

Community Rally featuring Theodore Bikel

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20TH

(TICKET INFORMATION ON PAGE 24)

The JEWISH VOICE

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24 Pages

Mary Travers, Natan Sharansky to participate in Delaware's 'Operation Exodus' campaign

Staff Report

Mary Travers and Natan Sharansky will appear in Delaware this fall as part of this community's Operation Exodus campaign.

Travers, a member of the well-known Peter, Paul and Mary trio, will perform as part of the "Celebration of Freedom" on Saturday, Sep-

tember 8, at the Grand Opera House. Sharansky will deliver the fourth annual Ann B. and H. Albert Young Memorial Lecture on Sunday, November 11.

The "Celebration of Freedom" committee is being chaired by Lynn and Rod Sharp, Karen and Richard Venezky and Toni and Stuart

Young. "Operation Exodus is an historic campaign — not an annual drive — and the 'Celebration of Freedom' will be an historic occasion," according to the committee leaders.

Among the nearly 100 members of the "Celebration of Freedom" committee are 33 people from the non-Jewish community. "The participation of members of the general community attests to the widespread concern about the rise of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union," according to the co-chairs. "The 'Celebration' is designed to pull the entire community together in order to raise the \$708,000 necessary to meet Delaware's fair-share portion of the national Operation Exodus campaign."

Travers, whose folk music has entertained audiences for three decades, has long been an outspoken human rights activist. Among her commitments on behalf of human rights, is an



Mary Travers

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Shamir claims he has majority, will present government next week

By DAVID LANDAU

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Shamir said Monday he has succeeded in forming a narrowly based Likud-led government, which he intends to present to the Knesset for approval early next week.

But Shamir's apparent hesitancy to inform President Chaim Herzog officially of his success has sustained a flurry of rumors that the prime minister and others in Likud still hope to set up another unity government with the labor Party.

Shamir was given until midnight Thursday before his presidential mandate to form a government expires. He said it "appears" he will be presenting a coalition of 61 Knesset supporters, the bare minimum needed, though he hopes his majority will turn out to be "between 61 and 65."

Shamir explained in response to questions that he has not yet gone directly to Herzog, because he still needs to complete the government and wants to "bring the president a complete thing."

Observers said he could have been referring to the details of the coalition agreement that must be worked out between Likud and its six coalition partners. Or Shamir could have been hinting that he still has hopes for an arrangement with Labor, other observers said. They predicted there might yet be surprises before the end of the week.

Labor Party leaders have indicated they would negotiate with Shamir, but only if he is prepared to commit the new government to pursue the peace process.

Shamir has been under considerable pressure from a circle of Likud ministers to establish a narrow "national government" without further delay. But he would prefer that it not have to depend on a single-vote margin.

Accordingly, the prime minister has made strenuous efforts in recent days to win support of the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Yisrael party, which is still nominally committed to an alliance with Labor, and with the extreme right-wing Moledet faction.

After a meeting Monday, Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi said he gave Shamir a verbal commitment of support from his two-member Knesset faction. Ze'evi said the commitment was not in writing, because he will not join the new government unless appointed minister of police.

Shamir refuses to do this, since Ze'evi's party favors the eventual expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the territories. He has offered Ze'evi other Cabinet portfolios. But the Moledet leader said Monday: "They're wasting their time — it's police or nothing."

Nevertheless, claiming his word is his bond, Ze'evi said Moledet could be counted on to support the Likud government, "so long as it does not do anything bad — like going to Cairo" for a dialogue with the Palestinians "or holding elections in Judea and Samaria," as proposed by Shamir in his spring 1989 peace plan.

Gorbachev emigration threat alarms U.S. Jewish community

By DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — American Jewish leaders have expressed satisfaction with President Bush's pledge that he will not ask Congress to ratify a trade agreement he signed last week with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev until Moscow adopts promised emigration reform legislation.

But Jewish leaders were alarmed by Gorbachev's threat Sunday to cut off Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union unless Israel guarantees that immigrants bound for Israel will not be allowed to settle in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Gorbachev issued his surprise threat during a joint news conference with Bush at the White House, which concluded their four days of talks. "As long as no assurances" are given by Israel that Soviets Jews will not be settled in the territories, the Kremlin may have to "postpone issuing the permits for exit," Gorbachev said in response to a question from reporters.

"The Soviet Union is now being bombarded with a lot of criticism from the Arab countries" as well as from some people within the Soviet Union on the emigration issue, Gorbachev said. He noted that he recently met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Assad, both of whom raised the question of Israeli guarantees "in acute terms."

Both Bush, and Secretary of States James Baker, who appeared on television after the White House news conference, said the United States continues to oppose the establishment or enhancement of Jewish settlements in the territories. "But we haven't linked the two in the way that President Gorbachev was suggesting," Baker said on NBC-TV's *Meet the Press*. "We unconditionally support the concept of Soviet Jewish emigration," he stressed.

Baker said he was not disturbed by the Gorbachev threat, since the Soviets asked for

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Supreme Court: religious clubs entitled to use school facilities

By HOWARD ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Jewish groups are distressed at the Supreme Court's decision Monday to uphold a law requiring public high schools to give religious clubs the same access to school facilities as other "non-curriculum-related" groups.

In an 8-1 ruling, the court said an Omaha, Neb., high school had to allow a Bible-study group to meet after hours on school property. In doing so, it upheld the constitutionality of

the Equal Access Act of 1984, which requires public schools that allow "one or more non-curriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time" to grant the same privilege to religious groups.

Jewish groups strenuously oppose the law and have challenged it in court, contending it violates the First Amendment's ban on government endorsement of religion.

Also Monday, the court rejected a petition from Jewish and other religious groups to

reconsider its April 17 decision allowing Oregon to prosecute two members of an Indian church who use peyote in religious rituals. In that case, the court ruled that enforcing a state law that makes it a crime to possess or use the hallucinogen would not infringe upon the Indians' First Amendment right to free exercise of religion.

Jewish groups had expressed concern about the ruling, fearing it could be used as a precedent to prosecute Jews for various ritual prac-

tices that might be banned by local laws. An example would be drinking of Kiddush wine by minors not old enough to consume alcohol legally.

In light of the court's refusal to rehear the case, Jewish groups such as Agudath Israel of America and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith will now examine various state laws to see if they can be strengthened to protect religious practices.

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Editorial

News Journal's standards are unfair and biased

One of the basic principles inherent in the exercise of rights in a free society is that the exercise of those rights always carries corresponding obligations. The privilege that the press enjoys in this country — to report the news without fear of government interference or repression — carries with it the moral responsibility to report the news in an accurate, fair and unbiased manner. The News Journal's handling two tragic events which occurred in the Middle East last month demonstrates that our local newspaper is no longer living up to that standard.

In the May 21 issue there appeared a front page story concerning the tragic murder of seven Arabs in Israel by a lone deranged civilian. While reporting that the assailant had been taken into custody by Israeli officials and charged with the murders, the bulk of the story consisted of claims by representatives of the Arab governments which surround Israel that the Israeli government was responsible for this act of a madman, an absurd proposition.

The following day, again on page one, the News Journal carried a follow-up article concerning violent riots in refugee camps in Gaza under the headline: "More Die In Wake Of Massacre."

While treating the Israel story as page one news and characterizing it as a "massacre," the News Journal chose to treat the violent unprovoked attack by a Jordanian against ten innocent French tourists in Jordan in which he first emptied his revolver before attacking the victims with a dagger as barely newsworthy, relegating it to a story on page two under the headline: "Palestinian Wounds Ten In Tour Bus."

While it should be apparent to all decent people that such heinous acts are unacceptable in a civilized society, regardless of the perpetrators' nationalities — whether Israeli, Jordanian or otherwise — it should also be unacceptable in a society such as ours for a major newspaper to give one such deranged act front page coverage as a "massacre" because the perpetrator is an Israeli while the other is buried on page two underneath the continuation of the "massacre" story.

The following day, the News Journal's lead editorial chose to blame these acts, as well as the riots being conducted by Arabs in Israeli territory, on "foot dragging" on the part of the Israeli government, which has supposedly not moved the peace process forward. The News Journal incorrectly asserts that this has resulted in violence in which "hundreds have been killed in clashes with Israeli forces." This statement is not only incorrect but is in conflict with the newspaper's own news stories.

The truth of the matter is that the failure of any viable peace process to emerge in the Middle East is the result of the refusal of the Arab governments in the Middle East to participate in any dialogue with Israel, choosing rather to continue to risk people's lives, clinging to their unrenounced objective of annihilating every Israeli.

The News Journal's continued practice of setting two different standards for reporting Mideast news — one for Israel and one for the Arab world — is both biased and unprofessional.



Letters to the Editor

Morris and Chaiken pushed for Jewish Studies

Many individuals did, indeed, make the Jewish Studies program at the University of Delaware a reality as Dov Seidel pointed out in his letter to the editor in the last issue of *The Jewish Voice*.

Before their contributions be lost in anonymity, however, I would suggest that we applaud the major, and ultimately successful, initiatives of Irving Morris and Frank Chaiken

who sparked the most recent efforts, including fundraising, which culminated in the establishment of such a program at the university.

F.F. Ehrlich

Never again divided Jerusalem

We all applauded the reuniting of East and West Berlin, as well we should. A divided city serves no purpose other than to plant the seeds of war. Lucky for all mankind that the Berlin crisis was settled peaceably without a war that no one could win, and probably would result in the destruction of most of Western Civilization. A divided city or a divided country goes back to when Britain ruled a great part of the world and artificial divisions were created. Britain dominated their colonies and the world for hundreds of years this way. Britain tried it in Ireland, and it didn't work. After all Catholics and Protestants live side by side in the Republic of Ireland, but not in Northern Ireland where England rules. "Divide and Conquer" is a thing of the past.

The artificial divisions of countries never works and neither does the division of cities. Jerusalem was divided in 1948. Jordan controlled East Jerusalem and Israel controlled West Jerusalem. The Holy places in East Jerusalem were never accessible to Jews or Christians. After the "Six Day War" in 1967, the city was united and made Israel's Capital. All the Holy places of Jews, Christians, and Moslems are open and accessible to all.

That is why the recent utterances of Senator Dole are uncalled for. He would rescind a Senate resolution calling for the United States to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's Capital. When a Senator who is the highest ranking Republican of that august body, sounds off, it looks like this is a feeler for the President. Jerusalem has been a part of the prayers of Jews for the past two thousand years. United Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel, is one thing that Jews all over the world agree on. Never again a divided city.

Samuel Kagel

Things that matter most

Six months ago in Boca Raton, Florida on a winter vacation, I was stricken with severe abdominal pain. Florence got directions to the nearest hospital and took me off to Emergency, *Baruch Ha-Shem*. After half a century as a severe diabetic, gangrene and peritonitis from a burst appendix provided a bit of a problem! I am told I am alive because of massive doses of antibiotic.

It is most curious that we so often discover a deep appreciation of life only when we are in danger of losing it! This is absurd, but ridiculously true, I'm afraid.

Our rabbis of old were deeply aware of this deep human problem. Wonderfully aware of God's goodness to us, his difficult progeny, our rabbis structured our prayer books and our prayer life to keep thanksgiving and appreciation alive on our lips, and, hopefully, in our hearts.

Like myself, I'm sure that most of you have been told by non-Jews that they don't know how we Jews have remained of good spirits, confident in the future, and strong of heart, despite all.

So many of us are the children or grandchildren of immigrants. Overseas' values and behavior so often clash with 20th century American behavior and values. We have had great problems of adjustment, but somehow we have managed by sticking to the things that matter most: love, friendship, social concern, *chesed v'emet* (loving kindness and truth). May we so live as to bring these central values with us into the challenge of the 21st century.

Rabbi Herbert E. Drooz

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DEADLINE

The next issue of The Jewish Voice will be published FRIDAY, JUNE 29. The deadline for stories and photos is noon, FRIDAY, JUNE 22. Material should be sent or brought to the Jewish Voice office at the Jewish Federation of Delaware, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, 19803. (302) 478-6200. All articles must be typed, double spaced.

"Quote of Note"

Israel is pilloried according to a moral standard to which no other nation in the world is held — not India, not Jordan, not the United States itself (in 1967, in the Detroit riots alone, 40 were killed). This is not to say that, because others have done worse, Israel stands exonerated. Faced with an occupation that it never sought and which it can find no way to end safely, Israel has on occasion behaved badly.

The fact that others, faced with far smaller threats, have behaved far worse and yet Israel is singled out for blame is powerful evidence of a double standard meant not to serve justice or save Palestinians but simply to skewer Israel.

Op - Ed

Jewish women can avoid JAP stereotype

By JUDITH SLOAN DEUTSCH

Many of the women in the room would not say the "J" word as they dissected the complex anatomy of the "Jewish American Princess," the stereotype they wish to exorcise from the communal body of Jewish women.

Wincing through the exercise recently led by panelists at A Woman's Place, at Rockville, Md., center for women's issues, more than 70 women conjured up the archetypal JAP whose well-dressed specter rose before them, materialistic, self-absorbed, dependent. They had her driving a BMW, shopping in Lord & Taylor, living in a germ-free home of impeccable decor and excelling in her favorite sport, cross-country kvetching.

Discussed and analyzed by the group, the JAP problem grew unwieldily, weighted down

with the unanswered questions and often confused emotions of college students, mothers and grandmothers. (There were two males present.) Most saw its roots in anti-Semitism, denigration of women and cultural materialism.

Still, the problem looked different to each generation. A mother bemoaned her son's JAP-avoiding preference for non-Jewish dates; a grandmother was saddened by self-hatred among Jewish women who needed to put other women down; a young man seated in the back of the room was frightened by the racism of JAP-baiting; and a female college student challenged the legitimacy of all JAP-baiters, whom she views as merely jealous of those with material wealth.

To begin dealing with the JAP stereotype,

panelist Rabbi Mindy Portnoy told the group gathered by the Montgomery County Women's Commission that "American Jews must deal with their vexed relationship to material culture. It is not enough to discard the term JAP from our vocabularies. We need to go beyond to redeem the values of Jewishness from the seductions and striving of American materialism and superficiality."

Portnoy, associate rabbi at Temple Sinai in Washington, also raised the sociologist's view of the JAP joke, an expression of the insecurities of Jewish men who, desperately seeking assimilation, disassociate themselves from the negative traits society places on Jews. This poisons the relationship between Jewish men and women and risks a further increase in intermarriage, she said.

Portnoy is also part-time instructor at American University in Washington, a school she said is identified as the ultimate JAP school by the "Jewish-American Princess Handbook," (by Sandy B. Tobak and Debbie Lukatsky, Tunbull and Willoughby, 1982).

"I had never really met a true JAP there, since none completely fit the stereotype," she said. "I met just as many young Jewish women who denied the stereotype by insisting that they themselves were not JAPs, although they could always identify lots of other women who were."

The pernicious power of this stereotype has hit hardest on college campuses, such as American U., where "JAPpy" is a label as common as "preppy" or "yuppy." But it doesn't stop there, according to panelist Gabrielle Sodowick, a sophomore at A.U., who described her horror at being called a "JAP" as she was exiting from an elevator in her dormitory.

"I didn't ever consider myself a 'JAP,'" she said. "It really hurt me." Sodowick said her friend hated to leave her dorm room because of males who shouted "slap-a-JAP" at her as she passed by.

Sodowick reported serious JAP-baiting at A.U., a campus where students wear JAP-buster tee shirts, students once planned a "Biggest JAP on Campus" contest — later cancelled by school officials — and a fraternity held a "Pearl Harbor Day Party" on Dec. 7 inviting guests to "bring a JAP and get bombed."

"I was always so sheltered from anti-Semitism in my life," Sodowick said, "that I didn't realize the destructive effects of the word

"Jewish" in Jewish American princess. But I refuse to change the way I dress or act because of someone else's narrow mindedness."

Another college student added her own resolve to Sodowick's: "Jewish women should be proud that they dress well."

A.U. sophomore Jennifer Mogol recently transferred from Syracuse University, where she said the pep squad often led thousands of football fans in chants of "JAP! JAP! JAP!" whenever a well-dressed woman walked past. "I was always worried they would do it to me," she said. "But it's true some people really are JAPpy and have a flaunt-it attitude problem."

Judy Sapon, a junior at the University of Maryland, disagreed. "The last thing I would do is ever use that word," she said. "I try not to even think it."

