

SUPER SUNDAY BOOSTS 2003 FEDERATION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN ...OVER \$240,000 RAISED IN SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY EVENT AT JCC

Federation Super Sunday trainer Toni Young referred to the Federation Annual Campaign as the engine that keeps the Jewish community going, here in Delaware, in Israel and globally. More than 100 Super Sunday volunteers took to the phones at the Delaware JCC in Wilmington

last Sunday, filling the engine with more than \$240,000 in fuel for campaign-funded health, education, recreation and other humanitarian services. This is an 11% increase over last year's phone-a-thon. The overwhelming success of this traditional kick-off event, brings the

2003 Federation Annual Campaign to an impressive \$640,000 tally-up more than 13% over 2002 figures.

Super Sunday Co-Chairs Felisha Alderson and Dorothy Bobman believe that the community responded well to having the phone-a-thon headquartered at the Jewish

Community Center Family Campus-home to the JCC, Albert Einstein Academy, Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School and Jewish Family Service. These four Federation constituent agencies, along with The Kutz Home and the Hillel Center on the University of Delaware campus,

directly benefit from Campaign contributions.

Thanks to all who took the time to make calls or to respond to telephone volunteers with a campaign commitment. You made an important difference in the lives of your fellow Jews.



The dynamic duo of Iris Tocker (left) and Toni Young help raise more than \$240,000 dollars during last weeks successful phone-a-thon.



2003 Super Sunday co-chairs Dorothy Bobman and Felisha Alderson help groom the next generation of Federation leadership-alby represented by Samantha Tocker.



Super Sunday was a family affair for Benjie and Jodi Cohen and their adorable children.



Members of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization volunteered at Super Sunday. Thanks to their efforts, the children of registered telephone volunteers were well cared for.



Karen Friedman, executive director of The Kutz Home and her daughter, Tracy take time for tzedakah.



YoUDee, the mascot for the University of Delaware helps psyche volunteers to success.

MORE ISRAELIS SLIP BELOW POVERTY LINE

By Jessica Steinberg, JTA

On rainy winter days, Katya sits with her bulging shopping cart at a bus stop in Rechavia, one of Jerusalem's older, more genteel neighborhoods.

The 54-year-old was once a music teacher, but a prolonged divorce and depression cost Katya her job, and now she is homeless on the streets of Jerusalem.

"I don't mind it," she said, bundled up in several sweaters and coats. "No one bothers me, and people usually give me any leftover food they have in their bag."

It's still unusual to see a homeless person sitting at a Jerusalem bus stop, but it may not be unusual for long.

According to recently released statistics on poverty, Katya is one of 1.2 million Israelis, or nearly 20

percent of the population, living below the poverty line. The figure has increased by almost 1 percent from the previous year.

The poverty level for an Israeli family of four is \$934 per month.

The release of the poverty statistics coincided with the start of Israel's election campaign, and some parties are making demands for greater social equality a prominent issue in their platforms.

On the left, new Labor Party leader Amram Mitzna, for example, says Israel must disengage from the Palestinians — withdrawing unilaterally from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, if need be — in order to concentrate on socio-economic and other domestic issues.

On the right, when Benjamin Netanyahu mounted his recent challenge to unseat Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as head of the Likud

Party, he began by trumpeting his ability to resuscitate Israel's economy.

The platform of Yisrael Acheret, or A Different Israel — which is fighting a legal battle to register as a new party — ignores ideological disputes over policy toward the Palestinians to focus exclusively on Israel's internal needs.

And on Monday, another new

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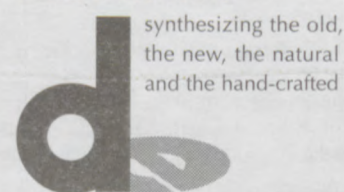
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EDITORIAL

Assad - An Apologist for Terror

There are many words one could utilize to describe terrorist organizations like Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad-most of them are unprintable in a family newspaper. Syrian President Bashar Assad, back on Arab soil after a four-day diplomatic visit to London, called these Damascus-headquartered harbingers of hate "press offices"-expressing solidarity with the cause of the Palestinians.

This unique use of semantics did not impress Ori Tannenbaum, the son of an Israeli businessman who was kidnapped by Hezbollah during an October, 2000 business trip to Europe. He blames Assad, who recently stepped down from the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council, for his father's continued captivity in southern Lebanon-a region rife with Syrian-supported terrorist cells.

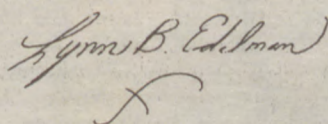
Tannenbaum joined 150 members of Britain's Jewish community who protested the royal reception afforded Assad by Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Lord Mayor of London during his historic visit-considered by many as a gesture of thanks for Syria's support of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441,

which threatened Saddam Hussein with severe consequences if U.N. weapons inspectors were denied free access to Iraq. Assad, the first Syrian head of state to visit London, used the visit as a platform for his personal defense of Palestinian suicide bombings.

During a speech at London's Royal Institute of International Affairs, Assad said that "The Israelis have actual bombs which they put on planes and missiles and drop on Palestinians...The Palestinians do not have F-16s or rockets, so they have to go by themselves and kill Israelis."

Blair should not be surprised by Assad's justification of terrorist attacks against the Jewish State. He expressed similar sentiments during the Prime Minister's visit to Damascus last year.

With "friends" like these in the Mideast, who needs enemies?



Lynn B. Edelman

Myths and Facts about Israel

MYTH #79

"The Arab states have provided most of the funds for helping the Palestinian refugees."

FACT

While Jewish refugees from Arab countries received no international assistance, Palestinians received millions of dollars through UNRWA. Initially, the United States contributed \$25 million and Israel nearly \$3 million. The total Arab pledges amounted to approximately \$600,000. For the first 20 years, the United States provided more than two-thirds of the funds, while the Arab states continued to contribute a tiny fraction. Israel donated more funds to UNRWA than most Arab states. The Saudis did not match Israel's contribution until 1973; Kuwait and Libya, not until 1980. As recently as 1994, Israel gave more to UNRWA than all Arab countries except Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Morocco.

The United States is still by far the organization's largest contributor, donating nearly \$90 million in 2000, approximately 31 percent of the organization's \$293 million in receipts. Meanwhile, for all their rhetorical support for the Palestinians, the Arab states contributed only 2 percent of the UNRWA budget. Israel and the other host countries make their contributions in kind rather than cash and Israel has dramatically reduced its assistance since transferring responsibility of the territories to the Palestinian Authority.

Source: *Myths & Facts Online - A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict* by Mitchell G. Bard, <http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org>. This column is presented as a public service by the Hasbara Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Giving Thanks

I have a lot of blessings to be thankful for, but the one I am really thankful for is being Jewish! One reason that I am thankful for being Jewish is because I get to explore and learn about the ancient history. Another reason I am thankful is that when I am 13, I become a Bat Mitzvah-which means a daughter of the commandments. When I am done with the service, I will get to have an outrageously fun party. The final reason

that I am thankful is because not many people are Jewish and this makes me feel very special. As you can see, being Jewish means the world to me.

Megan Meulusky

Editor's Note: Megan Meluskey is a third-grader at the P.S. Dupont Elementary School in Wilmington where she lives with her mother and father, Kerry and Dwayne.

PARSHA PLACE

Vayechi

Genesis 41:1-44:17

A FATHER'S BLESSING

By Yoel Feiler

Torah from Dixie

Before Jacob's death in this week's Torah portion, he decides to give a blessing to each of his children. He also gives a special blessing to Joseph's two sons, Menashe and Ephraim. Strangely, in the middle of the passage describing that blessing, the Torah says, "Jacob blessed Joseph saying..." (Genesis 48:15), and then continues to discuss Menashe and Ephraim's blessing. We are therefore left to ponder what was the blessing given to Joseph to which the Torah refers?

