

The JEWISH VOICE

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DELAWARE'S SEASIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ITS FIRST BAR-MITZVAH

Story and Photos by
Joel F. Glazier

"Marc and Cheryl Fruchtman invite you to attend the Bar Mitzvah Service of their son, Jacob, on March 3, 2001." These formal words are similar to many invitations sent, received and enjoyed through the years. It continues, "Jacob will follow in the path of his ancestors by accepting his responsibilities to Judaism." Again rather familiar words. However, the site of this simcha, on 8 Adar, 5761, was in Sussex County, Delaware. This was no humorous Adar joke. The young, burgeoning Seaside Jewish Community of Delaware celebrated its first Bar-Mitzvah Service and it could very well have been the first such ceremony in Sussex County.

Rehoboth Beach is a far cry from its namesake, Rehovot, Israel. The Delaware beach community had its start as a Methodist Camp Meeting site in the 1870's and through much of the 20th Century was known to have "restrictions" on property deeds and even beach usage. In April 1997, a small ad was placed in a seaside newspaper by Peter Wise, owner of Pierre's Pantry, inquiring of any interest in the area for a community Passover Seder. The response was greater than he imagined and from that humble start, a Seaside Jewish Community was established and now numbers over 70 members.



Dewey Beach's Ruddertowne's Bay Center was the site of the first Seaside Bar-Mitzvah ceremony.

Lynne Chichi, President of The Community's Board, called Jacob Fruchtman's Bar-Mitzvah, "A momentous event and one which we hope is just the beginning of many more in the future." "While many in the beach area are part of a seasonal community, there is now more of a year round presence of population and Jewish residents from Lewes to Bethany Beach," Chichi commented. "The startling thing we have found was the number of dormant Jews in the greater Rehoboth area."

Permanent Home Needed

The young community's first Bar-Mitzvah Service was held at The Bay Center in Dewey Beach. Marc Fruchtman explained that since the whole [Seaside Jewish] Community

was invited along with the whole staff at his school as well as relatives and friends, a large hall was needed. The Community holds monthly Shabbat study groups in members' homes and for holidays like Hanukkah, Yom Kippur, and Pesach, the group has been using the facilities of All Saints Episcopal Church in Rehoboth Beach. That church's sanctuary was not large enough for the Bar-Mitzvah.

Beth Emeth Rabbi Peter Grumbacher officiated at this historic service. The other Fruchtman sons, Jason, Jeremiah and Joshua all were bar-mitzvah at Beth Emeth and after the family moved to Dewey Beach, Jacob continued to study with Rabbi Grumbacher, weekly. At the service, Grumbacher called the day "an auspicious occasion," and reminded the family and guests that he had been present for all 4 family brit and now all 4 bar mitzvah ceremonies of the family.

Rabbi Grumbacher also noted that the week's parsha, Terumah, focused on The Sanctuary. "Just as it was necessary for the Israelites to build a Sanctuary for The Lord to dwell among them, so do the members in Seaside need a permanent sanctuary for their community." One of the future goals



Celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of Jake Fruchtman are father Marc Fruchtman, Seaside Jewish Community Board President Lynne Chichi; the bar mitzvah; mother Cheryl Fruchtman. This bar mitzvah was the 4th one for The Fruchtman's who moved from Wilmington to Dewey Beach several years ago.

of the Seaside Community is to find a permanent home. They now have a Torah on loan from Philadelphia and their services follow printed prayer booklets. "It would be real nice to have our own Torah and set of prayer books," Lynn Chichi noted. For the Bar-Mitzvah service, a Torah was placed at the eastern end of the large hall, just a block from the Atlantic Ocean.

The Seaside Jewish Community's last big gathering was for their annual Hanukkah party. Besides their Shabbat study groups, usually led by a weekend resident from Baltimore, other cultural events have been held. Cheryl Fruchtman remembers one popular program about the early Jewish families in Milford. Charles Salkin of Dover's Beth Sholom, presented a talk about the Jewish farmers of lower Delaware. He recently commented, "In my years of research of Jewish presence in lower Delaware, I have never seen any reference to an official Jewish organization in Sussex County. Up to now, Sussex County Jews affiliated with Dover's Beth Sholom or shuls in Salisbury-Berlin, Maryland."

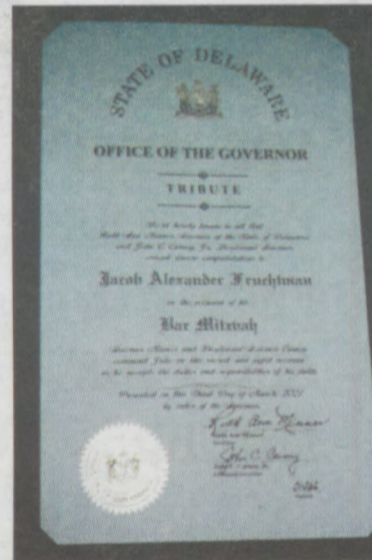
History buff Salkin also remarked, "Jews have gathered for seders, yahrzeits and life cycle events. During WW II, Jewish services were held at the chapel at the coastal Fort Miles. At the turn of the century, the Delaware Breakwater Quarantine Station near Lewes, which was a stopping point for many European immigrants on their way to

Philadelphia, conceivably could have been a site for a bar-mitzvah.. It'd be interesting if any readers could provide information of any Sussex bar-mitzvah service before Jake Fruchtman's."

The Delaware Seaside Jewish Community is now planning for a community seder. While plans include notices of future events in The Washington Jewish Week due to the large number of Washington folk with seasonal homes in the Rehoboth area, members welcome all to participate and join them when in the area. Contact Lynne Chichi, (302-644-1733; LJchichi@aol.com).



Delaware Lt. Governor, Jack Carney, presents Jake Fruchtman an official Tribute of Congratulations from Governor Ruth Ann Minner, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, which may be the first one to be held in Sussex County, Delaware.



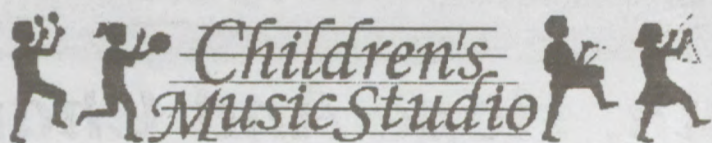
Copy of the Tribute of Congratulations from Delaware's Governor and Lt. Governor



Rehoboth Beach, known as the nation's summer capital, now has room for a Jewish Community group to provide a welcome to permanent and visiting residents. The town, established as a Methodist resort, is named from the Genesis story of Isaac finding a well and declaring the place, Rehovot, meaning "room for us."

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Picture of the Week



Jewish boys and girls in the Children's Circus in Ethiopia demonstrate their skills.

EDITORIAL

Faith, Hope And Charity

JCPA - the Jewish Council for Public Affairs- met last week in our nation's capital. On their agenda was such controversial topics as "The Future of the Supreme Court", "Israel and the Media" "Religion in the Public Schools" and other issues of vital interest to the organized Jewish community. Of all the hot items on the vast agenda of this advocacy and lobbying group, none sized as much as the session on "Defining the Role of Faith-Based Organizations". John J. Dilulio, Jr., director of the new White House Office on Faith Based and Community Initiatives, marched like Daniel into the lion's den armed with his firm belief that some \$700 million in government funds to religious organizations running social service programs will not blur the historic line separating Church and State.

The packed pride of JCPA delegates was impressed by the courage of his convictions, yet took repeated swats at his arguments that service recipients will not be pressured to worship in any particular way. Lynn Lyss, representing the National Council of Jewish Women, begged to differ. In President Bush's home state of Texas, the former governor lifted restrictions on state grants to local programs. Thanks to these efforts, Texas tax dollars funded a church-run anti-drug program that instructed clients that belief in Jesus would cure their addiction.

JCPA and this newspaper take umbrage at the President's stated intentions to create a "compassionate capital fund" which would provide start-up funds for new social service programs serving people in need. While these funds will not finance religious activities they are readily available to religious organizations providing human services.

Population studies document that Jews do wander. Our young people on college campuses not served by Hillel Associations and older adults isolated in nursing homes may find only a Christian group to turn to in times of crisis. They are particularly vulnerable to groups that proselytize their faith while delivering their services.

Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, spoke for many in the audience when he warned that federal dollars to evangelical groups like the Southern Baptist Convention-which has specifically targeted Jews for conversion-will "free up their money to come after us." Equally problematic would be the potential for government financing to organizations like the Nation of Islam that have expressed virulent anti-Semitic views.

Many established religious organizations do an outstanding job of fighting drug abuse, counseling teen-age parents, sustaining the homeless and providing a myriad of other services to people at risk. At the very core of their mission is acceptance of Jesus as a path to recovery and redemption. We applaud their efforts but maintain that they should not receive federal funds.

We recognize the power of faith to turn people's lives around. We hope that G-d will continue to empower men and women of faith to extend a helping hand to others in need. We believe that charity should be proffered freely, with no religious strings attached.

In a democratic nation like ours, it is the duty of government to provide social services to the citizens it serves. President Bush's faith-based initiative is a breach of faith for those who believe in the separation of church and state.

SHABBAT Candle Lighting

MARCH 16TH - 5:51 PM

MARCH 23RD - 5:59 PM

The JEWISH VOICE

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PARSHA PLACE

Week of March 10

Tetzaveh

Exodus 27:20-30:10

This week's Torah portion teaches us about the Cohanim, the special Jewish priests. They had the important job of conducting services in the Tabernacle, and guiding the people to become the best they could be.

The high priest, the Cohen Gadol, wore an especially beautiful uniform that was made up of holy and meaningful objects that helped him to lead the people in the right way.

One of these was a special breastplate that he wore suspended on gold chains from his neck. It was made up of precious jewels with letters engraved on them.

When the nation had an important decision to make they didn't just decide on their own. They came to the Cohen Gadol and asked for advice.

