



The Paths To Peace

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak meets with US President Bill Clinton in Shepherdstown, W. Virginia. Voice coverage of the Israel - Syria peace accords begins on page 2.

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Voices of Women Resound at Reform Biennial

By Connie Kreshtool
Special to the Jewish Voice

Voices of women echoed throughout the sessions of the Biennial Assemblies of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Women of Reform Judaism held in mid-December. The Shabbat morning services provided visible testimony that women have taken their place in good measure in the Reform movement in America. Women rabbis, cantors and Torah readers were selected to lead the congregation of 4700 men and women delegates. The five-day program offered many opportunities to hear the voices of women-rabbis, scholars, leaders and others who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields.

Rabbi Nelly Kogan came from Minsk to relate her experiences in building a Progressive Jewish community in that part of Belarus. She is a young Russian woman who studied at the Leo Baeck College in London to become the first woman rabbi in the Former Soviet Union. She spoke of great interest in Progressive Judaism among the Jews of Belarus. Organizing nursery schools and other educational programs is her priority and she has had great success in attracting participants.

Voices of Women

Three Israeli women whose voices are well known in the Jewish State spoke about their work to advance the status of women. Despite vigorous opposition from many sides none of them have been deterred from speaking out. Professor Alice Shavli, a founder of the Israel Women's Network, said that Israeli women want equality of opportunity, of reward and of status. "They want to bring their voices to the table. What could be more desirable as Israel pursues peace than women's voices of caring, compassion and consensus."

Anat Hoffman who represents the Civil Rights and Peace Movement on the Jerusalem City Council spoke of the verbal abuse she suffers at the hands of the male members of the Council and from the mayor. Her courage and her dedication to the equality of women helps her to withstand the attacks of her opponents.

Rabbi Na'amah Kelman, the first woman ordained at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, currently directs several educational programs sponsored by the Progressive movement in Israel. She described the Progressive movement as being stubborn and stiff-necked in its pursuit of the right of its rabbis to perform marriages and conversions. She revealed that hundreds of couples prefer wedding ceremonies conducted by Progressive

rabbis even though it means they must first go to Cyprus for civil marriages.

From Dr. Rachel Adler, Professor of Modern Jewish Thought at the University of Southern California and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, delegates heard a fascinating presentation on "Engendering Judaism." She said that if women are to be full participants in Jewish life than Judaism must reflect women's concern, must be studied and practiced differently. For her, Judaism must be "unengendered." "Gender is a social construction and no Judaism is unaffected by gender of its transmitters." "When women are mentioned who's telling the story?" She described documents found in caves dating from 135CE that indicate women had more freedom in Greco-Roman Palestine than is described in the Babylonian Mishnah. Studies of Palestinian ketubot indicate women had more rights relating to divorce proceedings than women in Babylonian ketubot. She called for women and men to engender Judaism together.

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, who directs the adult education institute of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism, provided some insights into how Jewish feminists are seeking to reflect and respect women in their reinterpretation of the ancient texts. Her session on "Men's Blood,

Women's Blood: Sanctified and Defiled" was an illuminating discussion of circumcision, in which man's blood sanctifies him and the whole Jewish people, and menstruation, in which woman's blood neither covenants nor sanctifies but defiles her and everyone around her. In her work she seeks to restore the element of holiness to women's bodies.

Another voice, recognized by the hundreds in the audience, was that of Dr. Ruth Westheimer. A psychosexual therapist who has been counseling via the airwaves, Dr. Ruth had much to say at this session about what grandparents can do for their grandchildren. She fell back on a German expression from her childhood that in essence suggested that grandparents should never criticize and always be generous.

From the sociologist Shulamit Reinharz, Director of the Women's Studies Program at Brandeis University, we heard results of her studies on the Jewish community. She decried the image of Jewish women in film which she believes plays a role in intermarriage. She said that with low birth rate and no significant immigration the Jewish population in America will be an ever-decreasing percentage of the total population. Prof. Reinharz predicted that smaller family size, longer life span and significantly increased financial resources will have a great impact on women's lives. She applauded the great interest in learning among women. She made the startling suggestion that now is the time for Jewish women to use their Hebrew names as a statement in this land of freedom about just who they are.

One hundred years ago the voices of women in the Jewish world were barely a whisper; today their voices have been raised on the bema, in the boardroom and in those bastions of higher learning. Let us hear them ever more loudly in the 21st Century!

Debbie Cohen Puts the "Super" in Super Sunday

By Lynn Edelman
Editor

2000 Super Sunday Chair Debbie Cohen is genetically predisposed to Jewish communal leadership. Her father, the late Rabbi Jacob Kraft, served as spiritual leader of Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom from 1930-1987. His commitment to Jewish learning was immortalized by the creation of the Rabbi Kraft Educational Foundation which funds lectures, workshops and educational programs that benefit both the congregation



and the entire Delaware Jewish community. Cohen's mother, Leah, taught at Beth Shalom for more than 30 years and remains an active volunteer at the synagogue and at St. Francis Hospital Emergency Room. In April, she will be honored by the Jewish Theological Seminary for her life-long commitment to

Conservative Jewry.

"My parents were wonderful role models," said Cohen, whose personal commitment to Judaism deepened during a 1994 visit to Israel with her mother. "I saw first-hand the small country that shared my birth year and felt a real sense of belonging," she said, adding that "I knew that I wanted to help ensure her growth and security."

She returned twice, most recently with the Jewish Federation of Delaware Mission 2000, where she spent time with her son, Daniel Green, who is studying at a Yeshiva in Jerusalem. "Daniel and I spoke about the times that he and his brother, Jeffrey Green, spent with my parents and the wonderful stories that my father told them," she said. "I am sure that this is what sparked their interest in Judaism," Cohen added. Cohen is also the proud parent of step-daughter, Rory Cohen.

Fueled by her Israel experiences, Cohen felt ready to take her own place in the Delaware Jewish community. Despite the demands of a full-time position as office manager with Cardiology Consultants, PA, she

has served on the board of Jewish Family Service for the past three years. She is excited at the prospect of bringing together hundreds of Super Sunday volunteers on February 6, 2000 and educating them about the importance of contributing to the 2000 Federation Annual Campaign.

"My goal is to help each volunteer feel a bond that will spark enthusiasm, fun and camaraderie throughout the day," said Cohen, who hopes to make this phone-a-thon a "super success."

Volunteers are needed throughout the day. A sign-up sheet appears on page 19 of this edition for your convenience. Please complete and return to: Sue Shaffer, Super Sunday Staff Coordinator, Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801 or fax to: 427-2438. For additional information about Super Sunday, please call 427-2100, ext. 17.

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THE PATH TO PEACE

SEE-SAW IN SHEPHERDSTOWN The Ups And Downs Of Peace Talks

By Michael Shapiro, JTA

Predictions that peace talks between Israel and Syria would be difficult appeared to be on the mark as officials got down to business this week.

As the talks resumed Monday in Shepherdstown, W.Va., the United States was already playing down expectations that the new round of talks would lead to an agreement.

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"I think it's fair to say that Charles Dickens' novel 'Great Expectations' is not the novel that is being read by the negotiators and the working-level officials," State Department spokesman James Rubin said on Monday, shortly after the talks began.

"We do not expect to be able to achieve a core agreement in one round of negotiations," he said of the talks, which have been billed as intensive and open-ended.

Israeli and Syrian negotiators, who were expected to get down to the nitty-gritty negotiations that could pave the way for a peace deal that would end their 50-year state of war, had trouble agreeing on where to start the talks.

Israel wanted to discuss normalizing relations and security arrangements first while Syria wanted to begin with discussions on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The two sides are also expected to discuss water rights.

Their differences led to the cancellation Monday evening of an expected three-way meeting between President Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa.

By Tuesday afternoon, howev-

er, Rubin said that Dickens' "Bleak House" also was not an appropriate novel, and that the joint meeting was held later that day.

During his daily briefing at Shepherd College, Rubin announced that the "procedural hurdle" had been overcome and that "all of the issues will be discussed in the coming few days."

He did not say what the hurdle was, but said committees had been formed to deal with the key topics.

Rubin said U.S. officials were not surprised by the talks' slow start.

"We always expect there to be problems in this kind of a negotiation, and that's why we're here to overcome them," he said.

For his part, Clinton described both sides in the talks as "very serious."

"I think they both want an agreement," he said at the Oval Office on Tuesday, taking questions after nominating Alan Greenspan to another term as chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Asked about reports that Israeli is seeking at least \$17 billion in aid to cover the security costs of a peace treaty with Syria, Clinton said the United States is "attempt-

ing to ascertain what the general outlines of the costs would be."

The Israel daily Ha'aretz reported on Monday, without citing sources, that Barak has already asked the United States for \$17 billion in aid. The request includes funding for new Apache helicopters, a ground station for gathering information from U.S. satellites and Tomahawk cruise missiles, which would give Israel the ability to strike distant countries. The aid request includes funding to help transfer army camps from the Golan to inside the Green Line, the paper reported.

Rubin called the reports "wildly premature."

But the president, who flew back to Shepherdstown on Tuesday, acknowledged that there will be costs associated with an Israeli-Syrian peace deal.

"As I have made clear, we need to make a contribution, as do our friends in Europe and hopefully some in Asia, toward the long-term economic development of a regional Middle East economy," he said.

"So there will be some costs involved there over a period of years, not just in one year. We are trying to determine exactly what

that should be."

Clinton said he would have to have a "serious consultation with the congressional leadership, before I can do more than say I would support this."

Republican leaders in Congress were upset that Clinton promised Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan \$1.9 billion during the 1998 Wye talks without consulting with them.