Armed with healthy self-esteem, Jewish women can combat the JAP stereotype. Wendy Plotkin, counsellor at A Women's Place, listed the primary female figures who are models for Jewish women — the Jewish mother and the JAP.

The group beheld the traditional "Yiddish mama" as having an uncluttered image compared to the assimilated mixed-bag "Jewish mother" of today.

"At this point, one's self-esteem is fragile, not knowing which arena is acceptable — assimilation or tradition," said Plotkin. She challenged the group to counter comments that stereotype Jewish women. "If someone says something that offends us in our presence," she said, "we're going to have to take the risk to say 'I am not comfortable with that comment. It offends me. I know that people have found that funny over the past 10 years, but I no longer find that funny.'"

Plotkin stood at the backboard to lead the group in a closing exercise that would list "healthy" traits of a Jewish woman. A few women reluctantly raised their hands. She began to write down their contributions — "independent, competent, nurturing, educated."

Then many began to resist and Plotkin was forced to stop. "These are just more stereotypes," said one woman, raising her voice. "I don't want my identification to come from the group. We are all different. It's enough to say I am a human being and I'm proud to be a Jewish woman."

(Judith Sloan Deutsch is features editor of the Washington Jewish Week.)

American Jews silence on 'land for peace' seen as loud and clear message

By EDWARD ALEXANDER

Recent polls purporting to reveal the views of American Jewish leaders on trading "land for peace" and on negotiations with the PLO are sure to inflame the debate among Israelis over the extent to which Diaspora (principally American) Jewry has the right or even duty to intervene in Israeli decision-making concerning security and foreign policy. This debate, begun after Israeli acquisition of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza as a result of the Arab aggression of 1967, has been carried on with increasing intensity since May 1977, when the Israeli electorate deprived the Labor Party of what had begun to seem its perpetual ownership of Israeli government. From that time, the Israeli left, with a few aberrations and exceptions, has advocated Diaspora Jewry's right of intervention and the Israeli right has disputed it.

The left has argued that, in the words of Israeli novelist Yael Dayan, "as long as inside Israel there is division, there is no reason why the same division ... cannot be exported," and that foreign policy disagreements there should be reflected and openly expressed among Diaspora Jews. The right has held that (as American politicians like to say) disagreements about a country's foreign policy should cease at the water's edge, and that dissident cabinet ministers who seek to marshal constituencies in Manhattan and Berkeley that they cannot command in Israel violate the democratic principle of collective cabinet responsibility.

Both sides in this debate, in fact, claim to be the more truly democratic. The left says that not only Israel's majority but also its minority should find a voice among Diaspora Jews, and indeed more than a voice: "I do not see," says Labor Party activist Nimrod Novik, "a distinction between advocacy of a certain position and mobilizing support for that position." The right asserts that for the left to call on American Jews to "save Israel from herself" by publicly urging the State Department to impose on Israel policies rejected by her electorate is to undermine the basic democratic right to self-determination.

The left argues that the large financial contributions and active political support of Diaspora Jews entitle them to participate in the determination of Israeli policy, including such matters as the fate of the administered territories. The right insists that, from the ethical point of view, the problem of the Palestinian Arabs is exclusively the problem of Israeli Jews to decide, since concessions to the Arabs involve immense risks to them alone, and not to Jews aboard.

The left maintains that sharp disagreements between, for example, Likud's Yitzhak Shamir and Labor's Shimon Peres on foreign policy must not be confined to Israel: "Yes," Mr. Peres has said, "an American Jew has the right to express himself on an issue affecting even Israeli security." The right retorts that the fractiousness of the Israeli cabinet has already

been so effectively exported that, in the words of Israeli diplomat Meir Rosenne, "we Jews have managed to convince the world that the reason there is no peace today ... is not because of Arab intransigence, but because ... Shamir does not agree with ... Peres."

Both sides espouse the metaphor of world Jewry as an organic unity, but differ widely in their symbolic geography and location of the organism's interdependent parts. The left claims that Israelis need the tutelage of Diaspora Jews in formulating policies because the Jewish people is a partnership between its physical presence or body in Israel and its impressive spiritual resources, its soul, in the West. The right responds that, for countless generations, millions of Jews longed for Zion precisely because, like the poet Yehuda Halevi, they imagined that while their bodies were in the West, their heart and soul were in the East. To assume that power and national sovereignty undermine the Jewish spirit, says the right, is to reject Zionism.

Many Diaspora Jews, unable to decide between those Israelis who counsel them to support the Israeli government and those who exhort them to attack and even overthrow it, have concluded that, in view of the constant burden of peril borne by Israel's citizens, they will support the government when they conscientiously can and stand aside, in silence, when they cannot. These modest souls, in the latest phase of the left-right debate, have come in for special scorn and abuse from the Israeli left. On February 21, 1988, the writers Yehuda Amichai, Amos Elon, Amos Oz, and A.B. Yehoshua published a statement in the *New York Times* called "Silence of American Jews Supports Wrong Side." In this strident manifesto, they demanded that "all friends of Israel in the United States ... speak up" against Israeli policies in the territories, and pointed an accusing finger at those American Jews who "by their own silence ... are massively intervening in Israeli politics."

Since then, this theme has been sounded many times by Israeli leftists on American campuses and in American newspapers. Remarkable as is the linguistic sleight of hand by which American Jewish "silence" is made equivalent to unwarranted intervention in Israeli affairs, it is less brazen than the contempt for Israeli democracy, the repudiation of Zionism, and the self-righteous belief in their infallibility evinced by such writers. Since their litany of complaint about the "silence" of American Jews seems to call out desperately for some cure, we prescribe the one that Oscar Wilde recommended to the writer who asked him to tell her what she could do about the "conspiracy of silence" against her work: "Join it, madam," Wilde replied, "join it."

(Edward Alexander is professor of English at the University of Washington and the author of "The Jewish Idea and Its Enemies" — Transaction Books, 1988.)

Jerusalem unique city for Jews

By MARC H. TANENBAUM

The observance by world Jewry of Yom Yerushalayim — Jerusalem Day — on May 23 focused much attention on the meaning and historic role of Jerusalem in Jewish history. Undoubtedly, the recent tumultuous events centering on the attempt to inhabit St. John's Hospice by Orthodox Jews will evoke parallel interest in the place of Jerusalem in Christianity and Islam.

Jerusalem is unique among the cities of the world, with special although differing claims on the religious and cultural sentiments and loyalties of millions of Jews, Christians and Moslems.

In testimony that I was invited to present on Jerusalem before the House Foreign Affairs Committee some years ago, I made the point that Christianity and Islam have invested their reverence for Jerusalem on particular localities or sites which are connected with specific events in their religious histories — the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, among others, for Christians; and the Dome of the Rock of Moslems.

In contrast, Judaism has sanctified the city as such. In doing so, Judaism has kept alive the significance attached to Jerusalem in the Bible, and that has been of decisive importance for

the commanding central role of the Holy City in Jewish tradition until this very day.

As Israeli biblical scholar, Shmaryahu Talmon, has written, "The city name Jerusalem is mentioned in Hebrew Scriptures some 750 times. Zion appears 180 times ... Altogether there must be some 2,000 mentions of Jerusalem in the Hebrew canon."

Initially, Jerusalem had served as a foreign cult place inhabited by Canaanites and later Jebusites. But it was through the actions of King David that the "foreign" city was transformed for the first time in history into the capital — "the metropolis" — of the Jewish people.

For Christians, their holy places have been a constant attraction for Christian pilgrims, but there is nowhere a desire of homeless Chris-

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CORRECTION

In the report on the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Delaware in the May 25 issue of *The Jewish Voice*, one award was inadvertently deleted. Ellen Koniver received the Federation's "Volunteer of the Year" award, for her work as a volunteer staff member in the JFD office two days every week. *The Jewish Voice* regrets the omission.

Candle Lighting

JUNE

8th — 8:09 PM

15th — 8:12 PM

22nd — 8:15 PM

29th — 8:15 PM

DELAWARE'S SYNAGOGUES

ADAS KODESCH SHE'EMETH

(Traditional)
Affiliation:
Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America
Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive
Wilmington
762-2705
Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Gewirtz
SERVICES
Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 8:45 a.m.

BETH SHOLOM CONGREGATION OF DOVER

(Conservative)
Affiliation:
United Synagogues of America
Queen and Clara Sts.
Dover
734-5578
Rabbi Moshe Goldblum
SERVICES
Friday — 7:30 p.m.
Saturday — 9:30 a.m.
Discussion of Torah Portion takes place
following Saturday morning service.

CONGREGATION BETH EMETH

(Reform)
Affiliation:
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
300 Lea Blvd.
Wilmington
764-2393
Rabbi Peter Grumbacher
SERVICES
Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 11 a.m.
A Torah Study group is led by the
rabbi on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

(Conservative)
Affiliation:
United Synagogues of America
18th and Baynard Blvd.
Wilmington
654-4462
Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz
SERVICES
Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 10 a.m.
A Torah discussion is led by the rabbi
during Saturday morning services.

MACHZIKEY HADAS CONGREGATION

(Traditional)
B'nai B'rith Building
800 Society Blvd.
Claymont
798-6846
Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 9 a.m.

TEMPLE BETH EL

(Reconstructionist)
Affiliation:
Federation of Reconstructionist
Congregations & Havurot
301 Possum Park Road
Newark
366-8330
Rabbi David Kaplan
SERVICES
Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 10 a.m.
A Torah study group meets
on Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Dvar Torah

Parashat Beha'alotecha June 9th

Miriam's complaint

By JOSEPH RIEMER *Special to The Jewish Voice*

Even the most casual reader of Biblical narrative will recognize the theme: older siblings criticizing a younger sibling for his special relationship to the divine. It could be Cain and Abel, Joseph and his brothers, or, as in our parasha, Miriam, Aaron and Moses. What is unique in this narrative is the involvement of a sister.

Simply told, the story in Numbers 12 is about Miriam and Aaron complaining together about their younger brother, Moses. The complaint has two parts: that Moses has taken a Cushite wife and that he has (or thinks he has) a special relation to God. Overhearing the complaint, God responds angrily to Miriam and Aaron that they have no right to speak this way of their brother, that indeed Moses does have a unique, face to face, relationship with God. Miriam is punished with leprosy. Aaron pleads with Moses who immediately prays that God heal Miriam. God responds that the leprosy will remain for seven days, a fatherly rebuke to an errant daughter.

Before this narrative we have not heard in the Bible a sister speak of her brother. (Rashi and other traditional commentators, following the grammar of 12:1, interpret Miriam to have been the instigator of the complaint.) In fact we did not even know that Miriam was Moses' sister.

We know from Exodus 2 that as an infant Moses had an older sister, but the text does not name her. We know from Exodus 15 that Miriam was Aaron's sister; but it is only here in Numbers 12 that the three are brought together, by name, as siblings. And for what narrative purpose, but to place the complaint about Moses in the mouth of Miriam and the ear of Aaron (Rashi's interpretation). What characterizes Miriam's complaint is that it opens with reference to the older woman, "the Cushite woman he had married (12:1)."

There is little agreement among commentators as to who "the Cushite woman" is or what the complaint might be. In one sense it matters little because the heart of Miriam's complaint and of our story is not about this wife, but about the relation of Moses and his siblings to God. The power of our story lies both in the wonderful articulation of the unique relation between God and Moses and in Moses' incredible caring for his stricken sister. It is as if we are given insight into the character of Moses by seeing his immediate, empathetic pleading for the very sister who was criticizing him. This is a long way from Cain and Able or even Joseph and his brothers.

But I cannot let go of this fleeting image of the Cushite woman. Rashi reads "Cushite" as beautiful; Ibn Ezra, as a sunbaked Midianite. Both believe the reference is to Zipporah, Moses' first wife. Some contemporary critics, reading the text straightforwardly, suggest that Moses took a second wife who was a Cushite, or Ethiopian. In either case we have to wonder what the relation is between this wife and the heart of Miriam's complaint.

The Midrash that Rashi cites is wonderful. Miriam overheard Zipporah exclaiming, in reference to the wives of Eldad and Medad (11:26), that woe unto them that their husbands are prophesying, for a prophesying husband abandons his conjugal relation with his wife. Miriam understood this to be self-referential and ran to Aaron to say, in effect, "Who is Moses that he thinks he needs to abandon his wife in order to serve God? After all, God speaks to us, too, and we haven't abandoned our sexual lives." This may be a complaint, but it is also very caring and raises the valid question about the appropriate balance between commitments to the personal and the public in our lives.

But following a more contemporary reading, Miriam may not be referring to an abandoned first wife but to a foreign second wife. If so, do we lose the smooth connection between the two parts of Miriam's complaint that the Midrash constructs for us?

A possible reading that attempts to hold the parts together has Miriam getting back at her younger brother by means of his foreign wife. What upsets her is the familiar displacement within the family of origin — the younger outdoing the older; but the route of her complaint is roundabout. She runs to Aaron to complain about the wife Moses had taken. Aaron and Miriam are then joined in their stance against Moses and his second wife.

How familiar this sounds to us. Members of a Jewish family joining together to exclude the sibling who has married "the Cushite woman." Then how come it all goes wrong and the complainers are punished? Rashi suggests Miriam may have begun with the best of intentions, but along the way the complaint went awry.

In our American Jewish lives we live with a reality of intermarriage that is totally different from the Biblical context. No commentator worried that Moses' children or grandchildren might be lost to the people because of the Cushite woman he married. Yet that is our constant fear. However, for all the differences, there is a point of continuity. Interpersonal complaint — especially after the fact — is no more effective today than in Biblical times. What is an intra-family issue — Jews' devotion to the divine — cannot be placed solely at the doorstep of the non-Jewish partner in an intermarriage. It is our issue, and one we need to be talking about — not complaining about — long before the time of marriage.

Our story also includes Moses' wonderful prayer for healing. Perhaps a lesson for us is that family healing is a far more needed response that is familial complaint. (Joseph Riemer teaches at The Hornstein Program of Brandeis University and is a member of the Worship and Study Congregation of Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel.)

Most Israelis want non-Orthodox marriage

Sixty-six per cent of Israel's Jewish population favours the legalization of non-Orthodox marriage, according to a survey conducted by the Dahaf Institute, directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah.

According to the *Jerusalem Post*, the survey was conducted for the Religious Action Centre of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism. It found that 43 per cent of those questioned said they approved of a choice of marriage conducted by a rabbi from any one of the three

streams of Judaism or civil marriage, 12 percent favoured marriages conducted by rabbis from the three streams, and another 11 percent felt that in cases of personal status where halacha was unable to provide a solution, the case should be dealt with by civil authorities.

In response to other questions, 68 percent favoured the participation of women in religious councils, 53 percent favoured the inclusion of secular Jews, and 50 percent were for including Reform Jews.

Canada's first war crimes trial ends in acquittal to Jews' dismay

TORONTO (JTA)—Last month's acquittal of Imre Finta, the first accused Nazi war criminal to be tried in Canada, was received with deep disappointment by Jewish groups convinced by eyewitness testimony of his guilt.

But their concern was less over the fate of the 77-year-old Hungarian-born Finta than with the possible future reluctance of the Canadian government to press charges against other accused Nazis or Nazi collaborators under Canada's 3-year-old war crimes legislation.

The Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, for example, urged the Canadian authorities to reaffirm their commitment to pursue all other cases involving Nazi war criminals residing in Canada.

A jury of eight women and four men in Ontario Supreme Court found Finta not guilty on all eight counts brought against him, after deliberating only one day. The trial had lasted more than six months.

Finta, a captain in the pro-Nazi

Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie during World War II, was charged with kidnapping, manslaughter and robbery.

Prosecuting attorney Christopher Amerasinghe told reporters that although he was disappointed with the verdict, the trial established that the 1987 legislation was constitutional. The verdict can be appealed, but that would be up to Canada's attorney general, Kim Campbell. Under Canadian law, an appeal can be considered only if flaws or errors are found in the trial proceedings.

The kidnapping charged against Finta stemmed from his forcible confinement of 8,617 Jews, mostly women and children, to an unused brickyard in Szeged, Hungary, in June 1944, prior to loading them into boxcars for deportation to the Auschwitz and Strasshof concentration camps. Hundreds died on the journey from overcrowding, malnutrition and lack of sanitary facilities. Auschwitz was located in Poland, Strasshof in Austria.