God caused the letters on the chest-plate to light up and spell out the answer. They would follow this advice and always succeed.

From here we learn the value of asking for advice from someone with more experience to help us know what to do.

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE

for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE FOCUS DEADLINE

MAR. 23 PASSOVER MAR. 15

All submissions in person for The Jewish Voice due at JFD offices or mail:

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Zatuchni Testifies Before Joint Finance Committee

On February 28th, Dory Zatuchni, Executive Director of Jewish Family Service delivered testimony before the Joint Finance Committee regarding foster care reform. Her testimony demonstrates the commitment of JFS's Board, staff and constituents to this overwhelming issue. Dedicated to developing a child centered, integrated service delivery system, JFS is part of a state-wide collaborative effort that includes the State's Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, non-profit organizations and grass root organizations. Within the agency's Services for Adolescents Department, 10% of its clients are living in out-of-home placements. The agency was recently awarded a contract with West End Neighborhood House to provide counseling services to foster care youth who have aged out of the system. It also provides counseling and prevention services for the State's Office of Prevention and Early Intervention. If any members of our community wish to become more involved with foster care reform, please contact Dory at JFS (478-9411)

TESTIMONY-

I represent Jewish Family Service, Children and Families First, Prevent Child Abuse, Catholic Charities, People's Place and Delaware Guidance Services for Children and Youth. These agencies provide over \$8 million of services to our children and their families throughout the State.

- You know that the lives of foster care children and youth have been impacted by neglect, abandonment, parental conflict, sexual abuse, and physical abuse.

- You know that most have been diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, conduct disorder, depression, drug dependency, and/or post-traumatic stress syndrome.

- You know that over 40% of these children and youth reside in more than two placements per year and over 41% remain in foster care for more than 2 years with little hope of ever achieving permanency with one family, let alone their own family.

- You know that 60-80% of adult prisoners have spent some of their youth in out-of-home placement.

But, perhaps you don't know this - DFS has made some significant inroads into serving this vulnerable population.

- Two years ago, the state legislature increased the numbers of direct service workers by 15. As the only links for foster care children and their families, their importance cannot be minimized. Their knowledge of resources and internal procedures in meeting the socio-educational and emotional needs of their clients is unsurpassed. So, it is no surprise that their attrition rate decreased by more than 25% as their caseloads became more manageable. Now, 86% of the workers have more than one year of experience.

- Last year, the Child Abuse and Neglect Training Program was introduced to all public school teachers across the state, establishing collaboration between the schools and DFS.

- This year, treatment workers are better prepared for their jobs through a newly implemented 6 month intensive training program, supplemented with an additional 1.5 years of advanced skills training.

- This year, FACTS (Family and Children Tracking System) was upgraded, making the computerized system user-friendly for treatment workers. They can now easily access information in the field about their clients' present status, histories and utilization of intradepartmental services. They also can immediately identify and track perpetrators of abuse.

- Today, a program has been initiated in which every family childcare home in the State will be monitored.

- Lest you think we are naive, we are not. There are tremendous dilemmas within the Division's service delivery system. Its very infrastructure is threatened as the low retention rate of foster parents hampers continuity for the children.

- We know that behavioral specialists are needed to help foster parents and the children in eliminating unconstructive and harmful behaviors.

- We know that additional coordinators are needed to better match children with appropriate homes.

- We know that substance abuse counselors are needed to

provide the youth with resources to confront the deleterious effects of drug use.

We are now involved in an extraordinary effort, supporting DFS's endeavors in creating a new paradigm - a well-designed and coordinated service delivery system that will provide safe environments and promote well-being and comfort for these children and youth. Our coalition is engaged - as are more than 50 other nonprofit agencies and grass root organizations. Collectively, we represent more than 75,000 constituents including clients, staffs, boards and members - and I believe this is a low estimate.

We are committed to foster care reform. But, our shared vision to deliver proactive and holistic care will be severely jeopardized without the partnership of the State. It will be severely jeopardized without appropriate resources. The present budget is insufficient to meet the needs of our children and youth. If you do not recognize this now, we assure you, the consequences of inadequate resources today, will be evident tomorrow.

Federation Has Funds for Israel Travel

The Jewish Federation of Delaware has grant money available for high school students who wish to travel to Israel. These grants will give young people ages 15 through 17 an opportunity to participate in programs in Israel that are sponsored by national or international Jewish youth organizations and are approved by the Federation.

Application deadline is March 15, 2001. Applications will be reviewed and approved on a first

come first served basis.

Applicants must still be in high school when they return from Israel and must commit themselves to attending briefings before and after their Israel experience. Preference will be given to applicants who have not participated in prior Israel programs.

Candidates must provide two letters of recommendation from teachers, rabbis, youth advisors, coaches, employers or supervisors. They must agree to perform

community services when they return. Service options include volunteer work in local agencies, synagogues or organizations; involvement in the Federation campaign; recruitment of peers for subsequent Israel experiences; leadership roles in Jewish youth groups; public speaking to the community about Israel and/or writing newspaper articles for publication.

Only those applicants whose parents contribute to the 2001

Federation campaign will be considered. Applications are also available at JFD for students interested in working in Arad, Israel this summer. Only two counselor slots are available at the English-speaking day camp.

For applications and information, call or write to Judy Wortman, executive vice president, Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801-1628, (302) 427-2100.

U.S. Holocaust Museum Hosts March Program In Delaware

Holocaust survivor Nesse Godin will address the Wilmington Rotary Club on March 15th, noon, at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington. The program is the first in a series of events in Delaware sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Delaware Project, "WHY REMEMBER?"

Born in 1928 in Lithuania,

Nesse Godin was 13 years old when the Nazis invaded her home. Shortly after the Nazi takeover, she was interned in the Shauliai Ghetto. During the war she survived a concentration camp, four labor camps and a death march before liberation in 1945.

She has dedicated her adult life to teaching about the Holocaust. She tells her personal story to gov-

ernment, school, church, synagogue and civic groups across the country. For her efforts, she has received the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Remembrance Medal.

The "WHY REMEMBER" Committee is chaired by Marsha and Howard Borin. Honorary chairs are Denise and Gary Hinds.

"WHY REMEMBER" is a part-

nership between The News Journal and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

It is funded in part by the MBNA Foundation. For more information, contact Sharon Mittelman at 737-1816.

Mid-East Peace Expert In Delaware

The University of Delaware presents Aaron Miller, diplomat and participant in Middle East peace process on Thursday, March 15, 7:30 p.m. at Clayton Hall. Miller's talk is part of the University's "Global Agenda 2001" lecture series.

Miller and Dennis Ross constituted the American negotiating team throughout the George Bush, Sr. and Bill Clinton presidential administrations. He remains active in the current administration, negotiating on behalf of the U.S. with all the Israeli and Arab leadership.

He recently returned from Secretary of State Colin Powell's trip to the Middle East, where he served as an adviser to Powell in meetings with Arab and Israeli leaders.

The program is free and open to the community.

Religion And Politics At U Of D

Rabbi Sally J. Priesland the first female rabbi to be ordained in the United States, will help the University of Delaware celebrate Women's History Month. On Monday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.,

Rabbi Priesland will speak on the topic of "Religion and Politics". Her talk at the Perkins Student Center will touch on such topical issues as abortion rights, gun control and tikkun olam. This lecture,

presented by the University's Office of Women's Affairs and the Commission on the Status of Women Student Caucus, is free and open to the public. For additional information, please call 831-8063.

JCCs of North America

Kallah כלה
the Gathering...

The Jewish Community Center of Delaware will participate in the JCCs of North America Kallah. This program, developed by the JCC Association in partnership with the 92nd Street Y in New York, will unite Jewish adults from North America and Canada in a celebration of Jewish learning.

Kallah, a Hebrew word that means "gathering", will be held on Sunday, March 11, 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 25, 7 p.m. at the JCC of Delaware. Programming will be transmitted via satellite to the JCC and 30 other sites from the 92nd Street Y.

On Sunday, March 11,

AKSE Brunch Focuses On Jewish Writers

Marc Pevar will present and discuss writings by Maimonides, Spinoza and Einstein during a Sunday, April 22nd Men's Club/Adult Education Committee Brunch at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Pevar, whose varied career has included research in West Africa, production of albums and documentary films, management of musicians, commercial web site design and construction of more than \$40 million worth of commercial and residential properties, will discuss "The Influence of Jewish Writers on Scientific Thought".

Breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m. with the program to follow. The cost is \$4 per person. For reservations, please call the AKSE office at 762-2705.

Professor Alan Dershowitz, Dennis Prager and Anne Roiphe will discuss "The Future of American Jewry". Panelists will evaluate the current condition of Jews and America and will identify and respond to the issues and challenges facing this community. Rabbi David Woznica will moderate.

On Tuesday, March 20th, Kallah participants will explore the minds of such great Jewish philosophers as Rabbi Akiva, Rabbi Hillel, Rabbi Heschel and Rabbi Soloveitchik. The Sunday, March 25th program will feature "An Evening with Elie Wiesel". In conversation with Rabbi David Woznica, this great humanitarian will discuss his passions and his life.

The cost for the three session series is \$20 per person or \$8 per person.

Call Staci Groland at (302) 478-5660 for ticket information.

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Q: What can you tell me about the Albert Einstein Academy Curriculum?

Mr. Brassloff: We have a dual track program which includes both General Studies and Jewish Studies. In terms of our General Studies programs, we use the University of Chicago Mathematics program. Our Science program used a hands on discovery approach. Our social studies curriculum utilizes an expanded environment approach - through the years, the children study the family unit, their community, American History and World History. Much of the Social Studies content is taught through realistic and historical fiction. The Language Arts Program uses a literature-based approach. Our Jewish, History, holidays and customs.

In addition, our children enjoy computers, library, music, art, physical education, health and swimming, these subjects also support our

integrated curriculum.

Q: What is an integrated curriculum?

