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Senator Biden Speaks About The Middle East

By MARVIN CYTRON

Acting Editor of The Jewish Voice

Senator Joseph Biden spoke recently at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth (AKSE) Men's Club brunch. Senator Biden is the second ranking Democrat of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has represented Delaware in the U.S. Senate since 1972. His talk centered on Congressional support for Israel and his perspective of the mideast peace process.

"I am pleased to be here today, I am pleased to be anywhere but in Washington" said the Senator in his opening statement, obviously referring to the budget paralysis in our nation's capitol. Mr. Biden pointed out that U.S. aid to Israel is based in part on the Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt. Within the framework of the \$5.1 billion U.S. foreign aid to the two countries, \$3.1 billion is for Israel. Nearly two-thirds of the \$3.1 billion is for military support, the remainder for economic aid to Israel. The aid to both countries contributes to the peaceful atmosphere between Israel and Egypt and that continuing peace between these countries should not be interpreted as a signal to diminish this economic support from the United States. Added to the mideast foreign aid package is economic aid to the Palestinians, inasmuch as this aid ensures economic stability and is part of the Oslo agreements.

The level and continuing commitment of U.S. foreign aid throughout the world is currently threatened by the political environment in Congress and aid to Israel is no exception. Senator Biden attributes this atmosphere to a mood of "neo-isolationism" coupled with no threat of war in the middle east. This atmosphere is not a signal of hostility to Israel but one of "benign neglect" by many in Congress. Although the foreign aid budget makes up less than 1% of the federal budget, this has been cut by 40%. During the recent round of budget cuts aid to Israel and Egypt remained intact.

In speaking on the peace process and talks between Israel, the Palestinians and Syria, Mr.



Sen. Joe Biden

Biden emphasized that Israel is taking a "phenomenal risk for peace" and that her "very existence is threatened". While the first stage of the peace process with the Palestinians has moved in a positive direction there is still a long way to go. Issues of permanent boundaries, relocation of populations, and security of Jerusalem still need to be resolved. Relative to the Golan and talks with Syria, the Senator reviewed the complexity of the well known issues. He pointed out that as all parties move towards peace, many in the U.S., both the voters and some members of Congress may view this as a diminished threat of war and thus a reason to reduce economic aid to the area.

Summarizing with the political environment in Israel and the diverse opinions on the peace initiative issues among the American Jewish community, he stated that neither Israel nor the U.S. Jewish community cannot be divided into itself. Division of this type will precipitate a cut in U.S. foreign aid. "There is a need for the Jewish community to coalesce" said the Senator.

JDC Supports The Merger

By CYNTHIA MANN

NEW YORK (JTA) — A controversial plan to merge the central fund-raising organizations of American Jewry survived an important test in recent days in Florida.

and an agreement reached with one of the key players, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, clearly has bolstered the prospects that the plan will become a reality.

The plan's authors are now slated to begin consultations with local Jewish federations across the nation to win support. They would like the plan to be implemented by Jan. 1 of next year.

The consultations are important because they could lead to the biggest change in the American Jewish fund-raising structure since

the United Jewish Appeal was founded nearly 60 years ago.

Federation leaders met early this week in Fort Lauderdale, where, for the first time, they heard details of the proposed plan to merge their association, the Council of Jewish Federations, with the UJA and the United Israel Appeal.

The plan could have been derailed by intense opposition to its call for federations to guarantee a minimum allocation to overseas programs.

While there was no consensus on the guarantee, at least eight major federations voiced support for the merger in principle, according to Joel Tauber, president of the UJA and co-chairman of the committee that proposed the restructuring plan.



Congressman Michael N. Castle shares a moment with the Super Sunday Committee. From left, Lelaine Nemser, Campaign Director; Congressman Castle; Debbie Sadoff, Super Sunday Chair; Morissa N. Sher, JFD Staff; Marci Muskin; Jerry Weinstein; Heidi Kinsella; Jon Foreman.

Tauber said he is encouraged by the "general consensus on the need for a new entity and the benefits to be derived" from it for federations and the needs of the Jewish people.

But he conceded that there is a long road ahead. "We don't feel we're at the end of the battle, we're at the beginning," he said. Federations are "beginning to understand why we need the floor, and they want time to think about it."

The federations, in concert with UJA, raise more than \$700 million annually, which is funneled to programs at home as well as projects and services in Israel and around the world. But campaigns have been flat and a CJF-UJA committee has been working for roughly two years to find ways to generate more revenue and make the system more efficient and accountable. The challenge has been to satisfy all beneficiaries of the campaign that they will get their fair share under the new structure. The current structure allows for each federation to decide how much money it wants to keep at home and how much it wants to distribute overseas.

The overseas portion is given to the UJA, which distributes the money to the UIA and to the Joint Distribution Committee. The UIA money goes to the Jewish Agency for Israel, which, among other things, helps Jews immigrate to Israel. The JDC provides humanitarian aid to Jews around the world. In recent years, federations' overseas allocations have been declining. The UIA and JDC feared that the merger would only exacerbate that trend unless safeguards were put in place in both the funding mechanism and the governing structure.

To assuage their fears, members of the restructuring committee proposed a three-year floor of \$310 million a year in overseas funding, telling federations point-blank that the UIA and JDC "would not vote to end the UJA as we know it without transitional guarantees." UIA leaders had already thrown their support behind the plan, but the JDC backing was secured only this week, on the assumption that a funding floor will be part of the plan. The agreement does not specify the amount of the floor, however, Tauber said.

The agreement provides for the UIA and JDC to negotiate the division of overseas funding for the period that the guaranteed floor is in effect. What they agree on will be effective as of January 1997. After the floor expires — from the years 2000 to 2004 — JDC will have 40 percent representation on the entity that determines the division of overseas funds. The UIA's successor, which will be the new consolidated entity, will also have 40 percent, while the remaining 20 percent will have representatives of local federations.

Seymour Reich, president of the American Zionist Movement, said he is disturbed by the plan, because he fears that "the Israel portion will be lost in the potpourri" of competing needs. He said a proposed floor does not ease his concern because "it's not written in stone" and "I just don't think they can deliver." But Charles "Corky" Goodman, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, believes that the merger will stem the decline in federation allocations to Israel.

Goodman, who is also a co-chairman of the restructuring committee, maintains that the whole purpose of the consolidation is to generate more revenue to meet escalating demands at home, in Israel and elsewhere overseas.

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Israel Experience Grants From JFD - Application Date Extended

The Jewish Federation of Delaware announces the availability of grants for ISRAEL EXPERIENCES for high school students between 15 and 17 years of age. These grants are for structured summer programs in Israel that are sponsored by national or international Jewish youth organizations and are approved by the Federation.

Due to the recent severe weather the deadline for application has been extended to March 1, 1996. Awards will be announced this spring.

For applications and information, call or write to Judy Wortman, Executive Vice President, Jewish Federation of Delaware, P.O. Box 2193, Wilmington, DE 19899-2193.

The following are criteria for eligibility:

1. Applicants must still be in high school when they return from Israel.
2. Preference will be given to applicants who have not participated in prior Israel programs.
3. Applicants must provide two letters of recommendation from teachers, rabbis, youth advisors, coaches, employers or supervisors.

JCRC Urges You To Vote

The JCRC strongly urges everyone to vote.

On March 3, 1996, registrars will be at Beth Shalom and Beth Emeth Synagogues from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and at Adas Kodesch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you will be 18 prior to November 5, 1996, you are eligible to register to vote in the November elections. If you have moved, or changed your name, you must register.

On Sunday, March 3rd, be a winner and continue to make democracy work!

JCC Mezuzah Fair

The mezuzah, one of the most important symbols in a Jewish home, is now considered by many to be a work of art. The Mezuzah Fair will feature a variety of vendors who will have their mezuzot on display and available for purchase.

While the mezuzah can be as ornate or as simple as the owner would like, there are more stringent laws for the parchment inside. A "sopher" or scribe will provide insight into some of the laws of the mezuzah. Demonstrations will also featured throughout the afternoon. In addition, you can bring your own mezuzot to have them checked to be sure they are kosher.

The program is free of charge and open to the entire community. For more information, call Ella Zukoff or Mona Allen at (302) 478-5660.

Women

(continued from page 15)

Shimona Zukernik and Miriam Swerdlow. We look forward to this year's guest, Rivkah Slonim, who will only enhance the program's high repute," said Oryah Vogel, the event coordinator.

4. Applicants must commit themselves to attending briefings before and after their Israel Experience.

5. Applicants must commit themselves to community service when they return. Among the options available are volunteer work in local agencies, synagogues or organizations; involvement in the Federation Campaign; recruitment of peers for subsequent Israel Experiences; leadership roles in Jewish youth groups; public speaking to the community about Israel, etc.