Rabbi Samuel Baruch Schulman, a contemporary rabbi in Israel, explains that by blessing Joseph's sons, Jacob was also blessing Joseph, for it is truly a blessing to a father when his children are blessed to be good and righteous.

A further question arises regarding the blessing that Jacob gave Joseph's sons. Jacob tells them, "Through you shall the Jewish people bless saying, 'May Hashem make you like Ephraim and Menashe'" (ibid. 48:20). Indeed, throughout the generations this has been the blessing given to every Jewish boy, conferred by many every Friday night on their sons. Why is so much emphasis placed upon Ephraim and Menashe when so little is known about them? It would seemingly make more sense to say, "May Hashem make you like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob", parallel to the blessing given to girls, "May Hashem make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah." Just like we bless our daughters to be like the Matriarchs, why don't we bless our sons to be like the Patriarchs?

Ephraim and Menashe grew up in the lap of Egyptian royalty. Their father, Joseph, was second in command of the greatest empire at that time. Their lives were drowned in Egyptian culture, making it very easy for them to assimilate. It is for this reason, explains Rabbi Yehudah Leib Ginzberg, the late rabbi of Denver, Colorado, that we bless our children to be like Ephraim and Menashe. Although they were raised in the foreign, hostile environment of Egypt, they did not assimilate. They remained true to their faith, even in a society filled with so many temptations. Jacob knew that in the future, his children, the Jewish people, would be spread around the world, often in difficult surroundings. Therefore, Jacob prayed that regardless of their situation, Jewish children should remain loyal to the Torah, just as Ephraim and Menashe did in Egypt.

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FEDERATION FOCUS

A Community of Angels



Sam H. Asher

**By Samuel H. Asher,
Executive Vice President**

Clearly, angels traveled on the wings of the Boeing 757 flight leaving Arkia, Africa with 271 Israelis on board. A heavenly force steered the two shoulder-mounted missiles away from their intended target-protecting the passengers from injury and enabling them to return home to their loved ones. This was a true Chanukah miracle!

There was a recent movie starring Nicholas Cage, called *City of Angels*. The movie suggests that angels surround us every day of our lives-supporting us in times of crisis and strengthening our ability to cope. These emissaries of G-d help to move us in the right directions. Unlike mortals, these angels of

mercy do not have self-determination. Ultimately, the character played by Cage chooses to become human so that he can make choices and have an impact.

Rabbi Morris Margolies, in his book *A Gathering of Angels*, reviews many periods of Jewish history in which angels appear in Jewish texts. Margolies says that the existence of angels (or lack of) never frees Jews of their responsibility for their own actions or their responsibility for one another.

Whether or not we believe in angels, we have the ability to do G-d's work. We can make the world a better place for our people here in Delaware, in Israel and around the world. Through the Jewish Federation of Delaware, we renew our commitment to *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world, and the belief that each life is precious. Indeed, our sages teach us that saving one life is the equivalent of saving an entire world.

Therefore, the hundreds of lives that were spared on the Arkia flight saved many hundreds of worlds. During this recent Chanukah-my first in Delaware-my family and I reflected on this miracle and on the fact that the 14,500 terrorist attacks that have occurred in Israel over the past two years—most of which have been thwarted.

Clearly, Israel's 54-year existence is an excellent example of the extraordinary potential of our partnership with G-d.

My family and I also reflected on the difficulties faced by all Israelis

caused by the planned armed assault on our Jewish homeland that started two years ago. On page 12.

You will find an op-ed piece which articulates the strength and determination of our Israeli brothers and sisters as they go about their daily lives.

We recently demonstrated our

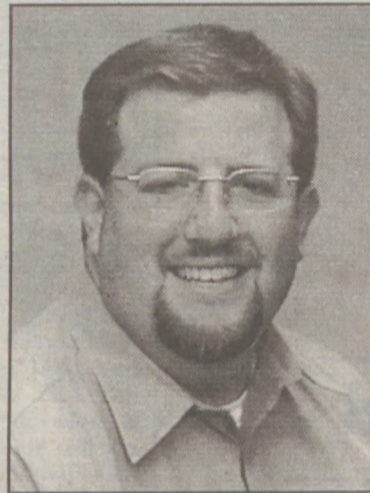
power to change lives and repair the world on Federation Super Sunday. Hundreds of us volunteered at the JCC, raising some \$240,000 for the 2003 Federation Annual Campaign. Our efforts helped create a lot of miracles for Jews here at home and globally.

Thanks to all who committed their time, talent and energies to

make a difference in the lives of our people.

Special thanks go to Don Parsons and Carol Rothschild, the 2003 Federation Annual Campaign chairs; and Felisha Alderson and Dorothy Bobman, Super Sunday co-chairs. Needless to say, the Federation staff did a remarkable job.

Beginnings and Endings



Todd Polikoff

**By Todd Polikoff
Campaign Director**

The 2002 Campaign is coming to a close, have you made your pledge?

Earlier this year, you may have

been asked to make a pledge to the JFD annual campaign. You were asked to stand with the people of Israel during these troubled times, to feed the hungry and care for the elderly and needy in our community at home and around the world. For many, the response given was, "I will make my pledge in December."

Now, at the end of December, in these difficult times - especially in these difficult times - you are being asked to make that pledge.

Our world has changed dramatically since you were asked for your pledge earlier this year. Nevertheless, our community must never lose sight of our commitment to care for the hungry, the elderly, and the infirm, wherever they may live. **Our commitment to Jewish people everywhere and to Israel has never been an either/or proposition.** It cannot waver. Our world has changed, but our mission to preserve the welfare

of the Jewish people remains as strong as ever.

That's why we're counting on your help. We need you to join us; to stand with the people of Israel during these troubled times. To help us feed the hungry and care for the elderly and needy in our community at home and around the world. **We ask that you to step up like never before and join us in our collective effort to deliver for the Jewish people. Please make your pledge today, before December 31.** Time is of the essence, and people are waiting.

The Jewish Federation of Delaware is grateful for your past support, and we thank you in advance for keeping your promise during these critical times.

For more information on the Jewish Federation of Delaware Annual Campaign please feel free to contact me at 302-427-2100 or www.shalomdelaware.org.

ARAD UPDATE

Partnership 2000 funds help fortify Arad's security

By Shmuel Kaplan

During these trying times, security measures in Arad will have to be intensified, especially when considering its remoteness from other Jewish settlements in the region and its location among numerous Bedouin villages.

A community patrol vehicle is the answer to these needs and together with Civil Guard volunteers it will help us in our everyday security requirements. Community patrols constitute a model of cooperation between the police and the Municipality, improving the quality of life for local residents and increasing their sense of security.

Partnership 2000 is a program that binds Arad/Tamar in Israel

and the Jewish communities in the New Jersey/Delaware Cluster. Our Partners in the Cluster identified with us and saw this vehicle as an essential need of our community in Arad. The Cluster turned to our American friends to try and fundraise for this special unit and eventually this vehicle was purchased with a generous donation of the Atlantic/Cape May Jewish Federation.

Eran Ben Zion, the commander of the Civil Guard unit in Arad, said that the concept of Community Police was started in North America and Britain in the 80's. It was active in Israel but later abandoned. Over the past 3 years it has found its way again into the com-

munities and is becoming a very important aspect of our security needs and to give the residents a sense of safekeeping.

