

The JEWISH VOICE

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Theodore Bikel to perform for 'Operation Exodus'

By PAULA BERENGUT

A community-wide fundraising rally to benefit the Delaware Jewish community's "Operation Exodus" campaign will include a performance by Theodore Bikel on June 30.

The 66-year-old Bikel has been performing since he was a teenager. Born in Vienna, he moved with his family to what was then Palestine at the age of 13 to escape Hitler's Nazis. There he joined the Habimah Theater Group as an apprentice. At age 20 Bikel became a co-founder of the Israel Chamber Theater.

Russian is only one of the five languages, besides English, in which Bikel is able to read and sing—French, German, Flemish, Hebrew and Spanish are the others.

The New York Times, has called Bikel "a good-natured international troubadour who is canny in the ways of the world." In reviewing a July 1989 performance, *The Times* wrote that "Theodore Bikel brings a hearty enjoyment to performing that one does not often encounter, even in the extraordinary world of folk music."

The Bikel-Soviet Jewry connection is a long one. He describes himself an activist for their rights "long before it was fashionable." It was

"horrendous," he says, to witness the persecution of Jews 20 years after the end of World War II and the devastation of the European Jewish community.

In a telephone interview, Bikel said he "started to agitate in a clandestine fashion in the early 60s— even before the term 'refusenik' was coined." An early organizer of rallies in support of Soviet Jews, he proudly recalls being arrested in front of Soviet embassies a number of times for protesting.

Having visited the Soviet Union three times—in 1977, 1984 and 1988—to attend conferences of the International Federation of Actors, of which he is currently vice-president, Bikel had the opportunity to meet each time with a number of refuseniks.

He produced an album, "Silent No More," based on Russian freedom songs which he smuggled out of the Soviet Union. All proceeds from this record benefit a scholarship fund for Soviet Jewish immigrants at the Hebrew University.

But Bikel maintains that the plight of Jews everywhere has always been his main focus. "Wherever the shoe hurts most, that is where my concern is."

According to Sheldon Weinstein, co-chair of the "Operation Exodus" campaign in Delaware, Bikel was chosen to perform at this fundraising concert because of his longstanding

and intense commitment to the fight for freedom for Soviet Jews. "For years Theodore Bikel has fought for the freedom to emigrate which is now a reality," Weinstein said. "While one struggle has almost ended, the struggle to settle the immigrants in Israel is beginning. We expect that Theodore Bikel will deliver the message of the campaign's urgency and importance in a powerful way to the Delaware community."

The concert/rally, co-chaired by Ellen Konniver and Jerry Grossman, is the first community-wide event in a series of fundraisers for "Operation Exodus," the campaign to rescue Jews from the Soviet Union and resettle them in Israel. At a board meeting on April 26, the Jewish Federation's board of directors unanimously agreed to participate in the national campaign and accepted a \$708,000 fair share portion of the nationally UJA goal of \$420 million for the "Operation Exodus" campaign.

The fundraising performance will be held at Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth synagogue, Washington Street Extension and Torah Drive, at 7:30 p.m. Admission will be \$5 for general admission, there will be no charge for students. A mailing to the community during the week of May 21 will explain how tickets may be obtained. The AKSE social hall can accommodate a maximum audience of 800.



Theodore Bikel

Dreaded May 5 pogroms don't materialize in USSR

But Soviet Jews still living in fear

By SUSAN BIRNBAUM

NEW YORK (JTA) — The long-dreaded pogroms against Soviet Jews that had been threatened for May 5 did not materialize in the Soviet Union. But fear among Jews there is still very much alive.

May 5 is widely known in the Soviet Union as the birthday of Karl Marx and as a religious day in the Russian Orthodox calendar. For months now, it has taken on another, more sinister identity as the date that anti-Semitic groups had targeted Jews for violence.

Soviet authorities had issued assurances that violence against Jews would not be permitted, and few Soviet Jewry groups in the United States believed that a large-scale slaughter of Jews like the turn-of-the-century pogroms would be possible today. But because the threats had triggered near hysteria among some Soviet Jews, especially in the Russian republic, representatives of Jewish groups and some individual monitors of human rights traveled there to be present last Saturday.

David Harris, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, reported Sunday by telephone from Moscow that "nothing happened yesterday, to the best of anyone's knowledge. There were no reports of any incidents." Harris is one of three AJCommittee officials in Moscow to conduct a national survey of attitudes among Soviet Jews and non-Jews about Jewish identity, culture and religion.

On Sunday, Harris met with Jewish activists from Moscow, Leningrad, Minsk, Sverdlovsk, Tbilisi and other cities. None of them reported disturbances in their respective cities. In addition, said Harris, 150 to 200 people gathered Saturday at Moscow's Choral Synagogue without any harassment. There was "no particular police protection in front of the synagogue" in evidence, he also observed.

Harris said several foreigners and journalists stopped by the synagogue to express solidarity

or check for disturbances.

In Leningrad, Jacob Davidson and Elie Wurtman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry also reported all quiet, but the "Jews are very scared," Davidson said. They spent Shabbat at Leningrad's Choral Synagogue, along with Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz and Vladimir Michnik, a refusenik of 11 years who is head of B'nai B'rith International in Leningrad.

Davidson said they were informed of a "show trial" set for May 7 in the Ukrainian city of Krivoy Rog. Michael Chodos, a 19-year-old Jew arrested a day after receiving an official invitation to immigrate to Israel, is charged with evading the draft. He faces a three-year prison sentence.

One hard piece of news received was that some gravestones in a Jewish cemetery outside of Moscow were vandalized recently, but apparently before May 5.

The lurking menace of attacks on Jews, whether real or embroidered to induce panic, has given rise to contingency planning.

The Jewish Agency for Israel is even looking into setting up a possible safe haven for Jews in Soviet Georgia, according to a report in the *Jerusalem Post*.

According to *Post* correspondent Walter Ruby, Jewish Agency representative Yitzhak Moshe is allegedly working to prepare a refuge for Jews in Soviet Georgia, where they can flee if catastrophe strikes.

So far, he has signed up 100 Georgian Jewish families to take in refugees in the event anti-Jewish violence forces them to flee their homes, Ruby reported. It is believed that authorities in Moscow would allow Jews to leave for Georgia, if the necessity arose. Other reports of safe haven center on Lithuania, the Baltic republic whose recently proclaimed independence is not recognized by Moscow.

Continued on 13

Dole 'didn't mean to offend' but defends right to disagree

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (JTA) — Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) says he is concerned he "may have offended my Jewish friends" by making remarks strongly critical of Israel and its steadfast supporters in the United States.

But, in an interview with the *Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*, Dole maintained that "friends should be able to question and disagree."

"Maybe I didn't say it right. Maybe that's my problem," he told Stan Rose, the paper's publisher, in an interview published April 27.

The Senate minority leader was asked about a recent interview he gave the *Jerusalem Post*, in which he accused American Jewish leaders of "selfishness," saying they "wouldn't give one penny" of U.S. foreign aid now going to Israel to any other country.

Dole said he was referring specifically to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pre-eminent pro-Israel lobby in Washington, and its executive director, Thomas Dine. "I consider him a friend. But sometimes he comes on too strong," said the senator, who is famous for his own blunt speech.

"I can't see where cutting 5 percent off the aid we are giving to Israel should upset him so much," Dole said.

The senator was referring to the proposal he made earlier this year, in which he proposed a 5 percent across-the-board cut in U.S. economic assistance to Israel and the four other top recipients of American foreign aid.

Dole was asked in the interview whether he was "fronting" for President Bush by making such a proposal. "Let's just say that we agree on certain things," he replied. But he added, "Just because I advocate a cut in foreign aid to the five countries we aid most heavily so we can help the new democracies in Eastern Europe, it doesn't mean I am anti-Israel."

Israel, he said, "should be willing to give a little. I believe it would be good for Israel to do that in the eyes of the rest of the world."

The Republican leader has taken flack for some other of his recently articulated positions, including his opposition, after the fact, to a Senate resolution that declares united Jerusalem to be Israel's capital—a resolution he co-sponsored and voted for before switching his position.

"I favor that, but I believe the timing for this resolution was terrible. It only inflamed an already sensitive situation," he told Rose.

The non-binding resolution adopted on March 22 was a response to a statement by Bush that seemed to question Israel's rights of sovereignty in Jerusalem.

The president said at a March 3 news conference that there should be no "new settlements in the West Bank or East Jerusalem."

Dole, who was in Israel from April 12 to 15 on a senatorial junket through the Middle East, also had some advice that many Israelis agree with. "Israel ought to change its electoral system," he said. Personally he prefers Labor Party leader Shimon Peres over Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir to be the next prime minister, the senator admitted.

"But under Israel's political system, neither one can get anything done. When a 90-year-old rabbi from Brooklyn is able to dictate final decisions to the government of Israel, it's time for a change," Dole declared.

He was referring to reports that intervention by the Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, frustrated Peres' attempts to establish a Labor-led coalition government. The Lubavitch movement claims the 88-year-old rebbe made clear his views on the peace process, but did not instruct anyone how to vote.

Editorial

Restoring the earth is a Jewish concept

Adam was commanded by God "to till and to tend" the Garden of Eden. Over the course of the last few decades human abuse of the earth has become a recognized fact: our environment is — and we are — in danger.

Along with the exodus of Jews from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, it looks as if there may have to be an exodus of *all* human life from some areas there — the degree of pollution in some of these sealed-off places is reported to be so immense. Recent reports have shown that, without government regulations to control pollution, some of the cities in that part of the world have become so polluted that living there is like living in a coal mine.

But this problem is not isolated. No human hands are clean enough to place them in a position to criticize.

Here in the United States, where we do have such regulations, there are laws being broken all the time. We are all guilty — from the governments of the world to its individual human inhabitants — of creating pollution and adding constantly to the ecological problem.

The recent celebration of Earth Day was an attempt to force us to become aware of the problems and to live environmentally sound existences.

Abuse of the earth is rampant. Industrial pollution, nuclear weapons being stockpiled around the globe, oil and garbage soiling our coastlines, general wastefulness... all contribute to making our planet less than the Garden of Eden as it was given to Adam.

Delaware has a skyrocketing incidence of cancer. Our infant mortality rate is among the highest in the nation. Over the past few weeks we have lived and breathed in the shadow of the Delaware City Star Enterprise oil refinery as it leaked carbon monoxide... while hoping and praying that we are not affected by it. Last year the Delaware River, at Claymont, was the sight of an extensive oil spill which blackened the Delaware coast for miles. The list is seemingly endless.

Jewish tradition holds that the earth is a gift from God to man. We are nothing more than its caretakers. As we become more aware of the increasing dangers to our environment, we are obliged, as the caretaker citizens, to become more environmentally thoughtful and to work toward generating a commitment to the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* (repairing the earth).

The Jewish Voice welcomes signed letters from its readers on subjects of interest to the Jewish Community. For verification purposes, include home address and phone number (day and evening). The more concise a letter is, the less likely it will need to be condensed. A name will be withheld upon request. Send letters typed double spaced, to The Jewish Voice, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.

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SHAMIR THE EXPONENT

Letters to the Editor

Help needed to make Delaware stay rewarding for teens and families

American Jewish Society for Service is a New York based organization sponsoring work camps in the United States. For the past 40 years Jewish teens and their families have paid to take part in a seven week real life work situation. They have previously worked in Lewes and Seaford, as well as seventy other towns throughout the country. AJSS offers a balance between the struggle to better mankind's lot and the caring support structure of a work camp.

Wilmington's Interfaith Housing Task Force has been chosen by the American Jewish Society for Service as the site for one of their two summer work camp experiences.

Sixteen students (juniors in High School) will be here from July 1 to August 17 working on the rehabilitation of low income housing in Wilmington. The community has been asked to help with certain things to help make their stay pleasant and rewarding.

Tentatively they will be housed at Claymont Community Center where they will have showers and kitchen facilities. Alternatives are still

being explored — any suggestions will be appreciated. Twenty cots for sleeping are needed. A 15 passenger van or two 8 passenger vans are needed to transport the campers back and forth to work as well as for night and weekend trips. The Jewish Community Center has provided guest passes for the group and invited them to participate in teen nights and other programs.

If you or your organization could help us with guest passes to area attractions or help plan a July 4th get together, a Shabbat dinner or other activities please get in touch!

Our final request is for medical professionals who would allow their names to be used on an emergency resource list. If one of the teens or their leaders has a medical or dental problem during their stay in Wilmington, we'd like to refer them to services to someone familiar with the program.

Please contact Garry or Susan Greenstein at 656-6879 if you can be of service or if you'd like to find out more about the program.

Garry and Susan Greenstein

Mishloach Manot made accessible by project

I am writing in response to the letter regarding synagogue and sisterhood *shalach manot* projects that appeared in the April 27 *Dear Rachel* column. While I generally agree with Rachel's response, I feel that both she and the letter-writer overlooked three very important points.

1. Participation in organized *shalach manot* programs is *voluntary*, not mandatory.
2. These programs afford an opportunity to participate to those people who would not or could not put together a *shalach manot* basket on their own.
3. They introduce the concept and custom of *shalach manot* to those people who may

not have experienced it before.

This was the thinking behind the program instituted by AKSE Sisterhood this year. The donors and recipients were delighted with the results and very appreciative of the availability of this service. As chairman of the project, I received letters and telephone calls complimenting us for making it possible for so many people to participate in this Purim tradition. I look forward to chairing this effort again next year. It feels good to help someone fulfill a *mitzvah*.

Mollie Epstein-Makar
Chairman,

AKSE Sisterhood Purim Project

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Op - Ed

Carter taken on 'Bamboozle Tour' of Middle East

By MITCHELL G. BARD

It's not in any guidebook, but the Bamboozle Tour is still well known to Middle East observers. This is the tour where aspiring messiahs go to visit Arab leaders who tell them whatever they want to hear. The Americans then turn to the press and report the Arabs' commitment to peace. The highlight of every tour is an audience with the teflon terrorist — Yasir Arafat. Adding to the excitement is the fact that visitors never know where they will meet His Eminence.

The latest participant on the tour, Jimmy Carter, met with Arafat in Paris. He was reportedly bringing a tough message that the PLO needs to take steps to win the confidence of Israelis — first among them, revoking the Palestinian Covenant. Carter made no public statement that this was his intention and, after the meeting, praised Arafat as "one of the key leaders who has done everything he can in recent months to promote the peace process." Carter made no mention of the PLO's role in terrorist attacks over the past year or Arafat's

threat only a few days earlier to fight Israel "with stones, with rifles, and with *al-Abad* [sic]" (the *al-Abbas* missile Iraq test-fired in December).

Arafat made no concessions in his remarks

"The more I dealt with Arab leaders, the more disparity I discovered between their private assurances and their public comments."

—Jimmy Carter

to the press. Instead, he protested what he called the "transfer" of Soviet Jews to Israel. "That means a new Israel," he said (*Washington Post*, April 5).

This was the first time Carter met with Arafat. Both Carter and the Administration deny he was representing President Bush, but the Arab press widely reported the former President was acting as an envoy (*Mideast Mirror*, April 6). Arafat reportedly asked Carter to tell Bush he was prepared for a direct dialogue with Israel. This is being treated in

some quarters as a significant breakthrough. In fact, it is an old propaganda ploy. Arafat wants the West to pressure Israel into recognition of the PLO.

This was not Carter's only stop on the

Bamboozle Tour. Earlier, he visited Damascus and met the Syrian Slaughterer — Hafez Assad. Carter came away from that meeting saying that Assad is now interested in peace. When *NER* presented evidence of Syria's continuing belligerence (see our April 2 interview), the President distanced himself from this view.

Carter should know better. He was bamboozled when he met with Assad as President. He wrote in his diary May 9, 1977: "It was a very interesting and enjoyable experience.



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter

Historian: Too late to separate W. Bank

Meron Benevisti, historian and former Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, left city government after a break with Mayor Teddy Kollek and has since devoted himself to the study of the Palestinian-Israeli relationship. He is the author of several books, has lectured widely in the United States, and has written articles for *The New York Review of Books* and *The New York Times*. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife and children on the border between an Arab and an Israeli neighborhood. He was interviewed by Aron Hirt-Manheimer, editor of *Reform Judaism*.

Is the goal of the intifada to end the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza?

It is a struggle of the Palestinians to alter radically the status quo established on the seventh day of the Six-Day War. They can unite only by using a negative slogan to end the occupation, but they are not in agreement as to what will replace it.

Is your research you have demonstrated that the West Bank has become so much a part of the infrastructure of Israel that it may be too late to separate the two.

I don't believe that the option of a surgical solution, of severing the territory from Israel, is viable anymore. The interdependence is so complete that, although theoretically it's possible to partition the land, realistically it won't happen.

Does this mean that the forces insisting on a Greater Israel have won?

In the short run, yes. What we did in 1967 was to internalize the Palestinian question, making it a moral, political, social and cultural issue within Israel itself. The intifada is not an external war, it's a civil war. It is waged in every house, around each tree. That kind of conflict is without solution, because it's a social malaise, like a crime, cyclical and not linear. Zionism wanted a Jewish nation-state with Jewish institutions. Now, Israel governs a population that is 40 percent non-Jewish. Its political institutions, however, represent the wishes and aspirations of only one segment of the society.

If the conflict is now an internal Israeli problem, what solutions are being offered by the major political parties?

Currently, none. There's no political discourse in Israel. The belief that there are two political cultures — Likud vs. Labor — is a myth. Both parties consider the status quo as viable. The Palestinian issue, in its current intifada phase, will have no impact on the

center. The center, made up of Labor and Likud, will hold.

But Labor claims it is willing to exchange territory for peace while Likud is not. Is that not a real distinction?

It is only a theoretical distinction. Labor has never seriously considered that as a political option. What they offered the Arabs was 50 percent of the West Bank, knowing full well that even the most moderate Arab couldn't accept that. So the theoretical possibility of land for peace was a shibboleth, a dividing line between those who say they are for a Greater Israel and those who say we are for peace. It is an ideological issue and not a political one. On the day-to-day management of the conflict, Labor and Likud are united, and they are represented by one person — Yitzhak Rabin. He represents the consensus.

Has there been any real movement on the part of the PLO toward a peaceful resolution?

Like Israel, the PLO can handle only the status quo. Ending the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza would confront them with impossible existential questions like the right of return. Both sides are waiting for external solutions. They know that the situation within will not change, so they are looking for either a Pax Americana — Americans will come and settle the problem — or the charge of the Arab cavalry, leading to another war. The laws of engagement of the intifada are very clear to both sides. Each knows that it shouldn't go beyond a certain limit of intensity, because to do so would harm all interests. The Palestinians will not use firearms, and the Israelis will not use their superior firepower to crush it, promoting an international crisis that will force outside intervention.

What options remain for peace?

Basically, all internal feuds have two benign solutions: one is vertical partition, meaning partition of the land, and one is horizontal partition, meaning power sharing. There can be a combination of the two, like Belgium or Quebec. But the problem is not to come up with the theoretical solution, but to get the sides to choose between those two solutions. At present both view all possible solutions in partisan terms. The best solution would be partition, the problem is how.

You don't sound very optimistic.

In the short run, I'm not. First, everyone will have to realize that if they can't live together they will die together. Neither the Jews nor the Arabs will win because that kind of war is

unwinnable, unless you resort to extreme measures like "transfer" (mass deportation), which I must rule out because this will destroy the Israeli center, which will not accept it. People still believe the whole thing is temporary. That is why they call it "occupation," which by definition is temporary. That means some day the tragedy will end with a catharsis, and that is what they are waiting for. I'm not against partition, I'm not against a bi-national state. These are the two theoretical solutions we must choose between. What we will choose I don't know. It will take at least 20-25 years for people to understand that they must look for a solution.

What effect do you think the end of the Cold War will have on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

The coming decade will put the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the right perspective. In the future, world stability won't be threatened by the superpowers, but by ethnic groups — in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Lithuania, Armenia. When empires disintegrate the primordial clashes reemerge.

Jewish settlers in Jerusalem's Christian Quarter give Israel's enemies a major moral victory

By MARC H. TANENBAUM

If Israel's Arab enemies had wanted to devise a global strategy for isolating the Jewish State from world Christian public opinion, they could not have done it more effectively than did the 150 Orthodox Jewish settlers who occupied the Greek Orthodox St. John's Hospice in Jerusalem's Christian quarter. During the past week, I spoke at length with some of the most prominent leaders of the major Christian denominations — Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Evangelical, mainline Protestant. Without exception, they expressed deep feelings ranging from "upset" to "outrage" over the settlers' action.

The anger focused on what "the squatters" did; when they did it — during the highly sensitive Christian Holy Week; where they did it — in the established Christian quarter in East Jerusalem; and why they did it.

"We do not question the right of Jews to live in East Jerusalem," one Roman Catholic scholar, a great friend of Israel and the Jewish people, said to me. "But this group cannot deny Christians the right to live in areas surrounding their holiest shrines."

The fact that elements in the Israeli government at first denied having anything to do with

There was a lot of good humor between us, and I found him to be very constructive in his attitude and somewhat flexible in dealing with some of the more crucial items involving peace, the Palestinians, the refugee problem, and borders. He said a year or two ago it would have been suicidal in his country to talk about peace with the Israelis, but they've [the Syrians] come a long way and were willing to cooperate.

Sound familiar? The following paragraph in Carter's memoirs related the reality about Assad's charm: "This was the man who would soon sabotage the Geneva peace talks by refusing to attend under any reasonable circumstances, and who would, still later, do everything possible to prevent the Camp David accords from being fulfilled."

It is easy to understand why naive statesmen-tourists would be fooled by Arab rhetoric. Before embarking on another such tour, perhaps Carter should reread his memoirs. He could start with page 286: "The more I dealt with Arab leaders, the more disparity I discovered between their private assurances and their public comments."

(Mitchell G. Bard is the editor of the *Near East Report*, the Washington weekly on American policy in the Middle East.)

financial support for leasing the St. John's hospice, and then were forced to admit that key ministers were involved in the payment for the lease may well have far-reaching consequences for Israel's credibility.

Mayor Teddy Kollek succeeded in building great confidence in the Christian (and some parts of the Muslim) world that Israel could be trusted to assure full freedom of religion to non-Jewish inhabitants. This "hardball Jewish group," one Christian spokesman said, "has started an erosion of confidence in whether the Israeli Government can be trusted to assure the basic rights of the earlier 'status quo' agreements in a unified Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty."

Responsible Christian leaders are waiting to see if Israeli courts will resolve the issue in a just and peaceful manner. Were that not to happen, all of us will have our hands full trying to cope with the hostile political and public opinion fall-out against Israel.

(Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum is international relations consultant to the American Jewish Committee and is immediate past chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations.)

— we welcome your opinion —
write a letter to the editor

Candle Lighting

MAY

4th — 7:40 PM

11th — 7:46 PM

25th — 7:59 PM

DELAWARE'S SYNAGOGUES

ADAS KODESCH SHEL EMETH

(Traditional)

Affiliation:
Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America
Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive
Wilmington
762-2705

Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Gewirtz
SERVICES
Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 8:45 a.m.

BETH SHOLOM CONGREGATION OF DOVER

(Conservative)

Affiliation:
United Synagogues of America
Queen and Clara Sts.
Dover
734-5578

Rabbi Moshe Goldblum
SERVICES
Friday — 7:30 p.m.
Saturday — 9:30 a.m.

Discussion of Torah Portion takes place following Saturday morning service.

CONGREGATION BETH EMETH

(Reform)

Affiliation:
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
300 Lea Blvd.
Wilmington
764-2393

Rabbi Peter Grumbacher
SERVICES
Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 11 a.m.

A Torah Study group is led by the rabbi on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

(Conservative)

Affiliation:
United Synagogues of America
18th and Baynard Blvd.
Wilmington
654-4462

Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz
SERVICES
Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 10 a.m.

A Torah discussion is led by the rabbi during Saturday morning services.

MACHZIKEY HADAS CONGREGATION

(Traditional)

B'nai B'rith Building
800 Society Blvd.
Claymont
798-6846

Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 9 a.m.

