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Designing For An Imperfect World - Israeli Swimwear Tantalizes and Transforms

By YOSEF I. ABRAMOWITZ

Special To The Jewish Voice

"What a marvelous machine it is, the human body."

—Theodor Herzl 1902

Sometimes a bikini is just a bikini, Freud would say. But in the case of Israeli swim fashions, the bikini, a symbol of something greater, more enduring and surprisingly metaphysical. Something, believe it or not, uniquely Jewish.

This greater dimension of Israeli swimwear can be seen not in the provocative curve of a Sports Illustrated model nor in the breasty design of Gottex's Sirocco suit, but in the collective statement that is made by a small, young country making its mark on the world one self-conscious bather at a time.

"Israelis understand how a bathing suit should look," says Gideon Oberson, a top designer who this year sold \$10 million in beachwear worldwide on the label bearing his name. "We understand how it should look not only in the department store, but on the beach and in the water. This is our way of life. We have more beaches than land."

Oberson is one of Israel's largest swimwear manufacturers, second only to the legendary Gottex and its \$60 million in international sales. "Israel is naturally a country of seaside, sunshine and swimwear," says Yehudit Gottfried of Gottex in Tel Aviv, trying to explain the great success of Israeli swimsuits.

Don't believe it for a second. If geography was the determining factor in designing swimsuits, then Jamaica, Surinam and Hawaii would be leading the pack. What's caused the international sensation about Israeli swim fashions is the daring styles, the innovative prints, the comfortable fit. And, most importantly, the

hidden theology. Yes, theology.

It is no surprise that King David first spotted the lovely Bat Sheva when she was working on her tan in Jerusalem. "A good, sound body...is a divine gift," Maimonides wrote in his authoritative Guide to the Perplexed. "God created all things in accordance with God's wisdom and what God created cannot possibly be shameful or ugly," wrote Nahmanides in Iggeret HaKodesh.

Unfortunately, in our day, the world doesn't always see the beauty in every body type. If the Jews are God's partners in perfecting the world according to the Divine image, then Israeli swimwear is humanity's partner in perfecting — or at least scantily covering up — the human body according to popular sensibilities.

"The bathing suit is not really for going to the beach for a swim," says Oberson, whose line includes 300 pieces. "It's more a way of living. We don't look at the practicality of it for swimming. It's more what the woman wants to say about herself."

But what does the propensity for designing fashionable women's bathing suits say about Israel or Jewish designers, and from where did their brush with theology come?

Gideon Oberson was born in Italy in 1943 to Jewish parents who escaped the Nazi horrors with illegal papers. "We lived as goyim," Oberson says. "To this day, my parents are fearful of every little thing." Oberson's sense of personal security comes from the pride in building up the Jewish state. "You look at Israel from 40 years ago to now and it's amazing," he says. The designer overflows with optimism — about the absorption of new im-

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An Israeli model wears a black and white tank suit made by Israel's Gottex.

Commerce Director Meets Third Graders

By DAN WEINTRAUB

Editor of The Jewish Voice

Before the academic year ended at Albert Einstein Academy, James V. Williams, Director of Commerce with the City of Wilmington visited an early morning third grade class to talk to students about attracting business to a geographic region. Teachers Mrs. Marie Smith and Mrs. Lynn Solomon had assigned the students to teams charged with understanding and representing the competitive efforts of several American cities in luring business to their economies. Students were to write proposals to lure a manufacturing business to Boston, Atlanta, Phoenix or Seattle. Factors for the students to stress included climate, city transportation, national transportation, government, competition, history and recreation. Mr. Williams spoke to the class drawing on his work in Wilmington performing the very tasks about which the students were learning in the project.

Williams spoke about real world considerations of businesses coming to the area including such factors as language spoken, ease of relations with government officials, sales tax, tourism, entertainment and environmental factors. Precocious third graders also were

drawn to environmental concerns. One student said he would rather be where there are plentiful trees and clean water. Williams cited the example of Baltimore to suggest that

moneys spent on clean-up can lead to economic gains.

The Director of Commerce told the students how bringing a new company into Wilmington can also bring more work to existing compa-

nies and firms. Williams spoke about Wilmington's strengths including the Port of Wilmington, the First State's leading museums and proximity to Philadelphia. His thorough presentation was given in an age-appropriate manner.



Director of Commerce, James V. Williams talks to third grade students at Albert Einstein Academy.

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BRIEFS

Swiss Banks May Restore
Nazi Victims Accounts To Heirs

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Swiss banks are taking steps to resolve the issue of bank deposits of Holocaust victims. Top officials of Switzerland's major banks have reached an agreement to appoint an independent arbitrator to oversee the transfer of the deposits to their rightful heirs, according to the current issue of *The Jerusalem Report*. The banks will reportedly issue an official announcement in the near future. Media in Israel and elsewhere have reported that large amounts of money belonging to victims of the Holocaust are still being held in Swiss bank accounts. So far, Swiss banks have refused to release the deposits to relatives of the deceased without proper documentation and accurate account numbers, much of which vanished during and after the war years. Estimates of these accounts, deposited during World War II, range from tens of millions of dollars to nearly \$7 billion. But the Swiss Bankers Association, said the estimates are highly inflated. "Recent numbers named by various parties in the press in reference to the amount of unclaimed assets from the Nazi era are massively exaggerated," the organization said in a statement. In the past, Swiss banks strongly opposed the appointment of an independent arbitrator to mediate between the banks and relatives of Holocaust victims. The banks had argued that attempts to help relatives provide documentation would violate the strict secrecy laws that have become the hallmark of the Swiss banking system. But, reacting to persistent media attention to the issue, members of the Swiss Bankers Association met at the beginning of July to discuss the matter and the damage it caused to their image. According to Hans Baer, a Jewish banker and the director-general of the Swiss Bank Julius Baer and Co., the banks agreed unanimously that an independent arbitrator should be appointed to mediate the claims. Baer admitted that lists of such accounts which were made in the 1960s were incomplete. But he denied allegations that the banks stole money belonging to Jews. "The money is just lying in the banks," Baer said.



AQABA, JORDAN: - A highway sign pointing to the Israeli city of Eilat is a tangible - and, to Israelis particularly - a more than welcome sign that peace with Jordan is real.

Argentina - One Year Later

Buenos Aires (JTA) — In a sad and nervous mood, the Argentine Jewish community is preparing to mark the first anniversary of the bombing that destroyed the main building of AMIA, the Argentine Jewish Mutual-Aid Association. On July 18, 1994, a powerful bomb destroyed the 6-story building on Pasteur Street, in downtown Buenos Aires, killing 86 people and wounding at least 300. To mark the incident, Jewish community authorities will unveil a memorial monument at La Tablada cemetery, the largest Jewish cemetery in South America. On the anniversary there will be a ceremony, a demonstration and a memorial service. Jewish organizations as well as most Argentine political parties are calling on "all Argentines to attend and demand that justice be done." Argentine Jews cannot hide a sense of despair and helplessness that after one year, the investigation has yielded only three arrests and no conclusive explanation of the bombing. The AMIA bombing was the worst attack in history against the 230,000-strong Argentine Jewish community. Jewish institutions, synagogues and schools have set up tight security systems to prevent future bombings. The buildings are marked by Belfast-style anti-car bomb concrete fences, closed circuit TV cameras and private security personnel. And behind bullet-proof windows and reinforced concrete walls, Jewish life in Argentina has changed. The possibility of a third bombing in Buenos Aires — after the 1992 destruction of the Israeli Embassy and the 1994 bombing of AMIA — makes Jews feel that their open and integrated way of life also fell victim to the bombs.

NEWS & COMMENTARY

Commentary:

The U.S. Should Continue To Support The Middle East

By Rabbi MARLA J. FELDMAN

Director

Jewish Community Relations Committee

On September 13, 1993, the entire world celebrated the dawn of peace between former enemies: Israel and the PLO. Standing with Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat was President Clinton, representing the United States as peace broker and convenor of the historic event. The Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEPFA) permitted official American contact with the PLO and allowed financial aid to flow to the newly established Palestinian Authority (PA). This Act was the linchpin in the deal, recognizing that economic growth and social stability for Palestinians was a prerequisite to a successful and enduring peace with Israel.

