

The New Russian Revolution: Rush To Freedom

'From Russia to Israel with Love'

MEET THE NEWEST AMERICANS

By IRIS SAMSON, Assistant Editor

"This concert will be a really upbeat evening for people, whether they understand Hebrew, English or Russian," Nina Butler says, thoughtfully. "That's because everybody understands the language of music."

Butler is describing the content concert, "From Russia to Israel With Love," Israel's travelling musical revue that is also its tribute to the Operation Exodus campaign. The revue comes to the Jewish Community Center on Thursday, Nov. 8 and Friday, Nov. 9 with two performances that showcase the talents of Israel's newest wave of immigrants, the Soviet olim.

A highlight of the JCC's annual Book Fair, "From Russia to Israel" gives its audiences the opportunity to see the "flip side" of the massive Russian resettlement efforts, notes Butler, JCC Judaic Arts director.

"It's important to see that these newest olim are already contributing to their new home nationally and internationally. It puts the whole Russian resettling in a new light, looking beyond the trials and tribulations of today" to the mark the Soviet olim will undoubtedly leave on Israeli society.

Butler explains that "From Russia to Israel With Love" is a special replacement this year for its annual international program, the Hassidic Song Festival.

"It's been tremendously received all across the United States," she notes, "because it is an up concert for the New Americans who have settled here - they see the success of the performers,

who have made it and who are great role models - and it's also an example of the Soviet olim 'helping us,'" sharing their talents with those in America who are helping to make their aliyah possible.

Butler reports that "From Russia to Israel" received rave reviews upon its opening U.S. show. "They gave it a 15-minute standing ovation in Bridgeport, CT," she notes.

The two hour show stars several recently-arrived Russian olim. Singer Yelena Levinsky was a radio and TV reporter on cultural events for Baku media and a soloist with the Baku Philharmonic in Soviet Azerbaijan. Her musical heritage and desire to make aliyah came from her maternal grandfather, who was a cantor.

Galina Lokomskaja, a 37-year-old singer, studied at the Minsk Academy of Music and earned her degree from the Minsk Conservatory of Music. She appeared with the Minsk Opera as prima donna, and will join the Israel Opera when "From Russia to Israel" finishes its tour.

Valery Golovko, accordionist, is one of the most recent olim. He came to Israel in April after a teaching career at the Minsk Academy of Music as well as serving as music director and percussionist of "Pesnara," a well-known Russian group.

Igor Makeev, singer, bass guitarist and trumpet player, was educated at the Red Army Music School in Moscow, and served for 11 years with the internationally renowned group, "Metro-



CELEBRATING the contributions of Russian emigres to Israel is the musical show, "From Russia to Israel with Love."

nome." He and his wife now live in Jerusalem.

Valery Brusilovski arrived in Israel in March of this year. The drummer had a desire to make aliyah from childhood, and feels "happy and fulfilled" in Israel.

The other five members of the troupe are all members of the "Kolan Ensemble," one of the best known musical groups in Israel. They are led by Avraham Kosashvili, founder and musical director and an oler since 1978. Other members are Yosef Agiashvili from Georgia, USSR, a singer; Reuven Bar-Yosef, another Georgian who serves as pianist and who was a child prodigy; Roland Bavel, who came to Israel in 1980 and who sings; and the lone sabra in the "From Russia to Israel With Love" troupe, Avi Shilo.

The show includes Russian and Jewish folk songs and Hassidic songs which owe their origins to Russian Jewry. Light opera will

reflect the musical heritage of the country, along with Israeli songs, smuggled through the Iron Curtain and sung in secrecy.

"From Russia to Israel With Love" will be presented on Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the JCC. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. There will be a special Friday 10:30 a.m. matinee for New Americans, senior adults and children. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children.

The Friday morning concert is being underwritten by several organizations, including Prime Kosher, the Zionist Organization of America and Kids Unlimited. Helping to underwrite the Jewish Book Fair as well as the concerts are Koshier Mart, the King David Restaurant, the Isaac Seder Foundation, the United Jewish Federation, the JCC and Prudential Realty. For information, contact Nina Butler at 521-8010.

"Life for us is like a baby's, we don't know a lot," said 38-year-old Mikhail Rabinovich, a new American who has been in this country since September 1988.

"It's a new country and a new life but it's not too hard - just a little bit."

Mikhail and his wife Faina have had good luck so far, with both of them landing full-time jobs without much trouble. Mikhail, who was an auto mechanic and manager of a body shop in Moscow, is currently employed five days a week at Meineke Muffler. Faina works six days a week in a wholesale jewelry store in the Clark Building.

The greatest source of pride and achievement in the Rabinovich family is 9-year-old Arthur.

"He is in third grade in the public school and he speaks very well - he sounds just like an American child," Mikhail said.

"For my son it's good. He's young and he studies

everything and he is good at everything."

The Rabinoviches chose to come to Pittsburgh because of distant relatives, the Riziks, who Mikhail says "help us all the time."

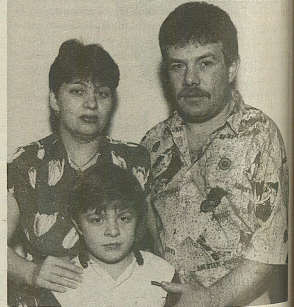
Now that Mikhail has settled his family here, his parents and other relatives in Moscow have agreed to leave and are now just waiting.