The vehicle is used in a dual role. From the morning it is staffed by a city inspector who is also a community policeman, and a police officer from the police station in Arad. They patrol the city making sure that businesses are properly licensed, stopping any environmental offenders, assisting the regular police force if there is any security incident, and looking out for the safety of pre-school and school children by patrolling the different educational facilities. They also work in conjunction with the city complaint center, being dispatched where and when the need arises.

In the afternoons from 4:00 p.m. into the night the vehicle is used by the Civil Guard in their routine activities, patrolling neighborhoods, shopping areas and in giving a general presence of safety and security to the whole town.

Herzel Elmaliach the community police officer is grateful to all who have made this donation possible. "This car will make the people of Arad feel safer and more secure," he said, adding that "I bless everyone who played a part in its purchase."

Shmuel Kaplan is the coordinator of Living Bridges in Arad, Israel.

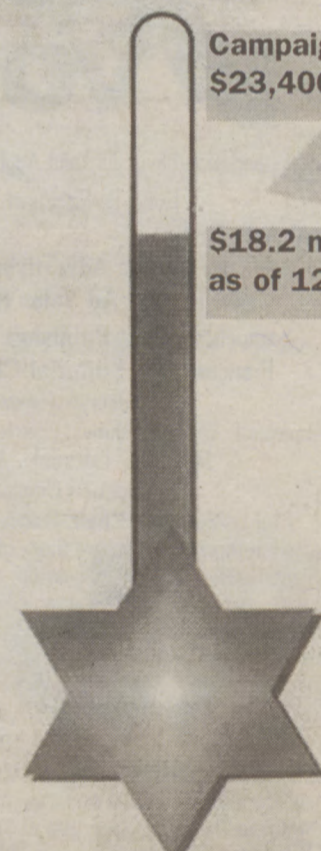


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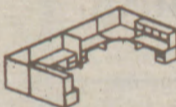
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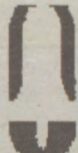
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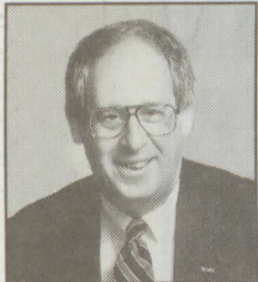
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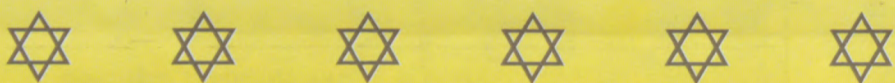
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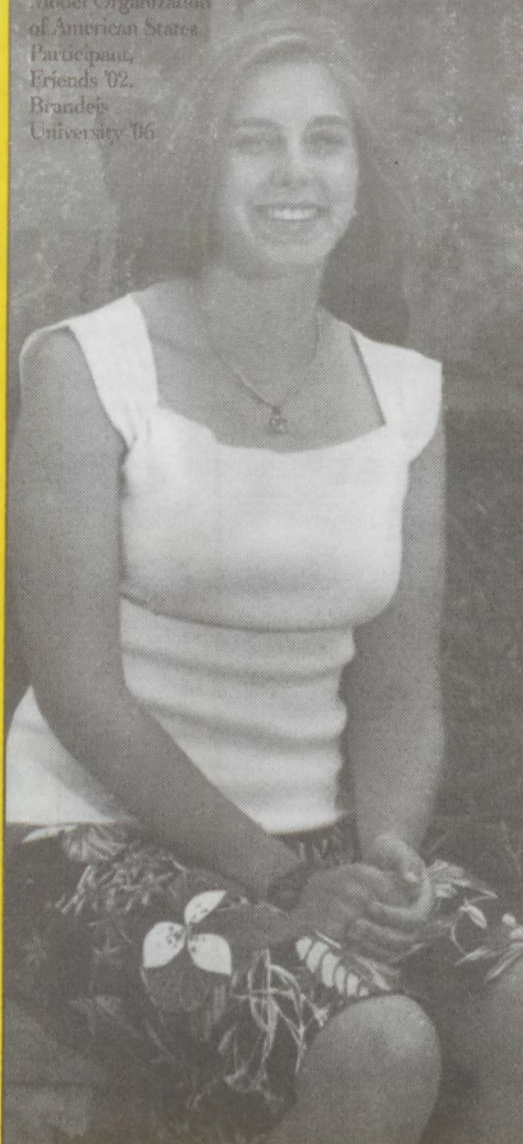


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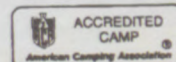
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INSIDE DELAWARE

Outstanding Klezmer Band to Entertain

The Hester Street Troupe, a Klezmer band from Cranford, New Jersey will be in concert at Congregation Beth Emeth on Saturday, February 1, 2003 from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m. The entire Jewish community is invited to this musical celebration of Jewish heritage.

Klezmer is a style of music that is inherently Jewish in nature. The word Klezmer comes from two

Hebrew words, *klay* and *zimmer*, meaning vessel of music or song. The idea is that the instrument i.e. the violin, clarinet, takes on human characteristics like laughing and crying, with a joyous exuberance or a soulful wailing.

Klezmer music was a product of Eastern European yiddish culture which the Jewish immigrants brought with them to the United States in the 1880's. Klezmer musi-

cians (also called Klezmorim) were an informal group of musicians. Many were itinerants who went from village to village in Eastern Europe. They played traditional music, folk songs, folk dances and solemn hymns before prayers.

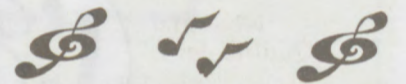
Although untrained in any formal sense, many were extremely gifted men. So superior was their playing that Polish nobles often engaged them. As characters, the

shabby Klezmorim were familiar to all Ashkenazi Jews. They were regarded as drifters, odd types and itinerant minstrels. They are a recurrent theme in the paintings of Marc Chagall and Chaim Gross.

A typical group contained three to six musicians. Their music was played on trumpets, bugles, flutes, clarinets, fifes, violins, cellos and drums. In some ways Klezmer music was like the music of Jazz

combos in that it grew out of improvisation, ingenious harmonizations and solo innovations.

Tickets are \$18.50 in advance, \$20.00 at the door. Reservations and ticket information can be obtained by calling Chuck Marcus, Beth Emeth Special Events Chair at: (302) 791-9118.



Christmas is Family Day at the JCC

Hurry!!! Only a few slots remain for the special Family Fun Day on December 25th at the Delaware Jewish Community Center in Wilmington. While the rest of the world celebrates Christmas, members of the Delaware Jewish community can congregate at the JCC

for a special program including brunch, Israeli dancing and decorative art projects. Families will also have an opportunity to send cards to Israeli soldiers during this festive period from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. JCC recreational facilities will be open to members and their

guests from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the 25th. The fee is \$10 per adult, \$8 per senior and \$7 per child, with a maximum cost of \$38.00 per family.

For additional information, please call Donna Schwartz at 303-478-5660, ext. 228.

Lasko Foundation Supports Sports at AEA

The Lasko Foundation of Philadelphia has given a \$5000 grant to Albert Einstein Academy to help underwrite the school's sports programs. This gift enables the Academy to continue the soccer and basketball programs that began 2 years ago, as well as create new programs. The award will be used

to defray the cost of uniforms, referee fees and transportation. Albert Einstein Academy parents also pay a sports fee to cover these costs.

Albert Einstein Academy is the Brandywine Valley's only Jewish day school serving students from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade in New Castle County,

Delaware and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania. The school, a constituent of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. For additional information, please call Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, Head of School, at 478-5026.

Project Ruach brings holiday joy to emigres

On the evening of December 9th, residents of B'nai Brith House and other members of our Delaware Jewish community were treated to an evening of music and festivities sponsored by Project Ruach, a program of the Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service of Delaware.

