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COMMUNITY CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF SIEGEL JCC

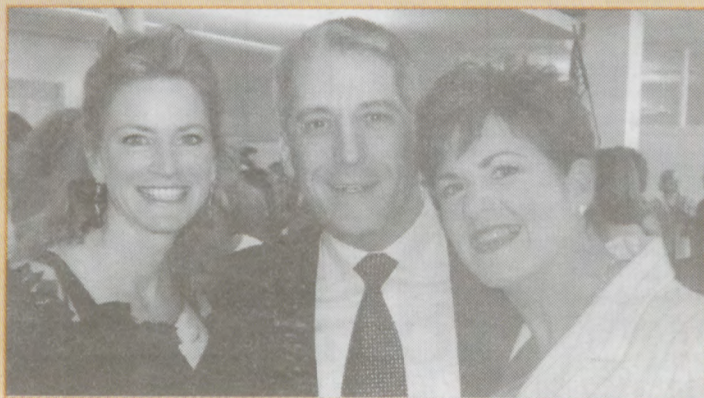
Lag B'Omer – a time for dancing, singing and other festivities – was celebrated in Wilmington, Delaware with the official grand opening of the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center. This gala evening afforded members of the Delaware Jewish community an opportunity to pay tribute to the Siegels, who both individually and as a couple, have com-

mitted their hearts, souls and significant financial resources to make this community grow and flourish. Thanks to their philanthropy and the generosity and vision of all who donated to the Jewish Federation of Delaware Community Capital Campaign, the Siegel JCC and the three other Federation beneficiary agencies- Jewish Family Services, Albert Einstein

Academy and Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School- who make their home on the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Jewish Community Campus enjoy beautiful, new facilities. We should be very proud to be blessed with a central place where individuals and families can enjoy a broad range of social, educational, cultural, fitness, counseling and recreational programs.



The Aerenson Building, named in honor of Andrew and Marcia Aerenson, Bob and Annette Aerenson, Jeya Aerenson and Norman and Phyllis Aerenson, houses the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Services of Delaware, Albert Einstein Academy and Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School.



Caryl Marcus-Stape (right), chairperson of the Grand Opening Celebration enjoys the spirit of the evening with friends, Annette Aerenson, a Siegel JCC board member and Jeff Metz, Siegel JCC executive vice president.



Amy Leviton, (left) a past president of the Siegel JCC and chairperson of the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Women's Philanthropy initiative, shares a hug with Ivy Harlev, Siegel JCC associate executive director.

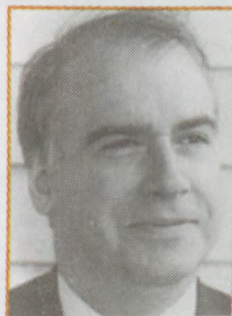


Mark and Sylvia Wagman drink a toast to the continued vibrancy and vitality of our Delaware Jewish community. Mark serves as chairman of the JFD Jewish Community Relations Committee.



Bernard (Bernie) Siegel kvells with his family and friends during the grand opening celebration of the state-of-the art facility that bears the name of he and his wife, Ruth.

BERK TO KEYNOTE JFD ANNUAL MEETING – A MUST SEE SPEAKER!



Stephen M. Berk

Stephen M. Berk, keynote speaker at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Delaware on Thursday, June 15th makes history come to life. The popular Professor of History at Union College in Schenectady, New York, is a recognized expert in the diverse fields of Russian Jewry and the Pogroms, the Holocaust and the role of American Jews in the African American Civil Rights Movement.

That his college classes routinely oversub-

scribe and his calendar is crammed with requests for speaking engagements throughout the United States and Canada comes as no surprise to JFD Executive Vice President Samuel H. Asher who describes Berk as "One of the most energizing and insightful speaker that I have ever booked." Asher added that "His presentation of 'Israel at the Crossroads' is guaranteed to be one of the highlights of the Annual Meeting."

Berk is the author of *Year of Crisis, Year of Hope: Russian Jewry and the Pogroms of 1881-1882* (Greenwood Press, 1985), which deals with anti-Semitism in Russia and Eastern Europe, and is currently writing *Our People Are Your People: American Jewry and the Struggle for Civil Rights 1954-1965*, a book that seeks to debunk the myths and misunderstandings

that surround the historic relationship between Jews and Blacks.

He has served as a consultant to the Wiesenthal Holocaust Center in Los Angeles, and in 1992 made a set of six hour-long audio taped lectures on the Holocaust that have been sold across the country. Professor Berk has lectured on the Holocaust throughout the United States and Canada including such distinguished colleges and universities as Princeton, Vanderbilt, The University of Texas at Austin and Williams College.

In 1996, he received the prestigious Holocaust Memorial Award from the Holocaust Survivors and Friends Education Center. The citation accompanying the award stated: "On the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Nuremberg trials, the Holocaust Memorial

Award honors Dr. Berk's years of dedication to understanding and education as a world-wide lecturer and spellbinding speaker on the lessons of the Holocaust and its meaning for today."

Berk has published numerous articles on anti-Semitism and American policy in the Middle East and is frequently consulted by newspaper reporters and by television and radio stations including the BBC.

The Federation Annual Meeting, which will also feature the installation of Officers and Board of Directors, begins at 7:00p.m. at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center in Wilmington. For additional information about the event, please call Sheila Krinsky, at 302-427-2100, ext. 15 or visit the JFD website at <http://www.shalomdelaware.org>.

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DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
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2	"Fun Day" at Sea		
3	San Juan	3pm	Midnight
4	St. Thomas/ St John	7am	6pm
5	Tortola/ Virgin Gorda**	7am	2pm
6	"Fun Day" at Sea		
7	"Fun Day" at Sea		
8	New York	9am	

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Pre-festival events at Theatre N:

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Targeting students grades K-4, this engaging multimedia program promotes the inclusiveness and accessibility of jazz. Staged as a late-night talk show, the program features animated likenesses of jazz greats as show guests and numerous audience participation segments.

Get Hip!

Targeting students grades 3-5, Get Hip! is a multimedia program that introduces young people to jazz and some of the music's cultural origins, the concept of improvisation and the function of each component of a jazz ensemble.

Herbie Hancock: Possibilities

An intimate documentary film about Herbie Hancock and his in-studio collaborations with a dozen recording artists.

Artsits appearing at Rodney Square, Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew & Matthew and Winterthur Museum & Country Estate include:

The Count Basie Orchestra
Edward Simon
The Crimson Jazz Trio
Rebirth Brass Band
Wade in the Water Tour
Sandt Graham
The Tiptons
McCoy Tyner Trio

Pucho & His Latin
Soul Brothers
Los Hombres Calientes
Fortune Vinson Cruse
Jae Sinnett
John Pizzarelli
The Smithsonian Masterwork
Jazz Orchestra

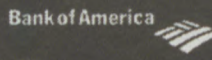
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FEDERATION FOCUS

Shavuot – Celebrating New Beginnings



Samuel H. Asher
Executive Vice President

On June 2nd and 3rd we celebrate the holiday of Shavuot. We rejoice in the spring harvest and are reminded that when we work with the Lord's blessings, we can accomplish great things.

It is also the time when we cele-

brate, again, the giving of the Ten Commandments at Sinai. We celebrate anew our connection to the Laws of Moses and our community.

We were guided by the spirit of Shavuot at the grand opening of the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center on May 16th. Gratz Hebrew High School and the Jewish Family Services celebrated their grand openings earlier in the year.

Phase II of the construction in our community capital campaign is complete and the Building Committee actually held its last meeting on April 4th. The temporary locker room trailer is long gone and the EDIS trailer is gone too. A few of us continue to have a bi-weekly conference call with EDIS and the architects. But it's all over but for the shouting.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the Board of the Jewish Federation of Delaware approved "Plan 9" last spring which allowed for the necessary borrowing to complete the project. We are still trying to raise money to complete the project and bring down the cost of borrowing. So if you know anyone who would like to

help, but hasn't been asked, please give me a call.

The building process started in 1999 with a feasibility study and it is truly amazing that the Building Committee met 56 times over the course of five years. I am, therefore, going to take the liberty of thanking all of the members of the Building Committee for a job well done. They are: Bob Aerenson, Paul Arougheti, Margie Arendt, Dorothy Bobman, Brad Cowan, Mark Delmerico, Susan Detwiler, Ted Dwyer, Miriam Edell, John Elzufon, Sherri Evans-Stanton, Jill Flambaum, Karen Friedman, Lisa Goodman, Alan Greenberger, Ira Horden, Robin Karol-Eng, Barry Kayne, Dan Kristol, Richard Levine, Katie Mancini, Fred Mannis, David Margules, Jeff Metz, Marlene Milunsky, Norman Monhait, Rogber Pernick, Robin Saran, Barbara Schoenberg, Robert Shuman, Jack Sparks, Richard Stat, Connie Sugarman, Helene Tanny, Steve Tanny, Bill Wagner, Ted Williams, and Dory Zatuschni.

I also want to thank Bob Pincus, President, Barry Kayne, Immediate Past President, and John Elzufon, Past

President; Leslie Newman, who chaired Agency Relations, Barbara Schoenberg, who chaired the Finance Committee, and Richard Stat, who chaired the Building Committee.

During my time in Delaware, it fell to the JFD to approve the project costs and estimate how much we could build based on our capital campaign proceeds. The two people that I would like to single out for their extraordinary services to the community for stewarding the resources of the capital campaign are: Barbara Schoenberg and William Wagner. An amazing amount of time and effort has gone into the finance side of this project and Barbara and Bill have devoted themselves to making sure we got this right.

Finally I want to thank the JFD staff who have spent an enormous amount of their time getting the bills paid, running the campaign, tracking the pledges, getting the signs made, etc. They are Diane Elser, CFO, Ruth Rosenberg, Campaign Director (formerly the capital campaign director), and Jan Johnson, bookkeeper; Judy Wortman, former Executive Vice President of JFD, and Seth Bloom,

Fundraising Consultant. These are the behind-the-scenes people who have done a great job and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

Come celebrate with us at the JFD Annual Meeting on June 15th, as we place mezzuzot at the doorposts of the Jewish Family Services, the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center, Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School and Albert Einstein Academy. We celebrate as a community the dedication of the entrances to our campus.