Now it is time for the United States once again to assert itself as an agent of peace in the Middle East. The MEPFA must be reauthorized in order for the U.S. to fulfill its financial commitments to the Palestinian Authority. Some in Congress would have us renege on our commitment to the PA, imposing impossible expectations on the PLO and usurping Israel's role as the monitor of PLO compliance. Supporters of the Middle East peace process on both sides of the aisle are drafting proposals which would permit continued aid, contingent upon PLO compliance with the terms of the agreement signed with Israel.

No Merger Yet For The
Jewish Agency And WZO

By LARRY YUDELSON

NEW YORK (JTA) — The just-concluded meetings of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the World Zionist Organization may prove more noteworthy for what they did not accomplish than for what they did. Questions concerning the organizations' future structure and continued funding loom as large — or larger — now as they did before the meetings began last month. Avraham Burg has now been officially elected chairman of both, a post he had been holding in an "acting" capacity since February. Burg has called for WZO to merge with the Jewish Agency, creating "one body for one people." And he has separately asked leaders

of the Jewish community nationally support continued aid to the Palestinian Authority. The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, representing 13 national and 117 local Jewish community relations agencies, including the Delaware JCRC, called for the reauthorization of MEPFA. AIPAC also called for renewal of the Act and recently reported that during the 12 months in which MEPFA was in operation, PLO compliance improved. Eviatar Manor, Consul General of Israel in Philadelphia, recently reported that incidents of attacks against Israelis are the lowest since the intifada began in 1987.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin urged American leaders to support the peace process through financial aid to the PA. He pleaded: "I turn to you: Help Israel to continue its peace policy... I believe that there are only two ways on our part. Fighting terrorism to the end. Helping those who are ready to put an end to the conflict, to terror, violence, and wars. The continuation of the commitments that the donor countries made to the PLO... is a vital element to maintain the peace process and to cope with terrorism."

American Jews can support Israel by supporting the peace process. We can support the peace process by urging our elected representatives in Washington to reauthorize the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act. Call today: Congressman Mike

Castle, 428-1902; Senator Bill Roth, 573-6291; Senator Joe Biden, 573-6345.

LATE
BITS

(The following summaries relate to late breaking stories and other items of interest. Much of what follows was not available at press time in a more substantial form. Other items are included in summarized form to reflect current developments. A few of these news items may appear elsewhere in *The Jewish Voice*. These summaries are adapted from what has been provided by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA).

BERLIN — The Jewish Community Center in Sarajevo is hit by a mortar shell, causing no injuries but eliciting mutual recrimination by both the Bosnian government and the rebel Bosnian Serbs.

WASHINGTON — Despite concern over the overall reduction in foreign aid, Jewish groups welcome the House of Representatives' passage of a foreign aid bill that includes \$3 billion for Israel.

TEL AVIV — A group of Israeli rabbis hold view that it is against Jewish law for soldiers to evacuate their bases in the West Bank.

TEL AVIV — An expose about a tragic military accident involving Israel's former Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak could dramatically alter his political future.

NEW YORK — The Jewish National Fund vows to rehabilitate the forests burned in the worst forest fire in Israel's history.

NEW YORK — In an unusual show of unity, a group of Orthodox rabbis prepares to announce that the practice of minor marriage is invalid.

WASHINGTON — Jews and Democrats condemn a Republican fund-raising appeal that targets women and ethnic minorities.

WASHINGTON — As counterterrorism legislation makes its way through Congress, Jewish groups are lobbying for a bill that would preserve civil liberties without sacrificing national security.

SOMEWHERE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN — On a voyage to Israel, American Jewish teen-agers learn first-hand about Jewish history.

JERUSALEM — The Israeli government reaches an agreement with the chief rabbinates to help alleviate the plight of blacklisted individuals who are not able to be married in Israel.

WASHINGTON — In a new partnership, a Jewish hospital in Riga, Latvia is one of three that will cooperate with hospitals in St. Louis, Mo.

NEW YORK — ORT returns to its birthplace with the inauguration of a technical education program in St. Petersburg, Russia.

NEW YORK — On the left and the right, Jewish groups are calling for a more civil debate in the Jewish community when it comes to the Middle East peace process.

NEW YORK — Seven Palestinian policemen head home after completing a 12-week training program with the Philadelphia police department.

I-P Talks Shift To Italy

By DAVID LANDAU

JERUSALEM, (JTA) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will meet in Italy Tuesday to resume their efforts to meet the latest deadline — July 25 — for concluding the second-phase agreement of their peace process.

Italy, it now appears, has been the discreet site of several rounds of talks over the past few months between teams led by Israel's Uri Savir, director-general of the Foreign Ministry and by the Palestinian Authority's minister of economics, Ahmed Karia, also known as Abu Ala'a.

The precise site of such past sessions is not widely known.

The Hebrew daily *Yediot Achronot*

said it would take place at "a lavish villa in or near Rome."

Savir and Karia, who led their respective sides in the secret negotiations in Oslo during 1993 that resulted in the Declaration of Principles signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in September of that year, are said to have an easy working relationship and a warm personal friendship.

Political insiders in Israel say Savir has gradually won the full confidence of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which was only grudgingly given to him during the Oslo talks.

They say this is a reflection of the close coordination and harmony that

Continued on page 15

EDITORIAL

Back To The Future

With the remarkable growth of Albert Einstein Academy new space was required for classrooms. Conveniently, the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD) had an opportunity to move its administrative offices out of a space in the same building as the Jewish day school to a location in the City of Wilmington. With the JFD move complete, classroom construction has begun in the former JFD location. Friends of Jewish education in Delaware should be heartened to see Albert Einstein have the opportunity to expand its facilities right within its own building.

Another positive outcome is the return by JFD to what many consider the heart of the State - the City of Wilmington - after about 17 years in its suburbs. It is a return to a greater relevance in the broader Delaware community. This is also return to a greater involvement with diverse Delaware neighbors. The move is a return to an easily accessible transportation hub. It is also a return to the place where many of our community's present and future leaders work.

While it is a turn toward the future it is not a retreat for JFD from its role as the central planning and fundraising organization for the Delaware Jewish community. From the new location in the City of Wilmington, the volunteers and staff of JFD will be well situated to work on behalf of Delaware's Jews. The beneficiaries of the ongoing "Live Jewish" Community Campaign may all see some benefits in the timely relocation of JFD.

Working within Wilmington provides more opportunity for involvement in coalition-building urban concerns. In a very tangible sense this official Jewish presence in the City creates more opportunities for our communal concerns to be heard by other Delaware groups. We should benefit from getting to know our neighbors better and from their becoming better acquainted with us as well.

The Newark and Dover communities may be better served by the convenient location of the new JFD space. It is a place of optimism. It is on the threshold of a new challenge. Today JFD has both moved forward and returned to the City of Wilmington. *L'Chaim.*

News Item: Barbara Keil Begins Second Term

Delaware native Barbara S. Keil has begun a second year-long term as Chairperson of the Editorial Committee of *The Jewish Voice*. Before retiring in 1989, her work experience included serving as Staff Assistant to then Congressman Thomas R. Carper from 1983-1988. She was an Account Executive for *Mid-Atlantic Country* magazine and *Delaware Today* magazine. As a freelance writer her articles appeared in *The Sunday Bulletin*, *The Sunday News Journal*, and *The Jewish Voice* to name a few. She was previously appointed to the Board of Trustees of Delaware State College and the State Board of Housing. She is a past President of Hadassah and currently is a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD) as well as the Jewish Community Relations Committee of JFD. She is a member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation where her father Isadore Silverman serves as Gabbai. She is married to Judge Charles K. Keil, and has two children, Lea and Mark, as well as three grandchildren.

Some of the changes credited to Barbara's first year as Chair are local columnists on page



Barbara Keil

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OPINION

Reflections on Tisha B'Av

By Rabbi DAVID GEFFEN

They stream to the Western Wall in Jerusalem by the thousands. Some sit on the ground in front of the Wall and intone the Book of Lamentations as Jews have done for generations. Others stand and gaze at the Wall, which is the only remnant of the Temple of old.

