

Jewish Historical Society  
 Mr. Julian H. Preisler  
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## Delaware Jewish History Has A Good Home

### Judge Keil Speaks At JHSD Event

By SYLVIA G. LEVEN  
 Special to *The Jewish Voice*

Between forty and fifty people of all ages helped the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD) celebrate its twenty year anniversary at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation (AKSE) on November 12, 1995. With help from such dedicated people as the first Archivist of the JHSD, Ms. Myrtle Kirkland, the first president of the JHSD, The Honorable Judge Charles Keil, the present Archivist Mr. Julian H. Preisler, and the numerous members, and friends of the Society.

Several words were given by Helen Goldberg and the Honorable Judge Charles Keil. Judge Keil has recently announced his intention to retire from the bench after a distinguished career as a Delaware jurist.

The celebration then climaxed with a short slide presentation on the growth and history of the Jewish community in Delaware. The slide presentation was sponsored by the JHSD, narrated by Linda Cutler Smith and showed a host of pictures that brought back many memories to everyone. The evening concluded with cake, coffee, and best wishes for 120 more years of continued success.

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware which was founded in 1975 continues to collect and preserve information and records relating to the history of the Jewish community and Delaware Jews. The JHSD is more



Standing - left to right: Bonnie Helfand, Linda Cutler Smith, Barbara S. Keil, Judge Charles Keil, Learnon Podolsky, Leon Tanzer, Julian H. Preisler. Seated - left to right: Isadore Silverman, Jackie Berger, Helen Goldberg, Bea Hirshout. These are past and present JHSD Board members who attended the anniversary celebration. (Some members are missing). (Photo retouched by Theresa Garrison).

than old papers, books and collectibles. The organization serves as a resource center for information on preservation and conservation of documents and photographs. It is a location where individuals and families can place

a variety of items that tell the story of their families, and their lives.

The future of the Jewish Historical Society depends on the continued support of the entire Delaware Jewish community. With each

piece of family or personal memories shared with the Society, or the more money collected by donations and grants, which enables historians to correctly preserve those artifacts that have been so graciously and lovingly put into our Jewish History books for safekeeping, the clearer the picture of Jewish History here in the First State.

Please note that the Society is always accepting new material for the archives such as photographs, invitations, records, documents, publications, letters, memorabilia, unusual artifacts, and audio-visual materials relating to Jewish life in Delaware throughout the years. When you have any invitations to send out, send out one more, to the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware. Those interested in preserving Delaware's Jewish history should look through your family photo albums for material appropriate for the JHSD collection.

The materials in the archives of the JHSD are open to individuals and organizations interested in research, genealogy, or just the love of learning about Delaware's Jewish past. The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware is located at 505 Market Street Mall in Wilmington.

For more information on the JHSD's hours of operation, to find out how to become a member of the Society, or wish to make a donation or history material contribution, please contact Mr. Julian Preisler at 655-0365 or 764-8328. In addition to serving as JHSD staff archivist, Julian Preisler is the author of the book *Pioneer American Synagogues*. Portions of the proceeds of *Pioneer American Synagogues* supports the Jewish Historical Association of Delaware.

## Intel Chooses Negev Town For New Computer Chip Plant

### Land of Milk and Honey and Silicon

by TERESA STRASSER

*Jewish Bulletin of Northern California*  
 SAN FRANCISCO, (JTA) — Intel Corp., the Santa Clara, Calif., company whose logo adorns most of the world's personal computers, is going inside Israel in a big way — making the largest investment ever made there by a foreign firm.

The Silicon Valley chip manufacturer has received Israeli government approval to build a \$1.6 billion semiconductor plant — expected to generate \$1 billion in annual revenues — in the Negev development town of Kiryat Gat.

The new plant will "increase the perception in the world of Israel as a leading high-tech country," said Nimrod Barkan, Israel's consul general in San Francisco.

The Negev Desert plant also will provide a shot in the arm to the economy of Israel's south, with most of the workers expected to be drawn from the area between Ashdod and Beersheva. It will employ 1,500 people directly, and provide work for more than 3,000 others through contractors and suppliers.

"This is not just a manufacturing plant. It calls for the employment of highly qualified people," Barkan said.

Intel, whose Pentium chips are hooked into

75 percent of the world's personal computers, first established a foothold in Israel in 1974, alongside major computer-hardware makers such as Apple and IBM.

Currently, Intel Israel, one of the largest high-tech firms with 1,500 employees, maintains a development center in Haifa, a micro-chip-processing factory in Jerusalem, a networking software development center in Neanya and a regional sales office in Tel Aviv.

The new plant will produce Flash Memory, which provides easily re programmable memory for computers and other systems, and retains data even when the computer's power is turned off. Construction is expected to take 20 months, and production is scheduled to start in three years.

Dov Frohman, general manager of Intel Israel, said the Jewish state's skilled work force was 90 percent of the reason Intel decided to establish the plant there. Israel beat out competition from many countries and almost every state in America.

Intel's Silicon Valley spokesman, John Thompson, said the company's long history in Israel was also a key factor in choosing to build the new plant there.

"When we look to locate a facility, we have two choices: Start a new site or pick a site where we already have some infrastructure. We prefer to build where we have already been successful," he said.

Intel Israel's exports last year totaled \$354 million, making it one of the country's top 10 exporters.

Frohman, who is also a vice president of Intel Corp., said the output per employee will be \$450,000 per year when the plant is at full production - 10 times the average in Israeli industry today.

The planned facility will be the first memory chip plant constructed by Intel in 15 years. The only other such plant is in Albuquerque, NM.

When the Israel plant is completed, Thompson said, Intel finally will "have another source of production for these chips, so we can serve a large, growing customer base."

Kiryat Gat, a development town halfway between Tel Aviv and Beersheva, is expected to be transformed by the plant, which will consume more electricity than the entire town does now and will dominate the town economically.

A 150-acre site has been allocated to the facility. In the first phase, more than 1 million square feet of floor space will be built.

As an incentive, Intel reportedly will receive \$608 million in grants from the Israeli government, with payments spread over the next 10 years. The sum represents 38 percent of Intel's overall investment.

Israeli officials hope that the new plant will not only help the Negev blossom economically but will encourage more international investment in the country.

Bakan, citing recent investments in Israel from companies such as Southwestern Bell and Office Depot, predicted that Intel's growing presence inside Israel will do just that.

"If a company the size of Intel is making such a long term commitment to Israel, it's proof that Israel is a country where investment is worthwhile," he said.

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## BRIEFS

Shimon Peres and Leah Rabin  
Headline N.Y. Peace Rally

A rally in support of the government and the people of Israel in their pursuit of peace will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10, at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The rally will begin at 10 a.m.

Scheduled speakers will include Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Leah Rabin, Elie Wiesel, and Rabbi Israel Lau, the Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Israel. President Clinton also might attend, if his schedule permits.

Musical performers Aviv Geffen, David Broza, and Barbara Streisand as well as ten children's choirs who will sing "Shir Ha-Shalom" will all make appearances, too.

The Israeli Consulate for the Mid-Atlantic states urges everyone to come to the rally to express your solidarity. Admission is free-of-charge.

For groups of more than 25 people, please phone Susan Green in the JCRC of New York City - 212-983-4800, ext. 125 - to reserve your tickets and arrange parking. This must be done no later than Dec. 6.

For security reasons, no signs or banners are permitted. Groups should plan to arrive one hour before the event. If you need additional information, please call either Susan Green at the above number or Rick Black, Israeli Consulate, 215-546-5556.



At the HIAS Awards Dinner this fall former congressman and cabinet member Jack Kemp receives a humanitarian award from Martin W. Wenick, HIAS Executive Vice President (Left to Right).

## Brandeis Gets Coexistence Gift

NEW YORK (JTA) — Brandeis University has announced the establishment of an endowment fund to promote tolerance and understanding between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel.

The endowment will provide complete support, including tuition, room and board, and travel expenses, for an Israeli Jew and an Israeli Arab each year of their undergraduate studies at Brandeis, said Jchuda Reinharz, Brandeis president.

"These scholarships are an important way for Arabs and Jews to learn about themselves and each other while studying at Brandeis," said Alan Slifka of New York. Slifka set up the endowment — he Sylvia and Joseph Slifka Israeli Coexistence Endowment Fund — in honor of his parents.

Slifka is co-founder and president of The Abraham Fund, which provides support to organizations in Israel working to foster Jewish-Arab coexistence.

Reinharz called the endowment an investment "in the lives of the Arab and Jewish Israeli students who will return to their nation imbued with a deeper understanding of one another."

## Pollard Becomes Israeli Citizen

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jonathan Pollard was told last week that he had been granted Israeli citizenship.

Ten years to the day after Pollard was thrown off the Israeli Embassy grounds in Washington and arrested by American agents on charges of spying against the United States, the State of Israel has granted him citizenship.

Israeli leader Shimon Peres is expected to request that Pollard's life sentence be commuted when he is expected to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on Dec. 11.

**Volunteers Needed**  
**Call Judy S. at JFD:**  
**427-2100**

The JEWISH VOICE

## NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

Spiritually Finds Its Voice As  
Focus of Leadership Assemblyby DEBRA NUSSBAUM  
COHEN

BOSTON, Nov. 20 (JTA) — It felt like a summer camp reunion as a thousand Jews, crowded into an overflowing hotel ballroom, swayed arm-in-arm while musician Debbie Friedman led them in singing a prayer asking God for healing and strength.

The setting, however, was a reunion of a different kind — the annual gathering of Jewish communal leaders at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations.

The experience of joining together with other Jews and singing and praying together "was like being cleansed inside," said Marci Erlebacher, her eyes wet with tears.

"We need to get in touch with our Judaism," said Erlebacher, who volunteers as vice president for community relations at the Syracuse, N.Y., Jewish Federation.

This year's general assembly marked the first time that lay leaders and staff members of Jewish communal organizations across North America focused on experiencing — and not just talking about — the shift that inspires Jewish continuity.

The shift in focus came just as the North American Commission on Jewish Identity and Continuity issued its final report, urging stronger communal attention to Jewish-identity building programs.

The convention, held here at the Hynes Convention Center Nov. 15-17, was like an enormous Jewish continuity idea fair as communal leaders debated their priorities: funding Jewish education, strengthening Jewish culture, creating more programs to attract young adults and intermarried families, or providing human services.

Many communities are grappling with painful decisions about what to take funding away from in order to support new initiatives intended to connect more Jews with the life of the community.

The 1990 National Jewish Population Survey found that more than half of adult Jews do not belong to or regularly participate in synagogues, Jewish community centers or Jewish federations.

The attempt to counter this trend comes as communities face a shrinking pool of dollars and increasing social service needs.

"The overriding issue for (local) federations is how do we make sure there are resources for all" these plans, said Jonathan Woocher, executive vice president of the Jewish Education Service of North America, known as JESNA, which works closely with federations on continuity-related issues.

Jewish federations are the local fund-raising umbrella groups that run — and fund — many of the Jewish communities' social service, educational and cultural programs.

As priorities change, the power and influence of those who have long enjoyed running the Jewish community is also at stake, said speakers at several sessions at the assembly.

"Being in partnership (with other organizations) means giving up power," warned Miriam Yenkin,

chairwoman of the Jewish Education and Identity Committee in Columbus, Ohio.

"Change is dislocating, unnerving. We had better be ready to lose positions, portfolios and power," agreed Shoshana Cardin, chair of the United Israel Appeal.

"People my age should get out of the seats and give people under 40 the control," exhorted Cardin, the white-haired, longtime leader of Jewish organizations.

But amid the mood of trepidation, there was something else overarching the debate and feeding a sense of unity of purpose: connection with Jewish spirituality, which was a major focus on the most popular working sessions at the gathering.



Debbie Friedman who performed at the CJF General Assembly will perform in Delaware on January 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Beth Emeth. For information call (302) 427-2100.

Four institutes, each containing several workshops and panel discussions, were offered to the 4,000 general assembly delegates: financial resource development; public social policy and human services; Israel-Diaspora relations; and Jewish identity and continuity.

G.A. organizers expected about 600 participants in the Jewish identity and continuity track, but were inundated by requests from hundreds more who wanted to join. Although enrollment was closed at 850, at least 1,000 crowded into overflowing ballrooms to sing, to dance and to pray together.

Although continuity has been high on the agenda of the CJF gathering for several years, this year's program emphasized hands-on connection with "doing Jewish."

"So often our only connection to the Jewish community is through politics," said Erlebacher. "For a long time I said that politics is my spirituality, I felt turned off by synagogues. Now I've learned that there is a place for me spiritually in Judaism and that I just have to seek it."

According to Richard Siegel, executive director of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, "The most important part of this journey must take place when we return home," when Jewish organizational leaders can implement "doing Jewish" in their own programs.

