

Israelis, Baker make progress toward peace conference

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli leaders appear to be satisfied that their talks Tuesday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will lead to a revival of the Middle East peace process along lines favored by Israel.

But six Palestinian dignitaries from the administered territories who also met with Baker — with a green light from Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat — expressed bitter disappointment with what they heard from the secretary. They came to present Baker with a memorandum demanding American pressure on Israel. They were told there would be no pressure, no U.S. dialogue with the PLO and no recognition of a Palestinian state.

Baker met separately with Prime Minister

Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Moshe Arens. The Israelis seemed pleased that a measure of progress was made toward a regional peace conference that would for the first time bring Israel

principle to a regional peace conference, but "the details, format, location, timing, participants — none of these were worked out."

But Israeli officials said progress was made on the difficult question of Palestinian repre-

time" with Israel's insistence that no resident of East Jerusalem be included in a Palestinian delegation. Israel fears allowing such participation would undermine Jerusalem's status as the united capital of Israel.

Israeli officials said they were also very pleased by U.S. backing of Israel's opposition to the presence of "diaspora" Palestinians in the delegation, meaning Palestinians not living in the administered territories.

They said there was a "meeting of minds" on the need to exclude the PLO from direct or indirect involvement in future peace talks.

Levy in particular radiated optimism and good cheer after his session with Baker. He spoke almost jubilantly about the "nearness"

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and all of its Arab neighbors to the negotiating table.

A senior U.S. official who briefed reporters said the United States and Israel agreed in

sentation at the conference and in subsequent bilateral talks with Israel. Israel's ambassador to the United States, Zalman Shoval, told army radio Tuesday that Washington "agrees at this

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"You heard it in
The Jewish Voice"

Jewish organizations speak out against Iraqi treatment of Kurds

NEW YORK (JTA) — American Jewish organizations joined the chorus of public appeals late last week that may have contributed to the Bush administration's belated decision to provide humanitarian aid to the Kurds in Iraq.

Israeli officials have also spoken out strongly in recent days against Baghdad's treatment of its Kurdish citizens, who have been fleeing northern Iraq en masse since the collapse of their revolt against the regime of Saddam Hussein. According to news reports from the region, as many as 2 million Kurds and others fled their homes in panic after Hussein's forces crushed the revolt that followed the expulsion of Iraqi troops from Kuwait in late February.

President Bush last Friday ordered U.S. air force transports to begin dropping food, blankets and clothing to the Kurdish refugees. The first air drops Sunday included tents and medical supplies.

Secretary of State James Baker flew to Turkey on Sunday and was to visit its border with Iraq, which many of the refugees are trying to cross in search of safe haven from Iraqi troops.

Prior to these actions, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council issued a statement last Thursday urging the Bush administration to "speak out forcefully against the atrocities Iraqi forces are committing against the Kurdish population" and to provide the victims swiftly with humanitarian assistance.

"We are reminded of the tragic consequences of a world that remained silent," said the statement, which was issued by NJCRAC's chairman, Arden Shenker. The umbrella group is the policy coordinating body for 11 national Jewish agencies and more than 100 local community relations councils around the country.

In Washington, B'nai B'rith International issued a statement last week expressing "profound disappointment with the indifference being displayed by the family of nations toward the Kurdish people now fleeing murderous attacks being perpetrated by the forces of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

"It is intolerable that the allies who so recently went to war to curb the brutal aggression of Saddam Hussein should now sit back with arms folded and watch Iraqi troops massacre innocent men, women and children," said the statement, which was issued by the group's international president, Kent Schiner. He urged "immediate intervention and humanitarian help."

The National Jewish Democratic Council, a Washington-based independent organization of Jews who support the Democratic Party, said it "strongly encourages the United States to take a number of steps to stop Hussein's brutal repression of the Kurds." Its statement demanded that the Bush administration "admit that it had encouraged the Iraqi people" to overthrow Hussein at a time when there were

over 100,000 U.S. troops in Iraq but has since "abandoned the Kurdish people who responded to the president's call."

Both NJCRAC and the Democratic group noted that Jews will observe Yom Hashoah this week, the Day of Remembrance for the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Shenker observed in that connection that "our experience as a people has sensitized us forever to the policies and practices that threaten genocide against other national, ethnic and religious groups, and the necessity to speak out clearly and forcefully whenever such threats arise."

Last Sunday, at New York's annual commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the plight of the Kurdish refugees was mentioned by Benjamin Meed, a Holocaust survi-

vor and president of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization. "As we read of the plight of the Iraqi refugees fleeing from the obscene brutality and slaughter of Saddam Hussein's army, our memories return," said Meed. "Of all people, we Jews cannot be silent to the agony of the Kurds and the Shi'ites. Of all people, we survivors must call on our country and on the United Nations to stop this killer, Saddam Hussein."

In Jerusalem, President Chaim Herzog said that Jews must "raise our voices in regard to the plight of the Kurdish people, since no one knows better than us the meaning of the persecution of a people." Likewise, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir spoke out publicly against Iraq's treatment of the Kurdish population.

Annual campaign successful, slow

Staff report

The 1991 Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Delaware has been successful thus far, note campaign co-chairs Steve Dombchik and Toni Young. On a card-forward comparison with the previous year's campaign, the current campaign shows a 13.4 percent increase.

However, according to the co-chairs, the pace of the 1991 campaign is "far behind last year's." Young noted that as of April 1, only \$763,000 had been pledged toward the minimum goal of \$1,600,000. This slower pace, she said, is threatening to affect the Federation's allocations process.

"If 80 percent of last year's total campaign is not pledged by June 1, then the allocations process will not proceed," they stressed. Without the minimum 80 percent, they said, the Federation will be forced to cover the individual agencies' expenses on a month to month basis.

Both Young and Dombchik noted that many individuals in the community "have responded with great generosity to the unique challenges of the moment." They outlined some of the highlights of the campaign for *The Jewish Voice*:

*) Super Sunday 1991 raised \$202,000, a 37 percent increase over the 1990 event, making it the most successful Super Sunday in Delaware history. More than 200 first-time contributors participated.

*) The Women's Division has received gifts from over 1,000 women this year, with the average increase in women's gifts being 22.6 percent.

*) The Jewish Federation's Board of Directors this year increased its gifts by an average of 45 percent. The Boards of Directors of the Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Family Service increased their gifts by 33 and 39 percent respectively.

*) Students affiliated with Hillel at the University of Delaware raised over \$1000 during a student Campaign phonathon and a total of more than \$1500 during their 1991 Campaign for the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Dombchik noted that the pace of the 1991 Campaign is behind that of 1990, however, largely because the Campaign started later than usual. Last summer and fall, he said, many Campaign contributors were still making pledges to Operation Exodus.

"The pace of the Campaign must now be accelerated so that we can complete it within the next six weeks," Young stressed. "In order to be able to make sensible decisions about how to allocate community resources," she said, "we must have a better idea of how much money the Campaign will raise."

According to the co-chairs, "Half of the community has recognized the urgent needs of Israel and the local community by pledging generously to the Campaign." They urged community members who have not yet made commitments to the 1991 Campaign to give as generously as possible. "The success of the 1991 Campaign — and the ability of the Federation to fund Israel's needs and community agencies — depends on 100 percent of the community," Young concluded.

Diaspora Jewry plans to underwrite \$900 million in loans to Soviet Jews

By ALIZA MARCUS

NEW YORK (JTA) — As Israel organizes for the absorption of one million Soviet Jews by the end of 1993, Diaspora Jewry is poised to underwrite a \$900 million loan program to assist in what is being called a historic wave of immigration.

Jewish federations around the world will create a \$200 million reserve fund with UJA to cover potential massive loan defaults.

Arriving Soviet immigrants, who receive basic absorption grants covering first-year housing and other expenses, will now each receive \$1,000 of the package in loans backed by Diaspora Jewish communities.

"As one federation official put it: 'We're betting the ranch,'" said Charles Goodman, president of the Council of Jewish Federations, which represents some 200 North American federations and was the prime initia-

tor of the program.

For what is believed to be the first time in American Jewish philanthropic giving, the community is resorting to a large-scale loan program to assist Israel, rather than relying solely on direct contributions.

The loan program will be complemented by a \$650 million fund-raising campaign, the last \$200 million of which will go to a reserve fund to cover loan defaults.

Goodman and others said loans were the logical step, given the requirements of the Soviet Jewish immigrants, who are streaming into Israel at a rate of a few hundred a day, and the responsibility U.S. Jews feel toward aiding Israel and Jews in distress.

"It just seemed the very appropriate way to finance this problem, because everyone is convinced it is well beyond our philanthropic

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Editorial

Window of opportunity is open in the Middle East

Secretary of State Baker and President Bush have presented an outline for a peace initiative that is designed to bring some semblance of peace to an area unfamiliar with such a concept.

The blueprint offered contains four main points: the need for regional security arrangements; the need for agreements in the Middle East on the control of weapons of mass destruction; the need to reach an Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian peace based on both Israeli security and the satisfaction of legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people; and the need for economic and environmental cooperation in the region.

Israel — a sliver of land on the Mediterranean coast — has been rejected and threatened since even before its statehood was announced in 1948. It has gone to war against the Arab world three more times since its founding. Israel should not be expected to announce at the outset that it will give up land. That would be naive.

The U.S. Secretary of State has asked for "confidence-building gestures" from the Arab states. To name a few, Baker wants a non-belligerency agreement, recognition of the Jewish State, suspension of the Arab boycott against Israel. Once these gestures have been made, the world can expect gestures from the Israeli side of the table.

The window of opportunity has opened wider, perhaps, more than ever before. And it is up to the negotiators to change their policy and do more than simply reiterate their party lines... with this open window can come fresh air.

The conflict is a longstanding one. And the window could close at any time. But we might take some comfort in the fact that everyone involved seems to be talking about the same proposal and ask that the U.S. continue its efforts.

Repairing our corner of the world

The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*, to repair the world, is being applied to everyday life at the Jewish Community Center in Wilmington. A section of the Center's parking lot has become a drop-off location for the "Recycle Delaware" program. (See story, page 10).

We are commanded to take care of our world and recycling what can be reused or what can be reprocessed for other purposes is one twentieth century way of responding in our corner of the world.

The Jewish Community Center should be commended for its wisdom in seeing the need and responding to it by establishing the facility. The rest of the Jewish community should be as wise and make use of it.

Letter to the editor

AIPAC conference 'fulfilling'

Rarely does one attend an event which is fulfilling both emotionally and practically. Such was my experience at the AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington last month.

It was truly an emotional shot-in-the-arm to join with 2200 like-minded supporters of Israel, particularly at this critical time in Israel's history. We cheered as Israeli Minister of Health Ehud Olmert called for direct negotiations with each Arab state and as Senator Phil Gramm called on the President to demand that the Kuwaitis and Saudis end their state of war with Israel (after all, "they owe us"). We applauded as the presence of the Egyptian ambassador was announced at the conference banquet. And we wildly waved little American flags as General Colin Powell entered the hall.

I also attended the most practical of workshops on how to lobby our representatives, how and where to tap support for Israel in the Christian community, and, yes, how to deal with the media. It is at this practical, political level that AIPAC is so effective.

Attending this conference made me realize that AIPAC is really each one of us that lobbies our representatives, writes a letter to the editor or participates in a rally for Israel. The highlight of the conference for me was joining four other Delawareans in lobbying our Congressmen and Senators on Capitol Hill. We are fortunate here in Delaware to have representatives who are easily accessible. This circumstance presents us with both opportunity and responsibility. Since the Jewish community is small here, we must each do our part to make sure our voice is heard.

Mark Wagman

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DEADLINE

The next issue of The Jewish Voice will be published FRIDAY, APRIL 26. The deadline for stories and photos is noon, THURSDAY, APRIL 19. Material should be sent or brought to the Jewish Voice office at the Jewish Federation of Delaware, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, 19803. (302) 478-6200. All articles must be typed, double spaced.

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

Send letters typed, double spaced, to The Jewish Voice, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.

THE EXPONENT



Letter to the community

We at the Kutz Home want to take this opportunity to thank you for your devotion to the residents living at the Home. Please know that we are profoundly appreciative of all that you have done to make possible a better quality of life for the elderly in our community who require and receive our services. We also want to take this opportunity to update on several issues.

As you may recall, the Home has faced some severe budgetary problems during the last couple of years. The Home charges financially capable residents a pro rata share of the actual costs of care. If all residents were able to pay the actual cost of their care, there would be no financial deficit and the Home would break even or have a slight surplus. Unfortunately, relatively few of our residents can afford to pay the full cost of their care for very long, and many turn to the Medicaid program for assistance. (The Medicaid program is funded with State and Federal dollars and assists the most financially needy elderly with nursing home expenses.) However, Delaware Medicaid does not fully compensate the Kutz Home for the expenses it incurs; therefore, one fairly effective way to balance the Home's budget has been to trim expenditures to conform with what Medicaid reimburses.

The financial crunch has forced the Kutz Home's Board of Directors and staff to rethink priorities and make some very tough decisions relating to the operation of the Home. Making tough decisions is not new for us, but the crisis necessitated taking measures we would have preferred to avoid, such as reducing staff in all departments and cutting back expenditures in as many areas as possible without affecting the comfort and care of our residents. We believe these budgetary measures are taking hold and working well, and are hopeful that as of June 30, 1991, the Home will approach a balanced or break-even financial situation.

In addition to reducing expenses, the Home conducted two fund raising programs this year: The Friends of the Home Campaign and solicitation of families of residents. Many members of the community and resident family members responded generously to these campaigns. We are grateful to these donors as well as to the Auxiliary of the Kutz Home and United Way, both of which made allocations to the operation of the Home during the year.

It goes without saying that the Home simply could not exist without the support of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, which allocated \$180,550 to the Home in 1990. The Home's linkage to the Federation involves much more than the allocation of dollars. The Federation played an integral part in the planning and construction of the Kutz Home. In fact, it owns the property on which the Home stands. One-third of the Home's Board of Directors are appointed by the Federation,

and the Home is well represented on the Federation Board. The Federation is our partner in caring for our beloved residents.

The Kutz Home was more of a retirement home for active and well elderly when it opened its doors in 1960. Today's resident generally comes to us at an advanced age and with clear need for nursing care. While many of our residents are mentally alert and enjoy a wide variety of social and recreational activities, we also care for many who suffer from Alzheimer's Disease and require special services. For this reason, the Kutz Home has devoted one wing to the care of residents with Alzheimer's and related disorders. When one considers the Kutz Home's services, its Jewish values and observances, and its policy of serving residents whose financial resources are depleted, it is evident that the Home is a unique institution, and one in which our community can take great pride.

For it to have an assured future, the Home's Board and staff must work to achieve a more stable financial present. We are optimistic about the future, and also have reason to expect that demand for the Home's services will grow. For one, sociologists forecast that there will be an increased need for nursing home beds as "baby boomers" reach advanced adulthood. These future residents will live longer, too. It is sobering to note, however, that those residents will be more frail because of an increased incidence of Alzheimer's Disease and other conditions associated with aging.

The Home's physical facility is now thirty years old. While it has served the community well, furnishings and mechanical equipment must inevitably — and soon — be replaced. Because of its age, the Home is not as efficient or economical to operate as the newer, larger and comparatively more attractive facilities that have been built in the Wilmington area in recent years. The Home's Planning Committee and a special joint Jewish Federation and Kutz Home committee have been considering these factors and exploring ways in which the Jewish elderly can be most effectively served. One option, whose feasibility is currently being examined, is to extensively renovate and expand the Home at its present site; however, other options are being explored as well.

If we can leave you with only one thought, it is that the Board of Directors and staff of the Milton & Hattie Kutz Home remain committed to our mission of providing for the Jewish aged of our community. You help make our mission a reality.

We began this letter with thanks. We also conclude it with thanks for your past, present and future support.

Jack B. Jacobs
President

The Milton & Hattie Kutz Home

Op-Ed

Winning the war may have been the easy part

By MORRIS J. AMITAY

President Bush will quickly be faced with the reality that winning the war against Iraq was the easy part. Finding a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict will turn out to be a far more difficult task. As diplomacy is substituted for U.S. military might, the complexities and realities of the Middle East are certain to first stall, and then engulf any U.S. peace offensive. While the Allied Forces had an imaginative military plan for their ground offensive against Iraq, no grand strategy is apparent in the U.S. approach to the peace process. Instead, we have a pragmatic plan for a two track policy, i.e. — Israel/Arab and Israel/Palestinian. Unfortunately, it looks as though the same old tried and failed policies are being followed even in the pursuit of limited goals.

We seem to be dealing with the Arab nations as though the Gulf War had never happened. It is business as usual with Jordan with the

Administration fighting tooth and nail for every penny of U.S. aid for King Hussein over Congressional objections. Only weeks after denouncing the United States and openly siding with Iraq, the "Plucky Little King" as he used to be regularly referred to in State Department cables — is not being given even a slight slap on the wrists.

Syria, our "great ally," has already been rewarded with two billion Saudi dollars at the urging of our own government. And predictably, Hafez Assad is using these new funds to buy improved offensive missiles for anticipated use against — guess whom?

Our Saudi friends, whose forces performed dismally in combat, will be rewarded by anticipated multibillion dollar arms acquisitions, while the Administration talks about arms control in the region. These, incidentally, can be paid for by the added profits earned from its oil following the price rises last August. Now that we

saved the Kingdom, if any pressure is being applied on the King and his court to end its state of war with Israel — no results are yet apparent. In fact, it is no surprise that Prince Bandar, the peripatetic Saudi ambassador here in Washington, has stopped chasing after Jewish legislators and leadership as he did so assiduously to elicit support for military action against Saddam.

The stability of the Iraqi regime is being supported by our lack of help to the Kurds who

were given a cold shoulder by Washington before and even during the war against Iraq. These persecuted people are not being helped at all by our country in their desperate struggle against Saddam Hussein even though their claims to nationhood are so many times stronger than those for a Palestinian homeland.

Israel, which made significant, but, of course mostly secret, contributions to the allied war effort (aside from its U.S. enforced restraint),

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Yom HaAtzmaut 1991

A time of special challenges

By MARC H. TANENBAUM

Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, observed this year on April 18, will be a time of important commemoration, but also one of special challenges. The challenges flow from the fallout of the Persian Gulf war and the emergent transformations in Middle East alliances.

The heady sense of victory that followed the triumph over Saddam Hussein's aggression seems diminished in the fact of Hussein's continued survival and his ability to employ his war machine effectively against his own people.

For Israel, does that mean a reduced but continued threat in the near future? Are the United States and its allies snatching defeat from a clear victory? Do the new alliances being forged between the United States and the "moderate" Arab nations — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Gulf emirates, Egypt, and possibly even Syria — betoken a weakening of the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel? The moves to pre-position substantial American weaponry in Arab countries cannot be good news for Israel.

The peace process for resolving the Palestinian problem and bringing an end to the belligerency against Israel on the part of the Arab states will need to go forward in Israel's long-term interests. But has an international pressure cooker now been created which would compromise Israel's security, and cast the Jewish state in the role of the sole "enemy" of Middle East peace?

If none of these challenges existed today,

Israel and world Jewry would be concentrating on the immigration of thousands of Soviet Jews as the central preoccupation of Jewish life.

This host of major challenges will require a massive recommitment of Israeli and world Jewry to the historic, religious and moral meaning of Israel to Jewish existence and continuity.

Yom Ha'atzmaut is a unique time to reflect on the ultimate meaning of Israel in Jewish historic experience which transcends all the present difficulties and challenges.

Reviewing the desperate conditions of Jewry prior to the creation of Israel, Dr. Leo Pinsker, the Jewish doctor from Odessa, wrote in his classic "Auto-Emancipation," that because of the Jews's statelessness and lack of power over their lives, "the world beheld the Jewish people as the eerie figure of a corpse wandering among the living." This "ghost-phenomenon of a wandering corpse" among the nations inspired "a ghost terror, Judeophobia."

Israel's existence as a sovereign state has ended the ghostliness of the Jewish Diaspora. It is the one sure haven whose gates are open to any Jew anywhere. Yom Ha'atzmaut reminds us that Israel's existence has transformed the role of Jews as victims of history and has invested the whole of Jewry with the power of mastery over our fate and destiny. (Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, for 30 years the director of the international relations department of the American Jewish Committee, is now a lecturer, writer and consultant.)

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Sympathy isn't enough

By MOTI ZAKEN

It was just a month and a half ago that Israeli spokesmen repeatedly mentioned that Israel retains its right to defend itself against the unprovoked Scud missile attacks from Iraq. Israeli officials clarified, though, that they will choose the time and the place in which Israel will respond. Providing Israeli decision makers analyze properly the unique and complex logic of events which are taking place currently in their neighborhood, it seems that now the time to act has come. Israelis are always eager to point out to the world the complexity of the Middle East. The question remains whether the Israeli Government will agree and have the courage to comply with the following analysis.

Recently it was revealed that Israel turned down request for help from the Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barazani. Barazani visited Israel in March, seeking help, and was told, reportedly, that though Israel is sympathetic to the aspirations of Iraq's kurds, they will not provide arms without explicit approval from both Turkey and the United States, which are being urged by their Arab allies not to get involved.

In my opinion, this is not correct. Israel can and should assist the Kurdish people and their leaders. The following reasons indicate why the above statement is not entirely accurate and why the Israeli approach should be modified towards helping the Kurds.

First of all, Syria and Iran are, in fact helping and supporting the rebels in southern and northern Iraq, even if they do not admit to it. The problem is that both Syria and Iran fear any direct military confrontation with the neighboring Iraqi army. This is a point which proves that even after its defeat, Iraq remains a super power by Middle Eastern standards. If Israel would attack Iraq now it would enjoy a rare moment of silent approval from both Iran and Syria. Some sounds of discontent would probably still be heard in the Arab world, but this has never been a strong enough reason to deter Israel from action in the past. In such a unique constellation of events, Israeli action against Iraq will be more blessed than condemned.

Second, Turkey, for the first time since the Young Turks Revolution, in 1908, is expressing signs of change in its policy towards the Kurds. The Turkish president Turgut Ozal described the recent events in Iraq as a "genocide". He indicated that a military action might be the proper answer to Saddam Hussein's continued atrocities. Ozal never dreamed that Saddam's defeat would result in another threat to Turkey's sovereignty by stirring up Kurdish sentiment in its eastern provinces.

Back in January Ozal introduced legislation to permit the use of the Kurdish language in Turkey. Some say this is the first of a four stage plan to be followed by an alliance with moderate Kurdish groups in Turkey against the separatist PKK (Workers' Party of Kurdistan). Meanwhile Ozal met last month with two Iraqi Kurdish leaders, Jalal Talabani of the PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) and Mohsen Dizei of the KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party). Ozal told the Kurdish leaders that Turkey supports "the restoration of Kurdish rights in a democratic system, whether in a federal, confederal or autonomous framework." Ozal, seeing that a genocide is being committed, mentioned the military option. Israel, by acting now in order to help the Kurds, is sure to find

support among the Turks.

The third reason, not necessarily in this order of importance, is the moral issue and the special historical relations between Kurdish Jews, Israelis and Muslim Kurds. In the past, Israel demonstrated through its actions its history of compassion. In 1977 the Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin welcomed a boatload of Vietnamese refugees who had been refused shelter by all nations from whom they requested it. In the same humanitarian vein, Israel must not turn its back on the Kurds.

In the years 1950-51 the entire Kurdish Jewish community immigrated to Israel, en masse. They came from the same towns in which battles have taken place in recent weeks. Zakho, Amediya, Arbil, Dohuk, Kirkuk and Sulimaniyya. Throughout the years Israeli Kurds followed the struggle of their fellow Muslim brothers with great interest. They were worried and frustrated, as they must feel now. The late Kurdish leader Mula Mustafa Barazani visited Israel twice secretly to meet with Israeli authorities, and at the same time met his Jewish friend originally from Aqra, David Gabai, better known as "khawaja Khino." The two grew up together and developed strong ties. In the 1930s David Gabai's father, Eliyahu, the head of the Jewish community of Aqra, supplied food and aid to the Kurds who were revolting against the British. Some say that this special connection between the two families helped increase the confidence of Mula Mustafa Barazani in Israel. As a result, between the years 1965-1974 there was cooperation between Iraqi Kurds and the State of Israel. Israel was one of the few countries who assisted the Kurds; in military equipment, strategy and tactics of war, medical and technical supplies and in other ways.

In the end of 1988, thousands of Iraqi Kurds once again fled the terror of Saddam Hussein, seeking shelter in Turkey. Refugees, when speaking with Israeli reporters, asked specifically for Israel's help. Many even expressed their desire to come to Israel to live alongside their fellow Kurdish Jews. The fact that Kurds, during their hard times, think about Israel and specifically the Kurdish Jews there as a potential source of support, seems to reinforce the notion that there is a special bond between the two people. Kurds, being non-Arab Muslims, suffered both discrimination and persecution by all Arab regimes whose boundaries encompassed Kurdistan. Just as Eliyahu Gabai aided the Kurds in the 1930s and as Israel helped Mula Mustafa Barazani between 1965 and 1974, Israel has a moral obligation, with or without U.S. approval to help the son of Barazani, Mas'ud, and his people in their present plight. Nobody knows better than Israel that "sympathy" alone is not enough in the Middle East.

Perhaps to Americans Iraq is no longer a threat; for Israel Iraq is still an enemy and a dangerous opponent. The genocide that Saddam is carrying out against the Kurdish people should serve as a signal for Israel that American support is not always guaranteed and that sympathy is not enough for national survival in the Middle East.

(Moti Zaken is a Middle East scholar currently working toward a Ph.D. in Kurdish history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.)

Candle Lighting

APRIL

12TH — 7:18 PM

19TH — 7:25 PM

26TH — 7:32 PM

DELAWARE'S SYNAGOGUES

ADAS KODESCH SHEL EMETH

(Traditional)

Affiliation:

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

Rabbi Nathan N. Schorr
Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Gewirtz

SERVICES

Friday — 8 p.m.

Saturday — 8:45 a.m.

Sundays, holidays — 8 a.m.

Monday through Friday — 7:30 a.m.

Monday through Thursday — 5:45 p.m.

BETH SHOLOM

CONGREGATION OF DOVER

(Conservative)

Affiliation:

United Synagogues of America
Queen and Clara Sts.
Dover

734-5578

Rabbi Moshe Goldblum
Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Gewirtz

SERVICES

Friday — 7:30 p.m.

Saturday — 9:30 a.m.

Discussion of Torah Portion takes place
following Saturday morning service.

CONGREGATION

BETH EMETH

(Reform)

Affiliation:

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

Rabbi Peter Grumbacher
Assistant Rabbi Sarah Messinger

SERVICES

Friday — 8 p.m.

Saturday — 11 a.m.

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

CONGREGATION

BETH SHALOM

(Conservative)

Affiliation:

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

Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz
Assistant Rabbi Sarah Messinger

SERVICES

Friday — 8 p.m.

Saturday — 10 a.m.

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

MACHZIKEY HADAS

CONGREGATION

(Traditional)

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Parshat Shemini, April 13th

Of storks and strangers

By JACK RIEMER

The stork has a special place in American folklore. It has been designated, for some reason, as the bird that brings babies. In Jewish tradition, the stork also has a curious role.

In this week's Torah portion, Shemini, we find long lists of permitted animals and forbidden animals, permitted fish and forbidden fish, permitted birds and forbidden birds. Those which are permitted may be eaten, the forbidden ones are "trefe" and may not be eaten.

The stork is listed as a bird we are not allowed to eat. Now, most of us may not have a deep craving for stork meat, but we may still wonder why it was forbidden. The other birds on the list are carnivorous: they are creatures that kill other creatures. The stork is not.

It is even stranger when you know the Hebrew name for the stork — "hasidah." Hasidah comes from the word "hesed," which means "loving kindness." Could there be a nicer, more noble, name for a bird? Why should such a bird be forbidden?

The Midrash explains that this bird is called "hasidah" because it shows kindness to its own kind. And it is forbidden to us because it shows kindness only to its own kind.

The stork's sin is one that we can all identify with, that we all commit. The stork is kind, but it keeps its kindness within the club. And that, according to the Midrash, is not enough.

We all find it easier to reach out to our own family, to our own friends, than to strangers. We risk more when we know a person less. The stranger may reject our help, suspect our motives, or involve us more than we want to be involved. It is safer to keep on driving when we see a person whose car is disabled, to turn the other way when we see an altercation going on, and to mind our own business when a stranger needs our help.

But that way is no way. It leads to our becoming a society of strangers. If we do not care about each other, and if we do not share with one another, we cannot have a human society.

Dr. Max Vorspan once pointed out that, in the Bible, human concerns move out in an ever widening circle. At the beginning of the book of Genesis, Cain is taught that he is his brother's keeper. At Sinai, we are taught that we should love our neighbor. Further on, in the desert, we are taught to love the stranger, who comes and joins our community. And then, in the Book of Jonah, we are taught that we are responsible, not only for our brothers, not only for our kinsmen, not only for our neighbors, not only for strangers who join our tribes, but even for our enemies.

When a child is born, his original sin is self-centeredness. His world consists of his Self, and those around him are seen as servants who are there to meet his needs. Then gradually, as he matures, he comes to recognize a responsibility, first to his family, then to his kin, then to his community, and ultimately, if he truly matures, to all the human race.

The "hasidah" is a case of arrested development. Its ability to feel and care is limited only to those that are of its own kind. And for this shortcoming, the Torah lists it among the forbidden birds which we are not allowed to eat.

A friend once shared with me an incident that happened many years ago, when he was a student at the Seminary, and a newcomer to New York City. Some friends had persuaded him to go with them to a dance at the 92nd Street Y.

"We walked into the room, and there were dozens of people there, most of them like us — strangers in the big city, and lonely. We stood there watching the dancers and watching each other, men on one side and women on the other. Suddenly, a girl across from me broke into tears, brushed by us, and ran out of the room.

"I stood there bewildered, not knowing what to do. Should we go after her? Should we find out what the matter was? My friends talked me out of it. They asked me: what do you want to get us involved for? She might misinterpret our behavior. She may be having a fight with her boyfriend. We came here for a good time.

"They talked me out of following her. We got into the circle and danced instead. About ten minutes later we left.