Project Ruach provides the opportunity for Russian émigrés to connect (or reconnect) with Judaism, and learn about the American Jewish community. The Program is coordinated by Cantor Boris Kazansky, who presented the concert, along with his wife Cantor Lilia Kazansky. The cantors performed songs in Russian, Yiddish, and English, with plenty of opportunity for audience interaction.

The lively music was accompanied by stories and anecdotes in



Russian and English, as well as bilingual explanations of the history and meaning of the music. After the program, the audience enjoyed refreshments baked by B'nai Brith House residents. For more infor-

mation about Project Ruach, please call Rabbi Deborah Glanzberg-Krainin, Director of the Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center of Jewish at Jewish Family Service of Delaware, 478-9411.

Live at the Grand

Classical music fans have a rare opportunity to experience the famed Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in concert. On Wednesday, January 29, at 8 p.m., pianist Joseph Kalichstein will perform works by Beethoven, Dvorak, Mozart and Zehavi from the stage of the Grand Opera House in Wilmington.

Kalichstein, a native of Tel Aviv, came to the United States in 1962. He has been perform-

ing before sold-out audiences in the U.S. and Europe since winning the prestigious Leventritt Award in 1962. He will share the stage with conductor Lawrence Foster.

Tickets are \$60, \$55 and \$50 with discounts available for seniors, students and groups. To purchase tickets or to secure information about future performances, please call 302-652-5577 or visit their website at www.grandopera.org.

Beth Emeth To Hold Teach-In On Israel

Congregation Beth Emeth will host a Teach-In on Israel on Sunday, January 5, 2003, from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

The program, "In Search of Peace and Security", is designed to build Israel Literacy within Reform congregations.

The session will offer participants an historical context regarding the recent violence in Israel. There will be an opportunity to learn about and discuss the key issues being debated in Israel

today, such as settlements, unilateral withdrawal, and occupation. The congregation's Social Action and ARZA Committees are sponsoring this program in response to the deep feelings of disillusionment and loss of hope that pervades the American Jewish community. Underlying the discussion and debate there will be the goal of presenting participants the hope that a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be found.

Volunteers Make Mitzvot during the Holiday Season

Thanks to the commitment and heart of the volunteers who participate in the Jewish Volunteer Network (JVN), many people in the community were blessed with treats that feed the spirit and delight the appetite.

During Chanukah, JVN volunteers joined residents of B'nai Brith House to bake holiday cakes to serve during the holiday concert held there. Several families receiving services from Jewish Family Service benefited from the gift and clothing drive that JVN organized, and members of the community were very supportive and generous in contributing to this effort.

The JVN is also collaborating with the Social Action Committee at Congregation Beth Emeth to provide holiday gifts to young people in the Lifelines Program. Participants in this program have outgrown the foster care system, and through program assistance, are better able to become independent members of the community.

Volunteers are busy through the holiday season and throughout the year visiting frail elderly within the Jewish community, assisting them with errands or making friendly visits.

Those who volunteer know that bringing mitzvot to those in need goes beyond the holiday season. It is something that we need to do in all seasons. If you are interested in joining the Jewish Volunteer Network, please contact Lisa Driban at (302) 478-9411 or e-mail at lisajfs@comcast.net.

Celebrate Arad This Spring

Arad, Delaware's Partnership 2000 community in Israel will celebrate its 40th anniversary this spring. You are cordially invited to join the festivities! The Delaware Jewish community is sponsoring a delegation to Israel from Sunday, March 23rd through Thursday, March 27th. You will have the opportunity to:

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 - *Visit the fabulous nature preserve at Ein Gedi
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MATTER OF OPINION

Dispatches from an Anxious State

By Daniel Gordis

In New York last week, I had occasion to be interviewed on NPR. It still amazes me how many people listen to talk radio, and of those, how many find the time to search the web in order to write e-mail comments on what they've heard. I was pretty flooded with responses to the interview, and rather struck by one particular theme that appeared in many of the letters. The following is typical — I use it as the example because it was somewhat less inflammatory than many of the others.

"Listening to you on the Leonard Locate show, I couldn't but be amazed at your disregard for the lives of your children. When the neighborhood we were living in deteriorated to the point that it was no longer safe to walk the streets we moved. We could have stayed, worked with the neighborhood association, joined the block watchers, etc., but in the meanwhile we had images of our children coming home from school mugged, bloodied, or even killed. It wasn't worth it to be heroes."

How will you feel if one of those suicide bombers kills your child when you could have avoided it by moving back to the States? Israel does not need you, it has many, many people who will fight the good fight, and in any event the problems are caused by forces beyond your control. Doesn't your family come first? Richard?"

Well, Richard, I didn't answer that e-mail until today, because I didn't really know where to begin. But today was the kind of day in Israel that clarifies everything — why we're here, why this isn't anything like the neighborhood that you left, and why we're not killing our children, but giving them something to live for.

We were at a Bar Mitzvah at the Hotel (The Western Wall) this morning. After the service was over, I grabbed a cab to head back to the office for a meeting. The news was prattling about something that "even we were unprepared for."

Uh-oh. That was the first I'd heard about the attack in Mombassa. Details were sketchy, and the only way the news could get any information was to speak on cell phones to Israelis who were actually at the site. One woman, just shy of hysterical, told the story of the explosion, and recounted how it took just under two hours for the first Kenyan ambulances to arrive. (Tonight, Israelis still can't believe that. We get to these disaster sites in two to three minutes, though admittedly, we have a lot more practice.)

When asked what she expected would happen next, she said, "I assume Israel will send doctors, medicine and soldiers, and then they'll bring us home." And she was right. The news immediately cut to an airfield, where five IAF planes were being loaded with the medical equipment and personnel that the Kenyans couldn't seem to amass, and shortly thereafter, the planes and their cargoes were on their way.

You see, Richard, this isn't some dumpy neighborhood somewhere in the States that makes no difference to anyone but those who can't get out of it. This is what we call home. Muslim extremist evil knows no borders. We've known that for a long

time. Remember Munich? Remember New York? Muslim terrorism isn't about the settlements, or the "occupation" (which may or may not be a bad idea, depending on who you ask, but certainly isn't the root cause of all this terrorism), but about Israel herself and about Israelis and Jews wherever they may be. (Truthfully, it's about Western Civilization, which the Jews for some reason are seen to represent.) And when Jews end up butchered in Mombassa, they know one thing. Kenyan incompetence will not allow them to be stranded.

We'll get there. And we'll bring whatever's left of them home.

And then we heard about the two shoulder-mounted missiles fired at the Arkia jet carrying 271 people, and how they missed. And on tonight's news, even CNN showed a home video one of the passengers had taken as the plane prepared to land. Outside the window, IAF F-16's were flanking the jet, making sure that it hadn't been damaged and was safe to land. They were so close that from the cabin window, the passenger was able to film the pilot and navigator relatively clearly. And as the plane landed, the video caught the clapping and spontaneous singing of "Heveinu Shalom Aleichem" — a kitschy old Israeli homecoming song that no one on that plane had sung for decades. But no matter. There was no reason to be embarrassed by the kitsch. Six decades ago, when people fired at Jews across the world, there was no one willing to do anything.

The F-16's outside the window showed our children, Richard, that we're not disregarding them or their safety — we've brought them to the only place on the planet where Jews can take care of themselves.

