

SINAI STAR

News from the Sinai Temple Sunday School

Issue II January 1987

THE END OF AN ERA

By MICHAEL GOLDBURG, 16

In what seems to be an end to an era of Jewish retail business in downtown Marion, Resneck's and Richard Clothing Co. are closing.

Alex L. Resneck founded Resneck's in 1932, located in the old Sarco building. It wasn't until 1946 that the Resnecks bought the building at their current location from the Matter family (establishers of Matter Park).

Brothers Bill and Dan Resneck, the owners, will continue to operate one store in Wabash and two stores in Kokomo. These stores are considered more profitable, according to Bill Resneck. The store records will still remain in Marion.

"It is such a coincidence that Richard's and Resneck's went out of business the same day," Bill Resneck said.

Richard Clothing Co. was founded in 1923 by E.P. Simons, housed in part of Resneck's building. The store moved to the First National Bank building in the mid-1930s, and the store moved to its present location on the corner of 4th and Washington streets in 1962.

Richard Simons, son of the founder, said he has had a profitable business in Marion for years, but the calendar started to catch up with him.

"I have many outside interests, and there is nobody to hand the store down to, since my daughter shows no interest in retail," he said.

Simons has had some people ask him about leasing or renting the building, but he is now worrying about "selling all of the socks and underwear first."

Simons is somewhat optimistic about the future of downtown Marion. "The community needs to act dynamically toward the concerns of the entire town rather than just a few activities," he said. He notices improvements in larger cities such as Indianapolis, and thinks the same thing can happen here through leadership of the entire community.

(See "The end of an era," page 2)

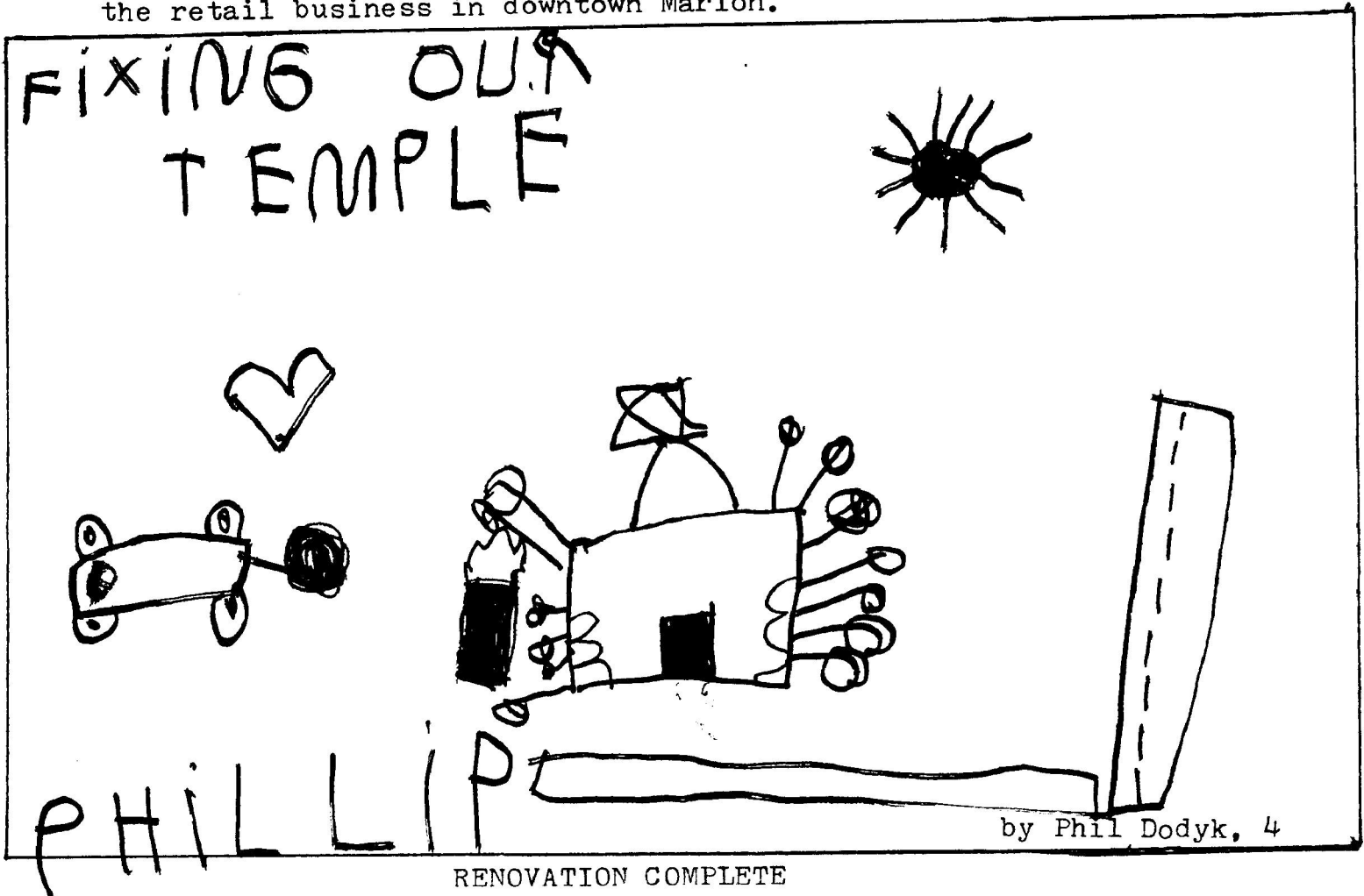
*The end of an era...

