

The JEWISH VOICE

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Voices of Jewish Women: Marci Aerenson

Profiles by
 Lynn Edelman
 Editor

Marci Aerenson has life-long connections with the Delaware Jewish Community Center. She was a graduate of the Delaware JCC pre-school and a member of the first kindergarten class in the then "new" JCC building on Garden of Eden Road. Today, as the parent of one pre-schooler and a recent kindergarten graduate, she realizes how inadequate the current facilities are to meet the needs of a growing Jewish community. Therefore, in the true spirit of *l'dor va'dor*-she and her husband, Andrew, became co-chairs of the Federation Community Capital Campaign. Her hope is to lay the groundwork for a new and expanded Jewish Community Campus-which will better serve current and future generations.

As a member of the JCC Executive Committee, she is following in the footsteps of her parents, both of whom have served on the JCC board of directors. "My parents always stressed the importance of participating in the community," she said.

Marci and JCC President Amy Leviton asked Jewish Family Service to create the Jewish Volunteer Network in response to the dire situations of two families in the JCC preschool community with very sick children. "In talking with these mothers, I learned that there were no systems in place for unaffiliated Jewish community members who needed help with meals, carpooling siblings, hospital visits and other supports traditionally provided by friends and family," she explained. JFS agreed to staff the project, which is funded in part through rentals of their festive mitzvah baskets, and help to train the volunteers. Marci is happy to be on file as "one who is available to let a hand to someone in need."

She is a firm believer in enlisting Jewish participation in projects that impact the community at

large. In her capacity as a board member of the National Council of Jewish Women, Marci learned that a group of women planned a national march in Washington, D.C. for sensible gun laws. She asked Jan Goodman, the Sisterhood President of Congregation Beth Emeth, to share a bus with her NCJW delegation for this Million Mom March. "The response was so overwhelming that we filled a second bus!" she recalled.

Marci's personal involvement in the organization intensified when Donna Dees Thomases, founder of the Million Mom March spoke at a September, 2000 NCJW Public Affairs Forum. "In conversations with several legislators at the event, I learned just how weak our state

gun laws are," she said. Marci helped to found a New Castle County Chapter of MMM which sponsored its own Mother's Day Rally on Rodney Square in Wilmington last May. She lobbied in Dover to tighten existing gun laws and participated in radio and television shows to rally support for the March and the common sense gun legislation campaign. Despite the fact that the legislation has not yet passed, Marci is happy that the organization's mission is having an impact on others. "More and more parents are asking if there are guns in the homes where their children play, and more voters will be asking about background checks before the next election day.

Marci's sons are following their mother's activist example. "Both

my boys would like to hold a Million Kid March. At the Rodney Square Rally last Spring, her eldest created his own petition decorated with a gun inside a circle slashed through with a big black line-clearly stating his own distaste for guns. "He proudly passed the petition around for all to sign," she remembered with no small measure of pride.

A firm believer in the importance of life-long Jewish education, she is a member of the Advisory Board of the Melton School, which meets twice weekly at the JCC. She learned a great deal about compassion from Torah study at Congregation Beth Shalom Hebrew School and hopes that her own children will use their Jewish studies as a springboard to



Marci Aerenson

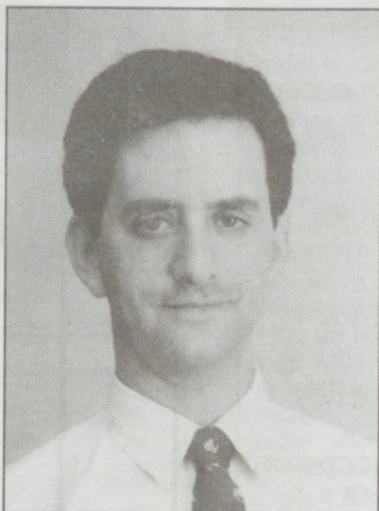
effecting changes for the betterment of their community.

Read other fascinating Voices of Jewish Women profiles on page 5

ISRAELI MEDIA EXPERT TO KEYNOTE FEDERATION SHABBAT

Carl Schrag, a former editor of *The Jerusalem Post* - Israel's leading English-language daily newspaper will share his expert analysis of Israeli affairs with members of the Delaware Jewish community during Federation Shabbat, February 1st and 2nd. Schrag will speak during 8:00 p.m. services at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth on February 1st and on February 2nd during 10:00 a.m. services at Congregation Beth Shalom. The entire Delaware Jewish community is encouraged to worship together during this Shabbat weekend and gain a better understanding of the reasons for the 16-month siege of Mid-East violence. Schrag has a unique ability to put current events into perspective by examining them in the context of recent and ancient history.

A native of California, Schrag made aliyah in 1986. He developed an interest in the Jewish renaissance in Eastern Europe and researched the dramatic return of young people to their Jewish roots. He won a CRB Foundation grant for research in Eastern Europe, and a Rockower



Carl Schrag

Award for his reporting from Poland.

As a reporter and editor, he chronicled political and social developments in Israel through a period that saw the ingathering of one million immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia, and the highs and lows encountered as Israel pursues its dream of peace. He has chaired the Israel component of the Los Angeles Federation's Think Tank on Israel-

Diaspora relations and co-chaired a committee aimed at identifying goals for promoting pluralism and diversity in Israel society.

Schrag draws on his rich and varied experiences to highlight Israel's challenges, dilemmas and achievements as it continues to strive for peace and to define its relationship with Diaspora Jewry. He recently accepted the position of Midwest Region Executive Director of the American Congress and lives in Chicago with his wife and three sons.

On Friday night, at AKSE, located at Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive in Wilmington, Schrag will address *After September 11: Whither the Peace Process*.

The experts are divided - and undecided. Will the events of September 11 and the ensuing War on Terror lead to U.S. pressure on Israel? Or will it lead Americans to sympathize more than ever with the threats faced by Israel? This thoughtful review and analysis explains the various theories and assesses up-to-the-minute developments in the region and around the world.

Then on Saturday morning February 2, 2001 at 10:00 am, Schrag will explore *What Ties Us Together, What Tears Us Apart*, at Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th & Baynard Blvd.

The sense of shared destiny that linked Jews around the world in the decades following the Holocaust and the founding of the State of Israel has, in many cases, been replaced by deep divisions that include different views on the centrality of Israel, resentment of the Orthodox monopoly on religion in Israel and an inability to grapple with the changing role of world Jewry in sustaining the Jewish state. What's in store as the relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jews changes? How will the aftermath of September 11 impact these complex ties?

Federation Shabbat is jointly sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Rabbinical Association of Delaware. Please plan on seizing this important opportunity for prayer, reflection and education by participating in this important community event.

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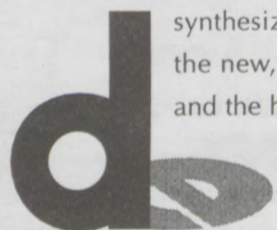
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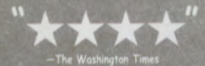
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EDITORIAL

Women Make The Difference

"The merit of charitable works is in proportion to the grace with which they are practiced"

The Talmud The women profiled in this edition of the Jewish Voice juggle their considerable commitments to family, community and business with consummate grace and style.

The Delaware Jewish Community is privileged to have many women of valor in key leadership roles. Our Federation, its agencies and the annual campaign that supports JFD's powerful network of health, education and social welfare programs in Delaware, in Israel and around the world operates efficiently thanks largely to the efforts of female professionals and volunteers.

Often, these women work in partnership with their husbands to make community events successful. Ellen S. Meyer, the former chair of the Editorial Committee of the Jewish Voice, joined forces with her husband, Bob, to co-chair the Dinner of Commitment-the kick-off event for the 2002 Federation Annual Campaign. The January

20th Chai Event Brunch, which precedes the exclusive area screening of the digitally remastered "Exodus", is chaired by the "dynamic duos" of Wendy and Buddy Berger and Dorothy and David Bobman.

On January 27th, six women will share the spotlight during Federation Super Sunday. Phone-A-Thon Co-Chairs Felisha Alderson, Barbara Blumberg and Lisa Weiner-together with Volunteer Recruitment Co-Chairs Beth Galperin and Debbie Cohen and Sponsorship Chair Iris Tocker-constitute the leadership team for this important community event.

Enjoy the profiles of women who have distinguished themselves locally and globally throughout the pages of this edition of the Jewish Voice.

On behalf of the Jewish Voice staff and volunteers, my heartfelt wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2002!

B'Shalom,

Lynn Edelman
Lynn Edelman

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks For The Memories

The story written by Jewish Voice Editor Lynn Edelman on philanthropist Harry Cohen (December 14) was inspiring. I know that some readers will emulate his legacy of tzedakah.

I benefited, as did many other Jewish youngsters, from Mr. Cohen's leadership in building the YM/YWHA. I have enclosed a photograph to show the Y's outstanding

boxing program. Please note that the YM/YWHA was in operation in 1929 not in 1934 as stated in your article.

Shalom,
Joe Labovsky
Wilmington, DE

Editor's Note: Joe Labovsky's photograph is the Jewish Voice's "Photo of the Week" for this edition.

PARSHA PLACE

Week of January 13

VAYECHI

Exodus 6:2-9:35, Va-Era

LOVE AND WAR in the COSMOS Zoë KleinCOSMIC WAR

Va-era presents a vicious cosmic battle. In one corner is the earthbound god Pharaoh, regal and golden. In the other corner is El Shaddai's earthly emissary Moses, dusty and tongue-tied. We're told that this battle is for freedom. Indeed: God versus Free Will.

Moses rushes at Pharaoh, landing five blows on Pharaoh's body politic: blood, frogs, lice, insects, and cattle disease. Pharaoh shields himself by hardening his heart. God had tried to impose reverence on the people of Egypt, but Pharaoh remains standing. Score: Free Will 5, God 0.

New strategy. God hardens Pharaoh's heart and delivers five more punches: boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and death of the firstborn. At the end of our parashah, a battered Pharaoh whimpers, "The Eternal is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong...." (Exodus 9:27) Pharaoh succumbs. The Children of Israel go free, but is Free Will defeated?

No sooner had they left, then "Pharaoh and his courtiers had a change of heart" (Exodus 14:5) and sent armies to attack them, only to be crushed in the Sea of Reeds. Free Will prevails until its last breath. It appears that God's only weapon against Free Will is death.