Of course, we're not always successful, Richard. You're right. Sometimes, they get us. In the past two years, there have been 14,500 terrorist attacks in Israel. No exaggeration. What's amazing is that relatively few have killed people. Still, when two terrorists shot up a Likud Party headquarters this afternoon

killing six people (so far), it was the culmination (though the day's not over, so one hesitates to use that word definitively) of a rather horrible day. But no one's running away. The Likud party primary didn't get canceled or delayed. The polls stayed open. The countries these terrorists "represent" don't have a single democracy to their credit (save Turkey, if you call that military-in-the-shadows-government-sham a democracy), but we do. They blow up a hotel, try to shoot down a jet, shoot up a bus station and we still vote. Quietly, peacefully, democratically. And in the midst of all the sadness and grief, many of us are proud of that. I think we have a right to be.

You weren't proud of that neighborhood you left. Probably because it didn't stand for anything too important. Because it reeked hopelessness. So you left, and rightly so. But this place does stand for something important. And even on dark days like today, in which everyone I know was sullen, recovering from one bit of news only to hear another, this place pulses with hope. Those doctors flying to Mombassa are what this place is all about. The F-16's shadowing the 757 making its way home are what this place is all about. And the quiet, orderly voting is what this place is all about. What kind of a person in their right mind would leave this, Richard? This isn't a neighborhood. It's home. And with all its faults, and there are many, it's a dream come true. Walk away from that? How would we get out of bed in the morning and look in the mirror?

The chit-chat over dinner to night was fascinating. Micha, our youngest and nine years old, was trying to understand the difference between Sharon and Netanyahu. Apparently, today's Likud primary had been much discussed in his fourth grade class. His older siblings were trying to explain. When they told him that Sharon has said that he's willing, in principle, to see a Palestinian state, Micha asked incredulously, "giving them LAND?" To which his brother and sister explained that "they" need

some place to live, too, which is why Sharon says that. But then, they continued, "the Arabs probably won't stop killing us for a long time, which is why maybe Netanyahu's right." Elisheva and I didn't say much, and just listened to this rather lengthy discussion.

They had most of it right, some of it wrong. But guess what, Richard? They were talking about the future, a future they believe in. (In just a couple of years, our daughter will get to vote, too. That, of course, would not be the case if she lived in the Palestinian Authority. Or Lebanon. Or Syria. Or Jordan. Or Saudi Arabia. Or Egypt.) And she'll vote about stuff that really matters. The direction her country takes will be her choice, too. You're right that we can't completely stop the terrorism, and you're right that there's some danger here. But here's what our kids have learned: Life isn't about staying alive. It's about believing in something that matters while you're alive. And at the dinner table tonight, watching our kids think out loud about how much you should trust people who've been doing this to you for two years, but what you'll have if you're not willing to risk anything, I realized that it works. They actually still believe in the future. There wasn't a grain of hope.

Yes, Richard, our family does come first. And that's why we're here. To raise our kids in a place that's all about them, about their history, their future, their sense of being at home. To live in a place that unlike that old neighborhood, matters very much. Not because we're heroes, for we're not. But because we know just a bit about Jewish history, and because we have no right to expect other Israelis to "fight the good fight" if we're not willing to.

On the news this afternoon, they interviewed some alleged aviation expert about the attempted attack on the Arkia 757. He explained how these missiles work, and gave a whole dissertation on the ease of operation of heat-seeking shoulder-launched missiles. When he was done, the interviewer asked him,

"Then how did they miss? After all, a lumbering 757, barely off the ground? How do you explain this?"

His answer, I thought, was telling. He said, "I can't explain it. Either they fired without priming the heat-seeking element on the missiles, or they were faulty. But normally, there's no way to miss. It was a miracle."

He didn't mean anything theological by the comment, of course, but today's the day before Hanukkah. In your old neighborhood, and in your new one, too, it's Thanksgiving. I remember it well. College football during the day. Beer and pretzels, and chatting with friends. Turkey and stuffing at night. Not bad at all.

None of that here. Just a regular old dinner. But not so tomorrow night. Tomorrow night, when you look outside our living room window, in the windows of virtually every other apartment within sight there are going to be Hanukkah candles flickering. Religious families, secular families. Left wing families, right wing families. Native families, and immigrant families. American families and French families. Young families and old families. Sharon families and Netanyahu families. They'll all have candles in the window.

Because Richard, somehow, in spite of everything, we still believe in miracles. Some of them happened a long time ago. But others are still happening. We understand them in different ways, and we disagree passionately about how to keep them going. But after a day like today somehow we find ourselves still believing in them.

It's a crazy, dangerous place, this neighborhood of ours, Richard. But it's home. And it's a miracle. It really is. And from that, you see, you just don't walk away.

Now do you get it?

Happy Hanukkah.

Daniel Gordis made aliyah in 1998. His e-mail dispatches from Israel have hundreds of subscribers around the world. Subscribe to this list at www.topica.com/lists/gordis

Bin Laden's Mein Kampf - Why Did They Do It?

By: Marc Pevar

After 9-11 many Americans asked, "Why did they do it? What do they want from us?" Chilling answers were published November 24 by London's The Observer in "A Letter To America," attributed to Bin Laden and widely published in the Islamic world. Bin Laden wrote this letter as a gesture of kindness so we can save ourselves from the certain death that Bin Laden says faces us if we do not mend our ways and accept reality. No body knows how many Muslims share Bin Laden's reality. Because Islamic spokesmen, organizations and Islamic nations are not disavowing his viewpoint, some people wonder whether Bin Laden speaks for all of Islam.

What is Bin Laden's "reality?" It is the reality of the Qur'an, the foundational belief structure of the Islamic world as Bin Laden and others interpret it. Repeatedly quoting the Qur'an, Bin Laden

explains that Muslims are fighting a just war of self-defense. Eighty years ago Christian England struck the first blasphemous blow by defeating Turkey, thereby making Palestine a Christian Crusader outpost of Western civilization where the Qur'an ordains that Islam must rule. The United Nations made things intolerably worse by returning only half of Palestine to Islamic control as Jordan, while establishing the other half of Palestine to serve as the Jewish Homeland.

Bin Laden says that every day that Islam does not control all of Palestine is an on-going blasphemous attack against Islam. Why is this so? Bin Laden patiently explains that Islam is the eternal religion taught by all true prophets including Abraham, Moses and Jesus. Islam teaches that Mohammed's Qur'an is the final Word of Allah and corrects errors in the Christian Bible and in the Jewish Torah. One big mistake in

the Bible and Torah is that Allah did not promise Palestine to Isaac and his offspring. Instead, Islam teaches that Allah promised Palestine to Ishmael and his offspring (Qur'an 37:103).

It is a historic fact that in 639 AD, Muslims slaughtered Jerusalem's Christians and Jews and established Islamic control of the entire Holy Land. From an Islamic point of view, Islam has been the religion and rightful controlling power of the Holy Land since Abraham. This follows from an Islamic belief that Abraham taught the true religion of Islam long before Mohammed was sent by Allah to correct the Jewish and Christian distortions of that original true religion. Based on these beliefs, Bin Laden reasons that the Byzantine Roman Christians took the Holy Land from Islam. Thus, the Crusaders were attackers, with no legitimate claim to the Holy Land. With similar reasoning, Bin

Laden asserts that today, Islam again fighting to fulfill Allah's plan that the decedents of Ishmael should inherit Palestine. "A Letter To Americans" uses many quotes from the Qur'an to prove the Muslims have a holy obligation to overcome this attack on Islam by all necessary means.

Bin Laden's letter reminds Americans that as citizens in democracy, we are obligated to vote, petition and pressure our government to restore Islamic rule to Palestine or to suffer the consequence as targets for random Islamic violence. Now, thanks to Bin Laden, you know why they killed us and continue to kill us. If you are curious about what Bin Laden wants us to do so he will stop the terrorism, read his own answer. Go to the WWW and search at Google.com using the words "Bin Laden letter to America." A subsequent article will report what he wants us to do.

