

Youth For Soviet Jewry

SELF-FULFILLMENT is most often achieved by embracing a cause larger than ourself. Youth, being more idealistic than middle age, is most in need of great causes to challenge their zeal and energy. Re-born Israel, its safety, security, and development in a vari-colored spectrum of Jewish life is one such cause. Devotion to the ideal of human equality and end of discrimination in America and in every other country is equally as challenging a cause. In fact they are related and interlaced, indissolubly. Dedication to achieve freedom for oppressed Soviet Jewry is another vital cause. And it is a cause for the young.

They have already begun to assert "Youth Power" to speak for the "Jews of Silence", bowed under the cold pogrom which freezes the Jewish life of once-vibrant Russian Jewry. Pittsburgh Youth and the Y-IKC youth motivation program are to be commended for planning and carrying through the "Youth Rally for Soviet Jewry" held at the Squirrel Hill IKC at the close of the Simhat Torah holiday last Sunday night.

The young planners not only pulled the idea together quickly to have the rally coincide with the yearly outpouring of Soviet Jewish youth on this holiday, but they demonstrated a working spirit that should affect the future. Already there are plans for the formation of a Jewish Youth Council of Greater Pittsburgh, a need long felt — and too long neglected — here.

Too many groups, youth and adult, function as islands. Youth solidarity may even teach the adults a lesson or two.

Let no one despair that youngsters are powerless to affect monolithic dictatorships. The voice of "Youth for Soviet Jewry" across America and the world might be recorded faster on Kremlin social-seismographs than a barrel full of the mouthing of diplomatists.

Meanwhile, young and old, please sign the "Petition of Freedom for Soviet Jewry" at your nearest Y-IKC Synagogue, Temple, or community organization.