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SHARON: A STROKE OF FATE?

By Leslie Susser, JTA

Only two things seem capable of stopping Ariel Sharon's new Kadima party from winning March elections by a landslide: a hail of Palestinian rockets from the Gaza Strip or a turn for the worse in Sharon's health.

Ever since the prime minister suffered a minor stroke last week — he's scheduled for a heart catheterization procedure in January — speculation has been rife as to what might happen if Sharon were seriously incapacitated.

Some pundits say it would open the center of the Israeli political spectrum — space occupied today largely by Kadima — to fierce competition from other parties.

Some doubt whether anyone but Sharon would have the clout to carry through further withdrawals from the West Bank. And some predict that without Sharon, Kadima would simply implode.

What's clear is that Sharon's brief hospitalization has put the health issue and the question of who would succeed him as prime minister near the top of the election agenda.

Another potential embarrassment for Kadima could be ongoing Palestinian rocket fire on Israeli

civilians. The fact that just months after Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, a move touted as Sharon's greatest foreign policy success, Palestinian rockets are falling almost daily on Israeli civilians and even reaching the port city of Ashkelon could have a major impact on the March ballot.

Traditionally, Israeli elections have been won or lost in the battle between Labor and Likud over the middle ground between them. The difference in this election is that Kadima already has captured most of that political space.

If Sharon is taken out of the equation, however, both Labor and Likud would hope to make inroads into the centrist vote.

Regardless of whether or not Sharon is there, both Labor and Likud are positioning themselves for an assault on the centrist fringes. Labor leader Amir Peretz is deliberately distancing himself from the dovish left: "We are not Geneva," he says, referring to the left's "Geneva accord" peace initiative, which offers the Palestinians additional concessions beyond the peace plan that was on the table before the intifada began.

Peretz adds that Labor would be even tougher on terrorism than Kadima or the right, because "no one could accuse us of trying to

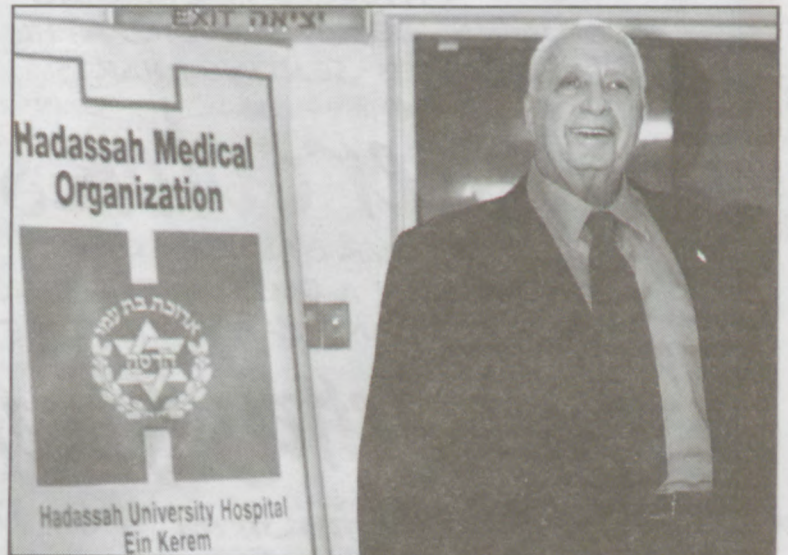
scuttle peace prospects."

Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu also is trying to boost his centrist credentials. His representatives describe the Likud as "a liberal centrist movement," and Netanyahu is moving to marginalize the disproportionate influence within the party of a far-right grouping led by Moshe Feiglin.

Other smaller parties contesting the centrist space are Yosef "Tommy" Lapid's secular Shinui Party and Tafnit, a small party formed by a former Israel Defense Forces' deputy chief of staff Uzi Dayan, which is running on an anti-corruption platform. These parties also would benefit from Sharon's absence.

Some pundits suggest that Kadima could disintegrate without Sharon. Leading Kadima politicians, such as Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, respond that Kadima reflects a deep need in Israeli society that goes far beyond Sharon the man: A desire to create a Jewish and democratic Israel, free from terrorism, living within borders recognized by most of the international community.

Livni says Kadima stems from an awakening of right-wing Israelis from the dream of Greater Israel and a recognition among left-wingers that there can be no



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon speaks to the press before leaving Hadassah Ein Karem Hospital on Dec. 20, 2005, two days after suffering a mild stroke. Looking pale but smiling, Sharon said his illness would not affect his work. Credit: Pool/BP Images/JTA

instant peace with the Palestinians. Without Sharon, the party might do less well at the polls, but still well enough to go on pressing for what it believes, Livni told Israel TV.

In Sharon's absence, Livni and Finance Minister Ehud Olmert probably would vie for the leadership. Olmert is far more experienced, is very close to Sharon and was the

first Cabinet minister to back the Gaza withdrawal plan.

Livni, another Sharon favorite, formulated compromises with Sharon's Likud opponents in government and is drafting Kadima's election platform. Her big advantage is that she is more popular than Olmert: Polls show Kadima under Livni winning 30 seats to just

See SHARON, page 19

KID TO KID: AEA STUDENTS HELP THE YOUNG VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

By Judi Feinson
Special to the Jewish Voice

When Hurricane Katrina and its ugly aftermath hit the news, it didn't

take long for the students and staff of Albert Einstein Academy to launch into action. On the very first day of school, the classrooms and hallways were abuzz with talk about



Second Grade AEA students sit next to some of the school supplies they collected for their Katrina's Kids project. Seated (from left) Jenna Glazier, Maya Shapira, Noah Haines, Olivia Garber, Sylvian Horden, Valerie Howard, Coby Goodhart. Standing by the graph they created to depict donations are Jodi Lessner (L) and Jordi Butt. Photo by Brad Glazier.



Albert Einstein Academy sixth grade students proudly display some of the tzedakah they gathered to help Katrina victims. In the bottom row are (From left) Danny Goodman, Sara Downard, Jacob Eisenberg. Middle row (from left) are Josh Schwartz, Sam Rambo, Mark Stape, Aaron Kogon, Lindsey Weiss. Very top: Aaron Feldman. Photos by Brad Glazier.

what the school could do to help alleviate the pain and suffering of the thousands of Americans affected by the tragedy. A plan to help the

children of the Gulf Coast was agreed upon and aptly named, Katrina's Kids.

Katrina's Kids, spearheaded by

the students in sixth and second grade, collected tzedakah and school supplies for needy children displaced by the storm. Each morning, sixth graders visit every classroom to collect cash and checks. Karen Bradley, the sixth grade Language Arts teacher guiding this effort raved, "We are so excited that the children have collected over \$1375!"

After the sixth grade students tallied the monetary donations, the funds were turned over to the Jewish Federation of Delaware and sent to Louisiana and Mississippi to help affected families and organizations.

The second grade students, along with teacher Nancy Brock, decorated a large school supply collection box, which they placed in their classroom. All AEA students were encouraged to deposit a variety of new school supplies, with the exception of crayons, which could melt in the heat. Pencils, pens, colored pencils, sharpeners, markers,

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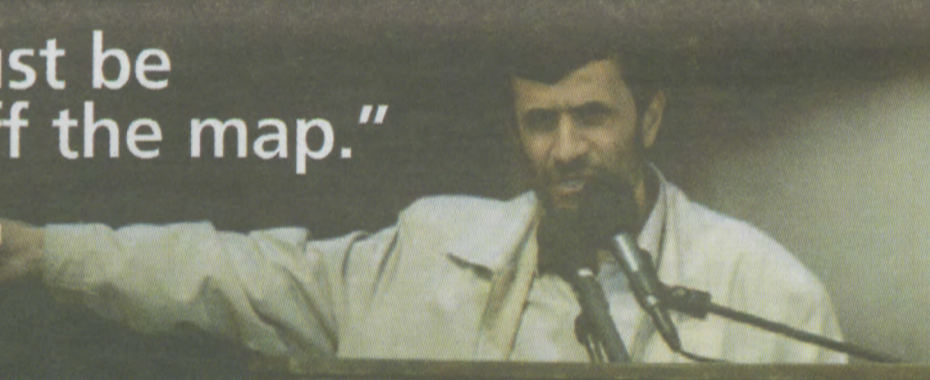
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Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
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FEDERATION FOCUS

Notes from Idan



Idan Kligerman and friends

Chag Urim Same'ach (Happy lights holyday)

Shalom everybody! While you are reading this, you have probably kindled your 7th or 8th candle of Chanukah. This is a great holiday that reminds us of the importance of maintaining our faith and strengthening our commitment to our community. These connections truly will open the door for happiness and success

In this week's Torah portion, Joseph interprets one of Pharaoh's

dreams and suggests ways that the Egyptian ruler can combat the effects of the oncoming drought. The commentator Ramban, among others, points out that this was not part of Joseph's explanation of the dream, but was rather Joseph acting on his own when he saw that he could improve his situation

Joseph believed that he had reached a turning point in his destiny and needed to act on this unique opportunity. In seizing this long-awaited moment, he propelled himself out

of jail and ascended to the second most powerful office in all of Egypt.

We can all learn from this parsha not to sit back and let moments pass us by, but rather to gather the motivation and energy to take advantage of the opportunities that G-d provides for us. By following this example set forth by Joseph, we will most certainly succeed in what we strive to do.

During the weekend of Dec. 16th-17th Congregation Beth Shalom hosted the Delaware Gratz Hebrew High school Chanukah Shab-baton. Sixteen teenagers enjoyed Shabbat services, Israel trivia games and reenacted key moments in our people's history.

Beth Shalom afforded us wonderful hospitality, meaningful services and great kosher meals. We enjoyed a trip to the Brandywine Zoo followed by stimulating discussions about the meaning of the name Chanukah and where it came from.

We made Sufganiyot from scratch. These donuts filled with jelly or chocolate are the signature Israeli Chanukah treat. We got really dirty but had a lot of fun. After we cleaned up, we had nine stations of fun games about Chanukah in Israel. It was fun to learn about the differences

in the ways Israeli and Diaspora Jews celebrate this Festival of Lights.

In Israel, all eight days of Chanukah are school holidays, allowing time for children and their families to attend many of the new beautiful musicals and shows that are introduced during this special holiday. Some lucky kids even go to a different show every candle day.

Chanukah is a big, joyous celebration in the Jewish state. Every child and adult eagerly awaits his or her Gelt.

I would like to thank all the staff that helped make the Gratz Shabbaton such a success. Todah Rabah to Julie Schwartz and staff and volunteers from Gratz and Congregation Beth Shalom including Hazzan Michael Horowitz, Meredith Weiss, Rabbi Michael Beals, Roland Roth, Merrill Dorph, Estelle and Richard Rabbi Eliezer Sneiderman and Marlene Milunsky. This was truly a home run weekend for the Gratz students who met with Senator Carper on Sunday and heard his impressions from his last trip to Israel a month ago. The students of the Advocacy for Israel class led by Mark Wagman were thrilled to have a personal meeting with him!

Thank to all the students from Albert Einstein Academy, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Beth El

and Congregation Beth Shalom who wrote greeting cards for Chanukah to American Jewish soldiers and Israeli soldiers from our sister community Arad.

This is a true Mitzvah. As a soldier I remember that getting these cards would always make my holiday.

The weekly riddle winner in the last edition of The Jewish Voice was Hannah Geller. She won a blinking Jewish star necklace from Israel for knowing that the first Olympic gold medalist was Gal Fridman.

This week's riddle is: Why does the flag of Israel have two blue stripes on a white background?