AROUND OUR JEWISH WORLD

Mormons renew vow to Jews

By Bill Gladstone
JTA

A renewed vow from the Mormon Church to end the practice of posthumously baptizing Jews has drawn a mixed reaction.

A Jewish official who met with church leaders this week believes the pledge is meaningful, but skeptics are focusing on the fact that the church made a similar vow seven years ago.

Church elders made the promise at a meeting Tuesday in New York, when Jewish and Mormon officials discussed allegations that church members are still baptizing many deceased Jews, including thousands of Holocaust victims.

Seven years after the church signed an agreement to do all it could to stop the practice, new evidence emerged that the church's vast International Genealogical Index lists as many as 20,000 Holocaust victims — and perhaps many more — all evidently baptized by proxy after their deaths.

Ernest Michel, a Holocaust survivor who in 1981 was chairman of the World Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, notified church officials about the renewed problem.

Church elders Monte Brough and D. Todd Christofferson traveled from Salt Lake City to meet with him this week in New York.

During the meeting, the officials reaffirmed their intention to keep the 1995 agreement, "which means removing not only Holocaust victims, but all Jews who have been posthumously baptized from the

list," Michel told JTA.

He added that in his opinion this intention "has never changed."

Michel also said Jewish and church officials agreed to prepare a joint memorandum outlining a procedure by which the church would remove all Jewish names from the International Genealogical Index.

The parties will likely be in close consultation for several weeks, he added.

Meanwhile, the church issued a statement to make clear its willingness to deal with Jewish concerns.

"When the church is made aware of documented concerns, action is taken in compliance with the agreement," Christofferson said in the statement, which was released Wednesday.

At the same time, Christofferson alluded to the difficulty of the task.

"Removing the names of Holocaust victims and other known Jews from a data base containing hundreds of millions of deceased persons is an ongoing, labor-intensive process requiring name-by-name research," he said in the statement.

To judge by recent Internet chatter, however, some Jewish genealogists are expressing strong doubts that a new agreement will solve the problem — and they are discussing legal action.

"How will they know someone is Jewish when they are extracting names from birth indexes, as they do on a weekly basis?" one Jewish researcher wrote.

"They didn't know in the past,"

the researcher added. "What changes will take place in the future?"

Michel initiated an earlier round of negotiations with the church in 1995 after discovering that his parents, who perished in the Holocaust, had been posthumously inducted into the Mormon faith by zealous church workers acting "out of love."

After protracted negotiations with Jewish officials in 1995, the church removed the names of 380,000 Holocaust victims from its database and agreed to work to prevent church members from trying to convert deceased Jews who were not related to them.

Church followers are required to research their own family trees and to submit the names of their non-Mormon ancestors for baptism by proxy.

For each name submitted, a proxy is baptized in a Mormon temple.

Ignoring church policy, some zealous followers have culled names from a wide variety of historical sources, including memorial books of Holocaust victims from Central and Eastern Europe.

Helen Radkey, a genealogical researcher in Salt Lake City, recently conducted a limited search in the International Genealogical Index's computerized list of 2 billion names. She found some 20,000 Jewish-sounding names from Lodz, Krakow, Bialystok and other former Jewish centers in Eastern Europe, and asserts that many had belonged to Holocaust victims.

Radkey supplied the results of her research to Michel days before Tuesday's meeting.

"This issue is really important to me," said Radkey, an Australian-born Christian.

"The Jews have been treated badly by Christianity for 2,000 years. Any time someone or something in the Christian world seems to imply that the Jewish religion is inferior in some way, that is the bottom line for me. What the Mormons are doing is not acceptable, and the Jews need to say something."

Radkey and others contend that the 20,000 Jewish names are likely just the tip of the iceberg.

"There may be hundreds of thousands of Jewish names in there," said Bernard Kouchel, a retired builder and Jewish genealogist in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Having conducted his own search of the International Genealogical Index in recent weeks, Kouchel found scores of notable Jews, including Rashi, Maimonides, Menachem Begin, Irving Berlin, Samuel Bronfman, Marc Chagall, Hank Greenberg, Irving Howe and Gilda Radner.

Such revelations have led to angry accusations in Jewish genealogical circles that the church has done too little to uphold its seven-year-old agreement with the Jewish community.

Some genealogists have characterized the practice of turning dead Jews into Mormons as a brazen act that may obscure the historical record for future generations.

Expressing outrage in recent days at the persistence of a practice that they liken to the "forced conversion" of souls in the afterlife, "some have hinted at the possibility of a class action lawsuit for damages."

Few have been placated by the church's explanation that deceased persons may choose to accept or reject the baptism in the afterlife.

"From their point of view, it's an article of faith, and from our point of view, it's a slap in the face," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Some church officials have claimed that they cannot control the activities of all of their members.

Brough, one of the elders at Tuesday's meeting, has said that Mormons who have submitted thousands of Jewish names for baptism intended only a "Christian act of service" and acknowledged that their acts were "misguided and insensitive."

Jewish representatives now agree that the church must exert more control over its flock.

"It's clear that there has been no serious monitoring" of what goes into the International Genealogical Index, said Cooper, who participated in negotiations with church officials last year to remove more than 200 Jewish names from the list, including those of Albert Einstein and David Ben-Gurion.

"This is something that keeps coming up, and the church is going to have to find a better way to put closure on it," he said.

Kosher bakery rises in Berlin

By Toby Axelrod, JTA

The Chanukah candles were burning low, the meal was over and the challah was nearly gone when the jelly doughnuts came out. It was a quiet Sabbath in Berlin, the first night of the Festival of Lights, and five friends prepared to do their final taste test of the evening.

The challah was a big hit. The Chanukah doughnuts, or sufganiyot, were, they found, a bit low on the prune filling. Still, no one was complaining. After all, these were kosher baked goods.

In Berlin, that's quite unique. But word is spreading about Kaedtler's on Danziger Street.

"I am very happy," said Rabbi Yitzchak Ehrenberg, who gave the bakery his seal of approval just in time for Chanukah. "I searched for a long time."

It appears to be part of a mini-trend. Three months ago, a bakery in western Berlin started producing kosher challah for Chabad Rabbi Yehudah Teichtal.

In Frankfurt, a new kosher food emporium has opened that "is amazing," said Rabbi Josh Spinner, head of the Ronald S. Lauder Jewish School in Berlin.

"There won't be a better indicator of the development of active Jewish life than the proliferation of kosher food in Germany," said Spinner.

What makes Kaedtler's unusual is that it is owned and operated by a Protestant family.

"I am very proud of it," said

master baker Stefan Kaedtler, 33, in a recent interview with JTA. "It means traditional food according to Jewish belief is possible again" in Germany. "It is not the easiest way but it is the best."

Now, in addition to his dairy cakes and cheese rolls, which are not kosher, Kaedtler sells pareve breads, rolls, croissants and challah, baked in a separate oven.

One recent Friday, Kaedtler delivered some 140 freshly baked challah, shiny brown and covered with poppy seeds, to the Israeli Embassy and two Jewish schools. By 10 a.m., he was back in the bakery, already having worked eight hours.

Kaedtler comes from a long line of bakers. His maternal grandfather and then his father operated this bakery before him. The small shop, located between a pharmacy and a newly renovated storefront on eastern Berlin's Danziger Street, has survived decades of communism, unification with the West and the proliferation of pre-mixed baked goods.

"Today you can get bread at the gas station or the supermarket and it's cheap and simple," Kaedtler said. "Business has dropped a lot. Of the 550 bakeries in East Berlin before reunification, only 20 percent have survived. And the numbers are sinking."

