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Celebrate the Partnership Arad String Ensemble marks Delaware debut.

By Lynn Edelman
Editor



Members of the Arad String Ensemble

On Tuesday, April 11th at 7:30 p.m., members of the Arad String Ensemble will perform in concert at the Wilmington Music School. The high caliber of their musicianship belies their youth. These talented young people, who range in age from 10 through 17, have already mastered such complex classical pieces as Bach's Brandenburg Concerto, Boris Pigovat's Toccata and Handel's Aria.

Many of them also have mastered the art of adapting to life in their adopted homeland of Israel. They have made aliyah from France, Russia and other communities of the former Soviet Union. All are thriving in their studies at the Conservatory of Arad, a music school supported through Partnership 2000—a unique United Jewish Communities program which builds strong ties between

Jewish communities in Israel and the Diaspora.

The Jewish Federation of Delaware, along with 11 New Jersey Federations, has adopted this city of 26,000 on the edge of the Judean and Negev deserts as its "sister". Community volunteers teach English, serve as spiritual leaders and spend summers working with the pre-school and camp program.

Participants on Federation Missions to Israel routinely visit Arad. Recently, students from the University of Delaware Hillel found time in their hectic Birthright Israel agenda to meet with community young people. Delaware 8th graders viewed visits with their Arad peers as a highlight of their recent Israel adventure.

Toni Young, chair of JFD's Partnership 2000 Committee, is excited by the Partnership's potential to help build strong bridges between Delaware Jews and their Israeli counterparts. "This special

relationship between our two communities can lead to exchange programs and opportunities for Arad youth to travel to the United States for further education," said Young.

Last summer, Arad athletes stayed with Delaware families while competing in the Maccabi Games in Cherry Hill, N.J. In August, another group will compete in the 2000 games.

Ten area families will host the 13 students who will be accompanied by Isaac Spiel, director of the Arad Conservatory and his wife, Leonora, who performs with the Ensemble. Also joining the delegation are Conductor Valeri Somorov and his wife, Alla, an Ensemble performer; Shmuel Kaplan, the coordinator of Living Bridge activities for the partnership and Yuval Shefi, who will videotape the Ensemble during their adventures in Delaware and New Jersey.

See CELEBRATE page 19



AEA students receive letters from Arad pen-pals.

Reform Puts Kosher Stamp On Same-Sex Ceremonies

By Julie Wiener,
JTA

Modification or compromise? Whatever you want to call it, the Reform rabbis' final decision on Jewish same-sex commitment ceremonies is being touted as "groundbreaking" and a major step forward for gay and lesbian Jews.

After years of often heated debate on gay marriage, Reform rabbis overwhelmingly passed a resolution Wednesday affirming that "the relationship of a Jewish, same-gender couple is worthy of affirmation through appropriate Jewish ritual."

The resolution marks the first time a "major religious body has indicated its support for any of its clergy who decide to officiate at same-gender ceremonies," said Rabbi Paul Menitoff, executive director of the Reform movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Rabbi Denise Eger of West Hollywood, Calif., who is one of the co-chairs of the CCAR's Gay and Lesbian Rabbinic Network, said the resolution will "create the opportunity for spiritual fullness for gay couples." Eger, who underwent a Jewish commitment ceremony with her lesbian partner under a chupah several years ago, also said the vote would "send a message of hope" to Jewish gays and lesbians, their friends and families.

However, the resolution — which passed almost unanimously in a voice vote at the rabbis' annual convention in Greensboro, N.C. — is not the wholesale endorsement of gay marriage that some proponents originally had hoped for, or that Reform's critics will likely characterize it as.

The resolution does not use the words "marriage" or "wedding," and was modified shortly before the vote to say not only that "we support the decision of those who choose to officiate at rituals of

See SAME-SEX CEREMONIES page 19

Student Led Prayers in Supreme Court Spotlight

By Sharon Samber
JTA

The Supreme Court may finally resolve conflicting rulings on student-led prayers at school-related events, such as graduation ceremonies.

The high court heard oral arguments Wednesday in a case involving student-led and student-initiated prayer at high school football games.

In 1992, the Supreme Court barred clergy-led prayers at public school graduation ceremonies, but a year later the justices refused to review a federal appeals court ruling that allowed student-led prayers. That ruling conflicts with another federal appeals court's decision barring student-led graduation prayers.

Justices appeared perplexed by the Texas school district policy of allowing a student representative to read prayers over the school's public address system at football games.

The school district maintains this policy does not violate the constitutional ban on establishment of a state religion because the message or invocation can be non religious and is decided by the student and not the school.

The parents and students who object to the school policy have argued that it is an imposition of religious practices on the student body. Any speech that is part of an official school event, even if initiated and led by a student, is under school control and therefore the government is really making the choice of whether to include prayer, they say.

Justice David Souter, vocal in his criticism of the policy at the oral hearing, challenged the school district to show how its policy is a neutral one.

If a student chosen by his peers to give a message at the football game includes prayer, and the school "provides a forum and requires attendance of some students, what more do we need?" Souter asked.

"The school district is forcing students to participate in prayer," he added.

But Justice Antonin Scalia said that it should not be assumed that students would say a prayer every time.

Justice Anthony Kennedy voiced his concern over whether schools could become "forums for religious debates" and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said the court must look at whether a similar policy could enter the classroom. Kennedy and O'Connor may hold the swing votes in this case, as they have been in other divisive cases.

Marc Stern, co-director of the American Jewish Congress' legal department, has noted that the decision on this case could address the question of whether rights surrounding freedom of speech apply when the speaker has a captive audience.

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INSIDE DELAWARE

Beth Shalom And Seminary To Honor Leah Kraft



Leah Kraft

Congregation Beth Shalom and The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) will honor Leah Kraft with a tribute luncheon this spring. Mrs. Kraft, widow of Jacob Kraft, Rabbi Emeritus of the Congregation, will be honored for her commitment to enhancing Jewish values, knowledge, tradition and principles throughout the "First State" Jewish Community.

Leah Zimmerman Kraft was born and raised in South Philadelphia to Mollie and Harry Zimmerman. The eldest of three sisters, Leah and her sisters, Marian

and Shirley, were inspired by their parents to pursue Jewish education at an early age. Leah first attended Hebrew School at the Jewish Education Center # 2, six times a week. A leader at an early age, she soon was asked to tutor her classmates. Sunday afternoons were filled with Jewish Community social and enrichment activities and clubs, including Young Judea. Continuing her education at Gratz College, Leah's teachers and mentors included many of the premier Jewish educators, poets and writers of the day.

While visiting family in Wilmington and helping her cousin prepare for her Bat Mitzvah, Leah Zimmerman met Beth Shalom's spiritual leader, Jacob Kraft. He encouraged the Gratz College student to apply for a position at the synagogue's religious school. Ms. Zimmerman commuted from Philadelphia by train three times a week to teach at Beth Shalom.

A romance between Rabbi Kraft and Leah Zimmerman developed, and the couple soon married. World War II interrupted the Kraft family life in Wilmington. Rabbi Kraft, now a Chaplain, served in the European Theatre of War. Leah sold their home in Wilmington, and she and young daughter, Ruth, returned to Philadelphia to reside with her parents. Commuting to

Wilmington to teach became part of Leah Kraft's wartime life.

Leah remained a teacher at Congregation Beth Shalom for 35 years, combined with an active synagogue and community life while, with Jacob, raising daughters Ruth and Debbie. The Kraft home was filled with visiting clergy, Jewish educators and personalities, as Rabbi and Mrs. Kraft enriched the growing and diverse Jewish Community.

Following the death of her husband, Leah decided to close her career as an educator and pursue other interests. Her days are filled with volunteer work as a tutor at Albert Einstein Academy and at St. Francis Hospital, courses in music, history, current events at the Lifelong Learning Academy, and involvement in many social and community organizations. Recently, Mrs. Kraft mastered word processing and is transcribing letters she received from her beloved Jacob during the war.

Family life is an integral part of Leah's life. She gets much naches from her four grandchildren and her extended family. In reminiscing about her mother, Debbie Cohen recalls a tribute to Mrs. Kraft from the synagogue's 75th anniversary program book:

"We honor with love Jacob

Kraft's life partner Leah Zimmerman Kraft. She encouraged his dreams, supported him in wartime, enabled his congregational work, and with him created, taught and inspired their family".

"Beth Shalom has been blessed to have such a gracious presence in our community. Mrs. Kraft embodies the best virtues of Judaism; she both teaches Jewish values and lives them," said Rabbi Daniel Satlow, spiritual leader of Beth Shalom. "How many hospital and shiva calls has she made? How many students has she taught? How many times has she drawn someone closer to Judaism? Too many times to count." Satlow added.

Beth Shalom Past President Sheldon Weinstein calls Mrs. Kraft "an inspiration to our community, a distinguished teacher, an individual of integrity, a woman of valor." He added that "Mrs. Kraft's strength of character, her perseverance in many causes of equity and equality has served as the standard of commitment and dedication with respect to which we should all attempt to strive and attain." He also is a lifetime member of Beth Shalom and a past chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation.

The luncheon and tribute will be

on Sunday, April 30, 2000 at Beth Shalom, 18th Street and Baynard Boulevard. Guest speaker will be Dr. Anne Lapidus Lerner, chairwoman of the Department of Jewish Literature and Director of the Jewish Women's Studies Program of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. Founded in 1886, JTA is the academic and spiritual center of Conservative Judaism worldwide. The Seminary maintains five schools- Rabbinical, Cantorial, Graduate School, Jewish Education and List College-and grants undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees.

The late Rabbi Kraft, a Harvard University graduate, is an alumnus of JTS. Honorary Chairpersons of the tribute luncheon are the Honorable David and Marilyn Levinson. "At the tribute luncheon on April 30, The Jewish Theological Seminary will name a scholarship in Mrs. Kraft's honor with preference going to students with family ties to Congregation Beth Shalom," said David Levinson.

Former students, friends and associates of Mrs. Kraft are cordially invited to the 11:30 a.m. event. Reservations are necessary for the luncheon. For further information and reservations please call the synagogue office (302) 654 4462.

Kashrut Authority To Speak At JCC

The week of March 31 to April 7, has been designated "A Week of Kosher Awareness". In celebration, Rabbi Levi Garelik, Kashrut Administrator of the respected OK supervising agency, will speak Wednesday April 5 at 7:30 PM. The event is sponsored by Chabad of DE and will take place at the JCC.

The lecture, in conjunction with

the International campaign for Kosher awareness, will address the changing food industry as it relates to the Kosher consumer. Rabbi Garelik, who travels extensively for the OK, will share his experiences in this constantly evolving field.