Pro-Israel activists have said that it is crucial for the Clinton administration to work closely with Congress on any potential aid package, given the battle over the Wye aid seen during the budget battle this past fall.

On Monday, Clinton kicked off the talks with a photo-op stroll with Barak and Sharaa. The three leaders walked across a bridge in the woods of the National Conservation Training Center, which sits on 540 acres primarily used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The talks were being held in a virtual media blackout. Only the White House and State Department spokesman are expected to hold daily briefings, but they are not expected to provide any real details of the negotiations.

Rubin said that members of the

Continued on page 6

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Voice Photo Of The Week



Birthright Israel Launched with the Arrival of the First Full Planeload of Students (photo courtesy of Israel Sun)

Israel welcomed the first full planeload of Birthright students on December 30th at Ben Gurion Airport with flags, cheers and greetings by government officials. Some 6000 North American college students are expected over the next few weeks.

Birthright Israel is the largest travel and educational project ever undertaken in Israel. Initiated by philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, the program is now supported by the Government of Israel and Jewish communities around the world. Birthright Israel intends to offer every Jewish youth an educational experience in Israel. Within five years the goal is to bring 50,000 Jewish students to Israel every year.

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EDITORIAL

Parallel Paths To Peace

Wednesday was an auspicious day in Israel's on-going quest to make peace with her Arab neighbors. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak asked for and apparently will receive an accounting by Syrian President Hafez Assad of his proposal for peace. Then, and only then, will Barak consider conceding all or most of the strategic Golan Heights to a nation with which it has fought three wars. And, in a separate section of this U.S. government retreat in West Virginia's oldest town, a mixed committee of American, Syrian and Israeli negotiators were trying to set up safeguards to secure the peace and assure the safety of Israel's citizens.

In an atmosphere of secrecy, the talks proceed at a slow but steady pace. All of the principal players have cleared their schedules and vow to take as much time as needed to reach an accord.

Our intense interest in the Shepherdstown negotiations has overshadowed a major development in the Israeli-

Palestinian peace track. On Wednesday, Israel quietly began withdrawing from an additional five percent of the West Bank – the second of three withdrawals called for during last September's peace agreement in Egypt.

After some two months of disagreements, both sides are now meeting daily to try to hammer out a final peace deal by a previously agreed target date of mid-February.

Palestinian negotiators deny that they agreed to use Israel's original redeployment maps and go ahead with this latest withdrawal out of concern that they would be left in a lurch if the talks between Israel and Syria are successful.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat insists that the Israeli/Palestinian negotiations are on a "parallel track, not a competitive one."

Our wish for this first week of the 21st century is that both tracks lead these travelers on the path of peace.

TO THE EDITOR

Shabbat Is Reason Enough For Celebration

After determining that the red and green colored cover of the Dec. 17 Voice was not indeed a Christmas advertisement in my mail, I read with some interest the stories about "A New Century Dawns"[sic]. One article had some provocative thoughts—Rabbi Hertzberg's "Jews should butt out of the turn of the millennium" and also the ideas raised at an ADL-sponsored symposium that "Jews should be concerned about a potential backlash by right-wing Christians...when the calendar turns over and Jesus has not returned."

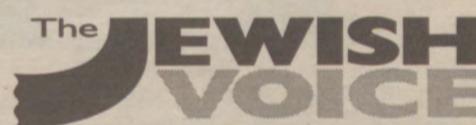
However, the cover story about "New Year's 2000" ends with some thoughts and ideas for Jews to ponder on Friday night, December 31. "Fill your Kiddush cup with

champagne, decorate your Shabbat table with confetti and celebrate with those who welcome the promise of the new millennium." Perhaps The Jewish Voice could have suggested and reminded readers that the shimmering dark wine in a silver Kiddush cup and the warm, stately glow of the Shabbos candles reflecting off of a golden crusted Challah, would be enough as once again, on Shabbat, thoughts of the week and the future continue again as they have for several millennia. Maybe one could discuss, "Why Y 2 K?"

Shabbat Shalom (every week) and enjoy the rest of 5760.

Joel Glazier
 Wilmington

Due to the overwhelming response to our 20th Century Chai Club, results will appear in the January 21 edition of



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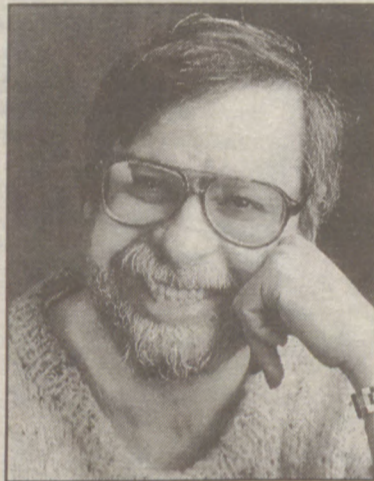
Countdown To Federation Shabbat 2000

Danny Siegel has a quote to suit every occasion. Asked for his thoughts on Jewish life in the 21st century, Siegel perused his electronic data base and picked the following selection from his book *Good People*, a collection of essays about people who are Mitzvah heroes and *menschen*:

"We should take any moment, beginning with Now, on to One Moment From Now, all the way to Way Into the Future, and think about the possibilities for Mitzvahs that could happen at any of those times."

Siegel, dubbed the Pied Piper of Tzedakah, will help build *ruach* during Federation Shabbat. The prolific poet, author, storyteller and lecturer comes to Delaware on Friday, February 4th for a full weekend of programs open to the entire Delaware Jewish Community.

Siegel will be the guest speaker at Congregation Beth Emeth, 300



Danny Siegel

West Lea Boulevard in Wilmington, during Shabbat evening services which begin at 8:00 p.m. Following services, Siegel will mingle with congregants at a festive Oneg.

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

invites the community to attend Mincha services on Saturday, February 5th at 4 p.m., then enjoy a Se'udah Sh'lishit meal and conversation with Siegel. Siegel will remain at the synagogue for Maariv and Havdalah services throughout the afternoon.

Siegel is the author of more than two dozen books on Jewish themes including *Healing: Readings and Meditations*, *Heroes and Miracle Workers* and *Where Heaven and Earth Touch*, *An Anthology of Midrash and Halacha*. Parents will enjoy *Tell Me A Mitzvah*, a selection of Tzedakah stories for children ages seven through 12, *After the Rain*, *The Book of Mitzvah Power for Adults and Teens* and Siegel's story book for very young children, *The Humongous Pushka in the Sky*.

Federation Campaign Director Rhonda Falk is excited that Siegel will stay in Delaware on Sunday,

February 6th to inspire morning session Super Sunday volunteers. "His enthusiasm about performing acts of Tzedakah is infectious," she said, terming Siegel's appearance "an added incentive to sign-

up for these A.M. phone-a-thon slots."

For additional information about Federation Shabbat or the 2000 JFD Super Sunday, call Falk at 427-2100, ext. 16.

Special To Jewish Voice Readers...

A New Poem By Danny Siegel

GOOD PEOPLE

The Good People everywhere will teach anyone who wants to know how to fix all things breaking and broken in this world—including hearts and dreams—and along the way we will learn such things as why we are here and what we are supposed to be doing with our hands and minds and souls and our time. That way, we can hope to find out why we were given a human heart, and that way, we can hope to know the hearts of other human beings. And the heart of the world.

LEADERSHIP PROFILES

Y☆ You And I Can Change The World ☆

Cass Anolick
Vice Chair
Community Donor
Development

Tell us about your journey and Jewish roots.

Like so many American Jews, my parents and grandparents left eastern Europe when it was getting increasingly uncomfortable being a Jew there. Really, it had always been uncomfortable, but at least in the early 20th century, there were options. People could travel and most people went to the land of opportunity — America. Yet, some saw the opportunity in Africa and they were right at least for a few generations. Yet, one thing I noticed about the older generation...they never felt secure. It was as if they were waiting for another generation of pogroms. They were staunch Zionists, since they knew they needed to have a back up plan. Thankfully they did, since we have innumerable examples where Israel has been the last line of hope for a whole population of Jews.

Why did you become involved in the Jewish Federation of Delaware? There are still too many people less fortunate than us and too many that cannot afford help and too many of these are Jewish people.

In the mid-90's, you played a pivotal role as Federation Annual Campaign Chair. Please comment on the experience. Some years ago, I was asked to chair the Annual Campaign. Of course, my initial reaction was "what have I let myself into?" But when it was all over and the pledges were in, I realized that I had never done anything as meaningful. It hadn't been so hard because there were so many peo-



Cass Anolick

ple willing to help...a dedicated staff at the Federation and a host of volunteers. So now, I continue to help. Even if only in a small capacity now. After all, there are so many good role models who keep working when you would think they have done their bit! For example, past Presidents of the Federation who continue to work year after year. Why do they do it? I suspect it is because they know it is important to so many people...the elderly that need the Kutz Home...the families that get help from Jewish Family Service...the elderly woman in Russia who does not have enough food but gets periodic care packages from the JDC via support from the Jewish Federation.

You travel often to Israel. Why is the Jewish homeland important to you?

My Mother and several other relatives live there. They no longer

need help from the Jewish Federation and don't expect it. But every one of them arrived from South Africa with very little except an education and were welcomed in Israel. And every time I go there I see another group of immigrants being welcomed. Not without problems mind you, but welcomed nevertheless, because it is the Zionist tradition that we must help all who need the help.

Lelaine Nemser
Vice-Chair

Training and Recruitment
Describe some of your many volunteer activities.