(Continued from page 1)

In the last 18 months, five downtown spaces have been filled, but Simons says he feels that the public overlooks things like this. "In fact, many people who move away from their downtown business in Marion end up coming back," he said.

The downtown retail business for the Jewish community has come to an abrupt halt. In the past, there have been at least two jewelry stores, two men's wear stores, and five women's wear stores located downtown which have been operated by Jewish individuals.

This decline seems to point to the fact that some of the second generation of the owners began to leave Marion, and most of the following generation showed no interest in carrying out the retail business in downtown Marion.



By JAKE MARSHAK, 14

Sinai Temple has been getting a "face lift" since October, with work completed this month.

Around the temple a two-inch wall has been added, which will keep moisture out and insulate the building.

Total cost of the renovation is around \$45,000.



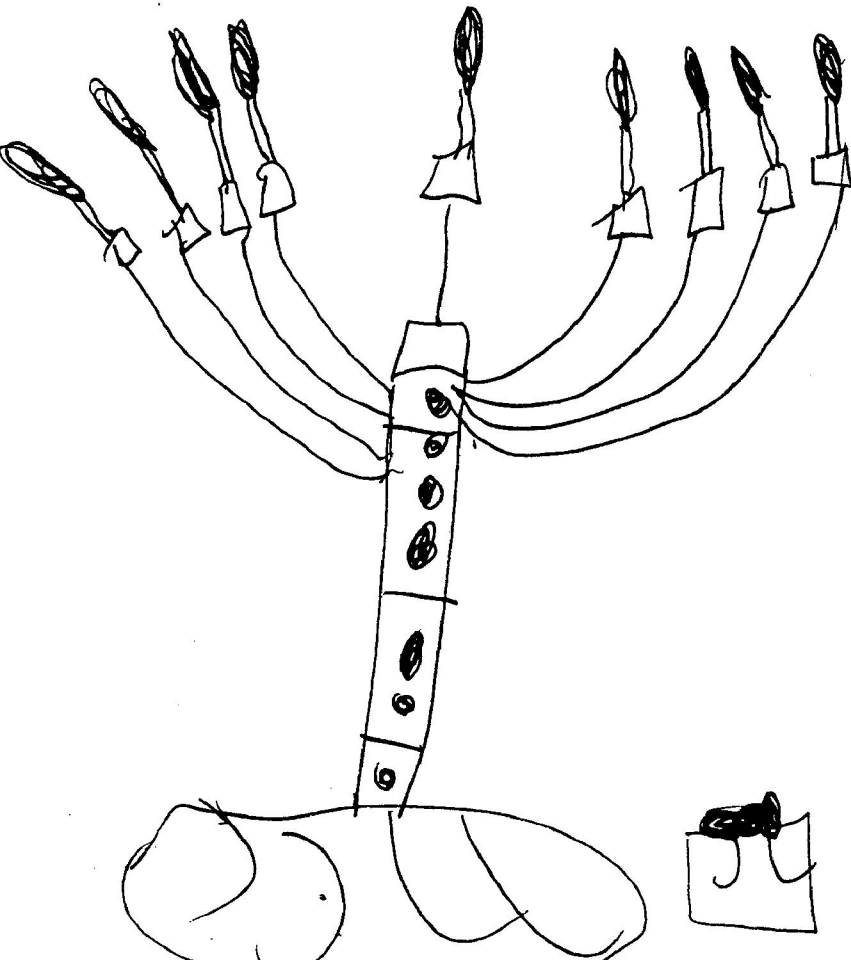
MAKING Latkes

by NATHAN WYMAN

by Nathan Wyman, 7

Menorah

Molly



by Molly Maidenberg, 9

WHAT HANUKKAH MEANS TO ME

By SARAH MARSHAK, 10

What Hanukkah means to me is freedom, history, fun and remembrance.

Freedom: The Maccabees fought for our freedom. We remember that freedom today. Freedom.

History: We remember our history and all the things with it, the heroes, the war and the hardship. History.

Fun: We have fun during Hanukkah with presents, dreidels and latkes. We open presents, play dreidels, and we eat latkes. Fun.

Remembrance. We remember everything we have done. We remember what made this holiday great, and made us great. Remembrance.

What Hanukkah means to me... Freedom, history, fun and remembrance.

LAURA RAPPAPORT: FROM HUC TO PROGRESSIVE POLITICS

By ROB MARSHAK, 16

Not everyone who graduates from Hebrew Union College becomes a congregational rabbi. Marion's student rabbi has something different in mind.

"I would really like to try and change the world. Not a great deal, but at least a little bit," said Laura Rappaport.

