

The JEWISH VOICE

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NOTES FROM JERUSALEM

By Connie Kreshtool
Special to the Jewish Voice

To me Jerusalem was more beautiful than ever. On the hills that surround the city are many handsome buildings newly constructed of that special stone that makes the city so unique. But it is not a happy city. Death, maiming and loss ripple through the land. A cloud of despair hangs over the city and any visitor can feel it as well as see it. The streets are very empty and shops and restaurants are practically deserted. Yet the Israelis go about their daily business as best they can. The 700 delegates and alternates to the 34th World Zionist Congress arrived in Jerusalem in mid-June to take care of the business of the World Zionist Organization. We were able to do so in spite of the tense political situation and two deadly terrorist attacks.

Joan Wachstein and I were part of the Reform Zionist delegation that included representatives not only from North America and Israel but also from all the continents where Jews live. This Congress for the first time required that twenty-five percent of the delegates be between the ages of 18-30 years. Their voices were heard throughout the debates and discussions.

Our ARZA/World Union for Progressive Judaism delegation together with two small Israeli parties constituted the New Faction. We were the third largest faction after Labor-Meritz and Likud. Just the mention of the names of political parties in Israel should give a clue as to the political climate of these meetings. Yet in the end our New Faction was able to win passage of a resolution that affirmed equal rights for all streams of Judaism. It also called for the right of non-

Orthodox rabbis to officiate at marriages and for opposition to any efforts by the Knesset to negate the Supreme Court ruling that those converted by non-Orthodox rabbis in Israel must be registered as Jews. Along with resolutions the other business of the Congress is the distribution of portfolios for running the World Zionist Organization. There is a lot of horse trading for these portfolios which carry with them the power to allocate funds provided by the Jewish Agency.

The current situation in Israel did of course dominate much of the Congress's discussions but not to the exclusion of two other major issues, aliyah and anti-Semitism.

Benjamin Ben Eliezer, Minister of Defense, spoke highly of the young people in the Israel Defense Forces who come from all over the world and are "united by their uniform." He said nothing will help Israel's enemies and eventually they will have to go back to the negotiating table. He was confident that Israel can put an end to suicide bombers. He said aliyah is what is needed to strengthen Israel and called for support of settlements in the Negev and the Galilee.

Yossi Sarid, Knesset Member and Chairman of the Opposition, emphasized that the State of Israel is the state of the Jewish People and all its citizens. This was in response to the position of the religious parties who question the Jewishness of many of the immigrants from the former Soviet Union and as a result deny them citizenship. He said his party opposes any effort to bring new immigrants to settlements over the Green line and pointed out the opportunities for settlement in the Galilee. He warned that the social gap among Israelis could be a greater threat to the State

of Israel than Mr. Arafat.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon praised the Zionist Organization for convening in Jerusalem to show to the world that Jews from all over stand as one against any challenge. He said that Israel has economic and political ties with other countries but the alliance with the Diaspora is the strongest of all. He commented on the wave of anti-Semitic attacks

throughout the world and pointed out that the Jewish people are no longer a homeless child. He warned that Baghdad, Damascus, Teheran and Bin Laden form an "axis of terror" that threatens the area. He emphasized that Israel is the anchor and center of Jewish existence. Prime Minister Sharon stressed that it is important to teach the Hebrew language and heritage to our children. His message

to the Jews in the Diaspora is "Come on aliyah!"

Sallai Meridor, Chairman of the Zionist Executive, said that the agenda of the Zionist organization in the 21st Century should include aliyah, education, democratic Israel and the fight against anti-Semitism. He elaborated on these. On aliyah he reported that in spite of the terrorist

Continued on Page 19

SUICIDE BOMBINGS: The perspective of a potential target

By Nathan I Cherny

That I care for the well being of tens of Palestinian cancer patients and their families is irrelevant. As a Jew living in Israel, and, more specifically, Jerusalem, I am a potential target worthy of maiming or assassination. That is the miserable nature of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

That I am here to recount these thoughts is by sheer virtue of timing. Minutes after I passed through the Patt intersection en route to the Shaare Zedek Medical Center, bus 32 was exploded by a young suicide bomber. Almost everyone on the bus was killed, most instantly. Shrapnel and flying sheets of metal killed and maimed passing pedestrians and the drivers and passengers of adjacent vehicles.

Besides caring for Israeli and Palestinian cancer patients, I teach medical students a course in Palliative Medicine; the care of patients with incurable illnesses. At any one time I usually have 10-15 students; Jews and Palestinians together. Among my current group is a wonderfully bright,

sensitive and caring 24 year old woman: Shelly Nahari. Wednesday's tutorial was cancelled. Instead my students were learning the harsh realities of acute grief as they attended the funeral of Shelly's 22 year old sister, Shiri who was killed in the carnage that I had barely escaped.

Jerusalem is small and the circle of my patients, colleagues and their families is wide. In this week alone, I have shared one degree of separation from four miserable tragedies.

Dr Eisenman is a young ophthalmologist at Shaare Zedek. His wife, mother-in-law, 5 year old daughter and eighteen month old son were waiting at the bus stop at French Hill, in northern Jerusalem, under brilliant blue skies when a man jumped from a passing vehicle and ran toward them. As his belt exploded he showered all those in proximity with gore and a malicious salad of bolts and nails. The storm of shrapnel did its intended job. Dr. Eisenman's young daughter and mother-in-law were killed instantly. Today his infant son is in intensive care. This afternoon, his injured wife by his side,



Gal Eisenman, 5 was killed along with her grandmother in a Palestinian suicide bombing June 19, 2002 in Jerusalem

he buried his golden haired daughter next to her beloved grandmother.

Devora Margalit is a community nurse who helps cancer patients, and others, cope with stomas. Helping people cope with the whole new world of bags to collect their urine or feces is unromantic but vital work. In her former days she was a hospice nurse caring for the terminally ill. In

Continued on Page 19

FROM ARAD, WITH LOVE...

Youth Wind Band to perform in concert on July 30th at the Delaware JCC

Twenty talented teenage musicians from Delaware's Partnership 2000 community of Arad, Israel will perform a varied program of Israeli music next month to a lucky local audience. The Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Delaware Jewish Community Center are proud to present the Youth Wind Band of Arad in a free community concert on Tuesday, July 30th, 6:30 p.m. at the JCC Outdoor Amphitheater. A kosher hot dog dinner will be available beginning at 6:00 p.m. for a

nominal fee of \$3 per person to encourage family participation.

Most of the band members are native Israelis. They will be conducted by Haim Gafer, who made aliyah from Romania. The band is a project of the Conservatory of Arad, which was founded 26 years ago as a music school for youth of this settlement, located just 25 kilometers from the Dead Sea. Music education for the more than 200 Conservatory students begins as early as age five and may continue until age 18 when

students are recruited into the Israeli Defense Forces. This comprehensive program includes music theory, instrumental lessons, chamber music studies and orchestral studies. In addition to the Youth Wind Band, String Ensemble, Junior Band and Recorder Ensembles, the Conservatory also offers an adult classical choir, which meets one evening a week.

The Youth Wind Band of Arad is funded by Partnership 2000 as a vehicle for building people to people connections between

Arad-Tamar and the Jewish communities of Delaware and New Jersey. The project helps Americans to better understand Israeli society and gives talented young musicians contacts and experiences that will help them in their careers.

For additional information about the July 30th free performance, please call Amalia Snyderman at the Jewish Federation of Delaware, (302) 427-2100, ext. 30 or Ivy Harlev at the Delaware JCC, (302) 478-5660, ext. 204.



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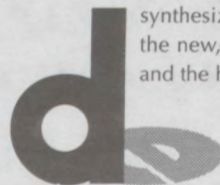
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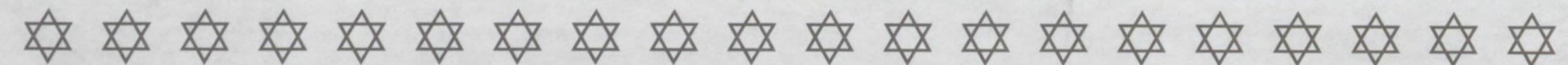
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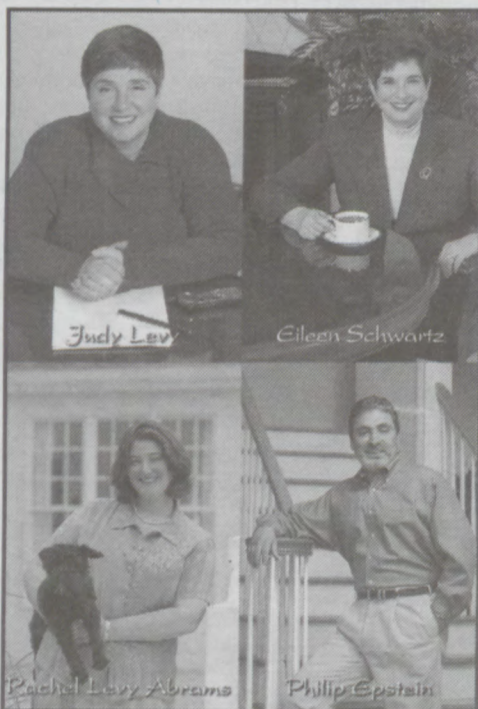


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EDITORIALS

Todah Rabah Mr. President

June 24th was a red letter day for American Jews who love Israel. Millions of us applauded President Bush for his courageous call for new Palestinian leadership as a prelude to statehood. He placed much of the blame for the senseless bloodshed of the last 20 months squarely on the shoulders of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and his current regime for fanning the flames of violence through textbooks that teach hatred, news media that elevates suicide bombers to martyr status and a corrupt economic system that breeds dependency and hopelessness.

He pledged full American and European support to help a democratically elected Palestinian government rebuild its depleted economy and create an infrastructure that supports growth and development.

He offered increased humanitarian aid to

enable the Palestinians to break away from dependency on handouts from terrorists groups like Hamas. Poverty is a fertile breeding ground for terrorist activity!

Israel's supporters were particularly pleased by the President's denouncement of countries that support terrorist activity by giving them safe haven within their borders. He called on these countries to choose whether they are allies or enemies in the U.S. led war on terrorism.

I pray that our President's words inspire positive action by nations committed to peace.

B'Shalom,

Lynn B. Edelman

Support The Community Capital Campaign

There are six reasons that the Delaware Jewish community is vibrant and vital-Albert Einstein Academy, Gratz Hebrew High School, Hillel at the University of Delaware, the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service and the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home.

These six agencies, constituents of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, nurture our Jewish identity and sustain us as a people. We depend upon these institutions to educate our children, support us in times of crisis, provide a broad range of recreational and social activities and care for our elders with compassion and dignity.

Agency leadership is dependent upon the success of the Federation Community Capital Campaign to help them make the renovations and expansions necessary to

meet both present and future needs. Your Capital Campaign commitment ensures our community's ability to respond to an increased need for services in the greater Newark area-a region with significant Jewish growth- while maintaining the high quality of services in Wilmington.

Your gift is a promise to future generations that these education, recreation, and social welfare services will be there to enrich their lives.

For additional information, please call 798-9366 or contact Campaign leadership at capitalcampaign@shalomdel.org.

Lynn B. Edelman

Photo Of The Week



President Bush discusses his plan for peace in the Middle East as National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, left, Secretary of State Colin Powell, center, and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stand by his side in the White House Rose Garden on Monday. Bush called for new Palestinian leaders in his speech. Credit: Paul Morse/White House Photo

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

For ORT Supporter Headlines Particularly Painful

As a member of the Jewish community, I hesitate before turning on the morning news, aching every time terror reigns in Israel. As a member of the Board of Directors of Women's American ORT-a supporter of the ORT Israel network of schools which educates 100,000 annually-I mourn, too, every time one of our students or graduates are directly affected, when they lose family and friends, as they fear attending a class trip or climbing aboard a bus to go to school.

And indeed, last Tuesday once again proved that this fear is rightfully earned: The No. 32 bus exploded merely 150 feet from the gates of ORT Spanian, killing 19 people (including 10 school children), and wounding 52.

Tuesday's incident comes in the wake of a harrowing year for the ORT community. Since the beginning of the Intifada, 36 ORT students and graduates have lost their lives in terror incidents and military action. Somehow, it seems surreal, as reports of the unthinkable pepper the papers day after day.

But the students of ORT Spanian make it all the more tangible. Many of the school's 600 students come from the nearby southern Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo and travel on the No. 32 bus route, on which the blast occurred. After the blast, administrators began a frantic search to ascertain whether their students were safe.

"Our school was under a lot of pressure," said Ariel Tzaba, a ninth grader at ORT Spanian, who auspiciously went to school late that day. "Teachers tried locating students, and guidance counselors came into the classrooms

to talk to the students they could find."