Also attending our Annual Meeting is Dr. Stephen Berk, our guest speaker from Union College in New York. I have worked with Stephen over the years and this is the first time we are bringing him to Delaware. Dr. Berk will speak about "Israel at the Crossroads". Believe me when I tell you that he is the best speaker you will hear all year. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments at our Annual Meeting and get a briefing from one of the most renowned experts on the politics of the Middle East. See you on June 15th at the Weinberg Campus at 7:00 pm.

Toni Young leads fact-finding mission to Ethiopia and Israel



Toni Young

Toni Young, past president of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, and chair of the United Jewish Communities Israel and Overseas Pillar, is leading a fact-finding mission this week in Ethiopia and Israel. These 65 representatives of UJC and the Jewish Federations of North America are examining conditions surrounding the thousands of Jews remaining in Ethiopia, and the absorption process for thousands more who have emigrated to the Jewish homeland.

The mission highlights Operation Promise, a campaign of UJC and the Jewish federation movement to raise \$160 million in new funding, most earmarked to support efforts to bring an estimated 20,000 Jews remain-

ing in Ethiopia to Israel, to help Israel absorb the new immigrants, and to support efforts to make them successful and productive citizens in their new country.

"Operation Promise is a heroic effort by North American Jewry to rescue thousands of Ethiopian Jews and bring them to Israel, where they and their families will have futures of opportunity," said Young, adding that "It is critical that we be there to assess conditions on the ground, the progress of the immigration process, and the programs in place to effectively absorb Ethiopian Jews into Israeli society. It is incumbent on all of us to bring the facts and stories home to our communities."

The delegation will travel from Israel to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, to the northwestern Ethiopian city of Gondar, back to Addis Ababa and north again to Israel.

On the final leg of their journey, they will accompany as many as 100 Ethiopian Jews on an overnight flight from Addis Ababa to Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, where the new immigrants will take their first steps on Israeli soil and begin the initial absorption process.

"Wherever Jews are in the world, we will help to bring them to Israel," said Joel Tauber of Detroit, national chair of Operation Promise and former chair of the UJC Executive Committee.

"We are talking about promises. It is our job as part of the Diaspora to get them to Israel and adequately integrate them into the Israeli main-

stream. Our job will not be done until that happens."

In Ethiopia, participants will visit with members of the Jewish community and examine living conditions and programs designed to feed, educate, and attend to the medical needs of Ethiopian Jews and to help prepare them for their eventual emigration to Israel.

These programs are provided through UJC's overseas partner agencies, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), in cooperation with the North American

Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ), which is currently transitioning its operations in Ethiopia to JAFI.

And in Israel, the delegation will visit new Ethiopian immigrants at JAFI absorption centers, and observe JAFI, JDC and Ethiopian National Project (ENP) programs, such as language immersion classes, educational programs and others highlighting the full spectrum of services provided new Ethiopian immigrants, with the support of the Jewish federation system, to ensure their smooth and successful integration into Israeli society.

ENP is a partnership of JAFI, JDC, UJC, the Israeli government and the Ethiopian community to facilitate absorption of Ethiopian immigrants into the Jewish homeland.

Of the \$160 million in new funding that is the goal of Operation Promise, \$100 million is dedicated to the Ethiopian Jewry issue. The remaining \$60 million is dedicated to poverty-stricken elderly Jews remaining in the former Soviet Union, and programs to build Jewish community and identity for younger FSU Jews.

To date, more than \$58 million has been raised for Operation Promise.

Slate of Officers, Board of Directors & At-Large Members of the Leadership Council 2006-2007

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*President's Appointment

Editor's Note: The Federation Board of Directors passed a new governance model this year, which goes into effect on July 1, 2006. The new model allow for the streamlining of our Board of Directors and the implementation of a new Leadership Council. It is projected that the Leadership Council will play a key role in charting a new vision for our community. Federation President Robert B. Pincus will discuss the new model in the next edition of *The Jewish Voice*.

UJC Fact

One-third of children evacuated from Hurricane Katrina now in government shelters suffer chronic ailments and half display emotional disorders, according to recent studies. Some \$950,000 from the UJC Disaster Relief Fund, supported by federations, and the UJA-Federation of New York, will purchase a mobile medical unit, ensure doctor care and medication, health education and counseling for child evacuees and their families.



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EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Celebrating the Gifts of Torah

"The ways of the Torah are ways of loveliness and all its paths are peace."

These are the words that rang in the ears of our ancestors as they began their ascent to Mt. Sinai. In preparation for this glorious gift from G-d, they ceased their infighting and resolved the petty disputes with their neighbors. When Moses presented his community with the holy tablets crafted during the first Shabbat after Creation, the men, women and children of Israel entered into a sacred covenant with Adonai.

During Shavuot, which begins on Thursday night, we renew this covenant by studying the Torah-the timeless tome that celebrates our people's unique relationship with our creator. Synagogues throughout the state of Delaware will host special services and study groups to connect "the people of the book" with this ancient yet eternally meaningful text. Required reading during this festival known as *Z'man Matan Torahteynu*-The Time of Giving Torah, is the Ten Commandments, the guidepost to behaving ethically and morally in today's spiritually troubling world.

Also a "must read" on this holy day is the Book of Ruth, which teaches the values of tolerance, loyalty and love. This Book is replete with possibilities for D'var Torahs relating this story of a brave woman who

aligns her fate with the land of her loved ones to the need for a united Diaspora which stands in solidarity with our beloved brethren in Israel.

As we go to press, Israel's newly elected Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is in Washington, D.C. meeting with President George Bush. This meeting is part of an international tour planned by Olmert to articulate to world leaders his plan to reach out to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in an effort to advance the Road Map for peace and his refusal to negotiate with the Hamas-led Palestinian cabinet until and unless this group decries terrorism and recognizes the right of Israel to exist. The Israeli PM also hopes to gain support for Israel's intent to unilaterally withdraw from parts of the West Bank if these negotiations fail.

We have an opportunity and an obligation to stand beside the people of Israel in their desire to seek shalom. May the teaching of Torah inspire us all!

Shabbat Shalom,

Lynn B. Edelman

Lynn B. Edelman
Editor



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ISSUE	FOCUS	DEADLINE
June 9	Weddings and Simchas	June 1

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Photo of the Week



President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert shake hands at the end their joint news conference at the White House on May 23, 2006.

Credit: Eric Draper/White House

This Week in Jewish History



Celebrate 350
Jewish Life in America
1654 - 2004

published in a Different Voice, the first book to argue that women's psychological development could not be understood by studying men.

This Week in Jewish History" is an introduction to 350 years of American Jewish life, brought to you by the Jewish Women's Archive. More information about each of the events described below can be found on JWA's website at http://www.jwa.org/this_week/week31.html

More information about each of the events described below can be found on the website of the Jewish Women's Archive at http://www.jwa.org/this_week/week19.html

May 22, 1899-The Clara de Hirsch Home for Working Girls opened its doors.

May 24, 1982-Psychologist Carol Gilligan

May 26, 1910-A bill requiring dance halls to obtain licenses from the state passed the New York State Assembly, largely as a result of the work of Belle Moskowitz, who later became the most important female political activist of her day.

May 26, 1964-Sylvia Rothchild's novel *Sunshine and Salt* was released.

May 27, 1935-New York City women, led by activist Clara Shavelson, picketed Manhattan butcher shops to demand a reduction in the price of meat.

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EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Arab population forecasts are wrong

By Bennett Zimmerman,
Roberta Seid and Michael L. Wise

"Arab demographic momentum" has become part of the Israeli lexicon.

Under this theory, the Arab sector, with its rapid population growth, will soon overwhelm the Jewish population, as "baby boom" generations of Arabs give birth to an even greater number of children. Arab births will accelerate even if birth rates remain stable or drop slightly because such a large number of women will enter their childbearing years.

But the evidence is now in, and it shows something surprising: Demographic momentum indeed exists — but among Jews, not Arabs.

Jewish births grew rapidly, from 80,000 per year in 1995 to 96,000 in 2000 and to more than 103,000 in 2003. The demographic outlook for Jews has been improving because the Jews' total fertility rate, or the number of children a woman is likely to bear over her lifetime, has been rising.

In 2005, the Jewish fertility rate reached 2.7, the highest of any advanced industrial nation. While the fervently Orthodox contributed

to this rise, secular Israelis and immigrants from the former Soviet Union also experienced increasing fertility.

When returning Israelis who have lived abroad — an average of 20,000 per year from 2001 to 2004 — and aliyah are added to the mix, the demographic weight of the Jewish sector grows even further.

In contrast, the absolute number of births in the Israeli Arab sector grew from 36,500 in 1995 to 40,800 in 2000. After rising slightly to a record 41,400 births in 2003, the number of Israeli Arab births fell in 2004 for the first time, back to 40,800.

The overall Israeli Arab fertility figure — which includes Muslim and Christian Arabs and Druse — declined from 4.4 in 2000 to 4.0 in 2004.

Israel recently enacted policies that are impacting the highest fertility sectors of the Arab population. In 2004, the government stopped granting stipends for every child born to a family, restricting them to the first two children. There was an immediate drop in Bedouin pregnancies.

The problem with demographic predictions is that they apply yesterday's or today's fertility rates to

tomorrow's forecast. However, earlier childbearing patterns may have little relationship to the number of children the next generation will have.

Applying Muslim fertility rates from the 1960s — nine to 10 births per woman — Israeli demographers had projected that Israeli Arabs would overtake Israeli Jews by 1990.

When the fertility rate dropped to 5.4 in the early 1980s and 4.7 in the second half of the decade, demographers applied this rate to their next series of forecasts. However, by 2005, the Arab fertility rate had dropped even further, echoing dramatic drops reported throughout the Middle East, where most nations display fertility levels of about three births per woman.

Furthermore, Israeli Arab women now in their 20s won't necessarily repeat the childbearing characteristics of their older counterparts. Israeli Arab women who are having fewer children in their late teens and 20s might also have fewer children in their 30s than do today's 30-year-olds, who still display the fertility characteristics of earlier generations.

In contrast, Israeli Jewish women in their 20s who are having more

kids might carry that choice into their 30s at rates above those of current 30-year-olds.

The practice of forecasting tomorrow's population growth from yesterday's rates is a common mistake. The United Nations' Population Division predicted in 2000 that the world's population would balloon to 12 billion people by 2050. Four years later they dramatically revised the forecast, and now predict that today's global population of 6.3 billion will plateau at 9 billion by 2050.

