At the end of 1977, Argentina was a somber nation, still struggling to achieve order and stability. Extreme left- and right-wing terrorism had not been fully contained, although bombings and shoot-outs were far less common. Liberal Argentines were troubled by the fact that some extreme right-wing para-military and para-police forces continued to act with impunity. As the Buenos Aires Herald expressed it:

It is ridiculous to pretend that there is only left-wing subversion in Argentina. Today the evidence suggests that while left-wing terrorism is on its last legs, right-wing extremists are more active than they have ever been. There is also evidence that Nazi symbols have been used by some members of the security forces, who have told prisoners that they admire Hitler and Nazi war criminals... It does not really matter whether the terrorism comes from the extreme left or the extreme right... The important thing is to wipe out all violence. This has not been possible up to now, because the government has not chosen to condemn excesses... and because the whole unpleasant subject has been hidden in a fog of fear.

The United States government reduced military aid to Argentina in February because of violations of human rights. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, during his one-day visit to Buenos Aires at the end of November, brought a list of some 7,500 people whose American relatives had appealed to the United States government for help in tracing their whereabouts. At a press conference on November 30, Foreign Minister Vice-Admiral Oscar A. Montes stated that “the list is unofficial, and not sponsored by the U.S. government. It was turned over by the Embassy in a gesture of cooperation with our authorities.” The new United States Ambassador to Argentina, Raúl H. Castro, said that the list was given to President Carter by three human rights groups. While acknowledging a marked decrease in the rate of disappearance, Castro indicated that the United States would welcome the publication of a list revealing the names of those arrested, the charges made against them, and the circumstances surrounding their arrests.
On May 7, the 25th Plenary Assembly of the National Conference of Bishops expressed anxiety over the wave of kidnappings and disappearances. The Conference document stated that "no notion of collective security, however important, could infringe upon human rights." With regard to those priests and nuns who had disappeared, the document noted that the Church had its own disciplinary system, and could not accept the light manner in which priests and bishops were sometimes linked with ideologies which are at variance with the Catholic faith.

On December 8, a petition signed by almost 1,000 people was published in La Nación. Immediately thereafter, 24 of the signers were arrested by men claiming to be police. The majority were seized by men in civilian clothes, who arrived in unmarked cars outside the Buenos Aires Holy Cross Church. One woman of a group of some 100 who demonstrated weekly throughout the year stated to the press on December 13: "All we want to know is what we ask in the petition: are our missing relatives alive or dead, and where are they?"

The Jewish community showed great concern over the fate of Jacobo Timerman, editor of the liberal daily La Opinion, and perhaps Argentina's foremost journalist. On April 15, Timerman was removed from his home and placed under arrest. Although a military court asserted in unequivocal terms that Timerman had no connection whatsoever with subversive activities, at the end of the year he was still being held by the military authorities. A writ of habeas corpus lodged on behalf of Timerman by his wife was turned down by the Court of Criminal Appeals. The charges against him had in no way been clarified. On November 17, at a meeting of the Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA), the organization's president, Nehemias Resnizky, expressed the "deep concern of the Jewish community of Argentina over the decision of the military authorities to hold Mr. Timerman under the terms of the Acta Institucional." International Jewish efforts to secure Timerman's release proved fruitless.

Argentine Jewry also evidenced considerable uneasiness over the so-called Graiver affair. In August 1976, David Graiver, a financier who headed the Banque de l'Amérique du Sud of Brussels, was reported dead in a plane crash in Mexico at the age of 32. According to published accounts, Gravier created a fictitious Panamanian company called "New Loring, Inc." and swindled investors, mainly Mexicans, out of more than $20 million. In July, the Wall Street Journal, Montevideo's La Manana, and Mexico City's El Sol published full reports about the matter. According to El Sol, Gravier was assassinated by unnamed extremists, and, at the time of his death, was involved in a conspiracy to launder vast sums of money for the Montoneros (Peronist left-wing extremists). On December 10, the Argentine press reported that Graiver's father, brother, and wife were sentenced to 15 years in prison for having acted as financial agents of the Montoneros. Many people remained skeptical about the claim that Graiver and his family were involved with political extremists. The publicity concerning the case had definite antisemitic overtones.
Planning Minister General Ramón Genaro Diaz Bessone stated at the end of November that the political organizations active on March 24, 1976 (the date of the coup d'état), would not play a role in determining Argentina's future. In the same month, Interior Minister Albano Hargindaguy made it clear that there would be no national elections until 1987, at the earliest. On November 30, the Buenos Aires Herald stated: "These announcements should have caused panic among the leadership of the country's political movements. But they did not. To say the least, it is difficult for liberal Argentines to imagine the coming decade under a military dictatorship, benign as it may prove to be."