"As we entered the street, we saw an ambulance pulling up, and the police bringing out a stretcher and roping off the streets. And we didn't have to ask who it was who had fallen or jumped out of the window, who it was lying there. We knew.

"Was it our fault? We hadn't done anything wrong. But we hadn't done anything at all, and that too, can be a sin. Who knows what we might have accomplished, had we been willing to get involved?"

Ever since I heard this story, every year when we come to this Torah portion and we read this law that says that the hasidah is trefe because it is kind, but only to its own kind — every year when I read that line I remember my friend, still thinking of that night, and of that girl, and of what might have been.

Parshat Shemini asks two things of us: one is that we take seriously the laws of kashrut, for they are an important part of Jewish living, and the other is something as difficult and as important as keeping kosher — that we broaden the circle of those whom we pay attention to.

Forgive me for borrowing the expression, but the slogan is too sacred to be the private property of the telephone company. All of us ought to resolve to reach out and touch someone, for there are

Continued on 32

The Rabbi Writes

Israel must make a difference

By RABBI
MOSHE GOLDBLUM

Beth Shalom Congregation of Dover

It has been pointed out quite consistently that those Jews of the U.S.S.R. who are now settling in Israel are facing a myriad of challenges: finding a job related to their training, learning Hebrew which they have never studied, moving into an individualistic economy, which is strange to them, and having to face the Scud bombs, the Katyusha rockets and the terrorist attacks from Iraq and all of their Arab neighbors.

Some Israelis believe that these experiences in war and terror may turn out to be an asset, for these new migrants will be able to assert that they, too, experienced war in Israel. It is not only the civilian soldiers in 1948, or the defense experts of 1967, or the war heroes of 1973 that can boast of having survived war, but even the refugees from the U.S.S.R. can chime in and remind the state of Israel that they too have survived the violence of 1991.

This all sounds so soothing and satisfying, and yet we cannot permit this to be the predicament of Jews living within their own state. If we are merely substituting the gas of Auschwitz for the gas of Saddam Hussein, then we have very little about which to boast. If we have exchanged the bunkers of the Warsaw ghetto for the sealed rooms of Tel Aviv, then our feelings of security have been enhanced very little. If the electrified fences of Dachau and Trablanka have been exchanged for the almost unlimited fences which contribute the eastern and northern borders of Israel, then our efforts have brought us few fruits, and they are bitter indeed.

Yom Ha-Atzmaut or Israeli Independence Day comes to remind us and to remind the world that the creation of a Jewish state must make a real difference. Yes, we could not retaliate in the concentration camps,



Rabbi Goldblum

and yes, we could not repay the Nazis for the murder of six million Jews, but that does not mean that we cannot retaliate against a Saddam Hussein when he rains missiles down on Tel Aviv and Haifa. The world turned to the Jews of Israel and asserted emphatically that it does not make any difference whether you have your own country or you are in the galut, you cannot answer back.

Yom Ha-Atzmaut comes to tell the world that the Jew is no longer willing to be a pawn on the chessboard. This modern holiday has become a symbol of a new approach. Anti-Semitism no longer has to be accepted with equanimity, and terrorism of any form cannot be tolerated. The Jew is no longer a fossil, he is standing tall, willing to make those who would like to deprive him of the right to live, to pay a very high price for their hatred and violence. The world must realize that Israel makes a difference. The claim of peace and justice, security and equality are not only idealistic goals but realistic and practical ones as well.

Judaism, Islam & Christianity to be topic of discussion

On Sunday, April 14, Limestone Presbyterian Church will host two guest speakers at both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services. The topic will be "Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, Our Relationship." Rabbi Peter Grumbacher of Congregation Beth Emeth and Dr. S. Mohammed Iqbal,

founder of the Islamic Society of Delaware, will join Dr. Lyle Dykstra, Limestone's minister, in an exploration of how these faiths understand God and how that understanding affects people's relationships to one another. Following the service, there will be a discussion.

Some plain facts

Some people avoid having a will because they do not believe they have sufficient assets to be taxable under the Federal estate tax law. Taxes are levied against the net worth of the deceased and can add up very quickly. Net worth includes assets such as life insurance, IRA proceeds, real estate owned outright or held in joint tenancy with a relative as well as jewelry, furniture, car, checking account, savings accounts, stocks and bonds, summer cottage, boat, etc.

Assets can pass tax-free to spouses. But on the death of the surviving spouse all assets above \$600,000 are taxed under the 1991 Unified Gift and Estate Tax Rates. Estate taxes are much higher than income taxes and can go as high as 55 percent for a multimillion dollar estate.

Estate taxes need not gobble up the assets of an estate. Careful financial planning which removes some of the assets through lifetime gifts to individuals and charitable organizations or through bequests in a will to a charity reduces the tax burden.

It's a plain fact that with a little foresight and professional advice there is a way to reduce those nasty estate taxes. For more information call Connie Kreshtool, Federation Endowment Director, at 478-6200.

Bush: No new neighborhoods should be built in Jerusalem

By DAVID FRIEDMAN
 WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Bush still believes Israel should not build new neighborhoods in parts of Jerusalem that Jordan held from 1949 to 1967. "The problem of settlements is a problem where we have had a difference with the Israeli government," Bush said March 28 during a "roundtable interview" at the White House with 16 journalists from religious media organizations. "We are not going to change our policy, and our policy is that beyond the so-called 'Green Line', settlements should not be expanded," he said.

The disagreement is not only about whether the Israeli government has the right to build and expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It also centers on the status of parts of Jerusalem that lie beyond the Green Line, including East Jerusalem, as well as newer neighborhoods on the north and south sides of the city.

The Bush administration regards these areas as part of the West Bank and therefore "occupied territory." Israel, which annexed East Jerusalem shortly after capturing it in 1967, considers the burgeoning united city as its capital. "I would like to hope that it will never be divided again," Bush said. "The fate of Jerusalem, the final status of Jerusalem should be handled in a negotiated manner, and certainly there will not be any dictation to the people of Israel on how that's handled."

But until that time, he said, Israel should not build in the disputed areas.

The president was responding to a question from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the only Jewish organization represented at the White House meeting. But he did not directly answer the question, which was whether the administration believes Soviet Jewish immigrants of Soviet Jews than anybody.

"The Reagan administration, of which I was a part, did pretty darn well," the president said. "But because of our relationship with the Soviet Union and because of our zeal in bringing this question to the fore, you have seen immigration in enormous numbers."

The question of Soviet Jews settling in East Jerusalem became a source of contention last year, when it became one of the reasons given for holding up U.S. guarantees for \$400 million in loans Israel sought to build housing for Soviet immigrants.

The guarantees were finally provided in February, when the Israeli government convinced the United States that it was not government policy to send Soviet Jews to the territories, even though it apparently made no such commitment about Jerusalem. Moreover, the Israeli

government has maintained that Jews are free to live anywhere they desire.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, pointed out in a telephone interview March 28 that in March 1990, Bush sent a letter to then Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.), saying that Jews have a right to live anywhere in Jerusalem. A similar letter was sent by Secretary of State James Baker to Rep. Mel Levine (D-Calif.), Hoenlein said.

Bush also stressed that he wants "to see peace in the Middle East, and I want to see peace for Israel." He said the basis for peace is U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and "we'll press for that." The resolutions call for the Israeli return of land in exchange for Arab recognition of the Jewish state's right to exist within secure boundaries.

Bush said that an Arab-Israeli peace is part of what he considers a new world order after the defeat of Iraq. "I am hopeful that our credibility in the Arab world, in the Israeli context, will enable us to bring this new world order, which is peace and respect for the other guy's territorial integrity, to Israel and to the Palestinians," he said. But he made clear that the new order will not include Saddam Hussein. "We will not, as long as I am president, have normal relations with

Iraq as long as Saddam Hussein is there," he stressed.

On domestic issues, Bush said that while he supports the separation of church and state, he believes that voluntary prayer should be allowed in the public schools. He said that is why his administration urged the U.S. Supreme Court to consider the appeal of the Providence, R.I., school board again lower-court rulings that prayers mentioning God cannot be recited at public school graduations.

The court agreed to hear the case, *Lee vs. Weisman*, next fall.

"I hope that entry of the Justice Department means we will be able to have invocations and prayers at graduations," Bush said. "I do not agree that religion has no place at graduations." The president said he still is "not comfortable" with expressing his own religious feelings in public. "I don't believe a president ought to involve himself in any way indicating a preference for a denomination," he said.

But Bush, an Episcopalian, said that both he and his wife, Barbara, want to demonstrate their belief in God. "I don't want to act that I am holier than thou or that I want to wear my religion on my sleeve," he said. "I want to do what many that have gone before me have done, and that is to try to amplify as best we can that we are one nation under God."

Jerusalem mayor writes to Bush about Soviet Jews in his city

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Mayor Teddy Kollek is trying to convince the Bush administration that Soviet Jews moving into Jerusalem's new suburbs are not being "settled in the occupied territories."

Kollek disclosed last month that he has written to President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, stressing that the newcomers in Jerusalem get none of the cash incentives and other inducements the government offers Israelis to settle in the territories. To obtain a \$400 million U.S. loan guarantee for immigrant housing, Israel pledged not to direct or encourage Soviet immigrants to settle in the territories.

But according to the U.S. government, they are settling there anyway.

The administration reported to Congress recently that four percent of the immigrants are settling across the "Green Line," the boundary separating the territories from Israel proper. The figures are from Israeli government sources. Broken down into component parts, they show that three percent of immigrants settled in the Jerusalem suburbs. The discrepancy lies in conflicting Israeli and American conceptions of Jerusalem's status.

Israel annexed East Jerusalem in 1967, uniting the city and incorporating it, under Israeli law, as part of Israel. But neither the United States nor any other country has recognized the annexation. Washington insists that the status of Jerusalem has to be settled in future negotiations.

Kollek said he did not dwell on their conflicting views in his correspondence with the president and secretary of state.

He said he pointed out, instead, that whereas settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip receive loans, grants, low-interest mortgages and significant tax breaks, residents of Jerusalem, in whatever part of the city they live, are considered under Israeli law to be living in Israel proper and get no special benefits.

57th Annual Meeting of Federation to include election of officers

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Delaware will be held on Thursday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road.

The nominating committee, chaired by Leo Zeffel, has nominated the following individuals for election to the Federation Board of Directors:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Term to expire in May 1991 | |
| Steven H. Bernhardt | Richard A. Levine |
| Jack B. Blumenfeld | Nan Lipstein |
| Steven A. Dombchik | Herbert Lubitz |
| Sheryl Fried | Barbara Schoenberg |
| Dr. Edward Goldenberg | Barry S. Seidel |
| Debra Kattler | Richard Venezky |
| Term to expire May 1992 | |
| Steven Biener | |
| Aaron Gobler | |
| Karen Moss | |
| Max Rosenberg | |

The following individuals have been nominated for election as officers of the Federation:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Steven A. Dombchik |
| Vice Presidents | Jack B. Blumenfeld |
| | Robert B. Coonin |
| | Toni Young |
| Secretary | Leslie Newman |
| Assistant Secretary | David J. Margules |
| Treasurer | Ruth Weinstein |
| Assistant Treasurer | Leslie Goldenberg |

The nominating committee, chaired by Leo Zeffel consisted of Jerome Grossman, Susan Jonas, Deane Kattler, Mark Kuller, Robert Meyer and Rhonda Shulman.

Pursuant to the bylaws of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, other nominations shall be made only by written petition by any 50 individual members of the Federation. Such petition and the written consent of the individual nominated therein to serve on the board of directors as an officer shall be sent to the secretary of the Federation at least five days before the annual meeting. Only board members may be elected to serve as officers.

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Newest American to Wilmington 'home' at last

By CELIA GANS
Special to The Jewish Voice
Twenty-one-year-old Alexander ("Sasha") Babinskaya's life during the past two years could be a samizdat (underground) novel: the hero-pro-

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Ludmilla and Lilya Babinskaya with their "hero", Alexander. (Photo: C. Gans)

tagonist (an electrical engineering student at the Moscow Polytechnical Institute) remains in USSR while his mother and sister emigrate to the United States; the hero finds himself alone in a hostile environment ("a little jail," as he calls it — a 6-floor 700-resident youth hostel), battling

secretive, unresponsive bureaucracies, in a continual state of uncertainty and great personal danger.

Finally, after three or more sets of documents are submitted, Sasha's permission to leave the Soviet Union is granted in September, 1990. When does he learn about it? In March

1991. Why? Many shoulder shrugs by office personnel and nothing else.

The next step involves endless lines to buy an airline ticket. "The line never changes," says Sasha. "It was always the same length." With help from an agency of the American Embassy, a ticket is finally bought.

And so on April 2, wearing a pair of socks "borrowed" from his late-father's sister and with two suitcases loaded with three dictionaries, two business suits (one bought with the pensions' ticket — rationing coupon — of a family friend), and all his worldly belongings, Sasha flies to Philadelphia. Met at the airport by Wilmington volunteer Malcolm Kurin, Sasha, his luggage, and a supply of Passover wine and matzoh were delivered to the Babinskaya's spacious, well-furnished Claymont apartment.

Sasha's story has not only a happy ending, but a varied and courageous group of heroines:

His mother, Ludmilla, a 29-year veteran teacher of Russian, German and Ukrainian in Soviet high schools, and his sister, Lilya, an engineering graduate who worked (illegally, without papers) as a bricklayer on the American Embassy building in Moscow and is currently a proof operator at Delaware Trust, spent hours on the telephone, submitting documents and writing letters to enlist help for Sasha.

Roberta Burman, Director of Russian Resettlement for the Jewish Family Service, also spent hours aiding and coordinating the family's efforts, her HIAS counterparts' efforts and, ultimately, the American government's efforts to release Sasha.

And Anne Gallagher, Wilmington staff aide to Senator William V. Roth Jr. and the Senator's staff in Washington, was very concerned and helpful. Gallagher, says Ludmilla, "truly understands the feelings of a mother," calling frequently to give the Babinskaya's information about Sasha's status.

The three Babinskayas are very grateful to the entire Jewish community, says Lilya — especially for its on-going support and concern.

So, now that Sasha has been in the country a week, what are his plans?

Ah, he says, maybe a brief vacation, plenty of his mother's wonderful cooking, a job, enrolling in DelTech's English as a Second Language Course and, eventually, a return to the classroom to complete his engineering degree. In addition to his course work in mathematics, engineering and basic science, Sasha has practical experience with IBM PC's and a working knowledge of C, Assembler, Basic, Fortran, and Pascal.

Lilya insists that her brother's English vocabulary is extensive. He just needs conversational practice and tutoring from TV, a 24-hour a day classroom, she says. Lilya herself is hoping to return to the classroom for additional computer classes, but will need to change jobs. Her current position involves evening hours beyond 6 p.m., when most course work begins.

Sasha's new life, admit his mother and sister, must include a Delaware driver's license. Certainly, says Sasha, as an officer (Lieutenant) in the Soviet Army (qualification: automatic rank for institute students after four courses; experience: one month of training) who can drive a Russian tank (yes, his family has a photograph to prove it) he should be skilled enough to pass the state's driving exam.

JWV ask representatives not to compromise Israel

JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Harry Fineman Post No. 525



Nathan Balick Post No. 747

Arthur Blatman Post No. 767

March 20, 1991

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

SENATOR JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

DEAR SENATOR BIDEN:

The Gulf War is now over, and the difficult tasks of peacemaking, reconstruction, and the healing of a wanton and mindless ecological disaster unparalleled in human history, are now beginning. We will never forget the moral strength and resolve of the President and the Congress of the United States of America in halting the unprovoked aggression of the Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein, nor the skill, courage and sacrifice of the men and women of Operation Desert Storm.

The outrageous attempt by Saddam Hussein to justify the destruction of his neighbor state and his attempted intimidation of other Gulf states by representing himself as the supreme commander of a "holy war" against an imperialistic West, which seems to have included Israel as well while also declaring himself the true champion of the Palestinian peoples, has been totally rejected by our President and the world community in general.

We as American war veterans of the Hebrew faith fully support President Bush in his search for a new World Order which would, among other things, bring peace and stability to the Middle East. We appreciate the magnitude and complexity of this undertaking and understand that concessions and even sacrifices may be required on the part of the nations and peoples involved. We are, however, deeply concerned that the post-war attitudes of some of Israel's neighbors, as evinced by recent public statements, seem to reflect some of Saddam Hussein's own declarations of Israel's culpability for the many problems of the Middle East.

In the implementation of the President's future program for security and peace in this troubled region, we urge you and your colleagues not to compromise Israel's right to exist as a free, democratic state within secure and defensible borders, not to deny her the right and means to defend herself if attacked. We are fully aware of your support and concern for Israel in the past and hope that this will continue through what is certain to be a difficult post-war era in the Middle East.

Sincerely,

Israel Weiner, Commander
Department of Delaware
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

The Jewish War Veterans Department of Delaware recently sent the above letter to both Delaware senators, Roth and Biden, and to Congressman Carper.

Jews welcome Vatican stand against Isabella's beatification

By **DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN**
 NEW YORK (JTA) — A potentially serious rift in Catholic-Jewish relations has been averted as a result of a Vatican panel's decision to recommend against beatifying Queen Isabella I of Spain.

The 40 bishops on the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity unanimously passed a resolution which reportedly states that the proposed beatification of Isabella contradicts current church positions on the freedom of conscience.

The resolution, which was not made public, also reportedly concludes there is no evidence that Isabella fulfills the requirements for sainthood, which include proof that the candidate performed at least two miracles during her lifetime. It also suggests her beatification would work against the Vatican's interest in promoting 1992 as the 500th anniversary of the advent of Christianity in the "new world," rather than as the dark close to the golden age of Spanish Jewry.

Isabella is viewed as a despot by both Jews and Moslems, who were subjected to torture, forced conversion and expulsion during her reign from 1474-1504. Under her leadership, the Inquisition was established in all of Spain. In 1492, Jews were required to convert to Christianity or leave Castile and Aragon. In 1502, Moslems were forced to make the same choice.

The resolution recommending against beatification was presented to Pope John Paul II.

Though the Pontifical Council has no formal jurisdiction over the Vati-

can Congregation for the Causes of Saints, which oversees the actual process of making saints, several bishops participate in both groups. The resolution carries great "moral weight," according to one Catholic theologian.

"Though it doesn't officially kill the effort, most people consider it a dead case now," said the Rev. John Pawlikowski of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Several senior American Catholic officials agreed that the beatification of Isabella is now a dead issue. They said a statement may be issued by the Vatican confirming that her cause has been "postponed indefinitely," which, in the language of the church, would mean that her case is no longer being considered.

A significant factor in the Pontifical Council's decision was said to be the outcry from Catholic, Jewish and Moslem groups around the world once news of Isabella's proposed beatification spread.

In many cases, Catholics and Jews together made their opinion clear through Vatican diplomatic channels. Jewish and Catholic leaders from Chicago sent a joint letter to Cardinal Angelo Felici of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, urging him to "put this proposal to rest in light of the significant damage it would do to contemporary interreligious relations."

Nineteen religious and community leaders signed the letter, including Rev. Daniel Montalbano, director of Catholic-Jewish relations for the Archdiocese of Chicago; Pawlikowski of the Catholic Theological Union; Michael Kotzin, director of the

Chicago Jewish Community Relations Council; and Maynard Wishner, chair of the Chicago JCRC. According to Wishner, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, a member of the Pontifical Council, introduced the resolution at the Vatican.

News of its adoption was revealed to the American Jewish community at a March 5 meeting between Bernardin and Jewish leaders in Chicago.

The Pontifical Council was formed in 1969 to implement the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, which transformed the historical attitudes of the Catholic Church toward Jews and Judaism. The pope appoints each of the 40 bishops on the body.

The Pontifical Council has under its domain the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, the group that has regular contact with world Jewry through IJCIC, the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations.

The process of making saints has been cloaked in secrecy since the Vatican first started the system early in church history. A resolution against a candidate is considered a rare and important step for the Pontifical Council.

According to Pawlikowski, Isabella's is the first cause for sainthood the Pontifical Council has even semi-publicly opposed. "Some important people in the Pontifical Council let it be known that they would welcome protest fairly early in the game. Prominent leadership within a leading Vatican office encouraged letter writing," he said. It is

"generally a very quiet process. This is rather unusual," he said.

To many of the Jewish leaders who were vocal in their opposition to Isabella's candidacy, the concern demonstrated by the Pontifical Council marks a maturation of the relationship between Catholics and Jews.

In the past, the relationship has been weakened by dispute, even broken off at times, because of controversies such as the occupation of a convent at the Auschwitz death camp by a group of Carmelite nuns and the pope's meetings with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat and Kurt Waldheim, the ex-Nazi president of Austria.

"This is an unprecedented development," declared Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, a member of the Synagogue Council of America's interreligious affairs commission and a former IJCIC chairman. "This is a remarkable victory and evidence that our relationship is really working. Without any big public demonstrations, through diplomatic channels, we communicated what a disaster Queen Isabella was to human rights," he said.

Rabbi A. James Rudin, national director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, agreed.

"This shows the vitality of our communication, and that they are very sensitive to the teachings of Vatican II," he said. "In the past, this would have been done without anyone hearing about it. Not only did we hear about it, we had many Catholic allies on this."

"The whole issue of reconciliation is being helped by this move," said

Andre Sassoon, vice president of the International Jewish Committee for Sephard '92, the yearlong commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the dispersion of Spanish Jews to other lands.

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, agreed. "It removes a potentially dangerous obstacle and is a tribute to the new dialogue we have entered into within the last year or two."

But Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of interreligious affairs for the Synagogue Council, said the Pontifical Council's resolution has less to do with Jewish objections than with Isabella's own inappropriateness as a model of sanctity. "The church is clear what the criteria for beatification are, and she doesn't fill them," he said. "Jews and Moslems were a consideration, but not a central consideration. If they felt a person deserved beatification, they would do it."

Tanenbaum urged the Vatican to make a public statement about the decision on Queen Isabella, and to follow it up with education about her role in Jewish and Moslem history, a role that is often downplayed or nearly omitted in Catholic histories of the period.

"If the Vatican does not make clear the reason for it, it will lead to widespread resentment on the part of many Catholics that the Jews are trying to manipulate the Catholic Church," he warned.



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Analysis

Demand for tough security measures tempered by U.S. push for 'gestures'

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Israeli government is facing seemingly irreconcilable pressures as it attempts to deal with the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the administered territories and Israel proper. While its own increasingly vocal right wing is demanding tough new measures against Palestinian troublemakers, the Bush administration in Washington is urging Israel ever more forcefully to extend "confidence-building" gestures to the Palestinians to advance the peace process.

The policy-making Inner Cabinet met for three hours Wednesday to discuss possible new measures, but it reached no decisions.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Police Minister Ronni Milo were instructed to draft a joint set of proposals to deal with the latest spate of Arab violence against Jews, to be submitted to the Inner Cabinet for consideration at its next session.

The ministers met March 27 under the additional strain of Jewish settler rage at the ambush murder of a 30-year-old settler, Yair Mendelsohn, whose car was riddled with bullets the night before near Ramallah, in the West Bank. That outrage followed a wave of knife attacks by Arabs on Jews in Israel proper, which has resulted in five fatalities this month alone.

The spate of violence has prompted demands for tough new security measures from right-wing Cabinet ministers. At the meeting, Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya and Rehavan Ze'evi of the Moledet party demanded the immediate expulsion of 1,000 Palestinians suspected of violence, along with their families and all known leaders of the intifada.

Ne'eman, who is minister of science and energy, referred specifically to Faisal Hussein, the East

Jerusalem activist who headed a delegation of 10 local Palestinian leaders at a March 12 meeting in Jerusalem with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Ze'evi, who holds no portfolio, delivered a scathing attack on government security policy. His party's platform favors expelling the 1.75 million Palestinians from the territories.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon of Likud took the occasion to lambast Defense Ministry policy, with the clear implication that Arens should resign. The outspoken Sharon, who was himself forced to resign as defense minister in 1982 during the Lebanon war, has made no secret that he aspires to Arens' job.

Arens, meanwhile, is reported not to see eye-to-eye with Police Minister Milo on how to protect Israeli citizens inside their own country. Milo has proposed that all unmarried Palestinian males under 30 be barred from working in or entering Israel proper from the administered territories.

According to Milo, most of the assailants in the recent knife attacks fit that category. He has the backing of Police Inspector General Ya'acov Terner. But the Defense Ministry and other security agencies oppose the idea.

IDF officers propose a drastic tightening of controls at crossing-points on the "Green Line" and a concomitant crackdown on Palestinians working inside Israel without the requisite IDF-issued passes. They would also crack down on Israeli employers who persist in ignoring the requirement for work passes.

But restrictions that would emphasize the separateness of Israel and the territories make many coalition politicians uncomfortable, particularly the Greater Israel advocates, who believe the West Bank and Gaza

Strip are as much part of Israel as Tel Aviv.

Israel's internal conflict is overshadowed by a larger one involving the United States, its primary source of political and economic support, which has a Middle East agenda of its own. Shamir irritated Washington when he dismissed Faisal Hussein and his colleagues, the group received by Baker, as creatures of the Palestine Liberation Organization unfit to talk to Israel.

That triggered an angry private response from the Bush administration. The American attitude was very much in evidence, according to Israeli media reports of a conversation March 26 between Baker and the Israeli ambassador, Zalman Shoval. According to the reports, Baker and his aides indicated they saw the Palestinian group as suitable future negotiators with both the United States and Israel.

The media reports said Baker is pushing, through Shoval, for significant Israeli "confidence-building steps" toward the Palestinians — precisely the reverse of the kind of steps that the Cabinet ministers were contemplating at their meeting here.

Shoval, on home leave for Passover, was non-committal. The Israeli media nevertheless quoted U.S. officials in Washington to the effect that Baker's meeting with him was one of the opening shots in the administration's diplomatic effort to revive the peace process in the wake of the Gulf war.

Washington hosted Osama el-Baz, the key political aide to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Adnan Abu Odeih, an adviser to King Hussein of Jordan late last month.

Those conversations are also seen to be part of the administration's game plan.

Israeli observers, meanwhile, are watching the U.S. performance in ongoing discussions at the U.N. Security Council over the pending deportation of four Palestinian activists from the Gaza Strip.

Several council members are pressing for a condemnation of Israel. The nature of the U.S. response could signal the tenor of Washington-Jerusalem relations in the immediate future.

Kuwait Excludes Jews From Bids

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — Kuwait, doubly devastated by six months of Iraqi occupation and the seven-week Persian Gulf war, is still demanding that firms submitting bids for work in that country include statements that they are not Jewish and do not employ Jews, according to Israeli officials.

The issue arises now particularly as Kuwait seeks to reconstruct its war-torn country.

The allegation that Kuwait is still asking for the affirmation of non-Jewish participation in work in the country was made by Israel's ambassador to the Netherlands, Micha Bawley, at a meeting of the Collective Israel Appeal, as the United Israel Appeal is known in Holland.

Israel's contribution to Operation Desert Storm

Besides Israel's involvement as a "frontline state" during the war in the Gulf was her maintaining a policy of restraint which helped keep the coalition together, she made the following direct contributions to the coalition forces:

Pioneer Unmanned Airborne Vehicles (UAVs) — These aided coalition forces in gathering target intelligence and acquisition.

Mine Plows — Israel provided mine plows that were used to clear paths for allied forces through Iraqi mine fields.

Portable Bridges — Mobile bridges provided by Israel were employed by the U.S. Marine Corps.

Combat Experience/Intelligence Sharing — Throughout the conflict, Israel provided information to the U.S. that assisted allied forces in attacking mobile Scud launchers.

Use of Haifa Port — U.S. ships utilized Haifa port shipyard maintenance and support on their way to the Gulf.

F-16 Conformal Fuel Tanks (CFTs) — This IAI-developed system provides substantially enhanced range with minimal performance degradation.

Patriot Enhancements — Israeli recommendations, based upon system performance observations have led to a number of software changes that make the Patriot a more capable missile defense system.

F-16 Improvements — General Dynamics has implemented a variety of Israeli modifications to improve the worldwide F-16 aircraft fleet, including structural enhancements, software changes, increased capability landing gear, radio improvements and avionics modifications.

Helicopter Night Targeting

System — This Israeli produced system increases the Cobra helicopter's night-fighting capabilities.

Canister For Tomahawk — Israeli Military Industries produced the canister for the highly successful Tomahawk cruise missile.

Night-Vision Goggles — Israel provided Night-Vision Goggles to U.S. forces.

Low Altitude Warning System — A low-altitude warning system produced and developed in Israel was utilized on Blackhawk helicopters.

Other Miscellaneous Items — Flack vests, gas masks and sandbags were provided by Israel to U.S. forces.

Street to commemorate 'Storm'

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Jerusalem municipality has decided to name a street or square in the city after Operation Desert Storm, the code name for the U.S.-led military operation that drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

The decision was made unanimously by the City Council's names committee last month. The full council is expected to approve without dissent. The street or square selected has not been announced, but a naming ceremony is expected to be held in the next few weeks.

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Support for Israel is growing at University of Delaware

By PAULA BERENGUT

Editor of The Jewish Voice

Before an audience of over 2500, Stacey Hirsch stepped up to the microphone.

"On behalf of the students and community at the University of Delaware, we would like to present you with this banner to be given to the Israeli Ambassador tomorrow night. This banner is a symbol of our solidarity and shows our continued support for the State of Israel. We are proud to play an active role in AIPAC's commitment to Israel. Thank you, AIPAC. Shalom."

Hirsch, a sophomore at the University of Delaware, was one of six U. of D. students who attended the AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) Policy Conference in Washington from March 17 through 19 and presented its Director with a banner stating support for Israel signed by Delawareans at a U. of D. rally last month.

The Delaware students joined over 800 other college students from around the United States at the annual



University of Delaware students present a banner used at a March pro-Israel rally on campus to Tom Dine (top left), Director of AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, at the organization's annual policy conference last month. The students are (from left) Miriam Gelfand, Shirah Rubin, Suzannah Richmond, Stacey Hirsch, Suzanne Borden and Michael Posner.

ity has taken place since January, according to Borden, the committee's president.