The International Kosher Awareness Week will be marked by Chabad centers throughout the

world in the second of five campaigns this year marking a Jubilee, the fiftieth year since the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, assumed international leadership of the Chabad movement.

Although kosher food-the fastest growing segment of the food industry-is visibly displayed in the inter-

national aisle of the supermarket next to the Mexican and Chinese products, it is not the name of an ethnic cuisine. In fact, 'kosher' is a Hebrew word denoting 'fitness'. "The real benefits of a Kosher diet are beyond mere physical health," said Rabbi Chuni Vogel, spiritual leader of the Chabad Center, adding that "It tunes your mind and

your body, clearing your spiritual arteries, putting you in touch with your creative source."

To commemorate this week of Kosher awareness, Chabad has planned for a week-long educational program complete with displays and informational handouts in local stores. For additional information, please call 478-4400.

Akiba Hebrew Academy Sets Open House

Akiba Hebrew Academy in Merion, PA will host an Open House on Wednesday, April 5, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Parents may meet with Rabbi Phillip D. Field, Head of School. Classes will be open for observation from 9:15-11:30 a.m. Akiba is a community Jewish Day School serving middle school and high school students. Many students come from the state of Delaware. Young people need not come from a Jewish day school background. For additional information, please call the school's Admissions Office at 1-610-667-4070, ext. 144.

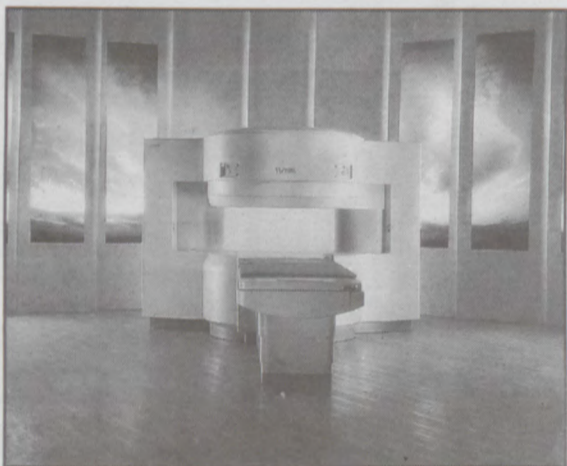
JFS Promotes Jewish Healing

The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service sponsors an hour-long service of prayer, songs, meditation and reflection.

The service is designed for anyone wishing to pray for physical, spiritual or emotional healing for themselves or others. Services will be held Mondays, 7 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the JFS offices, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington. Light refreshments will be served.

For additional information, please call Rabbi Myriam Klotz, (302) 478-9411.

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Chocoholics, Take Note

A special Chocolate Seder is planned for all community teens on Sunday, April 23, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Delaware.

Enjoy a variety of chocolate covered Passover foods and spend time with friends. The cost is \$10 per person and includes dinner.

To register, please call Robyn Schwartz, Community Teen Services Director, at (302) 478-5660.

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EDITORIAL

Optimism, Pessimism and Realism

This Shabbat, the optimists among us view the kiddush cup of peace as half full, while those in the pessimists camp will see it as half empty. Both sides find ample justification in several developments making front page news in recent days.

Since we last went to press, ranking representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian governments have met quietly in Washington towards the goal of a final peace agreement by mid-September. They are discussing such sensitive issues as shaping the borders between the two nations, defining Jerusalem's future and determining the fate of Palestinian refugees. Operating under a relative media blackout, the details of the recently recessed negotiations are sketchy. However, **no** news often can be **good** news. Both sides are set to return to Washington on April 6 for round two.

Last week, President Clinton returned to Washington from a less than fruitful dialogue with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad. He was stymied in his attempts to jump-start the stalled Israeli/Syrian peace track by Assad's insistence that Israel return all land seized from Syria during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. Clinton believes, and political analysts concur,

that it is up to Assad to make the next initiative.

Peacemaking was one of the goals expressed by Pope John Paul II during his recent trip to the Holy Land. In an historic pilgrimage marked by visits to sites held sacred by Jews, Christians and Muslims, the Pontiff hoped to inspire all three religious groups to explore their ties as children of a common G-d.

In his role as humanitarian, the Pope met with Holocaust survivors at Yad Vashem and expressed sadness for the hatred, persecution and anti-Semitism directed against the Jews by Christians. During a visit with Palestinian Chairman Arafat, he reassured him of the Vatican's recognition of a natural right to a homeland. At the end of his visit, he met with Jerusalem's Grand Mufti Ekrema Sabri, the chief Muslim leader in the Palestinian territories.

Optimists may view this visit as a shining example of the inspiring power of faith. Pessimists might interpret the Papal journey as an empty exercise in diplomacy. Realists realize that the influence of the Pontiff's pilgrimage may not be measured for many years to come.

How do you feel?

VOICE BOX

"Men, women and children cry out to us from the depths of the horror that they knew. How can we fail to heed their cry?"

- Pope John Paul II
at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial.

"The Holy See does not want to interfere, but we want to reach a point at which the Holy Land can set an example for the rest of humankind, which it is definitely not doing right now. If - in spite of a painful past we can speak with one voice, it is a sign for humankind to rediscover bonds among human beings."

- Father Remi Hoeckman,
the Pope's representative for Catholic-Jewish relations

April 14th is our
Passover Edition
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The JEWISH VOICE

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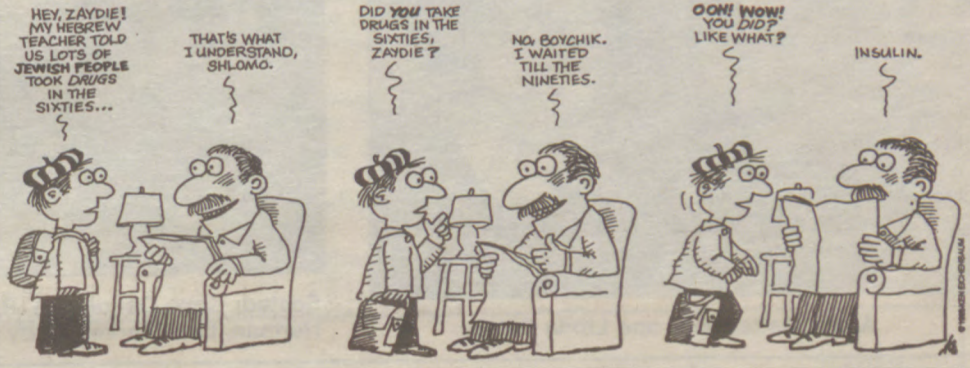
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HOPPEL POPPEL™

by Ken Eichenbaum



PARSHA PLACE

Week of April 1

SHEMINI

Leviticus 9:1-11:47

The Case for Keeping Kosher

Arguments for keeping kosher are many. Some say that a kosher diet aids in self discipline. Others say it elevates the act of eating into something "holy." These reasons may be valid, but they don't adequately explain why we should or shouldn't eat specific foods. Wouldn't Kashrut be just as meaningful if pork was kosher and chicken soup was non-kosher?

The question of why chicken and lamb is kosher - and pork is not - is difficult to answer. Why? Because to find Kashrut meaningful, one has to believe in a God who "knows" this world and cares to reveal its secrets to us. Kashrut then becomes a real way to enhance the quality of our existence. Believing in a God who tells us which foods are spiritually best for us is like trusting the doctor who prescribes healthy foods or the proper medications.

So let's say you don't believe in God. Then from a pragmatic viewpoint, you have to measure Judaism's credibility just as you would look to a doctor's reputation to determine whether his advice should be followed. Does the Torah have credibility? The Torah that commanded "Love your neighbor" "Justice for all", "All men are created equal" and "Peace - not war" - that's the same Torah that asks us to keep kosher.

It is particularly logical to follow the Torah's advice in the realm of spirituality. After all, it is this very area that the Torah is superior and we often admit ignorance! If a healthy soul is at least as important to you as a healthy body, then the case for Kashrut is at least as valid as the case for cutting down on salt, sugar and saturated fats.

If a certain food was physically harmful, we could easily agree that it should be forbidden. But the Torah is not a medical digest. If the Torah tells us not to eat certain foods, the reasons are primarily because these foods are spiritually unhealthy. Such a concept is difficult to explain because, in our time, spirituality is generally elusive.

The great Torah commentator, the Akeidah, explains that a national diet translates into certain observable characteristics. For example, in this week's parsha, the Jewish People are enjoined to be holy. When we think of holiness, pictures of serenity often come to mind. But few people have any guidelines for actually achieving holiness. The Torah tells us that the Jewish people have a national character and that character is enhanced and developed through the food we eat.

Living a life in which the food we eat is prescribed by God and a Torah that proclaims this a diet of a holy people, is surely going to affect our psyche and change our physical sensitivities. When one consistently eats healthily, often it is only late in life that one comes to appreciate the cumulative affects of a good diet. And perhaps one can never really appreciate how he or she would have turned out with a different, less healthy diet.

Kashrut is very similar. Can a person ever really appreciate how his sensitivities are affected through eating animals killed in the humane manner which Kashrut requires? Who knows how he would otherwise turn out to be?

It's no secret that we Jews have instinctively always placed tremendous importance on food. Could this be an unconscious understanding of the importance of Kashrut?

Torah Commentary by Aish HaTorah. For further information, visit their website at: <http://www.aish.com>

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE

for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE	FOCUS	DEADLINE
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FEDERATION FOCUS

Newark Leaders Spring Into Action For Annual Campaign

Twelve volunteers from the Greater Newark and Elkton, MD communities reached out to their neighbors on Sunday, March 26th. Lynda Bell, Gene Danneman, Joan Ellis, Irv Engelson, Marla Friedman, Ann Herman, Leni Markell, Adina Mattes, Linda Oster, Leslie Reidel, Mike Rudolph and Mike Samuels were among the participants in this phonathon on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Annual Campaign.

Despite the gorgeous Spring weather, Newark area leaders found a number of individuals interested in learning more about the Jewish programs and services available in their community.

Volunteers used the phonathon as an opportunity to mention upcoming activities of the JCC Without Walls and the Jewish Family Service of Delaware Relationship Center located on 288 East Main Street in Newark as well as the half-day pre-school program administered by the JCC at Temple Beth El and – the latest addition to the network- Newark's very own JCC full day pre-school program slated to open this Fall on Willa Road. Call recipients also learned that more than 2000 Jewish students enrolled at the University of Delaware benefit from the broad range of Jewish identity programs at Hillel.

