

E OF 23% NOTED REFORM JUDAISM

ear Increase Is Linked to Courts to Reach Spouses of Interfaith Marriages

By JOSEPH BERGER
Reform Jewish movement has entered a period of sharp growth in the last 10 years, partly because it has actively sought the participation of interfaith couples, its leader reported today.

Alexander M. Schindler, head of the American Hebrew Congregation, the central body of Reform Jews, said in Los Angeles that the number of Reform synagogues rose in 1982 to 791, from 659, while membership in that period rose 23 percent, to 1.1 million.

By 3,000 delegates are gathering at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles for the union's biennial assembly, which formally opens today.

Figures are a clear indication of the Reform movement, whose membership after World War II rose to level off in the 1960's and has benefited from decisions made in 1978 and 1983 about interfaith marriages and their children.

Reform decisions are still drawing criticism from the Orthodox and Conservative branches of Judaism, and are more rigorous in their observance of religious law and tradition.

Spouses Urged to Join
The Reform movement, as part of its outreach program, began an active effort to seek out interfaith couples and encourage the non-Jewish partners to join Reform synagogues and Judaism. The hope was that the spouses would ultimately convert to Judaism, an aim that runs counter to the traditional Jewish practice of not seeking converts.

The movement decided to accept the children of Jewish fathers as children of Jewish mothers. In 1983, Reform Jews, who previously only

E.P.A. Recommends Raising Fluoride Limits

By PHILIP SHABECOFF
Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 — The Environmental Protection Agency today proposed a new standard that would double the maximum permissible level of fluoride in the nation's drinking water supplies.

The new maximum, four milligrams to a liter of water, is well above levels that can cause dental fluorosis, which results in discoloration, mottling and pitting of teeth according to the environmental agency. The agency said, however, that a report issued by the Surgeon General of the United States in 1982 held that fluorosis was not an adverse health effect.

Fluoride is often added to drinking water supplies as a means of combating tooth decay. About half of all water systems in the country are fluoridized. Fluoride also occurs naturally in some water supplies. Under the old maximum levels, a number of communities, including many in South Carolina, were forced to spend considerable amounts of money to reduce fluoride levels. South Carolina has sued the environmental agency to change the standard.

Environmentalists protested the proposed new levels, saying they could cause serious health problems. Jacqueline M. Warren, senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense

Council, an environmental group, called the proposal "outrageous." She said that the environmental agency has evidence that the higher levels of fluoride has caused skeletal fluorosis, a condition that makes bones hard and brittle.

Her organization intends to sue to block the new standard she said.

Scientists Dispute Decision
Robert Carton, a scientist with the environmental agency's health and environmental office, said that the professional staff of the agency had recommended keeping a lower maximum level for fluoride and that the decision by the agency raises "terrific questions about the quality of the support science that went into the decision."

He also said that many psychologists have said that the disfiguring of teeth by fluoride constitutes a potential health problem.

Mr. Carton was recently elected president of the National Federation of Federal Employees local representing professional employees at the agency. He said he was sending a letter protesting the decision on the ground that it raised concerns about the professional reputation of scientists in the agency.

A spokesman for the agency, Michael Reilly, said that there were only two cases known in the United States where consumption of water that containing fluoride at four milligrams per

liter had caused fluorosis. He said he did not know that the decision had reversed a recommendation of the professional staff.

"But it is a very controversial issue," he said.

The environmental agency has set hearings on the proposed new rule for Dec. 15 and will accept comments on the proposal until the end of the year.

Agency Suggests Best Levels

The agency statement today said that at levels of one to two milligrams to a liter fluoride did protect teeth. In addition to proposing the new maximum level, the agency also proposed a "secondary maximum contaminant level" of two milligrams to a liter, which it said "is intended to provide guidance to states and communities for limiting the occurrence of dental fluorosis while still permitting optimal fluoride levels for the reduction of cavities."

The agency said that the secondary standard was not "federally enforceable."

The agency also stated that at four milligrams to a liter and above, fluoride "can cause changes in bone density which cause no detectable health effects." It added, "At 10 milligrams per liter, long-term exposures can cause skeletal disorders similar to arthritis."

"How's he supposed to treat these head people?" asked Louis Lagomas, who works at the Oppenheimer butcher shop on 68th Street and visits five blocks uptown with his friend John Ortiz, the owner of the New York Meat Market. "If he says, 'Oh, excuse me, they'll spit in his eye, hit him in the head with a bottle. As far as I'm concerned these bums, these vagrants, have lost their rights.'"

"I never saw him push anybody, even people who deserved to be pushed," Mr. Ortiz said. "He'd just go, 'O.K., let's break it up. He's a little skinny guy but when they saw him they'd take off.'"

There are merchants in the area not

An Officer Accused of Brutality Wins Support

vent their frustrations."

"It's very ironic that I'm in this situation having taught these dynamics," Officer Flowers said. "I was always emphatic about de-emphasizing force, telling my students that we were out here to enforce the law and not to punish anybody. If an officer exceeds the bounds of authority, he should be questioned about it. Recourse is not a privilege, it's a right. But, let's not be nit-picking and generating things that don't exist."

In interviews with about a dozen residents and merchants in the vicinity, none reported ever having seen Officer Flowers manhandle a person. While these interviews were in progress, details of the charges

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be viewed by other officers as a punishment for vigorous law enforcement, and they wonder if Inspector Biehler is jealous of Officer Flowers's popularity.

The precinct's commander denies both suggestions. The reassignment, he said, was primarily a result of matters relating to the brutality charges "that I am not at liberty to discuss" and also a result of changing patrol needs in the Upper West Side precinct.

"This was not a cavalier decision," Inspector Biehler said. "I didn't just snatch a cop off Broadway to aggravate these merchants. There are two sides to this story."

Gordon King, Inventor Of Symbols on Checks

Gordon van Beuren King, an engineer and inventor, died Oct. 29 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles after a long illness. He was 74 years old and lived in Beverly Hills.

In the 1950's, Mr. King developed a system of magnetic symbols on checks that could be recognized by the human eye and by a mechanical scanner of his design. By permitting automatic check processing, the system was a key contribution to modern banking. Mr. King licensed his patents to Sperry-Rand, now the Sperry Corporation.

Born in Convent Station, N.J., he was a 1933 graduate of the Columbia University School of Engineering. His father, Willard Vinton King, was founder and president of the Columbia Trust Company, now Irving Trust of New York. His mother, Mary Sprinker van Beuren, founder of the Campfire Girls of New Jersey, came from a family that owned the last working farm in Manhattan.

Mr. King is survived by his wife, Helen Ann; a daughter, Polly King Dodge of Manhattan and Colorado Springs; a son, Anthony, of Manhattan; a brother, Willard van Beuren King of St. Louis, and two grandchildren.

JOSEPH C. GIACALONE

Joseph C. Giacalone, former economic development director for Suffolk County, died of a stroke Monday at his home in Head of the Harbor, L.I. He was 58 years old.

Mr. Giacalone, a real-estate developer, was the county's top economic development official for five years until he resigned in June. Born in Detroit, he was raised in Malverne, L.I.

From 1953 to 1968, he was president of Airport Industries Inc. and was influential in industrial development around Long Island-MacArthur Air-Charleston Associates, a development company in Ronkonkoma, L.I.

He is survived by his mother, Grace, of Huntington, L.I.; two daughters, Christina, of Hampton Bays, L.I., and Diana, of Southampton, L.I.; three sons, Michael and James, of L.I., and three sisters, Josephine, of L.I., and three others.