One of those students was Eliran Shalom, who was in the process of putting on tefillin in the school synagogue when he heard a tremendous explosion. While he assumed a low-flying plane caused the boom, his friend came running into the shul shouting about a terrorist attack outside the school.

"We started assisting people in need who had been wounded. The sights were really scary. A few minutes later there was already a long line of corpses covered with black bags being identified according to serial numbers," Shalom says. "I hope never again to witness an event as frightening as this."

"The most unbearable feeling was a sense of uncertainty as to the unruly fate ahead," Tzaba says. "What scares me the most is the feeling of insecurity, tomorrow I might be in grave danger, like the next turn in Russian Roulette."

We stand as surrogate witnesses. Peace cannot come fast enough. I, along with members of Women's American ORT, join the entire Jewish community in prayer for its arrival. As we anxiously await an end to the terror, we continue with our mission of supporting the ORT Israel network, of empowering students to achieve economic self-sufficiency through technological and vocational education. We have also taken on the task of raising money to provide our students with counseling and to supplement the security at our schools. In this way, we ensure the future of Israel and its people.

As always, our thoughts are for the well-being of our students. Shalom.

Ruth Rosenberg, Wilmington, DE

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August 9 issue
is our

**NEWCOMERS
GUIDE**

DEADLINE AUG. 1ST

**This early expanded
issue replaces our
usual July issue**

**ROSH HASHANAH
ISSUE: AUG. 30TH**

Dry Bones

ISRAEL BURIES
ITS DEAD, AND
FROM THE
NATIONS OF
EUROPE...



WE DON'T
EVEN GET
A "MINUTE
OF SILENCE"



ACTUALLY,
IN THE FACE
OF ARAB
TERROR...



EUROPE HAS
GIVEN US
YEARS OF
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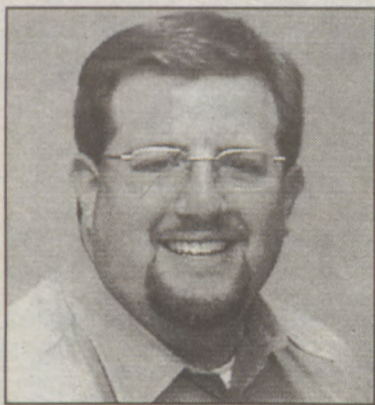


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PLEASE INCLUDE NAME AND DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT ALL SUBMISSIONS

FEDERATION FOCUS

Are You A Recipient Of Charity?



Todd Polikoff

Todd Polikoff
Assistant Director, Financial
Resource Development

Most of you would say no. The fact is that many people living in Delaware are receiving charity through the Jewish Federation of Delaware's constituent agencies (JCC, the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, Albert Einstein Academy, Hillel at the University of Delaware and JFS).

Through these agencies, the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD) provides programs and services to individuals in the Jewish

community in Delaware regardless of their support of the annual campaign.

The annual campaign allows our agencies to provide their current high quality of service to our community. Yet, only a percentage of our community makes a gift to the Annual Campaign.

The Jewish population of Delaware is roughly 13,500 individuals. From that population, JFD receives gifts from just over 3,000 donors. The result is that a majority of the members of our community do not support many of the services they use on a daily basis.

The cost of insurance, maintenance and salary for qualified teachers, child and healthcare providers increases every year. Our community cannot expect JFD's constituent agencies to maintain the same level of service without increased gifts to the annual campaign. JFD allocates 70% of the funds it raises through the annual campaign to programs in Delaware. The gift that you make is an investment in the quality of service you receive.

The goal of the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign remains the same: to assess and

address the needs of the Jewish Community in Delaware...Today! I urge everyone who plays volleyball at the JCC, visits a parent at the Kutz Home or has a child enrolled in the Albert Einstein Academy to make a gift to the Annual Campaign. Every member of the Jewish community - whether they use the services or not - should make a gift. Without all of our participation there is no Jewish community.

For more information about the JFD Annual Campaign, please feel free to contact me at 302-427-2100 ext. 16 or www.shalomdelaware.org.

JCRC Update

Primary Election Day in Delaware to Conflict This Year with Rosh Hashanah

This year the Delaware primary election, which regularly conflicts with the Jewish Sabbath, will also conflict with the first day of Rosh Hashanah, September 7. Efforts to change the date have been unsuccessful, leaving the absentee balloting process as the only recourse for Jews observing Rosh Hashanah who wish to also exercise their right to vote.

In March House Bill 418 was introduced in the state legislature to move back the primary election date for this year by one week. Cosponsors were Representative Bob Valihura and Senator Cathy Cloutier, both of Brandywine Hundred. Debate in the House Administration Committee centered on the obvious problem of having the primary on Rosh Hashanah on the one hand, and the claim by the Department of Elections that nothing could be done at this time to correct the problem on the other hand. Obstacles cited included timing, logistics, and contracts with polling locations. There was no support in the committee for releasing the bill for a vote in the House. With the legislative session nearing an end, there is no chance of passage.

This situation has brought to the fore the ongoing discrimination against Jewish voters in Delaware because of Saturday primary and local elections. The time may be ripe to mount a concerted effort to permanently change the primary election

day. There is support for an earlier primary election date, perhaps in May. It would make sense to try to move the election from a Saturday to a Tuesday at the same time.

For this year, though, the best we can do is to encourage Jewish voters to vote by absentee ballot. Instructions for absentee voting in New Castle County are in the accompanying article. Those living in Kent and Sussex counties should contact their Department of Elections for instructions. Please note that absentee voting applications (affidavits) will be available at synagogues and at the JCC, as well as on-line or by calling the Department of Elections.

To vote in the primary election, you must be registered as a Democrat or Republican. It is too late to change party affiliation before the September primary election, but those not yet registered can still do so until August 17 by contacting the Department of Elections.

Since candidates still have several more weeks to file, it is not certain yet which offices will have contested primaries. It seems likely that there will at least be a contest in the Democratic primary for U.S. Representative, as well as in some local races.

Because getting the affidavit for absentee voting notarized may be an obstacle for some, anyone who has the authority to notarize documents in Delaware is encouraged to make their services available for this purpose. Please contact Mark Wagman at 475-8351 or mewag1@aol.com so we can publicize your offer of notary serv-

ices to the Jewish community.

Absentee Voting Information
(adapted from the New Castle County Department of Elections website at - "http://www.state.de.us/doe_ncc/")

General: Registered voters in New Castle County may vote by Absentee Ballot if they are unable to go to the polls on the day of an election for a reason provided for in Delaware Code. Reasons for voting by absentee ballot include vacation, illness, and religious reasons.

Process: There are two processes by which a person may vote by Absentee Ballot - by mail and in-person at the Department of Elections for New Castle County. **Both processes involve two basic steps—(1) application (affidavit) for a ballot and (2) voting of the ballot.**

By mail: The mail process is time consuming and can involve as many as four (4) mailings (two by the Department of Elections and two by the individual voting by Absentee Ballot). Time is a very important factor when voting by Absentee Ballot. Persons using the mail process should request an Absentee Ballot by submitting a properly completed affidavit as soon as they are aware that they will not be able to go to the polls for an election. The Department will begin mailing ballots to those who have applied once they are available for a particular election.

1. Obtain an affidavit (application) for requesting an Absentee Ballot from the Department of Elections for New Castle County by calling 302-

577-3464, by e-mail (absentee@state.de.us), or from a political party or another source. A downloadable version of the application is available on the Department's WEB Site - "http://www.state.de.us/doe_ncc/Prj_Affidavit.PDF". **Affidavit forms will also be available at the JCC and at the synagogues.**

2. Submit a properly completed affidavit requesting an Absentee Ballot to the Department of Elections for New Castle County (or the county in which you reside) no later than noon the third day prior to the day of the election. **All affidavits requesting an Absentee Ballot must be notarized or witnessed by a person authorized to administer oaths** except when submitted by persons who are ill, temporarily or permanently physically disabled, in the Public Service of the U.S. or the State of Delaware or who are voting under the provisions of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

3. Vote and return your ballot as soon as you receive it. Ballots may be returned by mail or taken to the Department of Elections for New Castle County, and must be received at the Department of Elections no later than 12 noon the day before the day of the election. Ballots received after that time and before 8 p.m. on the day of the election will be counted for federal offices only.

In-person: Persons may vote by Absentee Ballot at the Department of Elections for New Castle County (address below) once ballots are avail-

able between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on normal business days. Persons voting in-person must complete an affidavit, and present proper identification in order to have the affidavit notarized. The Department will be open some evenings and Saturdays. The date and time of the Department's extended hours will be published in the News-Journal and on their website - "http://www.state.de.us/doe_ncc/". **This is the quickest method, since application for and voting the absentee ballot is done all at once. Ballots will not be available until after August 9, 2002 for the primary election.**

Contact information for the Department of Elections:
Department of Elections for New Castle County
Carvel State Office Building, 4th Floor
820 N French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
Phone: 302-577-3464, FAX: 302-577-6545, e-mail: absentee@state.de.us

Department of Elections for Kent County
455 Court St.
Dover, DE 19904
Phone: 302-739-4498, FAX: 302-739-4515, e-mail: vote@state.de.us

Department of Elections for Sussex County
119 N. Race St.
Georgetown, DE 19947
Phone: 302-856-5367

ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE



by Rachel A. Gross, Esq.

I recently met with a lovely couple - long-time supporters of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

As generous as Sam and Hannah have been to the JFD (and other organizations) over the years, they have not made any charitable bequests in their Wills. In fact, a number of years ago when they were drawing up their Wills, their attorney asked them whether they wanted to include charitable bequests. At that time, they decided that they wanted all of their assets to go to their sons, Reuben, Simon, Levi and Judah.

By the time I met with Sam and

Rethinking A Charitable Gift

Hannah, Reuben was a business owner, Simon a dentist, Levi a physician and Judah a lawyer. Each son is financially successful and each has a family of his own.

During our meeting, we discussed Sam and Hannah revisiting their earlier decision. Now that Samuel and Hannah know that their sons are doing well financially and would not be harmed if they received a bit less from their parents' estate, they feel comfortable including some charitable bequests in their Wills.

We did a quick exercise and examined their estate in round numbers. Between their home, a vacation property and other assets, Sam

and Hannah's estate is worth approximately \$800,000. Originally, they planned to leave about \$200,000 to each son. After our discussion they decided to reduce the amount that will go to each son by \$25,000. Each son will still receive \$175,000 and the community will receive a gift as well.

Hannah and Sam plan to use \$100,000 (\$25,000 x 4) to establish a fund at the **Jewish Fund for the Future**. Their hope is that the fund will generate approximately 5% a year, \$5,000, to be used either to perpetuate an annual gift to the JFD or to provide funds for Jewish education and teacher training. Sam and

Hannah are still trying to decide exactly how they'd like to direct their legacy.

They discussed these plans with their children and their children were pleased. Their sons were thrilled to learn about the legacy their parents were leaving to each of them and they were proud to learn that the community in which they were raised, and which their parents have always supported, will continue to be sustained by their family - forever.

Why not speak to me about the ways in which you might choose to continue to support the Delaware Jewish community, forever? Perhaps our Endowment Director con-



Rachel Gross

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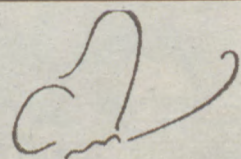
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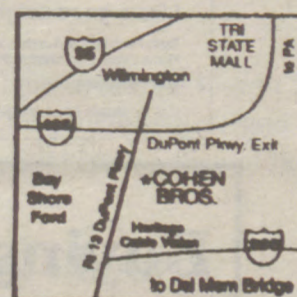
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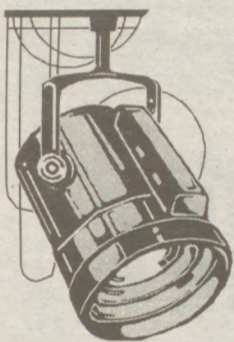
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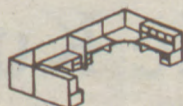
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RABBINIC PERSPECTIVES

"And What's Your Theme?"

Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher
Congregation Beth Emeth

Just the other day I picked up a free publication at a diner in Baltimore. Now at some Delaware establishments there are such flyers/booklets containing information about Delaware Valley attractions, or places to stay when visiting the Middle Atlantic States. In Baltimore, in the area in which this diner is located, one can find *B'nai Mitzvah Baltimore*, an "all-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-plan-

ning-your-Bat/Bar Mitzvah" magazine.