The recent activity is the work of a core group of about 15, she says, who were involved in pro-Israel activities even in high school. "The recent situation in the Middle East was certainly one reason for more support of Israel" recently on campus, says Borden, a sophomore who transferred to the university last September. But, she adds, "there was a lot of untapped interest" already here.

Borden made the initial campus contact with AIPAC last fall, she says, after reading a small ad in the Hillel newsletter. "It said, 'Wanted: AIPAC liaison.' So I called and got involved," she recalls.

DIPAC has sponsored two pro-Israel rallies on the Newark campus — the first in early February and the second early last month. There were about 50 participants in the February rally and 150 attended in March.

The group has organized itself and now operates under the direction of a board, with Borden serving as president and vice-presidents responsible for membership (Suzannah Richmond), community relations (Jeffrey Stein) and inter-university relations, networking with similar groups from nearby universities (Miriam Gelfand). Dr. Norman Schwartz of the university's Anthropology Department is serving as the group's advisor.

Office space, according to Borden, has been offered by Hillel on campus, but there have been and will be expenses for publicity, a telephone and office supplies. Borden noted that the group would like to be able to bring in speakers occasionally. A budget for allocation consideration has been submitted to the university.

It is very important to note, says Borden, that "we are not pro-Jewish. We are pro-Israel. It's an important difference because you do not need to be Jewish to support Israel." There is, she says, one member of DIPAC who is not Jewish.

Opinions vary on the degree of anti-Israel sentiment on the University of Delaware campus. Miriam Gelfand, who lives in Belmont House — the residents all being Honors students — recalls "nasty discussions about Israel and the human rights problems." These are "very intellectual students who are very open-minded in most situations," she notes, but who have been influenced, in her

opinion, by biased media reporting.

There are different opinions regarding Israel, agrees Suzannah Richmond. "And when you're confronting a group that doesn't support what you believe in, you have to be well-prepared for discussion," she says.

According to some of the students, the campus newspaper has tended to reflect a pro-Palestinian point of view and both Gelfand and Borden agreed that a course given on Arab-Israeli conflict was notorious for its pro-Arab perspective. Last fall, there was a series of anti-Semitic incidents on the campus.

"I never thought I'd get involved in anything like this," says Borden. But after only a brief involvement, she — and the other members of DIPAC — sees that they are accomplishing something. "Our presence is being felt," Borden states. "We are making a difference."

Barbara Reitzes to be installed as Hadassah Regional President

At the annual Region Spring Conference of the Northern Seaboard Region of Hadassah, Barbara Reitzes of Wilmington will be installed as President. The Conference will be held on Sunday and Monday, April 28 and 29, at the Christiana Hilton in Newark, Delaware.

The theme of this year's conference is "Hadassah Changes Face. Hadassah Faces Change." Sessions will be offered on budgeting time, working members and changing times. Speakers during the conference will include two local rabbis, Sarah Messinger and Jeffrey Eisenstat, both of whom will speak at the Installation Luncheon on April 29.

Reitzes has been President of both the Sabra Group and the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah. She has also held the position of Education Vice President for the Chapter. In the Region, she was an Area Vice President for two terms and was also the Organization Vice President. A graduate from the School of Oral Hygiene of the University of Pennsylvania, Reitzes has been a practicing dental hygienist for 28 years. She is presently employed two days a week in the dental practice of Dr. Joseph B.



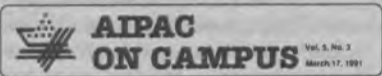
Barbara Reitzes

Dietz.

She has been married for 26 years to Marc Reitzes and is the mother of three children.

Judith Arenson and Dina Lipschultz, both of Wilmington, will also be installed as Area Vice Presidents for the Northern Seaboard Region of Hadassah. Marion Zimmerman will continue to serve as Fund Raising Chairman for the Region.

For further information, call Marion Zimmerman at 656-9070.



Israel and the United States — Partners for a Better World

By Alan Berman, Executive Director



The University of Delaware students who rallied in support of Israel last month were the front page subject of AIPAC's campus publication.

conference — more than twice the number attending in previous years.

On each of the three days of the conference, seminars designed specifically for students were held. How to deal with anti-Israel bias on campus, how to most effectively promote pro-Israel sentiment on college campuses and how to encourage voter registration among college students were the main topics discussed. The students were urged to become knowledgeable about Israel in order to be able to take the offensive — rather than the defensive — with regard to Israel in discussions on campus, according to the Delaware participants.

Communication and leadership skills were stressed and the students were encouraged to get involved in their schools' governments in order to "effect changes from the inside."

The students also joined some 2,500 other delegates to the conference in lobbying their elected officials on Capitol Hill. During one such session, U. of D. student Suzanne Borden presented Delaware Senator Bill Roth with a second banner on behalf of DIPAC and requested that he deliver it to U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney.

Those attending from Delaware are part of a larger group on the Newark campus who recently formed what is being called DIPAC (Delaware Israel Public Affairs Committee). Most of the organization's activ-

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Recycling center operates at JCC

By PAULA BERENGUT

Editor of The Jewish Voice

Despite the warmer temperatures in Wilmington over the last few weeks, six "igloos" have appeared at the Jewish Community Center. But they are the recycling — not the melting — kind.

The Jewish Community Center has joined a number of other organizations throughout the state in encouraging recycling by making these igloos available. Painted in bright colors — white, green, yellow, blue, red — the large structures have been put in place in the JCC's parking lot by the state's "Recycle Delaware" program. The igloos are marked with specific lists regarding what may be deposited. Two accept clear glass — ceramics, crystal, fluorescent bulbs, light bulbs, mirrors and window glass; others accept green glass; brown

glass; newspaper, magazines and phone books; plastic bottles — styrofoam, polystyrene, oil containers, pesticide and solvent containers; and aluminum and steel cans — aerosol and paint cans and propane cylinders.

According to Rhona Klein, Chairman of the JCC's effort to encourage recycling, "the JCC is excited and committed to doing everything possible to protect the environment."

Klein also said she is working on arranging a local door-to-door pick-up program of recyclable products.

"We will learn about perspectives of ecology and the environment in tandem with our summer camp," noted JJ Alter, director of the JCC's summer camp program. "We will be looking for ways of using and reusing our camp grounds and the things that we fill it with."



Alter said he and his day camp staff will work with the children in encouraging a "higher sensitivity to what is and what isn't thrown away." In so doing, he said, they will show a Jewish connection with the environment and demonstrate the code of living a Jewish life.

The concept of recycling, Alter added, is one that he expects to spill over from the camp day into family life, thereby encouraging entire families to become more ecology-conscious.

The igloos will be accessible during operating hours of the Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Family Campus and are located opposite the picnic area of the Jewish Family Campus.

For more information on the Recycle Delaware program, call 1-800-339-3792.

New staff member at Jewish Family Service

Jewish Family Service has announced the appointment of Irena Patsuria as Assistant Coordinator of the Russian Resettlement and Acculturation Programs.

Patsuria holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University in Russian Literature and Political Science, and an M.B.A. from Wilmington College. In addition to being fluent in Russian and English, she speaks French and Italian. Patsuria has experienced resettlement first hand, having been resettled here with her parents and brother, under the auspices of Jewish Family Service, in 1978. She is married and has a four-year old daughter.

Patsuria's previous employment was in the banking industry, which she elected to leave in order to assist Jewish Family Services with the new wave of Soviet refugees.



Irena Patsuria

Oral testimonies of survivors of Holocaust sought

Oral testimonies by Holocaust survivors and witnesses will form the record to which future generations will look to learn the truth about this most grievous event in Jewish history, according to Connie Kreshtool, staff associate to the Holocaust Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

The Halina Wand Preston Holocaust Education Committee, in cooperation with the Video Archive Project at Yale University, has videotaped the testimonies of survivors living in Delaware and of American servicemen who liberated the Nazi death camps. These videotapes will be stored in the Yale University Li-

brary for scholarly research. Copies are also available for research at the University of Delaware Library.

These personal accounts are crucial as evidence against future at-

See related story
on
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tempts to revise the facts about the Holocaust, Kreshtool said. Already there are those who are saying the Holocaust never occurred even though survivors still live among us, she added.

This project is organized under the leadership of Steven Gonzer and Rose Magel. The Committee includes Harriet Ainsbinder, Jackie Berger, Jay Cooperson, Ceceil and Fred Ehrich, Rona Finkelstein, Alan Horowitz, Kathy Kaess, Naomi Klein, Roslyn Kusheloff, Barbara Levitt, Mary Kate McDonald, Judy Melman, Judy Schwab, Joan Spiegelman and Harriet Wolfson.

The Committee has the facilities to tape several more testimonies and invites survivors or liberators to participate before the project is concluded in Delaware. Interested persons should contact the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

FBI director discusses benefits of collecting hate-crimes statistics

By DAVID FRIEDMAN
WASHINGTON (JTA) — The collecting and publishing of national statistics on hate crimes by the U.S. Justice Department will not put a stop to them, but it "will result in a greater awareness and understanding of the true dimensions of the problem nationwide," FBI Director William Sessions said last week.

He said minority groups should not look at the collection of hate crimes statistics as a "panacea" for such crimes, "which can divide a community and terrorize individuals."

The FBI began collecting hate crime statistics Jan. 1, following the signing by President Bush last April of the Hate Crime Statistics Act. The law requires the Justice Department to gather information on crimes based on prejudice against race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation. The FBI will publish the statistics as part of its annual Uniform Crime Reports.

Sessions spoke last Thursday at a news conference at FBI headquarters, attended by representatives of state and local police departments, and community and civil rights groups, including the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee.

Sessions noted that the news conference was being held on the 23rd anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., which he said demonstrated how a hate crime can "affect an entire nation."

He said today there is a "growing concern that hate-related violence has increased." He conceded that this may be due to better reporting of such crimes in recent years, but said that with the gathering of official statistics, the "full nature and full scope" of the problem can be learned.

Sessions said the success of the program will depend on local law enforcement agencies throughout the country. He said the FBI has already conducted regional training programs that have included representatives from all 50 states.

The FBI has also published a training guide on collecting the data, which was developed with ADL's assistance. For the past 12 years, ADL has published an annual report on anti-Semitic incidents throughout the country.

"We all know that prejudice and bigotry cannot be legislated, regulated or tabulated out of existence," Burton Levinson, ADL's honorary chairman, said as the news conference. He praised the FBI for using the new law "not just as an administrative responsibility, but rather as an important tool to confront violent bigotry."

"We don't need this data to prove

there is a hate crime problem in America," Levinson said. "We know that already. But legislators need this data to tailor federal and local response to hate crimes. Law enforcement officials need this data to help allocate resources and to craft strategy to prevent these crimes. The victims need to know that the law enforcement community takes these crimes seriously."

Sessions said that combating bigotry is not only up to law enforcement agencies. "I urge each and every citizen, whether civilian or sworn law enforcement (officer), whether in the private or public sector, to become more active in combating crimes spawned by bigotry and by hatred," he said.

Boston Police Department Commander William Johnson, who deals with hate crimes, said he has learned that verbal assaults can be as deadly as physical. "If you can stop at verbal assaults, maybe you won't have a physical assault," he said.

The statistics law followed a law adopted in 1988 that imposes federal criminal penalties for hate crimes against individuals or religious property and cemeteries.

James Turner, assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's civil rights division, said last week that during the last three years, the department has indicted 139 defendants in 26 states for hate crimes. Of these, 126 have been convicted, a 91 percent conviction rate.

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Jewish community mourns death of Sen. Heinz

By DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Jewish leaders have expressed their shock and grief at the death last week of Sen. John Heinz (R-Pa.), who had close ties with the Jewish community and was both a strong supporter of Israel and an ardent advocate for Soviet Jewry.

Heinz, 52, was killed April 4 when the light plane he was in collided with a helicopter over Merion, Pa., a Philadelphia suburb. The accident occurred near an elementary school, killing seven, including two school-children, both of whom were Jewish. The helicopter was sent up to check on the plane because its wheels had locked. The two collided, bursting into flames.

"The death of Sen. John Heinz is a great tragedy for the country and the Jewish community," Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Malcolm Hoenlein, its executive director, said in a statement. "He was an outstanding legislator, a true patriot, and a great friend of Israel," they said. "He will be sorely missed."

Sholom Comay, president of the American Jewish Committee, said Heinz was "a strong champion of Israel in the Senate, working to assure that Israel received vital foreign aid, diplomatic and moral support from our country."

But it was the senator's concern for the oppression of Soviet Jewry

and his efforts on behalf of their right to emigrate that he will perhaps be most remembered by the Jewish community.

Cardin, who is also chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, and Martin Wenick, its executive director, took note of this in a telegram of condolence to Heinz's widow, Teresa, and their three sons. "As we rejoice at the numbers of Soviet Jews who are now leaving the USSR to live their lives in freedom and dignity in the basic human right of free emigration, we recall Sen. Heinz's unstinting devotion to their cause, which complemented your own efforts as a co-chair of the NCSJ's Congressional Wives for Soviet Jews," the telegram said.

"We trust, too, that many refuseniks, including Maria and Vladimir Slepak, whose plight Sen. Heinz so eloquently brought to the attention of both houses of Congress, will always remember his advocacy on their behalf."

Micah Naftalin, national director of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, also recalled that Heinz's staff was one of the most helpful in Congress to Soviet Jewry advocates.

But it was not only on Israel and Soviet Jewry that he supported the Jewish community, according to Mark Talisman, Washington director of the Council of Jewish Federations. "He has been extremely close to our community on the domestic side as well as on Soviet Jewry," Talisman

said. Comay of AJCommittee noted that Heinz was "a staunch leader" on domestic issues of concern to the Jewish community. He pointed to Heinz's support of the proposed civil rights bill, aimed at decreasing racial, religious and sexual discrimination in the workplace, and his leadership in developing and monitoring programs that assist the needy.

Heinz "also played a key role in the fight against bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism as a supporter of the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act," Comay said. "I knew John Heinz personally and recall his commitment to justice, dedication to principle and willingness to take leadership," he said.

Talisman of CJF said Heinz had a "big heart" and was "a man of enormous wealth who chose to commit his life to public service."

Heinz was heir to the H.J. Heinz Co. and worked for the Pittsburgh-based firm before being elected to the House of Representatives in a 1971 special election and then to the Senate in 1976.

His death was especially tragic to the Jewish communities in Pennsylvania.

Nicholas Lane, chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, described Heinz as a "tower of strength" on the Soviet Jewry issue. "The senator always made a deliberate point to push the

Soviet Jewry cause when meeting with Soviet Officials, at a time when it was not a very popular or prominent cause," Lane said in a statement. "He did it because it was the right thing to do."

"The Jewish community greatly valued Sen. Heinz's friendship and his commitment to social justice,

human rights and the security of the State of Israel," said Paul Minkoff, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia.

Minkoff recalled that Heinz received the council's humanitarian award for his efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry in 1980.

Passover message



Wilmington drivers travelling south on Concord Pike near I-95 during the few weeks prior to Passover were reminded of the impending holiday by a billboard carrying the message: "Don't pass over Passover."

The billboard, sponsored by Chabad-Lubavitch of Delaware, is part of the Lubavitch movement's global campaign to bolster Jewish education. Before the Passover holiday, 200 billboards in 50 cities across the country were commissioned to display the message.

AT&T urges shareholders to reject halt in service to Israel

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

Special to The Jewish Voice

WASHINGTON — Directors of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) have recommended to shareholders that they vote against a proposal that the company "phase out all sales of AT&T products and services to the state of Israel and to Israeli businesses."

The proposal was submitted by The National Alliance, a shareholder, which charged that the sales "may contribute toward violations of the human rights of Palestinians."

In its notice of the 106th annual meeting April 17 in Chicago, the giant communications company said "the proponent's professed concern for human rights lacks credibility and is even misleading, given the consistent anti-Semitic bias in the proponent's literature and public statements."

"Clearly," the directors' statement in the notice added, "the proponent is using the proxy process not to attempt to advance human rights but to achieve anti-Semitic goals. Discontinuance of AT&T's international long distance service between the U.S. and Israel would only tend to undermine efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Furthermore, by discontinuing such service, AT&T would be putting itself in the inappropriate position of deciding where the millions of people who rely on this long distance service may and may not call."

AT&T reported the alliance address as a post office box in Arlington, Va., a Washington suburb. The notice also carried the Alliance's "supporting statement" for its proposal which said at the outset that the U.S. on Oct. 17, 1990, joined the

other 14 nations of the United Nations Security Council in condemning Israel's government for the deaths of "at least 21 Palestinian worshippers."

Israeli police fired in self-defense against attack by hundreds of Palestinians on the Temple Mount who turned on the police after the Palestinians had showered rocks on Jews praying at the Western Wall below the Mount.

In a letter to Robert Allen, chairman of AT&T's board, ADL's national chairman, Melvin Salberg, expressed "gratification for your recommendation to AT&T shareholders to vote against the vicious anti-Israel resolution submitted by the racist and anti-Semitic National Alliance." Salberg said the resolution "is

replete with gross distortions and misleading information regarding Israeli policy toward the Palestinian Arabs living under Israeli administration."

Salberg noted in his letter that the alliance "disseminates a wide variety of Nazi propaganda including Adolf Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' and a book entitled 'Imperium' that advocates the preservation of western culture through Hitlerian racism."

"Over the years, on several occasions, the neo-Nazi group has tried to inject its racist doctrines into AT&T policy," the letter said. "AT&T shareholders overwhelmingly rejected such attempts. We are confident that once again, under your able leadership, the National Alliance proposal will be defeated."

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Germans and Jews are in dilemma over Soviet Jews who left Israel

By DAVID KANTOR
BONN (JTA) — German officials are in a dilemma and the Jewish community has been embarrassed by some 300 Soviet Jews who came to Berlin from Israel and refuse to return there. They cannot claim refugee status because they carry Israeli identity papers, and for all practical purposes are citizens of Israel, where

they immigrated last year from the Soviet Union.

Municipal officials are saying they have no choice but to take care of them, because they will not change their minds. But according to Jewish community leaders, allowing them to stay would set a dangerous precedent.

For one thing, it could prejudice

the visa applications other Jews are making at German consulates in the Soviet Union, they recently told a local radio station.

Heinz Galinski, leader of the German Jewish community, has tried to convince them to return to Tel Aviv. He said their behavior is jeopardizing German-Israeli relations and doing harm to the German-Jewish community, but to no avail.

The Soviet Jews say they left Israel when the Persian Gulf war started in January to escape Scud missile attacks. Beyond that they have complaints about Israel and say they will not return.

Some members say they were mistreated. Some accuse the Israeli authorities of forcing newcomers to settle in the administered territories. Others say Israel did not offer job opportunities for them and their families.

One woman said she spoke a little German and could master the language quickly, whereas she had no desire or ability to study Hebrew, which is completely unfamiliar to her. Some members of the group expressed an affinity for German culture. Others said they were used to Europe's temperate climate and could not take Israel's hot weather.

Galinski angrily dismissed the complaints and called their accusations unjustified.

The situation presents a delicate issue for German-Israeli relations. At

Israel's prodding, Germany has adopted a restrictive immigration policy toward Soviet Jews.

While those who arrived here up to February will be allowed to remain, no more will be admitted unless they formally apply for visas at German consulates in the Soviet Union. Only applicants who can prove German ethnic background or who have relatives in Germany will be accepted. The policy was affirmed with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy when he visited Bonn a week ago.

The Israelis are touchy about Soviet Jews who show preference for other countries. They blame those countries for offering inducements. The Israelis reportedly advised the Germans to make clear to the Soviet Jews that they have no chance for legal status in Germany or access to financial or social assistance. "This in itself would convince them to board planes to Tel Aviv," an Israeli official was quoted as saying.

But according to German diplomatic quarters here and in Berlin, there are no plans to evacuate the 300 Jews by force.

Galinski said he would have another try at persuasion. He said he would suggest that they go back to Israel and if they still don't like it, they could apply for visas at the German Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Kahane's son follows his footsteps

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF
Special to The Jewish Voice
WASHINGTON — The son of assassinated Rabbi Meir Kahane says the Bush Administration's policy for the Middle East is biased against Israel and that his father's movement to expel Arabs from Israel and the territories will be kept alive.

"President Bush now seeks favor in the eyes of his new Arab cronies," Binyamin Ze'ev Kahane, 24, said. "America is putting its faith in unstable Arab regimes as it once supported Iraq."

"America does not need Israel and Israel does not need America," he said, in urging Israel to lessen itself from U.S. influence. "Israel must put its faith in God." Exchanging "land for peace," he also said, "is suicidal for Israel."

Kahane spoke mainly in Hebrew at a news conference March 18 at

the National Press Club. Only eight persons attended. His interpreter was David Ben Dor, a club official said.

Kahane said that "Kahane Chai" is "a movement dedicated to bring the work of Meir Kahane to life" and also that "it is only through" the Yeshiva of Jewish Ideas, founded by his father in Israel, "that we will keep my father's ideas alive."

Since the Persian Gulf War has ended the intifada "runs rampant" and Jews are being beaten and killed, he said. "Giving in to blackmail, to terror, is not a plan to peace," he said. "Israel does not owe anything to any Arab nation."

Rabbi Kahane, who founded the Jewish Defense League in 1968, was shot to death November 5 after a speech in New York. His alleged assailant is Sayyid Nosir, 35, an Egyptian, who is awaiting trial.

Israeli-Russian newspaper

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Robert Maxwell, the international newspaper tycoon, has launched a new Russian-language weekly in Israel, designed for the country's most rapidly growing market — Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Called *Vremya* (Time), it is affiliated with *Ma'ariv*, Israel's second-largest daily, in which Maxwell bought a 50 percent interest last year.

Vremya, which will also be available in the Soviet Union, is staffed mainly by Soviet immigrants. Its name is the same as that of the most popular Soviet television news program. *Vremya* faces stiff competition for readers who are for the most part of a different generation of Soviet Jews.

There is a host of Russian weeklies and periodicals and one Russian-language daily newspaper in Israel, *Nashastrana* (Our Country), which is affiliated with the Labor Party's foreign-language publishing house.

Ma'ariv's archrival, the afternoon tabloid *Yediot Achronot*, announced that its own Russian-language newspaper will appear Friday, the day the first edition of *Vremya* hits the newsstands.

The rapidly growing Russian-language press spells circulation wars at which Maxwell seems adept. The Czechoslovakian-born Jew just purchased the *Daily News*, a 75-year-old New York tabloid whose owners were about to shut it down after a bitter five-month strike.

Begin leaves hospital after long stay

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Former Prime Minister Menachem Begin may be emerging from the semireclusive lifestyle he adopted after his surprise resignation and abandonment of

politics in 1984. He broke his political silence recently in reply to reporters' questions on the occasion of his being released from Ichilov Hospital here after a seven-month stay.

The 78-year-old retired Likud leader also cracked a political joke at the expense of his longtime socialist rivals.

Begin, though frequently ill in recent years, seemed spry and completely up-to-date on what is happening in Israel and the Middle East. Asked whether Israel should agree to put the Golan Heights on the agenda in what are still hypothetical peace talks with Syria, Begin reminded the reporters that it was he who initiated the annexation of the Syrian territory in 1980.

"Permit me to point out that I was prime minister in those days. I proposed adoption of the Golan Heights

Law, which still stands," he said, adding, "I hope there will be no change."

Begin said he hoped the government would do everything possible to end the recent wave of knife attacks on Jews by Arabs in Israel. "It's a great tragedy for all those hit and for their families. I hope the government will use every means to put an end to this terrible phenomenon," he said.

Begin was transferred to Ichilov Hospital from Jerusalem last year after breaking his hip in a fall. He was under treatment in the geriatric ward and is now able to walk with the aid of a cane. As he approached his waiting car, he joked with doctors who suggested he lean on a railing. "Thanks, but I never lean to the left," said the politician, who headed Israel's first right-wing government in 1977 after 30 years of Labor Party rule.

Japanese prime minister picketed

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — More than 100 pro-Israel Christians and Jews demonstrated outside the Four Seasons Hotel in Newport Beach, Calif., last week afternoon while President Bush was meeting inside with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. The demonstrators, carrying signs such as "Stop the Boycott," were protesting the compliance by Japanese companies with the Arab-directed economic boycott of Israel.

In a report last month, the World Jewish Congress accused Japanese firms, in collusion with the Japanese government, of systematically adhering to the anti-Israel boycott.

A petition urging Japan to change its discriminatory trade practices was presented to a Japanese official, who promised to bring it to his prime minister's attention, said Mali Leitner, president of the Jewish Community Center of Orange County and one of the protesters.

The demonstration was organized, on two days' notice, by the Rev. Frank Eiklor, head of the pro-Israel Christian organization Shalom International, and Rabbi Haim Asa of Temple Beth Tikvah in Fullerton, Calif.

Bulgarian olim

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The first flight to Israel by Balkan Air, Bulgaria's national airline, landed Monday at Ben-Gurion Airport with 68 immigrants on board.

Jewish Agency officials expressed hope that at least 100 Bulgarian olim would arrive each month now that direct flights from Sofia have been established.

The Jewish Agency signed an agreement on Feb. 4 with Balkan Air to transport Bulgarian olim to Israel. Balkan Air also signed an interline agreement March 25 with El Al, Israel's national airline. El Al is expected to begin regular flights to Sofia in July.

About 1,000 Bulgarian Jews immigrated to Israel last year, according to Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz. They traveled by indirect routes in the absence of direct flights. Dinitz said he hoped a similar number would come to Israel this year.

About 5,000 Jews live in Bulgaria, most of them in Sofia, the capital.

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Kuwait, Saudi Arabia deny visas to senator because of Israel stamp

By DAVID FRIEDMAN
WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Saudi and Kuwaiti governments denied visitor's visas to Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.Y.) because his passport contained Israeli entrance stamps.

The move, a somewhat unexpected happening following the Persian Gulf war, was denounced by Melvin Salberg, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, during meetings of the group held here late last month.

Lautenberg, one of several Jewish

members of Congress who have visited the Gulf countries, was able to continue the recent tour of the Gulf states with 16 other senators after being issued a new passport by the State Department. But the action by the Saudi and Kuwaiti governments, said Salberg, "is yet another example of the Arab world's unrelenting, knee-jerk hostility toward the Jewish state and an affront to the United States, which sacrificed American lives to save Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from annihilation."

Salberg said the incident is a "set-

back" to the hopes that the two Arab countries "would take the lead in engaging in confidence-building measures with the Jewish state, in light of their experiences with Iraq."

"Confidence-building measures" is a concept invoked by Secretary of State James Baker in his recent whirlwind diplomatic tour of the Middle East in quest of a peace solution.

A spokesman for Lautenberg said the senator plans to discuss the incident with Baker and the ambassadors from the two countries.

Jewish groups urge legislation after ruling against Moslem

By HOWARD ROSENBERG
WASHINGTON (JTA) — Jewish groups are disappointed with a Supreme Court ruling March 26 exempting U.S. companies abroad from compliance with federal laws barring racial and religious discrimination. In a 6-3 decision, the high court rules against a U.S.-naturalized Moslem working for the Saudi Arabian American Oil Co., who was refused permission to take off from work on a certain Moslem holiday.

The American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith joined a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of Ali Boureslan of El Paso, Texas. The groups argued that Boureslan's rights should be protected under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

But Chief Justice William Rehnquist, writing for the majority, said there was no clear evidence that Congress intended to apply the law to U.S. companies overseas.

"Without clearer evidence of congressional intent, we are unwilling to ascribe to that body a policy which would raise difficult issues of international law by imposing this country's employment-discrimination regime upon foreign corporations operating in foreign commerce," Rehnquist wrote.

Jewish groups immediately called for legislation to make existing civil rights laws applicable to Americans working abroad.

"The language can be formulated quite easily to say that Title VII does apply to American citizens working for American companies abroad," said Samuel Rabinove, legal director

of the AJCommittee.

Steven Freeman, ADL's legal director, said such legislation is "something we would be inclined to support."

On Tuesday, Phil Baum, AJCongress associate executive director, wrote Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Texas), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), to encourage them to include such language in a major civil rights bill that is intended to reverse several recent Supreme Court rulings scaling back the use of affirmative action to help minorities gain employment and promotions.

At the start of the 102nd Con-

gress, Brooks reintroduced such a bill, which was vetoed last year by President Bush, who said he feared it would lead to minority hiring quotas. Kennedy is expected to reintroduce a similar bill in the Senate.

The Supreme Court decision, in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission vs. Aramco, upheld a 9-5 ruling against Boureslan by the 5th U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans. Joining Rehnquist in the majority were Justices Byron White, Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony Kennedy, Antonin Scalia and David Souter. Dissenting were Justices Thurgood Marshall, Harry Blackmun and John Paul Stevens.

Patriot crews leave Israel

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The close collaboration that developed between U.S. Army crews and Israel Defense Force units operating Patriot anti-missile batteries in Israel during the Persian Gulf war will continue despite the Americans' departure Monday.

They left behind two Patriot batteries, which had been operated principally by Israelis from the outset, as well as an abundance of good will and mutual respect.

Col. David Heebner, commander of the U.S. Patriot crews, praised the IDF for its "superb system, which enabled us to learn lessons very quickly and make changes" under combat conditions. "We made changes in two weeks that would have taken two years to make under normal conditions," he said at a farewell reception hosted by Mayor Arye Gurel of Haifa.

"What was learned here was beneficial throughout the forces using the Patriot system," the colonel added.

The Patriots proved effective in intercepting and destroying Iraqi Scud missiles fired at Israel during the war.

The first Patriots were rushed here from U.S. bases in Germany after the initial Scud attack on Jan. 18.

IDF soldiers had only just completed training in the United States to operate the Patriots, which Israel planned to buy long before the Gulf war started. They went through their post-graduate course under fire, said the Israeli Patriot battery commander, who for security reasons was identified only as Col. Moshe.

Before the Americans left, the U.S. and Israeli teams agreed in principle to hold cooperative meetings in the future. The idea is to exchange information gleaned from the operation of Patriot batteries in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Israel.

Passover cruise



The words "Cunard Line," for most people, evoke images of wealthy people setting out amidst showers of champagne and confetti from docks in New York City. At the moment, though, the Cunard's ship "Princess" is being used for a somewhat different and perhaps surprising purpose. The ship has been leased by the U.S. Department of Defense as a Rest and Recreation (R&R) vessel for troops in the Persian Gulf.

