

Kulanu

"all of us"



Helping Lost Jewish Communities

1211 Ballard Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-681-5679 (tel. and fax)

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Kulanu!

By Jack Zeller

We have changed our name from Amishav USA to Kulanu ("all of us"). A name change is not something taken lightly. It reflects who we are and whom we would like to serve and what we want to accomplish. Kulanu will gain support from American Jews of varied backgrounds and practices who are inspired by the challenge that Rabbi Avichail has laid before us: To extend a hand of friendship to those around the globe who are of Jewish origin and to help those who wish to return to Judaism.

Initially we accepted the name of Amishav USA as an outgrowth of the Israeli organization Amishav, but we need a name that reflects our American agenda and diverse membership and our interest in working with varied groups of people — without diluting the intentions or programs of Amishav in Israel. Kulanu will support the agenda of Amishav in Israel as well as the needs of others who are sincere in their quest for information about Judaism.

In any transition there are opportunities for misinterpretation. Permit me to dispel them. There is no breach in our support for Amishav in Israel. For ex-

ample, we feel a responsibility for the Shinlung and want to share the excitement of their journey. We will continue to support Amishav's educational and research agenda and we continue to regard Rabbi Avichail as our founder. But we also believe that some who seek to return to Judaism may not be on the road to a connection to "traditional" Judaism. We think they deserve support as well.

Kulanu has been founded and we have applied for tax-exempt status. All dues and contributions will be tax-deductible. Your current and previous gifts to Amishav USA have all been forwarded to Amishav in Israel and everyone who joined Amishav USA will be given a one-year complimentary membership in Kulanu.

We all believe that this name change reflects an expansion of who we are, our goals, and the challenges before us. Through Kulanu "all of us" will unite to help lost Jews return.

Jewish Descendants of Conquistadores?

By Joe Hantman

Fourteen ninety-two marks the year of expulsion from Spain and the beginning of the Sephardic Diaspora. However, for 100 years before and for many hundreds of years after that date Jews who had been forced into Catholicism continued to live secret Jewish lives. They were the Marranos who were hounded, sought out and frequently put to death by the Inquisition.

Many Marranos fled to Holland, Turkey and other countries where they resumed their identity as Jews. Others, ostensibly as Catholics, joined Spanish explorers and colonizers in various colonies around the world. Some ultimately found refuge in Dutch and British colonies in the Caribbean where they resumed Jewish identity; their synagogues and burial grounds remain today in such places as Barbados, Curacao and the Virgin Islands.

One group accompanied the Spanish Conquistadores who conquered Mexico in 1521. Here the

(cont., p. 8)

WHAT IS KULANU?

Kulanu ("all of us") is an organization of American Jews of varied backgrounds and practices dedicated to finding lost and dispersed remnants of the Jewish people and assisting those who wish to rejoin the Jewish community.

During the course of our history, large segments of the Jewish community were "lost" as a result of war, exile and forced conversions. The greater part of the Jewish people were "lost" in the eighth century B.C.E., when the ten northern Israelite tribes were conquered by Assyria and the captives were forcibly resettled. Today, these Jews can be found in India, Burma, Afghanistan, Pakistan and China.

Another large group of Jews were lost during the period of forced conversions to Christianity in Spain and Portugal in the 15th century. Many of these so-called "Marranos" continued to practice Judaism in secret. Their descendants can be found in Brazil, Mexico, the southwestern United States, and Majorca, as well as Spain

RABBI AVICHAIL REPORTS

News from Amishav Israel

By Eliyahu Avichail

I'd like to tell our Kulanu friends in the United States about Amishav developments in Israel.

1. The Shinlung (tribe of Menashe) from India who arrived in Israel last August will undergo conversion in the near future. I received notification about this directly from the Chief Rabbi and from the Administration of the Courts. In the meantime, we've transferred a select group of seven young people to the Ma'ayan HaTzvi Yeshiva. To support activities in this yeshiva — where there are also additional young men and women from "B'nai Menashe" — we've provided the sum of \$1500 and about 70 copies of *Judaism*, our primer on basic Judaism.

2. In addition to English, Russian, Spanish and French, *Judaism* has now also been translated into Japanese and is about to be published in Japan. It has also been translated into Chinese, but not printed since we have no means of printing it mechanically. We've copied the manuscript for four people from the Kaifeng community who are studying in Ma'ayan HaTzvi and using it as their text. They've progressed fairly nicely in Hebrew and we're helping them as much as possible.