Mr. Brassloff: We try to combine more than one discipline into each lesson. For example, our 4th graders do reports on famous Zionists - learning about Jewish historical figures using research and writing skills that they learn in General Studies.

Q: Tell me about the teachers?

Mr. Brassloff: All of our teachers are highly qualified, trained, dedicated educators. They bring a variety of rich experiences to our classrooms.

Q: How much time is

spent learning General Studies versus Jewish Studies?

Mr. Brassloff: While we strive for as many integrated lessons as possible, our kindergarten and pre-K students spend half their day with a Jewish Studies teacher and half their day with a General Studies teacher. Our 1st through 6th graders spend 2/3 of their day in General Studies and 1/3 in Jewish Studies.

Q: Is Albert Einstein Academy Accredited?

Mr. Brassloff: Yes, by the Commission of Elementary School of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

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DELAWARE DATELINE

News From Delaware Gratz

by Marion Yager Hamermesh

I have the honor of teaching a group of very talented seventh and eighth graders in a writing workshop at Delaware Gratz. Each week I give them an assignment and they work on their pieces in class. The assignments are drawn from the seasonal cycle, current events and other topics of interest to Jewish teens. They have written about hearing the Shofar and the meaning of Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Once they imagined who they might invite to join their families at

a Thanksgiving meal, an assignment inspired by the Succot tradition of putting out a chair for such visitors. We had planned to write about the effect the results of the Presidential election would have on the Jewish community, but as you might imagine, that became a curricular nightmare as the weeks wore on.

As winter approached, we spent several class sessions exploring images of winter, discussing the December dilemma and examining various forms of poetry including ballads, haiku and limer-

icks. Here is a sample of the resulting work.

A Perception of Winter
by Nathaniel Jaffe

Christmas.
Bright lights, snow and Santa,
Presents, reindeer, and Chinese food.
Christmas.

Everywhere
by Nathaniel Jaffe

Hess Truck commercials really tick me off because they are everywhere

Lights
by Naomi Hamermesh

As I go around my neighborhood,
What do I see?
I see beautiful lights shimmering back at me.
Are they for looks or just so that I'll find my way?
Are they for this season or are they there every day?
I know!
They're there for Christmas.
That's why they're not on my house.

Just Think
by Aaron Imber

Winter is thought of from two

perspectives
A child and an adult
The child's is innocent and happy
While the adult thinks pessimistically
The child sees Santa
The adult sees shopping
The child sees beautiful snow
The adult sees the car stuck
The child sees a Winter Wonderland
The adult sees the December Dilemma
Now just think which is right
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by Rachel A. Gross, Esq. Endowment Director

In the spirit of Purim and the "Purim-shpil" (a humorous or satirical monologue), we offer the following, slightly silly vignette which, nevertheless, contains an important message. Wishing you a "Freilechen Purim." *Me shenichnas Adar marbim v'simcha - When (the Jewish month of) Adar begins we*

are filled with happiness.

"How do you like your steak?" the waiter asked.

"Will done," I answered.

He looked at me strangely, and inquired, "Are you feeling okay?" "Why yes. I feel perfectly will. Thank you for asking."

His puzzlement increased. "Are you sure you're okay? Your speech is odd. Instead of saying 'well' you say 'will.'"

"Will now, my observant friend," I said, "you are a will-trained waiter to notice such a thing."

"It's part of my job, sir. By the will — er, I mean, way — would you like mushrooms with your will-done steak?"

"Yes, and may I ask your name?"

"They call me Willard."

"You know, Will," I continued, "it's a will-documented fact that most people do not have a valid will. Would that, perchance, include you?"

"I'm sure you mean will — er, well . . . uh, or is it will?— anyway, this subject gives me the willies. And yes, I admit, I do not have a

well — I mean will."

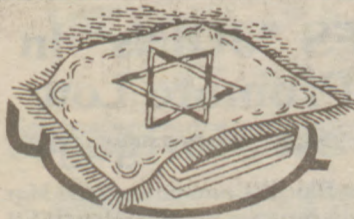
"Will now, Willy, don't stand there stammering. Will you go out and get a will first thing tomorrow?"

"Yes sir, I will. Thank you."

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WSFS "JOINS" In To Promote Low Interest Mortgages

By Pamela Bloch, Communications Mgr. Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB

WSFS and Wilmington Trust Company are the first financial institutions to participate in the Delaware State Housing Authority's (DSHA) innovative bond deal that provides \$13 million in lower interest rate mortgages for low- and moderate-income homebuyers. DSHA and Salomon Smith Barney created an original bond structure for the plan: Joint Origination/Investment Notes or JOINs.

Under the program, financial institutions agree to purchase bonds at a reduced yield and then write down the interest rate on the mortgages they offer by the same percentage. WSFS will offer the low interest rates of 6%, which is 1.25% to 1.5% below the current average of 7.5%.

Governor Thomas R. Carper formally announced the new JOINs mortgage opportunity at a press conference late last year. SVP-Director of Marketing Marty Katz (pictured) also spoke at the press conference along with DSHA Director Susan Frank and Wilmington Trust Company President-COO Robert Harra, Jr. Other Associates present included MVP-Director of Mortgage Originations Karen Allen and Advertising and Communications Manager Pamela Bloch.

"WSFS has a long standing partnership with DSHA offering Delawareans financing for homeownership," says Katz. "The JOINs program is a creative financing solution providing more families with an opportunity to obtain mortgages at low rates."

Associates or customers who may qualify for the JOINs program can contact a Loan Officer in the Residential Mortgage area at 302-573-3224.

Commerce Expands In 2001

Commerce Bank "America's Most Convenient Bank" – begins 2001 with a total of five branches in the State of Delaware. As part of Commerce's aggressive expansion plans in the tri-state area, the Bank opened its first branch on Naamans Road in December 1999 and then followed with four more branches during 2000.

In addition to the Naamans Road branch, Commerce's prototypical branches are located in downtown Wilmington (9th and Shipley Streets); in Talleyville (Concord Pike and Silverside Road); Route 273 (Churchman's Corner, just west of New Castle); and Bear (Governor's Square on Route 7).

Once again in 2001, Commerce plans to open more than 30 new branches in its tri-state footprint, including another Delaware location in Fox Run, on Route 40 at Sunset Lake Road.

All of Commerce Bank's branches are open seven days a week (including Sunday hours from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Headquartered in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Commerce has \$8.5 billion in assets and more than 150 branches in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. To learn more about Commerce, visit the Bank's award-winning interactive financial resource center at www.commerceonline.com.



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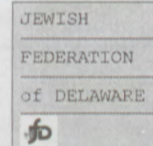
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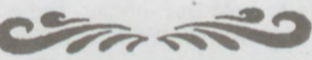


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ISRAEL FOCUS

Pardoned American Served Israel In 1948

By Matthew E. Berger, JTA

As an adviser to former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in the mid-1980s, Al Schwimmer traveled to the United States often and met with former Presidents Reagan and Bush.

He served as an intermediary between the United States and Iran in the arms-for-hostages scandal.

It never seemed to matter that he was a U.S. felon, convicted for his role in smuggling airplanes from the United States to Israel as it fought its War of Independence in 1948.

Now, a half-century after his conviction, Schwimmer has been exonerated, one of the many pardons granted by President Clinton on his last days in office.

It was a pardon he never asked for and is less than enthusiastic about.

"I appreciate it," said the 83-year-old Schwimmer, who lives in Israel and holds dual American and Israeli citizenships.

"It is not the most important thing for me in my life," he told JTA in a telephone interview from his Tel Aviv home.

Schwimmer, the founder and former CEO of Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd., was convicted in 1950 of violating the United States Neutrality Act for his role in aiding Israel.

With a sense of pride and modesty, Schwimmer tells the story of how he deliberately broke the law to help create the Jewish state.

A veteran of World War II originally from Connecticut, Schwimmer — known then as Adolph — joined TWA after the war as a flight engi-

neer and was recruited through friends to help bring airplanes to the Middle East to aid the Jews in their war for independence.

He set up dummy airline companies that were supposed to be flying charter flights, and purchased airplanes from the United States, which was selling surplus planes no longer needed after the war.

In all, Schwimmer and his crew brought 30 planes to Israel, flying them through either Italy or South America and to Czechoslovakia, from where the planes were sent to the Middle East.

They also recruited men, mostly World War II veterans, to go to the Middle East and fight.

For most of that time, the government was on Schwimmer's tail.

"My philosophy was that we couldn't outsmart them, but if we moved fast, we'd be ahead of them all the time," he said.

He said the operation functioned on both U.S. coasts, and by May of 1948, he was staying at a different place each night to avoid the authorities.

One night, as he remembers it, the police arrived at the hotel where he was staying in New York City.

One of his colleagues called up to Schwimmer's 20th floor room to warn him. The agents took the elevator up to his room as Schwimmer raced down 20 flights of steps.

Schwimmer was on the next illegal plane bound for Czechoslovakia.

Schwimmer went to Israel, and served in its fledgling air force.

After the War of Independence had been won, Schwimmer came back to the United States to face the

music.

"I decided I didn't want to be a fugitive the rest of my life," Schwimmer said.

He pleaded not guilty but was convicted in 1950 — along with his colleagues — and received a \$10,000 fine.

The fine, and his court costs, were paid for by the Jewish Agency for Israel, he said.

Schwimmer returned to Israel and founded Bedek, the precursor to Israel Aircraft. After nearly 25 years at the helm of the military and Commercial airplane manufacturer, Schwimmer retired.

But that did not end his life in the spotlight.

For one shekel a year, Schwimmer joined Peres' government in the mid-1980s as a special adviser to the prime minister for technology and industry.

He would once again find himself in the midst of controversy.

On his role in the Iran/Contra affair, Schwimmer would not reminisce. He would say very little about the role he played.

"We used the connections we had, which were perhaps better than the United States had, to try to get the hostages out," he said, but would not elaborate.