6. Applicants' parents must contribute to the 1996 Campaign, thereby becoming members of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Funds for these grants have been made available through an allocation from the 1995 Live Jewish Campaign.

JCC Cultural Caravan To NY

The Jewish Community Center is hosting a trip to New York on Wednesday, March 13, 1996. There are two different Broadway Musicals being offered during this trip, "Victor/Victoria" and "The Phantom of the Opera".

"Victor/Victoria" - Julie Andrews recreates the role she played in Blake Edward's 1982 film. Directed by Mr. Blake; music by Henry Mancini; lyrics by Leslie Bricusse.

"The Phantom of the Opera" - The Tony Award-winning musical adapted from Gaston Leroux's novel, set in Paris in the 1880's. Book by Richard Stilgoe and Andrew Lloyd Webber; music by Mr. Lloyd Webber; lyrics by Charles Hart. Directed by Harold Prince.

After the show, we will stop at Zabars. The cost for "Victor/Victoria" is \$98.00 for members and \$108.00 for non-members. The cost for "Phantom of the Opera" is \$89.00 for members and \$99.00 for non-members. All costs include round-trip transportation. The bus will depart from the JCC at 8:00 a.m. and will return at approximately 8:00 p.m. There will also be a few seats on the bus available for people who want round-trip transportation to New York for \$32.00 per person. Paid reservations are now being accepted at the JCC Front Desk. For additional information on Cultural Caravan trips, contact Amalia Snyderman or Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660. The JCC is a beneficiary of the 1996 UJA/Federation Campaign which is administered here by the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD).

Slonim has recently authored a book, "Total Immersion." It is the featured selection in this month's Jewish Book News and will be available at the luncheon.

The program will begin at 12:30 p.m. with a buffet luncheon followed by the guest presentation. The cost of the program is \$16.00, prepaid and \$18 at the door. For reservation please call: Gail Weinberg: 762-2705, Sandye Turnauer: 571-1168, Roni Sneiderman: 455-1800, or Oryah Vogel: 478-4400.

Building For The Future

The gala Groundbreaking celebration at the Kutz Home on October 22, 1995 with High Tea refreshments and a Klezmer band marked the beginning of construction on the Home's major renovation and expansion project. This five phase project in its first phase will include the building of two residential wings

with private rooms with private baths. These wings have been framed, the roofs completed and the windows installed. One of the highlights of the renovation is the new "Activity Mall". There will be a chapel, a living room with a TV, a beauty parlor, a physical therapy room, and an independent activities



Groundbreaking ceremony - October 22, 1995 for Kutz Home Renovation and Expansion Project. Left to right: Elliott Golinkoff, Bernard and Ruth Siegel, Donald and Ethel Parsons, and Eileen Conner.

Russian Art Exhibit Review

Although the Blizzard of 1996 delayed the opening of Naum Genin's artwork at the Jewish Community Center, thirty-five individuals who came made the day special. Over thirty of the attendees were New Americans, who braved the bad weather to support "one of their own".

Naum Genin, who resides in a remote village in Far-East Russia, has a brother, Anatoly Golod, who resides in Wilmington. Inna Golod, who immigrated from Russia, approached the JCC with the idea of exhibiting her brother-in-law's artwork. Excitedly, the JCC took this opportunity to involve another part of the Jewish community with the

Aids Educator To Speak With High School Students

Scott Fried, an AIDS educator from New York, will speak to Wilmington area high school students on Sunday, February 25 at 2:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center's Youth Lounge.

Fried has spoken at summer camps, youth group conventions, high schools, universities, churches and synagogues, as well as, many other organizations around the country. His candid lectures and workshops deal with AIDS and the many issues and myths surrounding it. His focus is on love and self-respect relative to growing up in an age of AIDS.

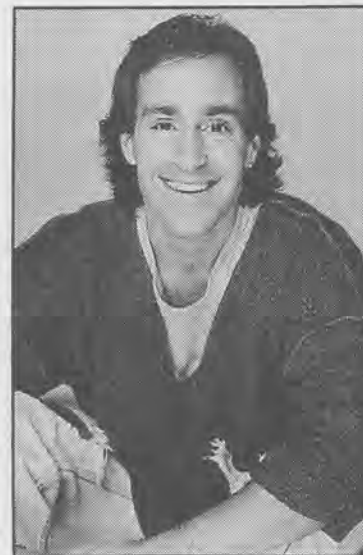
All high school students are encouraged to attend this very important and informative session. There

Center. A flyer, written in Russian, was distributed to the Russian Jewish Community, inviting them to attend this special event.

Genin, a graduate of the Moscow Art University, is a member of the Union of Russian Artists and his work is presently in private collections throughout Canada, Japan, Australia, Korea, Russia and America.

Genin was asked if our record snowfall gave him inspiration, as his theme throughout his work is landscapes in various seasons. He replied, "Since I missed the Russian winter so much, I ordered the snow!" He went on to explain that were he lives, twelve months of the year is winter and the rest is summer.

In appreciation to the JCC and the Golod family for organizing the exhibit, the artist graciously donated a painting to the Jewish Community Center.



Scott Fried

is no charge for this program. For more information, call Naomi Sobel or Etai Belinky at (302) 478-5660.

room.

The new spacious & comfortable front lobby and cafe with covered portico and electric doors is still a morass of black plastic, gravel and major construction equipment. But one can see changes occurring daily.

Despite the vagaries of this very inclement winter weather, the project is moving along very close to schedule. Residents and staff are observing the progress and looking forward to their beautiful and spacious new home.

Four Wheel Drive Needed

Please let us know if you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle and would be willing to drive nursing staff to and from the Kutz Home in case of another snow emergency. Please call Sheila Mensch or Walter Ruth at 764-7000. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

LATE BITS

The following summaries relate to late breaking stories and other items of interest. Much of what follows was not available at press time in a more substantial form. Other summaries reflect current developments. These are adapted from what has been provided to The Jewish Voice from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA).

NEW YORK — A 24-year-old Jew imprisoned in Uzbekistan for a murder he says he did not commit, is to be released and allowed to go to Israel.

JERUSALEM — More than 50 years after the Holocaust, efforts to obtain restitution for Jewish property in Europe are showing gradual success, but the vast majority of claims still face monumental difficulties.

JERUSALEM — Opinion polls show that the merger of Likud and Tsomet will not help either party gain more Knesset seats.

TORONTO — A prominent Holocaust denier is finding ways to circumvent efforts to block his access to the Internet.

NEW YORK — More than a year and a half after the Lubavitcher rebbe died, those who believe he is the messiah are seeking popular support through a multi-million dollar campaign that ultimately is aimed at control of the movement's organizations.

MOSCOW — The development of Jewish studies in the former Soviet Union is a major tool to help reconnect Russian Jews with their heritage.

WASHINGTON — Citing lack of evidence, Capitol police suspend an investigation into an anti-Semitic incident against a congressional page at the House of Representatives.

SYDNEY — Members of parliament join with local Jewish groups to call for a governmental investigation of Australian followers of Lyndon LaRouche.

JERUSALEM — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher says Israel and Syria can still achieve peace in 1996.

JERUSALEM — Yigal Amir's lawyers consider changing defense strategy, seeking lesser sentencing for unintentional killing.

JERUSALEM — Heads of religious seminaries in Israel react with shock to an edict by a group of New York Orthodox rabbis to boycott the New York visit of Rabbi Yehuda Amital, a minister in the Peres government.

BRIEFS

NEWS & COMMENTARY



From tree to shining sea. JNF plans its first SCUBA mission to Israel and Egypt. The mission is scheduled for June 2-14, 1996. For information contact JNF's Missions Dept. at 1-800-223-7787.

Hamas To Run In Municipal Elections

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A leader of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement said in recent days that the group would participate in Palestinian municipal elections that are scheduled for the spring.

Hamas, which militantly opposes the Israeli-Palestinian accords, boycotted the Jan. 20 Palestinian Council and presidential elections.

But Hamas spokesman Mahmoud Zahar said the group would participate in the municipal elections because local officials would serve the daily needs of the residents of the self-rule areas.

He added that participation in the municipal voting would not signify Hamas' recognition of the Palestinian self-rule government or of the peace accords with Israel.

In a related development, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat approved the opening of a Hamas office in the Gaza Strip and the licensing of a pro-Hamas newspaper.

Eritrean Leader Visits Israel

By NAOMI SEGAL

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The president of the East African nation of Eritrea made a brief visit to Israel this week, stopping over for talks with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and President Ezer Weizman before heading on to Italy.

After meeting Monday with Peres, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki said that the two countries would step up cooperation in the fields of medicine and agriculture.

Israel already operates a model farm and medical facility in Eritrea, which broke away from Ethiopia and gained its independence in 1994.