Cosmic Love

What seems to be a death match between God and Free Will is actually a lover's embrace. As frustrating as it is to our Creator, Free Will allows us to be in a true relationship. This is illustrated by author Holly Bea in an elegant explanation written for children (*Where Does God Live?* 1997): "Although God wants us to love God, God wants us to choose to do it just the way we choose to love anyone else.... God could have made us like robots, doing whatever God wants whenever God wants it, but then we would not be the kinds of people we are and what we did would not count, because the only things that count are the things you decide to do with your own free choice."

Personal autonomy, the cornerstone of liberal Jewish thought, is viewed by some as an obstacle to creating a true relationship with God. However, autonomy is actually the foundation of a covenantal relationship. Maimonides emphasizes this in a powerful statement: "If God had decreed that a person should be either righteous or wicked...what room would there be for the whole of the Torah?" It is Free Will that makes the poetry of the prophets so soulful, the dance in the desert so joyful, and the prayers that we utter music to God's ear.

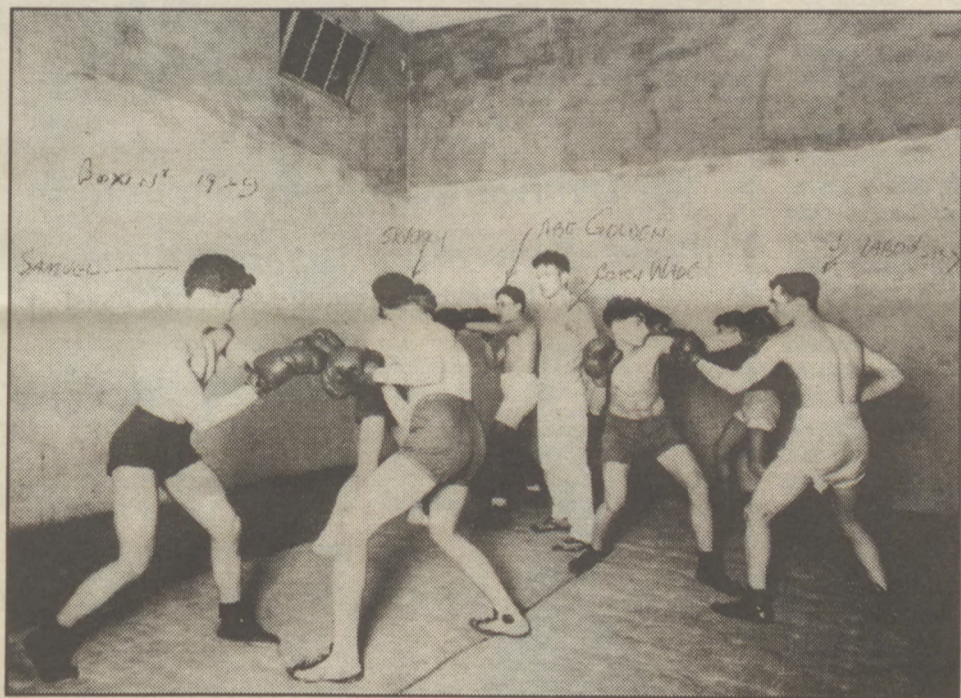
The Challenge

Free Will poses a great challenge to us, as summed up by Dr. Eugene Borowitz: "Postmodern liberal Jewish thought needs to be fully dialectical. It should not make Judaism subservient to a truth derived from the culture, as the old liberals did, yet it should not require the sacrifice of personal autonomy to the Torah as Orthodoxy still demands. Instead, it must live in a dynamic balance of tradition and autonomy" (*Choices in Modern Jewish Thought*, 1983). Essentially, the challenge of Free Will is the challenge to be human, to rise above our instinctive animality, to participate in a world infused with dazzling romance and meaning through covenant.

In his book, *Who is Man?*, Abraham Joshua Heschel quiets the war between God and Free Will while he awakens the love between the two. Rabbi Heschel writes: "Do I exist as a human being? My answer is: *I am commanded-therefore I am.* There is a built-in sense of indebtedness in the consciousness of man, an awareness of owing gratitude, of being called upon at certain moments to reciprocate, to answer, to live in a way that is compatible with the grandeur and mystery of living."

Zoë Klein is the associate rabbi of Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles, CA.

Photo of the Week



Jewish pugilists get down and dirty at the YM/YMHA.

The JEWISH VOICE

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Dry Bones



FEDERATION FOCUS

Wealth Optimization Seminar Presented

As the Public Phase of the Community Capital Campaign shifts into full gear, campaign and agency leadership met recently to discuss alternative methods of support in addition to outright cash contributions. Launched this past October, the Community Capital Campaign is a community-wide collaborative effort organized by the Jewish Federation of Delaware to address the physical facility needs of its six constituent agencies - Albert Einstein Academy, Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, Hillel at the University of Delaware, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, and the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home - establish a permanent facility for the Greater Newark Jewish community, retire pre-existing community debt, and establish a Capital Maintenance Endowment Fund. To date, more than \$16.1 million has been pledged toward the overall goal of \$23 million, which positions this campaign as the most successful ever in the community's

history as well as its largest. Featured speaker at the "Wealth Optimization" Seminar was David Kottler of Lincoln Financial Advisors Corporation. Kottler has developed expertise in innovative financial planning techniques that benefit the client and may also lead to greater philanthropic support than ever imagined possible. Major donors to the Capital Campaign, Agency Presidents and Executive Directors were invited to seminar in order to learn about techniques their peers may be interested in utilizing as they consider their participation in the Community Capital Campaign. The four techniques presented were a Municipal Bond Exchange, Pension Rescue, Family Legacy Uni-Trust (FLUTE) and Stocks to CashTM. While all four techniques offer considerable benefits to the individual, they were presented as samples of the type of customization that can take place to help individuals address their specific financial planning

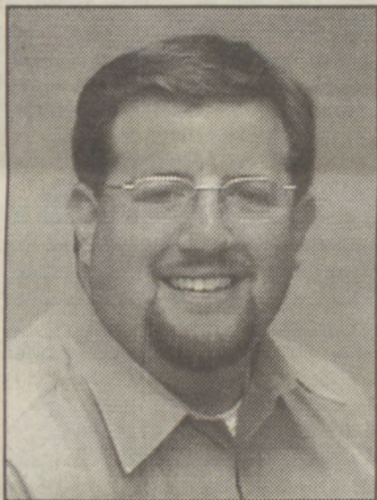
issues while supporting this important effort to the best of their ability in ways they may have never considered before. "The Community Capital Campaign has been a tremendous success for so many reasons," commented Judy Wortman, Executive Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. "The result of more than two years of careful community planning, leadership embraced the campaign and engaged their friends and neighbors - including our Corporate and Foundation partners - in this once in a generation opportunity" she added. Reflecting the theme of the campaign "From Generation to Generation ... For Generations to Come", Co-Chairs of the campaign include Annette & Bob Aerenon, Marci & Andy Aerenon, Phyllis & Norman Aerenon, Yetta Chaiken, Doris & Irv Morris, Karen Morris & Alan Levenson, and Ruth and Bernie Siegel.



Participating in a recent Community Capital Campaign Wealth Optimization seminar from left are Jeff Metz, Executive Vice President, JCC; Karen Morris, Community Capital Campaign Co-Chair; Herman Cohen; David Kottler, featured speaker; John Elzufon, President, Jewish Federation of Delaware; Jerry Grossman, and Judy Wortman, Executive Vice President, Jewish Federation of Delaware.

For more information on the Community Capital Campaign or the Wealth Optimization techniques presented at the seminar, please contact Seth Bloom, Community Capital Campaign Director, 302-798-9366 or capitalcampaign@shalomdel.org.

We Do Not Support The Israeli Government



Todd Polikoff

We do support Jews in need regardless of political or religious affiliation. It does not make a difference to us nor should it make a

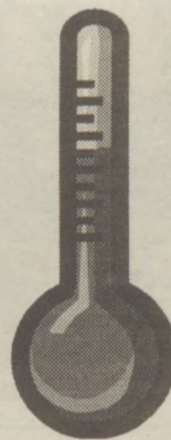
difference to you. Tzedakah is not a conditional commandment. There are no amendments that limit the caring for Jews based on their politics or stream of Judaism. Roughly 30% of our annual campaign funds are given to social service programs in Israel and 59 other Jewish communities around the world. Many of these organizations are the same ones that helped Jews after the Holocaust in 1945. These programs include new immigrant housing and education, care for at-risk children and the elderly, and aiding victims of terrorist attacks. The Jewish Federation of Delaware is blind to the political or religious affiliation of the Jews that we help every day. Children are not asked about their politics before receiving clothing. Russian Jews do not board planes for Israel predicated on Shabbat observance.

Victims of terrorist attacks are not asked to vote before they are assisted in dealing with their trauma. Being a Jew in need is the only requirement. In the 1990's the Jewish community of Delaware raised over \$1.6 million to send Russian and Ethiopian Jews to Israel. We told them that they had nothing to fear and that they would be safe. We were responsible for bringing these people to Israel; it is now our responsibility to ensure that they do not live in peril. Please remember this when you are making your gift to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign and the Israel NOW campaign. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding the Annual Campaign or the Israel NOW campaign at (302)427-2100 ext. 16 or todd@shalomdel.org.

The Community Capital Campaign

For Delaware's Jewish Community

*From Generation to Generation...
For Generations to Come*



← Campaign Goal:
\$23,000,000

← Achievement to Date:
\$16,175,000
(as of January 9, 2002)

ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE



By Rachel A. Gross, Esq.

