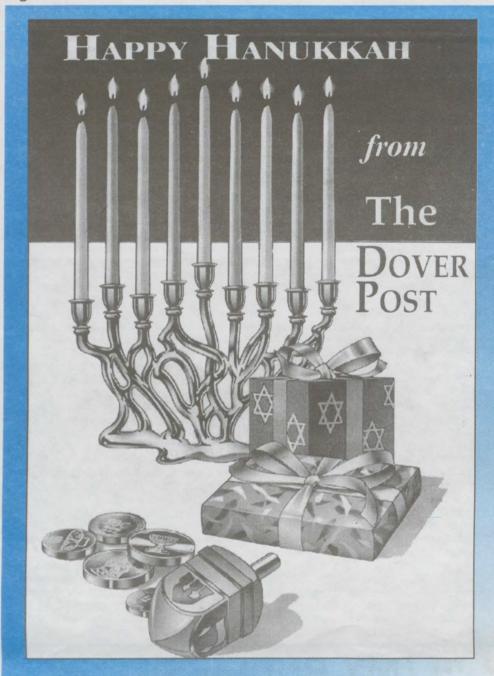


"Shalom Chanukiah"

Archival giclée print by Nina Bonos. The word Shalom in Hebrew and English rises from the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Find out more about our cover artist on page 9.





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FEDERATION FOCUS

Don't let the lights go out!



Samuel H. Asher Executive Vice President

As we prepare for the Festival of Lights, we recall the good fight for justice and freedom that was fought by the Macabees. We think of the light of freedom and human kindness that we pursue for Jews in Delaware, in Israel and all around the world.

Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul and Mary, wrote a song in 1983, called Light One Candle. The chorus of the song is: Don't Let the lights go out! Don't let the lights go out! Our goal in social service delivery, as a community in Delaware and worldwide is to enable our people to live in dignity, to provide Jewish experiences for our

children and to strengthen our beneficiary agencies and empower them to serve Jews in need.

We won't let the lights go out.

The song's powerful lyrics implore us to: Light one candle for the strength that we need To never become our own foe

And light one candle for those who are suffering Pain we learned so long ago

Light one candle for all we believe in That anger not tear us apart And light one candle to find us together

With peace as the song in our hearts.

Some of us have been fortunate to see our lifesaving work in countries overseas first hand. In a speech given recently, Suzanne Grant, 2006 Federation Annual Campaign cochair, related her experiences as a participant on a United Jewish Communities Mission to Tbilisi, Georgia:

"This past July, I traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia in the Former Soviet Union. This country gained its independence in 1991 and ever since has had a turbulent political history. Under Soviet rule, Georgia was home to 100,000 Jews. The community now numbers 19,000 as tens of thousands have immigrated, mostly to Israel. Unlike other Jewish communities in the region, Georgian Jews maintained their traditions and retained a high level of Jewish identity and observance even after decades of communist rule. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, Tbilisi's Jewish community has been struggling to take care of an increasingly impoverished and aging population whose meager fixed income of \$17 per month does not meet their most basic needs. For elderly Jews who had already endured a lifetime of suffering, the fall of the Communist system brought welcome new personal and political freedoms, but also caused much economic pain. Inflation wiped out their savings and eroded their pensions, and the conversion to a market economy has continued to play havoc with their lives. At the same time, the crumbling of the Soviet welfare state and its health care system left them with less and less care and no social safety net at precisely the time in their lives when they most needed help.

In Tbilisi, I met Olga. Olga is about 75. We spoke through an interpreter. She was born in Moscow and like many of the people we met, she was highly educated. She had been a doctor. She had survived the gulag – Soviet prison camps. She has lost her entire family. Her children moved to Israel – they try to keep in touch but it is difficult. I know – you think the Experimental Station area has poor reception – try getting a cell signal in Tbilisi!

Through it all, Olga maintained her Jewish roots, her heritage, her dignity and her beautiful smile. Our meeting took place in a Jewish Community Center - a model that The Joint Distribution Committee developed in the FSU. Today there are 182 of these centers throughout the FSU and they are at the heart of the region's Jewish renaissance. This center provides a multitude of services to Jews in the area. Clubs, concerts, and Shabbat and holiday celebrations enable those already involved in Jewish life to give expression to their Jewishness and they serve as magnets to attract the uninvolved. Olga comes to the Jewish House as it is called and picks up a food package once a month. It isn't much but it supplements her minimal income. Here she also celebrates her Jewish heritage, meets with other senior citizens and enjoys performances by the youth singing groups. Here Olga, and others like her, receives medical care. In addition, they are able to borrow medical equipment as needed. Olga held my hands in hers, looked into my eyes and thanked me over and over again. She said that she would be lost without this center. This was "home" for her... Another building supported by funds raised by the Jewish Federation's Annual campaign.

Are we building a Jewish community – I say yes, we are. Not only here at home, but also around the world. I wish that each and every one of you could have sat on that sofa with me. Because you would have been so proud to be a part of the global Jewish community – the Jewish community that builds ... not only locally, but around the world as well. A community that takes care of its family – wherever they may live!"

I agree with Suzanne and share her sense of pride in our collective accomplishments. By supporting our Federation Annual Campaign, we build a sense of community here at home and abroad. Our community responded beautifully on Super Sunday. You answered the call and you helped us to keep the lights of Jewish well-being burning brightly.

I want to thank Suzanne Grant and her fellow 2006 Annual Campaign co-chair, Robin Saran, for all of their hard work in making the 2006 Annual campaign a success. I also want to thank Amy Leviton and Arlene Simon, co-chairs of Women's Philanthropy for expanding our campaign.

My thanks to everyone who cares so deeply about Jewish continuity. Your efforts kindle the lights of Judaism. Your commitment feeds the engine that runs our community.

To all of you I say Todah Rabah and Happy Chanukah.

CHAVERIM SHELLY !!! (MY BUDDIES)



Idan Kligerman with U of D Muslim students.

Shalom chaverim! I hope everybody is as happy as I am to be a part of this wonderful Delaware Jewish community. I know that I am having the most wonderful time meeting everyone here and finding out just how much all of you are interested in Israel.

I recently experienced my very first Thanksgiving. It was such an incredible experience that I wondered why we don't have this kind of a holyday in Israel? And then I remembered that every holyday in Israel is like Thanksgiving-an occasion to express our gratitude to G-d for giving us a land where we can live freely as Jews!

Last week I had an amazing experience on the University of Delaware campus. I was honored to participate in a joint event sponsored by the Muslim Student Association and the Student Life Board of the Kristol Center for Jewish Life (Hillel), which benefited Pakistan earthquake relief

Muslim students on campus felt a special kinship with the victims of this devastating natural disaster. They emailed all the student organizations seeking co-sponsors for a fundraising event. Hillel was the only campus group to respond. According to Susan Detwiler, Hillel executive director, the November 29th CommUnity Earthquake Relief Dinner raised more than \$400 for earthquake relief, with the funds being sent

to the President's Relief Fund at the Pakistani Embassy.

Both groups cooked together in the Kristol Hillel Center's kitchen, learning about each other's foods and customs. They each made soup, and supplemented it with ethnic specialties. The Hillel contribution was a pareve Matzoh Ball soup, a sweet kugel, pita with hummous, and rugelach. The Muslim students contributed a spicy tomato soup, several vegetable dishes, and honey balls.

More than 75 people attended the program, with students and community members from the Jewish, Muslim, Catholic and other Christian faith traditions.

In the words of Anum Mallick, President of the Muslim Students Association, "Thank you for opening your doors, your kitchen, your friendship... I truly felt loved and appreciat-

I helped the Hillel students make posters that explained how Israel welcomes people from many cultures and celebrates diversity. Although it seems ironic, Israel is the place where Arabs and Israelis can live together in peace. In our sister city of Arad, the Bedouins live nearby. In Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and other major Israeli cities, Jews, Arabs and Christians live as neighbors.

Israel's major sport is soccer and three Arab Israeli players are celebrated as star players because they scored goals in crunch times. The field of politics is another arena where Arab Israelis are well represented. Arab Israelis constitute a full 10 percent of the Israeli Parliament.

Israel tries every day to cope with the needs and demands of the diverse groups that live within its borders. While I have to be honest and say that not everything is perfect, one has to remember that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East and has been in existence for just 58 years! Despite its youth, Israel exerts a tremendous impact on advances in the fields of science, medi-

cine, agriculture and high technology. Almost every day there is news about a product or service invented by Israelis.

The CommUnity event emphasizes the potential for Arab and Israelis to work together to make a difference in peoples lives. I feel confident that our young people are committed to seeking peace-what a wonderful sentiment as we celebrate Shabbat!

Please join me for the following community events:

Chanukah Choopla- 12/11

Israeli movie-Congregation Beth Emeth-12/11

Lunch-Beth Emeth-12/14

BBYO bumper sticker song program-12/14

Conversational Hebrew class-12/13
Say Hello at Temple Beth El in Newark

Gratz Shabbaton-Congregation Beth Shalom 12-16/12-17

Cook for a friend an Israeli dish at the CC-12/22

Do you know the answer to the following riddle?

Who was Israel first gold medalist? The first person who emails the correct response to IDAN@SHALOM DEL.ORG" will win a prize.

Until next time,

Shabbat Shalom

Idan Kligerman is Delaware's first Shlichut or Young Emissary in over 20 years. Support for the Young Emissary program in Delaware comes from the Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, Partnership 2000 and Matt Slap Subaru. Idan will be here full-time through February promoting Israel and strengthening the bond between Israel and Delaware, after February he will be in Cherry Hill and will visit Delaware once a month. Idan is fluent in Hebrew and English, and can be reached at the Federation office (302) 427-2100 ext. 30. Also visit the Partnership 2000 website for general P2K information http://www.partner.org.il/arad/

SUNDAY IS CHANUKAH CHOOPLA

Come Out and Celebrate Chanukah with the Entire Community on Sunday, December 11th at the Bernard & Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road in Wilmington. Do all your holiday shopping at the Gift and Craft Bazaar from 10:00a.m.-3:00 p.m. Judaica, gifts, artwork, toys and many other specialty items will be available for purchase!

Shop for yourself or other book lovers at the Jewish Book Fair. The fair will be open from 10:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

At 2:00 p.m., author, Carole Hamburger will host a free discussion about her book, The Star Pupil. An art activity, suitable for persons of all ages, will follow.

Before Hamburger's presentation, be sure to fuel up at the Bazaar's Kosher Deli. From 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. nosh on latkes, knishes, steak sandwiches, subs, falafel, chicken nuggets and much more!

Bazaar participants are encouraged to buy raffle tickets for a chance at cash, prizes, goods and services. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit JCC programs and services. Raffle drawing will be at 2:30 p.m.

Throughout the day, there will be a variety of Children's Games & Crafts. From 11:30a.m. -2:30 p.m., Children can take a jump on a moon bounce, have their faces painted and be challenged by participating in holiday themed games!

Chanukah craft projects will also be available! For more information, call (302) 478-5660 or visit the Center on the web at www.siegeljcc.org.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Maybe A Miracle?

We are a people who believe in miracles. Our continued ability to survive and thrive despite countless attempts to wipe us off the very face of the earth is nothing short of miraculous! In just a few short weeks, the lights of the menorahs will burn brightly in hundreds of thousands of Jewish homes around the world. Each candle symbolizes our triumph over the darkness of the Assyrians who defiled the Jerusalem Temple and were defeated by a mighty band of Maccabees.

Then and now, G-d's light sustains us in times of sorrow and gives us the courage to carry on. We pray that this light brings comfort to the families of all the victims of Monday's terrorist attack at the Hasharon Mall in Netanya where at least five innocent Israeli Chanukah shoppers lost their lives and more than 50 were wounded at the hands of the Islamic Jihad.

May the light of our common creator inspire Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to do more than just condemn these and other acts of terrorism. He must make good on his promises to disarm the homicide bombers who will imperil the hard-fought progress of the disengagement process and jeopardize the historic opportunity that Israel has afforded the Palestinian people for self-governance.

In this season of miracles may our prayer for peace be answered.

From my family to yours, Happy Chanukah!
B'Shalom.

Lynn B. Edelm

Taste of Torah



Rabbi Sarah Messinger

"Taste of Torah" is a new initiative of The Jewish Voice, featuring insights of our Jewish community's spiritual leaders: Rabbis Michael Beals, Sanford Dresin, Peter Grumbacher, David Kaplan, Sarah Messinger, Eliezer Sneiderman, Jack Sparks and Chuni Vogel.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT: Parsha Vayishlach, Genesis 32:23-31

By Rabbi Sarah Messinger

On any given Sunday night, someone in my home has the dreaded disease which we call the "Stay awakes." It has many symptoms which are associated with the disease; sweating, wrestling with one's covers, tension, and an inability to close one's eyes. The "Stay awakes" can last many hours depending on what is anticipated for the coming days. Our

patriarch Jacob has the "Stay awakes" during this particular Torah Portion.

And Jacob was left alone and a man wrestled with him until

The break of dawn....

"I will not let you go unless you bless me."
He said, "What is your name?" He said,
"Jacob." He said, "No longer Will you be called
Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with the
Divine and with men, and you have prevailed.

Commentators have called the "man" in the story an angel of God, a "patron" of Esau, the evil inclination or perhaps Jacob's subconscious. Clearly Jacob is struggling as he prepares to face Esau in the near future. He is tormented by his own lying and cheating. Rashi points out that it is the little things in Jacob's life, a clay pot, a stolen blessing, which are keeping him up that night.

It is only when Jacob is willing to ask and hear the name of that which makes him struggle is he then freed from his wrestling. We can all see ourselves reflected in Jacob, insecure, greedy, guilty, and tired. If we name our fears and struggles we would all sleep better.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Jewish Cemetery Assn. Thanks Volunteers

Live Generously Mitzvah Day was a great way to start the New Year. Having so many people to help out at the Jewish Cemetery was just wonderful. As president of the Jewish Cemetery Association, I was thrilled to hear about everyone's contributions. We can't thank all of you enough. We hope that this will continue to be an annual event.

Thanks Again, Bob Berman

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE

for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE December 30

FOCUS Simcha Planning DEADLINE December 22

All submissions in person for The Jewish Voice due at JFD offices or mail:
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Senator Carper to discuss recent Middle East visits

Senator Tom Carper (D - DE) will host a community briefing on Monday, December 12, 2005 at 9:30 am at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center (2nd floor, Youth Lounge). Senator Carper's weeklong trip to Iraq, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia was part of a congressional delegation fact-finding mission led by Senator Chuck Hagel (R - NE). The delegation's trip (from November 28-December 3, 2005), included meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei. Meetings with Jordan's King Abdullah and Prime Minister Adnan Badran were also held.

The Senator will speak for approximately thirty minutes, and then answer questions. This event is organized by the Jewish Community Relations department. For more information contact Jennifer Young at the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 302-427-2100 ext. 19.

Attention All JFD Donors

Please make sure to call the Federation offices early this year regarding end-of-year payments via checks, credit cards or stock transactions.

JFD will close at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, December 30th. For additional information, call (302) 427-2100.

This Week in Jewish History



Celebrate 350 Jewish Life in America 1654 - 2004

This Week in History" is an introduction to 350 years of American Jewish history, brought to you by the Jewish Women's Archive. More information about each of the events described below can be found on JWA's website at http://www.jwa.org/this_week/week 31.html

DECEMBER 6, 1855

Nina Morais Cohen, born on December 6, 1855, published many articles on the rights of Jewish women and became an active suffragist and Jewish communal leader in Minneapolis.

DECEMBER 8 and 9, 2003

The Empire State Building marked the 110th Anniversary of the founding of The National Council of Jewish Women, on December 8 and 9, 2003, with NCJW-inspired illumination.

DECEMBER 10, 1947

Dr. Gerty Theresa Radnitz Cori became the first American woman to receive a Nobel Prize in science on December 10, 1947.

DECEMBER 10, 1977

Dr. Rosalyn S. Yalow accepted the Nobel Prize in medicine on December 10, 1977. At the Nobel banquet, she delivered a speech condemning continued discrimination against women working in traditionally male fields.

DECEMBER 11, 1922

Grace Paley, author, feminist and "somewhat combative pacifist and cooperative anarchist," was born on December 11, 1922 in the Bronx.

MATTER OF OPINION

Sharon's Jigsaw Puzzle

By Nechemia Meyers

As of now, it appears that Kadima, Sharon's new party, will be the big winner in the March elections. Even if this happens, which is by no means certain, Israel will still be a country that is extraordinarily difficult to govern.

For the first three decades of the State this was not the case. Labor (Mapai, Mapam, Achdut Ha'avoda and their Arab allies) had an absolute majority in the Knesset. So while there were differences of opinion between them, they were almost always able to decide upon a policy and implement it.. This is far from being the case today.

Now we have several political blocs, none of them large enough by themselves to plow

ahead with a particular policy. First of all, the premier designate-presumably Sharon-will have to spend weeks trying to create a patchwork cabinet with parties that are antagonistic to one another. How exactly will he manage to reconcile red-hot Socialist Peretz, recently elected to head Labor, with the free marketers of the center and the right who will certainly be a majority in his cabinet? Then there is the question of the religious parties, some of which will certainly be invited to join the cabinet, despite the fact that their agendas frequently bring them into conflict with the secularist majority in the Knesset. And all the partners will be struggling with one another over the allocation of support for their pet projects.

In one respect, at least, things will be easier

than they were for the outgoing government. Negotiations with the Arabs and the establishment of a Palestinian state are no longer a bone of contention. The don't-give-back-an-inch crowd has not benefited from the backlash they expected after the disengagement from Gaza and they will be lucky to get 20% of the seats in the next Knesset. To be sure, there will be disagreements about which settlement blocs must be retained at all costs, and what elements of sovereignty can be allowed to the Palestinians without fatally endangering Israel's security. But the general direction is clear.

The clear difficulties facing the next prime minister (as they did his predecessors) have led to talk about political reform that might include some form of district elections or even

a transition from a parliamentary to a presidential system. Neither are likely to be decided upon in the foreseeable future as the existing party leaders will not agree to these reforms, which would substantially reduce their power and influence.

Old-timers are apt to look back with nostalgia at the days when David Ben-Gurion reigned supreme, when every election resulted in a victory for "the Old Man," who could do more or less what he pleased. But Israeli society is now too fragmented for that to happen. Sharon, today often referred to as "the Old Man" as well, will have to painfully put together a jigsaw-puzzle of a government. One can only hope that he finds all the necessary pieces.