Tourism to Israel is up this year

Israel has had a peak number of tourists visit in April, according to the Israel Ministry of Tourism. Worldwide numbers of tourists were 181,000, up 35 percent over the April 1989 figure of 134,400. The figure was five percent more than the 172,100 for April 1987, which was the peak year for tourism to Israel. In the first four months of 1990 a total of 528,000 visitors came to Israel.

Tourism to Israel from the U.S. in

January through March 1990 showed an increase of 18 percent from the same period last year, according to the figures released recently. Visitors from Canada accounted for a similar increase. In the period from January through March this year, 62,500 tourists from the United States visited Israel, compared with 52,800 for January through March 1989. In 1989 U.S. and Canadian visitors accounted for 23.4 percent of total visitors to Israel.

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For more information call Connie Kreshtool, Endowment Director, 478-6200.

Honor awarded to Farrakhan by Philadelphia upsets Jews

By STEVE FELDMAN

Jewish Exponent Staff

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) — Civic honors bestowed on Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam, the black activist organization he heads, has been an unsettling experience for many Jews here.

In a ceremony at the Philadelphia Civic Center last month, where Farrakhan addressed about 17,000 people, the controversial and charismatic Black Muslim leader was presented with a citation recognizing the efforts made by the Nation of Islam to combat drugs and drug-related violence.

ence.

The honor was signed by Mayor Wilson Goode.

Some prominent Jewish leaders were annoyed. Farrakhan's public expressions of anti-Semitism and his denigration of the Jewish religion have raised serious obstacles to black-Jewish cooperation and raised eyebrows in the mainstream media.

The citation declared, "The City of Philadelphia recognizes and applauds the Nation of Islam's National Stop the Killing Campaign, which calls for an end to the violence in the African-American communities.

Goode defended his citation in a telephone interview, saying he was honoring the Nation of Islam, not Farrakhan personally.

"The Nation of Islam has a very effective program" against drug abuse and related violence, said Goode. "That is bigger than Minister Farrakhan," the mayor said.

Murray Friedman, director of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Jewish Committee, wrote a letter to Goode saying that while "one can have no quarrel" with recognition of efforts to stop drug use and related crime, he thought it "unwise for the

city to recognize the Nation of Islam even in a good cause."

Such recognition "gives respectability to a figure who has been and remains a source of racial and religious contentiousness in our communities," Friedman said.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia sent Paul Minkoff, JCRC president, said that while it was "appropriate" to a similar letter to the mayor.

recognize efforts against drugs, "to single out the Nation of Islam (and) present it the day they were here was very inappropriate."

Minkoff said the mayoral citation gives Farrakhan "more credibility."

But Scott Feigelstein, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said that although his agency was "initially concerned" about the citation, after reading the text, ADL could not take issue with the contents.

Feigelstein said it was not as if Farrakhan "was welcomed to the city or presented with a key to the city."

A protest or objection "would have been counterproductive," he said.

Czech Embassy's representative says Jews there are enjoying new openness

By CELIA GANS

Special to The Jewish Voice

During a recent visit to Wilmington, as a guest speaker for *People to People*, a group dedicated to improving international relations, Irena Zirkova, Second Secretary of the Czechoslovakian Embassy, told *The Jewish Voice* that her country's Jewish community is re-building itself. She has observed more openness among Prague's 1,200 Jews about their religion, with many young people attending Hebrew classes. Two of the city's synagogues are open and functioning, one with a rabbi trained at Soviet expense in Budapest, she says. This rabbi's story, says Zirkova, is emblematic of what has happened in her country.

Prior to World War II, Czechoslovakia, a democracy with an open admissions policy at its colleges and universities, attracted Jewish students

from many European countries, who contributed much to the country's intellectual life. True, says Zirkova, some Czech's were jealous of the Jew's wealth, learning and accomplishments, but Prague itself never had a ghetto. Yet it was to Prague that Hitler sent all the artifacts from the Jewish communities which he destroyed.

"Prague was to be the site of Hitler's Museum of the Extinguished Race," recalls Zirkova. "And that is why we become the repository of all the magnificent artifacts of European Jewry. The exhibition *Precious Legacy*, which toured Israel and the United States, was only part of what Hitler stored in our country."

What remained of the Jews community after World War II was further decimated by the Soviets, and the Communist purges of the 50s, which drove out (or imprisoned and exe-

cuted) many of the remaining Jewish intellectuals. Today's Jewish community, notes Zirkova, is a divided one. The divisor is not along religious practice, but along more political history — which Jews collaborated with the Soviets to survive and which ones didn't. Why, then, did the Russians in the early 80s, select and train a Jewish rabbi? No one, says Zirkova, is quite sure.

"I was a translator before joining the government," says Zirkova, "and I accompanied a reporter for a prestigious American paper to interview our Catholic prelate, then over 80 years of age. He denounced the Soviets, Communism, and the conditions of the Czech people. Next, we visited the young rabbi. I couldn't believe his meekness. But, the reporter pointed out to me, the 80-year-old had nothing to lose — he wouldn't live long enough for the Soviets to 'punish' him. The young rabbi, however, couldn't afford to anger his Soviet sponsors."

Now, says Zirkova, she hears that this mild, ineffectual young man has,

with the restoration of Czech democracy, become a more forceful advocate for Jews and Judaism. Democracy is also bringing more and more tourists to her magnificent country, comments Zirkova. Those who plan to attend the Prague's spring music festival or July film festival (one of the world's five major cinema festivals) or Prague's experimental theater (including its *laterna magica* shows, which combine live performers and filmed or taped presentations) won't be disappointed, claims Zirkova. "Just be sure to book ahead," she adds. "We're short of hotel space!"

Jews who are returning to Eastern Europe to trace their roots, however, will be disappointed in Czechoslovakia. "All our archives were burned," says Zirkova, "and nearly all our Jewish cemeteries destroyed. Because we didn't have a ghetto, there was no central storage for information or mementoes of our own Jewish community. This does not mean it is impossible to find relatives — just

difficult."

Translator Zirkova's participation in one such family reunion is a poignant, bittersweet memory. A successful Western family returned to Prague and treated their Czech relatives to a sumptuous meal in the city's best hotel. "It was a strained and uncomfortable occasion," she recalls, "because the Western branch family had 'made it,' and the Czech branch was on the losing side." It was, she observes, another kind of survivors' guilt.

Speaking of her country's future, Zirkova praises its tradition of diversity. Czechoslovakia is greatly invigorated by its ethnic minorities, claims Zirkova. At present, it is working hard to bring the gypsies, its fastest growing minority population, into mainstream Czech life. Gypsy culture is so different — so unfamiliar — to many Czechs, says Zirkova, that successful integration of this population is a tough challenge for her government.

U.S. report that PLO keeping promise called 'best comedy show in town'

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

Special to The Jewish Voice

WASHINGTON — Irritation among friends of Israel in Congress with the Bush Administration's increasing leniency towards the Palestine Liberation Organization burst into anger at a House of Representatives hearing on the State Department's initial report on the PLO's terrorism record.

With descriptions like "whitewash," "fraud" and "lies" hurled at the report, the reaction on May 24 by members of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East was much stiffer than even the strong criticism by Senators Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn) and Connie Mack (R-Fla) when it was presented to Congress more than two months ago. Lieberman and Mack are the authors of the law that requires the Administration to file a report every 120 days on the PLO's conduct on terrorism.

Appearing before the subcommittee at its request, the assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, John Kelly, testified that acts of violence against Israel by groups affiliated with the PLO either were not terrorist or were done by PLO personnel opposed to Yasser Arafat.

The report said that none of nine guerrilla attacks on Israel since 1988 "were authorized or approved" by either Arafat or the PLO's 15-member executive committee. Therefore, Kelly concluded, the PLO has adhered to its no-terrorism pledge and the U.S.-PLO dialogue should be continued.

But Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif) said "if the subject were not so serious, this would be the best comedy show in town" and "Alice in Wonderland is a scientific research document compared with your testimony."

Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY) said Israel was made a victim of a "double standard" and of a "predictable orgy of Israel-bashing" as a result of the killing by seven Palestinian laborers by a deranged Israeli civilian.

Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind), the subcommittee chairman, pointed out that in 1988 the PLO had declared "we totally renounce violence" and called on Kelly to answer "who is 'we' and did 'we' ask Mr. Arafat at the time the statement was made." Kelly's reply was described as "inconclusive."

Indicative of the softening Administration characterization of Arafat, was the State Department's position on its refusal to allow the PLO chief to come to New York to address the UN Security Council on the Arab demand for UN forces to "protect"

the Palestinians in the territories.

"We made it clear we were unenthusiastic about a New York visa," it said, "because we thought a major controversy over a visa would shift the focus from what is the real issue in the Middle East — the absence of a peace process. We did not block him from speaking in Geneva."

The statement was made the day before the council convened in Geneva. Israel had made known it would not accept UN observers on territory under Israeli control.

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**Wendy Wasserstein
addresses women
on making choices**

By CELIA GANS

Special to The Jewish Voice

Ebullient, witty Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein told a standing room only audience of enthusiastic, responsive Kutz Home Donor Luncheon guests at the Brandywine Country Club on Thursday, May 24, to make the hard choices. Summing up her own career in anecdotes and asides, she acknowledged women's balancing act — juggling career, personal, family and community responsibilities — and the price which must be paid for success. But, she said, whatever your choice, on a scale of one to ten, you "must always care a ten."



Wendy Wasserstein

Her own talent, claims Wasserstein, was nurtured during her high school years at a private all-girls high school in Manhattan. Writing the annual Mother-Daughter luncheon (held annually at the Plaza Hotel) meant being excused from gym. Wasserstein not being an athlete, a budding playwright was born. "Those luncheons," claims Wasserstein, "were my theatrical birthplace."

But, she admits, it wasn't until she took a Smith College playwrighting course that she discovered "you can get credit in life for something you truly like to do. Theater wasn't just an extra-curricular activity. And everyone has stories to tell." Despite her family's hope that she study law, when her graduate school choice was between Columbia Business

which focused on her undergraduate friends at Mt. Holyoke College coming to New York and "all starting out in life together." How successful did it eventually become? "I sold it to the Public Broadcasting System," says Wasserstein. "It was a four-figure deal."

To illustrate the improbability of her success, Wasserstein recounted the story of her mother Lola's meeting with Louise Roberts, former secretary of the June Taylor School of Dance where Wendy once took lessons. ("You remember, those were



Wendy Wasserstein autographs her book for Leslie Newman.

School and Yale Drama, she opted for New Haven.

Driven by her vision of an "all women's curtain call in the basement of the Yale Drama School," Wasserstein wrote *Uncommon Women and Others* (the flip side of *Deliverance*),

Jackie Gleason's dancers.") Lola, "hyperventilating," told Roberts about her daughter's ambitions, and Roberts explained that she worked across the hall from Playwrights' Horizon, and would be glad to drop off Wendy's

Continued on page 23

Six graduate from Gratz



Gennifer E. Goldenberg
daughter of
Edward and Leslie Goldenberg



Joshua Goldlust
son of
Perry and Sheila Goldlust



Ariane Mamberg
daughter of
Elias and Vivian Mamberg

The administration and faculty of Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School have announced that Gennifer Goldenberg, Joshua Goldlust, Ariane Mamberg, Margaret Presley, Donald Snyder and Boaz Vega have successfully completed all requirements for graduation from the Hebrew High School of Gratz College.

These young people were honored locally at a graduation ceremony on Tuesday, May 22. They joined other graduates of Gratz College in Philadelphia for formal commencement exercises and conferring of diplomas on Thursday, June 7 at the College's new home on the Mandell Education Campus.

"We extend our congratulations to these fine students for their outstanding achievements and offer our best wishes to them for continued success and excellence," said Elaine Friedberg, Gratz principal.

Delaware Gratz is a constituent agency of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.



Donald Snyder
son of
Frederick and Sandra Snyder



Boaz Vega
son of
Alexander and Antoinette Vega



Margaret Celia Presley
daughter of
John and Alice Presley

Study of drug use by Kibbutz youth shows 74% never used any

BEERSHEBA (JTA) — A report on substance abuse at kibbutzim in the Negev indicates some use of illicit "soft" drugs as often as once a month, and that two percent of youths who were "going steady" were more likely to use "soft" drugs, which include marijuana and hashish.

But the overall results of the study, which was made in the past five months, are optimistic. It found that over 74 percent of young people on Negev kibbutzim reported never having used illegal drugs.

The study was conducted at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev by Dr. Richard Isralowitz, a New Jersey native who heads the university's Hubert Humphrey Institute for Social Ecology. "In Israel, the dominant tendency until very recently was to deny the existence of significant drug abuse problems," said Isralowitz, who has been a member of a Negev kibbutz since moving to Israel in 1982.

After conducting the survey, Isralowitz found that "anxiety over illicit drug use among our middle-class

youth may have been exaggerated."

The study, which involved 240 people between the ages of 18 and 25, was helped by support from the New York-based Christopher Smithers Foundation and was assisted by the United Kibbutz Movement.

The kibbutzim participating in the study were relatively remote. Isralowitz found there was no evidence of hard drugs on the Negev kibbutzim.

He regretfully noted that one-third of young, middle-class youth on these kibbutzim regularly consume alcohol and are daily cigarette smokers, which Isralowitz feels is a much more serious issue and far more detrimental to the well-being of the country.

These forms of substance abuse tend to be more prevalent among children of parents who themselves smoke and drink.

Isralowitz intends to conduct another survey of kibbutzim in other regions. Of interest will be results at kibbutzim in the north, which are closer to the border with Lebanon, a traditional source of hashish.

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Analysis

Terrorist attack may have pushed U.S.-PLO to intractable positions

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The United States and the Palestine Liberation Organization may have been propelled by events into a situation both would have preferred to avoid.

The 16-month-old U.S.-PLO dialogue hangs by a thread in the aftermath of the aborted attack by heavily armed seaborne terrorists on two crowded Israeli beaches May 30. Should the dialogue be broken off, the stalled peace process would be no closer to resuming, and extremists in the PLO could be seen as victorious.

The only casualties of the beach attack were suffered by the Palestinian invaders. But the potential for carnage among innocent Israeli civilians was immense, which contributed to the shocking nature of the event.

The United States needed to make an appropriate response. Inasmuch as its dialogue with the PLO was conditioned on Yasi Arafat's widely publicized November 1988 renunciation of terrorism, the United States hoped the PLO leader would deliver an unambiguous condemnation of the beach assault.

But Arafat's statement on the attack, carried out by the Palestine Liberation Front, a PLO constituent, had a half-hearted ring in Washington. He refused, moreover, to oust PLF leader Mohammed (Abul) Abbas from the 15-member PLO Executive Committee.

Arafat resorted to the technicality that Abbas, notorious for masterminding the Achille Lauro hijack five years ago, was "democratically" elected to the PLO's executive body by the 400-member Palestine National Council and could only be removed by the so-called parliament in exile.

That response left the United States with little room to maneuver.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said at a news briefing on June 1 that he was not satisfied by PLO explanations of the attack. "We are not going to be satisfied until we know everything that we need to know," Baker said without elaborating.

The first fallout from the beach attack was the U.S. veto on May 31 of a U.N. Security Council resolution to send a fact-finding delegation to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Analysts here and in Washington predicted the United States would go further. But the U.S. Department's position at the moment is that it is still investigating the circumstances of the terrorist attack.

Israel has opposed the U.S.-PLO dialogue from its inception and claims Arafat's renunciation of terrorism was a fraud. The government here continues to urge the United States to end the PLO dialogue, and the clamor has been taken up by virtually every American Jewish leader and organization.

Particularly significant were com-

ments made by Menachem Rosensaft, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, who was one of five prominent Jews who met Arafat in Stockholm in 1988 to help draft his statement renouncing terrorism.

Rosensaft, who was severely criticized for meeting with Arafat, said last week that the PLO chief broke his pledge. "As one who had a small part in starting this dialogue, I see this as violating his statement that the PLO has renounced terrorism, and I believe the United States should reassess its dialogue with the PLO," Rosensaft was quoted as saying.

On the PLO side, Arafat's deputy, Salah Khalaf, known popularly as Abu Iyyad, declared over the weekend that the PLO would shed no tears if the United States did break off the dialogue.

Arafat reacted to the American veto of the Security Council resolution by warning that violence in the region would only increase.

In Jerusalem, Palestinian leaders reacted to the veto by ending a nearly two-week hunger strike and deciding to boycott the American diplomatic representatives.

But despite the angry sparring, both sides may be seeking a way out of a dilemma.