Traditionally, women were the driving force in many Jewish homes-preparing the food and inviting the guests for family meals on Rosh Hashanah and Chanukah, Passover Seders and Yom Kippur break the fasts. They also shepherded the children to Hebrew School and other after-school activities. Women provided behind the scenes leadership at the synagogues, schools and community agencies through their involvement in Sisterhood and ladies auxiliaries. Their hard work ensured that these institutions ran smoothly. Yet, until recently, organized Jewish communal life reflected mainly male faces. Until 1993, all of the past presi-

Women's Philanthropy

dents of the Jewish Federation of Delaware were men. Today, many women continue to perform these traditional roles while assuming key leadership positions in all of our Jewish communal organizations. Women have also taken on the role of philanthropists. Some of us have fond memories of mothers or grandmothers placing change in a *pushke*, or *tzedakah* box, before lighting Shabbat candles. However in many families men were often the decision makers with regard to family philanthropic giving. In recent years this model has changed. Today, more and more women control charitable dollars. Women have emerged as community lead-

ers, earned the money themselves, received generous bequests or inherited money from their husband's estates. Statistics show that on average, women live seven years longer than their male counterparts. Moreover, since men tend to marry women who are younger than they are, more and more women have the opportunity to make philanthropic decisions over a longer period of time. Sixty percent of U.S. wealth is in the hands of women and 60% of foundations are controlled by women! In our own community many women make a gift to the Jewish Federation of Delaware's annual campaign in their own name. Women who contribute a mini-

mum of \$5,000 in their own name are designated as "Lions of Judah" and join with thousands of women throughout North America in supporting local Jewish communities and the Jewish community worldwide. The Jewish Fund for the Future has worked with local women to help them direct their philanthropy exactly as they wished and benefited from their generosity - some examples include Frances Glenn, Julia Blumberg, Sarah Leven, and Esther Sherman McDonald. If you are new to philanthropic giving or simply interested in obtaining more information or exploring available charitable giving options please call Rachel A. Gross, Esq., our Director of



Rachel Gross

Financial Resource Development at 302-427-2100 x 19. Rachel will be pleased to help you meet your financial, charitable and personal goals.

VOICES OF JEWISH WOMEN

Carol Rothschild - Taking A Lead Role In Israel's Future



Carol Rothschild

Zionism is in Carol Rothschild's blood. Her maternal grandparents, Clara and Emil Thein, left their native Prague in 1938 for the land then known as Palestine. They lived there for more than a decade and

became active supporters of the Magen David Adom-Israel's answer to the American Red Cross. The family eventually settled in New York City where Carol and her siblings were raised with strong Jewish cultural values by parents who stressed that "without Israel, Jews around the world would be diminished."

Growing up in a large, vibrant Jewish community "where I never had to seek out my identity because it was all around me", her marriage to husband, Steven and subsequent move to Delaware was a bit of a cultural shock. The Wilmington neighborhood where she set down roots was far smaller and more heterogeneous than she was accustomed to. She decided to become involved in Jewish community activities realizing that "in a small community you have an opportuni-

ty to make a big difference."

During her 25-year tenure as a teacher in Delaware public schools, she seized an important opportunity to teach Jewish culture and traditions to her largely Christian colleagues and give her students strong multicultural exposure. Carol prepared for the task by studying with Rabbi Kenneth Cohen, the former spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom where the family has been affiliated since their arrival. Rabbi Cohen visited with students regularly at the private school where both of her sons studied to foster a climate of religious diversity.

At Beth Shalom, both children attended religious school and participated in B'nai B'rith Youth Org. programs. Carol and her husband, Steven, joined the synagogue's Couples Club where they met many of their closest friends.

The entire family enjoyed the full gamut of social and recreational programs at the Delaware Jewish Community Center. Carol was particularly pleased to accept an invitation to join the JCC board and remained a trustee for ten years.

Through her work with the JCC, she learned that "while personal involvement and commitment are critical to the well-being of a strong Jewish community, they are no substitute for financial support." She became active in fundraising for the Jewish Federation of Delaware Annual Campaign and other Jewish organizations in Delaware, in her native New York and in the Jewish homeland of Israel.

Carol has served with distinction as a Federation board member and is a Lion of Judah, a woman who contributes a minimum individual

gift of \$5000 to the Federation Annual Campaign. She is excited to accept a brand-new challenge-serving along with her husband and the Young and Nemser families, as a co-chair of IsraelNOW and Forever. This emergency campaign is designed to raise \$300,000 to help alleviate the emotional and physical suffering of Israelis reeling from the effects of fifteen months of violence.

Carol is confident that Delaware Jews will respond to this "desperate campaign to help those wounded by or casualties of acts of terrorism." She believes that the events of September 11th in the United States were a wake-up call to Americans accustomed to living in a "protective environment", giving them a greater appreciation of "the physical danger that Israelis face each and every day."

Eileen Conner: An Accountant Accountable To The Jewish Community



Eileen Conner

Eileen Conner has a heart as big as Brooklyn-the New York neigh-

borhood that was her childhood home. The Director of Tax for Belfint, Lyons and Shuman, P.A., made the move to Wilmington some 30 years ago with her late husband, Michael, a patent attorney with DuPont.

"I immediately loved it here," she recalls.

Eileen's initial entries into the Jewish community were B'nai B'rith Women, where she bowled with many women who would become some of her closest friends, and Hadassah, which nurtured her deep love for Israel.

When her son, Eric, now completing a Master's in Fine Arts at the University of Southern California film school, was a

youngster, he attended Albert Einstein Academy. While Eric was studying for his bar mitzvah, the family maintained a dual membership at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and Congregation Beth Emeth. Today, Eileen worships at Beth Emeth and participated with fellow congregants on a summer trip to the former Soviet Union. "It was thrilling to attend services and meet with emerging Jewish leadership in Moscow and Kiev," commented Eileen, adding that "I was amazed to learn that there are only three ordained Rabbis in the entire former Soviet Union."

Despite a long list of professional commitments that include serv-

ice as chairperson of the Wilmington Tax Group, a coalition of attorneys, CPAs and financial planners, and secretary for the Delaware Society of Certified Public Accountants, she devotes significant time to Jewish communal leadership. She is a member of the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Jewish Fund for the Future and serves as a past president of the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, a Federation constituent agency. She remains an active member of the Kutz Home board of directors and Executive Committee.

Her compassion for persons with disabilities led to her service on the Finance Committee of

Delaware ARC. This group advocates for the rights of Delaware citizens with mental retardation.

An advocate for women, Eileen was appointed by then governor Tom Carper to serve on the Delaware Commission for Women. She retains her Commission seat under the Minner administration.

Throughout her adult life, she has supported Democratic candidates on the local and national levels. When Senator Carper ran for the House of Representatives, Eileen served as his treasurer. She also worked on his first gubernatorial campaign.

Want to get a job done right? Give it to a busy person like Eileen.

Judy Levy And Eileen Schwartz - A Partnership Of Service

Judy Levy and Eileen Schwartz have forged such close ties during their 14 years together in real estate that they often finish each other's sentences. Their separate yet complementary personalities have made them successful in an industry where 97% of real estate sales are made by just 3% of all agents nationwide.

Their unique team approach to conducting transactions in the State of Delaware, as reflected in the business cards and promotional brochures which photograph the two women side by side, has proven effective. While they were the first partnership in the state of Delaware, many others have followed their example. The duo's acceptance into

the prestigious Howard Brinton Network-open exclusively to the nation's top producers-demonstrates the effectiveness of this tag team business strategy.

Both women are transplants to the State of Delaware. Judy and her husband, Allan, moved from Cherry Hill, NJ while Eileen and her husband, Barton, hail from Center City, Philadelphia. They affectionately describe Wilmington as "a small, vibrant and understated community."

The women see themselves as human service providers who often represent clients dealing with such stressful lifecycle events as death, divorce or serious illness. Judy com-



Judy Levy

mented that "many times I function in the role of social worker, referring



Eileen Schwartz

people to community agencies for counseling and other social services."

Both Judy and Eileen are members of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington. The two made their first Delaware community connections at the Delaware JCC where their children enjoyed pre-school and camping programs.

Judy decided to accept a leadership role with the JCC, becoming the agency's youngest president during the 1986 construction of the JCC Family Campus on Garden of Eden Road. She also served as regional chairman of the Jewish Community Centers of America-the national association of JCCs. She feels strongly that the contacts she made and the budgeting and other business skills she acquired during her JCC service helped her to develop professionally and better serve the community that the business represents.

The two women, who base their successful partnership on mutual trust and respect, have recently trusted their instincts to make a major career move. They accepted an invitation from Larry Flick, to move their operations to his Prudential Fox and Roach office in Greenville, the ninth largest real estate company in America.

Their deal was predicated on sufficient space for two executive desks to sit side-by-side.

Profiles by Lynn Edelman.

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MATTER OF OPINION

Argentineans Will Absorb Argentineans

By Nechemia Meyers

The thousands of Argentineans expected to come on aliyah during 2002 are lucky in at least one respect: their absorption pains will be eased by the 70,000 immigrants from Argentina who already live here.

Even when Argentine Jews enjoyed stability and prosperity, a steady stream of them left for Israel because they were always Zionists not only in word but in deed. Thus, relative to the size of their respective Jewish populations, ten times as many olim came from Argentina as from the United States.

Now the old immigrants are helping the new ones. "From the moment their planes touch down at Ben-Gurion Airport," says Zvi Esquenazi, Buenos-Aires-born Chairman of the Latin American Immigrants Association, "our volunteers are on the spot, ready to help the newcomers cope with customs and various formalities. This is a matter of considerable importance because Absorption Ministry

officials at the airport speak Russian and/or English, but none speak Spanish.

"Other volunteers help them to locate housing, banks, clinics and schools for their children. But since the economic situation in Argentina made many of them jobless for months or even years, our most important task is to help them find work. This involves, among other things, the translation into Hebrew of documents relating to their qualifications and previous employment. Where necessary we even accompany immigrants to job interviews.

Yet for all our efforts, things can go wrong. So we have a hot line which immigrants can call when problems crop up. Manning it are volunteers. Indeed, our 15 paid employees could do very little were it not for our thousand volunteers."

Once the newcomers have settled down they will usually participate in the social and cultural programs organized by the Latin American Immigrants Association, among them concerts, lectures,

outings and sports events. In addition, there are Spanish-language branches of the Masons and the Lions Club. The latter, established by former Chilean Tuvia Goldstein, even has a trilingual web site, with material in Spanish, English and Hebrew.

Even now, as their numbers grow, olim from Latin America don't "stick out" in the same way as many other immigrant groups. You seldom hear Spanish in the street as you do Russian and English, Arabic and Amharic. Moreover, the multilingual signs on shop windows and municipal bulletin boards are bereft of announcements in the language of Cervantes. This is probably because, for the most part, immigrants from Spanish-speaking countries are not concentrated in particular localities.