Recognizing that these services are generously supported by the Jewish Federation of Delaware through its annual campaign, more than 30 individuals made first-time gifts. Overall, more than \$9,400 was raised during the morning phonathon which was held at the offices of Dr. Mart Amick. Newark Hot Bagels and Margheritas Pizza, both located on East Main Street in Newark, donated refreshments for the volunteers.

Gene Danneman of Newark addressed the Temple Beth El Men's Club earlier that morning. His message, which was affirmed by fellow volunteer Irv Engelson, exhorted all community residents

to participate in these new programs and to support them through a commitment to the 2000 Annual Campaign. To make a gift, please call Campaign Director Rhonda Falk at (302) 427-2100, ext. 16.

For additional information about Newark programs please call the agencies listed below:

JCC Without Walls-(302) 286-1401, Jewish Family Service of Delaware Relationship Center-(302) 478-9411, JCC Half Day Pre-School Program at Temple Beth El & JCC Full Day Pre-School Center in Newark-(302) 478-5660, ext. 242, Hillel at the University of Delaware-(302) 453-0479



Mike Samuels



Adina Mattes, left, and Linda Oster



Seated: Gene Danneman, Rhonda Falk; Standing: Ann Herman, Leni Markell, Judy Wortman.



Marla Friedman with daughter Ellie.

Israel Happenings

By Ruth Weinstein

FEMALE SOLDIERS' RIGHTS

The Knesset has passed legislation guaranteeing a woman's right to serve in any army post, including combat units. The law opens the army to equal participation by women and, by extension, opens Israeli society, said the sponsor of the law, Naomi Hazan.

HIGH WATER

Over 6 inches of rain fell on Tel Aviv in January, causing flooding that forced about 100 residents to evacuate their homes. After months of drought, those two days brought more rainfall than the national average of 125 mm for all of January. A meter of snow fell on Mt. Hermon, and over 30 million cubic meters (much-needed) were added to the country's main reservoir, Lake Kinneret.

INTERNET USE

Twenty-one percent of Israeli households surf the Internet at least one hour a day, according to a late 1999 Gallup poll. The survey of 1,009 users shows an increase from the 1998 figure of only 13.2%.

IMMIGRANT RUSH

The number of Jews leaving Russia for Israel more than doubled in 1999, according to a report from the Moscow-based Interfax news agency. Interfax quoted Jewish Agency officials in Russia as saying that 29,534 people left for Israel in 1999, compared with 13,019 in 1998.

DISCRIMINATION A NORM

Discrimination has become a norm in Israeli society, according to a report published by the Association for Civil Rights. Revelations include the fact that only 5 percent of civil servants are

Arabs, and 68 percent of Jews don't want to be subordinate to an Arab in the workplace; 13 percent of working women earn below minimum wage, compared to 5 percent of men; and 30 percent of all job offers require applicants to be under the age of 37.

LOTS OF LITTLE FEET

Sixty women from Jerusalem gave birth to their 17th child during 1999, according to data collected by three Jerusalem hospitals. Approximately 2,600 Jerusalem women gave birth to child number 7 or higher each year, with 580 of them having 10.

NEW DEFENSE AGAINST WEB ATTACK

After the early February crippling attack on some of the Net's most famous websites, CheckPoint Software of Ramat Gan released the world's first software defense

against the "denial-of-service" modus operandi used by the attackers. CheckPoint's Cyber-Attack Defense System was developed in a company brainstorming session after the first attack. It automatically identifies sites, allowing the target computer to put up defenses. A second layer of defense notifies Internet service providers that a denial-of-service-type assault is under way so that the source of the hostile data requests can be closed off.

TOURISM PROFITS

Israel earned \$3.7 billion from tourism in 1999, an 18 percent increase over 1998.

VENTURE CAPITAL INCREASES

Israel is today ranked second only to Silicon Valley as the most fertile breeding ground in the world for high-tech startups. According

to figures recently published in 1999, private Israeli high-tech firms raised a record \$1 billion, a 67 percent increase over the previous year.

INTERNET FLEA MARKET

America Online and Time Warner have participated in a \$50 million investment in Israel's DealTime, which runs an Internet flea market. DealTime is planning an initial public offering on NASDAQ.

CANADIAN MILITARY CONTRACT

Rafael, the Arms Development Authority, has won a \$10 million contract to provide the Canadian army with 350 weapons stations for remote-control-operated vehicles. This marks the first time that an Israeli firm has won a big in a Canadian military deal.

Ruth Weinstein is a member of the JCRC Committee

The Rabbi Is Not Kosher

By Sue Shaffer,
JCRC Director

This article is to advise our readers that a made-for-TV movie entitled "The Rabbi" was in fact produced by a Christian missionary organization. While this film, broadcast last weekend, appears to portray the story of an Israeli rabbi struggling with modernity, it concludes with the rabbi's decision to convert to Christianity. The film, which was advertised in over 80 Jewish newspapers, including our Jewish Voice,

makes no reference to the film's producer – Morris Cerullo World Evangelism – and deceptively portrays a bearded man in a skullcap and holding a prayer-book, leaning against what is made to look like the Western Wall. In truth, this film is nothing other than a proselytizing tool attempting to deceive Jews into abandoning their religion.

The organized Jewish community is outraged by this action of a deliberately deceptive advertising campaign, violating the trust of the Anglo-Jewish

newspapers which unknowingly ran the ad, as well as duping unsuspecting Jewish viewers into watching missionary propaganda.

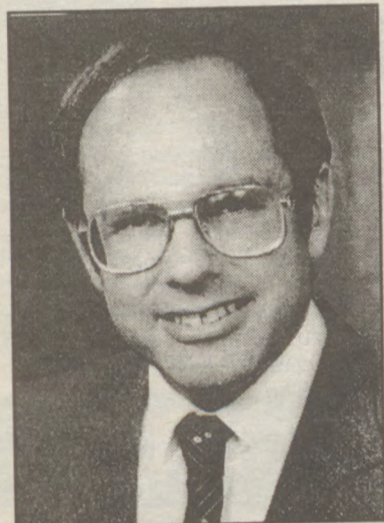
According to the JCRC of New York, Inc., "Rev. Cerullo has a long history of engaging in attempts to convert members of our community. He apparently has stooped to a new low in his missionary tactics."

"The Rabbi" will likely be re-broadcast in the weeks and months ahead. Please be aware of the true nature of this film.

Celebrate the musical talents of the
Arad String Ensemble in concert
Tuesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m. at the
Wilmington Music School.
For tickets, call the
Jewish Federation at
(302) 427-2100, ext. 15.

INSIDE DELAWARE

Scholar-In-Residence Weekend At Beth Shalom



Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff

By Marvin S. Cytron
Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff, Rector and Professor of Philosophy, of the University of Judaism, Bel Air, California, will serve as a Scholar-in-Residence at Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom, the weekend of April 7-9, 2000. The weekend program is sponsored by the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation of the Synagogue.

Rabbi Dorff has selected "Contemporary Conservative Judaism," "Convictions-Ethics-Relationships" as his theme for the weekend. He was ordained as a Conservative Rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1970, and earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Columbia University in 1971. In addition to serving as Rector and

Professor of Philosophy at the University of Judaism, he also teaches a course on Jewish law at the UCLA School of Law. Rabbi Dorff has served as a member of the Conservative Movements Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, has chaired two scholarly organizations and is the author of over one hundred articles and eight books on Jewish thought, law and ethics.

Following a congregational dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening, April 7, Rabbi Dorff will speak at the Friday evening 8:00 p.m. service on "Convictions of Conservative Judaism," "Conservative Judaism and Comparisons to Orthodox and Reform Judaism." An Oneg Shabbat will follow the service. On

Saturday morning, April 8 at the 9:30 a.m. service Rabbi Dorff's subject will be "The Fundamental Assumptions of Jewish Medical Ethics," "God's ownership of our bodies, the integration of body and soul and of individual and community; the role of medicine and the doctor-patient relationship." A kiddush/luncheon will follow the service. The Friday evening and Saturday morning events will be held at the Synagogue, 1802 Baynard Blvd.

On Sunday morning, Rabbi Dorff will lead a lecture and teenage discussion with students and parents of the Gratz Hebrew High School at the Jewish Community Center, Garden of Eden Rd. The 10:00 a.m. topic is "Teenage Relation-

ships-Teenage Sex", A Jewish Approach to Sex in Contemporary Times.

The Rabbi Jacob Kraft Foundation was established in 1988 in memory of Rabbi Kraft who served as the Spiritual Leader for Congregation Beth Shalom for over 40 years. The Foundation furthers Rabbi Kraft's lifelong devotion to learning by funding educational programs to enrich the congregation and community. Each of the events of the weekend is open to the community, and there is no charge for the lectures, onegs, or the kiddush/luncheon. Reservations are necessary for the Friday evening Shabbat dinner. Please call the synagogue office for additional information, 302 654 4462.

Dine Out For Pesach

The Jewish Community Center of Delaware will hold their annual Passover Restaurant on Monday evening, April 24, 2000.

A Kosher for Passover meal, prepared under the supervision of the Va'ad Hakasruth, will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. Menu items include salad, gefilte fish, matzah, lemon chicken, cranberry sauce, honey carrots, broccoli souffle, seasoned potatoes and apple matzah kugel. A special menu for children will be available and a variety of desserts will also be offered. Craig Collins will perform a one-man show featuring music, comedy, magic and fun for all ages. The fees are \$18 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for children ages three through 12. Advance registration is required at the JCC Front Desk by April 14. For more information, please call Margaret Presley at (302) 478-5660, ext. 221.

A Seder Experience For Women

Delaware women over the age of 12 are invited to an annual Women's Seder, Sunday, April 9, 2000, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Wilmington home of Marci Aeronson. Reservations are \$15 per person and include a very light supper and a copy of the 1999 hagaddah or \$10 per person for food only.

For reservations and directions please phone Aeronson at 302-658-7778. Reserve today as seating is limited.

Last Call For Hillel Tribute To Macklers

Reservations will be accepted at the door for Sunday's (April 2nd) Tribute to Scott Mackler and Lynn Snyder-Mackler. The couple will be honored by the University of Delaware Hillel and University of Delaware President David Roselle with the Jewish Life on Campus Award. The reception will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the MBNA America Hall on the University of Delaware Campus.

Albert Einstein Academy Presents World Premiere Play

Albert Einstein Academy announces the world premiere of ALEPH BET BOP!, a family musical developed by Theatre Ariel. The production will be staged Tuesday and Wednesday, April 4 and 5, 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the JCC.

This original work was written by Julianne Bernstein who will also direct the cast of AEA students. It features lyrics by Malka Goodman and music by E.A. Alexander. ALEPH BET BOP! was financed by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture which awarded Theatre Ariel a 1995 New Play Commission Grant. It explores a young woman's struggles to understand her heritage and culture and take her place in the Jewish community. The letters of the Hebrew language come to life to guide her through her life's journey. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and are available through the AEA office. For additional information, call 478-5026.