During the visit, Afwerki denied that Israel has provided any military aid during Eritrea's recent dispute with Yemen over a Red Sea island.

"We don't need any experience or arms from anyone in this region," he told reporters.



GOLAN HEIGHTS — Japanese U.N. soldiers wait in front of a "Welcome to Israel" sign for a bus to take them to their Golan Heights base after crossing from Syria on February 2. Wearing the traditional blue beret, the first unit of 16 Japanese soldiers joined UNDOF, The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, acting as a buffer between Israel and Syria on the strategic plateau.

RNS News Photo/Reuters

In The Wake Of Palestinian Vote, Likud Nears Recognition of PLO

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As the world awaits Palestinian action on amending the Palestine National Covenant, sections of which call for the destruction of Israel, Jewish and Palestinian opponents of the peace process are re-evaluating their stances and adjusting to the new reality.

In the wake of the Jan. 20 Palestinian elections, key members of the opposition Likud Party say that if the covenant is changed, then it would be time to re-evaluate their entire posture toward Palestinian autonomy.

Likud leaders met Monday in Jerusalem to consider recognition of the Palestinian Authority under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, on condition that the covenant is revoked.

Leading Likud figures, among them Knesset member Tzachi Hanegbi, spoke out in terms of "recognizing the new realities."

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronnie Milo urged his Likud Party to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization itself, the way the Labor-led government did in 1993.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu now grudgingly concedes that if he is elected prime minister, he would

talk with Arafat and the Palestinian Authority, and would not reverse the limited Palestinian autonomy that is already a fait accompli.

"As much as I oppose the agreement, it's facts on the ground," he told journalists attending the Sixth International Conference of the Jewish Media this week in Jerusalem.

"I won't initiate sending tanks in to send them out," he said, adding that his efforts would focus on retaining the more than 70 percent of territory in the West Bank not yet passed to Palestinian control.

He also said he would favor a Palestinian entity but would stop it "from expanding to a full-fledged state."

On the Palestinian side, there is movement toward the political center as well.

Palestinian rejectionists, such as Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, expressed their readiness to come to the self-rule areas and take part in the historic meeting of the PNC to amend the covenant.

Some 167 of the 205 PNC members living outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip have already filed official requests with the Palestinian Authority asking to return to the territories.

The Israeli government said it

would allow all members of the PNC, even those opposed to the peace accords and those with Jewish blood on their hands, to attend the council's sessions.

But the road to the political center, at least on the Palestinian side, may not be all that smooth.

Salim Za'anun, acting chairman of the PNC, in a provocative statement this week, put forth four conditions for convening the PNC.

They include: extending the Palestinian Authority throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; releasing 6,000 security prisoners from Israeli jails; Israeli permits to members of the PNC to return to the Gaza Strip and West Bank permanently; and electing representatives from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to the PNC.

Za'anun's conditions indicated a willingness to meet the Israelis halfway, but at the same time to demand a high price in exchange.

But that price at present is too high for the Israelis to pay.

Meanwhile, Palestinian leaders are faced with the reality that no Israeli government could go to elections with the peace process in one bag and the Palestinian Covenant unamended still in another bag.

One would have to be dumped.

Farrakhan May Be Required To Register As Foreign Agent

By DAVID KURTZMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan returns from his African tour, he may find himself facing a U.S. Justice Department inquiry.

The results of Farrakhan's recent meeting in Tripoli with Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi may violate the Foreign Agent Registration Act, which requires American citizens who work on behalf of a foreign government to register with the Justice Department.

"A letter is being drafted for him outlining his responsibility to register as a foreign agent if he engages in activities that are for propaganda purposes," said John Russell, a Justice Department spokesman.

Gadhafi pledged \$1 billion to the Nation of Islam to increase the influence of American minorities in U.S. elections.

The two men agreed to "mobilize the oppressed minorities" — particularly blacks, Arabs, Muslims and American Indians — "to play a significant role in American political life," according to Libya's state-run JANA news agency.

The Anti-Defamation League called the alliance between Farrakhan and Gadhafi a "cynical covenant between two haters."

"Following the Million Man March last October, many believed that Minister Farrakhan was moving away from his extremism and his hatemongering," Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, said in a statement.

"His embrace of an avowed enemy of America and our democratic values, and a sponsor of international terrorism, shoots a torpedo into the notion that Louis Farrakhan is pursuing a course of moderation."

In a letter to Attorney General

Janet Reno, Foxman urged the Justice Department to "proceed vigorously" with an investigation.

Farrakhan's ties to Gadhafi go back at least as far as 1985, when the Libyan leader delivered a major address at the Nation of Islam's Saviour's Day meeting, telling black members of the U.S. armed forces to "destroy white America."

He also expressed support for a separate black state within the United States.

In Tripoli, Farrakhan reportedly lavished praise on the Libyan leader, commending his work for the liberation of oppressed people, including African Americans in the United States.

He met with Gadhafi "for the sake of unifying Arabs, Muslims, blacks and oppressed communities in America to play a strong, significant role not only in the American elections, but in American foreign policy," Farrakhan was quoted as saying.

Gadhafi appeared pleased by his meeting with Farrakhan, according to JANA.

"Our confrontation with America used to be like confronting a fortress from outside," Gadhafi told JANA. "Today we have found a loophole to enter the fortress and to confront it from within."

The donation to the Nation of Islam, Gadhafi reportedly said, will give blacks, Arabs, Muslims and American Indians political muscle, allowing them to "enter the election period as a card stronger than the Jewish card."

Farrakhan also paid a visit to the bombed-out remains of Gadhafi's house, which the U.S. targeted in a 1986 air raid in retaliation for Libya's alleged involvement in a bombing of

a night club in Germany frequented by U.S. Marines.

Gadhafi's 1-year-old daughter was killed in the attack.

Signing the visitors book, Farrakhan wrote, "I implore God to punish our enemies hundreds of times, just as they did to us and against you," JANA reported.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said the meeting constituted yet another attempt by Gadhafi to "worm his way back into the good graces of the world," despite harboring two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

"Gadhafi has tried various schemes to evade his responsibilities in the international community," McCurry said, referring to the U.N. resolution demanding that the Libyan suspects be handed over. "He should quit trying to change the subject."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said he was "surprised" that Farrakhan did not bring up the case of Pan Am 103, adding that any American citizen who travels to Libya has "an ethical obligation" to raise the issue.

"If Mr. Farrakhan believes it's important to travel to Libya for his own purposes, it's certainly important for him, as an American citizen, to represent the families, the American families and the other families of the people who died" on Pan Am 103, Burns said.

In another sign that Farrakhan is gaining prominence in the United States, Burns indicated that State Department officials may ask him for a debriefing when he returns.

"We'll just have to see what he would like to do when he comes back," he said.

EDITORIAL

The Correct Answer

What a great year for the business and economic world! Nearly everyone's favorite stocks, bonds and related investments made enormous gains, Dow Jones gained over 33% in 1995. Stockholders are delighted with company earnings and the CEOs, CFOs and all the other alphabet soup titles of senior officers of the major corporations were awarded huge bonuses. But at what price? Along with the rosy profit and earnings reports is one of the grim contributions to the happy board rooms and that is the human toll. Hardly a week goes by without announcements of layoffs, downsizing, re-organization and all the other euphemisms for hard working, honest, committed employees losing their jobs. Most recently AT&T announced a reduction of 40,000 jobs and even the little Roadmaster Company, makers of bicycles and scooters, will eliminate 600 jobs. During this past year jobs were eliminated at a rate of over 35,000 each month.

Only a few years ago these "victims of profit" were referred to as associates, team members, and business partners and companies boasted of their new corporate philosophy. Companies referred to themselves as teams and promoted shared values, mutual respect and other high principled adjectives and the value of their employees. Even the old Personnel Department became known as Human Resources. Companies conducted seminars, meetings, contests, and outward bound trips to build teamwork, loyalty, mutual respect, ethics, community service, contribution and customer satisfaction. Today the remaining employees of these companies work and live in the fear that another layoff may be around the corner and all too often all those wonderful ideals have disappeared with the jobs. The work environment is filled with uncertainty, anger, distrust, avarice, political intrigue, disrespect and callousness.

This same unpleasant atmosphere doesn't stay at work, all too often it comes into the home, school and synagogue. Lack of common courtesy, disrespect and "winning is the only thing" permeates our everyday life. Recently numerous articles have appeared describing the exploitation of young athletes, ranging from college football players to 12 year old gymnasts dreaming of the Olympics. Civic association, synagogue board meetings, condominium or homeowners association meetings are fraught with confrontation, disrespect

and lack of common courtesies. Even a social or business phone call can be trying with one party or another placing the other "on hold" while they answer another call. Hardly the examples we would show to our children as to what our religion exemplifies.