With one and a half years left at HUC in Cincinnati, Laura said she has no specific job in mind, but wants "to stay in touch with the Jewish community."

The way she would like to accomplish both these goals is through what she calls "progressive politics."

"This summer I'd like to join the New Jewish Agenda," she said, explaining that the group deals with current political issues such as Central American disarmament, feminism, economical and social injustices, and the Middle East.

Her background, education and past experience seem to indicate she may reach her goals.

During her freshman year of college she wanted to be an anthropologist, "but then after the first term I couldn't see myself doing that for the rest of my life," she said.

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in political science, Laura decided to attend Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem.

"I was raised reformed, and at the time the only school that accepted women in the reformed movement was HUC and the reconstruction school in Philadelphia. Since I didn't know much about the reconstructionist movement, well..."

She chose HUC because, "at the time, I wanted to be a congregational rabbi, or work for the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C., which is big on social activities. A rabbi is the director and it has a UAHC (Union of American Hebrew Congregations) connection."

Following her second year at HUC, she took a year off in Los Angeles.

"The reason I went to L.A. is because I had been there before on vacation and liked it," Laura said, adding, "many of my friends from HUC in Jerusalem were going to school in L.A."

(See "Laura Rappaport," page 5)

*Laura Rappaport...

(Continued from page 4)

While there, she worked many different jobs.

"First I was a canvasser for the National Action Against Rape. I went from door to door trying to get supporters and donations," she said.

While canvassing, "unbeknownst to me, I knocked on Tom Hanks's door. Well, when he answered, I forgot why I was there! I was so overwhelmed I couldn't even speak."

