

National Aeronautics and
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MEMORIES OF ABE GAGIN - FROM JOANNE SIMPSON 2/7/88

Abe Gagin probably contributed more to the advancement and credibility of useful and scientifically sound weather modification than any other individual. By his leadership of the Israel seeding experiment, in its design, execution and analysis, he was responsible for the only seeding experiment which is regarded as definitively positive in even the most critical circles of skeptics. He thereby made an invaluable contribution to his nation's scientific reputation and to its crucial water supply.

Perhaps almost as important, but not yet as clearly recognized, has been his contribution to the establishment of the physical soundness of glaciogenic cumulus seeding for dynamic effects. This he accomplished by published post-analyses of the data from the Florida Area Cumulus Experiment (FACE), from basic studies of cloud physics and cloud dynamics, and from use of radar data from other sources, in which he and his colleagues established fundamental relationships between the echo heights, areas and rain volumes of both treated and untreated clouds. He also established and ran a first-class cloud physics group at Hebrew University. We at Goddard Space Flight Center are most fortunate to have with us his brilliant post-doc Daniel Rosenfeld, who is using his skills to advance our ability to measure rainfall from space platforms.

Abe was not only a first-rate scientist, weather modification pioneer, teacher and leader, but a wonderful friend. Bob and I will never forget our attempted drive to Masada from Jerusalem with him in the middle of a flash flood in 1974. We pulled several cars out of the deluge, eventually were forced to turn around, return to Jerusalem and observe Masada from the cloud physics aircraft. Abe's sense of humor, his knowledge of history and his devotion to his country made this one of the most memorable days of our lives.

I predict that in the years ahead, when the potential of weather modification is again recognized for its usefulness in water resource management, statues of Abe will be raised in many town squares and halls of fame. Meanwhile, his example of a persistent leader and warm friend will be treasured by those of us who were lucky enough to be his close colleagues.

Joanne Simpson