

March 23, 1976

Mr. Jesse Cohen  
President, U.J.F.  
234 McKee Place  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Dear Mr. Cohen,

We are writing this letter to you to express our concerns for the future of the Co-operative Conservative Congregations' Hebrew School which was started this year at the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church. As you probably know, Rabbi Kaplan recently requested \$1,000 from Federation and at this time we do not know what decision has been made. Some of us talked with Saul Weisberg about our Hebrew School, and hopefully now we can more fully express the need which exists.

The C.C.C. Hebrew School was initiated with a subsidy being provided by three conservative congregations in Pittsburgh -- B'Nai Israel, Tree of Life and Beth Shalom. It was made clear at the time the school started that it would be necessary to have more children enrolled in the fall of 1976-77 in order to keep the project alive. At the present time we have a first-year class of seven students. Enrollment forms have been sent out to Jewish residents of the Fox Chapel Area for first-year students of 1976-77 and the response has been practically nil. This was expected. Strangely enough, even though the Jewish population of this area is growing more rapidly than we ever dreamed possible, there are just no children ready to start Hebrew School next September. However, for the following year (1977-78) there is no question that we will have a full first-year Hebrew class ready to go. All the children who attended this year's class at the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church have re-enrolled for next year, plus a few more.

The point we want to make is this -- the children who are presently enrolled in the C.C.C. Hebrew School have a very special feeling of being Jewish together in a non-Jewish area. Not only has the Hebrew School given them an opportunity to meet one another, regardless of which conservative congregation their families belong to, it has also given them a new kind of position and respect amongst their non-Jewish friends and neighbors. In some instances, Jew and non-Jew carpool together for different activities at the Church. It would be more than unfortunate if this Hebrew School would die due to lack of funds for one year. We feel the children would lose so much, as would their parents. As a matter of fact, we feel very strongly that our newly-formed Fox Chapel Area Hadassah was an outgrowth of the feelings that developed around the Hebrew School.

Rabbi Kaplan was instrumental in getting our school started and has remained most helpful and sensitive to our needs and concerns in the Fox Chapel area. This request for \$1,000 for one year may seem insignificant, but without the backing of the synagogues for that one year, the \$1,000 becomes necessary funding from Federation to keep the project alive.

We know that Jewish education is a primary concern of Federation and we sincerely hope that the Social Planning and Budgeting Committee will be able to grant this request.

Sincerely,

*Ruth Garfinkel*  
*Jacob G. Birnberg*  
*Rhonda Berg*  
*Anna Reektel*  
*Rice B. Kuller*  
*Elvin Charapp*

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