3. Two girls from Menashe are to marry in March. A young woman from Mizoram is engaged to marry a young man whom we converted among the "B'nai Moshe" group in Peru, now in Elon Moreh. And a young woman from Manipur is engaged to marry a young man from Miami. Unfortunately, the two couples have very little means and we are helping them as much as possible, donating about \$300 to each couple. We would be happy to have your assistance.

4. We have two other works in progress. We are in the process of preparing a book in Hebrew on the

descendants of the Marranos. Also, we see great importance in the completion of the translation of my book *Tribes of Israel* into Persian and Pushto so that we will be able to work among the Pathans (in Pakistan and Afghanistan) next year. Funds are needed for the translation.

(Editor's note: Donations to Kulanu may be earmarked for any of these projects. See the membership application on p. 7.)

Booklet Published

The English translation of Rabbi Avichail's booklet on basic Judaism (distributed mainly to the Shinlung in India) has recently been published in a second, expanded edition. Printed in Israel, it is "Dedicated in honour of the friends of Amishav in Washington, DC."

Kissing the Madonna's Foot

Simon & Schuster announces the publication of *The Mezuzah In The Madonna's Foot: Oral Histories Exploring 500 Years in the Paradoxical Relationship of Spain and the Jews*, a book by Trudi Alexy. The title refers to a converso family's practice of kissing the foot of a Madonna at their doorstep, under which a mezuzah was hidden.

Speakers Available

Kulanu's speakers' bureau is now functional! We have a group of people who are knowledgeable about our purpose and activities to speak to public groups. If you are a member of a synagogue, Jewish organization, or non-Jewish organization that might be interested in a speaker, please contact Jack Zeller at 301-681-5679.

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Shinlung immigrants arriving in Israel in August 1993.

A PHILANTHROPIST SPEAKS

Zionism for the 1990s

By Irving Moskowitz

(Editor's note: Dr. Irving Moskowitz has financed the transportation for scores of Shinlung, descendants from the tribe of Menashe, to fly from northeastern India to Israel.)

Yes, I helped the Shinlung. I helped them with my time, my energy, my enthusiasm and my money. People always ask "why?" Of all of the causes in the world, why have I picked this one to become my number one priority?

I believe that the Shinlung are one of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. I believe, in other words, that they are my brothers and sisters. Their faith faltered over the years, but now they want to return to Judaism and to Israel. **How can I not help them?**

The instinct of every Jew should be to help his or her fellow Jews when they are in trouble. Right now I am secure and comfortable in the United States. But who knows what will happen tomorrow? Who can say for sure that my grandchildren will not one day be isolated and persecuted, with only their fellow Jews willing to go to great lengths to help them? History has shown that we frequently are isolated and weak. If we will not help each other when

times are good, who will do so when times are bad? Jews who have everything of a material nature that they could ever want often get complacent. They forget that we as a people have to be strong.

I am also struck by the beauty — dare I say miracle? — of a people who have been separated from mainstream Jewry for 2000 years who have clung to a remnant of their faith, and now want to return to the Jewish people. I feel that long lost brothers and sisters want to return home, but that they cannot do it by themselves. How can I not help them? **How can I not embrace them?**

If an Israeli pilot were captured by enemies we would spare no expense, do everything possible, to rescue him. All we have to do for the Shinlung is to give them airplane tickets to Israel and some money to get them started in a new life. It is so simple. **How can we not do it?**

Yes, the idea of bringing

dozens — and one day thousands — of Shinlung back to Judaism and to Israel is crazy. About as crazy as the dream of founding a Jewish state after 2000 years.

I firmly believe that helping the Shinlung is the essence of Zionism. It is Zionism for the 1990s. When the history of this era is written I don't want anyone to say that I didn't do enough to help my brothers and sisters and, through helping them, help the Jewish state and the Jewish people.

This also is a way to renew the Jewish people and the spirit of Zionism. Think what a message this sends to Jews all over the world! We must have something really special for this to occur. Perhaps Jews will be less likely to abandon their Judaism when they find out about these remote people who wish to rejoin us.