Idan Kligerman is Delaware's first Shlichut or Young Emissary in over 20 years. Support for the Young Emissary program in Delaware comes from the Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, Partnership 2000 and Matt Slap Subaru. Idan will be here full-time through February promoting Israel and strengthening the bond between Israel and Delaware, after February he will be in Cherry Hill and will visit Delaware once a month. Idan is fluent in Hebrew and English, and can be reached at the Federation office (302) 427-2100 ext. 30. Also visit the Partnership 2000 website for general P2K information <http://www.partner.org.il/arad/>

Early Decision



Ruth Rosenberg

I am blessed with two glorious teenagers, both now in high school. Kenny, the freshman, is a

young man in training navigating his way through the rigors of academics, sports and an expanding social life. Jen is a senior, a distinction that invites the same conversation over and over again ala the 1993 film, "Groundhog Day" – How goes the college search? What's her first choice? Have you visited many schools? I've had this discussion so many times over the last six months I could flip a switch in my head and spew the details without thinking. The short answers are great, she doesn't have one and YES.

One aspect of the current process that was not an option when I embarked on my own higher education journey x years ago is "Early Decision." Students who have a true first choice, practically bleed the school colors and are will-

ing to forgo offers from any other colleges can submit their applications by an early deadline and get a response from this school of their dreams a fortnight before the ball drops in Times Square. The student is making a binding commitment, signing perhaps their first legal document, promising to withdraw all other applications and attend this school if accepted. What they gain is early knowledge and consideration within a smaller pool of applicants; what they lose is the opportunity to weigh scholarship offers (fingers crossed here) and they must make their choice nearly six months before the Regular Decision kids. After much contemplation, Jen chose the latter. Without a drop dead first choice, she wasn't inclined to make a binding decision in November that could

have tremendous impact on her next four years and beyond.

Many of you have made an Early Decision. You've made a binding commitment that has great impact on not just one but thousands of lives. You've made your pledge early to the 2006 Annual Campaign. Under the strong leadership of co-chairs Suzanne Grant and Robin Kauffman Saran we've raised over \$1,325,000 so far! Gifts are coming in higher and faster than ever before. Super Sunday volunteers catapulted the Campaign forward along with a dedicated cadre of solicitors working the phones and making personal contacts all year long. These generous commitments mean that our agencies can continue to provide outstanding services in our community and Jews in need across the globe will have

life sustaining aid like food, medicine and winter relief.

By the time you read this, many of Jen's friends will know which college they will attend next fall. While Jen won't know until the spring, she knows for sure that she'll go to college, be well educated and ultimately engage in the occupation of her choice. (By the way, while she didn't do Early Decision for college, she did make an early commitment - with an increase - to the Annual Campaign!) With your commitment to the Jewish Federation of Delaware, you can know for sure that you're an integral part of our community's efforts to repair the world, tikkun olam, saving and improving lives. Your promise to Live Generously will make a difference to countless people. It surely does a world of good.

From generation to generation



Lauren Schultz

I remember sitting at the dining room table with my mother, sister and brother putting together Super Sunday giveaway bags. There was a typical spread of donated items, from memo pads and pens to chip

clips and candy. When Super Sunday arrived that year, I was given the oh-so-important job of handing out a bag of goodies to each volunteer as they registered. After that, I got to tie a balloon to the back of caller's chairs each time a certain goal was reached. It was the perk of having your mom be the Super Sunday chair. Although I did not quite grasp the big picture of Federation (after all, I was only 10 years old), I did know volunteers were there to raise money for people in need. It was my first introduction to Federation. My family's tradition of Super Sunday involvement continued for many years. When my father became the President of the Jewish Federation of Atlantic & Cape May Counties in 1995, I started to realize Federation involved more than just Super Sunday.

My family's passion grew tremen-

dously during my father's term as President. When my brother asked my parents if he could have his bar mitzvah in Israel, they ended up chairing the National Summer Family Mission of '96. That trip to Israel would change our lives forever. The love we had for Israel became more intense than ever and my mother became Federation's Israel Programs chair. My parents started traveling to Israel frequently, making many connections and friendships in Arad (the New Jersey/Delaware cluster's partnership city). The more my parents' zeal grew, the more I learned about the many facets of the federated world.

My parents have clearly been an inspiration to me, teaching me the importance of fulfilling the mitzvah of tzedakah from an early age. However, it wasn't until about 5

years ago that I understood the importance of a "meaningful gift." In the year 2000, my mother went to the Lion of Judah Conference in Israel. During her caucus, the first woman to speak pledged more than my parents made in a year. My mother was so overwhelmed, her emotions running high, she broke down in tears. It was then that she realized she was a part of something huge. It was a struggle for my mother to be giving at the Lion level, but it was imperative to both my mother and father. The fervor my parents share has been instilled in me.

Three years ago I moved to Philadelphia unsure about my future. At 23 years old, I had no clue what I wanted to be when I grew up...a myriad of ideas, but no real plan. My mother suggested I attend a workshop at the General

Assembly (which conveniently was held in Philadelphia that year), called "The Transition from For-Profit to Non-Profit." The rest is history. I joined the JFD staff as a Campaign Associate and now, here I am, the Women's Philanthropy Director. I am looking forward to fueling the fire that burns in my heart as my birthright. It is an honor to be able to work specifically with the women of this community. Women are a vital and significant part of our Annual Campaign. We have a lot of responsibility and we must set the example for others to follow...our peers and the next generation alike. There are many opportunities to participate in Women's Philanthropy. You can be involved in programming or campaigning or simply make a gift in your own name. Please join me in leading the way. Live Generously...It does a world of good.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Taking stock - moving forward

American Jews are indeed fortunate. We have THREE New Years to celebrate - Tu B'Shevat, Rosh Hashanah and the secular celebration on Saturday evening.

Although December 31st is widely viewed as an excuse to "drink and make merry," it is an ideal time to take stock of personal and professional achievements in the year that is ending, give thanks to those who have helped us to realize those achievements and resolve to move forward in the year ahead.

In 2005 the Jewish Voice changed its masthead and modernized its layout. We have responded to readers requests for more local news coverage and continue to strive to make this a truly interactive publication.

Sid Stein, our Advertising Sales Manager and I wish to thank all of our advertisers for their support throughout the year. We encourage all of you to patronize their businesses!

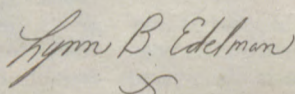
Our thanks as well to those loyal readers who so generously supported our recent Voluntary Subscription Drive. You have helped us to defray production and printing costs and make this paper more cost-effective.

On behalf of our publisher, The Jewish Federation of Delaware, I convey sincere

thanks to all who volunteered their time, talent and energies to make this year's Live Generously Super Sunday such an incredible success. Special thanks to Super Sunday co-chairs Debra Kimless-Garber and Eve Slap and to the loyal businesses who served as event sponsors. Super Sunday helped spur the 2006 Federation Annual Campaign to an impressive \$1,325,000.

Let's keep the momentum going! 2006 Annual Campaign co-chairs Suzanne Grant and Robin Saran invite the community to share their Catskill photos and personal stories to help make this year's "Borscht Belt" themed Vanguard Event truly memorable. For more information about this January 21st special evening at Congregation Beth Emeth, please call Ruth Rosenberg at (302) 427-2100, ext. 17.

A happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!



Lynn B. Edelman
Editor

Taste of Torah

Securing a Jewish future

By Rabbi
Eliezer Sneiderman



Rabbi
Eliezer Sneiderman

While it is generally accepted that the age of prophecy has ended, we see that there are actually prophets today. These prophets inhabit the Academy. Instead of with dreams, today's prophets predict the future with surveys, studies and statistics. The future they predict is rather grim.

In case you haven't seen the latest sociological studies, let me share them with you. They call into question the ability of the Jewish community to survive American suburbanization. As Steven Cohen, a professor at HUC, writes in the Journal of Jewish Communal Service, "however we discern these trends, they point to the fact that fewer Jews are marrying other Jews; fewer Jews have Jewish friends; fewer have Jewish neighbors; fewer work with Jewish co-workers; fewer belong to Jewish institutions (save synagogues and JCCs); fewer feel attached to Israel; and fewer feel a commanding sense of Jewish peoplehood." The death of the Jewish neighborhood, in academic terms - diminished geographic contiguity, has resulted in a decrease in all measures of Jewish identity and observance. The intermarriage rate according to the 2000 NJPS study is 47%. While the community is committed to reaching out to this population, and must continue to do so, some hard statistics need to be looked at: 96% of in-married parents celebrate Passover, compared with 46% of intermarried parents; 85% of in-married parents fast on Yom Kippur, 39% of intermarried, 80% of in-married parents belong to a synagogue, 19% of intermarried; 60% of in-married parents give over 100 dollars a year to Jewish causes, 17% of intermarried. These findings are not just external measurements. They are supported by internal feelings as well. Over

60% of in-married respondents reported that Judaism was very important to them, compared to 30% of the intermarried. Before I am called judgmental let me say that I am just repeating NJPS figures. One cannot judge individual decisions, as they make sense to those who make them, and there are exceptions to the rule. I only point out the general consensus of the academy to make one point. If we do not support in-marriage as a communal goal we will not be around in the future. Our communal organizations cannot expect a 2/3 drop in donations and expect to survive.

This brings me back to the parsha. In the parshos Vayeishev and Mekeitz we see a lot of prophetic dreams, Joseph dreams about stars and sheaves, Pharaoh dreams about cows and corn, even Pharaoh's butler and baker are having prophetic dreams. The images may be amusing, but the dreams themselves call into question philosophical issues of predestination and free choice. If the future can be predicted by a dream, what kind of free choice do we have? In fact it is Joseph's brothers attempt to circumvent Joseph's predicted leadership that eventually results in his ascension. In our case, are these predictions of doom and gloom destined to unfold?

It is important to keep in mind a few things. First, as Rambam states, the whole system of Jewish law is predicated on free choice. While the world has patterns and rhythms that can be predicted, we, through using free choice, have the ability to rise above these patterns. Through proper choices we can rise above these gloomy statistics. Second, Joseph in his interpretation to Pharaoh advises him how to avoid the impending famine.

In our case, the research is also clear, every Jewish experience after Bar and Bat Mitzvah results in an increase in Jewish identity and a decrease in the incidence of intermarriage. Increased support of day school, Jewish camps, trips to Israel, Gratz, and Jewish college programming will solve our problems. Finally, it is important to remember that in the end G-d controls and directs the world. He has promised us that one day our numbers will be like sands of the sea, or the stars in the heavens. Let's do our best to be amongst those numbers.

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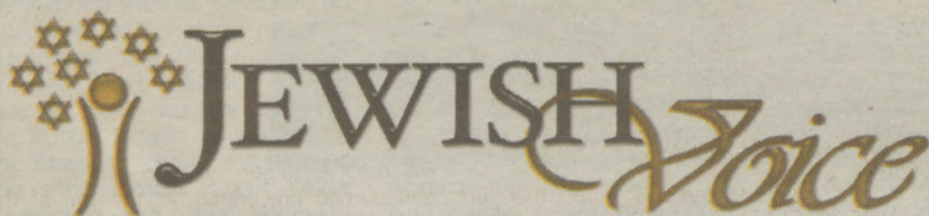
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NCSJ monitors Russian Anti-Semitism

We want to update you on recent developments in the fight against the rise of popular anti-Semitism in Ukraine. A leading voice in promoting extremism, intolerance and anti-Semitism has been the Ukrainian university MAUP (The Inter-Regional Academy of Personnel Management) NCSJ has been monitoring MAUP for a number of years and we continue to speak about their anti-Semitic activities with Ukrainian and U.S. government officials, Ukrainian Jewish leaders, and our member agencies.