Additional sessions themed around "Jewish Hope, Jewish Joy, Jewish Culture: Invigorating the Jewish Community" were crowded. A lec-

ture on the Torah portion of the week, given by internationally renowned teacher Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg, was packed.

Rabbi Simkha Weintraub expressed shock that two sessions devoted to Jewish spiritual healing were included in the hectic G.A. schedule — a first for the convention — and that the sessions which he and others led were overflowing with eager participants.

"Jewish continuity is coming of age," said Weintraub, rabbinic coordinator at the National Center for Jewish Healing. "This buzzword has reached a content level that is at once deeply personal and deeply communal."

Delegates from the host federation, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, wore buttons at the G.A. espousing "Torah and Tzedek," or justice.

Anything so religiously rooted "wouldn't have been on a federation button a decade ago," said Carolyn Keller, director of the Boston federation's commission on Jewish continuity, speaking at a session devoted to synagogue-federation partnerships.

Many of the continuity themes discussed in the G.A. sessions are dealt with in the report of the North American Commission on Jewish identity and Continuity, which was released at the convention.

The 88-member commission consisted of rabbis, academics, educators and lay leaders from across the religious spectrum, who came together six times in the last two years to formulate a plan for the Jewish community as a whole.

The report, titled "Lechadesh v'lekadesh," or "To Renew and To Sanctify: A Call to Action," endorses principles that are already being adopted in many local communities and being planned in many others.

They include building community wide partnerships and investing in intensive Jewish education, youth programs and young families.

"This was not a commission that discovered new ideas that no one had thought of before," said JESNA's Woocher, who staffed the commission. "The most remarkable thing, given the breath of the group, is that there is a lot we actually agree on."

One of the major points of agreement is the necessity to fund and make available to all Jews an intensive Jewish education.

"It's very hard to talk about prayer in synagogues when there isn't Jewish literacy," said Barry Shrage, president of the Boston federation, at a session titled "From Vision to Action."

"You have to have the tools in order to be spiritual," agreed Deborah Lipstadt, an associate professor of Modern Jewish Studies at Emory University in Atlanta.

Many sessions included time devoted to studying parts of Torah. Such sessions served as a way of realizing in an immediate and powerful way the big-picture goal of many communities.

The assembly's focus on youth and Jewish continuity was in strong con-

Continued on page 27

## EDITORIAL

## Peace Instead of Pieces

There comes a time when divisions should be mended and factions should look for common ground. Now is such a time. Today much of the Jewish community is divided against itself. A drift away from the middle is but one cause of this growing split. A lack of tolerance has been a factor. A harshened rhetoric has widened the divide.

In America where Jews are already separated into branches we are splintering into twigs. In Israel where Jews have divided between religious and secular they now fracture over a thousand other divisive concerns. Jews are separated over religious differences, political philosophies, economic class, gender issues, and regionalism just to name a few. Where we once said "We Are One" we now think of labels for ever more specific subgroups.

In the several weeks since the tragic assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, fingers have pointed at Orthodox views as if all were at fault. It is important to note that not all Orthodox Jews opposed the peace process. Most of those Orthodox Jews who opposed the peace process refrained from hate-

ful rhetoric which led to the poisoned atmosphere preceding Rabin's death. All Orthodox Jews should not be held accountable for the shameful individuals who advocated violence against Rabin, called him a traitor, huing him in effigy or compared him to Hitler.

While deploring stigmatization of the Orthodox generally, we should also speak out against those of all persuasions who have engaged in verbal demonization and harsh rhetoric. Opponents of the peace process in the U.S. and in Israel should advance their point of view in a civil manner respectful of other Jews and the Democratic institutions of both countries. Civil discourse is the foundation of the Talmud which is full of different views exchanged respectfully. Can't we advance a similar model for today's discourse?

It is well worth noting that Delaware is blessed with a lack of significant divisions and inflammatory rhetoric within our Jewish community. However, we can not ignore the splits among our people elsewhere. The best way of keeping our Jewish family strong is through the promotion of Shalom Bayit, or peace in the house of Israel.



BARAK AND ARAFAT: BARCELONA, Spain - Israel Foreign Minister Ehud Barak shake hands with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in a Barcelona hotel early November 28, at the end of the first day of an historic two-day conference of European Union and Mediterranean states. RNS Photo/Reuters

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE		
for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice		
DEADLINE	FOCUS	ISSUE
Dec. 7	Hanukkah Issue	Dec. 15
Dec. 21	Party Guide/ Camp Issue	Dec. 29
Jan. 4, 1996	Expanded Business Directory/Camp Planning	Jan. 12, 1996

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## Keeping Our Jewish Family Strong 1996 UJA/Federation Campaign January 12-21 Schedule of Events

### Keeping Our Jewish Family Strong

#### New Castle County Federation Shabbat

**Friday, January 12th**  
Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth Congregation ... 8:00 p.m.  
Guest Speaker: Eviator Manor, Consul General, Israel  
Event Chairpersons: Perry and Sheila Goldlust.

#### Special Shabbat Study Session Dialog with Community Rabbis

**Saturday, January 13th**  
Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth Congregation ... 4 p.m.

#### Chai Dinner Sunday, January 14th

Winterthur Museum... 6:30 p.m.  
Guest Speaker: Wolf Blitzer, Military Affairs correspondent, CNN News  
Event Chairpersons: Dr. Michael and Amy Leviton

#### Dover Federation Shabbat

**Friday, January 19th**  
Beth Shalom... 8:00 p.m.  
Guest Speaker: Linda Scherzer, CNN News  
Event Chairpersons: Sue Salkin and Steven Schwartz

**Community Event ... Debbie Friedman in Concert**  
**Saturday, January 20th**  
Congregation Beth Emeth... 7:30 p.m.  
Event Chairperson: Rabbi Larry and Samantha Malinger

#### Delaware's Super Sunday

**Sunday, January 21st**  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
New Castle County Chairperson: Debbie Sadoff

### UJA FEDERATION CAMPAIGN

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## OPINION

## You Can't Always Get What You Want

By ELLEN S. MEYER

"When a man taketh a wife, and marrieth her, then it cometh to pass, if she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some unseemly thing in her, that he writeth her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house..." Deuteronomy, Chapter 24

The Torah is immutable. Halakha is immutable. Throughout the ages Jews have been bound by the strictures of Jewish law. As my grandparents would have said, "Schver zu zein a Yid!" (It's hard to be a Jew!)

Yet throughout the ages the immutable word of G-d has been subject to interpretation. The Mishnah and Gemarah tractates are replete with minute dissections of the intent of G-d and in those dissections, a way was often found to shade the apparent meaning of G-d's immutable law. The law was not changed, merely our understanding of its intent.

Then why is it still understood that only a Jewish male can give a Get? As we approach the commencement of the secular third millennium, in a world in which women are now to be regarded as equal to men, why is this power vested only in the man?

I practice divorce law. I have seen the giving of the Get used to coerce and blackmail. I have heard the horrifying tale of an Orthodox man who refused to give a Get to his abused young wife until she was past childbearing age. The traditional Jewish woman risks, at best, severe negotiating disadvantage and at worst, emotional scarring and financial ruin by the current interpretation of G-d's intent.

Why, I asked rabbis of varying Jewish denominations, do we still interpret Halakha to mean that only a man can give a Get?

A session with Rabbi Leonard Gewirtz was a mini-course on the history of Jewish divorce. A retired Orthodox rabbi, Rabbi Gewirtz is not only learned, but extremely sympathetic to the problems of the agunah, the woman who wants to end a marriage, but whose husband refused to give her a Get. As Halakha is im-

mutable, Rabbi Gewirtz sees no way to alter G-d's decree. Rabbinical scholars throughout the ages have accepted only one interpretation — that it is the man who must give the Get. (Or was it, I wonder, that there was no interest on the part of male scholars to find a way to reinterpret that severe stricture?)

The Orthodox clergy has concocted clever ways to circumvent the harshness of the giving of the Get. For example, Rabbi Gewirtz has each prospective groom sign a prenuptial agreement stating that in the event that the wife wants a divorce, he will give a Get. Orthodox congregations have been known to deny participation in ritual and publicly embarrass in other ways those of its members who refuse to give a Get.

The Conservative movement believes that ritual cannot be changed, but its legal effect can be altered. That is why Conservative rabbis will accept the interpretation that a man's refusal to give a Get is evidence that the marriage was entered into with reservations and since the proper intent did not exist, an annulment can be granted. So, too, for the past 20 years the Conservatives have used in their ketubahs the "Lieberman clause", similar to Rabbi Gewirtz's prenuptial agreement, containing language mandating the giving of a Get.

The Reconstructionist movement, with its emphasis of egalitarianism under Jewish law, follows the Reform movement in that both recognize secular law and consider the couple divorced upon receipt of a civil divorce. However, in the past few years the Reform movement has developed a "Ritual of Release" to accommodate a perceived need for a religious end to marriage. Unlike a Get, the Ritual of Release can be initiated by either party.

Then why, if one is not an Orthodox or Conservative Jew, is it important for the wife to receive a Get upon ending a marriage? Because if the individual then wants to marry a more traditional Jew, the marriage cannot occur. Any subsequent marriage will not be recognized in Israel, for example, which fol-

lows Orthodox law. Any children born of those unsanctified unions will be momzers (bastards), unable to marry traditional Jews under Halakhaic law.

Once animal sacrifice was part of the religious ritual — now no longer. Why can't a justification be found for reinterpreting the giving of a Get? Animal sacrifice was dispensed with due to the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem; that was the "hook" to end a practice that had come to be regarded as unseemly. Yet where in the Torah is animal sacrifice linked to the existence of a particular temple?

So, too, Biblical law accepts polygamy, yet later tractates re-interpreted the Biblical pronouncement to legitimize only monogamy, once again reflecting changing mores.

One thousand years ago Rabaynu Gershom saw fit to reinterpret the giving of a Get to require that the woman must also accept the Get. Such an interpretation showed a growing enlightenment toward the right of the woman in a divorce. Yet Deuteronomy has no requirement that a Get must be accepted. Those words were added to achieve a more tolerable interpretation. Isn't it time once again to add language, preserving the spirit of the original words, but interpreting them in a way consistent with our modern practices?

A movement called Getting Equal Treatment — GET — founded in Brooklyn some fifteen years ago, is actively involved in ameliorating the harsh effects of the current Halakhaic interpretation of the giving of a Get.

The Brooklyn GET is non-adversarial. Its members represent no one party to the dispute, but instead attempt to mediate the problem by speaking with the recalcitrant spouse, his family and, even upon occasion, his employer. GET supports further interpretation of Talmudic law and is working with an organization called the International Coalition for Agunah Rights (ICAR) to encourage Jewish scholars, rabbis and legal authorities throughout the world to modernize the interpretation of the giving of a Get.

After weeks of research, conversations with representatives of all Jewish denominations (including a heated interchange with an authority on the Get from the Jewish Theologi-



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cal Seminary) and my own difficulties in trying to accept what I was hearing from traditional Jewish sources, I was struck with this thought: If one believes, as I do, that G-d is just and merciful, and if one also accepts that the Torah is the word of G-d, would a just and merciful G-d have created a law that so negatively impacts women? Surely it is our failure to understand G-d's words. One interpretation might be that since G-d only decrees what will happen when the wife is no longer favored by the husband, cannot we then interpret this to mean that when the man is no longer favored by the woman, then she can give a Get?

Throughout the ages the tractates have added language to reach the convoluted interpretations often given to the Torah. Adding words to clarify the meaning of the giving of a Get already has precedent in Rabaynu Gershom's interpretation. Isn't it time to understand G-d's true meaning and reinterpret the giving of a Get?

## Theocracy vs. Democracy

by RABBI LEONARD B. GESWIRTZ

Rabbi Emeritus, AKSE Congregation France's Louis XIV, said "L'Etat C'est Moi," "I am the state." The truth of this rested upon the doctrine of the "Divine Right of Kings" which is the antithesis of the Jeffersonian principle that governments rule by "the consent of the governed." Real Jeffersonians would say, "The Voice of the people is the voice of G-d" - "Vox po-pu-li vox Dei."

Democratic authority to govern comes from the people; in a theocracy, the authority to govern comes from G-d. Dictators' authority to govern comes from the rules by force and the people's belief that he rules for their welfare.

In the Bible and the Mosaic-Prophetic tradition, the government idea was the theocracy. With Saul, David, and Solomon, Israel was governed by a monarchy, but the House of David was anointed by the Kohain Gadol, the High Priest, and the King was called Meshiach Hashem, the anointed one of G-d. The king governed and obeyed the Mosaic Law. When anyone disobeyed the divine Torah, "the word of G-d," the prophets chastised them in the name of G-d. Hence, the kingdoms of Israel and Judea were theocracies.

Medieval Christianity accepted this ideology and saw governments as theocracies. Today, the "Christian Right" accepts this ideology and wishes to introduce theocratic concepts and forms into American democracy. They say the U.S. is a Christian Nation and seek to introduce laws from the O.T. and N.T. and pass amendments to weaken separation of Church and State.