In October, President Jorge Rafael Videla, at the urging of Jewish groups, instructed Justice Minister Julio Gómez to prepare a law against racial and religious prejudice. The draft of the legislation was sent to the skeleton parliament, the Legislative Advisory Commission. Reports stated that the law was meant to be comprehensive, and would, if applied effectively, outlaw propaganda and discrimination against racial, ethnic, or religious groups. At the end of the year, the law had not yet been promulgated.

In December, the defunct Peronist party reappeared and petitioned the government for the release of Isabel Martinez de Perón. The petition was signed by 100,000 people. At the end of the year, however, Mrs. Perón was still in prison. Similarly, ex-president Héctor Cámpora was still at the Mexican Embassy, where he had been granted asylum in March 1976.

**Relations with Israel**

In spite of ongoing terrorism and systematic attempts by antisemitic groups to intensify anti-Israel feelings in the country, Israel Ambassador Ram Nirgad met with great success in maintaining friendly relations between the governments of Israel and Argentina. He spoke many times on radio and television, and made his influence felt in Jewish communal affairs. In August, he accompanied select representatives of the Argentine Jewish community to a meeting with Prime Minister Begin and his cabinet. At the end of October, he presented a copy of the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* to Argentine Education Minister Dr. Juan José Catalan.

In January, university presidents from various Latin American countries, including Argentina, participated in the planting of a peace forest in Jerusalem. At the same time, the third Argentine-Jewish mission to Israel, organized by Keren Kayemet Le'Israel, travelled there in honor of the organization's 75th anniversary. The Argentine-Israel Chamber of Commerce noted in January that Israel was 20th on the list of 130 countries maintaining commercial relations with Argentina, while Argentina was Israel's 13th principal supplier. The final figures for 1975 showed a balance of payment in favor of Argentina of over $15 million. In August, the Argentine chief of staff, General Roberto Edmundo Viola, presented a medal to the Israeli military attaché Yosef Castel before the latter's return to Israel.
Guests from Israel included the well-known Israeli chanteuse Hanna Aroni, who performed in Buenos Aires in May. In June, Gvirol Goldring, professor of experimental physics at the Weizman Institute, presented lectures to the Argentine academic community. Dr. Raúl Ghinsberg, head of the department of contagious diseases of the Israel Ministry of Public Health, addressed the 7th Latin American Congress of Microbiology in April. Leon Dulzin, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, visited Argentina later in the year, as did Eliezer Shmueli, director general of the Israel Ministry of Education.

The Argentine Ambassador to Israel, Enrique Ros, was received by DAIA and spoke in the Comunidad Bet El, prior to taking up his new post at the United Nations. The new Argentine Ambassador to Israel was Jorge Emilio Casal, who had previously served in the position.

In June, a series of meetings at the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs resulted in a cultural and educational agreement between the two countries. A visit by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra to Argentina was planned, as was Argentina's participation in the Spinoza anniversary in Israel.

The Argentine-Israeli Council of Agricultural Interchange, headed by Dr. Noe Davidovich, maintained a heavy schedule of activities.

Since the establishment of the State of Israel, some 35,000 Argentine Jews have made aliya. The figure for 1977 was approximately 2,500.

Antisemitism

The Odal publishing house issued a variety of antisemitic materials at the beginning of the year. This led Nehemias Resnizky, president of DAIA, to protest to General Villareal, secretary to President Videla. Several days later, Odal publications were prohibited by the government.

A cinema in the city of Cordoba showing "Victory at Entebbe" was bombed. There was material damage, but no casualties. A bomb also exploded at the Natan Gesang School, causing further damage.