Young and old, Sephardim and Ashkenazim, Israelis and Jews from all over the world—they approach the wall on the eve of Tisha B'Av reidentifying themselves with the totality of Jewish history, its tragedies and its triumphs.

In Jewish tradition Tisha B'Av has come to be known as the "Black Fast," in contrast to Yom Kippur, the "White Fast." The most striking way in which this is emphasized is that in many Sephardi synagogues, a black curtain is placed over the ark containing the Torah, whereas on Yom Kippur white ark covers are used. However, other customs pertaining to Tisha B'Av tend to reemphasize this idea of darkness, sadness and gloom.

Some of the traditional regulations which are observed during the fast of Tisha B'Av include, first and foremost, complete abstinence from food and drink. Bathing is forbidden, but one may minimally wash the face and hands for cleansing purposes. The use of perfumes or other types of fragrance is forbidden.

Two specific signs of mourning on Tisha B'Av are: not wearing leather shoes, and actually sitting on the ground or on a low stool during the services. There are many people today who even sprinkle their head with ashes—a reflection of an even more ancient mourning custom.

In addition to these basic prescriptions, various rituals and customs have made their way into the synagogue and into the service. To create the atmosphere of sadness the lights in the synagogue are dimmed or turned off completely and candles are lit.

I recall my amazement when I first attended the Spanish-Portuguese synagogue on Central Park West in New York. It was Tisha B'Av and that magnificent sanctuary was completely dark except for the candles held by the congregants as they intoned the Book of Lamentations in a melody transmitted by genera-



tions of Sephardi Jews.

Since the Middle Ages it has been the practice not to wear *tallit* and *teffilin* during the mourning services of Tisha B'Av. Since these ritual objects are traditionally considered to be ornaments for the Jew, he refrains from wearing them at the normal time in the morning. Instead he puts them on at the afternoon service, thereby fulfilling the commandment that they must be worn every day except for certain holidays.

The most poignant part of the service centers around the recitation of the Book of Lamentations followed by the many *kinot* (dirges) specifically composed for the occasion. Senior members of the congregation normally chant Lamentations, emphasizing with the rise and fall in the voice the ancient trauma of the destruction of the two Temples and the ghastly experiences of the Jerusalemites of that era.

The *kinot* pick up the themes of the book, but they refer to other tragic moments in Jewish history, in particular those which occurred in the Talmudic period and those linked to the medieval massacres of entire Jewish communities.

One particularly touching Sephardi dirge which I first recited at the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue in Montreal and have repeated at the Western Wall is based on the Four Questions of the Pesach Seder. "I will ask some questions of the holy congregation," this dirge begins. "Why on Pesach do we eat matzah and bitter herbs while this night all is bitterness. . . ?" The soulful melody reverberates through me when I recite those words anew.

Tisha B'Av is the only traditional day of

Continued on page 5

OPINION

The Rabbi Writes -

**NCCJ At Fifty:
The Golden Years Ahead**

By Rabbi PETER H. GRUMBACHER

Congregation Beth Emeth

This coming February, the Delaware Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews will mark the beginning of its fifteenth golden anniversary. It was in February of 1946 that Rabbi Jacob Kraft, of blessed memory, joined with Protestant and Catholic colleagues to discuss community concerns. On that Lincoln's birthday the guest speaker was President Clinchy of the NCCJ.

Rabbi Kraft stated on that occasion that "the essential purpose of Jewish faith is to become a righteous person; to bring to bear our highest moral qualities in all our human and social relationships." From that luncheon a radio program began which broadcast the message of not only Judaism but "American Brotherhood in Action," and the roots of the NCCJ were firmly in place in Wilmington and the rest of the State of Delaware as they had been planted in communities around the country.

Ten years later religious leaders in Wilmington were meeting on a regular basis for fellowship and a "quiet discussion of knotty problems" such as religion in public schools, Christmas programs in the schools, gambling

and Jewish-Protestant-Catholic relations." Today members of the clergy continue those discussions on a monthly basis in an NCCJ program known as "Clergy Dialogue."

For twenty-three years my involvement in our region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of my community work. Far more than ministers, priests and rabbis are participating; there are scores of laypersons whose vision of a better world is shared and acted upon through NCCJ. People in all walks of life and of every faith community give of their time and energy to tackle some of the pressing problems confronting us fifty years after NCCJ in Delaware was organized.

Ecclesiastes informs us that "there is nothing new under the sun," and those concerns of the late 1940s remain concerns today. Over the intervening five decades NCCJ has galvanized to confront the issues. We will be celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of "Green Circle" whose volunteers have gone into our youngsters' classrooms in an effort to combat racism, to bring to life the message of NCCJ that in order to live in harmony we have to know each other a little better. Hundreds upon hundreds of school-aged children have been the beneficiaries of the dedication of "Green Circle" volunteers since 1970. And "Green Circle" is an integral part of the NCCJ.

When there was rioting in the streets of

Wilmington in 1968, NCCJ board members were on the streets and behind the scenes trying to mediate, and from that time on there has been involvement with the police and community groups to calm down potential "hot spots" around town.

It was the NCCJ Delaware region that had a great deal to do with the orderly process of school desegregation. Then-mayor William McLaughlin came to the NCCJ to assist him and other leaders in seeing to it that the court-ordered busing of children in New Castle County be as peaceful as possible. Many of us recall being present at schools around the country before the buses arrived to insure safety for our kids. Ever since those days of formal and informal meetings the NCCJ has, through its ongoing "Breakfast Group," met with educational and professional leaders once a month to discuss issues of concern to Delaware schools.

The NCCJ not only highlights the good efforts of individuals whose labors on behalf of all of Delaware's citizens is celebrated at an annual dinner, but also focuses on "Community Builders" who are perhaps known only by a few but whose work is extraordinary in terms of strengthening the values we cherish. There are those who indeed are role models, and who but the NCCJ should highlight their accomplishments?!

There is a great deal more the NCCJ has



done, and more we are doing as we face the next fifty years. Through your membership in the organization you are "signing on" to NCCJ, affirming its place in the past and future of our community. We look forward to a wonderful celebratory year. More important, we are looking forward to continuing a vital mission.

Rabbi Kraft said to me in a 1986 interview, "To know God, that is to experience God, means to act justly, to show mercy and righteousness in all our dealings with men and women. (We have to) pay attention to the human condition in our community and the larger community about us."

(The spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Emeth also serves on the Board of NCCJ.)

The Jews Of Delaware Paid For This Building**Hillel's Bright Future
Rests In Part
On Recent Years**

By Rabbi STEPHEN BOOTH

Special to The Jewish Voice

"Lo alecha hamilacha legmore, u'lo atah ven-chorin lihebatil memennah." (Avot 2:21) "You are not required to complete the work, but neither are you free to avoid it."

As I leave the task I've dedicated myself to for the past three years, that of serving the Jewish community at the University of Delaware, it seems appropriate to reflect on what we have accomplished, and on what remains yet to be done.

Almost three years ago I came over from our little rented office above the 5&10 Store on Main street and lead the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Abe and Pearl Kristol Hillel Building on Delaware Ave. There I met the Kristol family, Julia Blumberg (z'l), Sonny Chaiken (z'l), Yetta Chaiken, President Roselle and many others who worked so hard and so looked forward to seeing their dream become a reality. For the first time, Jewish students would have a real home centrally located on campus. And for the first time they would have a professional, a full-time resident rabbi to support them and help build a stronger, more dynamic and supportive Jewish community on campus that would reach many more Jewish students.

After we moved into the building the following spring, I began showing it to parents as they came to visit the campus. I felt especially good to be able to say to them, "the Jews of Delaware paid for this building," - even though the majority of Jewish students here were from out of state.

They have always been impressed. In this

age of parochial interests, it is wonderful to see a Jewish community that says, "there are Jews here, from wherever, and it is our duty to provide for them." Then of course parents realized they had similar obligations.

