

# Cleveland's Memorial in Israeli Synagogue

By **JERRY D. BARACH**  
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ALON SHVUT, Israel—In a ceremony attended by dozens of former Clevelanders now living in Israel as well as residents of this community, the sanctuary of the Alon Shvut Synagogue was dedicated here Dec. 5 in memory of the late Clevelander, Arthur J. Jaffe.

The ceremony represented the official culmination of a fundraising campaign to perpetuate Mr. Jaffe's memory undertaken in Cleveland shortly after his death on Oct. 31, 1978.

**PARTICIPATING IN** the dedication, at which a plaque officially naming the sanctuary was unveiled, were Mr. Jaffe's widow, Miriam, and their children: Daniel, Debby, David and Ruth, as well as spouses and grandchildren. Arthur Jaffe's brother, Dr. Eliezer Jaffe and his wife, Rivka, also were present.

The large, modernistic synagogue accommodates up to 1,500 people, and serves this entire religious community of some 200 families located in the Gush Etzion, an area which fell to the Arab Legion in the 1948 War of Independence and was resettled following the Six-Day War of 1967.

**RABBI SHUBERT SPERO** of Jerusalem, spiritual leader emeritus of Young Israel of Cleveland, led the dedication ceremony, beginning with the lighting of the sixth Chanukah candle. In brief remarks, he noted the double appropriateness of the event and the date, in view of the late Mr. Jaffe's personality and deeds.

First, said Rabbi Spero, of all the community institutions and activities in which he was involved, the synagogue was the institution to which Mr. Jaffe was most devoted. He served as president for many years of Oheb Zedek--Taylor Road Synagogue.



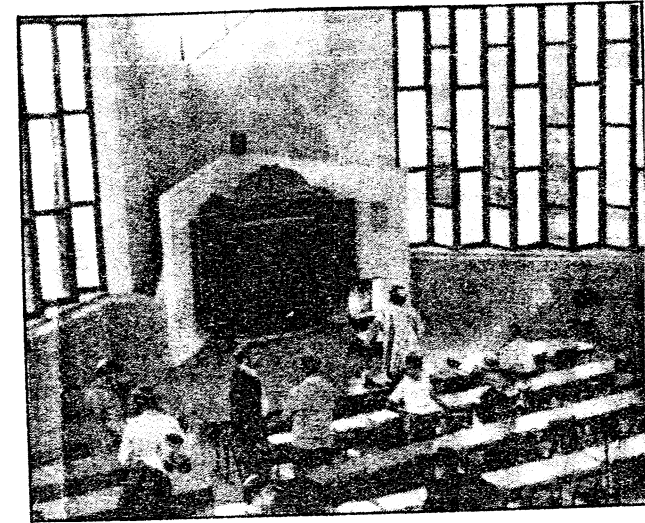
Members of the Jaffe family at unveiling of plaque (background) dedicating sanctuary of synagogue in Alon Shvut. Miriam Jaffe (center) is flanked by her children: David (left), Mrs. Debby Zucker (holding son Elchanan), Ruth and Daniel.

Second, continued Rabbi Spero, the holiday of Chanukah recalls the heroic deeds of a family--Mattityahu and his sons--and shows what one family can achieve. Rabbi Spero noted that Mr. Jaffe's wife and all his children and grandchildren are currently in Israel. Finally, Rabbi Spero commented on the requirement that Chanukah candles be lit in a public place where they can be viewed by everyone.

**HE SAID THAT** this is to remind all Jews of the source (the light) of truth: God's word as represented in His Torah and mitzvot.

"Arthur Jaffe taught us how to get along with all Jews, to show them the light, and to influence them positively for Judaism," Rabbi Spero said, in recounting Mr. Jaffe's many communal activities.

Prof. Ephraim Urbach of the Hebrew University of



Interior view of the sanctuary named for Arthur J. Jaffe in the Alon Shvut Synagogue.

Jerusalem also spoke, recalling the time 11 years ago when he was in Cleveland during Chanukah for a heart operation, and how the Jaffes had taken him into their home to recuperate. Mr. Jaffe fulfilled the mitzvot of kindness and hospitality to others "without limits," said Prof. Urbach.

**DANIEL JAFFE REPLIED** on behalf of the family stating, "My father, in his life, never sought honor." But he added, the dedication of a synagogue in such a location was "so appropriate" to his father's memory, that even he himself would not have been opposed to it. Jaffe thanked everyone who made the dedication possible.

**STEVE ADLER**, a veteran American olah member of the Alon Shvut local Council, then expressed the appreciation of the local residents for the support of the Cleveland community.