From the American viewpoint, a chief benefit of the PLO dialogue was the knowledge that terrorist activities would be suspended as a condition for continuing the talks. Indeed, terrorist activities have diminished con-

siderably in the past two years.

For the PLO, the effect of the dialogue was to endow it with the international legitimacy it needed. Indeed, the dialogue led the United States to try to persuade Israeli to conduct its own preliminary dialogue with the Palestinians in Cairo.

Although both parties would have liked to continue the talks, they now find themselves clinging to positions that could lead to their suspension.

The United States insists that it cannot continue the dialogue if the Palestinians resume military operations against Israel. The PLO leadership, on the other hand, is not strong enough politically or in practical terms to enforce a cease fire on its most militant elements and their leaders.

Arafat seems unable or unwilling to accept the American demand to oust Abul Abbas. But by rejecting it, he risks much.

Suspension of the dialogue with the United States would mean a political victory for the more radical groups under the PLO umbrella, weakening the Arafat camp and his relatively moderate supporters.

Arafat, in fact, has little reason to be satisfied with recent political developments. The peace process is stalemated. His main political achievement, a working relationship with the United States, is coming apart, and even the intifada seems to be

leading nowhere.

Moreover, in the eyes of the Palestinians, the continued flow of Jewish immigrants to Israel seems to upset whatever gains their uprising has achieved.

The threat posed by the recent upsurge of Jewish immigration was a chief item on the agenda of last week's Arab summit meeting in Baghdad, which was convened at Arafat's initiative. The resolutions adopted at the summit played to Arafat's fear that Israel is planning to dispossess Palestinians in the territories by settling Soviet Jews there.

But as was the case in the past, the Baghdad summit was unable to translate its concerns into action. The only aspect of the deliberations with a scent of action were the threats uttered by Iraq's President Saddam Hussein against Israel.

Two weeks after the gunning down of seven Palestinian laborers by a lone Jewish gunman touched off a new wave of violence in the area, Arafat came up with nothing more than still another resolution pledging Arab support.

He could do little more than tuck it into the drawer with past resolutions. There was somewhat more consolation to be found in the \$25 million check that was Saddam Hussein's contribution to the intifada.

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Hard-line states gain strength at Arab summit in Baghdad

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israel found much cause for concern in the warlike rhetoric emanating last week from the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad. In addition to open talk of military attacks against Israel, there were calls for coordinated action to stop the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the administered territories.

The harsh tone of the public statements appeared to signal that the hard-line Arab states, led by Iraq, were gaining strength over the more moderate forces, led by Egypt, which have argued that it is in the Arabs' interest to pursue the peace process, rather than the military option.

Tough words also were directed against the United States for what the Arabs contend is its uncompromising support for Israel. The Arab leaders reportedly were furious over a 16-page letter the U.S. State Department sent last month to the Arab League, urging Iraq to "moderate both its action and its rhetoric" and refrain from using "excessively ardent language."

In recent weeks, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has made several statements threatening war against the Jewish state. In one case, he vowed to "destroy half of Israel" with chemical weapons if it contemplated a pre-emptive strike against Iraqi weapons installations.

His words last week were little different, and they set the tone of the proceedings in Baghdad, which Hussein personally hosted. "If Israel

attacks, we will hit back strongly, and if it uses weapons of total destruction against our nation, we will use against it the weapons of total destruction which we have," Hussein told the heads of the 15 Arab countries participating in the summit.

Iraq is said to be in the process of amassing a deadly stockpile of chemical and biological weapons. There also have been reports that Iraq is building an underground nuclear reactor to replace the one destroyed by Israel nine years ago.

In Washington, the State Department said May 29 that the words it used previously to describe Hussein's threats against Israel could be applied to his latest remarks. The department had called the Iraqi leader's earlier threats to destroy Israel "irresponsible, inflammatory and outrageous."

Hussein's tough stance at the summit was echoed by Yasir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. In an aggressive speech at the summit's opening ceremony, Arafat seemed to part with his previous declarations about making peace with Israel. Arafat also called for the Arab nations to impose sanctions against countries that abet the immigration of Soviet Jews to the Israeli territories.

"We are duty-bound to use all weapons — including sanctions, economic boycotts, and political and psychological pressures — against states, establishments and companies that participate in aggression against Arab territory," the PLO

leader said.

"The ordeal of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation is an intolerable strain on its patience," he said.

He called for the revival of the Arab Joint Defense Council, which he said should meet within a month to confront Israeli "challenges and threats" to Arab security.

The council, made up of the foreign and defense ministers of the Arab nations, was formed in 1950 but has scarcely been used since. It was last convened, unsuccessfully, by Hussein during Iraq's eight-year war with Iran.

Arafat chided the U.S. Congress for its resolution declaring Jerusalem to be Israel's capital, and said that East Jerusalem "is part of the Palestinian territory under Israeli occupation. It is the capital of the state of Palestine."

On May 29, the Arab leaders met behind closed doors for almost three hours to discuss ways to impede Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, including Arafat's suggestion to revive the defense council.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, the only country to have diplomatic relations with Israel, urged the Arab states to deliver "a humane and rational message" on the immigration question. He was said to have told his colleagues that they can expect the United States to take "a series of calculated steps to limit the negative effects of the (Soviet Jewish) immigration" in the next few months.

PLO ties to East Germany are stronger than previously reported

By DAVID KANTOR

BONN (JTA)—A 20-year covert relationship between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Stasi, the East German security police under the old Communist regime, was even stronger than previously believed, according to a former high-ranking Stasi official, quoted Sunday in *Die Welt*.

According to the unnamed official, the PLO turned frequently to the Stasi for training and assistance in operations against Israel, and the operations were often coordinated with Stasi's Soviet counterpart, the

KGB. In that period, PLO leader Yasir Arafat personally asked the Stasi to train fighters for attacks on Israel.

Erich Honecker, the deposed former Communist leader, had personally issued guidelines on how to deal with the PLO, the Stasi official said.

Honecker also ordered the opening of training facilities for terrorists for all Palestinian fighters, including those who belonged to factions at odds with the PLO.

They were known as "anti-imperialist fighters" to the East Germans, as opposed to the United States and

Israel, which were engaged in "state terrorism," the official explained.

The unidentified Stasi official said, "For us, it was clear that we had nothing to gain from contacts with Israel. We were only interested in cooperating with the Arabs."

Honecker also fulfilled promises to Arafat to assist in covert operations in Europe and elsewhere. To maintain maximum secrecy and avoid possible embarrassment, he centered that assistance at a special facility in Potsdam, instead of the official Stasi school in East Berlin.

The relationship began in 1969 and continued through 1989, until the democratic revolution in East Germany toppled the Stalinist Honecker.

The former official revealed that dozens of Stasi activists spent years in Arab states, including Egypt, Syria and Libya, to train local forces in covert tactics and help build state security apparatuses.

In later years, the PLO had less need for military training, because "they probably had enough know-how and enough facilities of their own in the Arab world," the informant said.

But Arafat and his aides continued to be highly interested in intelligence and assistance in covert operations, he said. Arafat paid a visit to East Berlin as late as October 1989 and was assured by Honecker and others of continued East German military assistance.

JNF to honor Weinstein, Biondi



Last year's Jewish National Fund honoree, the Hon. David N. Levinson, Insurance Commissioner for the State of Delaware, center, is serving as Honorary Chairperson for this year's Jewish National Fund, Maryland/Delaware Region dinner honoring Sheldon A. Weinstein, Esq., left, and O. Francis Biondi, Esq.

Regional President Leonard J. Attman said that the Delaware attorneys will be presented JNF's highest honor, the Tree of Life Award, on Thursday, June 21, at the Radisson Hotel in Wilmington. In addition, according to Regional Executive Director Avrum N. Weiss, Afforestation Projects will be established in their names in the American Independence Park in Israel, some 15 miles southwest of Jerusalem. For dinner reservations or more information, call (302) 655-5995.

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Interfaith dialogue helps children understand differences

By RUTH ROVNER

Special to The Jewish Voice

Sitting in a circle, the sixth graders introduce themselves — somewhat shyly — as they put on name tags and talked briefly about their schools and hobbies.

When group leader Anna Mae Kattner asked for two volunteers to enact a brief skit, Jane Greenberg and Anthony Penzarella volunteered. Soon they were giving their best dramatic flair to a dialogue titled "The New Math Teacher."

"Did you know our new math teacher is an Armenian?" asked Jane, reading from the script she'd just been handed.

"An Armenian! Oh, no, that's terrible!" groaned Anthony, playing her classmate.

"What's wrong with being Armenian?" challenged Jane. And Anthony replied, "You know what Armenians do? They take people's heads and cut them off and shrink them real small. And then they wear them on watch-chains!"

The student audience listened attentively to this dialogue — which ended when both students went to the library to learn the real facts about Armenians. And when Kattner then asked for reactions, many hands shot up.

"He was being prejudiced," declared one student.

"He was judging somebody before he even knew him," said another.

"Just because he was Armenian, they thought he was weird," offered a third.

This discussion about prejudice was one of the many learning experiences shared by a group of sixth graders who convened recently for an Interfaith Youth Dialogue held at Temple Beth Torah at 608 Welsh Road in Philadelphia.

Sponsored by the Northeast Interfaith Congress, the full day's program drew 70 youngsters from six schools, including Solomon Schechter, Akiba Academy and various area schools, mainly parochial.

In small groups of ten, which included Catholics, Jews and Protestants, they met with group leaders for activities that ranged from role-playing to querying each other about their different religious practices.

"When we first started this program, we began with high school students," said Kattner, president of the Northeast Interfaith Congress. "Then we tried it with eighth graders, and then we realized that sixth graders are even more open to understanding. They can talk more freely and openly without pre-set values."

She explained this as her group and others went from Beth Torah classrooms to the auditorium where all the youngsters sat down to watch a film, "Molly's Pilgrim," about a young Russian Jewish immigrant who is the target of cruel teasing by her classmates because of her different religion and her accent.

When the students are asked to bring in pilgrim dolls for Thanksgiving, Molly, at her mother's urging, brings in a Russian doll and tells the class, "I am a pilgrim, too."

"Molly felt ashamed at first, because she wasn't like everyone else," said one of the sixth graders, when the students returned to their small groups for discussion. "She was different."

"But her mother wanted her to remember that she was American — but also Russian," noted a student from Sholom Schechter. She said she understood Molly's discomfort. "When I was in first grade, a girl from Russia was in my class and people didn't like her very much. She was different, too."

"This year a boy and girl from Russia came to our class," said Greenberg from Akiba. "I think we were nicer to them than the kids in the film were to Molly."

"Is it courageous for Molly and her family to leave Russia?" asked Kattner.

"Yes, it's courageous because you have to meet new people and stuff," according to one Solomon Schechter student. "But, if you want religious freedom, then it's important to do it anyway."

Soon it was time to join the entire group for a visit to Temple Beth Torah's sanctuary. For most of the non-Jewish students, this was their first time in a Jewish sanctuary.

Sitting in pews, they listened attentively as Rabbi Bernard Solis Frank explained the synagogue design and the Jewish symbols all around them. One by one, he explained the bimah, the menorah, the kiddush cup, the yahrzeit plaques and the ten stained glass windows, each one of the artist's rendering of one of the ten commandments.

And then they watched as he walked to the ark and opened it to reveal the torah scrolls. Some exclaimed aloud as they looked at the scrolls and the gleaming silver holders. He took one out — a very small Torah — and held it high for them to see. Then he explained how he'd found the unusual Torah in Israel and how it had lain wrapped in brown paper for 35 years. "So this little Torah is very precious to me," he

said.

Then the rabbi fielded questions from curious youngsters. "Do you believe in heaven?" one asked. "Of course," he replied, "and told them of the rabbinic saying, 'Heaven is what you make it.'" "Why isn't your head covered?" asked another, and he explained that many Reform Jews don't cover their heads in synagogue.

"Do you want to see the Torah? Come up and take a look," he invited them, and many of them eagerly came forward to look closely.

Back in their small groups after lunch, the students had more opportunity to learn about religious differences when Kattner encouraged her group to ask each other questions.

They asked about confession and communion, about mortal and venial sins. The Jewish students had varied queries for the Catholics.

"This probably sounds stupid," confessed one Jewish student, "but what's the difference between Lutheran and Catholic? Are you all considered the same, just like we're all considered Jewish?"

"We're talking about the differences, but yet we're all talking about the same thing, too — religious belief," said Kattner. "It's like the stained glass windows you saw; so many different hues make up the total. And we're all part of one community."

Later, as students were filling out their evaluations, she said it was this idea that she hoped would stay with the participants. "They see that they are of different creeds, yet we hope they come away understanding that people of different religions can get together and share and learn from each other."

As the students got ready to leave, they indeed emphasized the value of learning from one other. "In church we don't talk about other religions, so this was really interesting, especially learning about the Jewish faith," said a student of Redeemer Lutheran. "I don't have any Jewish friends and I didn't know anything about the Jewish religion until today."

"It was interesting learning about the different religions. I have Christian friends, but I never asked them about their religion, and now I know much more about it," said another.

In summing up his experience, one student said he learned not only about differences — but about how people are alike. "People of different religions are not different in how they act and talk to you," said the boy, who is Catholic. "They're just different in their religion."

Woman blocked from delivering invocation

WASHINGTON — Ultra-Orthodox rabbinical authorities in the United States and Israel intervened to prevent an Orthodox Israeli woman from delivering the opening invocation at the U.S. Senate on May 2.

Rochel Sorotzkin, 39, wife of the yeshiva principal in Telshe-Stone, near Jerusalem, had been invited to deliver the short prayer by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, co-chairman of a committee that is planning a U.S.-Israel friendship park in Telshe-Stone.

But soon after arriving in Washington, Sorotzkin was besieged by telephone calls in which it was said

that "Torah sages" objected to a woman performing a function usually reserved for ordained clergy, and she withdrew.

According to a source in Hatch's office, the opposition came from American and Israeli branches of the Council of Torah Sages, a rabbinical body affiliated with the Agudat Yisrael Party in Israel and Agudath Israel of America.

Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America, said last week that the decision to intervene was that of an individual member of the council and not a formal council

ruling.

Senate rules state that guest chaplains must be "limited to United States' clergy serving American religious denominations." An exception was apparently made for Sorotzkin, who holds dual American-Israeli citizenship.

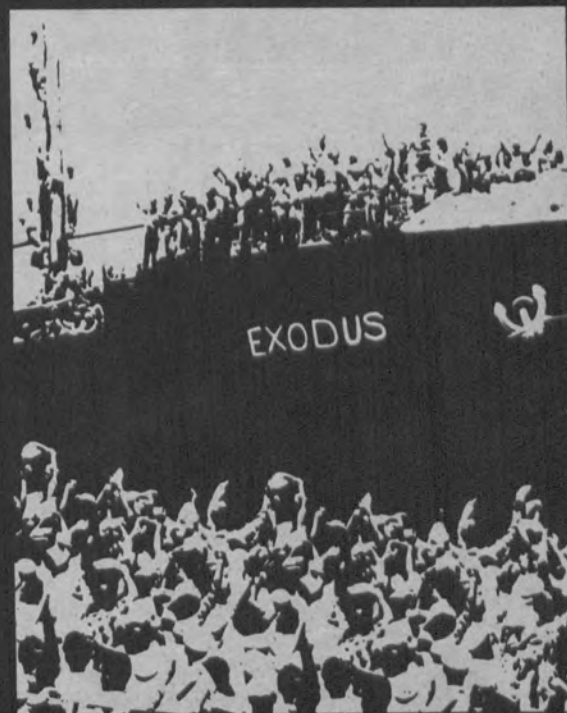
In addition to Orthodox objections, Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W. Va., also reportedly objected to the exception that allowed a non-ordained person to serve as guest chaplain. As president pro tempore of the Senate, Byrd oversees the selection process.