December Holidays

By Teddy Weinberger

Hanukah in Israel is a much more subdued affair than is Christmas in the States. Christmas is the single most important holiday in American culture, whereas Hanukah places a distant fourth in Israeli culture (behind Passover, Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur, and Succot). In fact, unless you have kids in school (who get off for the week of Hanukah-while the rest of the country is officially at work), this holiday of Hanukah might not be such a holiday at all: you might prefer to take a winter vacation at a time when all those screaming little kids will be back in school (plus your employer will be happy that you took up the slack while those with kids took a few days off during the holiday). And so, what is most striking for an American Jew in Israel during December is not so much the experience of Hanukah as a national holiday, but the absence of Christmas as a national holiday. It is quite a relief to live in a country where one is not bombarded by the theme of a holiday in which one takes no part.

If we compare Hanukah in Israel with Hanukah (rather than Christmas) in America, however, Israel's Hanukah rises in stature. The process begins in pre-school, where Hanukah projects and an annual Hanukah party are the focus of many days of preparation. The party involves musical presentations of Hanukah songs, plus some games with a Hanukah theme. An interesting gage in the relative impact of Hanukah on a child might be seen in the number of Hanukah songs that the child knows. The Jewish education that I received in America was excellent, yet I learned only a fraction of the Hanukah songs that the average Israeli child learns.

Hanukah gets more attention in Israeli

schools than it does in Jewish schools in the States. A popular book for Israeli kindergarteners is entitled "Ready for First Grade." At the back of the book, two other books in the series are advertised: "Ready for Math," and "Ready-Pages for Hanukah." It would be very unusual for Hanukah to be so emphasized in an American Jewish day-school curriculum. Then there are those public references to Hanukah that pleasantly remind you that you are now in a country where your personal holiday practices are reflected in the culture at large: the Hanukah songs that come over the radio during candle-lighting time; the Hanukah theme in advertisements for household items; special Hanukah events (often geared for children) at your local zoo, botanical gardens, and art museum; and the omnipresent jelly donut

Israel's jelly donut (sufganiya) and America's potato pancake (latke), the treats most associat-

ed with the holiday in each country, may be seen as symbolic of the place of Jewish culture in Israel and outside of Israel. Beginning in early November and on through all of Hanukah, jelly donuts can be found at every bakery, supermarket, and grocery in Israel, and one can often see people eating them in the street. The potato latke is prepared in the home and is a much more private eating experience, just as Judaism and Jewish culture is a private, minority affair for Jews outside of Israel.

Precisely because I felt 100% American in America, this state of affairs always bothered me. That is, it was only because I believed that I had a full and equal share in what is America that I was so troubled by the fact that I as a Jew could not celebrate America's most favored holiday. This "culture gap" was solved once I moved to Israel, a place where the majority culture and I celebrate together. Happy Hanukah.

Too Much Hysteria About Iran?

By Dr. Mitchell Bard

Iran will have the bomb. It won't be anytime soon, but perhaps in 5 years, more likely 10, certainly in 50. Any expansion of the nuclear club is dangerous, and the idea that a nation that openly calls for Israel's destruction and considers America the "Great Satan" will have the capability to inflict catastrophic damage on both is disturbing. Still, does Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons merit the apocalyptic predictions now emanating from some quarters?

Since the Iranian revolution, the State Department has inaccurately predicted the secular Iranians who hate the theocracy would rise up and retake their country from the mullahs. It hasn't happened, and the latest election actually brought an even more radical leader to the presidency. What is interesting, however, is that it is not only the radicals who believe Iran should have the bomb; the folks we like are equally adamant that their country has every right to the technology.

The nationalistic view of nuclear weapons has two important consequences. First, unlike Iraq, regime change in Iran will not put an end to the country's nuclear ambitions. Second, if the United States were to take military action against Iran, it would unite the entire nation and could lead to a conflict that makes the war in Iraq look like a picnic.

The good news about the current regime is that the president is a loose cannon whose rhetorical bombs have united most of the world against Iran. In addition, the president appears so incompetent the probability that he can make his country a nuclear power seems remote.

The element of surprise is also gone. The world will be keeping a close eye on Iran and, while we may not know everything they are doing, we should know if and when they have built a bomb.

It is also worth remembering that for all the noise Iran makes about the "Zionist entity" and its patron, its principal strategic interest is regional domination, and the countries that are most concerned are its immediate neighbors. Iran wants to control the oil industry, to influence policy in the Middle East, and to become a major player in global politics. Again, this would be the case whoever ran the country.

The Islamic regime would also like to spread their brand of fanaticism, but it is another largely neglected fact that they have utterly failed in this regard. After the revolution, many predicted that radical Islam would sweep across the region. In the succeeding 26 years, however, not a single domino has fallen.

What about the terrorist threat? This is also exaggerated. First, it is not so easy to build a nuclear weapon, that's why the club is so small and Iran still hasn't gotten in. It's not like today's suicide belt that can be put together in a garage and strapped onto someone's back. Second, Iran is not likely to give terrorists whatever weapons it may build. It is likely to only produce a handful and they are going to be primarily for missiles that they can use for deterrence and/or a first strike capability. They probably won't produce suitcase bombs or anything a terrorist could use nor are they likely to give people who they can't control that kind of power.

Should Israel be worried? Of course. Israel's survival depends in large measure on its quantitative military edge over its enemies. Once Iran has nukes, it has the capability to destroy Israel. Three bombs – one for Tel Aviv, one for Jerusalem, one for Haifa – and it's goodbye Israel. Antinuke activists believe our enemies "love their children too" and therefore are unlikely to risk mutual annihilation, but Iran's former president essentially said that Iran could survive a nuclear strike from Israel and still destroy the Jewish state. Moreover, can you trust leaders to behave rationally if they believe that 72 virgins are waiting for them in Paradise if they carry out what they view as Allah's will?

Israelis aren't keen on taking the risk, but what can they do about it? At best, most analysts believe a military strike would only slow the Iranians down and would provoke international

outrage and potentially even greater Islamic terror. Military planners see the inevitability of a nuclear bomb and have a series of defensive responses. First, Israel has developed a satellite capability to spy on Iran (and Iran is trying to get its own satellites) and give them as much advance warning as possible of any threat. Second, in cooperation with the U.S., Israel has developed the Arrow anti-missile system. Finally, Israel wants, and may already have, a second strike capability using submarine-launched nuclear missiles, which it hopes will disabuse the Iranians of the notion they could win a nuclear war.

Israel would prefer to see the United States act. While President Bush might have had the will before, he now has little political support, and few people believe we can afford to start a war with the Iranians while we've still got troops

fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The most likely scenario is that the international community will impose some sanctions on Iran. It will take many more months before any action will be taken, and the Iranians will seek to delay it as long as possible while accelerating their nuclear program. Even after some punitive measures are in place, Iran will continue to pursue a bomb and will receive support from nations that are more interested in oil and the large sums Iran will pay for technology than non-proliferation.

It would be nice if we could prevent Iran from getting the bomb, but we need to think more about how to live with a nuclear Iran and insure it does not use its weapons.

Dr. Mitchell Bard is the Director of the Jewish Virtual Library and coauthor of 1001 Facts Everyone Should Know About Israel.

Photo of the Week



The Chief Rabbi of the Old City of Jerusalem, Rabbi Avraham Goldstein met with Delaware Senator Carper on Wednesday, December 7 in Wilmington to raise support to resist pressures to divide Jerusalem and change the delicate balance on Mount Zion between Jews, Christians and Moslems.

Wishing a
Happy Chanukah
to you and your family



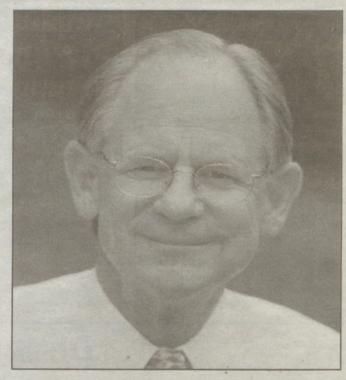
Senator and Mrs. Tom Carper

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Best Wishes for a Happy Chanukah



State Treasurer Jack Markell



Best Wishes from

Delaware's Congressman

Mike Castle

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HAPPY CHANUKAH from Ruth Ann Minner

Delaware's Governor

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CONGREGATION

Beth Shalom

2nd Annual WINTER FILM SERIES

at Theatre N at Nemours
(This is a major fundraiser for Congregation Beth Shalom)

Dates:	Movie:	Showtime:
December 11	King of the Corner	7:30 pm
December 18	Walk on Water	7:30 pm
January 1	Nina's Tragedies	7:30 pm
January 8	Campfire	7:30 pm
January 22	The Rashevski's Tango	·7:30 pm

Details of each film, including the rating, running time and synopsis are listed on the reverse side. Tickets are a \$12.00 donation for each film or \$55.00 for the series.

Theatre N at Nemours is located at 11th & Tatnall Streets in the Nemours Building.

Advance tickets are available for purchase by credit card by calling (302) 571-4699 or online at www.theatren.org. Tickets can be purchased at the theater starting one hour before each show.

Validated parking is available in the City Center garage on 11th Street between West and Tatnall Streets. Bring in your parking ticket and we'll validate it so it's \$1.00 to park. Parking at meters is free all weekend too!

A discussion will follow each film. Refreshments will be available. Keep your ticket stub for your tax deduction. For further information call Beth Shalom at (302) 65424462

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PERSPECTIVES

PARTNERSHIP 2000 UPDATE

By Nili Avrahamy

I hope all is well and that you enjoyed the holidays!

I'd like to share with you a very special event that took place at the Arad Ethiopian Absorption Center.

During the summer, a very generous donation of school supplies was collected in the Jewish Federation of Delaware for needy children in Arad.

At the same time, our Maccabi Games chaperone for Delaware was visiting the region and offered to take the supplies with her on the plane home to Israel. Our wonderful chaperone, Ziv Zaeh works at the Yafit Absorption Center in Arad- which houses Russian and Argentinean immigrants (young adults)

Ziv returned to Israel with the "goodies" and came up with a wonderful idea she decided to ask the immigrants from Argentina to gift wrap all the school supplies individually so that the Ethiopian immigrants would have the joy of opening the gifts and feel special doing so. In addition, the Russian immigrants volunteered

to bake cakes for the Ethiopian children and make things very festive.

When everything was ready, the entire group of immigrants, Ziv Zae and I went to the Ethiopian Absorption Center and got things ready. The children came in quietly and as soon as they saw the gifts their eyes lit up with joy!! The Russian and Argentinean young people handed out the gifts to the children and everyone was laughing and very happy! As I looked at this scene which was made possible by our generous partners in Delaware, I was truly touched-this was the true meaning of Partnership 2000 at its very best!!

I'd like to send a special thank you to the Jewish Federation of Delaware for their generosity and kindness and to Ms. Ziv Zae, a devoted volunteer in Partnership 2000, for her creative and successful idea and for the time and efforts she made to make it possible.

Nili Avrahamy is the Living Bridge Coordinator in the Partnership 2000 office in Arad, Israel. Each summer the Jewish Federation of Delaware and Partnership 2000 financially supports the participation of Israeli athletes from our





Partnership 2000 volunteers make the difference in Arad, helping Ethiopian olim to fully integrate into Israeli society.

Partnership region of Arad-Tamar with our Siegel JCC Maccabi teams. This past summer, Delaware athletes and their families donated

school supplies for children in Arad. For more information regarding P2k, contact Jennifer Young at 427-2100 ext. 19.

"Surely the Lord is in This Place...and I Knew It!"

A Visit to Whitwell Middle School, Home of the Paper Clips

By Rabbi Peter Grumbacher Special to the Jewish Voice

There's nothing spectacular about Whitwell, Tennessee...except the people. Located in the Appalachian mountains, most of the folks look like each other. That's exactly why the teachers and administrators decided it was necessary to study tolerance. After all, when they get out into the world the kids will discover that not every place looks like the town in which they grew up; there will be all kinds of people as well, and it's high time that they understood that fact.

And what better a subject to study tolerance...and intolerance...than the Holocaust!?

Well, some, if not most of you, know where this is going. If you haven't had the opportunity to see the documentary Paper Clips, I can't recommend it highly enough. If you have, you know the kind of impact the movie made on you, let alone the impact the Paper Clips project made not only on the students but on people near and far.

On Sunday and Monday, November 13 and 14, I had the opportunity to speak to Whitwellians. I had the opportunity to meet incredible people who are kind, soft-spoken, caring and, quite frankly, overwhelmed by the response to what they assumed would be a simple in-house project to learn about the most devastating human tragedy of the last century.

Whitwell Middle School is small and very old. The assistant principal's mother-in-law's

grandmother played in the same gymnasium in which basketball players shoot hoops today. That's old! But the school has a very-modern computer lab, contemporary displays on the wall, and an authentic cattle car that transported Jews to their deaths during the dark years of the early 1940s.

Doesn't every school have that? Not quite. That cattle car is the home of the memorial to the martyrs, both Jew and gentile. That's where the millions of paper clips are to be found. They sought to collect six million; they wound up with thirty-two million. This project that began about six years ago continues. In that context, I was thrilled that Ms Linda Hooper, principal of the school, welcomed me to tell the story of my father.

When I addressed the kids in the morning (the night before gave me the chance to speak to adults at a local church), I stood by a display of five ritual objects, a gift of our congregation's eighth grade students to the children of the Whitwell Middle School. We brought them a miniature Torah, a seder plate, a Chanukiah, a havdalah candle and a kiddush cup. I told the children that they and the entire Whitwell community had given a priceless gift to the Jewish people, and that our congregation wanted to give them a gift as well. While I explained the meaning of the objects, each one had a placard on which was written the purpose of the object as well as a tie to the Holocaust. Hopefully these will be displayed permanently somewhere in the school.

I'm not the only Jew who has visited Whitwell, about thirty miles northwest of Chatanooga. As a matter of fact, in the afternoon of my talk Jewish seniors from Nashville were scheduled to tour the memorial. There have been many curious people since November 9, 2001, the day the memorial was dedicated (the sixty-third anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Night of Shattered Glass), and if you're in the area I am certain you would be very welcome to see it for yourselves. In the

meantime, rent the documentary to learn all about the project. Oh, yes...make sure you've got a box of tissues nearby.

A word about the title of this article. When Jacob woke up from his dream in which angels were ascending and descending a ladder reaching heaven, he called out, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." (Genesis 28)

Rabbi Peter Grumbacher is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington.

Meet Nina Bonos

Featured on the cover of this week's Jewish Voice is "Shalom Chanukiah" by Nina Bonos. this 11x15 giclée print spells Shalom, or peace, in Hebrew and English. the bottom half of the lamed-shamash is in the shape of the state of Israel.

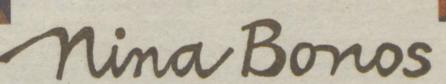
Nina's Joyous Judaica works are contemporary expressions of traditional Jewish themes and symbols. She uses a rich palette of super-saturated, jewel tone colors to boldly convey ancient and modern Jewish teachings. Her most popular compositions are the Torah, Tikkun Olam (healing the world), Star of David, Menorah, Sh'ma Yisrael, the Aleph Bet and Jewish Music. Among her specialties is creating commissioned art for life cycle events.

The artist was born in San Francisco, and after receiving a BA in Architecture from UC Berkeley in 1974, Nina moved sixty miles north to Santa Rosa, California, where she and her

family now live. Inspired daily by the idyllic vineyards and rolling hills of picturesque Sonoma County, Nina often intertwines Judaic and landscape images in vibrant watercolors and mixed media collages.

Bonos creates fine art originals, graphic designs and artistic products for nonprofits, business owners, congregations and families. The artist, who refers to her work as "pure joy and a celebration of life," exhibits widely at Jewish events, art shows, and galleries. Additionally, her greeting cards, prints and small mixed media collages are popular at synagogue gift shops across the US.

Nina is the president of Bonos Productions. An outgrowth of her fine art business, Bonos Productions presents a complete fundraising system for nonprofit organizations through the sale of artistic greeting cards. For more information about her work, please visit www.nin-abonos.com or call 707-525-1521.



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GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

Bomber hits Israeli mall

By Dan Baron

Another Palestinian suicide bombing has sown tragedy in Israel and raised the stakes in a national leadership race

An Islamic Jihad terrorist blew himself up Monday outside the Sharon Mall in Netanya, which has seen several such attacks due to its proximity to the West Bank. At least five people were killed and more than 50 wounded.

The bomber was identified as a 21-year-old man from the West Bank.

Israel responded by closing the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and launched a military crackdown in the West Bank on Tuesday.

Israeli troops swept into the suicide bomber's home village near Tulkarm, arresting his father and three brothers, witnesses said. A total of 14 wanted Palestinians were detained overnight, Israel Radio reported.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said the action against Islamic Jihad would be comprehensive and long-lasting.

The U.S. State Department said the attack underscored the need for the Palestinian Authority and Syria, which hosts Islamic Jihad, to crack down on terrorist groups.

"The Palestinian Authority must take immediate steps to prevent these attacks, to end the violence, and to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism," spokesman Adam Ereli said

Sensing that the situation could spiral out of control. PA President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the bombing and pledged to arrest those responsible.

But belying Abbas' words, Islamic Jihad held a press conference in Gaza City, which is under full PA control, to celebrate the attack.

PA police detained three Islamic Jihad militants in Nablus, but they were not believed to be related to the Netanya bombing. PA forces also tried to arrest an Islamic Jihad member in a refugee camp in Jenin, but gave up after militants responded with gunfire, Ha'aretz report-

The bombing was the third attack on the shopping mall, Netanya Mayor Miriam Fierberg said in a conference call Monday with Jewish federation officials in Cincinnati, Netanya's sister city. Netanya is located close to Israel's pre-1967 border with the Palestinian territories and the mall is at the entrance to the city, so facilitators who drop off the bombers can make a

Guards identified the bomber as a potential terrorist as he approached the mall around 11:30 a.m., and pinned him against the wall. But he managed to detonate explosives in his bag, killing a security guard and several other people nearby.

"The fact that the security guard and policemen managed to identify the bomber meant that they prevented a major disaster," Israel Police Commissioner Moshe Karadi said.

Fierberg said the day started out as a perfect one for her city. The weather was unseasonably warm and she was hosting a party at city hall celebrating the decision by Elbit, a major Israeli high-tech firm, to move to Netanya.

Then her cell phone rang and she got word of the attack.

"This is the way we have to live here and to cope," she said in the conference call, which was held between visits to the hospital to check on the wounded.

Sharon's right-wing rivals in the Likud Party which he left last month, founding a new, centrist party to compete in March 28 general elections - lost no time in condemning him.