Jewish Family Service Gets Grant For After School Care

Jewish Family Service of Delaware recently received a grant of \$15,000 from the Delaware Community Foundation for its after school program. The money will help fund an additional social worker for this prevention program for at risk elementary and middle school youth. JFS operates The Academic Achievement and Personal Enrichment Program at five community centers in New Castle County. Eighty minority youth, ages 9-14, are encouraged to set goals and plan for the future in an atmosphere of structure and support. The agency is one of 13 throughout the state to receive a grant from the Delaware Community Foundation for after school programs. A total of \$170,000 in grants was available to support these efforts.

Singles Mingle At Beth Emeth

If you are 40 or over and are a widow, widower or divorced and would like to meet new people, Singles Mingles may be for you. Spring planning meetings will be held on Sunday, April 2, Sunday, April 30 and Sunday, June 4, at 4:00 p.m. in the Congregation Beth Emeth library. For additional information about the group, please call Miriam Weiner, 478-6897 after 5:00 p.m.

Full Day Jewish Pre-School For Newark Working Parents

September, 2000 is the grand opening for the JCC Full Day Pre-School Center in Newark. JCC Executive Director Jeffrey S. Metz promises parents a high caliber program and highly qualified staff for this new initiative which will serve 50 children ages six weeks through 4.

Located at 420 Willa Road near College Avenue and Park Place in Newark, the Center is near the University of Delaware campus and is accessible to 195 and other major highways. Metz emphasized that this is the only Jewish full day pre-school program in the Greater Newark area.

Children will receive an introduction to the Hebrew language and will enjoy Shabbat and holiday programming.

For additional information, please call Susan Gentry at (302) 478-5660, ext. 242.

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MID-EAST FOCUS

After Geneva, A Dangerous Uncertainty

By Douglas M. Bloomfield

This was to be a week of triumphant Middle East diplomacy for Bill Clinton, but hopes are falling away faster than the wind is blowing the cherry blossoms across the Tidal Basin.

A disappointed President returned to Washington empty handed from his meeting with Syrian dictator Hafez Assad in Geneva, and once optimistic aides are scrambling to salvage Clinton's Mideast peace legacy.

Clinton, with nothing to report, quickly flew home, leaving his spokesman behind to deliver the bad news. Although the administration publicly low-balled expectations, insiders admit they had high hopes for success.

One administration official said Assad may be the living embodiment of Abba Eban's famous dictum that the Arabs never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity. And this could be the ailing autocrat's last chance, he added. The last four Israeli prime ministers have virtually begged Assad to make peace, but he apparently regarded that as a sign of weakness and thus saw no reason to soften his demands.

It has been no secret that Assad's real goal is peace with Washington, not Jerusalem, but he may have put that beyond reach as well. He made Clinton look foolish by sending him home with nothing but pique after the American president had courted Assad personally and through various intermediaries

for years, and brought to Geneva significant concessions from Israel.

Assad has derailed any hopes he had for improving relations with the United States and being taken off the State Department's lists of state sponsors of terrorism and drug trafficking. He needs those things if he is to end his pariah status and gain access to Western investment, technology and trade for his failed economy.

The Geneva failure takes the steam out of the big battle brewing on Capitol Hill over the multi-billion-dollar aid package the administration and Israelis have been shopping around in Congress to sweeten the Golan deal for both sides.

Although right wing opponents had tried to scare away supporters

with dire and mostly specious warnings about American peace-keeping troops on the Golan and US military to Syria, the real package - mostly for Israel - would have been tough enough to pass in an election year. But that now appears moot.

US, Syrian and Israeli spokesmen, each for their own reasons, are saying the peace process isn't dead, but it certainly seems comatose.

One Israeli official predicted there will be no peace between Israel and Syria as long as Assad lives. Former Secretary of State Warren Christopher was reported to have come to the same conclusion by the end of his term in 1996 after countless trips to Damascus. For all of Assad's talk about being ready for "a peace of the brave," he apparently doesn't have the guts for it.

If true, that is a major blow to Prime Minister Ehud Barak's ambitions. His highest priority has been peace with Syria, even to the point of stalling on the Palestinian track. In addition he'd encountered increasing resistance at home as the Syrians shunned public diplomacy and resorted instead to escalating demands, personal insults and declarations that the Holocaust is a myth.

Clinton is not the only one who got a poke in the eye from Assad this week. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who is in Washington for meetings at the White House, and Jordanian King Abdullah II also played intermediary roles. They invested considerable amounts of effort and personal prestige, and they publicly expressed optimism about the success of Geneva. The normally nasty Egyptian foreign minister even began speaking of the post-peace era.

Geneva was a setback for Barak, but he may have inadvertently been strengthened by Assad; the prime minister has won kudos for showing he is not willing to buy peace at any price. Geneva's failure also weakened the leverage of the ultra-Orthodox Shas party over Barak. With its votes no longer critical on Syria-related issues, it may be less able to extort additional cash and power from Barak as its price of staying inside his coalition.

About the only ones to benefit from the Geneva debacle are the Israeli groups who oppose withdrawal from the Golan Heights and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

The seeming collapse of the Syrian peace track could breathe new life into Israeli-Palestinian

negotiations. Arafat, who'd been complaining the Israelis were stalling, will now look to Clinton to turn more attention to those talks.

Israeli officials report some progress was made during a week of talks here with the Palestinians before the sides returned home for consultations. The real decisions will be made by Barak and Arafat after their aides narrow some of the differences, but observers now expect Arafat may harden his positions because he feels Barak needs a Palestinian agreement more than ever.

The Administration has not abandoned hope for the Syrian talks, but one official said it is "cautiously pessimistic." Some experts feel Assad's real intentions will become clearer as the self-imposed date for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon nears. Barak would prefer it be tied to an agreement with Syria but he is prepared to move unilaterally if there is no pact by July, and possibly earlier.

Patrick Seale, Assad's biographer and frequent messenger, has warned that unilateral withdrawal could provoke a violent response from Syria. One administration specialist observed, "If Seale said that I'd take it as a serious threat from Assad."

Similar warnings were issued Sunday by Assad's spokesman in Geneva. The conventional wisdom holds that with Israel out of Lebanon, Assad will lose an important bargaining chip to trade for the Golan and to assure his own hegemony in Lebanon.

A disgruntled Syria could decide to use his Hezbollah and other surrogates to turn up the heat not only on the retreating IDF but also on Jewish border communities.

Barak has threatened a tough response, but the big question is who will bear the brunt of Israel's anger. If Barak continues to attack Lebanese targets and spare the Syrians, Assad, who cares little about the Lebanese, will have no incentive to back down.

There are ample Syrian targets in Lebanon for Israeli aircraft and artillery if Barak wants to communicate emphatically with Assad. Leaving them untouched will be seen in Damascus as a sign of Israeli weakness.

With the failure of the Geneva summit, officials here fear a new spiral of tensions that could easily spin out of control. It is a measure of the volatility and uncertainty in the Middle East that last week's buoyant optimism has been replaced by a sinking fear of new fighting.

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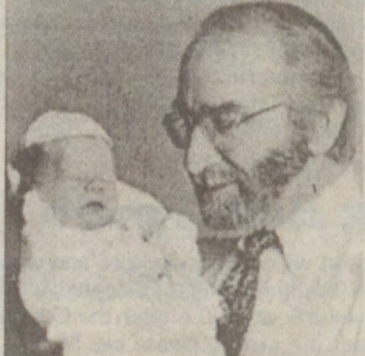
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By Rachel A. Gross, Esq. Endowment Director

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only requires a sacrifice, but often limits our ability to give more.

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ty at large. Transferring assets to a Philanthropic Fund builds an enduring resource that benefits social programs and charitable activities in our community.

Whether you are buying a home or transferring assets into a Philanthropic Fund, the fundamental principal is the same. You are not simply making a sound financial investment. You are building something that will last and generate dividends for years to come.

For more information about establishing a Philanthropic Fund or a Designated Fund through the Jewish Fund for the Future, call Rachel A. Gross, Esq., Endowment Director at 427-2100 ext. 19.



Rachel A. Gross, Esq.

THE JEWISH INTERNET

Kids, Passover And The Internet

By Mark Mietkiewicz

Why is the holiday called "Passover?"

(A) Because the Israelites had to pass over the Nile to leave Egypt. (B) The Angel of death passed over Egypt, and killed all the first-born. or (C) Because at Pesach, the spaghetti must be finished and the pasta over.

That's just one of the many Pesach quiz questions found on the Jewish Highway. The World Wide Web is full of puzzles, games, songs and coloring books to help kids gear up for the big holiday. Today, some of the best.

A great place to start is at Virtual Jerusalem's Pesach Parade [http://www.vjholidays.com/pessach/parade.html]. That's where you'll find the answer to the quiz mentioned above. There's also a children's Haggadah, some holiday recipes geared toward kids and an animated video about Passover [http://www.vjholidays.com/pessach/jtn.html]. You will need to register for a free password in order to gain access to some of the Virtual Jerusalem pages.

Is your child making his or her singing debut at this year's seder? He or she can brush up on their rendition Ma Nishtana at Passover Tunes for Kids [http://www.613.org/kidpassover.html] and Nurit Reshef's site [http://www.bus.ualberta.ca/yreshef/pesach/audiomicroom.html]. And they can sing along with instrumental versions of those songs at Classic Passover

Tunes [http://www.kosher4passover.com/tunes.htm].

A bit less traditional but very wonderful is Uncle Eli's Special-for-Kids Most Fun Ever Under-the-Table Passover Haggadah [http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Uncle_Eli/Eli.html]. Written in the style of Dr. Seuss, Uncle Eli retells the Haggada in a familiar yet unique way:

Why is it only on Passover night we never know how to do anything right? We don't eat our meals in the regular ways the ways that we do on all other days... Cause on all other nights we may eat all kinds of wonderful good bready treats like big purple pizza that tastes like a pickle crumbly crackers and pink pumpnickel... Yes-on all other nights we eat all kinds of bread but tonight of all nights we munch matzah instead.

Do you need help with the cooking this year? Put your kids to work. At Kids Kook for Pesach [http://www.vjholidays.com/pesach/food.htm] there are easy recipes for Charoset (The Mortar You Love to Eat!), Cheese Blintzes and Matzah Pizza Treatsa. And when you're finished with that, try the Matzah Ball Game Quiz [http://www.his.com/~chabad/passover/].