About two pages contained information concerning synagogues; the rest was filled with ads and articles about balloons, catering halls, D.J.s, and photographers...the essence of twenty-first century B'nai Mitzvah spirituality! Now I like to have fun just as much as the next person, rabbi or otherwise. Nevertheless there is a balance issue. When planning the Bar/Bat Mitzvah *simcha* a little

more focus on the *Mitzvah*, a little less on the *Bar* might be in order.

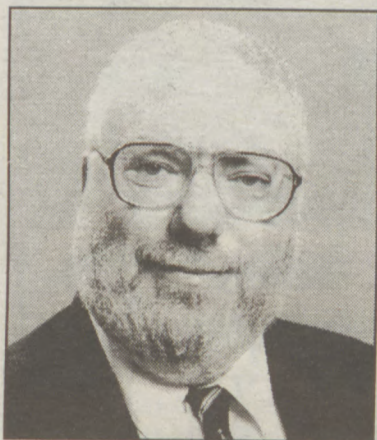
I remember driving my daughter before her rite-of-passage six years ago. When her friends were in the car the topic of conversation was the "theme" of their B'nai Mitzvah. Before I could open my mouth (because Elana knew what I was going to say!), she said, "Yeah, yeah, Dad, I know." What did she know? She knew I would say that the theme of any Bat/Bar Mitzvah should first be *Torah, Mitzvot,*

Chukim u'mishpatim, in essence fulfilling the commandments inherent in the phrase Bat Mitzvah (or Bar), a child ready to take on the obligations of Jewish life. That is not to say that the party shouldn't be theme-oriented if that is how you want it; my own kids had such reception themes (and, boy, did this publication have a host of theme ideas I never would have thought about).

Nonetheless the true meaning of this *simcha*, as opposed to just

about any other life moment, is the transformation from childhood to Jewish adulthood. The sense of what it means to affirm one's identity should carry from the *bimah* to the bandstand, and even more importantly from the bandstand to the daily life of the young person. If mom and dad make this point through role-modeling their Jewish lives it will hopefully become an ongoing "theme" in everything the new Bar/Bat Mitzvah does from that moment on.

The Golden Steps



Rabbi David Wortman

Rabbi David Wortman,
Director
The Kimmel-Spiller
Jewish Healing Center

The old saw goes, "The only things that are permanent in life are death and taxes." Of these, taxes are predictable. Every April 15, like clockwork, taxes are due. While death is inevitable, few of us know when we are going to die. And therein lies the rub.

The uncertainty engenders anxiety as years pass and the possibility of death looms ever closer. Surveys have shown that a far greater number of people are more afraid of dying than they are

of death. The time between now and then is unknown. We are fraught with worries. These same reports suggest that the two primary fears related to death are: "Will I die alone?" "Will I suffer?"

The fear of dying alone reaches deep inside our conscience. "Alone" does not necessarily mean no one else is around. Rather, it is an emotional and spiritual emptiness caused by inattentiveness of loved ones, isolation from friends, reliance on strangers. While the frail elderly can be well treated and cared for in a nursing home, it is no cure for the inner sense of being alone.

Suffering is an equally burdensome fear. We all know of people who have been diagnosed with a terminal disease and deteriorate slowly over months, if not years. With disease, usually, comes pain. In today's medical world, pain is frequently manageable. But suffering entails more than physical pain.

Someone who has led a full, active and mobile life, who can no longer leave the bedroom without help, is suffering. A person, whose bodily functions require diapers, suffers. A terminally ill patient whose son's Bar Mitzvah is a year away, suffers.

In far too many instances, these fears are not only real, but come to be. We are increasingly warehousing our sick and elderly. We "file" them in drawers called nursing homes, retirement villages or even hospitals. We go on about our lives, opening these drawers only when absolutely necessary. Out of sight, out of mind.

Thus the fears only intensify. It need not be.

For our parents, spouses, children, etc. we must find a way to bring the frail elderly and the sick into the light and warmth of the sun. This means visiting, calling, caring. It means occasionally sublimating one's own needs and be aware of, and sensitive to, others' needs. It means extending professional care beyond the doctors and nurses to include those who can help with spiritual healing.

Anecdotally, I suggest that residents in nursing homes fare better if their families make regular visits and/or calls. Even those who say, "It's OK that my kids don't visit. I don't want to be a burden," are frequently rationalizing their loneliness. Beneath the surface, however, lurk subconscious desires to see their loved ones.

For the terminally ill patient, the golden steps toward ultimate

healing of the soul are bordered by resting places where one may seek forgiveness and offer apology; where one may speak the words of eternal love; where one may inspire those around with the legacy of their lives. Remaining estranged, distant or uninvolved deprives the dying of stopping along those steps. When they reach the final step and arrive before God for judgment, they will be tired and weary - unsettled. If we are there with them, they will arrive rested and in peace.

Since, as I noted above, the day of death is unknown, we must lead each day, as did the Talmud, as the day before the last one. Consequently, the caring, loving and tenderness that we offer the dying and the sick, must be present every day. Tomorrow, it could be too late.

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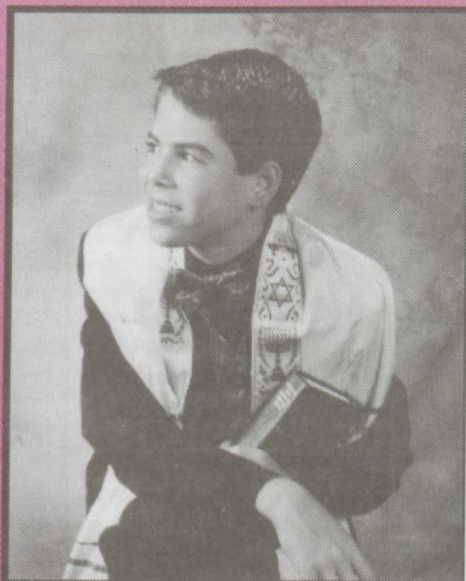
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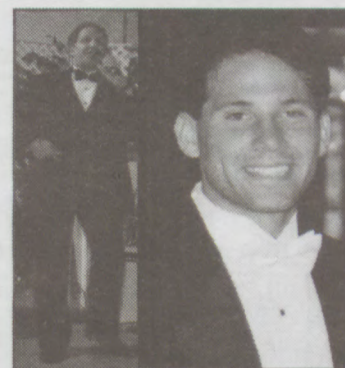
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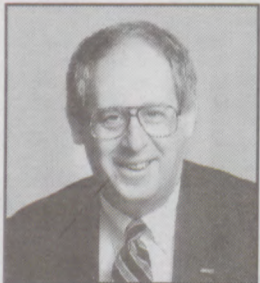
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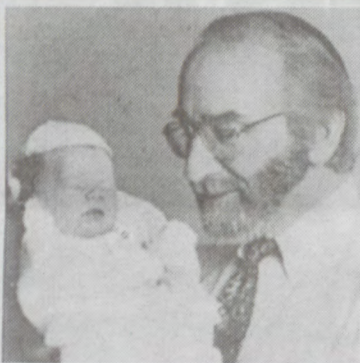
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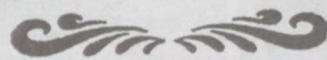


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MATTER OF OPINION

Advertisers Sell Security

Nechemia Meyers

Like all other Israelis, advertisers have adjusted to the security situation; indeed, they have exploited it.

The Blue Square Supermarkets are a case in point. They are running full page ads urging customers to order groceries by fax, internet or telephone. In this way, the chain says, "you can do your food shopping from the most pleasant, comfortable and safest location, your own home."

This is not a new arrangement. Some supermarkets have offered this service for many years. But previously they stressed its convenience. Now the emphasis has shifted. Since several supermarkets have fallen victim to terrorist attacks, the chain assumes that potential customers are most likely to be influenced by the security factor.

The same thought has occurred to the travel agencies marketing overseas holidays.

We now hear frequent radio commercials which begin with the slightly hysterical voice of a young woman saying, "I want to take a vacation in Europe, but I am afraid. She is followed by a bouncy young man with a solution. "You should," he tells her, "plan a vacation in Hungary, which is inexpensive as compared to western Europe, and absolutely safe." He talks also about the country's beautiful scenery, special cuisine and casinos. But freedom from Arab terror is clearly the main selling point.

Announcements about forthcoming events also allude to the security issue. Australian immigrants planning to attend a Jerusalem picnic to mark the 75th anniversary of the Zionist Federation of Australia are assured that the organizers will provide "full security". Likewise parents who contemplate the possibility of sending their children to a summer camp at Moshav

Kfar Haroeh, near Netanya, are informed that the camp offers "full security arrangements." And ads for the Farmer's Market at Kfar Azar, a village on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, emphasize that "security guards are always on the premises."

Affected by "the situation" but still continuing is Hebrew Book Week. In previous years, there were book stands set up in the parks and public squares of some forty Israeli cities and my children, when they were growing up, loved nothing so much as to wander from one stand to another, leafing through hundreds of books until they found a few that they asked us to buy.

This year there were only a few venues, all of them places that could be protected with relative ease, like the grounds of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. In that same city, and about the same time, an area practically deserted in recent months was revived, albeit temporarily. This was Jaffa Road and the adjacent Ben-Yehuda Mall, where dozens of Israelis have been murdered by Intifada terrorists.

Responsible for the momentary revival were the homosexuals and lesbians of Jerusalem. They recently held the first ever gay pride parade in Israel's capital, and it passed through that section of the city. The event drew hundreds of participants and sympathizers, as well as a good many Orthodox men who came with signs demanding that the gays return to their closets.

The parade is over and that area is again being avoided by a majority of Jerusalemites, all the security arrangements notwithstanding. But most of these people are still doing their supermarket shopping by themselves, rather than ordering groceries by phone, fax or internet.

Nechemia Meyers is a syndicated columnist based in Israel. He has historic roots in the Wilmington area.

To Boycott Or Not To Boycott, That Is ...

By Carl Alpert

Faced with their own internal problems, Israelis are not oblivious of what is going on elsewhere in the world as well. It is clear that much of the anti-Israel agitation fomented by the Muslims overseas is being directly linked to propaganda against Jews in general. Arab spokesmen go out of their way to emphasize that their battle is not just against Israel, but against Jews everywhere, and they find ready and willing allies.

The alarming growth of anti-Semitism in many European countries, while triggered by events in the Middle East, is obviously drawing support from deep well-springs of basic animosity to the Jews. One does not have to go very far to find such indications in countries like Norway and France, though even Britain is not free from it. The immediate question is, what should be the reaction of world Jewry to revelation of this scourge?

An almost automatic response in many quarters has been to call for a boycott of the offending states. It should require no great sacrifice on our part to forego Norwegian lox, and while diminution of the Jewish market will perhaps be little felt in Norway, at least we shall have the feeling that we did not ignore that country's hostility.

The proposed boycott of France involves more serious considerations. For one thing, there is a large Jewish population in that country, and open anti-Semitism has taken the form of burning of synagogues, desecration of Jewish cemeteries and public anti-Jewish expressions in the press and in the streets. Failure of the French government to take any action, nor even to admit that the problem exists, can only have a negative interpretation.

If world Jewry ignores this situation, or pretends that it does not exist, the perpetrators will be encouraged to continue and expand their program. Latent anti-Semites in other lands will be encouraged to emerge into the open and give active expression to their feelings.

On the other hand, a leader of the French Jewish communities on a recent visit to the United States, was reported to have urged American Jews not to embark on an open boycott of France on the grounds that the fallout would adversely affect the Jews of that country. While we have not seen any details of his grounds for objection, it can be assumed that he feared that if such a boycott

did indeed have any effect on the French economy, there would be a strong backlash against the local Jewish community, thus exacerbating the situation. Furthermore, it could be assumed that French Jews, actively engaged in business and industry in their country, would be among those to suffer as a result of any reduction in exports from France due to the boycott.

We are reminded that when the anti-Nazi boycott was proclaimed in the 1930s, German Jewish leaders were foremost in urging that it be cancelled on the grounds that its net effect would be harmful to their interests. At the time, world Jewry ignored these requests. Overcome by a feeling of helplessness in the face of the growth of Nazis, Jews everywhere felt that they had to do something, and not just sit on their hands. Carrying out a boycott gave them that feeling of "doing something".

Israelis are very conscious of the situation in France, and whereas that country was once a very popular choice for tourists from here, it is no longer attracting large numbers. One cannot say if this is because of a conscious desire to boycott, or because of a fear of attacks upon them if they visit that country.

Another element to be taken into consideration is the fact that France is a market for many Israeli products. A publicly proclaimed Jewish boycott would inevitably result in economic counter measures, with serious effect on our exports there. In Norway, for example, while there is no formal boycott of Israeli products, stores have been urged to put special tags on merchandise calling attention to the fact that the items come from Israel. The customers are left to make their own decisions.