Why do I help the Shinlung? The truth is that they are the ones who are helping me. They are allowing me to perform a great mitzvah. For doing something that to me is only instinctive, I feel very good. **It is I who must say "thank you" to the Shinlung.**

We Marranos of Brazil

By Julio D'Gabriel

(Editor's note: The author is president of the Ass. Religiosa Israelita Marrana. In our next issue we will feature testimony of descendants of Brazilian Marranos describing their family customs.)

The northeast of Brazil was initially populated by "misfits" or "undesirables" (individuals forced into exile by their government), most of whom came from Portugal, while the remainder came from other parts of Europe. There is no doubt that many "Marranos" and "Novos Cristaos" came to Brazil with the explorer Cabral. Many of these arrivals are documented and there is also written evidence of a further influx by the Dutch, French and Spanish.

So what happened to the Marranos in particular? They strove to maintain contact with each other. There is a great deal of evidence that many Marranos sought refuge in the "Sertao" (the interior, rural area) with the advent of the Inquisition in Brazil after the Portuguese took back the cities of Recife, Joao Pessoa, Natal and Fortaleza from the Dutch.

Even today, it is very common to see children and adults with pronounced Dutch ethnic roots (tall, blond, light colored eyes), and the remnants of customs related to the old Jewish traditions of eating fish on the Sabbath (since there was no guarantee meat would be kosher, many Marranos ate fish on Shabbat to ensure a kosher meal), a tendency towards the Protestant faith (considered preferable to the panoply and "quasi-idolatry" of the Catholic Church), and the use of a Mogen David as a good luck token. **Though none of these is convincing evidence when taken alone, when combined and added to the practice of killing chickens by cutting their throats and the preservation of the family Old Testament Bible inscribed in Hebrew with the names of ancestors, as well as the many instances of transmission by word of mouth from mother to daughter that they carried the seed of Israel, leads me to the inescapable belief that these people from the Sertao are descendants of Moses.**

We have formed the Ass. Religiosa Israelita Marrana (ARIM) here in Brazil with the aim of building a Jewish center to which all Jews can belong. However, due to a severe lack of funds, we are still only a community on paper and in spirit, and without outside help we shall be condemned to remain so. Currently we have seven families involved. G-d only knows how many Marrano households there are in our region, but we estimate thousands of descendants of Marranos who, because of a lack of a center to which to address themselves, have not appeared as yet.

We plan to use my services to initiate our work and studies and to request the availability of a more formal educator from the communities in Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo or elsewhere in Brazil.

This community is privileged to have been favored with acceptance of three of our children on Aliyah to Israel. We hope to expand these in cooperation with Amishav Israel to have at least two of our children training in preparation to devote their time to instructing other young people in the Hebrew language and other subjects. Whenever we need bar mitzvahs, marriages and births performed we have been promised help from the CONIB in Sao Paulo.

The fact of a center becoming a reality will help our efforts to contact various groups and individuals throughout the northeast of Brazil who, up to now, have not had a clear-cut avenue. We will advertise the forming of our organization, retaining throughout the dictates and dignity of abstaining from proselytizing as well as maintaining our good relations with the gentile community.

On the occasion of the signing of the peace agreement between the PLO and Israel, Eder Barosh, president of the Ben Abraham Foundation, and I were invited by Prof. Hana Safieh, director of the PLO in Latin America, to participate in the television viewing and following celebrations. We have, at various times, had observances in remembrance of the World War II Holocaust in which the Catholic and Protestant clergy as well as local and state politicians participated. We have had moral support and good relations in helping to fight the embryonic manifestation of neo-nazism in Natal. Thanks to the efforts of Eder Barosh and others, Ben Abraham of Sao Paulo, a Holocaust survivor, was awarded the title of Honorary Citizen of Natal by the legislative assembly.

Our need is total and complete. We estimate that purchasing land, constructing a building, and buying equipment and furnishings will cost \$175,000; operating expenses are also needed. In the past, when the Centro Israelita was formed and maintained, including the World War II years, the Ashkenazi community was accepted by other Jewish organizations in Brazil and received complete cooperation. In all that time no effort was made to accept or recognize the needs of the Marranos, and this continues to be the case.

The numbers of descendants of Marranos in the northeast is calculated to be about five million. If one percent of these people approach us, we are speaking of 50,000, and if only one percent of these 50,000 become members of our center, we have a minimum of 500 members. Those who aspire to return to the religion of their forefathers should not be denied. G-d must surely rejoice in the "return" to His fold of these "lost sheep." To deny them this right would be nothing less than sacrilege!