Budding young artists may want to check out a couple of Passover coloring books which you can print and then decorate. The Diaspora Yeshiva pages focus on the steps of

the Seder [http://www.mznet.org/holidays/seder/seder.html] while Torah Tots also has pages illustrating the story of Pesach and the Ten Plagues [http://www.torahtots.com/holidays/pesach/pescolor.html].

For more kids' pages, check out the quizzes at the Department of Jewish Education [http://www.jajzed.org.il/pesgnet.html]. Billy Bear's Pesach Holiday has some mazes (Help Moses find the Ten Commandments; Help the people cross the Red Sea) [http://www.billybear4kids.com/holidays/pesach/pesach.html]. Torah Tots does a great job at retelling the story of the Passover in addition to a generous supply of games like Puzzling Plagues and Word Find.

Another amusing game encourages you to search for any chometz which may be hiding on your computer screen [http://www.anshe.org/chometz.html]. With a few deft clicks of the mouse, you are chometz-free. If only cleaning the real stuff were that easy!

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@home.com.

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Professionals from Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey attended a JCPA program earlier this month featuring Rabbi Myriam Klotz. More than thirty-five attendees learned more about bringing spirituality into the Jewish communal workplace. Rabbi Myriam Klotz serves as Rabbi for the Kimmel-Spiller Jewish

Healing Center of Jewish Family Service in Delaware. The Jewish Communal Professionals Association (JCPA) of the Delaware Valley is a not-for-profit association comprised of professionals, students, retirees and interns working within Jewish organizations throughout the tri-state region. Each

year, it conducts a wide range of informative and educational programming, addressing the interests of hundreds of professionals who carry out the work of Jewish agencies.

JCPA offers a unique professional and social venue to explore new trends and to discuss issues that impact our entire Jewish community. Members also enjoy a variety of programs designed to enhance professional growth and continuing Jewish education.

Those interested in membership and upcoming programs should contact Ivy Harlev, a Vice-President of the JCPA of the Delaware Valley, 478-5660.



Rabbi Myriam Klotz, center, spiritual leader of the Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center was the speaker at a recent Jewish Communal Professionals Association program. From left are: Ivy Harlev, program director, JCC; Sue Shaffer, JCRC director; Rabbi Klotz; Rhonda Falk, Federation Campaign director; and Debbie Nachlis, Albert Einstein Academy Development Director.

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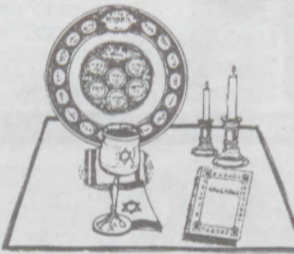
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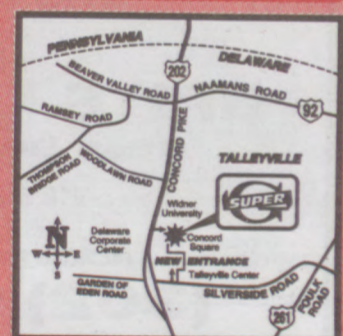
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Dear Jewish Voice Readers:

A new century has dawned. The Jewish Voice welcomes this historic opportunity to renew our commitment to providing the Delaware Jewish community with up-to-the minute news, commentary and feature stories from a distinctly Jewish perspective. We are proud of our unique status as Delaware's only Jewish media outlet and strive to present stories that inform, educate and entertain readers from North Wilmington to Dover.

The Jewish Voice has expanded its presence in the Greater Newark area where the Jewish population is steadily growing. Over the past year, we have increased our coverage of programs and events in this region and have distributed the newspaper in businesses, agencies and synagogues where these individuals live and work.

We respect the unique relationship we have with our readers and advertisers. We strive to keep our readers apprised of breaking news in Delaware, in Washington, in Israel and elsewhere in our global Jewish community. We're *mispocha*, and unlike many other Jewish publications we run announcements of family *simchas* like births, engagements, weddings and other milestones free of charge.

As a non-profit organization-owned and operated by the Jewish Federation of Delaware-we are ever mindful of keeping within budget. In the past year alone, we have significantly streamlined production costs by increasing the ratio of advertising to editorial copy. And, thanks to dedicated volunteers, we have virtually eliminated old debts and have implemented a sound business plan.

However, some costs cannot be contained. Our subscriber base has grown and so has our mailing costs. Although advertising revenues have increased, printing expenses continue to deplete our publication's budget..

For more than 30 years you have depended upon the Jewish Voice. This year, we are depending upon the generosity of loyal readers like you. Last year, our annual voluntary subscription drive raised more than \$11,000. These subscription revenues have helped us to defray operating expenses and to plan more effectively for the future. Your gift of *chai* (\$18) or, hopefully *chaier* is an investment in your paper's continued growth and development.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Israeli Film Festival 2000 Debuts Six Flicks

This year's Israeli Film Festival, April 8-16, features the Philadelphia premiere of six award-winning feature films and documentaries.

Yana's Friends, winner at the 1999 Jerusalem Film Festival, will be screened during the Festival's opening night gala at the Prince Theatre in Center City, Saturday, April 8, 8:30 p.m. Writer/director Arik Kaplun and his wife, Eva, who stars in the film will make guest appearances. The film tells the story of Russian immigrants trying to adjust to life in Israel during the Gulf War. Tickets for film and gala

are \$36, tickets for the film only are \$12, \$10 for students and senior citizens. Yana's Friends may also be viewed at the Klein JCC, Red Lion Road and Jamison Avenue on Sunday, April 9, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors.

Borders, a documentary focusing on individuals whose lives are impacted by developments in Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority, will be shown at the Gershman Y, Broad and Pine Streets, Tuesday, April 11 at 8 p.m. Following the screening will be a panel discussion with Dan

Ashbel, Consul General of Israel and University of Pennsylvania Professor Ian Lustick. Admission to film and discussion is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors.

Menelik: Black Jewish Prince, a documentary which follows the journey of an Ethiopian in Israel back to his native land, will be screened at the Philadelphia Art Museum, Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m., as part of Israeli Culture Day at the Museum. This special event features music, food and storytelling from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Film is free with museum admission.

Love at Second Sight, a roman-

tic comedy, will be screened at International House, 3701 Chestnut Street, Thursday, April 13, 8 p.m. The cost is \$8, general admission, \$6, students and senior citizens.

Happy Birthday Mr. Mograbi, a satirical feature film that pokes fun at Israel's 50th birthday celebration, will be shown at Gratz College's Mandell Theatre, Old York Road and Melrose Ave., Melrose Park on Saturday, April 15, 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8, general admission and \$6, seniors and students.

Mr. Mayor, a comedic documentary that focuses on elections in a small Israeli town, and Menelik: Black Jewish Prince will be screened at the Perelman Jewish Day School-Kaiserman JCC, City Line and Haverford Avenues, Wynnewood, Sunday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. Dessert reception will follow. \$12, general admission, \$10, students and senior citizens.

For additional information, please call (215) 546-5556, ext. 547 or visit the Festival's website at <http://www.IFF2000.com>

Only One Jewish Film Takes Oscar

By Peter Ephross
JTA

It was not last year! "One Day in September", a film exploring the murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games won the Oscar for best documentary at Sunday's Academy Awards.

The film, narrated by actor Michael Douglas and directed by Scottish director Kevin MacDonal, retells the harrowing events through the eyes of German, Israeli and Arab princi-

pals involved.

But two other films with Jewish themes that were nominated for Oscars - "Solomon and Gaenor", a Jewish "Romeo and Juliet" set in Wales that was nominated for best foreign film, and "Eyewitness", which featured eyewitness paintings of life in Auschwitz and was nominated for best documentary short subject - did not win.

By contrast, the 1999 Academy Awards featured a plethora of awards for Jewish-themed films, actors and directors.

"Life Is Beautiful", earned best actor and best foreign film Oscars for its star and director, Roberto Benigni.

The best actress award went to the heroine of "Shakespeare in Love", Gwyneth Paltrow, who counts 33 rabbis among her ancestors on her father's side. Steven Spielberg was named best director for the graphic World War II saga, "Saving Private Ryan".

In addition, two documentaries won Oscars as well. There's always next year.

The View From Lea Boulevard

By Paula Shulak

The view from Lea Boulevard is a very good one as Wilmington Drama League presents its production of "A View From The Bridge". Superbly directed by Laurie Bailey, this is a hard hitting play by Arthur Miller which reaches down to the core of human emotion and relationships to tell a brutal story of jealousy and possessiveness. Eddie and Beatrice Carbone are a working class couple in a somewhat loveless marriage who have taken on the responsibility of raising their niece, Catherine. But when Beatrice's cousins arrive as illegal immigrants and one of them, falls in love with Catherine, Eddie accuses the sensitive Rodolpho of being a homosexual. And in so doing he destroys not only himself but all those around him.

The excellent cast includes Ray

Harrington in a controlled and chilling performance as Eddie; Julie Cauffman as the harried but ever faithful wife; and Ed Emmi in a magnificent portrayal of Marco, one of the cousins. Emmi stands out in his role as he bemoans his fate and in a fit of rage vows to kill Eddie for turning him into the authorities. His raw emotion is breathtaking to witness. Others in the cast do well but cannot match the level achieved by these three. This inexorable drama is all played out in a setting of overwhelming power in which a striking panorama of tenements is displayed along a backdrop of the New York City bridge referred to in the title. The set and lighting skillfully underscore the tension of the dialogue to create a memorable evening. Roxanna Hurst and Bill Rolph along with Jeff Samuels and Ed Nolan are

responsible for the set while Bill Rolph also designed the lights.

Laurie Bailey has once again chosen a difficult script and done a masterful job of pulling from her actors and technicians all the nuance needed to create a hard hitting story. From the very credible Italian accents adopted by Marco and Rodolpho to the careful use of the narrator/attorney (played by Lawrence Geller), Bailey attends to every detail of the production with care. Except for the fact that the narration was mumbled at times and that there was a lack in the buildup to the consummation of love between Catherine and Rodolpho in the start of the second act, this was a very worthwhile show. Tickets may be purchased from the Wilmington Drama League on Lea Blvd. in Wilmington.

Laughing In The Face Of Death

By Paula Shulak

If you have friends who are battling various types of cancer, as I unfortunately do, you may want to consider taking the time to see the Philadelphia Theatre Company's current production of "Wit". Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize winning play is powerful and uplifting as it tackles the age old dilemma of accepting death. Set on a bare stage with one very high window, the action takes place in various locations within a hospital where the protagonist, Dr. Vivian Bearing, has come to receive an experimental chemotherapy treatment for ovarian cancer. She is a scholarly expert on the metaphysical poetry of John Donne, whose famous sonnet, Death Be Not Proud, is familiar to many of us. And the basis of the play is centered on her demise and eventual realization

that research, the haughty search for knowledge and metaphysical contemplation is meaningless if it causes you to cut yourself off from humanity and simple human contact.