On June 28, Jacobo Kovadloff, executive director of the American Jewish Committee's office in Latin America, left Argentina, to be joined shortly thereafter by his wife and two children. He had received anonymous telephone calls, warnings, and threats of assassination. The American Jewish Committee had operated its office in Buenos Aires for 29 years. Kovadloff, a highly respected Jewish leader, was considered one of the most knowledgeable people in the country with regard to political affairs, especially matters involving human rights and antisemitic tendencies. Upon his arrival in the United States, Richard Maass, president of the American Jewish Committee, issued a statement charging that the "nature of the harassment to which Mr. Kovadloff and his family were subjected showed that this was neither a prank nor the work of a crank, but rather that security police or other government authorities were maintaining a close watch on the Kovadloff family, and that their lives were threatened." Mr. Maass indicated that he did not regard the
Jewish community as being endangered. Antisemitism, he noted, was not official government policy. At the same time, he criticized the government for being unable or unwilling to take strong measures to arrest and bring to trial those engaged in antisemitic activity. Mr. Kovadloff himself stated: "Although antisemitic episodes and publications were occurring with alarming frequency and causing justifiable concern within the Argentine Jewish community, these episodes were not representative of the feelings of the majority of the Argentine population, nor of those authorities cooperating with President Videla. Rather they originated with individuals and groups of nazi-fascist mentality and ideology, who infiltrated the government in high positions."

On July 6, James Neilson wrote in the Buenos Aires Herald:

On June 19, I had some harsh words for three retired generals, Rodolfo Mujica, León J. Bengoa, and Juan Antonio Buasso, and for retired Admiral Horacio Justo Gomez Beret, all of whom had attended the fourth anniversary dinner of the now banned magazine Cabildo. Cabildo is an extreme right-wing publication I find abhorrent, not because of its anti-communism but because of its antisemitism. A recent editorial in it, calling on the armed forces to lay aside their scruples, and deal with the "Jewish problem" in such a way that no Jew would ever again play a major role in the nation's life, looked to me like an incitement to a pogrom on an almost Hitlerian scale.

The generals in question challenged Neilson to a duel. In reply, he argued that if "the four really value[d] their honor, . . . they [would] make it clear that they are against nazism and active persecution of the Jews."

After several months of silence, Cabildo reappeared as an illustrated monthly edited by Ricardo Curutchet and Juan Carlos Monedero.

In March, the executive branch of the national government passed a decree prohibiting Nazi and antisemitic publications. This was hailed by DAIA as "a most important event for Argentina in general, and Jewish life in particular." DAIA president Nehemias Resnizky pointed out that this was the first law of its kind in Latin America. Resnizky attributed its promulgation to the activity of DAIA, and the view of the executive department of the government that antisemitic literature worked against the interests of the country.

In May, DAIA had a meeting with Interior Minister General Albano Eduardo Harguindeguy, with regard to publications making Jews appear responsible for various crimes under investigation, particularly the Graiver affair. Minister Harguindeguy assured the DAIA delegation of the government's intention to suppress antisemitic groups who introduced "elements of disunity into the Argentine family."

At a meeting of DAIA at the beginning of May, Nehemias Resnizky denounced the virulent antisemitism seizing major sections of the country as a result of the Graiver affair. He stated that "nobody speaks any longer of the enormous problems that are hindering the growth of Argentina . . . The Graiver case, and any other issue where Jews appear, is held up as the unique factor that explains the Argentine drama today."
Important Buenos Aires papers, such as *La Nación, La Prensa,* and the *Herald,* expressed indignation at manifestations of antisemitism, and made detailed mention of the valuable contributions of Jews to the progress and prosperity of Argentina.

In June, an important monthly magazine, *Carta Política* ("Political Letter") devoted its cover story to "Los Judíos" ("The Jews"). The article caused great anxiety in the Jewish community, due to its underlying message that Argentine Jews had better assimilate. It stated quite clearly that there was no room in Argentina for genuine pluralism. Father Jorge Mejía, editor of the prestigious Catholic weekly *Criterio,* responded by attacking the antisemitic bias of *Carta Política* and pointing out the many factual errors contained in the article.

It was the considered opinion of many analysts that, despite the government's repeated protests that it was not antisemitic, there were powerful antisemitic forces at work in the country. The almost exclusive emphasis on Jewish names such as Graiver, Gelbard, Broner, and Timerman made it appear as though only Jews were involved in subversive activity, economic crimes, etc.