With constantly changing birth patterns, what's a forecaster to do? To have any relevance, a forecast must constantly be updated with the most current information and to reflect any changes in trend. The Gallup organization recently published the results of a survey that showed a convergence in desired family size among Jews and Arabs west of the Jordan River.

The ideal family size has fallen to 5.1 for Arabs in Gaza and 4.5 in the West Bank. The desired family size among both Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs is now 3.7.

While Gallup found no difference in the preferred number of children among younger Israelis, younger West Bankers, 15 to 19, believe an

ideal family should have 4.1 children, compared to relatives over 50 years old, who believe the ideal family should have 5.0 children.

The convergence in desired birth activity among Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs, and particularly among younger West Bankers, is likely to further impact the future demographic outlook for Israel and the West Bank, where Jews now form a two-thirds majority.

Demographers who concentrated on past patterns in the Arab population missed the evidence of a slowdown in the Arab sector and the demographic revolution occurring among Jews. By focusing on the past, forecasters anticipated demographic momentum in the wrong sector and produced an outlook that couldn't even get the present correct, let alone the future.

Bennett Zimmerman, Roberta Seid and Michael L. Wise are authors of "Arab Population in the West Bank and Gaza: The Million Person Gap," recently published by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies in Israel. "Forecast for Israel and West Bank 2025" debuted at the Herzliya Policy Conference in Israel and at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. The studies can be found at www.pademographics.com.

New Orleans still needs your help

By Allan Bissinger

We have never asked them to come, but come they have, from California, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Baltimore, Seattle and everywhere in between. The Jewish communities of North America have made it their collective cause to help sustain the Jewish community of Greater New Orleans through hands-on volunteering, by donating much-needed items, through the raising of funds for specific projects in the community, involvement of national religious movements and, of course, United Jewish Communities, which has and continues to be the single largest donor of financial assistance to the Jewish community.

And, for the best of all reasons,

the requests to help have not stopped. One day it is a temple in Philadelphia, the next an active donor from Los Angeles who simply wants to come down with her daughter and spend a few days being hands-on. And finally, it is a group of young adult leaders from United Jewish Communities, coming with gift cards in hand and with their muscle, removing debris from the homes of Jewish people.

But for all of this assistance, we stand eight months since Hurricane Katrina and the Jewish and general communities of New Orleans are still in need of volunteers for both hands-on projects and financial assistance. The community still has:

• A list of people who need their homes cleared of damaged con-

tents before they can begin to decide what their next step is.

• A seniors home that always could use some smiling faces alongside their residents.

• Shut-ins who need people to deliver "meals on wheels" and people to prepare that food.

And this is only the start of a long list of projects — physical and other — that a volunteer who wants to come down to Greater New Orleans can be a part of during a two-three day stay.

And for those who are not able to come down and help, for whatever reason, being here is NOT the only way you can contribute. Gift cards from major national retail chains are always useful for people who have lost everything — clothes, furniture, appliances, books. And

the sending of donations to the federation's Katrina Fund so that our organizations can operate and run programs for our members is equally as important as being here.

Not since when Jews got on planes and flew to Israel to help during the Six-Day War 1967 has the Jewish community of North America responded to a crisis in such a manner through donations and direct assistance.

It is appreciated beyond words. We can give you a simple "thank you," where a "thank you" is not enough, but that is all that we have to give. And we know that whether you come down and assist or help via a donation of one kind or another, you will touch and improve the lives of people whose lives have been shattered in more ways than

one can describe.

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans has set up a volunteer-specific webpage through www.jewishnola.com. On it is all of the information an individual or group will need to start the process — a letter of welcome, a planning guide, videos of the area and projects in the community that need your attention, as well as projects that also could use financial assistance.

For more direct information on how to get started, email Teri Gross at terigross@jewishnola.com. She will be happy to shepherd you through the process of hands-on volunteering or financial assistance through a donation.

Allan Bissinger is president of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans.

Friday Night Gloom

By Nechemia Meyers

After Friday night dinner, it is customary for Israelis to sit around their coffee table and discuss the events of the week. And last week most of the conversation in our home was about the report, later denied, that the Jews of Iran would be forced to put a yellow badge on their clothing.

Everyone sitting there agreed that this was horrifying, but most certainly possible. After all, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had already demonstrated his desire to walk in Hitler's footsteps as regards the Jews, and there is no reason to believe that he would forego a yellow badge.

The fact that this badge is not to be, at least in the meantime, does not eliminate our anxiety in regard to President Ahjadinejad's

plan to wipe Israel off the face of the earth, or the fact that most of the world doesn't seem unduly perturbed by his nuclear-powered plans.

Last Friday night, we and our guests finally turned away from Iran to other, generally frivolous topics. What could be done, several people asked, to make the forthcoming World Cup soccer games freely available to the Israeli public rather than forcing them to pay a special \$100 fee for the privilege of watching the matches. Also tossed around were estimates of whether the Israeli song to be performed at the Eurovision Song Contest by an African American living in Israel, had a chance of winning the competition.

Since the people at our coffee table were in their late 60's or early 70's, there was naturally

much talk about illnesses (everyone there has several) and grandchildren (all of whom, as you might expect, are bright and beautiful).

It is no less than amazing that Israelis are able to compartmentalize their thoughts. They feel threatened by the possibility of a future Iranian A-bomb and by "ordinary" Arab terrorism tomorrow and the next day. But young men and women go on planning their treks to India and Bolivia, while their parents go on trying to figure out how they can possibly raise the money they need to buy a new set of living room furniture or a late model car. Moreover, despite the looming Iranian threat, people are buying new apartments, the price of which has risen considerably in recent months, and attending cultural events in record numbers. During the next couple of weeks many

Israelis will be attending plays, dance performances, concerts and recitals by artists from Israel and a host of other countries within the framework of the Israel Festival. Also taking place during the same period are smaller festivals in Tel Aviv and Abu-Ghosh (where all the concerts are held in churches). And even without festivals, there are two dozen plays, a dozen

dance evenings and umpteen musical events in the Tel Aviv area alone.

Who, then is being realistic? Are they those who sit around on Friday night worrying about the Iranians and the Hamas or those who go on enjoying life and hoping that Ahmmadinejad's fate will be no different than that of an earlier resident of his country, Haman.

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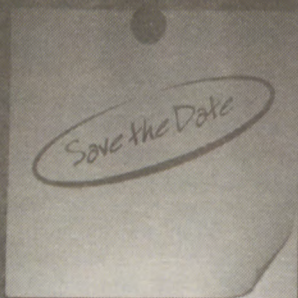
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INSIDE DELAWARE

Beth Emeth celebrates Centennial in Gala Style

Congregation Beth Emeth held its Centennial Gala Dinner Dance at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington on Saturday, April 29, 2006. It was a black tie optional evening that saw approximately 150 guests enjoy a cocktail reception followed by a catered dinner and dancing to the music of the Ken Ulensky Orchestra.

The formal part of the event began as soon as the guests were seated for dinner. It included welcoming remarks by Congregation President Richard Goldbaum, the presentation of beautifully mounted certificates of appreciation presented to past Temple presidents by Gala Committee Chair Leslie Goldenberg, a humorous commentary on the presentations by Dr. Henry Schenker, and some reflections offered by Rabbi Peter Grumbacher.

The past congregation presidents who were honored included Albert Green (1968-1972), Constance Kreshtool (1972-1975), Leo Zefel (1975-1977), Harold Snyder (1977-1979), Richard Karfunkle (1979-

1983), Henry Schenker (1983-1987), Manfred Katz (1987-1990), Lawrence Isakoff (1990-1993), Michael Joseph (1993-1997), Susan Rohrbacher (1997-2001), and Esther Timmeney (2001-2005).

Both President Goldbaum and Rabbi Grumbacher praised the wisdom and energetic service provided by these Temple leaders and both men spoke briefly about their vision of the future, alluding to the success of the current Beth Emeth Capital Campaign which has raised \$ 4 million of its projected goal of \$4.5 million. The funds are intended to expand and revitalize the Congregation's fifty year old home at 300 West Lea Boulevard in Wilmington for the next generation of congregants.

After these brief formal presentations, an evening of dining, music, dancing, laughter, and celebration ensued. Those who attended carried away a happy memory of this celebration marking the first hundred years of Beth Emeth's presence in our community.



Richard Goldbaum, president of Beth Emeth Congregation, enjoys a dance with his wife, Judy at the gala, staged in celebration of the synagogue's 100th anniversary.



Gala chairperson Leslie Goldenberg addresses the guests.

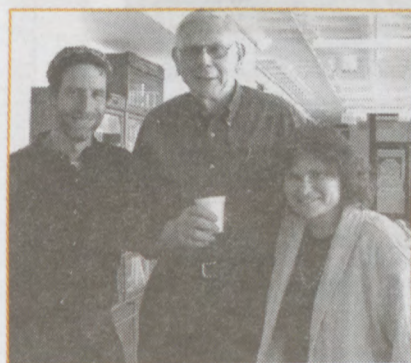


The past presidents of the congregation were honored for their leadership during the evening's program. Displaying their awards are: (from left) Albert Green; Constance Kreshtool; Sybil Zefel, accepting the honor for her late husband, Leo; Henry Schenker; Manfred Katz; Fran Isakoff, for her late husband, Larry; Michael Joseph; Susan Rohrbacher; and Esther Timmeney.



100th Anniversary Co-Chairs Leslie Newman and Esther Timmeney revel in the success of the centennial programming with a celebratory Hora.

Mazel Tov to Melton graduates



2006 graduate Murray Horn (center) receives congratulations from faculty members Rabbi Yitzhak Nates and Sara Cohen

After two years of studying together, thirteen students, who make up the fourth graduate class of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of Wilmington will gather together with their families, friends and faculty at the Siegel JCC on Thursday June 8th at 7pm for their graduation ceremony. The community is invited to attend.

Melton Director Lynda Bell, Melton Advisory Board Chairperson Lelaine Nemser, and faculty member Rabbi Yitzhak Nates will present the graduates with their certificates from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The guest speaker for the evening will be Sara Cohen, from Kibbutz Ketura in Israel. The graduating class has been fortunate to have Ms Cohen as the teacher of their 2nd year Dramas of Jewish Living class.