As a result of our discussions with the U.S. State Department, during her recent visit to Kyiv, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice raised the issue of MAUP with the highest levels of Ukrainian government. She received assurances from Ukrainian Foreign Minister Tarasyuk government lawyers are reviewing Ukrainian law to see what actions can be taken against MAUP.

Josef Zissels, a prominent Jewish leader in Ukraine, has continued to push his government to confront MAUP's agenda of hate. NCSJ is in regular contact with Mr. Zissels and other Ukrainian Jewish leaders.

Last week, NCSJ made a series of recommendations for action on MAUP to the Chargé d'Affaires of the Ukrainian Embassy. These recommendations included charging MAUP under the Criminal Code of Ukraine, which

provides for "the punishment of willful actions inciting national, racial, or religious enmity and hatred," and banning of David Duke, the white supremacist and frequent guest of MAUP, from entering Ukraine. NCSJ also recommended that Ukraine review MAUP's academic accreditation and registration status.

NCSJ is also working closely with the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, which have released statements (see attached), both in the United States and in Ukraine, that strongly condemn MAUP's anti-Semitic activities. We encourage you to reach out to your local Ukrainian American community to thank them for these statements and to urge them to tell the Ukrainian government to stop MAUP's dissemination of anti-Semitic hate.

NCSJ will continue to press the Ukrainian government to go beyond statements of condemnation and take concrete steps to stop the anti-Semitic activities of MAUP. Please continue to check our website (www.ncsj.org) for background information and new developments on MAUP and other issues affecting Jews in Ukraine and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Meth, Chairman
Joel M. Schindler, President
Mark B. Levin, Executive Director

EDITORIAL AND OPINIONS

An Arab-Jewish Fun Day

By Nechemia Meyers

In recent weeks the children of Ghajar have rarely smiled. They are in shock because their village, the control of which is divided between Israel and Lebanon, has been turned into a blood-stained battleground as a result of Hizbullah attempts to kill or capture Israeli soldiers stationed nearby. During the most serious incident so far, 300 Ghajar schoolchildren spent eight hours jammed into three small shelters, without water, electricity, food or toilets, and unable to contact their parents. Only at 10:00 p.m., when the shelling died down, were they allowed to leave.

One of the people who teaches in Ghajar also teaches in Kibbutz Yiron, and he told his students at the kibbutz about the suffering of his students in the Arab village. "What can we do to help them?" the youngsters at Yiron asked, almost in unison. An answer to that question came from the Ministry of Education and the Upper Galilee Regional Council, which suggested that the Yiron kids organize a fun day at the kibbutz for their agemates at Ghajar. This event, set up with the help of Dr. Moshe Farchi of Tel Hai College and his social work students, was a

great success.

Farchi is an expert in trauma and post-traumatic stress, with experience in both the frequently bombarded Galilee towns and in Sri Lanka. He was sent to the latter as head of an Israeli team that helped rehabilitate local children after last year's tsunami had devastated the area in which they lived. The main intervention model developed by Farchi is a non-verbal one that helps the children to regain their coping abilities.

"What we learned there turned out to be applicable here as well," Farchi declares. "We discovered in Sri Lanka that body language enabled us to communicate with local people even though we lacked a common tongue and the same thing happened in Yiron. The 300 kids from Ghajar babbled away in Arabic while the 100 boys and girls from Yiron were talking Hebrew. But this didn't stop members of both groups from enjoying one another's company as they played ball, flew kites, romped with the animals in the petting zoo or participated in circle dances."

Asked to sum up what he had learned from the experience, Farchi said: "It shows that all residents of the Galilee, whatever their ethnicity, can work and play together even in times of stress."

The Anomaly of Ghajar

Five years ago Israel completely withdrew from Lebanon, behind a UN-designated Blue Line. But there remain a number of anomalies, including the division of Ghajar between Lebanon and what was Syria before the Six Day War and is now under Israeli control until final borders are delineated within the framework of a peace settlement

between Israel and Syria.

Thus the residents of "north Ghajar" are Lebanese citizens while the people who live in "south Ghajar" hold Israeli identity cards and, far more important to them, enjoy high-level Israeli services, including Israeli schooling. This means that the children of Ghajar who went to Yiron are no less Israeli—at least in a formal sense—than their hosts.



An Arab-Jewish fun day at Yiron

Happy New Year, L'Chaim

By Jonathan Feldstein and Yaakov Ort

Jewish life is about opportunities to start over, to reflect on errors of the past and strive to be better in the future. This is reflected in most calendars, which note two New Year's celebrations, a Jewish one and a secular one. Yet, there are no more spiritually polar opposites than the "L'haims" that many Jews make on the secular New Year's Eve, and the contemplation of the purpose and meaning of our lives that we make on the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana.

For addicts and alcoholics, whose excess of "L'haims" have brought disaster to their lives and to the lives of their loved ones, there is perhaps no day on the Jewish calendar that is more crucial to their recovery than Rosh Hashana, the day on which we acknowledge the sovereignty of God over every aspect of our lives. By contrast, New Year's Eve is too often about partying and drinking in excess—an intentional effort to lose control. For addicts and alcoholics, this is a per-

fect practical application of the Torah's prohibition of putting a stumbling block in front of a blind person. There is of course an opportunity on the secular New Year for the addict or alcoholic to make a New Year's resolution or two along with the rest of the crowd. But devoid of God, a support system and a program for recovery, the resolution will likely not last the first month, much less the whole year.

On Rosh Hashana we acknowledge that there is a Creator who can and will provide us with the material and spiritual means to lead a meaningful, joyous life; one of the first steps to teshuva (repentance, or return) of any kind, for any person. It certainly is one of the first steps to recovery from addiction to alcohol or drugs. New Year's Eve is, too often, a celebration that is as far from teshuva as possible.

On Rosh Hashana the addict and alcoholic stand with their fellow Jews all over the world, regardless of denomination, sect or label, and together, each saying in our own

way to the God of our individual understanding: "We believe in You. Please help us to change." Rarely on New Year's Eve is there any substantial reflection on issues deeper than living for the moment. On New Year's Eve we stand together will our fellow intoxicateds, asking: "Give me pleasure." Surely there is nothing Jewish about this holiday.

On Rosh Hashana, we ask God to help us, not only to change our own individual lives, but also to bestow goodness, strength, health and prosperity on us, so that we can help to change the lives of others, as specified by our sacred traditions. On New Year's Eve, it is more like "out with the old, in with the new."

On Rosh Hashana, addicts are given this opportunity, as on no other day, to acknowledge their reliance on God, and on the rest of us, to begin or to sustain their recovery. On New Year's Eve, so many Jewish teenage boys and girls are given their first sweet taste of a self-indulgence that will lead to a future filled with bitterness, misery and despair.

It is crucial to note that when men or women suffer from addiction, their children suffer as well. Children of addicts are statistically more likely to become addicts themselves. It is more than likely that physical, psychological and emotional distress will follow their children for the rest of their lives.

But can we be relied upon to help? What does the greater Jewish community do in a sustained, impactful way to increase our awareness and education in order to prevent drug and alcohol abuse, to remove the barriers to recovery once addiction has occurred, and to enable recovery itself?

For groups combating addiction—such as the Israel Anti-Drug Abuse Foundation (IADAF), and JACS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and their Significant Others)—one of the greatest barriers is the fact that many Jews still believe the myth that there is no problem of substance abuse in the Jewish community. Sadly

this is not the case.

In recent decades we in Israel have had to learn how to deal with these problems, first hand, and we have developed a number of new, effective even groundbreaking programs to deal with the growing plague of addiction and substance abuse. Because substance abuse in the Jewish community is not limited to Israel, IADAF, a US-based foundation, has initiated dialogues with Diaspora communities, and Diaspora-based organizations like JACS, to offer their services in the context of a Jewish environment.

There is no precedent for this type of initiative, where Israel extends its home grown social programs to Diaspora communities. Despite recent and ongoing budget cuts for social services of all kinds in Israel, we believe that the problem of drugs and alcohol facing Jews around the world is one that needs to be addressed, for the wellbeing of us each individually, and communally.

On this secular New Year, let us hope that Jewish institutions and entire communities will resolve to join us and put substance abuse, and prevention, at the top of their agenda. With New Year's Eve coinciding with Chanukah, let us hope that we have the dedication of the Macabees to undertake this task before us, and make miracles happen, "bayamim ha'hem, bazman ha'zeh - as in those days, even among us today." The human and actual cost to the community of not doing so will hurt us for years to come. May this year bring us life, health, peace and prosperity, and may all of our "L'haims" truly be to life.

Jonathan Feldstein is the executive director of the Israel Anti Drug Abuse Foundation (jonathanf@antidrug.gov.il, 1-646-452-9939). Yaakov Ort is a vice president of Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others (JACS), jacs@jacsweb.org a program of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services of New York. He is also group director of Creative Services at The New York Times.

This Week in Jewish History



Celebrate 350
Jewish Life in America
1654 - 2004

This Week in History" is an introduction to 350 years of American Jewish history, brought to you by the Jewish Women's Archive. More information about each of the events described below can be found on JWA's website at http://www.jwa.org/this_week/week_31.html

DECEMBER 26, 1907

The largest rent strike New York City had ever seen began on December 26, 1907 and helped lead to the eventual establishment of rent control in New York.

DECEMBER 27, 1927

"Show Boat," based on Edna Ferber's book of the same name, premiered on Broadway on December 27, 1927. It is considered the first modern American musical.

DECEMBER 28, 1944

The Broadway musical "On the Town," featuring the writing of librettist and lyricist

Betty Comden, opened on December 28, 1944.

DECEMBER 31, 1942

Ayn Rand, celebrated novelist and creator of Objectivism, delivered the completed manuscript of her novel "The Fountainhead" to her publisher on December 31, 1942.

DECEMBER 31, 1944

Josephine Sarah Marcus-Earp, who died on December 31, 1944, is buried next to her husband Wyatt Earp, renowned "gun slinger" and lawman, in a small Jewish cemetery near San Francisco.

JANUARY 1, 1863

Confederate troops recaptured the town of Galveston, Texas, on January 1, 1863, after receiving a message from Rosanna Dyer Osterman, a leading member of Texas's first Jewish community and later an important philanthropist.

JANUARY 1, 1959

Caroline Klein Simon was sworn in as New York's Secretary of State on January 1, 1959.

Do you have a "Catskills Connection?"

Bring your Borscht Belt photos and stories to Ruth Rosenberg, JFD Campaign Director, by January 9th for inclusion in the January 21st Vanguard Event. Call 427-2100, ext. 17, for more information.

