

# NEW JEWISH AGENDA

## SOME EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK...

### THE MIDDLE EAST

- \* From the point of view of our commitment to Israel and deep concern for its survival and well-being, New Jewish Agenda joins with hundreds of thousands of Israelis in opposing the policies of the Begin government in Lebanon and in the West Bank and Gaza -- and in calling for negotiation and compromise with the Palestinian people.
- \* Agenda chapters across the country have promoted our views on the Middle East crisis with a wide range of activities: in educational forums, vigils and rallies; in letters and articles in the press; in appearances on radio and television; and by sponsoring talks by representatives of the Israeli peace movement before American Jewish audiences.
- \* Agenda's Middle East Program includes a Speakers Bureau, the Shalom Network Newsletter, Educational Resources, the Jewish Committee for Relief in Lebanon, and a national Petition for Israeli-Palestinian Co-Existence.

### DISARMAMENT

- \* As one of the sponsors of the disarmament rally of June 12, 1982, in New York City, Agenda brought several hundred members to march under our banner at that historic event. On the evening before the rally, Agenda sponsored a "Peace Sabbath" celebration with the Jewish Peace Fellowship and the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue.
- \* In Spring 1982, Agenda chapters organized Rainbow Sign commemorations in synagogues -- linking the Biblical story of The Flood to the present day danger of nuclear disaster.
- \* Northampton Agenda (Khevre) made presentations of the disarmament issue at synagogues in Northampton and Springfield, and before the Springfield Jewish Community Relations Council -- and subsequently these organizations endorsed the nuclear freeze campaign.
- \* New Jewish Agenda is a member of the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy.

### REAGANOMICS

- \* In March 1982, Agenda organized a press conference at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City. Twenty Christian and Jewish clergy, including Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Rev. Robert Polk, Rev. Ben Chavis, and Sister Mary Hegarty, gathered to denounce the choice of Ronald Reagan to receive an award, from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, for "courageous leadership in governmental, civic and humanitarian affairs."
- At this event, Rabbi Arnold J. Wolf returned an award he had been given by the NCCJ in 1962 for his activities in the civil rights movement. All participants spoke out against the Reagan Administration's cuts in social programs and increases in military spending.

### WOMEN'S ISSUES

- \* Boston Agenda sponsored a day-long Jewish Women's Conference. A video-tape of the event has been produced for use in educational outreach.
- \* Philadelphia Agenda joined in a rally in July, 1982, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, at the site of an anti-abortion convention.
- \* Los Angeles Agenda greeted Jerry Falwell with a picket line when he was arrived to speak before a Jewish organization in L.A.
- \* New Jewish Agenda is a member of the Reproductive Rights National Network.

### HUMAN RIGHTS

- \* Agenda chapters have adopted political prisoners in Argentina and worked for their release in an effort to combat anti-Semitism and rights' violations in that country.
- \* At the Soviet Mission to the U.N., Agenda joined other organizations protesting repression of Soviet citizens working to build an independent movement for nuclear disarmament.

### ANTI-SEMITISM

- \* Chapters in Ann Arbor, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C. participate in anti-racist and anti-Klan coalitions.
- \* Northampton Agenda (Khevre) conducts workshops on anti-Semitism for left and progressive organizations.
- \* Seattle Agenda (Kadima) produced "They Fought Back", a dramatic enactment of stories about Jewish resistance during World War II.

## JEWISH CULTURE

- \* Agenda held the conference, Toward a Progressive Jewish World View, at Fellowship Farm, in Pottstown, PA, in June 1982. Agenda members, writers, rabbis, and academics, religious and secular, gathered to explore the meanings of Jewish identity today.
- \* Agenda chapters celebrate Jewish culture in activities such as: a Shabat retreat in Minneapolis, a coffeehouse for musicians and poets in Washington D.C., a Seder in Boston, and an art exhibit in San Francisco.
- \* San Francisco Agenda sponsored, with an Argentine group, a Purim party to benefit support work for Argentine political prisoners. The Megillah was read in Hebrew, English, and Spanish.