You could ask practically anybody who has been on this campus four or more years, Hillel has had a dramatic impact. The University is far more aware of issues for Jewish students, and even consults with Hillel on a wide range of issues including the academic calendar (conflicts with Holy Days), dining options and diversity issues. Often when I am out on campus or on Main street, students and others say to me: "Hillel is looking real good! You are doing so much more good programming! I'm real glad Hillel is there." One administrator said to me: "I'd never met a rabbi until I met you. Knowing you has made me more sensitive and aware of my Jewish students and colleagues." When a speaker is needed for a class on religious views on sexuality, or someone representing a wide range of Jews on campus is needed to sit on a campus committee, Hillel gets the call. Three years ago, if you came to campus for the first time and asked where to find Hillel, most couldn't tell you. Today this rarely happens. With our attractive and centrally located building, and visible programs, virtually everyone knows where we are.

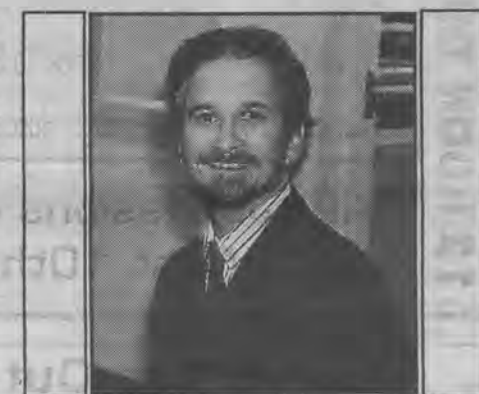
The list could go on and on. Three years ago our membership totaled just over 200 students. This past year we had over 350 paid members, and many more who attended Hillel events. Thanks to the hard work of our students and adult board, and to the generosity and support of The Jewish Federation of Delaware, B'nai B'rith Lodge 470, The Kutz Foundation, The Alexander Foundation, and many generous individuals, our program offerings have expanded significantly. In addition to our many social events, we have had several successful trips to the Holocaust

Museum, several wonderful Purim celebrations, classes in Hebrew and Torah study, brunch programs, and have helped develop some wonderful young Jewish leaders who will unquestionably join the communal leadership ranks in the years to come. We were especially proud this past year to have hosted the community Yom Hasha'ah Commemoration, and to have fit into our building over 350 people for Kol Nidre night.

As stated above, there is so much I could say. But what is the task immediately before us?

Certainly the two main priorities of any Hillel Foundation today is "outreach" and "inreach", or in the terminology used by Hillel nationally today, "engagement" and "empowerment." There are so many more Jewish students on campus who need to be touched more directly by thoughtful, open minded, caring Jewish leadership - showing them the treasures of their own culture and engaging them so that they can more easily become active Jewish adults. There are also many talented and involved Jewish students who need empowerment and training to become our next communal leaders - or simply to become active and involved adult Jews.

The foundation, the infra-structure, has been built, thanks to you - the Jews of Delaware. The infrastructure needs to be maintained and made secure. However in order to achieve our broader goals, what is most needed is more professional staff, which will require more creative fund raising. On a campus with approx. 1600 Jewish students, and hundreds of other Jews on campus, one professional simply cannot do the job. The Jewish Federation of Delaware has been most generous to us these past few years, but at current funding levels their limit of support has been understandably reached. What Hillel needs now is help with fund raising, and help locating alternative sources of funding. Then, with the abil-



ity to hire adequate staffing, there is so much more we will be able to do for the next generation of Jews passing through Delaware. Can we afford to do any less? If my brief stay in Delaware gives me any indication, the will and the way is here and will certainly appear.

There is hardly any joy greater than interacting with young people. My three years of intensive work with college students has been a tremendous treasure. I have learned much, and with joy look forward to being in touch with some of these students for years to come. I have come to love them, and to love Delaware, and leave with a somewhat heavy heart.

There are many to thank, but here I'd just like to thank past board chairs Dr. Vivian Klaff and Dr. Marian Palley, the Chaiken and the Kristol families, my secretary Jacque Spicer, Federation Director Judy Wortman, and many students and others for your invaluable support. Together we have made and will continue to make a very significant and personal impact on the next generation of Jews. "Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek!"

(Rabbi booth will be leaving Delaware's Hillel shortly to take a position with Keshet Israel Congregation near Ann Arbo, Michigan.)

Reflections

Continued from page 4

observance in our calendar which occurs when Jewish summer camps are operating in the northern hemisphere. Before the founding of the State of Israel, Tisha B'Av was not only a

time of mournful commemoration for thousands of youngsters at a camp, but a rallying point for Zionist affirmation and the establishment of a state.

During the first 19 years of Israel's existence, with access to the wall denied, Tisha B'Av, in the camp setting, embodied the hope for the ultimate reunification of the city. Since 1967 the reinterpretation of the Tisha B'Av

observance in camp has been quite widespread. While recalling the tragedies of Jewish history, youngsters have been urged to link themselves with a united Jerusalem and a strong Israel in which such tragedy hopefully will never occur again.

On Tisha B'Av, young and old will be in the plaza in front of the Western Wall, a part of the waves of people filing into the area. There they will find that on Tisha B'Av day Jews are

both exposed to their roots and made aware of the importance of shaping a vital Jewish existence. Let Tisha B'Av which falls on August 5 and 6 this year, challenge each of us with its remembrance of the past and its hope for the future.

(Rabbi David Geffen is the spiritual leader of Temple Israel in Scranton, Pa., and was formerly the rabbi at Wilmington's Beth Shalom from 1969-1977.)

ORT Sponsors Second Summer Read-A-Thon

In conjunction with ORT's "Read to Succeed" Campaign, the Brandywine Chapter of Women's American ORT and KIDS' PAPERBACKS will co-sponsor ORT's second Read-a-thon contest between June 15 and July 31. The contest is open to all students from preschool through 6th grade. A completer's prize package will be awarded to all students completing at least one book. Trophies and electronic prizes will be awarded to all those who raise more than \$75 in donations. All participants will receive a 20% discount coupon to KIDS' PAPERBACKS. Children will be asked to solicit sponsors, with proceeds going to ORT's School Operations USA, the JCC Children's Center Library, and Albert Einstein Academy's Library. Registration forms are available at KIDS'

PAPERBACKS, 4001 1/2 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE.

Supporting this year's Read-a-thon are The St. Francis Hospital Radiology Department, KIDS' PAPERBACKS, Circuit City, and TCBY.

Women's American ORT, with a membership exceeding 100,000 across the country, is a national partner in the American Library Association's Partnership for Literacy and Libraries, has embarked on a campaign to promote literacy among our youth. Women's American ORT supports a worldwide network of technical and vocational schools and is committed to quality education for which reading skills form the basis. For more information about the Read-a-thon or Women's American ORT, call Amy Leviton at 234-2345.

JWV Maintains Active Schedule

By HARRY LUBIN

Commander, Department of Delaware Jewish War Veterans of USA

On May 28, 1995 the Jewish War Veterans of Delaware held their annual convention and election of officers at the Terrace on the Green. Their guest speaker was Dr. William Dawson (Lt. General, Retired), who spoke about Jewish doctors of Delaware who participated in World War II.

The following officers were elected: Harry Lubin, Department of Delaware Commander; Ted Mattes, Harry Fineman Post 525 Commander; Bob Barnett, Nathan Balick

Post 747 Commander; Ed Kaufmann, Arthur Blatman Post 767, Commander; Cy Donner, Adjutant, all Posts; Sam Wenzer, Quartermaster, all Posts; Cantor Norman Swerling, Chaplain, all Posts.

On June 28, 1995 the Department of Delaware attended a ballgame at the Blue Rock Baseball Stadium in Wilmington which was preceded by a catered picnic.

Future plans include a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. sometime in the fall.

Their first meeting of the 1995-96 season will be September 11, 1995.

TABS Teaches Americans ESL

The new Americans pictured here are immigrants from the former Soviet Union and attend English as a Second Language classes under the auspices of TABS, founded in September, 1991 by Ruth Fisher Goodman upon her retirement as a reading specialist from the Brandywine School District.

"The program was originally designed to serve school age youngsters, Kindergarten through twelfth grade, on a one-to-one basis who were in need of the special attention. The acronym TABS stands for "toward a better society."

"Since modern family life styles demand so much of parents' time, I felt a tutor-mentor can fill in as a good listener and mentoring depends on the needs of the particular student," Goodman explained.