According to the 1993 Independent Counsel report on the Iran/Contra Affair, Schwimmer played a key role as an Israeli intermediary between the United States and Iran in the weapons-for-hostages plan.

The Reagan administration sold weapons to Iran, using Israel as an intermediary, in an effort to secure

the release of American hostages being held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Some of the proceeds from the sale of weapons to Iran was diverted to the contras, who were waging war against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

According to the report, Schwimmer introduced Robert McFarlane, Reagan's national security adviser, to Manucher Ghorbanifar, the Iranian businessman who would lay the Iranian's demands on the table.

He also helped secure El Al planes to transport the weapons from Israel to a mediating country.

In late 1985, Schwimmer was relieved of his role as a go-between with Ghorbanifar, the report said.

Lt. Col. Oliver North, an assistant at the National Security Council, would later gain national attention for his role in the affair — his conviction was later overturned — took over as a key player dealing with the Israeli connection.

Schwimmer was never charged with any crime, in the United States or Israel, for his role in the controversial program.

In his advisory role for the Israeli government, Schwimmer met with heads of state, including two presidents. If any background check ever showed his conviction, that information never came back to him.

"I'm sure they knew who I was," he said.

So from Schwimmer's perspective, he never needed a pardon.

In fact, even now, he says, he isn't certain he has been pardoned. No official information has reached

his Tel Aviv home — and Schwimmer is not waiting by the mailbox.

Because he lives in Israel, he said, the only benefits he sees would be to vote in U.S. elections.

Schwimmer never applied for the pardon.

"It's a complicated process. You've got to say, 'I recognize I was guilty and I did wrong,'" he said.

"I wasn't ready to say all that. I didn't feel that I had done wrong. I did what I did for idealistic reasons."

One of his close friends, Hank Greenspun, was convicted of similar charges at the same time. Greenspun, who later became publisher of the Las Vegas Sun, received a pardon from President Kennedy in 1961.

After years of asking him to apply for his own pardon, Greenspun's son, Brian, the Sun's current president and editor, told Schwimmer he was going to apply for a pardon on Schwimmer's behalf.

He said, "I'm not asking you, I'm informing you that I have put you in for a pardon," Schwimmer said.

Greenspun reportedly asked Clinton over Thanksgiving weekend for Schwimmer's pardon. Greenspun was unavailable for comment.

Now that he has his pardon, little has changed for the octogenarian. He said Greenspun is encouraging him to write his life story.

"I'm still alive, so I can't decide whether I'd like my life story to be written yet," he said. "Besides, I don't think it would be interesting anyway."

Israel's Critics Decry Economic Tactics Against PA

By Avi Machlis, JTA

As the Palestinian intifada continues into its sixth month, international attention has shifted from the daily death toll to the tough economic measures Israel has imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The measures include closing passages between the Palestinian-ruled territories and Israel proper, which keeps tens of thousands of Palestinians from working in Israel; travel restrictions that often prevent Palestinians from traveling between cities and villages in the West Bank; and withholding tax and customs money that Israel collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority.

Israel says the measures are designed to prevent Palestinians from launching terror attacks and to pressure the Palestinian Authority to start clamping down on violence.

But critics in the United States and Europe say Israel is only embittering the Palestinian population and pushing the Palestinian Authority to the brink of collapse.

Recent U.N. reports indicate that Palestinian unemployment is rampant, poverty has jumped 50 percent since the violence began in late September and one-third of the Palestinian population lives below the poverty line.

The United Nations also has warned that the Palestinian

Authority is on the verge of financial collapse: Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat claims he is unable to pay the salaries of civil servants and security forces.

On his first visit to the region, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell urged Israel to lift the blockade it has imposed on the Palestinian territories as soon as possible.

Ariel Sharon, Israel's prime minister, says he will quickly lift the sanctions — as soon as the Palestinians stop the violence. With Palestinian security forces implicated in numerous shooting and terror attacks on Israelis in recent months, Israel is saying, in essence, that it will no longer subsidize its attackers.

"Israel has no interest in a difficult situation for either the P.A. or the population at large," says Dore Gold, foreign policy adviser to Sharon. "But if the security personnel who receive salaries from the P.A. are regularly involved in sniper attacks on Israeli civilians, it creates a very difficult situation."

Israeli officials do not deny the complexity of the situation.

"We distinguish between the people in the Palestinian Authority — who are suffering — and the Palestinian Authority itself," said an Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The economic situation in the P.A. is not good, but we are not looking at the

collapse of the P.A. as a system."

According to the official, there are signs of "serious erosion" in the Palestinian Authority, although talk of institutional collapse is "exaggerated," and Arafat is still paying his civil servants.

"We have no interest in the P.A. collapsing," the official says. "We also intend to transfer the taxes. There is no decision in principle to hold this money, and it is not in Israel's interest to withhold the taxes since it is not our money."

For their part, European foreign ministers promised to provide \$55 million to the Palestinian Authority, but called on the Authority to root out corruption and meet accepted accounting standards. The ministers, meeting under the auspices of the European Union, held an international donors conference recently to raise money for the Palestinians.

The issue of tax receipts is among the most problematic. Under economic accords that accompanied the peace process, Israel collects customs, valued added taxes and purchase taxes on goods imported to the Palestinian Authority through Israeli ports and airports.

Each month, Israeli finance officials calculate how much Israel has collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority.

The Israelis then sit with

Palestinian officials and offset the figure with various sums the Palestinian Authority owes Israel, primarily for utility service. Last year, Israel transferred roughly \$50 million a month to the Palestinian Authority, even after the Palestinian violence began.

Israel's Finance Ministry says the monthly sums were transferred as usual through the end of December, though the average figure declined slightly due to the slowdown in Palestinian economic activity. The last payment was made at the end of December, and a treasury official says Israel now owes about \$41 million.

"The clearance procedure was delayed for technical reasons," the official says, refusing to comment on whether Israel is withholding the money as a matter of policy.

The official also says the Palestinian Authority owes Israel about \$30 million for payments of utilities such as electricity and telephone services. Israel does not want to cut the Palestinians off from these services for humanitarian reasons, but it is considering recouping the debt from the tax money it owes the Palestinians.

Nasser Tahboub, the Palestinian commissioner of indirect taxes, rejects this idea.

"There is nothing overdue," he says of the utility payments. Tahboub also claims Israel owes about \$75 million in collected

taxes since the beginning of December.

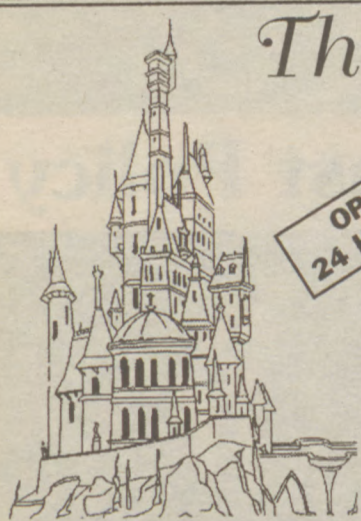
According to Tahboub, the backlog of tax revenue creates two main problems for the Palestinian Authority. First, the taxes owed make up more than 60 percent of the Palestinian Authority's monthly budget, he says.

In addition, he accuses Israel of blocking Palestinian imports through Israeli ports. This forces many businessmen to either forgo importing altogether or to smuggle goods which further reduces tax receipts and creates a cash crunch for Palestinian Authority institutions.

"Israel talks about security, but preventing Palestinian goods from being declared in Israeli ports is not justified for any security reasons," Tahboub says. "They also have no right to hold the taxes since it is our money — and Israel is making nice interest income off of our revenues which they hold."

Israel does not deny the import problems, but it does dispute the cause. Yarden Vatikay, coordinator of government activities in the territories, says the Palestinians have only themselves to blame.

"The Palestinians want to point their guns at us, but they end up shooting themselves in the foot," he says. "Certainly, there are difficulties, but it is a result of the violent situation that they have created."



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WASHINGTON WATCH 2001

Powell's Visit Signals Changes In Mideast Policy

By Naomi Segal, JTA

If U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell made anything clear during his visit last week to the Israel and the Palestinian-controlled city of Ramallah, it was that things have changed since President Clinton left office.

First, there was the duration of his visit — one day — with Powell's meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders wedged in between stop-offs in Egypt and Jordan.

Second, there was the absence of U.S. proposals — a hallmark of the Clinton era — aimed at ending the more than five months of Israeli-Palestinian violence and forging a final peace accord.

While Powell called on both sides to end the violence and return to negotiations — and pointedly told Israel to lift the economic sanctions it has imposed on the Palestinian Authority — he had little else to suggest to the two sides in his public comments other than that it is up to them to make the "hard decisions" that will enable them to return to the road of peace.

Since President Bush took office in late January, U.S. officials have said that while they will continue to pursue Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking, it is but one facet of their overall Middle East policy.

Indeed, Powell's trip to the Middle East — his first since becoming the top U.S. diplomat — appeared to be less about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict than getting Arab support for U.S. policies aimed at containing Iraq.

Powell's regional tour included a stop in Kuwait to attend celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the end of the Persian Gulf War.

During meetings with Arab leaders this week, Powell discussed the need to keep sanctions against Iraq in place — first imposed in the wake of the war — in order to deal with the threat posed by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

In fact, during a joint news con-

ference with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Powell stressed that Saddam had to be restrained.

Citing German intelligence reports that Baghdad might have nuclear weapons in three years, Powell said, "We have to make sure that we do everything we can to contain Saddam."

As Powell arrived in Syria for talks with Syrian President Bashar Assad, a state-run Syrian newspaper sharply criticized the emphasis on Iraq.

A front-page editorial accused Powell of ignoring the killing of Palestinians by Israeli forces.

During their meeting, Powell and Assad discussed the peace process, sanctions against Iraq and the oil it imports from Iraq through a pipeline to the Mediterranean.