From New England an inspiring different story that illustrates what religion really means. Malden Mills the last of mills of the northeast burnt to the ground last December. The devastating fire would have signaled the end of jobs for nearly 1500 workers. The owner, 70 year old Aaron Feuerstein, would have been expected to collect his insurance money and leave Methuen. Instead, Mr. Feuerstein a religious Jew who studies Hebrew poetry, paid his workers, then added a \$275 bonus and provided coupons for food. He promised to rebuild the mill and in January paid his workers additional salary. He explained this act of compassion with the Talmud inspired quote: "When all is moral chaos, this is the time for you to be a mensch".

The Babylonian Talmud teaches that in the hour when an individual is brought before the heavenly court for judgment the first question is not "Did you Believe in G-d?" nor is it "Did you follow all the rituals?" but "Did you conduct your business affairs honestly?" We suspect we know the answer Mr. Feuerstein can give.

Here
Come
the
BRIDES!

next issue:
February 23rd
Phone: 427-2100 ext. 12
Ask for Til

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE
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February 29	Purim Preview/Camp Planner	March 8
March 14	Passover Preview	March 22
April 2	Spring Fashion	April 12
April 18	Restaurant Guide	April 26
May 2	Mother's Day	May 10

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300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 920, Wilmington, DE 19801
By mail: The Jewish Voice, P.O. Box 2193, Wilmington, DE 19899-2193
e-mail: jewishvoic@aol.com

Commentary:

Being Jewish At Fifteen

By MICHAEL NEWMAN

I first came to terms with my Jewish self about a year ago. I was starting my freshman year at Brandywine High School, and I was not the most religious person that I knew. In fact, I could have cared less about my faith. That is not totally true. I was proud of being Jewish, but what was being Jewish exactly? If somebody had asked me that question last year, I would not have been able to give that person a straight answer. I could have given some cockamamie explanation about how Jews learn Hebrew, have a Bar or Bat-mitzvah, study the Torah, give charity, and never forgot the Holocaust. However, that would just have been some superficial obvious stuff that everybody knows. The question remained, what was I? I honestly did not know.

Two winters ago, the vacation after my Bar-Mitzvah, my family and I traveled to Israel. People who had been there before had told me about how it would be the most religious experience of my life. No dice. Do not get me wrong, I loved being in Israel. I totally absorbed all of the culture and history of the country and had a great time, but I did not experience any sort of "spiritual awakening." The Western Wall is one of the most religious places in Israel, and I felt very unaffected there. No angels sang into my ears, and I was not filled with any strange feelings of peace. I looked at my life and asked myself, was I a bad Jew? I did not go to synagogue much and did not enjoy it when I did go. No, I decided, I was not a bad Jew. However, when I asked myself what I was, I did not know.

That all changed last year, though. I gradually became more aware of myself, of what I was and what I wanted to be. The change was not all of a sudden, however, it took time. There was a number of influences in my life that could have contributed to this change. First of all, I was starting high school, which was a

big deal in itself. I was involved in the school marching band, and made many new friends. I was slowly becoming more comfortable with myself, and therefore accepting all aspects of life. Another big factor in my life was my joining of the local Jewish youth group, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. The Jewish population in my town is not exactly big by any stretch of the word, but we stand together. In that motley crew of kids sharing only a common religion, I learned that I had a place. For the first time in a long time, I was surrounded by boys and girls that I could relate to in a religious sense. BBYO is not the most religiously observant youth group, but that does not matter. When I am with them, I feel better about many things in life.

I have never been religious, and still am not. I have learned that not being religious does not make me a bad Jew. On the contrary, it makes me a type of Jew. There are many other Jews in this world that are much more religious than I, and many Jews that are much less religious than I. It really does not matter. We are all connected by a special bond; we are all Jewish. It is the morals and beliefs that make us so, not any obscure rites. If somebody came up to me today and asked me what a Jew was exactly, I know exactly what my answer would be. I am a Jew. My morals of goodness, education, and other parts of life are Jewish. Being Jewish is doing what I can, when I can, for anyone who needs it. That is what being Jewish is to me. To somebody else, the answer might be going to synagogue every day to study, and that is a good answer too. The answer to the question is different for everyone, and it is always right. I still do not go to synagogue much.

(Michael Newman is fifteen years old. The tenth grader from Brandywine attends Beth Emeth)

News Item: Peres Calls Blood Policy A Mistake

(Source Consulate General of Israel - PHILADELPHIA) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres established a governmental commission of inquiry to investigate the automatic discarding of most Ethiopian blood donations as well as other Ethiopian claims of discrimination in education, religion, and military service.

Peres personally apologized to leaders of Israel's Ethiopian Jewish community for the decision of a low-level bureaucrat to automatically discard the blood donations of Ethiopian Jews in order to protect the country's blood supply.

Health officials said the decision was made because of the high rate of Ethiopian Jews who carry the HIV-virus which can lead to AIDS. The percentage of carriers in the Ethio-

pian community is 50 times higher than that of the rest of the population, they said.

Nonetheless, Peres said the policy was a tragic mistake.

"I want to apologize in my name and on behalf of the Government of Israel," he said. "This was not done intentionally. You have always maintained Jewish traditions and heritage. I understand the depth of your injury, and that it will not be easily fixed."

In response, he summoned a handful of ministers to discuss it and the Magen Dovid Adom — Israel's equivalent of the American Red Cross — now will freeze all Ethiopian blood donations until the government inquiry is complete.

The JEWISH VOICE

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OPINION

Israel, the Peace Process and You

By JOHN A. ELZUFON
Chairman,
Delaware Jewish Community Relations Committee

When Lord Cornwallis surrendered his troops to Washington at Yorktown, the British Band, played "The World Turned Upside Down" as their troops marched past the victorious Americans.

Over the past few years, the Mid-East has truly "turned upside down." Who would have imagined a handshake between Arafat and Rabin? Israel and Jordan have signed a peace treaty. Jews now lobby national representatives in Washington, DC on behalf of the PLO to ensure funding for Arafat's fledgling government. Diplomatic relations are established or being established with many Arab and Muslim countries. Israel is now taking its rightful place as an accepted sovereignty and it is those nations who continue to reject Israel that are becoming isolated.

The threat of war is less than at any time since Israel declared independence. The specter of war is being replaced by the challenge

of peace.

There are many who would now conclude that Israel has "made it" and no longer needs the active support of the American Jewish community. This conclusion is wrong.

Israel now finds herself at a critical junction in her future. Will the opportunity for a true and lasting peace be grasped? Is it there to be grasped? Will peace be established in a manner that preserves Israeli security? Are the Israeli people and her leadership strong enough to endure whatever additional hardships will be posed? Will the sacrifices that are necessary be too heavy a burden?

After Israel won its War of Independence, Sir John Bagot Glubb, British advisor and Commander of Jordan's Arab Legion, told Ben Gurion that Israel's future would not be decided by the generation that won its independence but by two generations hence. That time is now.

Whatever the future is, it is the Israelis who must, and will, determine it. To be sure, American Jewry is vitally interested in the outcome of the peace process. However, while we debate it, the Israelis live it.

What we can do is support Israel and support the peace process.

While the immediate shock of the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin has subsided, only the most naive would conclude that the effects of his loss are no longer felt.

Many years ago, when President Kennedy was assassinated, one commentator remarked that since this was not our country's first Presidential assassination, as hard as it was to believe, it was harder to take.

That same decade Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. A few months later, when Robert Kennedy was assassinated, that same commentator remarked that because our national soul was scarred, his death was no so hard to take, but it was hard to believe.

The assassination of Prime Minister Rabin by an Israeli was been both very hard to believe and very hard to take—especially for the Israelis.

If we are to take anything from this great man's death it is that the road to peace, however tortured, must be traveled even when, as here, the price was our dearest blood.

If we are to believe anything, it is that the peace process is worth the support of the American Jewish community. That support is vital to the success of the peace process because American Jewry can provide to Israel a source of needed strength.

We were strong for her in the immediate aftermath of the Rabin assassination. The assassin's bullet was a cold and bitter wind such as has never blown on Israel before. Our support gave Israel and her people a source of strength when it was needed most. And if stronger peace will lie in the sunshine when the shadows recede, the strength we gave Israel through our support helped build that peace.

That strength will be needed as peace negotiations continue. Only the most naive would think that negotiations with Syria will not be long and difficult. Issues of water are also critical. 30% of Israel's drinking water originates in the Golan. 40% of agricultural water and 50% of drinking water is from an aquifer that lies largely under the West Bank. This water is needed by Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians and all will desire control. Issues of security and settlements remain unresolved. Whatever the results, they will be fiercely debated.