Should the Jews of France, estimated to number in excess of half a million, be left to seek a solution to their own problems in their own way, or should the Jews of other countries play a role in combatting their foes, so that in a foreseeable future they will not have to face their own consciences with the question, "Where were you and what did you do when French Jewry was faced with its crisis?"

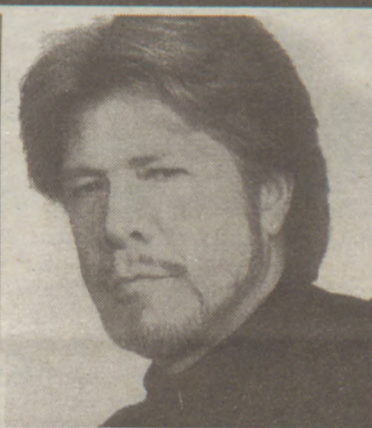
Carl Alpert is a Haifa-based syndicated columnist. His columns appear in Jewish newspapers throughout North America.



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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Albert Einstein Academy Holds Annual Meeting

Albert Einstein Academy held its 32nd Annual Meeting on June 3rd. Along with nominations and installation of new Board members, the Academy honored the following people for their years of dedicated service to the school:

5 years-Diane Fretwell-1st Grade Teacher; Sharon Kaplan-Art Teacher; Joanne Epstein-School Nurse and Health Teacher

10 Years-Nancy Brock-Kindergarten Teacher; Michal Cherrin-Jewish Studies Department Coordinator and Teacher

15 Years-Maria and Robert Garcia-Cleaning and Maintenance

Dr. Irv Kogon was also honored as the Academy's "Volunteer of the Year."

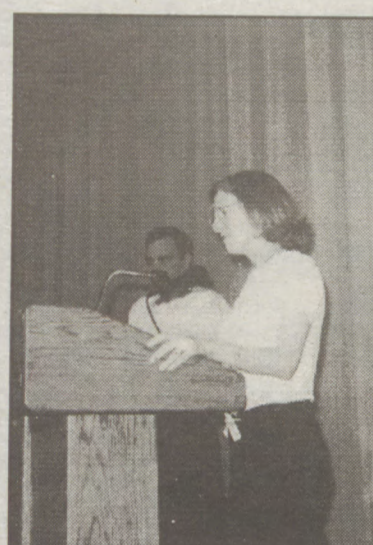
New Board members include Elliot Katz, Ira Horden, Vivian Mamberg and Rachel Harad.



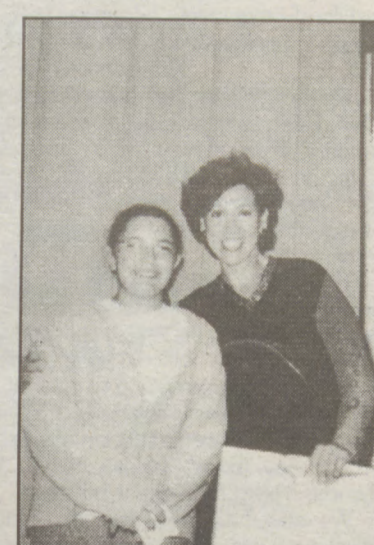
Lauren Harad speaks about art teacher Sharon Kaplan.



Maria Garcia accepts gifts from Sharon Marshall.



Susan Kogon speaks about honoree Dr. Irv Kogon.



Lauren Harad with art teacher Sharon Kaplan.

Melton School Now Accepting Fall Registration

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, a project of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is now accepting students for its Delaware program, which meets at the Delaware JCC on Wednesdays, 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., beginning September 18th.

This program promotes the growth of Jewish literacy through a two-year course of study of the Bible, the Talmud and other

sacred texts. Adult learners will explore the purposes, rhythms, dramas and ethics of Jewish living, without the pressures of grades or exams. Upon completion, participants will receive a Certificate of Jewish Studies from Hebrew University.

Tuition is \$399 per year. For more information, please call Marion Hamermesh at 302-478-5660, ext. 201 or email melton@jccdelaware.org.

Newark JCC To House Delaware Gratz Classes This Fall!

Classes are scheduled to begin this September at the Newark JCC for 11th and 12th graders who wish to both learn and earn (potential) college credits. Two classes, Modern Jewish History 706 and Advanced Jewish Literature 322, both potentially bearing college credit, are already scheduled to begin this September, taught by Gratz faculty member, Rabbi Eliezer

Sneiderman, at the Newark JCC. Interested Newark area students have suggested Sunday evenings as a possible class meeting time. Delaware Gratz will offer up to four classes, based upon student demand.

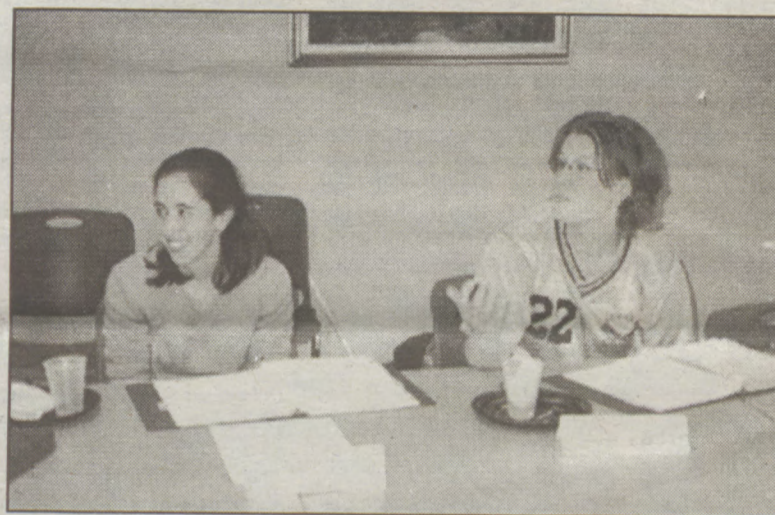
Please contact Marlene Milunsky, Principal of Delaware Gratz, at 478-8100 for registration materials and additional information.

DCF Salutes Youth Philanthropy Board

Samantha Facciolo, a senior at Archmere Academy, and Judah Milunsky, a senior at Brandywine High School, served as members of the Youth Philanthropy Board, which is funded through the Youth Philanthropy Fund at the Delaware Community Foundation. The fund was established in 1999 by former teacher Phyllis McMullen Wynn, who wanted to help young people learn the value of philanthropy. Ms. Wynn serves as an advisor to the board and attends many of its meetings.

One youth program has benefited from the Youth Philanthropy Fund every year for the past three years. Anytown, Delaware, a weeklong leadership camp for high school students, conducted by the National Conference for Community and Justice, has received funding to provide scholarships for delegates to the camp. The delegates, who represent diverse religions and cultures, attend workshops, discussion groups and activities that are designed to break down barriers.

Additional information about the Youth Philanthropy Fund may be obtained by contacting Beth Bouchelle, Program Associate, at 571-8004, ext. 239. Donations to the fund may be sent to DCF, P.O. Box 1636, Wilmington, DE 19899.



Samantha Facciolo and Judah Milunsky

News From Newark

The new Newark Jewish Community Campus, formerly the Newark YWCA, is a fun place to visit this summer.

The fitness center has been completely renovated and furnished with state-of-the-art equipment. Pool renovations are completed and the pool will officially reopen in August. A summer camp program is available on-site for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade.

Come to the **GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION** on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Call Cheryl Smith at 368-9173 for more information on Newark programs.

See You In August ...

Due to the early arrival of the High Holidays, the Jewish Voice will publish two August editions:

August 9 - Newcomer's

August 30 - Rosh Hashanah Preview

We will not publish during the month of July.



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Sign Up For Holocaust Museum Trip

The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, working with the Delaware Teacher's Center, is offering a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, July 30th.

A \$28 per person fee includes round trip bus transportation, lecture by a Holocaust educator on the bus and an introductory

group orientation at the Museum. Lunch is on one's own.

To register, please send a \$28.00 check, payable to the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Committee, c/o the Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801-1628. For additional information, call Amalia Snyderman at 427-2100, ext. 30.

JEWISH LIFESTYLES

Lion Statues Roar In Jerusalem

By Leah F. Chase, JTA

Wherever you go in Jerusalem these days, full-size lions stand silently on guard.

On busy street corners in the center of the city, in the middle of flower-filled round-about, in front of the magnificent Jerusalem Theater, at several approaches to the colorful flag-filled City Hall Square you'll come upon one of the 80 stately lions, individually "dressed" by professional and amateur Israeli artists.

Joining the international club of cities that have turned their streets into art galleries, Jerusalem chose as its symbol, the logo of the City of Jerusalem, the Lion of Judea.

Co-sponsored by Peugeot Israel, the \$200,000 project has captured the imagination of Jerusalemites, from taxi drivers to attorneys, shopkeepers and shoppers, and especially children of all ages in the six weeks since they've been out on display.

As pedestrians and drivers travel throughout the city on their daily routes, they have become aware of the lions, some which are seated and some of which stand. The project has helped soften the unease and tension that is felt on the streets of Israel at this time. People walking by usually stop for a minute and smile at the lions. After observing them from all sides, they walk away

in a happier frame of mind.

Established artists and those just finishing their studies were invited to take on the project of painting a lion, incorporating visual arts, graphics and industrial design, and showing daring expression and quality. They worked on a deadline of a month, together in a large studio set up in the basement of Teddy Stadium. Some artists were able to finish within a week or two; others used the entire month for their creation.

Bringing the idea to Jerusalem was the brainchild of Aliza Olmert, an artist and the wife of Jerusalem's mayor, Ehud Olmert. The exhibit is managed by Dafna Naor, who has established and organized various art projects and exhibitions on behalf of private and public institutions in Israel and abroad.

The overall plan of placing plastic art statues on city streets originated in Zurich in 1998 when the project was introduced to the world. Hundreds of cow statues were decorated by different artists and captured the imagination of the city for months.

The originality and freshness of the project caught on all over the world and gave birth to similar projects in other cities. Cleveland, the home of the rock'n'roll museum, just joined the 'club' with guitars;

Seattle has pigs, Wilmington dinosaurs, Toronto moose; Los Angeles angels, Miami flamingos, Berlin bears, New Orleans fish. Tel Aviv now has dolphins poised in the middle of a jump.

One of the most outstanding Jerusalem lions is one made of a mosaic of tiny mirrors of all sizes and shapes reflecting bright summer sunlight in front of the Jerusalem Theater on David Marcus Street. Another has been painted pink and given teats, establishing a female presence near the president's and prime minister's residences.

At the entrance to the Municipality of Jerusalem, the city hall complex, a large multi-colored plexiglass box captures a lion in a scene filled with snow. The design of the lion in front of the YMCA across from the King David Hotel invites children to climb on its back.

The lions will be up until mid-September. After that, the statues will be sold by public auction, and the proceeds will be distributed to a number of local charities. If you are interested in bidding on a lion and having a bit of Jerusalem brought home, visit www.jerusalem.muni.il.

Leah F. Chase is a freelance journalist based in Charleston S.C. who travels often to Israel and other Mediterranean countries.



A lion statue stands guard in the heart of downtown Jerusalem.

Credit: JTA

Jewish Music Hits The Web

By Marcus Moraes, JTA

"Guib a click, dos is YiddishMusic."

This sentence can be heard several times a day from Brazilian electronic engineer Carlos Daniel Kibrit, 46, founder and producer of the 24-hour webcast called YiddishMusic.

"Give a click, this is Jewish Music," translates Kibrit, who also is fluent in English.

YiddishMusic began as a family initiative — Kibrit was aided by his two sons, Ariel, and Ilan — that grew bigger and bigger as friends started to listen, like and spread the word. It has now become something of a fad among the Web users in Brazil's 120,000-member Jewish community — even though it's solely funded by Kibrit and his family.

"YiddishMusic is one of my most precious findings on the Internet. I listen to it while I am downloading my e-mails," says historian and visual artist Silvia Rezende of Sao Paulo.

However, 55 percent of the listeners come from outside Brazil, from some 50 countries including Azerbaijan, New Zealand, Iceland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, Kibrit says.

YiddishMusic can be visited at www.yiddishmusic.com.br, in English and Portuguese. Recently, it achieved the 10,000-hour mark on the air. Its digital music library has 4,000 titles, he adds.

The YiddishMusic Web radio station plays a broad range of Jewish music, including liturgical chanting, traditional and modern tunes and Jewish holiday songs. Most are in Yiddish, but some are in Hebrew, Ladino or Russian.

Some 40 percent of the station's files consist of Yiddish music and klezmer instrumental music by artists such as David Tarras, Molly Picon, Al Jolson and Avraham Fried.

"Our most recent acquisition was Yemenite traditional music, sung by Jewish communities in that country, with a very peculiar sound," Kibrit says.