TEMPLE BETH EL

(Reconstructionist)

Affiliation:
Federation of Reconstructionist
Congregations & Havurot
301 Possum Park Road
Newark
366-8330

Rabbi David Kaplan
SERVICES
Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 10 a.m.

A Torah study group meets on Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Dvar Torah

Parashat Emor, May 17th

By MORDECAI FINLEY

Special to The Jewish Voice

A good deal of Jewish learning takes place with smoke and mirrors. The smoke is from acquisition of skills and data, grinding and cogitating upon them, and peppering them as we slide them into perceptual categories and as they then create new ones of their own. The mirror is the sudden theophany, when we suddenly see the text looking back at us, when we see worlds of Torah calling to one other through our own imaging.

My friend, teacher and Rebbe Danny Landes often used the mirror method with me. He would teach me until I had it (usually Talmud) *exactly backwards*, and then he would excitedly and loudly say, "Now just turn it around!" Somehow (and sometimes) learning things through their mirror images was superior to an incremental stacking of blocks.

In this week's Torah portion, Emor, we learn about the Jewish holidays. Specifically, at this time we think about the counting of the Omer and Shavuot. As you read this, the counting of the Omer is taking place — Shavuot is on the horizon. Now, if the mirror method has any validity, then we should be able to learn Seferat Ha-Omer and Shavuot through their mirror opposites: Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret. Both Pesach and Sukkot begin on the 15th of the month, exactly six months apart. Both are then followed by a period of seven (seven days of Sukkot, seven weeks of the Omer). Both then have a "stopping" day ("stop" is a root meaning of "atzeret" — in fact, the Sages called Shavuot "Atzeret" because it stopped" the Pesach cycle).

But the cycles are opposite in many ways. I'll give you one example. The Pesach cycle begins with the first of Nisan, the observance of which is the first commandment to the entire people of Israel (Exodus 12.1). On the first of Nisan, then, we celebrate the birth of the *am*, the faith community. On the first of Tishri, Rosh HaShana, we celebrate the birth of humanity — according to some traditions, it is the day Adam was born (Pesikta d'Rav Kahana, Piska 23). On the tenth of Nisan, we take the lamb into the sheepfold, the lamb being our means to familial and communal bonding and communal averting the strike of the Angel of Death. On the 10th of Tishri, Yom Kippur, we individually re-bond with God, averting the strike of the Angel of the Death of the Spirit (we say the penitential prayers in the plural for the sake of the arrogant who would exclude themselves otherwise). And so forth.

Shemini Atzeret and Shavuot. I remember seeing the times advertised for Shemini Atzeret services in the Conservative schul where I grew up. I figured that you had to be very old and speak very little English to go to that service, and that I'd probably never be able to pull an excused absence from High School for it. When I was an advisor for a NFTY Youth Group in Southern California many years ago, I found out that Shemini Atzeret, North Dakota, was where your luggage ended up if you didn't label it.

The main halakhic datum you'll learn about Shemini Atzeret is that it is a *regel bifnei atzmo*, a festival unto itself (see Sukkah 47b-48a — where the Sages try very hard to give it a unique identity). It's a hidden festival — I sometimes think of it as the Lamed-Vovnik of the calendar which we learn about in this week's Torah portion (see Lev. 23.36b). The hidden purpose of Shemini Atzeret (at least the one that I see) seems to be to have us pause, hold on one day longer before we exit the spiritual roller coaster we've been riding since we started blowing the Shofar in Elul. It is a "blank" holiday, where we remember the teshuvah we did, the harvest we brought in, the joy we rediscovered, the fragility we touched — we condense them all into a day — a day which is the hidden mirror of Shavuot.

Shavuot is anything but a blank day — it is the day of the giving of the Torah — *miztvot, hukim, mishpatim*. We symbolically learn all of Torah the night before. At our various *tikkunei leil Shavuot*, we are inundated with teaching from our friends and mentors. If we are not careful, we begin to forget that Torah is not measured in amounts of knowledge but rather in degrees of holiness, that the inner Torah is not the Ketubah but the relationship at which it insistently points. The study of Torah, ideally, opens up space in the *ecopsyche* for God to become present. The study of Torah should be a *bittul ha-anokhi*, an effacement of the self, so that the commanding *Anokhi* of God, the I Am, can be made present.

In the same way, of course, Shemini Atzeret is not just a "blank day;" it is the mirror of Shavuot. It has no Sukkah, no matza, no event to commemorate, or especially unique liturgy to be lifted to God. In a sweet and private way, it is ours. It is the day when we move out of the Sukkah and reflect on the spiritual edifice we have built for ourselves. When we accepted Torah on Shavuot, God transformed the threatening mountain suspended over our heads into a Huppah — on Shemini Atzeret we take note of, we remember, we plan the embroidery on the Huppahs we create which house our relationships with God.

All our festivals have secret names and hidden voices. As we learn them deeply, cogitating upon their meanings, assiduously, through our practice, making room for them to be present for us, they sometimes suddenly disclose their reflective luminosity. You turn around, and there it is.

(Mordecai Finley will receive his rabbinic ordination this month. He works as a rabbi at the Stephen S. Wise Temple in Los Angeles, where he leads a traditional minyan and teaches texts to various small groups.)

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The Rabbi Writes

Yom Yerushalayim

By RABBI MOSHE GOLDBLUM

Congregation Beth Sholom

The period between Passover and Pentacost is considered a symbol of sadness for those who are familiar with Jewish history. The failure of the Bar Kochba revolt, the death of Rabbi Akiba and the fruitless struggles of the Jews of the diaspora to gain more freedom and autonomy are all dramatized in that period that we call the "Counting of the Omer."

But there are two moments within that season that have caused us great joy for they commemorate events that have occurred in our own times — Israeli Independence Day and Yom Yerushalayim. Israeli independence is fully appreciated by the Jews of the world for we all know that, for the first time in over 2100 years, the Jews were granted freedom and self government on their own land and primarily through their own efforts. But Yom Yerushalayim, which celebrates the unification of Jerusalem in 1967, may be in a separate category, never being appreciated fully by Jews throughout the world.

Many cities of the world have left a deep imprint upon the development of our people. Whether it was Vilna or Dubnow, Belz or Bardichev, many scholars and leaders were honored to be known by the city from which they had come. A Yeshivah in a certain town produced a certain type of Jew, and a city such as Odessa had a reputation of producing free thinkers and agnostics. The cities of Spain during the Golden Age each made a special contribution to Jewish culture and the towns of Palestine in early modern times whether Safed or Tiberias each made a unique offer to Jewish mysticism and scholarship.

But the most important city of all is the city of Jerusalem. We speak of Zion and the Zionist movement, and do not realize that the world applies

primarily to Jerusalem. The city became symbolic of the entire country. We speak of the Babylonian and the Palestinian Talmud and do not realize that, in Hebrew, the Palestinian Talmud is known as the Yerushalmi or the Jerusalem Talmud. In every struggle for independence, the victory or defeat was determined by the status of Jerusalem. The Maccabees were victorious because they freed the capital city and rededicated the Temple. The rebellions in 586 B.C.E., in 70 C.E. and the Bar Kochba revolt were failures because Jerusalem ended in ruins and the "ways of Zion did mourn."

The War of Independence in 1948 was not considered a complete victory because the ancient city remained under Jordanian control. The Six Day War brought the unification of Jerusalem and soldiers and civilians all crowded into the ancient city to stand at the "Wall" and to identify with all of the generations of Jewish history. When the Christian world speaks of making Jerusalem into an international city or the Moslems demand that Jerusalem become the capital of an Arab state, they fail to understand what that city means to the Jewish people.

Yom Yerushalayim is a contemporary Jewish festival, and yet its central theme goes back to the time of King David and the establishment of the Judaean monarchy. It is a symbol of both Jewish triumph and Jewish defeat, of Jewish disaster and Jewish redemption. It is coextensive with almost the entire existence of our people, and its status is the barometer by which to measure both the political and spiritual health of world Jewry.

Yes, "Look for the goodness of Jerusalem," for in that goodness lies both the history and the destiny of the Jewish people.

Be a philanthropist

The Jewish Federation of Delaware has recently received generous bequests from two long-time residents of Wilmington. These philanthropists realized the importance of providing for the future needs of the community.

Perhaps you also wish to insure that our agencies and synagogues can continue to serve the community in the decades ahead. You don't have to be wealthy to be a philanthropist.

One cost-effective way is to donate a life insurance policy to the Endowment Fund. Policies purchased to protect a growing family may not be as important in later life when other assets have been acquired. A charitable gift of a life insurance policy can generate an income tax deduction for the cash value of the policy. If it is not a paid-up policy the donor receives a deduction each year for the annual premium. Younger men and women can become philanthropists at very low cost by donating a new policy.

Another low-cost method of making a significant contribution to the Endowment Fund is to donate a zero coupon bond. For a relatively small investment the zero coupon bond can provide a handsome return to the Endowment Fund in ten or twenty years.

To be a philanthropist takes *action* not a lot of money. If you wish to strengthen the Jewish community through the Endowment Program contact Connie Kreshool, Endowment Director, at 478-6200. You may be able to establish a fund in larger amounts than you thought possible.

Plan to attend the Delaware Jewish community's
**OPERATION EXODUS
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JUNE 20TH

Senate backs loan guarantees for Soviet Jews' housing

By HOWARD ROSENBERG
WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Senate on May 1 approved \$400 million in investment guarantees to provide housing loans for newly arrived Soviet emigres in Israel. The \$400 million was contained in a \$3.4 billion supplemental appropriations bill for this fiscal year, which began Oct. 1.

The House of Representatives approved the \$400 million on April 3, as part of a \$2.4 billion version of the bill.

Differences in the two bills must now be ironed out by a House-Senate conference committee before final passage by Congress.

President Bush has threatened to veto the measure if the conference committee adopts a Senate rider to the bill allowing the District of Columbia to pay for abortions for poor women.

Both the Senate and House bills also contain \$35 million to help Jewish groups bring Soviet Jews to the United States or resettle them in Israel. Of the \$35 million, \$30 million would go to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which assist Soviet Jews seeking entry to the United States.

Both houses also approved \$5 million for the United Israel Appeal, which distributes funds raised by the United Jewish Appeal for the absorption of immigrants in Israel.

UIA earlier received nearly \$25 million to resettle Soviet Jews in Israel this year. The money was directed to the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Congress is providing the funds to meet the demand created by an unprecedented exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union. More than 27,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel so far this year, over 10,000 in April alone. By comparison, just over 12,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel during all of 1989.

At the same time, a large number of Soviet Jews are still coming to the United States on American visas. A total of 9,434 Soviets, mainly Jews, arrived here in March, said Pamela Lewis, spokeswoman for the State Department's refugee affairs bureau.

A maximum of 50,000 Soviets will be allowed to come to the United States as refugees this fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. As of March 31, 37,592 Soviets had arrived, the vast majority of them Jews, according to Lewis. That means that in the last five months of the 1990 fiscal year, only a few thousand Soviet Jews will be allowed to enter the United States as refugees.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society estimates that 40,000 Soviet Jews will be entering the United States this fiscal year, about 8,000 of whom will be coming without government funding.

Phillip Saperia, assistant executive vice president of HIAS, said that approximately 35,000 will come to the United States by way of Rome, where the United States has a refugee processing center.

The United States has been trying to clear refugees out of the processing center, which it hopes to close by early June. Saperia said that as of April 26, there were roughly 4,500

Soviet Jews left in Rome. While Saperia expects nearly all of them to enter the United States by the end of the year, there are signs of a growing backlog in Moscow that cannot be accommodated until the next fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

Royce Fichte, director of the State Department's Washington processing center, which exclusively handles paperwork for Soviet refugees wanting to be interviewed at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, said that between January and June, 10,421 Soviets have been scheduled for inter-

views there. But Lewis said that since Oct. 1, the United States has distributed 500,000 applications to potential Soviet refugees and has received back 200,000 completed forms.

The backlog in Rome and Moscow arose when the U.S. refugee ceiling failed to keep pace with the stream of Soviet Jews allowed to emigrate under Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's more liberal policies.

Saperia said that for the next fiscal year, Jewish groups will ask Congress and the administration to reau-

thorize the 50,000 refugee ceiling, but find necessary funding so that none would have to come with private aid. This fiscal year, 10,000 Soviet refugees are being admitted to the United States without government funding.

The reasons for not seeking a higher number are that the groups do not want to force cuts in refugee ceilings in other areas of the world to accommodate Soviet Jews. Jewish groups also want to encourage as many Soviet Jews as possible to settle in Israel, Saperia said.

Kollek: Bush does not oppose Jews residing in E. Jerusalem

By DAVID FRIEDMAN
WASHINGTON (JTA) — Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem emerged from a meeting with President Bush on May 3 convinced that Bush has no objections to Jews living in East Jerusalem. "I have no doubt that the president has no objection to Jews settling all over Jerusalem without any exception," Kollek told reporters after the 30-minute White House meeting.

Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad, who accompanied the mayor, said Bush had not actually made a statement to this effect. But Kollek seemed to base his confidence on his belief that Bush had endorsed a letter Secretary of State James Baker sent to Rep. Mel Levine (D-Calif.) at the end of March.

"Clearly, Jews and others can live

where they want, East or West, and the city must remain undivided," the Baker letter said. The letter followed the uproar in Israel over a statement by Bush opposing the settlement of Jews in East Jerusalem as well as the West Bank. Some blame Bush's statement for the collapse of Israel's coalition government.

But Kollek said he did not believe Bush was responsible.

The mayor said he sought to assure Bush that "we had not changed the frontiers of Jerusalem since '67 by a single inch." He told the president that despite the increase in Jewish and Arab populations in Jerusalem, the ratio of Arabs and Jews would continue to be the same. There is room for some 25,000 additional homes for Jews and an

equal amount for Arabs, he said.

Kollek said Jerusalem represents 11 to 12 percent of Israel's population and that he hopes to get a similar percentage of Soviet, Ethiopian and other immigrants. He stressed that people do not get any special benefits for moving to Jerusalem, as they do in the West Bank.

"I think he (Bush) and the people around him were satisfied with these replies," Kollek said.

But he said the United States is still unhappy about the assistance the Israeli government provided to a group of Orthodox Jews who leased a building in Jerusalem's Christian Quarter, establishing the first Jewish presence there.

Jewish Community Center Annual Meeting to Include Election of Officers

The 56th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Community Center will be held on Sunday, June 10, 1990 at 5:30 p.m. at the Jewish Family Campus, 101 Garden of Eden Road.

The nominating Committee, chaired by Judy Levy, has nominated the following individuals for election to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Center.

The following have been nominated for election of officers for a one year term:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| President | Richard Levin |
| Vice President | Mark Caplan |
| Vice President | Cindy Imber |
| Vice President | Denyse Lieber |
| Vice President | David Margules |
| Treasurer | Stan Ross |
| Assistant Treasurer | Dan Klein |
| Secretary | Deane Kattler |
| Assistant Secretary | Robert Coonin |

The following have been nominated for a three year term:

- Rona Caplan
- Steve Kleiner
- Barbara Malin
- Bob Pincus
- Harriet Polejes
- Jorden Rosen
- Joan Rosenthal

The following has been nominated for a two year term:

- Scott Green

The following have been nominated for a one year term:

- Michelle Margules
- Norman Monhait
- Ariane Mamberg (Youth Representative)
- Roberta Woloshin

According to Article VII, Section I of the By-Laws of the Jewish Community Center: "At least three months before the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee, to meet at least two months before the Annual Meeting, consisting of seven members in good standing. Four of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. At time of said appointment, notice will be posted that Committee will be meeting and suggestions may be submitted. This Committee shall nominate a slate of officers and members as candidates for the vacancies which shall exist on the Board of Directors, but in no event shall any members of the Nominating Committee be nominated by the Committee as an officer or director. No further nominations shall be submitted to the Annual Meeting."



The 56th Annual Meeting at the JCC Sunday, June 10, 1990

Family Picnic Dinner
5:30 p.m.
(Free of Charge)

Election of Board and Officers
7:00 p.m.

Presentation
Family Entertainment
Dessert

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JCC Family Campus Amphitheatre
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Jerome Grossman, Annual Meeting Chairperson



Newest Russian residents introduced to community

By Celia Gans

Special to The Jewish Voice

The Wilmington community welcomed five new Soviet Jewish families during the months of March and April. The April 27 issue of *The Jewish Voice* introduced the Nabutovsky-Sheyinin, Gribov and Shlobin-Katznelson families. This article introduces the Babinskaya and Rezy-Ivanenko-Zaltsman families.

The Babinskaya Family

Ludmilla and her daughter Lilya Babinskaya sit, side by side, on the Victorian loveseat in their immaculate apartment. The women are poised, warm and hospitable. With no tears or bitterness, they tell hair-raising tales about their 10 years as Soviet *refuseniks*.

The family comes from Zaporozhe, a Ukrainian city of about one million inhabitants on the River Neva. In 1979, when the filed papers to leave Russia, daughter Lilya was a student at the Zaporozhe Polytechnical Institute, studying to be an electrical engineer. Mother Ludmilla was a teacher of Russian, German and Ukrainian in an academic high school. Her husband, a civil engineer who had once served on Soviet ships, but didn't like their military discipline, had become a draftsman.



Ludmilla and Lilya Babinskaya

"I know state-supported anti-Semitism," says Lilya, who attended a special school and was a Ukrainian champion in the 100 and 200 meter breast stroke. "I was expelled from the Institute and couldn't get a job in Zaporozhe. So I went to Moscow, without papers, lived in a hostel - 200 women, 3 or 4 to a room, all

bathrooms on the 1st floor, no kitchen, and a single shower room with 15 shower heads - and worked as a bricklayer."

A bricklayer? "Yes, for three years, working on state office buildings. It was terrible, hard work. But I also went to school nights and get my electrical engineering degree from the Moscow Polytechnical Institute. Now I could get a job as a data entry computer operator. Then I worked as a secretary, and finally, when I got papers, I raised my professional level to a bookkeeper/accountant. I also moved into a rented room 9 meters square, with paper-thin walls. It was hard to sleep, but at least I was free of the pressure of hostel life."

As for Ludmilla, she was demoted to teaching in a technical school, where her students told her - assuming that her broad Slavic features made her one of them - that "All Jews must be killed" for the good of the country.

Her husband died of cancer in 1986.

Authorities turn a blind eye toward organizations such as *Pamyat* (Memories) which openly portray Jews as responsible for all the USSR's current ills. Lilya, sure she would not be identified as a Jew, attended a *Pamyat* rally in Pushkin Square, in the center of Moscow. Hatred and vilification of the Jews was decried by speaker after speaker. None of the soldiers on duty in the square, which contains St. Basils, Lenin's Tomb and the walls of the Kremlin, made any move to stop the rally or break up the crowd.

Lilya, whose English is excellent, is hoping to find work as a bookkeeper/accountant. Although she has an engineering degree, she feels "it's all book-learning." Ludmilla, after 29 years of teaching is considering retirement. But not before she masters English - and then, of course, maybe she could become a translator?

The Reyz-Ivanenko-Zaltsman Family

Two contemporary Russian paintings hang in the dining area of Mark Reyz' and Tatyana Ivanenko's new apartment. The vivid colors swirl and dart around the two canvasses; on each canvas, a bouquet of daylilies swirls from an urn-shaped vase. One painting features the cool colors of the spectrum - greens, blues, violets. The other features warm hues - golds, oranges, reds.

The adults at the table, joined by the enchanting Daniil, an almost 2 1/2 year old charmer, with a Campbell's Soup Kid's rosy cheeks and dimples, arrived in Wilmington on April 9, joining Mark's sister Eugenia (Jane) and brother-in-law Michael Pivovarov, who arrived here in December, and nephew David Pivovarov, who was born in Wilmington in February. One senses that their lives reflect the painting's full spectrum of colors and dynamic energy.

Fifteen years ago, when she graduated from secondary school in Leningrad, her English was "in the front of her head," says Tatyana. "Now, it's all in the back," she laughs. Because of her father's Jewish surname, she was unable to matriculate as a Philosophy and Journalism student in a full-time college program. Instead, Tatyana worked on magazines and newspapers while attending evening classes. When she finished, she couldn't get a full time job in her field. Again, she feels, because of anti-Semitism, and became a secretary.

Mark had two careers in Russia. His first, after graduating from eve-

advancement," says Mark, "so I left." And moved to Moscow, where he attended law classes in the evening and worked as a paralegal or law clerk during the day. After graduation, he returned to Leningrad and became a criminal lawyer.

The Soviet legal system is based on Old Russian Law, which traces its roots through the Franco-German tradition into Roman law. It is a codified (or code) system, rather than a case system. In English (and American) Common Law, a lawyer argues his/her cases on the basis of past decision on similar cases. In a codified system, each case is judged solely on its own merits (or demerits). Ah, says Mark, but then the Russian system adds "Ideology! And corruption..."

The practice of law, says Mark, is one kind of Russian free-enterprise, with a lawyer relying on his reputation to bring in new clients. Although some lawyers have banded together to form large corporation-like firms, most still practice independently. Mark's case load included crimes of violence, drugs, theft and bribery. Mark's eloquence in Russian, says Tatyana, made him an excellent advocate, and he enjoyed a national reputation, appearing before judges in both Moscow and Leningrad.

As Mark tells a visitor about the Soviet's three-tier court system in his new language, Daniil plays happily with his toy trucks and eats fruit-filled cookies. Tatyana's English is once again "in the front of my head," as she helps Mark explain the differences between the arbitrator, appeals and controller courts. Like the images in the paintings, the world of



Tatyana Ivanenko, Daniil and Mark Reyz

ning classes at the Leningrad Institute of Culture, was with *Lenfilm*, as an Assistant Director of dramatic motion pictures. "But I could see that I would have no opportunities for

international law swirls about the dining table. Now, says Mark, once they get a car, they'll be ready to explore more of their new life in America.

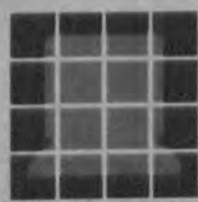
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Israeli consul addresses community at JCC's Independence Day event

Celebrating the forty-second anniversary of the State of Israel, about 200 members of the Delaware Jewish community - young and old - gathered at the JCC on Sunday, May 6. Israeli food and art, as well as other items, were available in a "skuk," or Israeli market, and hands-on activities included mezzuzah and pita bread making workshops and a petting zoo. The guest speaker, Israel Peleg,

Israel Consul General based in Philadelphia, addressed three a number of topics including the fact that the Jewish community is currently celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the modern Hebrew language.

The main focus, however, was on the massive Soviet Jewish aliyah and the problems, political and logistical,

that it presents to the Jewish community.

Peleg said that he is encouraged by those Eastern European nations that have broken away from the standard Soviet position and supported the new Jewish exodus, giving Hungary as a specific example of a country whose officials have stood up to terrorist threats and continued to assist the Jewish aliyah.

Beth Emeth Brotherhood makes contribution of Judaica to University's Morris Library

By CELIA GANS

Special to The Jewish Voice

In this 50th Anniversary Year of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods and the Jewish Chautauqua Society, Marc Katz, Beth Emeth Brotherhood President, presented seven volumes of Judaica to University of Delaware professor Dr. Barry Seidel for the University's newly established Jewish Studies program.

As Katz said in his remarks at Beth Emeth's May 4 evening services, "Under the banner of 'Understanding Through Education,' the Jewish Chautauqua Society's mission has been to counteract stereotypes, to correct misconceptions and to expose people to the truth about Jews and Judaism." The volumes presented to Dr. Seidel will be placed in the University of Delaware's Morris Library for use by university students and the general population. The volumes, said Katz, will help to build "bridges of understanding and mutual respect among people of all faiths."

The Jewish Chautauqua Society was founded in 1893 by Rabbi Henry Berkowitz, a member of the first graduating class from Hebrew Union College in 1883. During his long and illustrious career as a Reform Rabbi, he served in Mobile, Alabama, Kansas City, Missouri, and at Rodeph Sholem in Philadelphia. It was Berkowitz's goal to bring Jews back to Judaism through the training of Jewish religious school teachers. As a model for his program, he selected Chatauqua, a successful Methodist Sunday School teacher training program.