(Editor's note: Donations to Kulanu may be earmarked for the ARIM. See the membership application on p. 7.)

We Mizo Jews Need Your Help!

By Allenby Sela

(Editor's note: Allenby Sela is a yeshiva student of Mizoram origin now studying in Bombay. His article has been edited.)

As the people of the world know, one of the lost tribes of Israel, the Shinlung of Menashe tribe, are found in northeastern India, and some of them are being brought back to Israel by Director of Amishav Rav. E. Avichail and his friends. With the help of Hashem, we Shinlung are very interested in Judaism and want to get our own original tradition back, and practice the Jewish life, to live as real, pure Jews — even though we are in the Mizoram Diaspora.

Even though we were influenced and converted by Christian missionaries 100 years ago, we really never forgot our own identity within our deepest hearts.

After living as Christians for 50 years, some of our elders abandoned the Christian community and started living as Jews, even not knowing anything about Judaism. Years later, we Mizos people realized that we are descendants of Menashe, but there was no way to go back to Israel or follow the Halacha because of poor knowledge.

When we were discovered 15 years ago by Rav. E. Avichail, we Mizos people were so excited about getting our original tradition back, we were unable to apply ourselves to anything else. After he (Rav. E. Avichail) brought some of our young members to Israel, almost all the Shinlung wavered from faith in Christianity. People were more and more unsatisfied in Christianity and abandoned Christian doctrines. More people wanted to follow Judaism but no Jews influenced us except Rav E. Avichail.

News about the group of 39 who arrived in Israel on August 2 reverberated all over the world. The Mizo Christians are very interested and watch us (Mizo Jews). We Judaism followers are becoming greater in number. Even the great leaders of Mizo Christians are also interested in Judaism, but Christian missionaries from foreign places encourage them not to follow Judaism, and they sent a big fund for their community, as they always did before. Nevertheless, we Mizo Jews are increasing even

help from our Jewish brothers around the world with higher living standards. We live in the lowest class, but we don't hesitate to express our feeling, our belief and faith in Hashem. We don't have any problem to practice Judaism and follow the Halacha in Mizoram (our place) except lack of knowledge and poverty.

We know that the Jews help their Jewish brothers who live in simple conditions. We Mizo Jews are awaiting your help so we can live in a better condition and be better Jews.

We Mizo Jews beg to you to help us, to assist us so we can resume our lost faith in Judaism, so we can get rid of our inferiority complex and live as real Jews, so we can observe the mitzvot according to Halacha, so we can expand our knowledge and spread out our belief and faith to our neighbours. We Mizo Jews are anxiously waiting for your help.



Finding Cuba's Jews

We thought the Jews of Cuba might qualify as a "lost" community, but, according to an article in the February 17 issue of the *Washington Jewish Week*, they are being "found". The group, which today numbers 1000-1300, once had a population of over 15,000. Having existed in isolation for decades, the community has experienced high rates of inter-marriage and assimilation. But a previous government ban on religion has been lifted, and a rabbi from Mexico comes every few months. A Hadassah chapter has also been organized, and a Jewish solidarity group in Miami provides assistance, including Chanukah gifts for children.

The community witnessed its first bar mitzvah in 35 years last December, and conversions, circumcisions and weddings have been performed. Best of all, Shabbat services are now being held at the Patronato synagogue's large synagogue rather than its small sanctuary.

The article's writer, Dr. Peter Dunner, first "found" the community last year on a public health study group tour. He later followed up by organizing a Jewish-interest group tour of 23 last January and encourages future contacts. The Jews of Cuba "are eager to soak up Jewish knowledge and fervor," he says.

Kerala Jews May Leave India

According to a recent item in the *India Times* (NY), the remaining 100 Jews in the southwest India state of Kerala may soon be leaving for Israel. The community is finding it difficult to find suitable brides and grooms. These Mala Jews, most of whom moved en masse to Israel shortly after statehood, are from the Cochin region.

The small group remaining recently formed the Kerala Association for Jews to protect its cemetery (which may be designated for a playground by local authorities) and the Mala synagogue (which may be adopted for political use).