Even more surprisingly, the elegant ship was selected to be the site of observances for the first two days of Passover, including Seder dinners on March 29 and 30, according to Rabbi David Lapp, Director of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council.

The "Princess" was anchored off the coast of Bahrain and more than 400 persons attended Seders from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Military personnel received up to 96 hours leave to attend services and celebrate the holiday.

Troops too remote for these events were supplied with "solo seder kits" by the JWB Jewish chaplains Council.

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Behind the headlines

Common concerns bringing Jews together with array of ethnic, religious groups

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN
NEW YORK (JTA) — When Stephanie Gurwitz became director of the Rhode Island Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council five years ago, she never imagined she would be working to defend the rights of Hmong refugees from Southeast Asia.

But when the Rhode Island state coroner performed an autopsy on a dead Hmong man against his family's wishes in 1987, the CRC joined the Hmong community, the American Jewish Congress and the American Civil Liberties Union in supporting a suit against the state asserting a violation of the family's civil rights.

The CRC's interest was twofold: It was generally concerned about the violation of an ethnic minority's civil rights, and it was specifically concerned because traditional Jewish observance prohibits autopsies in most circumstances.

The Providence coalition won the court case. But the victory was short-lived.

After the Supreme Court ruled last June that states need not prove a compelling state interest before infringing on certain religious liberties, the federal district court judge who heard the Providence group's case took the unusual step of reversing his earlier ruling.

Tackling the problem another way, Gurwitz, together with Hmong, black and Jewish groups, as well as the ACLU, successfully lobbied last year for a state law prohibiting autopsy against a family's wishes family except under certain circumstances.

And the Providence CRC, with local black, Christian, Moslem and Hmong groups, is presently working on a state religious restoration act that would effectively reverse last June's Supreme Court ruling.

Providence is one of many illustrations that Jewish community relations professionals and religious leaders across the country are living out Shakespeare's truism "Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfel-

lows," as they forge relationships with ethnic and religious groups that would have been unlikely, even impossible, a short time ago.

While coalition-building has always been a strategy used by American Jewish organizations, new groups, most notably Asians and Hispanics, as well as Moslems in some areas, are emerging as important partners.

The Asian population in this country has doubled in the past decade, and the Hispanic population has increased by more than half, according to preliminary figures from the 1990 Census.

Joint action on such local issues as municipal budget cuts and intergroup tensions presents a stronger, united front to protect minority interests and is "becoming a necessity rather than stylish," said David Nussbaum, executive director of the Flint (Mich.) Jewish Federation and executive vice president of its social service agency, Jewish Social Services of Flint Inc.

Gurwitz of Providence agrees. "Everyone feels more vulnerable, more in jeopardy because of the severe economic times," she said. "We in the Jewish community have seen it historically that when economic times are bad, minorities are the scapegoats."

Citizens in Flint are facing recent 17 percent across-the-board cuts in city spending; \$40 million has been cut from the welfare budget alone.

"It will affect the federation campaign and Jewish Social Services, which will face more demand (for services) from Jews and non-Jews. And it drives up the need for private dollars as public resources dry up," Nussbaum said.

In a community of about 425,000 people overall and 2,000 Jews, "8,000 new homeless are predicted after the middle of March," he said.

The cuts will hit senior citizens hard. Fully one-third of Flint's Jews are elderly, according to Nussbaum. The 38 Soviet Jews who have settled there, with more on the way, will also be severely impacted.

Flint's crisis has galvanized groups

which in other times viewed one another with suspicion. "Native Americans, Hispanics, even the business community has gotten involved, suddenly realizing it's not just the liberal bed wetters who are getting hurt," Nussbaum explained.

"It has broken down some of the insular behavior of some of the ethnic groups when they understand that this crisis is too big to deal with by themselves."

The value of these new relationships will benefit community efforts in Flint, Nussbaum said. "It enhances the networking capabilities and understanding of each other, which falls out into other areas."

Historically one of the most important interethnic relationships has been that between the black and Jewish communities, a partnership that developed through the late 1940s, 1950s and halfway through the 1960s as blacks and Jews together built the civil rights movement.

But the groups' agendas diverged in the 1960s with the advent of the Black Power movement, the exodus of Jews from inner cities to the suburbs, and the Six-Day War, which pushed Israel to the fore of American Jewish interests.

"Problems began developing then which poison the atmosphere until today," according to Jerome Chanes, co-director for domestic concerns at the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

While there still remain issues of common interest to the American black and Jewish communities, the two groups are likely to grow even further apart.

"The chief concern of American blacks is that they're living in a society in which cities are falling apart, many families are falling apart and the schools are useless," according to Al Vorspan, a civil rights activist who is senior vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

"Economic strains lead to a lot of lashing out," he explained. "The

frustration level leads to scapegoating and bashing. Some pretty demagogic characters have emerged within the black community — people who hate whites. Anti-Semitism is growing in young and leadership blacks." By the same token, he said, "the level of stereotyping and racist comments by Jews is growing."

The Persian Gulf war drove the two communities even further apart. The war was supported by most Jews, but not by many blacks, who make up a disproportionate share of the armed forces because of the financial and educational benefits they offer.

During times like these, "it's incumbent upon us to make more of an effort and say yes we are here, yes we want to work together," said Gurwitz of Providence.

In New York, perhaps the most diverse and complicated community relations mosaic in the country, black-Jewish cooperative efforts have paid off for both groups.

When Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, was planning to come to New York last summer after being released from three decades of imprisonment, the city's black community was jubilant. But American Jewish leaders, national and local, had doubts about supporting the visit. While Mandela's importance as a symbol of freedom and hope was clear, the ANC's backing of the Palestine Liberation Organization made it difficult for many American Jews to support him openly.

Just before the trip to the United States, a group of Jewish leaders met with Mandela in Geneva, where they had the chance to share concerns and points of view. Had the Geneva meeting not occurred, "there would have been a demonstration" against Mandela, which would have undoubtedly created more friction between New York's blacks and Jews, said Michael Miller, executive director of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council.

"Many people view coalitions as compromises for the Jewish commu-

nity," said Miller. "One does not compromise principles; one accommodates for the sake of moving the community forward."

Many of the successful connections between blacks and Jews are made through interreligious efforts.

A long-running Jewish Theological Seminary program called the Louis Finkelstein Institute for Religious and Social Studies brings Conservative rabbis together with leaders from black and Hispanic churches in Harlem and the Bronx. Along with representatives of Orthodox and Quaker churches, they engage in theological discussion.

The friendships that form from these Tuesday morning breakfasts are valued even after participants leave the grounds of the Conservative seminary.

"It's extremely important in this metropolitan area with so many ethnic tensions," said Rev. Carl Flemister, chair of the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York and chair of the JTS institute's breakfast discussions. "We get invited to preach in each others' churches and synagogues, to participate in community programs," he said.

Interreligious coalitions can create interesting paradoxes, as in the case in Orange County, Calif., where there is a large community of Evangelical Christians.

While the Jewish community finds itself working against attempts by the "born again" groups to change public school curricula and defeat city resolutions relating to the civil rights of gays and lesbians, it does cooperate with the staunchly pro-Israel Christian groups on Israel-related issues.

One cooperative effort is called "Orange County Loves Israel," an annual festival celebrating the Jewish state. "The difficulty is getting other mainline church leaders to join us because of how they feel about Evangelicals, not Israel," according to Chelle Friedman, director of community and public relations for the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Orange County.

Westward migration symbolic of new direction

By TOM TUGEND
LOS ANGELES (JTA) — The shift of Jews from Eastern to Western United States is creating the first Diaspora community whose survival depends entirely on the voluntary allegiance of its members. Whether the result will be heightened Jewish consciousness or assimilation is an open question. The issue was dis-

cussed recently by Gary Rubin, national affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, addressing the group's Western regional conference in La Jolla, Calif.

Rubin noted that the Jewish population of Los Angeles is greater than those of Philadelphia and Chicago combined. More Jews live in San Francisco than in Washington or

Baltimore. More Jews call Phoenix home than Pittsburgh. There are as many Jews in San Diego as Detroit.

When Marshall Sklare published his pioneering sociological studies 40 years ago, most American Jews lived in the Eastern metropolitan corridor and the industrial Midwest. They were socially segregated, held together in part by pervasive anti-Semitism. Jews might work alongside gentiles, but they socialized exclusively with Jews.

Also, Jews shared certain attitudes and behavior patterns. Compared to gentiles, they drank less, divorced less, had fewer children, intermarried less, were more educated and more upwardly mobile, earned more, were less prejudiced, and were more inclined to vote Democratic.

None of these differences stands out today.

Anti-Semitism "has been reduced to the point where it no longer bottles

Jews up in their own community," Rubin said. Jews enjoy close personal friendships with non-Jews and live comfortably in mixed neighborhoods.

Jews retain certain cultural and social patterns, but they are less distinctive. Inter-marriage is up, particularly in Western cities. Other ethnic groups match Jews in income, low birthrates and high levels of education.

According to Rubin, Jews will retain their communal identity only "if the principles for which our people stand are so attractive that we freely choose to affirm them."

Jewish organizations will recruit members "by scaring people into being Jewish." Rather, the tie that binds, said Rubin, will be the Jews' traditional concern for social justice.

That statement is not as banal as it sounds, the AJCommittee official said. Already, long-held verities are

being subjected to often bitter dispute.

On the domestic scene, challenges are mounted to the traditional Jewish support for such causes as the civil rights movement, easing of restrictions on immigration, and separation of church and state.

With respect to Israel, Rubin observed, many Jews, especially the younger ones, will turn away from communal institutions "which too reflexively support a hard-line government without giving due consideration to the domestic debate being heard in Israel or the claims being made by Israeli human rights groups," Rubin said.

While the Western Diaspora is uniquely suited to wrestle with such issues, Rubin noted, it has not yet developed the intellectual leadership and institutional clout commensurate with its demographic size and influence.

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Challenges facing Jewish revival in USSR evident at Moscow gathering

By CHARLES HOFFMAN
MOSCOW (JTA) — Launching a religious revival among Jews in the Soviet Union is proving to be an uphill struggle, mainly because the liberalization of Soviet society has opened the way for the mass exodus of Soviet Jews.

That was evident at the second Congress of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Soviet Union held here last month.

The podium was graced by distinguished rabbis and halachic sages from Israel and the United States, who came to offer advice and encouragement. But the 200 delegates in the audience, mostly men over 60, seemed to be at a loss about what to do.

Having worked all their lives to preserve the tattered remnants of religious life in their cities and towns, when official government policy opposed all religions, they are now free to do as they please. But they do not know where to begin. Nor do they have the tools or the knowledge of Judaism to revive the synagogue as a center of communal life.

Most serious is the growing short-

age of Jews to fill the synagogues. The mass aliyah in the past year has drastically reduced the Jewish population in many areas.

In the large Ukrainian city of Kharkov, for example, over half the Jews have gone to Israel in the past year. Their departure coincided, ironically, with the government's return of the synagogue, a large building that had been used as a community gym. Kharkov's Jewish community lacks the money to restore and furnish the building or buy the ritual accessories.

The building therefore remains empty except for a small room used as a makeshift chapel, where the Torah scroll is kept in an old refrigerator instead of a proper Ark.

All over the Soviet Union, about a dozen synagogue buildings have been returned by the government in the past two years, to be used for their original purpose.

There are about 100 cities and towns with significant Jewish populations, and practically all of them now have synagogues. But apart from a dearth of congregants, there is only a handful of Soviet rabbis and reli-

gious teachers.

The Union of Jewish Religious Communities was formed about a year ago and has 77 member communities. It is headed by the leaders of Moscow's Choral Synagogue, Rabbi Avraham Shayevitch and the congregation president, Vladimir Federovsky.

Shayevitch said that the fact that "great rabbis" came to the congress from Israel and America "gives us great strength and hope for the future. Democratic change has enabled us to have ties with Jews all over the world. We expect much help from Jews abroad."

The distinguished guests included, from Israel, Sephardic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu, Haifa Chief Rabbi Shear-Yeshuv Cohn and Rishon le-Zion Chief Rabbi Simcha Hacohen Kook.

Participants from the United States included Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America; Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of Appeal of Conscience Foundation and senior rabbi of New York's Park East Synagogue; Ralph Goldman of the American Jewish Joint Distribu-

tion Committee; and rabbis from the Lubavitcher Hasidic movement Chabad.

In the past two years, Chabad and its Israeli affiliate, Shamir, composed of Soviet immigrants, have sent rabbis and teachers to several dozen Soviet communities. The chief rabbi of Kiev and the Ukraine, Rabbi Ya'acov Bleich, is a Karlin-Stolin Hasid from Brooklyn. The head of the rabbinical court of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities is Rabbi Pinhas Goldschmidt of Israel, who is also the chief halachic authority at the Moscow synagogue.

A plan was announced at the congress to create a central rabbinic authority for the Soviet Union, headed by Rabbis Goldschmidt and Shayevitch, which would work in coordination with the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. One of its tasks would be converting people of Jewish ancestry who want to immigrate to Israel.

Reciting a list of urgent needs, Shayevitch said that Soviet Jews must have more religious literature in Russian, more schools and more yeshivot. He also said there is a need to organize communal welfare for

the needy, an activity long dormant.

During the congress, the formation of a new yeshiva in Moscow was announced. It has an enrollment of 20 students from various parts of the Soviet Union. It is sponsored by Moscow's Choral Synagogue and Agudath Israel of America. One of its purposes is to train indigenous religious leaders for Soviet Jews.

Two other yeshivas in Moscow are sponsored, respectively, by Chabad and Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz of Jerusalem.

Goldschmidt, the head of the new yeshiva, appealed to the delegates to find two or three young men in their communities willing to devote themselves to five years of study, who could then return to serve their communities. "We need locally trained leaders," he stressed. "Synagogues without rabbis are dead."

The delegates were looking forward to an "invasion" of 50 emissaries from Israel who will conduct Passover seders in 30 communities.

That program, sponsored by Israel's Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Joint Distribution Committee, will also provide kosher food for 10,000 people at the seder.

Despite fears brought on by war, American aliyah is holding steady

By STEWART AIN

The New York Jewish Week

NEW YORK (JTA) — The war in the Persian Gulf prompted 25 people to cancel plans to immigrate to Israel last month, the largest number in recent memory.

But those cancellations are viewed as an anomaly, and the number of Jews making aliyah this year is not expected to be appreciably different from last year's figure of about 2,000, according to Yehuda Sharf, a representative of the Jewish Agency here.

In fact, Sharf said that roughly the same number of American Jews have been making aliyah each year for the past four years. He cited statistics that show a remarkable consistency from one year to the next.

For instance, 64 American Jews made aliyah in December, compared with 63 in 1989; 76 made aliyah in November, compared with 50 the previous year; 124 made aliyah in October compared with 118 a year earlier; 220 made aliyah in September compared with 222 the previous year; and 289 made aliyah in August vs. 264 the previous year.

By contrast, the number making aliyah in January of this year was 62 compared with 98 in January 1990.

Sharf said it is too early to know about cancellations this month, but he insisted that "people are still going. Most of them have a job waiting and close relatives, like a brother or parents, who already live there. Those who canceled said they were afraid to go now, and most of them were going without a job and to an absorption center (to learn Hebrew)."

He pointed out also that "most of those making aliyah didn't suddenly wake up one day and say they are going to move to Israel tomorrow. Young couples often plan the move for three or four years. And we have a support group that works with them on housing, jobs, education — everything they will need to know in Israel."

Among those perspective olim in Sharf's office last month was Stuart Katz. He said he is planning to make aliyah in about a year with his wife, Carol, and children Adina, 2, and Ilan, 9 months.

Katz, 27, said he is a modern-Orthodox Jew who has been planning to move to Israel "my whole life." Born in Panama, Katz attended day schools there and in San Diego. After graduating from a yeshiva high school in Chicago, Katz spent a year in Israel on a work-study program sponsored by Bnei Akiva. His wife attended the same program two years later.

"We met in Chicago in 1984 at a Bnei Akiva meeting," said Katz, who noted that they met again here when she was taking courses at Stern College and he was getting his master's degree in public health at Columbia University.

Katz said that they both knew, before they were married in 1986, that they were going to one day settle in Israel. "We want to bring our kids up there," he said. "We like the environment and the atmosphere. We believe it's a better place than the United States to bring up a family as Jewish people."

Katz said his parents are fully supportive of the move and hope to follow one day themselves. He said his wife's parents also speak of moving to Israel, but that he is not sure they will.

"They may be living their dreams through us," he said.

Katz said his wife has a sister living in Efrat in the West Bank, but that he and his wife plan to settle in the Tel Aviv area. Katz said that his wife, a native of Purchase, N.Y., has a master's degree in library science and hopes to land a job in Israel in that field.

Both Katz and his wife learned Hebrew during a year-long stay in Israel. Katz said he already has a job as a partner in an Israeli tour opera-

tion. "It was through my contacts in Bnei Akiva that I was offered the position," he said. "I'll be vice president of marketing for North America. I'm training the staff in the United States now, and once that's done we'll be going."

"If the staff had already been trained, we'd have been gone yesterday. There's no question about it. We have a lot of friends there and we are envious of them."

Sharf said most American Jews make aliyah during the summer because of the school year and the fact that so many of them have young children.

An analysis of the 2,112 people who made aliyah in 1989 found that 52 percent were single, slightly more than half were men and 14 percent were divorcees, widows or widowers. A whopping 48 percent were children under the age of 18, 22 percent were from 18 to 40, 17 percent were from 40 to 60, and 12 percent were 60 or older.

The study found also that 35 percent said they were either not observant or Reform, 34 percent identified themselves as Conservative, and the rest called themselves Orthodox. Sharf said that most of the olim with young families have relatives living in Israel.

The most recent surge in olim came from 1978 to 1982, when between 3,500 and 5,200 American Jews emigrated to Israel. Sharf attributed those relatively large numbers to a depressed American economy coupled with a booming Israeli one.

As the American economy improved after 1982, the number of American Jews making aliyah gradually declined, leveling off at 2,000 in 1986.

The recession in the United States and the prosperity that is expected in Israel as a result of the massive influx of Soviet Jews may again cause more and more American Jews to consider

making aliyah, Sharf said. "Many people believe that if you change your place (of residence), you change your luck," he said.

To encourage American Jews to make aliyah, Sharf said that in June 1989 his office provided a subsidized trip to Israel for 500 American Jews who had previously been to Israel

and said they would consider moving there. He said most of them were young, single professionals. Since the trip, 200 of them have made aliyah.

Similar trips were held in June and December, but Sharf said it is too soon to know how many more will make aliyah.

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Swedish politician: European anti-Semitism growing

By RUTH ROTHENBERG

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON (JTA) — A former deputy prime minister of Sweden active in fighting anti-Semitism offered a pessimistic forecast for the 1990s here this week at a public meeting of the European Jewish Congress Commission on Terrorism and Anti-Semitism. He predicted anti-Semitism would grow.

Per Ahlmark, a leader of Sweden's Liberal Party, is one of the non-Jewish members of the Swedish Committee on Anti-Semitism founded eight years ago. The committee was instrumental recently in silencing a viciously anti-Semitic radio station serving the Islamic community in Stockholm.

Ahlmark said that 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon, was a pivotal year marking the serious revival of anti-Semitism. Since then, Moslem immigrants have absorbed Euro-

pean anti-Semitism, which they have added to their own, while non-Moslem revisionists in Britain, France, Canada, Australia and the United States denied the occurrence of the Holocaust to a new generation with no memories of World War II.

"I am very pessimistic about this," Ahlmark said. "In Sweden, letters are now being published in the press which up to a few years ago would have been thrown straight into the (trash) bin," he said.

His committee, composed half of Jews and half non-Jews, monitors anti-Semitic articles and innuendoes in the media and tries to educate the public on the dangers of Holocaust revisionism.

In 1989, it helped persuade the chancellor of justice, Sweden's state prosecutor, to try the owner of a local radio station for racial incitement. The station, Radio Islam, broadcast to the 100,000-member Moslem

community. It was run by a Moroccan immigrant, Ahmed Rami, who became a Swedish citizen.

Rami, convicted on 17 counts, was sentenced to six months in prison. His final appeal was thrown out by the Swedish Supreme Court last December.

"What was shocking," said Ahlmark in recalling the case, "was not just the rabid anti-Semitism of calling the Holocaust a Zionist hoax and blaming the problems of the Middle East on the presence of Jews, and claiming that Judaism called for murder and sexual perversion. It was

the indifference of the Swedish press and politicians," he said.

When Swedish Moslems were asked to dissociate themselves from Radio Islam, they refused, Ahlmark added.

He stressed the need to detach criticism of Israeli government policies from Israel's and Jews' right to exist. Even low levels of anti-Semitism must not be tolerated, Ahlmark insisted.

His remarks were seconded by Hayim Pinner, secretary-general of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, who cited examples of anti-Semitic

cartoons in the British press.

A delegate from Holland said anti-Semitic groups are quick to sense any policy disagreement among Jewish leaders, and it is important therefore to present a united front.

There has been controversy among British Jews over the Board of Deputies' alleged reluctance to publicize the recent epidemic of cemetery desecrations in Britain.

Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz, president of the board, and Eric Moonman, chairman of the European Commission on Anti-Semitism, discussed the issue of copycat crimes that follow new reports of cemetery vandalism.



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Obituaries

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Wilbert R. Staub
Dr. Wilbert Robert Staub, former chief of staff of Salem County Memorial Hospital, died March 27 of cancer at his home on Bassett Road. He was 68.
Dr. Staub was the hospital's chief of medicine for 23 years and chief of staff for three years. He had a private

practice in Salem and specialized in internal medicine for 36 years. He retired in January 1990.

Before coming to Salem, he was at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and taught medical courses there.

He graduated from City College of New York, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and was a 1943 graduate of Marquette University Medical School, Milwaukee, Wis. He did his internship and residency at hospitals in New York City.

He became a fellow of the American College of Physicians in 1966. He was certified by the board of internal medicine in 1956.

He was a captain in the Army Medical Corps from 1951 to 1954, serving in Italy.

He is survived by his wife, Gladys G.; a son, Jonathan S. of Lancaster, Pa.; three daughters, Deborah A. Luft of Madison, Conn., Rebecca B. Sahl of Pittsburgh and Abigail S. Tourish of Meridian, Miss.; a sister, Helen S. Miller of Edison, N.J.; and four grandchildren.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Intensive Care Unit of Salem County Memorial Hospital.

Sylvia L. Kessler

Sylvia L. Kessler, 76, of 310 Shipley Road, Chateau Orleans, Penny Hill, died March 31 of heart failure in Riverside Hospital, where she was a patient.

Mrs. Kessler was a bookkeeper/office manager for 35 years at Delaware Candy & Tobacco Co. She retired in 1979.

She was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom and Hadassah and had volunteered at Riverside Hospital.

She is survived by a daughter, Irene E. Millius of Newark, and two grandsons.

Arrangements were made by the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

The family suggests contributions to Riverside Hospital, Wilmington.

Eleanor S. Rosenberg

Eleanor S. Rosenberg, 66, of 2016 Naamans Road, Cliff House, Brandywine Hundred, died March 31 of congestive heart failure in Wilmington Hospital, after becoming ill at home.

Mrs. Rosenberg was retired. She was a member of Jewish Community Center and Deborah.

Her husband, Charles, died in 1960.

She is survived by a son, David F. of Delwyn; a daughter Judy Brenner of Akron, Ohio; a sister, Harriet Winn of Tucson, Ariz., and six grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Pilot School Inc., 100 Garden of Eden Road, Talleyville.

Reba P. Caplan

Reba P. Caplan, 84, formerly of Wilmington, died April 2 of heart disease in Dresher Hill Nursing Home, Dresher, Pa., her residence for several months.

Mrs. Caplan and her late husband, Ben, operated Purity Beverage Co. and Uncle Ben's Beverage Co. in Wilmington.

She was a member of Wilmington Chapter of Deborah.

She is survived by a daughter, Anita Cohen of Rydal, Pa.; a brother, Iz Brenner of Philadelphia, and five grandchildren.

Miryam Fogel

Miryam Fogel, 58, of 38 Fairway Road, Newark, was found dead April 3 at home. The medical examiner is determining the cause of death.

Mrs. Fogel retired about eight years ago as an outreach worker at the state Division of Health & Social Services due to illness.

She had been involved with the Delaware Special Olympics. She was former president of the state chapter of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation and had received a 1981 Eunice Kennedy Shriver certificate of appreciation. She had been a volunteer at Head Start Day-Care Center in Wilmington.

Her husband, Maurice, died in 1980. She is survived by two sons, James H. and Daniel L., both of Newark; a daughter, Rosette Fogel Lord of Dover; a sister, Betty Finkelstein of Haifa, Israel, and a grandson.

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Napal is site of highest seder

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The "world's highest seder" was held for the fourth consecutive year last month in Katmandu, capital of Nepal, a kingdom of 18 million nestled in the Himalayan mountain range, literally at the top of the world. It was also probably one of the largest seders anywhere.

The Israeli ambassador, Shmuel Moyal, played host to about 900 guests, Israelis and other Jews, tourists, backpackers and business people, many from northern India. The Nepalese government obligingly

provided a huge tent to accommodate them.

The Brooklyn-based Lubavitcher Hasidic movement supplied the kosher-for-Pesach food. Four young emissaries of the Lubavitcher rebbe delivered a ton-and-a-half of matzah, among other items.

The Israeli envoy said he started the tradition four years ago with a modest Passover feast. In addition to inviting the small Israeli Embassy staff and their families, the Israeli ambassador posted a notice on the embassy gates welcoming any Israelis or other

Jews visiting the region. To the ambassador's surprise, more than 100 people showed up. A local hotel supplied a suitable meal, crockery and flatware.

The following year, the seder was held at a hotel. Last year, a marquee was erected on the embassy grounds.



Dear Rachel

I am a Gentile person who happens to read your newspaper because of business reasons. For those very same business reasons, a lot of Jewish people have been patronizing us of late. I have found most of the people who have come in to be bossy, opinionated, nasty, rude and unreasonable. They have reduced some of the help to tears. While I know enough Jewish people to realize that you people come in all kinds, the help doesn't. Tell your readers to take a minute to see themselves as others do. Maybe someday it will save them a lot of grief.

Busy Businessperson

Dear Busy,

I doubt that a single one of those bossy, opinionated, rude people would recognize him or herself in your description, let alone decide to change. Instead, let me share with you some of our traditions regarding a consumer's obligations.

The purchaser has an obligation to be considerate of both merchants and fellow consumers. The Mishnah and Talmud (Bava Metzia) inform us that we may not raise a merchant's expectations by asking how much something costs if we have no money or no intention of buying it. If someone is trying to buy something, we may not cut him out by buying it first. This kind of aggressive acquisition is actually considered to be wicked (Code of Jewish Law).

If all of us would practice these two simple injunctions, the marketplace would be a lot nicer to work in. And to prevent any inadvertent rudeness on your part, please be aware that Jews are sensitive to the phrase "you people".

Thanks for writing.

Rachel

Send letters to "Rachel, c/o The Jewish Voice, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, De. 19810." Names and details will be altered to protect your privacy.

We Welcome Your Opinions... Write A Letter To The Editor

Bleary-eyed Knesset approves budget with more funds for olim than defense

By DAVID LANDAU

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A half-empty plenum of bleary-eyed Knesset members voted March 21 to approve a \$30.6 billion state budget, which, for the first time in Israel's history, allocates more for immigration than defense spending. The budget is for nine months only, covering April 1 through Dec. 31.

Many Knesset members went home to sleep after a late-night session the day before. Many of those who remained dozed through the droning recitation of clauses and subclauses and had to be nudged awake by colleagues when the time came to press the button to record their vote.

The 23-14 result was a less-than-impressive victory for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government, because only 31 percent of the 120-member parliament bothered to register votes.

Military spending in the new budget accounts for \$4.8 billion, compared with \$5.5 billion to help settle Soviet immigrants this year, triple last year's allocation for aliyah, Finance Minis-

try officials said.

But the lethargy was in response to a relatively minor item. It was an expression of shame with the manner in which a mini-crisis over the allocation of funds to the institutions of the various religious parties was resolved Wednesday.

A clear majority in both major parties and in the smaller secular factions would like to do away with the unseemly haggling and political blackmail that has long governed the process.

David Magen of Likud, the minister of economics and planning, went so far as to invite the opposition Labor Party to introduce a bill to dissolve the 12th Knesset and call for early elections. He said he would try to persuade Shamir to agree, "because I am sickened to my stomach at this recurrent phenomenon."

Magen argued that new elections should be held under a reformed system, in which at least the prime minister is elected by direct ballot. He could not then be held to ransom by "every tiny party and splinter of a

party," as the prime minister is today.

Under the present system, whoever heads the list of the party garnering the most votes becomes prime minister. Since no party has ever mustered a governing majority, the prime minister depends on various splinter factions to form a coalition. When the vote is close, as in the 1988 elections, the prime minister becomes their hostage.

The budget vote was held up when two of the smaller coalition parties joined the opposition to rebel against the allocation of \$41 million in state funds to the yeshivot and other religious institutions associated with the Orthodox Shas and Agudat Yisrael parties. A motion was passed killing the allocations that the Knesset Finance Committee had approved only hours before.

Shamir was furious over the breach of coalition discipline. The dissenters were Tsomet, a two-seat faction headed by Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, and the National Religious Party, which, though Orthodox,

thought the allocations were excessive and objected to the way they were made.

Under the present system, each religious party, some little more than one-seat factions, is given state monies for religious institutions they are "close" to.

In the case of Agudat Yisrael, each of its five Knesset members has a favorite institution that he "takes care of" during the annual handout. The state comptroller, the government's fiscal watchdog, has repeatedly criticized the patronage system and urged that the allocations be based on objective criteria.

NRP leaders Zevulun Hammer and Hanan Porat agreed with that approach March 20. But they changed their votes the following day after their party was awarded an additional \$3.2 million for its religious institutions. The five-member NRP Knesset faction came under scathing criticism from the opposition for "selling out."

Hammer and Porat insisted they

still favor change. But as long as the present system prevails, they have to ensure their party is not discriminated against to the benefit of the other two more traditionalist Orthodox parties.