Their very "invisibility" obscures the fact that they have made major contributions to Israeli society, particularly, as it happens, in the Negev. Many of the kibbutzim in that area are populated primarily

by Latin Americans and the absolute majority of doctors working in Israel's southland during the 60s and 70s were newcomers from Argentina.

While the Spanish-speaking olim have made their mark in a variety of other fields, they have largely steered clear of politics. This is not to say they lack opinions on the issues of the day. Far

from it. But except for former Meretz Knesset Member Benny Temkin, who came here from Mexico, they are notable for their absence from the top rungs of political leadership.

This is not likely to change with the arrival of more Argentineans, who have had more than their full of politics in riot-torn Buenos Aires.

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Dover Synagogue Leader Wins Regional Honor

By Lynn Edelman
Editor

Stan Wolin, the president of the Men's Club of Congregation Beth Sholom in Dover describes his friend Steven Schwartz as "a real

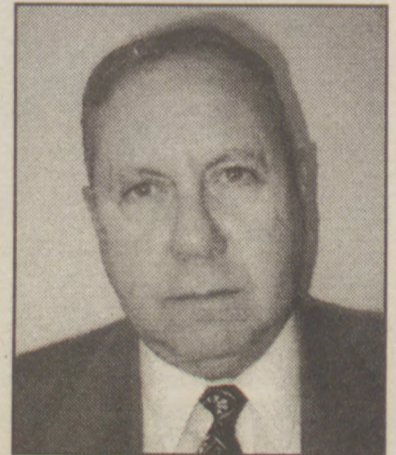
mensch". The Seaboard Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs is recognizing Schwartz's *menschlichkeit* at a January 20th dinner at B'nai Tzedek Congregation in Potomac, MD.

Schwartz, a three-term past president of Congregation Beth Sholom and current Vice President for Religious Affairs at the synagogue, will receive the Seaboard Region's 2002 Blue Yarmulke Award. An alumnus of the Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia, he helps conduct prayer services during the High Holy Days and other times throughout the year. His wife, Caroline currently serves as the synagogue's Educational Vice President and as President of its Sisterhood.

An attorney who serves as partner with his son, Ben in the Dover law firm of Schwartz and Schwartz, he somehow manages to find con-

siderable time to devote to such community projects as chairing the Lower Delaware Jewish Federation of Delaware Super Sunday Phone-A-Thon. Schwartz donates office space and phone usage for the event, which raises some \$8,000 for the JFD Annual Campaign. He also serves as Secretary of his Rotary Club and is a Master Mason member of Union Lodge #7 AF & AM in Dover.

For additional information about the January 20th dinner or to volunteer to phone fellow Lower Delaware residents during the January 27 Federation Super Sunday phone-a-thon, please call the synagogue at (302) 734-5578.



Steven Schwartz



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Formally known as Montchanin Assisted Living, Rockland Place has been home to seniors for over three years. Services include traditional assisted living (services such as help with bathing, dressing and mobility), to a more specialized program for people with memory impairments such as Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia. This separate, secure program is called The Pathways Program.

Copes says tours of assisted living residences in the Wilmington area tend to focus on the "real estate" (apartment sizes, dining room décor, living room spaces, etc.), where at Rockland Place "we focus on the things you can't see - the experience in the associates, positive friendships amongst the residents, and the attention to customer service we offer each resident, family member, and healthcare colleague. At Rockland Place, you can tell we love what we do!"

Rockland Place is very proud of its 75 assisted living apartments, and a separate and

clustered 18 apartments for people with memory impairments. Some of our residents visit the Jewish Community Center and participate in the services the JCC offers.

The occupancy is growing and so is the wonderful mix of new residents. Right now, Rockland Place is offering one free month to new residents. "It's our way of saying thank you to new residents for putting their faith in us," says executive director

Marijane Copes. Caregivers eager to take a respite from caring for their loved ones are now signing up for Rockland Place's Respite Program (short stays with total services as few as three days to one month in time). Immediate availability.

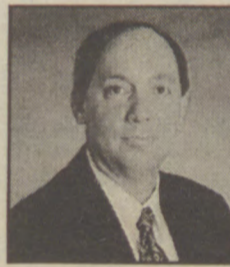
Tours are available seven days a week by calling 302-777-3099 and asking for Judy Knotts-Kirlan or Marijane Copes. Walk-ins are welcome!

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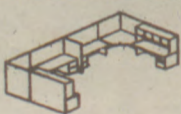
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Following her mother's death, Lucille and Steve Turnavian have continued the business with the same superior customer service and quality, unique, hand-made Oriental and Decorative Rugs that Avakian Oriental Rugs is well known for. Operating by appointment, Lucille shows rugs in her showroom and in clients homes and gives lectures to special interest groups. She gathers individualized selections for each of her clients at no obligation. Long term customer satisfaction is Lucille and Steve's only goal as they bring Avakian Oriental Rugs forward into 2002.

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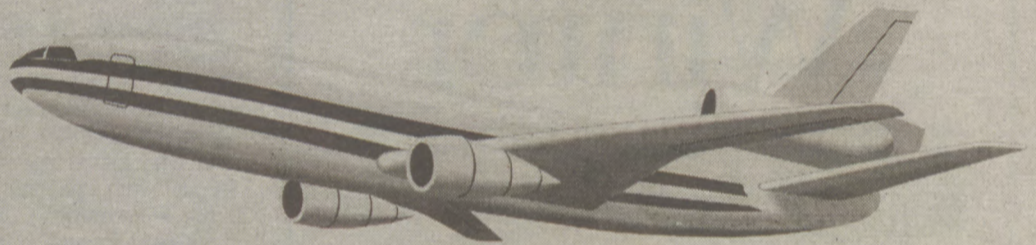
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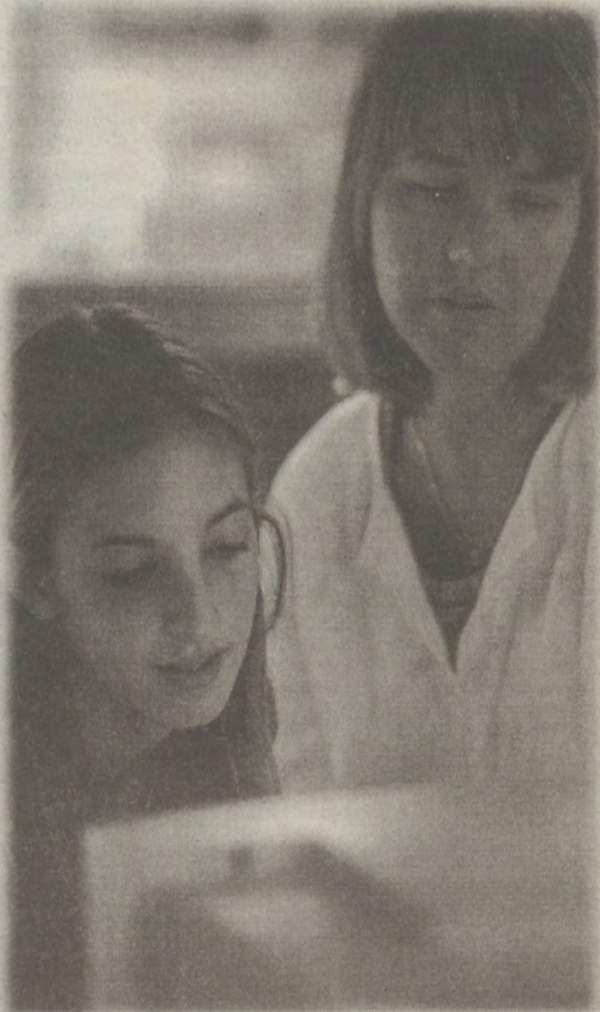
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Debra Cohen Berman has an associate degree in Accounting and is a Diamond and Pearl graduate from the Gemological Institute for America. "I never lost the love for the jewelry business joining my husband Bob's family in the business for the past 28 years."

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Judith is a fellow of the Life Underwriters Training Council, LUTCF, as well as a life member of the Million Dollar Round Table. She has been awarded the National Quality Award from the National Association of Life Underwriters for service to her clients.

Judy is a member of the Delaware Estate Planning Council, The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, and the Delaware Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. She has had articles published in "Life Insurance Selling" magazine.

She is Director of Marketing for K-C Financial Group, Inc.

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During her freetime, Ellen serves on the board of Cong. Beth Shalom.

She is a board member of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and served as chairperson of the Editorial Committee for the Jewish Voice.

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Elisa Komins Morris grew up in Wilmington. She moved to Washington, DC to attend college and remained there to establish her own business as a freelance photographer concentrating in political, public relations and event photography. Some of her clients include Vice President and Mrs. Gore, Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, and The First Ladies Gala Committee to name a few. Since moving back to Wilmington in 1997, Elisa has specialized in family and children's portraits and event photography.

Elisa has been recognized by winning the 1989 Kodak Professional Scholarship and honorable mention in the Wedding and Portrait Photographers International 1999 photo competition, and inclusion in the 2000-2001 Who's Who in American Businesses and Executives among many others. Elisa exhibits perhaps Wilmington's finest exhibit of celebrity, event, children's and artistic portraits in her studio at 804 Market Street.

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With a voice often compared to Streisand and Minelli, coupled with her training in classical piano. Janis brings an unusual depth and imagination to the music she performs. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Rhode Island, and has toured England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales where she sang at the International Song Festival.

Whether playing the classics, leading the Orchestra or working with clients. Janis strives for perfection. A perfection that is reflected in every event she performs.

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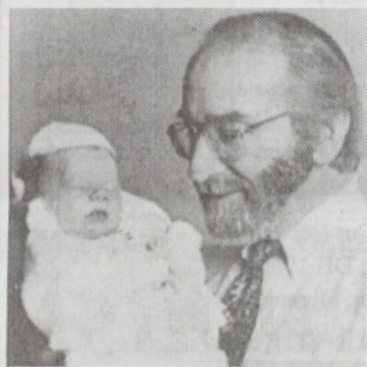
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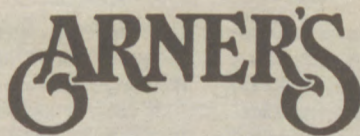


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AROUND OUR JEWISH WORLD

Jewish Politicians Meet In Israel

By Jessica Steinberg
JTA

Put some 60 Jewish politicians from 23 different countries in the Knesset, and there's generally bound to be some debate.