"Thanks to Sharon, we risk seeing a terror base being created right next to the Dan region," legislator Uzi Landau told reporters. "Today's terror attack is only a sign of things to

Landau withdrew from the Likud primary race Monday to endorse the front-runner, Benjamin Netanyahu. Other candidates include Foreign



Israeli rescue personnel remove a victim from the site where a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up outside a shopping mall Dec. 5, 2005, in Netanya. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack, which killed at least five and wounded more than 50. Credit: BP Images/JTA

Minister Silvan Shalom and Mofaz.

Sharon's new Kadima Party also faces a challenge from the left, from Labor Party leader Amir Peretz. A former trade union chief with little experience in making war or peace, Peretz was quick to call for an "all-out crackdown on terror." But he also has appealed to Israeli doves by vowing that, if he's elected prime minister, he'll withdraw from large areas of the West Bank.

Sharon has a strong lead in popularity polls, thanks in large part to his alliance with veteran diplomat Shimon Peres, who left Labor last week after losing a leadership primary to

When he was Labor chairman, Peres helped Sharon push through the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip this summer, a move intended to kick-start moribund peace efforts with the Palestinians. But there have been two suicide bombings since the pullout, as well as salvoes of rocket fire from Gaza at Israeli border towns.

The latter tactic appears to be extending its reach. On Saturday, two rockets struck Shuva, a moshav five miles from the Gaza boundary that had not been hit until now

Mofaz ordered a resumption of air strikes aimed at killing Palestinian terrorists involve in producing and launching rockets.

face threats Peru's Jews

The Peruvian Jewish community is suffering from a rise in anti-Semitic attacks, according to Rabbi Guillermo Bronstein, chief rabbi of the largest and most influential of the capital city's three main synagogues, Lima's Asociacion

By Joe Goldman, JTA

He also believes that divisions within the community are developing as a result of political and social events unfolding in this unstable Andean country.

It's very rare that one hears of anti-Semitic statements in Lima, but in recent times there has been an obvious increase due to two major causes. Firstly, the increase of neo-Nazi groups, still a tiny minority but very noisy. The Jewish community is keeping a watchful eye on their activities," Bronstein said.

Secondly, the closeness of certain members of the Jewish community to this government" of President Alejandro Toledo "and apparent heavy influence over government decisions has exposed us to certain criticisms. At the same time one must say that there are members of this government, like, for example, the vice president, David Waisman - a member of our congregation - who are very popular and esteemed in the public eve

Adding to the dangers posed by these two situations is a rapidly rising ethnic, indigenous, super-nationalist movement led by two Peruvian ex-military men, the Humala brothers, who have led two small rebellions against the Toledo gov-

They are openly xenophobic and have principally targeted their attacks at Chileans due to longstanding tensions between Peru and Chile, and Jews," Bronstein said.

Since 1985, the Argentinean-raised Bronstein has been at the Asociacion Judia 1870, a Conservative congregation of German Jewish origin with about 200 families.

In total we are about 3,000 Jews in Peru, with only three main synagogues, ours and two other, Orthodox temples. The vast majority of Jews live in Lima but there is a small community in Iquitos," the main city in the Peruvian Amazon, `as well as scattered Jewish families living in cities like Arequipa, Trujillo and Cuzco."

In the past few months there have been anti-Semitic threats against Salomon Lerner, the judge in charge of the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The commission was appointed to investigate the deadly insurgency of the Shining Path guerrilla movement and the excesses of the military during its crackdown on the Shining Path in the 1980s and early 1990s during an internal war believed to be responsible for some 80,000 deaths.

Lerner's commission, after an exhaustive study, determined that 53 percent of the deaths were directly attributable to the Shining Path and the other 47 percent were the responsibility of the Peruvian armed forces. The report details how most of the victims of this period were innocent people.

The threats against Lerner have been anonymous, Bronstein says, "although they probably come from some extreme elements within the military in response to the report of the commission, which accused them of excessive

Bronstein noted that Salomon Lerner, a law professor at the Catholic University in Lima, is actually a practicing Catholic; his father is Jewish and his mother Catholic. Lerner's brother, Boris, is a practicing Jew and a member of Bronstein's congregation.

The case of Alberto Fujimori, the populist expresident who held office from 1990 to 2000, is proving to be a highly divisive factor within the Jewish community.

Charged with corruption and complicity in human rights violations in some of the massacres that occurred in the war against the



Rabbi Guillermo Bronstein, chief rabbi of Lima, Peru's largest synagogue, Asociacion Judia

Shining Path, Fujimori escaped prosecution by sional bloc of 15-20 out of 120 seats, anybody secretly leaving the country in October 2000 as his grasp on power slipped.

He resurfaced in Japan, sent his resignation to Peru by fax, and lived in Japan for five years. Just a few weeks ago Fujimori was detained in Chile and is being held for extradition to Peru to face the numerous charges against him.

The Jewish community is very divided over Fuilmori, with the basic lines drawn as the business community supporting him and the intellectual community against him," said Bronstein. "The businessmen see the real possibility that Fujimori could return to power, not necessarily as president. But with a congreswould have to negotiate with Fujimori to run the country. Other members of the Jewish community, mainly the intellectuals, perceive a return to power of Fujimori - in any form - as a democratic disaster for the country.

To further complicate Peru's social and political unrest, the country's severe economic recession between 1997 and 2003 affected many Jews, who saw their wages drop and their savings drained. There have been economic problems for the Jewish institutions, although nothing on the order of the complete collapse that was seen in Argentina, for example.



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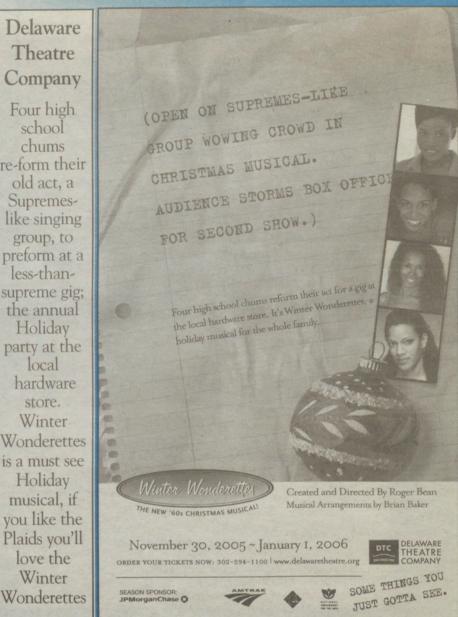
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INSIDE DELAWARE

Preston Memorial Lecture Presents Dr. Rochelle Saidel

Story and Photo by Joel Glazier

"I have never spoken in a room with an overflow crowd, " noted Dr. Rochelle Saidel as she addressed a standing room only audience at the Brandywine Hundred Library about her book, "The Jewish Women of Ravensbruck Concentration Camp." Saidel began her research into this women's camp began after a 1980 press trip to Communist East Germany. Trip organizers made no mention of the Camp which Saidel knew about from a conversation with a writer at Lilith, a Jewish feminist maga-

Reluctantly an East German guide took her to the camp, the used as a Soviet military base, but only mentioned one Jewish woman, "A political prisoner who had been a Communist heroine." After the fall of the "Iron Curtain", Saidel had a chance to return to the abandoned camp on a 1994 trip to a Holocaust Conference in Berlin. "The Holocaust Museum in Washington helped me track down Ravensbruck survivors. The camp had held 132,000 women, many of whom were used as slave laborers in nearby factories, like Siemens Electric. Women were valued for their smaller hands that could be utilized in the manufacture of V-1 Rocket components."

Her research began in earnest once she

connected with survivors and their families. "Women's experiences differed from men's in concentrations camps," she explained mentioning different kinds of resistance and bonding, involving physical, emotional and mental

Saidel signed copies of her book that had been a finalist for the 2004 Jewish Book Award. The best thing about writing the book, she said, 'Has been meeting the women who survived," adding "I worry their memories will be forgotten. So many survivors' stories are not being

Dr. Saidel was impressed with what she saw in Delaware. "Your Holocaust Memorial downtown, the Garden of the Righteous Gentiles at the JCC and meeting members of the Preston Holocaust Committee who are doing more than their share in working to keep such memories

The Halina Wind Preston Committee's collection of books and Holocaust education resources is housed at the Brandywine Hundred Library. The collection is accessible state wide through inter library loan. The Preston Committee is an interfaith, community volunteer based group supported by The Jewish Federation of Delaware. For information, contact Jennifer Young at the JFD, 427-2100, ext. 19.



David Preston, Dr. Rochelle Saidel, guest speaker, Dr. Margaret Crouch and Preston Committee Chair Regina Alonzo at the Annual Preston lecture.

BBYO Shabbats are Special

By Samantha Diamond

On November 18th Wilmington BBG and Wilmington AZA played host for the B'nai Brith Youth Organization's Kickoff Convention 2005. As the coordinators of this convention, our chapters worked for weeks on arranging speakers, projects and fun activities for about twohundred Jewish teens from as far as Binghamton, New York and as close as Newark, Delaware. The weekend turned out to be a huge success with help from the Wilmington JCC and the Wilmington Jewish community who helped us to house all of the teens throughout the weekend.

Some of our most successful programs were led by outside speakers who talked about Israel, sexual harassment and Israeli-American relationships in the government. Many thanks to Idan Klingerman, Jack Taggart and Mike Glassman for their wonderful additions to our weekend's programming schedule. The highlight of our weekend was our Saturday night program.

In BBYO we always start our Saturday night with a Havdallah service consisting of the traditional Havdallah songs and our own personal favorites. After our Havdallah, which was held at the Skating Club of Wilmington, naturally we went ice-skating! A good time was had by all and there were plenty of blisters to prove it; many thanks to the Skating Club of Wilmington for having us at their facilities.

All in all the weekend was a huge success. If you missed out on our weekend BBYO has many great upcoming programs. On Wednesday December 14th at 7pm at the Wilmington JCC we are having an Israeli night with Idan Klingerman; any 9th-12th grade student is more than welcome to attend. We are also looking forward to helping out with Channukah Choopla, gift wrapping at Borders on December 19th and 22nd and starting off the New Year with strong chapters and great members! For more information about getting involved with B'nai Brith Youth Organization, please contact Samantha Diamond at Sportgrisam16@aol.com or Alex Resch at A.resch@gmail.com.

Historical Society to Study Delaware's Jewish Genealogy

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware is planning to conduct a study of the genealogy of Delaware's Jewish population. JHSD President Howard Kristol explains that "Jews in Delaware claim many places of origin - a number, but by no means all, have families who came from the shtetls of Eastern Europe. By surveying our community's roots and its members' manifold paths to Delaware, the Historical Society hopes to open a window into the community's past and provide useful insight into its present and future."

In recent years, the organization has sponsored such successful exhibitions as From Al's to Zutz: Celebrating a Century of Delaware's Jewish Business Tradition and Half a Chance: Stories of Jewish Delawareans. Its newest initiative is programming to help Delawareans explore their Jewish ancestry. The impetus for this programming came from the questions posed by many community members who are interested in learning more about their family's history but are uncertain

about how to conduct their search. Kristol is optimistic that, through a combination of speakers and exhibits, JHSD can address such questions as "How do you start?" "Where do you look?" "What sources are available in the United States?" and "Are there archives accessible in other countries that might be helpful?"

The JHSD is currently celebrating the 30th anniversary of its founding in 1974. The Society is dedicated to acquiring, preserving and sharing materials illuminating the history of Jewish life in the State of Delaware. Read more about the Society's current activities in the newsletter inserted into this edition of the Jewish Voice.

The JHSD welcomes as members all those, young and old, who have an interest in telling the story of Delaware's Jewish community. Individuals interested in sharing their time, talents and energies are encouraged to call archivist, Gail Pietrzyk, at (302) 655-6232 or send an e-mail to jhsdel@yahoo.com.

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This program is open to older adults in the community teaches basic computer skills such as e-mail and how to surf "the 'Net" (Internet). Cost: \$25/JCC members, \$35/non-members. Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m., in the JFS Classroom. To register or for more information, please contact Scott Michels at 302-478-9411, ext. 18.

AEA Graduate Wins National Competition

Albert Einstein Academy Graduate Joshua Isaacs ('03) placed first in the country in Computer Applications at this year's 2005 Technical Student Association (TSA) National Competition in Chicago. Competing with thousands of students from around the country, Isaacs was the only middle school student from Delaware to take first place and only the second in Hanby history to do so.

Prior to this competition, Isaacs had won first place in the 2005 State competition in computer applications, and electrical applications, second place in the transportation challenge and his team placed third in the Technology Bowl Challenge. He had also earned recognition at the 2004 Delaware TSA competition.

"I'd like to offer my congratulations to Josh," said Dr. Jack Sparks, Head of School. "I'm not surprised in the least. He is a bright student and AFA provides a strong background enabling students to perform well in whatever endeavors they pursue."

Isaacs is now a freshman at Brandywine High School (BHS) and is Vice President of the Brandywine TSA chapter. He also has been

selected to participate as a Student Ambassador with the People-to-People delegation to Europe this coming summer, 2006. Additionally, Isaacs plays trumpet in the symphonic band, participates on the Math League Team, takes all pre-AP or highest honors classes and runs cross-country at BHS. In his spare time, he dances with Anna Marie Dance studio, and plays piano. He hopes to perform at the Kutz Home and Forwood Manor as part of his ongoing commitment to mitzvot, as he learned at Albert Einstein Academy.

Albert Einstein Academy is the Brandywine Valley's only Jewish Elementary Day School. It serves Delaware and Pennsylvania students from Kindergarten through sixth grade and offers a well-rounded curriculum in both general and Jewish studies. Albert Einstein Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and is a constituent of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. For more information about the school, call Karen Moss, Director of Admissions and Advancement, at (302) 478-5026, ext. 123, or visit the school on the web at www.aeacademy.org.

INSIDE DELAWARE

JCC Early Childhood Center is Growing



Diana McWilliams and Stacy Horowitz are the dynamic leadership duo at the JCC Early **Childhood Center**

With new leadership and a beautiful, state-ofthe-art new facility, the Early Childhood Center at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center is thriving. The excitement that is building in the new wing with 14 classroom suites

seen to be believed!

Directing the ECC and its new leadership team is Stacy Horowitz, a mother of three and a former JCC Board member. Formerly the director of 3 preschools in the Washington, DC area and a past co-chair of the JCC Early Childhood Committee, Stacy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. Stacy's commitment to the ECC is to provide a safe, loving and nurturing environment in which the children can continuously learn and thrive. "We want to instill in our children a strong sense of self and a strong Judaic background," says Stacy. "The community has generously provided the children and staff with a wonderful facility that will allow us to deliver special and unique programs that stimulate each child's emotional, social, physical and cognitive development." The Center's Jewish and secular curriculum is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Joining Stacy, as the ECC Assistant Director,

and fun action-packed playgrounds must truly be is Diana McWilliams, Delaware State Representative for the 6th District - Fox Point. Diana has worked with children for over 15 years, most recently as the operator of her own not-for-profit child care center. Diana believes that every child deserves quality care and enriching experiences early in life, and is grateful for the opportunity to serve the ECC children and their families.

The ECC administrative team also includes half-day Pre-K teacher and Behavioral & Curriculum Specialist, Laura Greenlee. Laura has a degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Delaware and she is enjoying her 15th year with the Center! Laura is excited about continuing to serve a thriving Center that serves the community's children with exceptional individualized care.

Rounding out our administrative team are Jill Flambaum and Donna Harlev. Both have children who have attended the Early Childhood Center and who now attend Albert Einstein Academy. Jill is past President of Jewish Family

Services, and remains active in a number of Federation agencies. Donna is currently co-President of the Brandywine Chapter of Women's American ORT.

It is, of course, the wonderfully dedicated, and unbelievably talented staff of the ECC that will allow our programs and children to continue to thrive and prosper. On average, our staff has over 7 years of experience with eight staff members having more than 10 years of experience at the JCC Early Childhood Center. Each teacher, in his or her own unique way, is committed to providing the children with a truly exceptional and memorable educational experience.

The Early Childhood Center continues to grow and expand; new and exciting programs for the children are being added daily! The entire community is invited to visit the new Early Childhood Center and see for itself the source of this excitement for the future of early childhood education at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel

Hadassah Hosts Stem Cell Research Forum

Noting that "Only 17% of the American public strongly opposes stem cell research," New Castle County Councilwoman and national board member of Hadassah, Karen Venezky welcomed a large crowd to an informative forum about the medical, religious and political aspects of the current research, success and legislation involving stem cell research.

Dr. Jeffrey B. Russell, who has been involved with Stem Cell research regionally and abroad, provided a very informative explanation accompanied by a video to help explain how latest research has made it possible to remove a cell from an embryo without destroying the embryo.

"Stem cell research is not destroying lives and it is not cloning," he emphasized as he has also explained to the Delaware State Senate, which is considering legislation to enable funding such

Dina Feivelson, a stem cell recipient from New York City was happy to explain "Being alive thanks to 2 stem cell transplants done to treat" her blood cancer. She stressed the importance of being on the registry of bone marrow/stem cell donors as such a donor match has helped her survive since her cancer diagnosis in 1992.

Matt Fink spoke as a representative of Congressman Michael Castle, who has championed stem cell research in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Stem cell is a science issue, neither Democrat or Republican, and I urge you all to continue to show your support for funding such research to Senators Biden and Carper to assure their support when HR 810, reaches the US Senate early in 2006."

During the question/answer session, audience members were reminded that the Delaware State House of Representative is scheduled to hold public hearings on a stem cell research bill, SB 80, on January 4, 2006 for a vote later in the month.

Hadassah provides continual education programs on health and political topics. The organization is regarded as a leader in stem cell



Dr. Jeffrey Russell, Karen Venezky, Dina Fiuelson and Matt Fink, an aide to Congressman Mike Castle display their certificates of appreciation.

For additional information about organization programs, phone 475-7912.

Photo and Story by Joel Glazier

Jewish Geneaology the Theme of AKSE Weekend

Phil Sternberg, an expert on Jewish genealogy, will present a HOW-TO FOR JEWISH GENEAOLOGY, a program on finding our roots, on Saturday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth in Wilmington. Transition from Shabbat time to ordinary time with a Havdallah service preceding this special program. Sternberg, a resident of Alexandria, VA will discuss his personal story of how he researched his family's history.

Then on Sunday, December 18th, Barbara S. and Charles K. Keil, native Wilmingtonians and members of the Delaware Genealogical Society, will take "A Look at Jewish Genealogy" during the AKSE Men's Club program. The free program begins at 10:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served at 9:30 for just \$4 per person.

For additional information, please call the synagogue at 302-672-2705.



