

To Our Readers:

The departure of Charlotte Friedland as editor is a watershed event for *Jewish Action*. Charlotte not only edited the magazine for nine years, she gave it vision and purpose that brought it to new heights of acclaim, both for its content and for its appearance. With determination and with grace, she set superior journalistic standards and a level of discussion that appealed to readers across the board. We thank her and will miss her.

We are cheered, however, by the impending arrival of our new editor, Nechama Preis Carmel, who will join us in time for the next issue. Nechama is a writer and editor of consummate skill, whose broad vistas of knowledge and experience will open up exciting new directions for the magazine and for the Orthodox Union in general. We welcome her, and wish her well.

We express our sincere appreciation to our assistant editor, Diane Chabbott, who shouldered the burden of producing this issue with her usual professionalism and enthusiasm.

Joel Schreiber

Chairman, Publications Committee

David Olivestone

*Director of Communications
and Marketing*

A Mystery Revealed

■ Having had the privilege of knowing Dr. Kranzler since I was a child, I greatly enjoyed Rabbi Weinreb's article about him ("Dr. Gershon Kranzler: Tiferet Personified," Winter 5761). I wanted to share the following vignette with your readers.

I have taught Jewish history for a number of years at Yeshiva Torah Emeth in Los Angeles. Rabbi Eliezer Gross, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Gedolah of Los Angeles, once asked me if I used *Our Peoples* a textbook. He remarked that even though he didn't know who the author Yaakov Isaacs was, it was clear from the book that he must have been a person with *yinat Shamayim*.

Sometime later I was in Baltimore and saw Dr. Kranzler. When I mentioned to him that I was teaching Jewish history, he asked me if I was using his book. I replied that I had no idea that he had written a book on the topic. He then informed me that he was the author of *Our People*. When asked why he had used a pen name, he told me that Mr. Shraga Fievel Mendlowitz, the legendary *menahelof* of Yeshiva Torah

Vodaath, had asked him and several others to write a work on Jewish history. As it was supposed to be a collaborative work it was decided to use a pen name. In the end it turned out that Dr. Kranzler wrote the whole thing himself.

I was amazed at hearing this, and remembered what Rabbi Gross had told me. The book really testifies to who the author was.

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More on Hospice Care

■ Moshe Borowski's, "Considering Hospice Care: What Jewish Families Need To Know," (Winter 2000) explained hospice from the halachic perspective very well, however, there is much more to consider in caring for the Jewish terminally ill.

Every ethnic group is different in practicing its religious beliefs, and since most caregivers are not Jewish, and surely not Orthodox, it is imperative that they be trained. Knowing the *halachah* is, of course, primary, but it is only one side of the coin if the caregivers (doctors, nurses, social workers, volunteers,

etc.) are not aware of basic spiritual and religious needs of their clients.

Hospices need halachic answers, but when a sick child asks, "Is there Chanukah in heaven?" a caregiver must have a satisfactory reply. Although DNR is a compelling issue, what is the proper response to an old man who asks his caregiver, "Who is going to say *Kaddish* for me?"

This is where the National Institute for Jewish Hospice comes in. NIJH is an organization begun in 1985. It has 52,000 supporters, and serves 19,000 non-denominational hospices, Jewish hospices, universities, hospitals, doctors, rabbis, families, patients and non-Jewish religious leaders.

NIJH conducts on-site intensive training courses that relate to every type of question — halachic and otherwise, and publishes booklets and tapes and the NIJH Jewish Living Will with durable power of attorney. NIJH holds conferences and lectures throughout the U.S. and Canada, and does grand rounds at major hospitals.

To date, NIJH has started 73 Jewish hospice programs in large and small towns from New York to California, from Alaska to Miami. It maintains a huge data-base enabling one to find doctors, hospices, hotels, and home caregivers instantly. Its phone (1-800-446-4448) is operational 24 hours every day fielding calls from all the many disciplines that deal with the terminally ill, particularly from hospices wanting us to put the "Jewish piece" into their general hospice.

A recently instituted NIJH program gives accreditation to any hospice that goes through four – eight hours of training. The hospice is then accredited by the National Institute for Jewish Hospice and becomes an accountable dues-paying member for one year. This connection assures the hospice of continual information regarding new products and new halachic decisions on any subject.

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