The brilliant performance of Randy Danson as Dr. Gearing is awesome to watch as she pops in and out of character, when she occasionally acts as a kind of Greek chorus to the action of the play or as she is wracked by the pain of this insidious disease. This is not a sombre play by any means but is cleverly punctuated by humorous scenes many of which satirize the treatment which patients often receive in modern hospitals. Bearing's opening monologue on the habit of constantly asking a dying patient, "How do you feel today?" is just one example. Of course the title of the play refers to Donne's poetry whose salient element is paradox, but

humor and wit also play a large part in Bearing's ability to accept her fate and the progression of her disease. The other cast members, including Kes Khemnu as the young doctor who was once a student in her poetry course, all do an admirable job in their roles, but this is definitely a one woman show. With excellent direction by Maria Mileaf, imaginative lighting design and simple but effective staging this play hits the audience with a very strong message. We are left with the understanding that Donne's poetry like much of life is so complicated because he is basically frightened and hides behind his wit and seeming erudition. "Wit's" message humanizes all who hear it. It will be playing at the Philadelphia Theatre Company until April 16 and tickets may be ordered by calling 215-568-1920.

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JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

The Haider Phenomenon

By E. E. Jaffe

When the writer and his wife visited Vienna several years ago, an attempt was made to find a kosher restaurant. We were directed and ultimately found such a restaurant on the "Judenstrasse", the Jewish Street.

Hearing the German pronunciation of the street had a chilling, almost shocking effect. We experienced a similar sensation when word came through the wire services that the Freedom Party headed by Joerg Haider garnered 27% of the Austrian vote which ultimately brought the party into the legitimate Austrian government. Although Haider did not become a member of the government, he could very well become the power behind the throne.

Haider left no doubt where his sympathies lie. Appearing before a conference of former SS members, he addressed them as "my dear friends" and on another occasion he described SS members as "decent people of good character". He lauded their "self sacrifice which saved Europe" and said that today "we need people like you who know the true meaning of the word homeland." To an Austrian war criminal who murdered innocent civilians in Italy, Haider referred to as "a dedicated loyal soldier."

The outcry in the European Union (E. U.) was overwhelming and very comforting. The cold shoulder given to Austrians at international meetings, the decrease in number of visitors to Austria as well as some reduction in business dealings with Austrian firms was probably behind Haider's resignation as head of the Freedom party. This, however, could be the calm before the storm, unless the E. U. persists with its policy and refuses to tolerate a party in the Austrian

Government that openly espouses fascist and Hitlerite ideas. When Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933 and announced his anti-Semitic policies, 37,000 Jews or 15% of the Jewish population fled Germany but in the relative calm of the following year 16,000 returned. Clearly, in the light of history, that was a big mistake. The fact that Haider appears to have distanced himself from some of his previous positions should not fool anyone. His pronouncement that the E.U.'s behavior was "childish" is not genuine. He has failed to unequivocally repudiate his praise of Hitler's SS organization and the ostensibly orderly nature of the Nazi regime. The speculation about Haider's real motive behind the resignation ranges from trying to ease the tensions in the E. U. and regain lost positions to running for chancellor of Austria in the next election, three years hence.

There is an obvious romance between Austria and Haider's Freedom party. They have a great deal in common. The Allies and later the E. U. accepted the fiction that Austria had not been an integral part of the Third Reich and was therefore treated as an occupied country. This gave the new Austria the moral and legal right to refuse to overhaul its basic values and political system. It is this system that provided the fertile ground for the rise of Haider and the election of Kurt Waldheim as Austria's president, even after details of his military past in World War II were revealed. First, Waldheim and now Haider have brought world condemnation of Austria and its government.

The German government and other European states want to prevent the spread of the Freedom Party philosophy to neighboring

countries since it is well known that Austria voluntarily joined Nazi Germany with the enthusiastic support of a majority of Austrian citizens. There is something distinct about Austrian anti-Semitism since the two despicable Adolfs, Hitler and Eichmann, were born in Austria as were many other detested criminals of World War II. None of these criminals could have perpetrated their crimes within Austria without moving to the greater arena of Germany. Consequently, it is imperative to contain Haider in Austria and counteract his evil ideas.

Haider is actually opposed to Austria's membership in the E. U. and given a free hand can have a significant impact on right wing parties in other European countries, particularly on neo-Nazis in Germany.

Unlike the situation in Germany in 1933, Austria enjoys an unemployment rate about half the E. U. average, and its annual inflation rate is about 1%. Neither hunger nor joblessness has led 27% of Austria's voters to cast their ballots for the Freedom Party. Apparently, many Austrians are fed up with 30 years of Social Democratic rule, half the time in coalition with the Peoples Party. A public opinion poll published last October shows that half of all Austrians dislike foreigners, 47% consider them a burden to the country's social services, and 42% feel that foreigners are pushing Austrians out of their jobs. Obviously, Haider is exploiting these sentiments and utilizes them to promote his xenophobia. Among the foreigners undoubtedly are the 7000 Jews who live in Austria.

If that were not enough to condemn Haider, he also questions whether there ever was a Holocaust and attempted to black-

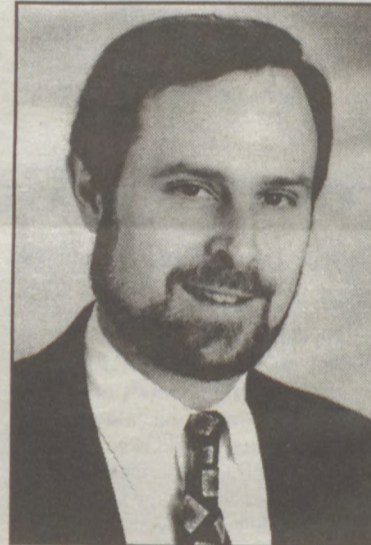
en the name of a political rival who allegedly had a "Jewish grandfather". Otherwise, he is careful not to make direct anti-Semitic remarks in public. The bold lie is not foreign to either Haider or many other Austrians, word is going around in Austria that Beethoven was Austrian and Hitler German. It is another reflection of the lack of truth and reliability of the Austrian political system. It is true that anti-Semitism and racism are not the exclusive domain of extreme right wingers but they surely are the most open promoters of hate.

In light of the situation in Austria it is a true mystery why some Jewish survivors of the Holocaust choose to live in Austria and why they do so after Haider's party became part of the govern-

ment. It defies common logic.

On the other hand, in addition to the measures taken by the E. U. there is now a new modicum of protection available against potential tyrants like Haider. The British House of Lords ruled in connection with the Augusto Pinochet case that former heads of state cannot claim statutory immunity from arrest or extradition for grave crimes committed when they were in office. It set a precedent in international human rights law and specifies that any court has jurisdiction in human rights cases. This precedent has already been invoked with the arrest of the former president of Chad on charges of political killings. Hopefully, this will be an effective deterrent to current and would be bigots like Haider, anywhere in the world.

Rabbi Kurtz Named New President Of The Rabbinical Assembly



Rabbi Vernon Kurtz

Rabbi Vernon Kurtz of North Shore Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, IL was elected as the new President of The Rabbinical Assembly at the conclusion of the Conservative Rabbis 100th Anniversary convention held this week at the Wyndham Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia.

The Rabbinic Association was founded in Philadelphia in 1901. Today, the Conservative movement constitutes the largest branch of Judaism representing 1500 Rabbis and 1.5 million congregational members.

Rabbi Kurtz has just completed a term as President of the United Jewish Appeal Rabbinic Cabinet and President of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago.

A CRASH COURSE IN CHRISTIANITY



The Jewish Voice welcomes Nechemia Meyers as a contributing columnist.

By Nechemia Meyers

There was an enormous difference between the way that adult Israelis, on the one hand, and their children, on the other, related to the Pope's visit.

The adults, or at least those of them who grew up in pluralistic Western countries, followed the pontiff's pilgrimage with great interest because they understand who he is and what he stands for. Sabras, in contrast, were generally indifferent; they know practically nothing about Christianity and would certainly have been more excited had it been Elton John rather than John Paul II who touched down at Ben-Gurion Airport.

An Israeli youngster can go through 12 years of school without learning the basic facts about Christianity (or Islam for that matter). There are a few exceptions, to be sure. Dor, a 12th grade history major at a local high school, has studied the foundations of Christianity and the development of the Papacy.

But among the 260 teenagers

in his year, only eight are history majors. The other 252 can hardly differentiate between a Pope and a pizza. What little knowledge they have about Christianity is mainly acquired within the context of their studies of Jewish history. The Inquisition, the pogroms and the Holocaust tell them all they need to know—so the educational authorities here seem to believe—about Christians.

Ya'acov Stein, who was a principal and a history teacher for several decades, says that I have always felt that we weren't giving the kids the kind of background they should have in this sphere. But so little time is allocated to the teaching of history that we can barely get through the basics, and successive ministers of education haven't regarded an introduction to Christianity and Islam as being among the basics. This may have something to do with the marked influence of those elements who are fearful that Jewish children might be influenced by foreign creeds.

Some have been, but not, in

most cases by Christianity or Islam. Instead we have the phenomenon of Israeli backpackers who are drawn to Oriental mysticism during their sojourns in India and Nepal. For most of them, this ends on their return to this country, though there are still a number of Israelis who have remained in the ashrams of the Indian subcontinent.

This phenomenon, while interesting, is not significant, for Israelis—Whether they like it or not—are living in a world dominated by the adherents of Christianity and Islam. And if they are to prosper, or even survive, they must be well acquainted with the history and beliefs of those two powerful religions.

As of now, such is not the case with our younger generation. The graduates of secular schools know precious little about the other monotheistic creeds, and the graduates of religious schools, in most cases, know nothing at all. One can only hope that the visit of the Pope will awaken an interest in the beliefs of the goyim and to subsequent changes in the curricula of Israeli schools.

Federation Goes to Washington

23 Delawareans of all ages made it their mission to take a day off from career and personal demands to learn about critical issues that impact Jews locally and globally. Led by Mission Chair Jack Markell, Delaware's Treasurer, the group boarded a bus during the wee hours of March 14 for a day packed with high level briefings and meetings with legislators and policy makers. The Mission was coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Delaware in partnership with United Jewish Communities, the parent organization for Jewish Federations throughout North America. It showcased the significance of Federation domestic and international programs and priorities in action and strengthened participants' commitments to their Jewish communities.