The United States believes that Syria, which is seeking a seat on the U.N. Security Council next year, will halt the imports, thereby complying with U.N. sanctions against Iraq, a senior U.S. official told Reuters.

The difficulty of putting an end to Israeli-Palestinian violence was underscored by several incidents that took place during Powell's visit.

As Powell was urging the two sides to take steps to stop the cycle of violence, two Israeli settlers were wounded in separate shooting attacks in the West Bank. The commander of Israeli forces in the area said it is possible the two attacks were linked.

He noted that Powell's visit could have given Palestinian groups greater motivation to carry out such attacks.

After meeting Sunday in Ramallah with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, Powell called on Israel to lift the economic "siege" it had imposed on the areas under Palestinian control since violence erupted last September.

Later Sunday, Israel announced that it was taking a step aimed at implementing at least a part of Powell's requests: The Israeli army

lifted roadblocks it had set up last week that had divided the Gaza Strip into two.

For his part, Arafat used his joint news conference with Powell to call on the United States to ensure that Israel pick up negotiations from where they left off under outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

Barak's purported willingness to give the Palestinians control over parts of eastern Jerusalem during last July's failed Camp David summit led to the defections of several coalition partners — and was a major factor in his defeat at the hands of Sharon in the nation's Feb. 6 elections for prime minister.

Barak, seconded by Clinton, has said the proposals aired at Camp David were no longer on the table.

But Arafat maintained that "no government can write off what the previous government did."

Earlier in the day, after meeting with Powell, Sharon outlined his own demand.

"One thing should be clear: Israel will not negotiate under pressure of terror and violence," Sharon said at his joint news conference with the U.S. secretary of state.

Sharon denied that any negotiations were under way with the Palestinians. But he acknowledged that there existed "channels of communication" for conveying messages to the Palestinians.

During Powell's meetings, more than 2,000 Palestinians protested in Gaza against his visit. The protesters burned pictures of Powell and called on him to go home.

Throughout the West Bank, Palestinian shopkeepers heeded demands by militant groups to protest Powell's visit and closed their shops early.

In another development, a Palestinian woman accused of using the Internet to lure Israeli teen-ager Ofir Rahum to his death admitted to planning to kidnap him, but said she did not intend to kill him.

The Prime Minister's Office



Secretary of State Colin Powell lays a wreath at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial museum during his recent visit to the Mideast. The Jewish community is closely watching the Bush administration for signals as its Mideast policy takes shape. Photo credit:

issued a statement indicating that Amana Mona told investigators she had communicated with several Israelis who had expressed anti-Palestinian sentiments. As a result, she said, she decided to kidnap one of them to send a message to the world about the deaths of young

Palestinians in the ongoing violence.

On Sunday, the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot published a photograph of Rahum's headstone, in the shape of a computer terminal, which his family said symbolized the importance it played in the teen's life.

U.S. Faults Israel And Palestinians On Human Rights

By Matthew E. Berger, JTA

The United States is holding both Israel and the Palestinians accountable for the violence in the region that erupted in September.

Israeli forces "committed serious human rights abuses," according to the annual Report on Human Rights Practices, released last week by the U.S. State Department. The report sharply criticized Israel for its treatment of Arab citizens and its use of live ammunition and rubber-coated steel bullets in conflicts against the Palestinians.

"In many instances, Israeli security forces used excessive force against demonstrators in contravention of their official rules of engagement," according to the report.

Specifically, the report says excessive force led to the deaths of 13 Israeli Arabs during widespread riots in October.

The Palestinian Authority was criticized for killing several Israeli soldiers during clashes with Israelis and for arbitrary arrest and detention of prisoners. It said Palestinian forces "failed to prevent armed Palestinians from opening fire on Israelis in places in which

Palestinians were present." The report said it was unclear whether Palestinian leadership authorized the incidents.

The report said human rights actions by both groups were improving before the recent violence began. The report's author said stopping the violence in the region would greatly increase both sides' human rights record.

"The report could actually be divided into two parts: up until September and post-September," said Michael Parmly, the acting U.S. assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor.

"We're confident that the democratic institutions in Israel will get that country moving in the right direction," Parmly said. "I would like to see Palestinians get out of the street."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry defended its use of force in a statement Monday, saying it must be seen within the context of "daily terrorist acts against Israeli civilians."

"Since September, the Palestinian Authority has engaged in over 3,000 live ammunition attacks against Israeli soldiers and civilians," the statement said. "Israel has reacted in a propor-

tionate, measured and responsible fashion to the systematic, ongoing attacks by Palestinian militia and members of the Palestinian Authority."

The Anti-Defamation League called the report's characterization of Israel "unfair and distorted."

"The report rushes to judgement by harshly condemning Israeli action as 'excessive force' while ignoring the involvement of the Palestinian Authority in inciting and directing anti-Israel violence," the ADL's national director, Abraham Foxman, said in a statement.

The report devotes almost five pages to issues facing Israeli Arabs. The report found that Arabs do not have the same quality of education, housing, employment, and social services as Jews, but noted a \$975 million governmental assistance plan for Arab citizens that was approved in the fall.

Among the report's other findings for the year 2000:

"Three Palestinian prisoners died in Israeli custody under unclear circumstances, and there were "numerous credible allegations" that Israeli police beat detainees.

"Some of the Palestinians killed dur-

ing the autumn violence "were targeted specifically by Israeli security forces."

"Palestinian soldiers prevented medical aid from reaching an injured Israeli border policeman in October. The man later died.

"Palestinian Authority officials continue to harass and abuse journalists, leading to self-censorship by Palestinian media.

"Israel was cited for arresting hundreds of Arab citizens during the period of demonstrations that started in September, and for arresting people more than a month after the disturbances ended.

"Conditions for Palestinians in Israeli prisons were described as "poor." Conditions in Palestinian facilities were considered "very poor."

"Problems in the treatment of women by both the Israelis and Palestinians were noted. Women's groups in the Palestinian territories were cited for heightening awareness of problems of rape, domestic violence and "family honor" violence attacks, but problems remain widespread. In Israel, the report notes concern about the trafficking of women for prostitution.

Other countries came under criticism for their treatment of Jews:

"In Iran, anti-Semitic propaganda increased after the arrest of 13 Jews in early 1999 for alleged spying for Israel. Ten of the Jews have since been sentenced to terms of two to nine years. The Jewish community in Shiraz has been under close governmental surveillance, and Jewish businesses have been the targets of vandalism and boycotts.

The report said Jewish leaders are reluctant to draw attention to the "official mistreatment" because of fear of governmental reprisals.

"Despite government reports on the issue, only limited steps have been taken in Russia to prevent anti-Semitism. Also, Russian President Vladimir Putin was accused by some of playing a role in the election of a second chief rabbi there. Putin has been accused of creating division within the Jewish community for advocating a rival to longtime Chief Rabbi Adolf Shayevech, who is aligned with groups critical of Putin. In addition, an illegal search took place by legal authorities in October of a rabbi aligned with Shayevech.

A MATTER OF OPINION

Energizing The Nation

by E. E. Jaffe

The shortage of electrical power in California has focused the attention of the state's government on ways to alleviate the problem. The energy problem is not limited to shortages and cost increases of electricity, the consumption of gasoline and its price have gone up as has the price of natural gas. The federal government provided very limited help to California, insisting that an energy policy needs to be developed for the entire country. From all preliminary indications the main component of a future energy policy is to start prospecting for oil in the pristine areas of Alaska and elsewhere. This might be a short-term solution to a long-term problem. Conservation and improved efficiency of fuel utilization do not seem to be key elements of a new policy. Nor would it address the reduction of enormous amounts of carbon dioxide and other so-called greenhouse gases that are mainly responsible for global warming. It behooves the US government to search for alternative ways to provide adequate energy and reverse, if possible, potentially catastrophic global warming.

Consumption of electricity in the USA has gone up significantly because of proliferation of TVs, VCRs and computers in most homes of this nation, in addition to the significant increase in population based on the latest census. It is estimated that 8% (295 billion kilowatt-hours) of all electricity consumed in this country goes to power these devices in addition to the Internet and associated equipment such as servers, transmitters, amplifiers, etc., and their manufacture. This amount of electricity is more than the total electrical output of Italy and about 9 times more than the electricity consumption in the State of Israel. It is more electrical power than is consumed by the US chemical, petroleum and paper industries combined. Additional energy is required in

homes to run relatively recently added microwaves, telephone answering machines, printers, stereo systems, cordless phones, garage openers, etc., but particularly the Internet. Experts estimate that an average online purchase transaction consumes an amount of electricity requiring the burning of a half a pound of coal. This puts in perspective the amount of energy consumed by the Internet. It is estimated that in the not too distant future the Internet is expected to consume 40% of the electricity supply in the USA.

A similar situation exists with lighting for which consumption of electricity has gone up significantly. Most electrical light bulbs in American homes are of the incandescent variety invented by Thomas Edison way back in 1879. And the average home uses 30 bulbs, 3 of which are lit up for about 5 hours a day. Yet, all hardware stores carry compact fluorescent bulbs that have been modified to provide pleasant light, not unlike incandescent bulbs. The former usually last 10 times longer and consume one quarter the electricity. Although these bulbs are more expensive, due to the reduced electricity consumption and length of service overall savings per bulb is \$34, according to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Assuming that 3 heavily used incandescent bulbs are replaced by fluorescent counterparts, the savings of electrical power in the USA would be equivalent to the output of 11 average fossil fired power plants and would eliminate 23 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions and save consumers about \$1.8 billion per year. This can be implemented without undue hardship.

A more dramatic reduction in greenhouse gases requires the generation of electricity without burning fossil fuels. Today in the USA greenhouse gas emissions are 25% of the total world's emissions with only about 5% of the world's population. Coal-fired plants produce 56% of all US electrical energy and fossil fuels

overall, 70%. Yet there are ways to produce electricity without generation of greenhouse gases. These include solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and fuel cell energy, but above all nuclear fission. Incidentally, an important producer of photovoltaic solar cells is located right here in Newark, DE.