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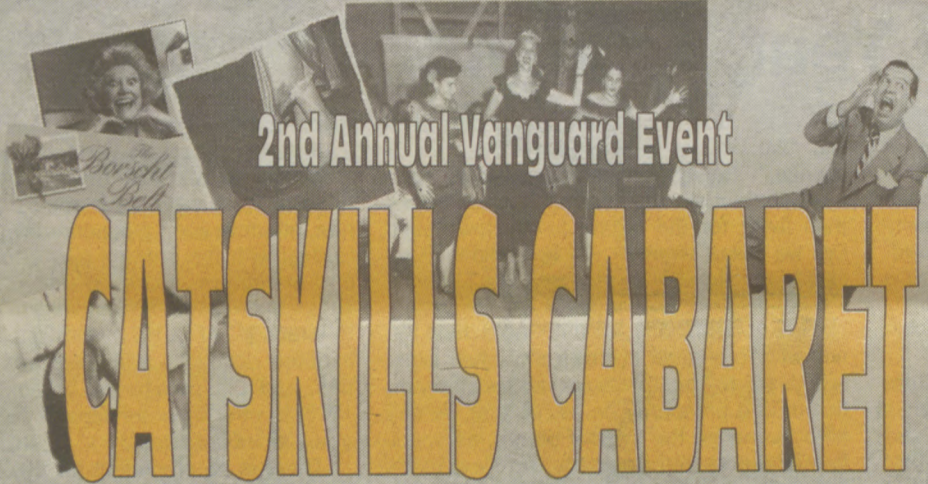


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Milton Berle...Shecky Creene...Jackie Mason...Red Buttons...Norm Crosby...Nenny Youngman...Buddy Hackett...Jackie Vernon...Sid Caesar



2nd Annual Vanguard Event

CATSKILLS CABARET

Saturday, January 21, 2006 at 7 PM
at Congregation Beth Emeth

Join us for dinner, dancing and the comedy stylings of Joel Chasoff. Joel brings creativity and imagination to comedy and an innovative look at the funnier aspects of Jewish life. His uproariously funny observations are surely worthy of a "Borscht Belt" night out!

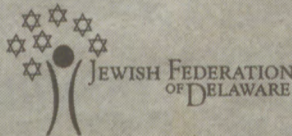


We need your help! Please share your Catskills memories with us...stories, photos, etc. We'd love to include them at this fabulous event!

Send us your stuff by January 9. E-mail to info@shalomdel.org, snail-mail, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801 or call (302) 427-2100

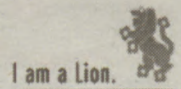
The Vanguard Event has a minimum contribution level of \$1000 per household to the 2006 Annual Campaign

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Save the date for the National Reach for the Ruby Event ~ exclusive Ruby Lion of Judah event at the Four Seasons, Palm Beach on February 27, 2006.

Call Jennifer Young at 302-427-2100, ext. 19 for more information.




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13 THE UNTOLD STORY OF EMMETT TILL (not rated) 2:00, 8:00	14 THE UNTOLD STORY OF EMMETT TILL (not rated) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00	15 THE UNTOLD STORY OF EMMETT TILL (not rated) 2:00, 5:00
20 DOWN TO THE BONE (not rated) 2:00, 8:00	21 DOWN TO THE BONE (not rated) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00	22 DOWN TO THE BONE (not rated) 2:00, 5:00*
27 BEAUTY REMAINS (not rated) 2:00, 8:00	28 BEAUTY REMAINS (not rated) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00	29 BEAUTY REMAINS (not rated) 2:00, 5:00

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Volunteers Needed!

Theatre N at Nemours is expanding their showtime schedule starting July 8, 2005. The theatre is run with a volunteer staff, and with an increased number of shows, we need more volunteers!

Volunteer duties include: Selling tickets • Validating parking tickets for patrons • Selling concessions and making popcorn • Collecting tickets at the door of the theatre

All volunteers get to watch the films for free when they work, and are entitled to a free drink and free popcorn or candy.

Showtimes starting July 8th are: Fridays: 2 PM & 8 PM • Saturdays: 2 PM, 5 PM & 8 PM • Sundays: 2 PM & 5 PM

Volunteers need to be at the theatre an hour and a half before the scheduled showtime in order to set up the "box office" and concession stand. The box office opens one hour before showtime. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bev Zimmermann at 302-576-2137 or by email at theatren@ci.wilmington.de.us. You may also sign up on our website at www.theatren.org - click on the "Contact Us" page and fill in your contact information.

Thanks for your interest and we'll see you at the movies!

SAVE THE DATE

TODAY'S DATE
Saturday,
January 21,
2006

JFD Annual Campaign
Vanguard Event

Details to follow

INSIDE DELAWARE

Israel Impressions from a nervous Delaware traveler

By Elaine Schmerling
Special to the Jewish Voice

My husband & I decided to visit Israel WITH the children this past summer. We had been waiting since our '90 trip together for a "safe" time to go again, and Shira, 12 and Jordi, 7, were now old enough to appreciate it and had been asking to go. We heard security was better, and we gathered advice to quell our nerves from other Americans who had been recently.

So last winter as snows fell in Delaware, we dreamed of a warm summer trip to Ha'aretz. We plunged in and booked our trip for August, well after the initial date for Gaza pullout was to occur. All "those" issues seemed far away as we made plans. We picked activities like snorkeling and kayaking down the Jordan, and we finally let ourselves get excited.

And then when it was too late to change any arrangements ... Gaza pullout was moved to the day we were set to arrive. As the date drew nearer, the news reports became more dire. Family and colleagues couldn't believe we were still going through with the trip. The Christian secretary at my daughter's new school said she would pray for us every day! And just before our flight, the U.S. State Department put Israel on Red Alert due to the pullout. Panic now fully set in for me. Were we foolhardily putting our children at risk, I fretted? I barely slept the night before our flight. We felt we just had to go; but even so I couldn't wait for the 2 weeks to finish.

We hardly slept the whole night flight. My heart raced every time

the plane bumped. To distract myself I read Jordi stories and we watched movies.

Sleep deprived, we ended up at a crowded beach on the Mediterranean Sea. Didn't the Red Alert say to avoid crowds? I barely started enjoying the refreshing waters and Israeli music blaring from the beach café before serious voices belted through the loudspeakers. It took almost a full minute to realize they were just closing the guard stations for the night; there was no problem at all! As we left the beach, we saw the large sign that we came to see often on our trip in Hebrew, Arabic and English "Go in Peace". I relaxed a bit.

The children didn't notice my worries. After just three days filled with a desert camel ride, incomparably good fresh food, a swim in the Red Sea and shopping on what we called the Eilat "boardwalk" (more like an Oriental bazaar), Shira said this was the best trip we'd ever taken. She loved Israel so much, maybe she'd move here when she's older!

The next day we took a boat trip on the Red Sea. In an idyllic setting, we observed the American military ship at its station in the waters outside of Akaba a short boat ride way. We were so close to the clearly-visible lands of Jordan, Saudi Arabia & Egypt. The children only saw the mountains, fish and sparkling coral reefs.

Jerusalem. Kotel: the US Red Alert warned against visiting holy places I remembered. But with the security - guards, metal detectors, bag searches, security cameras - we felt OK. Then, we met a friend

at Machne Yehuda market - a place we had planned to avoid due to previous bombings. But my friend could meet us only there "and they've improved security" he said. We went and enjoyed the exotic smells and foods. We then went to the Arab shuk - another spot we had planned to skip. We loved it so much we went back 3 times! Our Israeli cousins were glad. "They are very poor - they need business" they said, perhaps the Intifada has hurt them most of all.

The Gaza pullout was a somber time to be in Israel. Hotel lobbies were packed with people watching the news, talking in hushed voices. We observed quiet protests with candles burning, folk singing, and people displaying orange and blue ribbons. We read and heard every range of opinions about the pullout. Noone knew where it will take them. But Israel is a democracy, and overall, they were committed to following through with plans and were proud of the compassionate soldiers making it happen.

We felt glimpses of a vibrant culture in Israel so different from American Judaism: like the difference between the exciting new Israeli dances developed every year by Israeli choreographers, and the old standard "Mayim"... small Israeli girls stealing the show at a music performance, spontaneously dancing a combination of Middle Eastern belly-dancing and modern line dancing... children who are cherished by a society and included in everything, everywhere...all ages crowded together at a kibbutz gathering on the Sea of Galilee shores, singing folk songs I did not know - completely different than those I



Shira, Warren, Elaine (Schmerling) & Jordi Butt overlooking the Machtsh Ramon, a geologic phenomenon in the Negev.

learned years ago in my youth group and now with my children in America.

"Oriental" or Middle Eastern influences are everywhere. The large numbers of immigrants from Yemen, Morocco, Iraq and other Arab countries make it hard for an American to tell apart many Israeli Jews from Israeli Arabs - the latter whom have very similar lifestyles and are important parts of the social and economic fabric of Israel. Large numbers of Ethiopian Jews we saw as security guards, tourists and others, add even more to the colorful mix of a very diverse population. The fairly new impact of Russians, now one-sixth of Israel's population, is in the making. And the latest group of imigrees - the French - are adding yet more to the story.

A week into our trip, we looked at the US State Department website. The Red Alert had been lifted. It had, fortunately, been a relatively peaceful pullout at the time.

Other trip highlights included springs, mountains, nature preserves, archeology (so many new discoveries in the last 15 years!), beautiful mosaics...and for Jordi, Kosher MacDonalds. The children loved everything. History came alive and wasn't boring. Israel has so much to offer, for so many different interests.

Then all to soon, our trip was over. The last day, we ended our trip much as we began it: at a beach on the Mediterranean Sea. But this time we fully experienced the joys. So warm, so beautiful. As we left, we read the sign for one last time: GO IN PEACE. B'Shalom. B'Salam.

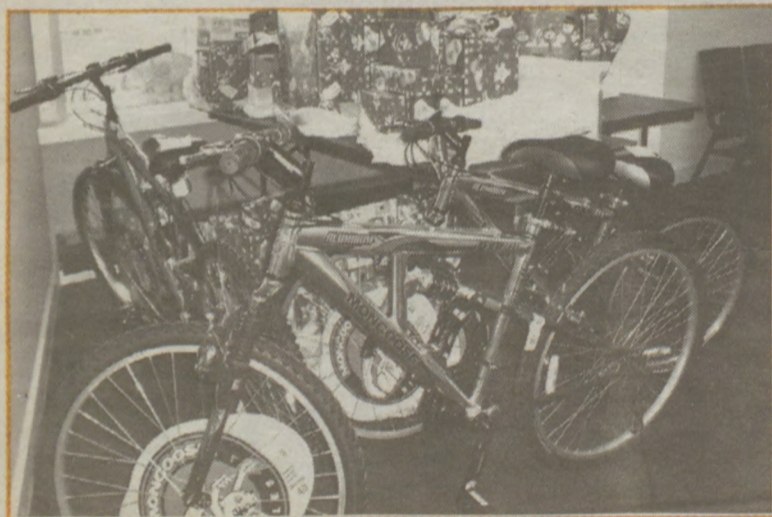
JFS and Community Donors Make Holidays Happier

Each year in December, Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Driban oversees the *Holiday Helping Hands* program at Jewish Family Services. Through a small army of generous

donors—many from area law firms—this program answers holiday wishes of those in need at this special time of year. Gifts of new toys, clothing and household items

are distributed to families and children identified through JFS counselors or other community connections. This year, the program was able to provide a bounty for more

than 10 families—including new bicycles for a few lucky youngsters! The agency offers its heartfelt thanks to all the participants of this year's drive.



JFS Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Driban organizes packages for distribution to families

JFS & AEA Launch Food Drive

In the week before of Thanksgiving, 10 students from Albert Einstein Academy's 4th grade class teamed up with the Volunteer Network of JFS to provide much-needed help and good wishes to families in our area.

The students decorated large grocery bags with festive holiday messages and pictures, and then filled these cheery bags with Thanksgiving meal items. All of the food used was gathered by Albert Einstein students or donated from the JFS mitzvah pantry.

Plentiful amounts of soup and vegetables, stuffing, rice and pasta were then delivered to West End Neighborhood House in Wilmington. Along with parent chaperones and Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Driban, students took a tour of the facility, stocked the food closet there, and learned more about people in the community who are benefited by this food drive and West End's programs.

Gabby Harad, one of the students who participated in the event, said of her experience: "This project helped me realize that not everyone has as good a life as I do; it really made me want to give back to my community."

This marks the 4th consecutive partnership year for JFS' and AEA's holiday food drive. Hearty thanks to these generous and thoughtful students for their Thanksgiving community mitzvah!