First stop for the delegation was UJC's Washington Action Office, where they were briefed by Diana Aviv, Senior Associate Executive Vice President for Public Policy, on key health and human service issues. Aviv urged support of "Return to Home" legislation that would guarantee older adults who want to return to their home communities after hospitalization access to religiously appropriate long term care facilities. Aviv explained that many Jews who are insured by managed care plans are denied access to Jewish affiliated nursing homes because they are out of the care providers' network.

Shoshana Bryen, Director of Special Projects for the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), focused on the ever-evolving relationship between Syria,

Israel and the United States and discussed proposed legislation which would undermine the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement.

After lunch on Capitol Hill, mission participants met with David Petts, a partner in the firm of Bennett Petts & Blumenthal. Petts, an expert in the field of political polling and consulting, gave the group a fascinating inside look at the 2000 presidential elections.

Representative Michael Castle engaged the group in a discussion of Church/State Vouchers and Gun Control Legislation. Dennis Toner, Alan Hoffman and Jonah Blank from Senator Joseph Biden's office, focused on issues relating to Israel and Religious Freedom in the Workplace. Bob Nickel from Senator William Roth's office addressed such sensitive topics as Domestic Terrorism, Hate Crimes and Weapons Sales.

Many participants viewed their session with Eli Rosenbaum, Director of the Office of Special Investigations, to be particularly poignant. They were awed by the Office's tireless efforts to find an estimated 60,000 suspected Nazi war criminals and collaborators and bring them to justice.

For information about specific issues and proposed legislation impacting our Jewish community, please call Sue Shaffer, Federation's JCRC director, at (302) 427-2100, ext. 17. To learn about upcoming Missions to Washington and Israel, please call Rhonda Falk, campaign director, at (302) 427-2100, ext. 16.



A Day of Education and Enlightenment

First Row, left to right:

Sue Shaffer, JCRC Director; Judy B. Wortman, Federation Executive Vice President; Jack Markell, Washington, D.C. Mission Chairman.

Second Row, left to right:

Miriam Edell; Garth Koniver, M.D.; Michael Sigman; Joseph Stevens; Jeff Metz; Scott Feinman, Annual Campaign Chairman; Barbara H. Schoenberg, Federation President; Ellen Koniver, Federation Board Member; Rhonda Falk, Federation Campaign Director; Robin Saran, Federation Board Member; Milton Landis



Gary Harad, Patti McCune, William Markell, Elizabeth Jane McCune, Leni Markell, Jack Markell, Jeremy Danneman, Matt Blackstone, Randi Hornstein, are physically tired, but emotionally charged.



State Treasurer Jack Markell and Congressman Michael N. Castle enjoy discussing topics of interest to Delawareans.



Randi Hornstein; Robert Nickel, Legislative Assistant to Senator William V. Roth, Jr.; Matt Blackstone, Jeremy Danneman, Elizabeth Jane McCune, term the day "productive."



Federation President Barbara H. Shoenberg and her son Josh enjoy a brief reunion on Capitol Hill. From left are: Alan Hoffman, Chief of Staff; Josh Schoenberg, Senate Intern; Barbara H. Schoenberg; Jonah Blank, Legislative Assistant; Dennis Toner, Deputy Chief of Staff from Senator Biden's Office



Miriam Edell, Chairperson, Jewish Fund for the Future; David Petts, Partner & Political Consultant, Bennett, Petts & Blumenthal; Jeff Metz, JCC Executive Director; Robin Saran, Federation Board Member, pictured after Petts' insightful talk on the 2000 Presidential race.

IN MEMORIAM

ALBERA

Charles G. Albera, 89, of Foulk Manor North, died March 17. He was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth. Mr. Albera is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters, Sandra Price, Georgene Price, and Leatrice Pereira-Organ; seven grandchildren; and six great grandchildren. The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to either the Craig Price Memorial Fund, the Ministry of Caring, 506 North Church Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 or the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.

BARSHA

Ella (Eleanor) E. Barsha of Forwood Manor, died March 25 in Wilmington Hospital. She was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, moved to Montreal in 1920 where she met her future husband, Jack. They married in 1934 and moved to Wilmington. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Barsha is survived by her son, Gerald M. Barsha; two sisters; two grandsons; and many nieces and nephews. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to either Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington or to the Kutz Home.

BELFOR

Max Belfor, 90, of Forward Manor, died February 23. A long-time member of Congregation Beth

Emeth, he established the synagogue's Family Assistance Fund. He operated a successful venetian blind business for many years. His avocations included gourmet cooking, music and Asian art. Mr. Belfor is survived by his wife, Minna; his daughter, Susan Warner and his son-in-law, David Warner; his grandchildren, Sean and Jaynine Warner; and his great-granddaughter, Erin Warner.

COHEN

Arnold Cohen, beloved husband, father, son, brother and uncle, died March 17 at the age of 47. A Wilmington, Delaware native, he graduated from P.S. duPont High School and Wesley College in Dover. He went on to pursue his love of music at Case Western University in Ohio. He began working in the family business, Cohen Brothers Furniture in 1976. He became a partner in the business in 1984 and soon was named vice-president. He was an active member of the Tri State Furniture Association and the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth and the B'nai B'rith Association.

He is survived by his wife, Pamela Cohen; daughter, Kristin Erickson; son, Brian Erickson; parents, Mildred and Herman Cohen; brother, Phil Cohen; and sister,

Sharon Cohen.

Donations in his memory are suggested to the National Kidney Foundation.

KANTAR

Bertha Kantar, 88, of St. Paul, MN, died March 16. She is survived by her sons, Barney of Wilmington and Michael of Riverdale, NY; two grandchildren; and a sister, Lyllian Gold of Minneapolis. The Kantar family has requested that contributions in her memory be made to the Teacher's Professional Fund at the Albert Einstein Academy, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington, DE 19803. These contributions will be used as matching funds to Sarita Gross' challenge endowment and will be matched by her dollar for dollar.

LASKOWITZ

Sydell Laskowitz, 103, who won international acclaim as a torchbearer during the Olympic Games of 1996, died March 3 at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington. She is survived by a sister, two daughters, six grandchildren, including Claire Kantar of Wilmington, and eight great grandchildren.

LUBIN

Harry Lubin, 83, of Claymont, died March 20. Mr. Lubin was a highly decorated veteran of World War II, having been awarded the

Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge. He was Delaware Department Commander of the Jewish War Veterans and former Commander of the Harry Fineman Post. He was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth and of the Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation.

Mr. Lubin is survived by his wife, Helen; son, Ira of Chamblee, Georgia; brother, Abe; and sister, Betty, both of Claymont.

Donations in his memory may be made to a favorite charity.

ROSENBERG

Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg, 98, died March 13th at the Mayo Clinic Retirement Center in Minnesota. Her late husband, Dr. Edward F. Rosenberg, had served as a staff physician at the Clinic, specializing in rheumatology research.

A native of Wilmington, she was the daughter of Harry and Gertrude Goodman.

Mrs. Rosenberg graduated from Wilmington High School and won a musician scholarship from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. After graduation, she became both a concert pianist and a concert harpist. In the early 1930s, she toured extensively-giving concerts in both instruments.

The Rosenbergs married in 1934. They lived in Minnesota and

eventually settled in Chicago. There, she distinguished herself for her work with the Japan-American Society-an organization designed to improve relations between the two peoples.

She also won international acclaim for her prized collection of English silver. The "Rosenberg Collection" consisted of pieces crafted between 1670 and 1850.

She is survived by her son, Edward Goodman Rosenberg of Oregon and ten nieces and nephews.

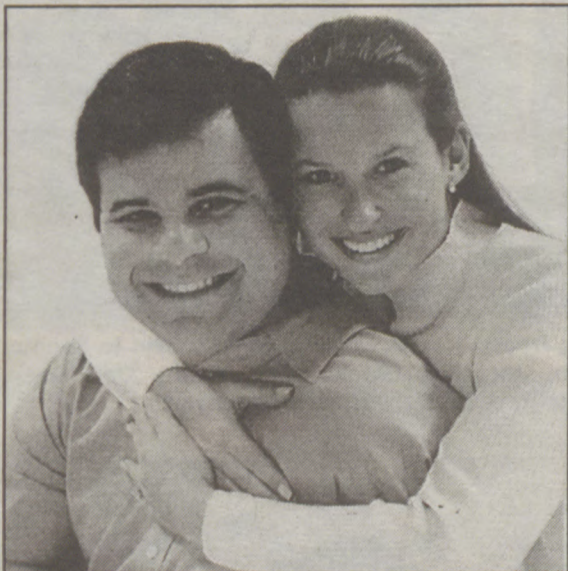
Contributions in her memory are requested to the Dr. Edward F. and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Endowment Fund for Fellowships in Art Conservation, c/o Development Office, University of Delaware, Academy Building, Newark, DE 19716.

ROSENTHAL

Ruth Rosenthal, 82, died March 17 at the Kutz Home. She worked as a medical assistant for many years. Mrs. Rosenthal is survived by her sons, Dr. Melvin J. and Dr. Stanley A. Rosenthal, both of New Castle; brothers, Morris Gorlin of New Jersey and Yale Gorlin of Israel; a sister, Frances Reiness of Israel; and five grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions in her memory be made to a children's charity of the donor's choice.

SIMCHAS

Mamberg, Rothschild Meet Under The Chupah Next Spring



Elana Leigh Mamberg and Peter Elliot Rothschild

Vivian and Elias Mamberg of Wilmington announce the engagement of their daughter, Elana Leigh, to Peter Elliot Rothschild, son of Carol and Steven Rothschild of Greenville, Delaware. Elana is also the granddaughter of Otto and Lolo Heitlinger of Wilmington. Peter is the grandson of Nora Schick, of Forest Hills, New York.

A graduate of Brandywine High School, Elana received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Cum Laude, from Rutgers University and her Masters degree in Social Work from Bryn Mawr College. She is currently completing a fellowship at the Yale Psychiatric Institute of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Peter, a graduate of Tower Hill School, received his B.A., Cum Laude, from the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently an associate at Graham Partners, an investment fund located in Wayne, PA. Prior to joining Graham Partners, he worked as a financial analyst at Solomon Smith Barney in New York City.

Peter and Elana were both members of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, where they first met as teenagers. The couple plans a March 24, 2001 wedding.