Eitan, however, stood fast on principle and defied Shamir to fire him from the government. He said he would not resign.

Meanwhile, the far-from-united Labor Party was put on the spot by Likud's Magen to make a decisive move for change. Were Labor to act now, it might well muster coalition support for early elections. Knesset members are angry and sentiment for electoral reform is running strong at the moment.

But if the issue is allowed to languish over the summer, the spirit of shame and resentment may fade and the major parties might prefer not to risk their ties with the religious parties, whose political clout is seen by a majority of Israelis as far out of proportion to the size of their constituency.

Walesa will fight U.N. resolution, but is vague on anti-Semitism

NEW YORK (JTA) — Polish President Lech Walesa pledged last month to work to overturn the infamous 1975 U.N. General Assembly resolution denigrating Zionism as a form of racism. He also vowed to extend government protection to Jewish sites in Poland.

Walesa said he would raise the issue of overturning the Zionism resolution with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with whom he met following a gathering here with several dozen American Jewish leaders under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress on March 26.

Poland joined those supporting the

resolution when it came up for a vote on Nov. 10, 1975.

Walesa also said that a law to protect Jewish sites, including synagogues and cemeteries, is currently being considered by the Polish parliament. "If I had it in front of me, I would sign it (into law) right now," he said.

Walesa, the Solidarity trade union leader who got his start in the Gdansk shipyards, arrived here on the last leg of his first trip to the United States as a head of state.

He was in Chicago on March 24, where he met at the Polish Consulate with a delegation of American Jewish Committee leaders. He invited

the group's president, Sholom Comay, and its director of interreligious affairs, Rabbi A. James Rudin, to Warsaw to begin a more extensive exchange of concerns. The group hopes to discuss the findings of a survey it has just completed on Polish attitudes toward Jews and Judaism.

Walesa also met last week in Washington with a group of Holocaust survivors at a meeting arranged by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

At his appearance here, the Polish president asked American Jews to "go forward, do not look back into darkness" in their relationship with Poland.

Sam Bloch, senior vice president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, urged Walesa to "personally speak out to the Polish nation about repeated acts of bigotry," and "to teach them that hatred of Jews is un-Christian in the spirit of Vatican Council II."

Walesa dismissed Bloch's suggestions as "a politician's slogans" and then asked the Jewish leaders to "give me ways of solving this, and I will do it, I promise you."

While Walesa recently announced the creation of a presidential task force to combat anti-Semitism, he did not answer a question about what

specific first steps it will take. He promised to "oppose anti-Semitism with all my authority," but was clearly frustrated when several American Jewish leaders asked for a more concrete illustration of his plans.

"I will be where anti-Semitism is. I cannot give you more," the Polish president said. "If I could be a Jew, frankly, I would, and I would shout to all the world, 'I'm proud to be from the chosen people!'"

To that, one Jewish leader said, "You wouldn't want to. It's not easy to be a Jew."

"It's not easy to be a Pole either," Walesa shot back.

Jewish students at University of Houston forced to remove Jerusalem, Masada posters

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

Special to The Jewish Voice

University of Houston authorities have informed the school's Hillel Foundation and the city's Jewish Federation that they will review charges of harassment of Jewish student groups at Food Fairs sponsored there by the International Student Organization (ISO).

The Jewish officials agreed to the university's request for a written report after the students had complied with demands by Arab students and the ISO to remove foods and decorations they had on display at their exhibition booths at the fairs.

Prior to a meeting with the university authorities, Houston Hillel's executive director, Rabbi Stuart Federow, and its assistant director, Marsha Schneider, had stated in an article under their name in *The Jewish Herald-Voice* in Houston that "at every Food Fair the Students for Israel and the University of Houston Hillel are unjustly harassed by those who run ISO for the way in which these Jewish students wish to decorate their booth and for the foods they wish to sell."

The ISO at Houston comprises groups of students with a tie to a nation or to an ethnic culture. Its members include the Students for Israel, which is sponsored by Hillel;

the General Union of Palestinian Students, the Moslem Student Union, and group representing many nations including Pakistan, German, India and Mexico.

Every semester the ISO sponsors a Food Fair in which groups build booths, decorate them in a way to reflect the country they represent and sell foods indicative of that country's cuisine.

Last semester the ISO told the Jewish students they could not sell hummus, tehina or felafel because "these dishes are Arabic and not Israeli" and that they could not show pictures of "the occupied territories" including the walled Old City of Jerusalem because these belonged to Jordan and not to Israel," Federow and Schneider wrote.

Nevertheless, the students put up travel posters showing the Old City of Jerusalem and Masada and the Dead Sea among others. The only protests were from individual Arab students who charged they had no right to sell "their Arabic food." The Jewish students asked them whether spaghetti was Italian or Chinese since Marco Polo brought pasta from the Orient to Italy. "They walked away unconvinced," the article said of the protestors.

On March 6, the Jewish students put up the same booth. An ISO co-

president ordered them to remove the posters of the Old City of Jerusalem or they would be expelled from ISO for two years and fined \$50, the deposit required to take part in the Food Fair. Under protest, the Jewish students took down the Old City posters.

About 15 minutes later, the Food Fair advisor told the students that the ISO demanded that they remove the Masada and Dead Sea posters because they, too, were part of the "occupied territories." The article said "this time, the students refused to remove the posters, protesting that neither Massada nor the Dead Sea were ever part of the disputed lands." However, they later complied with the demand.

At a meeting with the school's authorities, requested by Hillel, the university's vice president for student affairs, Dr. Roland Smith, asked for an outline in writing of the problems at the affair and said that a ruling would be made on future exhibits after he also received testimony from other interested persons.

Attending the meeting in addition to Smith were the dean of student affairs, the counsel to the director of student affairs, Federow, Schneider and the executive director of the Houston Jewish Federation's community relations committee.

Joseph Samuels, publisher of the *The Jewish Herald-Voice*, noted in an interview that, after Arab pressure, the university's board of Regents did not permit showing of the film "Death of a Princess" that had been presented on the Public Broadcasting Service. The film told the story of a Saudi Arabian princess that illustrated the country's backward situation in relation to treatment of women. Saudi Arabia has contributed gifts to the Houston community and the university.

The Houston Museum of Fine Arts reportedly turned down an invitation

to present "The Precious Legacy," an exhibit of Czechoslovakia's Jews and the Holocaust." The Delgado Museum in New Orleans showed the exhibit but reportedly would not allow Benjamin Netanyahu, now the deputy foreign minister of Israel, to speak in the area in which the exhibit was set up. It was said that Czechoslovakian officials had protested his participation at the exhibit because that country and Israel did not have, at that time, diplomatic relations. However, Netanyahu was permitted to speak in another part of the museum.

Agency reopens in Romania

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Romanian office of the Jewish Agency for Israel, shut down during 40 years of Communist rule, was reopened Sunday in Bucharest. The ceremonies were attended by the country's chief rabbi, Moses Rosen, who affixed a mezuzah to the doorpost.

The office was officially reopened by Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, in the presence of representatives of Romania's Jewish community.

About 50,000 immigrants passed through Bucharest during the past

year, most of them Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel.

Dinitz expressed the hope that it would also become "warm house" providing educational services for those of Romania's 20,000 Jews planning to emigrate and that Bucharest would continue to serve as a transit center for Soviet Jews going to Israel.

Until the overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in December 1989, Romania was the only Communist bloc country to maintain diplomatic relations with Israel. Relations between the two countries continue to be friendly.

Focus on JFD agencies

A column written by the agencies

Helping to begin a life anew in America

World Jewry will never be the same, and you have played an important part in making a significant difference.

Jewish Family Service Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers have worked literally day and night to resettle dozens of Soviet Jews. Ask anyone who helped... it is a labor of love. This is an important moment in history which continues with anticipation of more new arrivals.

Resettlement in the Wilmington Jewish community is successful because so many people have volunteered to help. "We couldn't have done it without you!" American families play an important role in helping Soviet families ease their adjustment to this new and often alien society. Volunteers continue to be vital in helping find and develop jobs. Without employment, families feel lost, helpless, an ashamed.

The process of resettling a family can begin as much as two years prior to actual arrival. We first assist relatives who are asking to be reunited with family members. We help them fill out all the complicated documents required by the government. We then follow each case closely through application, acceptance, resettlement, and, finally, acculturation. The acculturation extends to those who arrived in prior years, as well as to those who are new to Wilmington.

This time we decided to ask those who were helped by Jewish Family Service in their resettlement and acculturation what they think and feel about their new life in America. We asked Ludmilla Babinskaya, who resettled in Wilmington a year ago, to interview other Soviet families. Here is what they say:

All families were first of all impressed with the warm welcome they received from Jewish Family Service and the Jewish community when they arrived in Wilmington. They all express gratitude for the nice, comfortable, furnished apartments, with refrigerators filled with food, that were waiting for them when they arrived.

As Ilya Galperin puts it, "We could not believe our eyes when we walked in the first time. We had everything — furniture, dishes, pots and pans, linens — every little detail was taken care of. In short, we arrived here and

right away had a 'home' that we could live in!"

They all also express their thanks for the education their younger children received at the Jewish Community Center and the Albert Einstein Academy, free for the first year, as well as the one-year family membership at the JCC.

Emiliya Nabutovsky also adds, "Since all refugees have problems with transportation, we were very grateful for the car that someone donated to us."

All agree that learning English is essential to becoming fully independent in this country, both financially and emotionally. "If I could turn the clock back," says Emiliya Nabutovsky, "I would spend much more time studying English before coming here." Maria Livanov agrees, "Language is the biggest problem facing the newly-arrived. If I knew that in the Soviet Union, I would have spent day and night studying English before coming here." Alex Shtarker's recommendation to future refugees is, "Bring knowledge of English." Jewish Family Service provides a great deal of assistance to the Soviet refugees in their effort to learn English. Adults are enrolled in CITE language classes; volunteer tutors visit families once or twice a week to teach English. And, this is not the only thing volunteers do in helping new families. Olga Dolinsky notes, "Volunteers helped us, and now help my parents with English. But they also help my parents with taking the driver's license test, with transportation, and visits to the doctors."

Employment is another area where Soviet refugees get vital assistance from Jewish Family Service. Olga Dolinsky remembers, "Jewish Family Service placed an ad in the newspaper and listed the names of all recent Soviet refugees and their professions. We got a call from somebody in the community who introduced us to people who eventually employed us. We both work now, and have jobs in our chosen professions." Alex Shtarker, who is a mechanical engineer, also received assistance from Jewish Family Service in finding a job. He says, "I work in my chosen profession now, and I am very happy with my job." According to Ilya Galperin, "Jewish Family

Service helped my son, Joseph, to find a job," as well.

But not everybody has such success stories to report. Ludmilla Babinskaya confides, "My daughter works for a bank as a data entry clerk. She is a trained electrical engineer, and hopes for more challenging work in the near future. It is much more difficult for me. After 29 years as a teacher in the Soviet high school, I have a problem with finding a job here — my English and my age make it very difficult." Emiliya Nabutovsky says, "I used to work as a computer programmer in the Soviet Union. Here I completed banking courses, but so far I am not able to find a job in either profession. My husband, though, has a good job. He is an electrical engineer, and he works in his field and really enjoys it."

Maria Livanov describes their situation: "We do not have financial difficulties in America. Our children have a future here. But we do have emotional problems. My husband had a nice job in the Soviet Union — he was a doctor; I was an engineer. But here we cannot find jobs in our respective professions. I work in a store. My husband completed a truck driving course, but didn't find a job in that profession yet. Despite these difficulties, we still feel that our hopes for life in this country were fulfilled. We could not remain in the Soviet Union because of the political atmosphere there. The circumstances there were getting worse every day — there were demonstrations, murders, and pogroms in our hometown of Bacu."

The two newest families — Ayzenshteyn/Gesterak and Gomer/Shulkov — which arrived in the United States in January 1991, are just beginning the process of looking for jobs. Their English skills are improving daily. They are all hard-working people and are anxious to become financially independent. Izya Gomer describes their plans for the future. "Our daughter, Svetlana, wants to continue her education in college. My son-in-law and I will work to support the family." David Gesterak hopes to pursue a business management career, having managed his own construction business in the Soviet Union. He is very optimistic about his future, and that of his family. He says, "My son, Vladislav, wants to

study to become a doctor — to be a productive member of our community. There are no obstacles for the Jewish people to getting accepted to universities in America, unlike in the Soviet Union. My goal is to learn the language, to find a job, to become a United States citizen, and to contribute my best to this country."

Learning English and finding a job are the primary concerns for new Americans, but one thing everyone of them appreciates the most in America is freedom, especially the freedom to be Jewish. As Ludmilla Babinskaya puts it, "In the Soviet Union, Jewish people are second-class citizens. In every aspect of political and social life there is a quota for Jews. It is so different in the U.S. At first it was even strange for us that there are shows on TV about Jewish people of America and Israel, there are synagogues everywhere. One can talk freely about Jews and their life in this beautiful country. We never had articles written about us in the Soviet Union, but here we had a chance to read about ourselves in the newspapers. We even sent these articles to our friends in the Soviet Union — our friends could not believe their eyes."

Ilya Galperin agrees. "We are grateful to Jewish Family Service for getting us involved in the Jewish life here. In the Soviet Union everything Jewish is forbidden. You could say that Jewish culture is dead there. But in the U.S. Jewish people live freely and never feel as second-class citizens. Everybody, young and old, has an opportunity to know and live a Jewish life."

David Gesterak adds, "Thanks to Roberta Burman and Rachel Yoskowitz, we now understand how the Jewish community of Wilmington functions. The Jewish community here makes us feel comfortable being Jewish, something we never had in the Soviet Union."

In addition to Jewish education, Jewish Family Service provides various other educational and entertainment programs for new Americans. Shtarker notes, "Jewish Family Service takes care of our cultural life as well. We get tickets donated to us for theater shows and concerts." David Gesterak and his family participate in the musical programs in the JCC and

synagogues. All new residents report going to synagogues and the JCC often.

Despite all the difficulties — and there are many of them — new Americans are happy with their decision to come to this country. They are hopeful for themselves and their children. "My children like Wilmington," says Emiliya Nabutovsky. "My daughter, Yelena, has many friends. We have a lot of American friends. American people are very friendly and warm. We only regret not coming here 10 years ago!" Olga Dolinsky describes their life here, "We travel a lot and we see a lot of new things. We have many American friends. In the Soviet Union, we had to live with my parents and count on their support. Now we live in a separate beautiful apartment and are financially independent."

Ludmilla Babinskaya adds, "Propaganda in the Soviet Union always described 'the terrible life' in the United States. But we see with our own eyes now that America is really a free country, ready to help the people of all other countries, especially Jewish people. My only regrets are for so many good people that are still remaining in the Soviet Union. These people could contribute a lot to this country or Israel. And, another thing, 'It is so much better to come to this country when you are young'."

All of us must use patience and understanding when helping these newcomers as they struggle to begin life anew in America. Our experience is that a friendly, open, Jewish community, committed to long-term resettlement activities and continuous community involvement, will see more and more refugee families joining synagogues, donating to the Jewish Federation, participating at the Jewish Community Center, and enrolling their children in Hebrew Day School. Every investment of time, effort and resources in these newcomers will surely reflect in a more vital and enriched Jewish community.

Jewish Family Service continues to welcome your help in connecting these newcomers with job opportunities. Please call 478-3906 to share your ideas.

Israel gets \$400 million for immigrant housing

By HOWARD ROSENBERG
WASHINGTON (JTA) — Wall Street investors sunk their teeth last week into \$400 million worth of U.S. government-guaranteed securities that will finance the construction of housing and infrastructure for Soviet Jewish immigrants in Israel.

The Israeli government received the \$400 million Tuesday, 10 months after President Bush signed into law a bill that promised U.S. guarantees for the securities.

In an unrelated development, Israel will shortly receive an additional \$650 million of military aid from the United States, contained in a multi-billion-dollar Operation Desert Storm emergency spending bill that Bush signed last week.

Those investing in the \$400 million were primarily large institutional investors, such as pension funds and insurance companies, said Frederick

Khedouri, senior managing director at Bear Stearns & Co., a co-underwriter of the deal.

Investors bought securities that range in interest rates from 7.8 percent in the short term to 8.6 percent for 30-year investments. "We think we got (the Israelis) as low a rate (of interest) as could have been gotten," Khedouri said.

Magen Altuvia, assistant economic minister at the Israeli Embassy here, called the interest rate terms "very good. We see it as a basis for future transactions like this," he said. Altuvia predicted that the \$400 million would be spent within two years. The money will pay for immigrant mortgages as well as for collateral for new public works projects.

Paul Berger, senior partner at Arnold & Porter, which represented Israel in the transaction, said the Jewish state will save \$25 million to

\$50 million over what it would have had to pay in interest without U.S. government backing.

Among the securities purchasers was New York's pension fund, which made a \$12 million investment, announced last week by City Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman.

Despite the reputation that Israeli ventures have as being not especially lucrative, investors in the \$400 million will receive a return of one-third of 1 percent higher than those who invested last week in 30-year U.S. Treasury Bonds. The \$400 million is a mere pittance compared to the \$10 billion in U.S.-backed loan guarantees that Israeli officials have projected they will need from the United States to meet immigrant absorption needs over the next five years.

But under a bilateral agreement announced Feb. 20, Israel pledged not to ask Congress or Bush for any

more loan guarantees until after Labor Day.

Altuvia said that in addition to the \$10 billion in guarantees Israel wants from the United States over the next five years, it will seek \$20 billion from Jewish communities around the world and \$10 billion from European and other friendly countries. The \$400 million securities sale for Israel "is an extremely viable approach, and it could be duplicated," Khedouri said. So long as future proposed loans to Israel are backed by the U.S. government, the size of such loans "would not be a problem" for attracting investors, he said.

The sale comes three years after Israel restructured \$5.5 billion in foreign military sales debt to the U.S. government under a plan pushed through Congress by Sens. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Robert Kasten (R-Wis.). Those debt securities sales

were 90 percent guaranteed by the U.S. government, with four other countries also restructuring their debts: Greece, Jordan, Tunisia and Turkey.

The Israeli package dwarfs all other Wall Street sales of U.S.-backed securities for foreign governments, Khedouri said.

The State Department's Agency for International Development, which is overseeing the \$400 million in loans to Israel, has authority to issue other loans only up to a maximum of \$25 million per country, he said.

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Announcements/Events

Naches

Galperin/Messenger

Nancy Galperin and Phillip Steven Messenger were married Feb. 10 in Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Wilmington.

Their parents are Henry and Ruth Galperin of Wilmington and Barbara and David Messenger of Whitestone, N.Y.

The bride, a graduate of Mount Pleasant High School, Palm Beach Junior College and American University, works for Mount Sinai Hospital. A graduate of American University and Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, the groom is a podiatrist. The couple will live in Queens, N.Y.

Kerbel/Balk

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kerbel of Wilmington, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Debbie, to Mark Balk, son of Dr. Trudy Balk of Flushing, New York, and Mr. Ivan Balk of Baltimore, Maryland. A June 1992 wedding is planned.

Samuels/Hamermesh

Dr. and Mrs. Michael R. Samuels announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Beth, to David J. Hamermesh, son of Professor and Mrs. Daniel S. Hamermesh of East Lansing, Michigan.

Amy is a graduate student in applied linguistics at the University of Michigan, and David is a graduate student in archaeology there.

A December 22 wedding is planned at Temple Beth El in Newark.

Governor's Awards

Among the ten individual recipients of the 1991 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Awards are Dr. David Platt, of Wilmington, and Barry S. Bernstein, of Wallingford, PA. Platt was nominated by the State Department of Health and Social Services. Bernstein was nominated by the State of Delaware Juvenile Probation and Aftercare. Awards are based on "outstanding examples of volunteer accomplishments" and are determined by an Awards Selection Committee. Awards will be presented at the ninth annual awards dinner to be held at the Radisson Hotel on April 29.

Put your good news in the 'Naches' column! Announcements should be typed and sent to:

The Jewish Voice
101 Garden of Eden Rd.
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There is no charge for this service; photographs may be published for a \$15 fee.

How do you spell peace/piece?

By FRANCES RATNER

Should Israel give up land in exchange for peace? Representatives from two groups with radically different views on that question will square off against each other in a May 2 program at the Jewish Community Center.

The program, entitled "How Do You Spell Peace/Piece?" will feature Philadelphia businessman Steve Jacobs and Rabbi Brian Walt. Jacobs is a representative of "Americans For a Safe Israel" (AFSI), a group which supports an unconditional "peace for peace" between the Arab states and Israel and rejects exchanging land for peace. Rabbi Walt represents "Americans for Peace Now" (APN), an organization which opposes Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

"Now that the Gulf War is over, the world is focusing its attention on the Israeli-Arab conflict," according to Suzanne Grant, chairperson of the Community and Political Involvement Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware Young Leadership Cabinet, sponsor of the program. "The key issue is whether Israel should give up the occupied territories in



Steven S. Jacobs

exchange for peace. This program will provide opinions from both ends of the spectrum and will allow the audience members to decide for themselves."

AFSI believes that Israel has the right to annex Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. The organization believes that Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria will protect against Israel's strategic vulnerability and may rejuvenate the Zionist movement. Jacobs'



Rabbi Brian Walt

presentation will include a showing of "The Strategic Edge," a 30-minute film produced by the Israel Defense Force and narrated by Topol.

APN views Israeli settlement in the occupied territories as a major obstacle to peace. APN works in partnership with Shalom Achshav (Peace Now), Israel's largest peace organization. One of Peace Now's projects is "Settlement Watch," which monitors and publicizes all settlement

activity in the territories.

In addition to his work with AFSI, Jacobs has worked for AMPAL, a subsidiary of Israel's largest banking organization. He has also helped deprogram Jews who have fallen prey to missionaries.

Walt was born in South Africa where he participated in the struggle against apartheid. He received his rabbinical training at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and in 1988 founded Mishkan Shalom, a progressive synagogue in Havertown, Pa., devoted to the combination of social activism with spiritual life. He is one of the authors of "The Seder of the Children of Abraham," a Passover haggadah dedicated to peace between Jews and Arabs.

The program, which is open to the entire community, will begin at 7:15 p.m.

The JFD Young Leadership Cabinet, established in 1989, is designed to connect young adults with the organized Jewish community. For more information about the May 2 program, please contact Brian Abrams at 791-0690 or Seth Bloom, JFD Director of Community Development, at 478-6200.

Business group sponsors talk on M.E.

Business Executives with Nuclear Age Concerns (BENAC) is sponsoring a presentation entitled "The Middle East: Prelude to a New World Order." The guest speaker will be Robert Ricigliano a staff consultant with Conflict Management Group

ware. The program is free and open to the public.

Ricigliano will provide both conceptual and practical methods for managing the conflicting interests that have existed and continue to exist throughout the Middle East.

and Associate Director of the Harvard Negotiation Project. The program will take place on Monday, April 22, 1991, at 7:30 p.m. The presentation will be held at the Delaware Academy of Medicine, 1925 Lovering Ave., Wilmington, Dela-

According to Ricigliano, "Conflicts are never really resolved. What's important is how they are handled over time." In his presentation, he will explore what a good process might look like in the Middle East for reducing conflict.

For additional information, contact Mike Sheffield at 302-322-8454 or Ted Wilson at 302-762-5353.

BENAC is a non-partisan, non-profit organization of business leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals formed to explore and support a transition from a military oriented economy to a peace economy which advances common global security. BENAC sponsors meetings and seminars with government leaders, industry leaders, and the nation's leading educators.

Emmanuel Dining Room gala

The Emmanuel Dining Room will hold its ninth annual fundraising gala and auction on Sunday evening, May 12 at the DuPont Country Club.

Called "Bidding on the Brandywine," the event will begin at 5 p.m., with a silent auction, during which time patrons will be offered an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and entertainment. The main auction, beginning at 6:30 p.m., will feature many items, all of which have been donated. Early items include a Gulbransen organ, a sculpture by Wilmington artist Charles Parks, original works of art, Oriental carpets, theater tickets, health club memberships, jewelry, vacation packages and dinners courtesy of some of Wilmington's restaurants. Tickets to the event are \$35.

The climax of the evening will be a grand raffle drawing with a first prize

of \$20,000; there are second and third prizes of \$500 and \$100 respectively. Raffle ticket sales are limited to 600 at \$100 each.

Once again, the auctioneer will be Hockessin's John McGrellis. Co-chairmen for the event are Jimmy Gambacorta and Lou Goorland.

The Emmanuel Dining Room is operated by the Ministry of Caring, a non-profit, tax exempt organization whose sole purpose is to minister to the poor. Since its founding in 1979, the EDR has been serving meals to Wilmington's working poor, the unemployed and the homeless. It has since expanded to three dining rooms, serving approximately 175,000 meals annually. The Second and Jackson street site serve a midday dinner seven days a week, and breakfast on three days.

EDR is an interfaith organization,

where all denominations are represented. All of the food is prepared and served by individuals from the various church and temple groups, according to Brother Robert Artman, dining room director.

For additional information about "Bidding on the Brandywine" or the Emmanuel Dining Room, call 652-3228.

KYW's Howard Joffe to speak at Hadassah Donor Dinner

The Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah has announced the appearance of Howard Joffe, news reporter for Philadelphia's KWTN-TV Eyewitness News and Troubleshooter 3, at the Annual Donor Dinner to be held at the DuPont Country Club on Monday evening, April 22, at 6:30 p.m.

Prior to the Dinner, a cocktail party fundraiser will be held at the home of Myrna Rubenstein. The funds are being raised for an emergency campaign to support Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. In response to the threat of chemical warfare by Saddam Hussein and the recent Scud missile attacks on Israel,

"it is crucial to support Hadassah," according to Major Gifts Chairperson Judy Stiebel. The hospital spent over \$3 million in preparation for a potential chemical attack, Stiebel said.

There is a minimum donation of \$100 to attend the cocktail party. The cost to attend the Donor Dinner is \$50 (minimum) and there is a \$20 plate charge.

The winners of the Youth Aliyah raffle will be announced at the conclusion of the program.

For further information on the event, call Ruth Kerbel (478-5577) or Stiebel (478-6822).



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Announcements/Events

Passover preparations for children, inmates



Above, some of the "matzah bakers" who assisted Rabbi Chuni Vogel, Director of Chabad-Lubavitch of Delaware, at the annual event held at the Jewish Community Center, admire their finished products. Below, Vogel displays some of the Passover Foods and Haggadot he delivered to Jewish inmates in Delaware's correctional facilities.



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Kutz Home annual meeting

The public is invited to the thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Milton & Hattie Kutz Home which will take place at the Home on Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. The agenda will include election of Directors and Officers of the Board, recognition of an Employee of the Year, special awards to long term employees of the Home and a tribute to resident volunteers.

In addition, there will be an announcement of members of the Home's Board of Directors appointed by the Jewish Federation of Delaware. The Kutz Home is a member agency of the Jewish Federation with one-third of its Directors appointed by the Federation.

A reception with refreshments will follow the meeting. The Home is at 704 River Road in the Bellefonte section of Wilmington. For further information on the Annual Meeting of the Kutz Home, call the Home at 764-7000.

NCJW meeting

On Wednesday, April 24, Frances C. Taylor will speak at a meeting of the National Council of Jewish Women about the Underground Railroad in our area. This program, originally scheduled for March 13, had to be postponed due to illness of the speaker. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Fredda Penneck, whose home is believed to have been part of the Underground Railroad.

There will be a \$3 luncheon donation. Reservations should be made by calling Ari Bodnar (479-9655) or Jean Blumenfeld (478-3835).

JSO cancels local performance

The Grand Opera House has announced that the performance of the Jerusalem Symphony with guest pianist Misha Dichter scheduled for Monday, April 29, has been cancelled. This cancellation, according to the Opera House, is a direct result of conflicts in the Middle East.

"Every effort was made to secure a suitable substitute for this outstanding orchestra. We regret, however, that this was not possible," according to Marilyn Bacon, Director of Marketing and Sales.

Ticket holders should contact the Grand Box Office at 652-5577 regarding the disposition of their tickets.

CAMERA director to speak at AKSE

Gary Wolf, recently appointed executive director of the Philadelphia office of CAMERA, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, will be the guest speaker at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Men's Club Breakfast on Sunday, April 14.

CAMERA is a non-profit national organization devoted to monitoring and responding to bias, distortions and propaganda concerning Israel and the Middle East in the American news media.

Prior to his position at CAMERA, Wolf has held the positions of associate director of international concerns for the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia and policy analyst in Middle East affairs for the American Jewish Committee in New York.

Wolf graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in political science from the State University of New York at Buffalo and received his M.A. in international relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has lived in Israel for six years and is fluent in Hebrew.

His writings have appeared in such publications as *Near East Report*,



Gary Wolf

New York Jewish Week, *Moment Magazine* and *Washington Jewish Week*. Last November, his monograph entitled "Israel at Risk: The Campaign to Erode Christian Support," was published by the American Jewish Committee.

Services will begin at 9 a.m. with breakfast following at 9:30. Wolf will speak at 9:45. Cost is \$2 for non-members and there is no charge for AKSE Men's Club members.

Beth Shalom's education director attends national conference

Can peer coaching techniques increase teacher effectiveness by 85 percent without significantly increasing costs? Can techniques used by successful politicians help educators manage their boards? Are these methods ethical? Does the conservative movement need to be redefined in light of new attitudes and beliefs? How can revitalized thinking affect schools?

These and other pressing professional issues were discussed at the annual convention of the Jewish Educators Assembly, the national organization of Conservative Jewish educators. The conference, in its second year of a more aggressive professional development approach, was held in Stamford, Connecticut, March 7 through 6.

Arlene Davis, Educational Director at Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom, was one of over 200 educators attending the conference.

Speakers and trainers were drawn from the entire professional spectrum. Leonard G. Hirsch, a Washington based consultant in organizational development specializing in power and politics was a popular trainer. Hirsch, recently named the Kenneth Bene Scholar of the year, discussed the political side of Jewish life. He suggested techniques for managing problems in Jewish education which worked for him as a Jimmy Carter staffer and with clients such as General Motors and Saturn.