Barbara S. and Charles K. Keil

Gratz Thanks Isadore Reitzes Fund

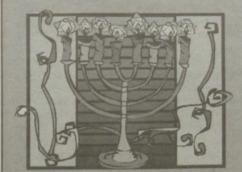
Fund for enabling them to participate in a cutting-edge professional development conference to learn about multiple intelligneces and thier impact on increasing the effectiveness of teaching methods. The creator of the Multiple Intelligences Theory, Dr. Howard Gardner, discussed "Integrating the Mulitple Intelligneces Theory into Practice". Over 1300 teachers attended this Annual Jewish Educators Conference held in Philadlephia, where the focus was on integrating learning styles, thinking skills and authentic instruction.

Gardner, an internationally renowned Harvard University professor, developed the dynamic Multiple Intelligences Theory following work with two populations, normal children and patients whose trauma or lesions caused brain damage. His early studies led him to the realization that people have a unique blend of intelligences: linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, bodily-kinesthetic, spatial, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalist and possibly existen- Delaware Gratz faculty is all smiles at a tial, each of which functions relatively autonomously. Now taken for granted, his in Philadelphia.

Gratz faculty thanks the Isadore Reitzes still-developing theory has become the foundation upon which many other theories and experiments have been built, the most famous of which is Emotional IQ. Gardner's big challenge to teachers and parents is "how to best take advantage of the uniqueness conferred on us as a species" where individuals exhibit varying amounts of several intelligences.



Come to the Kutz Home Celebration



The Kutz Home Chanukah party is a holiday celebration guaranteed to warm the hearts of all in attendance! Please join the residents and their families for a festive afternoon on Sunday, December 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. Enjoy music provided by Tater Patch, a local blue grass ensemble, latkes and cake, and a bake sale. Foot tapping music, delicious food and friendly people—a real recipe for Chanukah fun! For more information, please contact Becky Rosen at (302) 652-4472.

Summer Scholarship Available

The Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its 17th annual Scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or Israel. Applications may be pickd up at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Synagogue office, Washington Street Ext. and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802, and must be returned by the deadline -

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

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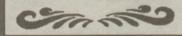


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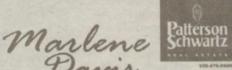
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LIFESTYLES

Through Jewish Eyes: Savannah and Charleston

By Ellen S. Meyer

When my husband, Bob, and I booked our stays in Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina at two charming, but inexpensive bed and breakfast inns, we were most interested in being located in the heart of each city's historic district. Fortuitously, both "b & bs" were also within easy walking distance of the cities'ancient synagogues.

On July 11, 1733 forty-two Jewish settlers from London arrived in Savannah, a mere five months after General James Oglethorpe had established the colony of Georgia. Jews who remained in London – members of the Spanish and Portuguese Bevis Marks Synagogue – provided generous financial support to their Savannah coreligionists, who were also of Spanish and Portuguese descent.

Two years later – in July, 1735 – Congregation Mickve Israel was founded in Savannah. The congregation rented a house and altered it for regular services. It wasn't until July 21, 1820 that the first synagogue building was erected and consecrated.

On February 11, 1868 the congregation began omitting the celebration of the second day of all festivals and introducing a choir with musical accompaniment as part of the service. Twelve years later, the use of a marriage canopy was made optional and in 1894 members were permitted to go hatless during services. In 1902 the Union Prayer Book was adopted, and by January 10, 1904, with membership in the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (the Reform Jewish movement), Mickve Israel became a Reform synagogue.

The present synagogue building was consecrated on April 11, 1878. It sits in a prime location on Monterey Square across from the Mercer-Williams House (made famous in the book Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil).

It is a most unusual synagogue, resembling a gothic cathedral more than a Jewish house of worship. There are tours of Mickve Israel beginning at 10:00am daily Monday through Friday, except for Jewish holidays.

Since we had a rental car, we were able to drive out to the Bonaventure Cemetery, also featured in Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil. We didn't learn until we got there that there is a fairly large Jewish section of the cemetery, which we were able to wander through at our leisure. There is a Jewish chapel in the center of the section, but the doors were locked, and we weren't able to enter. We were, however, able to peer through the large panes of glass and see the Hebrew writing and memorial plaques lining the walls.

The historic synagogue in Charleston – Kahal Kodosh Beth Elohim – also a Reform congregation, is a classic Greek-style structure with six imposing columns in front. – a building very different from its sister congregation in Savannah. Kahal Kodosh Beth Elohim was founded in 1749, and the present structure was completed in 1840. Tours are available Monday through Friday from 10:00 am until noon – except, once again, for Jewish holidays.

Its original members were also of Spanish and Portuguese descent, and it is the nation's first Reform synagogue. In 1824 forty-seven congregants unsuccessfully petitioned the trustees of the synagogue to allow briefer Hebrew ritual, English translation of prayer and a sermon in English. This request was made only fourteen years after the first Reform Jewish congregation was started in Germany. Sixteen years later, upon the building of the present structure and the installation of an organ in the new synagogue, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim changed its service to Reform. In 1873 it was one of the founding synagogues of the American Reform movement. It has the second

It is a most unusual synagogue, resembling a oldest Jewish Sunday School. (The first was hic cathedral more than a Jewish house of wor-

We not only visited the synagogue in Charleston, but took as well a Jewish tour of the city, led by Janice Kahn, a member of Kahal Kodesh Beth Elohim, past president of its sister-hood and a founder of the Charleston Jewish Historical Society. Janice takes you not only to sites of Jewish interest, but also gives you an architectural tour of this fascinating city.

Since it is a private tour, it is more expensive than what the Visitors' Center has to offer, but well worth the additional price. We reserved our tour about four weeks in advance and already there were unavailable time slots (Janice Kahn Tours—phone: 843-556-0664; fax: 843-556-8355.)

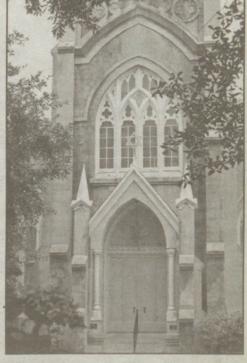
According to The Jewish Traveler, published by Hadassah, the ancient Jewish cemetery in Charleston is kept locked so cannot be visited. Well, Janice has a key so we were able to wander among the many historic tombstones, some dating back to before the Revolutionary War.

We saw graves of Jews who had fought in the Revolutionary War as well as graves of Jewish Confederate soldiers from the Civil War. An ancestor of Bernard Baruch, for example, is buried in the cemetery. Visiting such a historic Jewish graveyard was a highlight of our visit to Charleston.

We also learned from Janice that Grace Episcopal Church has a stained glass window featuring three very important women – Sarah, Mary and Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah.

Janice made sure to point out 69 Meeting Street, site of a beautiful historic house – a prime example of Charleston architecture – with a mezuzah on its door, as its present owners are Jewish.

We learned that the first Jew to arrive in Charleston came in 1695 and was a translator for native Americans. As long ago as the early 1770s



Sávannah's Mickve Israel Synagogue

Jews could vote and own land in Charleston. The current president of The College of Charleston, Ted Stern, was born Jewish. There are Pearlstein Gates and an Adelstone Library at the college, due to the generosity of Jewish families.

Savannah and Charleston, two lovely old cities, are even more beautiful when seen through Jewish eyes.

Elena Ralph - The Beauty of Israel

by Lisa Samin

Elena Ralph has a fairy tale aliyah story: going from a lone immigrant student to Miss Israel in three short years. While most new immigrant students are busy adjusting to their new life and learning a new language, Elena is representing Israel all over the world as Miss Israel 2005.

"Sometimes I feel that I am in a dream and that this didn't really happen to me," says Elena. "But I feel a great responsibility that the Israeli people chose me to be Miss Israel. I represented this country that I love so much at the Miss Universe pageant, and it was incredibly humbling."

Elena grew up in Donyetsk, Ukraine. Her mother is a saleswomen and her father is a businessman. It was Elena's grandmother who told her she was Jewish when Elena was a child. It was also her grandmother who heard about the Jewish Agency Youth Club at the Hesed and told Elena about it.

"My cousin and I were twelve years old and we decided to take my grandmother's advice and go to the Youth Club. A whole new world opened to us and our Jewish identities blossomed," says Elena.

The Youth Club became a second home to Elena. She then went on to become a counselor at a Jewish Agency Summer Camp. "This was one of the most intense experiences of my life," says Elena with enthusiasm. "I gradually saw myself as more Israeli than Ukrainian."

At the age of 17 Elena knew that she wanted to make aliyah. As an only child she convinced her parents that moving to Israel was the best choice for her future. "My parents were afraid that going to a new country alone, with no friends or family would be very difficult. I told them that deep inside I knew that returning to my homeland was right for me."

Elena came to Israel through the Jewish Agency's Selah program. Selah, which stands for Students Before Their Parents, is a 10-month academic preparatory course for high school graduates from the FSU. The program includes room and board, intensive Hebrew-language



Elena Ralph

studies (ulpan), cultural activities, and a special course of studies to prepare the students for post-secondary education.

Elena lived in Hadera with a group of 50 Selah students from the FSU. She did not know anyone, but after the first few months the group formed tight-knit friendships. They shared the unique experience of learning a new language and adjusting to a new culture. Upon completing Selah they went their separate ways, but are still in touch.

"These people are my closest friends," says Elena. "Selah brought us together, and we have an incredible bond."

Upon completing Selah, Elena chose to study political science and sociology at Tel Aviv University. She received a Student Authority Scholarship supported by the Jewish Agency,

which provides tuition and a living stipend for new immigrant students.

At University, friends and strangers told Elena that she should be a model or try out for a beauty pageant. At the time, Elena was cleaning houses in order to supplement her living stipend.

"I had never really thought of myself as a model," says Elena. "And I had no idea how to enter the beauty pageant." However, Elena's friend, who was crowned runner-up in the 2004 Miss Israel beauty pageant, helped Elena enter the competition.

"I didn't really think I would win," explains Elena, "especially since I was a new immigrant who still spoke Hebrew with a Russian accent."

To her amazement, Elena was crowned Miss Israel 2005. The Jewish Agency brought Elena's parents to Israel to be with her at this joyous time. "Who would have thought that a new immigrant such as me would receive such support and love from my new country," says Elena.

Elena represented Israel with pride at the Miss Universe pageant in Bangkok, Thailand. She was one of the top ten finalists from over 80 contestants.

She met other women from around the world and played an important role in representing Israel in a positive light.

Natalie Glebova, a Russian-born Canadian, was crowned Miss Universe. She and Elena became fast friends, sharing their immigrant experiences and conversing together in Russian. Says Elena, "Both of us are very grateful for the opportunities we have been given in our new countries. I feel that Israel has embraced me, and I want to do what I can to help others."

Elena holds the Miss Israel title until April 2006. She wishes to use this wonderful opportunity to help children in need and to work with the Jewish Agency to give young immigrants equal opportunities for a bright future in Israel.

Courtesy of Israel Press Service

Celebrate Chanukah at Longwood Gardens

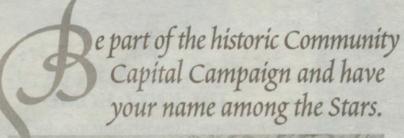
Longwood Gardens celebrates Chanukah with a community menorah lighting and performances of Jewish music by the Westminster Conservatory Youth Chorale on Saturday, December 10 at 7 & 8 p.m. The choir will sing traditional Chanukah favorites and a special commissioned piece. Before the concert, explore the indoor gardens with an array of orchids, tropical fruits and plants that grow in Mediterranean climates. After dark, enjoy a night-blooming garden with more than 420,000 colorful lights aglow.

The Westminster Conservatory Youth Chorale is a high school honors choir of Westminster Conservatory, the community music school of Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey. For their performance at Longwood

Gardens, The Westminster Conservatory

Youth Chorale will perform a program titled Kindle the Tapers: A Concert for Chanukah. Highlighting the evening will be a premiere performance of a commissioned piece titled Do These Tears Know by Joel Phillips. The text of this work is by Judah Ha-Levi who lived in the twelfth century and was known as a poet, philosopher, and the "Sweet Singer of Zion."

Admission to these performances is included in the regular Gardens admission of \$15 for adults, \$6 for ages 16-20, \$2 ages 6-15 and free under age 6. Longwood Gardens is located on U.S. Route 1, three miles northeast of Kennett Square, PA, 30 miles west of Philadelphia, and 12 miles north of Wilmington, DE, in the historic Brandywine Valley. For information or a complete schedule of events call 610-388-1000 or visit online at www.longwoodgardens.org.





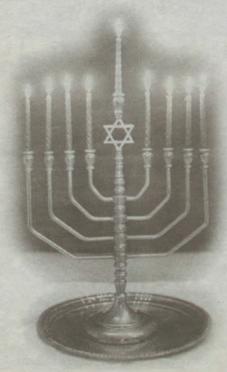
A beautiful design of etched stars will be created on the windows of the Jewish Community Center that will include your name (or the name of your organization) to recognize your contribution to this historic community effort. You can purchase a single line or the entire star, which holds up to 10 names. With two sizes to choose from, there are several ways to show your support!





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This Chanukah, may the light of our menorahs reflect our collective ommitment to creating a safe, secure Jewish Community here in Delaware, in Israel and around the world.

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Scholarships are available for Israel experience, Jewish studies, and leadership development, please contact Gina at 302-427-2100 ext. 20 for more information about Greenbaum Scholarships, the Jerusalem Study Fund and other opportunities.

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December 18	Walk on Water	7:30 pm
January 1	Nina's Tragedies	7:30 pm
January 8	Campfire	7:30 pm
January 22	The Rashevski's Tango	7:30 pm

Details of each film, including the rating, running time and synopsis are listed on the reverse side. Tickets are a \$12.00 donation for each film or \$55.00 for the series.

Theatre N at Nemours is located at 11th & Tatnall Streets in the Nemours Building.

Advance tickets are available for purchase by credit card by calling (302) 571-4699 or online at www.theatren.org. Tickets can be purchased at the theater starting one hour before each show.

Validated parking is available in the City Center garage on 11th Street between West and Tatnall Streets. Bring in your parking ticket and we'll validate it so it's \$1.00 to park. Parking at meters is free all weekend too!

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CHANUKAH COOKING

Chanukah and the art of frying

By Linda Morel, JTA

Some women have a knack for savoring life. Shoshana Barer, author of `The Jewish Maven Cookbook," is that rare combination of glamour girl and domestic goddess.

While her background was conventional, adventure was destined to be her life's path.

"My mother was from Poland, and Yiddish was my first language," says this graduate of a yeshiva.

Born in the Bronx, Barer married young and went West.

During the 1970s, she settled in Reno, Nev., and had two daughters. But then her marriage dissolved. Undaunted, she moved her girls to the rugged Big Sky country of Montana, where she lassoed a cowboy, who became her second husband. Believe it or not, he was Jewish. The fact that her chopped liver contains onions fried to a crackling crunch was part of the attraction, along with her high cheekbones, sultry eyes and long dark hair.

Among her many talents, Barer is a great cook and loves to entertain. As Chanukah rolls around, she sips champagne while making the crispiest latkes on either side of the Rockies.

"I get my fry genes from my mother," says Barer. "She wasn't a good cook, but a great fryer."

"Frying is an art," she explains. The temperature of the oil must be just right. Hot enough to sputter, but not so hot that it smokes. Furthermore, the right oil must be chosen. Barer recommends peanut oil. Like a pro, she knows when to flip foods sizzling in oil, so they become brown – not burnt.

For that reason, she could be called the high priestess of Chanukah fare, a holiday revolving around a one-day supply of purified oil that defied the odds and lasted eight days. Back in 165 B.C.E., Judah Maccabee and his small band of heroes defeated the Syrian Greek army, restoring the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and regaining religious freedom for Jews. Since then, oil has become a reminder of this miracle and the cooking ingredient of choice during Chanukah's eight days.

"Chanukah is my favorite holiday," says Barer, who at 60-something is now a proud grandmother. Throwing a holiday party every December, she invites her family and friends. She decorates her dining table to the hilt with dreidels and gelt – chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil. She places seven menorahs in windows and on tables. When lighting Chanukah candles, Barer designates a menorah for herself and another for her granddaughter. Her daughters and other guests must share the remaining five.

"Everyone stands around while I fry latkes, eating them so quickly, I never get a chance to use a platter."

"I eat a lot of fried foods at Chanukah, because they are tasty, and I love delicious food," Barer says. "Nothing beats french fried potatoes or fried fish." Although latkes are always popular, Barer fries an array of succulent dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Because of its texture, rice a la Jewish maven is Barer's signature dish. With generous amounts of sesame seeds and almonds, mushrooms fried in schmaltz and grivenes – chicken skin that's sauteed until nothing's left but chewy bits), there's a lot of heavy crunching involved in eating this delicacy.

"I remember a particular Chanukah dinner at my home," says Barer. ``I put out a bowl of grivenes. Everyone exclaimed how bad it is for your cholesterol. But when I walked back into my dining room a few minutes later – not a crumb was left. Surprisingly, nobody died the next day, or even got sick."

Recipes from "The Jewish Maven Cookbook"

By Shoshana Barer

FRIED MATZAHS (for Breakfast or Brunch)

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup heavy cream or milk
- 2 tsp. water, plus more for softening matzahs
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 box matzahs
- Butter, lots of it (about 1/4 pound)
- Cream cheese for spreading (a good 8 ounces)
 Optional: bits of raw onion and/or lox

In a bowl, beat eggs with cream. Add 2 tsp. water, salt and pepper. Beat again. Pour into a 9×13 -inch baking pan

with sides. Reserve.

Run one sheet of matzah under hot water, until damp and slightly softened. (Not too wet or it will break.)

On a medium-high flame, melt one tablespoon of butter in a large frying pan.

Dip both sides of the softened sheet of matzah into the batter. Then move to the preheated pan and fry matzo until

light golden brown, but flexible. Add more butter, if needed. Flip over and repeat. (Don't fry matzah until it's stiff.)

Place matzah on a platter. Spread cream cheese over matzah.

If you like, sprinkle onion and lay lox on top of cream

cheese. Roll up matzah and secure with a toothpick. Repeat with remaining matzahs.

Yield: One box serves 4-6 people, but you'll find you can never make enough!

FRIED HERRING (for Brunch or Lunch)

12 ounce jar of herring in wine sauce or other marinade or

- 1 eg
- 2 Tbsp. light cream
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/4 tsp. white pepper
- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter, or more if needed
- 1 large onion, sliced into rings

Place contents of jar in a colander and rinse under cold water. Discard pieces of marinated onions, if any. Move fish to a ceramic or non-reactive container. Fill with water and submerge fish. Cover and refrigerate over night, or longer, changing water once. In a colander, drain water from fish.

In a shallow bowl, mix the egg and cream together. Mix flour and pepper and place on a piece of wax paper.