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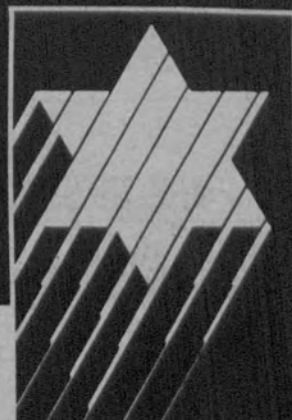
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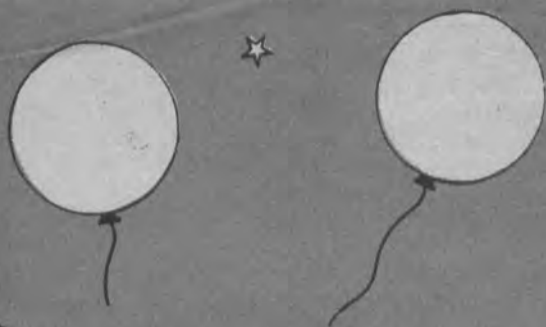
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**Congress passes housing guarantee**

By **JOSEPH POLAKOFF**

Special to The Jewish Voice

WASHINGTON — Congress has adopted special legislation providing a guarantee of up to \$400 million that Israel may borrow in private commercial markets for the construction of housing and infrastructure for Soviet Jewish immigrants specifically within Israel's boundaries before the Six-Day War 23 years ago.

While terms for the guarantee become available for the housing program for "Soviet Jewish refugees" once an agreement is completed between the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and Israel authorities, the statute states "none (of the guarantee) may be utilized beyond Israel's pre-June 1967 boundaries." Thus, East Jerusalem including the old walled city are excluded from the guarantee in which the U.S. is in effect a co-signer with

Israel for loans.

The legislation allows Israel to make use of the guarantee for loans up to \$150 million in a single instance and the U.S. stands ready to pay the lenders should Israel default. "Israel has never defaulted on a loan," a Senate staff member involved in the legislation said. "We believe, therefore, that Israel is a good risk."

Although Israel has been undergoing severe criticism from the Bush Administration, news media and much of American Jewry in recent months because of its proportional representation system in elections, the bargaining for governmental organization, the intifada and U.S. and Israeli differences regarding it and the "peace process," Congress overrode Administration proposals and made important concessions for the financially pressed Israel to help absorb Soviet immigrants.

The Administration proposed that Israel pay the normal initial one-time fee of one percent of the guarantee and one-quarter percent of that amount for AID's management of it. But under the leadership of Senators Patrick Leahy (D-Vt) and Robert Kasten (R-Wis), in the House-Senate conference, the Congress rewrote sections of the housing act for foreign guarantees and lowered Israel's payments to the U.S. Treasury.

Therefore, instead of paying \$4 million as the initial fee, Israel will pay \$2,800,000. In place of the normal annual managing payment of \$2 million, it will pay \$125,000. The Administration proposed halving the annual fee to one-quarter percent but Congress reduced it to the fee required for a guarantee of \$25 million. A Congressional inquiry revealed that AID's management cost would not be more for the \$400 million than for the \$25 million.

FAMOUS TIPS

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**McGovern,
Percy in
Middle East**

By **JOSEPH POLAKOFF**

Special to The Jewish Voice

WASHINGTON — Calling itself a "mission for a just solution in the Middle East," a group of about 50 Americans led by two former senators left May 21 on a 17-day visit to Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the "occupied territories."

The group is led by George McGovern, a former Democratic senator from South Dakota, and Charles Percy, formerly a Republican senator from Illinois. As the Democratic nominee for president in 1972, McGovern won one state — Massachusetts — in losing to President Richard Nixon. With the help of pro-Israeli activists, Congressman Paul Simon defeated Percy in 1984 even though he was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

A "position paper" issued by the Pax World Foundation for the group contained five points, including reaffirmation of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338; resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict guaranteed by the UN and "the international community"; creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel with "guaranteed security for both states" and encouragement to "exploring" of "confederation arrangements"; "direct talks without preconditions" between Israeli officials and "the recognized leaders of the Palestinian people," including the statement "there is no viable alternative to acceptance of the PLO" as the "Palestinians' legitimate representative;" and "we support President Bush's wise and just opposition to any new settlements in all the Occupied Territories as constituting disturbing barriers to a Middle East peace."

A list of the group's members includes Jewish and Arab Americans, including the president of the Arab-American Republicans of Virginia, Jamil Shami, who is the mission's coordinator. Former Republican Congressman John Anderson of Illinois who ran as an independent candidate with a strong pro-Israel program in the 1980 presidential election is also among the members as is Woodrow Seals, described as "Senior U.S. District Judge" in Texas.

Professors' racism tests academic freedom

By BEN GALLOB

NEW YORK — An ill wind blowing from the groves of academe has brought the vexing question whether bigoted professors are protected from the consequences of their outrageous statements by the twin shields of academic freedom and tenure.

Michael Levin, a professor of philosophy at City College of New York, who is Jewish, let loose with the canard that "blacks are significantly

less intelligent than whites." A colleague, Professor Leonard Jeffries, chairman of the university's African Studies department, staked his own claim to intellectual tomfoolery by arguing that skin pigmentation was the key to intelligence: the blacker the skin, the higher it is. Jeffries went a step further. Making clear that he despises all whites, he added, quite gratuitously in the context of the remark, that he has a particular

aversion to "rich Jews."

Jewish organizations made their expected responses, denouncing Levin and Jeffries and noting that neither produced scientific data to support his peculiar thesis. Neither the Jewish spokesmen nor academic critics asked that the professors, both Ph.Ds, be punished or muzzled.

An exception was Dr. Gerald Margolis, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. Margolis sent a letter to Dr. Bernard Harleston, City College president, urging the removal of both from their teaching posts. The immunity of the pair from punishment or expulsion is owing to the powers of academic freedom and tenure.

Robert Lifton, American Jewish Congress president, referred to "the difficult perilous task" of defining the limits of "academic freedom in higher education."

A colleague at City College, English Professor Leonard Kriegel, commented that "using race as an intellectual barometer by which capacity can be measured has a long, ugly tradition in the history of thought."

But in a *New York Times* op-ed piece asking what City College should do about the two professors, Kriegel replied "nothing." He said that "no matter how degrading, these views deserve to be protected by the traditional academic claims to intellectual freedom."

The senate faculty at City College rejected a request by Harleston to conduct an inquiry into "the limits" of academic freedom. Harleston named a committee "to review the question of whether speech, in and out of the classroom, may go beyond the protection of academic freedom." He asked the committee to review specifically the statements by Levin and Jeffries and recommend a proper response.

Jordan Kurland, the associate general secretary of the American Association of University Professors, commented on the issue of whether Levin's and Jeffries' behavior is beyond control of the institution that employs them.

Loss of tenure and position are possible only on proof of incompetence, neglect or misconduct, he said, declining to convey whether racist statements would fall under any of those criteria. He did declare, however, that causes for dismissal should be related directly to the professor's effectiveness in teaching and research.

Levin has not taught his race supremacy theories to his philosophy students. Jeffries does teach his pigmentation theories to students taking his classes.

Forward published in English



Seth Lipsky, editor of the *Forward*, a new English-language weekly, holds a copy of the first issue. The paper, which appeared on May 25, is an offspring of the 94-year-old Yiddish language *Forverts*, an institution among the generations of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Winners of the 41st annual National Jewish Book Awards

NEW YORK — Eleven authors, one illustrator and one translator have won the 1990 National Jewish Book Awards, according to Abraham Kremer, President of the Jewish Book Council. The Jewish Book Council is sponsored by the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony to be held on Monday, June 11th, at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA, 1395 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

The complete list of winners in the various categories follows:

AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR (Sandra Brand and Arik Weintraub Award): Lucy S. Dawidowicz, *From That Place and Time: A Memoir 1938-1947* (W.W. Norton).

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (Anita and Martin Shapolsky Award): Lois Lowry, *Number the Stars* (Houghton Mifflin).

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK (Marcia and Louis Posner Award): author Esther Silverstein Blanc, illustrator Tennessee Dixon, *Berchick* (Volcano Press).

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIFE (Muriel and Philip Berman Award): Riv-Ellen Prell, *Prayer & Community: The Haurah in American Judaism* (Wayne State University Press).

FICTION (William and Janice Epstein Award): author A.B. Yehoshua, translator Hillel Halkin, *Five Seasons* (Doubleday).

HOLOCAUST (Leon Jolson Award): author Abraham Lewin, editor Anthony Polonsky, *A Cup of Tears: A Diary of the Warsaw Ghetto* (Basil Blackwell).

ISRAEL (Morris J. and Betty Kaplun Award): Harris O. Schoenberg, *A Mandate for Terror: The United Nations and the PLO* (Shapolsky Publishers).

JEWISH HISTORY (Gerrard and Ella Berman Award): Eli Lederhendler, *The Road To Modern Jewish Politics* (Oxford University Press).

JEWISH THOUGHT (Donor Anonymous): Marc Saperstein, *Jewish Preaching 1200-180* (Yale University Press).

SCHOLARSHIP (Sarah H. and Julius Kushner Memorial Award): Jeremy Cohen, *"Be Fertile and Increase, Fill the Earth and Master It": The Ancient and Medieval Career of a Biblical Text* (Cornell University Press).

VISUAL ARTS (Ita and Joshua Aber Award): editor, David Cohen, *Jews in America* (Collins Publishers).

The awards consist of a cash prize and a certificate of recognition given to each winning author. A citation will be presented to the publisher.

Among past winners of the awards — widely considered to be the highest recognition in American Jewish literature — are John Hersey, Irving Howe, Bernard Malamud, Cynthia Ozick, Philip Roth, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Leon Uris and Elie Wiesel.

The Jewish Book Council was established in 1943 to promote Jewish literary creativity, to encourage the establishment of Jewish libraries and to broaden the appreciation of Jewish literature. In addition to the National Jewish Book Awards program, the Council sponsors Jewish Book Month, publishes the trilingual *Jewish Book Annual* (now in its 48th year), syndicates "Jewish Books in Review," issues *Jewish Book World* and serves as a clearinghouse for information about Jewish books.



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U.S. won't allow superconductors sale to Israel

By HOWARD ROSENBERG
 WASHINGTON (JTA)—For more than two years, the United States has been refusing to allow U.S. companies to sell supercomputers to Israel, out of fear that they would be used to design nuclear weapons. As a result, two of the three Israeli research institutions that are affected by that policy say they are losing hope that applications submitted on their behalf — by Cray Research Inc. of Minneapolis and the International Business Machines Corp. of Rockland County, N.Y. — will ultimately be approved.

Administrators at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa are now working "under the assumption that they are not going to get it," said Maia Hauser, spokeswoman for the American Society for Technion.

Norman Stein, director of government and foundation relations at

American Friends of the Weizmann Institute, said that with the continuing delay, "we are considering canceling the order" because projections reveal that the supercomputer it is seeking, the IBM 3090, will be "obsolete within two years."

Oded Eran, deputy chief of mission at the Israeli Embassy here, said he did not know what the main obstacle is to U.S. approval of the applications. He refused to call the continuing refusal a "sticking point" in U.S.-Israeli relations, and said Israel has raised its concerns through "usual bilateral channels."

The U.S. concern is that "supercomputers can be used for, or would have applications, in the area of nuclear weapons development or missile technology," said Tom Snead, spokesman for the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and

Scientific Affairs.

To alleviate that concern, the Technion has agreed to allow U.S. officials to inspect the supercomputer at any time unannounced, Hauser said.

Early this year, the United States approved the export to India of a Cray supercomputer. India, like Israel, has not signed the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. But in India's case, the United States accepted Indian assurances that the model would be used exclusively to study monsoons and other weather phenomena.

At the same time, the United States is continuing to deny the sale of supercomputers to Brazil, which has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Cray, however, has been allowed to sell or lease supercomputers to companies in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, both of which have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and wanted to use the computers for oil studies.

A State Department official dismissed a report by the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* last month that Saudi Arabia has agreed to allow Iraq to link into its Cray 2 supercomputer, which is more advanced than the Cray X-MP the Technion has been seeking since 1988. Saudi supercomputers "are not used by any unauthorized users, and that would certainly include Iraq," the official said.

Iraq has recently been under fire in the West for attempting to smuggle nuclear weapon detonators through

England.

Technion is in the middle of a \$3.5 million campaign to pay for the mainframe and computerization equipment that would accompany the Cray X-MP. Bar-Ilan University is also seeking an upgrade for the IBM 3090. The Weizmann Institute has been seeking an IBM 3090 since early 1989. The IBM 3090 is considered less than 20 percent as powerful as the Cray X-MP. Stein said that U.S. officials recently told him that they were "willing to release" the IBM 3090 to the Weizmann Institute, provided that the vector processor not be included. But Stein said the institute rejected that offer, on the basis that without the vector processor, the 3090 would not have supercomputer capabilities.

Sharansky thinks all refuseniks will be allowed to leave USSR

By RUBEN VIS

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (JTA) — Soviet Jewry activist Natan Sharansky believes there is "no doubt that this year all refuseniks can leave the Soviet Union."

Sharansky, himself a former refusenik who spent almost 10 years in Soviet prisons and labor camps, puts his faith in the persuasive powers of the United States, particularly now that U.S.-Soviet relations have been so improved.

Addressing the Rotterdam Jewish Community, where he attended Friday evening services May 18, Sharansky said he expected the 200 to 300 Soviet Jewish families still refused exit visas "will be permitted to go within six or 12 months."

He observed that "in the past,

when the Americans and the Soviets rarely met, there was always a list with the names of refuseniks, which the Americans handed over to the Soviet delegation.

"Now, they meet almost every week. And still, every meeting the Americans bring up the problem of the refuseniks," Sharansky said.

"I am sure the reunification with our refuseniks will be soon, in Israel or elsewhere in the free world. That the Baltic refuseniks are free already is a good sign. Now it won't be long before the others will be free too," Sharansky said.

A dogged critic of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Sharansky nevertheless saw further hope for the mass exodus of Soviet Jews in what he perceived to be unavoidable

changes in Gorbachev's policies. "Mr. Gorbachev is changing his reform policy," Sharansky maintained.

"Glasnost and perestroika will be continued only on the foreign affairs issues. In internal affairs, he will return to conservatism. With this conservative style, he may be able to stop the growth of nationalism and anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. Being more reformlike in international affairs is good for Soviet Jews," Sharansky said. "Their problem is by all considered an international one. This will create an atmosphere in which refuseniks can leave the country," he said.

Sharansky came to Holland to join the Christians for Israel organization, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Synagogue desecrated after Nazi investigation

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) — A synagogue was vandalized in the southeast New Zealand city of Dunedin following recent publication of allegations that Nazi war criminals found haven in New Zealand.

The Jewish community of New Zealand was shocked but the general situation is calm, said Wendy Ross,

president of the New Zealand Jewish Council.

The Dunedin Synagogue serves a Jewish population numbering only 60, in a city whose total metropolitan area is home to about 107,000 persons.

Meanwhile, the New Zealand government has announced that it

will establish an inquiry into whether there is a need to change legislation in order to bring Nazi war criminals to trial.

The course of action is based on that of neighboring Australia, which amended its War Crimes Act to enable trials rather than the deportation of alleged Nazi fugitives.

Dutch - Jewish cemetery vandalized

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — The epidemic of Jewish cemetery desecrations in Europe continues, the latest reported in Putteren, in the province of North Brabant near the Belgian border.

Although located in the Netherlands, the cemetery is the chief burial ground used by the Jews of Antwerp, Belgium. The headstones were found daubed with swastikas.

There has been a wave of assaults on Jewish cemeteries since the exceptionally brutal violation of the ancient Jewish cemetery in Carpentras, in southern France, on or about May 10.

Since then, Jewish burial grounds have been invaded in Clichy, a suburb of Paris; in Nevers, Nantes, and Bethune, cities in central, western and northern France respectively; and in Yerdon, Switzerland. Jewish gravestones were overturned in East Germany and at the concentration camp memorial in the Unterallgau region of Bavaria, West Germany.

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Jewish Community Center

Camp scholarship drive launched

"We want our friends who support the Camp Scholarship Fund to know how valuable this experience has been for all of those individuals who have benefitted from camp scholarships over the past four years," stated Toby Weiner, Chairperson of the 1990 Day Camp Scholarship Fund Drive.

For over 26 years, Weiner was the staff person at the JCC who worked with the scholarship recipients. This year the JCC is committed to sharing some of those campers' experiences with donors to the fund, she said.

Moises Paz, staff person for the scholarship fund feels the drive is off to a quick start. "The need this year is greater than ever as we have committed ourselves to afford every 'New American' child arriving from the U.S.S.R. a great summer camp experience." This commitment is a costly one as the demands to date have increased by over 25 percent and could result in an excess of \$20,000 worth of scholarship assistance for campers, Paz explained.