It is during these periods of debate that American Jewry can reach out — not by taking sides but by supporting the peace process whatever the decision is by the Israelis. Whatever we may feel personally about a given issue, we do not have to live with the result. It will be during these periods of debate and uncertainty that Israel will look to Diaspora Jewry, especially the American community, for support. If, G-d forbid, there are more terrorist

attacks, Israel will look again to us for support. It is vital that Israel be strong. It is vital that Israel never feel that she is alone.

A nation, as a person, cannot be strong if it feels that it is alone. When we need support we turn to our family, our friends and those we love. They give us the support we need to carry on in times of personal crisis and despair. They give us the reassurance we need to regain our self-confidence and renew our strength and vigor. When Israel needs strength from others, it is to American Jewry that she turns. When Israel needs strength as it embarks on the journey of peace, it is to us that she will turn.

As surely as Israel is the bridge between the darkness of war and the light of peace, then the support of American Jewry is the foundation of that bridge.

And when the peace process slows and negotiations become frustrating, our support is the beacon which will light the path out of the abyss of frustration to the broad uplifted plain of hope and the lofty mountaintop of peace. Our support is the source water that fills the well of strength from which Israel will drink to sustain its national vigor and self confidence.

And if the extremists strike our support will give the Israeli people the strength to say no to those who would turn lose the jackals of hate and divisiveness but rather heed the call of the prophet Isaiah that "nation shall not lift up sword against nation nor shall they learn war anymore."

The support we give Israel is the binding tie between our community and the Jews of Israel. From our strength will come her strength and from her strength the word will go forth that the dream of peace shall never perish from the face of the land and that the peace process will carry forward, as carry forward it shall and as carry forward it must.

(John A. Elzufon is an attorney in Wilmington and he serves as the Chair of the Delaware Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Delaware)



Do Not Corrupt And Desolate My World

By CONNIE KRESHTOOL

Member of The Jewish Voice Editorial Committee

There was snow on the ground and the temperature was below freezing this week when I watched my grandchildren plant trees. To be sure the trees were only seedlings which they will transplant outside when the mild weather returns. This was their way of celebrating Tu B'Shevat and the birthday of the trees.

Tu B'Shevat (fifteenth day of Shevat) was designated by the Mishnah to mark the date for reasons of the tithe and from which to count the age of a tree. However over the ages Tu B'Shevat has taken on other customs such as eating of fruit from trees, especially those grown in Israel; reciting of passages from the Torah and Talmud which speak about fruit and trees; and the planting of trees or providing of money to plant trees in Israel.

Today Tu B'Shevat is more and more looked upon as "Jewish Earth Day" linking the tree to the land...to the obligation to cultivate, protect and nurture the environment.

To alert the American Jewish community to the growing ecological catastrophe and to mobilize Jews to take appropriate action to preserve the environment twenty-three national Jewish organizations formed the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL). The Coalition is a member of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment which has received major funding from national foundations to spread this message across this land. Materials are available through the Federation and synagogues for education and action programs.

Tu B'Shevat is all about trees. I am making a promise to reduce my use of paper products, to recycle my paper waste and to purchase recycled paper products. How about you?

We need to vigorously oppose the present anti-environmental measures which have been proposed by the 104th Congress. These include budget cuts to key environmental agencies such as the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); anti-regulatory legislation which stunts the creation and enforcement of environmental and public health regulations and weakening of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Superfund legislation.

While the 104th Congress has focused its attention on the balanced budget, the deficit and the need to protect our children and grandchildren from federal bankruptcy they have put at great risk these same generations by their wanton disregard for essential federal environmental protections.

"See my works, how fine and excellent they are! Now all that I created, for you I created. Think upon this and do not corrupt and desolate my world; for if you corrupt it, there is no one to see it right after you." (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:28)



Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

Sunday _____ 11

Murder Mystery Program - (Grades 7 and 8) Figure out "who done it?" All investigators are being summoned to the JCC to help bring a killer to justice. The cost is \$5.00 per person. 2:00 p.m. For more information, call Etai Belinky at (302) 478-5660.

Monday _____ 12

Health Insurance and AARP - Gilbert Torres, Prudential Insurance Regional Field Manager for AARP Northeast Region, will present a program at the JCC on Medicare and insurance plans offered through AARP Group Health Insurance. 1:00 p.m. Free of charge, reservations suggested. For more information, call Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

Wednesday _____ 14

Candlelight Dinner and Program - Following dinner, Doris McCave from the Academy of Lifelong Learning will entertain us with a sing-a-long. A \$5.00 dinner donation is required, advance reservations are required. 5:00 p.m. For more information, call Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

Thursday _____ 15

The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework meeting, (promptly) at 7:15 p.m., will be held at the JCC in Cherry Hill, NJ. Carol Williams will be presenting "Ribbon Embroidery" that will be used on the year-long needlework presentation for the pillow or wall hanging entitled "Next Year in Jerusalem." For information, call 302/478-4104.

Sunday _____ 18

Broadway Show in New York City - (Grades 9-12) Spend the day in the city that never sleeps and take in a show. The cost is \$45.00 per person and includes transportation and theatre tickets. 8:00 a.m. For more information, call Etai Belinky at (302) 478-5660.

Monday _____ 19

School's Out Day - Third Annual Rollerskating Party - (Grades K-6, For JCC Members Only) Join the JCC for a day of rollerskating and swimming. Children should bring a kosher bag lunch, bathing suit and towel. The cost for AM Care (7:15-8:30 a.m.) is \$1.50. The cost for the Rollerskating Party (8:30-3:30 p.m.) is \$22.00. The cost for PM Care (3:30-5:45 p.m.) is \$2.50. Advance registration is required. For more information, call Elyse Greer at (302) 478-5660.

Saturday _____ 24

Square Dance & Southwestern Vegetarian Dinner at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth; 7 p.m. (Dancing starts at 8 p.m.); \$12.50 per person (Dance only: \$7.50 per person). For reservations, call: Leona Weissman 477-1254 or Mitzi Echt, 478-4964.

Open Eater Night - (Grades 7 and 8) Spend a night at the JCC watching a movie shown from the pool deck, playing basketball, volleyball or just hanging out. The cost is \$5.00 per person. 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Etai Belinky at (302) 478-5660.





Matt Denn To Speak About State Legislative Issue

On Sunday, February 18, 1996, the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth (A.K.S.E.) Men's Club will feature local attorney, Matthew Denn, Vice Chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), who has been invited to speak on the topic of "Current State Legislative Issues Facing Delaware's Jewish Community," according to Robert S. Weiner, President of the A.K.S.E. Men's Club.

The issues facing JCRC this year are challenging. The State Legislature is likely to consider the issue of school vouchers, which would provide State money to parochial schools. The Legislature plans to revisit the controversial issue of school prayer. Finally, the Legislature may address the issues of welfare reform and affirmative action. The Jewish community has been divided as to whether it should be involved in public debate on the issues of welfare reform and affirmative action and, if so, on what side.

Matt Denn is an associate with Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor where he specializes in personal injury and commercial law. Prior to working at Young, Conaway, Mr.

Denn was a Skadden Fellow with Delaware Volunteer Legal Services and an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in Wilmington.

Matt is a candidate for State Senate, and a native of Delaware. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and of the Yale Law School. He is a member of the Editorial Board of *The Jewish Voice* and the Board of Directors of the Kutz Home. He is a member of Temple Beth Emeth. Mr. Denn was recently awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Delaware State Bar Association's New Lawyers Committee for his work in representing indigent clients.

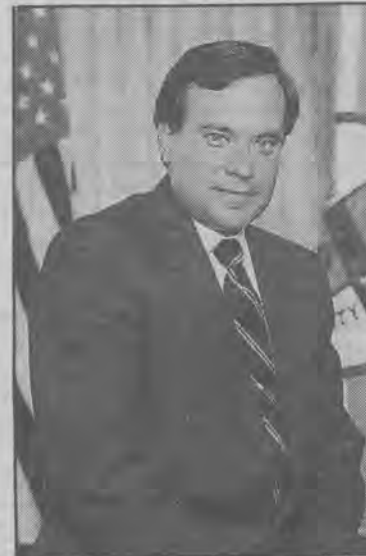
The A.K.S.E. Men's Club Monthly Sunday brunch is open to the public. Brunch is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. and the program is from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$3.00 for Sunday brunch.

Reservations for non-members are suggested and can be made by contacting the A.K.S.E. office at 302-762-2705.

Greenhouse Honored By National Organization

New Castle County Executive Dennis E. Greenhouse recently received an award for *Distinguished Service* from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The recognition was bestowed upon the County Executive at an annual Justice and Public Safety Committee Meeting, held to discuss juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. A plaque was presented to Mr. Greenhouse in "recognition of his leadership, vision, and distinguished service in promoting a more effective and humane system of justice."