Following the Chatauqua pattern, reading circles were started to stimulate Jewish adult education and "teach Jews about Judaism." Rabbi Berkowitz's vision extended beyond the borders of the Jewish community into the integration of Jews into the broader American community. In 1911, the Jewish Chatauqua Society extended into interfaith education at the University of Tennessee.

In 1939, the Jewish Chatauqua Society became part of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, giving it additional support and resources. Since this merger in 1939, JCS-sponsored classes have reached over 2 million students.

Books for the University's Jewish



Marc Katz

Studies program are only one example of the Brotherhood's work, said Katz. In addition, the Beth Emeth Brotherhood, as well as Brotherhoods across the United States, sponsors courses in Basic Judaism; primary, secondary school visitation programs by Rabbis during the Chanukah/Christmas and Passover/Easter seasons; and college lectures. Katz quoted one participant's comments, after attending a Brotherhood sponsored event: "The rabbi who spoke to us left us with very positive attitudes concerning Jewish culture, religion and thinking," said a Vineland, New Jersey Sacred Heart High School teacher.

Beth Emeth's Brotherhood adopted the action-oriented theme "Brotherhood as a verb" for this anniversary year, said Katz. The year's events have included the preparation of Sunday breakfasts, providing ushers throughout the year, work on the congregation's Sukkah, a Goodwill Committee, and working at Riverside Hospital on Christmas Day. Katz gives credit for the year's successes to past president Richard Karfunkle, his organization's officers, committee chairmen and board.

Marc and Elizabeth (Beth) Katz moved to Wilmington three years ago when Marc accepted a position with Rollins Environmental Services.

In addition to their Beth Emeth activities — Marc and Beth are recent past presidents of Beth Emeth's Young Socials Club, Beth is active in the Sisterhood, and both are board members. Marc is a Little League T-ball coach, Indian Guides leader and Rotary Club member. Beth has worked as the Director of Activities at Forewood Manor and is currently president of the Newcomers Club of New Castle County.

The following volumes were presented by Katz of the Beth Emeth Brotherhood to the Jewish Studies program: Bamberger, *The Story of Judaism*; Greenstein, *An Eternal Covenant*; Sachar, *A History of Israel*; Birnbaum, *Encyclopedia of Jewish Concepts*; Novek, ed., *Creators of the Jewish Experience in Ancient & Medieval Times*, *Creators of the Jewish Experience in the Modern World*, *Great Jewish Thinkers*. Assistant Director of Libraries for Collection Management, Nathaniel H. Puffer, in acknowledging these gifts, wrote, "These are significant works and will enhance the educational opportunities of all who explore the rich diversity of Jewish history and philosophy."

These, along with all the other volumes in the Morris Library's Jewish Studies collection, said Puffer, are on open shelves, available for browsing by any interested reader. For a \$15 non-student annual fee, Jewish Studies books can be checked out by any Delaware resident. Also, notes Puffer, texts for Jewish Studies course will be available to the public for purchase through the University Bookstore.

According to both Puffer and University of Delaware's Department of Philosophy Chairman Dr. Frank Dilley, the Morris Library core collection on Jews and Judaism is excellent. Both see the need, however, for additional volumes on Jewish philosophy and philosophers, rabbinical literature, and material on the very early Bible and Talmud period. "Morris Library welcomes donations of funds or materials," says Puffer, and urges interested individuals or groups to contact him at 451-2231.

University's Faculty Senate approves Jewish Studies minor

By MIRIAM VIKTOR

Special to The Jewish Voice

On Monday, May 7, the University of Delaware Faculty Senate approved a resolution passed by the College of Arts and Science Senate to establish a minor in Jewish Studies, effective Fall 1990, under the aegis of the Department of Philosophy.

Courses from the Departments of Philosophy, History, English, Political Science, Sociology and Linguistics may be included in the 15 credit-hour degree minimum.

Two permanent faculty positions, to be held by Associate Professor Roslyn Weiss, currently teaching Introduction to Jewish Philosophy, and Dr. Sara Horowitz, currently a member of the English Department and Honors Program, have also been approved by the Faculty Senate.

According to Dr. Frank Dilley, Department of Philosophy Chairman, current university offerings appropriate to the Jewish Studies minor include *The Modern Jewish Novel and Social Protest - The Jewish-American Novel* (English Department); *Contemporary Moral Problems*, from the perspective of Jewish philosophical and religious teachings (Philosophy Department); *Contemporary Problems in World Politics and Arab/Israeli Relations* (Political Science Department); *History of the Holocaust* (History Department); and *Institutions of Israel* (Sociology Department).

The possibility of two additional Fall 1990 inter-disciplinary, team-taught courses is also being explored. Both courses would combine university faculty and outside guest lecturers. The first, *Introduction to Jewish Studies*, would focus primarily on the historical and social science aspects of the field. The second, *Contemporary Issues of the Jewish Community*, would focus on the Jews' world-wide attempts to deal with problems such as anti-Semitism.

Dilley anticipates two required courses for all Jewish Studies minors — a course on Ancient Jewish Texts, and one on Later Religious/Philosophical Developments — and three electives from the field of Jewish culture in art, literature, music, or philosophy. There is no language requirement.

"We are generally taking a 'wait and see' attitude toward this new minor," says Dilley. "It was Dr. Barry Seidel, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, who, three years ago, persuaded President Trabant to hire a visiting professor of Jewish Studies. From this beginning, the faculty and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Helen Gouldner, voted to establish a Jewish Studies program, as did the University's Faculty Senate. Now, we're waiting for the students' response."



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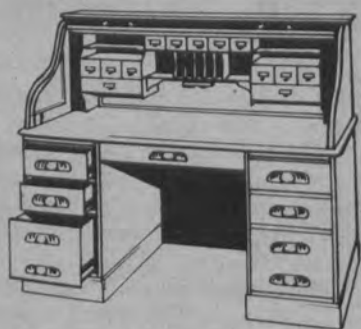
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O. Francis Biondi will be honored by Jewish Nat'l Fund

Delaware attorney O. Francis Biondi will be honored by the Maryland/Delaware Region of the Jewish National Fund at a dinner on Thursday, June 21, at the Radisson Hotel in Wilmington, according to JNF Regional President, Leonard J. Attman. A 6 p.m. cocktail hour will precede the 7 p.m. dinner.

Biondi will be presented with NJF's highest honor, the Tree of Life Award. In addition, the O. Francis Biondi, Esq. Afforestation Project will be established in the American Independence Park in the hills of Judea, some 15 miles southwest of Jerusalem. This Park was established on the Bicentennial of the United States as a living testimonial to the friendship between the U.S. and Israel.

A senior partner of Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell, Biondi is a member of the Delaware Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the American Judicature Society. He has been a member of the State of Delaware Council on Banking since 1970 and has served as Delaware Counsel to the Delaware River and Bay Authority since 1973.

An active member of the community, Biondi has chaired numerous committees and serves on various Boards of Directors. He is Regional Co-Chair of the Delaware Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The Tree of Life Award is a humanitarian award given in recognition of outstanding community involvement, dedication to the cause of American-Israeli friendship and devotion to peace and the security of human life. The award symbolizes the JNF's efforts to reclaim and develop the Land of Israel from barren and uninhabitable into a land of lush green forests and fields.

Since its founding in 1901, the Jewish National Fund has planted 190 million trees, created over 125 parks and recreation areas, developed nature sites, and discovered new techniques in agriculture and water technology to reclaim and af-



O. Francis Biondi

forest the land. For dinner reservations or additional information, call 655-5995.

Rothschild named president of Delaware Art Museum

Joanne Singer is board member



Steven J. Rothschild



Joanne Singer

The Delaware Art Museum has announced the appointment of Steven J. Rothschild as President of its Board of Trustees. Rothschild has served on the Board since 1986 and as Treasurer since 1989. He has been a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Finance Committee of the Museum's Board.

Rothschild is a partner in the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. In addition to his involvement with the Delaware Art Museum, he currently serves as a vice president and member of the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and as a member of the board of directors of Delaware Hospice, Inc., the National Conference of Christians and Jews - Delaware Region, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and The Milton and Hattie Kutz Home.

He is also currently serving as Lawyers Division Chairman of the Easter Seal Society Capital Cam-

paign and is a former campaign chairman, vice president and member of the board of directors of United Way of Delaware. He and his wife Carol and their two sons, Jeffrey and Peter, are long-time residents of Wilmington.

Other new board members who were unanimously approved at the Delaware Art Museum's Annual Meeting include Joanne Singer, a member of the Collections Committee since 1988; John A. Rogers, III, president of Shearson Lehman Hutton Trust Company and Thomas L. Gossage, president and chief executive officer of The Aqualon Group, Hercules Incorporated.

The new slate of officers for the Delaware Art Museum's thirty-member board includes Steven J. Rothschild, president; Julia Merrick McCabe, first vice president; Edgar S. Wollard, Jr., second vice president; Peter B. Martin, treasurer, and Johannes R. Krahrmer, secretary.

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- ✧ Helping the Soviet family learn about life in America
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Yes, we would like to be considered for the Jewish Federation Family-To-Family Volunteer program. Remember, families of all ages are needed.

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Talmud reading completed



Circus acts were replaced by more than 20,000 devout Jews at Madison Square Garden in New York on April 26 at the conclusion of a Talmudical conference. It ended more than seven and a half years of daily study by Orthodox Jews around the world in which they covered all 2,711 folio pages of the Talmud. Rabbi Yaakov Perlow, Novominsker Rebbe, at microphone, recites the final passage. (Photo: RNS)

Czech Jews found cultural center

By JOSEF KLANSKY

PRAGUE (JTA) — The Society of Jewish Culture, founded here on April 24, will serve the needs of non-observant Jews but may also help revive Jewish religious communities in Czechoslovakia, says its newly elected president, Bedrich Nosek. The society was officially inaugurated at ceremonies in the ancient Jewish Town Hall. The packed hall was addressed by Zevulun Hammer, Israel's minister for religious affairs, who was on an official visit to Czechoslovakia.

Nosek, who is of mixed ancestry, holds a Ph.D. in Judaism and Hebrew. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the idea for the society arose from the need to give people who do not attend synagogue services an opportunity to participate in Jewish cultural and social life and learning traditions. He noted that during the more than 40 years of Communist rule, which formally ended in January, any specifically Jewish activity except religious services was forbidden.

Now the time is ripe for change, Nosek said. He stressed, however, that the society is not competing with religious institutions. On the contrary, studying Jewish culture, dealing with Jewish traditions and reading Jewish literature may help some people find their way back to religion, he said.

He said the society was considering opening a book shop and possibly even a printing press. He also said non-Jewish participation in its activities was welcome.

U.S. commission seeks to preserve Jewish sites in Eastern Europe

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad is negotiating with Eastern European countries in order to reach an agreement to preserve and protect sites of cultural significance. The sites include cemeteries, monuments and buildings.

A bilateral accord proposed by the commission would establish a Joint Cultural Heritage Commission to oversee the preservation effort.

Commissioners Israel Rubin and Tzvi Kestenbaum, who recently returned from Poland and Hungary, say the response to a bilateral agreement was very positive, both from the governments and the remnant Jewish communities.

The organization is seeking information regarding the location of cemeteries, religious and historical sites throughout Eastern European countries, particularly those associated with the heritage of U.S. citizens, which are in danger of deterioration or destruction.

The commission was established by the U.S. Congress in 1985 to preserve the cultural heritage of all national, religious or ethnic groups that were victims of crimes against humanity during World War II.

For further information, or to report any information regarding the location of cemeteries or historical buildings in Eastern Europe, contact the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, P.O.B. 61284, Potomac, Md. 20859.

East Germany to establish Israeli ties by summer, foreign minister announces

By DAVID KANTOR

BONN (JTA) — East Germany will establish diplomatic relations with Israel "before the summer," the East German foreign minister, Markus Meckel, announced last last month. He did not specify the level of diplomatic representation.

However, he said the East German diplomat soon to be stationed in Israel would operate out of the West German Embassy in Tel Aviv.

With the impending unification of the two German states, there is no need for a separate embassy, Meckel explained.

He and West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher have already discussed future diplomatic cooperation. The two Germanys plan to merge their embassies abroad, and Israel may become the first country where this is done.

Meanwhile, the issue of reparations is being pursued. East German diplomats reportedly have renewed contacts with their Israeli counterparts, to set a date for negotiations on that and other subjects.

Experts in Bonn and East Berlin believe East Germany will pay only a nominal amount of the reparations it has pledged to victims of Nazism before its monetary union with West Germany on July 2. East Germany will then give up its sovereignty in financial matters and merge its currency with the deutschmark.

East Berlin has announced that it would contribute \$3.65 million to AMCHA, an Israeli foundation that provides psychological care and aid to Holocaust survivors. Although the grant is not being called reparations, the award represents the first gesture of East German aid to Holocaust victims. West Germany has awarded in excess of \$47 billion in reparations since 1952.

An additional \$59,000 would be allocated to help establish an East German branch of the foundation, which would serve the 400 registered Jews there.

That may well be the extent of East German payment to Nazi victims, except for making property available for an Israeli diplomatic mission in East Berlin. According to diplomats here, former Jewish property will be given to Jewish groups or to Israel as part of a reparations agreement.

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Women again fail to muster votes for admission to Cantors Assembly

By ELENA NEUMAN
NEW YORK (JTA)—For the third year in a row, the Cantors Assembly has voted down a motion to admit fully accredited women cantors as members of the professional organization. The 100-68 vote in favor of amending the assembly's bylaws fell 12 short of the required two-thirds vote needed for passage. A similar resolution last year fell 19 votes short.

This year's vote took place Tuesday during the 43rd annual convention of the Cantors Assembly in Loch Sheldrake, N.Y. The assembly, which is affiliated with the Conservative movement of Judaism, claims to be the world's largest professional organization of chazzanim (cantors).

"The issue of admitting women is a sensitive and emotional one that poses complex questions of tradition, religious authority, the status of women in the synagogue and many other factors," Cantor Robert Kieval, who was elected to a second term as president of the assembly, said in a statement. "The Cantors Assembly calls on all its members and the American Jewish community, whatever their personal feelings, to accept this decision with understanding."

Despite controversy over the halachic propriety of women leading a congregation in prayer, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the leading Conservative educational institution, has been granting cantorial degrees to women since 1987.

But the Cantors Assembly, a professional organization that has been likened to both Actors Equity and a men's social club, has not yet recognized women ordained as cantors by the seminary.

The assembly, while a voluntary organization, is responsible for the placement of its members in cantorial positions. Some women cantors have contended that by not having membership in the assembly, they are missing out on opportunities for

professional placement and advancement.

Cantor Maria Barugel, spokeswoman for the eight women seeking membership, expressed her "shock and dismay" Tuesday at the result of the vote. "We are disheartened, considering that we share the same goals, qualifications, professional concerns and the same love of chazzanut as those who have rejected us today," she said in a statement.

"The problem has to do with the traditional model of the chazzan and various interpretations of what the halachah stands for," Cantor Samuel Rosenbaum, executive vice president of the assembly, explained in a telephone interview. He was sharply critical of those who voted against

the proposal.

According to halachah, or traditional Jewish religious law, a cantor must be a person who shares the same obligation of public prayer as all who are in attendance. Since women are not obligated under Jewish law to engage in public prayer, their serving as cantors is problematic.

After last year's vote, members of the assembly tried to work out a proposal that would satisfy a constitutional majority of the assembly. Most were expecting the vote to pass Tuesday. In fact, a simple majority of the assembly was in favor of granting women cantors membership, but not enough to fulfill the two-thirds vote requirement.

Dallas Skinheads get stiff sentences

DALLAS (JTA)—A U.S. district judge imposed stiff sentences on five leaders of a Skinhead gang here last week, two months after they were convicted on charges of anti-Semitic and other racist violence.

An all-white jury found the five guilty of racially motivated hate crimes against minorities, in what the prosecution called a prolonged reign of terror in the summer of 1988. It included attacks on a Jewish community center, vandalizing several synagogues and beating blacks and His-

panics in a Dallas park.

According to testimony, several of the defendants planned to pump poison gas into the air-conditioning vents of a local temple.

The five ringleaders were members of a gang called the Confederate Hammerskins.

Judge Barefoot Sanders pronounced prison sentences of from four to nine years on the gang leaders, whose ages ranged from 19 to 25. Two of them were also convicted of using a gun to commit a felony,

drew additional mandatory five-year sentences for that offense. One offered the FBI information in return for leniency. After sentencing, he gave the Nazi salute.

Before the trial opened in February, 12 former Hammerskins pleaded guilty to various civil rights violations and testified about the gang's activities. According to Dallas Deputy Police Chief Rick Hatler, the incidence of hate crimes dropped substantially since the Hammerskins' trial began.

AIPAC conference to explore policy, future of U.S.-Israel relationship

WASHINGTON—Over two thousand people from all 50 states are expected to participate when the nation's pro-Israel political community assembles from June 10 to 12 in Washington for the 31st Annual Policy Conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Members of Congress, leading Administration policy makers and prominent Israeli officials will join delegates to focus on current concerns facing the United States-Israel partnership. AIPAC is America's pro-Israel lobby.

"AIPAC's conference convenes as important issues challenge Israel and indeed the U.S.-Israel relationship," according to Toby Dershowitz, AIPAC Director of Media Relations. Participants will be briefed on such diverse subjects as foreign aid and Soviet Jewish emigration. Pressing matters such as U.S. policy towards Jerusalem and prospects for peace in the Middle East and the changing political developments in Israel will also be explored. Delegates will take part in issue-oriented workshops ranging from involvement in grassroots politics to "lobbying" the media.

The conference opens on Sunday, June 10, which Simcha Dinitz, who will focus on the Soviet Jewish Exodus. Dinitz is the Chairman of the Jewish Agency. He will be followed by Representative Richard Gephardt (D-Missouri), the House Majority Leader, who will give a perspective on Congress' role in shaping U.S. Middle East policy. AIPAC's Executive Director Thomas A. Dine will present "The State of APIAC" report.

This country's senior defense official, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, will address the conference on Monday. Following Cheney, two leading governors, Tommy Thompson (R-Wisconsin) and Doug Wilder (D-Virginia) will speak on "Building Bridges: From the State Capitol to the Senate." On Monday night, June 11, the Senate's Majority Leader, George Mitchell (D-Maine) and Senator Bob Packwood (R-Oregon), both strong supporters of Israel, will be the keynote speakers at the gala banquet.

"College student participation has always been an integral part of the policy conference. In addition to social events, student leadership from

around the country will participate in workshops on campaign politics and student involvement in the legislative process," according to Dershowitz. There will be a special workshop for students on responding to anti-Israel propaganda. Students may attend the conference at a reduced rate.

"Political activism by American citizens concerned with and supportive of the U.S.-Israel relationship is fundamental," according to Dine. "Activism begins with knowing the facts, facts about Israel and other Middle East countries and facts about how to be effective in our political system. It is this knowledge base that this conference will target. The pro-Israel community must continue its traditional involvement. That is why participation in this conference is so essential for the pro-Israel community nationwide. Let us recall that at one time, our government did not listen. Now we cannot afford not to be heard," he said.

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Washington. To register or for more information on the conference, contact Helene Godin at AIPAC, (202) 639-5200.

Havel visits with Israeli officials

By HUGH ORGEL
TEL AVIV (JTA)—President Vaclav Havel ended his first full day in Israel last month with an appearance before nearly 3,000 Jews of Czechoslovak origin attending a mass meeting at the Binyanei Ha'uma convention hall in Jerusalem.

The Czechoslovak president, the first Eastern European chief of state to visit Israel, arrived here April 25 for a three-day official visit. Although his itinerary includes talks with top Israeli officials as well as an hour meeting with a delegation of Palestinians at an East Jerusalem hotel, Havel has been mainly sightseeing.

After lunching with acting Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir, the Czech leader toured the Old City and was led around the Israel Museum by Mayor Teddy Kollek. Earlier, he was shown around the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial by its director, Yitzhak Arad, and placed a wreath at the eternal flame in the Remembrance Hall.

Havel visited the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, where a special exhibition on Czech Jewry has been mounted. He also took a trip to Kfar Masaryk, a kibbutz founded by Czech Jews and named for Tomas Masaryk, Czechoslovakia's first president.

The playwright-president was awarded an honorary Ph.D. by the Hebrew University, where Tomas Masaryk visited 63 years ago.



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By **ARNOLD LIEBERMAN**
Executive Director
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Despite the fact that our Resettlement Services have received a great deal of publicity, and our Services to the Aged and their Families have become very well known in both the Jewish and general communities, our basic service continues to be Family Counseling.

These counseling services to individuals, married couples, parents and children, or total families, have been available since our agency began and are still just as necessary as they ever

were. Individuals and family members may still face complex and difficult problems in adjusting to today's society.

Individuals generally come to us suffering from various forms of anxiety or depression. These may be chronic conditions, but for the most part they represent reactions to a crisis of some sort. The majority of these clients are helped in relatively few sessions, usually from two to six. Our staff is trained and experienced in "brief therapy," which focuses on the crisis and its alleviation.

We are working with married couples, who range from relative

newlyweds to those who have been married for 30 or 40 years. Marriages of long duration are currently ending in divorce at an alarming rate. Marital Counseling is an area where we have a great deal to offer clients. Our staff has been trained and can be helpful to couples in improving communication and problem-solving skills. The vast majority of couples who receive marriage counseling at our agency remain together.

The relationship between parents and their children from about age 10 and older, is another area where we can be of help. Working with young children requires a specialty that we do not possess, and we refer such cases to appropriate resources. However, with latency aged and adolescent children we can assist in the resolution of many of their problems and the improvement of the parent-child relationship.

In each case, we assess the situ-

ation and recommend a treatment plan. In some cases it is best to see the entire family since they are all affected by the problem and need to be part of the solution.

Whoever the people are and whatever the situation is, by coming to Jewish Family Service they can be sure of receiving competent service from a caring staff of professionals. Call us at 478-9411.

Dear Rachel,

I've done the right thing, but I am absolutely terrified. My son is going to sleep-away camp for the first time, and he is one sad kid. His father and I recently separated, and I think he is looking for a father figure. Obviously, I've picked a Jewish camp to minimize the risk of someone taking advantage of him, but I'm scared that he is vulnerable to any sleezeball lifeguard.

What can I do to keep his future and my sanity safe?

Protective Parent

Dear Protective Parent,

Go ahead, say it. Sexual abuse is what you are afraid of. If you can't say it, you can't arm your child against it. Molesters don't come with Surgeon General's warnings on their forehead. Sending your son to a Jewish camp doesn't reduce the risk. Your son is equally vulnerable to "sleezeballs" — in Jewish or secular settings. And, as you feared, "sad" kids, who have suffered a loss, can be vulnerable for a time. Being Jewish, being well respected, being educated, doesn't mean a thing. A molester can be all of these things, so all of your children should be taught to actively protect themselves. Here are some tips:

1. Touch that you don't want, or that makes you uncomfortable, especially in private areas, is wrong. Tell that person to stop, and tell other adults until someone listens to you.
2. It's not OK for an adult to ask you to do something uncomfortable, or they won't be your friend anymore. Say "no," and tell other adults.
3. Good relationships can go wrong. It isn't usually a stranger who molests. Telling is OK.
4. Get library books, or rent videos dealing with this subject. Read up together on sexual abuse. An hour or two now can prevent a lifetime of nightmares.

Rachel

Send letters to "Rachel, c/o Jewish Family Service, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803." Names and details will be altered in published letters to protect your privacy.

Marcia Spivak attends annual agencies' conference



Marcia Spivak

Marcia Spivak, a Board Member, and Chair of the Public Relations Committee of Jewish Family Service of Delaware, recently represented the agency at the Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies. The Eighteenth Annual Conference was held in Toronto, Canada, and had as its theme: "Serving the Jewish Fam-

ily — "To Life, To Life, L'Chaim." The Conference attracts Board Members and Executives of the 140 agencies in the United States and Canada who belong to the National Association.