The Kerala Jews are reportedly known for the beauty of their synagogues, only one of which (the Kochi synagogue) is in use today. Two synagogues in Ernakulam district have been closed and are being used by their Jewish owners for businesses. The octagonal synagogue in Ernakulam housed the only gold torah case in the world. The torah case has been moved to a synagogue in Israel, near Kochi Jewish settlers.

Hantman, Karny Give Courses

Israeli journalist Yoav Karny, who in 1992 "discovered" the Yelenofka Jews in the mountains of Armenia, will give a four-session course on the community at the JCC of Greater Washington. The course begins Wednesday, May 4 at 8 p.m. Call 301-881-0100 for information. The group, originally Russian Orthodox peasants who converted to Judaism, hid in Yelenofka many generations ago. Karny's course will also cover other Jewish communities in the Caucasus, some of which have been in this region for 2000 years.

Joe Hantman, Kulanu's distinguished archivist, will deliver a lecture on "Lost Tribes of Israel: No Longer So Lost" at the Bethesda Jewish Congregation's Shabbat service on May 14. Call 301-469-8636 for details.

Hantman is currently winding up two multi-week courses on "lost" Jewish communities, one at the JCC of Greater Washington, the other at Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County. The courses covered Jews of China and Ethiopia, the Samaritans, descendants of Portuguese Marranos, descendants of conquistadores in the southwest US, the Domneh descendants of Shabbetai Zevi (false messiah) now living in Turkey, and the Mashadi (secret Jews of Persia who were forced to convert to Islam and have returned to Judaism in the various parts of the world where they live today). Also included were Jewish communities of India and the Karite Jews of the Crimea. We'll keep you posted on Hantman's future courses.

Elder Hostel Program

Elder Hostel is sponsoring a spring program at Santa Fe College, New Mexico. During the week of May 22-28, participants will reside in college dorms and take courses in science fiction and New Mexico history, and — of interest to Kulanu supporters — a class entitled "Conversos: The Hidden Jews of New Mexico." Call 617-

Lost Tribes Class Attracts 750 Students

(Editor's note: The following is excerpted from a letter received by Barbara Shair, Kulanu's vice president for outreach)

Thank you so much for sending me the material from Amishav USA. This material is very useful in the class that I am teaching on the Lost Tribes of Israel. This course, which will be repeated again in the Fall or Spring 1994 or 1995, has drawn over 750 enrollees this term. I have had to split it into two sections, each of which meets for two hours once a week.

The audience is composed of senior citizens for the most part, most of whom are Jewish or who have an interest in the Lost Tribes of Israel. The course is offered under the Lifelong Learning Society Program of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Cordially,
Stanford M. Lyman, Ph.D.
Robert J. Morrow Eminent
Scholar and Professor of
Social Science

Southwest Jewish Archives

When the Inquisitors came from Spain and Portugal to the New World, the Marranos began to move northward, into areas we now know as the southern and southwestern United States. The Bloom Southwest Jewish Archives at the University of Arizona is a national research center working in two areas: The history of pioneer Jews of Arizona, New Mexico and West Texas and the emerging story of Hispanics who are seeking their Jewish roots from the Iberian Peninsula.

The Archives has developed a research section for interviews conducted with Hispanics who may be descendants of converso families from Spain or Portugal. In addition, the Archives is developing a bilingual library on the Inquisition and publishes a newsletter.

Open to faculty, students, the media and the general public, the Archives can be contacted at (602) 621-5774 or by writing: Bloom Southwest Jewish Archives, Univ. of Arizona, 1052 N. Highland Ave., Tucson, AZ 85721.

Jews in Manipur Request Books

A developing Jewish community in Manipur, India, a location of the Shinlung people of the tribe of Menashe, has contacted Kulanu's vice president for outreach, Barbara Shair. The group's secretary, T. Hangshing, writes as follows:

Our community could use the following items:

1. Jewish prayer books in Hebrew and English.
 2. Books to learn Hebrew (beginner level).
 3. Books in English that explain the Jewish religion, Jewish holidays, Jewish practice of marriage, death, etc.
 4. Jewish books for children.
 5. Skull caps, prayer shawls, and mezuzahs, etc.
- If you could kindly send these items, we will appreciate it very much....*

Readers who have books and other items to donate to the Jewish community in Manipur should call 301-681-5679. Since Kulanu's resources are scarce, donors are encouraged to also contribute the shipping costs (for example, a 20-pound box surface-shipped to India by U.S. Mail costs \$44.35).