Mr. Greenhouse serves as Vice-Chair of the committee, a role he assumed in July after completing a 3-year term as Chairman. "Dennis Greenhouse's progressive leadership and solid commitment to crime prevention helped give Counties a strong voice in setting a national agenda," said Larry Naake, NACo's Executive Director. "It is with pro-



Dennis E. Greenhouse found appreciation that we recognize him for his outstanding efforts."

Israel Bonds Area Record Year

PHILADELPHIA — Greater Philadelphia Israel Bonds surpassed its 1995 campaign goal and generated more than \$42.5 million in bond sales. Most importantly, according to Israel Bonds spokespeople there was an increase in the number of bondholders, representing a positive attempt to provide more Jews with a meaningful link to Israel and its future.

In addition to the central eastern suburbs surrounding Philadelphia, The Greater Philadelphia Campaign includes Cherry Hill, NJ and the entire state of Delaware.

Rubin attributes credit for this past year's accomplishments to the incredibly dedicated lay people who served on committees and at the grass roots level in various synagogues and communities. "Their enthusiasm and commitment, combined with the unique and wonderful chemistry that exists between leadership and staff, contributed in a major way to the campaign's success," he says.

Other components that lead to the campaign's popularity were consistent advertising and direct mail efforts, in addition to an assertive re-investment campaign. Increased awareness of the Bonds program was generated through efforts to encourage individuals to use Israel bonds as a means of fulfilling commitments to other institutions, which resulted in many cultural and communal benefits.

The non-interest bearing \$100 Certificate, appropriate as a gift for simchas, was a significant new vehicle that enabled even more Jews to connect themselves and loved ones to Israel. It was introduced in order to place more emphasis on the number of bondholders, in accordance with Israel Bonds' national campaign goal to link more Jews to Israel through Israel bonds by creating a partnership with the Jewish homeland and an investment in its future.

For further information about the event or securities offered by State of Israel Bonds/Development Corporation for Israel, call the Greater Philadelphia office at (215) 561-

2663 or (800) 752-5671.

State of Israel Bonds is an international organization offering securities issued by the government of Israel. Since its inception in 1951, Israel Bonds has secured more than \$14 billion in investment capital for the development of every aspect of Israel's economy, including agriculture, commerce and industry. Throughout its history, Israel has

Hadassah Talk On Medical Ethics

Jewish Medical Ethics will be discussed by Janice Selekmán, DNSc, RN., at the next meeting of the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah on Sunday, February 25. Dr. Selekmán will draw on her background as a nurse, nursing educator and Jew to present the Jewish points of view on such topics as abortion, organ donations and transplants, suicide, euthanasia and artificial insemination.

Janice is Professor and Chair of the Department of Nursing, University of Delaware and is active in many professional organizations. She holds a Masters degree in Pediatric Nursing and a Doctorate in Nursing Science.

She recently wrote a chapter on "The Jewish Patient" for a book on transcultural health care that is scheduled to be published this year.

The February 25 Hadassah meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. with brunch at the home of Claudia Tuttleman. Reservations are necessary and may be made by calling Serena Winer at 764-8117 or Michele Sands at 478-6391. The cost is \$6.00.

maintained a perfect record on the payment of principal and interest on the securities it has issued. Israel Bonds proceeds play a major role in absorbing Jews from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia and elsewhere, and in providing crucial financial resources to Israel for a new era of promise and opportunity.

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Rachel Saifer Named Assistant Editor of The Jewish Voice

By MARVIN CYTRON

Acting Editor of The Jewish Voice
Judy Wortman, Executive Vice - President of The Jewish Federation of Delaware recently announced the appointment of Rachel Saifer as Assistant Editor of The Jewish Voice.

Rachel is a second semester senior at the University of Delaware majoring in Family and Community Service with a minor in Jewish Studies. Rachel is originally from Philadelphia, and with her family belongs to Congregation Beth Shalom in Elkins Park. She has one older sister and brother. She will be working as an intern for Federation for spring of 1996 as well as serving as Assistant Editor for The Jewish Voice. Rachel has been at Camp Ramah in the Poconos for four summers and was United Synagogue Youth regional Communications Vice President for Hagesher region in 1991 and 1992. She received a Hebrew School teaching degree in 1992 from Gratz Hebrew High school and was Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom Kadima youth group advisor for three semesters. While at the University of Delaware she has served as the JCRC representative in 1993 and 1994. Rachel continues to be very active in University of Delaware Hillel, having served on the Student Executive board as Social Actions Vice President and Community Relations Vice President. She currently serves on the Hillel board of trustees as a student representative. Last Spring semester Rachel studied at Hebrew University of Jerusalem for six months and counts the days until she can return to Israel again.

"I look forward to the next few months of learning from and working with such wonderful people. It is a great feeling waking up in the morning knowing I'm going to do



Rachel Saifer

something I love in a community to which I'm devoted" said Rachel.

"We are delighted to welcome Rachel to The Jewish Federation of Delaware staff as an intern this year" said Judy Wortman. "She is the fourth college student to intern for us within the past three years, the other interns were Suzanne Borden, Jordan Sopinsky and Morissa Sher. I am delighted to say that Suzanne is now working with the Panim El Panim program at the Washington Institute for Leadership and Values in Washington, DC, Jordan will be joining us in June as the editor of The Jewish Voice and is currently a program director with the Hillel Foundation at Syracuse University. Morissa Sher is currently a staff Associate here at the Jewish Federation. It is my feeling, as a long time Jewish professional, that young people entering this field should be given an opportunity to experience the kind of agency that we have become. Many young people entering the field have interned or have been employed by Jewish agencies, including federations, that are hierarchical and less welcoming that we are here

Additionally the commitment, excitement and vitality that these young men and women bring to The Jewish Federation of Delaware is unique and provides us with an understanding of all that is good about future generations. Considering our mission is one of Jewish continuity which we have take very seriously and this philosophy has been mutually beneficial to our community and these future leaders" said Judy. Wortman also noted that Etai Belinky, now Delaware's Jewish Teen Community Coordinator, is a recent graduate of the University of Delaware. The Community Teen Coordinator position was created as a new initiative made possible in 1995 by the UJA/Federation campaign which is administered locally by the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD)

Montessori Open House

Wilmington Montessori School is holding an Open House Sunday, February 25th from 1 to 4 p.m. Families are invited to tour classrooms, meet staff, and learn about the Montessori hands on approach to learning. Wilmington Montessori School provides year round child care from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for children ages one through 6th grade. The school is located at 1400 Harvey Road in North Wilmington, just near the Harvey Road exit of interstate 95. For more information, call 475-0555.

Purim Carnival

Plans are underway for the latest version of the Annual AKSE Purim Carnival to be held on Sunday, March 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Reserve a table with the Talmud Torah office (762-2705). Enjoy pizza, falafel, ice cream and, of course, hamantashen! Celebrate the happy holiday of Purim with your friends at ASKE!

Camp Airy and Louise Offer Mini Session For Youngsters

BALTIMORE, MD — Camp Airy, for boys, and Camp Louise, for girls, will hold a special summer camp session for just 7 and 8 year-olds who are first-time campers from August 5-August 18, 1996. Run at the same time as the regular camp session for older children, the Camp Airy and Camp Louise "mini-session" will provide special programming for younger campers. The decision to incorporate such a program at the camps, which have been in operation for over 60 years, was prompted by the declining age of camp-bound children.

Each camp offers a myriad of educational opportunities in athletics, the arts and outdoor living as well as Jewish interest programs.

JCC Renovations Handicap Accessible

The Jewish Community Center has just completed renovations to the handicap accessible locker room in the indoor swimming pool area. The locker room is accessible from the back of the JCC building and the entrance is adjacent to the pool. The locker room was originally installed in the early 1980's.

The renovations included new lighting, new bathroom fixtures, new lockers and a fresh coat of paint. In addition, a baseboard heater was installed to increase the comfort level of the individuals using these facilities.

For more information on the handicap accessible locker room facilities, call Scott Katz, Recreational Services Director, at (302) 478-5660.

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SYNAGOGUE LIFE

The Rabbi Writes: ISRAEL EXPERIENCE For The Summer

**By Rabbi
LAWRENCE MALINGER**

*Assistant Rabbi at
Congregation Beth Emeth*

The variety and quality of the Israel Experience programs offered should provide every young person with an exciting, challenging, and rewarding experience to remember. However, preparing for the experience is different for each teen involved. Many issues should be discussed and dealt with before choosing the trip that is right for you.