The English-as-a-Second Language program for adults was initiated two years ago with six students, whose grandchildren told them about the program. "When I was approached with the request for setting up a class for immigrants who wanted to learn English, I said, Why not? We now have twenty-eight students with six volunteers who have divided the group into three classes: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. Goodman teaches the advanced group English through Jewish history.

At the end-of-the-year picnic, Goodman gave a lesson on Shavoth. In the Soviet Union, Jews were not

permitted to study their heritage. Jewish schools were forced closed. "Students are conscientious and eager to learn, and it most certainly is a pleasure to teach them," says Goodman.

Mrs. Annette Kellem, (see photo) a recently retired English teacher has agreed to continue English lessons during the summer months for the beginners. She joins Mrs. Lidia Sohodsky and Mrs. Ginou Berkowitch (retired teachers) who teach during the school year. Dr. David Platt and Mrs. Rose Berman

Foreign Policy Meeting Features Strobe Talbott

By DAN WEINTRAUB
Editor of The Jewish Voice

A Foreign Policy Town Meeting will be held in Wilmington on Wednesday, July 26. Two officials from the U.S. Department of State will participate along with Delaware Governor Thomas Carper and Wilmington Mayor James Sills. A morning program starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Delaware Theatre Company will feature opening remarks by Carper and an address by Toni Verstandig, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs with the U.S. Department of State. Ms. Verstandig will speak on the topic of "The Middle East Peace Process." For approximately fifteen years Mrs. Verstandig was Senior Staff Consultant to the Committee

on Foreign Affairs, in the U.S. House of Representatives, responsible for issues involving the Persian Gulf, North Africa, export control and international terrorism and others.

The luncheon session begins at 12:15 p.m. at the Gold Ballroom at Hotel DuPont. Mayor Sills will provide opening remarks. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott will address the topic of "U.S. Leadership in the Post-Cold War World." Over a period close to twenty years Mr. Talbott had a number of assignments with TIME Magazine including four and a half years as Editor-at-Large.

This Foreign Policy Town Meeting is co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and People to People International, Delaware

Chapter. A broad range of 50 cooperating organizations includes the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD), the Islamic Society of Delaware, the University of Delaware, the Delaware & Eastern Pennsylvania District Export Council, the Delaware Economic Development Office, Pacem En Terris and others.

People to People is a non-profit, non-political organization working toward peace and international understanding. Among the Directors of the Delaware Chapter of People To People International is artist Judith A. Schwab whose work has been featured in *The Jewish Voice*.

Preregistration is required for the Foreign Policy Town Meeting. The morning session costs \$5 per person and the luncheon costs \$26. For more information regarding the Foreign Policy Town Meeting call Kathleen M. Meyer, Executive Vice-President of the Delaware Chapter of People to People International at (302) 764-6654.

Mazon Announces Grants To Combat Hunger

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger recently awarded grants totaling \$800,000 to 99 Jewish and nonsectarian agencies serving hungry people in the United States and abroad.

Delaware grantee includes Delmarva Rural Ministries, which received \$9,000 to support the Farmworker Community Food and Nutrition Program. Since 1986, MAZON has granted \$34,000 to Delaware organizations working to alleviate hunger.

This year, Los Angeles-based MAZON marks its ten-year anniversary as one of the American Jewry's principal means of confronting hun-

ger. For the past ten years, through MAZON, Jews have supported a vast network of nonprofit programs that provide food for hungry people, work for long-term solutions to hunger and provide counseling, training and other assistance to help lead people back to productive lives in their communities. MAZON raises the majority of its funds from Jews

nationwide who donate a suggested amount of 3 percent of the cost of weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs and other joyous events to support MAZON's efforts to address hunger.

MAZON, the Hebrew word for "food," was established in 1986 and is now one of the largest privately supported groups in the U.S. working to prevent and alleviate hunger.

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SYNAGOGUE LIFE

Temple Beth El Acquires Sculpture

By JORDAN SOPINSKY
Special To The Jewish Voice

Temple Beth El, in Newark, has recently acquired a sculpture made by Philadelphia artisan Jonathan Rosen. It sits atop a marble stand, which had been donated by Robert and Vicki Temko some time before the sculpture was completed. Joseph and Laura Ullman, who recently relocated to Maine, donated the means to commission Rosen, a Bucks County, Pennsylvania native.

The sculpture is entitled "Spiritual Destiny." After speaking with several congregants in order to understand the Beth El community, Rosen discovered that many of them come

from diverse backgrounds and places. He then phoned Rabbi Tufts, of Temple Shalom in Levittown, Pennsylvania. Rosen often relies on Rabbi Tufts' spiritual and philosophical knowledge in order to contemplate an abstract idea that he can materialize into a sculpture.

"Rabbi Tufts introduced me to the idea that 'all truths rise and converge,'" says Rosen. "This is a notion first stated by Teilhard DeChardin, a philosopher, religious thinker, archeologist, and ordained Catholic priest."

Rosen then decided that he wanted to construct two trunks, or "arms," which would spiral upward and hold the Ten Commandments. "The spiraling upward," says Rosen, "represents each individual's journey which twists and turns but always contains the Ten Commandments, the most basic component of Judaism."

There are two interesting artistic modifications Rosen made to the Ten Commandments. One is that the two tablets are not locked together, side by side. Instead, one overlaps the other. "This symbolizes the forming of new relationships," Rosen explains. In addition to the overlapping, each tablet contains the first five commandments on one side with the remaining five on the opposite side. The reason for this is in connection with the notion that we are not half-

stones searching for our lost half from the past. "Rather," the sculptor explains, "We are all individuals, joining together in marriage, family, and community."

While the reactions of congregants are all positive, everyone sees something different in it. In addition, each time someone views or feels it (Rosen encourages people to feel the various textures of the sculpture), something new is discovered.

The log Rosen used to make "Spiritual Destiny" was a sugar maple with burl from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Burl is a diseased portion of the bark of a tree which results in spectacular colors and designs in the grain of the wood. Apparently, the log had a hollow strip down its middle. This could have resulted in the quick decomposition of the wood. Luckily it did not. Rosen feels that there is a good chance that this added to the wood's beauty as well.

Rabbi David Kaplan, Rabbi of Temple Beth El, is extremely pleased with "Spiritual Destiny." "Like the trunks twisting upward toward the Ten Commandments," he said, "Challah is twisted as well. And so is the Havdallah candle. Everything is intertwined."

Jonathan Rosen is a Philadelphia based woodworker who has designed and created chairs, tables, desks, Torah stands, and various sculptures, including Trees of Life and a Menorah. He left a career as a registered nurse six years ago and began an apprenticeship when his wood-working hobby grew to be very large.



Shown here is the sculpture "Spiritual Destiny." Photo by Julie Oster.

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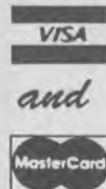
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Judaic Pre-School Programs Offered in Newark

Beginning September 1995, the Children's Center of the Jewish Community Center will be offering a one day two year old program, a three day three year old program and a five day four year old program at Temple Beth El, Possum Park Road, in Newark, Delaware. The Children's Center is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs and is licensed by the State of Delaware. The Children's Center is

committed to excellence in early childhood education and offers outstanding developmentally-appropriate curriculum. Registration is now being accepted. For further information, contact Susan Gentry, JCC Children's Center Director at (302) 478-5600 or Ann Herman, Director of Education at Temple Beth El at (302) 366-8330.

Gentry Attends Conference

Susan Kimm Gentry, Director of the Children's Center at the JCC attended a National Early Childhood Education Conference sponsored by the Jewish Community Center's Association of North America. The conference was held at the Mayor Kaplan JCC in Chicago. Along with 25 other JCC Early Childhood Educators, Gentry attended sessions pertaining to overall topics which included issues addressing children's Jewish identity. The sessions were highlighted by a tremendous amount of networking between colleagues in the field. "It was wonderful to see that our Children's Center is right on target with national trends and directors. We are a shining star with our wonderful programs," said Gentry.