Area Teens Invited To Jewish Leadership Retreat

Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, the Bernard and Ruth Siegel JCC Teen Department, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Beth Emeth & Beth Shalom synagogues invite all area teens to learn more about Jewish life on campus by participating in a President's Day Weekend Retreat, February 18-20th.

Retreat participants will spend Saturday night at the Kristol Center for Jewish Life

(Hillel) on the University of Delaware campus. Following Sunday brunch, they will travel to Hillels at college campuses in Baltimore, MD and Washington, D.C. This "College Tour" is an opportunity to visit college campuses, share meals and conversations with Hillel students, have fun and learn a great deal. Participants will arrive back in Delaware at approximately 4 p.m. on Monday.

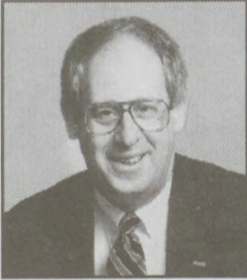
Delaware Gratz students will earn credit for their participation in this weekend program. All community teenagers are encouraged to attend.

For additional information, please call Marlene Milunsky, Delaware Gratz principal, at 302-478-8100.

RSVP by January 18th by phone or email, gratz@delawaregratz.org.

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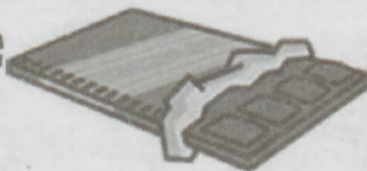
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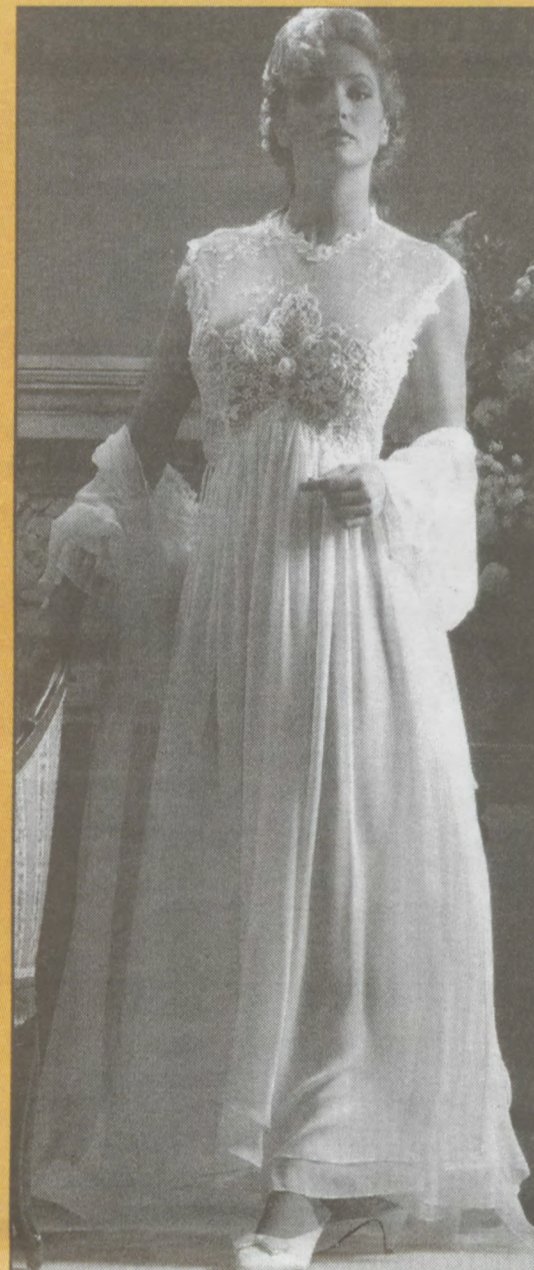
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DELAWARE SNAPSHOTS

Chanukah Cheers Young and Young at Heart

Blue Grass Ensemble Tater Patch entertained residents and their families at the Kutz Home Chanukah Celebration on December 18. Potato latkes were served after Tater Patch's fine playing that included Sheldon Sandler on the banjo.



Kutz Home residents and family guests enjoy Tater Patch's music.



Above: Kutz Home Board President Michael Rosen chats with Sybil Harris at the crafts table. Items made by the residents were for sale at the celebration.



Photos by Joel Glazier



Carol DeWitt visits with her father Harry Turkin.

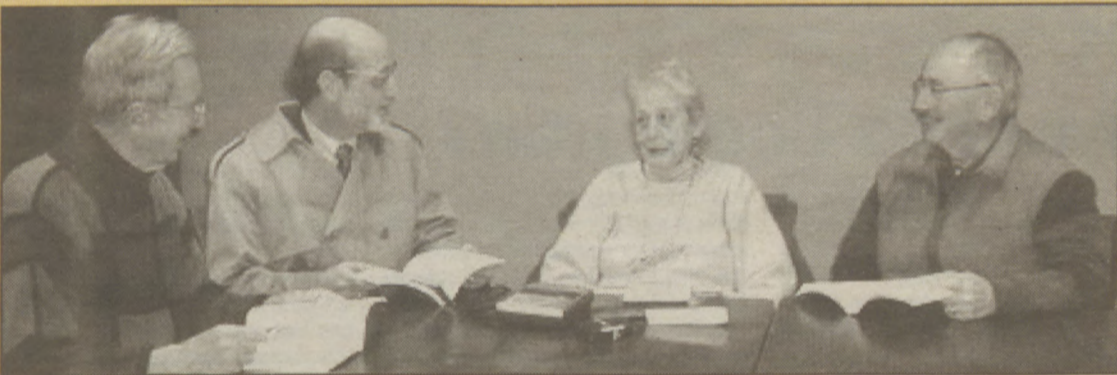
Melton talks tomes

The Florence Melton Adult Mini School sponsored a book discussion of "Rashi's Daughters" by Maggie Anton on Wednesday, December 14th. This event was open to the community and the group enjoyed a lively and interesting discussion of 11th century Judaism in France led by Cyra Gross who is a graduate of the Melton program. A Spring discus-

sion event is being planned when the book selection will be "The Liberated Bride", by Israeli author A. B. Yehoshua.

Melton encourages all Jewish adults to expand their Jewish awareness by enrolling in the Melton 2 year program. The next 1st year class will begin in the Fall of 2006. During the months of February and March, potential stu-

dents are invited to sit in on 1st year classes on Wednesday mornings at the Siegel JCC. At 9:15 am, the Purposes of Jewish Living are explored, and at 10:30 am the Rhythms of Jewish living are studied. For questions on specific classes or possible cancellations due to snow, please call Melton Director, Lynda Bell at 302-478-5660.



(From left:) Norman Schutzman, Ken Kamm and Fred Mannis respond to a question posed by discussion leader, Cyra Gross as they discuss the book "Rashi's Daughter" by Maggie Anton.



Albert Einstein Academy Chorus members entertained the shoppers at Border's Book and Music Store on Concord Pike on December 14 with Hanukkah songs. The chorus, under the direction of Cantor Michael Horwitz, meets one day a week and brought smiles to the family members and patrons at Border's.

Senator Carper addresses Gratz students



Senator Tom Carper visited Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School on December 18th and addressed the entire school about his most recent trip to Israel & the Middle East. Senator Carper then met with Mark Wagman's Israel/Jewish Advocacy class, where he answered the questions of individual students. For more information about the Senator's trip visit his web blog at <http://carper.senate.gov/acarper-corner.htm>.

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AROUND OUR JEWISH WORLD

School blazes trail for immigrants

By Brett Kline, JTA

Grima waited seven years in a refugee camp in Addis Ababa to come to Israel.

Now the 16-year-old looks around the campus of the Yemin Orde Youth Village, sitting on 70 acres of hilly, wooded grounds south of Haifa.

"This is like paradise," he says. "All the kids in the camp know about this school. Everyone wants to come here."

In Israel only a year, Grima barely speaks English but insists on trying. His big smile shows off bright, white teeth, with the beginning of a moustache on his upper lip.

Grima's determination to speak English is typical of most of the 450 students at Yemin Orde, but especially the 250 or so Ethiopians: They're eager to learn, disciplined and grateful.

Some came to Israel without their parents, while others have mothers and fathers living in poor districts of working-class towns such as Kiryat Malachi.

The parents speak little or no Hebrew, have little formal education and stand little chance of advancing economically in Israel. In much of the Ethiopian community, parents' authority over their children has broken down, and some kids go bad.

For the students at Yemin Orde, however, it's another story.

"We have incredible success with the Ethiopians," says Susan Weigel, Yemin Orde's outreach director. "We deal only with new immigrants here, but among those people the Ethiopians have been the most challenging group to integrate in the history of the school, and perhaps in the history of Israel. From here, most go on to the army and then to university,

paid for by the state. From there, they become leaders in their community."

Israel's first Ethiopian lawyer, for example, is a Yemin Orde graduate.

The school is named after Orde Charles Wingate, a British army captain who organized the Jewish Night Brigade, a counterinsurgency strike forces in the 1930s, and trained future Israel Defense Forces leaders such as Yigal Allon and Moshe Dayan.

There are 20-25 students in a class, compared to an average of 40 students per class in other Israeli schools. Subjects are the same as in regular schools, and students are prepared so they can take university matriculation exams.

"Some Ethiopians cannot read or write in any language when they come here," says Schlomo Leibovitz, the school's deputy director. "Believe it or not, some do not know how to use a pencil."

"The Russians also have problems - some come from orphanages, and we deal with criminal behavior and alcohol and drug abuse in some cases," he says. "But they're not lacking in education. The Ethiopians come from another world."

Fasico and Bayeche are walking with other Ethiopians to the dining hall for lunch. The boys and girls mix freely, chattering in Amharic with Hebrew words thrown in. Inside the dining hall, the Ethiopians and Russian students tend to sit at separate tables.

Fasico came to Israel with his parents 15 months ago. They live in Beersheba, but he is thrilled to be in Yemin Orde.

"I love studying English and math, and I'll go to university," he says in halting English. "I don't miss Ethiopia, only some of my relatives

there."

Many of the Ethiopian girls still have wide crosses tattooed on their foreheads and necks, signs of their background in the Falash Mura community. The Falash Mura are descendants of Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity, but later converted back to Judaism.

"We're trying to develop a system to remove the crosses surgically," Leibovitz explains. "Crosses are not exactly a favorite tattoo in Israel."

The boys wear yarmulkes. The school, run by the Jewish Agency for Israel from its inception in 1953 until the Education Ministry took over in 1996, is considered a pluralistic religious institution, though many of the students are not halachically Jewish. Students begin the day in synagogue, but can choose not to attend.

"We know that most of our students will not be religious later on, but we give them some basics and tradition," Weigel says. "This is part of what we call the 'drip-irrigation' system for their brains - the ideas and the education seep in bit by bit. On the emotional side, we tell them we will always be here for you, you are going to be okay."

Tamar Silberberg, 23, the daughter of Friends of Yemin Orde chairman Paul Silberberg, recently visited the school. Friends of Yemin Orde, based in Washington, raises about \$2 million a year for the school, about 30 percent of its operating budget.

"This village gives these young people the chance to have access to the good things that people such as myself have had my whole life," she says.

"We make up for the unfairness they have experienced in their lives," she says. "For us in the States, this is not about politics and the right or left



Ethiopian immigrant children eat lunch in the Yemin Orde Youth Village's dining hall in Yemin Orde, Israel. Ethiopian graduates of the school often become leaders in their communities, and officers in the IDF. The student in front bears a cross on her forehead, a sign of her Christian upbringing, sometimes seen among Falash Mura.