Wind power is already being utilized in California and in several European countries, and elsewhere, but the fastest growing installation of wind turbines is in India. Even in Israel where 99.9% of all electricity is generated in fossil burning plants, an attempt is being made to utilize wind power. A joint Israeli-Jordanian wind farm has been planned for the Wadi Arava region near the Red Sea. The farm would be made up of about 250 wind turbines. Some of which would be used to power desalination units. Funds are sought from both governments as well as the World Bank. In the USA the cost of generating electricity from wind power has dropped from \$1 per kilowatt-hour in 1970 to 5 cents in 1996, and a drop to 2 cents by 2010 is considered attainable.

However, to provide the huge amounts of electricity required by modern societies without emission of greenhouse gases, nuclear powered plants must be seriously considered. In the USA today 19% of all electricity is generated in 104 nuclear power plants. On a worldwide basis the number stands at 17%. Some countries of the world generate large quantities of nuclear power in a very safe manner. Good examples are France and Japan. Although Japan has an area about the size of California it operates 50 nuclear plants. France generates safely 80% of all

electricity by nuclear fission, making it the nation in the forefront in the utilization of modern nuclear equipment and plant design. The newest plant in France produces a large amount of power. It put public safety concerns to rest while providing more power than any other plant in the country. It represents a new chapter in French and possibly the world's nuclear power generation.

Based on the current situation in the USA, the TVA is seriously considering restarting an Alabama nuclear power plant that was closed for safety violations 15 years ago. In the Northwest, private power companies are buying nuclear reactors that only recently were considered untouchable. If the existing situation continues, the construction of new multi-billion nuclear power plants is almost a certainty, for the first time in 22 years. Another powerful incentive is a 20% drop in the price of uranium that is the feedstock for nuclear plants. In Washington State the only nuclear power plant operates on a budget of \$200 million and produces \$1.2 billion worth of electricity. This type of performance is bound to attract a great number of investors. Of course, any aging plants must be brought up to date, leaving no margin for errors, even though there has not been a nuclear plant incident in the USA since Three Mile Island in 1979. And any new plants, following the French example, must incorporate the latest technology and plant design, including the highest standards of safety, and provision for dealing with nuclear waste. If France can do it, America can surely do it, provided powerful interests do not interfere with the normal operation of a free market place.

Chinese New Year Celebrated At Weizmann Institute

By Nechemia Meyers

The new year is celebrated not once, but three times, at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science: on Rosh Hashana, on the 1st of January and on the "Chinese date." The last of the three has recently entered the institution's holiday calendar because of the fact that young scientists from the People's Republic of China are now the largest group of overseas researchers on the campus. Of course there are also people from 35 other countries—but it is the Chinese who are most in evidence.

They include a husband and wife team, Drs. Ying and Chengyong Wang of the Southwest China Normal University of Chongqing, located not far from the mighty Yangtze River. Both are in the Institute's Organic Chemistry Department, where Chengyong, the husband, is striving to synthesize the polymeric compounds used to produce fluorescent dye, while, Ying, his wife, delves into the process whereby polymers remove metal ions from water, thus purifying it.

When conversing with non-Chinese, Ying usually does the talking as Chengyong's English is rather halting. But both clearly appreciate the friendliness of the Israelis with whom they work, the first-rate equipment they have in their labs and the fact that the Institute's high level of computerization allows them to obtain the data they require more readily than was the case back home. The computers also allow them to keep in touch with developments in China and to participate in Chinese-language chat groups.

While they do their best to understand local culture, they have made no attempt to learn Hebrew, and when they need it they call on their nine-year-old son Jiayu to serve as a translator. He and a number of other Chinese youngsters were helped to learn the language

by a local woman who had worked at the Israel Embassy in Beijing. Now all of the youngsters attend a regular school near the Institute. Jiayu is an only child, a reflection of the Chinese Government's one-child-per-family policy. But perhaps the Wangs will follow in the footsteps of other visiting scientists who have taken the occasion of being in Israel to have a second child.

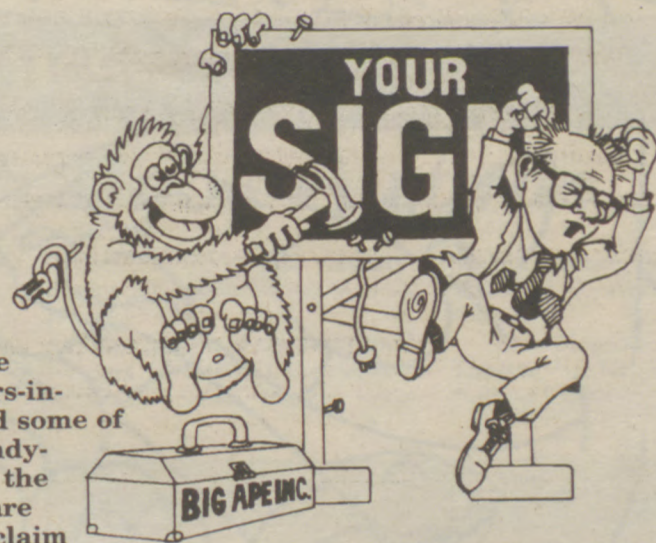
When asked about free time, they first point out that it is short supply. But they still find the opportunity to keep up their swimming, table tennis, volleyball and soccer. Moreover, in a new departure, they are also studying the Bible.

Bible study is far from being new for Dr. Dawn Mae Wong, another visiting scientist from China, or, to be exact, from Hong Kong. A devout Christian, it is the Bible that brought her here rather than following in the footsteps of her Hong Kong professor, who, together with most of his research group, went to the United States.

Though her mother was an adherent of traditional Chinese religion and her father was a believer in Mao, she herself turned to Western religious concepts, and describes herself as "a person who strives to do God's will." It is within this context that she views her research on Acetylcholinesterase, an enzyme which may be a key to the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease. Moreover, one of the things she does in her spare time is to visit people who are suffering from a fatal illness.

Though this may come as a surprise to Israelis, who tend to feel that they live in the world's most agitated country, Dr. Wong finds fewer distractions here than in Hong Kong, which makes it easier for her to do research on the one hand, and to pray on the other.

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PURIM FEATURE

Purim In Krakow Proclaims Jewish Survival

By David R. Slavitt

I had been working on a translation of the "Book of Lamentations" — at the very least, a nervy undertaking.

John Donne had done it. And some of the other versions in English are very good. But few of them do what the Hebrew does, which is to run down the alphabet in those peculiar acrostics that appear so often in the psalms and in some of the passages in the Prophets, and in "piyyutim" — poems written between the fifth and 14th century, many of which have worked their way into the liturgy.

But the "Book of Lamentations" is not very long, and to make it into a publishable book, I had planned to write an introduction, one that would capture the same general incantational keening as the biblical text for which it would prepare the way.

"Lamentations" is the saddest book in the Bible, and maybe the saddest book there is. So to translate it, I thought it would be a good idea to go to Jerusalem to see the Temple Mount, which is more or

less the gate of Heaven, and then to go to Poland, where my mother's people are from but where I'd never been, and go to Auschwitz to see the gate of Hell.

As it happened, my visit last year to Auschwitz-Birkenau fell on the Fast of Esther, which is of course erev Purim and a good day — or maybe the least bad day — on which to make such a visit. One goes to Auschwitz with trepidation — uneasy about how the place has become a museum of itself, a confrontation not just with the Nazi horror but with well-intended curators who have made various decisions with which one may or may not agree. And of course one feels dismay at the triviality of one's objections.

Auschwitz doesn't look so bad. Beyond the famous gate with the grotesquely upbeat "Arbeit Macht Frei" — "Work Sets You Free" motto, its rectangular buildings on tree-lined paths look like those of a seedy housing project or maybe a reform school, but they are not remarkably menacing or depressing.

Birkenau is the place of unbelievable and unrelieved ugliness, a

mind-numbing expanse of sheds that would be inadequate for horses or chickens arrayed in unrelenting geometrical regularity on swampy ground at the far end of which were the gas chambers and the crematoria.

On this day in late March, there were 17 buses in the parking lot. And gaggles of tourists from America or organized groups of schoolchildren from Israel were trooping through. You could tell they were Israelis because several of them carried large flags, as if to proclaim that the Nazis lost and the Jews won — which is not much help to those who actually suffered and died here.

There are signs to inform visitors that, out of respect for the dead, they should not raise their voices or eat ice cream here. These high-school-age youngsters might have been noisy enough but they were not eating ice cream.

Back in Krakow, there are still live Jews — a couple of hundred — who had survived or come back. Kazimierz, the Jewish section of town, has a number of synagogues that have mostly become museums of themselves.

Tourists come here either to see what Jewish life in Poland was once like, or else on a kind of Spielberg tour, looking for places that appear in "Schindler's List," which is "real" for them in the way that the reality isn't. This is slightly unsettling.

But across the street is the Ramuh Synagogue, the name of which is the acronym by which Rabbi Mojzesz Isserless is popularly known. He is buried in a prominent place in the adjacent cemetery, and pious Jews come from all over the world to pray at his grave on Lag b'Omer, which is the 18th of Iyar, the anniversary of his death.

The synagogue is a small, not inelegant building that was erected in 1553, which makes it the second oldest shul in town. It was renovated and modernized in 1933, looted during the occupation, used for a while after the war by the fire brigade, but then reconstructed in 1957, at which time its late Baroque interior decoration was restored. The beautiful wrought-iron work of the bimah is a copy of what was there before.

More important than the building or its decorations was the fact that an actual congregation of Polish Jews was meeting here and,

at the bimah, an 85-year-old man in an elaborate tallit — or prayer shawl — was chanting the story of Esther and how the Jews survived in ancient Shushan.

Someone handed me a grogger so that, at the mention of Haman's hated name, I too could twirl my noisemaker.