Publicity Needed

Many people who hear of us are interested in our work. But no one can join us if they haven't heard of us.

Recently the *Jerusalem Report* ran a small news item about our formation. Perhaps other publications will do the same. Does your synagogue or Jewish organization ever run short items titled something like "New Group Forming" or "Group Formed To Search For Lost Jews"? If they might run such an item, could you please take the box on the front page of this newsletter titled "What Is Kulanu?" and send it to them, along with the address on the masthead on the front page?

If you do this, interested people will be able to contact us. Thank you very much — we really need your help.

Our Cousins' Cultural Riches

Have you been wondering what happens when isolated, "primitive" Jewish tribes rejoin their brothers and sisters in Israel? What do they bring with them? Well, the Ethiopian Jews brought with them various craft forms and unknown holidays such as Segd, a festival in which the entire fasting congregation carries a Torah up a mountain, reads traditional passages, and returns to joyously break the fast.

The cover article in the January 27 issue of *The Jerusalem Report* examines another cultural contribution of Ethiopian Jews in Israel: Dabtaras. These folk healers prepare herbal brews and appease spirits known as zar, which are believed to cause some illnesses and behavioral problems. Dabtaras are now also being sought out by non-Ethiopians.

Waves of Moroccan and Yemenite immigrants in the past also brought traditional mystical healers with them, and they are still used widely in these communities in Israel.

It will be fascinating to see what cultural contributions the Shinlung immigrants make in Israeli society!

China's Jewish Past

An article by Gabriel Levenson in the April 7 *Washington Jewish Week* reviews the role of Radanites, Jewish merchants who traveled the Silk Road between Europe and the Orient a thousand years ago. The ancient Chinese city of Xian, the final stop on the Radanites' trek, is featured on two Jewish-interest tours of China this summer and fall.

The 12th annual "Pepper, Silk and Ivory" tour will be led by Rabbi Marvin Tokayer, formerly of Tokyo, June 27-July 14. For information contact Lotus Tours, 212-267-5414; fax 212-608-6007.

The American Jewish Congress will sponsor tours of China on July 4-19 and October 10-25. Call 212-221-4694 or fax 212-249-3672.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ I/We would like to become a Member of Kulanu, 1211 Ballard St., Silver Spring, MD 20910

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Jewish Decendants of Conquistadores?

(cont. from p. 1)

desire by the Spanish conquerors for riches, gold, land and expansion was so great that the leaders had little zeal for or interest in hunting down or exposing those among them who in secret practiced some Jewish rituals and observances. **Thus, the secret Jews flourished and rose to positions of relative power in the administration and economy of New Spain. They lived as Catholics in public but as Jews in private and maintained a network of other secret Jews. Their secret was passed from parents to children and the double life became their way.**

Unfortunately, the dreaded Inquisition soon came to Mexico, with the predictable horrendous consequence. Judaizers were tracked down, arrested and tried, and many were put to death by burning at the stake in central Mexico City. Hernando Alonso, one of the soldiers who arrived with Cortez, had the distinction of being the first Jew burned at the stake on the North American continent. This tragic repetition of Spanish history is well documented in the records of the Inquisition. Names, dates and places are published and are available for study.

As a result of frightening pressure from the Inquisition, many Marranos gave up their secret Judaism, but others moved north to the frontiers of Spanish colonial life, areas which are now California, New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. Here much of the secret Jewish life continued through the 18th and 19th centuries, apparently with diminishing strength, until it was thought to have disappeared in the 20th century.

Now, however, thanks to the work of such historical researchers as Dr. Stanley Hordes at the University of New Mexico, a new and fascinating picture has emerged of descendants of those secret Jews living today as Catholics or Protestants but keeping alive family traditions which are unmistakably clear indications of Jewish origins.

Some families to this day light candles on Friday night, circumcise newborn sons, eat thin flat bread at Pesach, use biblical names, and have family traditions of not eating pork. For the most part they considered such activities family traditions and did not necessarily ascribe them to Jewish identity until, in recent years, such facts have been made clear to them. Some have expressed interest in learning more about modern Judaism with a view toward re-entering the Jewish mainstream. Others are comfortable in their present religious affiliation but are intrigued by their history.

Deadline for next newsletter: June 1, 1994

Karen Primack, Editor

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