Credit: Brett Kline/JTA

in Israel: It's about values, the same values my parents raised me with."

Local youths from nearby Israeli Arab villages participate regularly in after-school programs. The school has 10 foreign programs, including one in an African-American community in Baltimore.

Some 35 youngsters from Brazil spend a year here, taking classes in Portuguese that follow the Brazilian public-school curriculum, plus Hebrew. Weigel says about 75 percent of the Brazilians make aliyah.

The school doesn't have an auditorium or football field, but it does have excellent computer facilities. On many afternoons, all of the school's approximately 70 computers are being used by students for home-

work, technical lessons, games or e-mail.

Haim Peri, the school's director since 1979, is seen by Israeli education officials and some members of the Ethiopian community as a visionary.

"In Kiryat Malachi, the Yemin Orde graduates are the leaders of the Ethiopian community," notes Gidon Ayeche, a captain in the Israeli army whose mother served as the first Ethiopian assistant mayor of an Israeli town before being forced to step down earlier this year.

"They have more than brains - they have hearts and values also," he says. "They have good jobs in the army and they're teachers. We wrote to Dr. Peri to thank him and his staff."

To bomb or not to bomb Iran?

By Leslie Susser, JTA

Iran may be just months away from being able to produce a nuclear bomb, and a fierce debate is raging in Israel over how to react.

The critical date could come in March, when a series of developments will converge:

* It will be too late to stop Iran from making a bomb, according to Israel's chief of military intelligence, Maj. Gen. Aharon Farkash-Ze'evi.

* The International Atomic Energy Agency is due to issue a report that month on Iran's nuclear drive that could lead to sanctions against Teheran or highlight the international community's inability to act in concert on the issue.

* Israeli elections are scheduled for March 28, with the Iranian nuclear threat already shaping up to be a hot campaign issue.

* The London Sunday Times claims Israel has ordered elite forces to be ready by late March for a possible strike against Iranian nuclear facilities.

Both Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office and Israeli defense officials dismissed the Sunday Times story as a "baseless fabrication."

At the same time, Sharon says Israel will not be able to tolerate a nuclear Iran and that the Jewish state has the capability to act to prevent it.

"We have the ability to deal with this and we are making all the prepara-

tions to be ready for such a situation," he declared in an early December news conference.

But does Israel really have a military option against the Iranian nuclear threat? And can it go it alone, as it did against Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981? Most leading Israeli pundits are skeptical. And some fear election rhetoric could compromise Israeli policy, hurt Israel's international standing and generally prove counterproductive.

Iranian statements over the past few months underline just how dangerous the threat to Israel could be.

In October, Iran's hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Israel should be "wiped off the map," and earlier this month he said Israel should be dismantled and re-established in Europe.

Israeli officials say a bomb in the hands of leaders with ideas like these adds up to a rogue regime with a predisposition and the means to destroy Israel.

Israel's dilemma is acute: how to get the international community to act without seeming to be goading it into action; or alternatively, how to act itself without incurring international opprobrium or aggravating the situation.

Powerful voices in the international community are cautioning Israel against attacking. In Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Prize over the weekend, the IAEA's director, Mohammed ElBaradei asserted that force simply wouldn't work.

"You cannot use force to prevent a country from obtaining nuclear weapons," he told the Oslo-based *Aftenposten*. "By bombing them half to death, you can only delay the plans. But they will come back, and they will demand revenge."

It is precisely because of the complexity of the issue that Sharon has been keen to put it on the election agenda. His message is plain: Labor leader Amir Peretz is too inexperienced to handle it, and Likud front-runner Benjamin Netanyahu too unreliable.

Indeed, Netanyahu seemed to play into Sharon's hands by declaring that if he became prime minister, he would bomb Iran's nuclear facilities the way had bombed the Iraqi reactor under Menachem Begin. This drew a sharp response from *Ha'aretz*. "Whoever publicly recommends an Israeli military option sins doubly. He incites the Israeli public unnecessarily; presents Israel as pushing the U.S. into a major new war; drags this sensitive subject into the overheated rhetoric of an election campaign; and invites Iranian threats and various anti-Israel reactions," *Ha'aretz* wrote in an editorial.

Official Israeli policy remains deliberately vague.

On the one hand, Israeli officials insist that for now the policy is to help mobilize international pressure on Teheran, but they refuse to rule out a future Israeli military strike.

"At the moment, in the current phase, the focus is in the sphere of

international diplomacy," Amos Gilead, head of the Defense Ministry's strategic policy team, explained on Israel TV. But then, commenting on the Sunday Times story, he said he denied "the specifics" of the report, including the timetables and the Israeli intelligence operation in northern Iraq. But, he added, "it's impossible to say in advance that all the options will be ruled out."

Leading Israeli pundits, however, doubt whether Israel really has a military option. Writing in the *Ma'ariv* newspaper, analyst Ben Caspit pointed out the chief difference between Iraq in 1981 and Iran today: Whereas Iraq's nuclear capacity was concentrated in one weakly guarded reactor, Iran's fuel enrichment program is via centrifuges housed in several well-protected sites across the huge country.

"To attack, we would need a lot of intelligence, multiple strikes, the ability to hover over Iran for long periods and in large numbers, lots of luck, lots of bunker-busting bombs, and with all that, the chances of success would be slight," Caspit wrote.

The former commander of the Israeli air force, reserve Maj. Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu, said that if there is an attack some time in the future, Israel would only be part of a larger force - partly because the job is just too big for Israel to handle alone.

There would be too many targets, each target would need several fighter-bombers, protected by fighters,

accompanied by rescue planes to pick up crew members who might be shot down.

"Maybe," Ben-Eliyahu said, "there will be a joint decision for joint action one day, involving countries like the U.S., Britain, Germany and Turkey."

Reuven Pedatzur, a strategist at the Netanya Academic College, said he doubts that any such joint action will ever materialize. Nor is it likely that Israel or any of the other players will take action to stop Iran alone.

"Iran may well come to possess nuclear arms," he said. "And if that happens, Israel will have to learn to live with the Iranian threat and to neutralize it by means of credible deterrence."

Israel's deterrent capacity is impressive. Its Arrow anti-missile defense system is the most advanced of its kind in the world.

Israel, according to foreign sources, also has an impressive second-strike capability: F-15 fighter bombers that can reach Iran without refueling, Dolphin submarines that can launch nuclear weapons from the sea and long-range missiles of its own. Theoretically, an Iranian nuclear attack on Israel could be blocked by the Arrow system, while an Israeli second strike could destroy Iran.

That equation, strategists like Pedatzur believe, should be enough to deter Ahmadinejad and the ayatollahs who effectively rule Iran, even if they do finally manage to produce a bomb.

JEWISH ARTS AND CULTURE

Spielberg and Kushner smear Israel

By Andrea Levin

Steven Spielberg and an army of well-paid consultants and spinmeisters are pulling out all the stops to promote Munich and fend off damaging criticism of the movie about the murder of Israeli Olympic athletes and the effort to track down the crime's masterminds. The campaign has even included courting family members of the slain men for endorsements to blunt a gathering storm of negative commentary from the likes of David Brooks in the New York Times, Leon Wieseltier in The New Republic and Andrea Peyser in the New York Post.

Briefly, the movie presents, via pulse-pounding scenes of kidnaping, death, stalking and more death, the message that Israel was brutal, bungling and immoral in its reaction to the massacre. True, the hostage-takers were also brutal; but dispossessing Palestinians, we soon learn, lies at the root. Cultured Palestinians passionately explain: "We are for twenty-four years the world's largest refugee population. Our homes taken from us. Living in camps. No future. No food. Nothing decent for our children."

In Munich there are no Palestinians clamoring for the destruction of Israel — as all Palestinian groups did then and, regrettably, leading groups continue to do today. On the contrary, in a contrived encounter between Avner, the movie's lead, and a PLO member,

the latter insists he simply wants a homeland. He also blames Jews for turning the Palestinians "into animals" and charges them with exploiting guilt over the Holocaust.

In all of this one sees the biases of Tony Kushner, the radical playwright brought in by Spielberg to reshape the script. Kushner has repeatedly called the creation of Israel a "mistake," blamed Israel for "the whole shameful history of the dreadful suffering of the Palestinian people," and advocated policies to undermine the state.

Israelis in the film, including Prime Minister Golda Meir, do make their case. But the language is often self-incriminating and vengeful. Meir says: "I don't know who these maniacs are and where they come from. Palestinians — they're not recognizable. You tell me what law protects people like this... Every civilization finds it necessary to negotiate compromises with its own values."

The charge that Israel believed targeting terrorist leaders compromises its values rather than affirms its obligation to seek every means to defend itself against aggression is pure Hollywood concoction. But spiraling self-doubt about the use of force is central to Munich, with one team member, an ambivalent bomb-maker who eventually blows himself up, lamenting "We're Jews, Avner. Jews don't do wrong because our enemies do wrong ... we're supposed to be righteous. That's a beautiful thing. That's Jewish..."

Thus, not only, in the film's account, was it futile to assassinate terrorist masterminds, because new and worse replacements sprang up to escalate the violence, but eliminating terrorists ostensibly destroyed the souls of the Jewish hit team.

During the movie's production, numerous Israelis with knowledge of the actual events disputed Spielberg's central themes. But the Hollywood director, along with Kushner, ignored them and insisted on their own dark story.

In fact, historical accounts of Israel's decision to target leaders of Black September, the group responsible for Munich, emphasize that the assault at the Olympics was part of a worsening series of terrorist attacks against Israel in 1972. Lod Airport had been struck twice in May with 32 killed. Only days after the September 5 Munich atrocity, an Israeli official was shot in Brussels, and two weeks later a letter bomb killed an Israeli in London.

Any nation supine in the face of such intensifying terrorism invites ever more fearsome attack. Yes, Israel's new counter-campaign was reprisal for the Munich murders, but it was aimed at fighting back against a broad terrorist threat. What the various teams dispatched by Israel sought to do was standard in its general goal: Shift the balance and force the adversary onto the defensive, disrupting operations, planning and command structure.

None of this common sense about self-defense and the context in which the Olympic massacre and Israeli reaction occurred are part of Munich. Instead, Israel's action battling its adversaries is cast as aberrant, bloody and counterproductive. It is no different from the assault of the terrorists and ostensibly spawns far greater violence.

Thus Munich is not fictionalized fact, but a falsehood at its core. Small falsehoods too prompt its thesis of Israeli culpability. For instance, Meir is said to have shunned attending the murdered athletes' funerals for fear of being booted because she refused to negotiate with the terrorists — yet as a New York Times piece reported one week after the killings, a poll found her the most popular figure in the nation. Meir as the war-like Israeli, refusing to settle matters in peaceful dialogue, fit the picture.

The movie concludes that Israel should have, in Avner's recommendation, "arrested" the terrorists "like Eichman." And, perhaps inspired by Kushner's theme of the mistaken existence of Israel, an embittered and hounded Avner abandons his homeland for all-American Brooklyn.

Munich offends on other counts. A leitmotif linking Jews and money will make more than a few viewers wince. A Mossad handler growls: "I want receipts!" We're not the Rothschilds, he says, just a small country. "We need receipts. You got me? Whatever you're doing some-

body else is paying for it." Or: "A Jew and a Frenchman — we could haggle forever."

In other coarse invocations of supposed Jewish banter and attitudes, a team member demands a comrade drop his pants to "see if he's circumcised" when the teammate doesn't understand the need for Jewish violence. An argument among the team has one Israeli shouting: "The only blood that matters to me is Jewish blood!"

