

SERMONIC MATERIAL FOR UJA-FEDERATION SABBATH

When the second day of Shavuoth coincides with the Sabbath, as it does this year, the Torah pericope **is** expanded to include the passage which epitomizes the underlying concept of UJA-Federation Sabbath:

"If there be among you a needy man, one of thy bretheren, within any of thy gates, in thy land which the LORD thy G-d giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thy heart, nor shut thy hand from thy needy brother; but thou shalt surely open thy hand unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need in that which he wanteth. Beware that there be not a base thought in thy heart, saying: 'The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand'; and thine eye be evil against thy needy brother, and thou give him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin in thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thy heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him; because that for this thing the LORD thy G-d will bless thee in all thy work, and in all that thou puttest thy hand unto. For the poor shall never cease out of the land; therefore I command thee, saying: 'Thou shalt surely open thy hand unto thy poor and needy brother, in thy land.'" (Deuteronomy 15:7-11)

SEROMING MATERIAL FOR UJA-FEDERATION SABBATH

The Book of Ruth, which is read on this festival on Shavuoth contains a description of the harvest in ancient Israel. In accordance with the laws of the Torah, a corner of the field was left unharvested and fallen sheaves were left on the ground so that the poor could glean a portion of the harvest for themselves. Boaz, the landowner, instructs his laborers to be generous in leaving grain for the poor to glean. This spirit of charity, sharing our harvest with those who are less fortunate, is reflected today in the humanitarian endeavors of UJA & Federation.

"And Boaz said unto her at mealtime: 'Come hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar.' And she sat beside the reapers; and they reached her parched corn, and she did eat and was satisfied, and left thereof. And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men saying: 'Let her glean even among the sheaves, and put her not to shame. And also pull out some for her of purpose from the bundles, and leave it, and let her glean, and rebuke her not.' So she gleaned in the field until even; and she beat out that which she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. And she took it up, and went into the city; and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned; and she brought forth and gave to her that which she had left after she was satisfied." (Ruth 2:14-18)