The participants, travelling as a group of American youth, will see much of the country from behind the

lens of a camera, the window of a bus or the social security of their group. The youth tour group is like a world unto itself; a bubble transported from one place to the next. The external landscape may change, but the group consists of the same individuals throughout the trip. In fact, the same group might have just as good a time in any setting. Encountering any foreign country and culture, as a group, is always accompanied by similar challenges. This is not essentially negative, but it does have the potential to limit the participants' experience. There is a tendency, in all of us, to stick with the

familiar. Bursting the bubble means going to Israel with an open mind and heart; ready for new tastes, sounds, sites and people.

Looking at the brochures of many Israel programs, one is attracted to the smiling faces of American teens having a great time together. This is the bubble. As a Jewish educator, it is my responsibility to encourage participants to include Israel and Israelis into their experience.

Participating in an Israel program with a group of other teenagers



Rabbi and Mrs. Malinger chairing the Debbie Friedman event.

places the individual in new and unfamiliar circumstances. This experience is bound to influence the participants' relationship with themselves, their families, their peers, their Jewish identities and Israel. Giving the participants an opportunity to discuss their expectations and concerns about travelling to a foreign

country may help them develop personal goals for the trip and alleviate some of their anxieties.

It is also important to emphasize the expectations which the program will have of the participants. Although they are on vacation, they will

Continued on page 11

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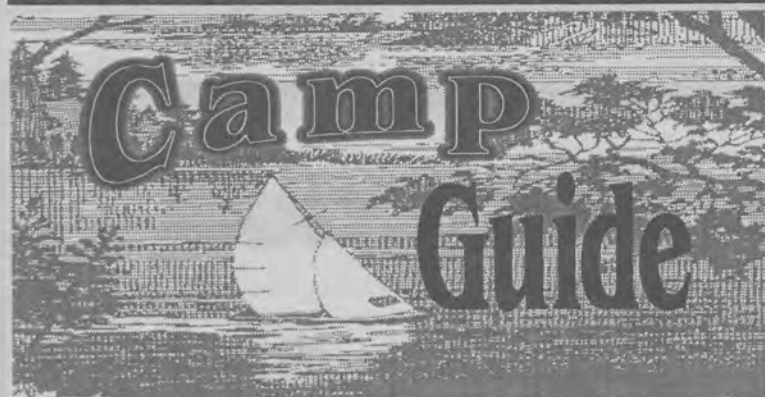
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AKSE Sisterhood Hamentaschen Bake Sale

The Sisterhood of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth announces its annual Hamentaschen Bake Sale in anticipation of Purim which will be celebrated this year on March 5th. The Hamentaschen are available with any of the following 6 fillings: cherry, lemon, blueberry, apricot, poppy, or prune and are priced at \$5 per dozen. Orders for hamentaschen can be made by mailing your order and check to: AKSE Sisterhood, Wash. Blvd. & Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802 or you may call either Mary Samuels (610-268-3834) or Linda Stillman (798-6229). Pre-payment is required for orders of 3 dozen or more and is appreciated for all orders. Please be sure to include your name and phone number on all orders.

Israel Experience

Continued from page 10

be expected to participate fully in all aspects of the program, follow instructions and adhere to the rules of the organization. Resolving the tension between the expectations of the individual, the group and the program will help build a balanced experience. Many Jews who travel to Israel say that it effects their Jewish identity. This may be especially true for teens, who find themselves in a time of their lives when identity-shaping is a major task. According to psychologist Eric Erickson and others, much of one's philosophical and social identity is shaped during the late teens and early twenties. I nor can anyone else truly define "Jewish identity." It is clearly different for each individual. Some things, however, are certain: Jewish identity is built from experiences, it is not a single quality, but rather a composite of factors, and it is often in conflict with our "other identities." We all have the freedom to decide how

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different experiences will shape our identities. It is imperative that we do not tell the participants what to think and how they should be affected vis-a-vis their trip to Israel. However, we can raise their awareness regarding the uniqueness of the Jewish experience in Israel. These experiences provide the participant with an opportunity to enrich their relationship to Judaism. Leave this as an open question which can only be answered after the trip to Israel. Some participants may expect that religious observance is emphasized in the daily life of most Israelis. It is important for the teens to be prepared for the encounter with Judaism as it is expressed by secular Israelis. Secularism in Israel is a Jewish phenomenon, very different from Jewish expression in Delaware. One can learn a great deal from being open to differences. If the participants think of these differences as an obstacle, they will miss out.

Square Dance Square Meal

The Sisterhood of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth invites the community to participate in its 11th annual square dance and dinner on Saturday, February 24th. This event will be held in the social hall of the synagogue located on Washington Blvd. & Torah Way in Wilmington. No prior square dancing experience is necessary. A Southwestern vegetarian dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Cost of dinner and dance is \$12.50 per person. Dancing will start at 8 p.m. Cost to attend dance only is \$7.50 per person. Please call Leona Weissman, 477-1254 or Mitzi Echt 478-4964 to make your reservations.

There are hundreds of programs available. Each synagogue sponsors trips through their regional and national organizations. In addition, Gratz Hebrew High School also sponsors a trip. The Jewish Federation of Delaware, as well as several synagogues, provide scholarships and financial assistance. I hope many parents will encourage their teens to join the Israel experience. (Rabbi Malinger is the Assistant Rabbi/Director of Education at Congregation Beth Emeth)

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Left to right: Pat Sloan, Laney Gordon and Phyllis Aerenson, Chair, at the Lion of Judah event



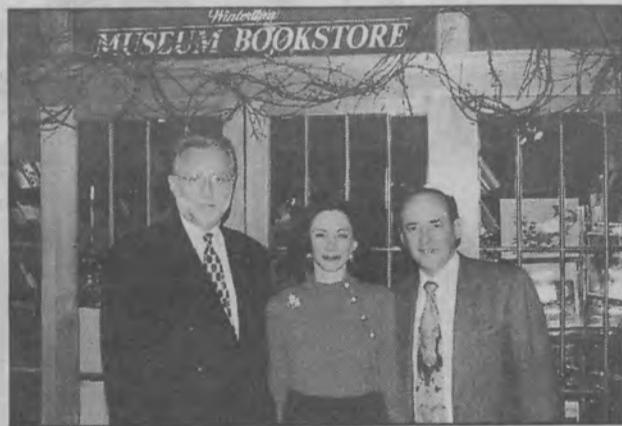
Chai Dinner at Winterthur. Speaker Wolf Blitzer; CNN Reporter joins Dr. Michael and Amy Leviton, Chairpersons



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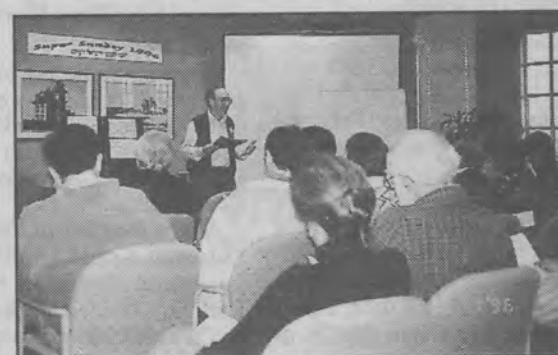
Rep. Castle (left), Rabbi Malinger (center) and Beth Emeth teens at Super Sunday.

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OBITUARIES

SHEILA E. BERNSTEIN

Sheila E. Bernstein, 57, of 19 Patterson Ave., Pennsville, N.J. died Sat., Jan. 20, 1996.

Mrs. Bernstein was an associate professor of secretarial science and an official at Salem Community College for 24 years. Earlier, she spent 10 years as a teacher and department chairman at Salem High School. She was a member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Wilmington, and Ohev Shalom Congregation, Salem.

Survivors include her husband, Willard; son, David K. at home; daughter, Sandra L. Bernstein of Greenville; mother, Anna Epstein of Salem; brother, Ronald A. Epstein of Salem; brother, Ronald A. Epstein of Woodstown.

The family requests that contributions be sent to Adas Kodesch Emeth Congregation, Wilmington; or Salem County (N.J.) Hospice.

ALVIN IRA BLAKE

Alvin Ira Blake, 54, of 2328 Light-house Lane, Beacon Hill, Brandywine Hundred, died February 5 of heart failure in Wilmington Hospital.

Mr. Blake was an engineer for Scott Paper, now Kimberly Clark, for 22 years. He was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington.

Survivors include his wife, Judith S.; and a sister, Myrna Marks of Iselin, N.J.

The family suggests that contributions be sent to American Heart Association or Diabetes Association.

RUTH EGRI HOLDEN

Ruth Egri Holden, a former Delaware artist, died January 14 in Aurora, Colorado. She was 84.

Mrs. Holden's art career began in New York city in the pre-Depression 1920s. A graduate of the Art Students League, the National Academy of Design and the Master Institute of the Roerich Museum, she is recognized by the Smithsonian Institution as a key contributor to a form of art known as Dynamic Symmetry.

