

Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry

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Nov. 22, 1964

Dear Rabbi Lamm, *KVSe*

It is now time I let you have a short report of what has been happening here since our Lower East Side Rally which was our fifteenth "action". (Oct. 18)

We have sponsored an all New York campus course, two big campus rallies, given several lectures, in the process of setting up an important spearhead in Bore Park and preparing for several more campus meetings in the next few weeks. Practically all the campus leaders have been trained by me.

I am frequently asked for guidance and materials from all over the country. I have just spent a few days in an important region outside N.Y. where I outlined a systematic program for the coming months culminating in a community wide effort at the beginning of May. My efforts were concentrated in three directions, the adult community, the universities and the youth groups for each of whom I shaped up programs.

If I had the means and the time, I could do this in many other areas. But I am tied down by the most elementary chores. True, small monies are coming in and by saving on an office and secretarial assistance, expenditure is covered with a little left over. This is a ridiculous situation considering our great potential as a movement of awakening, particularly among young people. Despite all the talk, the alienation of the campus from Judaism is very great, yet my experience round the world in recent years has proven to me that there is now present an underlying potential which can be roused, shaped and crystallised.

Both in the case of our young people and even more in regard to Russian Jewry, opportunities have now opened up before us which will leave us with a great burden of guilt if we pass them by.

I wrote to Rabbi Tibor Stern of Florida asking him to become an Honorary Patron with a view to getting some help from his wealthy contacts at a later stage but there was no reply. Perhaps you could talk to him. In a phone conversation a couple of weeks ago, you were good enough to promise to look into this matter of financial support. Perhaps you could arrange a meeting with some concerned persons. May I add that I have not taken a cent for personal subsistence.

Sincerely yours,

Jacob Birnbaum
Jacob Birnbaum

"I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER"

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