Other brushes with celebrities occurred while working in a Beverly Hills health foods store. "I saw so many famous people while I worked there, Ali Sheedy, Madeline Kahn and Mary Lou Henner, just to name a few."

Laura said she would like to move to either the East or West Coast, "where the people are."

As for becoming a congregational rabbi?

"Maybe some day, down the road, I might become a rabbi. I just want something to fall back on."

Maybe Laura Rappaport will change the world some day. At least just a little bit.

WHERE MARION'S STUDENT RABBIS ARE NOW

- '84 Bradd Boxman: assistant rabbi, Indianapolis
Hebrew Congregation, Indianapolis, IN
- '83 Scott Shpeen: assistant rabbi, Congregation Beth
Emeth, Albany, NY
- '82 Tracy Klirs: rabbi, Temple Shalom, Winnipeg,
Manitoba, Canada
- '81 Samuel Weinstein: assistant rabbi, The Temple,
Hebrew Benevolent Congregation,
Atlanta, GA
- '79- William Berk: rabbi, Temple Chai, Phoenix,
'80 AZ
- '78 Michael Berk: rabbi, Beth Sholom Temple, Santa
Monica, CA
- '77 Elizabeth Rolle: assistant rabbi, Jewish Community
Center, White Plains, NY

Source: Sally Krisel, Office of Public Relations,
Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio

WIESEL WINS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

By JARED FRANK, 8

The Nobel Peace Prize for 1986 was awarded to Elie Wiesel.

Wiesel survived the Nazi Holocaust, but lost most of his family.

He has committed himself to writing against terrorism, violence, and racism. His message is for peace. Wiesel also heads the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

A large number of Jewish men and women have won the Nobel Prize. The winners are called Nobel Laureates.

Jews represent 15 percent of the Nobel Laureates. Some famous Jewish Nobel Laureates are Albert Einstein, Henry Kissinger and Nelly Sachs.

The Nobel Prize is awarded for outstanding work in such areas as world peace, chemistry, medicine, literature and physics.

EACH NAME HAS A MEANING

By JEFF FRANK, 12

Jews believe that every person is different from every other person who ever lived. Each has a different history; each has a different kind of feelings.

One important difference between you and any other girl or boy is in your name.

Some Jews, as those originally from Eastern Europe, believe naming is an honor to the dead. Jewish children are usually given two names, a Jewish name and an English name.

Many of us have names that come from our grandparents or our great grandparents whom our parents admired or respected. These names were given to us in hope that we would have the courage, strength and dedication of those great ancestors.

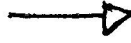
My sister Jodi Mackenzie's Hebrew name is Miriam Zelda and she is named after my grandmother, Maxine Zelda, who died four years ago. One of the special parts of my grandmother's life were her grandchildren, my brother, my cousin Danny, and myself.

...We know our grandmother would be very proud of Jodi, and we hope Jodi has all the loving and caring qualities that our grandmother had.

(Excerpted from Jeff Frank's speech at the naming ceremony for his sister Jodi Mackenzie Frank, held Nov. 14, 1986.)

JOKES AND RIDDLES

1. Why did the chicken cross Sixth Street?
2. What must you pay to go to temple?
3. How does Bill clean the temple?



Cantor: "I've been singing the Sh'ma since I was five years old."
 Kid: "WOW! You must be tired!"

Boychick: "I'm in a hurry! Will the latkes be long?"
 Mentch: "No, boychick, round!"