But when the issue at hand is security, terrorism and its recent effects on Israel and the United States, there tends to be more agreement than discord, even among seasoned politicians.

"We in the U.S. now have a better idea of what terrorism is and what Israel has gone through all these years," Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) said. "I'm not here to tell Israelis what to do but, as part of the U.S. partnership, to offer any kind of assistance or work with them in helping Israel in its time of need."

The legislators were attending the Sixth International Conference of Jewish Ministers and Members of Parliament. The event is sponsored by the Israeli Forum, a non-profit organization that works to increase contacts between Israeli and Diaspora Jews.

During the five-day event, participants heard from their own numbers as well as Israeli Knesset members, writers, academics and security officials.

They discussed Jewish education, immigration to Israel and the status of women in Israel. They heard about contemporary anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism and the formation of an international commission to combat the former, created by Israel's Foreign Ministry.

Most of the time, however, the

participants discussed the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, the security situation and — the most popular topic — terrorism.

"I'm one of the few Jewish politicians in Austria," said Elizabeth Pittermann, a member of the Vienna City Council and a former member of Austria's Parliament.

"There are so few Jews in Austria that no one really knows about Israel and what it is to live with terrorism," she said. "So I need to make them understand these kinds of issues back home."

While 27 of the participants live in North America, which has a vibrant and secure Jewish life, some legislators have had very different experiences as Jews — and as Jewish elected officials.

"It's not an easy time to come to Israel, because the situation is very difficult," said Matyas Eorsi, a Hungarian Parliament member. "But I'm Jewish, and it's important for me to show that by coming here."

Eorsi, 47, who grew up in an assimilated Jewish home, first visited Israel for the Forum's 1991 conference.

Following the establishment of Hungary's independence, that first visit created a solid connection to the Jewish state and Judaism.

"This trip is as much about solidarity as it is for me to learn more about Israel and the situation in the Middle East," he said.

For many participants, the conference was a solidarity mission to Israel, like dozens of other organ-

ized trips that have brought Jews to Israel in the past 15 months.

For others, it was an opportunity to gain insider information about the security situation, and consider how to apply the lessons back home.

The American politicians — particularly the New Yorkers — repeatedly referred to the Sept. 11 terror attacks, which they said have sharpened their attitudes about importance of terrorism, national security and the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Most of them have supported Israel unequivocally during their years in government, particularly since the Palestinian intifada began 16 months ago.

Several reiterated their belief that no one, including the State Department and the White House, should tell Israel how to handle its security threats.

Some took it a step further, commenting that the United States can learn from Israel's experience.

"Sept. 11 proved that we all live in the same lousy neighborhood," Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.) said. "We must learn a common language in order to know how to respond."

The terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were a rude awakening for Americans, Engel added.

"Now the U.S. has a better idea of what terrorism is and what Israel has gone through," he said. "That creates a shared experience."

So too for Argentina's deputy minister of justice, Agustin Zbar,

who talked about the two terrorist attacks in Buenos Aires in the 1990s that targeted Jewish institutions and killed more than 100 Argentines.

"You can recognize any Jewish institution in Buenos Aires because of the huge barricades in front of them," Zbar told the group. "They protect against the 'third bomb' that everyone is expecting to happen at any time." Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), whose district includes where the World Trade Center once stood, said governments should think long and hard about how to deal with terrorism sensibly and intelligently.

Besides rebuilding and helping constituents directly affected by the Trade Center attacks, he wants to make sure that people don't "go off the deep end" disregarding democratic values or civil liberties.

"It's an important time, especially now, to talk to parliamentarians from other countries," Nadler said. "It provides an important context for what we have to deal with in the states."

On Monday, a range of Israeli Knesset members and Jewish lawmakers presented their perspectives on the war against terrorism.

From the Israeli side, there was a range of politicians from the right and left, including Israeli Arab legislator Ahmed Tibi, Minister Without Portfolio Dan Meridor and legislator Yosef "Tommy" Lapid, a member of the secular Shinui Party.

Tibi talked about differences in defining terrorism; Meridor looked

at the support terrorists receive from Iran and Iraq; Lapid paralleled the fanaticism of the Nazis to that of Muslim terrorists.

As a group, they discussed the ramifications of the intifada, whether Israel can leave its West Bank settlements and how military action — including targeted assassinations of suspected Palestinian terrorists — affects the overall security situation.

Nevertheless, none of the politicians pretended to know how to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"Nobody from the outside can tell Israel how to handle this," said Pittermann, the Austrian council member. "That can only be solved by the Israeli government and its people and considering what's best for the country."

What she does want is to be able to explain to her Austrian colleagues and constituents the types of problems the Jewish people face.

"I want them to understand what a pity it is that no Jewish population can live in peace," she said.

In many ways, the conference is about public relations, and what message these politicians will bring home.

"I plead to the Israelis to pay more attention to international public attention, because it's a tool to change government," said Eorsi, the Hungarian lawmaker. "I want the Arab countries to understand that Israel isn't alone, and to make the world understand that Israel will never, ever, be sacrificed."

Israel-India Ties Growing

By Gil Sedan, JTA

The official communicate was rather dull: Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was on his way to India for a three-day visit.

Just another diplomatic trip? Hardly.

This week's visit is part of a fast-developing romance between the tiny Middle Eastern nation and India, the world's largest democracy with more than a billion people.

The strategic alliance could be compared only to Israel's strong ties with Turkey — in that both India and Turkey lie outside the orbit of Israel's traditional Western friends.

The Peres visit came following "a joint security strategic dialogue" held last September, when Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan, head of Israel's National Security Council, visited India for talks with his Indian counterpart, Barjash Msheira.

The official purpose of Peres' visit to India was "political and economic" talks, but it also was a show of support as India is engaged in a standoff with Pakistan over Kashmir.

Both Israel and India have a common nemesis in Islamic terrorism. Like Israel has in its dealings with the Palestinian Authority, India recently invoked President Bush's strong stand against sponsors of terrorism when it threatened Pakistan over a terror attack at the Indian Parliament allegedly backed by Pakistani militant groups.

India's prime minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, sounded as if he had adopted Israeli Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon's comments on Arafat when he said that he had "had enough of symbolic gestures from Pakistan" and expected "a halt to terrorist acts against India."

On Tuesday, Peres gave public support for India's war against terrorism.

"I don't see" the Indian government as being "trigger-happy," Peres told reporters in New Delhi after Indian leaders. "The greatest victory is the prevention of a war, and I feel that this is also the position of India."

Drawing parallels between India and Israel in their fight against terrorists, Peres added that "Israel is on the side of India in the struggle for peace and against terrorism in every possible way."

While acknowledging that India faces a serious terrorist threat, Peres also urged India's leaders to hold talks with Pakistan to ease their latest crisis.

"While fighting terrorism, you should have a political horizon and conduct a dialogue," Peres said.

While this formed the main focus of Peres' remarks Tuesday, there is much more to the relations between Israel and India than the need to fight Islamic terrorism.

The strategic alliance between the two countries — both considered members of the exclusive international nuclear club — is based predominantly on strong military ties. India learned from Israel ways to defend its long border with Pakistan, as well as how to develop highly sophisticated weapons.

India also seeks to learn from Israel's prowess in counterterrorism, as well as its expertise in night warfare and air surveillance. Indian newspaper reports say Israel has become India's second-largest defense partner after Russia.

Peres was expected to discuss the sale of three Phalcon early warning aircraft. The deal was stalled until recently because of American sanctions, as the United States funded the development of the radar devices on the planes.

However, those sanctions were lifted recently and the deal seems imminent. Whereas the United States prevented Israel's sale of the Phalcon system to China — because of the U.S. commitment to the security of Taiwan — it is understood that America will not block the sale of Israeli-made Phalcons to India.

According to Israeli and Indian media reports, a contract already has been signed between Israel Aircraft Industries and the Indian Defense Ministry for \$2 billion, according to which Israel will provide India with advanced military equipment and other advanced products.

According to those reports, Israel will sell India ground-to-ground Barak missiles for \$280 million, pilotless planes for \$300 million and a radar system for \$250 million.

Israeli experts also will modernize other parts of the Indian army. They reportedly will renovate hundreds of Mig 21 and Mig 29 planes, Sukhoi helicopters and Russian-made T-72 tanks.

The two countries may also cooperate in developing an integrated anti-ballistic missile system, designed to destroy incoming ballistic missiles.

India and Israel also are looking into the possibility of integrating the Greenpine Radar, which is part of Israel's Arrow missile, with India's Rajendra Army Radar system.

Relations between the two countries have improved, particularly in the past two years. In March 2000, Jaswant Singh became the first Indian foreign minister to visit Israel. Following the visit, the two countries set up a joint anti-terror commission.

Israel hopes its special relations with India will give it greater leverage in Southeast Asia, as it fears that Pakistan could transfer nuclear weapons technology to the Arab world.

Pakistan blamed Israel in the past for allegedly cooperating in Indian nuclear tests, charges Israel denied. However, when India detonated nuclear weapons three years ago, Israel refrained from joining the worldwide condemnation of the tests.

At a recent strategic dialogue between Israeli and Indian experts at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, Jasit Singh, director of the Indian Institute for Defense Studies, said, "It was a mistake not to develop better relations with Israel much sooner."

Economic ties also have strengthened considerably. When full diplomatic relations were established 10 years ago, the volume of mutual

trade did not exceed \$200 million. Today it stands at \$1 billion, not including military transactions.

It took a long time for India to warm up to Israel. In the pre-1948 period, Gandhi, Nehru and the Indian National Congress opposed the creation of a "Jewish National Home" in Palestine.

India did not subscribe to the partition plan for Palestine, and it voted against the admission of Israel into the United Nations in May 1949.

India recognized Israel in 1950, but — always keen to maintain good relations with the Arab world — waited until 1992 to establish full diplomatic relations.

New Delhi has stressed time and again that its growing relationship with Israel will not jeopardize its traditional friendship with the Arab world. Although India continues to be an ardent backer of the Palestinian cause, its coolness toward Israel had much to do with its dependence on Arab oil, analysts said.

As a major importer of hydrocarbons from the Middle East, and with millions of Indians working in the oil-rich nations there, India had practical considerations in mind.

Much to Israel's dismay, India still votes against Israel in International forums. In all but one of the 19 anti-Israel resolutions in the United Nations in the past year, India voted against Israel.