The American Revolution and its Constitu-

tion created a separation of powers within the government; separation of church and State; and elected officials rule by the "consent of the governed." Our democracy is a role model to the world.

In Europe, the French and Protestant Revolutions broke away from "Catholic Theocracy" and introduced democracy. European nations kept the values of theocracy and introduced them into their family, economic, and social life-style. These democracies kept the values of theocracy for the welfare of society.

Rationalism and Science emerged in the 18th century, to weaken the ideological foundations of Theocracy.

My thesis is that Democracy and Theocracy are both necessary and both can live together, as in yeshiva and University. Most American Jews do not accept my thesis that Democracy, Theocracy and Rationalism with Science can live in an integrate thought system. I believe that herein lies the spiritual malaise of so many American Jews.

In Israel, we see three thought systems:

1. believers only in democracy, who are *hofshim*, free thinking.
2. believers only in theocracy, who are the *haradim*, ultra-orthodox.
3. believers in the integration of democracy with theocracy; yeshiva with University; Torah with Science.

The third category is divided into many sub-groups, with subtle nuances and differences.

The majority in Israel are *hofshim*, free thinkers. They are the "new Jew" emerging in Israel. To them, the Bible is man-made and their secular culture rests upon the Hebrew language, rationalism, science and the arts.

They have a vague concept of the *peoplehood* of all Jews and a relationship to Jewish history. Decisions in life are made by secular principles.

The smallest group are *haradim*. They believe in pure theocracy, ruled by divine Torah law. They are ideologically in the 17th century.

Comprising 30% of the population, the last group seeks theocracy with democracy. Because they are trying to integrate two separate thought systems, they must deal with conflicts between their ideologies. Like Philo, Maimonides, Nachmanides, Spinoza, the Luzzattos, Mendelsohn, Krochmal, Zunz, Reines, Ahad Ha-am, Schechter, and Soloveitchik in their times, they are trying to harmonize modernity with the classical theocratic thought system.

In Bar-Illan University and Yeshiva University you have a variety of groups with subtle differences. American Orthodoxy and Israeli Religious - Nationalism are a rich garden with a variety of flowers. Under the *kippah seruga*, the "Knitted Yarmulka," you have a variety of thinking minds. Like *Bet Hillel* and *Bet Shammai* in the Mishnah, they differ with each other.

What a pity the *Rotzaiah*, murderer, Yigal Amir, could not comprehend a *Machloket*, difference of opinion, between *Bet Hillel* and *Bet Shammai*. His rabbis were confused and he was confused and he became a murderer.

Shame on those people who attack ALL religious Jews because of the confused and misguided *Rotzaiah*, murderer.

Rav Yehuda Amital, *Rosh Yeshiva* of the largest *Hesder Yeshiva*, *Yeshiva Har Etzion*



in Alon Shuut, West Bank, was appointed cabinet minister without portfolio by Shimon Peres. The acting prime Minister said, "The Labor Party.. always had good connections to religion, and I will not divide the people" (N.Y. Times 11/22/95). The Rabbi, upon accepting his appointment, said over Israel Radio, *Kol Yisrael*, "The very fact that I will become part of the Government carries a message that might reduce the hatred between the religious and the secular." (*Ibid*).

The "peace process" believes in peace between Jews and Arabs; let there be a "peace process" between Jew and Jew, in Israel, and in the Diaspora.

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## Delaware's First Family Oriented Trip To Israel Is Planned

### The Albert Einstein Academy Tour To Be Led By Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt

Albert Einstein Academy has announced the first family oriented trip to Israel from the Delaware Jewish Community. Scheduled to take place from June 26 to July 7, 1996, the tour has been designed especially to meet the needs of families, including children, parents & grandparents, says organizers.

The Albert Einstein tour will be led by the school's principal, Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt. Rabbi Bernhardt expressed the collective hopes of the Academy and its Board that by visiting Israel, it will be both educational and fun way to see Israel. "There is no better way to instill love and one's connection to Judaism than to visit Israel. The saying, 'Next Year In Jerusalem' need no longer be just a dream. The fact that this trip has been designed for the FAMILY, simply expands the mission of the Albert Einstein Academy to educate the entire family, not just the child."

Rabbi Bernhardt further explained, "the tour will include visits to all of the major attractions, like the West-

ern Wall & Massada, as well as unique adventures such as an archeological dig in Jerusalem and kayaking trip down the Jordan River." Rabbi Bernhardt noted that this will be an especially exciting time to be in Jerusalem because of the numerous celebrations and exhibits surrounding the 300th anniversary of the city.

The Israel Family Trip tour includes round-trip transportation from Wilmington, deluxe accommoda-

tions, and sightseeing in deluxe air-conditioned private motorcoach. The English speaking, government-licensed guide will accompany the families throughout their stay in Israel.

This trip is open to the community. Everyone is welcome.

To receive a brochure on this trip or for more information, call the Albert Einstein Academy office at 478-5026.

## JFD and The Jewish Voice Have Completed Move

By DAN WEINTRAUB  
Editor of The Jewish Voice

The Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD) and the Jewish Voice has moved again. An air quality problem prompted the organization and its subsidiary to relocate effective November 15 to 300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 920 in Wilmington, which is the PNC building for an estimated period of a year. The new mailing address for The Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD) and The

Jewish Voice is P.O. Box 2193, Wilmington, DE 19899-2193.

In the cover story of the last issue of The Jewish Voice a misprint identified Rabbi David Kaplan as "Richard" and Rabbi Laurence Malinger of Beth Emeth had his affiliation misprinted as Beth El. To volunteer to proofread two Thursdays a month call 427-2100 to speak with Dan.

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## Commentary: The Peace Process Is Irreversible

By **CONNIE KRESHTOOL**

Member of

The Jewish Voice Editorial Committee

"The peace process is irreversible," exclaimed Eli Avidar, Consul of Israel stationed in Philadelphia, in a recent visit to the Academy of Life Long Learning. I was happy to hear this. In spite of the recent tragic events in Israel and its exposure to the great divisions in Jewish life he presented a very upbeat analysis to the audience of predominantly non-Jews.

The twenty-four hour coverage on CNN of the aftermath of the assassi-

nation of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the outpouring of world leaders to the funeral were proof for all to see that the world now realized that an historical movement toward peace was underway in the Middle East. He pointed out that the assassination did not stop the peace process; Israel removed its occupation forces from Jenin ten days earlier than scheduled.

Consul Avidar explained that this peace process was not forced upon the Israelis from outside. For the first time they were the initiators after concluding that improving the eco-

conomic life in the region would produce stability and peace. So their strategy is peace for the Middle East not just peace for Israel.

He reported since the Israelis withdrew from Gaza that the economy is growing and support for the Islamic fundamentalists is decreasing. As proof he offered the many restaurants that have opened there with some even serving alcoholic beverages and the appearance of more European clothing on the streets.

He told the audience that the open borders between Israel and Jordan have given a great boost to Jordan's tourist industry. Israel has even closed its international airport in Eilat to give the adjacent international airport in Aqaba an economic advantage.

The speaker pointed out that Jordan is already benefiting from the peace agreement in ways that Egypt never did. Egypt at the time it signed the agreement with Israel kept relations to the minimum because it preferred not to be isolated by the other Arab countries.

Consul Avidar hinted that something is changing with respect to making peace with Syria. However up to now President Assad hasn't proven that he can be trusted. He likes the attention of being in the peace process more than making peace. The Consul admitted that Israel is willing to compromise on the Golan but Syria wants the return of all of the Golan before sitting down to negotiate.

Mr. Avidar commented that the presence of the United States, the world's superpower, in the negotiations with Syria is very important. He drew an analogy with the conflict in Bosnia and the inability of the European nations to bring about a peace agreement. He said it was when the the United States became involved that the warring parties finally agreed

to end hostilities.

Thus it appears that Israel is on its way to making peace with all its neighbors. Whether it will be able to create peace in its neighborhoods remains to be seen.

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For more information on Choopla, please call  
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## Franz Lidz To Speak At Hadassah Meeting

Franz Lidz, author of *Unstrung Heroes*, will be the featured speaker at the rescheduled Paid-Up Membership Dinner Meeting of the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah. This meeting will take place on Monday Evening December 11, 1995 at Congregation Beth Emeth. A buffet dinner catered by CaterKart will begin at 5:45 p.m. and will be followed by dessert and the featured speaker.

Lidz will share the cherished memories of his past that were the

basis for his book and movie of the same name. The movie *Unstrung Heroes* played at area theaters earlier this fall. It received a three-star rating from Philadelphia movie critic Carrie Rickey who began her review as follows:

"*Unstrung Heroes*, Diane Keaton's directorial feature debut, a heart-breaker with a healing effect, shows how father and son remake a life after a death in the family. Based on the fine memoir by Franz Lidz, the film is a distant relation to the

author's painful and painfully funny recollection of his four crazy uncles who provided a safe and insane haven during his mother's terminal illness."

Members who previously paid for the cancelled dinner need only to reconfirm their reservation. If planning to attend this meeting & haven't either paid or RSVP'd please call Michele Sands 478-6391 before December 7. "If unable to attend the dinner, please join us for the meeting and dessert only" said an organizer.

The price of the buffet dinner will be \$12.50 per person. For more information or to make reservations call Michele Sands at 478-6391.

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What Rachel has received, she intends to share. Once she graduates from the University of Delaware in 1996, she plans to use her degree in Family and Community Service and Jewish Studies to benefit the Jewish community...maybe in the area of social work...maybe as an educator.

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## Rabbi Schulweis Speaks In Wilmington

By **MARVIN S. CYTRON**

*Special to The Jewish Voice*

Author Rabbi Harold Schulweis, spiritual leader of Congregation Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, California, was the guest speaker at Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom on Monday evening November 20th. Rabbi Schulweis, a graduate of Yeshiva College, New York University and the Jewish Theological Seminary is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa from the Jewish Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College. He is the founding chairman of the Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers, an organization that identifies and offers grants to those non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews threatened by the agents of Nazi savagery.

Rabbi Schulweis described his recent book **FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T BELIEVE, OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES TO FAITH**, as a book written for those Jews who can't believe, not unlike the fourth son of the Passover Haggadah "who doesn't know how to ask". Citing all too familiar statistics, in his city of Los Angeles 75% of Jews are not affiliated with a synagogue, across the country 42% of Jews do not attend High Holy Day services. His book is written for the vast majority of this audience.

All too often many of these "can't believe" Jews falsely interpret Judaism as a religion primarily concerned with ritualism i.e. "law and obedience". Using examples from his book, Rabbi Schulweis discussed the religious questions that revolve around the efficacy and limitations of prayer. A student may not pray for an "A", (this is praying for magic) but may pray for the means to achieve the desired goals. A student may pray for the patience and discipline to study. Interspersing his remarks with humor, definition of a Jewish telegram; Letter follows.

stop. Start worrying. stop." Rabbi Schulweis concluded remarks about his book with the admonition "Judaism is too important to be left to the Rabbis".

Departing from his prepared text, Rabbi Schulweis discussed the recent tragic events in Israel as one that has shaken the very foundations of Judaism; ethics, relationship and reverence for life. The most perplexing question is how could this happen and be justified by a segment of Jews, as Halacha sanctioned?

We need to ask ourselves how much of this kind of teaching is going on in this country said Rabbi Schulweis. "A bigot is a bigot, and a terrorist is a terrorist whether they

wear a kafiye or a shtreimel" said Schulweis. We are engaged in a cultural battle for the soul of Jewish life and that we must preserve the democratic interpretation of Halacha, not blind obedience stressed Rabbi Schulweis at the conclusion of his lecture.

The Wilmington visit by Rabbi Schulweis is sponsored by the Kraft Educational Foundation of Congre-

gation Beth Shalom. The foundation is dedicated to the memory of the late Jacob Kraft, Rabbi Emeritus of the congregation and regularly brings to the Jewish Community lectures by noted rabbis, authors and educators to enhance Jewish values, traditions and knowledge said Sheldon Weinstein, Esq. Chairman of the Foundation in his opening remarks to the near capacity audience.



From Left: Dr. Paul Imber - President, Congregation Beth Shalom, Rhoda Dombchik, Vice President - Programming, Rabbi Harold Schulweis, Rabbi David A. Wortman - Interim Rabbi, Congregation Beth Shalom.

## Vegetarian Offerings At Casablanca Restaurant

Rabbi Harold Schulweis, who spoke in Delaware recently, is among those who have written about the harmony of a vegetarian diet and Jewish values. Schulweis referred to the vegetarian diet as the "optimal vision of creation." Famous Jewish vegetarians have included the Nobel prize winner Issac Bashevis Singer as well as Albert Einstein.