Kaedtler wanted to stand out from other bakeries. So he stuck to the old-fashioned way of baking that he learned from his grandfa-

ther. His insistence on pure ingredients and handmade products served him well, he said. This year he won a first prize in a consumer taste test.

But why challah? In Berlin, though, the Jewish population has tripled to 12,000 since the fall of communism, there is not a huge demand for kosher food. The community is still nothing like it was in 1933, when the Jewish population was about 175,000 in Berlin, and 500,000 in all Germany.

Ironically, nonkosher bagels and "Jewish-style" restaurants are ubiquitous here. On the other hand, there is only one restaurant — Arche Noah — under rabbinic supervision, and another, Beth Cafe, approved by the Berlin independent congregation Adass Jisroel. In addition, there are a few kosher food stores that carry everything from Sabbath candles to imported frozen meat.

Kaedtler saw a niche several years ago, when a local Jewish school reopened for the first time since World War II.

He got a contract baking challah for the school. He matched the recipe to their taste, and even made breads "round like the earth" for Rosh Hashanah, he said.

Word spread, but the challah still did not have a kosher stamp. As more observant Jews attended the school, the need for strictly kosher food increased, Spinner said.

Then the Israeli Embassy

opened here in May 2001. The embassy staff often needed large quantities of kosher bread for events. A client base was building.

After he heard about Kaedtler, Ehrenberg inspected the bakery several times, sometimes accompanied by Spinner.

"Rabbi Ehrenberg came to us every 14 days for about four months," Kaedtler said. "He asked questions about the ingredients, how we work, made tests of the goods."

Finally, about a week before Chanukah, Ehrenberg walked into the bakery with a kashrut certificate in his hand. He was followed by kosher slaughterer Yaacovov Reuven and Berlin kosher deli owner Morris El Maleh.

Kaedtler seemed uncharacteristically shy. His hands clasped behind his back, he watched as the three men in yarmulkes gave the mixing machines and ovens another once-over, peered under shelves and behind racks. Their faces were serious. They occasionally huddled and whispered.

Finally the moment of truth arrived. Standing in the room where the kosher goods are prepared, Rabbi Ehrenberg took out

the contract and read aloud.

"I confirm that this bakery is under my supervision. All the following breads," he intoned a long list, "are absolutely kosher, without a doubt, and pareve."

Kaedtler, as a non-Jew, will not have to close down or divest himself of bread on Passover; he will not have to "take challah," or remove a portion of the dough as a symbolic sacrifice. But he must call Ehrenberg if the pilot light on his oven goes out, because a Jew must light the oven.

Last but not least, Kaedtler is not paying for the kosher certificate. "In big communities, they take a fee," Ehrenberg said. "But we don't want to make the prices rise."

With his wife, Kerstin, watching from the hall, Kaedtler solemnly signed the document, leaning on the pastry table. Looking up, he finally broke into a grin.

Then, as a toast, Ehrenberg offered everyone a taste of the croissants he had ordered.

A few days later, the certificate was framed in a prominent place on the bakery wall. Kerstin sold the last of the sufganiyot just before evening set in.

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COMMUNITY MILESTONES

In Memoriam

DOMBCHIK

Louis Dombchik, 89, of Longwood, Florida and formerly of Erie, PA, passed away after a short illness on December 5. He was the son of the late Abraham and Rebecca Dombchik of Cleveland, Ohio. He is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, Dr. Steven and Rhoda Dombchik of Wilmington and Barry and Linda Dombchik of Longwood, Florida; four grandchildren, Jeffery Dombchik and his wife, Dawn; Gregory Dombchik; Adam Dombchik and his wife, Jenny; and Jamie Cohen and her husband, Mitchell. Survivors also include two great grandchildren, Zachary and Jeremy Cohen, and a brother, Sam Dombchik of Las Vegas, Nevada. Mr. Dombchik was pre-deceased by his wife, Henrietta Berman Dombchik, a son, two brothers, one sister, and one grandchild.

Mr. Dombchik was born in Newark, NJ and spent his childhood in Cleveland, Ohio. He moved to Erie, PA and worked over forty years in the family business, B. Berman Bedding, until his retirement in 1978. He served his country during World War II in the U.S. Navy throughout the Pacific Theater. A charter member of the Lakeview Country Club in

Northeast, PA, Mr. Dombchik was an avid golfer, softball player and an active bowler who competed in numerous ABC national tournaments.

During his time in Erie, he was a member of Congregation Brith Sholom Jewish Center and its Men's Club, the Optimist Club and the Oneg Club. Funeral services and burial were held in Erie.

The family requests that donations in his memory be made to the Brian Dombchik Fund c/o Congregation Beth Shalom, 1801 Baynard Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802

ELZUFON

Dr. Milton H. Elzufon, 90, former mayor of Newark, New York, died December 10. A retired podiatrist who served as a sergeant in the US Army in Europe during World War II, he was also a Mason. He is survived by his son, John; daughters, Robyn and Mindy; brother, Eugene; sister, Charlotte; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held in Geneva, New York.

The family would appreciate contributions in his memory to either the Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301,

Wilmington, DE 19801 or to the Jewish War Veterans, c/o Arthur Samuelson, 3209 Heather Court, Wilmington, DE 19809.

GUTTENPLAN

Mitchell Guttenplan, 74, died December 5. He was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom. Mr. Guttenplan is survived by his son, Don; daughter, Susan Szymanski; brother, Arthur; and six grandchildren. Funeral services were held on December 10 at Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

LAZARUS

Helen Lazarus died October 17th. She was educated in Delaware, having graduated from the Wilmington High School and from the University of Delaware where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. Before her marriage in 1930, she taught school in Milton, DE and the city of Wilmington.

Her husband, Joseph Lazarus, died in 1955. The couple was involved and interested in numerous Wilmington organizations. Mrs. Lazarus, herself, was an active member of Congregation Beth Shalom. She was a former vice president of the synagogue's Sisterhood, chairperson of all Sisterhood programs for many years, and served as both secretary and treasurer of the Beth Shalom Hebrew School. A life member of the Kutz Home Auxiliary, Hadassah and the National Women's Committee of Brandeis University, she was an honorary life member of the American Association of University Women.

She is survived by her son, Robert Allan Lazarus, her daughter, Phyllis Lazarus Tocker, her son-in-law, Stanley Tocker and her granddaughters, JoAnn Tocker and Marla L. Tocker.

Mrs. Lazarus was interred in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Faulk Road in Wilmington.

LEVY

Dr. Charles Levy, 97, a well-known Delaware physician, died December 5 in his sleep after a brief illness. A native of Russia, Dr. Levy came to Wilmington at the age of three with his family. He graduated from Wilmington High School, then went on to the University of Delaware and the Jefferson Medical School, where he received his medical degree at the age of 23. He practiced medicine in Wilmington for 70 years before his 1998 retirement.

He was extremely active in both the medical and Jewish communities. Highly regarded for his expertise in heart disease and diabetes, he served as president of both the Delaware Branch of the American Heart Association and the Newcastle Medical Society, treasurer of the Medical Society of Delaware, and president of the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home. He was a delegate to the American College of Cardiology and was inducted into the Physician Hall of Fame of St. Francis Hospital in 1992. In 1996, he received the Laureate Award of the Delaware chapter of the American College of Physicians, of which he was a Fellow. In addition, he received the Certificate

of Merit from the American Medical Association for fifty years of dedicated service to the medical profession.

He also was a founding member of the Brandywine Country Club. Dr. Levy is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ruth, their three children, Dr. Stuart Levy and his wife, Cecile of Boston, Dr. Jay Levy and his wife, Sharon of San Francisco and Dr. Ellen Koenig and her husband, Mario of the Dominican Republic; a brother, Leon and six grandchildren, Ricardo, Eduardo, and Regina Koenig and Suzanne, Arthur and Walter Levy.