Although I am on several boards, my main activities now are with the Hillel Board as a fund-raiser and with the Jewish Federation of Delaware Board as Vice Chair for Training and Recruitment for the Annual Campaign as well as a member of the Partnership 2000 Committee.

What would you like to accomplish as Vice Chair of Training and Recruitment?

I look at Training as a constant attempt to keep the volunteers up to date with issues that will effect future solicitations in our community. As people are educated to concerns in our local agencies as well as Jewish life in Israel and overseas, we will be able to increase our campaign to cover the tremendous needs in our worldwide Jewish communities.

What have you gained from being involved with the Doris & Irving Morris Leadership Seminars?

I joined the CLAL group because I feel the need to continue my study of Judaism and explore how it effects my life on a daily



Lelaine Nemser

basis. It is very stimulating to talk with CLAL instructors and the rest of our class and to delve into basic values of Jewish life. I enjoy discussing "the meaning of life" with others who are not only searching for meaning within the Jewish tradition, but who also are dedicated to integrating Jewish concepts in everyday life and in their work with the Jewish community.

You and Stuart and your family lived in Israel for one year. What prompted the move and what did you and your family gain from the experience?

Our year in Israel was much the same type of journey. Stu and I were attracted to Israel both for its dynamism and for its Jewish way of life. We wanted to become totally immersed in a "Judaism in action" so to speak. We wanted our children to live a life that involves Judaism and the revival of the

Hebrew language. We wanted them to experience everyday a "living Judaism".

People would be surprised to learn...

...that I was an owner and operator of a Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream store. Since I am a social worker, I like to say that my work there was the best social work I ever did. Everyone always left happy!

Do you have a favorite Jewish artist?

Having just returned from Israel, I have a great deal of admiration for those artists of antiquity whose work survives for us to admire today. So many Jewish artists and craftsmen and women labored to create things of beauty for everyday life and use. We have just viewed magnificent mosaics, exquisite gold jewelry and even fabric remnants that were worked by hand (no machines). These are expressions of creativity that speak to us through the centuries. We have our very own "time capsule" in Israel. It helps us to look back into our own creativity and contributions to mankind. I think that my "hope for the millennium" would be that the House of Israel shall continue to serve as a source of creativity and of hope well into the next millennium and indeed "shall be a blessing forever."

Mike Samuels
Assistant Treasurer
Why is Jewish involvement important to you?

I was born in the early 40's in a family of first generation Americans. By the time I was old enough to begin being aware of my surroundings the magnitude and hor-

Continued on page 12

A MATTER OF OPINION

Schizophrenic Jewish Century

By Joseph Aaron

Call it the schizophrenic century.

For that is what the 20th century has been for the Jewish people.

It has, in truth, been like two centuries in one. Two centuries that could not be more different from each other.

The first half of this century, for Jews, was one of darkness, of pain and murder and loss and persecution.

The second half of this century, for Jews, has been one of light, of rebirth and happiness and freedom and life.

The first half of this century saw the greatest tragedy in the history of the Jewish people - The Holocaust.

The second half of this century saw among the most joyous events in the history of the Jewish people - The establishment of the State of Israel.

When the 20th century began, almost all Jews lived under tyranny, under dictatorship. As the 20th century ends, virtually all Jews live in freedom, in democracies.

When the 20th century began, almost all Jews lived in Eastern Europe, were ruled by the czar or the kaiser or the emperor. As the 20th century ends, almost all Jews live in one of two places, the United States of America and the

state of Israel, are governed by a prime minister or a president who they can vote for and can throw out.

Listen to the words most prominent in each half of this century, which, for Jews, feels very much like two centuries in one.

For the first half of this century: ghetto, shtetl, Cossacks, Kristallnacht, pogrom, Nazis, Auschwitz, gas chamber, Final Solution, Hitler.

For the second half of this century: suburbs, sabras, Haganah, Jerusalem, immigration, Six-Day War, Yom Ha'atzmaut, rescue, Ben-Gurion, peace.

During the first half of this century, we lost Jews, tens of thousands murdered under orders of the czar or Stalin, six million murdered by the Nazis.

During the second half of this century, we saved Jews, tens of thousands separated from us for thousands of years in Ethiopia, more than a million from the Soviet Union.

Call it the schizophrenic century.

But, of course, history is never so neat, so nicely divided into sections. There was light and beauty in the first half of this century and darkness and pain in the second half.

The first half saw the flourishing of the new Zionist movement, saw

millions of Jews find religious freedom and new lives in the United States. The second half saw the Yom Kippur War, saw the discovery of how the Swiss had betrayed us, stolen from us, saw the stripping of religion from the Jews of the Soviet Union.

But overall, thank G-d, it has been a century that ends with Jews in much better shape than when it began.

And about how many centuries can that be said?

It certainly can about this one. For it is a century that began with Jews having the dreamiest of dreams, returning to Zion, and that ends with an Israel strong, secure, accepted by the world, soon to live in peace with all its neighbors.

It is a century that began with Jews having little place and little power in America, publicly reviled by the likes of Henry Ford and Father Coughlin and Charles Lindbergh, and ends with two Jews on the Supreme Court, Jews heading both the Federal Reserve Board and the Treasury Department, Jews leading every major studio in Hollywood and with effectively no anti-Semitism.

But most amazing of this most amazing Jewish century have been the Jewish people themselves. For this has been a century, more than any Jewish century before it, in

which Jews have made enormous contributions to the world and in which Jews have brought enormous creativity to the Jewish world. It has been a century, more than any Jewish century before it, of amazing Jewish people. Einstein and Weizmann and Rav Kook and Szold and Brandeis and Jolson and Salk and Freud and the Lubavitcher Rebbe and Solomon Schechter and Bellow and Sharansky and Kafka and the Gershwins and Chagall and Spielberg and Wiesel and Friedan. And many, many, many more.

But most amazing of all have been those Jews without famous names. Who kept their faith in G-d and their allegiance to Yiddishkeit while enduring the extermination of six million zaydes and bubbies,

fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters. Who made the desert bloom and created a vibrant, thriving society and changed the image of the Jew for the world and forever. Who made a home in a land where they have managed to, at once, be very much a part and yet proudly apart.

It is all the Jews with names that aren't familiar, who have faced challenges unlike any Jewish generation before, have accomplished what other generations could only wish for.

It is they who bring Judaism into the 21st century stronger than it has ever been before.

Editor's Note: Joseph Aaron writes for the Chicago Jewish News

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ENDOWMENTS

If You WILL It, It Is Not A Dream (or, why everyone should have an up-to-date Will)



Jewish Fund for the Future

Part I of a two-part article

Although December 31st has passed and many of us have made charitable gifts for the 1999 tax year, it is not too early to begin thinking about the year 2000 and our personal philanthropy in the year to come. One of the most important and yet most overlooked vehicles or blueprints for our charitable gifts is our Will. However, many of us do not have a Will or the Will we have is outdated.

While our ability to be philanthropic during our lifetime may be limited, our Wills give us the opportunity to direct how all of the assets which we have accumulated throughout our lifetime can be used to benefit those programs and institutions which are important to us, to immortalize a loved one or to perpetuate a family name.

The JEWISH FUND for the FUTURE and YOUR WILL

By safeguarding and caring for the Jewish community, the Jewish Federation of Delaware and its constituent agencies play a crucial role in making Judaism vibrant for generations to come. The Jewish Fund for the Future, our Jewish community's endowment fund, provides the financial capital necessary to help the community plan for the future.

Through our agencies, we pro-

vide assistance to people in need or in jeopardy wherever they might be. The services and agencies we support here and abroad revitalize important institutions, promote Jewish identity and turn dreams into reality.

In the same way that the Jewish Federation's efforts ensure a world of possibility for our children and grandchildren, so too is your Will a link to the future. It is a vital document that protects your family and those you care about in the years to come. This article is intended to help you in the process of planning your Will so you can be sure that family, friends and the institutions that matter to you benefit according to your wishes. Considering your Will today may help you build your legacy for tomorrow.

Do I Really Need A Will?

The answer is an emphatic YES. We make a mistake when we think only the wealthy need Wills. A Will is the best way to guarantee

that your assets - regardless of the size of your estate - are distributed exactly how you want. Your Will involves important decisions for you and your family. It answers questions about who will inherit and how much. It allows you to determine the manner in which your estate will be administered.

Why have a Will?

A Will is one of the most important documents you will ever sign. A Will enables you to do all of the following things:

•A Will allows you to direct precisely who shall receive all of the money and other property you have accumulated over your lifetime. Without a Will the state may make critical decisions about who receives what.

•A Will permits you to appoint the manager (called the Executor) of your estate. Without a Will the court appoints an administrator, who may not be the person you would want to manage all the assets you've worked hard to accumulate.

•A Will permits you to assist relatives, friends, worthwhile causes, institutions and others that the law omits. Without a Will these people and charitable institutions will not be remembered.

•A skillfully drafted Will may allow your family to minimize taxes and other costs which might otherwise reduce the size of your estate.

•Your Will can be an important expression of your personal values. You may wish to memorialize a loved one, aid an impoverished friend or relative or distribute cherished heirlooms to special people.

Please look for Part II of this article in the next edition of the Jewish Voice where we will answer the question: "What if I already have a Will." In the meantime, for more information or to receive other materials to help you plan your Will, please call Rachel Gross, Esq., Endowment Director, at Jewish Federation of Delaware, 302-427-2100 x 19.

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Peace talks

Continued from page 2

Israeli and the Syrians delegations even agreed to surrender their cell phones so they would not be bothered by pesky reporters seeking details.