Spivak attended several seminars that dealt with Public Relations as well as other areas of importance to all Jewish Family Service agencies. She indicated that what she learned will be utilized to increase the Delaware Jewish Community's awareness of the agency, and the services it provides to individuals and families.

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Trilateral commission: Syrian/Israeli pact should be focus

By DAVID FRIEDMAN
WASHINGTON (JTA)—A report submitted to the Trilateral Commission

has predicted little chance for success for Secretary of State James Baker's efforts to bring about an

Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. Instead, the report's author, Garret Fitzgerald, former prime minister of Ireland, said the United States and the Soviet Union should work toward bringing about negotiations between Israel and Syria.

If they were successful at that, it could lead to Israel's acceptance of a Palestinian state, he said.

Fitzgerald, who is also the Trilateral Commission's European deputy chairman, also urged the United States to liberalize its immigration laws to allow more Soviet Jews to enter the country. This would "reduce significantly tensions in the occupied territories and among neighboring Arab states." He said the Palestinians and other Arabs fear that the large influx of Soviet Jews in Israel will eventually push Palestinians out of the West Bank.

Fitzgerald's report, which was prepared as a "discussion draft" for a luncheon session last month at the commission's annual meeting here, was reportedly greeted coolly by the more than 200 delegates attending the session.

A spokesman stressed that the commission does not make recommendations and many participants were angry that the report had been released to reporters before the annual meeting began.

The commission is a nongovern-

mental body with more than 300 members from North America, Western Europe and Japan. Its stated aim is to promote mutual understanding and greater cooperation between the countries from which its members come.

Fitzgerald wrote the report after discussions with members of the commission, diplomats, officials, experts and representatives of Jewish and Arab organizations. Last March, he visited Tunisia, Egypt, Israel and the West Bank.

The Trilateral Commission countries could aid the peace process "by pursuing issues of nonproliferation of chemical, biological and atomic weapons and of conventional disarmament in the region," Fitzgerald said. Pursuit of these issues coupled with an agreement between Israel and Syria "could facilitate Israeli agreement to a peace settlement involving a Palestinian state," he concludes.

"There can be no doubt about the reality of Israeli concern over the scale and range of armaments available to its Arab neighbors and Israeli doubts over the wisdom of permitting the emergence of a Palestinian state in the absence of a peaceful settlement with nearby Arab states such as Syria."

In discussing the U.S. position in the Middle East, Fitzgerald suggests

that because the Soviet Union is now seen as less of a threat by the United States, "Israel may be no longer seen... as the principal ally of the United States in this areas." He also noted that "President Bush is less uniformly supportive of Israel and in particular is critical of the Israeli policy on settlements on the West Bank and Gaza."

This means that Bush and Secretary of State James Baker "have been willing to put political pressure on Israel to agree to negotiations with the Palestinians on the future of the West Bank and Gaza," Fitzgerald said.

At the same time, many Europeans believe that the Middle East is more important to West Europe than to the United States, but Washington has "much greater influence in the region," Fitzgerald noted. For this reason the West Europeans have been willing to allow Baker to proceed with trying to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, he said.

But he warns that if Baker fails, the West Europeans will push their own alternative, which would include an international peace conference.

Fitzgerald, who is critical of Israeli policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, does not directly call for a Palestinian state. But he assumes throughout the study that this will and should be the eventual outcome.

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Incident in Christian Quarter 'stupid,' but reaction was overblown, Kollek says

By ELENA NEUMAN

NEW YORK (JTA)—Teddy Kollek, Jerusalem's feisty mayor, used the occasion of an appearance here last week to denounce the recent procurement by 150 Orthodox Jews of a building complex in Jerusalem's Christian Quarter. He called both the acquisition of the complex, known as St. John's Hospice, and the Israeli government's contribution of \$1.8 million in financing for the project "a great stupidity."

"I blame members of the Cabinet who are not only allowed this, but encouraged this," Kollek said before a room of Jewish and Christian leaders brought together May 3 under the auspices of the American Jewish Committee to heal interreligious wounds the incident has caused.

"The people that are behind this certainly should have judgment, and they didn't show it," he said.

But when asked whether he thought Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was directly involved in the government's \$1.8 million secret financing of the real estate deal, Kollek answered unequivocally, "No."

While the mayor said the situation is "very serious," he also believes "to some extent the reaction was overdone."

He said it was unfortunate that the hospice, located near the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, was occupied during the Easter season.

"Passover, the month of Ramadan and Easter—all these holidays passed with exemplary dignity. On the Temple Mount, more than 50,000 Arabs pray every Friday—more than ever in Jordanian times. Yet all this has been overshadowed by this particular incident," he said.

The conflict that has strained Christian-Jewish relations began April 11, when 150 Orthodox Jews moved into a 72-room building in the Christian Quarter previously owned by the



An Orthodox Jew talks to an Israeli policeman armed with a grenade launcher outside the house near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre into which a group of Jewish settlers moved on April 11. The two chatted while waiting for a verdict on the legality of the residence. (Photo: RNS)

Greek Orthodox Church. They subleased the building from an Armenian, Martyros Matossian, who had leased it for over 20 years from the church.

Kollek said the Greek Orthodox Church had neglected the building complex for many years and had leased it to "a bunch of crooks." But he also insisted that this in no way justifies the activities that have occurred in the last month.

On April 22, it was disclosed that the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing had secretly helped finance close to 50 percent of the sublease. A week later, Israel's High Court of Justice ordered all but 20 of the new tenants to vacate the building until the case could properly be addressed in court.

While admitting that the "mills of justice are grinding slowly," the mayor expressed his confidence that the court would rule in favor of the church. "This was done because a group of people believe they have the right to move into everywhere, and they want to move into every community of the Old City. This is against the basic policy of the government," he said.

The mayor also pointed out that the situation of Christians in other Middle East countries is far worse than in Israel. When Jerusalem was under Jordanian control, he said, no permission was given for churches to be built, whereas since 1967, over 20 churches have been built.

The St. John's situation "does a great deal of harm to us," more harm to us than to the Greek Orthodox Church, he said.

Jack B. Jacobs elected president of Kutz Home

The Kutz Home held its thirtieth annual meeting at the Home on Sunday, April 1. Jack B. Jacobs was elected President of the Home, succeeding Carolyn B. Silverman. Also elected to one year terms as officers were Herman Glotzer, Efram Lieber and Joan Wachstein, Vice Presidents; Donald F. Parsons, Jr., Secretary; and Eileen T. Conner, Treasurer. Elected to three year terms as directors were Gerald Blum, Steven Paikin, Sidney Engel, Sheldon Sandler, Bruce Silverstein, David Singer, Joan Wachstein and Benita Zahn.

A special award was presented to Julia B. Blumberg in recognition of her outstanding service to the Home, its Auxiliary and the community. Blumberg has served as Life Membership Chairman of the Auxiliary, enrolling over 500 Life Members in the organization.

The Auxiliary is made up of men and women who serve the Home and its residents, providing both direct volunteer services as well as raising funds for special projects at the Home. Most recently, the Auxiliary has been refurbishing day rooms at the Home, completing work on three day rooms during the past year.



Jack B. Jacobs

According to Shelly Mand, President of the Auxiliary, the organization plans to continue its renovation of other common areas in the building, and is considering redoing its special Alzheimer's wing.

The Auxiliary also presented gifts to staff of the Home who have celebrated their 10th, 15th and 20th anniversaries with the Home, and honored Employees of the Year, the Home's five cooks.

Representing the Jewish Federation of Delaware at the meeting, Robert N. Kerbel, Executive Vice President, congratulated Carolyn Silverman on a job well done during her two years as president and wished the new officers and directors well. The Federation appoints four representatives to the Home's Board of Directors each year and the Federation President and Executive serve as *ex officio* members of the Home's Board.

New President Jack Jacobs has served on the Kutz Home Board since 1979, and has been a Vice President and member of its Executive Committee as well as President Elect. He has also served on the Board of Directors and as an officer of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. He is a Vice Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery, and is a graduate of the University of Chicago and Harvard Law School.



The cooks at the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home were honored as Employees of the Year at the Home's annual meeting. From left to right are Daniel Thurman, the Home's Executive Director, Mary Lewis, Freida Jervey, Amy Gadola and Sheila Joyner. Missing is Jeannie Whye.

Soviet Jewish immigrants now settling in E. Germany with government help

By CHARLES HOFFMAN
EAST BERLIN (JTA) — About 200 Soviet Jews have recently arrived in East Germany and are settling down under a program organized by the government, according to Irene Runge, a Jewish cultural activist.

Runge is one of the leaders of the Judischer Kulturverein (Jewish Cultural Association), an independent group that was formed during last year's democratic revolution in East Germany. One of the first public acts of the association was to petition the government to give refuge to Soviet Jews who want to leave their country.

Runge said that the Soviet Jews arrive here with East German visas and live temporarily in government-sponsored reception centers until they find jobs and apartments.

The tiny Jewish community of East Germany, which numbers only about 400 active members, is now squab-

bling about which organization should take care of and welcome the Soviet Jews.

The official community organization, which regards the cultural association as something of an upstart group, wants to take care of the new arrivals. But it insists it will deal only with those who are Jewish according to halachah (traditional religious law), as opposed to those who claim to be of "Jewish origin."

The cultural association, which is open to all those who call themselves Jews, also wants to recruit the new arrivals into its ranks.

Runge noted ironically that one of the first issues to surface in the newly freed Jewish community of East Berlin is who will take care of the Soviet Jews, "most of whom don't even want to be Jewish."

In West Berlin, meanwhile, the president of the World Jewish Congress said Monday that American Jewish leaders would seek to raise

the quota on the number of Soviet immigrants allowed to enter the United States, if the present emigration rate continues.

Speaking at a news conference on the occasion of the WJC's first gathering ever on German soil, Edgar Bronfman said the current 50,000 quota was "very fair" when it was set by the Bush administration, in consultation with Congress, last fall.

At that time, he said, "we were thinking of 100,000 Soviet Jews a year coming out. But if the numbers continue to swell, then there will be a concerted effort by the organized American Jewish community to raise the quota, and I think it will be successful," he said.

Last week, officials of the New York-based Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society indicated they would seek the same ceiling of 50,000 Soviet refugees for the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

Puerto Rican bar becomes a synagogue after 20-year wait

SAN JUAN, P.R. (JTA) — What was once a sports bar on this Caribbean island has been transformed into a Reform temple. Rudy's 10th Inning Lounge, a popular hangout, has been converted into a traditional Reform synagogue that serves a congregation of 72 families, who have waited more than 20 years for a permanent place of prayer.

Temple Beth Shalom, an affiliate of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, opened last month bearing no resemblance to the run-down building that was once Rudy's bar. It is "a real synagogue, something we can be proud of," said Norman Bronson, head of the congregation's ritual committee.

Besides the sanctuary, the temple

houses a social hall, kitchen, classrooms, library and an office.

The congregation began in 1966, when a half-dozen young Jewish families in San Juan decided to provide their children with a Reform Jewish education. The only other Jewish facility available here at the time was a temple and religious school that combined Orthodox and Conservative ritual and teaching.

The embryo congregation began meeting in private homes, recalled Baylen Smith, a founding member. In 1969, they brought a rabbi from the mainland to hold a service and began meeting at a hotel. According to Smith, 300 to 400 people showed up. "That's when the congregation was really born," he said.

But it lacked a permanent home. Services, held in hotels, churches and schoolrooms, were conducted by laymen, as there were two few families to afford a permanent rabbi.

Fifteen years ago, the congregation bought the building that housed the out-of-business bar. They held services on the makeshift premises and began the long-term fund-raising campaign to convert it into a real synagogue. The renovation has cost about \$300,000 to date.

The goal now is to employ a full-time rabbi. "We pray for one," said Bronson, "someone you can go to with your personal problems. It would lend luster and learning. We're just lay people, and there are so many things a rabbi can do that we can't."

Making beautiful music together



Conductor Zubin Mehta leads a joint rehearsal of the visiting Berlin Philharmonic, wearing black, and the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra, wearing white, in Tel Aviv. The Berlin Philharmonic, which once entertained Hitler, is touring the Jewish State for the first time, gathering more applause than protest. (Photo: RNS)

Pogroms

Continued from 1

According to a report in the French weekly *Jeune Afrique*, Soviet Zionist leader Lev Gorodetsky has reached an agreement with Sajudis, the Lithuanian National Front, to provide a refuge for Jews fleeing anticipated anti-Semitic outbreaks in the Leningrad area.

The report said the Lithuanians agreed to provide camps for Jewish refugees, on condition that all expenses are paid for in hard currency by Jewish organizations in the United States.

Anti-Jewish excesses have been reported from Leningrad, where Pamyat, and other Jew-baiting organizations, are said to be most active.

The overwhelming incidence of anti-Semitism in Leningrad was revealed in data collected at the Jewish congress, and in subsequent telephone calls to Jewish activists, by Alexander Benifand, executive director of the Jewish Research Center, a privately funded bureau of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Benifand, who showed his data in a recent interview in New York, indicated that a full 81 percent of Jews in Leningrad had experienced anti-Semitic incidents within the preceding six months. And a whopping 94 percent of Leningrad Jews

feared pogroms. Moscow was ranked next among Soviet cities where Jews reported experiencing the most anti-Semitism. The lowest figures for experiences of anti-Semitism and fear of pogroms occurred among Georgian Jews and those in other Central Asian republics. Jews in the Baltic states also experienced a relatively low incidence of anti-Semitism.

However, this data was collected in December. Since then, there have been some reports of anti-Semitism in Georgia, too.

Benifand, whose bureau was created in October by the Soviet Sociological Association to collect such data, believes the central powers in the government would be reluctant to allow attacks against Jews. His observations have been seconded by Soviet Jewry activist Natan Sharansky, who says attacks on Jews are less likely to occur in the big cities, "where the government is in control."

However, Sharansky observed that such attacks "may occur in the more remote communities, where there are relatively few Jews." Sharansky, speaking in Israel on Saturday, said the fact that pogroms did not materialize does not mean Jews can relax. "Although there are no pogroms, there is an atmosphere of pogroms in the Soviet Union," he said.

U.S. wants to know how Israeli arms went to drug traffickers

By **HOWARD ROSENBERG**
WASHINGTON (JTA) — The United States expressed concern Monday about a recent Israeli arms delivery to Antigua that ended up in the hands of Colombian drug traffickers.

The original delivery of Uzi submachine guns and Galil assault rifles and ammunition was made to the Caribbean island, where opponents of then Panamanian President Manuel Antonio Noriega were being trained for a possible coup. The weapons, purchased in March 1989 from Israel Military Industries for \$42,000, were discovered in February on a ranch formerly owned by Jose Rodriguez Gacha, a major Colombian cocaine dealer who was killed by police in December. The value of the weapons has been estimated at \$200,000.

Colombian police reportedly found 232 Israeli-made weapons, including rifles, shoulder-fired rocket launchers and infrared nightscopes.

"We do not know how these weapons ended up in the hands of the Rodriguez Gacha organization," State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said Monday. "The incident is still under investigation by the governments of Antigua and Colombia."

The government of Antigua and Barbuda denied Monday that it had "ordered or paid for such arms." But its Foreign Affairs Ministry has hired a Washington lawyer, E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., to investigate the incident in Israel, where he arrived Monday.

The inquiry is a hot political issue on the small island. Vere Bird Jr.,

whose father is prime minister, recently stepped down from his post as the country's public works commissioner, pending conclusion of the inquiry. Barcella said Bird's name apparently appears on a government document from the Caribbean country requesting the arms.

Bird's brother Lester, the deputy prime minister, is heading a special government committee created April 3, after Colombia informed the island of the shipment. Both Birds have ambitions to succeed their 80-year-old father as prime minister.

Israel Television reported that the shipment was arranged by retired Israeli Lt. Col. Yair Klein. It said he was hired by Eduardo Herrera, a former Panamanian ambassador to Israel who wanted to overthrow Noriega.

The Israeli state-run station said the weapons were "bought for the survivalist training school that Israelis were going to set up near the capital of Antigua to train, among others, the Panamanians."

Last year, Klein acknowledged training armed groups in a remote area of northern Colombia. But he denied any involvement with drug traffickers, saying he believed he was helping ranchers defend themselves from guerrillas. Klein has also been interviewed by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations as part of a study of how Central American drug dealers are able to obtain sophisticated weaponry.

But Ruth Yaron, a spokeswoman for the Israeli Embassy here, said Israel has no evidence Klein helped arrange the shipment to Antigua.

She said Israel supplied Antigua with "a small quantity" of weaponry after receiving an end-user certificate, which she said specified that the weapons were not to be transferred to a third party. "We have no knowledge how this supply found its way beyond the borders of Antigua," she said.

At the State Department, deputy spokesman Boucher said the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv has "raised our concern about these arms with the government of Israel. We understand the Israeli government is cooperating in the investigation."

"We are clearly concerned when government-licensed weapons end up in the hands of narcotics-trafficking organizations, and we urge the governments involved to aggressively investigate the incident and to take appropriate judicial action," he said.

Schwammberger extradited

BONN (JTA) — No date has been set for the trial of accused Nazi war criminal Josef Schwammberger, who was extradited from Argentina on May 3.

The 78-year-old former Waffen SS officer, held responsible for the murder of at least 5,000 Jews, landed in Frankfurt from Buenos Aires under escort on May 4. He was immediately flown to a prison in Stuttgart, the city where his arrest and extradition were originally requested in 1973.

Schwammberger will be tried in a Stuttgart court, unless he is declared medically unfit.

His extradition ended a three-year legal battle that began in November 1987, when he was arrested in Argentina's rural Cordoba province.

The former commandant of the Przemysl and Mielec concentration camps in Poland fought extradition. But he was stripped of his Argentine citizenship, and in March the Argentine Supreme Court upheld West Germany's extradition request. He was handed over to the German authorities in Buenos Aires on May 3.

Hitler's birthday celebrated

BONN (JTA) — Neo-Nazi activity flared up in West Germany and France on April 20 the 101st anniversary of the birth of Adolf Hitler.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, five neo-Nazi youths attacked and tortured three girls, age 12 and 13.

The West German incident occurred in a woods the North Rhine-Westphalia, while the girls were on their way to a local playground. One of the girls was reportedly Iranian.

The youths, in the woods on a training exercise, forced their victims to strip and then daubed their bodies with swastikas. The girls also were allegedly forced to kneel down, say "Heil Hitler" and sing Nazi songs.

About 200 neo-Nazi Skinheads marauded through East Berlin, attacking both civilians and police.

Franz Schoenhuber, a former Waffen SS officer who leads the extreme right-wing Republican Party, told reporters here that his party has signed up 4,000 new members in East Germany, despite the fact that the party is officially banned there.

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ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ!

Welcome Home!

As the winds of Israeli and international politics gust around them, the new Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel are keeping their feet planted firmly on the ground and their heads studiously bent over Hebrew textbooks, real estate listings and help-wanted ads.

Mastering the Hebrew language, finding an apartment and gaining employment in their field are their overwhelming concerns right now.

Meeting the short-term needs of the huge number of olim already arriving in Israel is the purpose of Operation Exodus, the \$420 million dollar campaign being undertaken by the United Jewish Appeal as part of the Jewish Agency's \$600 million special absorption effort.

This money will serve as a cushion for the Soviets to land on, supplying them with transportation to Israel and support during their first year of adjusting to life in a new country.

But no matter how much goodwill the Diaspora delivers in the form of support for initial resettlement, the ultimate success of the Soviet aliyah depends on the solution of problems Operation Exodus does not address: the ultimate viability of the Israeli economy, the creation of jobs and the construction of affordable housing.

The Soviet Jews who have come to Israel in the last few months are in a hurry. They are conscious that they are the crest of a huge wave of Soviet immigration to Israel, and they are anxious to grab into a life

raft — a job, a home — before they are drowned in a sea of their compatriots.

To take advantage of the immigrants' present ambitious and positive outlook, Israel also will have to move quickly.

The country's leaders will have to try to bring together the contentious elements of the bureaucracy handling absorption. The government's Ministry of Absorption, the Jewish Agency and the voluntary immigrant associations will have no choice but to move from competition to cooperation.

To supply jobs and housing, they are forced to turn from talk to action — clearing the way for large-scale construction of housing and readying their economy for an onrush of new job-seekers.

The articles are based largely on conversations with Soviet immigrants who have been in Israel for three weeks to five months: both those at the Mevasseret Zion absorption center, outside Jerusalem, and those in the midst of "direct absorption" in the town of Rishon le-Zion.

The articles also capture the views of the Israeli government, the Jewish Agency and a wide range of Israeli citizens, for there is no part of Israeli society that will not be touched by this historic immigration.

Part Two of a Two-Part Series

The Economic Challenge

For most olim, economic needs take precedence over politics

By ALLISON KAPLAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Recent Soviet Jewish immigrants aren't very eager to talk politics.

Right now, they are interested mainly in the policies of the Israeli government that will help or hinder them in their quest for a successful life in Israel.

Former prisoner of Zion Natan Sharansky is a case in point. Since immigrating to Israel four years ago, he has chosen not to lend his prestige to any single political party. Instead, he cultivates relations with all parties in order to achieve the goals of his advocacy group, the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum.

Like Sharansky before them, Soviet Jews settling in Israel today only talk about such things as the future of the administered territories and the "Who is a Jew" controversy to the extent that these issues directly affect their lives.

In one sense, the immigrants learning Hebrew at the Mevasseret Zion absorption center must literally face the situation on the West Bank every day. The windows of their classroom look right into hills that lie beyond Israel's 1967 border.

Felix Kramer and his wife, Natasha, who have been in Israel for six months, have considered living in the administered territories, situated just beyond their doorstep. Despite his short time in Israel, Felix already has formed an opinion on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I think they are Israeli territory," he said. "There already is a Palestinian state — Jordan. How many Arab countries do they need to have?"

Frankly, Kramer said, he can't understand why Americans, particularly American Jews, are so interested in which side of the so-called Green Line he chooses to live on. "It seems they are more worried about the Arabs than about us," said Kramer, a serious-looking balding man whose young son clings to his trousers.

readily visible when a Canadian friend, fellow immigrant Howard Grief, revealed that before immigrating, he was a leader of the Canadian affiliate of the Tehiya party, which favors expansion of Jewish settlements in the territories.

Grief was excited to be undergoing the absorption process along with the new Soviet immigrants. "Yigal Allon once said, 'Give me 1 million Jews, and we can keep Judea and

The mayor of the West Bank settlement of Ariel, Ron Nachmann, loudly defying U.S. wishes, is aggressively trying to attract Soviets to his settlement. He has been bringing Soviet immigrants to his settlement with very limited success, far from the large numbers he would like.

"Our class took a trip to Ariel," said Galia Lando, who teaches Hebrew to Soviet immigrants in Rishon le-Zion. "They were polite, but when

Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum threatened demonstrations if clerks at the Interior Ministry continued to demand documented proof of the immigrants' Jewishness.

Mariana Zhoutyah, an English teacher from Kishinev, has been here a month. Because of her fluency in English, she is optimistic about landing a good job. The questioning of her Jewishness is a blot on her mainly optimistic feelings about life in Israel.



A new immigrant is instructed on filling out one of a number of forms necessary to settle.

Samaria.' "The demographic argument against Israel keeping Judea and Samaria will now be destroyed," he said. "Even if the Soviet Jews

we came back home, nobody seemed interested in settling there. They said it looked like a lonely place."

"Anyone who wants can go there," said Leonid, a student in the ulpan class. "But nobody wants to go there."

Leonid, who asked that his last name not be used, explained that the West Bank settlements seem isolated to many Soviet newcomers. Moreover, he believes the immigrants' desire for a secure future cannot be satisfied in the face of Palestinian hostility.

If Soviet Jews move to the West Bank in significant numbers, it will not be because of a government initiative or their own ideological beliefs. More likely, it will be the same force that drives many Israelis to move there: sheer economic necessity.

But even the Soviets with no intention of moving to the West Bank highly resent the prospect of being restricted from living in any part of the country. As in every other aspect of life, they want the freedoms and privileges of any other Israeli.