Musician Mauro Perelmann of Rio de Janeiro is the founder and artistic director of Zemer, the only klezmer music band in Rio.

"The survival of a people is due, among other factors, to the keeping

of its culture," Perelmann says. "Therefore, I find it great that there exists a Brazilian Internet radio that plays nothing but Jewish music."

YiddishMusic's current programming includes music by a group known as Aufwind, which keeps Jewish musical culture alive in Germany by playing traditional songs with new arrangements.

"Dzigan and Shumacher" are two Yiddish humorists who broadcast 30-minute programs on Sundays. "Goldene Voices" plays recordings by senior choirs every day but Saturday.

"It's tremendously difficult to find

Yiddish music, and it's usually from the 1960s. Very few artists seem interested in recording in Yiddish today," Kibrit laments, mentioning Israelis "Dudu" Fisher and Chava Alberstein as exceptions.

"My grandparents' language is dying," he says. "My hope is that YiddishMusic can create this bridge between past and future. And I guess we're being successful."

Kibrit says he comes from "mixed" Jewish heritage — Ashkenazi on his mother's side, Sephardi on his father's. Raised in a Jewish neighborhood of Sao Paulo, he attended the city's Sholem

Aleichem school, where he learned Yiddish, but not Hebrew.

"Beside this, my grandmother lived with us for several years, and I would only hear Yiddish at home," he says. "The smell and the emotions of those times led me to create YiddishMusic for my own pleasure."

For many listeners, the pleasure is nostalgic.

"I was surprised to find songs I could never imagine I would, like the ones my grandfather and father sang to me when I was a child," historian Esther Kuperman says. "I couldn't help crying then."

A Mazal Tov In Shanghai

By Dvir Bar-Gal

This cosmopolitan Chinese city has witnessed what is believed to be its first Jewish marriage ceremony in more than 50 years.

Peter Cohen, originally from New York, met Anna Podtoptannaya, who hails from Ukraine, when he worked there as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer. Seeking adventure, the two later moved to China, ultimately settling in Shanghai, home to some 300 to 400 Jews. Cohen works there as a management consultant and Podtoptannaya runs a brand management company.

Their wedding, which took place less than a month after the opening ceremony of Shanghai's Jewish community center, highlighted the international flavor of the Chinese city. Guests arrived from the United States, Europe, Australia and Asia.

The ceremony itself turned out to have a wider-than-expected audience. Many of the employees and

guests at Shanghai's Cyprus Hotel — used to Chinese weddings, but unfamiliar with the Jewish ceremony — watched through the hotel's windows. The last Jewish wedding in Shanghai took place in 1950, Cohen said.

The wedding had three parts: The chupah was raised and a traditional ceremony held; then, a representative of the Ukrainian Consulate registered the couple; lastly, the bride and groom read their vows to each other.

The leader of Shanghai's Jewish community, Rabbi Shalom Greenberg, and his wife, Dina, had difficulty arranging all the Jewish aspects of the ceremony, including having documents proving the couple's Jewishness sent from overseas.

Since the mikvah, or ritual bath, at the new Jewish center is under construction, the rebbeztin took the bride and groom to Lake Tai Hu for the pre-wedding immersions. As a



Anna Podtoptannaya poses for a photograph during her wedding to Peter Cohen in China — this was the first Jewish wedding in more than 50 years.

Credit: Dvir Bar-Gal/JTA

natural body of water, Tai Hu, one of China's largest lakes, qualifies as an acceptable mikvah, she said.

For Anna, who does not swim, going into the lake's cold waters was something of a shock.

The trip to the natural mikvah wasn't the only symbolic part of the

wedding: The post-wedding reception and dinner were held in the Sassoon halls, named after Sir Victor Sassoon, one of the leaders of Shanghai's Jewish community in the early 20th century.

The couple plans to live in Shanghai for the next few years.

ISRAEL FOCUS

Palestinians reject Bush speech, but it could catalyze calls for change

By Gil Sedan
JTA

Even before President Bush called for replacing the Palestinian Authority leadership, there were growing indications that Palestinians were doing some soul-searching.

One indication was a June 19 petition against suicide bombings, signed by the PLO's top official for Jerusalem, Sari Nusseibeh; Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi; and other Palestinian intellectuals.

The petition, which was published twice as an advertisement in eastern Jerusalem's Arab press, was the most impressive public move against the current wave of Palestinian terrorist attacks in recent months.

"We would like to believe that those who stand behind the military operations, whose targets are civilians in Israel, will reconsider their acts because we do not see that they lead to any results, except for more hatred and animosity between the two peoples," the petition read.

The petition was signed by 55 Palestinian personalities. It was followed by another advertisement a few days later with even more signatures. To be sure, the writers of the petition carefully chose their words to stay within the Palestinian consensus.

They did not call suicide bombings "terrorist attacks," for example, but "military operations." In addition, they did not say that the attacks against civilians were immoral per se, simply that they weren't useful to the Palestinian cause. In any case, the petition coincided with a rally in the Gaza Strip in which hundreds protested over deteriorating economic conditions, demanding work and food rather than armed struggle. Some demonstrators told reporters that

they wanted to know what had happened to relief money from overseas, little of which had made its way from the Palestinian Authority to the people. Some analysts, like Zuheir Hamdan, the "village head" of the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Sur Baher, said he thought both the petition and the demonstration were the work of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Hamdan told JTA that Arafat encouraged the petition — indeed, he went on record praising it — to strengthen the appearance of moderation. With outside pressure mounting to overthrow Arafat, he may understand that his only chance for continued popular support will be an improvement in the Palestinians' economic situation. Israel is unlikely to reopen its gates to Palestinian workers in the foreseeable future, and significant economic aid from the United States will depend on a cessation of violence — as Bush indicated in his speech this week.

Now, with Bush having come out strongly against the Palestinian leader — on Monday he called "on the Palestinian people to elect new leaders, leaders not compromised by terror" — Arafat is likely to intensify his efforts to hang on to his image as the only leader able to rally the Palestinian people behind him.

Indeed, for nearly a decade of the Oslo peace process, even as evidence mounted that he was in gross violation of his peace commitments, Arafat maneuvered to stay in power by presenting himself as indispensable.

Curiously, in his initial reaction, Arafat described Bush's speech as "a serious effort to push the peace process." The next day, however, he joined other Palestinian officials in saying that only the Palestinians would choose their own leaders.



The PLO's top official for Jerusalem, Sari Nusseibeh, is one of the leading Palestinians who signed a June 19 petition against suicide bombings.

CREDIT: Photo courtesy
Peace Now

Bush's call for new leadership was "not acceptable," Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said.

Indeed, the present P.A. leadership is well aware that Arafat's removal may also mean the end of their political careers.

"Yasser Arafat was elected in democratic elections, and President Bush and others must respect this," Erekat said. Israeli legislator Ahmed Tibi, who previously served as a top adviser to Arafat, said Bush had surpassed Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as the person Palestinians hated most.

"Arafat will remain head of the Palestinian Authority, and American pressure to replace him will only increase the violence," Tibi warned. Sensing the writing on the wall, Arafat will try to drive

a wedge among the United States, the European

Union and the Arab world by adopting a seemingly "peaceful" strategy and warning against "renewed Israeli occupation" of the territories, analysts said. He also will take actions that appear to restrain Hamas and Islamic Jihad, as he began to do this week. In an interview last week with the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, Arafat sounded too good to be true. During an interview in Arafat's battered Ramallah headquarters, he accepted former President Clinton's outline for a peace settlement, complimented Sharon and said he could make peace with him, adopted the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's declaration of "no more war" and quoted Bush that "enough is enough," regarding violence. He also criticized Israel for targeting the Palestinian Authority, rather than Hamas or Islamic Jihad — and announced that he was putting the leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, under house arrest. Indeed, Palestinian police encircled Yassin's residence in Gaza early this week and arrested at least 17 low-level Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists. The arrests were followed by intensive contacts between Palestinian police and leaders of Hamas, raising suspicions that the seemingly tough hand was yet another case of the Palestinian Authority's "revolving door" security policy, in which suspects are arrested and, when pressure eases, quickly released.

Few in Israel took Arafat's purported moderation seriously. Indeed, Arafat's best displays of verbal moderation come when he feels the screws tightening. One example was the aftermath of the June 2001 terrorist attack at Tel Aviv's Dolphinarium disco that killed 21 Israeli teen-agers. Arafat quickly announced a cease-fire to

forestall Israeli retaliation. But violence resumed once enough time had passed that an Israeli attack would seem less like retaliation than provocation. Now, following the Bush speech, Arafat has even more reason to appear moderate. However, it was clear that the speech could speed up local pressure on Arafat to step down.

Last week, Edward Said, a former Arafat crony and one of the most influential Palestinian intellectuals in the United States, issued a call for "elections now." Writing in the Egyptian weekly Al-Ahram, Said wrote, "A new basis of legitimacy has to be created by the only and ultimate source of authority, namely, the people itself." Said stressed that this should not be done in response to outside pressure, but rather because of internal Palestinian demand for accountable and responsible government. Said criticized Arafat for having "made a deal with the occupation through Oslo," the same argument that led to a rift between the two men several years ago. Some Palestinians believe the Oslo accords were unfair because they obligated the Palestinians to cease violence against Israel — an obligation that was ignored, in any case — while not assuring them that Israel would meet all their demands in negotiations. Yet in a roundabout way, Said also recognized that the Palestinians needed to abandon terrorism. "Who else but the Palestinian people can construct the legitimacy they need to rule themselves and fight the occupation with weapons that don't kill innocents and lose us more support than ever before?" Said asked. "A just cause can easily be subverted by evil or inadequate or corrupt means. The sooner this is realized, the better the chance we have to lead ourselves out of the present impasse."

Jewish Agency treasurer ousted following controversial comments

By Jessica Steinberg

It was intended to emphasize the solidarity of the Jewish people at a time of increasing violence.

But instead the 34th World Zionist Congress ended with the ouster of the treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Israel and a injury to the partnership of world Jewry. Many delegates believed the discord was sparked by the controversial comments made by the treasurer, Chaim Chesler, at the opening of last week's congress. Amid a discussion on religious pluralism, which had been expected to be a focus of the congress, Chesler said that he preferred technically non-Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union who immigrated to Israel over Jews "who pray three times a day and stay in Brooklyn."

But others said the disagreement had more to do with the failure to follow the proper political procedures in appointing and approving top posts of the Zionist leadership.

Last week's gathering of 750 delegates from all over the world for the World Zionist Congress,

often called the parliament of the Jewish people, and this week's meeting of the Jewish Agency Assembly took place during a time of deadly suicide bombings, tragic shootings and the re-entry of the Israeli army into Palestinian cities. The intent was to create a feeling of unity and solidarity among the Jewish leadership. Instead, the gathering was marked by a certain sense of frustration over how decisions are made and then carried out. In the end, the congress passed a resolution supporting religious pluralism and opposing any changes to Israel's conversion law. But events in the country and the flap over Chesler overshadowed the intended focus on Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. Chesler, who is known for his outspokenness as well as his success in sticking to the budget for the five years of his term in office, was removed from his position on Monday.

"This is an impeachment," Yehiel Leket, chairman of the Jewish National Fund, thundered while speaking to the Jewish Agency Assembly on Monday morning, following the final vote

on the matter. "I think it's wrong from a moral point of view, and from a menschlichkeit point of view," he said. "This is not a problem with Chaim Chesler," Leket added. "There are correct and dignified ways" instead of the way this process took place. "This is a problem of the WZO, JAFI and our partnership," he said. The decision was made by the executive committee of the JAFI board of governors, which includes four representatives of the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella of the North American federation system, and two from Keren Hayesod, UJC's equivalent in the rest of the Diaspora. Sallai Meridor, the Jewish Agency chairman, was re-elected for another term. No names of possible replacements for Chesler have been mentioned. Speaking from the election plenum, Alex Grass, chairman of the Jewish Agency's board of governors, apologized to Leket, saying that he recognized that the process needs to be re-examined. "We recognize that timing is everything, and that was totally failed," he said. "But I want to stress that we want to be partners and we want to work

together." The former treasurer was not present at the Jewish Agency Assembly sessions, and was not available for comment. The decision to oust Chesler may have been valid, said several delegates. But the committee neglected to follow the correct "advise and consent" procedure for removing an elected member.

That process was initially instituted in the last decade to weed out certain candidates from Jewish leadership positions, due to concerns that political appointees would be elected to positions for which they weren't qualified.

The committee is supposed to meet before each Zionist Congress, which is held every four to five years, and discuss individuals who are up for re-election. This year, however, the committee met after the congress was already over, but before the Jewish Agency Assembly.