The only exception was a vote on nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. Not surprisingly, India abstained.

AROUND OUR JEWISH WORLD

State Department Admits: Arms Ship going to P.A.

By Matthew E. Berger
JTA

After equivocating for days about Israel's capture of a boat laden with 50 tons of weapons, the United States has acknowledged that the arms were bound for the Palestinian Authority.

Analysts say the Bush administration initially hesitated because it didn't want the issue to derail a renewed U.S. peace effort in the Middle East.

The State Department acknowledged Tuesday that the weapons seized in the Red Sea on Jan. 3 were bound for the Palestinian Authority. The ship reportedly picked up the weapons from Iran and was headed for the Gaza Strip.

"We find the fact that there are Palestinians involved in shipping these weapons deeply troubling," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "I would say we are waiting to hear a full explanation of the incident from" Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

The Palestinian Authority has denied any connection to the boat, although the captain — a senior officer in the Palestinian navy — says he received orders from a high-ranking P.A. official. American officials called the Palestinian denials "unconvincing."

The Palestinian Authority announced that it would investigate the incident and punish anyone it found responsible.

Boucher said the State Department was cooperating with senior Israeli intelligence officials, who were expected to brief the Bush administration on Wednesday.

The incident "tells us that there are Palestinians who want to escalate the violence," he said.

Even after the captain of the ship described his mission, State Department officials publicly said they were seeking more details before holding Arafat responsible for the shipment.

"We tend to like to have the facts before we draw the conclusions, so at this point, we're still talking, obviously, to the Israelis and talking to the Palestinians about getting the facts in this matter," Boucher said Monday. He called comments from the captain about his association with the Palestinian Authority and Arafat's Fatah movement "the grand speculative hypothetical that we don't try to answer."

Earlier, Bush administration officials speculated that the supplies might be headed for Hezbollah forces in Lebanon, not the Palestinian Authority. Boucher also said they were investigating reports that the shipment was loaded in Dubai, not Iran.

Israel displayed the seized arsenal in Eilat to reporters as U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni was trying to bring Israel and the Palestinian Authority closer to a lasting cease-fire. The former Marine commander returned this week as scheduled to the United States but his mission is ongoing, and the State Department was concerned that condemning the Palestinians' link to the weapons would stifle efforts to resume cooperation.

State Department officials say they are taking the issue more seriously than their earlier public statements would indicate. American Jewish groups said that, on the basis of information they received about Washington's true perspective on the incident, they had anticipated the changed tone Tuesday.

"We do view it as a serious issue," one official said. "It's something Arafat has to take action on immediately."

But the Bush administration wants to use the shipment as leverage to make the Palestinian leader carry out a serious crackdown on terrorism, rather than as a last straw forcing sanctions against the Palestinian Authority.

"He says he is not responsible. This is an opportunity for him to root out the infrastructure" of terrorist groups the official said. "He needs to take the actions that illustrate that you ensure your authority is not undermined."

Israeli and American Jewish officials were angered by the slow U.S. response.

"I cannot understand the reaction of the United States," Israeli Justice Minister Meir Sheerit said Tuesday before meeting with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage in Washington. The weapons could not have been bound for Hezbollah because of the clandestine manner in which they were going to arrive, he said, while Hezbollah receives its weapons openly by plane in Lebanon.

Israel's transportation minister, Ephraim Sneh, told reporters in Israel that the State Department's comments were an attempt to head off possible Israeli retaliation against the Palestinian Authority or Iran.

"It appears that the problem is that those who are hearing our words are not willing to admit the full significance," Sneh said. "If you ask yourself to what destination a ship will be headed if its captain is a senior official of the Palestinian Authority and there are other people on board who also belong to the authority, any reasonable person knows where it was bound."

The prevailing view is that the State Department had hoped to leave the door open for future security talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and allow Zinni to return to the region soon.

"This is an indication of the United States wanting to bring the Palestinians back to the table," said Tom Neumann, executive director of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. He said the United States goes through stages — first expressing anger at the Palestinians for their actions, then trying to work with them.

Yet the State Department's waffling sends an inconsistent message about the U.S. view on terrorism, Neumann said, especially after Sept. 11.

"You get them back to the table by your terms, not by denying reality," Neumann said. "There have to be consequences for behavior."

Israel's seizure overshadowed Zinni's mission to the region, highlighted by trilateral security talks. Zinni is expected to brief Secretary of State Colin Powell in Washington before returning to the region Jan. 18.

"His four days of intensive consultations have made clear that though there are serious challenges that remain; there are also real opportunities for progress," Boucher said Monday.

State Department officials hope Zinni's mission, along with increased international pressure on Arafat, will lead to a lasting cease-fire.

Zinni's first mission to the region late last year resulted in some of the worst violence since the Palestinian intifada began in September 2000, including several major suicide bombings.

Those attacks led to major pressure on the Palestinian Authority to crack down on terror. This time, there were no major attacks during his trip.



Israeli army Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz, left, points out to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, center, and Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, right, some of the weapons found on a ship Israel intercepted allegedly on its way to Palestinian-controlled areas. Credit: GPO

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JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

Demonizing The Jews

By Ruth E. Gruber, JTA

The debate over what Pope Pius XII did — or didn't — do to save the Jews during the Holocaust is intricate, emotional and one of the key sticking points in otherwise positive relations between the Vatican and the Jewish world.

But for Brown University historian David Kertzer, the focus on the wartime pontiff misses the point.

"To have the debate reduced to what Pius did or didn't do between 1939 and 1945 seems almost bizarre," Kertzer told JTA.

"I think that if you want to understand the Holocaust, you have to understand how the Jews became demonized," he said.

Kertzer is the author of a recent book that seeks to do just that.

"The Popes Against the Jews: The Vatican's Role in the Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism," uses recently declassified documents from the Vatican's own archives to detail more than a century of anti-Jewish papal policy.

"If the Vatican never approved the extermination of the Jews — indeed the Vatican opposed it (albeit quietly)," he writes, "the teachings and actions of the church, including those of the popes themselves, helped make it possible."

An expert in 19th-century Italian history, Kertzer was one of the first scholars able to consult the Vatican's

central archives of the Inquisition, which were opened in 1998.

He said he wrote his book as a response to the Vatican's March 1998 document on the Holocaust, called "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah."

That document said longstanding Christian "anti-Judaism" had nothing to do with the development of the racist "anti-Semitic" ideologies that led to Nazism.

He said in an earlier interview that what he shows in the book, based largely on documents found in the Vatican archives, is that "the Vatican was very much involved in the development of modern anti-Semitism."

"The Vatican championed a view of the Jews as sinister enemies of the state and of the people, and, well into the 20th century, called for keeping them quarantined from healthy Christian society," he said.

Kertzer said that the findings he lays out in his book make the positive changes in Vatican policy in the past few decades all the more dramatic.

It was only in 1965, with the promulgation of a declaration by the Second Vatican Council, that the church officially abandoned anti-Jewish dogma.

"I don't see any present danger of slipping back," Kertzer told JTA. "With the Second Vatican Council

there was a sharp break with a past in which anti-Semitism was the lifeblood of the church.

"The proof of how things have changed is the way that younger Catholics are horrified by the title of my book," he said. "The notion that even after the slaves in the United States were freed Pope Pius IX still confined Jews in Rome in a ghetto, is shocking to them."

The Rome Ghetto was only abolished in 1870.

Still, he said, "the current stance of the Church is unstable and cannot survive in the long run. You can't deny history. The Vatican stance is a losing proposition. The sooner they get over it, the better it will be."

USY Goes Golden

By Paula Amann
News Editor

Like many other teens, they brooded, strummed guitars, flirted and worried aloud about what to wear to the dinner dance.

But 1,140 young people at the United Synagogue Youth (USY) convention also had weightier things on their radars: grappling with Jewish law, pondering study in Israel, mourning an alumnus lost on Sept. 11.

The Dec. 23-27 gathering, held at the District's Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, marked the 50th anniversary of this arm of Conservative Judaism, which has close to 15,000 members nationwide.

The organization had its birth a half century ago in Minneapolis-St. Paul and spread across North America. Its founder, Rabbi Kassel Abelson, now resides in Bethesda.

The group initially was dedicated to involving young people in the activities of the three Conservative synagogues in the Twin Cities, he remembered in an interview this week.

More groups were set up in other midwestern cities and three years later, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) passed a resolution setting up USY as a national organization.

Abelson said he is "delighted and happy" with USY's growth, especially "the way it has shaped the lives of people who have belonged to it and gone through the program."

USY's annual five-day convention provides a link to the larger Jewish community for many of the high school-age participants, says the group's international director, Jules Gutin.

"For some kids, being in the same room with 1,200 others," may be their first experience of Jewish life beyond their home towns in the United States and Canada, noted Gutin, who also serves as USCJ's director of youth activities.

As a chair of last year's convention, George Washington University sophomore Gabriel Gershowitz is no novice to USY. Yet as he staffed elevator security for last week's event, this campus pro-Israel activist invoked the power of numbers.

"The fact that so many motivated

and inspired Jewish teens have descended upon Washington, D.C. is great," said Gershowitz, 19, of Des Moines, Iowa. "I feel support and a sense of community."

He and his 1,100-some peers spun through a packed schedule of prayer, study, electioneering for USY officers and social action, which this year took the form of painting flower murals on canvas for distribution to U.S. and Israeli social service agencies, in partnership with Portraits of Hope, a non-profit based in Santa Monica, Calif.

They heard from Rabbi Mark Borovitz of the Los Angeles Congregation Beit T'Shuvah and the Beit T'Shuvah Recovery Program, who works with substance abusers. And more than a third of attendees packed a session on Israel led by former U.S. Mideast envoy Dennis Ross.

"The message he left everybody with is optimism he's not optimistic in the short run; he's optimistic in the long run," said USY Central Shaliach Yossi Garr, who attended the discussion.

Despite continuing Mideast strife, youth interest in Israel was running high, Garr indicated. He noted the 20 or so young people who still had questions to ask Ross as the session ended, the 400 who attended a late night Chalutzim (Pioneers) Israel club meeting on Monday and the more than 50 he'd interviewed for

the Nativ program, which sends USY members to the Jewish state for six months of college study and six months of kibbutz life.