It is for the same reason that an Interior Ministry requirement that immigrants must prove their Jewishness before being registered as Jews has become a sore point with the Soviet newcomers.

In mid-February, Sharansky's

crimination in the Soviet Union and then having her Judaism questioned in Israel.

While many of the Soviet newcomers are not yet ardent Zionists, the fear that many of them are simply using Israel as a way station for the United States seems unwarranted. Few of the recent immigrants in Israel will say that America was their first choice and that they went to Israel because it was an easier route out of the Soviet Union.

Though their Zionist and religious education has been minimal, most profess to have chosen Israel voluntarily. Some have become born-again Jewish nationalists after suffering anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. If they were not originally convinced that Israel should be their destination, they are convincing themselves now that they are in the right place.

Grisha Lubarski, a young physician from the Ukraine, said he came to Israel because it was the "natural" thing to do. He said that in earlier years, it was difficult for Soviet Jews to choose Israel because it was painted as a "black" country by the Soviet news media.

"On television, all they showed was how in Israel there were wars all the time and how terribly hot it was," he said. But things changed favorably when the Soviet Union began allowing Jews to tour Israel. The tourists returned with upbeat reports. "Now, people have a better perspective," Grisha said.

Looking around his small apartment in Mevasseret Zion, he said, "I think I chose correctly."

Yona Katz, in Israel for three weeks, came to Israel because she thought her invalid husband could get better medical care here and because "we knew that in America there is anti-Semitism."

Whether they are telling the truth or have adopted this positive outlook because they are already in Israel, these immigrants seem sincerely committed to making it where they are.

The seriousness of their attitude and the strength of their drive to succeed sometimes amuses those working with them.

"My Hebrew class was very upset one day when we canceled class one afternoon and had a party. They complained to me, saying 'What? No more studies?'" said Galia Lando, the ulpan teacher. "We will have a 10-day vacation during Passover," she said. "My students are already anxiously asking whether we will make those days up."



Emigrating Soviet Jews line up in Warsaw for the last leg of their journey to Israel.

"It's a little dangerous to live in Hebron," Natasha admitted. "But there is a possibility of going to Kiryat Arba," the large Jewish settlement located adjacent to Hebron.

The source of some of the Kramers' political education was more

don't go there immediately, the demographics will change."

Only a small percentage of Soviet Jews have chosen to settle in the West Bank until now. But how many will seek housing there in the long term is still an open question.



A Soviet Jewish family discovers the abundance of an Israeli grocery store.

OPERATION EXODUS COMMUNITY RALLY
June 20th

The Absorption Challenge

The absorption of Soviet Jews poses a challenge to Israel's bureaucracy

By ALLISON KAPLAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As they have been asked to contribute their time, money and energy to the effort to absorb Soviet Jews in Israel, many practical-minded American Jewish leaders wonder why Israel has not mapped out a comprehensive plan for absorption.

One of the biggest obstacles to the creation of such a comprehensive plan is the number of agencies serving the needs of Soviet Jews and other immigrants.

Ministries within the Israeli government, the Jewish Agency for Israel and voluntary immigrant organizations, such as Natan Sharansky's Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum, all have important roles to play in the absorption process. But despite the fact that the Jewish Agency is the recipient of millions of dollars in absorption funds raised by the United Jewish Appeal, it is sometimes shut out of the process.

An illustration of this problem occurs daily at Ben-Gurion Airport, the first stop in Israel for the new Soviet arrivals. It is there that the immigrants are counseled about whether to take the path of direct absorption or opt to live in absorption centers instead.

Despite the fact that the Jewish Agency runs Israel's absorption centers and funds 50 percent of the cost of direct absorption, it has not been permitted direct contact with immigrants arriving at Ben-Gurion.

When it protested this policy to the government Absorption Ministry, lengthy negotiations ensued. In the end, the Jewish Agency was told it may be permitted to send one social

Even the new immigrants' relatives cannot see them until after they have undergone processing by the ministry that takes from five to six hours.



New immigrants at an absorption center in Jerusalem learn how to cook using locally available ingredients.

Competition among various agencies serving the Soviet immigrants and olim from other countries has led to confusion among the new arrivals as to the proper address for counseling, housing, education and job training. Often they find themselves being shuttled between various offices.

The joke going around among the immigrants now is that after *glasnost* runs its course in Eastern Europe, Israel will be the only Stalinist bureaucracy left in the world.

"It seems it was easier to mount huge demonstrations to free Soviet Jewry than to change one bureau-

Beilin, the deputy minister of finance in the government that collapsed March 15.

But while "the Beilin Commission to a great extent has worked, it has been getting too large to be effective," said Jewish Agency Secretary-General Howard Weisband.

Instead of solving problems, it is merely "a channel for putting issues on the table," Weisband said.

Like the rest of the Israeli government, the committee is currently undergoing turmoil. But on each day that Labor and Likud fight their political battles, a serious housing crisis looms nearer.

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency has been predicting publicly that in six to 10 months, the rental housing market will be fully saturated. Construction of new housing has been proceeding slowly, seriously crippled by strikes from the Arab labor force.

Without available rental housing, the much-heralded system of direct absorption of immigrants into Israeli society will not be able to continue.

In order to put a roof over the heads of Soviet immigrants should such a crisis arise, the Jewish Agency has a contingency plan: It has identified 190 temporary facilities in which there would be 50,000 beds for new immigrants.

However, "the financial ramifications of such an operation are well-known to the department and it is therefore proposed that this program be implemented only in the event that there is no other option," says a February report released by the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department.

"We will have to open all of the clubs, all of the youth movements, all of the hotels," Uri Gordon, the department's chairman, said in an interview. He vowed dramatically that "not one Jew will sleep on the street."

The roles of the Jewish Agency and the Israeli government were set to be overhauled just as the Soviet Jews began to pour in.

In April 1990, the Jewish Agency was, according to a 2-year-old agreement with the government, scheduled to turn all responsibility for absorption centers over to the government and concentrate only on supplementary services, such as

immigrants. While it waited, the Jewish Agency began to scale down its operation, closing absorption centers and laying off employees.

Two things happened: First, the Israeli government did not live up to its end of the bargain — the public housing never appeared. And then, the Soviet Union opened its gates, the United States partially closed its doors and the Jewish Agency decided that this was not the time to shift responsibility for the absorption centers.

And so the Jewish Agency is still indefinitely responsible for the housing of immigrants and, in order to fulfill that responsibility, must restaff and reopen absorption centers.

Is there a solution, a cure for the lack of coordination afflicting the absorption system? The latest popular idea in some Israeli and American Jewish circles is the concept of absorbing immigrants on a municipal level.

Ra'anana Mayor Ze'ev Bielski tells Diaspora audiences that when neither the Jewish Agency nor the government would take charge of the immigrants' overall success, he decided that he would. Bielski independently raised \$500,000 for his absorption project from the United Jewish Federation of Metrowest New



New immigrants learn Hebrew in an ulpan in Jerusalem.

worker to the airport in the near future. But right now, it has no hand in the process at Ben-Gurion.

Sharansky's group has had even less success. The activist and former Prisoner of Zion has been foiled numerous times in attempts to send Russian-speaking volunteers to Ben-Gurion to greet the newcomers and guide them through the process.

cratic principle to make absorption proceed more smoothly," Sharansky complained last month to a group of visiting Jewish leaders.

A number of efforts have been formed over the years to untangle the red tape. The latest committee to try to coordinate efforts among various government ministries and the Jewish Agency was chaired by Yossi



Hilltop house in Carmel is a home with a view to recent Russian immigrants.

teaching Hebrew and job training.

But the Jewish Agency refused to relinquish the absorption centers until the government came up with a plan to build public housing to house the

Jersey. The funds technically are earmarked for Ra'anana and ultimately controlled by the Jewish Agency.

An American Jewish Committee think tank also has recommended a municipal model, coordinate by a mayor, a city council or, in the case of a large city, a neighborhood council, in which voluntary associations like the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum would take an active role in locating housing and employment.

Jewish Agency leaders have some qualms about this system. While they recognize its success in a small community like Ra'anana that has a strong leader like Bielski, they worry that it may not work as well in neighborhoods of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

But overall, "I believe it has tremendous potential and can make the system more effective," said Weisband of the Jewish Agency.

Officials like Weisband are hoping that this small, neighborhood model will foster a spirit of cooperation that on a national level often seems to be an elusive goal.



Soviet Jews learning Hebrew



Demonstration in Moscow, January 27, 1990

Sign translation: Zionism is a danger to everyone.

Photo: Anti-Defamation League

IF WE DON'T TAKE CARE OF SOVIET JEWS NOW, SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT.

It isn't only *other* Jews who are concerned about the millions of Jews still left in Russia.

In fact, many nationalist groups are openly demonstrating how they'd like to deal with the problem.

Groups like Pamyat, who blame Jews for many of Russia's current shortages.

But their solution doesn't involve airlifts, Israeli absorption or social services.

It's more a matter of violence, death threats and annihilation.

When they talk about "pogroms," they're not talking history.

Recently, *The New York Times* reported... "more than 50 desecrations of Jewish cemeteries, some 1,000 anti-Semitic rallies, and vitriolic hate leaflets in the thousands distributed everywhere."

What's happening in Russia is frightening. We must do something about it now. In response, American Jewry has launched Operation

Exodus, United Jewish Appeal's urgent campaign to help resettle hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews already arriving in Israel.

Today the situation in the Soviet Union is tenuous at best. We don't know if the increasing anti-Semitism can be controlled and there is no guarantee how long the doors to freedom will remain open. Therefore, for us, the generation who has lived with the lessons of the Holocaust, the message must be clear - NOW IS OUR CHANCE.

Please demonstrate your commitment to the safety and freedom of Soviet Jews by planning to attend the Delaware Jewish community's Operation Exodus Community Rally, Wednesday, June 20.

We must act now. Before someone else does.



New Americans being instructed on 'survival skills'

"How do I give blood?" "How is charoset made?" "What is Purim and how is it celebrated?" have been some of the questions answered for the recently arrived Soviet Jews in classes sponsored by the New American Resettlement Committee of the Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Committee. The classes, entitled "Survival Skills" and "Judaism in America," have been Sunday morning brunch meetings with both social and educational components.

A field trip to Christiana Hospital was meant to make the mysterious aspects of the American medical system more familiar and accessible. Three generations of new immigrants participated in the Purim Party, which was televised as a feature on the Channel 2 news. All newly-arrived families were invited to Delaware Jewish homes for seder. At the Jewish Community Center, a model seder in English and Russian with teachers and leaders Leah Kraft and Eleanor Weinglass allowed the newcomers to feel more comfortable with all aspects of the seder. Breakfasts and holiday programs were sponsored by B'nai B'rith Women, Hadassah, Women's Division of Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

The Sunday Breakfast series will continue through mid-June with programs about the American legal system, the stresses associated with "culture shock," and an introduction to Jewish community organization in North America.



Above left, a Christiana Hospital staff member explains emergency room procedures to recent immigrants. Above right, Mark Gayduk and Lilya Babinskaya share challah after reciting the Shabbat prayers. Below, participants in the model seder drink a cup of wine. At right, Rachel Yoskowitz, chair of the New American Resettlement Committee, instructs the newcomers on making charoset before Passover.



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FINE JEWELRY FOR THE AGES

Jewish-Palestinian dialogue: Exploring different modes of relating

By RUTH MASON

Special to *The Jewish Voice*

A handful of groups — composed of Jews, Arabs and Christians — met over a nine-day period in December 1989 in a small corner of the north-eastern United States to discuss Middle East peace. It may have been an unusually busy period in relations between American Jews and Palestinian-Americans, but it points to a phenomenon that is growing around the country on all levels of Jewish community life.

While Israelis and Palestinians continue to clash on the West Bank and in Gaza, some of their counterparts in the United States are exploring a different mode of relating. All over the country, Jews, Palestinians and other Arabs have been attempting to gain a deeper understanding of each other, to influence one another's political opinions and actions and often to work together toward common goals.

Many of these people — seen by some as pioneers and by others as traitors — have formed on-going dialogue groups. Others coalesce around organizations whose stated goal is to work for Mideast peace. Other far more private, and sometimes secret meetings take place between leaders of Jewish organizations and both American and Middle Eastern Palestinians — including representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Jews engaged in dialogue with Palestinians are no longer only those on the fringes. The effort to reach out to Palestinians is moving into the mainstream of the American Jewish community.

Not everyone who enters into a dialogue effort does so with the lofty goals of eradicating prejudice and increasing understanding. Many, especially the Palestinians, come solely with a political agenda. But the very process of dialogue, which is different than debate in which one side tries to convince the other, seems to affect even diehard politicians.

"I expected to change American Jews' minds," says David Shomar, a Palestinian-American businessman and member of the Syracuse Area Middle East Dialogue Group. "I didn't expect that my mind would be changed."

Dr. Ali Hossaini, an Iraqi-born pathologist at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, entered into dialogue believing Jews had no legal claim to the land of "Palestine." After two years of thrashing out issues with people he has come to like and respect, Hossaini now says he accepts a two-state solution.

"I've been surprised by the fact that people can change their attitudes — and sometimes drastically — if there is a face-to-face exchange of ideas," he says.

Rebecca Barkin, who studies Palestinian-Jewish dialogue groups for her degree in social work at UCLA, found that "people may join with political motives, but end up having their consciousness raised."

Still, the views of some Palestinians involved in dialogue would disturb many Jews. Ahmad El-Hindi, 62, a Syracuse businessman and a member of the local dialogue group, says he believes "the Zionist, Jewish state of Israel has no future." Every member of his dialogue group has accepted a two-state solution, but El-Hindi says it is "only because we have

to. It is the lesser of two evils."

Why does he continue in dialogue? "What can you do?" he shrugs. "I've become friends with these people — I like them very much."

If Palestinians make no bones about trying to change the American Jewish community, neither do Jewish dialoguers. "American policy is more likely to change when the American Jewish community changes," says Charles Davis, a property tax specialist and member of the Seattle Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

No one knows how many ongoing Jewish-Palestinian dialogue groups exist around the country. The American Coalition for Middle East Dialogue (ACMED), a four-year-old umbrella organization, counts 12 member groups. But there may be more.

The groups usually spring up independently of each other, often without the knowledge that other such groups exist. "We thought we were doing something so unique," says Jay Weinberg, a lawyer and past president of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond who helped found a dialogue group of prominent Jews and Arabs two years ago.

Weinberg's group focused at first on what the two sides had in common, a critical step in the evolution of the successful groups.

"After three or four meetings, we rounded out the group to ten Jews and ten Arabs," Weinberg says. "We began to get to know each other, to develop mutual warmth and understanding."

But, the group found they could not reach agreement on all issues. "Jerusalem could have caused us to splinter," Weinberg says. But like many others, the Richmond group decided not to sacrifice their points of agreement to areas of disagreement.

Dialogue groups usually number 10 to 20 people, and while some are highly stable, others are not. Over the past several years, at least five ACMED member groups have folded.

The more successful groups tend to be highly structured, to have skillful moderators, and to exclude people who do not agree on some basic common denominators (usually belief in the rights of both the Palestinian and Jewish people to self-determination).

Once they get past the initial phase of personal sharing, groups usually turn to the nitty gritty issues of the Mideast conflict: the history of Palestinian and Jewish nationalism, the wars, the nature of Zionism, the Holocaust, the role of the superpowers, the intifada, the PLO, and prospects for peace. Groups tend to look for areas of agreement, but often will agree to disagree. Generally, the well being of the group takes precedence over the desire to reach consensus on an issue. If consensus is not possible, the topic may be avoided.

The question of Palestinian-Americans and American Jews engaging in ongoing dialogue in the United States is not as controversial as one might think. The Israeli government position, as well as that of the great majority of leaders of national Jewish organizations, is that dialogue is a good thing.

"We are for dialogue at every level and in every way because we feel ultimately it is the only way to reach a peace settlement between the Arabs

and Israel," says Moshe Aumann, Israel's consul general in Washington, D.C. "Dialogue is the road to peace."

But almost everyone throws in a caveat. Aumann and some American Jewish leaders worry that Jewish participants may not be as knowl-

edgeable as they should be. "There are a lot of uninformed Jews who get manipulated by Arabs," says Susan Wiessman, a former lawyer who started an Arab-Jewish dialogue group at Temple Leo Baeck in Los Angeles. "You see them in peace marches. They're only seeing half

the story — the devastation to the Palestinians — and they lose sight of Israel's problems. We saw this as a possibility from the beginning and were careful not to let that happen in our group."

Arab-American leaders seem more wholehearted in voicing their support for dialogue. The unofficial PLO representative in Washington, Hasan Abdel Rahman, says dialogue is "of utmost utility for activating the Jewish community to advance the search for peace in the Middle East." He says American Jews are "an influential community ... that plays an important role in U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East."

Yet some Arabs involved in local dialogue efforts have been criticized by people they characterize as "more extremist" Palestinians who accuse them of "selling Palestine."

The efforts of Palestinians and Jews to reach out to each other in the United States come against a backdrop of increasing dialogue — both on- and off-the-record — among the parties themselves and their international patrons. Hardly a month passes without a public meeting in the United States or a European capital between Israelis and Palestinians. The United States, of course, is talking to the PLO and it seems likely that some day an official meeting of the Israeli government and Palestinian representatives will take place.

With the main players overseas, is Palestinian-Jewish dialogue in the United States politically relevant? Even the most enthusiastic Jewish proponents of a dialogue claim that their actions here are not meant to dictate anything to Israel. Most say their primary political objective is to influence the U.S. government to act boldly for peace.

Dialogue veteran Reena Bernards says dialogue "broadens American Jews' perspective, and the position of American Jews is an important piece of the whole process. It also affects the Palestinian community. We can see how over the past 15 years the Palestinian movement has been moderated by its contact with Jews."

Hearing the other side is what Palestinian-Jewish dialogue is — or should be — about. Noha Ismael, who is active in Arab-American organizations sums up the credo of many Jews and Palestinians involved in dialogue: "Freedom for Palestinians and security for Israelis is indivisible. Either both people achieve liberation, or neither will. It's not a conflict in which one side can win."

(Ruth Mason is a writer in New York. This article was made possible by a grant from The Fund For Journalism on Jewish Life, a project of The CRB Foundation of Montreal, Canada. Any views expressed are solely those of the author.)

A trend that extends to many American-Jewish organizations

Increasingly, leaders of American Jewish organizations are meeting with Palestinians. On its leadership trips to Israel, NJCRAC almost always includes in its agenda meetings with local Palestinian leaders. NJCRAC, which includes among its constituents almost every national and local Jewish communal organization, is one of the few Jewish groups to have arrived at at least an informal policy on dialogue — specifically on what member agencies should do if they are approached by West Bank or Gaza Palestinians in the United States.

"While we discourage meetings with officials of the PLO or with Palestinians convicted of violent crimes, we suggest meeting with other Palestinians can be useful," says Martin Raffle. The umbrella organization also makes available to member agencies advice on how to structure such meetings.

Approximately 400 Jewish religious and lay leaders have endorsed the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace, a relatively new arrival on the Arab-Jewish dialogue scene. Chapters have been organized in several cities and a number of large convocations for peace have been held around the country.

Some Jewish leaders are forthright about their efforts. Ted Mann, a Philadelphia lawyer and former chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations — a position roughly equivalent to president of organized American Jewry — says he has been meeting with Palestinians since his first trip to Israel in 1967. He's had tea in Nablus and coffee in Jerusalem with Palestinians from the occupied territories, often in meetings set up by Israeli officials.

"I've met with PLO people here in the United States over the past year," he says. "I don't ask for such meetings, but I respond to invitations." Mann sees the meeting as an opportunity to educate Palestinian leadership. "I try to let them know what they are failing to do to bring about trust in the Israeli public. At the very least, I tell them it's their responsibility to disabuse the Israelis of their very legitimate fear that the territories on which Arab armies gathered both in '48 and in '67 to attack Israel will never again be so used."

Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in Manhattan, who along with Mann and other prominent American Jews attended secret weekend-long meetings with Palestinians in New York and Massachusetts in the early 1980s, said he also has no qualms about talking with the PLO. "It's the only group of people we SHOULD be talking to," he says. "Whom is the conflict with?"

Jacqueline Levine, former chair of NJCRAC and former president of the National Women's Division of American Jewish Congress, is another Jewish leader actively involved in dialogue. She is a founding member of the publicity-shy Jewish Women's Consultation, a two-year-old group that promotes dialogue among American Jewish and Palestinian-American women leaders. (Organizer Reena Bernards explains the group's reticence about publicity: "Dialogue is a kind of laboratory, a place for each side to try to get to know the other, to examine preconceptions and to consider the possibility of changing one's views. It's a delicate, internal process.")

Among the group's membership are former or current officers of many national Jewish organizations including B'nai B'rith Women, the National Council of Jewish Women, American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, the National Jewish Welfare Board, the Council of Jewish Federations and Reform, and Conservative women's organizations. The Consultation is chaired by noted Orthodox writer Blu Greenberg. Many of the women come to this work with extensive experience in black-Jewish and Christian-Jewish dialogue.

"I've always believed in dialogue, even in the bleakest days," Levine says. "We have the obligation, as Martin Luther King did, to talk to people we disagree with. I continue to believe that the only way Israel will achieve peace is by talking around the table. The text doesn't matter. It's the talk that matters. Once people start talking, there are no limits."

Comments by Levine, Mann and other Jewish leaders involved in dialogue, including American Jewish Congress executive director Henry Siegman, reflect recent findings by Queens College sociologist Steven M. Cohen. In a recent study of 780 Jewish communal leaders, Cohen found that 46 percent think Israel should offer to talk to the PLO with no preconditions on either side while 73 percent say Israel should talk to the PLO if the latter recognizes Israel and renounces terror.

But Israeli Consul General Aumann warns that "anything that raises the prestige or political power of the PLO places more obstacles to achieving peace. The more American Jews and others dialogue with the PLO — which was not democratically elected and which has remained in power by the strength of the assassin's gun — the less other Palestinians will come forward."

—RUTH MASON



Rare Yiddish documents in Lithuania -- safe after all

By RUTH ROVNER

Special to The Jewish Voice

NEW YORK — Sam Norich remembers his amazement when he walked into a library in Lithuania last year and was shown valuable Yiddish documents he'd never expected to see.

"I can't even describe the feeling of holding in my hands letters written by Max Weinreich which no one had seen or touched in 50 years," he said, referring to the well-known Yiddish scholar and linguist.

Norich saw other valuable documents that day, too, records of life in pre-war East Europe that he and other Yiddish experts assumed had been destroyed by the Nazis years ago. "It was amazing," said Norich, executive director of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, the world's foremost center for the study of Yiddish-speaking Jewry. "I had no idea that this much has been saved."

In all, he now estimates that over 40,000 pages of archival documents are safe in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, having survived Nazi destruction.

Since the day when he first saw for himself that so many documents still exist, Norich has been involved in an effort to have the material transferred to YIVO's world headquarters at 1048 Fifth Avenue in New York.

"There's no question these are YIVO documents," he said. "They're on YIVO stationery, they're addressed to YIVO, and in some cases, we even have in our New York archives the responses to letters we saw there."

But negotiating a suitable arrangement with Lithuanian officials has been a challenge, particularly since documents have turned up in three separate archives in Lithuania. Norich has made four trips to East Europe since he first saw the Yiddish documents in the library in Vilnius.

He first offered to make microfilms of every page of the documents, provided that YIVO could then have the originals. "But that offer was refused," he said. However, the Lithuanian officials "were willing to let us look at and copy anything there, which is something to be grateful for."

He's also held private meetings with Jewish leaders, library officials and leaders of the Lithuanian independence movement party, Sajudis, which is now in power.

As he continues his negotiations,



Sam Norich

Norich still marvels that the documents turned up at all. "We had always assumed that almost half of YIVO's pre-war documents had been destroyed, along with our original headquarters in Vilna," said Norich.