The evening will be a culmination of two years of enriching study, but the grad-



Members of the 2006 graduating class of The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of Wilmington gathered for a group picture. Seated (from the left): Miriam Edell, Charlotte Gluckman, Connie Kreshtool and Barbara Roisman. Standing (from the left): Martin Wagner, Eileen Conner, Alan Bleier, Nathan Barnett, Ella Zukoff and Mindy Fortin. Classmates Iris Tocker and Jennifer Young are not pictured.

uates agree that this is not an end to their study, but a significant entry into joining the Jewish conversation. Jewish learning is now a way of life for them and they look forward to the study opportunities that the Wilmington Melton Graduate Program has to offer.

The Wilmington graduates are part of 3000 Mini-School students in 60 sites around the world attending graduation ceremonies this spring. The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, a project of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is the largest pluralistic adult Jewish education network in

the world and the Wilmington site is proud to be a part of this ever expanding network.

In September of 2006, the Melton Adult Mini-School of Wilmington will expand its classes to the Newark area. New first year students will be able to choose classes on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings in Wilmington at the Siegel JCC, or Wednesday afternoons at Beth El in Newark. For further information contact Melton Director, Lynda Bell at 302-478-5660 or email lyndabell@siefeljcc.org

Save the Date

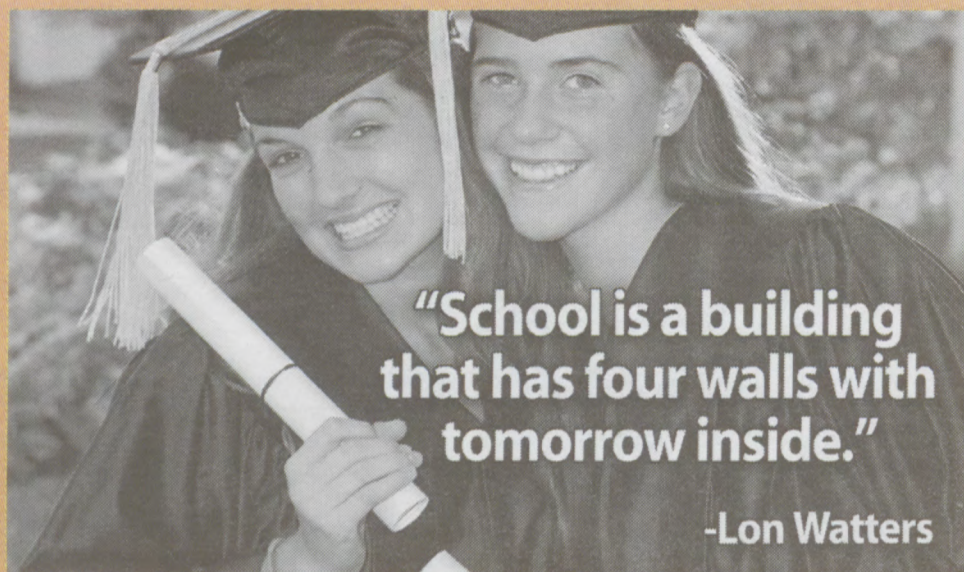
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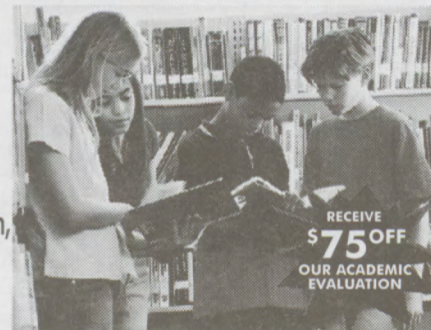
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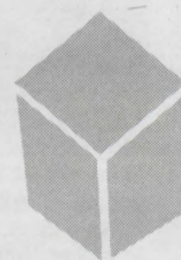
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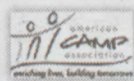
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GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

Nazi archive to open to researchers

By Toby Axelrod, JTA

For the first time since it was created after World War II, an archive in Germany containing tens of millions of documents on victims of Nazi persecution will be open for historical research.

The International Tracing Service's 11-member International Commission announced its decision last week after two days of intensive discussions in Luxembourg. At issue was how to protect the privacy of Holocaust victims and survivors.

The decision means that historians and others soon will have access to ITS files in Bad Arolsen, Germany, on more than 17.5 million civilians who suffered under the Nazi regime. Conditions for use and publication of information still must be determined.

Paul Shapiro, director of the museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, called it "an important accomplishment," noting that it "took many years to reach this formality."

The agreement now must be ratified in each of the commission's 11 member countries.

"This is an important first step," Shapiro told JTA. "We hope the next step won't take as long. And we want it to happen while survivors are still here with us."

Arthur Berger, senior adviser on external affairs for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, said the commission expects to set up an expert panel to go to the archive in late June to assess the technology there. A project to digitize the archive — many of the documents are in very fragile con-

dition — is more than half finished.

"We're trying to make the archive much more accessible to survivors and their families, and also give scholars access for the first time" to a huge amount of information, Berger told JTA. "It's going to take time."

Historians are sure to flood the archive with requests for a look at rooms full of dusty documents that may contain answers they've been seeking for decades.

"We are all waiting to see what the conditions for entrance are," said historian Beate Meyer of the Hamburg-based Institute for the History of German Jews.

"I heard that there are some files from the Hamburg Gestapo, and I am very interested to see those," she said, adding that the Nazi secret police "destroyed or burned all papers and documents in February and March 1945, so we have no files left in Hamburg. When we heard that there might be something in Arolsen, we were very excited."

In addition, she said, the archive is sure to contain information that would shed light on the "terrible odysseys of individual Jewish forced laborers through a lot of concentration camps."

This information should be accessible to the public, she said.

Until now, ITS files on individuals have been used almost solely to prove compensation claims. Other files, including historical background on concentration camps, have been open to researchers since 1996.

The archive also is preparing a data bank of the individual files for future research purposes.

"We are pleased that after 60 years, the millions of written proofs

for the Nazi mass murder against Jews will be open for researchers. It is a strike against all those Holocaust deniers," said Rabbi Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress' Policy Council. "The opening of the archives is necessary to continue research into this dark chapter of our history; it is necessary to preserve the past so future generations could learn a lesson from it."

Germany had announced its support for the move in April, dropping objections based on the legal obligation to protect victims' privacy. But regulations still will apply to the publication of information from the files that might be embarrassing or otherwise private — such as the nature of pseudo-scientific experiments performed on people, reasons given for the arrest of individuals, issues related to collaboration with Nazis, or sexual orientation.

Regarding victims and survivors, "you have to accept the privacy and right of someone who doesn't want to read in a book something about his sexual orientation or other such things," Meyer said.

German has strict privacy laws, but the laws go much further to protect the identity of former Nazis and their families. Historians often must remove the names of alleged perpetrators — aside from the well-known ones — from published research.

"If they are persons of public interest, you can publish almost everything about them," Meyer said. "But if they were not sentenced in a trial, you can't publish the name."

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum had charged in March 2006 that the ITS and the International Committee of the Red



German Chancellor Angela Merkel lays a wreath in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance, commemorating the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, in Jerusalem on Jan. 30, 2006, during her first official visit to Israel. Credit: Brian Hendler/JTA

Cross, which administers the archive, had failed to cooperate with the ITS International Commission board, which voted unanimously in 1998 to open the archives.

All 11 commission members — Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom and United States — voted in favor of the move. Also present but not voting were representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The archives were created in 1943 when the international section of the British Red Cross began collecting data on missing persons at the behest of Allied forces. Bad Arolsen now houses more than 50 million card files on persecuted civilians.

In recent years, the ITS issued nearly 1 million certificates enabling people subjected to forced labor to obtain compensation. Since 1945, the archive has sent more than 11 million responses to inquiries from former victims or their families.

Jewish group sets sights on Africa

By Larry Luxner, JTA

Fifty years ago, Israel began a program of assistance to Africa that would endure for decades.

The American Jewish Committee continued that tradition earlier this month, inaugurating its Africa Institute, which will promote economic development in the world's poorest continent.

"We need to understand Africa and engage it," said the committee's executive director, David Harris, speaking at the AJCommittee's 100th annual convention in Washington to 500 people, including the ambassadors of a half-dozen African countries.

One of them was George Obiozor, Nigeria's ambassador to the United States. A former envoy to Israel, Obiozor, said Nigeria — Africa's most populous country — has had strong ties with Israel dating back to the days of David Ben-Gurion.

"In Nigeria, there's a deep-rooted admiration for Israel, a little state that turned itself into a veritable breadbasket and an island of prosperity and freedom," he said. "Israel recognized its need for Africa's friendship and kept giving aid until the relationship collapsed in 1973."

"Today, we have a visible presence of Israelis in many areas, particularly construction, tourism and telecommunications. I would like to invite the Jewish community to come to Nigeria and help us. It's good for Africa, and it's good for Israel."

Stanley Bergman, chairman of the

Africa Institute, told JTA the initiative was hatched in 2001, following a meeting between Jewish leaders and South Africa's president, Thabo Mbeki.

Last September, Bergman and Eliseo Neuman, the institute's director, traveled to Lagos to meet with Nigerian leaders, including President Olusegun Obasanjo. One result of that meeting was a visit by Nigerian Cabinet Minister Obiageli Ezekwesili to Israel in March.

Since then, said Bergman, the institute has written to the U.S. Department of Transportation, supporting Virgin Atlantic's bid for direct flights between the United States and Nigeria. It also has initiated a dialogue with Nigerians in the United States, who are said to number more than 1 million.

"We have a lot to learn from Africa, but there are many stereotypes to be worked through," he said. The AJCommittee "has a history of promoting pluralism, human rights and interreligious dialogue. We believe that what's good for all minorities in any country is good for the Jewish people as well."

Bergman said that by 2040, "perhaps half of the American population will trace its roots to the developing world. The demographics are changing, and the Jewish people need to reach out to the developing world, which will be so important to the future of the United States."

The American Jewish Congress also has an Africa program, under the



South African President Thabo Mbeki, seated right, and Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, seated left, meet with local Jewish leaders in Pretoria, South Africa, in May 2006. Standing from left: Sidney Lazarus, national vice-chairman SAJBD, Abe Abrahamson, honorary life president South African Zionist Federation, Avrom Krengel, national chairman SAZF, Michael Bagraim, national chairman SAJBD, Zev Krengel, national vice-chairman SAJBD, David Saks, acting national director SAJBD. Credit: Elmond Jiyane

auspices of its Council on World Jewry.