Martial Arts Introductory Offer

During the months of July and August, children ages 4 and up may come and participate in Tae-Kwon-Do classes offered at the Jewish Community Center. Children will receive an introduction to Tae-Kwon-Do, Jeet Kune-Do, Nihan Goshen Aikido and some "street smart" safety tips. They will also have an opportunity to interact with our regular martial art students and get a feel for what the martial arts are all about. Classes are offered Monday through Friday from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. The introductory offer is \$70.00 and includes a free t-shirt. For more information or to register, call the JCC Fitness Center Control Desk at (302) 478-5660.

Kutz Home Resident Wins Cut & Style



Anna Moskowitz, resident of The Kutz Home after a haircut & style by Sherif of Sherif Zaki Haute Coiffure. The haircut & style was won by Mrs. Moskowitz at the Kutz Home Auxiliary Donor Luncheon on May 18th.

Would you like to write articles about lectures or community events?

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Atlanta's JFS Offers Heart Pin



This distinctive Jewish AIDS pin designed by Atlanta artist Jackie Goldstein features a red AIDS ribbon draped over a black Jewish star. Proceeds from the "Awakening the Jewish Heart" pin benefit HIV/AIDS counseling, education and advocacy at Jewish Family Services. The pins are \$7.00 each, with large order discounts available for local fundraising opportunities. Call Atlanta's Jewish Family Services at (404) 888-6400, Mailbox 276.

Salk

Continued from page 14

ally unknown, and "iron lungs" are no longer part of a hospital's medical equipment armamentarium. With gratitude to the scientific insight and dedication of Jonas Salk children today can indeed go out to swim and indeed "go in the water."

(Marvin Cytron, a member of the Editorial Committee of The Jewish Voice writes book reviews, commentaries and other material on occasion for The Jewish Voice)

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to the Music of George Gershwin. If you watch television or operate your VCR on Friday night here is a program to consider. "A Tribute to the Music of George Gershwin," airing Friday, August 4 t 9 p.m. on TV 12, salutes the great American composer, with a look at the range of his works, from jazz to show tunes. The one-hour special features Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Orchestra.

Friday, August 4, 9 p.m.
WHYY TV 12
An Evening at Pops: A Tribute



Words & Music :
New Broadway Songs

By STEVE COHEN
Special To The Jewish Voice

Lyrics & Lyricists at New York's 92nd Street YMHA presented an inspiring afternoon of theater music by four young songwriters. They are called "The New Breed" — composers and lyricists in the tradition of Irving Berlin, Richard Rodgers and the Gershwins. They are David Zippel, Craig Carnelia, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. All have Broadway credits and are working on shows for next season. Now that show music is no longer the most popular form, it's important to call attention to new work.

Lyrics & Lyricists is the brainchild of Maurice Levine and Hadassah Markson, two Broadway veterans who started the series 25 years ago. They present a half dozen such programs annually. Usually the lyric writer, and occasionally the composer, sits at the piano and describes his career and performs. Singers share the stage... but often it is the songwriter's vocals that steal the show.

This program was introduced by Marilyn "The Way We Were" Bergman, and Lucie Arnaz, who said: "The American songbook is being strengthened and replenished by this new breed." Both paid tribute to what Bergman called "one of the great cultural institutions of New York, whose audiences are so loving towards American songs and artists." I'd call this one of America's great cultural institutions.

Zippel won a Tony for his *City of Angels*, in 1991. He sang songs which he wrote with Cy Coleman, Marvin Hamlisch and Alan Menken. Singer Nancy LaMott, introduced a new torcher by Zippel and Jonathan Sheffer, "Another Mister Right," from their upcoming show, *Once in a Lifetime* based on Moss Hart's hit play of the same name.

Lyricist Ahrens and her composer Flaherty honored shows include *Once On an Island* and *My Favorite Year*. Lainie Kazan joined Mary Testa and the songwriters in reprising their old hits. The biggest impression was made by young Brian Mitchell co-star of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. He sang "The Wheels of a Dream," a big ballad by Ahrens and Flaherty for their new version of E. I. Doctorow's *Ragtime*.

Craig Carnelia debuted Broadway in 1978 with songs for the musical review based on Studs Terkel's *Working*. (Stephen Schwartz and James Taylor also contributing songs for *Working*.) Carnelia's marriage of nostalgic lyrics with hypnotizing music has made him a cabaret singer's favorite over the past few years.

His new show is *Actor, Lawyer, Indian Chief*. Carnelia's best songs were sung by Lucie Arnaz and by Eric Michael Gillett, who's best known as the ringmaster of the Ringling Brothers Barnum & bailey Circus. Gillett plans a second career as a cabaret singer and recording artist.

Some Lyrics & Lyricists programs of the past are preserved on CD by the DRG label: *An Evening With Bock & Harnick*, *An Evening With Sammy Cahn* and *An Evening With Alan Jay Lerner*.

When James Taylor stars at the new Sony-Blockbuster Entertainment Center on the Camden Waterfront, his opening act is a duo called The Peaks. They are localites Ellen Timmerman and Bob Peak. Timmerman writes songs, about childhood, heartbreak, survival, wasted days and faded dreams. She also plays piano and keyboards and sings leads.

The Sony-Blockbuster producers are booking good local acts as openers for their headliners. The Peaks

also have a new CD called *Chestnut Street*. Timmerman's songs are all copyrighted by ASCAP, co-producer of the gala described above. To complete the circle, so are James Taylor's songs, including those Taylor wrote for the above-mentioned *Working*.

James Levine does a marvelous job as conductor/music director with the metropolitan Opera Orchestra, never before at the Met has a conductor done so much work (and so well) in the non-opera, symphonic literature with this orchestra. It's more impressive realizing that the musicians have to play many more performances than regular symphony orchestras. The youthful Levine has been at the Met for twenty years.



Included in the exhibition, "Becoming American Women: Clothing and the Jewish Immigrant Experience, 1880-1920," is this photo of Rose Maremont, wearing a large starched bow that was popular among girls in the early twentieth century. When Jennie Schaffner sent a photo of herself from Chicago — wearing a bow similar to Rose's — to her parents in Russia, they wrote back telling her to "take the ironing board off of her head."

"Becoming American Women" opens at the National Museum of American Jewish History, 55 N. 5th Street, Philadelphia on August 11 and runs through March 3, 1996.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries for the Calendar of Events are due on the Thursday deadline, published in The Jewish Voice. Copy should be typed and double spaced. Entries are preferred on 3 1/2" floppy disk or via E-mail. Please include day, date, time, place, brief description, and contact person.

JULY

Friday 14

Beth Emeth Summer Series at the JCC. Guest speaker Dr. Henry Schenker. 8 p.m. "What's a Nice Jewish Boy Doing in Church on Sunday Morning?"

Tuesday 18

Young Jewish Adults of Delaware (YJAD) - YJAD Chavurah DISCUSSION GROUP. 7:00 p.m. Join us for a lively discussion and hors d'oeuvres. Please call Merrily at (302) 477-1302 for further details.

Friday 21

Beth Emeth Summer Series at the JCC. Guest speaker Mr. John Elzufon. 8 p.m. Jewish Community Relations Committee, JFD.

Sunday 23

Young Jewish Adults of Delaware (YJAD) - Annual picnic and olympics. 12:00 noon at the J.C.C.'s Family Campus. Join us for food,

fun, swimming, and the least competitive and wackiest olympics you'll ever see. Reservations are required by July 16th. Call David at (609) 678-8029.

Friday 28

Beth Emeth Summer Series at the JCC. Guest speaker Mr. Robert Coonin. 8 p.m. Jewish Community Center.

Sunday 30

Young Jewish Adults of Delaware (YJAD) - Co-Ed Noncompetitive SOFTBALL. 1:00 p.m. No reservations are required, but there is always a shortage of gloves, so, if you have one, please bring it. Call Sandi at (609) 678-8190 for directions and further info.

AUGUST

Friday 11

Beth Emeth Summer Series at the JCC. Guest speaker Mrs. Judy Wortman. 8 p.m. Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Friday 18

Beth Emeth Summer Series at the JCC with Rabbi Laurence Malinger. 8 p.m. Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Friday 25

Beth Emeth Summer Series at the JCC. Guest speaker Mr. Dan Weintraub. 8 p.m. The Jewish Voice.