Mikhail is glad he settled in Pittsburgh because "it's a very very good city because it's so quiet and there are a lot of Jews here who came from Russia. It's a big community and it's very friendly."

The Rabinoviches have attended services at Rodef Shalom and find it a new experience to be able to attend synagogue anytime.

"In Moscow there were just two synagogues and maybe we could go just to celebrate a holiday."

"I'm 38 years old, no young, but I have a new life," said Mikhail.



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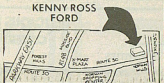
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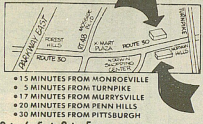
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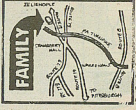
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The New Russian Revolution: Rush To Freedom

Networking program for New Americans

A networking project for New American career women will be launched Wednesday, Nov. 7, 6 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center by the Business and Professional Women's Division of the United Jewish Federation.

"Over the past year, we have invited Soviet career women to each of our programs as our guests," said Jan Bigler, chairperson of B&P Women's Division. "Many have obtained jobs as a result of networking at our meetings."

"Since our informal efforts at networking for New Americans in search of jobs was so successful, we decided to formalize the process to increase efficiency," added Myrna Kline, chairwoman of the B&P Women's Resettlement Project.

The project will be introduced at a dinner program which will be followed by Tema Nason, author of "Ethel: The Fictional Autobiography," about Ethel Rosenberg, the convicted spy.

"This portion of the program is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center as a feature of the Jewish Book Fair.

The project's two components include a networking program and an advocacy program. "By networking, we hope to involve as many volunteers as possible to assist the Career Development Center with job placement."

"The more people we have helping us look for employers, the better chance we have of finding work for all of the Soviet Jews in need of jobs," said Linda Ehrenreich, director of the CDC.

"The advocacy program is intended to create a 'hardly system' to accomplish in the career area what the Mentor Family Program is doing for New Americans on their personal lives," said Kline.

"While Soviet Jews must adjust to the American environment in every facet of their lives, it is extremely important for them to have a smooth transition in the workplace. New Americans need long-term relationships with experienced career women to help them understand everything from benefit packages to negotiating raises when the time comes," she added. "This project will be coordinated with the mentoring

Soviet resettlement volunteers meet

A luncheon meeting for all chairpersons involved in volunteer services for Soviet Jewish resettlement was held at the United Jewish Federation.

Louise Silk, chairwoman, Volunteer Coordination, UJF Women's Division and UJF New American Resettlement Committee, said this was the first opportunity for those individuals in the resettlement volunteer effort to come together to report on committee progress, discuss concerns, and plan for the future in preparation for the next wave of immigrants.

In addition to committee chairpersons, also attending were Merrille Weissman, chairperson, UJF New American Resettlement Committee; Arlene Shapiro, coordinator for Soviet Resettlement for the National Council of Jewish Women which is responsible for inaugurating the Mentor Family Program and the English as a Second Language tutoring program; Patty Hourvitz, chairperson, Jewish Community Center Resettlement Committee; and Arlene Weisman, president of UJF Women's Division.

Volunteers are involved in many aspects of resettlement. Included are: obtaining legal assistance; locating and furnishing apartments; planning holiday festivities; providing specialized medical care; developing an information and referral line connecting agencies and volunteers; and preparing and delivering Judaica Baskets.

Mimi Ginsburg, chairwoman, New American Reset-

tlement Volunteer-Agency Referral Line, reported that NCJW has provided space for the referral line to be located at Anathan House and that volunteers are still needed to staff it.

Linda Silverman, co-chairwoman, Volunteer Services for Resettlement, reported that 75 Judaica baskets containing religious ceremonial objects have been delivered to New American families by committee members. A booklet is included explaining the significance of these items.

Karen Shapira, co-chairwoman with Carolyn Lebovitz, NCJW Mentor Family Program, described the project which teams three to five local Jewish families with each incoming Soviet family. Mentors are involved with their families in many ways, providing a personal touch during the newcomers' first few weeks, and often providing long-lasting relationships.

The Mentor Family Program is coordinated through area synagogues.

"Our cadre of volunteers has done an incredible job in a short time," said Silk. "They comprise an unstoppable army. We need new recruits of all ages, men and women. Each volunteer makes a difference. Please join with us as there is so much more to be done." To join the Soviet Resettlement Volunteer effort, call Madelon Edelstone, UJF, 681-8000, ext. 217.

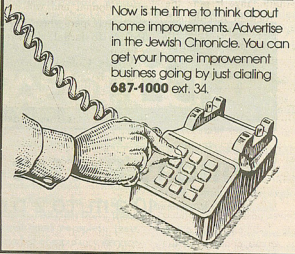


ACCOMPANIED by his wife and an interpreter, Lev Anshelev, left, the director of the International Children's Choir of Russia attended a performance of the student choir of Millioines Middle School, directed by Dr. Ralph Hill, center.

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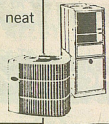
MIRACLE of Soviet emigration and the enormous job of resettlement was the focus of a lecture by best-selling novelist Isaac Potok, center, who spoke Tuesday at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Oakland. His talk was part of Exodus: The Campaign to Rescue and Resettle Soviet Jewry. Potok is flanked by the events' Co-chairmen, Jeff Letwin, left, and Paul Haveson.

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