One at a time, dip herring fillets in flour, then in the egg mixture, and again in flour. Melt 2 Tbsp. butter in a skillet. Fry herring fillets on both sides

until nicely browned, adding more butter as needed.

Drain fillets on paper towels and place on a platter.

Meanwhile in another skillet, fry onion in butter until golden brown and sprinkle on top of fillets.

The Jewish cooking maven serves fried herring with boiled potatoes bathed in melted butter and garnished with minced parley; sliced tomatoes; and lots of Jewish rye bread slathered with butter.

Yield: 18 small pieces of fish fillets

CHANUKAH APPLE SAUCE DELIGHTS

RICE A LA JEWISH MAVEN (Dinner)

- 2 Tbsp. blanched almond pieces
- 2 Tbsp. sesame seeds
- 2 Tbsp. melted margarine or schmaltz (from recipe below), or more if needed
 - 1/2 lb. white mushrooms, sliced
 - 2 cups long grained uncooked rice
 - 1/2 cup chives
 - Grivenes (see recipe below)

Cover 2 baking sheets with aluminum foil. Place almonds on one and sesame seeds on the other. Bake in a 350-

degree oven for 1 minute or until light brown. Watch carefully to avoid burning. Sesame seeds will be ready first.

Melt 2 Tbsp. margarine or chicken fat in a skillet on a medium flame. Fry mushrooms until nicely crisp but not

burnt. Reserve.
Prepare rice according to package instructions. Two minutes

before rice is ready, stir in all other ingredients and simmer.

This dish is filling enough to be a meal in itself, but The Jewish

cooking maven loves serving it with chicken, crusty rolls, and a bottle of champagne.

Yield: 6-8 servings

SCHMALTZ AND GRIVENES

Several chicken necks and several backs

1 large onion, diced

Garlic powder, salt, white pepper and paprika to taste

Pull the fat and skin off of the necks and backs and cut into small pieces. Use meat for soup or other purposes.

Put fat and skin in a frying pan. Add the onion and seasonings and stir. Sizzle on a low flame, stirring occasionally,

until golden brown and crisp. May take 30-60 minutes.

Cool to warm. Remove the onions and skin, which is now reduced to cracklings called grivenes.

Pour liquid chicken fat, the schmaltz, into a measuring cup. "I don't use chicken fat every day, but on holidays – always," the Jewish cooking maven says.

POTATO LATKES (Anytime)

- 10 pounds potatoes (about 15)
- 1 large onion, diced
- 4 large eggs
- 1/2 cup matzah meal
- 1 Tbsp. flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup peanut oil, or more if needed
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. white pepper

Optional Toppings: sour cream, caviar, applesauce

Peel potatoes and submerge in ice water until needed.

Dice one potato at a time and grate finely. Place in a large bowl.

Grate onion finely. (By now the Jewish cooking maven claims you should be crying from the onion so sip a glass of champagne as you work. Your eyes will still smart, but you won't mind as much.)

Add onion to grated potatoes.

Liquid will form in the bowl. Drain as much of it as possible.

Add remaining ingredients (except toppings) and blend well with a spoon. (The Jewish cooking maven likes the taste of raw latkah batter. `Try it and see what I mean," she says. `Could it be the champagne?'')

Place half of the oil in a large frying pan and heat over medium flame.

Filling a soup spoon with latke batter, form 3 x 4-inch pancakes. Drop pancakes into heated oil. The batter should sizzle immediately. When golden brown and firm in the center, flip over and repeat. Add more oil as needed.

Drain latkes on paper towels. Serve immediately with the toppings.

Yield: about 100 latkes



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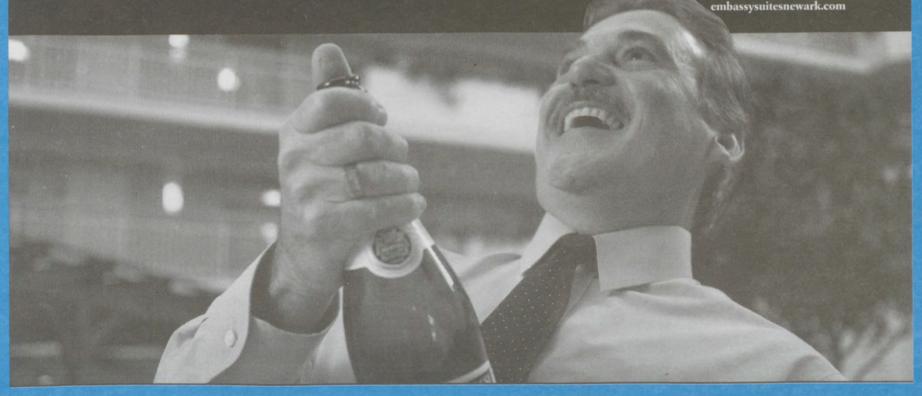
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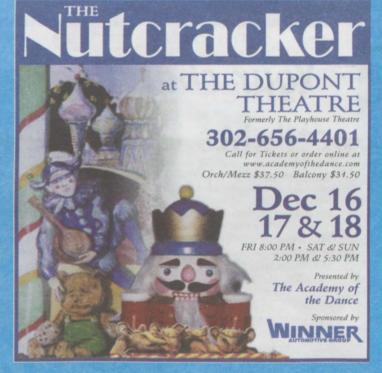
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ARTS AND CULTURE

John Lennon's Memory Growing in Israel



By Joel F. Glazier

December 8, 2005 marked the 25th anniversary of the murder of Beatle John Lennon. After the fatal gunshots were fired at the musician in front of his New York City apartment building on that night in 1980, millions of Beatles fans and ordinary citizens around the world were shocked and saddened by the unprovoked murder. Later that week, millions stood for 10 minutes of silence as requested by Lennon's wife, Yoko Ono.

In Israel a group of Jewish and Arab teenagers in Tsfat shared their grief with a social worker. Six weeks later on Tu B'Shevat, a few trees were planted in John Lennon's memory outside the mystical hillside city. Acting on the young people's request, the Jewish National Fund, through its New York office, sought and received Yoko Ono's consent to establish a John Lennon Forest. Beatle fans would purchase the trees - it would be a living memorial to John in the Galilee. The musician's multi-million dollar fortune was not solicited.

Trees purchased one by one

A letter in ROLLING STONE magazine informed those outside Israel of the project and provided an address for donations. Lennon

fans responded with donations and offers to solicit interest at Beatle fan conventions and in Beatle fanzines around the world.

"Supporting this project was something more constructive to do than buying the tribute magazines and books that were coming out about Lennon," remembers Nancy Cameron, a grown up Beatle fan in New Castle, Delaware. Tables were set up at Beatle conventions in New York, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles and even in Liverpool, England. It was a bit daunting soliciting funds for the Jewish National Fund in Liverpool England during the Lebanon War in 1982, but reception to the idea was one of mild interest and donations were collected.

Beatle fans, both Jews and non-Jews, purchased one tree at a time and received a certificate from JNF with "John Lennon Peace Forest" typed on it. Radio interviews along with constant blurbs to music and Beatle fan magazines around the world were provided to help solicit donations.

After 5 years, donations for 2000 trees were received, enough for JNF Woodland status. The monies had come from donors in 14 different countries. A permanent stone marker was placed at the site near KM 46 marker on the Meron-Tsfat road, noting the mixed-tree woodland.

Still Growing

After the Woodland marker was erected, containing words from the Lennon song "Imagine", active fund raising decreased. Beatle fans, like John Gelbert of Kfar Saba, Israel still " imagine 10,000 trees will be purchased making the site a Forest". Neither Lennon nor any other Beatles ever visited Israel. Yoko Ono visited in 2000 to open up an art exhibition at Jerusalem's Israel Museum, but did not visit the forest site. She has received photos of the marker and the site. The living memorial still grows inviting all to "lie beneath a shady tree," as Lennon once sang.

Tree purchases can still be designated for the Lennon Forest. They might be unique Hanukkah gifts for the "boomer" generation, who were the first generation of Beatle fans. Twenty-five years after his death, Lennon is again the focus of a new generation of books and tributes. A forest will live on beyond those

For additional information about purchasing a tree for the Lennon Forest, please call Jewish National Fund toll-free at 1-800-542-8733 or visit JNF on the web at www.inf.org.

Kids Books for

By Penny Schwartz, JTA

This Chanukah, encourage your favorite young person to become a reader by selecting one or more of the following new Jewish chil-

"Angel Secrets: Stories Based on Jewish Legend," by Miriam Chaikin, illustrated by Leonid Gore (Holt, \$18.95, ages 5 and up)

Chaikin reveals her mastery of lyrically crafted, endearing stories based on biblical interpretations about the angels who link heaven and earth. Perfect for reading aloud. Chaiken writes chronicles Chagall's young life as he turns from warmly of angels of forgetfulness, alphabet angels and the palace of love. Gore's dreamlike illustrations accompany each story.

"Dreamer from the Village: The Story of Marc Chagall," by Michelle Markel, illustrated by Emily Lisker (Holt, \$16.95, ages 4-8)

From the attic window of his home in a small town in Russia, the young Moshe Chagall, better known as Marc, sees the world differently from others. Colors are bolder, houses float in the sky, and fiddlers dance on rooftops. Markel

a dreamer to an artist. Lisker's fanciful, colorful Chagallesque illustrations dance across the pages. A short biography is provided at the end.

'Dybbuk: A Version," by Barbara Rogasky, illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher (Holiday House, \$16.95, ages 7-10)

This tale, loosely based on the famous Kabbalist play by S. Ansky, is a mysterious, intricate story of broken promises, retribution and love set long, long ago, in the tiny village of Brinitz. Rogasky's retelling is skillful and engrossing. Illustrations by the award-winning Fisher are bold and haunting.

"Hidden Child," by Isaac Millman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$18.00, ages 8-12)

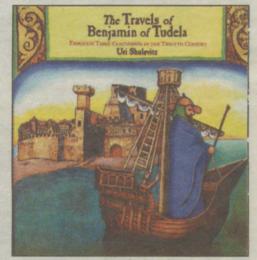
As a young boy growing up in Paris before World War II, Millman, whose name then was Isaac Sztrymfman, lived a happy life, accompanying his father on Sunday mornings to the nearby caf, where Yiddish-speaking patrons debated politics. But the German occupation of France in 1940, when Isaac was seven years old, changed life forever. In straightforward prose and captivating graphic artwork and photographs, Millman recounts the story of his survival as he became one of the "hidden" children of the war. Millman strikes a perfect balance in recounting the tragic hardships he endured while revealing the acts of human kindness of people who took risks to protect him.

"A Horn for Louis," by Eric Kimmel, illustrated by James Bernardin (Random House, \$11.95, ages 6-9, (due out in late December)

Leave it to master storyteller Eric Kimmel to write a flowing and heartwarming story about the unique friendship between the young Louis Armstrong and the Karnofskys, a Jewish family in New Orleans. Great for reading aloud, this early-reader about New Orleans' most famous jazzman is made ever more powerful as a portrait of daily life long before Hurricane Katrina devastated this colorful city rich in American cul-

"Kibitzers and Fools, Tales My Zayda Told and the Flying Ship." Me," by Simms Taback (Viking, \$16.99, ages

Bedtime reading doesn't get more fun than with these Yiddish tales recast by Taback, Caldecott-winning author and artist of "Joseph Had a Little Overcoat." Be prepared to laugh along with the kids who'll delight in the baffling riddles of kibitzers and shlemiels. Why bring along an umbrella full of holes, asks Mendel. "I didn't think it was going to rain," replies Itzik. The colorful illustrations are as off-beat and humorous as the narrative. Taback fills his short stories with easy-to-learn Yiddish expressions



(and their definitions) and adds a glossary at

"Sholom's Treasure," by Erica Silverman, illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$16.00, ages 4-10)

The two award-winners are perfectly matched as Silverman engages young readers with the childhood world of Sholom Aleichem as he grows from class clown to master storyteller. Gerstein's illustrations are delightfully playful as he gives readers a Sholom with rosy cheeks, reddish-brown curls under his cap and an impishly endearing smile.

'The Travels of Benjamin of Tudela," by Uri Shulevitz (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$17.00, ages 5 and up)

Shulevitz has created a wondrous, illustrated travelogue just right for children by recreating the little-known voyages of a Jewish traveler who visits Rome, Constantinople, Baghdad, and Jerusalem in the twelfth century. Shulevitz uses the first-person narrative to draw readers in. Shulevitz has won awards several books, includng "The Treasure" and "The Fool of the World

"Four Sides, Eight Nights," by Rebecca Tova Ben-Zvi, illustrated by Susanna Natti (Roaring Brook Press, \$16.95, ages 4-8)

An offbeat, fun book that goes beyond the traditional Hanukkah story to explore the history of the dreidel and spinning tops from around the world. There are dreidel facts from collectors and Sevivon science, including a lesson on friction from Sir Isaac Newton. Natti is familiar to young readers as the artist of the popular Cam Jansen series, and her light touch and expressive characters enliven the

Israeli Coin Set **Spotlights Dutch Jewry**

One of the treasured traditions of the festival of Hanukka is the giving of gelt as a gift to children. Since 1958, the Bank of Israel has brought special meaning to this tradition by issuing a series of themed Hanukka coins. The 2005 commemorative coin is a half shekel dedicated to Jewry in the Netherlands and is minted with a Hanukka lamp from 18th century Holland on it.

Professor Yosef Kaplan of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, an authority on the Jewish history in Amsterdam, traces Jewish life in this city and the surrounding cities of Rotterdam and The Hague to the second quarter of the 18th century-a time of relative religious tolerance. Marrano Jews from Spain and Portugal reclaimed their Jewish heritage and established religious, educational and welfare institutions.

Dutch Jews were granted full citizenship rights in 1796, following the occupation of the Republic by the French army. Their status remained unchanged even after the occupiers were driven out and a constitutional monarchy established in 1813.

At the time of the Nazi occupation in 1940, the Dutch Jewish community was 130,000 strong. About 107,000 were sent to concentration camps in Eastern Europe where a mere 5,000 survived. An additional 18,000 of the nearly 25,000 who remained went into hiding from the Nazis and the Dutch who cooperated with them. Among the most famous of those hidden Jews was Anne Frank, the young woman whose moving diary became a symbol of the survival of the Jewish spirit in the face of adversity.

Many of the Dutch survivors made aliyahs in the years following the war, leaving their mark on the culture and economy of the State of Israel. As a result of efforts to revitalize Jewish life in the Netherlands, nearly 30,000 Jews live there today, the majority are new immigrants from many different countries around the world.

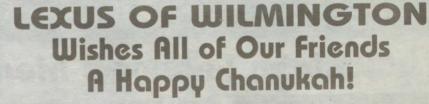
The 2005 twelve-sided coin is not available in Israeli banks. Its issue is limited to 3,000 pieces. For additional information, please call toll-free 1-888-421-1866 or visit the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation on the web at www.coins.co.il.



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BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Adjusting to Israeli life a year after making aliyah

By Dina Kraft

Editor's note: A JTA reporter revisits an American family over a year after they made aliyah.

BEIT SHEMESH, Israel- Sara Benuck, age 8, who immigrated to Israel with her family a little over a year ago from the United States, comes into the kitchen and thrusts a take-home science test in front of her mother. "What does this mean?" she asks, pointing out a long question in Hebrew about how electricity works.

Her mother, Marni, a trained psychologist, tries to make sense of the Hebrew but then passes the test on to her husband, a doctor, who goes word by word through the question and helps translate it for Sara.

"Sometimes it's a very humiliating experience doing homework with the kids" says Marni, 35, a mother of four. "But we show them we struggle too but are not giving up. We will persist."

The Benucks made aliyah from their home in Passaic, N.J. They had good jobs, a spacious house and their children were happy in school. But they had always wanted to make their life in Israel, so they sold their home, packed up their books, the children's toys, the cherry wood dining room set and matching dark green leather couches and set off to live their dream.

Theirs is a story of planning, realistic expectations and happy landings.

Before they even made aliyah, the couple visited Israel on a pilot trip and chose a community – Beit Shemesh, a town in the Jerusalem foothills that has become an increasingly popular residence for American olim –and even decided which home they would buy a two-story townhouse still under construction on the end of a quiet street.

There were delays and not everything went as planned. The townhouse, for example, was supposed to be completed by last November, but the Benucks only received the keys in July.

But, Mitchell, 36, says, "We had realistic expectations that not everything would go well."

The couple's first goal was to find work – a process that proved easier than expected. Marni, who worked as a school psychologist at a Jewish day school in New Jersey, was offered a job through Beit Shemesh's municipality to work at two fervently Orthodox schools before they even arrived. The municipality noted her credentials through a posting sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Mitchell is one of a group of North American physicians who have immigrated to Israel with their families as an Applebaum Fellow. The program is in memory of Dr. David Applebaum, a Chicago-born Israeli doctor who served as head of emergency services at Jerusalem's Sha'arei Zedek Hospital until he and his daughter, Nava, were killed in a suicide bombing at a Jerusalem caf, in 2003, on the eve of her wedding. As an Applebaum Fellows of Nefesh B'Nefesh – a North American organization funded by private, philanthropic sources, and the Jewish Agency for Israel – the Benucks receive financial and logistical support toward beginning anew in Israel

According to a recent survey commissioned by JAFI of North American olim who just passed their one-year mark in Israel, 90 percent describe themselves as either "satisfied" or "quite satisfied" with their arrival into Israeli society. More than a quarter, however, have yet to find job

Mitchell, a pediatrician, says he feels lucky to have found work in Beit Shemesh working at one of the national health funds. Before he could look for a job, however, he had to get his Israeli medical license. There were some bureaucratic delays such as the Ministry of Health temporarily losing his American license, but fairly quickly a committee convened and determined he would have to do three months of work in an Israeli hospital emergency room before he could be accredited.

Now, medical license in hand, he spends his



Dr. Mitchell Benuck, who made aliyah with his family from New Jersey in August 2004, colors with three of his four children, from left, Shani, Sara and Yonatan, in their living room in Beit Shemesh, Israel.

Credit: Brian Hendler/JTA

days working shifts at four different clinics of one of the national health funds in Beit Shemesh. Last week he could be found in a bright, airy office with dangling butterfly and zebra mobiles stethoscope slung around his neck and wearing a Bugs Bunny tie inquiring about the X-ray for a young boy.

The medicine he is practicing in Israel is very different from what he did as an attending physician at a major New Jersey hospital but that, he says, has more to do with the difference between working in a hospital environment and an outpatient clinic.

Two of the clinics service fervently Orthodox neighborhoods, the other two mixed neighborhoods of immigrants from North America, the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia and local Israeli-born residents.

When it comes to his and his wife's new jobs, there is a "significant difference in takehome salaries," said Mitchell, but there is one major expense they no longer have to worry about tuition for their children at private Jewish day schools.