Even if you are not interested in vegetarianism, eating vegetables can be healthy and delicious. At Casablanca restaurant in Delaware there are vegetarian offerings as well as other traditional Middle Eastern dishes. This Moroccan style eatery features elegant dining as well as an exotic experience. Sitting in plush

cushions, eating delicacies without utensils (as is the custom) and enjoying the Moroccan music; you might think you had gone instantly from New Castle to Morocco.

You should know in advance that entertainment includes a belly dancer in the Middle Eastern style. Some may see such entertainment as immodest but many others will find it to be inoffensive fun that enhances the Moroccan experience. A seven course meal costs \$16. Reservations are recommended.

Casablanca is located at 4010 DuPont Highway in New Castle. Their telephone number is (302) 652-5344. They are open daily from 5:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

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## Gov. Carper Speaks At AKSE Breakfast

By HELENA J. BRODSKY  
Special To The Jewish Voice

On Sunday, November 12, Gov. Tom Carper spoke at a breakfast at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Arriving from a church breakfast where he also spoke, the governor was asked to discuss land use reform, the effect of federal legislation on state social services and education in Delaware.

The use of land in Delaware, as in the US, is a conflict between the need for development and the preservation of open spaces. People want to be near roads, schools, water and sewer systems, and yet, said Carper, "everyone wants to live in the country." The state government must preserve open spaces but "it is not the job of the governor to decide which open spaces are to be preserved and which can be developed." Gov. Carper sees his role as making sure the legislation is in place so that the people of Delaware can develop or not as they deem fit.

Delaware, according to Carper, is in good financial condition. "In 1977, Delaware had the worst credit rating in the United States." Now, however, we are in the top 10. The state has a balanced budget and there is growth and economic development. "Delaware has only 4% unemployment, one of the lowest in the US," the Governor said.

One of the programs on the Republican "hit list" of proposed cuts in the Federal budget is Medicaid. Medicaid is money used to help the frail elderly, the blind and disabled, and poor children. State and federal

governments share the cost of Medicaid equally.

The US House of Representatives recommends \$ 450 million in cuts over the next seven years. Among other things, this means a 40% drop in funding to nursing homes. Additionally, there could be tax cuts for those Americans whose income is over \$ 250,000, while actually raising taxes for people who make less than \$ 20,000 per year. "It's morally wrong," said Carper, "to make cuts of that magnitude." The Senate Financial Committee recommends cutting only \$ 115 million, which the state can handle.

There is also much talk on Capitol Hill of welfare reform because, according to the governor, as it stands today, "welfare offers disincentives to go to work." In Delaware, welfare should be to help people find or receive training to get jobs and provide support for the families. "People on welfare should not be better off than those working and there should be reasonable time limits to receiving welfare." A limit of two years, with the possibility of two additional years, should be the maximum. There is an economic contingency fund for those who receive benefits and cannot work, so that after the four year maximum, they are not destitute.

The governor would like to see contracts of mutual responsibility, agreed to by both the state and the individual. "If you are training for a job and continue to work at the job, we'll provide your welfare check,

help you keep your kids in school and provide family planning," said Carper. In addition, if health benefits are not provided at the job, we will

continue Medicaid eligibility. "What kind of message does that send if we cut off Medicaid as soon as someone finds a job, regardless of whether

the employer provides health benefits or not?" He would also like to see adequate childcare for the poor  
Continued on page 27

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*Special to The Jewish Voice*

As we approach the end of another year it is always a good idea to review your income tax situation. Charitable giving is an activity that impacts your tax obligation. Therefore, during the month of December, it is traditional to also review your charitable contributions.

A charitable contribution can only be taken in the year payment is made to the charity. The unconditional delivery or mailing of a check constitutes payment as of that date if the check subsequently clears in due course. If you are short of funds toward the end of a tax year a payment by credit card is determined by

the date of the charge.

When transferring property to a charity it is important to see that title to the property is transferred by year end. The Tax Court held that a charitable contribution of stock through a broker occurs on the day that the broker executes the transfer to the charity and not on the date the broker is instructed to transfer the stock. The value is also determined as of the date of the actual transfer.

Although no charitable deduction is allowed for the value of personal services donated to charities, you can, however, deduct unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses such as uniforms and telephone charges. Deductions are also allowed for transportation or other travel expenses

including meals and lodging incurred while away from home performing charitable activities if there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation in the travel. If you use your automobile in providing services to a charitable organization, you can deduct the actual expenses such as gas and oil consumed or a standard mileage allowance of 12 cents a mile. In either case additional deductions may be taken for parking and tolls.

A popular fund raising technique is auctioning goods and services. This, however, could present a trap for the donor. A revenue ruling held that if you donate the use of rental property to a charitable organization which it auctions off at fair market value, the period of use is considered part of the donor's personal use by the IRS. This could severely limit the owner's tax deductions. The donated rental period is added to the owner's personal use in determining whether personal use exceeds the greater of 14 days or 10% of the total use of the property.

One of the best tax savings is obtained from the donation of appreciated property. Generally, contributions of property that, if sold, would result in long-term capital gain

are measured by the market value of the property contributed. A contribution deduction for appreciated property is limited to 30% of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. If an asset is held less than the long-term holding period (one year) the deduction is limited to the basis of the property. Also, if the property is contributed to a private non-operating foundation with certain exceptions, the deduction must be reduced by the appreciated amount.

Although the market value of capital gain property is generally the deductible amount, there are two exceptions to this rule. First, tangible personal property whose use by the charitable organization is not related to its exempt functions is limited to the adjusted basis of the property in the hands of the donor on the date

of the gift. For example, if a painting is donated to an art museum the full fair market value of the painting would be deductible. Yet, if the same painting is donated to a tax-exempt hospital only the adjusted basis of the painting would be deductible.

Remember, you must have written confirmation of charitable contributions of \$250 or more from the organization before you file your tax return.

In conclusion, the more familiar you are with the rules the more dollars you can save on your taxes. Planning your charitable donations, to whom and when, will maximize the benefit you can achieve from the current tax laws.

(The author, Nancy F. Blumberg, is the director of tax services at Simon, Master & Sidlow, P. A. an accounting and consulting firm.)

### Chanukah Choopla at the JCC - All Shuk Up

The Jewish Community Center will hold its Annual Chanukah Choopla Gift and Craft Bazaar on Sunday, December 10, 1995 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Highlights of the event include a Chanukah Gift and Craft Shuk (Israeli Marketplace) where area merchants and artists display and sell their goods. Holiday-related games and activities for children will be offered, plus a wide variety of Kosher foods will be available for purchase. Community leaders will serve as celebrity waiters for this year's event.

Chanukah Choopla offers something for all ages, food, shopping and much more. A full array of family entertainment will also be featured. The event is open to the entire community, free of charge. For more information, call Artie Allen at (302) 478-5660.

### Outreach To Interfaith Couples And Their Families

Jewish Family Service is staffing and coordinating community-wide services to interfaith and conversionary couples and their families. Programs include but are not limited to: Raising Children in Interfaith Homes; Interactions with Family and Friends; Religious Identity; Holiday Workshops; Discussion Groups; December Dilemma; Program for Parents of Interfaith Couples; and Exploring and Negotiating Religious Differences.

This project is one of the initiatives funded by the UJA-Federation campaign which is administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware. For information, call Myrna Ryder at Jewish Family Service, 478-9411.

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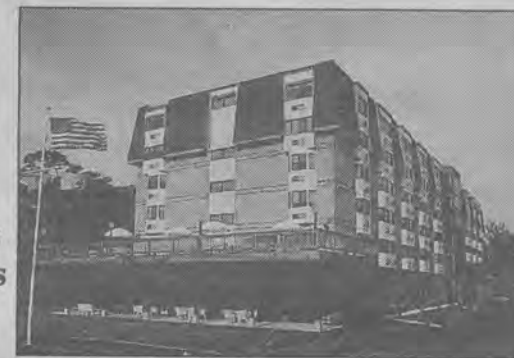
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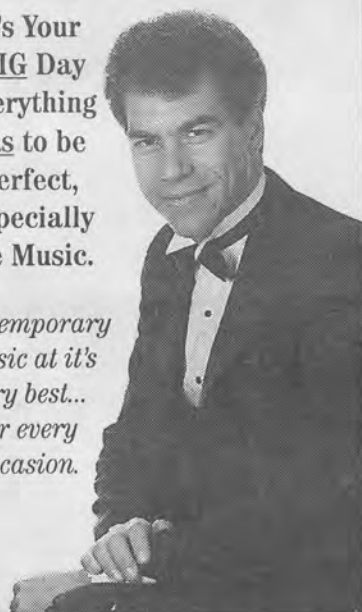
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16

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17

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# PANIM EL PANIM

(Face to Face with JFD People)



## Speakers Series Accompanied "Engrained Forever" Exhibit

By FRED DeVRIES

Special To The Jewish Voice

An exhibition of the Holocaust-related panels of Buffalo-area artist Mimi Schiff began at the JCC on Oct. 31. This imposing and moving set, consisting mainly of black acrylic on full-scale, 4- x 8-foot sheets of plywood, was on exhibit through the month of November.

Remarks by Ms. Schiff at the Opening Ceremony on Nov. 5, were followed by comments from local survivor Dorothy Finger, who remarked on how well she could identify her personal trials with some of the scenes depicted. A receptive audience of about one hundred fifty attended. The artist provided a semi-

nar for art teachers on Nov. 6, sponsored by the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee.

The lecture series, in great part enabled by grants from the Delaware Humanities Forum and the Delaware Council for the Arts, was planned to include the following:

Nov. 14, 7:00pm: Sara Horowitz, Director of Judaic Studies at the University of Delaware, spoke on "Women's Views of the Holocaust"; Nov. 16, 7:30pm: Fanya Gottesfeld Heller spoke about her book, *Strange and Unexpected Love: A Teenage Girl's Holocaust Memories*; Nov. 19, 3:00pm: Mary Costanza of Bryn Mawr, the first to publish a book on Ghetto/Concentration Camp art,

gave a slide-illustrated lecture on "Art of the Holocaust". Ms. Costanza's art has been exhibited at Yad Vashem and elsewhere. She has been an articulate speaker and writer on these subjects, as well as being a well-recognized artist herself; and Nov. 30, 7:30pm: Blu Greenberg, noted author, spoke about her new book, *Black Bread: Poems After the Holocaust*.

The National Conference of Christians and Jews held their monthly meeting on Nov. 14 at the JCC; their meeting was to be followed by a guided tour of the exhibit.



Two works from Engrained Forever exhibition.



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On June 30, 1996, the Executive Director of this well-established agency will be retiring. The Search Committee is seeking an experienced professional to carry the agency forward.

The candidate must have an MSW and hold or be eligible to obtain a Delaware license (LCSW). Experiences of at least 5 years of progressively increasing responsibilities in a family service agency is required.

The Executive Director oversees a budget of about \$400,000 and a staff of 5 professionals and 2 clerical workers to serve a Jewish population of 10,000.

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### Library Dedicated At JCC Children's Center

The JCC Children's Center celebrated the opening of their new library with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The library is dedicated to the memory of Sol Fink, father of a pre-school parent. Ribbon-cutting was shared by Elly Alexander, chairperson of the project, and Amy Leviton, fundraising coordinator for the library.

The library includes two computers with color printers, a listening

center, a TV/VCR, a puppet theater, a big book display and over 1500 new books. The library also includes the complete award-winning Caldocott series. The library is open to parents and children, ages one to five, each weekday from 9 to 10 a.m. For more information on the library, contact Susan Gentry, Children's Center Director at (302) 478-5660.

### Story of Resilient Russian Immigrant At The JCC

Jeannine Hamburg will be making an author's presentation on her latest book, "A Courageous Walk Through Life: The Story of Aunt Fannie", at the Jewish Community Center on Wednesday, December 6 at 10:30 a.m.

The book portrays a resilient Russian Jewish immigrant once marked for deportation at Ellis Island. Despite the stigma of a paralyzed leg from polio, Fannie becomes an entrepreneur in Philadelphia during the Great Depression.

In addition to discussing her book, Hamburg will elaborate on the process of book writing itself and how you can get started. After the discussion, she will be available to sign copies of her book.

Hamburg earned her B.S. in Music Education at Temple University in Philadelphia and has written articles on creativity and music which have been published in national music journals and periodicals. Her forthcoming schedule includes a reading at the Small Press Center in New York City in May 1996 to be broadcast over public radio.

Hamburg, a mother of two, lives with her husband in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.



Jeannine Hamburg

### Caregivers Support Group

A support group for people who provide care or support for their parents, grandparents, or other elderly people is now forming. The first meeting of the group will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 1995 at 1:30 p.m. at Jewish Family Service. The group will meet for three consecutive Tuesdays. The cost for the series is \$30.

For information or to register for this group, please call Jewish Family Service at 478-9411.