Even though a first-time grant of \$2,000 was received from the Wilmington Flower Market, the scholarship appeal has never managed to fully fund the scholarship drive. The excess demand is absorbed by the JCC with the assistance of designated allocations from the Jewish Federation of Delaware. This year, no additional funds are anticipated to assist the "New Americans" or the increased number of children attending camp.

Referrals or requests for scholarship assistance for camp should be forwarded to Ella Zukoff or Moises Paz at the JCC.

Poolside concert planned



Al Smith and the Roarin' 20's Band will perform a variety of "tunes from the twenties" at the outdoor swimming pool area of the Jewish Family Campus on Sunday, June 24, at 3 p.m.

Smith has performed locally with the Delaware Symphony Orchestra and Bobby Baird's Dixieland Band and has also served as the Director for the Greater Wilmington String Band and his own Roarin' 20's Jazz Band.

The poolside concert is free of charge. For additional information, contact Eileen Wallach, Recreational Services Director, of Lynn Greenfield, Adult Program Director, at 478-5660.

Older Americans Month celebrated

The JCC Senior Center celebrated Older Americans Month by participating in a Shabbat Dinner at the Jewish Community Center on Friday, May 18. The lighting of the candles and the prayers for the wine and challah were conducted by many members of the Senior Center. The traditional Shabbat meal included gefilte fish, matzo ball soup, roasted chicken and kugel.

Following the Shabbat dinner, the seniors attended Erev Shabbat services at Congregation Beth Shalom where Thelma Buckholtz, Leonard Herman, Anna Metzker and Ann Abramov participated in the services with special readings and songs. The JCC Senior Center also co-hosted the Oneg Shabbat.

The Senior Center of the JCC is open to all older adults, ages 60 and over. The program operates five days per week from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A wide variety of programs is offered including educational, social and recreational activities. A kosher meal is served daily at noon.

For additional information on the Senior Center program, contact Ray Freshman, Senior Center Coordinator, at 478-5660.

Wilmington youth elected to B'Nai B'rith boards

Three B'nai B'rith Youth from Wilmington were elected to Regional Board positions of Central Region East at the recent annual meeting held during the "Spring Fling" Convention at Camp Saganaw, May 11 through 13.

Staci Levin was elected to serve on the B'nai B'rith Girls Board as S'ganit (Vice-President). Elected to serve on the Aleph Zadik Aleph Board were Daniel Weinstein as Mazkir (Secretary) and Marc Blumberg as Dovair (fundraising and summer programs).

Wilmington AZA received the Best All-Round Programming Award while Wilmington BBG received awards for Best Newspaper and Best Minutes. Allison Meyer was also recognized as best MIT (Member-In-Training) Mom in the region.

Amit Snyderman receives first black belt at JCC



Amit Snyderman

Amit Snyderman, 8, has been taking Tae-Kwon-Do at the Jewish Community Center for the past two years. After two years of hard work and much practice he has reached his goal of becoming a black belt. He is the first Tae-Kwon-Do student at the JCC to do so.

Snyderman takes karate classes for self-defense reasons but notes that he enjoys the classes and instruction. He plans to stay in Tae-Kwon-Do and hopes to become an instructor one day.

Snyderman recently participated in his first karate tournament at the Fraims Boys Club in February. Reluctant to compete in previous tournaments due to the sparring component, over the last six months, he has greatly improved in free-sparring and forms, according to his instructor, Larry Long. He hopes to attend and compete in many future competitions and tournaments.

Snyderman was very happy about attaining his first degree Probationary Black Belt and is ready to begin the learning process all over again. In order to receive his black belt degree, he must participate a series of tests along with the rest of the students enrolled in the Tae-Kwon-Do classes.

The testing took place on March 25 at the JCC. Some test components included performance of his pattern, "Choong Moo," spar with fellow classmates and break two pieces of wood. "His tests were very impressive and showed great potential for an eight-year-old student," said Eileen Wallach, Director of Recreational Services at the JCC.

"I would like to thank Mr. Long, my parents and my fellow students for their support and help in reaching this important goal. I would also like to let the other karate students know not to give up and keep trying," stated Snyderman.

JCC initiates self study

The continued pursuit of quality programs at the Jewish Community Center is the goal of the Program Steering Committee pictured above. Chaired by Cindy Imber and David Margules, the committee is comprised of all Program Chairpersons and Director-level staff members at the JCC.

"This year the committee has conducted a self-study of each department with special focus placed on Jewish content, the provision of Social Services and major issues and concerns confronting each department," Imber said.

"Initially there was a level of reluctance to commit the necessary time and effort of so many individuals, but the many benefits derived to date has made us believers in the process," noted Moises Paz, Assistant Executive Director and staff person for the committee.



The first goal was to help all committee members gain a comprehensive understanding of the many services provided by the JCC and to identify road blocks. Next year's goals will be to develop an agency-wide approach to removing these road blocks.

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Announcements/Events

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Berengut



Sarah Berengut

Sarah Ellen Berengut chanted the Haftorah Bamidbar at a Bat Mitzvah on Friday evening, May 25, at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Sarah is in the sixth grade at P.S. DuPont School and a member of the Hey Class at AKSE. She is the daughter of Paulz Berengut of Wilmington and David Berengut of Newark. An Oneg Shabbat in Sarah's honor followed the service.

Kupferman/Pottock

Meryl Kupferman and Elliott Pottock, both of Wilmington, were married on Sunday, June 3, at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth synagogue. The bride is the daughter of Cynthia and Edward Kauffman, of Wilmington, and the groom is the son of Helen Pottock, of Wilmington, and the late Louis Pottock.

Mellen/Birnbaum

The engagement of Andrea Suzanne Mellen to David Kenneth Birnbaum, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard G. Birnbaum of Berkeley Heights, New Jersey and Menlo Park, California, has been announced by the prospective bride's parents, Judy and David Mellen, of Wilmington, Delaware and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. A September wedding is planned.

Ms. Mellen, 26, is a restaurant consultant in New York City. She is a 1985 graduate of Syracuse University. Her father is a Research Fellow with E.I. duPont de Nemours in Wilmington. Her mother, Judith, is Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware.

Mr. Birnbaum, 27, also graduated from Syracuse University and received an MBA from Baruch College. He is a tax specialist with KPMG Peat Marwick in New York City. His father is a CPA and attorney and senior partner in the accounting firm of Leonard G. Birnbaum and Company with offices in New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and California. His mother, Rena, is a paralegal with Greenberg, Margolis in Roseland, New Jersey.

Weiner

Shelly Jane Weiner, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ben Weiner of Claymont, graduated from the Cantors Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary on May 17. She received the Amy B. Putterman Award for music scholarship during the ceremony.

Weiner is the full-time cantor at Congregation Ohev Shalom in Wallingford, Pennsylvania.

Gratz (Phila.) summer courses announced

Beginning June 5 Gratz College will offer a variety of courses in Jewish studies designed for both the layperson and degree-oriented students. These summer courses will be offered in two summer sessions with classes being held from Tuesdays to Thursdays.

The first summer session classes, June 5 to 28, will all be held at the Ann Newman Building on the Mandell Education Campus in Melrose Park. Among courses being offered are: Hebrew 10310H, "Academic Ulpan", given by Dr. David Rabeeya, from 9 a.m. to noon. The course is designed to teach basic conversational skills in modern Hebrew. Some emphasis will be placed upon the drill of basic grammatical structures. "Apocalypse Now and Then: The Books of Daniel and Revelations" (Bible 40115), taught by Dr. Nahum Waldman, will run from 9 a.m. to noon. The books of Daniel, Revelations and other apocalypses outside the Bible will be discussed. Modern transpositions of these scenarios, such as Communism and Zionism, will also be compared.

Dr. Marsha Bryan Edelman will teach Music 10841, "Songs of My People." By surveying the work of various composers and poets, the relationship of words and music will be explored. Literature 40415, "The Creative Imperative: Literature Faces Modernity", will be offered by Dr. Abraham Marthan. This course will trace, through story and poem, the

renaissance of Hebrew and Jewish literature in the 19th and 20th centuries in response to the impact of modernity. Both courses will be held from 1 to 4 p.m.

Three evening courses will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. They are History 40575 "From Generation to Generation: Problems of Leadership Succession in Israel," taught by Visiting Fulbright Professor, Dr. Nathan Yanai (from Haifa University). The first part of this seminar will concentrate on the characteristics and the relationship between two generations of founding leaders in Israel. The second part of the seminar will focus on two major leaders representing each of the two generations: David Ben-Burion and Moshe Dayan. The third part will focus on the problems of political leadership in present day Israel. Literature 10479, "Four Novelists in Search of Identities" (Roth, Singer, Malamud, Bellow), will be taught by Dr. David Segal, Choen Visiting Israel Alumni Scholar, (from Ben-Gurion University). Through close attention to recurring motifs, character development and figurative language, students will examine the responses of seminal writers to questions of personal identity and major crises in Jewish civilization. Education 40225, "Putting God Back in the Classroom," will be taught by Dr. Saul P. Wachs. This seminar-workshop will explore the place of spirituality in the Jewish classroom. Developmental issues, personal and professional issues inhibiting "God-

Talk" in the Jewish classroom, the integration of prayer into the total curriculum and recovering the art of prayer are among the topics which will be considered.

Session II begins July 10 and runs through August 2, offering courses in Hebrew, Rabbinics, Music, Bible, Philosophy and Political Science.

The Netzkly Division of Continuing Education is also offering two summer sessions: Session I, July 9 to 26 and Session II, August 1 to 21. More than 50 courses will be given at three locations: the Mandell Education

Campus, Center City and the Western Suburbs. These courses, like those listed above, are eligible for transfer credits for Master's +30 and +60 programs.

For further information concerning these academic programs and other courses, contact Dr. Jerry Kutnick, Director of Enrollment Management, or Mrs. Naomi Zvirman, Assistant Director, at 635-7300, or write Gratz College Office of Enrollment Management, Old York Road and Melrose Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19126.

Summer Havurah Institute planned for August

Nearly 300 Jewish men, women and children from all walks of life, all ages, and every religious background will gather outside Philadelphia in August for an intensive week of study aimed at enabling Jews of every stripe and background to delve the treasures of Jewish knowledge.

Registration is open for the eleventh annual Havurah Summer Institute, sponsored by the national Havurah Committee, to convene August 6 through 12 at Harcum Junior College, in Bryn Mawr, Penn.

The word *havurah* has become synonymous with Jewish renewal. A *havurah* is a small fellowship that comes together to intensify Jewish life. Institute participants comprise a "national havurah" of *havurah* members from throughout the country.

"It doesn't matter if a person is attending for the first time, or has come many times," said NHC Chairperson Ruth Goldston, a psychologist who lives in Princeton, N.J. "It doesn't matter if a person is a rabbi or a novice, Orthodox or secular. Each of us has an interest in Jewish renewal. Each of us comes to study and teach."

The Summer Institute brings together Orthodox, Conservative,

Reform, Reconstructionist and Secular Jews, lay people and scholars from all over the country, in the great tradition of Jewish self-study.

Together they will study the Talmud's view of sex, whether heretics have a place in Jewish life, religious views of the poor and homeless, and the image of Jews in motion pictures, among other course offerings.

Classes are taught by rabbis, yes, but they are also taught by mathematics professors, writers, psychologists, doctors, lawyers, students and poets.

"We all come together as equals," said Summer Institute Chairperson Sami Barth, an assistant dean at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. "We learn from each of our many perspectives that Jewish thought is broad, deep, and not monolithic."

There are special Summer Institute programs for children of all ages and students can gather in informal workshops to share ideas and experiences.

Information on the Summer Institute is available from the NHC Institute Office, 441 West Carpenter Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119. Or call (215) 438-6108.

AKSE Men's Club

Dennis Greenhouse, New Castle County Executive, will speak and

AKSE youth group

The Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Youth Group's summer activities will continue with a Splash Party on Sunday, June 24, from noon to 4 p.m. Lunch will be included and the cost will be \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. There will also be a game night with "make-your-own-sundaes" on Monday, June 18, at a private home, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be more get-togethers on July 16 and 30, and August 13 and 27.

For more information on any of these events or on the AKSE Youth Group, call Rosalie Dior at 368-0684 before 10 p.m. (No Shabbat calls.)

Community Rally featuring Theodore Bikel June 20th

show slides from his recent trip to Israel at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth on Sunday, June 24, from 10 to 11 a.m. The meeting is open to the general public, both men and women. A bagel and lox breakfast will be available from 9:30 to 10 a.m., at a cost of \$3 for non-members. The breakfast will be preceded by prayers from 9:15 to 9:30.

Silverman scholarships awarded



Staci Levin (left) and Daniel Weinstein (right), with Sylvia and Isadore Silverman. Levin and Weinstein are the recipients of scholarships established in the Silvermans' honor.

Staci Levin and Daniel Weinstein are the first recipients of the Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund's Annual Award to Jewish youth who plan appropriate use for the award in a meaningful summer experience. Staci and Daniel will both attend the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization International Leadership Training Conference.

Staci attends Concord High School and Congregation Beth Shalom. She is the daughter of Marilyn H. and Richard D. Levin. Daniel is a student at Tower Hill School and Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Synagogue. His parents are Ralph and Beth Weinstein.

The Silverman Fund was established last year on the occasion of Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman's 55th wedding anniversary and recognizes their many years of dedication to the community, especially to AKSE and to the Boy Scouts of America. Their own children and friends established this fund to honor them with an annual presentation to one or more youth. To obtain an application for the scholarship for 1991, call the AKSE office at 762-2705.

Roots & Branches

Soviet Jews intensify search for family members in Israel

By MIRIAM WEINER

Special to The Jewish Voice

Not long ago, the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem had to provide a bigger mailbox for one of its departments — the Search Bureau for Missing Relatives. The incoming mail from the Soviet Union was over-flowing with inquiries from Russian Jews wanting to find relatives in Israel.

The Search Bureau is run by Batya Untershtatz who immigrated from her home in Vilna in 1971. One year later, she went to work for the Search Bureau and today processes approximately 600 mail inquiries monthly along with another 200 telephone/walk-in inquiries. According to Batya, these figures represent a 400 percent increase from 1989, due primarily to immigration from the Soviet Union.

Recently, I spent a day with Batya. One day's mail brought inquiries from Jews in Leningrad, Voronezh, Beltz, Irkutsk, Bratsk, Baku, Samarkand, Vinnitza, Moscow, Nikolayev, Tashkent, Kursk and Minsk. Each letter was the same and yet unique to its author — an emotional plea to locate family members long separated by time, distance and the Holocaust.

The Search Bureau mailbox brings letters from virtually all over the world. A typical day in Batya's office...we

open the envelope from Michael A., now living in Lynn, Mass., who sends in a completed search form to locate the descendants of his cousins, Yaakov and Rachel Cohen, who came to Palestine from the Ukraine in the 1920s. It was mind-boggling when I saw Batya start her search through the 300 "Yaakov Cohens" listed in Israel. First, she narrowed down the list to those who were of Russian origin and then further eliminated others by immigration date. The next "cut" was by birth date. All that remained were ten very old men.

Batya explained the system of identification numbers which are assigned sequentially to family members thus enabling her to locate "Rachel" by identification number within the correct "Yaakov Cohen" family.

Next, Batya identified two daughters of Rachel and Yaakov, both of whom were deceased. However, she was able to trace their descendants and put them in touch with a very happy Michael in Lynn, Massachusetts.

Another mail delivery brought a letter from R. Bernstein in Bobroisk who was looking for her family in Israel. Batya was able to locate her aunt, Tam Bondy, now living at Kibbutz Dgania Bet, who was so happy to receive Batya's telephone

call. Bondy thought she had family remaining in Russia, but they had been out of touch for over 50 years. As a result of Batya's reunion efforts, the telephone lines once again served as the link between Tamar Bondy to her niece in Bobroisk. After Bondy spoke with her Bobroisk relatives, she called Batya to thank her profusely for enabling her family to be reunited.

The Search Bureau was founded to assist in re-establishing contact between Jewish survivors in Europe and their relatives in Palestine and in overseas countries. Batya is virtually a one-woman office and what she accomplishes is remarkable.

Though she has seen the fruits of her labors many times, Batya continues to share in the excitement and tears of reunions between family members and friends.

Those who seek her services include emigres from the Soviet Union looking for family members and their descendants who left Russia in the early 1900s, genealogists, Holocaust survivors looking for family members, and anyone who wonders if a branch of his or her family could have gone to Israel and to this day, remain unknown to them.