Last Tuesday he finished his morning shift at the clinic on Bar-llan Street and walked outside into the warm sunshine to pick up his two youngest children from day care. Marveling at the weather, he smiled and said, `I hope to not lift a shovel again in my life."

Mitchell then walked a few blocks away to pick up the youngest member of the Benuck family and the only one to be born in Israel – Shoshana Meira – or Shani for short. She was born just two months after the Benucks made aliyah and was named for Marni's close friend, Shoshana Greenbaum, who had been the maid of honor at the couple's wedding. She was killed in the suicide bombing of the Sbarro restaurant in Jerusalem in August 2001.

Once Shani is in hand, Mitchell walks another few blocks to collect Yonatan, age 5, from his nursery school. Most of Yonatan's classmates,

like him, are the children of American immi-

"They are more polite and relaxed. Israeliborn children are more aggressive," says his teacher, Michal Hadad. Yonatan, after his 15 months in the country, speaks Hebrew without an accent.

"Abba, look at my picture," he says, pointing out his artwork of the day hanging on the wall. Meanwhile his teacher thanks Mitchell for the referral to a good orthopedist who has been helping her with her back problems.

The oldest Benuck child, 10-year-old Eli, joins his father and two youngest siblings on the walk home. They pass newly planted palm trees in traffic circles and low stone walls that line the sidewalks. When they reach their home on Gad Street, they wave to neighbors — most of them also recent American olim — and then push open the front door, walking past the dark wood side table covered with framed family photos.

The table was originally part of a display cabinet that did not make the move when the family realized it would not fit in their new, slightly snugger surroundings.

After lunch, the children settle down for an afternoon of homework with the help of first Mitchell and then Marni when she returns home from work.

Eli, wearing a New York Yankees baseball cap, sits in a corner of the Benuck home's combined living room and dining room and thumbs through a book in English, explaining that he still prefers to read in his native tongue. But, he says, he is adjusting to reading books and doing schoolwork in Hebrew. He figures he only understands about two-thirds of what he reads in Hebrew.

One of Eli's new friends, a fellow immigrant from the United States who came a year before he did, is helping him and that, he says, is making a difference Of America, says Eli, ``I miss my

friends. I kind of miss my school."

At his new school he is not an anomaly as an immigrant, Many of his classmates are the children of parents from English-speaking countries, and there are also children from France and Hungary.

And there are advantages to being a kid in Israel, he says. "You can play in the street on Shabbos, you can get a taxi without a grown-up and you can ride the public bus. Kids are more independent."

Another added plus: going to the center of town to eat pizza with friends without having your mother or father take you. Another addition to the Benucks' life that Eli is thrilled about is that one set of his grandparents –Marni's parents – now live just a few blocks away, instead of the 3,000 miles away when they all lived in America.

Marni's parents made aliyah three months ago from their home in Los Angeles, in large part to be near their grandchildren. They said they have met other grandparents like them who moved to Israel to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

"These are choices that are not easy to make," says Sharlene Balter, Marni's mother. "But when I walk down the street and see my grandson going to the park or my granddaughter coming over, this is why we are doing this."

In the backyard the Benuck children swing on their new swing set and laugh and play.

"I think there is less stress than people imagine there would be our life is day-to-day. We have jobs to go to, a supermarket to shop in. We've settled into a routine and it is here," says Mitchell, who is especially looking forward to voting in Israel in the upcoming elections.

And after over a year break since they made aliyah, it's back to Tuesday night "Grill Night." It's time for hamburgers and a taste of America in their new Israeli backyard.

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CHANUKAH IN ISRAEL

Dreidel House Invites Visitors to 'Spin and Smile'

by Batsheva Pomerantz

Flickering Chanukah candles in the window and the waft of sizzling potato latkes serve as the perfect setting for the popular dreidel game, played by children of all ages throughout the eight-day festival of Chanukah, which commemorates the Maccabees' victory over the Greeks in the 2nd century BCE.

The dreidel, from the German drehen (to spin), is a four-sided top with a Hebrew letter on each side. The four letters, nun, gimmel, hey and shin, stand for Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, "A Great Miracle Happened There" (there meaning Israel) – referring to the miracle of the small cruse of pure oil which kindled the Temple menorah for eight days instead of only one day. The words determine the player's next move regarding adding or detracting coins, tokens, candies or nuts from the pot. Nun is for nisht, or "nothing"; gimmel is gantz, or "everything"; hey is halb, or "half"; and shin is shtel, or "pay."

Eran Grebler, a second-generation ceramicist from Pardess Hana, designs and produces dreidels (sevivon in Hebrew) all year round. A dizzying array of some 300 tops is on display at the Dreidel House, which he opened in 2002 in the ancient port city of Caesarea. "Please Spin and Smile" reads the sign in his gallery.

"I think every artist enjoys people touching his artwork," says Grebler. "Visitors have great fun when they spin the dreidels and I get great satisfaction from seeing how they react."

Grebler has been creating dreidels for the past 20 years, along with other Judaica artifacts, although nowadays he deals almost exclusively with dreidels. Jerusalem vistas, hamsas (amulets for warding off the evil eye), animals, pomegranates and ancient Roman coins are only some of the images which adorn Grebler's porcelain tops, in which he incorporates a combination of metals. One is even shaped like a cat – "a made to order dreidel for a cat lover." His tops differ from the tra-



A unique porcelain chess set with spinning chess pieces.

ditional dreidel, however, in that they do not have four sides that fall flat when the spinning ceases. For this reason they are positioned on a base with a dot or mark indicating the chosen letter when the spinning stops.

Although visitors to the Dreidel House often provide ideas for new dreidels, as do Grebler's three children, Grebler "finds inspiration literally everywhere. Some of my dreidels resemble carousels; some are inspired by vacations abroad." After a trip to the Toy Museum in Prague, for example, Grebler returned to his studio with many ideas for innovative tops. One unusual dreidel, with wires and tubes around a square structure, was inspired by the Pompidou Center in Paris.

Customers enjoy watching Grebler at work in the Dreidel House where meticulous planning and understanding of the laws of physics are vital to designing his tops. "A spinning item differs completely from a stationary one," he says. "Some



The Blessing Carousel Dreidel, with wishes like "love" and "health."

parts of the top fall into place because of gravity."
The effect of spinning the Magic Dreidel produces a Magen David on its base.

Both collectors and chess players enjoy the spinning chess pieces on a unique and colorful chess set. The rules for the dreidel game, however, are a great deal less complicated than chess.

Many of Grebler's dreidels were not created for Chanukah and add a bit of spice to such decisions as investments, wishes, relationships, division of household chores and vacation destinations. The Blessing Carousel Dreidel has trinkets attached with wishes like "love" and "health" (in Hebrew and English). It stops spinning and the wish near the mark is the selected wish. When children squabble over household chores, the Household Chores Carousel Dreidel comes to the rescue with such options as "clearing the table" or "washing the floor."

A Passover Dreidel, designed to twirl over the Passover plate, indicates who reads the various sections in the Passover Haggadah. "Not everyone wants to read the part about the wicked son," says Grebler, "so the dreidel makes the decision."

The message of Chanukah is that the light of goodness prevails in the conflicts of good versus evil and light versus dark. But the dreidel, balancing on one leg, symbolizes the seemingly precarious history of the Jewish people as it plunges down then bounces back up with optimism.

Batsheva Pomerantz writes for Israel Press

Dancing doll brings joy to kids

By Ruth Portnoy, JTA

For a second or two, it seems like the cloth doll is going to leap from the table to the stove and start wielding a spatula.

Or maybe it's just that Latke Larry's creator, Rabbi Areyah Kaltmann, head of the Ohio State University Chabad House, in Columbus, Ohio, is so excited about the singing, dancing Chanukah action figure and how it will benefit children with special needs that his enthusiasm seems capable of casting a spell.

"How can you resist Latke Larry? He's all about transforming the 'oy' of Judaism to 'joy.'" says the rabbi, fidgeting in his chair as he activates the doll's song.

Latke Larry, clad in a chef's hat, tzitzit dangling from his waist, rocks to and fro and sings (to the tune of ``Rock of Ages"): ``Latke Larry comes to you, a friend to play with and fun to chew. I've got tales of Maccabees -oy - and plenty of calories."

Rabbi Kaltmann created the battery- and computer-chip-powered toy as a fund-raiser for Chabad's national Friendship Circle. The program pairs teenagers in 30-plus communities with families whose children have special needs. The teens are companions to the children, playing games with them and joining them on outings. Rabbi Kaltmann and his wife, Esther, spearhead the Columbus chapter of Friendship Circle.

Latke Larry retails for \$17.95. Part of the cost covers manufacturing and distribution. Profits from the doll's sale will be distributed to all branches of Friendship Circle.

Rabbi Levi Shemtov, a Chabad rabbi in West Bloomfield, Mich., and founder of the 11-year-old Friendship Circle, said the doll is only one idea brewing to raise money nationally for the program. "I'm really excited about this," he said. "It's a consistent and very appropriate fund-raiser for Friendship Circle."

To record Larry's voice, Rabbi Kaltmann got comic actor and TV star Jerry Stiller – for free. Stiller said the actor Jon Voigt asked him to do it. Voigt, a longtime supporter of Chabad, had encountered Rabbi Kaltmann at events over the vears

Stiller said he was intrigued. Speaking from his dressing room on the set of `The King of Queens" in Los Angeles, he said the rabbi `arranged for me to meet him in the middle of 14th Street and Eighth Avenue (in New York). I had just come from the orthopedist, and I couldn't find him. Then suddenly, he waved at me. I thought, 'This is "Fiddler on the Roof" once removed.' He screamed and we stopped traffic." The pair went upstairs and Rabbi Kaltmann played the song for Stiller.

Stiller later unveiled Latke Larry to his family. "We had a little get-together, my son Ben and the kids -and we played it," he said. "Everybody cracked up. A lot of the children there were not Jewish, but they got the greatest amount of joy out of this."

Rabbi Kaltmann called Stiller ``a super-mensch. He has so much going on, and he found the time. He had to go to a studio to do this." Stiller also donated his time in a commercial for the doll airing in Philadelphia and Chicago. The spot was arranged by Jon Diamond, president of the Columbus-based Safe Auto Insurance Company. Diamond's children were volunteers with the Friendship Circle program.

"Areyah brought me the doll one day and I said, 'Wow, that's very clever and very well done,'" said Diamond.

Rabbi Kaltmann bills the doll as something more than an amusing toy. He sees it as an identity-builder for children who need something Jewish in their lives. Chabad is known for reaching out to unaffiliated Jews. In Columbus, Rabbi Kaltmann and his wife, Esther, teach in the Chabad Hebrew school, which draws 60 students who don't belong to synagogues.

"Jewish kids have no icon for Chanukah," the rabbi said. ``I thought, 'How can we give children something where kids can express their Judaism, feel good and have a good time?' I want Jewish kids in America to feel proud of their heritage."

On the back of the doll's box, Rabbi Kaltmann put a latke recipe for those who might want to try to make the traditional Chanukah food.

Katie Kaufman of Columbus said her children, 4 and 2, enjoy playing with the doll. "It's adorable and it appeals to both kids and adults," she said. "With Christmas being everywhere, the more mainstream Chanukah stuff that's out there to bring joy to children is a good thing." Retailers are fascinated, too. Rabbi Kaltmann sold 13,000 of the 21,000 dolls he had ordered before they arrived from the manufacturer. He has been tirelessly traveling to holiday trade shows in such cities as Atlanta and New York to show the doll, play its song and make his pitch.

Buyers have picked up the dolls for sale in a number of department and specialty stores, including Filene's Basement and Bed, Bath & Beyond

Columbus-based distributor Eden Lane has added the doll to its catalog, which goes to about 3 million customers. The company has sold 800 dolls since October, said Eden Lane's president, Larry Levine. He said the doll's sales have quickly caught up to those of a competitor, Harvey Megillah, a singing doll that has been included in the company's catalog for several years.

"You just don't have a product that sells like that," said Levine.

The doll also is available through its official Web site, www.latkelarry.com and 1-888-LATKE-

Chanukas Past

By Melody Amsel-Arieli

When I was a child, Chanuka offered a wonder of light and excitement, but now, Chanuka is an old friend come to visit, come to mark my days. After fifty-odd years, my preparations are quick and matter-offact. I've already polished our menorah, purchased the candles, and stocked up on applesauce for the latkes. But when I pulled out my mother's old potato grater, I paused. Memories of special Chanukas past washed over me.

We kids grew up on a New Jersey farm without knowing a word of Hebrew. We recited the blessings over the Chanuka candles by reading the English transliteration printed on those small, blue boxes miraculously spirited from Eretz Yisroel. Then came the gifts. Four children times eight nights of Chanuka is thirty-two, gifts a year, a lot of love. Though so much time has passed, one still warms my heart.

It was the year we almost lost my little brother to pneumonia. We girls received the usual books and games, but not David. His present was three in one, a set of shiny fire-enginered fire engines. Everything worked, the doors, the hoses, even the ladders. When he played with the hook and ladder truck, which was longer than he was, he needed a second person to help steer its far end, just like in real life.

Yearly, a beloved aunt organized Chanuka parties that cast us kids as entertainers as well as guests. One look at the towering pile of gifts that awaited us and we were ready to do anything-tell jokes, perform feats of musical virtuosity, or sing for our supper, to earn our prize. Books, the tower was built of books, each lovingly chosen and wrapped, literary gems. These Chanuka gifts of poetry helped shape my life.

My grandfather, handy with a penknife, entranced us by peeling apples and oranges in continuous strips and transforming tree branches into natty diamond-patterned carved walking sticks. The Chanuka before I immigrated to Israel, he made his final journey- to a nursing

home. As we parted, he pressed a homemade wooden dreydl into my hand, a final gift. Although my grandfather never got to Israel, his dreydl did

I celebrated my first Israeli Chanuka with Spanish-Moroccan friends. In their world, latkes were garnished with onions instead of applesauce, and yeast dough billowed into doughnuts, a surprising treat. An outsized plastic syringe stood at the ready, prepped with raspberry jelly, the filling that gilds the lily. New and strange, but for all the strangeness, when I sang the Chanuka blessings, I finally understood the words.

For months after the Yom Kippur War, though the sirens and blackouts were behind us, our soldiers had not yet returned home. With Chanuka fast approaching, I found myself, for some crazy reason, making towering piles of jelly doughnuts- far more than I actually needed. Just as I deep fried the last batch, I heard familiar voices approaching. There on my doorstep stood my mother and sisters, who had heeded their rabbi's call to visit Israel in her time of darkness. And I had doughnuts enough for all.

My three-year-old and I humled through the rain to her first Chanuka party, expecting to find her nursery school bathed in warmth and light. Instead, her classroom, though full of youngsters, was utterly dark. Suddenly, a life-size dreydl-like being whirled in, and with cries of "Darkness, Begone!" distributed candles to one and all. As the candles were lit, their soft glow warmed the room: Chanuka, the Festival

That December, our orchestra arrived in Lyons, France exactly at midnight, its blackness tempered by a gentle flurry of snowflakes. Before we left our tour bus, Yaki, the only observant member among us, rose and unfolded his hands to reveal a miniature menorah. The first night of Chanuka, how had we forgotten? As we sang the blessings, Yaki shielded the tiny flames with his hands. Though we were strangers in a strange land, at that moment, once again, we were home.

HOLIDAY MUSINGS

Shining a Light on Hanukkah CandlesDoes Size Really Matter?

By "Deep Wax" Special to the Jewish Voice

After the Maccabees were victorious in the recapture of Jerusalem (165-163 B.C.E.), they replaced defiled ritual objects in The Temple. Only finding one vessel of consecrated oil, they lit the Menorah and that small amount of purified oil lasted 8 days until more oil could be prepared for use. For hundreds of years Jews around the world have commemorated this miracle by lighting candles. In the last few decades "electric menorahs" have found their place in windows and while some families use small vessels of oil to keep their Hanukkah holiday bright, lighting candles remain the most common way to celebrate Hanukkah.

Jewish families today are faced with a choice of candles. During the last half of the 20th century, the familiar boxes of spiral tapered colorful, made in Israel candles were de rigueur at Hebrew Schools. Some children used to arrange the candles by color and my brother used to save all the blue and white ones for the last night. Basic arithmetic skills were learned as the boxes contained 44 candles so you better not break one or there'd be a shortage on the last night!

In areas of Jewish populations, Hanukkah candles are not just for synagogue gift shops anymore. Supermarkets, drug stores, boutique gift shops and various retail stores often stock an array of Hanukkah candles. What to use? Why the choices? Does size matter? Basically Hanukkah candles should fit in a menorah and

serve no other purpose than to remind us all of the "great miracle that happened" all those years ago. They are not meant to illuminate a darkened room nor be used for heat. They should burn for at least 30 minutes to last from sundown to after nightfall, especially on Friday night when they must be lit before the Shabbat candles.

I purchased several types in retail stores in the mid-Atlantic area. To protect me from repercussions or future favoritism from candle retailers/manufacturers I took the name "Deep Wax". No candles were acquired with any coupons, from gift catalogs, or free at synagogues. All were put in a refrigerator days before I tested them. In the table, the burn lengths are the average times after several separate test burns were measured:

All candles lit easily and provided nice glows. Dripping was minimal or non-existent. The cost variations do not always correlate to the candle lengths—so size does not always matter (at least for Hanukkah candles!) All tested candles are sufficient for the customary burn time. Remember no candle should be left to burn unattended and the mitzvah is to light candles and let them burn themselves out. As my friend commented as he observed my testing, "Does size matter? That's none of your bees wax."

Pass the latkes and enjoy!! "Deep Wax" wishes you a happy and bright Hanukkah.

(Deep Wax resides in the mid-Atlantic area and has also tested Yahrzeit Candles that traditionally are supposed to burn 24 hours. A Shabbos Candle test is planned.)

	Doe	s Size Matt	er?	
BRAND	COST	Candle Size	Burn Length	Other Information
Manischewitz Paraffin; made in Israel	79 cents box of 44	4 inches	60 minutes	Various colors; Spiral tapers
Rokeach Made in China	49 cents box of 44	4 inches	55 minutes	Various colors; Spiral tapers
Rite Lite Deluxe "Traditionally Hand Dipped"; China ; (Jacob Rosenthal Judaica)	\$7.99 box of 45	5 1/2 inches	67 minutes	All blue or white; smooth surface
Rite Lite Value Pak "Burns for more than an hour;" Made in China (Jacob Rosenthal Judaica)	\$14.99 for 180	4 inches	68 minutes	All blue or white, smooth surface
Rite Lite Hand Decorated Hand dipped, decorated (Jacob Rosenthal Judaica)	\$7.99 for box of 45	6 inches	80 minutes	Multi colored; Three-dimensional surfaces
Biederman & Sons Deluxe Hand Dipped; Made in China	\$9.00 box of 45	6 inches	95 minutes	Smooth Surface with transliterated blessings on box
Alef Judaica Pure Beeswax Hand made; -Made in China	\$15.00 box of 44	4 inches	45 minutes	Honeycomb like surface; Hebrew and transliterated blessings on box
Round Pillar Candle Imbedded with Jewish decoration; Often made in China or Taiwan	\$5.00-\$9.99 Or special sale prices	6 to 9 inches Thick; wide circumference	Still Burning!	Often found in decoration sections Some claim 80 hrs. burn time.