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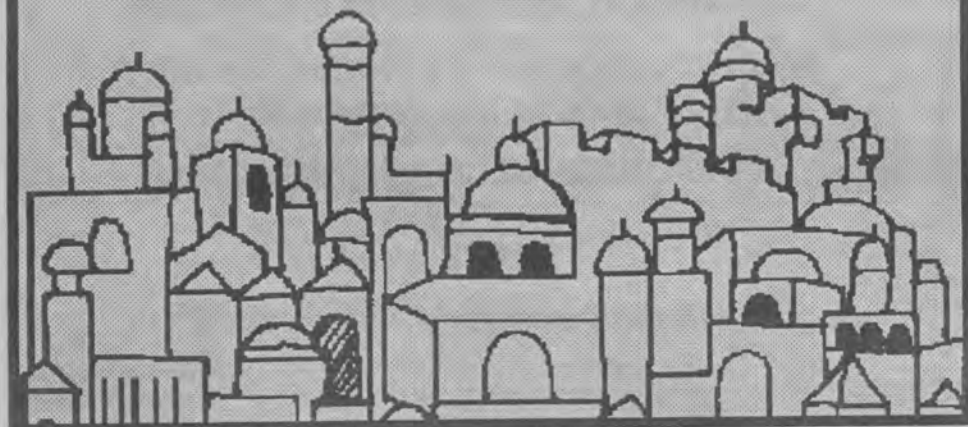
## Teen Shabbaton

Friday, December 15 through Saturday, December 16

Teens will gather from Dover to Wilmington and everywhere in-between for an enjoyable Shabbat experience at the JCC. Bring your friends and be ready to make new ones.

Cost - \$25.00 per person

For more information, call Etai Belinky, Community Teen Services Coordinator at (302) 478-5660.



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PANIM EL PANIM

(Face to Face with JFD People)



Kutz Home's Own Dynamic Duo Generates Excitement In The Activities Department

Bernice Edwards and Esther Cruikshank constitute the Kutz Home's Activities Department. They each must have two or three "doubles" because they are everywhere in the Home, both inside and out. They bring a plethora of interesting activities to the residents.

The high notes of Esther's clarinet can be heard in the lobby and the dining room with residents singing and Esther interspersing her repertoire with stories about the music. Cruikshank is the new activities assistant and a wonderful complement to Activities Director Bernice Edwards.

Edwards has been at the Kutz Home since June 1993. Her compassion and love for the residents is obvious in all that she does. Esther Cruikshank has newly arrived from Atlanta, Georgia and Delaware and the Kutz Home are indeed fortunate to have her.

Together they have organized a Sukkot Party, a trip to Fox Point Park, a host of musical activities, craft activities and incorporated suggestions of residents and family members into their very extensive program calendar. Programs are continuous (except for meal times and after dinner). Members of the com-

munity are invited to attend. The Family Night every second Wednesday from 7 PM to 8 PM features refreshments and entertainment. Please call Bernice Edwards at 764-7000 for a calendar and come and visit.

Rina Choir Concert

A special Chanukah Concert, featuring the Rina Choir from Israel, will be held at the Jewish Community Center on Wednesday, December 20 at 7 p.m. The concert will include a visual show, depicting sights from Israel.

The repertoire consists of Hebrew songs, both classical and old, and international folklore. The choir is comprised of approximately 45 singers, all on a voluntary basis. The Rina Choir achieved great success at the Vocal Musical International Festival in France, where they represented Israel for the very first time.

By the end of the concert, the audience joins them in a sing-a-long and folk dancing. The concert is free of charge and open to the entire community. For more information, call Mona Allen or Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.



Bernice Edwards and Esther Cruikshank of the Kutz Home.



David Margulies teaching at the Adult Institute of Jewish Studies which is now under way.

Teen Services Provides Programming To Young People

"We are very excited about the opportunity to serve teens in the Delaware community," says Etai Belinky, Community Teen Services Coordinator. Our community teen program is one of the first of its kind in the United States. Belinky believes that through the program the Jewish teens of Delaware learn to respect their differences and to celebrate their similarities, while having fun at the same time.

The program is co-sponsored by Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Congregation Beth Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Gratz Hebrew High School, Jewish Federation of Delaware, Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El (Newark) and Beth Sholom Congregation (Dover). It came together a few years ago when a major segment of the community with the facilitation of the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD) selected the area of serving youth, grades 7 through 12, as a high priority. The goals are to strengthen existing programs serving such youth and to develop programs in various areas of need.

Continued on page 27

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## SYNAGOGUE LIFE

## Israeli Consul Eli Avidar Featured At A.K.S.E. Brunch

On Sunday, December 10, 1995, the A.K.S.E. Men's Club will feature Israeli Consul Eli Avidar. Consul Avidar has been invited to speak on the topic of the current political situation in Israel in the aftermath of Yitzchak Rabin's assassination, according to Robert S. Weiner, President of the A.K.S.E. Men's Club.

Eli Avidar was born in Alexandria, Egypt, of a Greek family who immigrated to Egypt in the beginning of the century. The family ultimately immigrated to Israel in 1967. In 1982, he joined the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). He completed his active duty assignment in 1989 as a captain.

Subsequent to his military service, in 1989 Consul Avidar majored in Middle East and Islamic Studies and Philosophy at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His focus was on Islamic thought and philosophy in early and modern Islam.

In 1992, Consul Avidar joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem and was assigned to the PLO Desk in the Center for Political Research. During that period, he was actively engaged in following the peace process in Washington and the relations and developments between the Palestinian delegation and the PLO.

He then served in the Asia depart-

ment and was involved in the development of relations with Vietnam from the pre-diplomatic relations stage until the establishment of official diplomatic relations and Israel's embassy in Hanoi.

Consul Avidar is fluent in the languages of English, Arabic, Hebrew, French and has knowledge of Japanese.

In 1993, Eli Avidar assumed the post of Consul in the Consulate General to Israel in Philadelphia, serving a jurisdictional area of the following states: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Delaware, West Virginia, including southern New Jersey.



Consul Eli Avidar

## Candle Lighting

DECEMBER

1ST — 4:18 PM

8TH — 4:18 PM

15TH — 4:19 PM

22ND — 4:21 PM

As always, the A.K.S.E. Men's Club's monthly Sunday Brunch is open to the public. Brunch is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. and the program is from 10:00-11:00 a.m. The cost is \$3.00 for a meal.

Reservations for non-members are suggested and can be made by contacting the A.K.S.E. Office at (302) 762-2705.

## AKSE New Member Installation

The installation of new members at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth will take place during services on Friday, December 8, 1995. Services begin at 8 p.m. The Heh class of the AKSE Talmud Torah will participate in leading many of the prayers.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend. An Oneg Shabbat will follow services.

## Beth Emeth and NCJW's Outreach Plan A Joint Program

On Saturday, December 9th, the National Council of Jewish Women, Wilmington Section, will present an evening program jointly with the Outreach Committee of Congregation Beth Emeth. The central event will be a Dairy Pot-Luck Havdalah supper at 7:00 p.m., at Beth Emeth.

The program following supper will include a discussion of Hanukkah foods and traditions. The outreach section of the program will precede these events:

At 5:00 p.m., the videotape, "When Love Meets Tradition," will be shown, followed by a discussion. This tape, prepared for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, is a fascinating case study of four couples contemplating or engaged in intermarriage.

The tape chronicles and focuses on about six pre-nuptial weeks for one of the couples. It also presents frank and open feelings about day-to-day issues faced by couples in which only one of the partners is Jewish. In several previous showings to Wilmington-area groups it has always stimulated a provocative discussion among the viewers.

At 7:00 p.m., a Havdalah service will be held, followed by a dairy supper. After dessert, there will be a review of several traditional foods of Hanukkah, followed by a brief preface of this festival, its history, and

its celebration in contemporary America.

Please R.S.V.P. to Jean Blumenfeld, (302) 478-3835, and indicate whether you will bring a dairy entree, salad, or dessert — for six to eight. Feel free to come to all or part of the evening's events. This program is open to the community.

## Beth Shalom Gift Shop's Early Schedule

With Hanukkah a few short weeks away the Beth Shalom Sisterhood gift shop will open on an expanded schedule. Beginning Monday, December 4 through Thursday December 21 the gift shop will be open from 9:00 A.M. until 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday (Fridays until 12:00 noon). A complete assortment of menorahs, candles, "Gelt", dreidels, books and tapes are available to help make your family celebration memorable. The gift shop Hanukkah items will be on display at the synagogue library, please use the office entrance on 18th street. Proceeds support Beth Shalom Sisterhood activities and programs.



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The first Wilmington delivery will take place on Sunday, December 17, 1995. Pickup is tentatively scheduled from the Wilmington JCC at 101 Garden of Eden Road between 3p.m. and 5p.m.



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# SYNAGOGUE LIFE

## Arthur Kurzweil At Beth El on Dec. 17

Arthur Kurzweil's name has become synonymous with Jewish genealogy and the pursuit of family history by an ever-growing number of Jews throughout the world. He is the author of *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History* (Harper Collins), a text book, *My Generations* (Behrman House) and *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* (Jason Aronson, Inc.). Mr. Kurzweil, author, publisher, and

teacher, is Vice-President of Jason Aronson, Inc. and Editor-in-Chief of the Jewish Book Club. "His lively, humorous, moving presentations have made him one of the most popular speakers for audiences of all ages" said a Temple Beth El spokesperson. He will be the featured speaker at the Temple Beth El's Men's Club Breakfast on Sunday, December 17th. The buffet breakfast begins at 9:30 AM followed by the program at 10:30 AM. Please call 366-8330 to make reservations for the breakfast.

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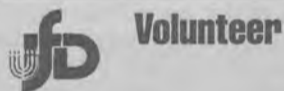
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Keeping Our Jewish Family Strong

## Beth El Shabbat Includes Pasta Dinner

All are welcome to celebrate Shabbaton at Temple Beth El on Friday evening and Saturday morning December 15 & 16. This second Shabbaton for people of all ages is a service with the theme "Turning On To The Miracles In Our Lives." "The committee, under the direction of Jennifer Zinn, is hard at work to give Shabbat special meaning to all who attend" says a Temple spokesperson. There is a pasta dinner on Friday evening at 6:30 PM followed by services at 8:00 PM. Saturday morning services begin at 10:00 AM and will be followed by a Kiddush lunch, songs and joy. Call the Temple Beth El office at 366-8330 to reserve for the dinner or lunch.



(302) 427-2100

## DuPont Hanukkah Lunch To Be Held

The seventeenth annual Dupont Hanukkah Latke Lunch will be held on Wednesday, December 20th, 12:00 Noon at Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th & Baynard Boulevards. This annual tradition was started by Joel Lipman and four other Dupont employees who would

meet for a Hanukkah lunch at the old Gamiel's Restaurant on Seventh Street near Market Street in downtown Wilmington. In an era where lavish business and company sponsored Christmas lunches and parties were widely practiced, these informal luncheons were a welcome respite from the holiday frenzy. Networking increased the attendees from a handful to several dozen and when Gamiel's closed the luncheon moved to the Rathskeller Restaurant

on Market Street. Following the closing of the Rathskeller the annual luncheon, now numbering nearly one hundred, moved to Beth Shalom. In years past the luncheon program included guest speakers, Hanukkah songs and most recently a Hanukkah musical program provided by the Preschool children of Beth Shalom. Dupont and Dupont-Merck employees, retirees and their spouses who have attended this event in years past have received their invitations. Dupont or Dupont-Merck employees/retirees may contact Joel Lipman at (302) 478-4159 for reservations cost for the luncheon is \$9.00 per person.

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ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • BOOKS

**Itzhak Perlman: In The Fiddler's House**

To Air On Dec. 11  
at 10 p.m. on  
WHYY TV12

By MORRIE WARSHAWSKI

Special To The Jewish Voice

"In the fiddler's house everyone dances."

Only a person deaf or with a heart of stone will be able to sit still and

not get up and dance as Itzhak Perlman invites us into his new found home of klezmer music in this infectious new hour from PBS' GREAT PERFORMANCES series.

Perlman has lived a life as a virtuoso classical violinist. The Israeli-born New Yorker freely admits that the switch to trying out klezmer was awkward at first, "But after four or five seconds I felt at home." It helps that Perlman has surrounded himself in this program with some of the world's premiere klezmer practitio-

ners, including Kapelye, The Klezmatics, Klezmer Conservatory Band and Brave Old World.

Directors Glenn DuBose and Don Lenzer have constructed a fast paced hour that swings the viewer from the Fifth Jewish Cultural Festival in Cracow, Poland to Manhattan's Lower East Side and to the Yiddish Cultural Festival at Lincoln Center. Perlman spends some time at Sammy's Roumanian Restaurant schmoozing and eating with Red Buttons and Fyvush Finkel who regale him with stories of the early days of Yiddish Vaudeville in New York and in the Catskills.