YIVO was founded in Viena (now Vilnius) in 1925, and its headquarters there became the repository for a vast collection of pre-war Yiddish material. Half of it was confiscated by the Nazis, but that half did manage to survive the war. "And with the help of the State Department, it was transferred from Frankfurt to New York in 1947," said Norich. (The Fifth Avenue building had become the new YIVO headquarters in 1940.)

As for the rest of the pre-war collection, most of it was thought to be lost.

"We knew that some papers — but just a small number — had been hidden during the war and were saved," said Norich. These, he said, went to the Jewish State Museum in Vilna, founded in 1945 but closed four years later.

"And not another word was heard about our documents after that," said Norich. "So we had reason to believe they were destroyed."

But two years ago, Norich got what he called "the first inklings" that some of the missing collection had survived. Attending a meeting in Warsaw, he met the head of the Lithuanian Jewish Cultural Society, who told him he thought there were YIVO documents in a library in Vilnius.

A year later, attending the founding conference of the Jewish Cultural Society of Lithuania in Vilnius, Norich pursued what leads he could —

and his search led to the Book Chamber, a national library.

He and YIVO's chief archivist, Marek Web, were led into the room where library officials had set out four packages "all wound up in wrapping paper and tied with string," he recalled.

He and Web opened the packages expectantly — and discovered valuable Yiddish material. They found records of YIVO's field research, letters, historical accounts of events such as the Ukrainian pogrom of 1919 and autobiographies of young Jews living in Eastern Europe who had responded to YIVO's writing contest for Jewish teenagers in 1932.

They also found letters written by Max Weinreich. "He was one of the founders of YIVO and a world renowned linguist, and these were letters he had written several weeks after YIVO was founded," explained Norich.

"Finding those letters, for us, was almost like" — he paused, smiling — "finding the U.S. Constitution!"

After they looked at four packages worth of documents, library officials told them there were 62 packages in all. And since then, Norich has learned there's an even larger Yiddish collection in the Central State Archives in Vilnius and still another in the Central Historical Archival Collection.

YIVO officials are still trying to piece together the story of how all this material escaped the Nazis — and turned up decades later. "We're not clear exactly how these documents were preserved," said Norich. "But we understand that large segments were hidden in the Vilna ghetto right under the noses of the Nazis."

Then, after the war, they went to the newly created Jewish State

Museum in Lithuania — and when that museum closed four years later, they were apparently dispersed and sent to various other libraries and archives in Lithuania, said Norich. By this time, it was the era of Stalin, and YIVO leaders in New York were unable to get any information about Yiddish documents.

"But we recently learned that in 1953, the last stage of the Stalin era, the authorities at the Book Chamber had gotten orders to destroy all the Jewish documents," said Norich.

But the head of the Book Chamber, Antanas Ulpis, called a few Jewish friends. "He knew them from the Red Army days," said Norich, "and he asked them to tell him what papers were indispensable and what could be discarded."

"They came back and told him, 'This is so valuable none of it should be destroyed.' And apparently he found a way to save it all."

And now that the documents have been discovered, safe in Lithuania, officials there have hired five elderly Jews who know Yiddish to sort through the material, trying to identify the many documents. "But they can't do a complete job, because there are so many fragments," said Norich. It requires trained archivists who know the context in which they belong to describe and identify them fully.

Norich remains hopeful that the documents will in time be in New York, where YIVO's archives, with over 22 million items, comprise one of the world's major collections of Yiddish material.

The current political climate in Lithuania, though uncertain, does give him hope. "We hope that an independent Lithuania will be more accommodating," he said.

Meanwhile, he's offered to provide technical assistance to help the Book Chamber make photocopies of the documents. And he hopes to get an agreement with the new government, he said, which gives YIVO title to the documents.

YIVO officials are also helping to plan an international conference in August focused on Vilna as a Jewish culture center. The event will be co-sponsored by YIVO, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and the re-established Jewish State Museum.

"We're very excited about it," he said. "It's one indication of our intention not to parachute in and then leave. We want to maintain an ongoing link with Lithuania."

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USSR may allow more Israeli consuls

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Soviet Union will consider allowing Israel to increase the staff of the Israeli consular mission in Moscow by as many as 10 officials, leading Kremlin figure Alexander Yakovlev was quoted as saying by an Israeli scholar who met with him.

Professor Eliahu Zemtsov added that Yakovlev had also spoken of the possibility of transferring the Israeli facility to a more convenient site in the suburbs, so that Soviet Jews waiting for bureaucratic procedures could be better accommodated.

The current Israel consular staff in

Moscow numbers six, who are charged with handling 2,000 to 3,000 Soviet Jews per day. The hopeful emigres have to wait in long lines outdoors.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Dashevsky, one of the last of the prominent refuseniks arrived in Israel on Sunday, and Leonid Stonov, another former refusenik in Moscow received permission to emigrate.

Another long-term refusenik, Emanuel Lurie, also from Moscow, arrived in Israel on April 20, after 12 years' refusal.

Israel orchestra visits USSR

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra left last month for the Soviet Union, where it will give five performances under the baton of its longtime conductor, Zubin Mehta. It

will be the first-ever concert tour of the Soviet Union by Israel's world-famous ensemble, which is slated to play in Moscow, Riga and Leningrad.

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Roots & Branches

Making sense of the census

By MIRIAM WEINER

Special to The Jewish Voice

The 1990 Federal census form arrived at my house and within a short time, it was completed, sealed and on its way back to its ultimate home in Pittsburg, Kansas, in the offices of the Bureau of the Census where it will help form the future portrait of America revealed by our responses.

Frankly, it is difficult for me to see much value to the future family historian based upon the information submitted on my census form. It wasn't always like that...

For instance, when I began researching my family history years ago, I quickly turned to the Federal census which surprisingly revealed a great deal about my mother's family.

In the early 1890s, the Odnopozov family branch began arriving in America from Priluki, a shtetl in the Poltava District of the Ukraine. In the

1910 Federal census, I found that Morris had shortened his name to "Adnopol," had already become a citizen, was a tailor of children's jackets, had been married 12 years to Dora, could read/write and had three children. His older brother, Herschel (Harris) married Feige (Fannie) Freedman who was always described as the "strong one in that family." For years I was unable to locate Harris and Fannie in the census records until the thought occurred to try Fannie's maiden name of Freedman and sure enough, the Harris Freedman family shows up in the 1910 census living in Brooklyn where Harris is a retail merchant, Fannie's occupation is listed as "none" and daughter, Rebecca is a piano teacher at age 22.

Years ago, most women became citizens through the naturalization process of their husbands. Not in Fannie's case! The 1910 census indicates Harris is still an "alien" and

eventually the Brooklyn courthouse produced the naturalization records of Fannie Freedman who filed her own application in 1936. On her naturalization petition, most unusual for a woman in those days, Fannie indicates she arrived in this country in 1891 under the name of Feige Adnopolow. Apparently, she stopped using her husband's name shortly after her arrival in America and the family assumed her maiden name. No one seems to remember much about my great-uncle Harris, but they sure have some stories about Fannie's "strong" character and "business sense."

In today's world, Fannie would probably fit in just fine, but long ago, women like Fannie were supposed to be housewives. The exceptions were not well accepted other than those who worked in occupations such as librarian, nurse or teacher.

The first Federal census was in 1790 and every ten years thereafter.

The census records through 1910 are open to the public for searching and can be found at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., its branches and various libraries throughout the country. It is anticipated we will have access to the 1920 census returns in 1992. Tragically, a warehouse fire almost completely destroyed the 1890 Federal census, with some scattered records remaining.

Each census since 1790 added new questions and the responses which emerged reflect the evolving history of our land and our families. Standard questions included name, age, occupation, sex, race. Consider the following additional questions (which is a representation, not a complete listing):

In 1790, whether free white inhabitants, slaves or other persons; in 1840 whether literate or a pensioner; in 1850, whether the children attended school; in 1880, whether disabled, a prisoner or pauper. The 1880 census was also the first to include a census of Indians. Also in 1880, of extreme importance to all family historians, we learned the birthplace of person and parents.

The 1890 census reported the average worker earned \$438 per year and lived on a farm. The average household had six children. Occupations for children as young as 10 years old were listed — child labor laws were yet to be passed.

In 1900, if foreign born, the year of immigration was provided and whether naturalized (of great importance to genealogists); whether the home was owned or rented; in 1910, whether blind, deaf or dumb.

Census returns continue to reflect the progress of technology and the resulting consumer consumption. In 1930, the census-taker asked "do

you have a radio?" In 1940, almost half the households indicated they had in-door plumbing and in 1950, the hi-tech question was "do you have a television?"

The number of questions asked in each census varies with the most extensive data requested in 1910 and 1940 whereas in 1960 and 1970, the number of questions was sharply reduced. In 1980, an additional category was added: "Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent."

Besides the Federal census every ten years, many states count their residents through their own census procedure at varying intervals.

For a free brochure which describes Federal census schedules, write to the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., 20408 and request "General Information Leaflet" Number 5. Two important references include: *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920* by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide (1987) which is one of the most important finding aids for census research ever set into type and *A Century of Population Growth*, a re-print of a 1909 publication by the Bureau of the Census (1989) both published in Baltimore by Genealogical Publishing Co.

From the viewpoint of a genealogist or family historian, more information is generally better. However, what really counts is to be counted.

(Miriam Weiner, syndicated columnist and lecturer, has prepared a beginner's guide (55 pages) on how to research family history that includes charts, list of archives and libraries, bibliography, maps, family group sheets and more. It can be ordered by writing to her at 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094.)

Study: Palestinian state on W. Bank could be destructive

By DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israel cannot allow the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank because it would lead to the destruction of the Jewish state, a study by a Jerusalem-based think-tank warns.

There is a consensus in Israel that for strategic and military reasons, it is "unthinkable" to agree to a Palestinian state, said Robert Loewenberg, president of the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies.

While the study assumes that such a state would be controlled by the Palestine Liberation Organization, Loewenberg said that a Palestinian state would mean that Israel would be held "hostage to the good will even of a benign state."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which sponsored the English-language edition of the study, said that a similar consensus exists among American Jews. He said no mainstream Jewish leader or organization was "an advocate of a PLO state on the West Bank."

They spoke at a news conference at the National Press Club on April 24 at which the 164-page study, called "Can Israel Survive a Palestinian State?" was released. It was also made public in Jerusalem, where a Hebrew-language version of the study is expected soon.

The main targets of the report, which contains numerous photographs and colored maps and charts, are not Israelis, but U.S. government

tal leaders and the American public.

Hier said the report seeks to correct the "false perception" that two states west of the Jordan River are an option rather than a formula for Israel to "commit political suicide."

Loewenberg and Hier said that the study did not consider how peace could be achieved, including the "land for peace" formula. "We want first to establish what is 'no' and then we will be able to talk about what is 'yes,'" Loewenberg said.

Michael Widlanski, editor of the report and project coordinator of the study, said that a Palestinian state would be a danger to Israel "even if it were ruled by the Boy Scouts of America." He explained that it would become the advanced state for such Arab rulers as Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Syria's Hafez Assad, while "leaving Israel with an indefensible territorial depth. That would be an invitation for war."

Israel's main military edge today is the geography provided by the West Bank, Widlanski said. "The West Bank is a natural tank trap, it deters the entrance of troops," he argued. "As such it deters war."

Widlanski dismissed the argument that since Israel and the Arab states have missiles capable of hitting each others cities, geography has little meaning. He said that the wars of the last 20 years have shown that a nation cannot win a war on just missiles, but that the infantry and artillery are the main ingredients.

He said that if Israel had to rely on

unconventional weapons alone, it would make war more likely. "If Israel can't depend on manpower or geography to absorb the first blow, it moves more to a preemptive strike posture similar to 1967," he warned.

Eugene Rostow, undersecretary of state for political affairs in the Johnson administration and one of the contributors to the study, said that the unconventional weapons "are so threatening and so dangerous that a mutual paralysis would set in" similar to one that has existed between the United States and the Soviet Union on nuclear weapons.

Rostow, who is one of the authors of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, reiterated the argument that he has continually made that the U.N. resolution does not require Israel to withdraw from the territories gained in 1967 until the Arab countries make peace with it.

He also stressed that the pre-1967 lines were not boundaries but armistice lines that are subject to change as a result of a peace agreement. If the armistice lines are considered boundaries, as U.S. policy seems to imply, then in a future war pressure on Israel to accept a cease-fire line with promises of future negotiations would have no value, Rostow argued.

Rostow also criticized the Bush administration and its predecessors for calling the Jewish settlements an obstacle to peace.

Bush signs second hate crimes bill

WASHINGTON (JTA) — On April 23, President Bush signed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act on Monday, marking the enactment of the second major bias bill in two years.

"By collecting and publicizing this information, we can shore up our first line of defense against the erosion of civil rights by alerting the cops on the beat," Bush said at a ceremony attended by 175 people in the Old Executive Office Building.

Jewish groups, including the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee, along with civil rights and homosexual rights groups, strongly lobbied for the measure.

Religious groups had worked in 1988 for passage of the first hate crimes bill, which created federal penalties as high as \$250,000 and 10-year jail sentence for religious vandalism.

BB/BBW: improving relations

WASHINGTON — Noting that a resolution passed by the B'nai B'rith Women's Delegate Assembly on April 27, appeared to offer a new opportunity to improve the relationship between B'nai B'rith and B'nai B'rith Women, B'nai B'rith has said it now awaited clarification of the resolution's language.

Previous, the BBW Executive Board had passed a resolution in October, 1988 calling itself a "separate, independent and autonomous organization identified with B'nai B'rith." The B'nai B'rith Board of Governors viewed this declaration as a violation of the B'nai B'rith

Constitution.

In the new B'nai B'rith Women resolution, the organization declares itself to be "an independent, self-governing Jewish women's organization affiliated with B'nai B'rith International." B'nai B'rith has asked B'nai B'rith Women to clarify the intent and meaning of its new declaration. B'nai B'rith stated that it is not clear whether the new statement supersedes the previous statement or merely adds to it; what the term "affiliated with B'nai B'rith International" means; and whether BBW intends to be part of the constitutional structure of B'nai B'rith.

Kosher products in U.S. number over 19,000

A record number of as many as 1,000 new food products have been certified kosher during the last 12 months, bringing the total number of kosher food products on U.S. supermarket shelves to over 19,000. The products range from items produced by small manufacturers to such U.S. giants as Ultra Slim Fast.

Supermarket chains are having a significant impact on the number of available kosher food products. Chains like Pathmark and

Waldbaum's produce as many as 500 kosher private label items. This past Passover, consumers were greeted with an unprecedented variety of foods certified kosher for the holidays, ranging from Wise Potato Chips to Manischewitz Passover Cereal. Dominics, one of Chicago's major supermarket chains featured 1100 kosher for Passover items in its special sections according to James Baumeister, of Dominics. New York chains featured even more products.

The record number of kosher food products has catapulted the kosher food industry into a \$1.75 billion industry. According to major distributors of kosher food products, the industry has been growing at a 15 to 20 percent rate each year. An estimated six million Americans eat kosher but the engine that drives the market are the 1.5 million Jews who observe kashruth. The 19,000 kosher food products is in contrast to the 1,000 recorded in 1977.

Study:

The changing American Jewish family has been 'altered beyond recognition' over last 20 years

By CAROL SORGEN

The American Jewish family has been altered almost beyond recognition in the last 20 years, and schools and other communal institutions have failed to keep pace with the changes that affect them profoundly. That is the finding of Dr. Sylvia Barack Fishman, research associate at Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies.

Fishman has just completed a study of the societal forces that have influenced the American Jewish family over the last two decades, particularly Jewish women.

Twenty years ago, she notes, 6 percent of American Jews were single, far below the national average of 16 percent. Today, in many major metropolitan areas, one in three to one in five Jewish adults is single, exceeding the national average of 19 percent.

In 1970, almost all American Jewish women married in their 20s. Today, the age of first marriage is much later, postponed for educational and career goals that have taken precedence over childbearing.

A rising divorce rate, women working outside the home, increasing numbers of singles, feminism — those are the forces at work.

Fishman surveyed several geographic areas, but principally focused on Baltimore because, she said, "it's a fairly traditional city. If you can see changes in Baltimore, you know that they are widespread throughout other

Jewish communities in the United States."

Fishman found from Jewish population studies conducted in 1970 that 53 percent of American Jewish women were married by age 24; 85 percent by age 29; and 95 percent by age 34.

Much more recent data culled from Baltimore and Dallas illustrates the scope of change. In Baltimore in 1986, 80 percent of Jewish women

which need the talent, energy and financial contributions of their singles communities, have not responded adequately, either by welcoming singles into existing programming or by creating new programming, Fishman believes.

"Jewish communities need to see singles as 'real live Jews,' Fishman said. "There has been a real laissez-faire attitude about them, and that's destructive. On a moral basis, you

"Jewish communal institutions, which need the talent, energy and financial contributions of the singles communities, have not responded adequately..."

aged 18 through 24 and 27 percent aged 25 through 34 had never married. In Dallas in 1989, 93 percent of Jewish women aged 18 through 25 and 27 percent aged 25 through 34 had never married.

For the Jewish community, these figures translate to an increasing number of singles, who now comprise a significant population across the country.

Yet Jewish communal institutions,

just can't ignore people because they're single. They should have a place among us. If we wait around, we may lose these people altogether. They may become so alienated that they will never affiliate."

When Jews do marry, Jewish households are quite different from what they used to be. For example, only one-third of Jewish households today consist of the stereotypical Mom, Dad and the kids. "It's not the

same family we knew in the 1950s or even the '60s," Fishman said.

Fishman cites four reasons for the change.

One is new childbearing patterns. While most women used to bear children in their early 20s, they now delay it until their late 20s or early 30s. It has several consequences. Infertility, Fishman said, is a problem for approximately 15 percent of married couples in their 30s who first start trying to conceive. To attain a replacement level for the American Jewish population, families must have 2.2 children, Fishman notes. "By delaying childbearing, it might not work out that way."

Career considerations may also limit the number of children the couple has. "A woman might have a child and everyone is pleased for her, yet she receives the message at work, 'One child is fine, but don't expect to have any more children if you want to be a partner,'" she said.

A second reason for the changed family is women working outside the home. Twenty years ago, Jewish women, more than any other ethnic group, left the work force during their childbearing and child-rearing years. Now, most Jewish women continue to work through those years.

Fishman found in a nationwide study that two-thirds of Jewish mothers of children under age 6 held paying jobs. "The dual-career family is now the new conventional family," she said.

The widespread employment outside the home of mothers of preschool and school-age children has consequences for the community as a whole, Fishman points out. It has created a growing need for Jewish day care and after-school care.

Jewish schools and institutions can no longer assume that most households include a parent at home who is available for car pools, hot lunch programs and other institutional needs.

A third reason for the changed Jewish family is the rising rate of divorce. Fishman found that Jews who divorce tend to remarry quickly.

"We should be asking, 'Have you ever been divorced?' rather than 'Are you now divorced?'" on questionnaires, she remarked. The number of those who have been divorced is two to three times higher than those who are currently divorced. "One-fifth to one-quarter of the American Jewish population has had to deal with divorce at some point," Fishman estimates.

The rising divorce rate has led to single-parent and blended families. As a group, single-parent mothers

remain the least affluent of the Jewish community, even when they are working fulltime. Fishman stresses that Jewish schools and institutions must increase their sensitivity to the special problems these households face.

The fourth, and perhaps the most important, reason for the changed Jewish family is feminism.

According to Fishman, feminism has affected not only the Jewish family but the entire American Jewish community. Feminist attitudes are prevalent among Jewish women, even those who claim not to be feminists, she said.

"A broad spectrum of general feminist and Jewish feminist goals have been absorbed and domesticated within the public and private lives of mainstream American Jewry. Parents value for their daughters the independence that a career can bring, more so than working for the community or for the family."

One of the most visible changes wrought by feminism has been in Jewish religious and communal life, including female cantors and rabbis, participation of women in prayer services, and the elevation of women to positions of real power and authority.

"When Jews immigrated to this country, although women had prayers in the home, it was basically the men who retained the ties with the religion," Fishman said. "Jewish women were divested of those ties. Feminism has allowed Jewish women to re-empower themselves and their spiritual life."

As with the general population, however, feminism has not completely eradicated all barriers faced by women. "Within Jewish communal organizations," Fishman noted, "despite the presence of qualified women in the field, very few are promoted to executive positions." And those frequently earn salaries far less than their male colleagues.

Similarly, women ordained as rabbis are far less likely, so far, to attain the most prestigious and lucrative rabbinical positions in major metropolitan areas," Fishman said.

In the non-sectarian professions, career paths and salaries of Jewish women still often lag far behind those of Jewish men.

But Fishman is optimistic. "there is a hunger to explore all things Jewish," she said. "And the level of Jewish self-esteem and pride is much higher now than it was 30 years ago."

(Carol Sorgen is a free-lance writer living in Baltimore. This article originally appeared in the Baltimore Jewish Times.)

Sexual abuse, incest are Jewish problems 'waiting to be uncovered'

Author Sharon R. Lowenstein contends that incest and child sexual abuse are Jewish problems waiting to be uncovered. In "Confronting Sexual Abuse in Jewish Families" in the April 1990 issue of *MOMENT* magazine she says, "I know we Jews prefer not to confront these issues. But... denial brings... harm to victims."

Denial — which Lowenstein contends is nowhere greater than in the Jewish community — inflicts heavy penalties. Most adults who were sexually victimized as children suffer severe bouts of depression and self-destructiveness. Some psychologists believe that sexual abuse accounts for as many as one-third of all suicide attempts. At least 20 percent of adult survivors of incest and child sexual abuse suffer severe episodes of drug or alcohol dependency; the figure may be as high as 70 percent.

Recent studies also indicate that one out of every four females and one out of every seven males in the United States experience some form of sexual abuse before age 16. These statistics cut across racial and socioeconomic lines. Lowenstein believes they also apply to Jews.

Lowenstein says the pain is private, but the problem is communal. Child sexual abuse directly influences adult relationships and generational behavior. Adults who were sexually abused as children are more likely to find partners who physically abuse them — 80 percent of battered wives were sexually victimized as children.

One-fourth of adults who were sexually abused as children grow up to become perpetrators. A community that ignores or denies the prevalence of incest and sexual abuse is maintaining an environment protective of such behavior and placing future generations in jeopardy.

Lowenstein adds that the myth that Jewish families and incestuous families are a contradiction in terms serves not to protect our children but to continue their exploitation. The myth demands secrecy. Secrecy protects perpetrators, permits non-offending spouses to maintain a facade that facilitates denial, traps victims in ongoing abuse, and alienates survivors from vital sources of support within the Jewish community.

Jewish families and incestuous families are not incongruous. Lowenstein finds that perpetrators live, work and socialize among us and cannot be distinguished from non-perpetrators. The Jewish perpetrators Lowenstein knows include businessmen, attorneys, physicians, religious and communal leaders. They are Reform, Conservative and Orthodox, often especially well-liked and well-respected model citizens who make a point of being seen as conforming to traditional family norms. This is consistent with studies in the general community, where one researcher has noted that the father and mother are likely to have "an unspoken agreement to validate one another."

Lowenstein stresses that although sexual abuse is not a pleasant subject, it should be addressed within a Jewish context. She recommends that

Jewish agencies and schools have specialists in child sexual abuse and incest meet with their staffs; that family service agencies provide workshops for professionals, forums for the public, training for rap group leaders and support groups for survivors; and that rabbis confront communal denial from the pulpit and offer support to individuals.

Finally, she says, all of us should learn how to talk openly about incest and child sexual abuse. The secrecy must stop. The existence of incestuous, even brutal, families among us does not repudiate the existence of normal or superior families. They exist side-by-side and are often, from the outside, indistinguishable from each other.

She concludes, "We do not threaten Jewish values when we recognize and address the problem. We act on our commitment to those values."

In a companion article, "Rabbis Can Help by Speaking Out," Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, president of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership (CLAL), says "Those who cut off or isolate victims who dare to speak out bring upon themselves the judgment that the Torah places on the accessory and the bystander: 'Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor'" (Leviticus 19:16). He adds, "Our affirmation of [the victims'] dignity and innocence will help restore them to wholeness. Thereby, we imitate God 'who dwells with the oppressed and the humiliated in spirit'" (Isaiah 57:15).