Latkes as symbols of democracy

By Bernard A. Weisberger

Each year at the University of Chicago, a wellattended debate draws a speaker panel packed with academic firepower that has included university presidents and Nobel Prize winners. The subject of this learned discourse? The comparative merits of two lofty Jewish contributions to the culinary arts: latkes and hamantashen.

An enthusiastic audience then weighs the arguments, which range from punning poetry to pseudo-history to elaborate theorems. At this year's November debate, according to a JTA news report, the potato pancake outpolled the Purim pastry by nearly a two-to-one margin. In honor of Chanukah, we now offer our readers a sampling of landmark moments from the prolatke side of the debate, in edited excerpts from the new book `The Great Latke-Hamantash Debate."

I regret that the ridiculously brief time allowed to me does not permit me to do full justice to the noble dish in whose cause I rise to speak. I promise, however, that my remarks will, like latkes, be well-rounded, though not flat. I am sorry that not everyone on this platform can say the same.

I wish to point out to you a close association between the latke and American culture, and specifically, American democracy as expressed in our literature. This linkage has long existed, but the evidence has been suppressed by a conspiracy of the defenders of that other item of food, which I will refer to tonight as "the high-priced confection."

As anyone who has read Frederick Jackson Turner knows, the seeds of American democratic institutions were planted on the frontier. And as any student of American history knows, the frontier was a place where the simplest and crudest instruments of life had to do double duty. In cookery, the uncomplicated frying pan was the pioneer's first resource. And what kind of dish do we make in a frying pan? I assure you, it is not the high-priced confection. That demands an oven, to say nothing of such exotic, un-American, and civilized ingredients as prunes or poppy seeds.

No, the simple cornmeal griddle cake – a kind of ur-latke – came first to the hardy sons of the wilderness, but with the coming of the Jews in 1654, and the utilization of the potato – originally native to the Americas, introduced into Europe by the Spaniards, transmitted to the English, and then replanted in the New World – with this juxtaposition of what was indigenous to our soil and a borrowing of European patterns, the latke sprang into being, as an authentically American and libertarian dish.

The latke is originally in the form of batter. Poured into the receptive, passionately heated shmaltz, it spreads freely into its natural circular form. The essence of the high-priced confection is that jam or filling is placed within the rigid limits of a shell of dough. Let the judicious draw their own conclusions as to what kind of personality will eat that kind of food and meanwhile hypocritically pretend to affirm democratic faith.

By the time of national independence, the close identification of the American mission and the latke had already flowed into our literature, and it has been expressed throughout the history of that literature in poems which, regrettably, the authors saw fit to suppress from their published works for fear of retribution by the determined anti-latke and pro-aristocracy Establishment.

For example, an early national literary figure was the poet Joel Barlow. Barlow is known for his poem on "The Rising Glory of America." But who knows his manuscript poem, the "Latkiad"? Nobody, that's who! Here, however, is a passage which! have copied from it, in which the poet, in superb pentameters, makes allusions to the allegorical significance of the latke for the young republic:

Within the pan, emitting hissing sounds
The latkes lie, in perfect, golden rounds
Was such a wholesome unity e'er found
As that among th'ingredients here bound?
This junction, at the blissful dinner hour
Of egg, potato, fat and pinch of flour?
Yea! One such union we may 'round us see
The Union of these States, in Liberty!
Then bless the latke, symbol of our great,
Our peaceful, free and hungry Federal state!

Does it come as any surprise to you that Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Thoreau were both fond of latkes, and that Emerson wrote the following verses, which he read aloud at a latke supper held at Brook Farm?:

The Food Which Is the All

When one has fled the thronging world,
To Nature's solitude
He craves an earthly nutriment
A simple, soulful food.
The lowly root, potato called,

Such aliment contains.
Consumed, it makes the psyche dance
To wild, bucolic strains.
The flower lies within the bud,
Divinity in all:
Likewise, the latke in the spud
Obeys the cosmic call.
Potato, stripped of skin, then ground
And purified by fire
Forsakes its gross, material form
For one sublimely higher.
And so the soul shall cast aside
Its skin of creeds outworn

And like the latke, in a new

Perfection be reborn!

To quote Abraham Lincoln at this point, `I am loathe to close." Yet I hope that I have suggested to some extent the richness – the fullness – the broad circumference – of the hidden literature in praise of latkes composed by American patriots and liberals.

So let me close with a verse from a contemporary minnesinger of Barlow's of whom you may have heard, one Francis Scott Key. It was while dining on his favorite repast that he watched the rockets' red glare lighting the skies over Fort McHenry, and it is small wonder that he incorporated a souvenir of that experience in the poem which a nation was to adopt as its unforgettable and unsingable anthem. The day may yet come when the sinister forces of censorship permit us to recite aloud the long-forgotten – or rather buried alive – verse which really concludes The Star-Spangled Banner;

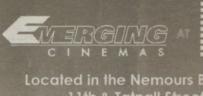


Bernard A. Weisberger lauds the latke.

May the time soon arrive
When latkes we thrive
And each bite shall delight us in being alive
And each patriot's heart shall enlarge with his
girth
In this haven of latkes and freedom on earth.

Bernard A. Weisberger was on the faculty of the history department at the University of Chicago and is the author of more than a dozen books.

Editor's Note: The above essay is a JTA-edited excerpt from the book `The Great Latke-Hamantash Debate,' edited by Ruth Fredman Cernea (University of Chicago Press, 2006).



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2:00, 5:00, 8:00 2:00, 5:00

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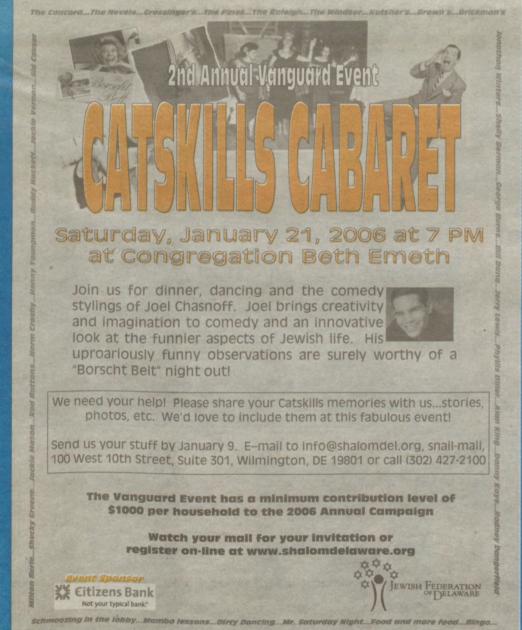
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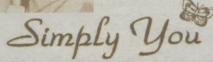
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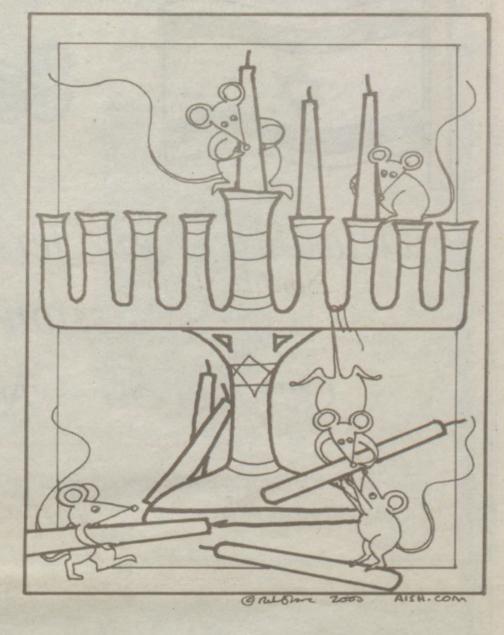
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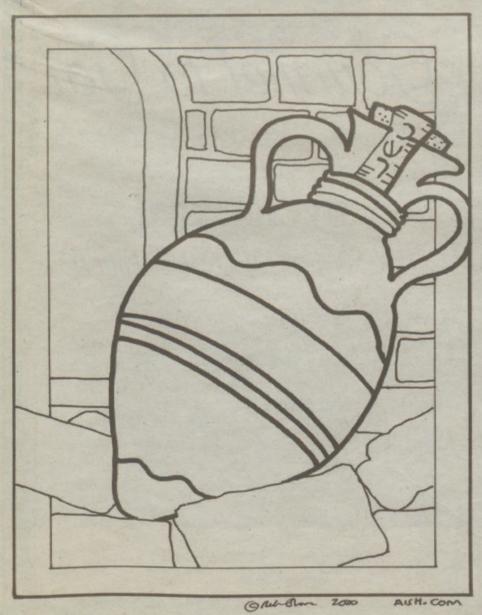
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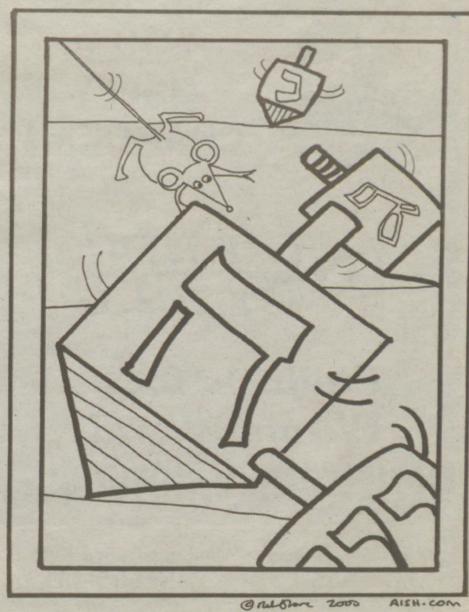
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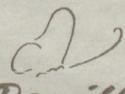
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INSIDE DELAWARE

Senator Tom Carper Visits Israel Second Time This Year

By Joel F. Glazier

Senator Tom Carper returned from a weeklong fact finding trip to the Middle East on December 3. Delaware's first term Senator traveled with three other members of Congress visiting Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and

In Israel Carper met with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. He also met Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei and Finance Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad. Carper shared information about his trip with Political Science students at the University of Delaware along with members of the local press.

Hopeful with Peace Process

"I am hopeful and believe the glass is half full, but the situation is fluid," regarding the on going road map peace process in Israel, Carper told THE VOICE. "I am encouraged. When you have Ariel Sharon and Shimon Perez leaving their parties to form a new coalition in order to



Senator Tom Carper

get the job done, that is progress." Carper met for over an hour with Sharon on the day after the Prime Minister left the Likud Party to form Kadima (meaning forward) "Sharon has concluded the next step in the Peace Process is a two state solution. That gunmen disrupted the Fatah primary elections underscores how difficult it will be."

does not approve regarding some of the settlement activity in the West Bank and concerns about some of the ways the security fence is being established," added Carper.

He shared thoughts about the emerging Palestinian government's problems.

"The Palestinian economy is out of money...The Saudis need to continue funding the Palestinian Government just as the Saudis need to forgive the millions in debt owed them by Iraq. Trade in and out of Palestinian territories must be allowed. Their unemployment is almost 50%." Carper noted that Palestinian leaders stressed the importance of "freedom of movement for trade and work to improve the quality of life for their people in order to prevent Hamas from winning elections."

Describing "Democracy as a hard way to govern," Carper seems optimistic with the American educated Dr. Salam Fayyad, finance

"There are still issues that our government minister for the Palestinian Authority. Fayyad, according to Carper, "is smart as a whip. He needs to run as Prime Minister and having Abbas (aka Abu Mazzan) as President will be a great one-two punch."

"Less is More" in Iraq

Fielding questions from Political Science students, Carper repeatedly expressed the view that "Less is more," regarding American pressure in Iraq. "President Bush is sending signals to Iraqis that we're there for a long time" with the large troop presence. "A gradual pull out sends a better message to the emerging Iraqi political leaders. The U.S. is seen now as an occupying force. We need to let the Iraqi people know we're not there forever." Carper hopes for American troop reduction to begin in

Editor's Note: Senator Carper will be at the Siegel JCC on Monday, Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m. to discuss his trip. The community is invited to the 2nd floor youth lounge.

REFLECTIONS

"When I First Came To This Land 77

(traditional old PA Dutch song....)

By Nina Galerstein Special to the Jewish Voice

Yesterday morning I sat down to begin writing, without a serious plan, about how it was for a 25 year old Jewish girl from New York City to move to Sussex County in 1978. I thought I was worldly as I had traveled a bit, and had attended two large, progressive Midwestern universities. Needless to say, it was a great shock to suddenly be thrust into a rural county with virtually no cultural activities, newspapers that were printed weekly, and whole towns that shut down between Labor Day and Memorial Day. I was certain there was not another Jewish person in close proximity, and even if there was I had no idea how to find them. In fact, I began to forget that I was Jewish. Instead of hearing older adults saying "gey avek", "zei gezundt" or even the classic "Oi vey" - I heard things such as "I like to died", "As sure as shooting", and "Cold as a witches tit". Now, in New York we did not discuss tits. If it was cold, we were told to put on a coat and that was that. But all this colorful language got me thinking about what to write, and a plan started to unfold. There is language, and then there is LANGUAGE. Where would we all be without our regional and cultural expressions, and I realized how privileged I

was to experience these very different ways of communicating. Okay, so it took me several years of tsores to figure some of it out....after all, I was brought up a Yiddishe Kop.

One thing I learned early on from the locals was that Delaware was an interesting state with regard to region - the northern part considered itself to be a northern state, and the southern part considered itself to be a southern state. Now, I don't know a lot about southern Jews in the USA, but in NY we were kinderlach to our Bubbe's and Zayde's. Here, I have friends who are called "Mom Mom" and "Pop Pop" by their grandbabies. We ate gefilte fish, bagels, noodle kugel, creamed spinach. I could not find these foods here in 1978, but I could easily purchase soft shell crabs, sweet potato biscuits, dumplings, and greens. I'm still not sure I understand what a "green" is. We didn't have Jewish food that was only known by a color. Nach a muhl, I don't think I ever ate anything growing up where I actually saw it in plant form first.

In 1978 there weren't a lot of road signs down here. Many were road numbers which no one knew. Directions to someone's house usually included at least one reference like this: "Turn right where the Lynch's flockhouse used to be.....", often followed by something like this: "Yeah, John Lynch's father (you know John? He's now principal at the high school, recently

raised biddies for 25 years, they finally tore down that old house when he retired).....". By this time I'm really confused. Biddies in a flockhouse? This sounds to me like a house of ill repute, and I'm sure everyone must be meshuggenah (which is a word I couldn't really use in 1978 or people would look at me blankly). I finally found out that this is a chicken house, a place where chicks are raised. Who knew? I also learned that Sussex County might well be the seat of chicken mavenhood, but I still couldn't easily find anyone's house who lived outside of town.

There were interesting colloquialisms and expressions that I had never heard before. One of my favorites was "She's trying to catch a cold". This meant that someone was on the verge of an illness, but to me it sounded like a purposeful activity. Growing up, my mother would most likely say "Nu, what's wrong?" and unless I was on the verge of death I was expected to go to school.

Yes, there was definitely much to learn when I first came to this land. Someone at work said they would "get up with me in the morning" and I didn't quite know how to respond. Was this person intending to spend the night with me? What do you say to something like that? Oi! And what do you say if someone asks whether they can use your hopper? In New York we called married that Baker girl from Georgetown)....he this exalted spot the toilet. You sat your tuches

down and did your business. In Sussex County you sit your butt on the hopper. To this day I still 'have not figured out the origin of that word. Someone once suggested that it's because you hop on and off. I don't know about you, but that is not my shtick in the bathroom.

It's now 2005 and things have changed a lot around here. There is now the Seaside Jewish Community with many people, and both religious and secular activities. I can use the same expressions my parents used, such as "I've been draying around all day" and "I gave a geshray...." and people will understand what I mean. I can kvetch and kvell, and, my personal favorite: krechtz. I'm not sure I spelled that correctly, but it is so satisfying to pronounce and to do. There are many more people here now from various cities and states, and it doesn't feel as strange to be a non-native. The language has evolved and you really have to search to find elders who use those colorful Sussex County expressions. In a way, I miss the old days. This afternoon, I was talking about all of this with a woman who just moved here from Baltimore. When I used the word hopper she asked what that was. I was plotzing to tell her that she could find one if she went down the hall and turned left where our old soda machine used to be...

Nina Galerstein is a music therapist at the Stockley Center, Division Of Developmental Disabilities Services in Georgetown, DE.

The Golden Thread

By Rosalyn Fletcher Special to the Jewish Voice

As I grow older, I find myself spending time thinking about my childhood. My mother and I spend many happy hours in our sewing room. I was told about a special project that she had in mind. The next few weeks were spent in preparation. We went downtown on the subway to get to the garment district. We were looking for material of different colors and textures. The next step was to cut the material into perfect squares. Calico, cotton, gingham, velvet and silk, when all this was put together it would be a beautiful quilt. I thought the work was finished when all pieces were sewn together, but I was wrong. My mother and I spent many more hours looking for a Golden Thread that would bind it all together. It had to be strong and

together, but more important, all the squares blended together, all the different colors and textures. It was truly a thing of beauty. My mother told me that the quilt had a very serious message but she said that I would have to find out myself.

Many years have gone by. My mother has passed away and the quilt belongs to me now. It was the time of World War II. News was coming out of Europe about the concentration camps, the work camps...the death camps. Jews were being slaughtered by the thousands.

With the end of the war came a new Jerusalem, the towns the survivors came from did not want them and the survivors did not want to return to their former homes. Those few that did want to go home were greeted with

durable yet beautiful. At last, the quilt was held stones thrown at them. Anger and hostility welcomed them.

> They walked back to the camps and just sat down and waited to die. Where should they go? What should they do? In Russia, it was the pogroms. In Spain, it was the inquisition, in Egypt, Jews were enslaved-throughout history and in many different lands, our people were oppressed and mistreated. Maybe this is why the Jewish people have survived. The blood that flows through their veins is the blood of thousands of years of survivors.

> Israel sent representatives to the camps. They gave those interred hope-a reason to live. The representative from Israel said "I have come to take you home." For thousands of years, Israel has waiting for her children to come home.