Burial was private. Memorial contributions may be made to the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

MYERS

Marsha Myers, 55, of Wilmington, died November 27. She is survived by her husband, Moss; son, Mark; and brother, Stephen Knapp. Services were private.

YAFFEE

Marion Yaffee, 79, passed away on December 14, 2002. She is survived by her husband, Marvin. She was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth.

Funeral services were held on December 17, from Schoenberg Memorial Chapel. Interment was in Beth Emeth Memorial Park on Faulkland Rd.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Stiffel-Yaffee Fund, Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 W. Lea Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802.

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Carol and Ed Schneider of Wilmington are pleased to announce the birth of their grandson, Gray Salem Schneider, on November 29th. Parents are Ryan Schneider and Jennifer Tourial of Atlanta, Georgia. At birth, Gray weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and was 21 1/2 inches tall.

Gray is also the grandson of Sidney and Susan Tourial of Atlanta, Georgia and the great-grandson of Shifra Gershon and Regina Tourial, also of Atlanta, Georgia.

He is named in loving memory of all of his great-grandparents, Mildred and Joseph Forman, David, Rebecca, and Irene Schneider, Shifra and Nathan Gershon, and Ralph and Regina Tourial. In Sephardic tradition, he is also named for his living, maternal

grandfather, Sidney Tourial. Gray's Hebrew name is Sidkeiah Yehudah.

Also welcoming Gray to his family are his sister, Lily Maya, and especially his aunt, Julie Schneider of Atlanta, Georgia, as well as all his other aunts, uncles, cousins and family friends.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ROSH HODESH GROUP MEETING

The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service of Delaware offers a monthly meeting of a Rosh Hodesh Group. This group offers Jewish women a chance to learn, grow and celebrate together and is open to Jewish women of all ages and religious perspectives. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 6th at 7:30 pm at Jewish Family Service, 101 Garden of Eden Road in Wilmington. For more information, please call Rabbi Deborah Glanzberg-Krainin, Director of the Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center, 478-9411.

ISRAELI DANCING FOR BEGINNERS!

Join Don Schillinger of RAK-DAN Israeli Dancing at the Wilmington JCC on the following Friday afternoons from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.: Jan. 3, Feb. 21, March 7, April 11 and May 16. NO ADVANCE SIGN-UP REQUIRED. Join us for one class or the entire series! Cost is \$5/class for JCC members/staff and AEA families, \$7 for entire community; \$3 for JCC and AEA students and \$5/class for other students.

Don is very skilled leading large and small groups, teaches children (including those at AEA), and leads a very popular Thursday night Israeli dancing in main line Philadelphia.

Come try it out!

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS SPECIAL JANUARY PROGRAM

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware will present the first program in its series "Delaware Jews and the Land of Israel" on Tuesday, January 7, 7:30 p.m. at the Delaware Jewish Community Center. Joseph Byer, who lived in Israel for several years and Ruth and Bernard Siegel, who have trav-

eled to Israel countless times to visit with family members, will share their personal experiences and insights. The presenters will show slides from their collections which show how Israel has evolved through the years. The program is free and open to the community. Refreshments will be served.

SAVE THE DATE FOR AEA GALA

On Saturday, March 15th, 2003, Albert Einstein Academy will present its Community Builder Award to Marsha and Howard Borin at its annual Gala, 7:30 p.m. at the Brandywine Country Club. The cost for this black-tie optional event is \$125 per person. For more information, or to receive an invitation, please call Debbie Nachlis, at Albert Einstein Academy, 302-478-5026.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING CHRISTMAS EVE?

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth sponsors bingo for the entire family on Tuesday, December 24, 6:00 p.m. Meet in the social hall for family fun, deli dinner and fellowship. Cost is \$6 per person for adults and \$3 per person for children ages 12 and under. For reservations please call the AKSE Office at 762-2705 by December 23.

TRAINING WHEELS: HADASSAH PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM FORMING

The Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah will start a Training Wheels Jewish Family Education Program for pre-schoolers and their parents or grandparents in January, 2003 at Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington. During nine sessions throughout the year, children will learn how to celebrate Shabbat and the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Chanukah, Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Passover, Israel Independence Day and Shavuot. For more information, please call

Judy Arenson, at 302-652-8755 or email her at judyarenson@earthlink.net.

SILVERMAN SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will award its 14th annual Scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or in

Israel. Applications may be picked up at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth office on Washington Street Extension and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802. Completed applications should be returned no later than March 2, 2003.

The Fund was established in 1989 to honor the Silverman's

55th wedding anniversary by their four daughters and many friends.

JANUARY EVENTS AT ALBERT EINSTEIN ACADEMY

January 6-Siddur Decorating-7:30 p.m.-JCC -Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington January 25-Havdallah Service-7:00 p.m.-JCC Auditorium

More Israelis slip below the poverty line

Continued from page 1

party — the Protest Movement, which hopes to unite all social protest groups — announced its formation, under the slogan "Israel wants equality of chances."

Yet while politicians cite the figures and results of the recent poverty report, few seem to have any concrete suggestions or solutions to address Israel's growing socioeconomic gap, beyond general statements that Israel should spend less on settlements or yeshivas and more on development towns.

At a recent press conference, Mitzna spoke about the link between the current economic recession and Israel's social problems.

"We have to deal with domestic issues and divert all our resources into domestic problems," he said.

The left-wing Meretz Party also is focusing on what Meretz legislator Ran Cohen calls a "socio-economic disaster that has reached monstrous proportions."

When 58 percent of Israeli citizens, including the middle class and business people, have been harmed by the current recession, it creates an awareness that change is necessary, Cohen added.

Yet more often than not, Israel's growing income gap and widening circle of poverty remain an issue for the op-ed columns, low on the

government's to-do list when Palestinian terror attacks are continuing.

Reacting to the recent statistics, the New Israel Fund called for a focus on economic equality in the current election campaign, and for immediate government action.

"Israel has been understandably focused on its security situation," the NIF's president, Peter Edelman, said in a recent statement. "However, the long-term strength of the country also depends on its economic health."

The government must develop an emergency economic program to address the gap between rich and poor, reduce unemployment and restore the economy's vibrancy, Edelman said.

In addition to the violence of the intifada, Israel has been suffering from a widening recession, brought on by the collapse of the high-tech bubble and the worldwide economic downturn. Unemployment has risen above 10 percent, and the country's economy is expected to grow by just 0.5 percent in 2003.

The numbers speak for themselves, experts say:

* The number of poor Israeli children increased by nearly 50 percent in 2001, to about 530,000.

* The United Nations Human Development Index for 2002 ranked Israel 22nd out of 174 countries, placing it among the

world's most developed countries. Yet Israel's ranking in the next index is expected to drop, as the number of Israelis living below the poverty line is one of the highest in the Western world.

* A recent report from the Knesset committee on social gaps showed that the average monthly income for the top decile of Israeli households was around \$9,000 — or 12 times the \$716 average income in the bottom 10th of the population.

The findings expose a "society deep in a process of total collapse," said Cohen, who headed the committee's yearlong study.

Worsening economic conditions have led to severe budget cuts, primarily in social welfare.

While politicians and ministers have lobbied successfully for larger outlays for security and defense, little progress has been made on funding and policies to battle poverty.

"The poverty trend has brought us to this situation where the state of Israel is saying, 'We aren't equipped to handle this or we're not interested,'" said Joanie Gal, a lecturer at Hebrew University's social work school.

"There could be a different budget that thinks more about the weaker sectors of the population," Gal said. "The priorities could be changed, even in this terrible economic-security situation."

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