Buttons recalls the routines he performed in the Catskills and sings a song a rabbi once taught him. Buttons notes that there was two kinds of music in the resorts - dance music and klezmer. "Klezmer was to get your heart started, and when the klezmers played even the wall-flowers got up to dance." Finkel recreates a song he used to perform in English and in the "Mamma Loshen" - Yiddish - called "I am a Border By My Wife."

In Cracow, Perlman is accompanied by his father for a visit to the old Jewish quarter and orders food in a local restaurant claiming it has a "Yiddisheh tamm" ("Jewish flavor"). For Perlman, the return to Poland is an important and symbolic effort to reaffirm a Jewish culture that once flourished. "These walls heard klezmer," says Perlman as the camera pans across empty streets and



IN THE FIDDLER'S HOUSE - Violinist Itzhak Perlman (c) is joined by Fyvush Finkel (l.) and Red Buttons in a rollicking evening of klezmer music on GREAT PERFORMANCES Dec. 11 at 10 p.m. on WHYY TV12. Itzhak Perlman: In the Fiddler's House is a production of Thirteen/WNET in New York. (Photo: Joseph Sinnott/GREAT PERFORMANCES).

the facades of abandoned synagogues.

Perlman performs a moving version of Joseph Achron's "Hebrew Melody" in the centuries-old Cracow Synagogue. He pays a visit with legendary Polish pianist Leopold Kozlowski (who was profiled in the film "The Last Klezmer"). Perlman also gets his first klezmer lesson in the expert hands of Brave Old World.

It is great fun to watch this master

violinist squirm a bit with discomfort as he makes his first forays into a music that calls for a great deal of improvisation - a music "more pickled and peppered" than the classical scores he usually performs. At one point Perlman even swaps his Stradivarius for an amplified electric fiddle.

To Perlman's great credit, he is willing to take risks and it pays off

Continued on page 23

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## ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • BOOKS

## An Eastern European Travel Guide

BOOK REVIEW: *Jewish Heritage Travel: A Guide to East-Central Europe*

By JULIAN H. PREISLER

JHSD Archivist

(A book review of *Jewish Heritage Travel: A Guide to East-Central Europe* by Ruth Ellen Gruber. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1994 - paperback, 299 pages, \$16.95. Revised Edition.)

When the original version of this book came out in 1992, I purchased it the minute I saw it on the book shelf. As I glanced briefly through the pages my first impression was that this was a definite "must" to own! I was not disappointed! Neither was I disappointed with this new edition. Perhaps I may be biased due to my interest in Jewish history and travel, or because I am working on my family genealogy with its roots in East-Central Europe. I would like to think that precisely because of my interests, I am able to look at this work in its new revised edition and judge its usefulness to genealogists and family historians in particular, and to those who just want to learn a little bit about their past without getting to involved.

*Jewish Heritage Travel* is consid-

ered to be the first work to explore the physical and cultural importance of the buildings, cemeteries, towns, and cities of the pre-World War Two Jewish Community in East-Central Europe. This revised edition goes beyond the original and includes information regarding the division of Czechoslovakia, the breakup of the former Yugoslavia along with new maps and many new photographs. Countries featured include: Poland, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and the Former Yugoslavia. The first section of the book contains a useful introduction regarding history, trip preparations, what to expect, and what to bring. The author shares with the reader how this book came to be and why this subject is so very vital and important.

Each country's section contains information on the overall Jewish history of the country, practical travel information, helpful phrases as well as addresses for the Jewish traveler, a list of Jewish guidebooks, and how to contact the main active Jewish communities. What is so very nice about this book is the fact that it goes beyond the main centers of Jewish life in each country. It has been only

since the break-up of the former Soviet Union that information has become widespread regarding a variety of locations other than Prague, Warsaw, Krakow Budapest, etc. There are small towns and villages mentioned along with large metropolitan cities. The reader should be forewarned, though, this book is not a pure history book, nor is it a pure travel book. It focuses on the physical remains of the Jewish community in each particular location. Therefore, if all physical aspects of the community such as the synagogues, cemetery, ghetto area, etc. were destroyed during the war or afterwards, the location will not be included. The only exception are for locations that had extermination camps and concentration camps.

Throughout the book the author describes in beautiful detail what she discovers. The reader can almost sense the feelings of sadness and bitterness when visiting a ruined cemetery or an abandoned synagogue. The reader senses the joy in discovering active and vital Jewish communities. The information provided is invaluable as future generations find ways to honor and remember those who came before us and those who met with terrible tragedy. Reading this book gave me a sense of place and time. It also gave me a sense of hope that the world that my parents knew and cherished may be vastly different today, but, at the same time, so very constant and unchanging. In so many locations across East-Central Europe, there are only memories. Those of us with an interest in this region, whatever our motivation may be, have a responsibility to learn and to educate. In those areas where there are small, but vital communities, it is part of our responsibility to help preserve the beautiful physical legacy of generations past in whatever way we can.

I very highly recommend that this book be part of your home library. It is one that you will use time and time again. My only criticism of the book is somewhat of a personal nature in that *Jewish Heritage Travel* did not

touch on the specific cities & towns relating to my family. A few of these locations in Northern Bohemia and Lower Silesia still have remnants such as cemeteries and ghetto streets, but they are not located in the areas of once large and highly concentrated Jewish populations. Ideally, I would like to see this type of book expanded to cover an even

larger and more detailed geographic area. Purchase this book & enjoy it! You will not be disappointed!

(In addition to serving as JHSD staff archivist, Julian Preisler is the author of the book *Pioneer American Synagogues*. Portions of the proceeds of *Pioneer American Synagogues* supports the Jewish Historical Association of Delaware.)

## Toulouse-Lautrec To Picasso: Masterprints At The Delaware Art Museum

WILMINGTON — The Delaware Art Museum presents an exhibition of masterprints by some of Europe's most renowned artists through January 14, 1996. The exhibition is drawn from the collections of the Oskar Reinhart Foundation and the Gottfried-Keller Foundation, both of Winterthur, Switzerland.

*Toulouse-Lautrec to Picasso: Masterprints From Winterthur, Switzerland* features 150 works from the second half of the 19th century and early 20th century shown collectively, outside Switzerland, for the first time. Artists represented include Jean-Francois Millet, Felix Braquemond, Pierre Bonnard, Charles-Francois Meryon, Camille Corot, Honore Daumier, Camille Pissarro, Paul Cezanne, Edouard Manet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Gauguin, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Edouard Vuillard, and Henry Matisse. [Editor's note: All of the artists' works should all be of interest to readers, perhaps especially Pissarro who incidentally was Jewish.]

One hundred of these works are from the collection of Oskar Reinhart. Works of graphic art by these artists were among his first major acquisitions.

Fifty prints by Pablo Picasso will also be presented.

The *Toulouse-Lautrec to Picasso* exhibition includes many rare and remarkable prints. Among them will be the complete album of Gauguin's lithographs known as the Volpini Suite (1889) on yellow paper;

Toulouse-Lautrec's complete "Elles" series (1896), an album of 10 lithographs that emphatically depict life in the nightclubs and brothels of Paris; and his famous *La Grand Loge* published in an edition of only 12 copies.

Swissair is the lead sponsor of *Toulouse-Lautrec to Picasso*, with additional support from CIBA-Geigy.



Debbie Friedman a popular Jewish musical recording artist (at left) will perform on Saturday, January 20th at Beth Emeth at 7:30 p.m. as part of the UJA - Federation Campaign. For more information call (302) 427-2100.

## Perlman

Continued from page 22

handsomely in this program. Early in the program he turns to a klezmer musician and says "What's going on?" But by the end of the hour he is jamming with the best of them. His most difficult foray is a session with The Klezmatics, practitioners of new klezmer music based in tradition but willing to experiment. Even here, Perlman is a quick study. Soon he is trading solos with the clarinet and saxophone in a lively musical conversation.

The program contains a number of archival scenes from old Cracow and from the Lower East Side. There are also wedding scenes from a traditional Jewish wedding, and from the wedding of Perlman's daughter. These are expertly interwoven with

the rest of the program by veteran editor Josh Waletzky, who is well known in the Jewish film community as a fine director in his own right ("Partisans of Vilna" and others).

"When you are dealing with music, you are basically dealing with the soul of society," Perlman says. "If there is any kind of music I can call my own it's klezmer." This program is ample proof that Perlman can claim this music as his own.

(Morrie Warshawski is a consultant and author who writes about culture and the arts for publications throughout the US from his home in St. Louis. He is an occasional contributor to *The Jewish Voice*. His latest book is *Shaking The Money Tree: How To Get Grants And Donations For Film And Video*.)

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ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • BOOKS

What's On TV?

Monday, December 11, 10 p.m. WHYY TV12

Great Performances: ITZHAK PERLMAN: IN THE FIDDLER'S HOUSE

Itzhak Perlman takes fiddle in hand to pursue his special affection for traditional Jewish music during GREAT PERFORMANCES' "Itzhak Perlman: In the Fiddler's House." The program, which premieres Monday, December 11 at 10 p.m. on TV12, follows the famed violinist from the medieval streets and synagogues of the Jewish Quarter in Krakow, Poland, to the rollicking bonhomie of Sammy's Romanian Restaurant in Manhattan's Lower East Side to offer an unforgettable evening of Yiddish melodies, klezmer wedding songs, and a classical violin solo based on Jewish themes.

Joining the fun along the way are: Red Buttons; Fyvush Finkel, recreating a Yiddish radio broadcast of the 1930s; legendary Polish pianist Leopold Kozlowski; The Klezmatiks; the swinging 12-piece Klezmer Conservatory of Boston; Brave Old World, which has a new song, Berlin Overture, on the 1995 German hit parade; and other musical ensembles.



Art Designed by Dan Weintraub

Sunday, December 17, 10:30 p.m. NOT IN OUR TOWN

In 1993, Billings, Montana, was rocked by a series of hate activities. Ku Klux Klan fliers were distributed throughout the town, members of an African-American church were harassed, tombstones were overturned at the Jewish cemetery and swastikas were painted on the homes of Native Americans.

NOT IN OUR TOWN is an uplifting story about the residents of Billings, who joined together to stand up for their neighbors when they were under attack by white supremacists. The 30-minute documentary premieres Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 p.m. on TV12.

UD Professor's Book Wins National Prize

A book by Ruth Horowitz, professor of sociology and criminal justice at the University of Delaware, has been recognized as a major, classic work in its field. Horowitz received

the Charles Horton Cooley Award for her book, "Teen Mothers: Citizens or Dependents?," from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, a national professional sociology association.

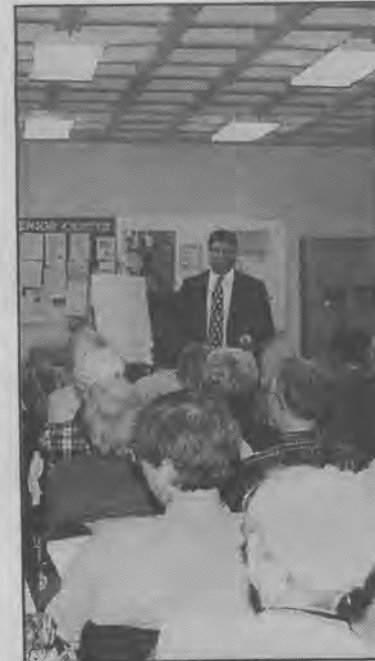
The award was presented in August at the American Sociological Association conference in Washing-

ton, D.C.

The book examines a yearlong, government-sponsored, pilot program, Project GED. The project's goal was to help young women earn their high school equivalency diplomas, learn parenting and life skills and prepare them for training for the job market. Horowitz acted as observer and occasional participant and gave an inside view of the program, its staff and participants from the point of view of a professional sociologist.



Paintings by Lee Cohen, such as above, are on exhibit through December 29th at the Del. Ctr. for Horticulture at 1810 N. DuPont St., Wilmington. Open Monday through Friday, 9-5.



Rabbi Laurence Mallinger of Congregation Beth Emeth teaches at the Adult Institute of Jewish Studies.

Words & Music :

Pavarotti

By STEVE COHEN

Special to The Jewish Voice

As surely as athletes flock to Olympic Games every four years, so do singers fly to the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition once every three or four years. One difference: The athletic games started at Olympus but now take place in different cities. The Pavarotti Competition finals have been held in no place except Philadelphia since their start in 1980. Preliminary competitions are held in cities throughout the world, and 2000 singers are narrowed to 140 who are flown to Philadelphia for the finals.

Thus the Delaware Valley became the Mecca of the vocal world last week, and a glamorous international audience was on hand at the Academy of Music where the most famous tenor in the world sat in judgement and the last 43 contestants sang from the stage.

It was an image that resembled a Maria Callas master class and it took place, coincidentally, the same week as the play "Master Class" opened on Broadway. This is the drama which we loved so much when it had its world premiere here last season, that Terrence McNally crafted from the real master classes the diva gave during her twilight years.

