

## An Education Program by the Alzheimer's Association

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SUN., MAY 15, 2016 FROM 1-2PM

@ Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt Rd, Farm. Hills 48334

SUN., MAY 22, 2016 FROM 10-11AM

@ Young Israel of Southfield, 27705 Lahser Rd, Southfield 48034

THUR., JUNE 2, 2016 FROM 10-11AM

@ Temple Israel, 5725 Walnut Lake Rd., W. Bloomfield Twp. 48323

THUR., JUNE 16, 2016, FROM 7-8PM

@ Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital 6777 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322, Room 2500

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These programs are made possible thanks to a grant from the Jewish Women's Foundation.

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## world »

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Smiling widely, the former Soviet prisoner on trumped-up treason and spying charges proclaimed to the throngs that remarkable Sunday, as recounted by then-Editor Gary Rosenblatt in the *JN* on Dec. 11, 1987: "How many times did I hear it was impossible to get hundreds of thousands of people to march in Washington in the winter? And yet look, it is winter and you are here.



**Natan Sharansky**

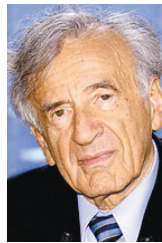
"And how many times," Sharansky continued, "did I hear that the Soviet gates of emigration cannot be opened." Sharansky's presence proved those gates would swing open, thanks to a stirring global protest by Jews.

The Ukraine native urged the crowd not to be duped that all was well because the Kremlin had freed some longtime refuseniks in hopes of curbing the drumbeat for freedom.

### PODIUM POWER

In his speech, U.S. Vice President George H.W. Bush asserted "the human rights issue is now a permanent part of the U.S.-Soviet agenda." He called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to affirm *glasnost*, a policy of political and social openness, by releasing not just a token number of refuseniks, but "thousands, tens of thousands — all those who want to go."

Bush ended by famously declaring, "Mr. Gorbachev: Let these people go. Let them go!" Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel mused that hordes of European Jews could have been saved from Hitler's fury had there been a protest as dramatic as Freedom



**Elie Wiesel**

Sunday.

"But too many of us were silent then," the Holocaust survivor said. "We are not

silent today.

"We are here because we must be here: to arouse compassion, not confrontation; to tear down walls, not build them."

Rally goers had marched two miles from the Ellipse in front of the White House to the National Mall speakers' platform. Dr. Conrad Giles was Federation president at the time.

"On reflection," the Bloomfield Hills resident told the *JN*, "I believe that few of us could anticipate that this day would help trigger the sea change in the policy of the Soviet Union."

Giles is still in awe of the "vibrancy, commitment and dedication" shown by the Detroit delegation,

one of the larger contingents outside the Eastern seaboard.

As a 7-year-old student at Hillel Day School, Arianna Gordon joined her father, Rob, in the Detroit delegation. Today, she's a rabbi and director of education and lifelong learning at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield.

Rabbi Gordon reminisced "being part of something larger than just the Detroit community." She looked back on how her parents' commitment to Jewish life has driven her.

And she shared that the rally not only "enhanced my understanding of what Soviet Jews were facing," but also that "as I grew older and former

Soviet Jewish students began attending Hillel, I think I had greater empathy for what they may have experienced."

She added, "I have always been proud that my father took me to this rally at such a young age — that he believed I was old enough to learn the lessons of what we as Jews do for Jews around the world, and how we peacefully make our voices heard." \*



**Conrad Giles**



**Arianna Gordon**

## Sharansky Banners JFS Meeting

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of United Jewish Appeal's Operation Exodus, renowned Soviet Jewry refusenik Natan Sharansky will speak at Jewish Family Service's annual meeting on Tuesday, May 17, at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Southfield.

Marvin Lender, former national chair of Operation Exodus, also will speak. Detroit's Joel Tauber, a key national player in Operation Exodus, is event chair.

Imprisoned in 1978, Sharansky spent nine years of a 13-year sentence in Soviet government custody before his release in 1986. He promptly left for Israel, where he became an absorption activist and government leader.

Today, he's chair of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel. He remains a human rights ambassador.