"We're here to make a peace agreement, not to make a headline," Rubin said. "And if that means that news is scarce and cell phones are turned off or they don't exist, that's a small price to pay for the outcome, at which time there will be plenty of time for the leaders of Syria and Israel and the United States to explain what the agreement is, what its impact will be."

Judy Griffith
Horizon Helicopters
(302) 368-5135

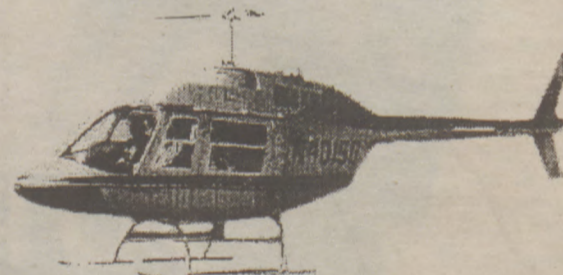
Not every customer is a corporate person or agent of the government. Horizon offers gift certificates for people who would just like to take a trip around the neighborhood, perhaps to see what their home looks like from the sky.

For the ultimate romantic evening, Griffith recommends a night on Broadway. Horizon will fly you from your backyard to New York City, and wait for you while you take in a show and dinner. Then bring you back home in time to retire before going to work the next day.

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INSIDE DELAWARE

GRATZ HOSTS UKRANIAN STUDENT

By Marlene Milunsky

Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School is fortunate to host Yana



Yana Avdeeva

Avdeeva, a foreign exchange student from Alchezsk, Ukraine, near Crimea, which is two hours from the Black Sea. Yana is 16 years old and wants to learn as much about her Jewish heritage and about being Jewish as she possibly can. While in Alchezsk, she was affiliated with a Jewish youth group at an organization similar to a Jewish Community Center.

Yana attends William Penn High School in the Colonial School District as a member of the World Heritage Foreign Exchange Program. The Program's Freedom Support Act brings high school age students from the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union to the USA for an academic year.

The teenager speaks fluent English and is proficient in four other languages. She is currently learning Hebrew at Gratz in the Beginner's Ulpan and also is taking courses in the Jewish Calendar and Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Martha Hanvey, a Gratz secretary, volunteers her time every

Sunday to drive Yana to and from Gratz. This voluntarism is apparently contagious, as Yana herself volunteers in the Gratz office before and after classes.

The Jewish community has welcomed Yana with open arms. In addition to the generosity of the Gratz Board, the Jewish Community Center has invited Yana to participate in Panim el Panim and the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBG) has made her a member of its Wilmington chapter.

Yana hopes to travel to Israel one day and would like to attend

college here in the United States.

Yana would like to stay with a Jewish family in the North Wilmington area for the remainder of the school year. If you can help out, please call Marlene Milunsky, Principal, Delaware Gratz, at 478-8100.

TU B'SHEVAT AT BETH SHALOM

Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington will host its second annual Tu B'Shevat celebration on Sunday, January 23, 10:30 a.m.

to 1:00 p.m. Admission of \$7 per person or a maximum of \$21 per family includes musical entertainment by "Silly Joe" and magic by Chris as well as "do-it-yourself" crafts and vendors. For additional information, please call the synagogue office at 654-4462.

SINGLES MINGLE AT BETH EMETH

Make it a New Year's resolution to meet new people in the year 2000! Singles Mingles at Beth Emeth in Wilmington invites men

Continued on page 8

Bonnie S. Greisler The Boys Store (215) 914-2060

The Boys Store of Huntington Valley, Pa. is conveniently located near 95, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Rt. 1, the Blue Route, and of course, Wilmington.

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Judy Levy and Eileen Schwartz celebrate the Bat Mitzvah year of their partnership as the new century begins. Together they have forged Delaware's most productive and most successful Real Estate Team.

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This year Judy's daughter, Rachel Levy Abrams, joined the team. Her people skills and knowledge of the community has been a welcome addition.

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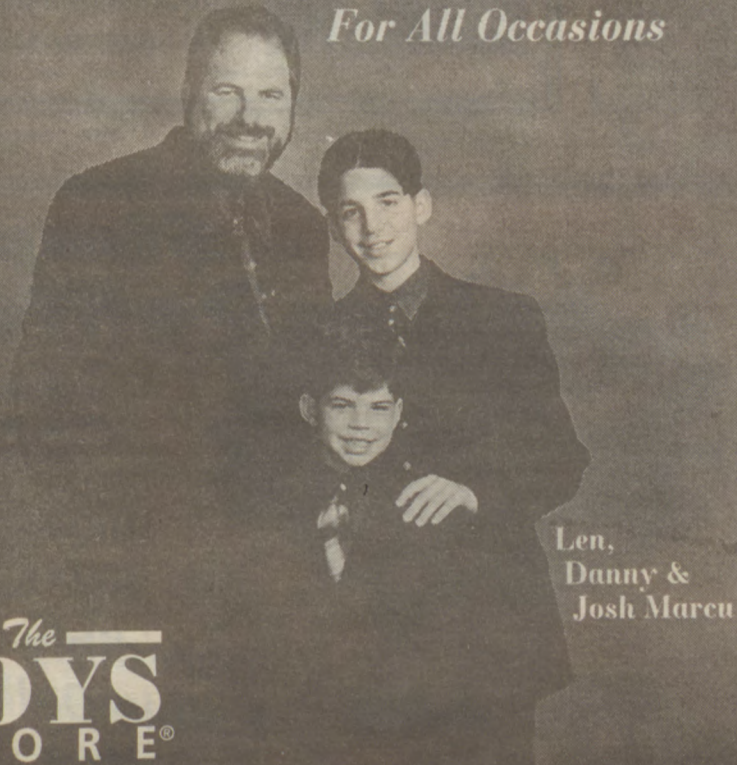
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15 Court Drive - Lancaster Court -- Rare investment opportunity! 4 unit 3 bedroom apartment building. Great cash flow! All four apartments are fully rented via on site management company. All appliances are included. **\$124,900**

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INSIDE DELAWARE

Continued from page 7

and women over the age of 40 who are widowed or divorced to winter planning meetings on Sunday, January 9 and Sunday, February 6 at 3 p. m. in the synagogue

Linda Simon
(302) 426-0272

Linda Simon's decade of experience as a Realtor in the Delaware-Pennsylvania area has earned her the recognition as a local "Top Producer" in real estate sales. Linda has developed the necessary communication, negotiation and technology skills today's homeowners look for and must have in a Realtor.

Linda has a formal education in Marketing Management and a Master's Degree in Human Resources Management. She is considered a Real Estate Marketing Specialist and would welcome your visit to her website and your comments at: LindaSimonSays.com.

library. For additional information, please call Miriam Weiner at 478-6897.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS MEET GOVERNOR

The Jewish War Veterans, Department of Delaware, met with Delaware Governor Thomas R. Carper at a Veteran's Day Luncheon attended by 150 veterans and their guests. Carper, himself a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, praised the veterans for their commitment, contributions and achievements.

The organization is a half-century old state branch of the national JWV. Established just after the Civil War, it is the only National Veterans organization officially chartered by the US Congress.

ALBERT EINSTEIN ACADEMY SLATES OPEN HOUSES

Two January dates are scheduled for Albert Einstein Academy Open Houses. Parents of students in early elementary through sixth grade may tour the school on

Tuesday, January 11th, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, January 27 from 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Now in its 30th year of operation, AEA is the only Jewish day school in the Brandywine Valley serving students from pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. The school programs for students from New Castle County, Delaware and Chester and Delaware Counties in Pennsylvania. AEA is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and is a constituent of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. For further information, contact Ellen Bernhardt, Head of School, at 478-5026.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY SAYS THANK YOU!

The Board, Officers and Archivist of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware would like to say Todah Rabah, or "thank you" to the entire Delaware Jewish community for their support of the recent exhibit "From Al's to Zutz: Celebrating a Century of Delaware's Jewish Business Tradition". The exhibit was a success for both the Jewish Historical Society and its co-sponsor, the Historical Society of Delaware. Over 400 people participated in the exhibit's opening reception. A weekly lecture series was also well-attended. JHS estimates that some 1,000 people viewed the exhibit during its five-week run.

Materials that were donated to

the exhibit will be available for pick-up beginning January 10th on Monday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Items will be available at the Library of the Historical Society of Delaware at 505 Market Street in Wilmington. Please call ahead at 655-6232. Pick-ups can be made at other times by prior arrangement.

CALLING ALL SEWERS

Jewish Family Service would appreciate a donation of a sewing machine in good working condition and sewing materials for a recent émigré. By performing this mitzvah, you will help a trained seam-

stress find employment in her new home. To donate, please call Roberta Schwartz at 798-0600.

Scholarship Aid

The Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its 11th Annual Scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or Israel. Applications may be picked up at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Office,

Washington Street Extension and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802.

Deadline is March 15, 2000.

The Fund was established in 1989 to honor the Silverman's 55th wedding anniversary by their four daughters and many friends.

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Eileen T. Conner, CPA
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Eileen T. Conner joined Belfint, Lyons & Shuman, P.A., in 1973 and became a director in 1982. She has more than 30 years' experience in tax, auditing, estate, retirement, income tax and financial planning. She coordinates the processing of the firm's individual income taxes.

Eileen is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Delaware Society of Certified Public Accountants, the American Society of Women Accountants, the American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Wilmington Tax Group.

Eileen serves on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Milton & Hattie Kutz Home, Inc., and is treasurer of Gratz Hebrew High School.

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If you are having a party, a birthday party, a shower, etc. please don't forget to call Sandy Schwartz, owner & CEO of CANDY BY SANDY at 302-239-2270.