"We've been devoting extensive efforts on building relationships with African countries and their diplomats in the United States," said Marc Stern, the AJCongress' assistant executive director. "On our side, we raise questions about Israel, and they raise questions of their own. There

are pressing human needs in Africa. Whenever we can, we're helpful to their causes as well."

The Africa Institute's formation coincides with prominent protests over the continued genocide in Sudan's Darfur region. Ebrahim Rasool, premier of South Africa's Western Cape province, added that "While Darfur is a human tragedy of

the worst kind, we must ensure that this does not become the defining image of Africa."

This, he said, requires a renewed effort to bring peace to trouble spots such as Angola, Congo and Somalia, all of which have been impoverished by years of civil war.

Yehuda Paz, chairman of the See Jewish Group, page 12

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ISSUE**

June 9th
Weddings &
Simchas

Deadline: June 1st

PERSPECTIVES

Hoops bring hope for Mid-East peace

By Rina Wagman
Special to the Jewish Voice

"Yasher Koach." "Shukran." These are the sounds of Israeli and Palestinian children playing basketball together. Rarely are these sounds of camaraderie and cooperation heard in the Middle East. However, Sean Tuohey's program, Playing for Peace, is set on making these sounds the norm.

For years, Tuohey has been using basketball to narrow the cultural divides between whites and blacks in South Africa and between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland. Recently, in the summer of 2005, Tuohey expanded Playing for Peace to bring together Israeli and Palestinian children in the Middle East. The program brings the children together to play basketball and learn from each other. The children range from ten to fifteen years old. Playing for Peace focuses on this age group because the children are old enough to play the game but are still impressionable. If the children stick with the program until they are sixteen—as many do—they are trained to coach the younger children.

The Israeli and Palestinian children play on mixed teams. Therefore, the children are encouraged to work together to play the game as well as to understand their English speaking coaches. This common objective is the foundation on which bonds between the Israeli and Palestinian children are built.

In addition to the connections made on the court, all participants are required to participate in weekly educational sessions on teambuilding and conflict resolution. Tuohey takes pleasure in the Israeli and Palestinian children's sharing of their stories and discussing the adversity they have faced. He says, "I like difficult discussions. I think that's how you make this world a better place."

Although Tuohey's program has received much positive feedback—most recently from Former President Clinton when announcing plans for the 2006 Clinton Global Initiative—it has also encountered some opposition. Playing for Peace is not accepted by the Palestinian basketball league and is not permitted in the West Bank

unless the program stops working with Jews. Parents have pulled their children out of the program, kidnappings have been threatened, and fights have erupted between Israeli and Palestinian children.

Tuohey works against this negativity by offering the children incentives for good behavior, like trips to professional basketball games. The Israeli and Palestinian children form even closer bonds by spending time together off of the court.

Everywhere it has gone, Playing for Peace has been a great success—bringing children together through the universal language of basketball. Tuohey says that, if you believe in yourself, people will see what you're doing. People have certainly seen what he is

doing. Each week, Tuohey receives over one hundred e-mails from people interested in working for his organization. The coaches do not have to be basketball players. Tuohey says, "What we need are more creative and courageous people."

In particular, Tuohey himself has been creative and courageous. From money collected from thirty family friends to start a non-profit, Tuohey has produced a program that challenges societal norms and fosters understanding between people who have been taught hate for generations. However, he has not stopped there; Tuohey always strives to improve his program. His next step is for schools to take ownership of the program. Tuohey hopes for the program to

become a 50/50 partnership between the United States and the country he is working in. Wherever the future of the program lies, Tuohey will continue to use basketball to work miracles—narrowing cultural divides and eradicating hatred in the Middle East and around the world.

Rina Wagman, the daughter of Sylvia and Mark Wagman of Wilmington, represented Delaware as one of two state scholarship winners at the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Conference in Washington, D.C. this spring. She met Sean Tuohey, a 2005 Free Spirit Honoree, at the conference. For more information about the Free Spirit Conference, visit www.freedomforum.org. To learn more about Playing for Peace, visit www.playingforpeace.org.

JEWISH GROUP

Continued from page 10

Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development, said the AJCommittee should work closely with the Israeli government, which has been helping African countries since 1955, when it formed a partnership with Ghana.

Calling such efforts "tikkun olam"—a Jewish concept that means, roughly, repairing the world—he added, "The issue of development is the cardinal issue facing the world in the 21st century, a world in which one out of every six people live on less than \$1 a day, a world in which

46,000 children die every day of diseases related to bad water and bad food. And the front line of development is Africa."

Princeton Lyman, director of Africa policy studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, urged the AJCommittee to translate its efforts into constructive relationships.

"People tend to think about Africa more as a charity case than as a partner, and that's a mistake. There is so much going on over there," he said. "What this institute can do is establish relationships over the long term that will make a difference and pro-

mote the development of Africa."

Phillip Carter, director for West African affairs at the U.S. State Department, praised the AJCommittee's decision to focus on Africa, and he called on its members to consider investments in everything from cut flowers to wine exports.

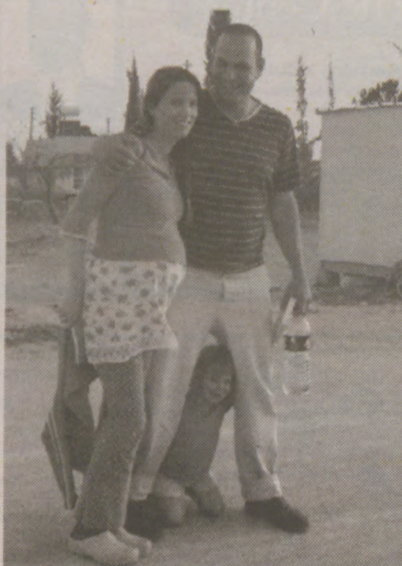
"The Africa Institute will be able to foster a greater understanding of opportunities for the United States. Right now, there's an Africa brand. That's what the world sees. They don't see Mali or Cameroon," said Carter, who has served at U.S. embassies in Madagascar and

Gabon. "I encourage the institute to use its resources to encourage American Jews to travel to Africa."

Rasool said something must be done to stop Africa's brain drain.

"This is one of our greatest problems. It's not that Africa is a lost cause but that Africa is losing its best intellectuals, technicians and practitioners in law and health care," he said. "We've got to create the conditions of peace for them to return. That's why investment in education and technology transfer is absolutely critical, and in this regard, the Africa Institute can play an important role."

A message from Ronald S. Lauder - # 2 in a Series



Negev residents enjoy their surroundings in Israel's next frontier.

have traveled all over the world, seen great cities and mesmerizing landscapes, but there is no sight more breathtaking than the Negev desert.

Jewish National Fund has embarked on Blueprint Negev, a long-term vision to develop the Negev into a hospitable environment that will become home to 250,000 new people over the next five years. We move forward in this international \$500 million campaign with Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, Daroma, the Israeli government and the Or Movement. JNF plans include building reservoirs, creating infrastructure for new homes, identifying job opportunities, and attracting industry, while preserving the desert environment. JNF is creating a philanthropic bank to assist in financing loans for people moving to the Negev.

Our plan is to build 25 new communities and strengthen existing communities across

the Negev. Here's an update on our work in the northeastern region.

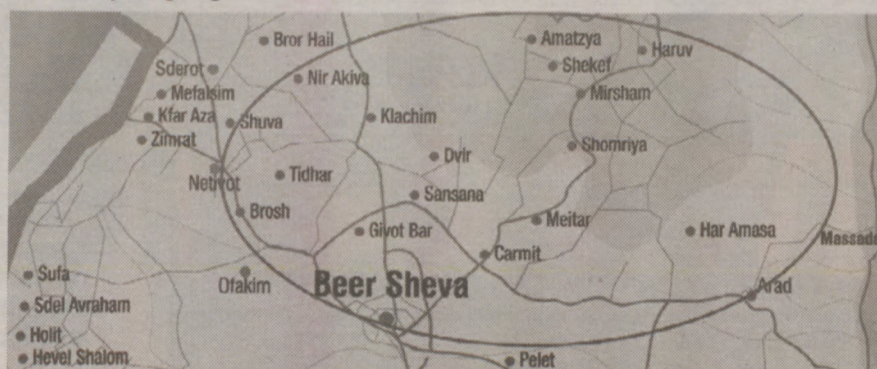
At Haruv, 22 families have founded a community with the goal of growing to 210. Their vision is one of religious and secular Jews living side by side, sharing community resources and activities. JNF is providing temporary homes, the infrastructure for permanent ones and a playground for Haruv's children.

At Kibbutz Shomriya, established in the 1930's, only 13 families remain. The Israeli government approved a plan to turn over the kibbutz to 60 families evacuated from Gaza. Another 90 families will follow. JNF has cleared the land and is preparing the infrastructure for the permanent homes. The current kibbutz members will move to nearby Kibbutz Dvir where they will welcome additional families when the infrastructure is completed.

Once a military outpost, Sansana has been refashioned with the help of JNF as a new Negev town. It currently has 220 people and looks to expand to 2,200. Living in temporary JNF-sponsored caravans, residents have already found work in the area or study at nearby Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheva.

Giv'ot Bar, which literally means 'hills of grain,' has plans to grow to 500 families with JNF's continuing partnership. At Carmit, JNF is working with Nefesh B'Nefesh to establish an English-speaking community where Diaspora Jews can change the quality of life and image of the Negev.

There's a lot more to this story. To learn more about the communities of Blueprint Negev, visit www.jnf.org/negev.



Northern Negev planned communities map

This is no mirage. This is our vision: Blueprint Negev, David Ben Gurion's dream made possible by JNF, its partners and you. Be Israel's 21st century pioneers. Join me today.

Sincerely,

Ronald S. Lauder, President, Jewish National Fund
email: RLauder@jnf.org

P.S. To get a free DVD about our work in the Negev, visit www.jnf.org/negev or to learn more visit www.jnf.org or call 888-JNF-0099.

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SWEET SHAVUOT

Recipes: Using nature's bounty for Shavuot

By Linda Morel, JTA

Phyllis Glazer recalls a morning in the 1970s when she, her mother and three sisters packed a picnic lunch and drove to a kibbutz in an old Citroen.