There was no doubt that Jews received especially harsh treatment in the country's prisons and detention centers. Zionism was a hated term, and Jewish prisoners were questioned about Israel's plan to invade Argentina, as well as the headquarters of the "Elders of Zion."

**JEWISH COMMUNITY**

**Demography**

Demographic studies by Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University indicated that the Jewish population of Argentina was approximately 300,000. The vast majority of Jews continued to live in Buenos Aires, with sizeable communities in the provinces of Rosario, Córdoba, Santa Fé, La Plata, Tucumán, Mendoza and Bahía Blanca.

**Communal Organizations**

The Asociación Mutual Argentina (AMIA), a 35,000-member Ashkenazi group, continued to be the largest Jewish organization in the country. The 1977 budget of AMIA was set at $6.5 million. Ninety-three per cent of this amount was expected to come from AMIA's four cemeteries, the only Ashkenazic burial grounds in Buenos Aires. However, as AMIA President Mario H. Gorenstein indicated, since more and more Jews were being buried in non-Jewish cemeteries, the organization's membership was declining.

The Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA) was the representative body of Argentine Jewry before the national government and the press. *Informativo,* published by DAIA, was almost completely devoted to anti-defamation material.
The third principal organization of Argentine Jewry was the Organización Sionista Argentina (OSA). Segismundo Dresner continued to serve as president. In November, OSA held elections throughout the country. Out of a total of 22,000 members, 6,220 voted. The results were as follows: Labor Zionist, 1,813; Likud, 1,689; Mizrachi, 928. All other movements received considerably fewer votes.

Jews of Turkish and Balkan origin, and from the island of Rhodes, were organized into the Asociación Comunidad Israelita Sefaradi de Buenos Aires (ACIS). The Congregación Israelita Latina united Moroccan Jews, while those of Syrian and Lebanese origin formed the Asociación Israelita Sefaradi Argentina (AISA). Separate Sephardic cemeteries were maintained.

The Jewish community sponsored other important institutions, among them the newly formed Federation of Sports Clubs, composed of Sociedad Hebraica Argentina, Hakoach, Club Atletico Sefaradi Argentina, and Macabi. Social service and public health institutions included the Hospital Israelita Ezra, Hogar Israelita Argentino para Ancianos y Niños, Clinica Sefaradí, Comedores Populares Israeliitas Argentinos, Liga Israelita Contra la Tuberculosis, and Hogar de Ancianos Adolfo Hirsch. Most of these institutions suffered from a lack of funding. Also active on the Jewish scene were: Confederación Juvenil Judeo Argentina, a union of Jewish youth groups; the Latin American section of the World Jewish Congress; Organización Sionista Femenina Argentina (OSFA), an affiliate of WIZO; Sheerit Hapleita, an organization of concentration camp survivors; Horim, the parent-teachers association of Jewish schools; B'nnai B'rith; Keren Kayemet; and Keren Hayesod. There were over 100 Jewish organizations in greater Buenos Aires alone.

Communal Activities

Due to the instability of Argentine politics, DAIA had one of its most active years, intervening numerous times with the government, the press and international bodies. At the beginning of the year, a DAIA delegation met with the French ambassador, François de la Corce, to express the Jewish community's extreme displeasure at the release of the Arab terrorist Abud Daoud. DAIA received letters of greeting to the Jewish community from President Videla and Admiral Emilio Massera, the commander-in-chief of the navy. In April, the 34th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising was observed at a mass rally sponsored by AMIA, OSA, DAIA, and Sheerit Hapleita.

In March, Tenuat Aliyah held its 8th convention. The Argentine Zionist Federation held its annual convention in April. In May, OSFA offered a course on the history of Zionism. It also organized excursions to Israel for Independence Day and Rosh Hashanah. In August, the Labor Zionists conducted their annual convention and elected Simon Edenburg as president. The 29th anniversary of the State of Israel was celebrated by every major Jewish organization.
Mundo Israelita, the organ of the Labor Zionist party, and Argentine Jewry's only Spanish language weekly, celebrated its 54th anniversary in June. Naval Captain Carlos P. Carpintero, secretary of Public Information, sent a message of congratulations to the editor, Gregorio Fainguersch. Many Jewish intellectuals, however, criticized Mundo Israelita for its complete silence on the question of human rights.