Dr. Hanan Alexander of University Judaism asked questions about the appeal of conservative Judaism



Arlene Davis

in today's relativistic culture. "Ask yourself and your colleagues what really matters to you about conservative Judaism. I think you'll find that there is surprising consensus... Why not build our educational experiences around what we agree is meaningful instead of trying to inculcate a party line that may have lost meaning."

The educators participated in the convention's 30 different professional training opportunities. Delegates represented 28 cities across the U.S. and Canada.

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Jewish Family Campus... Four Years Later - Realizing the Dream

It is hard to believe that the Jewish Family Campus, a thriving, full service facility, was once just the dream of some very dedicated leaders.

The facility is located at the JCC and borders the Brandywine Creek State Park. It is home to Camp JCC, which serves more than 400 children, from tots to teens, each summer.

With four years of service under its belt and countless days of sun-filled family enjoyment, it is difficult to imagine the JCC without the Jewish Family Campus. Executive Director, David Sorkin, ironically, was brought in as a consultant to review the plans when he was employed by the JCCA in 1986. "The whole dream of the Family Campus, as it was presented to me then by Executive Director Irv Kaufman, was to provide an environment for family programming. It is clear that this has been accomplished," he said.

The Family Campus was the vision of Irv Kaufman, retired former Executive Director of the JCC. He explained that the JCC camp site was at another location for more than forty years. In the 1970's, the JCC leadership took on a search for a new camp site. It was then decided that the camp would be at the JCC, with mostly indoor and limited outdoor activities. The real building of the dream began in the 1980's under the leadership of Doris and Irving Morris. These leaders were dedicated to this project, which was to be a multi-million dollar campaign to build the Jewish Family Campus.

Irv convinced the leadership that the future of the growth of membership would rely on camp and family involvement. With this vision clearly in sight, they pushed forward.

The original plan that Irv drew up, was a horizontal design to utilize the acreage and bordering park. "The plan was partially based on my belief that the JCC was the only Jewish street in town; a crosscurrent of population and a facility that would lend itself to varied programs for all age groups," he said.

Irv also explained that he Morris tirelessly led the \$ 3 million campaign from 1985-1988. Judy Levy, who was President during these years of construction and Martin Lubaroff, then Vice President who succeeded Levy, were also extremely dedicated to this project.

Toby Weiner, also retired, served as camp director for many years and was invaluable as the staff liaison heading up the campaign.

Irv said he truly enjoys visiting the Campus. "I had my grandson, Benjamin, in the pool and it was wonderful...all that work, energy and time and the conceptualization and fulfilling of a dream me a great deal of 'nachas'," he said.

Enroll Soon for the Children's Center 1991-1992 School Year

Limited enrollment is still available for the Children's Center, the pre-school and daycare of the JCC. Spaces are filling up rapidly. To ensure your child a space for quality educational programming on a full or half-day basis, contact Jane Hormadaly, Director of the Children's Center at 478-5660.

"The potential is still untouched," he went on to say, "we caused the excitement of a new generation of members. Wilmington has a small town flavor, the continuity is so important: kids come up through the camp and they are the leaders of tomorrow."

David Sorkin commented that each of the four years the Family Campus has been in service has been a learning and growing experience. "Improvements and refinements evolve each season. Eileen Wallach is at the helm of the facility and her consistent leadership and innovative ideas are a tremendous asset," he said.

Both Sorkin and Wallach stress that customer service is the key to all facets of programming this summer, along with an expanded snack bar, more poolside activities and sports tournaments. There are also continued plans to purchase new equipment and make improvements in groundskeeping and other services.

Family Campus Chairperson, Steve Medwin said, "My committee is really terrific and we are extremely motivated because we, as members, benefit from what we accomplish. We enjoy the work and the community benefits as well."

So, as you enjoy a dip in the pool this summer or you watch your child blossoming at camp, perhaps it will come to mind that this spectacular facility was once only a thought, only an idea, only a dream. It makes one think that anything is possible.

Jews of Ethiopia Lecture

Dr. Joseph Carver will discuss Ethiopian Jewry at the Spring Bagel & Coffee Lecture Series on Sunday, March 5 at the JCC.

Dr. Carver is a member of the Board of the Soviet Jewry Council of the Jewish Community Relations Council and of its Speakers Bureau. A cardiologist, Dr. Carver made two trips to the Soviet Union to visit refuseniks in December 1985 and March 1987; as well as having recently traveled to Ethiopia.

Bagels, coffee and danish will be served at 11:30 a.m., followed by Dr. Carver's presentation at 12:00 noon. The fee is \$3.00 per person and reservations (by April 26) can be made at the Front Desk.

K'Ton Ton Campers Can "STAY-N-PLAY"

A new feature to K'Ton Ton Camp this summer is "Stay-n-Play", a program which extends the camp day that traditionally ended at 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m.

During the extended hour and a half, children will eat a kosher lunch brought from home, hear stories and enjoy playtime outside.

Parents pick-up their children at 1:30 p.m. from the front lobby area and then can head for a fun-filled afternoon at the pool.

The fee for "Stay-n-Play" is \$ 5.00 per day, per child. Registration and payment are due by May 28, 1991.

Registration forms for the new "Stay-n-Play" Program are available at the JCC Front Desk.

JCC "Courts A Pro"

By J.E. Tetl



With the idea of upgrading its tennis program, the JCC has acquired the services of tennis master Glen Howe. After successful stints at establishments such as Quince Orchard Swim and Tennis Club, The Potomac Tennis Club and The Paladin Club, Howe has accepted the invitation of the JCC's Recreational Services Director, Eileen Wallach, to join her already gifted staff of sport and fitness instructors.

Howe comes to the JCC with high recommendations and even greater expectations for the future. Delighted by every aspect of the sport, Howe ran his own racket stringing business for many years and claims to have strung over ten thousand rackets in his day. He has played opposite Brad Gilbert, Vince Van Patten, and Michael Chan, to name just a few. He is a skilled instructor, a professional whose amiability is equally matched by his love of the game and he is upbeat in his description of the JCC, terming the facilities as "fantastic"!

In addition to special clinics for women and juniors, he will also be providing semi-private and private lessons for anyone interested in honing their skills. His long range goal is simply to develop a strong and respected tennis program at the Center.

Wallach would like to welcome Howe. His presence, she feels, is a positive addition to the staff. Considering the praise and acclamation emanating from both sides of the net, Howe's employment at the Center would seem to promise unrivaled results.

Parents Made it Happen... Gross Motor Skills Area Now Open

The Children's Center announces the opening of their Gross Motor Skills Area, located in the open space of the lunch room. A new climber and balance beam, designed for pre-school use, are the focus of the area. Other equipment includes a set and spin and a rocking boat.

"Gross motor play is important because young children need opportunities to develop their large muscles, coordination and balance, in addition to opportunities to play imaginative games with their friends and release energy," explains Jane Hormadaly, Director of the Children's Center. "The indoor gross motor play area compliments our outdoor playground areas and allows the children access to the equipment at all times. It affords teachers maximum flexibility since the area is open all day."

The new equipment was purchased through funds raised at the PTA sponsored Flea Market/Bake Sale held in November. Joan Addicks, Wendy Shlossman and Tamsin Wolf chaired the event.

Flexible Enrollment A Feature of Camp JCC!

Waiting to finalize summer vacation plans for your family but worried about enrollment in JCC Camping programs? Found a great house at the shore for a week in July but need camp for the remaining seven weeks of the summer? Don't worry! To meet the changing needs of our families, the JCC has a flexible enrollment plan designed to meet the needs of just about everyone!

"One of the most frustrating situations we've dealt with the past few summers is the limited time during the summer families have to spend with one another," comments JJ Alter, Director of Camping Services at the JCC. "Some families need to take a week's vacation right in the middle of camp. To be accommodating, we're introducing a seven week camping experience to our camp," he adds. "Just let us know the week you need to take off and we'll take care of the over seven!"

New this year is the availability of consecutive two-week sessions. Families may select a combination of two of these sessions to create a four week camping experience. "We hope this option will make it easier for our families to get the most out of their summertime," comments Paul Imber, Camp Chairman. "We hope this new approach to camp enrollment will allow any child who wants to experience camp the ability to do so," explained Imber.

To assure the quality of the camping experience, families are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Whenever possible, campers will be bunked with others who are attending the same sessions. For this purpose, it is crucial to receive information early, commented Alter. This new system will also have a strong influence on programs that typically close early due to full enrollment, as is often the case with K'Ton Ton and Teen Travel Camps.

Camp JCC brochures and registration forms are available at the Center. For further information regarding registration, please call the Camping Services Office at 478-5660.

Members Rally Support... Toys for Israeli Children



Members of the JCC community heard the call and rallied their support behind the drive for toys for Purim to be sent to Israeli children who were left homeless as a result of the bombings in Israel during the recent Gulf War.

Nurit Katziry, JCC Shilacha, was instrumental in making the arrangements to have the toys transported to New York and loaded on a plane headed for Israel. El Al Airline graciously donated space for the toys to be flown to Israel. The photograph shows the smiling faces of the children from the JCC pre-school holding some of the toys that were sent to children in Israel.

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Announcements/Events

Cafe Tamar scheduled

Cafe Tamar, the annual music and dance program held at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, will be held on Yom Yerushalayim, May 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the synagogue's Social Hall.

Soloists will include Cindy Goldstein, Judy Barnard and Jane Hornmadaly. A Yiddish folk song will be performed by Katie Tanzer. Under the direction of Harriet Aianbinder, a new Junior Dance Group will make their debut this year.

The 20-voice choral group is led by Faith Brown and is accompanied by Sara Berman and the Tamar musicians. The 15-member Dance Group is taught by Faith and Lou Brown and Harriet Aianbinder. Sara Hockstein will serve as narrator.

This year's program will feature guest artist David Gesterak, recently arrived in Wilmington from the Soviet Union, who will perform a medley of Russian and Yiddish songs on accordion.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Refreshments will follow the performance.

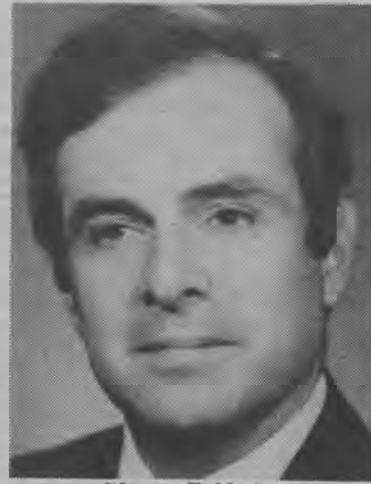


Israel's future to be topic of lecture

Dr. Mervin F. Verbit, projects director of the International Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization and a fellow of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, will be guest speaker at the community-wide kick-off celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut on Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center's Zallea Auditorium.

Verbit's topic will be "Israel's Future — And Ours." The lecture will explore the future of the state of Israel in many arenas, as well as its growing relationship with the United States.

A professor of sociology at Brooklyn College, Verbit specializes in the sociology of religion and in contemporary American Jewry. He has written on a wide range of Jewish themes, including Jewish identity, the Jewish family, the religious background of the Arab-Israeli conflict and Jewish attitude in the Soviet



Mervin F. Verbit

Union.

In addition to his scholarly work, Verbit has served as president of the Association for the Sociological Study of Jewry, and national chairman of American Professor for Peace in the

Do Jews believe in life after death?

A program exploring teaching on the afterlife journey of the soul found in Jewish tradition and mysticism will show that Judaism does, in fact, have an extensive tradition on life after death. While often unknown to both Jews and non-Jews, Jewish afterlife teachings can be made accessible to people today and could help individuals understand more fully the nature of bereavement and the search for meaning and spirituality in today's changing world.

Dr. Simcha Paull Raphael will present this program on Monday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the JCC.

Raphael, psychologist and educator, teaches at Gratz College and in the Pastoral Counseling program at La Salle College in Philadelphia, and has lectured extensively in the Jewish community. He is also in private practice as a psychologist and is currently authoring a book entitled "Jewish View of the Afterlife."

The cost of this program is \$2.50 at the door. Registration must be made at the JCC by April 22. This program is co-sponsored by Jewish Family Service, Schoenberg Memorial Chapel and the JCC.

Middle East. He is listed in *Who's Who in American Jewry* and *Who's Who in World Jewry*.

The lecture, which will be followed by a question-and-answer period and refreshments, is free and open to the community. For additional informa-

tion, call Lynn Greenfield, Adult Program Director at the Jewish Community Center, at 478-5660.

This program is co-sponsored by the JCC and the Israel Task Force of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation.

'March of Living' 1992

Recruitment for the 1992 March of the Living began on April 11, Yom HaShoah — Holocaust Remembrance Day. "One year from the day we begin to recruit, students will be marching in Auschwitz on Yom HaShoah," noted Gene Greenzweig, Chair for the National Operations Committee for the March.

More than 1,200 Jewish high school students from the U.S. and 5,000 from throughout the rest of the world are expected to join for the third and largest March of the Living, scheduled from April 26 through May 10, 1992.

The March is an intense journey through Jewish history in Poland and Israel. In Poland participants visit remnant Jewish communities, historic sites and synagogues as well as some of Nazi Germany's cruelest death camps including Treblinka,

Auschwitz, Birkenau and Majdanek. The highlight of this part of the trip is the two-mile march from Auschwitz to Birkenau on Yom HaShoah. In 1990, the group was joined by Holocaust survivor and writer Elie Wiesel who provided the teens with firsthand accounts of his experiences.

In Israel, the students tour Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and other historic sites. They join with all Israelis in commemorating Yom HaZikaron in memory of Israel's fallen soldiers and Yom HaAtzmaut, Israeli Independence Day.

The trip is geared toward high school students between the ages of 16 and 20. Applications and information are available through March of the Living, 4200 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33137; or call (305) 576-4030.

UofD program on Holocaust testimonies

The Jewish Studies Program, the Department of English and the Committee on Cultural Activities and Public Events of the University of Delaware will co-sponsor a lecture and video presentation by Lawrence L. Langer on Tuesday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m. The lecture is open to the entire community and will be given on the Newark campus in 100 Kirkbride.

Langer, who holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, is a Professor of English and holds the Alumnae Endowed Chair at Simmons College in Boston. He recently published "Holocaust Testimonies: The Ruins of Memory," an analysis of the ways in which survivors' oral testimony contributes to understanding of the Holocaust.

In addition to a list of scholarly writing, Langer has taught high school teachers about the Holocaust and has helped them to integrate its study into their curriculum.

Langer has been instrumental in building the Fortunoff Video Archives for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University, which the Halina Wind



Lawrence Langer

Preston Holocaust Education Committee in Delaware has participated in by videotaping local survivors of the Holocaust.

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Recipes and recollections



Lora Brody, writer of culinary memoirs, will be the guest speaker at the Milton & Hattie Kutz Home Auxiliary's Annual Door Luncheon on Tuesday, April 30 at the Brandywine Country Club.

Bobbie Tomases is chairperson of the Auxiliary's Annual Donor Luncheon. Other members of the committee include Faith Goldman and Shelly Mand (past presidents and Auxiliary board members), board members Barbara Garland, Susan Hefter, Carla Jaffey, Ellen Levin, Ethel Parsons, Adele Ross, Pam Sherry and Louise Sloane.

There will be a reception at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon will begin at noon. Brody will speak at 1 p.m. For reservations, call Ethel Parsons at 762-6407.

Beth Emeth Sisterhood to host district convention

District #8 National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods will hold its Biennial Convention at the Wilmington Hilton May 3 through 5. Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Emeth will provide the hospitality for sisterhood delegates from Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. Joan Wachstein is Local Arrangements Chairperson.

"Women of Reform Judaism — Our Legacy, Ourselves" is the theme of the convention which will offer delegates the opportunity for spiritual development and skill develop-

ment. National Vice-President Davna Brook of Houston, Texas, and Rabbi Richard Stemberger of Washington, D.C., will address the convention. District #8 President Martha Binderman of Washington, D.C., will preside. Diane Haley of Newport News, Virginia, will be installed as President for the next biennial period.

Beth Emeth Sisterhood will host a dinner and reception on Saturday evening in Temple Beth Emeth in honor of the retiring and incoming officers.

Yom HaAtzmaut

Israel Independence Day
is April 18

Israel's Declaration of Independence through 43 years

By YITZHAK DINUR

Special to The Jewish Voice

(WZPS) The Proclamation of the Establishment of the State of Israel, as the Declaration of Independence is officially entitled, has 37 signatories, who were the members of the Jewish community's National Council at the time. The first signature is that of David Ben-Gurion who read out the declaration in Tel-Aviv on May 16th, 1948. The following 36 signatures are arranged in alphabetical order beginning with Daniel Auster and ending with Moshe Shertok (Sharett), Israel's first foreign minister and second premier. Space was left for those besieged in Jerusalem to sign later.

The signatories came from all sections and parties of Israel's Jewish population: from Rabbi Yitzhak Meir Levin (Agudat Israel) to Meir Wilner of the Communist party. They included many who were to be prominent in Israel's public and parliamentary life, such as Israel's second and third presidents, Yitzhak Ben-Zvi and Zalman Shazar, Golda Meyerson (Meir), Rabbi Fishman (Maimon), Eliezer Kaplan, Israel's first minister of finance, after whom the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's School of Economics and Social Sciences is named, and Behor Shitret, Israel's first minister of police.

Legislation

The Proclamation of the Establishment of the State of Israel is referred to as the Declaration of Independence in the very first government decision, taken immediately after its affirmation, as follows: "With the authority of the Declaration of Independence proclaimed this day, Iyar 5, 5708 (May 14, 1948), in accordance with which the Provisional Council of State and the Provisional Government have been established, the Provisional Council of State declares the following:..." It then goes

on to provide for immediate Legislation, abolishes the limitation on Jewish immigration to Palestine and the discriminatory land transfer regulations and makes provisions for the continuation of the rule of law.

Soon after Israel's establishment, the Supreme Court ruled that "the only purpose of the Declaration of Independence is to state the fact of the foundation and establishment of the State of Israel for purposes of recognition in international law. It expresses the Jewish people's vision and its credo, but it contains no constitutional provision that can be used for making or abrogating any actual law or regulation. The institution that was authorized to legislate laws was the Provisional Council of State, established when the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed."

Since then, the courts in Israel have held that they are not authorized to declare any legislation illegal or invalid merely because it contradicts something in the Proclamation of Israel's establishment.

Content

Israel's Declaration of Independence deals with three separate points. The first describes the Jewish people's unbroken connection with the country: "In the land of Israel the Jewish People came into being. In this land was shaped their spiritual, religious, and national character... Exiled by force, the Jewish People kept faith with their land, steadfast in their prayers and hope to return here and revive their political freedom... It is the national right of the Jewish People, like any other people, to control their own destiny in their own sovereign state."

The second part deals with the actual establishment of the State of Israel: "Accordingly, we members of the National Council representing the Jewish People in the Land of

Israel, and the Zionist Movement, have assembled on the day of the termination of the British Mandate for Palestine; by virtue of our national and historic right and of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, we do hereby proclaim the establishment of a Jewish state in the Land of Israel — the State of Israel."

The third part deals with the character of the new State: "It will be open to Jewish immigration and to the ingathering of the exiles. It will devote itself to developing the land for the good of all its inhabitants... It will rest upon the foundations of liberty, justice, and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel. It will maintain complete equality of all social and political rights for all its citizens, without distinction of race, creed or sex. It will guarantee freedom of religion and conscience, of language, education and culture. It will safeguard the holy places of all religions. It will be loyal to the principles of the United Nations Charter... We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish People in the building of their state, and to admit the State of Israel into the family of nations... Even amidst the violent attacks launched against us for months past... we call upon the sons of the Arab people living in Israel to keep the peace and play their part in building the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all institutions, provisional and permanent."

Today

This third section is the part that is of late arousing interest amongst Israel's citizens, partly because of the appearance of anti-democratic forces, which may threaten Israel's democratic character, and partly because the Supreme Court has shown a tendency to utilize it as a source for interpretation of laws and regulations, despite its own ruling that the Declaration of Independence has no legal standing.

In a similar spirit, on September 20, 1987, at the traditional pre-Rosh Hashana reception, the President of Israel, Mr. Chaim Herzog, in opening the festivities for Israel's fortieth year of existence, presided over a symbolic signing of the Declaration of Independence. A mass campaign among Israel's citizens is also being held to get as many Israelis as possible to attach their signatures to the Declaration of Independence as a solid gesture of affirmation of its democratic and traditional Jewish values.

The Declaration ends with the signatory clause: "With trust in the Rock of Israel, we set our hands in witness to this proclamation this day..."

This clause was to cause more rancor in the Proclamation's formulation committee than any other. The religious could not sign such a document without mentioning God, and the irreligious objected to this. They compromised on the term "Rock of Israel." The final version was approved in first reading by the Jewish National Council and officially proclaimed on Friday, May 14, 1948, with Independence to begin at 12 p.m. on May 15, 1948.

This is my country

By EPHRAIM KISHON

Israel is a country so tiny that there is no room to write its name on the world map.
It is the only country in the world which is financed by its taxpayers abroad.
It is a country of boundless boundaries.
It is a country where mothers learn the mother-tongue from their sons.
It is a country where fathers ate sour grapes and the children's teeth are excellent.
It is a country where all the capital is concentrated in Jewish hands — and there is much grumbling because of this.
It is a country of elections, but no choice.
It is a country which is an organic part of its trade unions.
It is a country where nobody wants to work, so they build a new town in three days and go idle the rest of the week.
It is a country where a slip of paper can move mountains, but all the mountains beget speeches.
It is a country which produces less than it eats, and yet of all places, it is here that nobody has ever died of hunger.
It is a country where nobody expects miracles, but everybody takes them for granted.
It is a country where one calls ministers simply "Moishe" — and then almost dies with the excitement of it.
It is the only country in the region whose political regime is the bus cooperative.
It is a country whose survival is permanently endangered, and yet its inhabitants' ulcers are caused by the neighbors from upstairs.
It is a country where every human being is a soldier, and every soldier is a human being.
It is the only country in which I could live. It is my country.
("This Is My Country" was written on the occasion of Israel's 39th Independence Day by Ephraim Kishon, Israel's leading satirist.)

The Declaration of Independence

"ERETZ-ISRAEL WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE: HERE THEIR SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL IDENTITY WAS SHAPED. HERE THEY FIRST ATTAINED TO STATEHOOD, CREATED CULTURAL VALUES OF NATIONAL AND UNIVERSAL SIGNIFICANCE AND GAVE TO THE WORLD THE ETERNAL BOOK OF BOOKS".

"AFTER BEING FORCIBLY EXILED FROM THEIR LAND, THE PEOPLE KEPT FAITH WITH IT THROUGHOUT THEIR DISPERSION AND NEVER CEASED TO PRAY AND HOPE FOR THEIR RETURN TO IT AND FOR THE RESTORATION IN IT OF THEIR POLITICAL FREEDOM".

"IMPULSED BY THIS HISTORIC AND TRADITIONAL ATTACHMENT, JEWS STROVE IN EVERY SUCCESSIVE GENERATION TO RE-ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN THEIR ANCIENT HOMELAND. IN RECENT DECADES THEY RETURNED IN THEIR MASSES, PIONEERS, MA'APILIM AND DEFENDERS, THEY MADE DESERTS BLOOM, REVIVED THE HEBREW LANGUAGE, BUILT VILLAGES AND TOWNS, AND CREATED A THRIVING COMMUNITY, CONTROLLING ITS OWN ECONOMY AND CULTURE, LOVING PEACE BUT KNOWING HOW TO DEFEND ITSELF, BRINGING THE BLESSINGS OF PROGRESS TO ALL THE COUNTRY'S INHABITANTS, AND ASPIRING TOWARDS INDEPENDENT NATIONHOOD".

"IN THE YEAR 5657 (1897), AT THE SUMMONS OF THE SPIRITUAL FATHER OF THE JEWISH STATE, THEODOR HERZL, THE FIRST ZIONIST CONGRESS CONVENED AND PROCLAIMED THE RIGHT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO NATIONAL REBIRTH IN ITS OWN COUNTRY".

"THIS RIGHT WAS RECOGNIZED IN THE BALFOUR DECLARATION OF THE 2ND NOVEMBER, 1917, AND RE-AFFIRMED IN THE MANDATE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS WHICH, IN PARTICULAR, GAVE INTERNATIONAL SANCTION TO THE HISTORIC CONNECTION BETWEEN THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND ERETZ-ISRAEL AND TO THE RIGHT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO REBUILD ITS NATIONAL HOME".

"THE CATASTROPHE WHICH RECENTLY BEFELL THE JEWISH PEOPLE — THE MASSACRE OF MILLIONS OF JEWS IN EUROPE — WAS ANOTHER CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE URGENCY OF SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF ITS HOMELESSNESS BY RE-ESTABLISHING IN ERETZ-ISRAEL THE JEWISH STATE, WHICH WOULD OPEN THE GATES OF THE HOMELAND WIDE TO EVERY JEW AND CONFER UPON THE JEWISH PEOPLE THE STATUS OF A FULLY-PRIVILEGED MEMBER OF THE COMITY OF NATIONS".

"SURVIVORS OF THE NAZI HOLOCAUST IN EUROPE, AS WELL AS JEWS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, CONTINUED TO MIGRATE TO ERETZ-ISRAEL, UNDAUNTED BY DIFFICULTIES, RESTRICTIONS AND DANGERS, AND NEVER CEASED TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHT TO A LIFE OF DIGNITY, FREEDOM AND HONEST TOIL IN THEIR NATIONAL HOMELAND".

"IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THIS COUNTRY CONTRIBUTED ITS FULL SHARE TO THE STRUGGLE FOR THE FREEDOM- AND PEACE-LOVING NATIONS AGAINST THE FORCES OF NAZI WICKEDNESS AND, BY THE BLOOD OF ITS SOLDIERS AND ITS WAR EFFORT, GAINED THE RIGHT TO BE RECKONED AMONG THE PEOPLES WHO FOUNDED THE UNITED NATIONS".

"ON THE 29TH NOVEMBER, 1947, THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUIRED THE INHABITANTS OF ERETZ-ISRAEL TO TAKE SUCH STEPS AS WERE NECESSARY ON THEIR PART FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT RESOLUTION. THIS RECOGNITION BY THE UNITED NATIONS OF THE RIGHT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH THEIR STATE IS IRREVOCABLE".

"THIS RIGHT IS THE NATURAL RIGHT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO BE MASTERS OF THEIR OWN FATE. LIKE ALL OTHER NATIONS, IN THEIR OWN SOVEREIGN STATE".

"ACCORDINGLY WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL. TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL".

"WE DECLARE THAT, WITH EFFECT FROM THE MOMENT OF THE TERMINATION OF THE MANDATE, BEING TONIGHT, THE EVE OF SABBATH, THE 5TH IYAR, 5708 (15TH MAY, 1948), UNTIL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ELECTED, REGULAR AUTHORITIES OF THE STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION WHICH SHALL BE ADOPTED BY THE ELECTED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY NOT LATER THAN THE 1ST OCTOBER 1948, THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL SHALL ACT AS A PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, AND ITS EXECUTIVE ORGAN, THE PEOPLE'S ADMINISTRATION, SHALL BE THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE JEWISH STATE, TO BE CALLED 'ISRAEL'".

"THE STATE OF ISRAEL WILL BE OPEN FOR JEWISH IMMIGRATION AND FOR THE INGATHERING OF THE EXILES. IT WILL FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL ITS INHABITANTS; IT WILL BE BASED ON FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND PEACE AS ENVISAGED BY THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL: IT WILL ENSURE COMPLETE EQUALITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS TO ALL ITS INHABITANTS IRRESPECTIVE OF RELIGION, RACE OR SEX; IT WILL GUARANTEE FREEDOM OF RELIGION, CONSCIENCE, LANGUAGE, EDUCATION AND CULTURE; IT WILL SAFEGUARD THE HOLY PLACES OF ALL RELIGIONS; AND IT WILL BE FAITHFUL TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS".

"THE STATE OF ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH THE AGENCIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE 29TH NOVEMBER, 1947, AND WILL TAKE STEPS TO BRING ABOUT THE ECONOMIC UNION OF THE WHOLE OF ERETZ-ISRAEL".

"WE APPEAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO ASSIST THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING-UP OF ITS STATE AND TO RECEIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL INTO THE COMITY OF NATIONS".

"WE APPEAL — IN THE VERY MIDST OF THE ONSLAUGHT LAUNCHED AGAINST US NOW FOR MONTHS — TO THE ARAB INHABITANTS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO PRESERVE PEACE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE UPBUILDING OF THE STATE ON THE BASIS OF FULL AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP AND DUE REPRESENTATION IN ALL ITS PROVISIONAL AND PERMANENT INSTITUTIONS".

"WE EXTEND OUR HAND TO ALL NEIGHBOURING STATES AND THEIR PEOPLES IN AN OFFER OF PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS, AND APPEAL TO THEM TO ESTABLISH BONDS OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL HELP WITH THE SOVEREIGN JEWISH PEOPLE SETTLED IN ITS OWN LAND. THE STATE OF ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO DO ITS SHARE IN A COMMON EFFORT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST".

"WE APPEAL TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE DIASPORA TO RALLY ROUND THE JEWS OF ERETZ-ISRAEL IN THE TASKS OF IMMIGRATION AND UPBUILDING AND TO STAND BY THEM IN THE GREAT STRUGGLE FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE AGE-OLD DREAM — THE REDEMPTION OF ISRAEL".

"PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE ALMIGHTY, WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5TH DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14TH MAY, 1948)".

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Daniel Auster | David Ben-Gurion | David Zvi Pinkas |
| Mordekhai Bentov | | Aharon Zisling |
| Yitzhak Ben Zvi | Rachel Cohen | Moshe Kolodny |
| Eliyahu Bertigne | Rabbi Kalman Kahana | Eliezer Kaplan |
| Fritz Bernstein | Saadia Kobashi | Abraham Katznelson |
| Rabbi Wolf Gold | Rabbi Yitzhak Meir Levin | Felix Rosenblueth |
| Meir Grabovsky | Meir David Loewenstein | David Remez |
| Yitzhak Gruenbaum | Zvi Luria | Beri Repetur |
| Dr. Abraham Granovsky | Golda Myerson | Mordekhai Shatner |
| Eliahu Dob... | Nachum Nir | Ben Zion Sternberg |
| Meir Wilner-Kovner | Zvi Segal | Bekhor Shitret |
| Zerach Wahrhaftig | Rabbi Yehuda Leib | Moshe Shapira |
| Herzl Vardi | Hacohen Fishman | Moshe Shertok |

Yom HaAtzmaut: A celebration of Israel

The gates of Jerusalem

(WZPS) — The eleven gates which pierce the Old City walls at irregular intervals were built by Suleiman the Magnificent during the 16th century, partly on remains from earlier epochs — some as far back as the Second Temple period. Four of the gates have been sealed for centuries and seven now give access to the Old City.