"It was one of those beautiful sunlit spring days in the hills of Menashe, in the Galilee," says Glazer, author of "The Essential Book of Jewish Festival Cooking" (HarperCollins Publisher, 2004).

"The wagons rolled in, heaped to the brim with freshly harvested wheat. Baskets overflowing with homegrown fruits and grains were laid out on the table, and the entire community was singing. Even the dairy cows were decorated with wreaths. It was the festival of Shavuot, and the whole kibbutz was celebrating."

In her mid-20s, Glazer had just moved to Israel. Standing there among the kibbutzniks, she was amazed by the joy of this bucolic custom.

"This was a world apart from any Shavuot we had ever celebrated in America," she says, recalling her childhood in Belle Harbor, a seaside village in New York's Rockaways, where no one mentioned the holiday's relationship to nature.

"Harvest festival?" Glazer muses. "Shavuot had always been the time" when God presented the Torah to the ancient Israelites. For that reason, on the kibbutz she and her family saw another side of the holiday: "We realized we were witnessing the Bible brought to life."

Shavuot falls right after the barley harvest, celebrating the late spring wheat harvest. Initially, it entailed a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Glazer explains. "Our ancestors brought wheat and barley, and the very first fruits unique to different areas of the country, but primarily revolving around the Seven Species."

Years ago, Glazer wrote a biblical cookbook and found her favorite chapter concerned the Seven Species: grapevines, figs, pomegranates, olive oil, barley, wheat, and honey (actually dates). These seven foods, so tied to Shavuot, are cited in the Bible as most characteristic of the Land of Israel.

"My research taught me that the Seven Species filled the ancient Israelites' basic needs and were the foods and beverages that provided medicinal, symbolic and religious significance."

For Shavuot, she created dairy recipes, such as yogurt cheese, cream cheese and butter — all prepared as they were in Biblical times.

"I learned to make Biblical Cream Cheese from a little old Bedouin woman in the Galilee," she says, explaining that this easy recipe replicates the flavor of an actual cheese that our ancestors savored. Once you try it with bagels and lox, you'll never settle for store-bought cream cheese again.

"Spring Green Salad with Tangerine and Fennel Seed Vinaigrette reflects the fresh green

leaves and fennel fronds that blanket Israeli hillsides every spring," she says. This salad is a medley of lettuces, plus asparagus and snow peas, drenched in a heavenly citrus dressing.

Spinach Feta Quiche with Fresh Basil is reminiscent of spring's deepest green. This tasty dish can be an hors d'oeuvre or entree.

"I originally developed my Double Ginger Granola Cheesecake recipe for a dairy company at Shavuot," Glazer says. She recommends going for broke and preparing this confection with Biblical Cream Cheese. "It's better to have a small piece of a really good cheesecake than a larger piece of a fat-free, low calorie, artificially sweetened impostor made with stabilized cream cheese."

Phyllis Glazer wrote "Jewish Festival Cooking" with her sister Miriyam Glazer, a Conservative rabbi and literature professor at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles.

While both sisters contributed historical information, Miriyam researched the biblical, talmudic and modern religious texts to understand how and why Jewish holidays evolved. She was also an enthusiastic sous chef and recipe tester.

Phyllis Glazer feels fortunate to live in Israel, where she relishes the local produce. "I think it's more authentic to celebrate the holidays with the same seasonal foods our biblical ancestors did, and it's a lot more meaningful."

Recipes from Jewish Festival Cooking by Phyllis Glazer

BIBLICAL CREAM CHEESE

2 pints dairy sour cream (Use a full-fat product that doesn't contain stabilizers, available in Middle Eastern stores)

1/2 tsp. salt (optional)

Cheesecloth

Line a colander with a double layer of cheesecloth and place colander over a bowl. Pour the sour cream and salt into the strainer and allow to drain for 1 hour. Gather up the edges of the cheesecloth and tie them, lightly squeezing out as much moisture as possible.

Hang bag over the kitchen sink, and leave for several hours or overnight. For a softer-spreading cheese, check after 3 to 4 hours. Refrigerate until the desired consistency is reached.

Yield: 3 1/4 cups

SPINACH-FETA QUICHE WITH FRESH BASIL

Quiche Crust

1 1/4 cups whole-wheat flour

1 tsp. Salt

3/4 cup cold butter

1 egg yolk

1/3 cup plain yogurt

Filling

1 pkg. (10 ounces) frozen chopped spinach

6 small scallions, including 2-inch green tops, chopped

1 cup crumbled feta cheese

1/2 cup cottage cheese

2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

3 Tbsp. chopped fresh basil

1 large garlic clove, minced

1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

4 eggs

1/2 cup milk

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Prepare crust:

Put the flour and salt in the bowl of a food processor. Cut butter into chunks and add to the flour. Process in on/off pulses, until coarse crumbs form. In a small bowl, beat together the egg yolk and yogurt, and add to the flour mixture while processor is running.

Remove dough and shape into a neat ball. (The dough should not be sticky. If it is, knead it briefly on a floured surface.)

Flatten the ball and, using thumbs, press into a 10-inch pie plate, distributing the dough equally. Flute the top. Use a fork to pierce the bottom and sides of the dough, so it will not rise.

Bake the crust for 10 minutes, or until just lightly browned. Remove from the oven and let cool slightly.

Prepare the filling:

Thaw the spinach, and put in a wire mesh strainer to drain. Press and squeeze out any excess liquid.

In a food processor, chop the scallions and add the rest of the filling ingredients, except for the spinach. Process for 30 seconds or until blended.

Add the spinach and process briefly in on/off pulses.

Pour the filling into the partially baked crust and bake for 10 minutes.

Lower temperature to 350 F.

Bake an additional 10 to 15 minutes, or until the quiche is set and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out moist but not wet.

Serve hot or at room temperature.

Yield: Serves 6 as an entrée
SPRING GREEN SALAD WITH TANGERINE AND FENNEL SEED VINAIGRETTE

Salad:

8 ounces mesclun (or a combination of greens like arugula, radicchio, mache)

1 pound romaine lettuce

8 ounces fresh asparagus

4 ounces snow peas, tips trimmed and strings removed

Vinaigrette:

1 cup freshly squeezed tangerine juice

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar

1 tsp. Salt

1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper

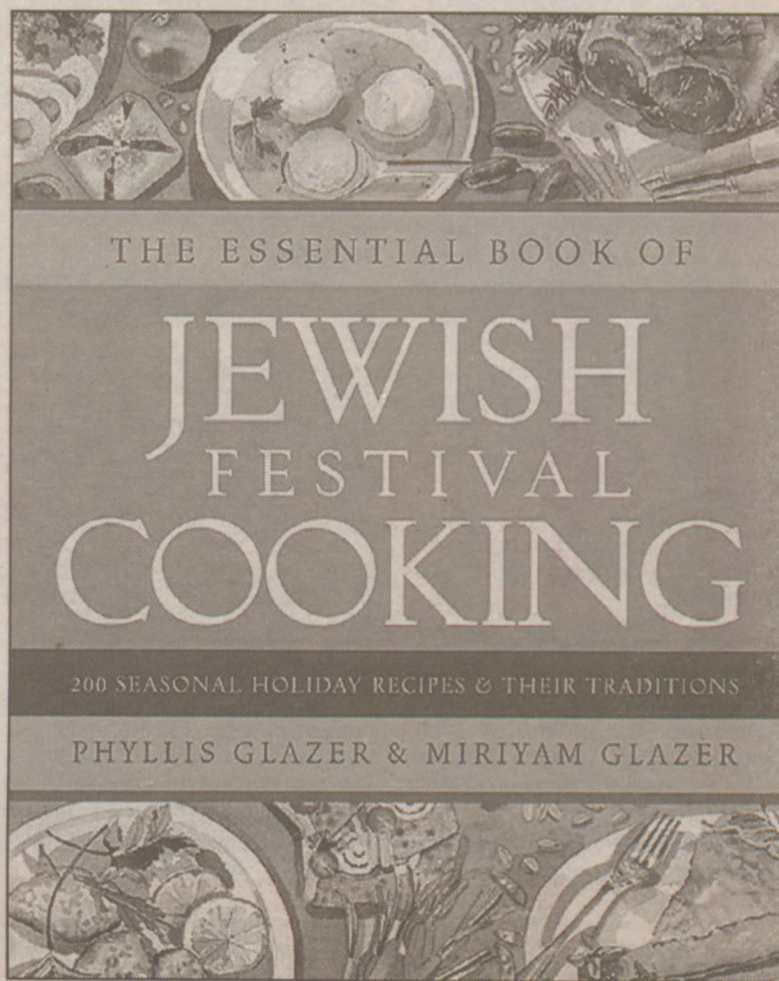
1 tsp. fennel seeds

Rinse mesclun and dry thoroughly. Wrap in paper towels, place in a plastic bag and chill until serving.

Remove and discard coarse outer leaves from the romaine. Rinse, dry, wrap and chill.

Remove the stems from the asparagus tips and save for another use. Blanch the tips in just enough boiling, lightly salted water for 1 minute. Remove and drain. Blanch the snow peas for 2 minutes. Rinse briefly under cold water to stop the cooking process. Slice snow peas crosswise in half.

In a small bowl, whisk together



all vinaigrette ingredients, except for fennel seeds. Toast fennel seeds in a dry skillet over a medium flame until fragrant. Add to vinaigrette. Taste and adjust seasonings.

In a salad bowl, mix chilled greens and lettuce with the asparagus tips and pea pods. Pour in half the dressing and toss gently to moisten the leaves. Serve immediately, passing the remaining dressing.

Yield: 6-8 servings
DOUBLE-GINGER GRANOLA CHEESECAKE

Granola Crust:

Parchment paper

Butter for lining pan

3 cups granola

1 Tbsp. light brown sugar

1/2 tsp. Cinnamon

1 tsp. ground ginger

1/2 cup butter, melted

Filling: (Remove ingredients from fridge 1 hour before preparation)

2 lbs. cream cheese at room temperature. (Philadelphia brand, or use part commercial brand with Biblical Cream Cheese.)

2 tsp. vanilla extract

1 cup sugar

4 eggs

2/3 cup heavy cream

Topping:

1 cup dairy sour cream

2 Tbsp. Sugar

1/4 cup finely chopped crystallized ginger

Position a rack in the upper third of the oven. Preheat oven to 350 F. Cut a circle of parchment paper to line the bottom of a 9-inch spring-form pan. Affix to the bottom with a little butter. Cut a 3-inch wide strip of parchment paper and affix to the side of the pan with butter.