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Alice Isaacs
(302) 764-1243

Milton (my husband) and I have always loved dance, but never really had formalized it with lessons until thirteen years ago; we discovered Crystal Ballroom and never looked back.

Three years ago we made a very emotional decision to take over the Crystal Ballroom business, when we discovered it was going to close, thus began my career as banquet manager.

My children say it's a natural business for me, as I have always enjoyed planning parties, weddings and other events. Here at Crystal I get to have fun every day with my two loves, event planning and ballroom dance.

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Elisa Komins Morris
Photographer
(302) 654-7404

Elisa Komins Morris grew up in Wilmington. She moved to Washington, DC to attend college and remained there to establish her own business as a freelance photographer concentrating in political, public relations and event photography. Some of her clients include Vice President and Mrs. Gore, Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, and The First Ladies Gala Committee to name a few. Since moving back to Wilmington in 1997, Elisa has specialized in family and children's portraits and event photography.

Elisa has been recognized by winning the 1989 Kodak Professional Scholarship and honorable mention in the Wedding and Portrait Photographers International 1999 photo competition, and inclusion in the 2000-2001 Who's Who in American Businesses and Executives among many others. Elisa exhibits perhaps Wilmington's finest exhibit of celebrity, event, children's and artistic portraits in her studio at 804 Market Street.

Debbie Esslinger
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At the heart of The Janis Nowlan Orchestra is Janis Nowlan herself. A talented pianist, vocalist and composer. Janis finds instant rapport with an audience through her instinctive warmth and understanding.

With a voice often compared to Streisand and Minelli, coupled with her training in classical piano. Janis brings an unusual depth and imagination to the music she performs. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Rhode Island, and has toured England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales where she sang at the International Song Festival.

Whether playing the classics, leading the Orchestra or working with clients. Janis strives for perfection. A perfection that is reflected in every event she performs.

Barbara K. Levy, CRS, ABR
(302) 529-2626

Barbara is a Certified Residential Specialist, and has an Associate Buyers Representation designation.

She is a licensed broker in Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland, and is a lifetime member of the New Castle Board of Realtors Million Dollar Club.

She has over 25 years experience in the tri-state area, serves on various committees with an emphasis on Multi-List, Computer and Technology.

Judy Sullivan
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LePapillon Boutique is a prestigious lingerie retailer located in Greenville Crossing II in Greenville Delaware. When opened in 1990 by owner Judy Sullivan, she not only envisioned offering the finest in lingerie, robes and gowns, hosiery, and accessories, but also an ambiance that makes customers want to stay a little longer. She has created lasting ties to leading brands such as Fernando Sanchez, Matori, Hanro, Wacoal, and many others, over the past ten years.

As the boutique prepares for the next millennium, Judy has broadened her line even further to reach out to even more people in the community who want the best that meets their individual needs and price ranges. The boutique pays special attention to brides, special events and holidays, offering gift certificates, complimentary giftwrapping and related accessories.

As an added offering, Judy has provided from the beginning, prosthesis fitting and a wide selection of garments for mastectomy needs. She is a certified fitter, bringing both a caring and quality approach not found everywhere.

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In Wilmington, the name Riva Brown is synonymous with Ketubah. Riva is the premier Judaic artist of this area and is rightly known for the beauty and accuracy of her Ketubot. Each piece is individually designed in collaboration with the couple, or sometimes a committee of relatives that has pooled together to commission a wedding gift. Beginning in 1979 with her first Ketubah at the suggestion of Rabbi Gewirtz, Riva has gone on to win the Delaware State Fellowship Grant for established folk-artists in her capacity as a Judaic ritual document maker. Ketubah making of this type requires a great deal of artistic ability, and over the last few years, Riva has been channeling that creativity increasingly into her personal watercolors. Still life, landscapes and florals are her main subjects, but in addition there are the feminist pieces. A recent exhibit at the Jewish Community Center in conjunction with the Women's Conference was the perfect intersection of all these subjects.

Ellen S. Meyer
(302) 429-0344

Ellen S. Meyer has been engaged in the practice of law for the past 18 years. She concentrates in Family Law, with an emphasis on adoption. Ellen is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA), which requires attorneys to achieve expertise in the field of adoption law before they are invited to join. She has been an AAAA member since 1994.

During her freetime, Ellen serves on the American Civil Liberties Union Case Review Panel and volunteers as a Domestic Violence Project Attorney.

She is a board member of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and serves as chairperson of the Editorial Committee for the Jewish Voice.

Ruth Morelli, Ph.D.
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You And I Can Change The World

Continued from page 4

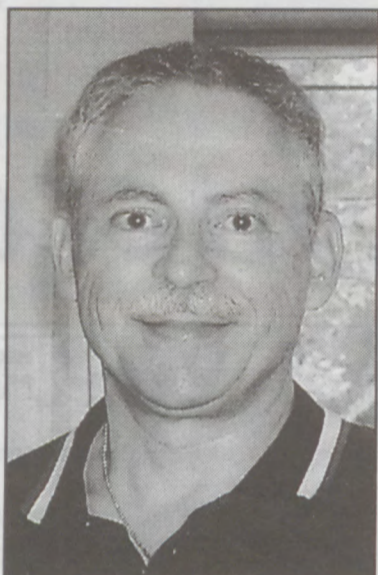
rors of the Holocaust were just beginning to be widely disseminated and understood. I also learned shortly after that that essentially all of my family members who had remained behind in the old country were slaughtered in the Holocaust. It was hard for a young child to understand how this could happen in civilized countries. It was only later that I was to learn that making scapegoats of the Jews was a favored approach by many European rulers to avoid having to deal with legitimate calls for governmental reform. I now believe that it is absolutely critical that Jews support each other on both a local and international scale. It is only through our consolidated responses to critical issues of our times that we can hope to avoid repetition of the horrible events of the 30's and 40's. If we do not stick together in a united front it is likely we will be divided and easily conquered.

Name a role model you admire:

My role model for Jewish involvement was my father. He was very active in our Synagogue as I grew up and was a wonderful role model for me. During my childhood Dad served in just about every executive position in the synagogue. He led by example, not by word! After watching him as a child, my involvement in Jewish activities was nearly assured.

Describe your hopes for the new Century:

My fondest hope for the new



Mike Samuels

century is that our Jewish Community in Delaware expands its focus of services and activities so that it becomes a major contributor to the everyday lives of Jewish people throughout the entire state of Delaware, not just its northeast corner. Although historically the Jewish Community started and developed in Northern Wilmington, its center of gravity has shifted dramatically to the south and west in the past 20 years, and is likely to continue moving in these directions over the next 50 years as well. It is absolutely critical to the health and well being of our Jewish Community that we successfully develop programs and facilities to service what will be the majority of our potential

membership. If the current organizations cannot develop such programs it is inevitable that the community will split into a number of splinter groups each of which will struggle to meet the needs of their local constituents. I believe such fragmentation of our community will have devastating results in the long run. We cannot allow this to happen?

Was there a singular Jewish experience that changed your life?

Tough question to answer, but there were probably two major events that cemented my relationship with Judaism and helped to form the cornerstones of my Jewish existence. Both events occurred at the University of Michigan where I had gone to attend Graduate School. The first event was my first Rosh Hashanah away from home. I was still adjusting to

life on campus and graduate school that first year away from home (I had attended a commuter Undergraduate School that allowed me to stay in my parents home for this part of my education). I decided to attend services offered by the local Hillel that year. Services were a wonderful experience and were unbelievably crowded. The second

experience occurred about a year and a half later when my friend and I decided to head over to the local Hillel which was offering Kosher Deli sandwiches for Sunday even-

ing meals. Although the food was somewhat forgettable, the girl I met there was not. Sue and I married a year and a half later, and are still sharing a wonderful Jewish marriage some 35 years later.

What does Jewish Philanthropy mean to you?

Jewish Philanthropy provides the financial engine from which all our good works come. Without adequate financial resources we cannot fund the good programs that are so essential to our sense of community with Jewish people living around the corner and around the world. Our local JFD campaign

funds an incredibly diverse range of programs from support of the University of Delaware Hillel (obviously a sweet spot in my family's heart) to Jewish Family Service, the Jewish Community Center, Kutz Home, to hot meals for Jewish residents of the former Soviet Union. If only more people would spend the time and energy to educate themselves about all the wonderful things our local campaign supports as well as the added programs we could support with additional funding, then I am confident we could increase our campaign size significantly.



**The family of the late
Matthew Hirshout
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during this difficult time.**

Beatrice M. Hirshout
Barbara H. Schoenberg

JEWISH FEDERATION

Markell To Chair Washington, D.C. Mission

State Treasurer Jack Markell is chairing a Federation Mission to Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, March 14th. He and more than

forty participants will have an opportunity to be briefed by domestic and foreign policy experts at UJC's Washington Action Office; to meet, learn from and engage in a dialogue with invited members of Congress; to understand efforts on the part of the FBI to combat terrorism; and to listen as a pollster offers insights into the political process.

If you are interested in issues of concern to the Jewish community; if you are serious about conveying to lawmakers and Administration officials key concerns re: our community's interests; if you hope to learn new information about the challenges and issues facing the Jewish community in Israel, here and abroad, then this is the Mission for you!

The bus will leave from the JCC parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and return approximately 7:30 p.m. Costs and more details will follow in invitations being mailed. If you are interested in the Mission and would like to receive an invitation, please call Rhonda Falk, Campaign Director at 427-2100, Ext. 16.

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JEWISH PERSPECTIVE

Auschwitz Center Celebrates Life

By Ruth E. Gruber, JTA

On a rainy afternoon this fall, Roman Catholic clergy and Polish, U.S. and Israeli officials joined Holocaust survivors and other Jews in an emotional ceremony that reflected changing attitudes toward Auschwitz and its legacy.