El Comité pro Derechos de los Judios en la Unión Soviética, an organization involved in Soviet Jewry activities, sponsored ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the assassination, under Stalin, of Jewish poets and writers. It also published, with the aid of the American Jewish Committee office, Samizdat Judio, a 262-page volume devoted to Soviet Jewish underground writing; the volume was edited by Simcha Sneh.

In October, 300 delegates, including 150 from the interior, attended the tenth national convention of the Waad Ha'kehilot. Mundo Israelita stated that the religious problem "was by far the most irritating subject of the entire convention." AMIA Chief Rabbi Shlomo Ben Hamu refused to participate in deliberations with any non-orthodox rabbi. Tobias Kamenszain, chairman of the session, warned about the dangers of a religious monopoly by the Orthodox. Marc Turkow maintained that the community was facing a possible "Kulturkampf." AMIA president Mario Goreinstein closed the session by stating: "We will maintain the chief rabbinate and its orientation, but . . . no one has the right to limit the varied practices and currents which other sectors of Jews may choose to embrace. Those who believe that we will be indifferent in the face of this intolerance are completely mistaken."

Marc Turkow spoke about the tremendous divide existing between Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jewry. He maintained, however, that the chief problem facing Argentine Jewry was the "phenomenon of colossal Jewish ignorance." He proposed the creation of a commission to study the possible formation of a new umbrella organization for Argentine Jewry, and stressed the critical need for rabbinical leaders who could relate to the younger generation. Gregorio Makowski of Resistencia pleaded for enlightened leadership capable of charting a course for the future, and urged that the Jewish community be open to all. Simon Liberman of Santa Fé found it "extremely depressing to speak at a convention at which the majority of the seats [were] empty," and "younger colleagues conspicuously absent." More generally, he warned his listeners of the "terrifying disintegration of Jewish life taking place."

In October, a seminar on geriatric problems was held under the auspices of the United Community Fund and the Argentine Council of Jewish Women. The Hogar Israelita para Ancianos y Ninos celebrated its 62nd anniversary at the end of November. The Latin American Jewish Congress held its 14th plenary convention at the beginning of December in Buenos Aires. Marc Turkow, the veteran Jewish leader who acted as the executive director of the Congress' Latin American section, retired at the end of the year.
Jewish Education

In January, Rabbi Mordechai Edery (Conservative) resigned from the directorate of the Midrasha Ha-ivrit, a position he had held for 12 years, in order to devote himself to his tasks as vice-rector of the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano (Conservative) and co-rabbi of the Comunidad Bet El (Conservative). On January 8, Mundo Israelita stated: “The preparation of Jewish teachers for schools in the interior must be the number one priority of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires.” During January and February, the Wa’ad Ha-hinnukh of AMIA, directed by Jaime Barylko, held seminars in the seaside resort of Necochea for administrators of the Jewish school system. A statistical study published by the Wa’ad Ha-hinnukh indicated a 15.7 per cent drop in the enrollment of Jewish primary and secondary school pupils in greater Buenos Aires. On the secondary level the drop-out rate was 49.8 per cent. There were 31 kindergarten and primary schools in Buenos Aires, and 15 in surrounding areas. In July, Rabbi Reuben Nisenbom (Conservative) returned from Bogotá, Colombia to become a professor at the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano. At the beginning of November, Argentine ORT conducted its annual science fair. In the same month, the Sephardic community opened a new kindergarten, “Toranit.”

Dozens of Jewish teachers left their positions because of insufficient salaries. There were virtually no male Hebrew teachers, as it proved impossible to maintain a family on the salaries offered. The Jewish press, Jewish communal leaders, and even officials of the education system repeatedly complained about the failure of Jewish education to strengthen Jewish identity.

Jacob Rubel was director of the local center for Jewish studies established under the auspices of Tel Aviv University and the Jewish Agency. Some 80 students enrolled in courses offered there. The Israel Ministry of Education and Culture extended recognition to graduates of Bet Midrash Lemorim Datiim, the religious normal school of Buenos Aires.

Religion

A lack of religious vitality and dynamism was evidenced in the estimated number of Jews present in the 50-odd synagogues of greater Buenos Aires during Rosh Hashanah. By the most generous count, some 13,000 Jews out of a total of 225,000 attended services. On Yom Kippur, the figure increased by some 10,000.

