

*What's Happening...*

## On The Teen Scene

By DANIEL J. MORRIS

**H**ow many times have you walked by the Squirrel Hill IKC when a bearded anomaly asks you to put on Tefillin.

My first reaction when this happened to me was, "What's the matter with these fellows?" But



Danny represents a very rational and reasonable way of thinking.

Although Rabbi Katzen hasn't convinced me to become a Chassidic Jew, he has shown me that the Chassidism are not the religious extremists that many people think they are.

Rabbi Katzen virtually had no religious background before age 20, and now he is a Chassidic Jew. His organization is composed of many students who had no religious training, but are now Chassidic.

Besides Tefillin drives, the Lubavitch Youth Organization sponsors Chassidic encounters and Shabbos dinners for students at Chassidic homes. Rabbi Katzen feels that after one is exposed to the tradition and warmth of the Jewish philosophy and spirit, he will probably become Chassidic.

As Rabbi Katzen sees it, "Try it, you'll like it," to coin a familiar cliché. "It's easy to understand why youth are turned off by reform and conservative synagogues because of the way Judaism is diluted ... even in orthodox synagogues a newcomer is not brought into the scope of the service, but when we have youth over for Shabbos dinner we argue logically why we believe the way we do, and are receptive to the kid's challenges," states Rabbi Katzen.

Concluding, Rabbi Katzen remarks, "Anyone with a heart and a brain will react positively to the Lubavitch Youth Organization's programs." (He is very convincing ... if I gave him the chance, he could probably make a Chassidic Jew out of me). Needless to say, I am impressed with the comments and accomplishments of Rabbi Shmerel Katzen. If you're at all even curious or interested, call 422-8034.

Barry Wolf, Greater Pittsburgh Council AZA President, proudly announces a new Chapter to the AZA family. With most of its members residents of Highland Park, it has been named Highland AZA.

Some of the programs which are on the Council AZA calendar are Winter Tournament, Ski Weekend, and a Swim Party. If interested contact Barry Wolf at 661-6726.

Teen Scene gives the following people 'good guy' awards: Ann and David Mendlowitz, and their American Field Service (Exchange student) sister from Brazil Ruth Martins; Lisa Stein, Lisa Ash, Amy Irvin, Jan Chilcott, Lee Kovacs, Tucker Ritenouer, Pat

after hearing their leader Rabbi Shmerel Katzen, this Lubavitch Youth Organization which is responsible for these activities,

represents a



RABBISHMEREL KATZEN

*'Try it ...'*

and Bill Clougherty, Laurie Speaker, Susie Markowitz, and Esther Reid.

These Churchill Area High School students are assisting in a program there to teach handicapped people to swim. The preceding hot off the wire from Churchill liason Linda Lenchner.

Next week, I'll include in this column the names of some area senior high school students and the colleges to which they have been accepted. If you're one of those persons, call me and tell me to which school you have been accepted. 362-2328.

See you next week!

### *Ruth Waxman To Speak At Beth Shalom*

Dr. Ruth B. Waxman, Managing Editor of the quarterly journal "Judaism," will be the next speaker for the Adult Education Series at Congregation Beth Shalom on Monday, Dec. 11, at 9 p. m. The theme of Updating Judaism which the series



Dr. Waxman has dealt with will be pursued by Dr. Waxman into the changing roles of Jewish women in everyday family life and religious practice.

Born in Palestine, Dr. Waxman grew up in Chicago and earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Chicago.

In addition, she has been a professor of literature for over twenty years and has lectured widely on books and current topics. Dr. Waxman's husband is the editor of "Conservative Judaism." They have three sons.

Preceding Dr. Waxman's talk at 8 o'clock there will be Seminars by Alexander Scharf with parents of Religious School Students and by Rabbi Moshe V. Goldblum on contemporary Jewish thought.

Transportation can be arranged by contacting Mrs. M. A. Rosenberg at (421-4190).