Ongoing

Yjad Weekly Activities. Young Jewish Adults of Delaware's (YJAD's) co-ed, noncompetitive volleyball league will continue every Wednesday night from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Behind the J.C.C. as of May 31, 1995.

Exhibit Highlights Henrietta Szold "Daughter of Zion: Henrietta Szold and American Jewish Womanhood," a new exhibition, will be open at the Jewish Historical Society of Maryland (JHSM), 15 Lloyd Street, Baltimore, from April 9 through December 10, 1995. "Daughter of Zion," will reveal and reinterpret the life and work of Henrietta Szold through artifacts, audiovisual materials, label text, documents and rare archival photographs. A native of Baltimore, Szold (1860-1945) is best known as the founder of Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization. For more information, call at The Jewish Historical Society of Maryland, (410) 732-6400.

"Coming To Delaware: The Amish, Jewish and Italian Farm Communities" will be on display through June 30, 1995. The exhibit will feature the stories of three ethnic groups which settled on farms in Delaware during the first quarter of the 20th century. The goal of the exhibit will be to foster an understanding of multicultural differences and similarities in farming and farm life in Delaware. The history of why the Amish, Italians and Jews migrated to Kent County, Delaware, how they approached farming, their success as farmers, and their lifestyles will be explored in the exhibit.

Protection From Abuse Seminars. The Project For Domestic Violence Reform, Inc. will sponsor monthly seminars on the use, filing and hearing of Protection From Abuse Petitions by victims of domestic violence. The seminars will be conducted by an attorney trained and experienced in family law. It will be the fourth Wednesday of every month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Dela-

ware Technical and Community College, Wilmington Campus, Fourth and Orange St., and is open to the public without charge.

The new Protection From Abuse Act makes it possible for victims of domestic violence to get protection from their abusers without bringing a criminal action. Victims can request no contact orders; removal of deadly weapons; and custody of children and support for a limited time. The seminars will provide information and answer questions about how to obtain and use these petitions.

Handbook Available On Internship Opportunities In Israel. Have

you ever considered working in Israel as an intern or volunteer? A book, entitled *Volunteer and Internship Possibilities In Israel*, can make that dream a reality. Published by the Joint Authority for Jewish-Zionist Education, this handbook is perfect for students, young professionals and potential olim interested in exploring employment opportunities in Israel.

To order *Volunteer and Internship Possibilities In Israel* send \$10 for each book to: USD/AZYF, 110 E. 59th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10022 or call: (212) 339-6941 or 1 (800) 27-ISRAEL.

Baywatch Star Flies EL AL To Israel

NEW YORK, June 8, 1995 -- El Al Israel Airlines recently flew television and movie actress Alexandra Paul to Israel where she was featured in an upcoming episode of the national television series *Lifestyles*, formerly *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*.

As a guest of the Israel Ministry of Tourism and El Al, Ms. Paul and her entourage visited Jerusalem's historic and cultural sites, including the Old City and several museums. An avid swimmer, the actress enjoyed a variety of water sports in Eilat and took time out to swim with a group of dolphins.

Ms. Paul is best known for her role on the popular internationally syndicated television series *Baywatch*.



Pictured here is Alexandra Paul prior to her departure for Israel.



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OBITUARIES

MIRIAM FRIEDMAN, 84, of 1722 Foxchase Road, Philadelphia, died June 25 in Albert Einstein Medical Center.

Mrs. Friedman and her late husband, Harry I. Friedman, owned Keystone Home Equipment for 25 years. She retired in 1979.

She is survived by a son, Mark of Philadelphia; a daughter, Eileen Kates of West Chester and formerly of Wilmington, Del.; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The family suggests contributions to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Wilmington.

ELSE GRUMBACHER

Else Grumbacher, 83, a retired beautician and mother of Rabbi Peter Grumbacher of Wilmington's Congregation Beth Emeth, died July 7 of cancer in New York.

Mrs. Grumbacher, of New York, is survived by her husband, Ernst Grumbacher, her son, her daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren.

The family suggests contributions to Congregation Beth Emeth's family assistance fund.

SANDERS E. PHILLIPS

Sanders E. Phillips, 67, of Calle De Ceilo, Scottsdale, Ariz., formerly of Pottstown, Pa., and Olney, Md., died July 6 during heart surgery in Scottsdale Memorial Hospital North.

Mr. Phillips had been a car salesman in the Washington area.

Survivors include his wife, Marsha Harris Phillips; two daughters, Marla A. Phillips of Olney and Fay Hoffman of Hockessin, Del.; and a grandson.

The family suggests contributions to the American Heart Association, Box 1365, Pottstown.

WILLIAM SHAPIRO

William Shapiro, 88, a former grocer who lived on his own in Wilmington until a few months ago, died July 1 in St. Francis Hospital.

For about 30 years, Mr. Shapiro owned and operated a corner market in West Chester, Pa. He retired 10 years ago.

About three months ago, he moved to The Kutz Home.

Survivors include a sister, Gertrude Galinko of New York, and a niece, Zeldia Davis of Claymont, who helped care for him.

The family suggests contributions to The Kutz Home.

JANET STARGATT, 90, formerly of Miami Beach, Fla., died Monday of heart failure in Forwood Manor, Brandywine Hundred, her residence since 1994.

Mrs. Stargatt worked for the U.S. government in New Rochelle, N.Y., for about 15 years, retiring in 1958. She moved to Miami Beach in 1960.

Her husband, Sydney Stargatt, died in 1987. She is survived by a son, Bruce of Wilmington; a brother, Cabot Feldman and a sister, Rose Adler, both of Washington; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The family suggests contributions to the American Heart Association.

"Don't Go Near The Water" Remembering Dr. Salk

By **MARVIN S. CYTRON**

Member of the Editorial Committee of The Jewish Voice

There is a nursery rhyme which concludes with:

Mother dear may I go out to swim?
Yes my darling daughter, but don't go near the water.

If you grew up in the late 40's or early 50's the terror of polio created beliefs that a chill caused polio and consequently children were forbidden to go to swimming pools or air conditioned movies. During the six weeks prior to my mid-July Bar Mitzvah, I was virtually a prisoner in our home, allowed only to go to the

synagogue or my grandfather's house to prepare for the BIG DAY. I remember thinking it was O.K. to get polio AFTER, but not BEFORE my Bar Mitzvah. The March of Dimes to conquer polio was a major fund raising event throughout the country. "Iron Lungs" helped afflicted children breathe and every hospital stockpiled these strange contraptions. At the height of the polio epidemic in the early 50's the disease crippled or killed 40,000 Americans each year.

Jonas Salk who developed the first successful vaccine against poliomyelitis died on June 23 at age 80. The son of a New York garment district worker, Jonas Salk was a graduate of the City College of New York and enrolled at New York University Medical School. While in Medical School he received a fellowship in virology which later shaped his entire professional career. After receiving his medical degree in 1939 and after serving a two year internship at Mt. Sinia hospital he went to the University of Michigan to study the influenza virus. In 1947 Dr. Salk went to the University of Pittsburgh where he set up his own laboratory and later joined with the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis later known as The March Of Dimes. Using his concept of a "killed virus" vaccine Dr. Salk developed the vaccine and in 1954 started field trials with school children across the country. On April the 12th, 1955 the announcement

electrified the world that the Salk Vaccine was safe and effective. By 1961 the Salk Vaccine had been replaced by the Sabin oral vaccine, but in the intervening years the Salk Injectable Vaccine had proven to be as much as 95 percent effective in reducing the incidence of polio and had prevented an estimated 300,000 cases. By 1962 Dr. Salk had moved on to LaJolla, California where he established the Salk Institute and devoted the remainder of his life to medical research.

Following the development of the vaccine Dr. Salk was an overnight hero. The night of the announcement he was interviewed by Edward R. Morrow on "See it Now" a widely popular television news program and when asked who owned the patent on the vaccine Dr. Salk replied: "Well the people, I would say. There is no patent. Could you patent the Sun?" Dr. Salk was ranked, in an opinion poll taken at the time somewhere between Churchill and Ghandi as a revered figure in contemporary history. Schools were named in his honor as well as fraternal and social organization chapters and he was one of the premier Jewish role models for high school and college students. As recently as last year Michael Shapiro in his book, "The Jewish 100", included Dr. Salk as one of the most influential Jews of all time.

