



Cleveland Cavalcade

By Violet Spevack

Home at Last...

A coterie of Ratner relatives and friends convened in New York last week to attend the opening of the outstanding Max and Betty Ratner collection of biblical antiquities at The Jewish Museum. The Ratner collection originally made its debut in Cleveland in an exhibition at Park Synagogue in 1978 and subsequently toured the country. The travels of the "wandering Jewish collection" now come to an end as it makes its permanent home at The Jewish Museum.

The opening of "Israel in Antiquity" on June 15 was unusually exciting to all who attended, including Max and Betty's four sons and daughters-in-law. Also on hand were the Albert Ratners, Milton Wolfs, Fannie Shafra, Isabel Brien, plus friends, "Jewish Scene's" Renee Katz and Ariel Kozloff of the Cleveland Museum of Art, who was curator of the original collection. It was a memorable evening, from the cocktail hour and dinner hosted by the museum... to the thrill felt by Max and Betty as they viewed the exhibition along with 150 museum board members and prominent personalities of New York's art scene, who welcomed the exhibition with enthusiasm.

An Unusual Volunteer...

Former Clevelander, Aviva Orlan, who has made her home in Israel for the past nine years with her husband, Haiyim, a well-known Hebrew scholar, was honored a few weeks ago at the home of Israel's president, Yitzhak Navon, as one of eight outstanding volunteers throughout the State of Israel. Aviva was presented with a framed certificate by President Navon and cited for her dedication as a nursery school teacher to children of underprivileged families as well as for her skill in teaching conversational Hebrew to elderly olim. Aviva is remembered fondly in Cleveland as the founding director of Gannon Gil Nursery School and an exceptional, award-winning teacher of the Cleveland Hebrew Schools.

Adding to the joy of the occasion, as Aviva was seated with the other honorees, she was surprised to be presented with a beautiful bouquet of red roses by seven-year-old Amira Lauer. The flowers were sent by Aviva's good friends, Rikie and Al Tavens of Moreland Hills. Amira is the daughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Larry Lauer of Jerusalem and the granddaughter of the Charles Eulers of Lyndhurst.

Only in Israel...

A meaningful bar mitzva that teemed with warmth and family togetherness took place atop Mount Masada some weeks ago when Robby Epstein, son of former Clevelanders, Dr. Bruce and Amy Epstein of Seminole, Fla., read his portion from the Torah. Robby was surrounded by many members of his family. Another highlight of the trip was when Robby planted the first tree in the Epstein-Barnett Grove.

Max and Rozelle Atkins are looking

forward to a thrilling family adventure as they leave this week for their first trip to Israel along with their 15-year-old twins, Sharon and Gwen, and son Sanford. First exciting experience will take place at the Western Wall on July 5, where Sanford will be bar mitzva, chanting the Torah portion that was taught to him by Rev. Eli Levy of Park Synagogue. Adding to the family spirit will be the presence of Estreicher cousins who have made aliyah to Israel and Sanford's grandmother, Mollie Estreicher of Florida. After the bar mitzva, the Atkins family will spend four weeks at Kibbutz Ginossar, where they will live and work as kibbutzniks.

Bert and Saul Gobstein's clever poetic invitation to the August wedding in Israel of their daughter Amy to sabra Gaby Alkhal is very appealing. Friends are hopping on the wedding bandwagon and as Bert and Saul say in the invitation, "You can come to a wedding, with food, dancing and all... You can also sightsee Israel and have a ball." Mazel Tov!

Short Padful...

Bonnie J. Berger, daughter of Bertine Berger and granddaughter of Belle J. Benjamin, was honored recently by the Kent State University Hillel for her service to that organization. Bonnie is the assistant director of Women Shelter, Inc. of Portage County.

Former Clevelander, Raye (Rosenthal) Lenett of San Diego was recently honored as mother of the year of her chapter of the City of Hope.

Eight members of the Heights High School class of January 1963 recently held a reunion in Washington, D.C. ... sort of a pre-reunion for the 20th reunion of the class which will take place on Thanksgiving weekend in Cleveland. Meeting in Washington and reminiscing about those great old school days at Heights were John Freidl, Herbert Gindy, Ronald Hurwitz, who now lives in Toronto, Steve Asher, Susan Irwin, Gary Arlen, Larry Leiken and Howard Landau, who moved back to Cleveland last month.

Small World Department...

While reading a recent issue of the Pioneer Women magazine, Florence Traubenberg noticed the name of Gisela Gutter of Florida in the long list of Pioneer Chai donors from all over the country. With Florence's maiden name being Gutter, she wrote to the woman in Florida, hoping to discover a relationship. Florence was thrilled to learn that indeed there was a family connection and that she had found a long-lost cousin. Siegfried Gutter, husband of Gisela, came from Austria-Hungary, as did her parents and was a first cousin to her late paternal grandfather. Siegfried last saw the grandfather when Siegfried visited New York in 1915. After that visit, he returned to Europe. An Auschwitz survivor, he related that he lost all of the members of his family in the Holocaust. He was overjoyed to find that he was not alone and had a cousin in Cleveland.

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