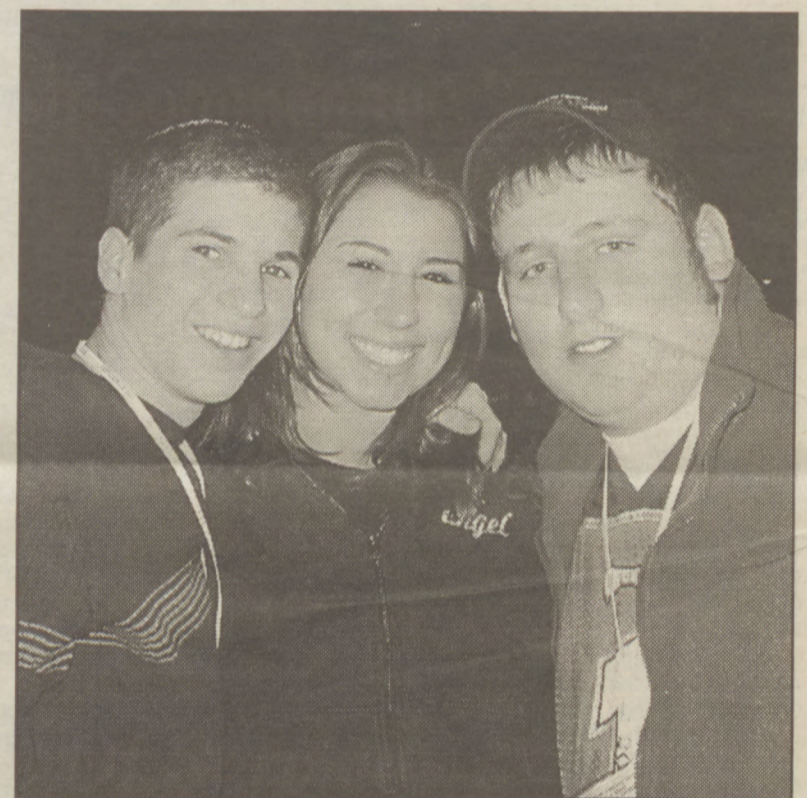
Bethesda's Marilyn Wind, co-chair of USCJ's national youth commission, joined USCJ executive vice president Rabbi Jerome Epstein in leading a session on Jewish law and the Conservative movement. She was impressed that many of the 100 or so who attended stayed afterward to pepper Epstein with questions about Halacha.

What she saw at the convention makes this lay leader sanguine about the next generation of Conservative Jewry.

"The USYers in leadership positions ... are going to make incredible future leaders," said Wind, 56, herself a manager for a federal agency. "They are serious about their Judaism, they are very thoughtful sometimes when talking to them, I'd forget they were only 17 or 18 years old."

At the rally, USYers honored the memory of alumnus Andrew Zucker, a lawyer with Harris Beach who died in the attack on the World Trade Center close to four months ago. Friend and fellow Nativ veteran Craig Deutsch paid tribute to Zucker.

Over the decades, USY can point to many distinguished alumni who went on to distinguished



Daniel Roffman (left), president, Delaware Valley Chapter of USY, has fun with friends on an organization summer travel program.

careers such as former deputy Treasury secretary Stuart Eizenstat, the point person for Holocaust restitution in the Clinton administration; Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.) and a host of other Jewish

communal leaders.

Paula Amann is news editor for Washington Jewish Week, a sister publication to The Jewish Voice. Aaron Leibel, also of the WJW staff, contributed to this article.

USY's Roffman Invites DE Youth To Join The Fun

By Lynn Edelman
Editor

Daniel Roffman, regional president of the Delaware Valley Region of United Synagogue Youth, invites Delaware young people to experience a USY social action, travel or education program first-hand. The Elkins Park, PA high school senior led 122 regional members to Washington recently for the USY National Convention marking the organization's 50th anniversary. His region, which includes Philadelphia and its suburbs, Southern New Jersey and the State of Delaware, sent the nation's third largest delegation of organization members to the convention which featured such notable speakers as Mid-East peace-maker Dennis Ross, and USY Executive Director Jerome Epstein.

Roffman, who describes the people he has met through his USY involvement as "closer to me than anyone else other than my family," was particularly impressed by the Convention's theme of "Choices and Decisions". He explains that "Because we Jews are the chosen people, this effects the choices we make in our own lives." It was inspiring to him to daven with his fellow Jews across the country and say the blessing together over

meals. "A highlight of the conference was when we conducted Mincha services on the lawn outside the Air and Space Museum," he recalled adding that "As a Shomer Shabbat Jew, it is terrific to forge friendships with Jews who see Saturdays as more than a day to hang out with their friends at the mall."

The Convention was a wonderful opportunity to reunite with people he traveled with to Israel last summer. USY offers many

travel and study opportunities in Israel, in Eastern Europe as well as a Mitzvah Mission program which allows students to travel across the country participating in social action programs at every stop.

At the present time, there is no Delaware USY chapter. For information about starting one or participating independently in USY Delaware Valley Region activities, please contact Roffman at (215) 635-7182 or email him at President@hagesher.org.



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JEWISH ARTS AND CULTURE

"God Squad" Rabbi To Speak In Wilmington

By Joel F. Glazier

You may have seen him as part of "The God Squad" on CNN or "Good Morning America." He is heard regularly on "Imus in the Morning". Perhaps you remember his poignant message at New York's Prayer Service in Yankee Stadium in September where he spoke as President of The New York Board of Rabbis. Maybe you have seen or read his books including "Does God Have a Big Toe" and "Other Ways Parents Say 'I Love You'." Rabbi Marc Gellman will be part of a panel along with "God Squad" partner Msgr. Thomas Hartman at the annual Primo Lecture Series at the Playhouse Theater on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 21.

"Are We Really So Different? Race and Religion in a Divided World" is the title of the evening

program which will also include Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi, adjunct professor of Islamic Studies, Indian Studies and Comparative Religion Professor Diana Eck and the Rev. Canon Lloyd S. Casson of Wilmington's Church of Sts. Andrew and Matthew. The panel discussion will be moderated by Cheryl Martin of the Black Entertainment Network.

"I am proud to be a representative of the Jewish community," Rabbi Gellman shared with The Voice. "There really is no public face of Judaism, which is warm, accepting and real. I, along with Msgr. Hartman, have been complementing each other through our shared interest in interfaith relations, for over 15 years."

Gellman is senior rabbi at Temple Beth Torah in Melville, NY. "The God Squad gives more than

100 lectures a year, but my clergy work keeps me grounded. I never want to be known as a preacher of the air. The real work of religion is done with individuals." Adding humor to his presentations never lessens his seriousness. "I bury people, I bar-mitzvah kids, I name babies and I give sermons. This practical work keeps me from being totally seduced by the media," he commented to The Voice.

Since the tragedies on September 11, audiences have been asking "better questions," remarked the well-traveled rabbi. "People recently have been asking themselves more about what really matters? What is important? Why have material possessions been so important?" The rabbi adds, "There seems to be a return to a more thank goodness we're alive - we've made it to enjoy - a *shehechyanu*

idea. The past decade's expansion of desire is now contracting. I think that is a positive change."

The rabbi hopes that people "will ponder the sources of prejudice in their own lives." He explained that "It is hard for most people to accept they have their own prejudice." He looks forward to learning from the Delaware audience. He humorously remembered his only previous speaking in Delaware. "Years ago, while driving my family of 4 from New York to Florida, I spoke loudly to my kids, 'Shut Up'. Their short drive through Delaware was in silence after he spoke."

Gellman remarked that while speaking to thousands in person and millions on "Good Morning America," his head still stays uninflated. "On one TV appearance I speak to more people than 20

years of synagogue services. However, the big stage may be important realizing what The Talmud teaches—that when you save a single life, you save the whole world. You then realize that there's no such thing as a small stage."

The annual Primo Lecture Program will appear on the big stage at the Playhouse Theater in Wilmington. Past programs have presented Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Ambassador Andrew Young. The series honors the memory of the late Quinton E. Primo, Jr., the first African American bishop in Chicago and interim bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. Tickets for the 7:00 PM event are \$10; \$5 for seniors and students and available at The Playhouse Box Office or calling 800-801-6444.

Playing The Klezmer Detective

By Ruth E. Gruber,

On a Friday evening a couple of years ago, a group of Chasidim sat down for a festive Shabbat dinner at King's Hotel — the only kosher hotel in Budapest.

The group, many of them from Brooklyn, had stopped off in the Hungarian capital during a pilgrimage to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their rabbi's grandson in the ancestral town of Munkacs, now in Ukraine.

Between courses in the hotel's restaurant, the group sang Friday night *zemirot*, or songs, that came from their local tradition.

Among a few non-Chasidic dinner guests was the American cantor Jack "Yankl" Falk, who is also a member of the Budapest-based klezmer band Di Naye Kapelye.

Falk was astonished to recognize the melody of one of the Chasidic songs as identical to a tune Di Naye Kapelye had learned from a field recording of a Gypsy, or Roma, fiddler in a Romanian village made in about 1970.

This discovery represented an exciting breakthrough in the Jewish musical detective work that marks Di Naye Kapelye's hands-on approach to klezmer.

"The song was familiar to us in melody but not in context," recalls the band's leader, Bob Cohen. "It made our jaws drop. We had learned the music, and knew it was somehow Jewish, but even the sources we had learned it from were ignorant of the context."

The Yiddish word "klezmer" derives from the Hebrew "klei zemer," meaning "vessels of song" — or musical instruments.

In the past, "Klezmer" referred to a professional musician who played the instruments.

Only recently has the term klezmer come to mean not only the musicians but the music itself.

By now, "klezmer music" is often used to describe the entire genre of music based on Yiddish traditional and popular motifs — be it note-for-note reproductions of tunes found on old records, contemporary interpretations of old material, new presentations of songs still played in Eastern

European villages, or rock and jazz improvisations based on klezmer sources.

Cohen likes to look for the music — or memories of the music — in the places where it was once played.

A New Yorker who has lived in Budapest since 1988, he has spent a dozen years "scrambling around East Europe looking for contexts and traces of Jewish music."

The fact that he is an anthropologist as well as a musician has helped.

"In the U.S. I was working on cultural identity among distinct American Indian groups — people who looked assimilated but maintained their cultural identity," he said.

"In Eastern Europe, Jews became an invisible tribe," he said. "We're still here, but it's up to us to dig it up — there are still people who remember. It hasn't disappeared, but you have to dig."