Kazinoff, Goldstein To Wed July 2000



Laurie Jill Kazinoff and Howard Elliott Goldstein

Phyllis Kazinoff of Wilmington announces the engagement of her daughter, Laurie Jill, to Howard Elliott Goldstein. Laurie, a graduate of Concord High School and the University of Maryland at College Park, is the Human Resources Manager at the Philadelphia branch of AETEA Information Technology Inc., an IT consulting firm. Howard, a graduate of William Tennent High School and Temple University, is a Senior Underwriter at the Philadelphia Insurance Companies in Bala Cynwyd. Laurie is the daughter of the late Dennis Kazinoff, the granddaughter of Harry and Shirley Goldberg of Harrisburg, PA, Tillie Kazinoff of Philadelphia, and the late Aaron Kazinoff. Howard is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Donald Goldstein of Warminster, PA, and the grandson of the late Zena and Michael Leibson and Diana and Milton Jacobson. A July, 2000 wedding will be held in Wilmington.

Shalom Devorah Leah Sneiderman

Roni Sarah and Rabbi Eliezer Sneiderman, along with their children: Yisroel Dovid; Chaim Tzvi Hirsh Alter; Chava Leibah; Rachel and Basya welcome their daughter and sister, Devorah Leah, into the world.

She was born on March 17. May she live a life filled with Mitzvot and Torah and may she merit to one day raise her own family amongst the Jewish people. Rabbi Sneiderman serves as director of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life at the University of Delaware.

Share your milestones with Jewish Voice readers, send announcements to:
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries for the Calendar of Events are due on the Thursday deadline published in *The Jewish Voice*. Please provide entries in the same format as seen on this page. *The Jewish Voice* fax number is 427-2438.

THE KIMMEL-SPILLER

Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service offers Jewish healing services on the second Monday of every month from 7-8 p.m. Led by Rabbi Myriam Klotz, the service will include prayer, songs, meditation and reflection. For additional information, please call Rabbi Klotz at 302-478-9411.

LIVE FROM ISRAEL, ARAD STRING ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM

Don't miss out on a spectacular performance by the Arad String Ensemble, Tuesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m. This talented troupe of young musicians-ages 10 through 17-will perform at the Wilmington Music School. Ensemble members come from the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Partnership 2000 community in Israel. Tickets for the performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. To order, please contact the JFD, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801 or call 427-2100.

DINE OUT FOR PESACH AT THE JCC

The Jewish Community Center of Delaware will hold their annual Passover Restaurant on Monday, evening, April 24, 2000. A kosher for Passover meal, prepared under the supervision of the Va'ad Hakashruth, will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. Menu items include salad, gefilte fish, matzah, lemon chicken, cranberry sauce, honey carrots, broccoli souffle, seasoned potatoes, apple matzah kugel plus a variety of desserts. A special menu for children will be available. Entertainment will be provided by Craig Collins featuring a one-man show of music, comedy and magic. The fees are \$18 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for children ages 3 through 12. Advance registration is required at the JCC Front Desk by April 14. For more information, call Margaret Presley at 478-5660, ext. 221.

GRATZ SETS APRIL OPEN HOUSE

Those interested in Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School should

attend the school's Open House on Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. Find out about part-time and full time programs leading to the JCHS Teaching Certificate, JCHS Diploma, Isaac Mayer Wise Teaching Certificate, as well as other certificate, credit and social opportunities. The school is located on the Jewish Community Center campus, 101 Garden of Eden Road, North Wilmington. The Open House will be held in Room 6. For additional information, please call Marlene Milunsky at 478-8100.

JEWISH SCHOLAR TO DISCUSS FEMINIST IDENTITY

Dr. Rela Geffen, Professor of Sociology and Coordinator of the Programs in Jewish Community Studies at Gratz College in Philadelphia, will discuss Feminism and Contemporary American Judaism during a free public forum on Tuesday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. at the University of Delaware. For additional information, please call the Center for Jewish Studies office at 831-3324.

GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP

Joel Spector, the president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Philadelphia will speak on "How to Construct A Family Tree", Monday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Newark Jewish Community Center, 288 East Main Street, Newark, DE. Advance registration is required. Please call Lynda Bell at 286-1401.

HAGGADAHS AVAILABLE FOR THE BLIND

The Jewish Braille Institute of America will provide large print or Braille Haggadahs free of charge. They are available in either the traditional version, used by most Orthodox and Conservative Jewish households, or in the New Union version, used by the Reform Movement. Audio cassettes are available as well. To obtain a copy call the JBI Library at 1-800-433-1531 or email them at library@jewishbraille.org.

PASSOVER TASTING SPREE

Bring a favorite Passover recipe or learn a new one. Create your signature Pesach pareve or dairy dish along with a recipe to the Newark Jewish Community Center, 288 East Main Street, Newark, DE \$5 per person, registration is required. For information please call 286-1401.

TEMPLE BETH EL HOSTS BREAKFAST

Temple Beth El, 303 Possum Park Road, Newark, will host a children/parent breakfast on Sunday, April 30, 9:30 a.m. Harrington Theatre Arts Company of the University of Delaware will entertain with songs and skits. Call 366-8330 for additional information.

WALK ON THE SINGLE SIDE

The Young Jewish Professionals and Singles of Delaware, men and women in their 20's and 30's, will meet for a nature walk and barbecue at Bellevue Park. The fun begins

on Sunday, April 9, 11 a.m. The cost of \$7 per person includes lunch and all recreational activities. For directions or additional information about the organization, please call Seth at (610) 859-9528,

EXPLORE THE POLITICS OF CULTURE

The Dover Art League will sponsor an exhibition and conference reflecting on the theme of The Politics of Culture. Delaware State

University, Rte. 13, Dover, will be the site of the Conference, on Saturday, April 15, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Over 200 works of art, created by 49 multi-cultural artists, will be on display. Conference registration is \$10 and includes lunch. Delaware teachers will receive a 2/5 in-service credit.

For further information, please call Phyllis Levitt, at (302) 674-4680.

JCC Plans Trip To Broadway

The JCC will travel to New York City on Sunday, April 30 to see the critically acclaimed musical "Kiss Me Kate." The agency has reserved the first four rows of the center front mezzanine and will drop participants off at several Manhattan locations to enjoy the lunch of their choice before the show. The cost is \$125 for members and \$145 for non-members and includes a light breakfast of coffee and danish before the bus departs at 9:00 a.m. For more information, please call Ella Zukoff, at 478-5660.

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Same-Sex Ceremonies Continued from front page

union for same-gender couples," but also "and we support the decision of those who do not."

It is unclear whether the resolution will influence the practices of Reform rabbis or lead to an increase in the number of gay couples gathering under the chupah. Even before the resolution, many Reform rabbis, as well as Reconstructionist ones - who went on record in support of same-sex ceremonies in 1993 - were officiating at such ceremonies.

The resolution means that the CCAR can now distribute liturgy, wedding contracts and other resources for people officiating at same-sex commitment ceremonies.

According to the handful of rabbis who voted against the resolution and even some who voted in favor, the move may harm Reform Judaism's credibility among more traditional streams of Judaism and, possibly, Israelis.

In response to concerns from

rabbis hesitant about endorsing religious officiation at gay ceremonies, the resolution was modified in the week preceding the vote to add support for rabbis who do not choose to officiate. Under their influence, the rabbis also omitted from the body of the resolution a quotation stating that "kedushah", Hebrew for holiness, "may be present in committed same gender relationships between two Jews."

In addition the rabbis added a background statement outlining the CCAR's positions over the years on the rights of homosexuals, including a 1995 Responsa committee that, by a vote of 7-2, concluded that gay relationships "cannot be called kiddushin" the Hebrew term for marriage.

Those rabbis who had pushed for these changes, among them Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin of Port Washington, N.Y., said they were pleased with the final version, which they described as a "com-

promise".

But proponents of the original resolution insisted the changes were only "modifications" and that the final resolution still sends a strong message.

"The essential nature of the resolution remained," said Rabbi Shira Stern of West River, N.J., adding that the final resolution "affirms the sacred relationship between two Jews who are gay and lesbian and says that we are going to create materials to reflect that affirmation."

Stern, who is co-president of the CCAR's Women's Rabbinic Network, which introduced the resolution, was one of many who insisted that they were pleased with the outcome.

Eger described the resolution as "very strong", and said she was pleased it was something the vast majority of Reform rabbis could agree upon.

"Even though Rabbi Salkin and

I don't agree on every issue, we have one movement and to that we're both committed," she said.

The debate leading up to the convention was long and heated - at times even "McCarthyist" according to those who initially opposed the resolution and felt they were unfairly labeled as homophobes and bigots.

However, reflecting the mutual satisfaction with the last-minute changes, the actual floor discussion lasted only an hour, with few people speaking out against the resolution.

The discussion's efficiency and prompt vote contrasted sharply to the CCAR's vote in Pittsburgh last year on adopting a statement of principles. That vote, which was seen as a movementwide acceptance of more traditional Jewish practices, took place almost 24 hours after it was initially scheduled, following a passionate, late-night debate.

Save The Date

The Jewish Theological Seminary and Congregation Beth Shalom will host a Tribute Luncheon on Sunday, April 30, 2000 honoring Leah L. Kraft.

Mrs. Kraft, widow of long-term Beth Shalom Rabbi Jacob Kraft, will be recognized for her many years of service to the synagogue and to Conservative Judaism. Marilyn and David Levinson are chairing the event which begins at 11:30 a.m. For additional information, please call the synagogue at 654-4464.

Celebrate

Continued from front page

In honor of their visit, The Wilmington Music School has proclaimed April 11 Arad Chamber Strings Day and invites Ensemble members and members of the community to enjoy two free afternoon concerts. At 2 p.m., the Casals Trio, featuring Sylvia Ahramjian on violin, Ovidiu Marinescu on cello and Kenneth Boulton on piano will perform American music. Then at 2:45 p.m., Diane Monroe, a jazz violinist who has worked with Yo-Yo Ma and percussionist Max Roach, will

stage a special demonstration.

During their time in Delaware, the Ensemble will attend a master class with Dr. Hekwun Wu and David Myford of the University of Delaware and will perform with the University Orchestra. They also will travel to Philadelphia, where they will participate in a masters class conducted by several members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and will attend an evening Orchestra concert at the famed Academy of Music.

Students at Albert Einstein Academy are eagerly awaiting the

Ensembles visit to their school. This is a rare opportunity for AEA students to practice their Hebrew conversation skills with native speakers. They view the visit by the Israelis as an opportunity to build upon a pen-pal relationship forged between students in the two sister communities.

Young is grateful to Peggy Amsterdam, director of the Delaware Division of the Arts and Harvey Price, a percussionist at the University of Delaware, who helped coordinate many of the events on the Ensemble's

Delaware agenda and to Kathy DiMarino of the Wilmington Music School for providing a venue for the Ensemble to showcase their talents.

Tickets for the April 11th evening concert at the Wilmington Music School are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior adults. They are on sale through the Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801. For additional information, please call Judy Stiebel at (302) 427-2100, ext. 11.

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