

RELIGION

WOJD Board Meets in Tel Aviv

By T. Alan Hurwitz, President

The Executive Board of the World Organization of the Jewish Deaf met at the Helen Keller Centre for the Deaf in Tel Aviv, Israel, on April 19-24, 1989. Board members in attendance were President T. Alan Hurwitz of the USA, Secretary-General Chaim Apter of Tel Aviv, Treasurer Moshe Gogolarisky of Haifa, First Vice President Sidney Maxwell of England, and Patrick Leven of France, Chairperson of the 1992 WOJD Convention. Dr. Martin Florsheim of the USA, who currently serves as Board and Bureau Secretary, was un-

able to attend. Ruth Aluf-Lewin, 2nd Vice President from Haifa, and Shlomo Waks, bureau member-at-large from Tel Aviv, graciously took minutes of the WOJD board meeting. Hava Savir and Israel Sela of Israel alternated as interpreters from Hebrew to English in sign language and vice versa. They occasionally had to interpret in three different sign languages: English, Hebrew and French. A good number of deaf Israeli leaders and visitors, including Dr. Isidore Spokonjy of West Germany, were in attendance.

The Executive Board reviewed and critiqued Patrick Leven's proposals for the

1992 World Convention in Paris and approved them. The dates are in the middle of July in 1992. Please watch for future announcements about the convention details and make plans to join the gala in Paris.

Another item on the agenda was to de-liberate the WOJD Constitution and by-laws. It was decided that more time is required to study the statute and formulate recommendations to improve it. Thus, Sidney Maxwell, who chairs the WOJD Law Committee, will be prepared to present proposals at the next meeting of the WOJD Bureau in 1990.

The board approved a conceptual proposal submitted by President Hurwitz to initiate a discussion with the NCJD of the USA about the possibility of a long-term joint collaboration between both organizations to address the international needs of Jewish people. It was realized that the strengths of both organizations could be capitalized to serve Jewish deaf people all over the world.

The WOJD Board also agreed to hold the next WOJD Bureau meeting prior to the next NCJD Convention in Secaucus, New Jersey, on August 3-5, 1990. The NCJD convention dates are August 5-12,



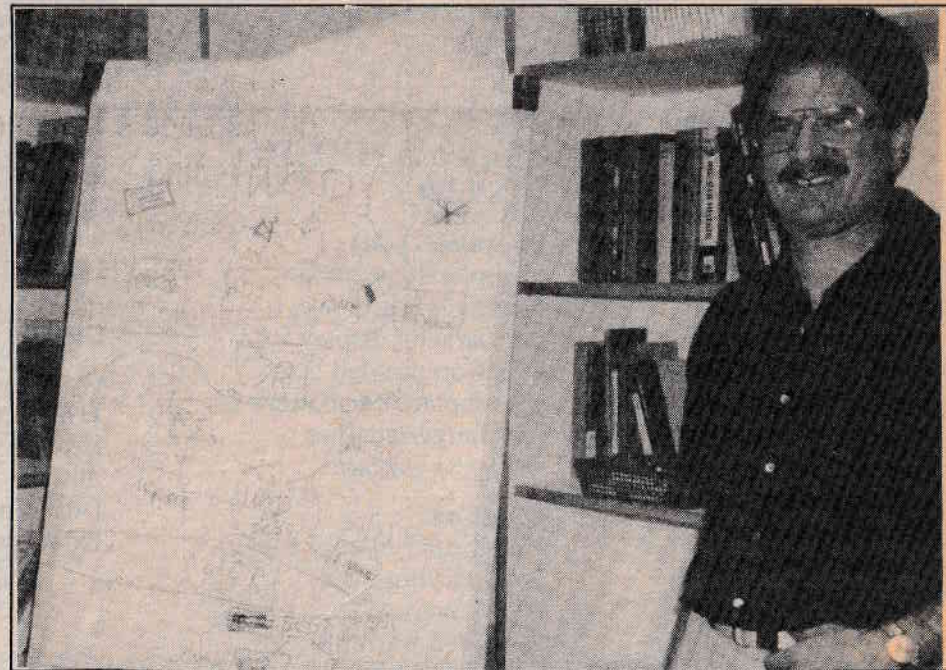
Four deaf women sing the Israeli national anthem, Hatikvah, in sign language.