It was the formal ground-breaking for the restoration of the only surviving synagogue in Oswiecim, the town in southern Poland near the Auschwitz death camp — and the creation there of a Jewish study, prayer and information center.

Participants, including local Bishop Tadeusz Rakoczy, former speaker of the Knesset and Holocaust survivor Shevach Weiss, and visiting American Jews, donned souvenir hardhats — and buried stones from Jerusalem in a corner of the sanctuary.

Joseph Herinberg, a Holocaust survivor who was born in Oswiecim and now lives in the United States, sounded the shofar and, facing the east wall where the Ark will be reinstalled, the group joined in the Kaddish and other prayers.

The \$10 million project was conceived and sponsored by the New York-based Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation, founded in 1995 by philanthropist and businessman Fred Schwartz.

The project's aim is to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and mourn their loss — not by showing how they died, but how they lived, focusing on the life, culture and history of the prewar Jewish community of Oswiecim as a microcosm of destroyed European Jewry.

More importantly, perhaps, the center hopes to establish itself as a positive, living Jewish presence near the place that is the world's biggest Jewish cemetery and the ultimate symbol of the Holocaust.

"Out of more than 40 religious institutions in the Auschwitz area, there is no Jewish institution," said Daniel Eisenstadt, executive director of the foundation.

"There is neither a center dedicated to studying Jewish life nor a synagogue where Jewish visitors can pray and mourn," he said.

To this end, the Chevra Lomdei Mishnaot synagogue will be restored to how it looked in the 1930s, when the town's 7,000 Jews made up more than half of the local population and Oswiecim was widely known among Jews by its Yiddish name, Oshpitsin. Last summer the synagogue already received a Torah, donated by a congregation on Long Island, in a joyous ceremony.

In the building next door to the synagogue, a study center will

include seminar rooms, a library, a memorial wall, historic photos and an auditorium. There will also be kosher eating facilities.

"We want to represent Jewish life here before the Shoah, not the anonymity of mass death," said Schwartz, who gained fame in business as "Fred the Furrer."

Michael Lewan, chairman of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, which has supported the project, said, "The synagogue is a testament to those vibrant souls who prayed, studied, sang and danced within its walls."

Creating a center for Jewish life, education and prayer at Oswiecim represents a sea change in Jewish attitudes toward Auschwitz, a change that Eisenstadt says is increasingly necessary as both the Shoah and the destroyed prewar Jewish world recede further into history.

At least 1.5 million people, 90 percent of them Jews, were killed at Auschwitz. The Auschwitz I camp and nearby Birkenau, or Auschwitz II, were dedicated as a museum/memorial soon after the end of the war.

Hundreds of thousands of people — Jews as well as non-Jews — visit each year, to pay homage to the dead and to learn about the mechanism of the Nazis' "Final

Solution."

"Because of the immensity of the horror and the depth of the pain, previous generations have primarily visited Auschwitz to express grief," Eisenstadt told JTA. "While that process continues, current and future generations that have had less direct contact with the 'world that was' before Auschwitz want to bridge the gap of the Holocaust and understand the Jewish victims not as victims but as people; as fathers and mothers, as teachers, merchants and scholars."

Indeed, by the time the center is expected to open next Rosh Hashanah, World War II will have been over for more than 55 years. Today's teen-agers already are removed from the Shoah by three or four generations. Eyewitnesses to the horrors, and to the prewar Jewish experience, are fading from the scene.

The planned function of the center, Eisenstadt said, will help people come to terms with past tragedy, placing it into the sweep of history and incorporating the experience into life.

"In a sense, changing attitudes make visits to Auschwitz about grief and transcending grief," he said. "As such, future visits to Auschwitz are likely to be more and more akin to a shiva call that focus-

es both on the profound sadness that accompanies a death and the process of sharing stories of life," he said, referring to the Hebrew word for the period of mourning.

Creating a center for Jewish life and education can also, organizers hope, fulfill other positive functions.

While for most of the world, Auschwitz has grown to be the chief symbol of the Shoah, Poland's postwar Communist regime made Auschwitz the chief symbol of Polish suffering under the Nazis and all but ignored the fact that most of its victims were Jews.

In the decade since the fall of communism, much has been done to rectify this. But, particularly between Jews and Polish Catholics, Auschwitz still remains a bitterly emotional lightning rod for controversy over conflicting memory and commemoration.

Auschwitz has also taken on other, more universal symbolism, becoming for many the utmost symbol of evil in general. In this context, a German Protestant organization and the Roman Catholic Church have both set up centers near the death camp aimed at fostering dialogue and reconciliation among religions and peoples.

"There is a need for a Jewish presence near Auschwitz," Eisenstadt said. "First, as a place where visiting Jews and others can go to reflect, and second, for Jews and others to go to transcend grief by incorporating the life, traditions and culture of prewar Eastern Europe into their own lives."

Education will be a major emphasis, he said.

"Because the name of the synagogue means Friends of the Study of the Mishnah, we thought it appropriate to design a Mishnah study program under which visitors would be given the opportunity to respond to Auschwitz in both a defiant and affirmative way," he said. "By doing what Jews did in the synagogue before the Holocaust and studying a mishnah, visitors could make the statement that Jewish learning continues."

The synagogue, a small, compact building with arched windows, was built around 1900 and — as one of about a dozen prewar synagogues in Oswiecim — was used until 1939.

The Nazis brought thousands of Jews to the synagogue before they deported them to ghettos in 1941. After World War II, the Communists seized the synagogue, which was used for decades as a warehouse, most recently a carpet warehouse. In March 1998, it became the first building returned to the Jewish community under Poland's restitution law.

Local Polish Jews have welcomed the Auschwitz Center project, as have Polish officials, who are eager to improve Poland's image by backing dialogues and fostering Jewish institutions.

"Everybody, from the Polish government to the U.S. ambassador, to Polish Jews to the Polish church is happy that it is possible to do something constructive at Auschwitz," said Stanislaw Krajewski, a local Jewish leader and Warsaw consultant for the American Jewish Committee.

MYRIAM'S WELL

Rabbi Myriam Klotz Jewish Family Service

Is it really possible to accomplish our most important tasks on the Web? Can we fully and efficiently expedite our interactions through the Net of cybertalk? Certainly this new millennium brings with it many thrilling and perhaps chilling advances of technology which enable many if not most of us to upgrade our communications personally and professionally in crisp, thorough ways.

I do not doubt this progress; indeed, I enjoy its fruits daily. Yet, I think it essential to our continued health and wellness that we work consciously, and consistently, at balancing our current definitions of "Web" with the perhaps now anachronistic but eternally valuable understandings of this word.

When I was in sixth grade I read Charlotte's Web for the first time. This children's classic by E.B. White involves a spider, Charlotte, and Wilbur, a young pig. Charlotte and Wilbur live on a farm, along with a host of other barnyard animals. There are many wonderful aspects of this story, but what sticks in my mind is how fully the heroine of this tale, Charlotte, gives of her own life force to weave fantastic webs which actually save Wilbur's life. Charlotte gives until she is tired out and has no more to give. Yet, in the knowledge that she has helped to weave webs which enable Wilbur's life to continue, she prepares to die with peace of mind and heart.

I am moved whenever I reflect upon the generosity of spirit and body which Charlotte exemplified in her creative gifts to help Wilbur when he was in a life-threatening circumstance. There was indeed a cost for Charlotte in the giving of herself so fully through her wonderfully creative webs. The offerings tired Charlotte out, deeply. But, Charlotte gained at least as much as she gave: she gained the peacefulness of heart that is perhaps the most precious gift one can hope to receive, a peace even unto death.

The practice of *bikkur holim*, of visiting the sick, is a Jewish art of weaving a web. When one engages in the mitzvah, or holy action, of visiting someone who is ill or dying, she or he takes away a portion of the sickness, according to Jewish tradition. I do not understand this teaching to mean that by visiting someone who is ill we actually can contribute to a cure for the illness. Yet, by the simple and profound fact that we are present to be with the person, we enable them to feel better somehow, touched as it were by the generous web of spirit, of caring, which we weave as we are there. This kind of healing web, which we weave through our unique embodiments of *bikkur holim*, can not happen with the click of a button, with the displaced personal presence of a computerized network. The holy, healing presence of person to person contact is irreplaceable. This web might be prepared for by using a palm pilot or e-mail to establish the con-

nection, but there is no other way to weave the thread of healing connection than by using the most powerful server we have, ourselves.

Two related Jewish teachings further emphasize how important it is for us to be directly involved in this mitzvah. First, it is incumbent upon each and every Jew to visit others when they are ill. This is not a task relegated to Jewish or medical professionals. When we are ill, the web of generous spirit woven by a person who has taken the time, perhaps mastered the courage, to actually sit and be with us, means everything. It is not meant to be replaced by any other means, or any other person.

Secondly, the rewards for visiting with the sick, says the Talmud, are endless, literally, with fruits to be tasted in the world to come. A human being is of infinite worth, and as we make the time to visit with someone we remind him or her of that fact simply by being present. Also, this teaching suggests, we remind ourselves of the depth and limitless nature of our own humanity and spirit by giving of ourselves directly, in this particular way. There is a satisfaction which comes from giving which cannot be attained in any other way.

As we move quickly into this new millennium so hard-driven by the efficiency of computers, remember that there are other ways in which to weave webs of connection than the click of the mouse. Creating caring webs of



Rabbi Myriam Klotz

connection through being present to others in times of illness provides a uniquely healing remedy to the alienation and difficulty often experienced at that time. Knowing we are agents in the weaving of such webs just might create, for those of us able to pay those visits, upgrades we can only begin to imagine.

