

Education: Whither or wither?

JERC newest community resource

Eighth in a Series

By JOEL ROTEMAN, *Acting Editor*

Newest resource in the education community is, appropriately, the Jewish Education Resource Center, located on the second floor of the B'nai Zion Congregation, Forbes at Denniston.

It is so new, in fact, that it isn't open yet. "We are shooting for a February opening," says Fran Borovetz, program director. She sees the Center as an enriching factor for the city's Jewish educators.

Objectives of the Center include:

Serving all sectors—Reform, Orthodox, Conservative teachers in Day, afternoon and Sunday schools throughout the Greater Pittsburgh Area "on neutral", centrally located ground.

Providing a support system for administrators, principals and teachers.

Providing in-service training through workshops and consultative service in terms of curriculum devel-

opment, class program planning, methodology and materials.

Providing an opportunity for teachers to exchange educational ideas.

"Our goal," explains Jack Meyers, chairman of the Jewish Education Resource Center Subcommittee of United Jewish Federation Jewish Education Committee, "is to provide a resource for the entire community, to benefit all the schools and their programs.

"All the schools will have an active role in defining the programs of the resource center."

In addition to using the facilities and materials stored at the Center, "the schools will be asked to provide educational materials which they have—books, posters, magazines—so that others may benefit from them. All schools," Mrs. Borovetz states, "will use the facility and they will also contribute."

Funding for the Resource Center

comes from special Endowment money and does not come out of the regular UJF

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MANY pieces make up the Education Puzzle, as this picture symbolically shows.

The newest resource

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education appropriations. Right now, the Center is a three-year pilot project. "It is," says Meyers, "concrete evidence of the UJF commitment to strengthen the quality of Jewish Education."

"We won't replace any school's present program; we will provide enrichment," adds Borovetz.

Impetus for the Center grew out of a Teacher's Centering Day, sponsored by UJF. "The consensus for the Center was enthusiastic" from the 150 educators in attendance.

Who can use the Center? "Everyone involved in Jewish education," Meyers says. He had high praise for the "experience and commitment" of director Borovetz.

Practically, the Center has a laminating machine so that teachers can protect educational materials permanently, a copying machine and a lending library of audio-visual materials. It will be a storehouse of all sorts of Jewish educational materials which teachers can copy.

"There have been fantastic advances in Jewish education," says Meyers, "but the bottom line is still the teachers. Hence, our philosophy: each teacher has expertise. We will be an idea exchange where teachers can come to share. It will be beneficial for each to share their ideas.

"It will always be a co-operative venture—even in decision-making and policy-making."

The Center has unknown growth potential. "Each community has its own needs. We don't know yet the community response," Mrs. Borovetz commented.

While program director Borovetz conceivably could be an educational trouble shooter if invited on a school's specific problem, "it is not the Center's role to directly deliver education to the classroom."

Isaiah Kuperstin is overall director of the program.

The Center's biggest problem? "Trying to reach out and get schools and teachers to share creative talents," answers Mrs. Borovetz. "As educators we just don't see each other often. We need to develop a sense of participation."

General Gur

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As Chief of Staff, he was also closely involved with the operation which led to the rescue of the Entebbe hostages in July, 1976.

A prominent member of Israel's Labor Party, Motta Gur serves as its Campaign Committee chairman. He has also served as General Manager of Koor Mechanics, a division of Koor Ltd., the largest industrial conglomerate in Israel.

Pittsburgh Technion Chapter President Robert Brand, stated, "General Gur's political involvement, coupled with an intimate knowledge of Israel's military and technological know-how and needs, are certain to make his presentation to us a most informative one.

Reservations for the event can be made by writing or calling Mr. Brand, c/o Enamel Products and Plating Co., 3500 Walnut Street, McKeesport, PA 15132, phone 928-3408. Couvert is \$5 per person.