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Jewish Community Center

Preschool holds model seders



Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz, Temple Beth Shalom, and David Sorkin, JCC Executive Director, were the two leaders of the JCC Pre-School Model Seders. Yoskowitz led the seder for the older children, ages 3 and 4, while Sorkin led the seder for younger

children.

The children enjoyed matzoh and grape juice and sang some of their favorite Passover songs, as well as, participated in the telling of the story of Pesach.



Earth day tree planted



The JCC Pre-School celebrated Earth Day on Friday, April 20, by planting a small tree by the pre-school playground area. The pre-school children assisted the Center's maintenance staff with the planting of the two foot tree in a location that the children can watch the tree grow and thrive.

Other Early Day celebrations for children at the JCC included a search for trash on the grounds of the JCC and Family Campus.

Family Campus reopening scheduled

The Jewish Family Campus, located on twenty wooded acres adjacent to the Jewish Community Center building, will hold its annual Memorial Day weekend celebration on Saturday, May 26, through Monday, May 28. According to Eileen Wallach, Recreational Services Director, "This weekend has been designed to provide family fun and entertainment from tots to teens and adults to grandparents."

Saturday will include a variety of family games in the pool as well as activities on the grounds of the Campus. The feature for Saturday night will be a Comedy Cabaret for adults at the outdoor amphitheatre with local comedian, Ben Kurland. Kurland will be joined by another celebrity comedian from the Philadelphia area. Tickets for the Comedy Cabaret are \$10 per person and

reservations can be made by calling the JCC Front Desk at 478-5660.

Sunday's activities will include a singles party and barbecue starting at 10 a.m. and a picnic lunch in the picnic grove, as well as games and sports-related activities. Sunday evening's main attraction will be a Teen Bash which will include a barbecue dinner, recreational activities and dancing at the amphitheatre to music provided by one of Wilmington's local radio personalities. The registration deadline for the Teen Bash will be May 22.

The "line-up" for Monday will begin with a special flag-raising ceremony by the Jewish War Veterans and Cantor Norman Swerling of Congregation Beth Shalom. Monday night's feature will be a Family Dinner on the grounds of the Campus. Dinner will include barbecue chicken, salad, potatoes, rolls, dessert and drinks.

The cost for dinner is \$6 per adult; \$5 per senior adult and \$4 per child (under age 10). Family Dinner Coupons will also be available for purchase during the entire weekend. These coupons will allow families to purchase nine dinners and receive the tenth dinner free. Other Family Dinner Nights will be held on Sunday evenings throughout the entire summer.

"The Family Campus Committee, chaired by Rand Snyderman and Steve Medwin, along with the Center's staff, have put a lot of time and energy into the planning of the opening celebration and we hope that the community can join us for a full weekend of family fun," Wallach added. For additional information, see the complete schedule listing for opening weekend in this issue of *The Jewish Voice*.

New Assistant Director of Health and Physical Fitness appointed

Eileen Wallach, Recreational Services Director of the JCC, has announced the appointment of Kevin Clare to the position of Assistant Director of Health and Fitness. Clare, who served in the Marines for four and a half years, received a B.S. degree in Health and Physical Education from William Paterson College in New Jersey, with a certification in exercise physiology, and served an internship in cardiac rehabilitation at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, New Jersey.

Prior to his current appointment, he worked in the Physical Education departments at the Middlesex County, New Jersey JCC and at the YM & YWHA in Wayne, New Jersey. In

Clare's capacity as the Assistant Director of Health and Fitness, he teaches gym classes to the pre-school and daycare children, leads the Senior Center Walking Club, coaches the JCC Yankees' Little League Team and develops individualized fitness programs for JCC members. In addition, he will be working at Camp JCC this summer as the director of the sports program, along with Mindy Alten.

"It's a pleasure to have Kevin on board. He brings with him many new and creative ideas, and I'm looking forward to expanding our department with his assistance," stated Wallach.

Clare has recently moved to Wilmington with his wife, Mary.



Kevin Clare

Israeli Art Exhibit

The JCC Art Gallery is currently displaying Israeli Fine Art featuring the work of Abecasis, Briss, Ebgi, Katz, Rothman, Haya Ran, Castel, Rodan, Weil, Bergner, Ben-Avram, Salomom and Tarkay.

All artwork is available for purchase and the exhibit is open to the community and will continue through May 30.

Camp registration deadline approaching

Families are encouraged to submit their summer camp applications for the "longest running day camp around," to the Jewish Community Center as soon as possible. According to the Center, applications received after May 14 date will be subject to a late fee.

"In addition to the fact that several of the camp programs have limited spaces available and are filling quickly,

it is important for us to know who our campers are so that we may staff our camp accordingly," stated J.J. Alter, Director of Camping Services at the Center. "Our registration information allows us to know exactly how many staff to hire and also helps us prepare our staff training programs," he added.

According to Alter, staff members have been planning, organizing and

readying their resources for this very important time of the year.

The 1990 camp staff includes many familiar faces to Camp JCC as well as several new ones. "It takes very special people to develop the entire camp staff complement," said Alter. "Over 130 staff members with diverse backgrounds, skills, interests and educational backgrounds all come together focused by the common goal of the well-being of the campers. The concept of the 'extended family' is alive and well and prevailing in our day camp," Alter said.

According to Alter, there is still room for campers and staff. Those interested in receiving more information are encouraged to contact the Center as soon as possible by calling the Camping Services Office at 478-5660.

Choral group recital

The Senior Center Choral Group will present an "End of the Season" recital on Wednesday, May 23, at 11 a.m. in the Sol and Tanya Zallea Auditorium at the JCC. The recital will include a variety of songs in English, Yiddish and Hebrew.

A coffee and danish reception honoring the choral group, its director Sarah Goldstein and pianist, Sara Berman, will be held prior to the recital at 10:30 a.m. This performance is free of charge and open to the entire community.

Opening Weekend at the Family Campus

Join us for a fun-filled Family Campus Opening! This weekend is for tots to teens and adults to grandparents. From the Comedy Cabaret to the Teen Bash and Special Family Day, spend your entire weekend with us. Remember...the Family Campus is your home away from home!



Saturday, May 26th

1:00-1:15 p.m.	Shalom
1:15-2:15 p.m.	All Hands on Deck (Juggling)
2:15-2:30 p.m.	Penny Toss in the Pool
2:30-3:00 p.m.	Flotation Time in the Pool
2:30-3:15 p.m.	Supervised Play on Playground
3:30-4:00 p.m.	Raft-O-Rama in the Pool
3:30-4:15 p.m.	A William Tell Adventure (Archery)
7:00-11:00 p.m.	Comedy Cabaret for adults

Comedy Cabaret . . .

Ben Kurland, one of the brightest comedians on the comedy scene today will be one of our guest hosts for this evening!

Kurland has recently appeared on ABC TV's "Comedy Club Special" hosted by Dudley Moore and has also made three appearances on the "Pat Sajack Show".

According to the "Philadelphia Inquirer", "Philadelphia Daily News" and the "Philadelphia Magazine", Kurland is Philly's favorite comedian...All his lines are funny!

Join us for a fun-filled evening at the amphitheatre, when Kurland will be joined by another "surprise comedian host"!

Sunday, May 27th

10:00-1:00 p.m.	Singles Party and Barbecue
10:00-12:00 p.m.	Kids Hike (Ages 8-11)
	Supervised Play/Arts & Crafts (Ages 3-7)
	Adult Recreational Softball
	Teen Recreational Basketball
12:00-1:30 p.m.	Lunch at the Family Campus
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Abracadabra Magic Show
2:00-3:00 p.m.	Tennis Clinic (Don't forget your rackets)
2:00-3:00 p.m.	Open Water Polo (Ages 13 & up)
2:30-3:00 p.m.	Family Frisbee and Fitness Fun
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Try Me Scuba (Scuba Diving Demo)
4:00-6:00 p.m.	Teen Softball
6:00-7:00 p.m.	Teen Barbecue
7:00-10:00 p.m.	Teen Bash

Hey Teens . . .

Join us tonight for a smashing good time at the Campus! A softball game will start out our night, then a great barbecue dinner with all you can drink, and to top it all off, join us for jammin' tunes at the amphitheatre. Dance under the stars or just relax on your blanket, play a game of frisbee or just talk with your friends. The registration deadline for the Teen Bash is May 22nd!

**CORRECTION
TO
'ON CENTER'**

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**The
MEMORIAL
DAY
PICNIC
is
scheduled
for
SUNDAY,
MAY 27
at
NOON**

Monday, May 28th

10:00-10:30 a.m.	Flagraising by Jewish War Veterans and Cantor Swerling
10:30-11:15 a.m.	Family Relay Field Games
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Water Aerobics in the Pool
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Bring a picnic lunch to the Campus (We'll supply the fruit & drinks)
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Children's Games
2:00-4:00 p.m.	Family Computer Pictures (small fee)
2:45-3:15 p.m.	Children's Sing-A-Long
3:00-3:30 p.m.	Flotation Time in the Pool
3:30-4:15 p.m.	Family Arts & Crafts Project
4:00-4:30 p.m.	Pool Games
4:15-5:00 p.m.	Family Fun Games (Bingo on the Deck)
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Family Dinner at the Campus* (Includes: Barbecue Chicken, Salad, Potatoes, Rolls, Dessert and Drinks)
6:45-7:30 p.m.	"Larry Vee" Live at the Amphitheatre

Family Dinners at the Campus . . .

On Sunday nights leave the cooking to the JCC! We will enjoy international cuisines such a Greek, Western, Italian and American nights. You can bet on a surprise each and every week. Pick-up your Family Dinner Coupon Today...Buy 9 dinners and get the 10th dinner free!

*Please Note: All other Family Dinners will be held on Sunday evenings

Memorial Day Weekend Registration Form

Yes, we are looking forward to a weekend of fun, food and beverages at Family Campus '90!

Teen Bash \$5.00 May 27, 4:00-10:00 p.m.

We would like to reserve lunch at \$1.25 per person for # _____ persons on Sunday, May 27, 12:00

We would like to reserve # _____ tickets at \$10.00 per adult for the hilarious Comedy Cabaret on Saturday, May 26, 7:00 p.m.

We would like to reserve # _____ tickets for the Family Dinner and Show on Monday, May 28, 5:00 p.m.

Please complete for Family Dinner Reservations:
 # _____ Adults @ \$6.00 each
 # _____ Senior Adults @ \$5.00 each
 # _____ Children (Under 10) @ \$4.00 each

Please return completed form to the JCC Front Desk or mail to 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19803. For additional information, please contact Eileen Wallach, Recreational Services Director at (302) 478-5660.

Announcements/Events

Naches

Galperin

Henry and Ruth Galperin of Wilmington announce the birth of their fourth grandchild, Wynne Leila Hamerman. She is the daughter of Fern Galperin and Don Hamerman, 19 Bellmere Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut 06906. Other grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hamerman of Orange, Connecticut.

Cohen

Ellen and Keith Cohen of Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, announce the birth of a daughter, Emily Bess Cohen, on April 9. Grandparents are Edie and Hal Davis of Wilmington, Dorothy and Lester Gould of Niagara Falls, New York, and Gary Cohen of Buffalo, New York. The great-grandmother is Mary Cohen of Buffalo, New York.

Goldbaum

Judith Ann Goldbaum of Wilmington, Delaware was re-elected to the Executive Board of B'nai B'rith Women at the organization's Biennial Convention April 26-29 in New Orleans. She served on the National Leadership Committee from 1988-90.

From 1986 to 1988, Goldbaum served as chairman of BBW's Keystone Region. She has served on the Central Regional B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Board, on the Wilmington community BBYO Advisory Board, as coordinator of Hillel Commissioners and as secretary for the Community Advisory Board of Hillel at the University of Delaware. During her 13 years with BBW, Goldbaum helped implement the merger of two BBW Chapters in Wilmington, and served as president of BBW's Diamond Chapter.

Goldbaum teaches Jewish Studies at Gratz Hebrew High School and was former principal of the Albert Einstein Academy.

Rhodes

Alice Rhodes, of Wilmington, has been appointed by U.S. Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole to serve on the State Research Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health Statistics. The mission of the State Advisory Committee is to provide advice and recommendations to the Bureau of Labor Statistics concerning appropriate revisions to the Occupational Safety and Health Statistics system. Rhodes is Administrator of the Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Program for the State of Delaware.

Levine

Ross Levine, son of Barbara and Stan Levine of Surrey Park, won first place in the Christina Gateway Park-Art contest. He also recently received awards for the Delaware Foundation for Youth in Art Excellence in Drawing Calendar contest and the Delaware Museum of Natural History's Sky, Land and Sea Art contest. A senior at Brandywine High School, Levine plans to attend the University of the Arts in Philadelphia in the fall. He is the editor-in-chief of the Jewish Community Center's teen newspaper, Ma Chadash.

Wendy Wasserstein to speak at Kutz luncheon

Noted author and playwright Wendy Wasserstein will be the guest speaker at the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home Auxiliary's Annual Donor Luncheon on Thursday, May 24.

For "The Heidi Chronicles," Wasserstein's play currently running on Broadway, she has been awarded the 1989 Tony Award (Best Play), the Pulitzer Prize, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, the Drama Desk Award, the Outer Critics' Circle Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and the Dramatists'

Guild Hull-Warriner Award. Wasserstein's new collection of essays, *Bachelor Girls*, has recently been published by Knopf.

The Kutz Home is a licensed non-profit Jewish-oriented nursing home and is a member agency of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the United Way of Delaware. Worship services are conducted on the Sabbath and holidays with community participation, dietary laws are observed and medical services and counseling are available.

Through their fundraising efforts, the Auxiliary has renovated a number of public rooms at the Home.

The luncheon will be held at the Brandywine Country Club beginning with a reception at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon and Wasserstein will speak at 1 p.m.

Categories for the luncheon are Diamond (\$115), Gold (\$65), Donor (\$45) and Guest (\$25). For reservations, call Beverly Simon at 764-7169. For more information, call Shelly Mand at 478-5692.



Wendy Wasserstein

JHS will commemorate Judge Finger's birth

At its annual meeting on Sunday, June 3, 1990, the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware will commemorate the birth of Judge Aaron Finger by discussing his accomplishments and reminiscing about his birth year.

Aaron Finger, born on May 25, 1890 to a young immigrant couple, Esther and Louis Finger, was to fulfill the immigrant dream of success by becoming Delaware's first native-born Jewish lawyer and judge. Throughout his life, Judge Finger was a central figure in Jewish and general community affairs. He worked with the Wilmington Board of Education for 21 years, was one of the founders of Congregation Beth Shalom and was a leader in the YMHA and the Jewish Federation.

Judge Finger's son, Louis, a senior



The young Aaron Finger

partner with Richards, Layton and Finger, will discuss some of the highlights of his father's life including how he became a lawyer and judge, why he led the effort to conform Congregation Beth Shalom and how he assisted in the effort to form a Jewish state in Palestine during the 1930's and 1940's.

In 1890, the Wilmington Jewish community consisted of approximately 130 families, many of whom had only been in the United States for a short time. The community was in a state of transition. Before 1890 it had been largely German and West European but was rapidly becoming a Russian community.

What big issues were on the minds of these immigrant Jews? How did they earn their living? Where did they worship? Toni Young, a former president of the JHSD who is currently writing a book on Jewish immigration to Delaware, will describe Jewish life in Delaware in 1890.

Lists of Jews who lived in Delaware before the turn of the century will be on display. Everyone in attendance will be encouraged to add to the list and to answer questionnaires so that their families' histories may be included in future work.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Washington Street Extension and Torah Drive, Wilmington, the oldest, continuously operating synagogue in Delaware.

YJAD May calendar

The Young Jewish Adults of Delaware (for singles 21-35) has planned several activities for May. Call the JCC at 478-5660 to be included on the mailing list for their monthly newsletter.

On Thursday, May 17, at 7 p.m., at the JCC, the YJAD will hold a nominating session and elections of chairpersons for (newly-formed) Membership Committee and Programming Committee. Call Michael Cook for more information, 368-1982.

On Sunday, May 20, at 11 a.m., the YJAD is organizing carpools to the Israeli Independence Celebration in Philadelphia. Call Aaron Gobler at 798-0252 for more information.

On Tuesday, May 22, at 7:15 p.m., the YJAD will hold its Chavurah discussion on "The Jewish Life Cycle" at the home of Michael Cook. For directions, call 368-1982.

On Sunday, May 27, the YJAD will help celebrate the re-opening of the JCC Family Campus with a bar-

becue. Call Scott Sweren at 633-0891 for time and cost.

On Saturday evening, June 2, YJAD members are invited to the "Delaware Symphony Sizzler" starring Delbert McClinton, on the JCC campus. Tickets are \$45 per person; proceeds will benefit the Delaware Symphony Association. Call Mike Schwartz at 798-8501 for more information, or 656-7442 for your reservation.

On Sunday, June 3, the YJAD will canoe down the Brandywine River. Participants should meet at Wilderness Canoe Trips, behind the Bennigan's Restaurant on Concord Pike, at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$17 per person. Call Rick, at 798-6583, by June 1 for RSVP.

Each Monday in May (excluding May 28) the YJAD sponsors co-ed volleyball at the JCC. Games begin at 8 p.m. and are non-competitive. There is a \$1 fee for non-JCC members. Call Michael Schwartz for more information, at 798-8501.

AKSE Sisterhood donor

The Sisterhood of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth will hold its annual Donor Luncheon on Sunday, June 3, at noon at the synagogue. A musical program by Jodi Pearlman will be presented.

Donor is \$36. (contribution and/

or earned credit). Plate charge is \$6. Non-member guest charge is \$12, plate included. Reservations are required by May 25. Call Mollie Makar (478-9162), Sylvia Wagman (475-8351), or Edith Vyth (658-6281).

JFS volunteers to be honored

Invitations have been sent for the Jewish Family Service Annual Meeting at which all volunteers who helped with Russian Resettlement will be honored.

Due to the overwhelming number of volunteers involved, there is a possibility that some names may have been omitted. Jewish Family Service

has issued an apology to volunteers who did not receive an invitation.

Call 478-9411 by May 25 if you have been omitted. The annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, at The Delaware Theater Company, 200 Water Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

Beth Emeth Garage Sale

The Garage Sale of the Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Emeth will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, May 16 and 17, in the Temple Auditorium (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Items for sale will include clothing for all the family, toys, books, games, records, household goods and appliances, furniture, bric-a-brac, costume jewelry, etc. The profit derived from this semi-annual sale will be used for Sisterhood projects, for the Wilmington community and for the State of Israel. For further information, call Pauline Rosenthal, Chairperson, at 358-3257.

Akiba

Akiba Hebrew Academy has scheduled admission testing for the 1990-1991 school year on Sunday morning, June 3, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. The test will be given at Akiba, which is located at 223 North Highland Avenue in Merion. Students who wish to be tested must register for the testing no later than May 20.

Family Court seeks children's advocates

The Family Court of the State of Delaware is offering an opportunity for people to make a difference in the life of an abused, neglected, or dependent child. In an expansion of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, the Court is presently seeking qualified adults to serve as CASA volunteers.

Court Appointed Special Advocates are trained volunteers assigned by Family Court judges to represent the best interests of abused, neglected or dependent children who are the subject of Court proceedings. The volunteer conducts an independent investigation into the child's life and presents facts to the Judge in the form of a written report and verbal testimony. As an official of the Court, the CASA advocates for the best interests of the child through investigating and monitoring a case until the child is provided with a stable and permanent home.

CASAs are selected, trained, supervised and evaluated by full-time Program Coordinators from the Family

Court Staff. A program attorney provides legal representation for the CASA and legal advice for the program. The Delaware CASA program was begun in 1981 with the support of the Wilmington Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women and the Junior League of Wilmington. NCJW Chapters have continuously supported CASA programs throughout the United States. The Delaware CASA program has 80 volunteers and in fiscal year 1989 served over 200 abused, neglected and dependent children.

The Delaware CASA program received the Governors Outstanding Volunteer Program award in April 1989. In addition, The American Bar Association officially endorsed the CASA Program in August 1989.

Volunteer training is scheduled in the New Castle County volunteer Family Court in June 20, 22, 25, 27, and 29, 1990. To call the CASA office today at 571-2239.

A Shamir government may run afoul of Washington on the peace process

By DAVID LANDAU

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel may be headed for a period of strained relations with the United States if Yitzhak Shamir succeeds in forming a narrow Likud-led coalition government with the right-wing and religious parties.

Shamir, who officially opened negotiations with potential coalition partners May 1, has already aroused Washington's ire. In an Independence Day broadcast, he appeared to reject U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, hosted by Egypt in Cairo.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler spoke of American "perplexity" over Shamir's assertion that his government "can't accept every proposal or idea of an American secretary of state, whatever it may be." The Prime Minister's Office then acted to soften the rebuff.

Baker, testifying before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee, said he was "encouraged" by a wire report quoting Shamir's press spokesman as saying Shamir "has never said no to our proposal." Of course, he "never said yes," Baker noted, adding that there will never be a serious advance toward peace in the Middle East "unless we can see such a dialogue commence."

Shamir maintains his original peace plan envisaged no such dialogue and that, in any event, negotiations cannot begin until Palestinian elections are held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Baker, in turn, maintains that such a dialogue is necessary to work out the terms for Palestinian elections.

The Israeli right wing, including some Likud hard-liners, oppose Palestinian elections in principle.

As Shamir attempts to build a coalition with the Israeli right, he appears to be retreating from the peace plan he himself launched last spring.

The United States has also indicated its growing concern over accelerated settlement activity in the administered territories by Shamir's caretaker government. That, too, is an area where the Likud leader must curry favor with the right wing if he is to form a government with its support.

In Cairo, meanwhile, President Hosni Mubarak gave vent to his own concern over Israel's present and future policies. In a May Day speech, he reiterated Egypt's position that peace requires territorial concessions by Israel and "the abandonment of aggrandizement."

Mubarak emphasized his country's support for the Palestinians' right of self-determination and vowed to forge a "common Arab strategy" to achieve this goal.

The Egyptian leader received a warm welcome in Damascus on May 2, in what is plainly a striking advance on the path of Egyptian-Syrian reconciliation.

Even less pleasant to Israeli ears was Mubarak's implied support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's purported fears of Israeli attack. The Egyptian president pledged his country's aid to any Arab country that came under attack. "Any threat to peace is a threat against us all," he declared, in apparent reference to Iraqi allegations that Israel might be planning an assault.

Israel drew some encouragement



Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir listens as President Herzog (unseen) assigns him the task of forming a new Israeli coalition. (Photo: RNS)

from the fact that a recent visit to Moscow by Syrian President Hafez Assad did not result in full agreement. No joint communique was issued at its close. In addition, Israeli policy-makers were especially pleased to note that no new major arms sales were announced.

But the Soviets left their guest in no doubt that they were still in the Arab corner on the issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the administered territories.

Despite the ongoing thaw in relations between Israel and the Soviet bloc states, and the growing stream of immigrants from the Soviet Union, the basic divergence of outlook over a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict remains as wide as ever between Jerusalem and Moscow.

But a slim ray of light seemed to penetrate the clouds gathering over Israel's relations with Washington, as it appeared that Israel might play a constructive role in helping win the release of hostages held by Shi'ite groups in Lebanon.

Hopes rose in Washington that the six remaining Americans held hostage might be released if Israel set free large numbers of Shi'ite prisoners. Israel signaled it wanted to do all it could to cooperate. (See separate story.)

It seemed likely that a gesture by Israel would quietly be called for and appreciated by the U.S. government, and that Israel, for its part, would be pleased at the opportunity to shore up its relationship with Washington at this time.