These gates differ greatly in size and design, but all offer an indirect or staggered entry into the City — an old defense device to give advantage to the guards protecting the gate, and all but one are L-shaped.

Zion Gate

Zion Gate is in the form of a tower projecting from the city wall and its facade holds the central arched portal with a somewhat smaller archway recessed about two feet behind it, which gives onto a staggered passageway leading into the city. The

facade, crowned by battlements, was decorated by Suleiman's sculptures with traditional Ottoman ornamentation.

Ancient stone stairwells lead up from the passage chamber to a series of rooms on the upper level of the gate, probably guard rooms, and to the observation roof, which commands a superb view both of the Old City and the history-laden countryside.

Jaffa Gate

Jaffa Gate (the only non-roofed gate) is in the form of a tower which projects forward from the wall, and its arched entranceway is topped by embrasures and stone turrets. On entering the gate one finds oneself in a vaulted chamber which is part of the L-shaped passageway leading through the tower into the Old City. For centuries this was the sole entry from the west.

New Gate

The New Gate is the least interesting of all the gates. It is little more than an opening in the wall — wide enough to take motor traffic — and it was constructed in 1887 by Sultan Abdul Hamid to provide easy access to the Christian Quarter of the Old City from the developing new northern suburbs outside the walls. It still serves this purpose, though not very adequately, and its architecture is unexciting.

Damascus Gate

The Damascus Gate is the largest and most ornate of all Jerusalem's



The Damascus Gate, the largest and most ornate of all the gates leading into the Old City of Jerusalem, is one of the earliest examples of early Ottoman architecture in the region. (Photo: Douglas Guthrie)

gates. Its central location made it the principal entrance to the Old City from the north. The gate is one of the richest examples of early Ottoman architecture in the region, and is monumental yet graceful. Its walls are 16 meters high and it is flanked on each side by a great tower and topped by pinnacled battlements. The staggered entrance is handsomely vaulted, and after a left and right turn the passageway opens into the bazaar area of the Old City.

Herod's Gate

Herod's Gate, so named by pilgrims who erroneously believed that it led to Herod's palace, in fact leads

directly into the Moslem Quarter of the Old City. As does Jaffa Gate, Herod's Gate projects from the wall, like a jutting tower. Its original entranceway was in the sidewall of the tower at right-angles to the City wall but as it was too narrow to admit wheeled traffic, mostly donkey carts, a new opening was made in the face of the tower.

The Lion's Gate

The Lion's Gate is only a few yards north of the Temple Compound and is the gate closest to the First Station of the Cross in the Via Dolorosa. Like Herod's Gate, it leads directly to the Moslem Quarter. Since the Crusades, Christian pilgrims have called it St. Stephen's Gate, in the belief that the first Christian martyr was put to death in the Kidron Valley below.

The Lion's Gate is approached by a steep and narrow uphill lane and its arched portal is topped by battle-

ments and studded with stone carvings, the most notable of which are four lions.

The Golden Gate

In ancient times, when it was open, the Golden Gate gave direct entry to the Temple Compound. A large and magnificent double-arched structure, it was probably originally built in the seventh century A.D. An early Jewish tradition holds that the Messiah will enter Jerusalem through this gate.

The Sealed Gates

In the south wall of the Temple Compound are three sealed gates, two of which are Herodian. Although of no special architectural interest, being simply openings in the wall, they are of considerable historic interest. The Single and Triple Gates — they derive their name from the number of their portals — lead into the vast subterranean chamber of 400 square meters, supported by eighty-eight huge pillars, once used as hitching posts for the horses of the crusader order, the Knights Templar. The Templars established their headquarters above it, on the southern section of the Temple Compound, the traditional site of Solomon's palace, and they therefore called the underground chamber "King Solomon's Stables."

The Dung Gate

The Dung Gate is mentioned in the Book of Nehemiah as a despatch point for the city's refuse. Once a mere breach in the wall, renovations in recent years have made it the closest point of entry to the Western Wall. Since the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967, millions of Jews from all over the world have entered through this gate in order to pray at the most sacred site.

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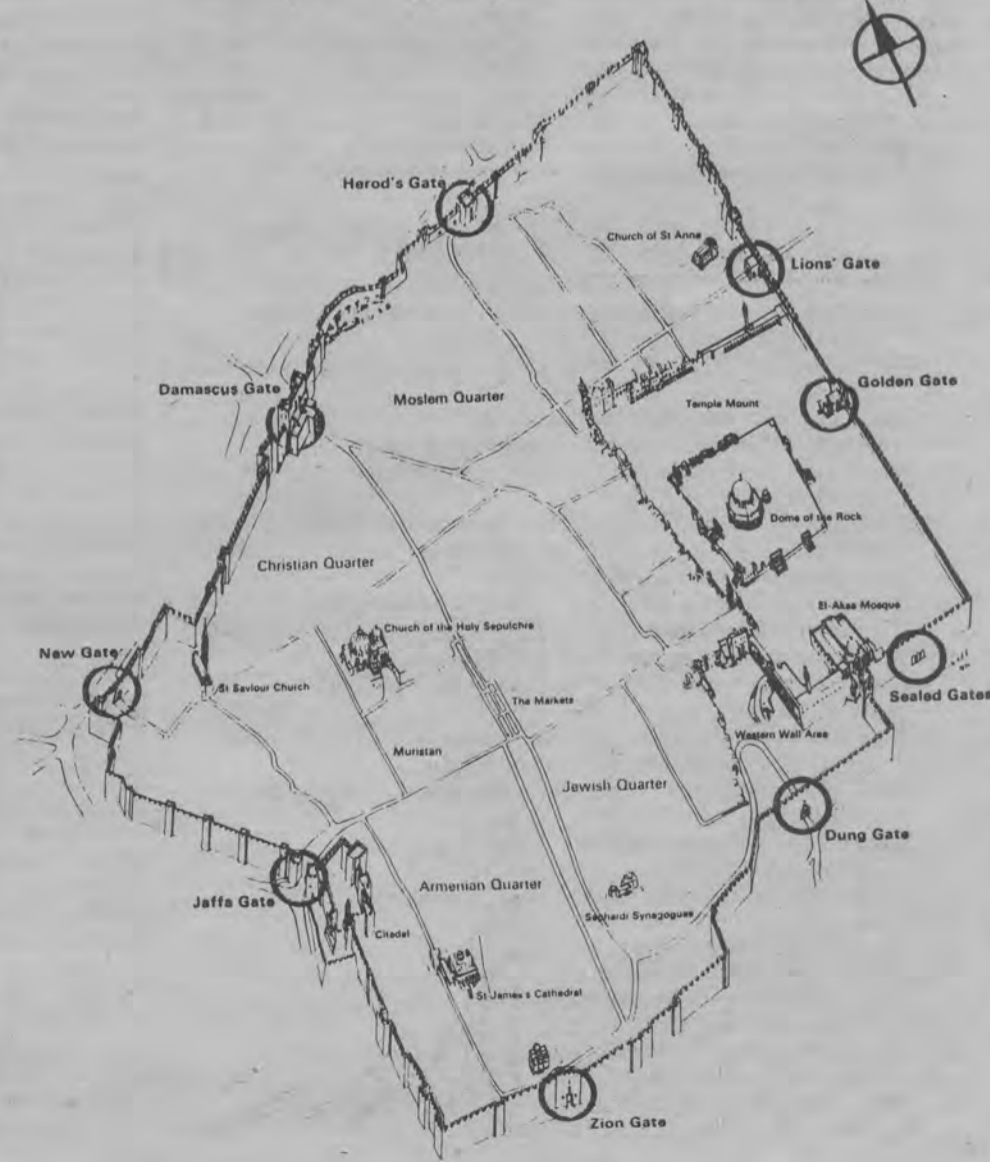
The State of Israel will be open to the immigration of Jews from all countries of dispersion.
(from the Israel Declaration of Independence)

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**Yom HaAtzmaut:
A celebration of Israel**

Israel's new ad campaign

"Hope to see you soon. Love, Israel." With these words, the Israel Ministry of Tourism is launching a major U.S. ad campaign.

Television, radio and newspaper advertising (in consumer and trade publications) will appear in what Raphael Farber, Israel's Consul and Tourism Commissioner for North America, calls, "a major resale campaign. Now that the Persian Gulf crisis has passed, we are going all out to reacquaint American tourists with all that Israel has to offer," Mr. Farber said. "We must reawaken, re-stimulate, and resell travelers on Israel."

The kickoff of the new, \$3 million campaign was a full-page newspaper advertisement that ran in four of Israel's largest U.S. markets, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Fort Lauderdale. It appeared on March 7, within hours of the Persian Gulf cease fire, in such publications as *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*. It was followed by the launching of a radio campaign — again, emphasizing Israel's traditionally strong markets — which began airing March 14. The commercials will run on widely listened-to stations in the New York and Los Angeles markets.

The advertising will continue throughout the spring and fall, pri-

marily targeting adults in the 25 to 54 year-old age range, with household incomes of \$50-thousand plus. It will rely on traditional, emotional appeals, emphasizing the bonds of friendship between Israel and the U.S. The scenes and activities in Israel that will be depicted will highlight the country as an enjoyable and friendly vacation spot.

The campaign will feature a happy, upbeat musical rendition of the theme, "Hope to see you soon. Love, Israel," which will underscore all the radio and TV commercials. Those commercials will feature Israelis, extending their warm, personal invitation to U.S. tourists to come to Israel soon. By contrast, the print advertising will utilize a more direct, tactical appeal, comprising such things as competitive prices and special co-op promotions while also incorporating the "Hope to see you..." theme.

The television leg of the campaign is scheduled to begin this spring. It will include newly-filmed commercials for the general U.S. tourist market. "For Israel, the growth of the American tourist market is a prime national objective," Mr. Farber explained. "Tourism has traditionally been Israel's number one dollar-earner — by a large margin."

Tomatoes in the sand

BEERSHEVA, Israel — The sight of clusters of glistening red tomatoes and plump melons growing out of sand-dunes is a new phenomenon in Israel's desert.

After several years of experiments, researchers at Ben-Gurion University and a Negev kibbutz have produced a hybrid tomato that grows in the sand and receives irrigation from underground salt water. Farmers harvested the first commercial crop recently, yielding an impressive 33 tons per acre.

Especially bred for its saline-resistant qualities, the new melon has been found to be sweeter than melons irrigated with fresh water.

What this harvest means to Israel and the world is explained by Dr. Dov Pasternak, Head of the Institute for Agriculture and Applied Biology at Ben-Gurion University's Applied Research Institutes: "There are one hundred thousand acres of sand-dunes in Israel in the area stretching from the seashore to south of Beer-sheva," says Dr. Pasternak. "We can now provide the suitable agricultural techniques for farming them. And I believe these findings hold promise for other desert areas where sophisticated farming techniques can be used, from Arizona to the Arabian Peninsula."

For the past 16 years, Pasternak and Joel de Malach of kibbutz Revivim and the Ramat Negev Experimental Station have been conducting experiments in growing crops with salt water irrigation.

Their techniques utilize the vast aquifers of saline water located deep under the Negev desert as well as many other deserts in the world.

Results have shown that wheat, cotton, sugarbeet, tomatoes, corn, asparagus, melons, lettuce and several other crops can be grown in loessial soils, with suitable irrigation techniques and fertilization. More-



Tomatoes miraculously take root and grow in Israel's sand. name slugs

over, saline water sometimes increases yield in cotton, or dramatically improves the quality of crops such as tomatoes and melons.

Settlements in the semi-arid Negev and Arava in Israel's south are now utilizing this know-how to expand their range of crops, and farmers in many arid areas of Africa are also learning from BGU expertise. Their success in these experiments led to two Israeli researchers to expand their research to sand dunes.

Voice of the Turtle

PATHS OF EXILE

The Musical Traditions of the Jews of Spain



SUNDAY, APRIL 21 - 1:00 P.M.

Jewish Community Center of Wilmington

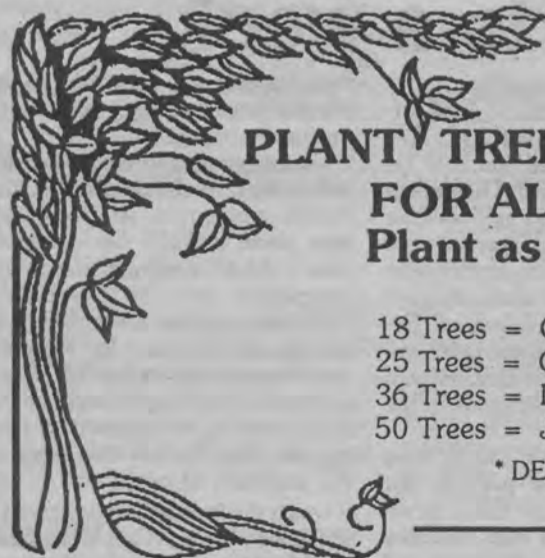
Inspired by the upcoming Quincentenary in 1992, Voice of the Turtle will offer an exciting concert which traces the fascinating history of the Spanish Jews - the Sephardim - since their expulsion from Spain in the momentous year of 1492. Performed on an astonishing variety of folk instruments from the Near and Middle East, as well as on instruments from medieval and Renaissance times, the program reflects the Paths of Exile - the history, the geography, and the daily ambiance of this Judeo-Hispanic culture, which sustained these compellingly beautiful musical traditions throughout 500 years of exile.

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This program is partly funded by the Delaware Humanities Forum, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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- Good Wishes
- New Baby
- New Year
- Special Occasion
- In Gratitude
- Other

Yom HaAtzmaut: A celebration of Israel

The wonderful world of Oz

By ALIZA MARCUS

Amos Oz, Israeli writer, essayist and peace campaigner, speaks with the smooth, confident tone of a man used to being heard. With equal ease he reviles the Israeli right wing, heaps scorn on the Palestinians for supporting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, champions the Persian Gulf War and backs a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

"I sometimes think Yasir Arafat is an Israeli mole," says Oz, referring to the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. "Because by supporting Iraq, he caused the Palestinians more damage than anybody else."

Oz is no more charitable toward Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his May 1989 offer to hold Palestinian elections as a prelude to autonomy: "What Shamir is now proposing is too little, too late, but even this is enough to make (former Israeli Prime Minister) Golda Meir turn over in her grave. She maintained there were no Palestinian people."

He compares Israelis and Palestinians to a couple getting a divorce, "only we still have to live in one apartment." The solution? To draw a partition down the middle, and then make arrangements for who uses the bathroom and when and how to share the kitchen.

And if the Palestinians used to believe "that if they rubbed their eyes hard enough, Israel would go away like a nightmare," Israel used to inside that the "Palestinians were only a creation of Pan-Arab nationalism that can just disappear." Both were very wrong, he adds.

A simple-looking man with piercing blue eyes, the 51-year-old Oz has written over a dozen books and numerous political essays. In 1986, he won Israel's prestigious Bialik award for writers. Oz, who fought in both the 1967 and 1973 wars, refers to himself as the hawk of the doves, someone who believes in a Palestinian state, but then reminds the listener that there is no love lost between him and the Palestinians.

"I'm not going to hug these people when I see them," he says, politely bumming another cigarette and offering another round of coffee during an interview while on a U.S. book promotion tour for his latest novel, "To Know a Woman" (Harcourt

Brace Jovanovich).

Unlike many other leftists, Oz, a founding member of the Peace Now movement, says he was not overwhelmed by Palestinian support for Saddam Hussein and their cheers as

assault began Jan. 15, Oz was quick to point out that to be a peacenik was one thing, but to be a pacifist another. And a pacifist he was certainly not. "I think turning the other cheek is a sweet concept as long as it's

bly more cosmopolitan than a lot of places," he says. "Of course, there's a penalty, which is they get to know a hell of a lot more about me than I would have liked."

"To Know a Woman," his latest book to be translated into English, deals with a perfectly average middle-aged man living in a perfectly average suburb.

Or so Oz says. Yoel Ravid, Oz's latest hero, is in fact an Israeli spy who has resigned following the accidental death of his wife. He moves to a Tel Aviv suburb with his daughter, who suffers from mild epilepsy, his mother and mother-in-law, and a host of memories and questions about his past.

Everything is a secret, a code that must be cracked to understand life: "Everything is not as it seems," Oz remarked during a lecture and reading at the Poetry Center of Manhattan's 92nd Street Y. His description of the book paints a portrait of mystery.

The death of Yoel Ravid's wife was ruled accidental, but may have been suicide. Yoel and his wife had a wonderful relationship, but they slept in separate beds. Their daughter Netta has epilepsy, but it could be a nervous condition. The next door neighbor is in love with Yoel, or she may be a simpleton acting out a role at her brother's direction. Even the doctoral dissertation that so engrossed Yoel's wife before her death, a study of the tormented Bronte family, bespeaks the inner, hidden turmoil of the Ravid family.

Oz, who is not a political writer per se, has often dealt with political issues in his novels. But when asked whether this novel represents a change for him, with its emphasis on family relations, trust and truth, he replied that Ravid, "by turning his back on his idealistic career, is taking a political decision."

Does this mean the book is political? "A story is a story is a story — like a rose is a rose is a rose," he replied, citing Gertrude Stein's noted aphorism.

Still, Oz is dismissive of the turn-of-the-century socialist view which demanded that writers write for the revolution, that their books answer to higher callings and reflect more important activities than reading and writing. "It's part of the longstanding

Jewish tradition that the artist ought to be the heir of the prophets," he states. "I have never regarded my own art as a vehicle for the transportation of ideas, of politics."

But Oz is also well-known for his many political essays, some of which were featured in the 1982 "In the Land of Israel," Oz's journey into Israeli right-wing thinking. Traveling throughout the country, from the West Bank to a working-class settlement outside Tel Aviv and beyond, Oz explored the sometimes religious, sometimes secular right-wing outlook that brought Likud leader Menachem Begin to power in 1977 and unseated the Labor Party establishment, whose uninterrupted hold on the reins of political power in Israel predated the establishment of the state.

The voices he heard insisted that any Palestinian desires for self-determination were nothing more than the creation of crazy Peace Now people. By his own terminology these people were fanatics, and the country was being pushed to a brink, between the left and the right, between Sephardim and Ashkenazim, between secular and religious, between Palestinians and Israelis.

"What will become of us all, I don't know. If there is someone with an answer, he would do well to stand up and speak. And he's better not tarry. The situation is not good," he wrote in one of the essays.

Eight years later, he is perhaps less pessimistic about the internal state of Israeli affairs, and now focuses much of his political attention on what is occurring beyond the so-called Green Line, in that barren, hilly piece of territory known by some as Judea and Samaria and by others as the occupied territories, or the future Palestinian state.

He believes that, to a great degree, the fate of the region is outside of Israel's hands. "There is little we Israeli doves can do at the moment. It's up to the Arabs, the Americans and the international community in general to help restore a sense of confidence in the middle-of-the-road Israeli.

"When all is said and done, I was convinced before and still am now that there is no substitute for compromise between Israel and the Palestinians." — JTA



Amos Oz

Iraqi-launched missiles slammed into Tel Aviv.

This was in sharp contrast to the attitude of many Israeli doves. Oz's political colleague-in-arms, Yossi Sarid, a Knesset member from the leftist Citizens' Rights Movement, had written an open letter inviting the Palestinians to come look for him if they wanted to talk. During the bombings, Sarid withdrew his invitation.

"Now I say, don't bother. I have no phone in my bomb shelter, and in my sealed room I cannot hear the ring. The thunder of missiles is also deafening my ears. It is difficult for me to speak wearing a mask, and my voice is distorted and breathless," Sarid writes.

Oz finds this view overly sentimental, adding that "I never got sentimental about this. I think sentimentality or emotionalism are the worse enemies of the liberals. I never thought the Palestinians were the victims of the conflict and, as a result, I might have been a little less shocked by Palestinian endorsement of Saddam Hussein."

This hardheaded realism can be seen in his ability to synthesize a pro-peace perspective with support for the U.S.-led coalition. After the air

somebody else's cheek," he succinctly pointed out in an interview with *The New York Times*.

As a 14-year-old boy, Oz rebelled against his intellectual Russian father and went off to become a farmer on Kibbutz Hulda. Instead of working on the land, however, he learned to wield a pen. "I decided to become everything he was not, and ran away from the books, the heavy intellectual atmosphere, the house full of scholarly footnotes. Now I have ended up in a house full of books, writing books. Rebellion comes around," he said.

The kibbutz was as much a part of him as it was a part of his writing, but five years ago he and his wife had to leave the kibbutz and move to Arad, where the dry, Negev desert air would help alleviate the symptoms of their youngest child's asthma. "I painfully miss some aspects of life on the kibbutz," he adds.

Although only one of his books, "A Perfect Peace," deals specifically with a kibbutz, Hulda and its members have provided the inspiration for his novels and short stories. "In 30 years you get to know a hell of a lot about 400 people, with all their different backgrounds. It was proba-

An Israeli Perspective

Two concerts a week

By NECHEMIA MEYERS

Special to *The Jewish Voice*

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai recently suggested, tongue in cheek, that every patriotic Israeli should attend two concerts a week in order to ensure employment for immigrant musicians from the Soviet Union.

Even were the citizens of this country to follow Modai's advice, it is hardly possible to establish enough orchestras and opera companies to absorb the 3,000 musicians and singers who arrived in 1990, and the thousands more likely to arrive this year. Most of them, it seems certain, will be hard put to earn a living with their violins, pianos or vocal chords.

A partial solution to their problems

may now be available, however, thanks to a new approach to merchandising music that has been introduced by, among others, former Philadelphia Marilyn Magen. Marilyn, herself a relatively new immigrant, has set up a company called Concertmasters, whose purpose is to organize recitals at private homes, at meetings of various organizations and at company parties for talented musicians and singers from the Soviet Union.

Marilyn's first step was to place small advertisements in two Russian-language papers inviting inquiries from musicians. She expected to receive a few responses, but was flabbergasted when over 300 poured

in from all over the country.

Several dozen of the musical artists were then auditioned by Marilyn, in her own home, their homes or Tel Aviv's B'nai B'rith Hall. Their talent astounded her even more than their number. Particularly impressive were the members of a string quartet from Leningrad, a guitarist who had played with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra and a husband and wife team of pianists from Rostov-on-Don, with many concerts to their credit in the Soviet Union.

Some of Marilyn's clients have part-time jobs. The pianists, for example, teach at the Rubin Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. But they earn very little at the Academy and

must supplement their income by musical moonlighting if they are to survive economically.

Concertmasters will not make them millionaires. Its standard fee for the recitals it organizes, wherever they take place, is \$100 per musician, plus a \$100 commission for the company.

Private people often bring in immigrant musicians for a family celebration, as did our Rehovot neighbors when they recently marked the 35th wedding anniversary of their parents. But Marilyn also suggests the possibility of organizing recitals at which the invitees will pay a small admission charge. "They'll be grateful," Marilyn says, "to know that they

are contributing to the absorption of Israel's newest immigrants. In addition they'll also have the pleasure of hearing excellent music in an informal setting and have an opportunity to meet and chat with the musicians."

While she is still operating on a modest scale, Marilyn fervently believes that "cottage industries" like her own can play a key role in immigration absorption by providing economic opportunities for the many talented Russians who haven't found their niche within existing institutions and companies.

(Nechemia Meyers reports regularly to *The Jewish Voice* from Rehovot, Israel.)

Book Review

The rocky relationship between Israel and the Vatican

By

DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN
THE VATICAN AND ZIONISM: CONFLICT IN THE HOLY LAND 1895-1925. By Sergio Minerbi. Oxford University Press, 1990. 253 pages. \$24.95.

Despite gains in Catholic-Jewish relations over the past 25 years with the Vatican's publication of *Nostra Aetate* (the document which addresses the church's changed attitude toward Jews and Judaism) and the church's declaration last year that anti-Semitism is "a sin against God," there is still no formal relationship between the Holy See and the

State of Israel.

The question of diplomatic ties between Israel and the Vatican is an issue considered by Catholics to be separate from anti-Semitism and other theological matters regarding their relationship to Jews and Judaism.

Diplomatic ties with Israel are important to the American Jewish organizational leaders who periodically meet with the pontiff and raise the issue. But they are reportedly not of great concern to Israeli leaders themselves, who are understandably uninterested in establishing a formal relationship with such a consistent

critic, and one which has met with both Austrian President and former Nazi Kurt Waldheim and Palestine Liberation Organization head Yasir Arafat in the last four years.

Since the day in 1904 when Theodor Herzl met with Pope Pius X hoping to persuade him to support the establishment of a Jewish home in Palestine, the political relationship between Jews and the Vatican has been a rocky one.

Sergio Minerbi's new book "The Vatican and Zionism: Conflict in the Holy Land 1895-1925" details the early days of that relationship, shedding light on an important era in Catholic-Jewish relations. Minerbi has very personal reasons for his interest in the subject. A native of Rome, he was hidden in a Catholic college for seven months during the Nazi occupation of Rome in 1943 and 1944. He now lives in Jerusalem, where he is a senior researcher at Hebrew University.

"The Vatican and Zionism" is about the Vatican's political interests, and the maneuvering of the Holy See under the leadership of three popes and two Vatican secretaries of state to try to ensure that Jews did not gain control of Palestine.

The Vatican's startlingly bald anti-Semitism is clear in the meeting notes, speeches, articles and communiques quoted here. The Catholics' territo-

rial ambitions and political concerns are colorfully illustrated as well.

The Vatican wanted control over the Christian holy places in Jerusalem, within a scheme of international oversight, ostensibly because it feared, despite repeated assurances from Zionist leaders, that the sites would not be protected under Jewish rule.

Zionism was considered by the Vatican to be synonymous with Bolshevism, the "godless, heretical" philosophy reviled by the church. Monsignor Luigi Barlassina, the auxiliary bishop to the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem, was particularly scathing. "Zionism's activity is deadly for morality," he said. "From the day they began to lord over Palestine, immoral acts in the land that soaked up the blood of Christ have reached worrisome proportions. They have even permitted prostitution houses to be opened in Jerusalem, Jaffa, Nazareth and Haifa."

When the Vatican did offer some tidbit that was not overwhelmingly negative, the Zionists grabbed onto it as a sign of hope, even when they misunderstood the Holy See's intentions. For example, when Pope Benedict XV received Nahum Sokolow in May 1917 and told the Zionist leader "We shall be good neighbors," Sokolow left Rome thinking that Catholic opposition to Zionist rule over the holy places had abated.

But the primate used the word neighbors, according to Minerbi, because "he was confident that Jewish settlement would be outside an internationally protected area that would include not only Jerusalem but also Bethlehem, Nazareth, Tiberias and Jericho."

Minerbi's scholarly book is rich with historical detail; more than 200 sources are listed in the bibliography. Oddly enough, this detailed work does not include a reprint of the draft of the Mandate for Palestine, a document to which the author constantly refers. The reader must either look it up in another book or read this one without a full understanding for what exactly was going on at the time.

The book ends as the League of Nations, in 1922, confirms the Mandate for Palestine.

This is a fascinating look at some of the personalities and attitudes that shaped Christian-Jewish relations in the early part of the century, and Minerbi leaves us thirsting for a sequel outlining the Vatican's influence on the region in the years immediately preceding the founding of the State of Israel.

(Debra Nussbaum Cohen writes about interreligious affairs for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Jewish Books in Review is a joint project of the Jewish Book Council and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.)

Cultural Calendar

LOCAL

Cafe Tamar, the annual music and dance program at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, will be held on Yom Yerushalayim, May 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the synagogue. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

PHILADELPHIA

The 1990-1991 Jewish Film Festival at the Gershman YMHA at Broad and Pine Streets in Philadelphia, will present "The Rose Garden" on April 20 and 21. Tickets for Saturday evenings are \$12.50 for the opening and \$7.50 for all others; \$5.50 for Sunday matinees.

"Going Home: How American Jews invent the Old World," an exhibition that explores the ties American Jews maintain with their Eastern European origins, at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia will remain on display through July 16. More than 120 photographs, posters, books and souvenirs, as well as home movies and treasured family heirlooms, reveal the continuing fascination that ties American Jews to their families' roots in the "old country."

A special show of "Ceremonial Fibers" will be held at the Gershman YMHA from April 17 through May 22. Artists will be represented from a variety of cultures and traditions, including Jewish, African and Asian.

"The Heritage of Jewish Vienna" is scheduled for May 29 through July 14 at the Gershman YMHA. This is a photographic exhibition of documents the history of Vienna's vibrant Jewish community.

NEW YORK

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum is presenting "One Third of a Nation," the photographs of Arnold Eagle, through June 28. The photos, taken in the mid-1930s under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), capture the essence of immigrant families and their struggles to survive in what were often deplorable (yet common) tenement conditions. This exhibit will run in addition to the museum's current show, "Out of the Ashes: The Triangle Factory Fire of 1911."

Also at the Tenement Museum April 12 through January 5, 1992, is "Meddling with Peddling: The Pushcart Wars." This exhibit is a look at both historical and contemporary aspects of street peddling and merchants on the Lower East Side.

"The Sephardic Journey: 1492-1992," an exhibit which chronicles the history and lives of Jewish communities throughout the world whose members are descendants of Spanish and Portuguese Jews, will be on display at the Yeshiva University Museum through November 1992. The exhibit will include more than a thousand religious and cultural objects, photographs, paintings and costumes, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from Spain during the Inquisition.

More than 50 original posters illustrating Jewish history make up a new exhibit at Yeshiva University Museum. The exhibit, "Witnesses to History: The Jewish Poster 1770-1985," displays major themes such as the changing status of Jews in Europe, the anti-religious sentiment of Stalinist Russia, and the support of the American Jewish community for Israel.