This and much like it is what passes for deep dialogue by two of America's leading entertainment lights. Indeed, it is stunning to watch Munich and realize that its director brought Schindler's List to the world. Where that was artistry drawn from truth, Munich is cinematic manipulation rooted in lies.

Evidently, exploring essential truths about Jews murdered 60 years ago by a regime that no longer exists and is widely reviled is one thing. Defending the truth about Jews who, over the last half century, have continued to be targeted for murder by Palestinians, Arab states, and in recent decades Iran, and whose stalkers have enjoyed the support of the U.N., scores of NGO's, and perhaps attendees of Hollywood dinner parties, is quite another.

Andrea Levin is Executive Director of CAMERA. For additional information about the organization visit their website at www.camera.org.

From Munich to Jerusalem to Brooklyn

By Rabbi Arthur Waskow

Steven Spielberg's new movie "Munich" is his best, one of the best films of 2005, one of the best of the decade.

This film sees not only the complexity of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict but — unlike most of Spielberg's work — the complexity of human beings.

Where "Schindler's List" ended its grim black-and-white story of the Holocaust with a trip to the State of Israel as a Technicolor Land of Oz, this film treats Israel as the complex society it is: both edgy and heimisch (home-like), both pleas-

ure-seeking and national-ascetic, both exploratory and rigid, both protective and dangerous, both powerful and victim-obsessed.

Where "The Prince of Egypt" made the profound and awesome story of the Exodus into a cute and banal cartoon, far less powerful than any of the Grimms' fairy tales, this film treats seriously the great Jewish themes of home and exile, power and powerlessness, and makes clear they are painful universal riddles.

Although "Munich" is written from under the skin and behind the eyes of Israelis, its Palestinians are also complex and attractive figures.

When one of them cries out for "Home!" it pierces the soul as does the outcry of Avner's mother for that same "Home" — and Avner's own whisper to his wife, "You are the only home I have" — as he leaves for his perilous mission.

Especially if you are Jewish, but even if you are not, "Munich" will leave you with far more haunting questions than pat answers. Not even the "answers" that good progressive Jews, Christians, Muslims might give — the "answers" that I myself would give — come clear and obvious.

Not even the answers its bril-

liant Jewish screenwriter Tony Kushner, the author of that work of genius, "Angels in America," might give. As I recall how Kushner made Roy Cohen into a central, almost heroic figure of "Angels" — Roy Cohen, the McCarthyist homophobic gay man; not so "gay," maybe in his case "homosexual" is better — I suspect his pen may have helped Spielberg make this an extraordinary film.

Perhaps the "answers" that look beyond the spiral of violence, fear, and hatred will emerge among many of those who see the film; but the film itself does not impose them.

Its Israeli hero /anti-hero, Avner, ends the film not as an Israeli but as a Jew, in Brooklyn — in exile. Not just a geographic exile but a spiritual exile, an existential exile. As the film hints, in exile like any human being who confronts the deep issues of power and pariah, of home and foreign place, and must try to shape a path of decency to walk — perhaps in faithfulness, but not with certainty.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow is the author of *GODWRESTLING — ROUND 2*, among many other works of Jewish thought, and is director of The Shalom Center www.shalomctr.org

Book captures the spirit of Chanukah

Ten Gold Medals—Glory or Freedom
By Isaac Dostis
(Bloch Publishing,
2005; 78 pages; \$15.95)
Reviewed by Joel Glazier

Sixty years after the end of WW II, stories of bravery, horror, rescue and survival still surface from that time. Scores of combat themed movies and books have been part of the culture and school curriculum for years and in recent years the uniqueness of The Holocaust has become part of many school lessons at all levels. Educators, parents, Survivors and historians often discuss the appropriate materials and topics to be handled at all grade levels, especially for the elementary school grades. Many well-intentioned adults attempt to expose elementary school students

to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Often middle school aged students cannot fully appreciate the displays.

The Diary of Anne Frank has become a classic in middle school classrooms and even Elie Wiesel's *NIGHT* has earned a place on high school reading lists. Upper elementary classes have tackled the Newberry Award winning, Number the Stars, about the rescue of Danish Jewry. A newly published book, based on a true family's history, *Ten Gold Medals*, should be present in elementary school libraries. A special story from Greece can now be added as suitable Holocaust literature for the elementary grades.

Author Isaac Dostis relates the true story of his aunt and uncle's rescue through the eyes and voice

of 8-year-old Laiki whose childhood in Athens was uprooted as his family fled their home after the arrival of Nazi tanks. Carefully, accurately and sensitive to young readers, Dostis covers the beginning days of a different Athens with history presented in a matter of fact way. For Laiki, however, there was not much matter of fact with tanks, secret conversations, hiding and Nazi flags fluttering in the wind.

"Laiki's world was being turned upside-down and he didn't understand all of it. He knew he didn't like it." These words introduce a suspenseful story where Laiki used his father's 10 national athletic gold medals as a safeguard, memory and thank you gifts as they pass onto the seacoast and ultimately to pre-state Israel.

Greeks are usually mentioned in

children's Jewish history books in relation to the Hanukkah story. This book provides maps and a look into

modern Greece and the brave family and helpers who were part of the Dostis's family history.

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Creative Grandparenting, Inc. (CGI) celebrates Jazz Education Month and National Mentoring Month with "Jazz in January".

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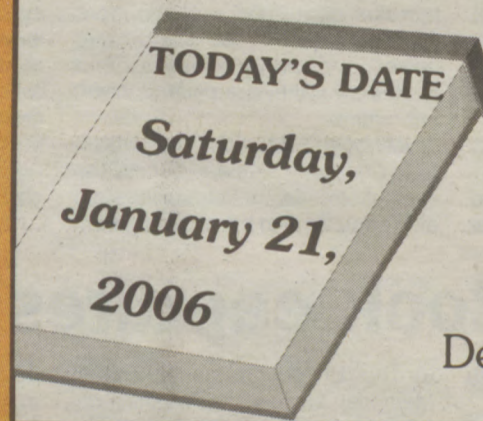
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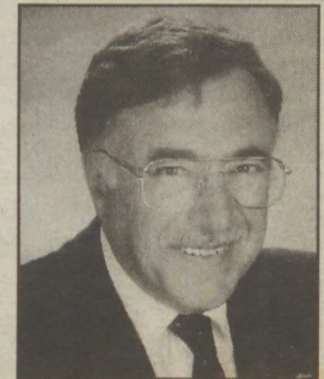


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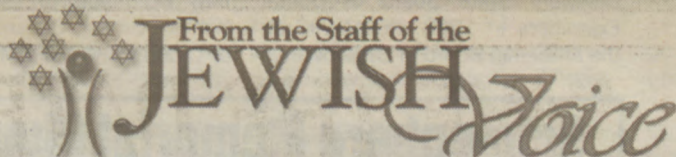
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MILESTONES

In Memoriam

BERGER

Philip H. Berger, 77, formerly of Wilmington, died December 20th in Sarasota, FL.

Mr. Berger had been a member of Congregation Beth Emeth and its brotherhood, Oriental Lodge #27 AF&AM, the Delaware Consistory, Nur Temple Shrine and the Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society.

He is survived by his wife, Wynne; sons, Michael and his wife, Lisa, David and his wife, Mary and Edward; his daughter, Muriel; five grandchildren; his stepchildren, Maria Karichner and her husband, Scott, David Pepsin and his wife, Renee, and Jenifer Pepsin; four step-grandchildren; his brother, Mason, and his sisters, Catherine Samuelson and Mildred Pincus. He was predeceased by his sister, Miriam Rosbrow.

The funeral service was held on December 29th at Schoenberg Memorial Chapel with interment in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

Memorial contributions would be appreciated to: Mended Hearts of Delaware, c/o The American Heart Association, 1501 Casho Mill Road, Suite 1, Newark, DE 19711; Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 West Lea Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802; The Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809 or to Sarasota Physicians Dialysis Center,

1921 Waldemere Street, Sarasota, FL 34239.

COHEN

Joseph L. Cohen, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, at the age of 97.

He was predeceased by his wife, Mildred, his global traveling companion, who died in 1996. After his wife's death, he continued to travel with his daughter, Claire. He was also an avid reader who loved spending time in libraries. He read two newspapers each day in addition to a steady diet of books and periodicals.

He was a longtime member of the Academy of Lifelong Learning, and attended classes regularly until he experienced severe problems with hearing and mobility. He enjoyed outings to the theater and the racetrack. At home he watched most televised sports, with golf and women's tennis, his particular favorites.

He is survived by his daughter, Claire; his sister-in-law, Nettie Schreiber; family friend, Eva Vittes; and many nieces, grandnieces, nephews and grand nephews who loved their Uncle Joe and will miss his gentle kindness, his wisdom and humor greatly.

Graveside services were held on December 16th in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

Mr. Cohen requests that those who wish to honor his memory should "Do something nice for a friend."

ELFMAN

Joseph Elfman, 84 of Green Acres died December 23, 2005.

He served in the US Army during WWII, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and Normandy on D-Day. He was awarded the Bronze Star medal for exemplary conduct in ground combat while assigned to the 8th infantry regiment, for capture of an enemy machine gun nest, and was awarded the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Unit Badge, the European Campaign medal with 5 bronze service stars, and the Good Conduct medal. He was a merchandiser for several department stores. He loved spending time with family, winters in FL, cooking, stamp collecting and trains.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Harriet "Jonnie"; son, Gary (Margarite), and grandson, Beau, of San Diego, CA; son, Eric (Betty), of Wilmington; brother, Marvin (Sylvia), of MD; brother-in-law, David Wolfe (Carol), of FL; sister-in-law, Ruth Ravetz, of NV; and 7 nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on December 27th at Schoenberg Memorial Chapel with interment in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Rd.

The family suggests contribu-

tions in his memory to the Kutz Home, 704 River Rd., Wilmington, DE 19809; or to Chabad, 1811 Silverside Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.

HANIG

Theresa Hanig, mother of Harvey Hanig, died December 15th at the age of 93. She is also survived by her sister, Dorothy Silcox and her two grandchildren.

Burial arrangements in Dalton, PA were coordinated by Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

KRESHTOOL

Louis Kreshtool, 91, died December 10, 2005 at Plymouth Harbor, a retirement community in Sarasota, FL.

Dr. Kreshtool was born in Wilmington, DE, where he lived with his beloved wife, Marion, for most of his life. He graduated from the University of Delaware, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Maryland Dental School.

At his graduation in 1936, he was inducted in the Alpha Omega dental honor fraternity. He joined his father's dental practice in Wilmington. In 1942, he graduated from the Columbia University Department of Orthodontics. Dr. Kreshtool served active military duty for almost 4 years during World War II. He was a captain in the Dental Corps. He provided medical and dental treatment aboard troop ships on the Atlantic Ocean, sailing from Europe to America and back again. Dr. Kreshtool practiced orthodontics in Wilmington for 50 years. He was president of the Delaware State Dental Society in 1952, the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontics in 1964, and the Delaware State Board of Dental Examiners in 1968. He served on the American Board of Orthodontics

and the American College of Dentists. He donated countless hours to the oral facial cleft palate clinic so that children who could not afford this care would also have beautiful smiles.

He is survived by his wife, Marion; son, Donald; daughter, Barbara; 3 grandchildren; his sister, Frieda Barsky, and his brother, Jacob, who live in Wilmington.

Contributions in his memory would be appreciated to Temple Beth Emeth, 300 W. Lea Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802.

LEHMAN

Rose Lehman, nee Shapiro, died December 26th. She was the wife of the late Albert of Wynnewood, PA and is survived by her daughter, Ellen Pludo and her husband, Robert, her daughter, Lynne Ausprung and her husband, Leon. She was predeceased by two other daughters, Barbara Susson and Ferne Glanzrock.