Worry in U.S. over Iraqi weapons

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Secretary of State James Baker expressed concern recently over Iraqi threats to use chemical weapons against Israel. Baker told Congress on April 25 that Iraqi threats to use chemical weapons against Israel are "quite disturbing," particularly because Iraq has previously been blamed for using chemical weapons against its Kurdish minority.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein recently said he would use chemical weapons against Israel if Israel attacked first. Hussein made his statements to five visiting U.S. senators

on a Middle East trip.

Last month, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) introduced a bill calling for sweeping U.S. sanctions against Iraq unless it allows international inspection of "suspect" biological, chemical or nuclear facilities, and ratifies the 1972 Geneva Convention on Biological Weapons.

In New York, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith issued a statement praising a House version of the bill, introduced by Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.).

Cultural Calendar

LOCAL

A community rally for "Operation Exodus," the fundraising campaign to raise money to rescue and resettle Soviet Jews, will feature musician/raconteur Theodore Bikel. (See page 1.) The concert will be given at the AKSE social hall on Wednesday, June 20, at 7:15 p.m. Ticket information will be mailed to the community during the week of May 21.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein, whose *The Heidi Chronicles* is currently running on Broadway, will be the guest speaker at the Kutz Home Auxiliary Luncheon on Thursday, May 24.

PHILADELPHIA

"Kuni-Leml," the award-winning off-Broadway musical comedy farce, will run for two weeks (May 15 to 27) at the Walnut Street Theater. In English, the show looks at the life in Odessa of a Hassid, his daughter, a matchmaker, a suitor and a rabbi's assistant.

Israel's singing star, Yehoram Gaon, will present a concert in celebration of Israel's 42nd Independence Day at the Academy of Music on Sunday, May 20, at 8 p.m., following the Israel Independence Parade. The concert will also feature Yaffa Yarkoni.

In conjunction with its fifteenth convention, the Women Cantors' Network will present a "Concert of Jewish Music: from tradition to today," on June 11, at 8 p.m., at the Mandell Campus of Gratz College in Elkins Park. Admission is \$8, \$5 for students and seniors. The program will include solos, duets and ensembles and will feature songs from the Yiddish theater, traditional and contemporary cantorial repertoire and new works by Jewish women composers.

NEW YORK

"Exodus and Exile: 2,000 Years in ancient Israel" is a new archaeology exhibition at the Jewish Museum that explores cataclysmic political events and their impact on ancient Jewish culture, encompassing a 2,000 year period (c. 1200 BCE to c. 600 CE) from the earliest Israelite settlements to the emergence of rabbinic Judaism.

The Yeshiva University Museum in Manhattan is displaying "The Serendipitous Years," which will run through July. This is an exhibit of fine art, ceremonial objects of daily life, rare books and manuscripts from the museum's collection.

The Tenement Museum's spring/summer schedule of Sunday afternoon "living history" walking tours and dramatizations will include a new Black heritage program as well as the three programs returning from last season. "Pathway to Freedom: A Black Heritage Walking Tour" focuses on the rich history of the African-American community of 19th century New York. The three established programs include: "The Streets Where We Lived," a multi-ethnic historic walking tour of Lower Manhattan; "Peddler's Pack Walking Tour," based on the Jewish immigrant experience; and "Family Matters: an immigrant memoir," a one-hour dramatization. All programs begin at the museum. Call for schedule, information and reservations.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The work of artist/calligrapher Avraham Cohen is currently being displayed at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery in an exhibit highlighting the



Avraham Cohen in his studio, at work on "Letters of Creation," a lithograph with gold embossing.

work of "Four Contemporary Calligraphers." The four oldest calligraphic traditions will be featured: Hebrew, English, Chinese and Arabic. Included in Cohen's display are two ketubot, an "Ayshet Chayil" (Woman of Valor, the last chapter of the Book of Proverbs), an illuminated megillah scroll and mezuzah and tefillin scrolls. The exhibit will run through October 28; there will be a symposium of Sunday, June 10, when the four artists will discuss their work. (See photo.)

The B'nai B'rith Klutznick Museum is currently presenting a retrospective of the work of Israeli photojournalist David Rubinger. "Witness to an Era" contains 91 photographs tracing events in Israel and the region from 1947 to the present. The exhibit will continue through August.

For more information on these events, contact the sponsoring organizations.

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Obituaries

Ralph J. Biloon

Ralph J. Biloon, 69, of 905 Providence Road, Brandywine Estates, Claymont, died of heart failure in Wilmington Hospital.

Mr. Biloon, a building and planning inspector for 11 years with New Castle County, retired in 1987. From 1950 to 1963, he and his brother, Arthur owned and operated Biloon's Electrical Services, Fourth and Harrison Streets, Wilmington.

When he was 67, he passed American Red Cross certification to become a lifeguard. He worked for two years as a lifeguard at Jewish Community Center.

He was a member of Washington Lodge 1, AF&AM; Delaware Consistory; Nur Temple Shrine; Jewish Community Center; Jewish Federation of Delaware; Congregation Beth Emeth; and a life member of Chapter 78, National Sojourners.

He is survived by his wife, Erika G.; a son, David J. of Dartmouth Woods; a daughter, Frieda Irwin of Pennrock; a brother, Arthur A. of Dover; a sister, Marion Kreshtool of Long Boat Key, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to American Cancer Society, Wilmington.

Rose Harwitz

Rose Harwitz, 77, of 2315 Society Drive, Claymont, died April 29 of pulmonary failure in Leader Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 700 Foulk Road.

Mrs. Harwitz had worked in the business office at Riverside Hospital for 30 years, retiring in 1986.

She was an auxiliary member of the Delaware Osteopathic Society; a member of B'nith B'rith Women; and a member of Order of the Golden Chain, Delaware Lynk.

Her husband, Leon, died in October 1989. She is survived by a son, Gerald J. of Devon; a daughter, Elaine Gantz of Scarsdale, N.Y.; a brother, Dr. Abraham Golden of Brandywine Hills; a sister, Molly A. Cohen of Claymont, and four grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the auxiliary of the Delaware State Osteopathic Medical Society, Wilmington.

Jules Noznisky

Jules Noznisky, 66, of 304 W. 38th St., Wilmington, died April 25, of heart failure in St. Francis Hospital.

Mr. Noznisky was a salesman with Transamerica Corp. in the Wilmington area for the past 15 years. Before that, he operated a salvage yard in Wilmington for 17 years. He was a World War II Army veteran, and served in Europe and the Pacific. He was a 1942 graduate of P.S. du Pont High School.

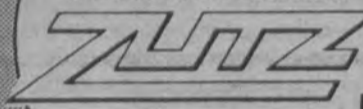
He is survived by his wife, Adele Flanzer Noznisky; two sons, Daniel of Philadelphia and Jeffrey of Wilmington; a daughter, Ann Noznisky of Arlington, Va.; a sister, Fara Dylan of Beverly Hills, Calif.; and a grandson.

Arrangements were made by the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Diabetes Association, Wilmington.

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Kutz Home now offers short-term respite care

The Milton & Hattie Kutz Home is offering a new service to elderly men and women and their families. Although known for providing long term care, the Home has begun to admit residents for short term or respite care stays of a week or two, sometimes longer.

According to the Home's social worker, Sheila Jabloner, "Caring for an elderly relative can be physically and emotionally exhausting. Care givers may need some relief or respite from the '36 hour day' — the time to rest or to visit other family members — to improve the quality of their lives. Or perhaps a care giver is ill and has to have someone else take over looking after an aged person while they recover. That is where the Kutz Home respite program may be of assistance."

The Milton & Hattie Kutz Home can provide respite care, subject to bed availability, ranging from one week to a month or two. A resident admitted for short term or respite care is entitled to the full range of the Home's services and receives 24-hour-a-day nursing care, kosher meals, medically prescribed diet if necessary, religious services, a full schedule of recreational activities and social services as well as laundry and drycleaning services. Physical, speech and occupational therapies are also available if needed, and special programs are provided to assist memory impaired residents in orienting themselves.

For more information on short term or respite care, or for a tour of the Home, call Sheila Jabloner at 764-7000.

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Syria and Iran say Israel must free Shi'ites before hostages are released

By DAVID FRIEDMAN
 WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Syrian foreign minister and an Iranian diplomat indicated Sunday that no more U.S. hostages would be released until Israel frees some 400 Lebanese Shi'ites it is holding. Both Farouk a-Sharaa, the Syrian official and Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, said this was the "goodwill" gesture their two countries were seeking for their help in gaining the freedom recently of two U.S. hostages held in Lebanon. The two officials appeared on ABC-TV news program *This Week with David Brinkley*. "I believe it is very easy for the United States government to contact Israel and convince them to release these hostages," Kharrazi said.

Sharaa maintained that Syria and Iran both have only limited influence with the Lebanese groups that have taken hostages. He said the demand for Israel to release its prisoners was "not a precondition, not a deal" but a humanitarian gesture. He blamed

the hostage-taking and the anarchy in Lebanon on Israel's June 1982 invasion of the country.

"There was no hostage-taking in Lebanon before the Israeli invasion in 1982," Sharaa said. He said that various groups in Lebanon took hostages in "reaction to the Israeli invasion, what happened to their families, their children, their houses, 'demolitioning' their houses, the continuing air raids."

"This is an ethical issue," he said. "How do you expect these people to be so humanitarian to release the American hostages and other Western hostages when their relatives have been kidnapped by Israel."

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who was scheduled to appear on the program, did not go on the air, because ABC would not accept his condition that he not be asked about the Shi'ite prisoners or Israeli soldiers held by Lebanese groups, said Sam Donaldson, who hosted the program Sunday.

But another guest on the program, Gary Sick, a staff member on the National Security Council in the Carter administration, said Israel is willing to release the Shi'ites, whom he called "counter-hostages," but only if the Israeli soldiers are freed. "They don't want to get caught in a situation where the United States wants to get its hostages back, but the Israeli prisoners are forgotten," said Sick, an expert on Iran.

He said he believed only one of the Israelis, a navigator who bailed out when his plane was shot down, is still alive. He said two soldiers who were captured while on patrol in southern Lebanon are probably dead.

Kharrazi said Iran also wants the release of four Iranians taken in 1982 by Christian groups in Lebanon.

President Bush said last week that as a goodwill gesture, the United States could seek to learn what happened to the Iranians, although the United States believes they are dead. But Kharrazi said he believes at least three of them are still alive.

Anti-Semitic spate alarms Australian Jews

By JEREMY JONES
 Australia, which is virtually the size of the continental United States but with a population of only 16 million, is home to a proportionally high percentage of Holocaust survivors. It also has a reputation as a land free of anti-Semitism and discrimination. That is why a spate of anti-Semitic, neo-Nazi incidents in recent months has seriously disturbed the Jewish community, although no one has been injured and property damage has been minimal.

The incidents, mainly vandalism and verbal abuse, have been attributed to neo-Nazi teen-agers and Skinheads, shaven-headed youths who travel in gangs, wear Nazi-like regalia and harass minorities.

The incidents occurred in the three main Jewish population centers: Melbourne, Victoria, in southeastern Australia; Sydney, in the neighboring state of New South Wales; and Perth, across the continent in Western Australia.

The most serious occurrences were in Melbourne, which has a Jewish population of 40,000. Three gasoline-bomb attacks on synagogues occurred in the past month, without casualties or serious damage.

The police say "there are no clues at present," and "there were no threats or other messages before or after the attacks." For that reason, they tend to discount organized groups and have advised the Jewish community to "carry on as normal."

Two self-proclaimed teen-age neo-Nazis vandalized a number of Jewish-owned buildings and public buildings in downtown Melbourne earlier this year. There were also unexplained graffiti attacks on synagogues.

In Perth, with a Jewish population of 5,000, the president of the Council of Western Australian Jewry, Doron Ur, was given a police escort after he was threatened at a public forum on "Race, the Press and Free Speech."

A spokesman for the Australian League of Rights, the country's largest racist, anti-Semitic organization, used the forum to deny the Holocaust occurred. He drew a vigorous response from the Romanian-born Ur, a Holocaust survivor who was heckled and threatened by Skinheads in the audience.

Others in the audience thought they may be from the neo-Nazi Australian Nationalist Movement, which has been known to recruit Skinheads for racial vandalism.

Members of the Australian Nationalist Movement currently face more than 100 charges on vandalism and firearms offenses.

In Sydney, where the Jewish community numbers more than 30,000, vandals have defaced Hebrew schools, synagogues, mikvehs (ritual baths) and communal offices during the past year.

Bomb threats interrupted the two largest Jewish day school classes. Graffiti has greeted worshippers arriving at synagogues, and Jewish youth groups have found equipment vandalized, despite security patrols.

Community spokesmen admit they are disturbed by the increasing incidence of what they call "petty anti-Semitism" and the lack of progress so far in identifying the perpetrators.

The federal government's Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission is preparing a report on an inquiry into racial violence in Australia.

The investigation was prompted by a series of attacks on Asian and Aboriginal institutions from 1988 to 1989.

The Jewish community has urged the commission to recommend special laws against racial vilification and to create a special category of "hate crimes."

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Arts

'Devil and All His Works' is new challenge for this Jewish director

By RUTH ROVNER

Special to The Jewish Voice

Before he was chosen to direct *The Devil and All His Works*, Michael Nash had directed several other plays with Jewish themes. But he readily admits that they hardly prepared him to direct the world premiere produced by the People's Light and Theater Company in Malvern, Pennsylvania, which opened on May 9.

The Devil and All His Works is a drama about a Jewish family living in Vienna in 1895 in an atmosphere so full of anti-Semitism that even Hitler, as Nash put it, "spoke with nostalgia about Vienna."

Written by the Washington-based Jewish playwright Ernest Joselovitz, whose earlier play, *Jesse's Land*, was produced by the American Jewish Theater, *The Devil and All His Works* is a drama about the Landau family, who converted to Catholicism in the hope of getting further ahead as Christians in Vienna at the turn of the century.

The production, supported by a \$50,000 grant from the Fund for New American Plays, seems ideally suited to Nash, a Jewish director who was a veteran of People's Light and Theater Company, a 16 year old regional theater. Nash had directed a number of this company's productions, and this is his first return to the company in over four years.

Still, despite his credentials, he felt he needed additional preparation for this play — and so he spent nine months immersed in intensive reading before he came to Malvern to direct.

"I read lots of cultural history and books about European history and about the Jewish experience," he said in a recent interview.

He also read biographies about Zionist founder Theodor Herzl, composer Gustav Mahler and Karl Lueger, a mayor of Vienna. All of these historical figures are also characters in the play, and he felt he had



Rebecca Ellens, as Theresa Landau, tries to answer the questions of Aaron Margolis (played by David Ingram) under the eye of her father Samuel (actor Paul Meshejian) during a rehearsal of *The Devil and All His Works*. Ernest Joselovitz's award-winning play made its world premiere May 9 at The People's Light and Theatre Company, Malvern, PA. (Photo: Ken Kauffman)

to understand them and their environment accurately.

"Vienna is interesting in many ways," he said, taking a brief break from his hectic rehearsal schedule. "It was a place where the Jews attained immense presence within Austrian society. They became very powerful figures and were really dominant in making Vienna the cultural capital it was."

And at the same time, "Vienna was also a hotbed of the most virulent type of anti-Semitism, which made even Hitler remember it nostalgically," he said.

Hitler also remembered quite specifically Mayor Karl Lueger. He's a character in the play whom Hitler paid special tribute to in his autobiography, because Hitler learned valuable political lessons from him.

"He was the leader of the Christian Socialist Party who learned to use the politics of anti-Semitism to gain a wider political constituency," explained Nash.

"He realized there was a new constituency, the immigrant factory workers from Poland and elsewhere who were poor and uneducated," continued Nash. "He scorned them — in fact, he was nastier about them than about the Jews — but he realized he could appeal to their fears, some of them racial."

He did this, Nash explained, by stirring up their fears of the Jews in Vienna, who had attained considerable power. "He understood a strain of anti-Semitism in Austria that was certainly a contributing factor to the Holocaust.

"Yet he says he's not an anti-Semite and that some of his best friends are Jews. He even says 'I play cards with some of them' — that's an actual line in the play. So the audience will get a vivid picture of what

it's like for a politician to latch onto anti-Semitism as a political theme."

The director's challenge, said Nash, was to present Lueger in all his complexity. "We tried to understand him as the highly dangerous person he was. And yet he was also a person with good dreams for his own city," he said.

Though Lueger is an intriguing secondary character in the play — and there are several other key secondary characters as well, including Herzl — the heart of the drama is the converted Landau family. They have even changed their daughter's name from Esther to Theresa — and that name change is the source of dramatic conflict in the play. "Theresa is at war with herself and her family for having robbed her of her identity," said Nash. "It's very harrowing and ugly. She's almost destroyed by this identity crisis."

The drama focuses on the converted Jews who are tormented by strange and apparently supernatural occurrences in their household. When a young student of Sigmund Freud — who lived and worked in Vienna at this time — arrives on the scene, he tries to find a rational explanation but discovers it's not so easy to do so.

The play's events are related by Arthur Schnitzler, who was a Viennese novelist and playwright of Jewish origin and who serves as the narrator.

The Devil and All His Works is told by a playwright who tells the story in unusual and innovative ways," said Nash. "So the play presents unusual theatrical challenges."

But the veteran director was surely prepared for such challenge. Director of the School of Theatre at Kent State University in Ohio and Artistic Director of the Porthouse Theater Company, he has also taught directing at Rutgers University and served as resident director for the Theatre du Gymnase in Belgium.

Besides his directing experience, the fact that he is Jewish was also relevant, he said. "Sure, it certainly helped," said Nash. "But I don't think of myself as any expert on this issue."

Still, he does bring his own Jewish sensibility to this play. But directing this play and others, with Jewish themes also brings something to him, he says. "They give me special ways of learning about myself and the Jewish people."

But the themes of *The Devil and All His Works*, he said, go beyond anti-Semitism. "I think it's ultimately about the kinds of darkness that exist in human hearts," he reflected. "And it's a darkness we always have to be aware of as very dangerous."

—*The Devil and All His Works* runs from May 9 through June 3 at the Main Stage of People's Light and Theater Company, 39 Conestoga Road, Malvern, phone 215-644-3500.

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Analysis

Egyptian/Syrian reconciliation has unclear consequences for Israel

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Hosni Mubarak's 24-hour visit to Damascus last week seems to have achieved its primary goal: a reconciliation with Syrian President Hafez Assad, who never forgave Egypt for signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

But the Egyptian president apparently failed to make immediate progress on two secondary objectives: drawing Syria into the Middle East peace process and easing the enmity between Syria and Iraq, each ruled by a rival faction of the Socialist Ba'ath party.

Rather than blame Syria, however, Mubarak lashed out instead at Israel's acting prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, during a news conference in Damascus. "Ever since Shamir came to power, there is no hope for a peaceful solution," the Egyptian president complained to foreign journalists.

Such tactics do not for long divert attention from Mubarak's several agendas, which could profoundly affect Israel for good or ill. Much depends on how his intentions are read in Jerusalem.

Right-wing politicians, such as Eliahu Ben-Elissar of Likud, rushed to express "deep concern" over Mubarak's reunion with Assad after 12 years of estrangement between their two countries. "We are facing a new axis," warned Ben-Elissar, who chairs the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and was Israel's first ambassador to Cairo 10 years ago.

He was referring to the possibility that Egypt and Syria would get together with Iraq, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization to revive "the eastern front against Israel." But Ben-Elissar tempered his warning. "I am not saying that we should rush to draw conclusions. But one thing is sure: This is no time to cut the defense budget," he said.

Former Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin sees the situation somewhat differently. While he did not want to minimize the potential hazard, the Labor Party official suggested Mubarak was signaling Israel to seize the opportunity to bring Syria into the peace process within the framework of the Camp David accords.

If Israel fails, Mubarak will move toward the Syrian option, with dire consequences for Israel, Rabin said. Syria favors an international peace conference of all parties to the Middle East conflict, in which Israel would be confronted by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, including the Soviet Union, as well as the PLO.

"These are the only two choices, there is no third," Rabin declared.

Ben-Elissar's fears and Rabin's hopes relate to the long term. Neither Camp David nor an international conference are on the Arab agenda at the moment. At the moment, Arab diplomats are busy traveling between Arab capitals trying to arrange a new Arab summit meeting that would include Iraq, Jordan and the PLO. They would like it to convene in Baghdad, possibly before the end of this month.

If the summit materializes, there is little doubt it will unite around one of the few subjects the Arabs can unite over: the menace of Israel, or more specifically at this time "the dangers

of Soviet Jewish immigration to the Arab world."

The road to Baghdad, however, is not an easy one, Assad and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq are still arch-enemies, and both would have to swallow bitter pills before they could shake hands. And without Syrian participation, an Arab summit is unlikely to take place, or is doomed to fail if it does.

Saudi Arabia and Jordan are trying to pick up the mediation effort where Mubarak left it last week. One idea floated was for the Syrian and Iraqi leaders to have a preliminary meeting in the Saudi capital.

If a summit does not materialize, it will not necessarily be because the Syrians and Iraqis could not get to-

gether. Egypt itself, while paying lip-service to Arab unity, may not want to rush to Baghdad, where Saddam Hussein clearly aspires to a leadership role in the Arab world. He has done this so far by pushing a military option against Israel and threatening to destroy it with chemical or nuclear weapons.

Egypt by contrast, wants to pursue the peace process along its present lines, in close cooperation with the United States. Mubarak's problem is that he cannot point to a breakthrough with Israel, certainly not as long as there is no Israeli government in place.

He said at his Damascus news conference that Syria showed readiness to join the peace process,

"subject to changes in the Israeli policy."

With no changes in sight, Syria continues to remain outside the process and danger exists that the Iraqi military option will fill the vacuum. A Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation poses real dangers for Israel, according to Ofra Banjo, a researcher at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies.

Writing this week in the daily newspaper *Ha'aretz*, Banjo said, "In the best case, pressures on Israel on the Palestinian question and the Golan (Heights) will mount. In the worst case, pressures will mount to create an eastern front, especially if the peace process remains bogged down."

It remains an open question whether the rival Arab states can settle their differences and unite under the banner of fighting immigration to Israel. No decision is expected until after Mubarak returns from his week-end visits to Moscow and Beijing. It will be the first trip to the Soviet capital by an Egyptian president since 1972.

Mubarak, like Assad who visited Moscow last month, is expected to discuss "the dangers of Jewish immigration" with the Soviet leaders. When he returns, he may be better equipped to reconcile those fears with peaceful relations with Israel.

The key missing element is the nature of Israel's next government and the policies it will adopt.

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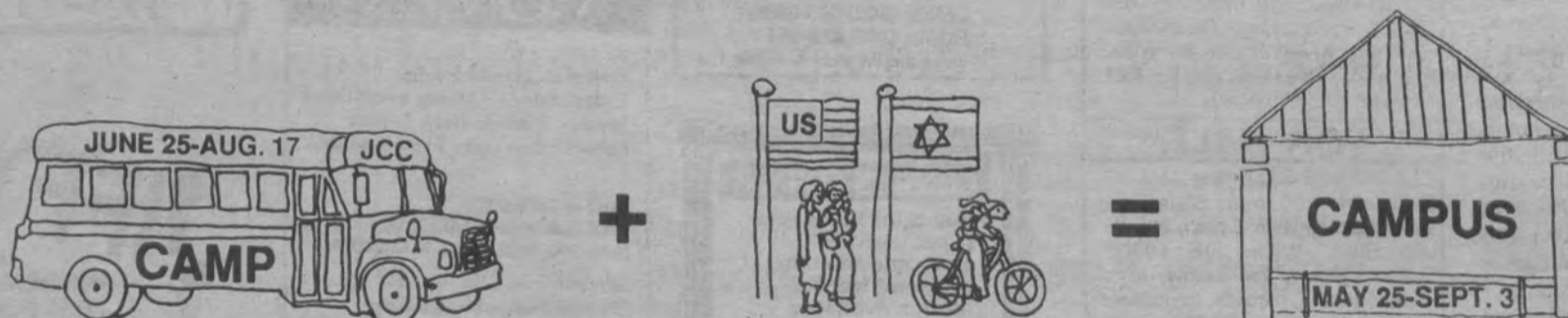
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