Crust:

In a food processor, finely grind the granola and transfer to a bowl.

Add sugar, cinnamon, ground ginger and melted butter.

Mix well and press evenly into the bottom and halfway up the side of prepared pan. Use the bottom of a wide drinking glass to press evenly and firmly into the bottom and corners of the pan.

Chill in refrigerator.

Filling:

In the meantime, in the bowl of a standing electric mixer, on low speed, gently beat the cream cheese, vanilla and sugar, until smooth, scraping the bottom and side of the bowl often to make sure cheese is blended.

Add eggs, one at a time, beating lightly after each addition.

Pour in the heavy cream and mix briefly.

Pour batter into chilled crust and level out the top with an offset spatula.

Bake for 60 to 70 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, but slightly moist. Don't overbake. (The center will sink and the cake will shrink slightly from the sides of the pan.)

Turn off heat and let cake sit undisturbed in the oven for 20 minutes. Remove and cool to room temperature on a wire rack. (During cooling, avoid drafts, which cause cracking.)

Topping: Lower oven temperature to 300 F.

In a small bowl, beat sour cream and sugar and pour over the top of the cake.

Level with a small offset spatula and bake for 5 minutes.

Remove from the oven and let cool completely.

Sprinkle with crystallized ginger and chill cake until firm.

Cover with plastic wrap after top has firmed up, and chill at least 4 hours.

MILESTONES

In Memoriam

GOLDSTEIN

Selma Goldstein, age 84 of Ridgewood, died Tuesday, May 9, 2006.

She was a long-time member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and a past president of the local Chapter of Hadassah. The wife of the late Louis Goldstein, she is survived by her sons, Steven of Washington, DC and Ronald of Cleveland, OH; daughter, Karen Lipsy of Rockville, MD; 5 granddaughters; and 2 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were May 12th at Schoenberg Memorial Chapel, Wilmington with interment in Machzikey Hadas Cemetery in Minquidale.

Contributions in her memory would be appreciated to Hadassah, 9 Devon Ct., Wilmington, DE 19810.

HARRISON

Sarah Alexander Harrison, age 17 months, beloved daughter, sister, granddaughter and niece, passed away peacefully in her parents' arms at home on Saturday, May 13, 2006. She is survived by her loving parents, Jay and Kerry Harrison and her brother, Dakota.

Graveside services were held on

May 16 in Haym Salomon Memorial Park, 200 Moore Road, Frazer, PA. The family would appreciate donations in Sarah's memory to Helping Hands Ministries, Inc. ("Sarah's Miracle Fund"), Bryan T. Green, President, 135 Main Street, P.O. Box 336, Tallulah Falls, GA 30573 or www.hhmin.org

SCHWEIDEL

Sheldon Schweidel, age 82, died peacefully on Wednesday, May 17, 2006.

He was a native of Brooklyn, NY and an Army Air Corps veteran. Mr. Schweidel was a Board Certified Diplomat in Clinical Social Work. During his 30 year career with the State of Delaware, he held numerous clinical and administrative positions. He was named "Social Worker of the Year" in 1968 by the DE Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. In 1976, he was appointed State Director of Mental Health, a position he held until 1983. He was the first non-psychiatrist ever to hold this position in the state of Delaware. His commitment to enhancing the quality of mental health issues included work to coordinate commu-

nity-based services and to enhance treatment for patients at Delaware State Hospital. After his formal retirement in 1990, he served as mental health consultant for the Delaware County Prison in Thornton, PA for the next 10 years. He enjoyed baseball, reading, travel and spending time with his family. He will be remembered for his warmth, sweetness and his abundant sense of humor.

Predeceased by his wife, Nancy H. Schweidel on February 28, 2006, he is survived by 4 children, Deborah Hebbel (Sean) of Wilmington, DE, Robin Lewis (James) of W. Collingswood, NJ, Ellen Munson of Burnsville, MN and William Schweidel (Marianne) of King of Prussia, PA; as well as 2 step-daughters, Laura Lyon Slaymaker (Samuel) of Lancaster, PA and Kristine Lyon Adkins (Steven) of Hockessin, DE. He also will be missed by 12 grandchildren, Adam, Jeremy and Micah Hebbel, Rachel and Leah Lewis, Samantha, Daniel and Timothy Schweidel, Samuel R. "Trip" and Virgil Slaymaker, and Kendall and Haley, Adkins.

The family wishes to thank Vitas Hospice and the staff at Sunrise Assisted Living of Wilmington, DE for their excellent and compassion-

ate care.

In honor of his memory, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

NACHAS NOOK

Rabbi Bernhardt receives honor

Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, who served for 11 years as Head of School at Albert Einstein Academy, was honored on the occasion of her 18th anniversary of Rabbinic ordination during a May 25th morning program at the Gerrard Berman Day School, Solomon Schechter Day School of Northern New Jersey in Oakland, N.J.

Rabbi Bernhardt was named Head of School at this Bergen County facility which serves students from ages 2 through 8th grade in September, 2005.



Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt

DELAWARE NEWS NOTES

JFS receives national award

Jewish Family Services of Delaware has recognized by the Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies as recipient of its coveted KOVOD Award in print and electronic publications. The presentation was made at the AJFCA's 34th Annual Conference, April 30-May 2, 2006, in San Jose, CA. The AJFCA is a membership organization of over 145 Jewish Family and Children's Agencies, and specialized Jewish human service agencies, in the United States and Canada. Member JFS agencies provide social services to children, adults and the elderly in the Jewish and general community.

JFS was cited for "Excellence in Major Fund Raising Publications." The winners of the KOVOD Award competition were determined by an independent panel of four judges who evaluated submissions from agencies in the United States and Canada.

Each year, three or four categories are selected for the competition. Past categories for the Kovod Award, established in 1993, have included Agency Newsletters, Annual Reports, General Fund Raising Materials, Special Events Brochures, and Endowment Brochures.

The successful agencies' communication and marketing skills were prominently displayed in the Delegates Lounge at the AJFCA's San Jose Conference for all participants to view and compare, with copies made available.



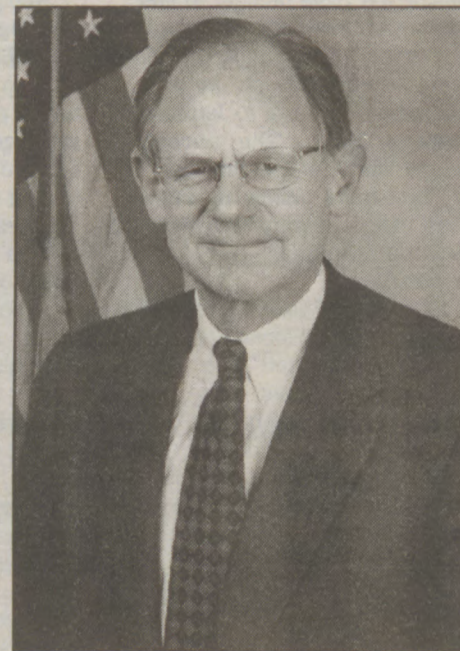
JFS Executive Director Dory Zatuchni and Board President Steve Tanny accept the 2005 Kovod Award, presented to the agency by the Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies.

Congressman Castle comes to AEA

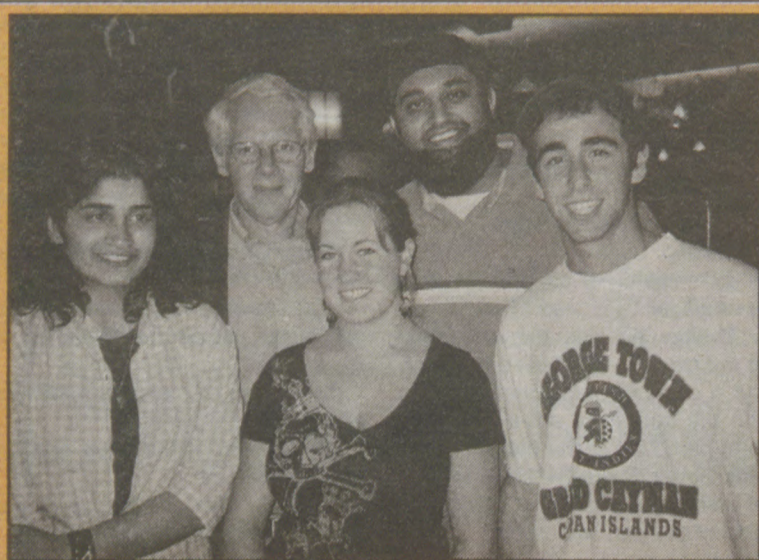
Congressman Michael Castle visited third and fourth graders at the school on their 'Special Persons Day' where they brought grandparents and other family members, to present books awarded through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Albert Einstein was one of four schools in the state to receive the classic books on the theme of "Becoming American." Castle read to the students and spoke with them about Benjamin Franklin, the subject of one of the books, which is appropriate because Castle is a direct Franklin descendant!

Castle also spoke with the teachers, family members and students about the American tradition immigration and discussed the countries where everyone's family originated.



Congressman Michael Castle



Mirza, President of the Muslim Student Association; Meredith Grabek, President of Hillel Student Life and Michael Mann, Programming Coordinator at Hillel Student Life.

ONE MUSLIM. ONE JEW. ONE STAGE.

Two Very Funny Guys-Live from the University of Delaware was a unique evening of comedy sponsored by Hillel Student Life and the Muslim Student Association. Rabbi Bob Alper (back row left) has performed all over North America, in London and at The Hollywood Improv. He is an ordained Reform rabbi who once served as spiritual leader of a Philadelphia area synagogue. Azhar Usman (back row right) has been featured on ABC Nightline, CBS Sunday Morning and has been called the world's most famous American Muslim comedian. Raised in Skokie, Illinois and educated as a linguist and a lawyer he's been called an "honorary Jew."

Posing with the two comedians are University of Delaware students Sania Mann, Programming Coordinator at Hillel Student Life and Michael Mann, Programming Coordinator at Hillel Student Life.

Photo and caption by Joel Glazier

Schoenberg Memorial Chapels

In the hallowed tradition of our faith...

a dignified setting with reverence for customs and observances in strict accord with family wishes.