Mrs. Lehman was a loving mother-in-law to Irv Susson and Sandy Glanzrock; sister to Lilly Paiken; sister-in-law to Pauline Shapiro and grandmother to Robin Raskin and her husband, Larry, Mona Pasternack, Pam Hollander and her husband, Greg, Leon Ausprung III and his wife, Natalie, Randy Pludo and his wife, Missie, Julie Baker and her husband, William and Jaime Gusdorf and her husband, Jonathan. She also will be missed by 8 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held December 29th at Har Nebo Cemetery, Oxford and Summerdale Avenues in Northeast Philadelphia. Shiva will be held at the late residence.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation or Crohn's and Colitis Foundation.

NACHAS NOOK

Drs. Platt honored for service to community

The Christiana Care Medical-Dental Staff's annual Commendation for Excellence was presented on October 28, 2005 to Drs. David and Ethel Friedman Platt.

This husband and wife team of family practitioners have been married 65 years. Their combined years in the medical profession nears the century mark.

Drs. Platt practiced family medicine at an office at 4th and Franklin Streets in Wilmington for 48 years before their retirement in July, 1989.

They have remained active in community volun-

teer and philanthropic pursuits. Dr. David Platt launched an outreach program to area high schools that helped arrange for visiting doctors to lead discussions on such topics as teen pregnancy and substance abuse. Dr. Ethel Platt has devoted time to tutor learning disabled children.

The couple supports a number of different charities.

The Commendation for Excellence recognizes outstanding clinical care and compassion and distinguished achievement in education, research, community service and/or leadership.

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COMING EVENTS

The Jewish War Veterans of Delaware need new members, young or old and patrons. It is extremely important that this Jewish Organization continue. Please call Len Markovitz at 302-234-4785 or Milt Slovin 302-478-4888. You do not have to be a veteran to join.

Summer Scholarship Available—The Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its 17th annual Scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or Israel. Applications may be picked up at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Synagogue office, Washington Street Ext. and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802, and must be returned by the deadline—March 1, 2006. The fund was established in 1989 to honor the Silverman's 55th wedding anniversary by their four daughters and many friends. Questions can be directed to Mollie Epstein at 494-5980 or Mollie1818@aol.com

ABC News Journalist at The Grand Opera House—Claire Shipman is the second guest speaker in the All Eyes on Washington Series at The Grand Opera House on Sunday, January 15th at 7 p.m.. Shipman, who joined ABC News' Good Morning America as the show's senior national correspondent in May, 2001, will discuss her experiences on the Presidential campaign trail and other timely topics. Tickets are available by calling the Grand Box Office at 302-652-5577 or online at www.grandopera.org.

Arab and Jewish Musicians to perform at Longwood Gardens—TZILUT:CONCERTS FOR PEACE, the Philadelphia-based international touring ensemble that features Arab and Jewish musicians in concert together, will perform at Longwood Gardens on Sunday Feb.

19 at 3:30 PM. Directed by Hazzan Jack Kessler, this high-energy Middle Eastern orchestra, combining Arabic and Jewish music, makes a strong statement for peace thru working together. For more information on ATZILUT:CONCERTS FOR PEACE and the three cds the group has produced, go to www.CONCERTS FOR PEACE.COM. For additional information about Longwood Gardens, visit www.longwoodgardens.org.

Area Teens Invited To Jewish Leadership Retreat—Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, the Bernard and Ruth Siegel JCC Teen Department, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Beth Emeth & Beth Shalom synagogues invite all area teens to learn more about Jewish life on campus by participating in a President's Day Weekend Retreat, February 18-20th.

Retreat participants will spend Saturday night at the Kristol Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) on the University of Delaware campus. Following Sunday brunch, they will travel to Hillels at college campuses in Baltimore, MD and Washington, D.C. This "College Tour" is an opportunity to visit college campuses, share meals and conversations with Hillel students, have fun and learn a great deal. Participants will arrive back in Delaware at approximately 4 p.m. on Monday. Delaware Gratz students will earn credit for their participation in this weekend program. All community teenagers are encouraged to attend.

For additional information, please call Marlene Milunsky, Delaware Gratz principal, at 302-478-8100. RSVP by January 18th by phone or email, gratz@delawaregratz.org.

Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center Programs. Get Involved at JFS & Help with Our Wish List!

JFS is in need of volunteers and donations in the following capacities:

- ✧ Donations of small-portioned frozen meals or soup to stock our mitzvah pantry
 - ✧ Donations of gas cards, phone cards, and gift cards for clothing and school supplies
 - ✧ Donation of a wheeled cart to transport baskets and supplies
 - ✧ Office volunteers to answer phones, handle data entry and filing
 - ✧ Creative individuals to assist with assembling and wrapping baskets
 - ✧ Delivery assistance for meals and baskets
 - ✧ Caring individuals to make friendly visits or phone calls to community members
- Hours are flexible. No experience is necessary—we will train you! Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Driban at 302-478-9411, ext. 21.

NOTE NEW TIME!! Jewish Healing Service — Free & open to the community. 2nd Tuesday of every month, 12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center. Led by Rabbi Michael Beals

Bereavement Group — Free & open to the community, 1st & 3rd Thursday of every month, 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center. 1st Thursday led by JFS staff member only; 3rd Thursday led by Rabbi Sanford Dresin & JFS staff member

Café Ivrit — Basic Conversational Hebrew — Free & open to the community. One Tuesday every month. January 17, 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center. Led by Idan Kligerman • Light refreshments provided • Call 302-478-9411

to register

Women in Transition Group — \$20/session or \$75 for entire program. Discussion group for women of any age who are contemplating or experiencing changes & choices in their lives. Wednesdays • Call for specific dates. 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center. Led by JFS staff member Nona Smolko, LCSW

NOW FORMING! Computer Maven Workshop. This program is open to older adults in the community teaches basic computer skills such as e-mail and how to surf "the Net" (Internet). Cost: \$25/JCC members, \$35/non-members. Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m., in the JFS Classroom. To register or for more information, contact Scott Michels at 302-478-9411, ext. 18.

Save the Date

The World Affairs Council of Wilmington will sponsor a dinner in honor of **NATAN SHARANSKY** Former Israeli Cabinet Member and Spokesman for the Soviet Jewry Movement **Tuesday, January 24, 6:00 p.m.** Chase Center on the Riverfront Christina Ballroom 800 S. Madison Street Wilmington, DE Reservations required by January 16 Cost: \$60 per person. R.S.V.P. to Susan MacNab, 302-651-7662, or macnab@rf.com

Sharon: A stroke of fate?

Continued from page 1

26 under Olmert. Under Sharon, however, the party is projected to get around 40 seats.

In the wake of Sharon's stroke, some pundits are advocating that leaders of each party name a No. 2, who would take over if the leader is unable to perform his duties. In Sharon's case, the deputy would be Olmert, insiders say.

However, there's a more fundamental question: Could any other leader, in Kadima or in the rival parties, continue Sharon's policy of partitioning the Land of Israel?

Ha'aretz commentator Yoel Marcus thinks not. Sharon, he writes, is "one of those legendary leaders whose abilities and personal character bisected history at pre-

cisely that moment when their strength and leadership qualities were needed."

In Marcus' view, only Sharon can dismantle settlements, end the occupation and make an agreement with the Palestinians.

"At this point in time, Sharon has become the kind of leader who is irreplaceable," he concludes.

So how ill or frail is the 77-year-old Sharon? According to doctors who gave details of his condition on Monday, the minor stroke he suffered has not impaired his mental or physical faculties in any way. But, they say, he will have to undergo cardiac catheterization next month to seal a tiny perforation between the walls of his heart, which they describe as a minor physical defect he was born with.

The procedure is relatively simple and not expected to cause any problems.

Sharon's medical record shows that he was wounded in the thigh during the 1948 War of Independence and has a slight limp; he has had gall and kidney stones removed; has suffered from gout; and, at 5 feet 7 inches tall, is obese at 250 pounds.

Still, his doctors insist, an exhaustive battery of tests shows that Sharon is strong and healthy, does not suffer from high blood pressure and does not have signs of arteriosclerosis.

The most serious threat to Sharon's re-election could come from Gaza. The prime minister has ordered the IDF to do whatever it takes to put an end to Palestinian

rocket fire.

One possibility is the establishment of an Israeli-held security zone in northern Gaza to force the rocket launchers back and put Israeli towns and cities out of range, but the Palestinians say they

already have longer-range rockets which they will not hesitate to use.

If the security situation deteriorates drastically and the Likud is able to blame it on the withdrawal from Gaza, Sharon and Kadima could be in trouble.

Kid to Kid

Continued from page 1

erasers, scissors, rulers, tape measures, paper, notebooks, glue sticks, folders were welcomed. The initial box filled quickly and other boxes were prepared. A total of six large boxes were filled with over 550 items. As one of the second graders commented, "If we had counted each pencil and marker rather than the boxes they were in, our count would have been over 2,000!"

In an effort to incorporate math into the charitable effort, the second graders sorted and counted each type of supply and created graphs with their findings. The oversized graphs hang proudly in their classroom.

The supplies are being sent to the Park Ridge School in Baker, Louisiana. The contact at this fourth-sixth grade school said the supplies are greatly needed. Many of the families the school services are still in FEMA housing or are

sharing apartments with up to 25 family members. At this time their main concerns are housing and purchasing enough food.

An anonymous Albert Einstein Academy family offered to ship all the supplies to Park Ridge. When Fed Ex learned of the project, they generously offered to take care of all of the shipping costs, so the anonymous family purchased additional supplies and shipped them on their own.

Nancy Brock reflected on the impact of the project. "The images of Hurricane Katrina are forever etched into our minds, even in those of our youngest yeladim (children). Katrina's Kids is helping our kids to look beyond themselves and begin to see the world around them. The concern the children have shown for the people in the South continues to be truly amazing. We have a terrific group of kids at AEA."

The voices of the second grade

students exemplify their caring. One of the children, while decorating the collection box, decided he was going to draw Christian crosses as well as Magen Davids because, "all kinds of kids lost everything." Jacob Horden, who donated \$20.00 of his birthday money, said, "Those kids need it more than I do, and I still have \$5 left over." Jenna Glazier commented, "When I help someone, I always feel better."

The Albert Einstein Academy is Brandywine Valley's only Jewish Elementary Day School. The school strives for excellence through a well-rounded curriculum in both general and Jewish studies. AEA is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and is a constituent of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. For more information about Albert Einstein Academy, call 302-478-5026 or visit us at www.aeacademy.org.

Israel's newest Sabra



A one-day-old and as yet unnamed elephant calf stands with his 20-year-old mother Tamar in the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo, Dec. 10, 2005. The calf, which weighed almost 200 pounds at birth, is the first Asiatic elephant to be conceived in Israel through artificial insemination, and one of the first such births in the world. Asiatic elephants are in danger of extinction and the zoo in Jerusalem has joined efforts to help preserve the species. Tamar was impregnated long distance 21 months ago by Emmet, who lives in an English zoo and whose sperm was flown to Israel. Next the zoo plans to mate their male elephant Teddy who was named after Jerusalem's former mayor, Teddy Kollek, with female elephants around the world using artificial insemination.

There are somewhere between 38,000 to 51,000 Asiatic elephants left in the wild compared to their counterparts, the African elephants, which number some 600,000.

Credit: Pool/BP Images/JTA

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- Grades PK-5: Tuesday, January 10, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Downtown Preschool: Thursday, January 12, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

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