Keeping in mind that computers were not around in the late 1940s to record the names of survivors, it is

easy to understand why it was virtually impossible to consult the various lists of compiled names. Many survivors eventually made their way to Palestine. Through the Search Bureau, it is possible to locate those who did, if they are still living.

The Search Bureau has records on file from 1948 to 1984 which include the name and address of every living Israeli citizen as well as those who have died within the past five years. Records after 1984 are protected by confidentiality laws. Recent name changes can be found, too.

Batya also consults another set of records consisting of search requests received in her office. The file card includes the name and address of the person initiating the request and in some cases, his or her place of birth and parents' names.

Further records available include a register of new immigrants compiled by the Jewish Agency's Department of Immigration beginning in 1919; published survivor lists, landsmanschaften records, telephone books, and records maintained by the burial societies, some dating back to 1839.

Batya's knowledge of Hebrew,

Yiddish, Russian, Polish, Lithuanian, English and German enables her to communicate with almost everyone.

For those planning a trip to Israel, try to include a visit to the Search Bureau office located at 8 HaMaalot Street in Jerusalem. Office hours are Sunday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon (telephone: 02-231 606 or 247 770). Batya spends the afternoon hours working on the rapidly mounting stack of search requests primarily from the Soviet Union.

A search request can be done by mail. Requests should be mailed to: The Jewish Agency, Search Bureau for Missing Relatives, P.O.B. 92, Jerusalem 91920 Israel. There is no charge for an inquiry. However, a contribution in any amount is welcomed.

(Miriam Weiner, syndicated columnist and lecturer, has prepared a beginner's guide (55 pages) on how to research family history that includes charts, list of archives and libraries, bibliography, maps, family group sheets and more. It can be ordered by writing to her at 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094.)

Kirkpatrick: Bush needs new perspective on Israel

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

Special to The Jewish Voice

WASHINGTON — President Bush views Israel like "moderate" Arab states do and he should change his vision of peace in the Near East, says Jeane Kirkpatrick, President Reagan's representative for four years in the United Nations.

In a criticism of Bush's welcome to Tunisia's President al-Abidine Ben Ami recently to the White House, she assessed Bush's perspective as seeing Shamir's position in the peace process as "a terrible irritation."

Although Ben Ami came to Washington for economic aid he brought a "president-to-president message" for Bush from Yasser Arafat, she noted, and pointed out the State Department said Bush and Ben Ami "shared a concern" about settlements in "occupied territories."

"Bush and the State Department seldom miss an opportunity to underscore their opposition to Israeli settlements on the West Bank, Gaza and sometimes East Jerusalem," said Kirkpatrick in her syndicated column on May 21.

"Even though the President probably thinks of himself as 'even-handed,' the evidence suggests that Bush views Israel rather the same way the 'moderate' Arab states view Israel — as the source of the problem, the state that has disrupted the peace of the region."

"If you start from the premise that Israel is the obstacle and that the peace process depends on preliminary Israeli concessions, and you have no great revulsion to the character of the PLO, then naturally Shamir's refusal to negotiate with the PLO —

and his insistence on dealing on questions concerning the West Bank and Gaza with residents of the West Bank and Gaza — would seem tenacious, rigid, inflexible. A terrible irritation."

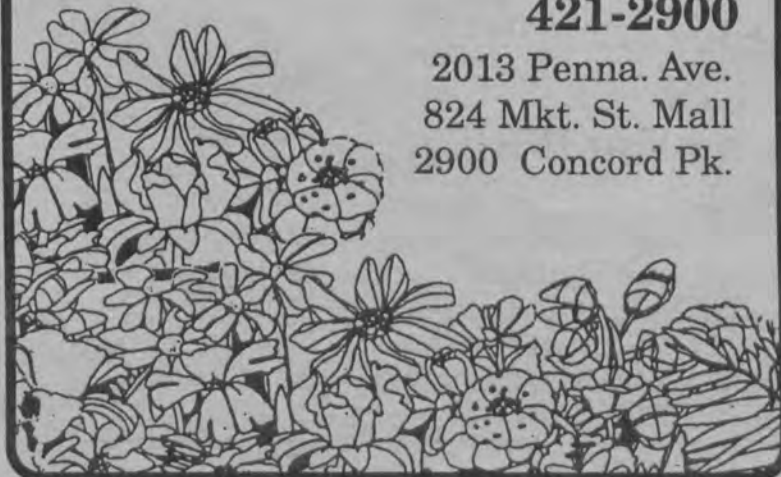
The Bush Administration has protected Israel in the UN Security Council, including opposition last month to the draft Arab resolution defining Jerusalem as an "occupied Arab territory" and affirming Palestinian "right to return" to Israel, Kirkpatrick observed. But, she added, while the Bush Administration has room within its perspective for a

State of Israel it would be "a stripped-down Israel with a PLO state on one border, an intimidated Jordan on another, a Syrian-occupied and terror-infested Lebanon on the third, and a growing Islamic fundamentalist movement on all sides and with Iraq's Saddam Hussein brandishing weapons of mass destruction."

"There is a better vision of peace for the area," Kirkpatrick said. "It begins, as in Europe, with an end to war, free elections, economic cooperation and negotiation among the parties. But seeking that better vision requires a different perspective."

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Obituaries

Gertrude Lillian Koche
Gertrude Lillian Koche, 82, of 619 Browning Road, Collingswood, N.J., died March 21 of respiratory failure in Cooper Medical Center, Camden. Mrs Koche was a homemaker.

Her husband, Jacob, died in 1987. She is survived by a son, Stephen Arnold Koche of Pennsauken, N.J., and a daughter, Judith Koche Spiller of Wilmington, Del. Instead of flowers, the family sug-

gests contributions to American Lung Association of Delaware, Wilmington.

Viola A. Abrams

Viola A. Abrams, 78, of Millcroft Retirement and Nursing Home, 655 Possum Park Road, Newark, died there May 31.

Mrs. Abrams, a registered nurse, worked at various Chicago hospitals before moving to the Newark area about 10 years ago. She entered Cokesbury Village four years ago and had been at Millcroft for the past month.

Her husband, David, died in 1969. She is survived by her son, Burton of Newark; a daughter, Joanne Abrams of Chicago; and a brother, Edward Radosevich of babbitt, Minn.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Alzheimers Disease and Related Disorders Association, Wilmington.

Bella Deitch

Bella Deitch, 86, of 5 The Dell, Woodbury, N.Y., formerly of Wilmington, Del., died June 1 of cancer in Central General Hospital, Plainview, N.Y.

Mrs. Deitch had been co-owner of Rae Corset Shop on Seventh Street in Wilmington. She retired in 1965. Earlier, she taught for a few years in Wilmington elementary schools.

She attended the University of Delaware. She moved to Woodbury in November 1989.

She was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom and Kutz Home auxiliary. She was a volunteer in the

emergency room at Wilmington Medical Center, the Division of Visually Impaired and Kutz Home. She was cited for her volunteerism in 1986.

Her husband, David J., died in 1963. She is survived by two sons, Dr. Bernard Deitch of Haverford, Pa., and Dr. Jack S. Deitch of Woodbury; a sister, Helen Levy of Wilmington; and three grandsons.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to charity.

Pearl E. Sortman

Pearl E. Sortman, 79, of 2300

Riddle Ave., Wilmington, died at home of cancer.

Mrs. Sortman was a lifelong resident of Wilmington and a graduate of Wilmington public schools and the University of Delaware. She taught elementary school in the 1930s.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. H. P. Sortman; a son, Andrew of Salisbury, Md.; two daughters, Doris Schnee of Wilmington and Martha Radlett of Pinner, England; and five grandchildren.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Delaware Hospice Inc., Wilmington.

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Witnesses to Nazi crimes sought

The United States Department of Justice has asked the World Jewish Congress for assistance in locating Holocaust survivors who can aid in investigations currently underway of three cases on Nazi crimes during the Second World War.

In one case, the Justice Department is investigating the activities of the Ukrainian Police (ukrainische Polizei) in Brzezany, Lwow, Podhajce, Rawa Ruska, Stanislawow, Stryj and Wisniowczyk and of the Byelorussian Police (weissruthenische Schutzmannschaft) in Baranowicze, Koldyczewo, Myr, Nowogrodek, Slonim, Stolpce and Turzec (all places in prewar Poland, now USSR) during World War II.

In a second area of investigation, the Department is interested in locating persons who can describe the treatment of Jews or of other targeted groups in the town of Valmiera (Wolmar), Latvia, or in Valmiera district. The period involved is early July to the end of October 1941, especially the early summer.

In the third case, Justice Department investigators are interested in identifying and interviewing persons imprisoned at Kauen (formerly the Kaunas ghetto) from September 1943 to August 1944; at Stutthof from June 1944 to November 1944; or at Gotenhafen (Gdynia) from October 1944 to March 1945. They are seeking to locate these survivors in connection with the investigation of an alleged member of an SS guard company assigned to these camps.

Individuals who can be of assistance in these investigations are asked to contact Miss Bessy Pupko, World Jewish Congress, 501 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022, (212) 755-5770.

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Graveyard vandal gets three years in prison

TEL AVIA (JTA) — David Goldner, a 41-year-old Israeli Jew, was sentenced May 27 by the Haifa Magistrates Court to four years in prison, 12 months of it suspended, for the May 12 desecration of 303 graves in the Haifa Jewish cemeteries of Kfar Samir and Hof Carmel.

Goldner, an electrical engineer from Kiryat Motzkin, in the Haifa Bay area, was found guilty May 24. A returnee to Orthodox Judaism, Goldner had confessed to the desecration, describing himself as an emissary of the Messiah.

Goldner's friend and co-defendant, Gershon Tennenbaum, 32, of nearby Kiryat Yam, is still undergoing psychiatric examinations to determine whether he is mentally sound. Tennenbaum likewise has described



A religious Jew reads a prayer as he stands at a desecrated grave in Haifa. The black graffiti, written in Hebrew, reads: "sadam Hussein Burn Jews!" (Photo: RNS)

himself as a messianic envoy.

Magistrate Amirav Rand, who accepted Goldner's guilty plea, noted that Goldner had previously been examined by psychiatrists and found to be responsible for his actions. Rand said he had no faith in Goldner's expressions of regret for the desecrations, which included virulently anti-Jewish slogans calling on Arab leaders to kill Jews.

The magistrate said Goldner's actions were taken to breed hatred and enmity between communities. They were not only potentially dan-

gerous but also ran counter to Goldner's stated aim of uniting the Jewish people, Rand said.

Both Goldner and Tennenbaum said they wanted to free the Jewish people and draw attention to the dangers facing the Jewish people and Israel. Both were described as "eccentric." Police charged Goldner with the actual writing, with Tennenbaum alleged to have dictated to him what to write.

The black spray-paint graffiti, at first thought to be indelible, have now been removed through the use of special chemicals.

Statement on anti-Semitism expected from Hungarian gov't.

BUDAPEST (JTA) — A clear statement condemning anti-Semitism is expected to be forthcoming shortly from the Hungarian government, as it already has been condemned by a ranking dignitary of the Roman Catholic Church here.

Bishop Asztrik Varszegi denounced anti-Semitism as "the cancer of our people, of Europe and of the whole world."

He was addressing about 20,000 people who had just marched in the first Catholic procession organized in Budapest in 43 years. Varszegi's remarks were in fact the harshest condemnation of anti-Semitism uttered by any Catholic priest here in living memory.

Calling for universal brotherhood, he declared that the Catholic Church in Hungary would never revert to the so-called "Christian path," the anti-Jewish line taken in Hungarian politics between the two world wars.

Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and Foreign Minister Geza Jeszensky met here with two representatives of the World Jewish Congress.

Leslie Keller, chairman of the WJC's Eastern European Section, and Lajos Bakos, deputy chairman of the WJC's Budapest office, expressed their concern over manifestation of anti-Semitism in Hungary recently. They asked for the prime minister's intervention, which is expected to be

forthcoming. Keller and Bakos are somer representatives of the opposition Free Democratic Party.

Keller, who is also president of the World Federation of Hungarian Jews and Emanuel Foundation for Hungarian Culture, was instrumental in arranging the meeting in New York in February between Antall and

members of the WJC and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The subject of that meeting, too, was rising anti-Semitism in Hungary. Antall pledged that anti-Semites would not play an important role in his government.

Vanunu appeal rejected

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel's High Court of Justice on May 27 rejected an appeal by convicted spy Mordechai Vanunu against his 1988 conviction and sentence to 18 years in prison for spying and treason.

The appeal was held behind closed doors, and the three-judge panel allowed publication of only the final paragraph of its 89-page decision, which read: "The court has decided in a detailed opinion to reject the appeal made in this case, regarding both the conviction and punishment."

The court is to meet again within 30 days to decide whether to allow publication of the entire appeal rejection or even parts of it, or whether overriding security considerations should continue to prevail and thus dictate censorship.

Vanunu's attorney, Avigdor Feldman, said his client was "bitterly disappointed" by the court's decision, and he was considering making

another appeal before a seven-judge panel.

Feldman reportedly told the court that his client's furnishing details of Israel's top-secret nuclear facility in Dimona to a foreign newspaper — the *London Sunday Times* — could not be regarded as "espionage" and "treason," as he had not passed the information to the enemy.

Feldman told journalists that Vanunu, a former employee of the Dimona plant, has been held since his original arrest in solitary confinement, without any contacts, apart from some with a few prison warders and officials. Vanunu has refused to accept visits from family members if terms of his incarceration dictate that such visits be held under conditions of physical separation, by bars or glass partition.



Germans propose Holocaust Memorial

BONN (JTA) — A group of prominent Germans, including scholars and industrialists, have proposed erecting the first monument in Germany to the memory of Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

It would be located in the rebuilt heart of a united Berlin, on the site of the chancery from which Hitler ruled the Third Reich, according to the promoters, who outlined their plans in advertisements published Monday in leading newspapers of West and East Berlin.

The governing board of the group that sponsored the advertisement consists of Marcus Bierich of the Bosch Co.; Edzard Reuter, chief executive officer of Daimler-Benz; Professor Eberhard Jackel of Stuttgart, a historian; Peter Kirchner, leader of the East Berlin Jewish community; author Siegfried Lenz; and conductor Kurt Masur, who has been named to lead the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

The advertisement notes that nearly 50 years after more than 5 million Jews perished at the hands of the Nazis, no memorial to them has been erected to remind Germans of the most awful crime in their history.

The promoters propose that the memorial's design be included in a contest now under way among architects for the best plan to rebuild the area. The site is in the very heart of Berlin, where the last remnants of the Berlin Wall will soon be demolished. The group has pledged to raise funds for the project if it is approved by the politicians in Berlin and both Germanys. It has already received tax-exempt status from a West Berlin court.

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LOCAL

A community rally for "Operation Exodus," the fundraising campaign to raise money to rescue and resettle Soviet Jews, will feature musician/raconteur Theodore Bikel. The concert will be given at the AKSE social hall on Wednesday, June 20, at 7:15 p.m. for ticket information call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 478-6200.

PHILADELPHIA

In conjunction with its fifteenth convention, the Women Cantors' Network will present a "Concert of Jewish Music: from tradition to today," on June 11, at 8 p.m., at the Mandell Campus of Gratz College in Elkins Park. Admission is \$8, \$5 for students and seniors. The program will include solos, duets and ensembles and will feature songs from the Yiddish theater, traditional and contemporary cantorial repertoire and new works by Jewish women composers.

"The Invisible Thread," a photographic exhibition exploring the varied lives of contemporary American Jewish women, premieres at the National Museum of American Jewish History on Tuesday, June 12. Through photographs and quotes from personal interviews, the exhibition reveals the connecting link — the invisible thread — uniting Jewish women of all backgrounds and degrees of ritual observance in a shared sense of Jewish identity. (See photo.)

NEW YORK

"Exodus and Exile: 2,000 Years in ancient Israel" is a new archaeology exhibition at the Jewish Museum that explores cataclysmic political events and their impact on ancient Jewish culture, encompassing a 2,000 year period (c. 1200 BCE to c. 600 CE) from the earliest Israelite settlements to the emergence of rabbinic Judaism.

The Yeshiva University Museum in Manhattan is displaying "The Serendipitous Years," which will run through July. This is an exhibit of fine art, ceremonial objects of daily life, rare books and manuscripts from the museum's collection.