Any decision regarding Chesler's re-election should have been made prior to the congress, said Philip Meltzer, president of ARZA, the Zionist arm of the Reform movement in North America. "With all that's happen-

ing, to get bogged down in how the leadership is chosen," said Meltzer, shaking his head. "We should have come out with a sense of solidarity."

Some said the decision and the way it was made may make it more difficult for the Diaspora fund raisers and Israeli professionals to work together.

The groups work together to make decisions about the agency's \$350 million budget, which focuses on immigration and absorption and worldwide religious, political and educational programs. "We have to make efforts to find ways to strengthen our partnership," said Leket, who said a small committee was being formed to reconsider the vote against Chesler. Meridor made an effort to placate the Israeli and Diaspora delegates, beseeching them to treat the Zionist movement and its democratic processes with dignity and respect. "We may have difficulties, sometimes we offend each other," Meridor said. "But at the end of the day, what we are about is so important that we must stay together for the future of our people."

GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

An African Kingdom's Memorable Jews

By Moira Schneider, JTA

The head of the Jewish community in Swaziland, the last of Africa's kingdoms, is a black South African who has not yet converted but already practices as a Jew.

Geoff Ramokgadi is fully versed in the rituals and tradition of the religion — he is largely self-taught since his decision to register for Orthodox conversion with the Johannesburg Beit Din 12 years ago — and succeeds in holding the 50-strong Swazi Jewish community together. He sports a kipah, speaks Hebrew and sprinkles his conversation liberally with Yiddish expressions.

At a recent conference of the African Jewish Congress, Swaziland's prime minister, Barnabas Dlamini, said the country appreciates the contribution of its Jewish community.

"The Jewish community is small, numbering in the tens rather than hundreds, but over the years it has had quite an influence on the development of our country," he said.

"The names Kirsh and Goldblatt will be remembered long after their time," he said, referring to two well-known entrepreneurs.

The above-mentioned Kalman Goldblatt — who later changed his name to Kal Grant — arrived in Swaziland from Lithuania at the age

of 17 some 70 years ago, and set about building his fortune through several trading stores and by developing the first townships in the country.

He owned a number of exotic cars, including a white Cadillac that had belonged to Elvis Presley.

When Goldblatt died, he was buried according to Jewish custom in a simple pine coffin. The Swazis, who go in for elaborate burials, were astounded that a man of such wealth should be buried in such a humble manner, and the story made the local newspaper under the headline, "Millionaire receives pauper's burial."

In earlier years, Jewish immigrants to Swaziland entered into liaisons with indigenous women. As a result, many Swazis today bear Jewish surnames.

Among them, a former Cabinet minister and a leading businessman both openly acknowledge their Jewish roots, with the latter donating money and time to Jewish projects in the country.

Israel and Swaziland generally have good relations, but there were some awkward moments at the recent African Jewish Congress conference held in the kingdom when members of the Swazi Jewish community expressed anger at Israel's sudden closure of its embassy a few years back.



Attending the African Jewish Congress' recent conference in Swaziland, are, from left, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader of the African Jewish Congress, Geoff Ramokgadi, Israeli Ambassador to South Africa Tova Herzl and Mervyn Smith, chairman of the African Jewish Congress at the organization's annual conference. Credit: Moira Schneider/JTA

"Swaziland has kept diplomatic relations with Israel in good times and bad. You should have at least left someone here," Ramokgadi said.

Israel's ambassador to South Africa, Tova Herzl, said that because of budgetary constraints there were no plans to re-open an

embassy in the country, but that she hoped to present her credentials shortly and include the country in her bailiwick.

Notes From Jerusalem (continued from page 1)

attacks 754 olim arrived in Israel that week. However he warned that there will be no massive aliyah unless Israel accepts non-Jewish spouses. He also called for strengthening the Jewish presence in the Galilee and Negev. On education he said that we must give young people the tools to choose to be Jewish and encourage fluency in the Hebrew language among all Jews. On a democratic Israel he warned that there is a need to have the State be open to all Jews and that equality in practice and the rights of the individual must be part of the Constitution. Lastly he spoke of the deep concern that anti-Semitic acts are increasing in Europe and elsewhere. He said we must demand governments take care of the violators

and all of us should work to defend ourselves.

One of the more sobering sessions of the Congress was the one devoted to anti-Semitism. We heard from a distinguished panel including Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister; Professor Nachum Bergstein, member of Uruguay's Parliament; and Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice-President of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. As someone who lived through the thirties and forties I thought to myself 'what else is new?'. But for the young delegates at the Congress this session really "spooked" them.

All agreed that anti-Semitism never goes away; it is only waiting

until the situation causes it to flare up again. What we have today is anti-Semitism in the guise of anti-Zionism and anti-Israel. Efforts to delegitimize a whole nation and excommunicate it from the family of nations is only a little away from delegitimizing the Jewish People. Several speakers spoke about the systematic bias of the United Nations and the efforts in Durban to paint Israel as the new apartheid. They also commented that in Europe the Moslem émigrés have teamed up with the extremists from the Left and the Right blending their anti-American and anti-Israel attitudes in a fight against globalization. Prof. Bergstein reminded us that the destiny of the Jews is connected with the destiny of the West and western

democracy. It is a paradox that we are seeing less anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe and more in Western Europe and another is that the more global and more democratic the world the more anti-Semitism.

So what's should be done? Hoenlein called for Jewish unity and commitment. He called for Jewish students and faculty on college campuses in the United States to arm themselves with the truth and stand up for Israel. Panelists said that Jewish history is on our side and Judaism becomes stronger when times are bad. Rabbi Melchior concluded that we need to rally the Jewish and non-Jewish world since anti-Semitism is an attack on the fundamentals of democracy and can

move from Jews to others.

For the delegates the Congress opened with a spirited multi-media extravaganza on Mt Herzl celebrating 100 years of the Jewish National Fund. The Congress closed with a choice of a visit to a hospital to comfort the wounded or to an absorption Center to meet Ethiopians or to Ben Gurion Airport to welcome olim. After the solemn mood of the Congress it was heartening for me to join on the tarmac in an emotional welcome as the flights from Kiev, Moscow and Buenos Aires brought Israel's newest citizens home.

(Dina Lipschultz of Wilmington also served as delegate to the Congress. She will share her experiences in our next edition.)

Suicide Bombings (continued from page 1)

the past days she has needed all of her skills in pain control as she has helped nurse her 15 year old son who received burns to 50% of his body. His school had an ongoing project tending to a cherry orchard. Last week as they left the orchard he set of a booby trapped gas canister that was rigged as a shrapnel laden bomb. In the past week he has had 3 operations as the surgeons gradually debride his wounds and fight infections. For now, the pain is the challenge. It is now controlled with a portable morphine pump. The future holds years of work managing skin grafts and scars.

In the eyes of the Hamas, The Islamic Jihad, The Hisbolah, and Fatah, all of this is a justifiable expression of national self determination. In their eyes, the path to statehood is, quite legitimately, strewn with the bodies of children, pensioners, grandparents and bus drivers.

If they had it their way, it would be strewn with my body as well.

In becoming the symbols of the battle for Palestinian independence, these elements undermine the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause; for they present the Palestinians as a fundamentally uncivil, lawless, cruel and undeserving society.

Suicide bombings, murder and vilification serve only to delegitimize the cause and distance the prospect of an independent Palestinian State. A community and a nation that tolerates and condones such behavior is fundamentally unworthy.

Mr Arafat's denunciations ring hollow. The paper trail uncovered by the Israeli forces show, beyond reasonable doubt, that he is directly and intimately involved with the provision of funding to the militias responsible for this civilian carnage. You can't call for a million martyrs to liberate Palestine and still call yourself a peacemaker.

Zero tolerance is what is called for. If there is a responsible Palestinian leadership, let them join forces with the Israel Defense

Forces in eradicating this sick and pernicious element in their society.

As long as I, my friends, colleagues, patients and their children are targets; the Palestinians cannot be entrusted to responsibilities of statehood.

I know that things can be different. I work with Palestinians; as patients and as colleagues. Our relationships are warm and mutually supportive. Indeed, in the awful darkness of the past 18 months these relationships have been a vital part of my coping. In know, from my first hand experience, that there is the real potential for love and respect. Though we may have political differences, we appreciate the potential for mutual benefit through cooperation. This is the human thread that sustains my hope.

Ultimately then, I support the emergence of a Palestinian state; but my support is conditional. It is conditional upon the prospect of living, in security and trust, side by side with a civil and humane Palestinian



Noa Alon, 60, and Shmuel Yerushalmi, 17, were killed in a Palestinian suicide bombing June 19 in Jerusalem.



Credit: Israeli Foreign Ministry

society; in respect and cooperation. The ball is in their court.

Nathan Cherny is an Australian born oncologist and

palliative medicine specialist who works with Israeli and Palestinian patients in the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

SIMCHA STORIES

Aloha, B'nai Mitzvah

By Pearl Salkin

Celebrations in Hawaii can take place anywhere from the beach to the slope of a volcano.

Minnie Marvit stepped up to the bimah in Hawaii to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah. This "girl," however, was a 92-year-old bubbe. "I wanted to do this for some time, but I waited until I moved to Hawaii," she said. "I feel so at home here."

Marvit is a member of Congregation Sof Ma'Arav ("The End of the West") in Honolulu, a Conservative synagogue that prides itself on educating "children" and preparing them for b'nai mitzvah.

Even in Hawaii, the westernmost part of the United States, Jewish congregations are faced with the same concerns as around the states: How to educate children and prepare them for b'nai mitzvah. Ken Aronowitz, a Jewish educator and cantorial soloist, has worked with many b'nai mitzvah students at Sof Ma'Arav and its next-door neighbor, Reform Temple Emanu-El, the largest congregation in the islands. But the time he spent tutoring Marvit during the four months preceding her bat mitzvah was special. "Some of my other students have become a bar or bat mitzvah because their parents wanted them to," he said. "But Mrs. Marvit did it

for herself. She worked very hard and overcame obstacles. And she did a great job!"

The obstacles faced by Marvit, a former Floridian and native New Englander, included reading from the Torah, because of her aging eyes, and learning the liturgical lilt, because of her hearing impairment. She also faced the task of writing and delivering the drash, a commentary on the Torah portion; hers was about Joseph's time in jail.

"I started a trend," said Marvit, noting that other seniors signed up for bat mitzvah lessons. A succeeding bat mitzvah was scheduled for the same month Marvit planned to return to the bimah for an encore presentation of her parsha on the Shabbat anniversary of her bat mitzvah — one year later.

B'nai mitzvah also are celebrated at Congregation Kona Beth Shalom on the western edge of the Big Island, Beit Shalom Synagogue on Maui, the Aloha Jewish Chapel on the military base at Pearl Harbor and even on the lava field of a volcano. High heels are not recommended footwear for the sloped site.

Rabbi Rita Leonard is the spiritual leader who lives — literally — on the lava, and delivers sermons within striking distance of Kilauea, the

active volcano of Mauna Loa. She reaches out to interfaith couples and unaffiliated families in an effort to bring spirituality and the joy of Judaism to all.

Leonard, an accomplished composer of Jewish music, is head of the East Hawaii Havurah in Hilo. Since informality rules in laid-back Hawaii, she teaches her b'nai mitzvah students at her kitchen table near a window with a view of another volcano, Mauna Kea.

"These kids don't have bubbles and zaydes around to transmit the ta'am [flavor] of the immigrant generation," Leonard explained. "The goal is truly that they feel good about their Jewishness and feel liberated by their inheritance, not oppressed by it."

B'nai mitzvah ceremonies in Hawaii have a much sportier look than those held on the mainland. An aloha shirt and a pair of pants is the uniform of the boy on his big day. A muumuu is often worn by the girl on hers. In Hawaii, casual Friday is followed by casual Shabbat.

At the end of most b'nai mitzvah services, the celebrant is wished "mazel tov" while a lei is placed around his or her neck. The religious ritual is followed by anything from a basic oneg Shabbat to a complete "Kiddush" feast. And the

festivities can continue with a catered reception at another venue, often on the beach.

Though some families book a DJ and have the usual, all-American post-pulpit party, others add a little island culture to the Jewish event: They hire a hula group to perform to the accompaniment of a slack key guitar.

According to some sources, 5,000 Jews live in Hawaii. Other estimates range as high as 15,000. Jewish life in Hawaii is not exactly a microcosm of the mainland, the term islanders use for the continental part of the United States. Unlike most American metropolitan areas, Honolulu, Hilo and other coastal communities can't boast an abundance of synagogues. A handful of formal congregations and casual havurot are sprinkled throughout the more populous islands — Oahu, Hawaii (the Big Island) and Maui — and about half of these are led by lay people.