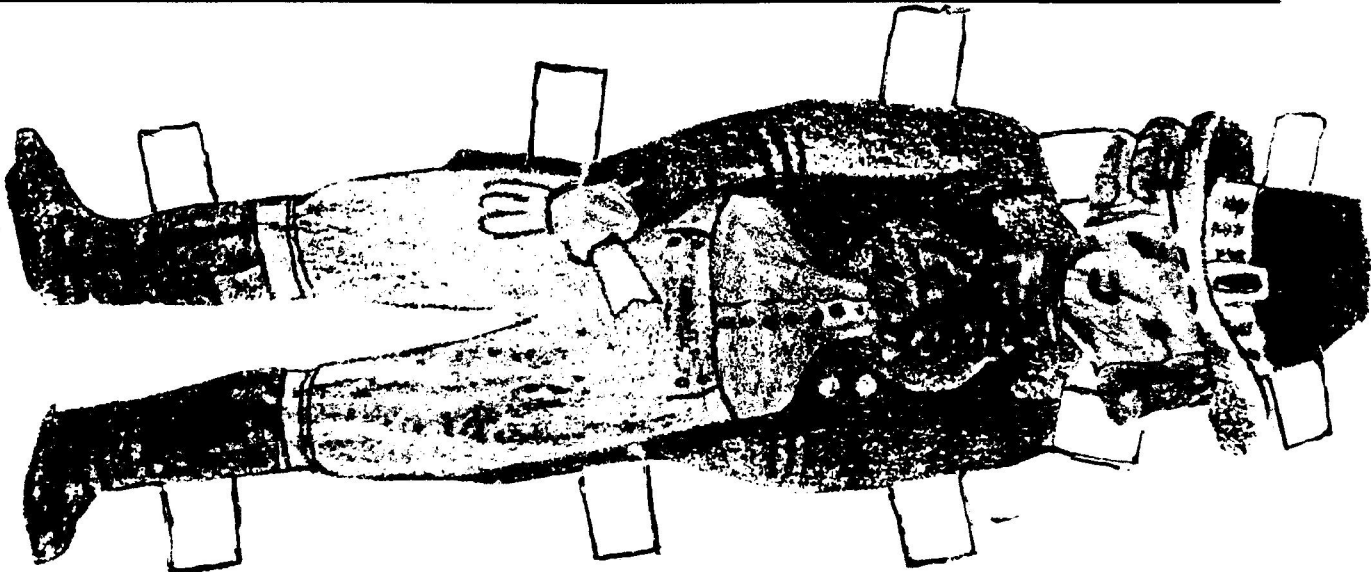
By MATT DODYK, 7

4. Why did the grandma make latkes?
5. What did the Jewish chicken say to the Gentile chicken?

By Marissa McKown, 6

1. To get away from the temple dinner. 2. Attention.
 3. With broom service. 4. Because it was Hanukkah. 5. "At least you do not get thrown in the pot with matzo balls!"

JOKE AND RIDDLE ANSWERS:



Hayim
 U.S.A. 1770
 Solomon

Contributed by Micah Maidenberg, 6

SERVICES MAKE THEM FEEL GOOD

By STEFANIE KUPERSMITH, 12

Going to services gives many members of Sinai Temple a good feeling, and makes them feel part of a Jewish community.

"I like saying the prayers because I know my ancestors have been saying the same prayers for thousands of years. It makes me feel tied to them," said Julie Kupersmith.

Lou Dodyk and Art Kupersmith both said they feel good about taking their families to temple for services because it gives their children a Jewish identity.

Participation lends itself to a sense of community, said Jackie Steiner. "If people don't participate, they aren't really a part of the community."

Others, however, often have good excuses for not going to Friday night services.

Loni McKown and Jacquie Dodyk agreed that services are held at a late hour for those who have young children.

"I'd rather watch the rabbi and listen to what he or she has to say than watch my children," Jacquie said.

"I think, because of the lateness of the hour, it's difficult for small children to sit still and behave properly," Loni said. She added that her attendance has been more frequent since she opened the sisterhood gift shop.

Kupersmith said he goes to services to learn things that can help him be a better person.

On the other hand, Stan Steiner joked that he goes to temple to keep peace in his family.

I sometimes miss services because I get invited to visit with my friends or go to parties on Friday nights.

I attend temple so I can learn the prayers better for my bat mitzvah.

WHAT IS A GOOD JEW?