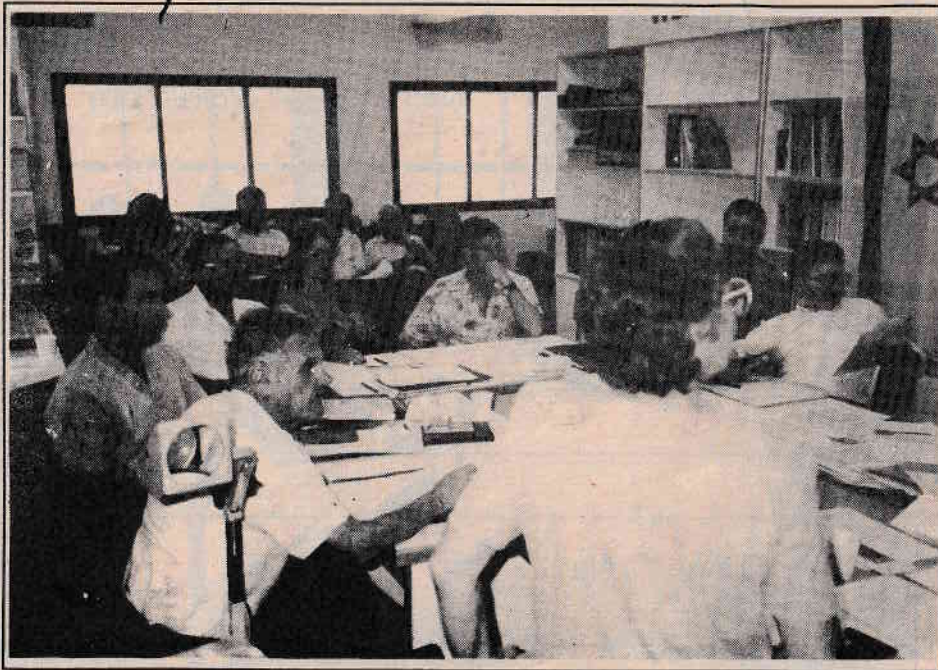
Deaf guests sing Hatikvah at the farewell party, which turned out to be a surprise testimonial dinner in honor of Chaim Apter.



A hearing-impaired dance group from Haifa played at the Helen Keller Centre.



Dr. A. Hurwitz, President of WOJD, at his work at the board meeting.



World Board Meeting and Observers



World Board Meeting in Action



All board and Israeli Bureau members join in testimony of Chaim Apter. From left to right: Shmuel Ben-Apter (Israel), Aharon Eini (Israel), Shlomo Waks (Israel), Dr. A. Hurwitz, President (USA), Ruth Aluf-Lewin, 2nd Vice President (Israel), Masal Apter (Chaim's wife), Sidney Maxwell, 1st Vice President (England), Moshe Gologarski, Treasurer (Israel) and Patrick Leven (France).

1990. This should provide an excellent basis for interaction between members and leaders of the NCJD & the WOJD Bureau.

The board also determined that the WOJD will focus on two major projects in the next few years: the first one and highest priority will be to launch a world-wide data collection and study of deaf survivors of the Holocaust. The intent is ultimately to establish an archive of this research effort, which is being led by Ruth Aluf-Lewin of Israel. Dr. Simon Carmel of the USA and Dr. Isidore Spokonyj of West Germany have been asked to serve on this committee.

and citations, the WOJD Bureau presented him a beautiful wood-grained plaque in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the world affairs of Jewish deaf people.



Festive "This Is Your Life" in honor of Chaim Apter. Left to right: Ruth Aluf-Lewin, 2nd Vice President, Dr. A. Hurwitz, President of WOJD, presenting a plaque to Chaim Apter, Secretary-General and his wife, Masal.

Please remember the following dates and mark them on your calendar:
July 3-5, 1990 WOJD Bureau meeting in Secaucus, NJ

July 5-12, 1990 NCJD Convention at Secaucus, NJ

Mid-July 1992 WOJD Convention in Paris, France

The other major project is to develop programs for Jewish deaf youth. To cite a few examples, these activities could include an exchange program in academics, an experience on Kibbutz, a youth leadership camp, a sports program and some travels in Israel and elsewhere to learn about Jewish heritage and the Diaspora (Jews emigrating to other countries outside Israel due to oppression and wars against the Jewish people). This youth program development is being led by Aharon Eini of Israel. Anne Leven of France, Sharon Dror of the USA and Shlomo Waks of Israel have been asked to serve on this committee.

Naturally, the above-mentioned projects will require money. Moshe Gologarsky, Treasurer of WOJD, shared his ideas and plans for fundraising from corporations and foundations that have demonstrated some interest in financing these specific projects and activities. WOJD is certified as a charitable organization in the state of Israel, so plans are now being formulated to solicit funds from the government and individuals as well. The two committees have been asked to submit their projects to the WOJD Bureau by October 15, 1989, for its review and action.

It may appear that the trip to Israel was all business and work. Not so! The Israelis managed to set up a variety of entertainments, tours and social gatherings around the business meetings. It provided an excellent base for relaxation and fellowship. A full-day tour to Taorimo, where the Sea of Galilee is located, was arranged. We went as far as the occupied territories of Syria and Jordan, where we visited the renowned spa. On another day, the deaf community in Tel Aviv sponsored a day-long picnic where the WOJD board members had the opportunity to interact and socialize with Jewish deaf people and their families. It was unbelievably hot that day, in the high nineties. The deaf community also hosted several entertainments during that week, which included floor shows with dancers and skits.

The trip to Israel concluded with a surprise testimonial dinner in honor of Chaim Apter's 40-plus years of service to the deaf community in Israel. Among many awards