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COMING EVENTS

Congregation Beth Shalom invites you to participate in a camping weekend. Join Beth Shalom for "Shabbat in the Forest" June 16-18 at Belleplain State Forest in Woodbine, New Jersey. The weekend will include Shabbat services, led by Rabbi Michael Beals, nature walks, pot-luck dinners, a campfire/kumsitz, and plenty of time to enjoy swimming, boating, and hiking in the park. Campsites, which can accommodate two tents and two cars, are \$20/night, and yurts (large screened tents with wooden floors and two sets of bunk beds) are \$30/night. Two breakfasts and one lunch will be provided by Beth Shalom for an additional \$9/person. Contact Dina Lipschultz (762-4341 or dina.lip@verizon.net) or Roland Roth (654-4462 or education@bethshalomwilmington.org) for information or to register.

A Must for Memorial Day-Café Tamar once again will provide outstanding performances centered on a Jewish wedding theme. The entertainers will take the stage on Monday, May 29, 2006 at 6:30 PM at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth synagogue in Wilmington. Tickets are on sale through the synagogue office, (302) 762-4023 and from the performers - Adults \$10.00, Children (under 13) \$5.00. Refreshments are included in the price of admission. You definitely don't want to miss this exciting event, after all - It's a Simchah!

Melton Offers Early Registration Discount-Registration is now open for the Florence Melton Adult Mini School 2006/07. Beginning on September 20, 2006, classes will be offered at the Siegel JCC on Wednesdays 9:15-11:30am and Thursdays 7-9:15 pm., and at Beth El in Newark on Wednesdays 1:30-3:15 pm.

Melton is a two-year curriculum meeting 2 hours per week for 30 weeks each year. The curriculum was developed by a team of scholars and educators at the Melton Center for Jewish Education at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The cost is \$450 per year plus a small materials fee. REGISTER BY JUNE 30TH AND SAVE 10%.

Contact Melton Director, Lynda Bell, at the Siegel JCC 302-478-5660 or email lyndabell@siegeljcc.org

AKSE News Notes - Come support Cantor Joel as he once again sings the National Anthem for our own Wilmington Blue Rocks, June 22nd at 7:00 PM. (Cap Day!) Tickets are \$9.00 and are available by calling AKSE at 762-2705.

Join the many people who are now enjoying the great Kosher fresh fish from Dawson's Sea Food of Wilmington. If you would like to receive a weekly notice by E-mail of what Kosher fresh fish is available and prices, please send a note to Cantor Joel at jkessler48@comcast.net.

Parents of North American Israelis to Celebrate -The Philadelphia Chapter of PNAI-Parents of North American Israelis will hold their annual closing luncheon on Sunday, June 4th at 11:30 a.m. The event, which features Israeli dancing and greetings from Israeli Consul General Uri Palti, will be held at the Bala Golf Club, 2200 Belmont Avenue, Philadelphia. The cost is \$24 per person. To reserve your slot, please send a \$24 check to Lucyle Pollock, 93 Rodmor Road, Havertown, PA 19083.

AKSE History Is Ongoing Project-The Historical Committee of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth is looking for information to further update the history of AKSE. "We will be keeping a

current record for the future of our congregation as well", stated Barbara S. Keil, Historian for AKSE.

If you have any information about, or memorabilia from past years, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Information for the Historical Committee can be left at the synagogue office for the committee, or mailed to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802.

12 Friends Needed by JFS!-To share volunteer hours each month on an ongoing basis. Basic office responsibilities and tasks as assigned. Any assistance is appreciated - no experience necessary! Please call Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Driban today at (302) 478-9411 for further details.

The Jewish War Veterans of Delaware need new members, young or old and patrons. It is extremely important that this Jewish Organization continue. Please call Len Markovitz at 302-234-4785 or Milt Slovin 302-478-4888. You do not have to be a veteran to join.

Longwood Gardens' summer concert series kicks off on Tuesday, May 30th with guitarist Allen Krantz. Krantz will perform a classical guitar concert on Longwood's Conservatory Terrace at 7:30 pm. On Saturday, June 3, folk trio Simple Gifts performs music from many lands at 2:30 pm. Later that evening, the Brandywine Ballet graces Longwood's Open Air Theatre stage at 7:30 pm with a classical ballet performance. At 9:15 pm, visitors will enjoy an illuminated fountain show set to music in the Main Fountain Garden.

Admission to these performances are included in the regular Gardens admission of \$14 for adults (\$10 on

Tuesdays), \$6 for ages 16-20, \$2 ages 6-15 and free under age 6. The Gardens are from 9 am until one hour after dusk when the Conservatory and outdoor gardens remain open for our evening concerts and fountain displays. Longwood Gardens is located on U.S. Route 1, three miles northeast of Kennett Square, PA, 12 miles north of Wilmington, DE, in the historic Brandywine Valley. For information or a complete schedule of events call 610-388-1000 or visit online at www.longwoodgardens.org.

Aligning Your Desires - a unique weekend for Jewish couples, will take place at Elat Chayim Retreat Center in New York's Catskill Mountains, July 7-9. The weekend is designed for married or committed couples who seek more connection, passion, and meaning in their relationships within a Jewish framework. Workshops will be led by Rosalie and Efraim Eisen, the founders of Basherte, Inc™, and have presented more than 150 programs for Jewish adults throughout the US, Canada, and Israel. Rates vary depending on accommodations, and include gourmet, kosher meals. Pre-registration for the weekend is required.

Information/Registration: (800) 398-2630. info@elatchayim.org. info@basherte.org

JFS SPONSORS INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

The Healing Circle workshops - Led by Rabbi Michael Beals in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center of JFS will be briefly postponed while new dates and times are scheduled. If you are interested in attending future Healing Circle programs, please contact Lisa Driban at JFS at 302-478-9411, ext. 21.

Bereavement Group-free and open

to the community. Group meets the first and third Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center. JFS staff leader on the first Thursday, on the third Thursday, Rabbi Sanford Dresin of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth will lead the program accompanied by a JFS staff member. Call 302-478-9411 to register.

Women in Transition Group - \$20/session or \$75 for entire program. This Discussion group is open to women of any age who are contemplating or experiencing changes & choices in their lives. Join JFS staff member Nona Smolko, LCSW on Wednesdays, 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Health Center. Call 302-478-9411 to register.

Computer Maven Workshop-This program is open to older adults in the community teaches basic computer skills such as e-mail and how to surf "the Net" (Internet). Cost: \$25/JCC members, \$35/non-members. For more information, contact Scott Michels at 302-478-9411, ext. 18.

Tsiyon, Israel's Jewish Cultural Tapestry in Song and Music, will be presented on Sunday, June 4, 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the campus of Drexel University, 33rd and Market Sts. in Philadelphia, PA. This program, presented by the University's Judaic Studies program, is free and open to the public. Songs will be sung in Yiddish, Hebrew and Ladino and will be sung by tenor Richard Lenatsky and the Congregation Beth-Am Israel Choir. Concert goers will be treated to a rare appearance by Divahn, an all-female ensemble of musicians and singers specializing in contemporary Mizrahi and Sephardic sounds. For further information, call 215-895-6388.

SHAVUOT REFLECTIONS

By Teddy Weinberger

The celebration of Shavuot is an excellent occasion to reflect upon Jewish culture, Jewish identity, religious Judaism, and secular Judaism. I would like to start with the following question: How many secular Jews outside of the state of Israel will not be going to work on Friday June 2 because of Shavuot? I would imagine that the answer is a number very close to zero. In Israel, the answer to this question is radically different because Shavuot is a national holiday. The only people working will basically be those involved in emergency services, and those involved in the food industry and in recreational activities. But now, instead of proceeding with my usual bright-eyed Zionism (where I

speak about what it means to me as a religious Jew to be living in a country where my religious holidays are the country's national holidays), I want to ask: What is the import of the fact of Shavuot being a national holiday? That is, if one is not already a Jew for whom religious tradition means something, does it matter that the sixth day of Sivan is a national holiday?

In answering this question, we can use the following definition: To be a secular Jew is to pursue Jewishness by ethnic identification apart from religious identification. One's Jewishness is thus expressed through the food, music, languages, literature, and art of the Jewish people. It's been sort of taken for granted that Israel is the only place on earth where one can

be a secular Jew. I am starting to wonder if this has any meaning any more—or ever did.

I'm now questioning the received wisdom that says that a person's Jewishness will mean something to him or her simply because of the fact that they live in Israel, simply because of the fact that, for example, the country closes down on Shavuot. It's now clear to many people that evidence supporting this thesis is very sketchy.

Here is a test to see whether or not Shavuot is able to order and affect the experience of an Israeli Jew: If an Israeli finds themselves abroad, will it matter to them whether or not they celebrate Shavuot in some way? My hunch is that the extent to which an individual celebrates Shavuot will be

directly tied to the religious elements and customs of the holiday that speak to them—studying Jewish texts, eating dairy foods, and rejoicing in "first fruits."

If Shavuot in Israel typically consisted of a long vacation weekend at the beach, it's highly doubtful that an Israeli living in the United States will take off from work on Friday June 2, especially when they just had a vacation on Memorial Day.

What this means is that Shavuot as a long vacation weekend only affects a person's experience like any long weekend that they might take. If the fact that it is Shavuot is incidental, then Shavuot does not affect a person's experience, then that person's identity as a Jew remains unaffected by this holiday.

Israelis who are concerned with providing some meaning to Jewish identity are gravitating toward the activities of the rapidly-growing number of organizations that encourage the exploration of Jewish tradition and culture among the general (primarily non-religious) Israeli population. Here, for instance, is what was on the billboard that greeted people upon entering my town on May 21: "The Center for Jewish Identity, in cooperation with Givat Ze'ev's JCC, invites you, kindergartners and first and second graders, to a story and activity hour today at 4:30 p.m." I don't know what went on during that hour, but I and many Israelis feel that many such hours are needed all across the state, for all Jews of all ages.

Happy Shavuot.



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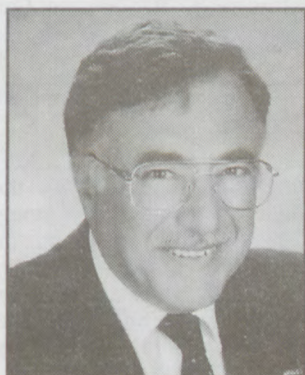
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