It's hard to pinpoint when the first Jews journeyed to the Sandwich Islands, the former name of our 50th state. There are some scant records of a few 19th-century British and German traders and California adventurers who settled there. Even early 20th-century arrivals were rare. After the long

voyage from Europe, most were happy to go ashore in New York and stay put. They had no desire to set sail again, even for paradise.

For those who now call Hawaii home, Jewish life can be rich and rewarding. But if they're strictly kosher, it's still not quite frum-friendly. After all, it's the land of luaus — roast pig in a pit — not chopped liver on rye. However, Chabad Lubavitch established a presence in Honolulu in the 1980s and has made being observant on Oahu a little easier.

Chabad Rabbi Yitzchok "Itchel" Krasnjansky and his wife, Pearl, invite all members of the local Jewish community to participate in prayer, study, celebration and ceremony. And they schedule Shabbat dinners and holiday happenings like latke luncheons and Passover seders. The rabbi and rebetzin try to bring traditional teaching and pious practice to this relatively remote location, and they have enabled many bar and bat mitzvah students to learn in an Orthodox setting, something that until recently was impossible.

In an Eden-like paradise, Hawaii's Jewish communities are alive and flourishing. They wish you shalom and aloha — shaloha — their special greeting that says it all.

A Ghostly Bar Mitzvah

by Ted Roberts

A tale about a father and son who plan a Bar Mitzvah celebration in a ravaged Polish village in 1946.

They tell the story of Jacob Zigowski and his son, Adam, who returned to their Polish village in early 1946 — the only survivors of a family of mama and papa and six children. In fact, the only Jews of Riegle still alive.

One day, as Adam and his father sat over a supper of cheese, boiled cabbage and dark bread, the boy uncharacteristically began the supertime conversation.

"In six months, on June 14th, I'll be 13. Should we not start my Bar Mitzvah training? Shouldn't we hire the tutor, Shimon Mendel from Warsaw — if he's still alive — to come and teach me to chant the Torah and Haftorah?"

His father laid down his knife and fork. His jaws ceased their chewing. He smiled at his son, but only to gain time to order his thoughts — shocked by the idea of a Bar Mitzvah. A Bar Mitzvah, he thought? A Bar Mitzvah here in this lawless land; in this godless time where the Supreme Judge, Himself, had apparently broken his vows with his people Israel? A 24-hour repetition of the Kaddish would be more appropriate, followed by a funeral march around the town square. That would make sense, thought Jacob. But a Bar Mitzvah celebration? A tribute to the forgotten covenant? How stupid.

To the boy, he said, "Adam, I think the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has forgotten us. Eat your cheese."

"Maybe He needs reminding," softly suggested the boy.

Over the following two weeks his

persistence continued. Jacob had never heard such eloquence and passion from this child who had lost most of his childhood. So, finally he agreed. Yes, they'd bring Shimon, or some substitute if Shimon had fed the Nazi appetite for Jewish flesh. Yes, he'd come twice a week and Adam, like whole tribes of boys before him, would recite prayers of praise to God for illuminating us with the light of Torah. And he would read the dusty, tattered village Torah Scroll. It had survived the war in a peasant's barn, a far-sighted peasant who knew the Jews would pay well for it, if any of them remained.

Only a few weeks before the event did it occur to the Zigowski family — father and son — that theirs might be the first Bar Mitzvah without spectators. Except for one, of course, who would stare down in astonishment. "If God lived here, our remaining Polish Jews would throw stones at his house," Jacob often said during those months. "That is assuming that any Jewish stone throwers survived," he usually added.

Besides Adam and Jacob, the few remaining survivors in the district had scurried as far as possible from the fields and towns of sorrowful memories.

"So, who's going to come?" said the papa to the Bar Mitzvah boy. "Ghosts? Well, at least we'll save a bundle on the Kiddush. How much herring and cheese can they eat?"

"If we do it, they'll come. There's the Abramowitz family in Posen, they'll come. And Dahlia here in our own town, she's got a Jewish grandmother."

"Great, we'll fill six seats in a 500-seat sanctuary. There'll be a bigger crowd watching the ice melt on the river."

"You forgot someone, Father,"

added the boy.

"Yeah, OK, He'll, maybe, be there, too," replied Jacob. "Maybe the reading of His Book will remind Him of His obligations."

The Bar Mitzvah day dawned as fresh as the first day of creation. It was Spring and the cornflowers in the meadows of Riegle celebrated with vivid blues and purples and pinks. The Bar Mitzvah boy, his father, and the tutor walked the few

blocks from their house to the old wooden synagogue, unfrequented for years. Jacob took the key from his jacket pocket. It turned easily in its lock. With a loud click, the weathered door swung open.

As they stepped in, a hum — a buzz — of expectation flooded over them. The pews were full. Not one empty seat. It was a crowd befitting a Bar Mitzvah of long ago, not the Bar Mitzvah of the only Jewish boy

in Riegle in June of 1946.

The chandelier in the old shul blazed with an uncanny brilliance that could have lit the world in its blackest midnight. Down the center aisle, their cheeks shining with tears, walked Adam and his father. They waved exuberantly. They threw kisses. The Jewish community of Riegle and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob awaited the Bar Mitzvah of Adam Zigowski.

Married (A Second Time) With Children

by Emuna Braverman
Forget the Brady Bunch. Here are six tools for coping with some of the unique challenges step-families present.

Jewish tradition tells us an interesting story.

A Roman woman asked one of our sages: "How many days did it take the Almighty to create the world?"

"Six," he replied.

"So? What's He been doing since then?" she queried.

"Making matches" was the answer.

"That's all", she said. "Even I can do that."

"Although it may seem simple in your eyes, in the eyes of God it is like the splitting of the Red Sea."

Nowhere is this more true than in the case of second marriages. And not only is the marriage itself complicated in deeper and more profound ways than a first marriage, if there are children involved, the couple confronts the unique challenge of stepfamilies.

Myriad potential problems surface in stepfamilies. Children may feel responsible and/or guilty for the breakup of the first marriage.

The parent may feel humiliated over his/her failure to make the marriage work. Or rejected and insecure. They may expect children to perform adult tasks — either physically (which isn't so bad) or emotionally (as confidantes, which can be destructive). Children may be confused — is caring for your stepparent a betrayal of your biological one? Remarriage also marks the loss of hope of reconciliation that most children cherish long past any realistic point.

If there has been a death, the grieving process may not be over. The pain may be longstanding and inform everyone's behavior. Again confusion over issues of disloyalty and betrayal may result.

Finally (though not exhaustively) there are the practical readjustments — different homes, new siblings, new rules, maybe even new cities, new friends, schools, doctors. Each new aspect is difficult enough on its own and overwhelming cumulatively. No wonder step-parents need help.

Having been reared on "The Brady Bunch", many couples have an unrealistic expectation of the "one big happy family" to come.

It's not that it won't come; it's that it will take a lot of time and effort.

Don't let the TV image fool you. The popular phrase "love is blind" is not a Jewish idea. Judaism advocates entering marriage with your eyes wide open, with a clear picture of the challenges confronting you, with expectations grounded in reality not Hollywood. Don't expect magic or overnight miracles. It will take you time, it will take the children time. It may not be "love at first sight."

Let's explore some tools to help ease the transition.

#1: JOIN A SUPPORT GROUP.

One of the most helpful actions stepparents can take is to find a support group. It's painful and alienating to feel alone with your problems. It's an added pressure to harbor the illusion that all is perfect in other homes. All marriages have struggles. All parents have struggles. And all stepparents have even more struggles. That's why it's comforting and nurturing — and indeed crucial — to be with others who share your struggles and concerns.

(continued on page 21)

SIMCHA STORIES

Six Habits Of Happily Married Couples

by Rabbi Dov Heller, M.A.
Success in marriage hinges
on consistent performance of
six key habits.

HABIT #1 GIVE EACH OTHER PLEASURE

Happily married couples are committed to the goal of giving each other pleasure. You must stay focused on the ultimate goal — which is to give each other pleasure and not cause pain. It sounds simple enough, but can be very hard in practice.

For just one day, try to maintain a consciousness with everything you do, by asking yourself, "Is what I'm about to do or say going to cause my spouse pain or pleasure?"

To monitor how you're doing, each of you should make two lists: One for all the things your spouse does to cause you pain, and another which identifies what you would like your spouse to do to give you pleasure. Swap lists, and now you know exactly what to do and what not to do. No more mind reading!

HABIT #2 CREATE MUTUALLY SATISFYING LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP RITUALS

Rituals are habits that build and strengthen a relationship. One couple had the following "greeting ritual" at night when the husband came home:

He would first greet the dog and hug the kids. Then he would go into his bedroom, change his clothes, and watch the news, followed by a visit to the bathroom. Finally he would wander into the kitchen and mutter something to his wife, for example, "Let's eat

fast so we can get to the PTA meeting!"

One might say that such a ritual was not exactly increasing their love for each other.

So after watching how their dog greeted them every time they came home, this couple decided to come up with a new ritual. Elated dogs jump all over their masters and lick them. So they decided to greet each other like dogs. They started jumping up and down and hugging each other. They really got into it. They had fun and the kids got a kick out of it, too.

Our actions affect the way we feel. How are your greeting and good-bye rituals?

Here are some rituals you and your spouse should consider working on:

*Daily e-mailing each other with a compliment.

*Daily phone call. (especially important for husbands to do)

*Anniversaries deserve special attention. Plan to do something both of you really enjoy, rather than feeling stuck two days before your anniversary arrives and then running out to get some flowers.

*Before you turn in for the night, try saying two compliments to each other. This means coming up with something new each night!

*It is essential to have a "date night" at least every other week.

HABIT #3 CREATE A SAFE PLACE TO DISCUSS ISSUES OPENLY AND HONESTLY

Abusive relationships are ones in which you are afraid to express feelings and opinions. Happily married couples create a sense of safety that allows each person to

feel comfortable expressing his/her feelings, problems, and dissatisfactions. This sense of safety is the foundation upon which a couple negotiates things that are bothering them.

It's common for each person to come into a relationship with certain expectations about how things will be. But without the ability to communicate and negotiate, these issues become sources for power struggles that almost always damage the relationship.

HABIT #4 USE GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS TO RESOLVE HOT ISSUES

The technique that every couple must learn is called the "listener-speaker technique." The problem with the way most couples argue is that they try to find solutions before fully giving each other the chance to say what they need to say. The speaker-listener technique ensures that before you can engage in solution talk, each person feels they have been fully heard.

Here's how it works: One person holds an object in their hand which symbolizes that he or she has the floor. While one person has the floor, the other person can only listen by repeating back or paraphrasing what the other person said. The listener can stop the speaker if s/he is saying too much for the listener to repeat back.

When couples use this technique, it automatically ensures that each person will be able to say everything s/he needs to say without interruption, rebuttals, criticism or attack. Only after each person has been fully "heard," do you then proceed to problem solving.

HABIT #5 CONSTANTLY TURN TOWARD EACH OTHER, RATHER THAN AWAY

When you pass your spouse sitting at her desk doing some work, do you stop and rub her shoulders, give her a kiss on the cheek, and whisper something nice in her ear — or do you just walk on by? This is the meaning of "turning toward" as opposed to "turning away."

Marriage research shows that happily married couples do a lot of turning toward each other whenever they get the chance. They look for ways to be physically and emotionally close to each other. Turning toward each other means making each other your number one priority.

Another important aspect of turning toward each other is doing things together that you both enjoy. Taking walks together, drinking coffee together after dinner, learning Torah together, and listening to music together, are all examples of how couples turn toward each other.

A powerful way to turn toward each other is to show the ultimate respect — by standing when your spouse enters the room. Sounds old-fashioned? It is. But it's a powerful way to turn toward your spouse, make him/her feel very special.

Couples who "turn away" from each other don't develop closeness. It's a basic principle stated in the Talmud, "A good deed begets another good deed. A bad deed begets another bad deed."

HABIT #6 INFUSE YOUR LIVES WITH SHARED MEANING

I often ask singles the following

question: "After you're married, what do you plan to do for the next 40 years?" And I usually follow-up by saying, "And besides having fun, what else will you do with each other?"

Human beings need meaning like we need water. Happily married couples enrich their relationship by sharing meaningful experiences with each other. The ultimate in meaning is to share a common philosophy of life and life purpose. This is why couples who observe Shabbat together, and learn Torah together, have great sources of meaning built into their lives.

Some other specific ways of infusing your relationship with meaning are visiting the sick together, making a shiva call together, or preparing a meal together for a mother who just gave birth.

When couples share truly meaningful experiences, they bond on a deeper level.

These six habits may seem small, but when practiced intentionally and consistently, they will form the backbone of a deeply fulfilling marriage.