As I predicted, it's being hailed as McNally's masterpiece and actress Zoe Caldwell is a favorite to win next year's Tony for her portrayal of Callas. EMI records has issued a CD "Master Class" that lets us hear Callas talking to students and also includes Callas's earlier recordings of the arias that are being discussed. It's an imaginative and enjoyable disc.

There's a major difference be-

tween Callas's and Pavarotti's work with young singers. She tore them apart with criticism; he is supportive and encouraging. At the end of the Pavarotti Finals at the Academy he picked 32 "winners" whom he promised to work with in an upcoming Atlantic City concert and a 1996 staged opera in Philadelphia. They'll also get exposure via a video which is being marketed by Tibor Rudas, the man who packaged the 1994 "Three Tenors" concert from Los Angeles.

Rudas is a Hungarian immigrant who has brought opera to a wider audience through his spectacular productions and his use of video and audio recordings. He put up the money to bring this year's Pavarotti Competition back to Philadelphia. Rudas and Pavarotti are convinced this is the ideal location because of the presence of two of the world's leading music schools, Curtis Institute and the Academy of Vocal Arts.

Among the announced winners were several students at the Academy of Vocal Arts. Standing out above all others, in voice as well as height, is 27-year-old Hugh Smith. He had the chutzpah to sing Pavarotti's own debut aria, "Che gelida manina" from La Boheme, and he sang it superbly in a style that is his own, not an imitation of Pavarotti's.

I never would think someone named Smith to be Jewish until I saw a member of the Smith family wearing a kippah.

Not only did the AVA supply many of the finalists; it also is presenting Hugh Smith as one of the stars in its own production of La Boheme at its home on Philadelphia's Spruce

Street. AVA Music Director Chris Macatsoris, who also is one of the Pavarotti coaches, conducts. Performances continue this week and next.

There's yet another tie-in involving Smith. Moe Septee, Peter Nero and the Philly Pops presented a group of concerts this month based on the "Three Tenors" idea, and Smith was one of the three singers. It was the most enthusiastically received concerts in the history of the Philly Pops. The Pops was formed in 1979 by producer Septee and conductor-pianist Nero, both of whom are active members of the Delaware Valley Jewish community.

Another CD new this month is an RCA release starring Roberto Alagna, an earlier winner of the Pavarotti Competition whose style blends his French and Italian roots. He's being hailed as "the fourth tenor" and this is a pleasing record.

Moving from Words & Music to Words without Music, the theatrical event of the month is the touring production of "Angels in America", winner of the Pulitzer Prize and numerous Tony awards. New York City audiences had to wait a year between seeing the first part and the second. Now, in our area, we can experience them during the same week. I saw the seven-and-a-half hour drama on successive nights at the Merriam.

Tony Kushner's epic touches the emotions on many levels. The playwright reaches into his own Jewish soul and his gay identity to present a personal view of America that transcends the personal and addresses historic issues. The unifying character in both plays is Roy Cohn, who is one of the most humorous and horrifying characters ever to appear on stage. The touring production is superb.



NACHES

Levine-Rogosin

Richard A. Levine of Wilmington, Delaware and Andrea D. Rogosin of Northfield, New Jersey, have announced their engagement.

Mr. Levine has resided in Wilmington since 1972 and is a partner at the law firm of Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor. He is a past president of Congregation Beth Shalom, a member of the Board of Jewish Federation of Delaware and a member of the Board of the Jewish Community Center. Mr. Levine is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan R. Levine of Englewood, New Jersey. Mr. Levine has two children, James H. Stone Levine, age 18, who is a freshman at the University of Delaware, and Katherine Leah Levine, who is a 5th grade student at the Wilmington Montessori School. Mr. Levine's former marriage to the late Marjory Stone ended in divorce.

Mrs. Rogosin is the retired Supervisor of English and Foreign Languages for the Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey School District. She is the daughter of Doris T. Dobin and the late Emil Dobkin. Mrs. Rogosin has a 4-year-old daughter, Emily Hope Rogosin. Her late husband, Dr. Eugene W. Rogosin, died in a car accident in 1993.

The couple plans an early Spring wedding and will reside in Wilmington.

Your Naches announcement and photo will be printed free of charge as space allows. Send your typed announcement to: The Jewish Voice, P.O. Box 2193, Wilmington, DE 19899 or E-mail to jewishvoic@aol.com

Hanukkah Issue Ad Deadline 12/7 Call Irv 427-2100

Kaddish A Documentary Film At The JCC

The sweeping family chronicle, KADDISH, will be shown at the JCC on Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 p.m. as part of the Jewish Cultural Arts Fall Program Series.

From an early age Yossi Klein, now known as Yossi Klein Halevi, received a special education. He was prepared for another Holocaust. So were other children in Boro Park, the largest Orthodox survivor community in America, and this candid portrait of a young Jewish activist coming to terms with his father's traumatic history, is as bracing as any fiction. Through his writing and activism, Klein attempts to carry on the legacy of struggle passed on to him by his father. A portrait emerges of a young man whose world view and personal outlook have been principally shaped by an event that took place before he was born.

"Riveting, emotion-packed ... The most professional of the independent films about children of Holocaust survivors ... KADDISH is a film about hope, not death; survival, not destruction." - Haddasah Magazine

The cost for the film is \$2.00 per person. Tickets are now on sale at the JCC Front Desk. For more information, call (302) 478-5660.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries for the Calendar of Events are due on the Thursday deadline, published in *The Jewish Voice*. Copy should be typed and double spaced. Entries are preferred on 3 1/2" floppy disk or via E-mail. Please include day, date, time, place, brief description, and contact person.

## DECEMBER

### Friday \_\_\_\_\_ 1

Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom annual retreat at the International House, Atlantic City. The scholar-in-residence is Dr. Samuel T. Lachs, noted lecturer and professor. His topic will be JEWISH TRADITION DOES SPEAK TO THE MODERN PERSON.

### Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ 2

Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom annual retreat at the International House, Atlantic City. The scholar-in-residence is Dr. Samuel T. Lachs, noted lecturer and professor. His topic will be JEWISH TRADITION DOES SPEAK TO THE MODERN PERSON.

### Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ 3

Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom annual retreat at the International House, Atlantic City. The scholar-in-residence is Dr. Samuel T. Lachs, noted lecturer and professor. His topic will be JEWISH TRADITION DOES SPEAK TO THE MODERN PERSON.

**Cultural Arts Film Series - "Kaddish"**. The story of Yossi Klein and his Holocaust survivor father, are the focus of this documentary about coming to grips with an overwhelming parental legacy. 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$2.00 per person. For more information, call Mona Allen or Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

### Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ 6

**Jewish Book Fair** at the JCC

Opens. Books will be available for purchase in the JCC Lobby. With hundreds of titles to choose from, this multi-generational book fair, will provide valuable insight into the tradition of Jewish literature in all its forms. Continues through December 22.

### Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ 7

**Mass Class Registration Night** at the JCC. 5:45 - 9:00 p.m. Attend this registration night and receive priority registration for all Winter classes and programs. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available for purchase.

### Friday \_\_\_\_\_ 8

**Beth Shalom Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner**, 6:00 p.m., followed by Shabbat Services, 8:00 p.m. conducted by sisterhood members.

### Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ 10

**Chanukah Choopla at the JCC**. 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m. Nosh on food, shop in the Shuk (Israeli Marketplace) and enjoy special entertainment throughout the day. Holiday games for children will also be offered. Free of charge. Open to the entire community.

**Congregation Beth Shalom's** musical celebration of Jerusalem 3000. An evening of Jewish Folk Music featuring the Robyn Helzner Trio and Cantor Norman Swerling. \$15 adults, Seniors/Students \$10, Congregation Beth Shalom. 7:30 p.m., 18th & Baynard Blvds.

### Monday \_\_\_\_\_ 11

**Parents of Interfaith Couples: Looking Forward**. 7:30 p.m. When parents face a child's intermarriage, relationships may seem complicated. Co-sponsored by the JCC and Jewish Family Service. For more information, call Myrna Ryder at (302) 478-9411.

### Friday \_\_\_\_\_ 15

**Teen Shabbaton**. Delaware's first Community-Wide Teen Shabbaton

will welcome teens from Dover, Newark, Wilmington and everywhere in-between for a gathering at the JCC. For more information, call Etai Belinky at (302) 478-5660.

**Beth Shalom Religious School** Aleph class consecration, 8:00 p.m. Shabbat Service.

### Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ 16

**Teen Shabbaton**. Delaware's first Community-Wide Teen Shabbaton will welcome teens from Dover, Newark, Wilmington and everywhere in-between for a gathering at the JCC. For more information, call Etai Belinky at (302) 478-5660.

**Club Night at the JCC**. 7:30 p.m. Children in grades 3 through 6 may enjoy a variety of activities with a monthly rotation of a movie or open gym night. The cost is \$6.50 for JCC Members and \$9.50 for Non-Members. For more information, call Elyse Greer at (302) 478-5660.

### Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ 20

**Jewish Cultural Arts Concert Series** with The Rina Choir. 7:00 p.m. This Chanukah Concert features the Rina Choir from Israel. Concert will include a visual show depicting sights from Israel and a variety of Hebrew songs. Free of charge and open to entire community. For more information, call Mona Allen or Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

**Annual Dupont Hanukkah Luncheon**, 12:00 Noon, Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th & Baynard. Dupont and Dupont-Merck employees/retirees and spouses are invited. Call Joel Lipman for reservations (302) 478-4159.

### Friday \_\_\_\_\_ 22

**Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom** Annual Hanukkah Family Dinner, 6:00 p.m. and Shabbat Hanukkah Service, 8:00 p.m.

### Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ 26

**Winter Camp**, through Friday, December 29. The JCC's School's

Out Days offer programs on the days Public and Private schools are not in session. Activities are designed for children in kindergarten through 6th grade and include Sports Plus, Disney on Ice Trip, Bowling, Ice Skating and a New Year's Celebration. For more information, call Elyse Greer at (302) 478-5660.

### Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ 26

**Maccabi Camp** through Friday, December 29. A New Sports Camp has been added to the JCC Winter Camp program. This camp has been specially designed for children in grades 3 through 6. For more information, call Scott Katz at (302) 478-5660.

### Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ 31

**New Year's Eve Party and Sleepover** through Monday, January 1, 1996. Teens in grades 7 and 8 are invited to ring in the New Year at the JCC. Special New Year's celebration and entertainment will be provided. The cost is \$18.00 per person. Space is limited. For more information, call Etai Belinky at (302) 478-5660.

### Ongoing

**Young Jewish Adults of Delaware's (YJAD's)** co-ed, non-competitive volleyball league continues every Wednesday night from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. It will move inside to the J.C.C. gym as of September 6, 1995.

**Exhibit Highlights Henrietta Szold** "Daughter of Zion: Henrietta Szold and American Jewish Womanhood," a new exhibition, will be open at the Jewish Historical Society of Maryland (JHSM), 15 Lloyd Street, Baltimore, from April 9 through December 10, 1995. "Daughter of Zion," will reveal and reinterpret the life and work of Henrietta Szold through artifacts, audiovisual materials, label text, documents and rare archival photographs. A native of Baltimore, Szold (1860-1945) is best known as the founder of Hadassah,

the women's Zionist organization. For more information, call at The Jewish Historical Society of Maryland, (410) 732-6400.

**Handbook Available On Internship Opportunities In Israel**. Have you ever considered working in Israel as an intern or volunteer? A book, entitled *Volunteer and Internship Possibilities In Israel*, can make that dream a reality. Published by the Joint Authority for Jewish-Zionist Education, this handbook is perfect for students, young professionals and potential olim interested in exploring employment opportunities in Israel.

To order *Volunteer and Internship Possibilities In Israel* send \$10 for each book to: USD/AZYF, 110 E. 59th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10022 or call: (212) 339-6941 or 1 (800) 27-ISRAEL.

## LATE BITS

The following summaries relate to late breaking stories and other items of interest. Much of what follows was not available at press time in a more substantial form. Other summaries here reflect current developments, these are adapted from what has been provided to *The Jewish Voice* from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA).

**JERUSALEM** - Israel considers steps to take in southern Lebanon in the aftermath of a barrage of Katyusha rocket attacks.

**WASHINGTON** - U.S. officials are unable to confirm widespread reports that the PLO has \$8 to \$10 billion in worldwide assets, according to a newly released General Accounting Office report.

**NEW YORK** - One of the leaders of the fervently Orthodox Agudath Israel of America calls for dialogue with secular Jews.