In March, cornerstone ceremonies were held for the new building of the Orthodox Kolel, Rabino Marcos Guertzenstein. In November, Rabbi Reuben Nisenbom joined Rabbis Marshall T. Meyer and Mordecai Edery in the rabbinate of the Comunidad Bet El, which had hosted some 4,000 Jews on the High Holy Days. In December, groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted for the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano. Both DAIA and the Seminario gave farewell dinners for Father Jorge Mejia, professor of Bible and editor of the Catholic weekly Criterio, before
he left for the Vatican to assume the position of secretary for Jewish-Christian relations.

The Isidoro Mazel religious school gave its annual award to Abraham Berg, president of the committee for construction of the Marcos Guertzenstein yeshiva. The Instituto Superior de Estudios Religiosos (Higher Institute for Religious Studies) of the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano was active in ecumenical affairs. Rabbi Robert Graetz (Reform), local director of the World Union of Progressive Judaism, left the Comunidad Lamroth Hakol to devote his full attention to Temple Emanu-El. Rabbi Shlomo Ben Hamu was designated as interim chief rabbi of AMIA. Due to the instability of the political situation, and terrorist activity in the Province of Córdoba, Camp Ramah Argentina of the Comunidad Bet El did not open in 1977.

Publications

The only Jewish weekly in Spanish was Mundo Israelita, which celebrated its 54th anniversary; the only Yiddish daily was Di Presse, which completed its 60th year of publication. Other periodicals included the quarterly Majshavot, published by the World Council of Synagogues and the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano; the German language weekly Jüdisches Wochenblatt; the Yiddish Davka; the Mapam fortnightly Nueva Sion; and the Spanish language fortnightly La Luz. The Sociedad Hebraica Argentina's Davar published a special edition in honor of its 50th anniversary.

Several books of Jewish interest appeared during the year. In March, the second edition of Marcos Aguinis' novel Refugiados ("Refugees") was published. DAIA edited another book by the same author on the Argentine naval hero Almirante Guillermo Brown. The book was presented to leading figures of the Argentine navy at a special ceremony in November. In May, Simja Shen published a book of 12 short stories dealing with the Holocaust and other Jewish themes.

Abraham Weiss, editor of Acervo Cultural publishing house, continued the publication of a bilingual edition of the Talmud. He had already published the complete works of Josephus and Philo of Alexandria. Five volumes of Baruch Spinoza's writings were also published during the year.

Jaime Barylko's An Introduction to Judaism, published by Flaischman and Fischbein, appeared in November. In the same month, Simon Dubnow's History of Hasidism was reissued by Sigal Publishing. YIVO continued its important series, Musterwerk fun dee Idisher Literatur, under the editorship of Samuel Rollansky. Editorial Yehuda commenced publication of a bilingual Tanach with a translation of Rashi's commentary. The Biblioteca Popular Judía, sponsored by the Latin American Jewish Congress, celebrated the appearance of its 200th Judaica booklet, 27 of which had been prepared by Dr. Jaime Barylko.
Personalia

Betzalel Baler, Yiddish author and journalist, leader in the Comunidad Bet El, died in Buenos Aires in February, at the age of 84. Dr. Otto Kauders, renowned international lawyer, active in the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano, who lived in Buenos Aires from 1940 to 1976, died in Denver, Colorado on March 6, at the age of 67. León Bernstein, commercial director of Paidos Publishing, past president of Comunidad Bet El, past secretary of AMIA, active in the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano, died in Madrid in May, at the age of 64. Naum Radzichowski, secretary general of the Zionist Labor Party, ex-president of the Argentine Zionist Organization, member of the Jewish Agency, ex-secretary and ex-vice-president of AMIA, died in Buenos Aires in July, at the age of 57. Joseph Buttenwieser, born in Hamburg, Germany, leader of Comunidad Bet El and Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano, who came to Buenos Aires in 1950, died on August 9, at the age of 78. Paloma Efron, leading Argentine chanteuse, actress, and television figure, active in Zionist affairs, died in Buenos Aires on September 1, at the age of 63. José Ber Gelbard, Argentine industrialist, Peronist leader and ex-minister of finance, died in Washington D.C. on October 4. Jak Spolski, active in AMIA, Hospital Israelita and Keren Hayesod, as well as the Jerusalem synagogue and school, died in Buenos Aires in November, at the age of 74.