The Megillah of Esther is a strange story, a folk tale really, in which the fate of the Jews hangs on an Arabian Nights reversal and with a conclusion of extravagant revenge. But these men, most of them elderly, were spinning their groggers or banging on the reading desks or jingling their keys as if they were kids.

We may not have won in the way those Israeli kids seemed to be proclaiming with their waving flags, but we seem somehow to have survived so that, as it says in the Megillah, "these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed."

(Poet and translator David R. Slavitt wrote this essay for JBooks.com, a publication of the Jewz.com Media Network.)

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V A T W X T V U P W V C I H P H C S V D
N S V T A S T R H A P P I N E S S S W V
G U F A Q T S N L O R F X G P V K R X K
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| *Haman | Hamantashen | Gragger |
| Mordichai | Wine | Purim |
| Shushan | Costume | Gallows |
| Megilah | Ester | Achashvarosh |
| Feast | Palace | Shaloch Manos |
| Vashti | Decree | Happiness |

*The Haman in Hamantashen is not the right answer for Haman

JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

Conference Confirms That It's Kosher To Meditate

By Lynn Edelman

Rabbi Myriam Klotz, spiritual director of the Kimmel Spiller Jewish Healing Center—a program of JFS—will join meditation teachers from North America and Israel for a three-day conference on meditation practices. "Oseh Shalom-Jewish Meditation and the Making of Inner and Outer Peace" will be presented March 23-March 25 at the Germantown Jewish Centre in Philadelphia.

This historic event, presented by Elat Chayyim, a Jewish Spiritual Retreat Center in Accord, NY, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and ALEPH The Alliance for Jewish Renewal, gives participants the opportunity to

explore ways to integrate contemporary and traditional meditation techniques into their daily lives.

Rabbi Klotz is excited that the mainstream Jewish community is giving its kosher stamp of approval to exploring the contemplative dimensions of Judaism. "Many rabbis have incorporated meditation moments into services, giving their congregants a taste for a more spiritually rich Jewish experience," she said. The rabbi added that reputable Jewish publishing houses like Jewish Lights and the Jewish Publication Society have released books enriching Jewish life through mysticism—validating peoples' attempts to incorporate these practices into their religious expression.

She is impressed by the fact that Conference presenters represent Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist movements. "More and more people from all Jewish movements have found great benefits in Jewish meditation techniques," Rabbi Klotz said.

Rabbi Jeff Roth, executive director of Elat Chayyim emphasizes that "Jewish meditation helps to compose the mind, reduce stress, and open the heart to compassion. It awakens our awareness of the presence of the Divine in all of existence and increases our commitment to tikkun olam (healing the world)."

The three day conference consists of three separate events: Day-long workshops on Friday; a

Shabbaton (special Sabbath celebration) from Friday to Saturday evening; and, a one-day Conference from Saturday evening through Sunday afternoon featuring keynote presentations and classes focusing on chanting, meditation and other mindfulness practices. Participants may attend any single or combination of events that they wish. Prior meditation experience or Hebrew knowledge is not required.

An anticipated 500 Conference-goers will study with prominent rabbis and Jewish teachers from the United States and Israel including Rabbis Howard Addison, David Cooper, Shefa Gold, Miles Krassen, Klotz, Roth, Rami Shapiro, Jacob Staub, Sheila Peltz Weinberg and

David Zeller and Jewish teachers Phylis Berman, Shoshana Cooper, and Mindy Ribner.

The Conference is funded by the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the Federation of Reform Synagogues of Philadelphia, the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and more than 21 local Jewish congregations and organizations.

To register for the conference or for more information, contact Elat Chayyim at:

99 Mill Hook Road
Accord, NY 12404
(800)-695-5208
infor@elatchayyim.org
www.elatchayyim.org

Orthodox Hoopster Skips Big Game For Shabbat

By Peter Ephross
JTA

Add Tamir Goodman's name to the small Hebrew School sports pantheon.

Like baseball star Sandy Koufax—who refused to pitch in the first game of the 1965 World Series because it fell on Yom Kippur—Goodman refused to compete in a post-season tournament game because it conflicted with a more frequent Jewish holiday: Shabbat.

Last weekend, Goodman, who plays for the Towson University basketball team, skipped the first game and a half as his Baltimore school competed in the America East tournament for a berth in the larger NCAA tourney.

To those who know the Goodman story, it didn't come as a surprise.

An Orthodox Jew who wears his yarmulke on the court, Goodman first made headlines a few years ago, when the University of Maryland—where Goodman seemed likely to play—said it

would try not to schedule any basketball games on Shabbat during his tenure with the team.

The subject of a profile in Sports Illustrated magazine, Goodman—dubbed "the Jewish Jordan"—became a media darling.

After Goodman injured his knee, however, Maryland appeared to back down from its scholarship commitment, and the team and the player parted ways.

Playing in the less-prestigious America East conference with Towson, Goodman suffered some growing pains this year. He averaged only 6 points and 4 assists as his team struggled to a record of 11-16 and finished seventh in the league during the regular season.

But as the season progressed, Goodman did move into the team's starting lineup at point guard.

Goodman has "court vision, a feel for the game and the ability to make everyone better," Towson coach Mike Jaskulski says.

Goodman showed glimpses of these strengths in his limited action

over the weekend.

Without the 6-foot-3, 155-pound Goodman, Towson barely squeaked in its first-round game against Hartford, 65-62.

That set up a match Saturday evening against heavily favored Delaware. The conference refused to switch the game to a later time slot because it would have forced Delaware, the No. 2 seed in the tournament, to play with less rest Sunday if it defeated Towson.

The Tigers struggled, falling behind by 15 at the half. Goodman arrived at the stadium at halftime after Shabbat ended.

The gangly Goodman quickly gave the team a spark, hitting a three-point shot and providing a perfect pass that led to a slam dunk—and oohs and aahs from the crowd.

But there were no miracles. Towson fell, 66-51.

If the team's record wasn't up to par, the Goodman experiment apparently was.

Outside of the tournament,



Tamir Goodman

Towson played no games between sundown Friday and Saturday, and Goodman was excused from Saturday afternoon practices.

Once, when the team was on

the road and sundown was approaching, Goodman got out of the team van and walked three blocks to a house where he was staying for Shabbat.

"They see me fasting on some days, and they learn about Havdalah and kosher food," Goodman says. "It's a great opportunity to teach them about Judaism."

Jaskulski, who now keeps a Jewish calendar on his wall, agrees.

"As the guys see Tamir practice religion, their respect for him grows," he says.

Goodman also says he enjoyed rooming with fellow first-year player Mohammed Fofana, a Muslim from Mali, Africa.

The two don't talk much politics, but stick to basketball, Goodman says.

"When I put on my tefillin in the morning to daven," Goodman says, referring to ritual items used by observant Jews at prayer, "he's very respectful. He's probably listening to rap star Tupac Shakur."

JEWISH BOOKS

Philip Roth Tops Jewish Book Awards

By Sivan Rabinowitz
JTA

The following are the winners of the 51st annual National Jewish Book Awards. The awards will be presented by the Jewish Book Council in New York on March 29.

FICTION

"The Human Stain," by Philip Roth (Houghton Mifflin)

NON-FICTION

"Jew Vs. Jew: The Struggle for the Soul of American Jewry," Samuel G. Freedman (Simon & Schuster)

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

"The Day the Rabbi Disappeared," Howard Schwartz, illustrated by Monique Passicot (Viking)

AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

(Sandra Brand/Arik Weinstein Award)

"A Scholar's Odyssey," Cyrus H. Gordon (Society of Biblical

Literature) CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK (Louis Posner Memorial Award)

"Moishe's Miracle," Laura Krauss Melmed, illustrated by David Slonim (HarperCollins)

EASTERN EUROPEAN STUDIES (Ronald Lauder Award)

"Rewriting the Jew: Assimilation Narratives in the Russian Empire," Gabriella Safran (Stanford University Press)

HISTORY (Gerrard and Ella Berman Philanthropic Award)

"One Palestine, Complete," Tom Segev (Metropolitan Books)

HOLOCAUST (Morris J. and Betty Kaplun Award)

"Hitler's Austria," Evan Burr Burkey (University of North Carolina Press)

ISRAEL (Leon Jolson Award)

"One Palestine, Complete," Tom Segev (Metropolitan Books)

JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS (Charles H. Revson Award)

"Under His Very Windows," Susan Zuccotti (Yale University Press)

REFERENCE

"Reader's Guide to Judaism," edited by Michael Terry (Fitzroy Dearborn)

SCHOLARSHIP

"The Modern Jewish Canon," Ruth R. Wisse (The Free Press)

SEPHARDIC-ASHKENAZIC CULTURE (Mimi Levy Award in Memory of Becky Levy)

"Synagogues Without Jews," Rivka and Ben-Zion Dorfman (Jewish Publication Society)

SEPHARDIC STUDIES (Maurice S. Amado Award)

"Reluctant Cosmopolitans," Daniel M. Swetschinski (The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization)

THOUGHT (Dorot Foundation Award in Memory of Joy Ungerleider Mayerson)

"A Letter in the Scroll," Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (The Free Press)

WOMEN'S STUDIES AWARD (Barbara Dobkin Award by Her Friends)

"Reproducing Jews: A Cultural Account of Assisted Conception in Israel," Susan Martha Kahn

(Duke University Press)

YIDDISH (Forward Association Award)

"The Moscow State Yiddish Theater," Jeffrey Veidlinger (Indiana University Press)

WANTED: BOOK REVIEWERS

Like to read books on Jewish themes? We supply the books, you share your thoughts with The Jewish Voice readers. If interested, call Lynn Edelman, editor, at 427-2100.

MILESTONES

In Memoriam

BERLIN

Sylvia R. Berlin, died Sunday, February 11 in Wilmington. Raised in Haddonfield, NJ, Mrs. Berlin was the wife of the late Irvin I. Berlin, M.D. She was active in her Jewish community and was a past president of the Philadelphia branch of the Women's League of Conservative Judaism.