Rabbi Myriam Klotz staffs *The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service of Delaware*. Regular programming includes monthly Jewish

Healing Services and support groups, as well as study groups and meditation workshops. Currently *The KSJHC* is organizing a community-wide *bikkur holim* project, inspired by local residents. Contact Rabbi Klotz at 478-9411 for more information.

THE RABBI WRITES

Reclaiming The Voices Of Women In The Bible

**By Rabbi Daniel Satlow
Congregation Beth Shalom**

What Bible stories do we teach and why? Every Jewish child learns about Noah saving the animals on the ark. Do we also mention that he was the first person in the world to make wine and get drunk? We love the Joseph saga, especially with its grand family reunion at the end. Do we teach the chapter in the middle about Judah sleeping with his daughter-in-law Tamar?

Many people feel that our tradition has overlooked the importance of women in history. While to a certain extent that is indisputable, we must take some responsibility ourselves: we have not publicized all of the voices in our tradition that we already have!

We are fortunate that Judaism has such a rich and deep tradition to draw from. In looking for women's voices in the Torah, we do not always need to invest in something new; we need simply to seek out and more deliberately teach what our tradition already contains. Let me give you an excellent example.

"These are the names of the Israelites, Jacob and his descendants, who came to Egypt ... Asher's sons: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah, and their sister Serach..." (Gen. 46:8-17). Of the seventy souls who went down to Egypt, Serach is the only woman mentioned. Who is she? Why was she singled out in this way?

The Bible mentions Serach

exactly three times, always in the context of this same genealogy. Fortunately, wherever the Bible seems cryptic, the midrash steps forward to clarify. This is the account given in Chaim Bialik's compilation, *The Book of Legends*.

"And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him [from Egypt, to be buried in Israel]" (Exod. 13:19). But how did Moses know where Joseph was buried? It is said: Serach, daughter of Asher, who was of Joseph's generation, was still living. Moses went to her and asked, "Do you know where Joseph is buried?" She replied, "The Egyptians made a metal coffin for him, which they sank into the Nile, in order that its waters

might be blessed thereby. Then, too, the magicians and the sorcerers told Pharaoh, 'Do you wish that this people should never leave Egypt? If they do not find the bones of Joseph, they will never be able to leave'."

What does this account reveal? First, she is singled out for longevity. According to another midrash, she is among the ten people who never die, but are taken directly to the Garden of Eden (Elijah is another one). It seems likely that in that age just as in ours, women out-lived men.

Second, her role in the story is one of memory. In a pre-literate society, safeguarding the communal memories was a precious task, and an honored one. In our day,

ironically, we look to our youth to teach us (e.g. how to program the VCR, and how to surf the Web). We sometimes forget that while a younger generation might have certain knowledge, that does not mean they have wisdom. We need once more to venerate the older members of our society, the ones with valuable life experience, and learn from them.

The story depicts Serach as the voice of wisdom and memory in her age. Combined with the midrash about her place in Eden, she was obviously also a revered figure. We need to teach the story of Serach to our children, and in so doing, to find the voices of women in our Tradition, and to pass on the timeless values of our religion.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Carnival On Stage In Media

By Paula Shulak

If you would like a treat for your eyes and ears in this new year, don't fail to make a trip to the Media Theater to see their first offering of 2000, CARNIVAL. This compelling musical theater classic, written by Michael Stewart with music by Bob Merrill, is notable for the excellent voices and acting ability of its leading players as well as for the magnificent staging designed by Director Patrick Ward. Almost every aspect of a real circus/carnival appears on the Media Theater stage from fire eaters to jugglers to acrobats to rope

swingers to sword swallows and on and on. They were so good that I had to check my program to discover that these were really actors and not actual circus performers. It is as the press release from the theater states "visually stunning". Usually I take this as hype but in this case the PR was true!

CARNIVAL is a very dark show, almost operatic in its tonal qualities, and its musical soliloquies can be difficult to master; but Daniel Britt as the arrogant and conniving Marco the Magnificent, Elizabeth Cherry as the innocent, lost Lilli, and Lee Lofton as the brooding

puppeteer who dreams of his long lost days as a dancer, more than do the job. The mood is pensive not gloomy throughout even though the action of the play is often just that. The charming puppet characters are, of course, the comedic antidote to all this negativity and they are indeed delightful. It is the classic story of innocence versus evil and fortunately, good wins out in the end. Although it is ironically

the finale of the show that I would criticize. Act One whizzed by, Act Two started well, but by the time we were halfway through the sec-

ond act, the pace began to slow and the ending was less than one would have hoped for. A little tightening would do a lot for the total performance. Since the entire show is really an allegory, pressing the point too much rather ruins the overall effect. But there is truly something magic about puppets, magicians and the carnival atmosphere which catches the audience and affords an excellent evening's entertainment. In addition to the music, acting and staging (including a set which has a working Ferris wheel), there was much to be said for the exciting choreography of

Brian Blythe. And with songs like Love Makes the World Go Round, Mira, Grand Imperial Cirque de Paris and It Was Always Always You (complete with the magician's sword trick box), a lot of people left the theater humming.

CARNIVAL will be presented through January 30 at the Media Theater, corner of State and Monroe Streets in Media, PA. Tickets from \$37-\$47 are available by calling 610-566-4020. Evening shows are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday with matinees on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival

By Joel Glazier

"I wish I was a Jew. Today it's an honor - fifty years ago it was death. Today it's life!" With these words, film star Maximilian Schell, introduced the screening of the new film, *Left Luggage*, a presentation at the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival in December. With a career including roles in such World War 2 related films as *Judgment at Nuremberg*, *Man in the Glass Booth*, and *Julia*, Mr. Schell flew from his Los Angeles home to attend the Philadelphia showing of the film with his most recent role.

Left Luggage is a provocative film about a Belgian Jewish man, Mr. Silberschmidt (portrayed by Schell), who spends his days searching and digging for the luggage he buried with family items before he was deported from his Antwerp home to a concentration camp. Mr. and Mrs. Silberschmidt (portrayed by Marianne Sagebrecht), both survivors, have raised Chaja, their university aged daughter, who secures a job as a nanny to the Kalmans - a Chasidic family with five children. Chaja had up to

that time in her life never acknowledged her Judaism to her friends or to herself it seems. She has the predictable conflicts working in a Chasidic household, but is drawn to the middle child - the red headed and mute acting Simcha.

As Chaja forms a strong bond with Simcha, and even gets him to talk, she also gains a grudging respect from the overworked mother of five, Mrs. Kalman. Mrs. Kalman (Isabella Rossellini) apparently has never known such an outspoken, immodestly dressed woman as Chaja. Chaja also gains a grudging respect for Judaism though the only confidant she has in dealing with new religious questions (opportunities?) is the elderly family friend, the all-knowing Mr. Apfelschnitt (Chaim Topol). Chaja even tutors Simcha to ask the Four Questions at the seder.

Mr. Silberschmidt's past may be buried in the luggage, and daughter Chaja's past heritage had been similarly buried by her parents and their circle of friends, Holocaust survivors, who either never discuss such things or obsess on different hobbies. The acting by all in this

film is strong and believable, including that of the anti-Semitic super of the Kalman's apt. building. There is a tragedy in this film, (which I will not reveal) and also Chaja (Laura Fraser) comes to join her father in his endless, and unsuccessful diggings for his past.

An added bonus at the Philadelphia Gershman JCC showing was the opportunity to have Maximilian Schell answer questions about the film and his life. "The Holocaust is something that haunts me," he told the audience. His family left Vienna in 1938 and settled in Switzerland, "I assure you, I have no gold," he told the audience. When questioned about his many roles in Jewish-themed films, he admitted, however, as an actor he believes his role in *Hamlet*, was his most meaningful.

The Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival 19 continues through April with a screening one weekend a month. Films are Philadelphia premieres and until such films make it to general release, the JCC in Center City is an easy 35 minute drive from Wilmington. (Information at (215) 446-3033.)



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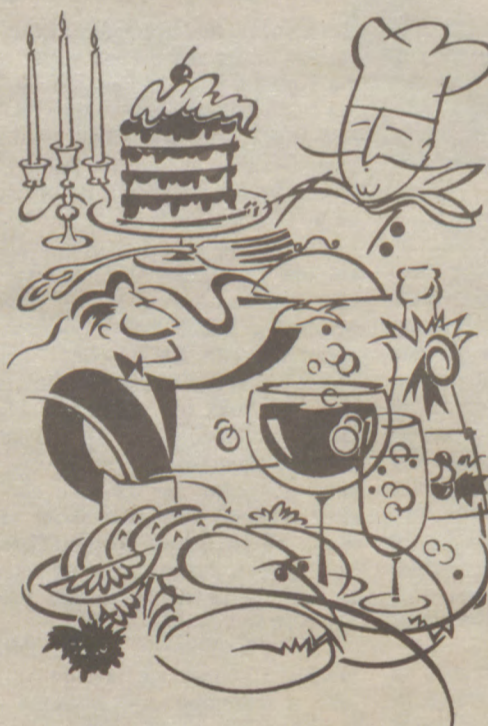
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp Focus Of National Exhibit

The B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum will open its newest exhibition, *Rebirth After the Holocaust: The Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, 1945-1950*, on Friday, January 14.