The Tenement Museum's spring/summer schedule of Sunday afternoon "living history" walking tours and dramatizations will include a new Black heritage program as well as the three programs returning from last season. "Pathway to Freedom: A Black Heritage Walking Tour" focuses on the rich history of the African-American community of 19th century New York. The three established programs include: "The Streets Where We Lived," a multi-ethnic historic walking tour of Lower Manhattan; "Peddler's Pack Walking Tour," based on the Jewish immigrant experience; and "Family Matters: an immigrant memoir," a one-hour dramatization. All programs begin at the museum. Call for schedule, information and reservations.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The work of artist/calligrapher Avraham Cohen is currently being displayed at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery in an exhibit highlighting the work of "Four Contemporary Calligraphers." The four oldest calligraphic traditions will be featured: Hebrew, English, Chinese and Arabic. Included in Cohen's display are two ketubot, an "Ayshet Chayil" (Woman of Valor, the last chapter of the Book of Proverbs), an illuminated megillah scroll and mezuzah and tefillin scrolls. The exhibit will run through October 28; there will be a symposium of Sunday, June 10, when the four artists will discuss their work.

The B'nai B'rith Klutznick Museum is currently presenting a retrospective of the work of Israeli photojournalist David Rubinger. "Witness to an Era" contains 91 photographs tracing events in Israel and the region from 1947 to the present. The exhibit will continue through August.

For more information on these events, contact the sponsoring organizations.

Mary Travers

Continued from 1

active role in the Washington-based Center for the Development of International Policy. This organization sends members on fact-finding missions to countries where American foreign policy has impact. Travers has participated in several missions.

In 1983 she visited the Soviet Union to learn firsthand about the problems facing Russian Jews and, at that time, gave intimate concerts in many Jewish homes.

Following Travers' performance, there will be a reception at the Wilmington Amtrak station. This location was chosen by the committee because the train station setting has long symbolized the beginning of new lives for immigrants. Plans for the reception include strolling musicians who will provide music from diverse cultures and refreshments with an international flair.

Also part of the "Celebration of Freedom" will be the publication of a commemorative album. The album, which will serve as a record of Delaware's participation in the

Operation Exodus campaign, will contain the photographs of historical documents of the immigrant ancestors of members of Delaware's Jewish community. Contributors to the campaign will have the opportunity to share pieces of their families' collections in the album.

On November 11, Natan Sharansky will address the community as the Young Memorial Lecturer. An outspoken dissident since 1973, Sharansky arrived in Israel in February 1986 having spent nine years in prison and labor camps, including 400 days in punishment cells and over 200 days on hunger strikes.

As a leading voice of the suffering of Soviet Jews, Sharansky presently serves as a leader of the Israel-based Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum, an organization uniting Soviet Jewry activities and former refuseniks living in Israel.

The Young family has agreed to tie the lecture to the Operation Exodus effort in order "to encourage all

Shamir and Baker reaffirm commitment to peace initiative

By DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israeli acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Secretary of State James Baker have reaffirmed their commitment to the Israeli peace initiative, including the proposal for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I am the father of this plan," Shamir said in an appearance May 27 on the ABC-TV talk show *This Week with David Brinkley*. "What I have proposed to the Arab world, not only to the Palestinians, is to sit down and negotiate about all the questions that separate us from them," he said. "The moment we will sit down and negotiate, everyone will explain his position. We will try to find out an agreed solution."

Baker, who was interviewed May 27 on the CBS-TV program "Face the Nation," denied that he had given up on the Middle East peace process. "Until we have a peace process, the potential for continued escalation of violence and killing in the Middle East will continue," he said.

But the secretary of state said that nothing can be done until a new government is formed in Israel. "We hope very much that a government will emerge that will want to move forward for peace," he said.

Baker pointed out that although Israel's former unity government could not agree on his proposal for preliminary Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the election plan, "they didn't say no."

Israel's unity government collapsed when Labor wanted to accept Baker's proposal that Arabs from East Jerusalem be part of the Palestinian delegation, while Likud rejected this.

Shamir stressed that "what is important is the intention of the people that will come to negotiate with us. If their intention is to get peace, to understand our point of view and to be determined to find out an agreed solution, then everything will be OK."

But the prime minister added that the Palestinians will have to accept the proposed Israeli framework for negotiations to elect people who will

represent the Palestinians in negotiations for autonomy.

After a few years of autonomy, "we will start a process of negotiations about the permanent solution of the status of the territories," Shamir said. He said both sides can offer their own solutions, but the eventual outcome "has to be agreed by both parties."

Asked about tensions between the United States and Israel, Shamir called for patience on both sides. "After all, the United States government is not a party to the conflict," Shamir said.

"They are mediators. They are ready and willing to help the parties to come to an understanding, and we are ready to cooperate."

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"My Sarah? Don't ask. It was a marriage made in a law office."

Jerusalem

Continued from 3

tians to return to the original land of their religion.

In Jerusalem stands the third holiest shrine for Moslems, but the homeland of Islam is Arabia. Thus, the critical interreligious issue in Jerusalem is the assurance of free access and protection of the holy places for Christians and Moslems, but Jerusalem and Israel are not the homeland for them as it is for Jews.

(Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum is international relations consultant to the American Jewish Committee and is immediate past chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations.)

Delawareans to participate generously in this vital campaign," according to Stuart Young. Any member of the community who purchases a ticket to the "Celebration of Freedom" will receive a ticket to the Sharansky lecture. Contributors to the Operation Exodus campaign will receive complimentary tickets, subject to availability.

Invitations to the "Celebration of Freedom" will be mailed by June 18.

More information regarding the Operation Exodus campaign and the effort to rescue Soviet Jews and resettle them in Israel will be made available at the community rally with Theodore Bikel on June 20 (see ad on back page).

"We hope the presence of these renowned individuals will emphasize the urgency of this historic rescue of Soviet Jews," the committee leaders have stated. Tickets to the "Celebration of Freedom" can be paid over three years.

Supreme Court

Continued from 1

The decision in the peyote case "turned back free-exercise jurisprudence many, many decades," commented Abba Cohen, Agudath Israel's Washington representative.

Donald Mintz, chairman of ADL's Civil Rights Committee, called the ruling "extremely disturbing."

Mark Stern, legal director of the American Jewish Congress, said both court decisions threaten religious liberty, although he would not say whether the greater threat in government interference in religious practice or government "allowing itself to aid religion."

Both cases show that on religious issues, the court is "not willing to second-guess the judgment of democratic bodies," Stern said, referring to the Oregon state legislature in the peyote case and to Congress in the case involving the Omaha high school.

The Omaha case pitted Westside Community High School against Bridget Mergens, who as a senior had tried unsuccessfully in 1985 to win official recognition from the school for a Bible-study group she wanted to hold after classes.

A federal district court ruled that the school could refuse to grant recognition to the Bible study group, but the decision was reversed in February 1989 by the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis.

When the case went to the Supreme Court, AJCongress served as co-counsel, largely writing the brief filed on the high school's behalf. Friend-of-the-court briefs backing the school were submitted by the American Jewish Committee, and the ADL, which did so on behalf of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Jewish groups supported the school's position that allowing the Bible Class to meet would constitute a government endorsement of religion, banned by the First Amendment. But in her majority opinion, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote, "We think that high school students are mature enough and are likely to understand that a school does not endorse or support student speech that it merely permits on a non-discriminatory basis."

Justice John Paul Stevens, the sole dissenter in the case, argued that the court's decision "comes perilously close to an outright command to allow organized prayer (and perhaps other religious ceremonies) on school premises."

Jewish groups sounded similar warnings.

Robert Lifton, president of AJCon-

gress, said the decision "will open up the nation's public high schools to proselytizing by organized student religious clubs and will ultimately result in religious divisiveness."

Burton Levinson, ADL's national chairman, said the ruling is "troubling, because it sanctions the use of public school facilities to advance religion, in violation of the First Amendment."

O'Connor is considered the court's swing vote on church-state issues, most notably on cases involving the display of Christmas nativity scenes or menorahs on public property. Last July, she wrote the decisive concurring opinion on a 5-4 ruling that the display of a creche in a Pittsburgh courthouse violated the First Amendment's establishment clause.

But Stern of AJCongress believes O'Connor has not abandoned her "broader reading" of the clause, which was designed to prevent government establishment or endorsement of religion.

Gorbachev

Continued from 1

Israeli guarantees during his visit to Moscow in May. Gorbachev did not raise the issue during the summit, Baker said.

In Israel, Absorption Minister Yitzhak Perez reacted to Gorbachev's threat by suggesting that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir invite the Soviet leader to Israel to learn the true situation. Gorbachev could tour the administered territories and "see with his own eyes" that Israel "has no policy of directing or encouraging immigrants to go to these territories," Peretz said.

Construction and Housing Minister David Levy said there would be "clarifications" in which Israel would "explain ourselves so that our brothers in the USSR shall not be hostages to political processes."

But Levy, who holds the rank of deputy premier, would not say ex-

plicitly whether Israel would provide Gorbachev with the guarantees he is seeking.

Jewish groups in the United States pointed out that fewer than 2 percent of Soviet immigrants have settled in the territories.

Martin Wenick, executive director of the National Conference of Soviet Jewry, said it was a "canard" to say Soviet Jews were settling in the territories in large numbers.

Wenick said he was "deeply disturbed" by Gorbachev's linkage of emigration to the settlement issue. He said that if the Soviets stopped emigration, it would be a violation of international human rights agreements that the Soviets have signed, including the Helsinki Accords.

The Union of Councils for Soviet

Continued on 24

Wasserstein

Continued from 6

script in their office. The rest, as they say, is history.

Lola, admits Wasserstein, has inspired many characters in her plays, the most autobiographical of which is *Isn't It Romantic*. In this play — a "boulevard comedy," says Wasserstein, "in the *Mary, Mary* style" — the mother calls her daughter every morning and sings 'Sunrise/Sunset' from *Fiddler on the Roof*. And this is the play, says Wasserstein, about "me and my mother and the pressures of New York, about marriage versus no marriage, which was supposed to be too Jewish for the London stage," and which played for months in Japan!

Nor did Wasserstein consider *The Heidi Chronicles*, which won the Pulitzer Prize (Drama), a Tony Award (Best Play), and the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award, about "a feminist art historian who becomes sad," a commercial vehicle. When it opened Off Broadway, after five drafts, many readings and workshop productions, to "nice notices," Wasserstein wanted to stay. Her director and set designer prevailed, however, and the play moved to Broadway. They were right, admits Wasserstein, the move did open the play to a broader audience.

As to how her life has changed since her awards, Wasserstein says

she was "asked to introduce a new Nina Ricci perfume. And, 'I was called by the *New York Times* for my fall fashion forecast. All I could say to the women was 'Have you ever seen me?'" (Wasserstein is no statuesque size 6). They persisted. "So I told them 'Just wear purple.' And that's the way they quoted me: 'Playwright Wendy Wasserstein says just wear something purple for fall.' Me, with all the leading New York designers..."

In response to questions from the audience, Wasserstein admits she finds Jesse Helms' attempts to censor National Endowments for the Arts Grants "terrifying," and urged audience members to write Senator Pell of their concern. Such censorship, says Wasserstein, would cripple the arts and our culture. As for Heidi's choice, at the end of *The Heidi Chronicles*, to adopt a baby, Wasserstein stressed that this was "just one woman's choice," and not every woman's answer. When asked about urging aspiring playwrights to "be more commercial," Wasserstein, who had spoken at length about the difference between writing for theater, TV and the movies, said "Plays are the home of an individual voice. Don't tell playwrights to be more commercial. Let new playwrights use the regional theater and workshop system, it nurtures art."

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On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews emigrating to freedom, United Jewish Appeal has launched the national Operation Exodus Campaign to help redeem the captives. The Jewish Community of Delaware's fair-share portion of this \$420,000,000 campaign is \$708,000. Pledges to Operation Exodus are separate from the Jewish Federation of Delaware annual campaign and are payable over three years.

All those in attendance June 20 will be asked to make their pledge to Operation Exodus. There will be no card calling.

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Gorbachev

Continued from 1

Jews also maintained it is not Israel's policy to "actively channel Jews to the West Bank."

"Gorbachev should not curtail the basic human right of free emigration based on the destination of Soviet Jews," a spokeswoman for the group said. "The whole thing is a red herring," since the Soviets are just responding to the "traditional Arab opposition to Jewish immigration" to Israel, she said.

"We have no indication from the Arab side that their campaign against Jewish immigration to Israel would subside if no Soviet Jews were settled in the administered territories," she said.

Sholom Comay, president of the American Jewish Committee, said his group was "distressed" by Gorbachev's "implied threat to curtail immigration of Soviet Jews." He urged the administration to "make clear its determination that Soviet Jewish immigration must continue."

Rabbi Avraham Weiss, national chairman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, called Gorbachev's threat "absolutely despicable."

While displeased with Gorbachev, the Soviet Jewry groups, except for SSSJ, were pleased with Bush's stance on the trade agreement, even though he had previously indicated he would not sign it until the Soviets adopt the long promised law codifying its more liberal emigration policies.

They were also pleased that Bush devoted a great deal of time during the summit to the issues of concern to Soviet Jews, including anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, the need for direct flights between Moscow and Israel, and the cases of long-term refuseniks still being denied exit visas.

The signing of the trade agreement came as a surprise during the June 1 signing of various agreements by Bush and Gorbachev at the White House. Bush announced the move by saying, "President Gorbachev and I are also signing a commercial agreement and are looking forward to the passage of a Soviet emigration laws."

The new law was supposed to have been adopted by the Supreme Soviet before the summit. During the summit, Soviet officials expressed irritation with U.S. pressure for the law.

Arkady Maslennikov, Gorbachev's spokesman, said there was "resentment" that another country was trying to dictate to the Soviet parliament. Nevertheless, Maslennikov said the Supreme Soviet is "very serious about the law," which he said has been delayed because of the legislature's extremely busy schedule.

Gorbachev was almost pleading for the trade law during the summit in order to take some economic benefits back to the Soviet Union. The administration made clear that it was granting the law to help Gorbachev in his efforts to democratize the Soviet Union.

But Bush and other U.S. officials continuously stressed that the law would not be sent to Congress until the Soviets adopted the emigration law. Bush has said the law must be adopted before he is willing to waive sanctions contained in the Jackson-

Vanik Amendment to the U.S. Trade Act, which links trade benefits to improve performance on emigration.

Bush repeatedly insisted that the trade agreement was not linked to the Soviet Union ending its economic sanctions against Lithuania. But Baker conceded that the Senate would be highly unlikely to ratify the agreement if the situation in Lithuania had not improved.

"We are pleased that the administration has held fast to the principle of Jackson-Vanik and is keeping its promise to hold out for the emigration law," the Union of Councils said.

The National Conference said it was less concerned with the emigration law than that the Soviets continue the high level of Jewish emigration, make progress on the cases of long-term refuseniks, solve the "poor relatives" problem and place strict limits on the application of "state secrets" in denying visas.

But Weiss of the SSSJ said the trade agreement should not have been signed until the Soviets had adopted a satisfactory emigration law and proved for a full year that it was being implemented in good faith.

Bush and Gorbachev also discussed the problem of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union during the informal talks June 2 at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland. According to White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, the two leaders "agreed to speak out against prejudice and any trends toward anti-Semitism."

Fitzwater also said Bush spoke to Gorbachev about the cases of various long-term refuseniks, and Gorbachev replied that "he was still working to resolve them." The National Conference said it trusted that Gorbachev "will follow through" on this pledge and will also make a "forceful, unequivocal condemnation" of anti-Semitism, as Bush did in January during his State of the Union address.

The Union of Councils likewise praised Bush for bringing up the issues of anti-Semitism.

But Weiss said he was "disappointed" that Soviet Jewry did not play a more central role in the summit. He was particularly incensed that the Bush administration did not put more pressure on the Soviets to institute direct flights between Moscow and Israel. He said that because of the Soviet economic chaos, such pressure would work.

Weiss said it was "unacceptable and unpardonable" the way Jews and other Americans have made a hero of Gorbachev, whom he called a dictator. He said Jews should be in the streets by the thousands supporting Soviet Jews, because they are in danger.

Weiss also accused the administration of using support for Soviet Jewry to force Israel to comply with U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The Middle East, however, appeared to be low on the summit agenda, although at one point Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said the region was close to his heart. Soviet officials were reported to have urged the United States repeatedly to include Yasir Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization in peace negotiations.