Two upcoming exhibits at the Yeshiva University Museum are "The Cutting Edge," calligraphic papercuts by Archie Granot combining traditional Jewish folk art with contemporary Judaic themes, and "The Bitter and the Sweet: Photographs of Contemporary Life in Morocco," displaying the remnants of a vibrant Jewish culture in transition captured in 40 black and white photographs by Roy Mittman. "The Cutting Edge" will open on Sunday, April 28; "The Bitter and the Sweet" will open on Wednesday, May 22.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The role of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) in accomplishing social reform in America will be highlighted in a new exhibit at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History. "From Parlor to Politics: Women and Reform in America, 1890-1925," features NCJW's efforts in the area of social welfare. The exhibit will continue indefinitely.

"American Patriots: Jewish Soldiers and Operation Desert Shield," an expanding exhibit with weekly updates as more photos and information are received is on display at the Jewish War Veterans National Memorial Museum.

For more information on these events, contact the sponsoring organizations.

A story of Ellis Island for children

By **MARCIA POSNER**

ELLIS ISLAND: NEW HOPE IN A NEW LAND. By William Jay Jacobs. Charles Scribner's Sons Books for Young Readers, 1990. 34 pages. \$13.95.

William Jay Jacobs relates the history of immigration and of Ellis Island by describing a single year, 1907, when more than one million immigrants arrived.

Ellis Island opened in 1882. It replaced Castle Garden, the previous station of entry, which was now too small to accommodate the huge flood of turn-of-the-century immigrants escaping the pogroms, forced conscription and economic hardships of Eastern Europe.

In 1887, the island's wooden buildings were destroyed by fire, and with them the records of everyone who had been processed there. New buildings — castle-like structures of red

brick — soon became too small in turn. Newcomers were forced to stay on ships several days as they awaited processing.

Jacobs' text, combined with historic photographs, movingly recreates the immigrant experience: the hardships of the crossing, the confusion, uncertainty and anxiety that awaited the newcomer upon his arrival.

Any child under the age of 9 found to suffer from a disease, was returned to Europe in the company of a family member. Children 10 years old or older were allowed to return home alone, but that meant making their way back from the post to their home villages.

Despite such tragedies, the immigrants retained hope. Many kissed the ground when they landed.

At the height of the Cold War in the 1950s, few immigrants came to

Ellis Island. The facilities were in disrepair and the buildings too expensive to maintain. In 1954, it was closed and put up for sale, but there were no buyers.

In 1990, Ellis Island reopened as a museum. Although immigrants no longer flock here, says Jacobs, the rebuilt Ellis Island lives on as a reminder of the hope that continues to draw ever more newcomers to America's shores in search of freedom and opportunity.

Jacobs has taught history at several colleges and is the author of 23 books of history and biography for young readers.

(Marcia Posner is a library consultant to the Jewish Book Council, and immediate past president of the Association of Jewish Libraries. Jewish Books in Review is a joint project of the Jewish Book Council and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.)

New Jewish Student Press Service promotes revitalization of Jewish press

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish Student Press Service, under the guidance of newly-appointed editor/director Sandy Lawrence Edry, is eagerly anticipating a revitalization of the Jewish campus press. "I believe we are witnessing the beginnings of a renaissance for the Jewish press on campus," Edry said. "New publications are emerging regularly, former publications are being reestablished, and those papers that have continued throughout the 'lean years' of student activism are stronger than ever."

In addition to providing a wire

service for Jewish newspapers, JSPS plans to provide regular mailings of background material for news stories, assist fledgling papers with technical and other help, and build a national advertising base for Jewish student papers.

The Press Service, established in 1971, primarily serves as a support network for Jewish newspapers on college campuses. Over 40 campuses, including UCLA, Harvard, the University of Michigan and Columbia, now have Jewish student papers, and Edry believes these papers should play a large role in the campus

community.

"Jewish student papers are not simply the journalistic centers of the student Jewish community," said Edry. "They are often the central address for Jewish activism and I believe JSPS must address these needs as well."

The emerging anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism being propagated by campus publications highlight the need for more Jewish journalism at the university level. The Jewish Student Press Service is a constituent of the North American Jewish Student Appeal.

Movie Review

Scenes from a mall

Review By
MORRIE WARSHAWSKI

Special to The Jewish Voice

Paul Mazursky has carved a well-earned reputation for making movies that show an unusual sensitivity to modern culture and contemporary relationships. Mazursky is a master at depicting a particular time and place, often capturing just the right elements that help define a period — the 60s in *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice*, the 70s in *An Unmarried Woman*, the 40s in *Enemies: A Love Story*.

In Mazursky's newest film, *SCENES FROM A MALL*, he tries to capture the essence of the late 80s and early 90s by focusing on the relationship of a middle-aged Jewish couple as it unravels and reconstitutes in the center of that great American icon, the Beverly Center shopping mall in Beverly Hills.

Nick Fifer (Woody Allen) is a successful Los Angeles sports lawyer. His wife, Dr. Deborah Feingold-Fifer (Bette Midler) is a psychiatrist. She has just published a new book *I Do! I Do! I Do!*, which outlines how to recommit to marriage in an age of divorce. Both are ambitious, upwardly

mobile and hopelessly attached to their phones and beepers.

The thin thread of plot has the Fifers preparing for their 16th wedding anniversary during a day of shopping at the mall. Over yogurt Nick confesses to an affair that has just ended, then over sushi Deborah confesses to an ongoing affair with Dr. Hans Clava (Paul Mazursky).

Since there is not much action in their relationship, the mall itself provides all the excitement in this film. It is a wild kaleidoscope of jugglers from Shanghai, a magician, a strolling mariachi band, rappers and a barber shop quartet. The mall even houses that dreaded of all street performers, a strolling mime (Bill Irwin) desperate for tips. Irwin shadows Nick's moves and finally gets a \$100 bill after Nick knocks him out.

Trying to squeeze every bit of atmosphere possible from the locale, Mazursky has scenes in every conceivable part of the mall: drug store, bathroom, phone booths, parking area, a variety of restaurants and boutiques and even one hilarious love scene in the mall's movie house showing the Indian film *Salaam Bombay*.

Fans of Woody Allen will find it difficult to believe him dressed up in Hollywood style replete with a tiny pony tail below the bald spot on his head. Bette Midler makes a deft try at convincing us that she is a bona fide shrink, but the psychobabble here is not bent enough to be funny, nor straight enough to be taken seriously. In the end she diagnoses Nick's infidelity as an obsession with maternal reassurance and her own affair as a fixation with her father.

The film begins and ends with Marlene Dietrich's throaty version of "You Do Something to Me." Unfortunately, Mazursky never really crystallizes that special "something" that holds Nick and Deborah together. Worse, there is nothing about either that compels a viewer to care. On the other hand, perhaps Mazursky has truly captured the essence of love in the 90's by making the mall the main character — a place where pallid personal relationships bask in an atmosphere of blatant consumerism. (Morrie Warshawski writes frequently about culture and the arts for publications throughout the US and Canada from his home in St. Louis.)



Bette Midler and Woody Allen star as Deborah and Nick Fifer, a happily married couple, who on the occasion of their 16th wedding anniversary, run to the local mall to shop for party supplies and end up doing more shouting than shopping in touchstone Pictures' new comedy, "Scenes from a Mall."

Walesa presents Holocaust Museum with gifts

By **JOSEPH POLAKOFF**

Special to The Jewish Voice

WASHINGTON — Poland's President Lech Walesa sought in speech and with gifts to erase permanently discord between Poles and Jews in a visit to the construction site of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum here last month.

In a speech at the museum's partially completed Hall of Witness, Walesa officially announced creation of a blue-ribbon Task Force to combat anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Poland; he met privately with 20 Jewish Holocaust survivors of Polish origin to discuss mutual concerns and to air differences, and delivered

two of three artifacts from Poland for the Museum.

Anti-Semitism recurred in Poland during the recent election which he won has been controversial for Walesa as he was criticized for public remarks widely construed as anti-Semitic.

"The people of Poland must understand that their government, the first democratically elected government in our long and tormented history, will not permit prejudice, anti-Semitism and xenophobia to disfigure our future," he said. "This very museum is a testament to the final, awful result of hatred and contempt based on religious and ethnic differences."

In welcoming Walesa, Harvey Meyerhoff, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council's chairman, said "our welcome is tinged with many emotions. Empathy for the struggle that you and your people are still fighting against repression. Pride that a man of your personal stature, who for a decade has exemplified Poland's endless crusade for freedom, should be our first official guest in this partially completed structure. And sorrow, sorrow that the history of the Poles and the Jews, who have suffered so much, should again have become entangled in prejudice and misunderstanding."

Walesa's visit, on the second day of his eight-day trip to the U.S. as Poland's President, took place March 21 the day following a ceremonial welcome from President Bush. He presented the Museum with a bullet-ridden tree stump from the forest of Palmiry where Polish leaders were shot by the Gestapo, and the Ringleblum documents — eyewitness accounts of the agony of life and death in the Warsaw Ghetto, which were buried in milk cans in the ghetto before its doomed uprising in 1943. One of the two existing cans recently became a part of the Museum's collection.

In addition, Poland is sending to the Museum the gate to the Tarnow Jewish cemetery in Poland that dates to the 17th century. The 10-foot high, 12-foot wide iron gate was constructed in the 1930s. During the Nazi occupation of Poland, several thousand Jews were marched through that gate and shot amid the grave-stones of their ancestors. About 10,000 Jews were murdered in Tarnow itself; 3,000 in the Jewish cemetery and 7,000 in the nearby woods. About 15,000 were buried in mass graves in the cemetery and the woods.

At his own request, Walesa met with the Jewish survivors who included Dr. Samuel Goetz of the University of California at Los Angeles where he helped establish a chair



The U.S. Holocaust Museum, currently under construction in Washington, D.C., recently received this milk can in which historian Emanuel Ringelbaum placed archival materials of the Warsaw Ghetto. The milk can, which is on long-term loan from the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, was filled with hundreds of documents gathered during the Holocaust describing daily life in the Warsaw Ghetto. Three such milk cans were buried in separate, secret locations and to date, only two cans have been discovered. Some of the documents and records from the milk can were presented to the museum by Polish President Lech Walesa on his first state visit to the U.S. on March 21.

in Holocaust Studies; Miles Lerman, chairman of the museum's national fund-raising campaign that has raised \$107 million to date; Vladka Meed, founder and coordinator of the annual summer seminary in Israel and Poland; her husband, Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

"This was not an ordinary meeting," the survivors said in a statement. "We took with us to this dialogue one thousand years of past history... Our ties to Polish soil are very deep. We were not alone. With

us was the presence... of those we left behind whose ashes are to be found in Nazi killing centers scattered throughout Poland... We were candid and direct in our conversations with the President. We told him of our distress by recent anti-Semitic events that have demanded the image of a free and democratic Poland... When we were young... Poland was the home of a vibrant, vital Jewish community of 3.3 million souls which contributed to Polish culture and society. The Jews of Poland today are a remnant of a remnant — some 5,000 people, mostly elderly."

Grant enables travelling exhibit service for museums

NEW YORK — While residents of Chicago were treated to a photo exhibit on "The Last Jews of Eastern Europe" at the Spertus Museum of Judaica, and New Yorkers enjoyed an exhibit on "A Decade of Israeli Painting" at The Jewish Museum, other audiences were not as lucky because these exhibitions never travelled beyond their museum walls.

But a program now being developed by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture will enable such exhibitions to reach communities throughout the country. The Jewish Exhibition Traveling Service (JETS) is designed to adapt museum exhibitions for traveling, provide technical assistance, promote exhibits and manage the distribution of a select number of exhibits. It has just been awarded a \$192,500 grant from the S.H. and Helen R. Scheuer Family Foundation, according to Sandra Weiner, NFJC president.

Despite a tremendous demand for traveling exhibitions on Jewish themes, few are distributed because of the time, staff and funding needed to administer the touring of exhibitions, she said. Rental fees rarely

cover the cost of converting exhibitions for travel, and museums find it difficult to devote their limited resources to any but their "block-buster" exhibitions.

Richard A. Siegel, NFJC executive director, noted that the new service will maximize limited resources, promote collaborations, increase quality and defray costs. "Even beyond its cost-effectiveness, the true importance of JETS lies in its potential to reach new audiences throughout North America with the richness of the Jewish experience as expressed through the art and artifacts of Jewish life," he said.

The service will be organized in association with NFJC's Council of American Jewish Museums, which represents 40 Jewish museums and exhibition institutions. To further the outreach potential, JETS will also prepare special educational materials, organize accompanying performances and public programs, and market exhibits to the full range of museums and exhibiting organizations, both Jewish and general.

NFJC expects to initiate the Jewish Exhibition Traveling Service at the 1992-93 season.

\$900 million

Continued from 1

capacity," to raise the sums of money needed, he explained.

The loan program, along with the worldwide fund-raising appeal, will be put to a vote April 16 in Washington during an extraordinary General Assembly of North American federations. Although formal approval is expected from almost all federations, CJF officials have spent the preceding weeks trying to anticipate and answer potential concerns, so as to ensure final support. Other Diaspora Jewish federations are expected to ratify the program and fund-raising appeal at a later date.

The fund-raising campaign will be split between the United Jewish Appeal, the major fund-raising arm of American Jewry, and Keren Hayesod, which raises money from Diaspora Jewish communities outside the United States. The UJA campaign goal is set at \$450 million; Keren Hayesod is responsible for the remaining \$200 million.

This comes on the heels of the 1990 Operation Exodus campaign, which raised \$420 million through UJA and \$180 million through Keren Hayesod.

Although that campaign was by all accounts an overwhelming success, the unexpected surge in Soviet Jewish immigrants forced both Israel and the Diaspora Jewish community to radically rethink financial requirements. Close to 200,000 new immigrants arrived in 1990, and this year 300,000 are expected.

Israeli officials have estimated the total costs of the immigration and absorption of 1 million Soviet Jews, including long-term housing, job creation and schooling, at a minimum of \$40 billion.

Diaspora Jewry's contribution to this will

total around \$2.6 billion. This figure includes the \$600 million raised in Operation Exodus, the \$650 million to be raised in the new campaign and the \$900 million loan program.

The remaining \$450 million will come from the regular budget of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which is mainly financed through annual donations to UJA and Keren Hayesod. The Jewish Agency pays the entire cost of bringing the immigrants to Israel, as well as a portion of their initial resettlement costs.

It will be responsible for distributing the moneys raised in the UJA and Keren Hayesod campaigns, as well as the loans guaranteed by the federations.

The loans will technically be guaranteed by CJF, but because CJF has no assets to speak of, federations will in turn guarantee CJF's loan and accept final responsibility for any defaults over the \$200 million reserve fund, said Frank Strauss, director of communications at CJF.

According to the preliminary plan that has been distributed to North American federation leaders, 148 U.S. federations will guarantee \$750 million in loans, while federated communities in Canada and elsewhere will be responsible for \$150 million in loans. The loans will be provided by Israeli banks.

No decision has been made about what to do if one or more federations decide not to take part in the loan program.

Currently, if all the U.S. federations accept the program, financial responsibility will range from 0.02 percent of \$750 million for the small Rockford Jewish Community Council in Illinois, to 19 percent of the total for the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, said Strauss.

Although there is little chance North American Jews, through their federations, will turn

down this program in the midst of the largest wave of Jewish immigration to Israel, some federation officials are raising questions about the potential risk in guaranteeing loans that in many cases exceed a particular federation's net worth.

"There's no record that would suggest that we know how to measure that risk," said Goodman of CJF. "We all recognize that we are taking that risk and that we will try to mitigate the risk as much as possible."

The loans, which will cover the Jewish Agency's share of the immigrant "absorption basket" provided by Israel's Absorption Ministry, will have a 10-year payback schedule.

Since March 1, the Jewish Agency has been offering each new immigrant a \$1,000 loan instead of the grant it formerly provided. Once the loan program is approved, federations will accept retroactive responsibility for the loans.

Some federation officials are specifically worried that the generous 10-year payback period, with no payments required until after the fourth year, will hinder the Israeli banks' ability to collect money owed.

"I will not accept that a four-year delay will do anything but hurt repayment," said Mel Bondy, treasurer of the Allied Jewish Federation of Denver. He pointed out that after four years, it may be difficult for banks to track down people who took out loans.

"People don't like to wake up four years later and find that money is owed. People tend to forget these things," he said, adding that nonetheless, he would vote in favor of the program. And although Israeli citizens can occasionally run into trouble trying to leave the country if their debts are in arrears, the generous payback scheme of the loan means that "we won't know if they are in arrears for four years, so there clearly is an additional risk," said Goodman of CJF.

Israeli banking law does require that such loans also be guaranteed by two individuals in Israel, but for the Soviet immigrants, the rules were relaxed to allow one of the signers to be a relative over the age of 18. It is also unclear how many loans one individual will be able to co-guarantee.

While CJF officials acknowledge the risk involved, they say the history of immigrant loan payback is healthy and that small defaults will be covered by the reserve fund. They also counter that Israeli banks will track address changes and will periodically send reminders during the first four years.

As is usually the case with immigrants from "countries in distress," the Jewish Agency picks up transportation costs and the costs of shipping and storing luggage. With the onslaught of Soviet Jews, what was a transportation and storage budget that hovered around \$6 million in earlier years has now burgeoned into \$194 million for the remaining nine months of 1991 alone.

Officials of CJF, UJA and the Jewish Agency developed the idea of a loan program as a way to aid immigration without bankrupting Diaspora Jewry. Officials feared that a multibillion-dollar fund-raising campaign, conducted while regular UJA and Keren Hayesod campaigns were under way, would stretch the Diaspora Jewish community behind its ability to give.

But with the adoption last year of a resolution that called for a continuation of collective responsibility for the resettlement of Jewish refugees — that one directed toward resettlement in the United States — Jewish federations in North America basically promised to all they could to assist in this massive aliyah.

The resolution formalized a policy that had existed de facto for years, especially following the decimation of one-third of world Jewry in the Holocaust.

Senators press Japan: End cooperation with Arab boycott

By DAVID FRIEDMAN
WASHINGTON (JTA) — Japan's compliance with the Arab economic boycott of Israel is being targeted by those in the United States who be-

lieve that the successful outcome of the Persian Gulf War provides an opportunity to end the boycott.

Nine U.S. senators, describing themselves as "supporters of a strong

U.S.-Japanese relationship," have sent a letter to Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu urging that Japanese businesses end their compliance with the boycott. "The end of the boycott is an important first step" to realize the opportunities presented by the Gulf crisis in bringing about a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict," the senators said in the letter.

Secretary of State James Baker is believed to have discussed the boycott with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama when the two met at the State Department March 21. But a State Department spokesman would only say that Japan was urged to play a "more evenhanded" role in the Middle East. He also reported that Nakayama said he would like to make an official visit to Israel "in the near future."

Baker has urged Arab countries to drop the boycott as one of the confidence-building measures he would like to see both the Arabs and Israel make in order to foster an atmosphere conducive to a settlement of

the Arab-Israel conflict. In Congress, the boycott is becoming a major issue with senators and representatives urging the Arab countries to abandon the boycott or, at the least as a first step, to stop enforcing it against American companies that do business with Israel. They are also urging countries like Japan to end their compliance with the boycott.

The letter to the Japanese prime minister was drafted by Sen. John Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), who made a pledge March 18 at the 32nd annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee to personally work to get Japan to end its compliance with the boycott. Also signing the letter were Sens. Claiborn Pell (D-R.I.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Bob Packwood (R-Ore.), Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), Timothy Wirth (D-Colo.), Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Jim Sasser (D-Tenn.) and Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.).

"Many Japanese firms have gone beyond the demands of their Arab

trading partners, voluntarily refraining from establishing ties with Israeli businesses," the letter said. "Some of the largest and most prestigious Japanese firms have refused to deal with Israel. Discriminatory credit and financing practices have hindered the little Israeli-Japanese trade which does exist."

The senators said that the compliance by Japanese businesses is of "of particular concern because of the tacit support" of the Japanese government.

Japanese officials have been insisting that trade with Israel has steadily been increasing in recent years.

But a recent report by the World Jewish Congress calls Japan "the country whose indiscriminate, government-encouraged compliance with the Arab boycott surpasses that of any other industrialized state." The report charges that Japan complies with the boycott in order "to do nothing that would antagonize the Arab states" because of Japan's almost total reliance on Middle East oil.

Orthodox party urges airport Sabbath closing

JERUSALEM (JTA) — In a new attempt to enforce Sabbath observance on all walks of life in Israel, the Agudat Yisrael party is pushing for the closure of Ben-Gurion Airport on Saturdays. The issue is likely to lead to another conflict between the secular state and its religious minority, which has considerable political clout.

The international air terminal, a major source of revenue, has always functioned seven days a week. Its closure over the Sabbath could mean disastrous economic losses, say opponents of the plan, including Transport Minister Moshe Katsav. But the Agudah, which held out longer than any of the other Orthodox parties before its five Knesset members joined Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's coalition government last year, is in a position to impose its will.

Civil servants and politicians of the two major parties, Likud and Labor, say the move is a potential disaster. But given the delicate state of the governing coalition, few pundits will predict an Agudah failure. Shamir's Knesset majority depends mainly on the strictly Orthodox, or haredi, parties.

The defection of any one would shave that majority dangerously thin. Agudah made clear that it would not hesitate to jump ship the moment Likud reneged on the religious concessions it offered as inducements to join the government.

One of those concessions was the shutdown of public transportation on

the Sabbath. But in Israel, that applies chiefly to buses. While the coalition agreement promised tighter enforcement of Sabbath laws, Israel's only international airport was never specified. Its shutdown would affect only the flights of foreign airlines, since the state-owned El Al is forbidden to fly on the Sabbath.

But closing the airport would close down Maman, the government-owned cargo handling and servicing company that provides ground service for foreign airlines. Not only passenger flights but Israel's vital cargo flights to Europe would be affected.

According to Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino, a Laborite who chairs the Knesset Economic Committee, "this would mean a serious blow to the economy, and particularly our agricultural exports. It would seriously disrupt our relations with foreign airlines, with grave repercussions for tourism and trade," she said.

But Agudah politicians dismiss such warnings. They point with triumph to El Al, whose profitability actually increased after it stopped Sabbath flights in the mid-1980s, despite dire predictions of economic disaster.

El Al's patronage has always been overwhelmingly Jewish, but many Orthodox Jews preferred to travel on foreign carriers that accommodated them with kosher meals than on a Jewish airline that flew on the Sabbath.



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Peace conference

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of "the good news all Israelis desire, the news of peace."

Somewhat more circumspect, Shamir described his talks with Baker as "good," "between friends" and "profound and fundamental."

Baker himself spoke cautiously. "I agree we have had a productive and very constructive meeting this morning, and I don't wish to diminish that in any way by saying that there is a long, long way to go," the secretary of state told reporters.

"There are many, many parties involved. There are a lot of questions before us that have to be addressed and that have not been resolved, so I hope there is no rush to judgment," Baker said.

He noted he was due to go to Cairo and Damascus after leaving Jerusalem, "hoping very much to develop a plan that will ultimately lead to peace in this region." The secretary held out the possibility of a return visit to Jerusalem from the Arab capitals before going back to Washington.

Baker met with the Palestinians at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. There were only six this time, compared with the 10 who came to meet him there on March 12, during his last previous visit to Jerusalem. The delegation had the same leader, Faisal Husseini, an East Jerusalem Palestinian activist well respected in some Western circles but deemed a terrorist agitator by some in the Israeli government.

The meeting had Arafat's personal blessing. He told the BBC Tuesday that the PLO is now willing to talk "to the enemy," meaning Israel.

There was nothing remarkable in that declaration inasmuch as the PLO's official policy has been supportive of negotiations since the last meeting of Palestine National Council in November 1988, when Arafat recognized Israel's right to exist.

But Arafat replied, "No" when asked by the BBC about the possibility of a two-track dia-

logue, where Israel holds separate but parallel talks with the Arab states and with Palestinians.

The PLO envisions an international conference under U.N. auspices that would lead to a Palestinian state. The Israelis have a different sort of conference in mind and absolutely rule out Palestinian statehood, as well as any negotiations with the PLO.

Activist Husseini expressed disappointment with Baker's views, which seemed to be in line with Israel's positions. Speaking to reporters in Hebrew, he said he was unhappy with the idea of a regional conference. Unlike an international conference, it would exclude the European countries, which, in his view, have a more balanced attitude toward the Israeli-Palestinian dispute than Washington has.

Husseini stressed at the meeting that his delegation was speaking on behalf of the PLO, with the approval of PLO headquarters in Tunis. He claimed therefore that this second meeting with Baker in less than a month was a de facto resumption of the U.S.-PLO dialogue the Americans broke off last June. The State Department flatly denies this.

In addition to Husseini, the Palestinian delegation included Dr. Khaidar Abed a-Shafi, chairman of the Palestinian Red Crescent, the Islamic equivalent of the Red Cross, in the Gaza Strip; Dr. Zakaria al-Agha, also from the Gaza Strip; Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij; Maher al-Masri of Nablus; and Mustafa Abed a-Nabl Natshe, the former mayor of Hebron.

Freij, probably the most moderate in the group, said afterward that "a lot depends on what Israel is planning to do in the West Bank and Gaza. If they continue with their creeping annexation by building and adding more settlements, who can believe that Israel wants peace?" he asked.

The meeting with Baker was boycotted by Hamas, the militant Islamic fundamentalist movement, which rejects any dialogue with "heathens." Hamas had made clear that its

war is not just with Israel but with "the Jews, the brothers of the monkeys, the murderers of the prophets."

Other rejectionist elements, such as the Communists and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, contend there is no use talking peace while the United States shares Israel's rejection of a Palestinian state and discredits the PLO.

There is, in fact, a bitter debate in the Palestinian camp on this issue, which is punctuated regularly by violence.

Three Arab residents of the administered territories were murdered on the eye of Baker's visit because they were suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry's announcement, just before Baker's arrival, that 1,000 Palestinian prisoners would be freed for the upcoming Moslem festival of Id al-Fitr, triggered fierce negative reaction among the more hard-line elements of Shamir's government. According to the Defense Ministry, none of the prisoners served time for murder or other violent crimes.

But Likud's most vocal hawk, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, called the impending release "an act of massive irresponsibility" by the defense authorities in keeping with "the 40 months of disgraceful policy," a reference to the Defense Ministry's handling of the intifada.

Another Likud hard-liner, Knesset member Tzahi Hanegbi, filed suit in the High Court of Justice to block the release. It was also attacked by Rehavam Ze'evi, a recently appointed minister without portfolio whose Moledet party advocates the expulsion of Palestinians from the territories as part of a peace settlement.

Geula Cohen of the pro-settlement Tehiya party criticized the idea of a regional conference. Another Tehiya Knesset member, Elyakim Haetzni, said the party simply would not support the present policy line.

For the time being, the dissenting voices do not worry Shamir. Some may even strengthen his position, allowing him to show Baker how thin a line he must walk to preserve coalition unity. But if a full-scale rebellion develops on his right flank over peace policy, the stability of Shamir's government would be seriously compromised.

Winning

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has recently been criticized by the State Department for permitting four percent of its new Soviet immigrants to settle in what the United States defines as "occupied" territory — which includes East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

With democracy spreading in Eastern Europe, Latin America and elsewhere in the world, where is the U.S. call for democratic change in the Middle East? But without those fundamental reforms leading to the creation of institutions of stability and continuity in the Arab world — how can Israel be expected to make peace? What is the value of the signature of a King or dictator who is here today and might be gone tomorrow?

This fundamental instability along with the implacable hatred of Israel preached openly in most Arab countries, underscores the simplistic fallacy of the Bush formula of "land for peace." We can all comprehend what "land" is in the context of strategic depth, listening posts, and what a country with a nine mile wide

waist can mean in times of war. But what kind of peace can the Arab world in its present composition and frame of mind offer Israel?

If, in fact, the Administration is willing to pursue mutual confidence building measures and a step-by-step approach, it is possible some progress might be made. However, expecting Israel to be able to satisfy Palestinian political aspirations in the near future is a certain non-starter for U.S. diplomacy unless we move boldly to induce at least some Arab states to assure Israel of their future peaceful intentions.

The Gulf War has given our country the stature to take advantage of new opportunities. But we will need new, clearer thinking if we are to take advantage of them. More of the same mindset, however, will only bring more of the same lack of results — and more tension between the United States and Israel.

(Morris J. Amitay is a Washington attorney and former Executive Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.)

Torah

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many all around us who live in silent pain, who feel ignored and rejected and abandoned, who are starved for a smile and for a kind word. They need these things as much as they need food or drink or shelter.

Let us extend the boundaries of our concerns beyond our own immediate circle of friends and family, and pay attention to those around us who feel so alone, and so isolated. And then, if someone asks us where we gained the insight to live in this spirit, we can reply in truth that "the stork brought it."

(Rabbi Jack Riemer is spiritual leader of Beth David Congregation in Miami, FL. His latest book, an anthology of poetry and prose related to the themes of the High Holy Days, will be published this summer.)

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AJ Committee joins Conference of Presidents

NEW YORK (JTA) — The American Jewish Committee has formally joined the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, bringing to 47 the total number of Jewish groups in the influential umbrella organization.

"It is no accident of history that this action by AJC comes at the moment that the U.S. has started delicate negotiations with many parties of the Middle East," wrote AJ Committee President Sholom Comay, in a statement issued last month.

"We feel that we are at a historic point in approaching some of the most vexing concerns of our generation, and we are at a time when the unity of the American Jewish community must be maximized — not only because of the Middle East but also because of the challenges world Jewry face in other areas," he said.

But President Comay added the decision "in no way compromises the agency's ability to speak out clearly and independently on those issues of particular concern to its 50,000 members."

The Conference of Presidents is often seen as an unofficial go-between for the Israeli and U.S. governments, but its focus is on representing the views of the American Jewish community to the U.S. administration.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents, said he welcomed AJ Committee's decision, adding that the expertise the 86-year-old group brought to the conference was valued.

For the past 23 years, AJ Committee has had official observer status on the Conference of Presidents, but officials said the exigencies of time demanded unity from the Jewish community.



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