**EARTHQUAKE - EILAT, Israel** - Hotel guests huddle in blankets against the early morning chill after a powerful earthquake sent them rushing into the streets of the Israeli resort of Eilat on November 22. Seismic observatories disputed the strength of the earthquake, apparently centered in the Red Sea about 70 miles south of Eilat, at between 5.7 and 7.2 on the Richter scale. RNS Photo/Reuters



**AVISHAI RAVIV - ISRAEL - FILE PICTURE** - A file picture shows Yigal Amir (L) confessed assassin of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in an argument with Parliamentarian Alex Goldfarb, a right-wing Knesset member who joined the Labor party, during a demonstration in late September 1995, as Avishai Raviv (3rd from L) looks on. Raviv is the head of the right-wing Eyal group, and was friends with Yigal Amir, as well as a suspect in the Rabin killing. Raviv was questioned and released by police, but media reports claim he was a paid informant for the security services and knew of Amir's intentions to kill Rabin. RNS Photo/Reuters

# OBITUARIES

**Norman "Kid" Balick**, 65 of 730 Hertford Road, Edenridge, **Talleyville**, died November 21 of a heart attack at home.

Mr. Balick was the owner of Fairfax Valet Cleaners for 40 years. Survivors include his wife, Joan L. Balick; two sons, Steven J. of Fairthorne and Alan K. of Lafayette Hill, Pa.; a brother, Milford of New York City; a sister, Ruth Sklut of Claymont; and a grandson.

**Alfred N. Shrier**, 76, of **Delray Beach, Fla.**, formerly of Philadelphia, Claymont, Del., and Wilmington passed away Thursday, November 16.

Mr. Shrier died in a Hospice of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, Fla.

The Family suggests contributions to Hospice of Palm beach County, 3500 East Ave., West Palm Beach, Fla. 33407.

**HERBERT E. WISHNICK**

Herbert E. Wishnick, 70, of Allenhurst, New Jersey, died of cancer at his home on October 31.

Mr. Wishnick, a builder, was president and chief executive officer of the Union Valley Construction Corporation, headquartered in Lakewood, New Jersey. Some of his real estate developments were in Newark, Delaware and in the Wilmington area.

Born in New York City and raised on a poultry farm in Farmingdale, New Jersey, Mr. Wishnick was

throughout his life actively involved in Jewish affairs. He helped found the Ocean County Jewish Federation and a local chapter of AIPAC.

Survivors include his wife, Charron, a son, Ross, of Princeton, New Jersey, two daughters: Karen Anderson of Princeton and Beth Kaminsky of Wayne, Pa., six grandchildren, a brother, Arnold of St. Petersburg, Fla. and two sisters, Gertrude Dubrovsky of Princeton and Priscilla Siegel of Newark, Delaware.



**Kutz Home Chaplain Ed Zukoff conducts a service in memory of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for Kutz Home Residents and staff. (Nov. 6, 1995).**

*Commentary:*

## Yitzhak Rabin's Economic Vision

**By ELMER L. WINTER**  
Chairman, Committee for Economic Growth of Israel

As I listened to the moving eulogies at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral, my thoughts went back to a meeting with him in Jerusalem that I attended in January 1976.

At the time, I was president of the American Jewish Committee and co-founder and head of Manpower, Inc. I and other Jewish leaders and business executives had been invited by Mr. Rabin — then in his first term as Prime Minister — to participate in a discussion on the impact of the recently-passed United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism.

Mr. Rabin was particularly concerned about the economic fallout of

the U.N.'s action. he asked what we could do to help build Israel's economy.

Combining a visionary's foresight with his hard-headed pragmatism, the Prime Minister was convinced that Israel's security lay not only in its military strength but in its economic stability and growth. This was a time, remember, when public attention and concern in Israel and the United States was focused almost exclusively on Israel's political and diplomatic problems.

I suggested that a mobilization of business leaders on Israel's behalf could best be accomplished through a formal organization of Israeli and American executives working together to expand business relationships. I volunteered the title, "Committee for Economic Growth of Israel."

Yitzhak Rabin was not an impulsive man. But he picked up on the idea immediately — and the name. At the end of the meeting, he asked me to set up the organization. Although I was occupied at the time with the sale of my company, I agreed to his request.

Two months later, the Prime Minister wrote to me emphasizing his confidence in the work of the new Committee for Economic Growth of Israel (CEGI). He noted its significance in helping to build "a stronger

society and economy in Israel" and described this goal as "an indispensable component of Israel's struggle for peace and security."

Since his death, the conventional picture of the martyred leader as presented in much of the media has been one of a hard-nosed former general preoccupied with Israel's military defenses, whose transformation into an advocate of peace with Israel's enemies came very late in the day. Those of us who worked with him down through the years know better.

CEGI, the organization to which he gave his blessing, has had as its goal from the beginning, the creation of a Middle East environment in which Israelis would live at peace and harmony with their neighbors. A primary vehicle would be economic development that would foster cooperation between Israel and its neighbors, promote regional trade and joint undertakings and attack the legacy of poverty and hopelessness that has sown frustration and conflict in the region for centuries.

Prime Minister Rabin shared that vision since CEGI's inception and told us so often. He considered economics a principal key to peace. His efforts, in which we proudly played a role, were highly productive. His

*Continued on page 27*

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## Rona Finkelstein Visits Ukraine

by RONA FINKELSTEIN

Special to The Jewish Voice

"How brave you are!" my friends exclaimed when they heard about my planned trip to Ukraine. "Wouldn't it be better to go with a group?" So many people said it, I began to get worried. I explained to each one that I only wanted to see my father's cousin and her family, not to take a tour. Four days would be enough, and then I would fly to Israel to visit friends and family there. Warnings came from all sides: Don't walk alone at night, keep valuables with you at all times, guard your handbag on crowded buses, don't trust fake "taxi drivers" at the airport who might take off with all your belongings.

## Yitzhak Rabin's Vision

Continued from page 26

20-year effort to attract American companies and investors to Israel encouraged several hundred major U.S. firms to set up subsidiaries and joint venture operations in Israel.

Following the 1993 Rabin-Arafat handshake on the White House lawn, American business interests have expanded dramatically in Israel, due to the sense of confidence that the Prime Minister managed to instill in American corporate executives.

With the start of the peace process, he opened wide the doors for business relationships between Israel and the Palestinians, Jordanians and states in the Middle East. It was an achievement that in turn led to substantial economic associations with countries like Japan, China and Korea that had formerly had adhered to the Arab boycott of Israel.

Yitzhak Rabin believed that peace, economics and national security are branches of the same tree. Shimon Peres, Acting Prime Minister, has given ample evidence that he shares in that philosophy. I first met him when he was Israel's Minister of Defense. He asked me, as chairman of CEGI, to assist in broadening the market for Israeli products among American companies, a task we were pleased to undertake.

Since then, as a fellow architect of the peace process with Mr. Rabin, Mr. Peres has shown his complete agreement with the need for economic development in Israel and throughout the Middle East. Last year, following the economic conference in Casablanca, Mr. Peres and I flew from Morocco to Israel on the same plane. He was delighted with

It had been three years since I discovered Anna, my father's first cousin, in Chernigov. Then, she was almost 79, and not in good health. I had been on a genealogical tour, searching for family records, when I unexpectedly discovered her. I was thunderstruck - I'd had no idea that any Jews had survived from Chernigov, which had been occupied by the Nazis. She was as amazed to see me. We'd had only about an hour together, but we tried to make up for it with a steady stream of letters back and forth. She did her best to answer the many questions I asked about our family there. She hadn't even been born when my father's parents took him to America. Now, I wanted to see her again to meet her daughter Valentina and her grandsons Dima and Alyosha. In Chernigov also lived another cousin whom I hoped to meet, though Anna

said they had not been in touch for years.

Anna, however, didn't want me to come to Chernigov: Kiev would be better. Chernigov was a small city, she said, and everyone would find out that she had an American cousin. They would assume that she was now "a millionaire;" relatives would be envious and she would be a target for robberies. It was disappointing, but Anna assured me that she would bring her daughter and grandsons to Kiev to meet me.

I was anxious to find a good translator, because Anna and I couldn't communicate without one. Friends in Kiev of my friends here came to the rescue. They asked another friend, a retired teacher of English, to be our translator. She not only agreed, she also invited us to stay at her apartment. We accepted, and it turned out to be an excellent decision.

Gregory, the friend in Kiev I'd not met yet, came with Anna and red roses to meet me at the airport. Gregory had helped me several times already by carrying gifts to Anna by train from Kiev, a two-hour ride. (I could find occasional travelers to Kiev from the U.S. to take an envelope

## Teen Services

Continued from page 19

The teen council, a group of teen leaders, offers unique and outstanding youth programs for high school students. The council is comprised of representatives from Delaware youth groups and synagogues. They meet once a month to develop and sharpen their leadership skills and to organize and implement the programs. Belinky says that an important key to success is teen ownership. The programs are developed by its members.

Programming touches all aspects of Jewish life, with strong emphasis on social, educational, spiritual, recreational, leadership and community service events. This month their focus is on the Community Teen Shabbaton to be held on December 15 and 16. Teens will develop a greater understanding of the human needs in their community and a commitment to the practice of Jewish values and *Tzedakah* (charity), *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) and *Chesed* (deeds of loving kindness).

Belinky says that in order for a program, such as this community teen program, to thrive, it is extremely important that all organizations support these efforts. This collaborative endeavor works best when each partner is equally invested in the program. The teen group is here to serve the entire community, through the Jewish Community Center, synagogues and Jewish youth organizations.

For more information on the community teen program, contact Etai Belinky, community Teen Services Coordinator, at (302) 478-5660.



Rona Finkelstein and her Ukrainian cousins.

for Anna, but not to Chernigov). In the rented car from the airport, Anna and I communicated mainly by holding hands - my elementary Russian wasn't up to real conversation. Waiting to greet us at the apartment were Dina, our translator and hostess, Gregory's wife Tanya and teenage daughter Irina, and Valentina, Dima and Alyosha. My fatigue vanished in the excitement and warmth of my welcome, and we all sat down to an elaborate dinner set up in the living room, since we were too many for the kitchen.

As soon as the dishes were cleared (they wouldn't let me help), I pulled out of my suitcase the two things I was eager to show to my relatives: a family tree, written in Cyrillic letters so they could read it, and photos of some of our relatives in the States whom they'd never seen. The tree proved to be of enormous interest. Dima and Alyosha, 21 and 20 years old, pored over it, exclaiming about the many relatives in the U.S., of whose existence they'd never imagined.

The photos fascinated them too, especially those taken at my granddaughter Sarah's Bat Mitzvah. They looked longest at one taken on the *bimah* after the service, showing Sarah radiant in her *tallit*, surrounded by my three other granddaughters and me. I think that the idea of a Jewish religious event, clearly so important to us and so joyous, was utterly foreign to them. In the experiences of these young men, Jewishness was not something to celebrate, but rather something to

disassociate yourself from, if only people would let you.

Dima, Alyosha and Valentina could only stay one day because of school and work in Chernigov. But before they left, I found the boys alone in the kitchen and joined them. There was a delightful conversation with the help of English-Russian dictionaries, during which they plied me with questions about our family and the United States. When they had to leave, it was very hard for me to say good-bye, and I sensed that they felt the same.

Four days later, taking an equally emotional good-bye of Anna, Dina, Tanya and Gregory, I thought, who could have imagined that a hobby like family history, begun so casually, could have enlarged my life so greatly? What had started almost as a game of filling in blanks on a family tree has resulted in many new and renewed friendships with cousins in the U.S. and Canada, and now also in Ukraine, where my hostess Dina is already asking me to come back. Right now, the only question in my mind is not if, but When?

## Spirituality

Continued from page 3

trast to one night's evening entertainment, which consisted of an intermarried pair of well-known theatrical personalities - Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson - introducing other gray-haired stars who reminisced about the glory days of yesteryear by telling stories threaded with Yiddish jokes.

It reminded many in the audience of nothing less than the entertainment at the "borscht-belt" hotels in the Catskill Mountains.

Perhaps next year, said John Ruskay, executive director of education and community services at UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, "if we keep moving ahead, an evening plenary will be devoted to text study."

## Gov. Carper Speaks

Continued from page 11

and wants to eliminate waiting lists.

By the time children graduate from high school, they should be able to read, write, think and be computer literate. This is part of the New Directions program in Delaware. New Directions is a cooperative program between teachers, parents, scientists and business leaders as a way of setting high academic standards and expecting our students to reach them. "It's the basics" in math, science, English and social studies. "We are measuring performance and holding schools responsible for the success of the kids," said Carper.

By empowering each school, real changes can be made by parents, teachers and administrators. In this post-deseg era, school choice, char-

ter schools such as the one set up for Wilmington High School in the coming year and magnet schools are ways to "help our children succeed." The voucher bill has been a topic of discussion for several years. Proponents say that private schools offer much needed competition to the public schools but, said Carper, "that's a leap of faith that I'm not ready to make."

The new Mentors program is a way to reach kids individually. Ten thousand people are needed to work with kids at risk. The governor knows this. "I work about 80 hours a week for you. I can certainly afford one hour a week working for a child." And he does, spending it with an at-risk student at Warner Elementary School.

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