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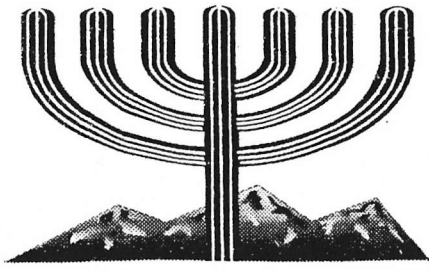
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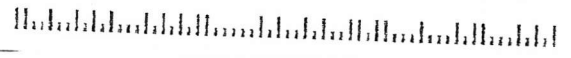


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## Population study aims for comprehensive picture of Jewish Tucson

The Federation will carry out the first survey of the Jewish population of Southern Arizona early next year.

After a national search, the Federation hired Miami-based demographer Ira M. Sheskin, Ph.D., to administer the survey.

Beginning Jan. 6, 2002, 40 locally hired interviewers will make random, confidential phone calls to gather data to develop a comprehensive picture of the Jewish community. Residents will be asked a menu of questions about both their secular and religious lives, such as where they came from, their synagogue experience, what Jewish services they use and whether they have experienced anti-Semitism.

The study will estimate the size, geographic distribution, and age of the Jewish community, as well as indicate demographic, social and economic trends. Results for Southern Arizona also will be compared to Jewish populations in other communities and to the 2000 National Jewish Population Survey.

Ron Weintraub, JFSA board member and chair of the population study project committee, says that the study is an essential tool for future planning. "During the recently completed long-range strategic planning process, a consensus from almost all participants was reached: we need a count of the Jews in Southern Arizona and a better idea of where we live and what we are connected with in the Jewish community."

Sheskin, an associate professor of geography and a member of the Judaic studies faculty at the University of Miami, has completed major demographic studies