By STEVE GOLDSTEIN, 16

"A good Jew should want to be a Jew," said Saul Tilson. "You must believe in the faith." A good Jew preaches family tradition and customs, and cares for the well being of others, he added.

* * * * *

"A good Jew is one who not only cares for the welfare of Jews but the welfare of everybody," according to Marion Thompson. She added a bit of wisdom she gleaned from something Bill Resneck once said: "When a Jew dies, he leaves the world a better place than when he was born."

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"In order to be a good Jew," said Michael Goldberg, you must go to temple and participate in the Jewish community."

* * * * *

"A good Jew should believe in the Ten Commandments and feels forgiveness and compassion toward other people," said Nancy Goldstein.

* * * * *

I think a good Jew is all of these ideals and much more. He not only cares for other people and participates in the Jewish community, but he participates in the whole community. A good Jew should not judge others, because he may be judged. A good Jew should hold the Sabbath and keep it holy, believe in one God, and honor mom and dad.

A GOOD JEW IS...

..."someone who comes to services and participates in everything we do in Sunday School." Sarah Marshak, 10.

..."someone who has a bar mitzvah." Marissa McKown, 6.

..."someone who can sing Jewish songs and learn Hebrew." Matt Dodyk, 7.

Dear Editor:

We liked reading the Sinai Star. It was very enjoyable. This year we have spent time in Sunday School learning about bar/bat mitzvah, so we were interested in Steve Goldstein's article.

It was a good article, and it had good reasons for being bar/bat mitzvahed, but there was one thing wrong with it. This ceremony doesn't go back to ancient biblical time. The bar mitzvah ceremony is only 600 years old, and the bat mitzvah ceremony is only 45 years old.

Sincerely,

Molly Maidenberg
Nancy Goldberg

CORRECTIONS CORRECTIONS CORRECTIONS CORRECTIONS CORRECTIONS

SORRY FOR THE POSTAGE-DUE 'STAR'

We sincerely apologize for the fact that most of you received your first copy of the Sinai Star postage due.

Though we would like to claim that it was a publicity stunt to make you sit up and take notice of the fine work therein, this was not the case.

In short, we messed up.

Again, sorry about that. Hope, however, that you enjoyed reading our Sunday School newspaper.

Please send letters to the editor, comments and other news tidbits in care of: Loni McKown, 110 Wabash Ave., Marion, IN 46952.

SHE'S 13

Julie Goldberg is 13 years old. Her age was listed incorrectly in the last issue.

PREJUDICE IN PESTERROCK

By JULIE GOLDBURG, 13

Hi! My name is Rachael Steinberg. I live in a little town called Pesterrock, New Jersey. I am the only kid in my family, so I guess I'm spoiled. Well, that's what my mom says.

My father, George Steinberg, runs a little clothing store on the town square about one-half mile from our house. My mother, Ellen Steinberg, is a housewife. She and dad have been married seventeen years.

Our little town of Pesterrock has a population of 5,000 people, and 150 are Jewish. We have a small temple. And the people of Pesterrock aren't very happy with us having a temple in, as they say, their town. This is what my story is about.

On a cold winter day on Friday, Dec. 5, 1982, at 7 p.m., my parents and I were getting out of our old, blue station wagon and began to walk toward the temple.

And an amazing sight we saw. All the townspeople had blocked the doors to the temple and would not let us in.

My father stepped up and asked what in the world was this all about. Mr. Jones, one of the townspeople, said, "This here temple, as you call it, is ruining our town." All the townspeople shouted "yeah!"

So my father took a deep breath and said, "So this is a case of prejudice against the Jews in this community. Well let me tell you one thing: All of us standing here are proud to be Jewish. You shouldn't be ashamed of us. You should be proud of us. Some of us Jews have done some wonderful things for this community.

"Mr. Rosen build a home for the needy. And Mr. Stein gives clothes and food to the needy every year. And I, I help children try to quit using drugs.

