

JEWIS TAKE THE LEAD IN DARFUR ACTIVISM

By Howard M. Rieger

"Let us remember: what hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander." — Elie Wiesel

When students learn the details of the Holocaust or the killing fields of Cambodia or the sacking of Nanking or the genocide in Rwanda, the first question they often ask is, "Why didn't anyone stop it from happening?"

There is no good answer. Maybe there was a lack of communication — people just didn't know; or maybe it was because of the location — it was too far away; or maybe it was because of victims' ethnicity — people just didn't care. Or maybe people did not want to know. Just read U.S. newspapers during World War II to see what was not being reported. In each of the instances of genocide that plagued the 20th century, someone could have — and should have — stood up to prevent mass murder, and some did. But never enough.

As we speed through the first decade of the 21st century, it is apparent that some of humanity's worst characteristics remain. As I sit in the comfort of my home, the world is once again standing by as more than 200,000 civilians are being murdered, thousands of women are being raped, and more than two million people are being



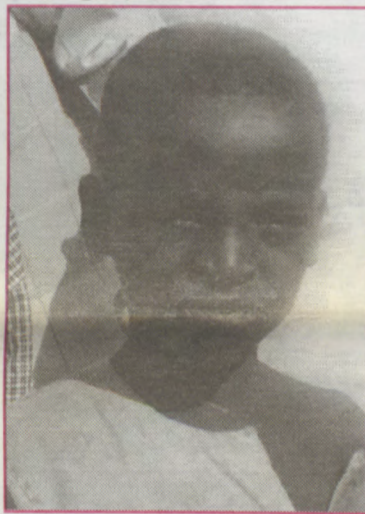
Photos courtesy of United Jewish Communities

driven from their homes.

This is happening today. In 2006. In Darfur, the western region of Sudan. The genocide is being systematically perpetrated by Sudanese government soldiers and members of the government-supported militia, called the Janjaweed. Villages have been torched and property stolen by the Sudanese military and the Janjaweed. Some of the victims have escaped to neighboring Chad, but most are trapped in Darfur. Thousands die each month due to

shortages of adequate food, water, health care, and shelter in a harsh desert environment. People are afraid to return home because the countryside is not safe.

The ethnic and perceived racial basis of the violence has been documented by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, independent human rights organizations, and international journalists. The Sudanese government primarily has targeted the civilian population of the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masaalit ethnic groups, sometimes referred



to as "Africans." The government's Janjaweed allies are drawn from some of Darfur's "Arab" tribes.

Sudan's Khartoum-based government is fueling ethnic and racial violence by using the Janjaweed militia as proxies against Darfur insurgents who launched a rebellion in early 2003. But it is civilians who are suffering. Government-sponsored actions include:

- Inflaming ethnic conflict;
- Impeding international humanitarian access, resulting in deadly conditions for displaced civilians;
- Bombing civilian targets with aircraft;
- Murdering and raping civilians.

Darfurians who managed to flee the violence tell a chilling story. One refugee told New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof that "the Arabs want to get rid of anyone with black skin ... There are no blacks left [in the area I fled]."

Beyond the lives lost and broken, millions more hang in the balance.

The organized Jewish community has been at the forefront of galvanizing public attention to this tragedy. Two years ago UJC helped launch the Save Darfur Coalition, an alliance of more than 150 faith-based, humanitarian and human rights organizations with representation from all major faiths and the Sudanese community. The coalition is dedicated to raising public awareness and mobilizing the world community to end the atrocities in Darfur.

PRAY WITH YOUR FEET, DELAWARE!

Board the Busses for The Rally to End Genocide

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006, WASHINGTON, DC

Busses leave at 8 a.m., from The Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center Or at 8:45 a.m., from The Kristol Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) at the University of Delaware

RSVP required to Gina Kozicki, Jewish Federation of Delaware 302-427-2100, ext. 20 or www.shalomdelaware.org

\$20/per person includes transportation, boxed kosher lunch, & t-shirt (Max \$50/family)

For more information and posters, fliers, postcards, etc. contact Roland Roth, Lead Organizer for Jewish Delaware, 302-354-8622 or education@bethshalomwilmington.org

"We have the power to stop the genocide. But we must act now, before it's too late."

