

TODAY'S PROFILE

Ex-Cleveland promotes Israel Free Loan fund

Eliezer D. Jaffe returned from his adopted home in Israel this week to spend some time visiting his two brothers, Dr. Jack Jaffe of Shaker Heights and Alvin Jaffe of Cleveland Heights.

He also is spending time promoting the Israel Free Loan Association, a fund he helped start four years ago.

Jaffe is chairman of the fund, which has loaned about \$4 million in interest-free funds to new emigrants to Israel, mostly from the former Soviet Union and from Ethiopia.

He also is a professor in the school of social welfare at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where he now lives.

"I do what I do for the loan fund because it is a good way to help other people," he said. "We have a free loan of the gift of life and we should be willing to give something to other people before the life we have is taken from us."

His support of the loan fund, he said, is consistent with the teaching of Jewish principles about life and giving as taught in the Bible and by the Jewish philosopher Maimonides.

Jaffe quoted Maimonides, "A loan is better than charity for it enables one to help himself."

He said he learned many of those lessons in the Orthodox Jewish home he grew up in Cleveland, near E. 101st St. and St. Clair Ave.

"We wanted to do something

Eliezer D. Jaffe.

■ Age: 61.



■ Born in Cleveland; emigrated to Israel 35 years ago.

■ Graduated from Yeshiva University in New York City, received a master's degree in criminology from Ohio State University and a doctorate in social work from Case Western Reserve University.

for the masses who are needy in Israel," he said, noting that in the last five years, about a half million Jews from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia have settled in Israel.

The loan association "was developed to make interest-free loans available for newcomers with specific problems," he said. "A nonprofit, user-friendly un-bureaucratic organization was set up to make this possible." Its offices are in Jerusalem.

Jaffe said capital for the fund was raised from donors in Israel and abroad.

The money can be used, he said, for renting or buying an apartment or a house, starting a business, attending college, or for needy families.

— Darrell Holland