The photo-documentary exhibition, which runs through September 11, 2000, illuminates the often overlooked history of survivors in the years immediately following their liberation from the Nazis. Bergen-Belsen, a wartime concentration camp, became the largest displaced persons (DP) camp in Germany, making it the center of Jewish political and social activity among DPs in the British zone of occupation.

"This exhibition depicts an inspiring chapter in Jewish history. The story of the camp will forever remain a unique example of a successful struggle for Jewish and human rights," said Sam E. Bloch, president of the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Associations and co-curator of the exhibition.

Rebirth After the Holocaust begins with liberation when, amidst the unburied corpses and open mass graves, British soldiers encountered tens of thousands of camp inmates, suffering from starvation, typhus and tuberculosis. Yet, within three days the Bergen-Belsen survivors had elected their own, self-governing Jewish Committee, and soon after formed the Central Jewish Committee of the Liberated Jews in the British Zone of Germany. The Committee lobbied the British on behalf of the political, social and cultural causes of displaced persons, including the struggle for emigration to Palestine.

The Bergen-Belsen camp played a historic role in supporting the creation of Israel through illegal, as well as legal, immigration to the remainder of British Mandated Palestine. In 1947, the camp would serve as a clandestine training center for the Haganah (the Jewish military force in Palestine), preparing displaced persons for immigration. Until 1949, the British forbade any free departures from the camp. The exhibition highlights the outrage among Jewish DPs interned at Bergen-Belsen, reported throughout the world by international press and newsreels.

"B'nai B'rith is delighted to honor the story of the deeds of survivors who showed grace in a desperate time and vision for rebuild-

ing the shattered Jewish community," said Richard D. Heideman, president of B'nai B'rith International.

The show highlights the flourishing press, including *Unzer Shtimme* (Our Voice), the first newspaper to be published by survivors, and which initially was declared illegal by the British Military Administration. There is also a close look at the publication of books and memoirs in Yiddish, Hebrew, German and English, and the establishment of libraries and exhibitions by survivor artists.

The display chronicles the survivors' earliest efforts to memorialize their murdered families and their quest for justice as witnesses in the Bergen-Belsen Trial in 1945, the first military war crimes trial. The development of the com-

munity is described — from the religious needs served by a rabbinic to the rebirth of family life. The establishment of schools, vocational training and provision for health care and rehabilitation are detailed as well.

The exhibition concludes with the closing of the camp in 1950, by which time most of the survivors had emigrated to Israel, the United States, Canada and other countries. It records the ensuing 50 years of political activism, publications and commemorative activities through which the Bergen-Belsen survivors have continued to demonstrate their commitment to perpetuate Holocaust remembrance and education for future generations.

Rebirth After the Holocaust has been organized by the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Associa-

tions in conjunction with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibition and conference, *LIFE REBORN: Jewish Displaced Persons, 1945-1951*.

The B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history, culture and art of the Jewish people. Its collections comprise art, ethnographic and archaeological holdings from the Biblical period through the 20th Century. The Museum is open to the public, free of charge, Sundays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; during winter, to 3:30 p.m. on Fridays. It is closed on federal holidays. It is located in the B'nai B'rith International headquarters, 1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036. For more information call (202) 857-6583.



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In Memoriam

Govatos

Sidonia Gottfried Govatos died January 3. She was the widow of James Gordon Govatos and the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Gottfried of New York City. She was a retired executive secretary of the Electrochemicals Department of E.I. Dupont de Nemours and Company, formerly the Roessler and Hasslacher Chemical Company in New York. She had been a member of the DuPont Country Club and the Delaware Link #43, Order of the Golden Chain.

Handelman

Howard Handelman, 72, a Wilmington attorney and civic leader, died December 24 of cancer. A native Wilmingtonian, Mr. Handelman was committed to the Delaware Jewish Community. He served as president of both the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Jewish Community Center, a JFD constituent and was a former board president of the United Way of Delaware.

The founder of Bayard Handelman and Murdoch, he served as partner in the Wilmington law firm until his retirement. In 1988, he continued his law career with the

firm of Bouchard Friedlander & Maloney Huss. He recently made the news for his outspoken opposition to moving the Daniel L. Herrmann Courthouse from Rodney Square.

Mr. Handelman is survived by his second wife, Shirley First Handelman, two children and two stepchildren.

Hirshout

Matthew Hirshout, age 82, of 2108 Heather Court, died December 21 in Florida. A man of quiet strength, he was devoted to his family and his Jewish faith. Mr. Hirshout was the former merchandise manager of Kennard Pyle Company and was a consultant to the Marilyn Dress Company. His civic commitment included service as a past president of the Wilmington Kiwanis Club and the Downtown Wilmington Business Association.

A graduate of the University of Delaware, he was chairman of the Class of 1939 Alumni Association and was an active participant in University affairs.

He was a member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation; Jewish War Veterans, B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

He is survived by his wife,

Beatrice; daughters, Barbara H. Schoenberg and Janice Mallardin; brother, Dr. Francis Hirshout and two grandsons, Joshua and Geoffrey Schoenberg.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions in his memory be made to either Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation or the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Rosenstein

Sylvia Johnston Rosenstein, formerly of B'nai B'rith House in Claymont, died December 22nd. With her first husband, Herbert Johnston, she owned the West's Children's Store of Delaware. Ms. Rosenstein is survived by her daughters, Lynne Chichi, Rhona Guberman and Hope Wechsler; grandchildren Cara Drue Chichi, Amanda Chichi Coye, Shelly Preziosi, Tracy Kosberg, Wendy Cossaboon, Todd Brill and Dana Lowry; brothers, Irving Greenberg, Bert Greenberg and Sonny Greenberg; and eight great-grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by her second husband, Irving Rosenstein.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions in her memory be made to the Seaside Jewish Community, P.O. Box 876, Rehoboth, Delaware 19971.

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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.

JANUARY

Thursday 11
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Open House at Albert Einstein Academy, 101 Garden of Eden Road, North Wilmington. For additional information, please call Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt at 478-5026.

Monday 17
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Jewish Family Service offers a new support group for parents with special needs children. This is an opportunity for parents to come together to discuss any issues they may have with raising a child with disabilities and receive support from others in similar situations. The group will be led by Barb Steiner, MSW and Rabbi Myriam Klotz and will also meet on January 24th and January 31st from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friday 21
Young Jewish Singles of Delaware sponsors a Shabbat potluck dinner at Christiana Meadows, just off the new Route #1 in Delaware. Admission is \$5 plus a covered dish item to share. Please call Ronni at 322-3228 for directions and suggestions of what to bring.

Thursday 27
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Albert Einstein Academy will hold an Open House for prospective students. The school is located at 101 Garden of Eden Road in North Wilmington. Please call Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt at 478-5026 for additional information.

Sunday 30
Super Bowl Party sponsored by Young Jewish Singles of Delaware. \$6 includes food and rooting for your favorite team in front of a big-screen television. Event will be held in a private home. Please call Phil at 652-6688 for directions.

ONGOING
WORKSHOPS: Jewish Family Service of Delaware serving all denominations has ongoing workshops for individuals interested in women's issues, healing services, support groups for caregivers of children with special needs, family court mandated divorce workshop, cancer support groups, widow's support group, and a men's support group. To learn about these programs, call JFS at 478-9411.

VOLLEYBALL ANYONE? Young Jewish Singles of Delaware sponsors a weekly volleyball game and dinner outing for adults in their 20s and 30s. Non competitive play every Wednesday at 6 p.m., dinner at 8 p.m. Call Phil at 652-6688 for more information.

ISRAEL AND JEWISH STUDIES
 The WUJS Institute offers schol-

arships of \$200 during the year 2000 to all young adults in the Delaware/NJ Partnership 2000 Region. The scholarship brings the cost of the seven-month Hebrew Ulpan, Jewish-Israel Studies, camping trips, seminars and a wide range of social and cultural activities over seven months. Also included in the cost are accommodations, one cooked meal a day and employment assistance. For additional information, call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 427-2100.

MONTEFIORE MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY announces new rules relating to restoration of membership benefits which lapsed due to divorce. Under these rules divorced spouses of Montefiore members can become members for a reduced fee. Written requests for this type of membership must be sent to Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society, P.O. Box 7186, Wilmington, Delaware 19803-0186 before the latest of either March 1, 2000, or the end of the third month following date of divorce.

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.

Grant Applications

The Anna E. Finger - Ruth F. Gordon Memorial Trust will accept requests for cash grants of up to \$1,000 for the promotion of the study of Judaism and Jewish culture. The Trust was established in 1968 by Louis J. Finger and Abraham J. Gordon in memory of Mr. Finger's mother and sister and Mr. Gordon's wife. The Trust will provide funding for programs or for the participation of individuals in programs relating to the study of Judaism or Jewish culture including, but not limited to, Hebrew language, Bible, Jewish literature, religious customs and ceremonies, theology and Holocaust studies.

The current Trustees of the Trust are Richard A. Levine, Robert Jacobs and Steven D. Goldberg. The Trustees will consid-

er financial need as a substantial, but not controlling, factor in evaluating grant requests. Likewise, the Trustees will afford a preference to programs or individuals affiliated with Congregation Beth Shalom. Recipients of individual grants or scholarships will be expected to share their experience as part of an event open to the community.

The Trustees anticipate making grants totalling \$2,000 for calendar year 1999 on or before March 31, 2000. Grant applications should be directed in writing prior to February 29, 2000 to Richard A. Levine, Secretary, Board of Advisers, Anna E. Finger and Ruth Gordon Memorial Trust, c/o Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, P.O. Box 391, Wilmington, DE 19899-0391

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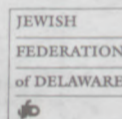
Tuesday, March 14
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