr. Barry Leonard. Dr. Leonard, a bachelor who lives in Tarzana, California, USA. Dr. Leonard is an avid runner and outdoor enthusiast. Doctor Barry, as I affectionately call him, is an optometrist with offices in Panorama City, California. His practice, which was founded in 1957 by his father, serves a predominately Latino area of Los Angeles. A long time social activist, he is a Co-Founder of V.O.S.H./California,



(Volunteer Optometrist in Service to Humanity), a volunteer group of eye care professionals that travel to Latin American and Asian countries giving free eye

examinations and prescription eyeglasses to those in need and without resources to pay for those services. They have recently completed the construction of a free eye care facility in El Salvador.

Over the past four years, Dr. Leonard, in conjunction with Jewish Cuba Connection, has made and distributed over 150 pairs of eyeglasses in Cuba. These eyeglasses were predominately distributed in all parts of the Cuban Jewish Communities, but also among non-members of the Jewish Communities as well.

Barry is looking forward to visiting Cuba. We are currently working on arranging the first VOSH mission to Cuba. Barry would like to bring nine additional doctors and portable examination rooms to provide eye exams and eyeglasses to thousands of Cubans. The current plan is to begin in Guantanamo and work their way through Santiago, Camaguey, Sancti Spiritus, Caibarién, Santa Clara as well as Havana.

UNDERSTANDING JEWISH HOLIDAYS

(Our beloved sister Roe Gruber, sent us this very serious analysis about Jewish Holidays, that we want to share with all of you):

For those of you who have been searching for a greater understanding of Jewish holidays major and minor, I think you will find the explanation below most enlightening:
Jewish Holidays:

As a general principle, Jewish holidays are divided between days on which you must starve and days on which you must overeat. Many Jews observe no fewer than 16 feasts throughout the Jewish year, based on the time-honored principle that even if you are sure that you are ritually purified, you definitely aren't. Though there are many feasts and fasts, there are no holidays requiring light snacking.

Note: Unlike Christians, who simply attend church on special days (e.g. Ash Wednesday), on Jewish holidays most Jews take the whole day off. This is because Jews, for historical and personal reasons, are more stressed out.

THE DIET GUIDE TO THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hashanah —Feast
Tzom Gedalia —Fast

Yom Kippur —More fasting
Sukkot —Feast
Hashanah Rabbah —More feasting
Simchat Torah —Keep feasting
Month of Heshvan —No feasts or fasts for a whole month. Get a grip on yourself.
Hanukkah —Eat potato pancakes
Tenth of Tevet —Do not eat potato pancakes
Tu B'Shevat —Feast
Fast of Esther —Fast
Purim —Eat pastry
Passover —Do not eat pastry
Shavuot —Dairy feast (cheesecake, blintzes etc.)

17th of Tammuz —Fast (definitely no cheesecake or blintzes)
Tisha B'Av —Very strict fast (don't even think about cheesecake or blintzes)
Month of Elul —End of cycle. Enroll in Center for Eating Disorders before High Holidays arrive again.

THERE ARE MANY FORMS OF JUDAISM:

Cardiac Judaism —in my heart I am a Jew.
Gastronomic Judaism —we eat Jewish foods.
Pocketbook Judaism —I give to Jewish causes.
Drop-off Judaism —drop the kids off at Sunday school and go out to breakfast.

Two-Times a Year Judaism —attend service Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

YOU KNOW YOU GREW UP JEWISH WHEN:

You've had at least one female relative who drew eyebrows on her face that were always asymmetrical.

You spent your entire childhood thinking that everyone calls roast beef "brisket".

You've experienced the phenomena of 50 people fitting into a 10 foot wide dining room hitting each other with plastic plates trying to get to a deli tray.

You were as tall as your grandmother by the age of seven.

You were surprised to find out that wine doesn't always taste like year-old cranberry sauce.

You can look at gefilte fish and not turn green. You can understand Yiddish but you can't speak it.

You know how to pronounce numerous Yiddish words and use them correctly in context, yet you don't exactly know what they mean. Kenahurra.

You have at least one ancestor who is related to your spouse's ancestor.

You grew up thinking it's normal for someone to shout "Are you okay? Are you okay?" through the bathroom door if you're in there for longer than 3 minutes.

You thought that speaking loud was normal.