Di Naye Kapelye is composed of both Jews and non-Jews, Americans and Hungarians.

Cohen and other group members have made numerous forays into remote parts of Romania to record and learn from elderly Gypsy and other musicians who once played music with Jews and who now sometimes are the last living memory of a nearly vanished tradition.

For example, the group's accordionist, the American Christina Crowder, even lived in Romania for two years studying accordion and collecting music from village musicians on a Fulbright Fellowship.

"The memory of Jewish culture is often maintained by non-Jews, those who choose to cherish the legacy of neighbors lost but never forgotten," Cohen said.

"We go around finding old Gypsies — and occasionally we have found a couple of elderly Jews, too," he said. "Often, they know the melody but nothing more. Sometimes they remember playing the music — but not when, where or on what occasion. What we try to do is then to put Jewish flesh back on these bare bones."

About half of prewar Romania's

800,000 Jews survived the Holocaust. Almost all the survivors eventually left for Israel. Most did not leave until after 1960, however, which means that Jewish music was still being played at weddings and other festivities well after the Shoah.

Today, there are about 12,000 Jews in Romania, most of them elderly.

One of the most important influences on Cohen and Di Naye Kapelye was Itzik Svarts, a Yiddish writer and folklorist who was director of the Yiddish theater in the northern Romanian city of Iasi from 1948 until the theater closed in 1966.

Cohen calls Svarts, who died last May in Iasi at the age of 95, a "mentor, inspiration, and primary source," who enthusiastically shared his memories and knowledge. He describes Svarts' wife, Cili, who died in 1997, as "one of the best Yiddish singers in Europe."

Cohen, whose own family roots are in Hungary and Romania, speaks Hungarian, Romanian and Yiddish. He plays the violin, mandolin and several other instruments and also sings.

Di Naye Kapelye's latest CD, "A Mazeldiker Yid" (A Lucky Jew),



Klezmer musician Bob Cohen, second from left, and Di Naye Kapelye band mates track down almost-lost Jewish music in Eastern and Central Europe.

includes a family recording made in the 1970s of Cohen's grandmother describing (in Yiddish) how her family spared no expense in hiring the finest musicians to play for the wedding of her own parents — Cohen's great-grandparents — in the late 1800s.

While the music on "A Mazeldiker Yid" is described as

"old-time klezmer music from Eastern Europe," Cohen says that he is more comfortable calling it simply "Jewish music." The CD, he said, aims to recreate "the enjoyable sound of Jews enjoying themselves."

(More information about the Di Naye Kapelye can be found at www.dinayekapelye.com.)

Atzilut Celebrates Harmony At The Painted Bride

World Music at the Painted Bride Art Center proudly presents Atzilut: Bridging Jewish and Arab Music, a celebration of musical and cultural harmony through the blend of Middle Eastern modes and traditions. This unexpected ensemble integrates a rich palette of percussions, strings and winds with stirring cantorial vocals. Weaving virtuosic improvisations with ancient hymnal chants, this rare mosaic of sound culminates in a magical, high voltage experience. "everyone who hears them is elevated by their music," — *Shlomo Carlebach*. Atzilut, the Hebrew word referring to the emanation of creative energy, combine excellent musicianship and cross-cultural solidarity in this timely and spiritually affecting performance. Atzilut performs January 26, 2002 at 8:00 p.m. tickets are \$22.00, \$11.00 for Members. Students and seniors get a 25% discount. For tickets

and more information call the Painted Bride box office at 215-925-9914 or visit www.paintedbride.org. The Painted Bride is located at 230 Vine Street in Old City, Philadelphia.

The ensemble features the group's lead singer, Hebrew cantor Jack Kessler, with Arab vocalist Hana Sallit. Percussionist Jim Babb, Joe Tayoun, Joe Ruscitto, and Lenny Seldman, are joined by Joseph Kessler on electric violin, Roger Mrgdichian playing the *ud* (middle eastern lute), flutist Stan Slotter, upright bassist Bruce Kaminsky and Samuel Heifetz on french horn and oboe.

Atzilut: Bridging Jewish and Arabic Music presentation is part of the longstanding "Cultural Bridging Project," a partnership between Atzilut and Arab musicians that began at the Painted Bride in the early 1990's.

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NEWS UPDATE: ROMANIA

**The Government of Romania has just extended the deadline
for submission of notifications for property restitution claims.**

THE DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 14, 2002

To register a claim, applicants must file a Notification by the new deadline. The Notification must be registered through the local court executor where the property is located. The notification form can be downloaded from the Romanian Embassy's website: www.roembus.org

The following information is required when filing the notification:

- Identification of claimant
- Identification of current legal owner of property (through the Office of the Mayor of the relevant location)
- Identification of the property. Address, surface in square meters, neighbors, number of rooms or dependencies, if relevant
- Estimated value of property in Romanian currency (lei)

For further information, contact your local Romanian Embassy. In the USA, contact Christian Gaginsky, Consul, at: Tel. (202) 332-4851, extension 118; Fax: (202) 232-4748; Email: cgaginsky@roembus.org

Or consult the United Restitution Organization at any of its offices. New York, USA: (212) 921-3860; North York, Ontario, Canada: (416) 630-2920; Frankfurt/Main, Germany: (49-69) 713-779-0; Haifa, Israel: (972-4) 851-1211; Tel Aviv, Israel: (972-3) 517-0202

IN MEMORIAM

EPSTEEN

Reba Epstein, 89, widow of Martin Sandler and, later, Joseph Epstein, died January 6th. She is survived by nephews, Harvey Lessin and Hilton Cohen; niece, Janice Botwin; and step-daughter, Bernice Morfisis. Graveside services were held Tuesday in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. Memorial contributions are welcomed to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809

SHAMES

Hilda B. Shames, 93, widow of Dr. Samuel I Shames, died December 22nd. She was a native Delawarean. A licensed dental

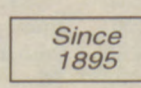
hygienist, she and her husband were active in the dental and Jewish communities. Survivors include her daughters, Ceci (Dr. Harold) Ufberg, Terry (Dr. Jack) Sokoloff and Charlotte Zimble; son, Dr. Samuel (Joanna) M. Shames; sister, Marjorie Rothschild; 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She was interred in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. Contributions in her memory may be made to Women's American ORT, c/o Wendy Shlossman, 17 Stable Court, Wilmington, DE 19803 or Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

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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.

TRI STATE JEWISH DATING SERVICE OPENS

First Impressions, a Premier Tri-State Jewish Dating Connection is now based at the Betty and Milton Katz Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill, NJ. This self-selecting introductory service is open to all Jewish singles over the age of 21. First Impressions fills a need among Jewish singles who want to expand their dating resources in a safe, sensitive, and personal manner. After completing a questionnaire and personal profile, applicants schedule a brief interview with a First Impressions coordinator and pay an annual membership fee. The service is completely confidential and offers convenient hours of operation. For further information, or to receive a membership application please contact Dale Winchell at ext. 297, email dwinchell@jfedsnj.org, or visit the Katz JCC website at www.katzjcc.org for applications and information. Cost is \$75 for JCC members, \$100 for non-members.

HELPING HEARTS HEAL IN NEWARK

Healing Hearts: An educational program for co-parenting mandated by Family Court, will meet on

January 16 and January 23rd from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It is offered at JFS' Relationship Center in Newark. For additional information, please call 286-1402.

BE A MENSCH, VOLUNTEER!

Join the more than 300 individuals who have participated in our community's volunteer network. If you have a moment to make a call to an elderly person or an hour to help with homework, we have a project that is just right for you. Please call Lisa Driban at Jewish Family Service, 478-9411 to give a gift of time.

COME TO THE AKSE BRUNCH

AKSE Men's Club invites the community to attend the second in a series of brunches in its New York Scholars Lecture Series. Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Schwartz will speak on "The Connection Between Religion, Prayer and Health" on Sunday, January 20th. Schwartz, the assistant rabbi at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in New York City, will talk about the significance of prayer to the patient, his or her family and friends and the doctor. Breakfast begins at 9:30 with the program starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. The cost for the morning is \$4 per person.

BETH SHALOM INSTALLS HAZZAN HORWITZ

Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington formally installs Hazzan Michael Horwitz with a "Weekend of Song", January 25 through January 27th. The weekend kicks off on Friday, January 25th with a 6:30 p.m. family

Shabbat dinner at the synagogue followed by 8:00 p.m. services and an Oneg Shabbat. Reservations are necessary for the Shabbat family dinner and can be made by calling the synagogue office at 302-654-4462.

JOB LOSS ASSISTANCE SERIES BEGINS WEDNESDAY

Jewish Family Service of Delaware has launched a new six-session seminar series to provide support to those who are in the process of transitioning out of jobs or retiring from the work force. The series will focus on adjusting to change in a positive ways and will provide approaches and skills necessary to reassess, rebuild and renew a life plan. The series begins on Wednesday, January 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and will be held at JFS 101 Garden of Eden Road in Wilmington. The fee for the series is \$40. Please call 478-9411 to register.

GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR JEWISH STUDY

The Anna E. Finger-Ruth F. Gordon Memorial Trust will accept requests for cash grants of up to \$1000 for the promotion of the study of Judaism and Jewish culture. The Trust was established in 1968 by Louis J. Finger and Abraham J. Gordon in memory of Mrs. Finger's mother and sister and Mr. Gordon's wife. The Trust will provide funding for programs or for the participation of individuals in programs relating to the study of Judaism or Jewish culture. These pursuits may include Hebrew lan-

guage, Bible, Jewish literature, religious customs and ceremonies theology and Holocaust studies.

Current trustees are Richard A. Levine, Robert Jacobs and Steven D. Goldberg. Financial need will be considered while evaluating grant requests. Preference will be given to program or individuals affiliated with Congregation Beth Shalom. Recipient of individual grants or

scholarships will be expected to share their experiences at an upcoming community event. Grant applications should be directed in writing to: Richard A. Levine, Secretary, Board of Advisers Anna E. Finger and Ruth Gordon Memorial Trust, c/o Young, Conaway, Stargatt and Taylor, LLP, PO Box 391, Wilmington, DE 19899..

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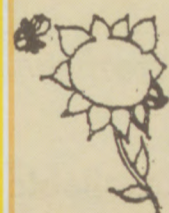
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