

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ETHEL TAFT

It is with a profound sense of gratitude for the privilege of being the President of CJCS that I began this annual report on the condition of our joint and singular enterprise, the Conference of Jewish Communal Service. Just as *Yerushalayim* united, which we just celebrated, is far more than the mere sum of West and East Jerusalem, even as each retains its unique character, so is the Conference of Jewish Communal Service much more than the mere sum of 8 Affiliated Professional Associations and close to 4,000 members. Our joining together results in a unique framework which serves to enhance our professionalism and enriches the varied settings in which we practice our craft.

Permit me to review some of the highlights of this past year. This by no means will be an exhaustive review and much more will become apparent as we spend these next few days together. It should also be noted that the order in which the material is listed does not reflect a pre-determined priority ranking.

Last Spring, we published a compilation of documents entitled Rights and Responsibilities of the Practitioner: Goals for the Field of Communal Service. The publication delineated the value system which is the underpinning of our practice and provided guidelines for the various elements which should be part of a personnel practices code. The publication was enthusiastically received and we are confident that it will serve our membership well. As we engaged in the process of developing the document related to Retirement Program Standards it was clearly apparent that a primary concern was the portability of pension plans. The Insurance/Retirement Committee, chaired by Rachel Tannenbaum and Peter Wells, has been moving ahead on addressing this issue hoping to develop a plan which will answer this need.

However, as we sought to enhance our professionalism and status as professionals we also became painfully aware that we are experiencing great difficulty in recruiting and retaining the outstanding calibre of practitioner that all our specific fields of service have long taken for granted. Though this issue is the subject of investigation by a number of national and communal entities, we determined that given the nature of CJCS we have a special responsibility to relate actively to this concern and participate in the attempts to resolve the crisis. A Task Force on Recruitment and Retention chaired by our immediate past President, Ferne Katleman, is developing a report which will be brought to our membership during the coming year, and will require thoughtful consideration and vigorous attention.

An existing Task Force on Israel which was transformed into a committee of the Conference has, under Gene Greenzweig's leadership, sought to refine its programmatic thrust. Len Rubin is joining Gene as co-chair and they together with their committee will develop and define plans for programs which will seek to strengthen the ties between the North American and Israeli communal professional communities. We may also expect that the committee will play a role in delineating the manner in which CJCS notes and celebrates the 40th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel at our 1988 Annual meeting in Chicago.

The complexity of our communal endeavors is clearly indicated by the range of concerns expressed in the Resolutions which emerge from our Public Issues Committee. Our high-powered co-chairs of the committee, Marlene Proviser and Ellen Witman, are determined to bring our resolutions beyond the confines of the Concord.

A short while ago we were privileged to

honor new creative talents who will no doubt continue to enrich our communities and contribute to the development of our field. The Kraft "Awardees" are part of a grand tradition and follow in the footsteps of giants who are being honored in perpetuity by various communities which have en-

dowed segments of our Annual Meetings in their name. The details of the accomplishments of the honorees are described in the Program. However, I would like to take note of the honorees whom I firmly believe we should never forget as our mentors and teachers.

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Maurice B. Hexter**

Past President, CJCS (1923)  
Executive VP, New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies (1941-67)  
\$25,000 by the Henry and Lucy Moses Fund, Inc. through the efforts of the New York Jewish Federation

#### CONCURRENT FORUMS

**Herman Pekarsky** (deceased)

Director, United Jewish Federation of MetroWest, NJ (1945-63)  
\$10,000 by the MetroWest Federation

**Robert I. Hiller**

Executive VP, Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund of Baltimore (1965-82)

and

**Harry Greenstein** (deceased)

Executive Director, Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund of Baltimore (1928-65)

\$10,000 by the Baltimore Federation

**Isidore Sobeloff**

Past President, CJCS (1944-45)  
Executive VP, Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit (1937-64)

and

**William Avrunin**

Past President, CJCS (1966-67)  
Associate Director, Executive Director, Executive of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit (1948-76)

\$10,000 by the Detroit Federation

#### SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

**Sydney Z. Vincent Memorial Fund**

The Endowment Fund of the Cleveland Jewish Community Federation has contributed \$25,000, and along with additional individual contributions by members of CJCS of \$16,000, underwrites our Scholar-in-Residence Program.

#### JEWISH LEARNING SESSION

**Ted Kanner and Mervin Lemmerman**

Former Executive VP and Executive Director respectively of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles

\$10,000 by the Los Angeles Federation

The interest from these endowments is used to enhance various aspects of our Annual Meetings. A special committee under Alan Bennett's leadership is carefully reviewing how best to develop endowments as an income source. The manner, scope and direction of this program has been a result of outstanding efforts by Jerry Bubis, past president of the Conference and "shaker and mover" par excellence.

The theme for our Annual Meeting "One People—Many Voices," reflects our awareness that there are many issues in Jewish communal life which are potentially divisive. What then is the role of the professional who seeks to strengthen our communal enterprise? Upon recommendation of the Program Committee, a Task Force on Unity and Diversity has been formed. Its charge is to draft a response addressing the issues we begin to identify during these next few days and to develop guidelines for use by communal professionals. The Task Force will be chaired by Ira Silverman, Executive Director of the 92nd Street Y and a past Program Chair. The first meeting of the Task Force will take place on Tuesday at 5:30 P.M. and is open to all attendees. To set course with

us is our distinguished keynote speaker Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, Executive Director of the Brandeis Bardin Institute. Highlights of her past accomplishments and current activities immediately reveal why we are fortunate "Beyond Belief" that she will be addressing us this evening.

As I bring this report to you to a close, I am aware of a deep sense of frustration for I have but skimmed the surface and offered the barest outline of that which we are all about. So please engage in a process of personal discovery. What is this Committee on Local Groups all about? What are Doris Hirsch and Michael Witkes trying to accomplish? Why is the Committee on Opportunities for Women meeting with the Publications Committee? What have their chairpersons, Harvey Goldman, Ellen Deutsh Quint and Bernie Reisman, in store for us? Attend the sessions, volunteer for committees, ask questions and offer ideas. Our dynamic Executive Director, Joel Ollander, and your current leadership are prepared to be responsive—please put us to the test!!!!

May 25, 1987