"So if it weren't for 'us Jews,' as you call us, this town would be in big trouble. So please step aside and let us in."

Mr. Jones and the rest of the people looked down at their feet in shame and walked away.

SAMANTHA SOLVES HER PROBLEM

By NANCY GOLDBURG, 9

Once there was a girl named Samantha who was Jewish. She was a new girl in a small town that had hardly any Jewish people. She was scared to go to school. Where Sam was originally from, in Detroit, Michigan, there were lots of Jewish kids.

She now went to school in Marion, Indiana. She was in Mr. Hamaker's class. She met a friend named Sarah. Mr. Hamaker had blond hair and was really neat. Sarah had dark brown hair, and was neat too.

Sam met a Jewish girl, Molly. She was nice.

But Sam still had a problem. It was that she wanted to talk to someone about being Jewish. She talked to her sister. But it was hard because she was away at school. Next she talked to her mom. Now she is all right.

SAM REMEMBERS

By JOEY FOX, 6

Jewish boys that survived from the Nazis were hiding everywhere.

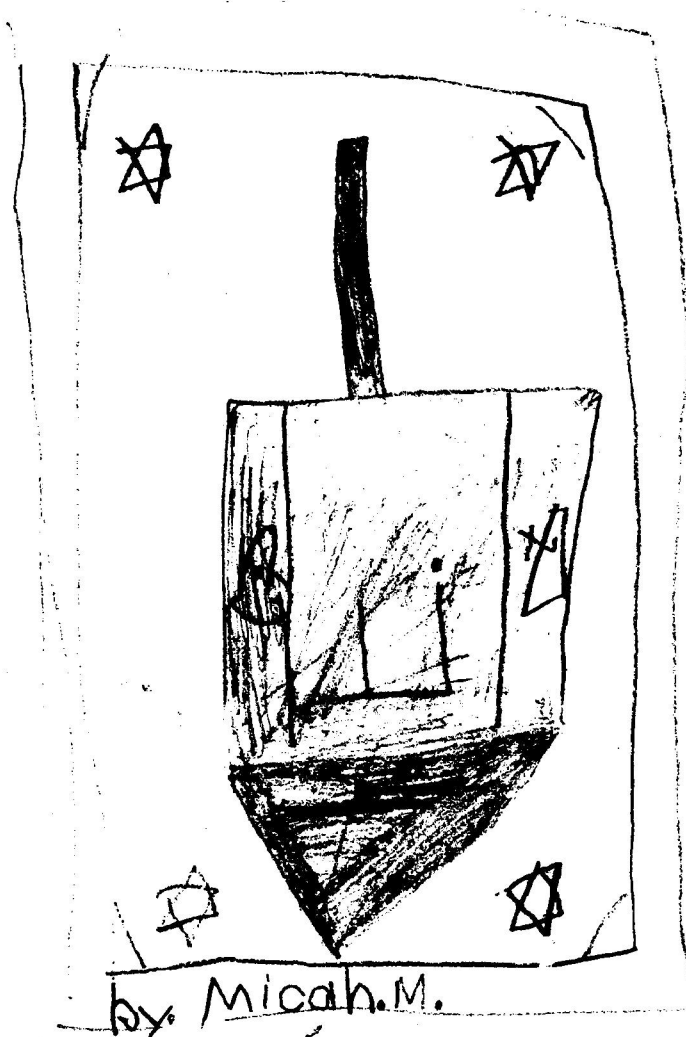
They had to live in the streets. The Nazis hated Jewish boys and girls. They burned down synagogues.

Lots of the scared Jews moved to safe places. One boy named Sam moved to the United States.

He is old now, and helped people in China and other far places. Sam helps people who are in trouble, because people helped him escape to the United States.

WELCOME!

Four new students have joined Sunday School: Gail Laredo, seventh grade; Janice Laredo, third grade; Barbara Greenberg, sixth grade; and David Greenberg, fourth grade.



by Micah Maidenberg, 6