Today polio as a disease is virtu-

Continued on page 10

Corrections

✧ In the June 23 issue of *The Jewish Voice*, in an article titled "Perry Goldlust Re-Elected To Head AKSE," the name of the Congregation's Rabbi Sanford L. Dresin did not appear. Rabbi Sanford L. Dresin is the spiritual leader of Delaware's Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth.

✧ In a story titled "Clergy United In Dover To Lobby Legislature" reformatting removed punctuation from a section which should have read as printed below:

The substantive provisions of Senate Bill 34 Substitute No. 1 are as follows:

- a 2 minute period of silence at the start of each school day

- voluntary, student-delivered messages at graduation exercises

- school officials authorized to assure that the content of student delivered voluntary messages is consistent with Federal and State law

- Department of Justice to issue annual model rules/regulations for school districts to insure implementation consistent with Federal and State law

- Amendment requires the State attorney general, at taxpayers' expense, to defend any school district sued because it took advantage of the bill's provisions.

✧ If you find errors in any issue of *The Jewish Voice* you may be eligible to volunteer as a proofreader for *The Jewish Voice* for a few hours in Dover twice a month. If you are interested in volunteering or you have comments about *The Jewish Voice* please write *The Jewish Voice* at 100 W. 10th St., Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801.

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NACHES

Bloom Birth

Kathy, Seth, and big brother Adam Bloom are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter and sister, Rachel Janey, born May 29, 1995. Rachel will be given her Hebrew name Rachel Sara at Shabbat Services, Saturday, July 15, at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Rachel is named in loving memory of her cousin Jack Nitzberg and great-grandmother Sarah Bloom. Her proud grandparents are Elaine and Ralph Friedberg, Wilmington, Myrna Bloom, Dresher, Pennsylvania, and Joseph Bloom, North Wales, Pennsylvania, and her great-grandparents

are Anne and Harld Cohen, Hollandale, Florida, and Bess Sher, Dresher, Pennsylvania.

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Designing For An Imperfect World

Continued from page 1

migrants, the peace process, the Israeli economy, and, yes, about bikinis. "We build on people's dreams, on their imaginations," says Oberson, and then "help them reach those dreams."

Leah Gottlieb, the founder of Gottex and the designing genius behind its fashionable reputation, was hidden along with her two young daughters from the Nazis by non-Jews in Hungary while her husband served in the Russian army and was later imprisoned in a Nazi labor camp. They, like the Obersons, arrived in Israel in 1949 with nothing but dreams. The Gottliebs first manufactured raincoats, which was a flop in a country that has limited rainfall. Next they tried children's clothing. Undaunted, they moved on to swimwear — but with a hint of lingerie design. The rest is fashion history.

The power of personal transformation is at the foundation of both Gottex and Gideon Oberson. It is possible to go through the darkest chapter in Jewish history and still create things of beauty. It is possible to start out poor and later make millions. Jews can break into a non-Jewish fashion world and Israeli-based companies can sell products in 62 countries worldwide. And refugees from World War II can come up with

an idea and have it enhance the self-esteem of millions of people.

The optimism of Israeli swim fashion has a messianic feel. Well, maybe not the messianism in which we pray for the transformation of the world. It's Lycra messianism, fueled by the passion to transcend one's imperfect physical destiny. And the faith that many women put in Israeli swimwear to help them reach beyond their natural physical figures is fervent.

"We work very hard on what's in the bathing suit, like tummy control and wires and cups to help the body look better," says Oberson. Gottex, which has 550 pieces in its collection, has revolutionized the body-sculpting dimension of swimsuits, which is one reason why such notables as Princess Di, Ivana, Nancy Kissinger, Queen Elizabeth, Brook Shields, Barbara Walters, and Yoko Ono wear Gottex. The famous and the not so famous order Gottex through Victoria's Secret or walk into posh stores like Harrod's in London or Neiman Marcus in the U.S. And most women don't have the Sports Illustrated model body. "Of course we design for bad figures," says Miriam Ruzow, president of Gottex USA. "Most people have bad figures."

Gottex has taken the Lycra messianism of personal transformation a step further. Women who have undergone mastectomies have the hardest time finding a bathing suit that comfortably compensates for their surgery. Gottex has engineered stylish suits with built-in bras and openings that hold prostheses se-

curely in place. Other suits feature high-cut armholes that conceal scars and special order versions are available for women with special needs. With a piece of designed cloth, a personal trauma can melt away in the summer sun, restoring a woman's self-image despite the limitations of biology and science. Fashion has come to the rescue.

The Gottex optimism has spilled over into the political arena as well. For many years Gottex has been selling its products in several Arab countries, but without the "Made in Israel" label. King Hussein's former wife once called a London store to order a specific Gottex suit. When she found that they were out, she managed to get it through diplomatic back-channels straight from Tel Aviv. This year, Gottex is celebrating the Middle East peace process as part of its Cruise/Holiday line, which includes arabesque designs in their Casablanca, Marrakoch and Jewel of the Nile suits.

"I have a great deal of respect for Israelis," says Julie Campbell, senior editor for fashion at Sports Illustrated. "The wars, the terrorism. And yet they have hope." Campbell says that Israel is on her "top 10" list of places she would like to shoot a future swimsuit issue, but is waiting for the political situation to calm down a little more. "I would do it near Eilat. I hear the scuba diving is extraordinary. I would also put girls in bathing suits in the middle of an irrigation field in the desert and also amid olive trees."

While Gottex and Gideon Oberson have dominated the American market, other Israeli companies are now hoping to make a splash. Pilpel, which is the third most popular swimwear in Europe and has 150 styles, sells in Neiman Marcus and Macy's. Diva, which features 165 styles, was started by Cisselle Hirschthal in 1939 and sold many suits to Arab countries before Israel's War of Independence in 1948. Scubi, founded only 11 years ago by Zvika Kahn, an immigrant from Italy, includes 65 styles and claims to have the same quality as top-of-the-line Gottex, but for an average price of \$35.

"Gottex offers very fashion-forward designs and silhouettes with quality fabrics and interesting prints at exclusive prices," says Gary Abeyta, publisher of Swim Journal, a trade publication. "Now other Israeli companies are trying to offer similar quality but at cheaper prices. I think Israeli companies will always find a niche in the American market." The acceptance of Israeli swimwear in the mainstream American market has not only captured the imaginations of millions of women, but also a piece of Americana. The Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders — as apple pie with sex appeal as you can get — wear Oberson's sleek bikinis and pose in them for their annual calendar, which has experienced a five-fold increase in sales since sporting the "Made In Israel" products.

"The very sense of Judaism is the struggle of the spirit with the flesh," wrote historian Joseph Klausner. In the case of Israeli swimwear, the spirit of optimism and the power of design have tamed the flesh and sculpted it so that anxious bathers around the world can sit back, relax and appreciate the other wonders of God's creation.

Talks

Continued from page 3

has characterized the working relationship between Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during this period of crucial decision making, both in the Israel-Palestinian talks and on the Israeli-Syrian track.

Movement on the Israeli-Syrian track, meanwhile, was also expected this week with Monday's scheduled arrival of Dennis Ross, head of the Clinton administration's Mideast peace team, for talks in Jerusalem and Damascus.

The American diplomat is hoping to arrange for talks between Israeli and Syrian military in Washington in mid-July as a follow up to talks earlier this month between the two

(Yosef I. Abramowitz, a journalist, lecturer and consultant, serves as assistant director of The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values)

Temple Beth El Confirmands

The following is a list of Temple Beth El Confirmands:

Merissa Courtright, daughter of John and Ilene Courtright.

Jeremy Friedman, son of Howard and Phyllis Friedman.

Leila Herron, daughter of Tom and Joyce Herron.

Leah Moses, daughter of Bill and Andi Moses.

Jacob Reidel, son of Leslie and Janice Reidel.

Matthew Rosenthal, son of Richard and Susan Rosenthal.

Sara Sheffler, daughter of Mark and Sylvia Sheffler.

countries' chiefs of staff.

The next round of talks is expected to be followed by a shuttle between the two capitals by Secretary of State Warren Christopher in late July or early August.

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