The Jewish Council on Public Affairs (JCPA) is leading our efforts as the federation system's national community relations arm. They are dedicated to leading the fight for

See DARFUR, page 5

OLMERT IS ISRAEL'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

By Dan Baron, JTA

At age 34, Ehud Olmert became an "Old Man."

That was the nickname the then-Likud Party parliamentarian earned from fellow cadets in the Israeli army officer's course for which he volunteered in 1980, taking four months off from family and career.

He would never fire a shot in anger. But for Olmert, the son of fervently Zionist pioneers, the very act of joining the junior brass went some way toward making up for a mandatory military service spent far from the battlefield because of medical problems.

"I had the feeling that as a soldier I didn't do what I thought I had it in me to do, and wanted to do," Olmert wrote in a diary that he later published.

A quarter-century later, Olmert was elected Israeli prime minister on Tuesday, and his decision to enroll in the officer's course — with its mix-



Ehud and Aliza Olmert cast their votes on Tuesday.

ture of patriotism and self-promotion — appears prescient.

Veteran observers of the lawyer-cum-lawmaker, who served a decade

as Jerusalem mayor before becoming the country's leader, describe a career that has combined skill, drive and not a little luck.

"From his earliest days in politics, Olmert has wanted to be prime minister," said Raviv Drucker, political correspondent for Israel's Channel 10 television. "His talent has been in emerging so gradually, so cleverly, and in managing to be so lucky."

Lacking the achievements in war and peace that have sustained other Israeli politicians, Olmert happily worked in the shadow of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon after the ex-general's re-election in 2003.

Olmert was an aggressive advocate of last year's Gaza Strip withdrawal — fending off attacks on the plan by his long-time rival, Benjamin Netanyahu — and he was quick to follow Sharon when the prime minister bolted the Likud to form the more centrist Kadima Party.

When Sharon suffered a crippling stroke in January, Olmert, as his

deputy, took over. It was a crisis, a time for damage-control, for a solid bureaucrat rather than a brilliant statesman. At that, Olmert excelled.

Perhaps it was due to his years as mayor, a role he carried out with relish — and a good deal of controversy.

Unlike his predecessor, Teddy Kollek, Olmert made no bones about courting the city's Orthodox sector and building up Jewish neighborhoods in predominantly Arab areas of eastern Jerusalem.

The occasional fracas gave him ample opportunity to appear in the international press. It also consolidated his reputation as a scion of the political right-wing, though there was a price to pay: the departure of many of Jerusalem's secular, left-wing residents.

Having entered the Knesset at age 28 on a pledge to fight organized crime, Olmert had a keen appreciation both for populism and for the

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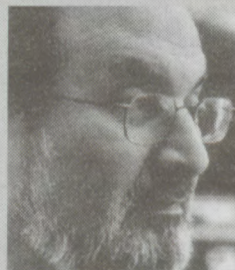
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FEDERATION Focus

The Passover story continues



Samuel H. Asher
Executive Vice President

B'chol dor vador - "In every generation," the Passover Haggadah instructs, "each person is obligated to see him/herself as if s/he personally went forth from Egypt...for God redeemed not only our ancestors, God redeemed us with them."

We recite these words early in the Seder; they are a central theme of the holiday and perhaps a central theme to Jewish life. We are instructed not just to remember but also to envision ourselves as active participants in the actual Exodus story of slavery and redemption.

Indeed, on another continent, we are bearing witness to a modern-day exodus. In the past two decades we have helped rescue more than 200,000 Ethiopian Jews from the bonds of poverty and religious intolerance

and ensure them safe passage to the promised land—our beloved Israel.

In early 1991 the government of Yitzhak Shamir authorized a special permit for the Israeli airline, El Al, to fly on Friday, May 24th—the Jewish Sabbath. A total of 34 El Al jumbo jets and Hercules C-130s—seats removed to accommodate the maximum number of Ethiopians—flew non-stop for 36 hours. These flights to freedom began a new chapter in the struggle for the emancipation of Ethiopian Jewry.

Operation Solomon is named for the king from whom one of the theories suggest that the Beta Israel draw their lineage. This operation ended almost as quickly as it began. Timing was crucial, since any delay by Israel could have allowed the rebels to hold the Jews as bargaining chips with Israel or the United States. A total of 14,324 Ethiopian Jews were rescued and resettled in Israel, a modern exodus of great magnitude. Operation Solomon rescued twice the number of Jews in Operation Moses and Joshua, in a mere fraction of the time.