Author Biography:

Rabbi Dov Heller is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who holds Masters Degrees in Clinical Psychology from Antioch University and in Contemporary Theology from Harvard University. He also holds a B.A. in philosophy and was ordained a rabbi in Jerusalem in 1982. He is presently the director of the Aish HaTorah Counseling Center in Los Angeles and in addition to teaching extensively for Aish HaTorah, runs a private practice specializing in adult psychotherapy, marriage counseling, and personal guidance.

Married (A Second Time) With Children

(continued from page 20)

Jacob approached Rabbi Wise after class one evening. "I've been a stepparent for 10 years now. I love my children dearly. But now they're teenagers and they're making me crazy." Rabbi Wise laughed "I'm not a stepparent and I feel the same way. That's what adolescence is like."

Don't magnify your problems. Don't give them greater weight or severity than appropriate. To see that your friends are basically struggling with the same issues is a big relief, not to mention an opportunity to share "what works." Judaism believes in the power of community. Take advantage of it.

#2: GIVE YOUR STEPCHILDREN A LOT OF SPACE.

Don't be on top of them with orders and emotional expectations. The children need to work out their issues and confusions without pressures. They need to know you're available when they're ready — not when you'd like it to happen. While there should be clear rules for the whole family to abide by, the new parents can't force the relationship. You can't demand love. You have to earn respect. There will be many areas of conflict, many opportunities to feel unloved and unappreciated. You'll hear, "You're not my mother!"

Don't give in to the emotion and retaliate. It's a difficult sorting out period. Be available. Be caring. Be firm. But, give space.

#3: INITIALLY, THE BIOLOGICAL PARENT SHOULD DISCIPLINE HIS/HER CHILDREN.

In order not to displace all anger and resentment onto the new parent it is preferable that the biological parent be the primary disciplinarian. This may be a new role for the biological parent. Feeling guilty or pained by the recent circumstances that parent has frequently overcompensated by spoiling the child(ren). But re-establishing boundaries and guidelines is your job, not your new partner's.

If you abdicate that role because it seems easier to let the ("wicked") stepmother or father play it, the long-term consequences, both in your marriage and in your relationship with your children, may prove tragic. You will foster hatred between your children and your spouse leading inevitably to hostility in the marriage.

#4: MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE ROLES.

I've witnessed a common variation of the biological parent's overcompensation.

George, newly divorced, now

spends the majority of his time alone with his 10-year-old daughter, Michelle. Wanting to make Michelle feel special (and feeling a little lonely himself), he sits Michelle at the head of the table. He brings her flowers. He waits on her. She has an illusion of adulthood, of being the wife in this family. What happens when a real wife comes along?

If Michelle isn't displaced from this role, it will be disastrous for the marriage. If Michelle is too quickly displaced from this role, her pain and confusion will only deepen. She'll feel abandoned by the one person she trusted.

If you're newly divorced or widowed, try very consciously not to make this mistake. If it's too late (it's never too late!), proceed slowly yet clearly to reverse these roles. Addressing this problem effectively begins with a clear awareness of the mistake. From there you can move on to discussion of the issue with your spouse and work out a plan together for resolving it. Don't be afraid to seek professional help if necessary.

#5: BE PATIENT AND DEMONSTRATE YOU'RE NOT A QUITTER.

One of the most difficult challenges for blended families is build-

ing trust. In any marriage, building trust is a long, slow process. If there has been an acrimonious divorce, it will be a longer, slower process. If there are children involved it will be a very long, very slow process. Dig in your heels and wait. Be patient. Show them that you're not going anywhere, not matter how tough it gets.

Whenever the going got rough Mary screamed "I'm outta here", slammed the door and roared away. Her stepchildren took this as permission to ignore and discount her. And Joe, her husband, felt helplessly caught in the middle.

It's very hard to build trust. The majority of the effort has to be made by the adults. The children are very fragile. If you're not there for them, you can be certain they won't be there for you.

Take pleasure in your ability to remain calm. The Chofetz Chaim suggested that we frequently lose our patience because we have a very limited short-term vision. If we keep focused on the light at the end of the tunnel, instead of the darkness at the beginning, we have much greater chance of success.

#6: KEEP PRAYING AND KEEP LAUGHING.

Yet another potential obstacle to Brady Bunch-like harmony is the

intensified sibling rivalry — between the biological siblings and then between the sets of new siblings. There is no magic potion that makes this go away. You need to respond to children according to their needs not demands.

Don't let guilt pressure you into making the wrong decision. You need a sense of humor. You need to throw up your hands and pray "Almighty, we're outnumbered, please give us a hand."

Sit down with your spouse. Clarify your goals. Acknowledge the roadblocks. Be sensitive to the obstacles. Write down your plans. Draw up a list of house rules. Ask God to help you. Move slowly. Take pleasure in each small step of growth. You can wait. You're preparing for eternity.

Author Biography:

Emuna Brauerman has a law degree from the University of Toronto and a Masters in Psychology from Pepperdine University. She lives with her husband and nine children in Los Angeles where they both work for Aish HaTorah. When she isn't writing for the internet or taking care of her family, Emuna teaches classes on Judaism, organizes gourmet kosher cooking groups and hosts many shabbos guests.

MILESTONES

In Memoriam

COHEN

Lee M. Cohen, 56, died on June 7th at Christiana Hospital surrounded by his family and friends. He was a graduate of Central High School in Philadelphia; St. Joseph's University of Philadelphia and served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was co-operator of Tile and Carpet Outlet.

A member of Temple Beth El in Newark, Mr. Cohen was active in the Delaware Jewish community, which he served as treasurer of the Jewish Community Cemetery Association and as financial vice president of the Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society.

A memorial service was held on Monday, June 10th at Temple Beth El. He was interred in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. Contributions in his memory may be made to the synagogue, which is located at 301 Possum Park Road, Newark, NJ 19711.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis; a son, Marc J.; a daughter, Rachel Hope; his mother, Bernice and his brother, Arthur A.

COHEN

Sadie Z. Cohen, 94, died June 19th. Active in local politics, Mrs. Cohen was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom, a volunteer at the VA Medical Center and a

substitute teacher at the Shortledge School. She operated her late husband, Morris' service station at 13th and French Sts. in Wilmington while he was in the Army during World War II. Graveside services were held in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

Mrs. Cohen is survived by her sister, Bella Stein. Donations in her memory may be directed to The Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 or to Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th Street and Baynard Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802

MARK

Inge Mark, 82, died June 12.

She is survived by her brother, Kenneth and sister-in-law, Leona H. Markewitz of Longwood. Graveside services were held on June 14th in Beth Emeth Memorial Park. Contributions in his memory may be made to the MS Society, 2 Mill Road, Suite 106, Wilmington, DE 19806.

POLITZ

Pinchas Politz, 74, died June 14, 2002 in Philadelphia. Mr. Politz was a passionate supporter of Jewish education.

He founded the Politz Foundation School in Cherry Hill, N.J. and also was a benefactor of the Politz Hebrew Academy in

Northeast Philadelphia where he resided.

A graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, he owned his own pharmacy. When he sold his business, he moved to Netanya, Israel where he lived for seven years before returning to the region.

Burial was in New Camden Cemetery in Camden, N.J. Survivors include his sister, Sarlyn P. Goldman and brother-in-law, Martin J. Goldman of Wilmington, DE; two nieces, Audrey Abrams of Merion, PA and Allyson Block of Chadds Ford, PA and eight grand-nephews and grand-nieces.

NACHAS NOOK

Bennett And Almog Are Wed

Diane Wolf and Lew Bennett are delighted to announce the marriage of their daughter, Lisa Bennett to David Almog on Sunday, June 16, 2002.

The ceremony was led by Rabbi

Dov Linzer and Rabbi Avi Weiss of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. Lisa is a graduate of Akiba Hebrew Academy and the Barnard College/Jewish Theological Seminary Dual Degree Program. David is the son

of Yaakov Almog of North Miami Beach, Florida, and the late Katherine Almog.

He is a graduate of the Columbia University/Jewish Theological Seminary Joint Degree Program, and is currently a rabbinical student at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah.

The couple will reside in New York City.



David and Lisa Almog

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JNF

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A New Daughter Of Israel Is Born

Rabbi Peter and Suzy Grumbacher of Wilmington announce with joy the birth of their first grandchild, Mikayla Rachel. Mikayla, who made her entry into the world on June 19 weighing 8 lbs., 11 oz., is the daughter of Deborah and David Grumbacher of Fredericksburg, VA. Sharing in this celebration are maternal grandparents, Vickie and Steven Philmus of Long Island, NY



Con-"GRAD"-ulations

Dr. Paul and Cindy Imber of Chadds Fords, PA are pleased to announce the graduation of their daughter, Jessica Megan Imber from Goucher College in Baltimore, MD. Cindy, a 1998 graduate of the

Tatnall School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Special Education. She will continue her education at Gratz College in Melrose Park, PA this fall, studying towards a Master's degree in Jewish Music.

Young To Chair DCAD Board

Stuart B. Young, Partner of Young Conway Stargatt & Taylor, was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Delaware College of Art and Design last week. Young conceived, organized and participated in extensive fundraising for the establishment of the Delaware Arts Stabilization Fund which assists cultural organizations with physical facilities and

related expenses; he is currently a member of the Board of Overseers of Widener Law School and Chairman of the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Education Foundation. He is a former president of the Board of the Delaware Art Museum and served as Chairman of the Delaware State Arts Council for eight years under the administration of Governor Mike Castle.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGISTER FOR DELAWARE GRATZ

Course registration for Delaware Gratz should be sent in by mail. Register by June 30th to take advantage of the reduced registration fee! Call Marlene Milunsky, Principal, for questions or more information, at 478-8100.

CELEBRATE JULY 4TH AT JEWISH HISTORY MUSEUM

The National Museum of American Jewish History's annual July 4th celebration will feature klezmer music by the Bob Butryn Klezmer Band and show tunes performed by singer Michele Zayla. The festivities also include entertainment for children, flag-making, face painting and more. This celebration will be staged from Noon to 4 p.m. on the Museum's lawn area along 5th Street, between Market and Arch Streets in historic

Philadelphia.

KINDERPLACE & KIDSPACE AT THE JCC (JCC MEMBERS ONLY)

Register NOW for after school programs at the Delaware JCC. Programs are offered each week-day and follow the public school calendar, except for Jewish holidays.

Transportation from area public and private schools to the JCC can be provided on a daily basis. Transportation to area Hebrew Schools is also available. After school activities include Games Gang, Clay Creations, Kid's Cuisine, Judaic Arts & Crafts, Jewelry Making and more!

KinderPlace: Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Designed for children enrolled in morning or full-day Kindergarten programs at public and private schools. Children enrolled at the

Albert Einstein Academy join Kinderplace at 3:00 p.m. for afternoon fun! Call Leslie Wiener or Donna Schwartz at 478-5660 for registration information.

JEWISH SILVERSMITH FEATURED AT WINTERTHUR

The work of silversmith Myer Myers, one of only 250 Jews in 18th century New York, is on display now through September 8th at Winterthur. The 120 piece exhibit contains colonial household items plus Jewish ceremonial pieces. For additional information about exhibit fees and museum hours, please call 303-888-4600 or visit the museum on line at www.winterthur.org.

SIGN UP FOR HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TRIP

The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, working with the Delaware Teacher's Center, is offering a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, July 30th. A \$28 per person fee includes round-trip bus transportation, a lecture by a Holocaust educator on the bus and an introductory group orientation at the Museum. Lunch is on one's own. To register, please send a \$28 check, payable to the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Committee, c/o the Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West

10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801-1628. For more information, please call Cindi at 427-2100, ext. 21.

ISRAELI WIND BAND COMES TO WILMINGTON

The Youth Band of Arad will give a free community concert on Tuesday, July 30, 6:30 p.m. at the Delaware JCC, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington. Bring the family for a kosher hot-dog dinner at 6 p.m. for just \$3 per person. These talented young performers reside in Delaware's Partnership 2000 community in Israel. This event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Delaware JCC.

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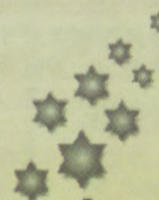


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The Jewish Federation of Delaware, and its partner agencies: the Albert Einstein Academy, Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, Hillel at the University of Delaware, the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service and the Milton & Hattie Kutz Home have provided vital services to our Jewish community for years. Now, we're responding to the growth of our community and the responsibility we bear for future generations by launching the Community Capital Campaign.

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Give us a call at 302-798-9366 for more information on how you can give a gift payable over five years, or for naming opportunities. Gifts may be cash donations, appreciated securities, bonds, other assets or deferred through Wills, Bequests, Trusts and Life Insurance.



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