After all these years, I now know the message of the quilt.

The many different colors of the quilt were like the different colors of the people making aliyahs. The Golden Thread held our family's quilt together. What is the Golden Thread that holds the Jewish people together? People of all colors-the Ashkenazi and Sephardim-returned to their true home-Israel.

What is the Golden Thread? Tevye, the milkman would say "Tradition" Hassidim would say "The Bible" Zionists would say "The Promised Land" What do you say?

Rosalyn Fletcher is a resident of Claymont, Delaware. This is her first submission to the Jewish Voice.

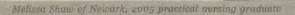
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Eve Slap, (center) Super Sunday co-chair along with Debra Kimless-Garber, is all smiles thanks to the hard work of phone-a-thon volunteers who made the December Smiles thanks to the hard work of phone-a-thon volunteers who made the December 4th event a super success! Congratulating her hard work is Suzanne (I) Grant and Robin Saran, 2006 Federation Annual Campaign co-chairs.



Caryl Marcus Stape and Annette Aerenson get into the spirit of the day at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center.



Senator Carper, just back from a whirlwind Mid-East fact-finding mission congratulates Gary Harad and Lori Barbanel on their commitment to voluntarism.





Ken Rosenberg gives a raffle prize to the volunteer with the winning ticket.



Photos by Mike Samuels



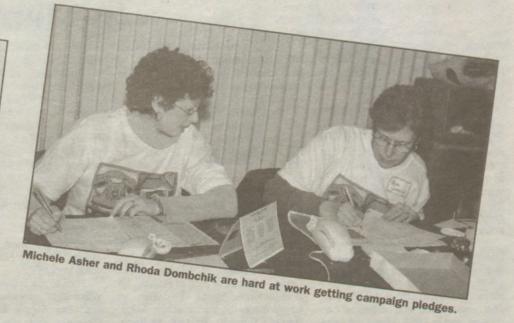
Sam Grant makes sure that volunteers have a fresh batch of pledge cards at hand.



Susan Detwiler, executive director of the Kristol Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) at the University of Delaware, enjoys telling callers about the many fine local programs that the Federation Annual Campaign helps to sup-

SUPER SUNDAY SNAPSHOTS

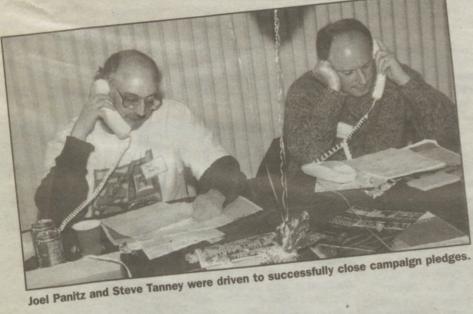




Stephanie Saran and Nicole Grant are driven to win the iPod Nano, the top prize for the volunteer who gets the largest number of percentage increases in pledges.



Idan Klingerman, Delaware's Partnership 2000 shlichut, puts a personal face on the need to support the State of Israel.





quality time with her husband, Joe Goldberg, on the phones.



Benji Cohen and Felisha Alderson discuss their game plan.



Federation President Bob Pincus and Executive Vice President Sam Asher strate-

MILESTONES

In Memoriam

BALICH

Lillian Rosen Balick, a native of Philadelphia, PA, died November 24th in Jennersville, PA. She was born in 1926 to Joseph and Ida Rosen.

She had a lifelong love of music, education and performing. Her formal study of piano began at the age of 4 at the Settlement Music School. She made regular concert appearances from 1940-1948. She began to teach piano at age 16 and received the only full-tuition music scholarship given by the Philadelphia Board of Education in 1944.

She attended Temple University, Department of Music Education, Teachers College and graduated in 1948 with a BA in education with a minor in English. From 1949-1952, She taught choral and orchestral conducting, and in 1956, joined the faculty of the Temple University Department of Music where she taught piano, methods and theory, serving until 1953.

She was an active member of the cultural communities in DE and Philadelphia, organizing concerts and lectures and supporting the Chamber Symphony of Philadelphia. She was a frequent lecturer for the Speaker's Bureau of the Delaware Humanities Forum, presenting multimedia programs that included live music, slides and oratory on such topics as the "Songs of the Holocaust" and "The Life and Music of George Gershwin." Mrs. Balick was the founder and a director of the Delaware Contest for Young Musicians and the Community Showcase performance. She was an arts specialist with the Delaware State Arts Council and former State Chair, Delaware Alliance for Arts Education, making significant contributions to musical standards in the community.

She was the author of two books, "The Delaware Symphony: Origins and the First Fifty Years" (1984) and "Reflections on Music: A Collection of Quotations about Music," (1985).

She received numerous awards and honors including election to 4 honorary societies, PI KAPPA LAMB-DA. KAPPA DELTA EPSILON, ASTRON AND PI MU. She also served on the board of directors of the Delaware Chamber Orchestra and Wilmington Ballet Company. She was married to Wilmington attorney, Jacob Balick, for 47 years. She is survived by her children Jennifer Balick of Tel Aviv, Israel, Michael J. Balick of Mount Kisco, NY, Robert H. Balick, of Wilmington, DE, David H. Balick, of King of Prussia, PA and Andrea Balick Feldstein of Landenberg, PA; their children, Maya, Daniel, Tamara, Rachel, Melissa, Allison, Jessica, Eric and Alex; and her beloved brother, Herbert S. Rosen and his wife, Gail, of Bala Cynwyd, PA.

A funeral service was held on November 27th at Schoenberg Memorial Chapel in Wilmington, DE. She is interred in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Rd.

The family would appreciate contributions in her memory to The Young Musicians Contest, c/o David Schelat, First and Central Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, DE

BUCHOLTZ

Ruth Bucholtz, 88, died December 1st. A longtime supporter of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, she was also a member of the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center, the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary and the Order of the Golden Chain. She was proud of her involvement in Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington and its Sisterhood.

She will be missed by her many cousins.

A graveside service was held on December 4th in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

The family would appreciate donations in her memory to the Bucholtz Family Trust at the Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington, DE 19803; Congregation Beth Shalom, 1801 Baynard Blvd, Wilmington, DE 19802 or to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

COHEN

Herbert Cohen, 86, of Delray Beach, FL died November 23rd of colon cancer.

Prior to his retirement, this former Wilmington resident owned Allston Chemical Supply and City Window Cleaning and was a member of Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. A lifetime member of B'nai B'rith, he was instrumental in the development of B'nai B'rith Senior Citizens Apartments in Claymont, DE and Deerfield Beach, FL.

A devoted family man, he was predeceased by his wife of almost 60 years, Beatrice, who died in 2003. He is survived by his daughters and sonsin-law, Shelley and Barry Kanofsky and Diane and Ron Pogach of Wilmington; his grandchildren, Stacey and Loren Cohen of Chicago, ILL, Dr. Jamie Kanofsky of New York City and Andy Pogach of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and his great-granddaughter, Lainey Cohen.

Graveside services were held on November 27th in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wellness Community/ Delaware, 4810 Lancaster Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807.

Robert Gold, a former resident of Wilmington, died December 2nd in Coral Springs, FL after a brief illness.

A native of Philadelphia, he lived in Delaware for 44 years, working in such diverse jobs as shoe salesman and manager, security guard and baseball umpire. His avocation was writing and he was known for his lively letters to his beloved children and grandchildren and to those he met in his many global travels.

his many global travels.

He was a devoted husband for 64 years to Hilda Spector Gold; an esteemed father to Fran and Jack Milarsky, Jerold and Maralyn Gold, Mark and Bunny Gold and Janet S. Gold; grand-pop to Sean and Julie Milarsky, Nikki and Josh Feldman, Megan and Kevin Lermer, Jeremy and Tracey Milarsky, Ashli McMahon,

Matthew McMahon, Rachel Gold and Andrea Gold; pop-pop to Isaac Milarsky, Ethan Feldman, Lily Feldman, twins, Mark and Allison Milarsky and an expected Lermer baby. Mr. Gold will also be missed by his close extended family of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Graveside services were held at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Collingdale, PA on December 5th.

The family would appreciate memorial donations to either United Jewish Appeal or to B'nai B'rith.

Ruth W. Honey, 86, died November 22nd. Services were held on November 27th at Schoenberg Memorial Chapel in Wilmington. Interment was private.

Leonard Keil, 79, died December

He is survived by his wife, Dawn; daughters, Cheryl Keil, Kathy Wisniewski and her husband, David; sister, Lucille Beifer; and grandchildren, Colleen and her husband, Ahmed, Donald, Leni and Zachary.

A private graveside service was held in Beth Emeth Memorial Park.

The family would appreciate donations in his memory to ICU, Wilmington Hospital, 14th and Washington Sts., Wilmington, DE 19801.

KLEIN

Leroy "Roy" Klein, age 79, of Dover, DE died Friday, November 4, 2005 in his home.

Mr. Klein was born June 14, 1926 in Philadelphia, PA to the late Julius and Eleanor Aarons Klein. He was in the US Merchant Marines from 1944-1947. After leaving the service, he served as head of marketing for The Caloric Corporation in Philadelphia, manufacturers of appliances and gas ranges.

He received his bachelor's degree in business from Temple University in 1950

From 1970 to the present, he was president of Klein Development Corporation, engaged in land development and property management in Kent County. His accomplishments included Royal Grant, Generals Greene, Acorn Farms, Walker Woods I and II, and Four Seasons.

Mr. Klein was a member of the Delaware State University Board of Visitors, Capital City Rotary Club, the Wellness Community, Delaware Guidance Services, Public Allies, The Boys and Girls Club of Delaware, the Air Mobility Command Museum, Schwartz Theater for the Arts, Biggs Museum, Kent County Tourism, the Delaware Economic Development Council, the Delaware Civic Center Corporation, Delaware Tourism Alliance, Delaware Business Roundtable, the USO of Delaware, United Way of Kent County and most recently ITEC in Smyrna.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Marion Roth Klein of Dover; four sons, Dr. Lawrence Klein of IN, Andrew Klein and his wife, Jo, of Germantown, MD, Peter Klein and his wife, Kate, of Woodinville, WA and Donald Klein and his wife, Annie, of West Hills, CA; and a daughter, Peggy and her husband, Dr. Herbert Mandell, of Wyncote, PA. Other survivors include 2 brothers, Robert Klein and his wife, Judith, of Philadelphia, PA; 1 sister, Judy Franken and her husband, Richard, of Cherry Hill, NJ; 9 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on November 7th at Torbert Funeral Chapel South in Dover. Dover.

Contributions in his memory would be appreciated to The Rotary Foundation, 1847 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, DE 19901; to the Wellness Community, 812 South Bradford St., Dover, DE 19904; or to Delaware Guidance Services, 1213 Delaware Ave., Wilmington, DE 19806.

Continued on page 39

The Entire Staff of Schoenberg Memorial Chapel wants to Welcome all Delaware Newcomers!



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NACHAS NOOK

A NEW SON OF ISRAEL IS BORN

Danna and Roger M. Levy of Wilmington and Lucille and Phil Sopinsky of Philadelphia announce the birth of their grandson, Ariel Bet Tzion. Ariel, the son of Natalie and Jordan Sopinsky of Kibbutz Shluhlot in Bet Shean, Israel, was born on November 11th. Welcoming Ariel's arrival are his two big brothers, Israel Chaim and Zev.



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Get involved at JFS & help with our wish list!

JFS is in need of volunteers and donations in the following capacities:

☆ Donations of small-portioned frozen meals or soup to stock our mitzvah pantry

Donations of gas cards, phone cards, and gift cards for clothing and school supplies

☆ Donation of a wheeled cart to transport baskets and supplies

☆ ○ Office volunteers to answer phones, handle data entry and filing

☆ Creative individuals to assist with assembling and wrapping baskets

☆ Caring individuals to make friendly visits
 or phone calls to community members
 Hours are flexible. No experience is neces-

Hours are flexible. No experience is necessary—we will train you! Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Driban at 302-478-9411, ext. 21.

The Jewish War Veterans of Delaware need new members, young or old and patrons. It is

extremely important that this Jewish Organization continue. Please call Len Markovitz at 302-234-4785 or Milt Slovin302-478-4888. You do not have to be a veteran to join.

Please help stock the JFS Mitzvah Pantry! Thanks to the generosity of a community member, the Volunteer Network now has a freezer to store meals for the community. We are currently accepting single or double portion, kosher or kosher-style meals. These meals will be stored in the freezer in the volunteer project room at JFS and shared with community members in need. So cook an extra portion and share a meal with a member of the community who will appreciate your generosity. For more information about this program, contact Lisa Driban at (302) 478-9411. JFS is looking for volunteers in the following capacities. Interested parties should contact Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Driban at 302-478-9411, ext. 21.

☆ Creative individuals to assist with assembling and wrapping baskets

⇔ Delivery assistance for delivery of meals and baskets

☆ ★ Caring individuals to make friendly visits
or phone calls to community members

Hours are flexible. No experience is necessary, we will train you!

Israeli Dancing Schedule Announced-Israeli dancing continues twice a month in Wilmington area. It is at the Siegel JCC the second Sunday of each month from 3-5 p.m. This month's date is December 11; Dance at Arden Gild Hall on December 21st starting at 7:30. Sharon Kleban and Howard Wachtel teach more beginning dances the first hour, and the second hour gets progressively more advanced.

For further information, please contact Elaine Schmerling at (302) 475-3708.

Summer Scholarship Available-The Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its 17th annual Scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or Israel. Applications may be pickd up at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Synagogue office, Washington Street Ext. and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802, and must be returned by the deadline – March 1, 2006. The fund was established in 1989 to honor the Silverman's 55th wedding anniversary by their

four daughters and many friends. Questions can be directed to Mollie Epstein at 494-5980 or Mollie1818@aol.com

Get Ready for Jewish Book Month- In celebration of Jewish Book Month, The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School will hold a Book Discussion led by Cyra Gross of "Rashi's Daughters" by Maggie Anton, on Wed. Dec. 14th at the Siegel JCC at 7pm.

This novel takes place in11th century France and centers on Rashi's daughter, Joheved. It is highly recommended for historical fiction lovers. This event is open to the community.

Reserve your place by calling Melton Director, Lynda Bell at 302-478-5660 or lyndabell@siegeljcc.org.

Come to a Hanukkah Concert-The Arbel Chorale, an independent Jewish choir, led by new musical director Cantor Naomi Hirsch, welcomes the community

to enjoy its 2nd Annual Hanukkah Concert on December 27 at 7 p.m. National Museum of American Jewish History, Independence Mall East, 55 N. 5th St., Philadelphia. Tickets are \$15 (\$7 for students, seniors, and children) at the door. For more information, call Johanna at 215-238-7205 or visit them on the web at www.arbel.org.

In Memoriam

Continued from page 38

KOGON

Rita L. Kogon, 78, of Green Acres, Wilmington, died on December 5th after a long illness.

For 18 years, Mrs. Kogon was a familiar face at the Mt. Pleasant School District, where she served as a substitute teacher. She retired from teaching in 1988 and worked part-time for her son, Jay at his business, Lindell Physical Therapy.

She was a life member of Hadassah and traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe with her late husband, Dr. Irving Kogon, with whom she spent 55 years. In her spare time, she loved to read and play bridge.

She was a native of Brooklyn, New York and was a graduate of the University of Delaware.

Mrs. Kogon will be missed by her sons and daughters-in-law, Gary B. and Linda Kogon of Lititz, PA and Jay S. and Susan Kogon of Wilmington; her six grandchildren, Amy, Sherie, Chava, Aaron, Seth and Sam; and a sister, Peggy Handelman of New York, NY.

Funeral services were held on December 7th at Schoenberg Memorial Chapel in Wilmington with interment in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. Shiva will be observed at 7 p.m. through December 12th at the Chalfonte home of Jay and Susan Kogon.

Memorial contributions would be appreciated to either Hadassah, c/o Eva Weissman, 9 Devon Court, Wilmington, DE 19810 or to another Jewish organization of the donor's choice.

MARKISOHN

Gabriel Markisohn died on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 at his home in Middletown, DE

He was born May 19, 1932 in Budapest, Hungary. A survivor of the Holocaust, he immigrated to the United States in 1947 and lived with a foster family in St. Louis, MO. Markisohn excelled at track and academics and earned a scholarship to attend Princeton University. A member of the graduating class of 1956, he obtained a degree in civil engineering, achieved several honors in track and served as track captain.

He pursued his career interests in St. Louis, MO, Orlando, FL, Washington, DC, Ottawa, CN, Wilmington, DE and Indianapolis, IN. The last 25 years of his career were spent as an innovator in the design, construction and management of senior living and nursing home facilities.

He is survived by his wife, Teresa "Terry" Markisohn; his children, Jim, Brad and Kathy and their life partners, Nancy, Debbie and Diane; his five grandchildren, Jeremy, Nichole, Sara, Hannah and Jacob; and his brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Elizabeth Markison, and their son, Brian, and his family.

DELAWARE GRATZ HOLDS GRAND OPEN HOUSE

Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School invites the community to a grand open house Sunday, January 22, 1-3 p.m., in celebration of their move into newly renovated space in the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center in Wilmington, Delaware.

Four instructors in the school's highly successful service learning programs will be honored: Rosanne Griff Cabelli, Vivian Mamberg, Dianne Seidel and Ella Zukoff. Vivian Mamberg coordinates the Mary Campbell Center program. Rosanne Griff Cabelli, Dianne Seidel and Ella Zukoff co-teach the "Cook for a Friend" program. These two programs are among the most popular classes which Gratz offers. Capital campaign donors who contributed in the name of Delaware Gratz will also be recognized.

Guests at the open house will have the opportunity to tour the new Gratz wing, and to sample a bit of the Gratz experience. The "Cook for a Friend" team will serve their own home-made cookies and brownies, the "Book of Jonah" class will present a class skit, and Hebrew micro-calligraphy artwork created by students in the "Jewish Environment" class will be displayed. A brief student-made film featuring Gratz teachers and students will be available for viewing in one of the classrooms. In addition, idan Kligerman, Israeli shaliach (emissary) and Ari Goldberg, director of Jewish Community High School of Gratz College of Philadelphia will address the guests.

Just prior to the open house, scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Moriah Hazani will teach an adult education session about body image from 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The class is entitled, "Body: (In the Image of G-d) Imagination and Realism in the Rabbis' World." Pre-registration is requested.

The course, and the open house are open to the community free of charge. To register for the class, or for additional information about the Open House, please contact the Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School office at (302)478-8100 or gratz@delawaregratz.org

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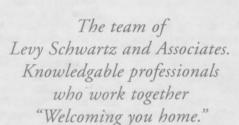






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