She is survived by her brother, Isadore Rosenthal of Haddonfield; two sons, Norman and Paul; her daughter, Joyce Schwartz; seven grandchildren, Daniel Joseph, Michael Andrew Ian, Liat Alice Schwartz, Yael Maayan Schwartz, Ariana, Levana, Tori.

She was interred in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Jewish Theological Seminary, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.

BOWMAN

Isaac Bowman, 80, died suddenly on February 13 in Del Ray Beach, FL. This World War II veteran was a home building contractor until his 1989 retirement. Predeceased by his first wife,

Phyllis Bowman, he is survived by his spouse, Geraldine R. Bowman; daughters and sons-in-law, Joan and Alan Sloan and Susan and Dennis Cherrin; brother and business partner, Louis Bowman; stepson, Gary Greenberg; stepdaughters and sons-in-law, Suzanne and Richard Lubin and Phillis and James Feingold; 15 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Services were held at Congregation Beth Emeth and the family asks that contributions in his memory be made to the synagogue at 300 West Lea Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802.

GLICK

Arthur C. Glick, 87, died February 8. A native of Brooklyn, NY, Mr. Glick first came to Wilmington, DE in 1931. He worked in a family grocery store at 10th and Lombard Sts. Later, he was a salesman with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Wax Furniture Company and Wilmington Dry Goods.

Mr. Glick worked as a real estate broker in the Wilmington area for more than 50 years. He

also operated plumbing and general contracting companies.

He was a life-long fan of boxing who trained, managed and promoted both professional and amateur boxers.

Mr. Glick is survived by his wife of 52 years, Una Fritts Glick of Wilmington; and sons, Arthur C. Glick, Jr. of Wilmington and Louis F. Glick of Claymont, DE.

The family would appreciate contributions in his memory to the Delaware Lung Association.

HOPP

Laurence Hopp, 77 of Paoli, PA, died on Saturday, February 10. Mr. Hopp enjoyed a distinguished career in education. He served as Superintendent of Schools in the De La Warr School District in Delaware and was instrumental in developing the plan that desegregated school districts throughout the First State. His survivors include three daughters, Dr. Laurie Rindskopf of Chestnut Ridge, NY, Ms. Susan Pauli of Suffern, NY and Dr.

Jennifer Hopp of Baltimore, MD; two granddaughters, Lindsay Rindskopf and Sarah Bottiger. Funeral services were held at Congregation Beth Emeth. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Muriel B. Hopp Scholarship Fund, Radnor High School, Radnor, PA 19087.

KUSHELOFF

Roslyn Kusheloff, 80, of 102 Glenoak Road, died February 21 in Christiana Hospital. Prior to her retirement, she was a teacher and administrator for over 45 years, most recently with the Red Clay School District. Her husband, David died in 1995.

Mrs. Kusheloff is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Janet; daughter, Judy Kusheloff and her husband, Larry; daughter Margie Hamet and her husband, Newton; brother Marvin Schlaffer; and granddaughter, Melissa Kusheloff.

The family suggests that contributions in her memory be directed to the University of Delaware.

TRACHTEN

Norman Trachten, 77, of Bellefonte, DE, died Saturday, February 3. A funeral was held on Tuesday, February 6 from Schoenberg Memorial Chapel. Interment was private.

YAKIMOV

Robert Yakimov, 68, of Bear, DE died February 4 at home. He was a life-long pharmacist who recently retired. He was the beloved husband of Myrna Yakimov, father of daughters and sons-in law, Mimi and Harold Salkovitz, Vicki and Schott Lehman and son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Montrice Yakimov. He was the brother of Henrietta Miller and brother-in-law of Harold Miller.

Mr. Yakimov was the devoted grandfather of Matthew Salkovitz, Adam Salkovitz and Eden Yakimov.

Donations in his memory may be made to Delaware Hospice, 3515 Silverside Road, Wilmington, DE 19810.

NACHAS NOOK

Imber And Wexler Named 2001 Mission Scholars

Tatnall eighth graders Aaron Imber and Bryan Wexler, both of Chadds Ford, PA have been named the recipients of the 2001 Mission Scholar Prize. Runner-up is Katie Ball of Wilmington. Other finalists were Jon-Michael Reese of Middletown, Sarah Schmitt of Greenville, and Jenna Spivak of Hockessin.

The Mission Scholar Prize is awarded annually to rising ninth grade students who most exemplify the traits valued by the school's founder, Frances Tatnall: scholarship, citizenship, concern for others, an exemplary work ethic, and a desire to participate in all aspects of campus life.

The recipients are selected by a

panel consisting of the Headmaster, Head of Upper School, Director of Enrollment, and two Upper School faculty members. Selection criteria includes recommendations from Middle School teachers, interviews, school citizenship records, test scores, writing samples, and participation in arts and athletics.

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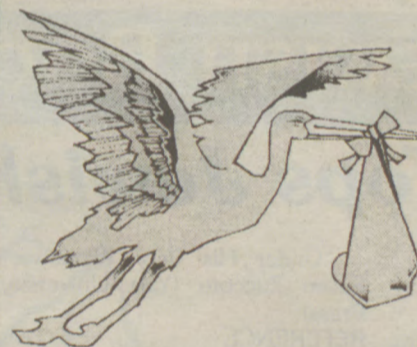
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Sidlows Are Grandparents

Eileen and Hank Sidlow of Sunny Isles, Florida proudly announce the birth of their grand-daughter, Jade Electra Kushner, on November 3, 2000.

Jade's parents are Dr. Tammy and Loren Kushner. They currently reside in Satellite Beach, Florida.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries for the Calendar of Events are due on the Thursday deadline published in *The Jewish Voice*. Please provide entries in the same format as seen on this page. *The Jewish Voice* fax number is 427-2438.

EXPLORE THE ROLE OF JEWISH WOMEN IN AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

Spend Sundays in March at the National Museum of American Jewish History for special tours to celebrate Women's History Month. These one hour tours on March 11, 18 and 25 begin at 2 p.m. and spotlight the significant role of women in American Jewish history. The museum is located at 55 North 5th Street, Independence Mall East, Philadelphia. Tours are free with museum admission of \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors and students.

HATE ON THE INTERNET-BARNES&NOBLE PROGRAM

Barnes&Noble, 4801 Concord Pike in Wilmington, will host Joshua Bartash, assistant director of the Anti-Defamation League of Eastern Pennsylvania/Delaware for a special program on coping with hate on the internet. Bartash will discuss the technological, practical and legal challenges of combating online extremism. Parents and educators

can learn about HateFilter-software that can block your child or student's access to hate groups on the web. This program is free and will be presented on Wednesday, March 28, 7:00 p.m.

HELP ORT REACH FOR THE STARS

The Brandywine Chapter of Women's American ORT will host their annual "Reach for the Stars Event" on Sunday, March 25, 8:00 p.m. at the home of Ruth Rosenberg. The event features food, friends and glamour and is held in conjunction with the Academy Awards broadcast. Please RSVP to Rosenberg at 529-1296. On Tuesday, April 17th, ORT hosts its first-ever "Women's Only" bingo night. Meet at the Top China Buffet at 7:00 p.m. The cost for dinner is \$8.75 per person. If interested, call Amy Harrison at 235-0555.

PURIM CARNIVAL AT TEMPLE BETH EL

The entire community is invited to celebrate Purim in style on Sunday, March 11 with a 10 a.m. magic show followed by games, prizes, sand art, crafts, Judaica items, gifts, and of course, lunch featuring luscious hamantashen. Please call 366-8330 for more information. Temple Beth El is located on 301 Possum Park Road in Newark.

JOIN SINGLES MINGLES

If you are Jewish, singles and over the age of 40, join Singles

Mingles for a theatre date on Saturday, March 24. Enjoy FUNNY GIRL at the Candlelight Dinner Theatre. Call Eleanor Herman at 234-3244 for further information. On Saturday, March 31, the group plans to see the Wilmington Drama League's production of KISS ME KATE. For further information and reservations, call Rachel Oren at 477-0636.

BETH EMETH HOSTS PROGRAM ON INTERMARRIAGE

The Outreach Committee of

Beth Emeth Congregation (300 Lea Boulevard) will be showing a video on intermarriage: "When Love Meets Tradition", on Sunday, March 25th, at 4:00 pm in the Beth Emeth Lounge. This 50-minute film will be followed by a discussion session. Wine, cheese, and soft drinks will be served and attire will be informal. All are invited, attendees need not be members of Beth Emeth Congregation, and there is no charge for the program. Anyone needing additional information may call Elinor Miller, 302-654-8291.

THE JEWS TO DO LIST

Come to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth on Sunday, March 18, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and join guest speaker Gerald August for a discussion on "The Ethical Laws of Everyday Life". Judaism maintains that all of life's situations are religious. Thus, this lecture explores the laws that apply to daily activities-helping Jews to live ethical and effective lives. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the synagogue at 762-2705.

Community Women Invited To Special Seder

This year's Women's Seder is scheduled for April 1, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This community-wide event is designed for women 12 years old or older.

It will be at Marci Aerson's house near the Art Museum (2305 Grant Avenue). The cost is \$15 with the purchase of a haggadah and \$10 without purchase.

Checks are being made out to and mailed to Jewish Family Service, 101 Garden of Eden Road, 19803-1511.

For more information, please call 302 478-4494 and leave a message. Calls will be returned.

Participants use a creative Haggadah written and developed by women from all streams of Judaism in the Wilmington community. The seder is led by women and features home cooked food, singing and story-telling. Bring a drum or finger cymbals or other such instrument.

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WANTED: Religious School Principal

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Please send resume ASAP to Principal Search Committee, c/o Congregation Beth Israel, 542 S. New Middletown Rd., Media, PA 19063.

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