Ruth Egri (her professional name) came to Delaware in the 1940s. Her work has been exhibited extensively throughout the country.

In recent years, Egri has become known for her bold but introspective depiction of women through an abstract analysis of the female form. Controversial and distinctive, her work and techniques have been chronicled in "Twenty Figure Painters and How They Work" (Watson-Guptill, 1979).

Her paintings are found in the permanent collections of the Delaware Art Museum, the University of Delaware, the DuPont Company, and the Great Garbo Collection and elsewhere.

A past member of the Council of Delaware Artists and the National League of American Penwomen, Ruth Egri Holden is survived by her son, Peter Holden, daughter-in-law Beth Holden and granddaughters Jennifer and Stacy, all of Aurora, Colorado and her brother, Ted Egri of Taos, New Mexico.

The JEWISH VOICE

ARTS ETC.

JCC Shows Film "Black To Promised Land"

"Black to the Promised Land", a feature length documentary film, follows a group of eleven Black American teenagers from their school in Brooklyn, New York to a kibbutz at the foot of the Golan Heights in Israel.

Promoters say, "The film succeeds in challenging many myths and stereotypes often fostered by media in representing both the Black and Israeli communities."

The film will be shown on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center. The admission cost is \$1.00 for teens and \$2.00 for adults. This film was re-

scheduled due to the Blizzard of 1996. For more information, call Etai Belinky or Mona Allen at (302) 478-5660.

JCC Karate

The New JCC Kenpo Karate program is part of the National American Kenpo Karate program. Kenpo Karate is a whole modernization of old oriental forms of self-defense created to be effective in today's world. The JCC is currently offering children's programming and will be expanding in the near future to include an adult karate program. For more information, call Scott Katz, Recreational Services Director, at (302) 478-5660.

Russian Ballet Romeo and Juliet

The Russian Ballet Theater of Delaware (RBT) will perform Romeo & Juliet, its first full-length production since the company's premier in May 1994, at The Playhouse Theatre (located in the Hotel du Pont) March 1-3.

For tickets and performance information, call The Playhouse Theatre at (302) 656-4401. Contact Kris Chalfant at (302) 655-7592 for more information about special group rates.

AARON MORRIS HENRY WEISSMAN

Aaron Morris Henry Weissman, 74, owned, until his 1985 retirement, Instrument Sales & Service of Wilmington, died January 20th of a heart attack in Margate, Fla.

Mr. Weissman opened his surveying equipment firm in the early 1970s after working in wholesale hardware sales. He was an active amateur radio operator, with the call letters K3 VWP; a member of Congregation Beth Shalom, Wilmington; Roberts Masonic Lodge, Chester, Pa.; American Legion; and Jewish War Veterans Blatman Post.

Survivors include his wife, Marian; sons, William of Sharpley, near Wilmington, and Howard of Devon, Brandywine Hundred; brother, Saul of Newtown Square, Pa.; sister, Esther Edelstein of Wallingford, Pa.; four grandchildren.

The family requests contributions to the Deborah Heart and Lung Association, care of Mary Weinstein, 8602 Society Drive, Claymont 19703.

Myrna Ryder To Speak On March 17

On Sunday, March 17, 1996, the A.K.S.E. Men's Club will feature Myrna Ryder, M.Ed., C.F.L.E., Director of Family Life Education, Jewish Family Service of Delaware. Ms. Ryder will speak on the topic of: "A Jewish Perspective on Love and Sex in the 90's," according to Bob S. Weiner, President of the A.K.S.E. Men's Club.

Myrna Ryder is well-known in the Wilmington Delaware Jewish Community and regularly speaks on topics which affect every aspect of Jewish family life.

She has a Master of Education degree, focusing on counseling and personnel services. The National Council of Family Relations has certified her as a Family Life Educator.

Her experiences include person-

nel director for the State of Pennsylvania, teacher and counselor of adolescents in the public school system, cable television newscaster and cameraperson and director of a Jewish Community Center Day Camp. She has also been a performer in the musical group Shir Ami. She is a member of Hadassah, the National Council of Jewish Women and Nursing Mothers, Inc.

As always, The A.K.S.E. Men's Club's monthly Sunday Brunch is open to the public. Brunch is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. and the program is from 10:00-11:00 a.m. The cost is \$3.00 for brunch.

Reservations for non-members are suggested and can be made by contacting the A.K.S.E. Office at (302) 762-2705.

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Beth Shalom Monte Carlo

Saturday evening March 9th has been announced as Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom's MONTE CARLO night. This annual event is an extension of the celebration of Purim which for many communities includes an evening of fun and games. This years event will include Bingo as well as casino games and door prizes. The cost for the evening is \$18.00 per person for tickets purchased before noon Friday, March 8th, and \$20.00 per person for tickets purchased at the door. The ticket includes admission, \$10.00 in chips, hot and cold Hors D'oeuvre's, full open bar all evening and chances for door prizes. Monte Carlo night will be held at the synagogue, 1801 Baynard Blvd. from 8:00 P.M. until 12:00 A.M. "Last year's event was very successful, we had planned The Purim- Monte Carlo night as a fund raiser and it turned out to be a Fun Raiser as well" said Burt Shanker, Executive

Director of Beth Shalom. "We anticipate that Monte Carlo night will be a fun filled evening and members of the community are invited to join us" said Mr. Shanker. Tickets can be obtained by calling Beth Shalom's office (302) 654 4462.

Debbie Friedman At UJA Young Leadership Conference March 17

NEW YORK — Debbie Friedman, one of the most prolific and popular Jewish composers in America today, will be in concert at the United Jewish Appeal's Young Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., Sunday evening, March 17, 1996. With 13 albums and a career that began more than 25 years ago, Friedman has performed her music around the world, from small synagogues and community centers to the world's most prestigious venues. Just last month she made her debut at legendary Carnegie Hall, playing to a

near sell-out crowd despite the third-worst blizzard in New York City history. [Editor's note: Friedman performed January 20 at Delaware's Congregation Beth Emeth as part of the UJA/Federation Campaign administered locally by The Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD)]

The UJA Young Leadership Conference convenes every two years to hear a host of noteworthy speakers, to take part in thought-provoking workshops on a range of issues and to visit with Senators, Representatives and other top government officials. This year, immediately following the conference, around 200 Washington 10 participants together

Chabad Women Luncheon

Chabad-Lubavitch of Delaware announces the upcoming Day for the Jewish Woman, the annual women's event now in its ninth year. The title of this year's program is "Juggling Priorities on Life's Superhighway," and will take place Sunday February 18 at the J.C.C. 12:30 p.m. This year's guest speaker is Rivkah Slonim, of Binghamton, N.Y.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Rivkah is a teacher, lecturer and currently the education director of the Chabad Jewish Student Center in Binghamton and together with her husband, parents of five children.

"The program has earned a reputation of bringing the finest speakers to our Delaware community including Sheina Konigsburg of 'Holy Days' fame, Tova Mordechai,

(continued on page 2)

with a select delegation of dignitaries will travel "Capital to Capital" on a special journey to Jerusalem. Participants will celebrate the 3000th anniversary of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish people, meet with members of Knesset and interact with Israeli peers during this unique moment in history.

For more information on Washington 10 and the Capital to Capital: Journey to Jerusalem, please call The Jewish Federation of Delaware at (302) 427-2100 or the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet, (212) 818-9100.

Paint By Memories

The newest art exhibit at the Jewish Community Center is not just paintings ... it is memories. The artist, Toby Fluck, created scenes of her childhood in a small Polish shtetl. She began putting childhood memories

down on canvas, since she and her mother had no photographs or momentos of their prewar family life. The result of this artistic journey, which lasted over twenty-five years, is an autobiographical text entitled, "Memories of My Life in a Polish Village". People of all ages, especially teenagers, would benefit from this exhibit, as it shows a Jewish community that once was.

The art exhibit, "Paint by Memories", will feature prints that are signed by the artist. Autographed books will also be available for sale, as are the prints. The exhibit will be on display in the JCC Art Gallery through the beginning of April. The gallery is open Sunday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, call Ella Zukoff or Mona Allen at (302) 478-5660.

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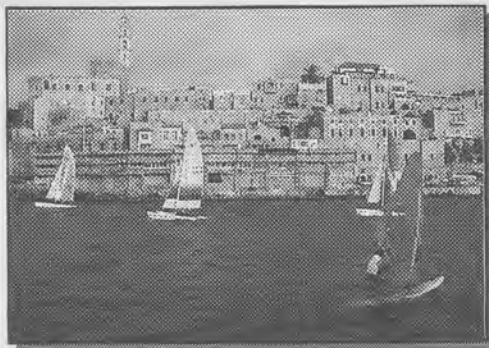
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