Today there are still 20,000 Falash Mura waiting in Ethiopia for their flight to freedom. Operation Promise, a new initiative of United Jewish Communities, enables their Exodus to continue. This \$160 campaign will feed, house and help sustain those who are in compounds in Addis Ababa, awaiting transport to the Jewish State and will fund education, Hebrew language, vocational

training and other initiatives to help these new olim make a successful transition to life in Israel.

Operation Promise also serves as a lifeline to elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union who depend on us for food, medicines and other basic needs and to build Jewish identity among young people in the FSU—inspiring hope for a Jewish future in this region.

As Jews we are obligated to ease the suffering of our fellow human beings, regardless of race or religion. In the words of the incomparable Elie Wiesel, "As a Jew who does not compare any event to the Holocaust, I feel concerned and challenged by the Sudanese tragedy. We must be involved. How can we reproach the indifference of non-Jews to Jewish suffering if we remain indifferent to another people's plight?"

Indeed the suffering in the Darfur region of the Sudan is horrendous. Since early 2003, Sudanese government forces and ethnic militia called "Janjaweed" have engaged in an armed conflict with two rebel groups called the Sudanese Liberation Army/ Movement (SLA/SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). As part of its operations against the rebels, government forces have waged a systematic campaign of "ethnic cleansing" against the civilian population who are members of the same ethnic groups as the rebels.

Between 2003 and 2005, the Sudanese government and the Janjaweed militias burned and

destroyed hundreds of rural villages, killed tens of thousands of people and raped and assaulted thousands of women and girls. The government's campaign forced more than two million Darfurians from their homes. As of 2006, some 1.8 million live in camps in Darfur and approximately 220,000 have fled into Chad, where they live in refugee camps. In addition to the people displaced by the conflict, at least 1.5 million other people need some form of food assistance because the conflict has destroyed the local economy, markets and trade in Darfur.

To draw attention to the plight of the people in this part of Africa, the Save Darfur Coalition, an alliance of more than 150 faith-based, humanitarian and human rights groups, representing more than 130 million Americans has mobilized a "Million Voices for Darfur" campaign to generate one million postcards to President Bush. The postcards ask Bush to use the power of his office to fulfill his Feb. 17 pledge to support a stronger multi-national force to protect the Darfuri people. Anyone can send an electronic version of this postcard in just a few seconds by visiting www.MillionVoicesForDarfur.org.

The postcards will be delivered to the White House on Sunday, April 30th during the Rally for Darfur. Thousands of activists from all across the United States will gather to speak out against the atrocities and meet with members of Congress. The Jewish Federation of

Delaware will sponsor bus transportation to the Rally. Buses leave from the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center at 8am, and from the Kristol Hillel Center for Jewish Life at the University of Delaware at 8:45am. \$20 per person includes transportation, boxed kosher lunch, and a t-shirt. RSVP to Gina Kozicki at the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 302-427-2100, ext. 20. For more information, including posters, fliers, and postcards, contact Roland Roth, Lead Organizer, at 302-354-8622. The Jewish community has a moral responsibility to speak out and take action against this genocide. We must respond! RSVP is absolutely required by April 26th for bus transportation.

The Passover story reminds us that we can overcome adversity and transcend the despair of exile and slavery. We can keep this timeless story alive by writing a new and exciting chapter! We can save Ethiopian Jews and make their Aliyah to Israel successful. We can also play a role in bringing the plight of those suffering in Darfur to the attention of decision makers in Washington.

When called upon for a donation to Operation Promise, please help. When given the opportunity to participate in the rally for Darfur in Washington, please join us and sign up on line at www.shalomdelaware.org.

We must continue to infuse this never-ending story with our unique experiences and energies.

Connect

from the residents of our wonderful partnership region, we experienced the rich art and culture of Arad and Tamar. We mingled with Israeli students at the ORT school, olim (new immigrants) residing at the local absorption center and well-known Israeli artists whose galleries we toured. A myriad of special connections were being made by the minute.

Within three days, thirty busloads of participants visited over 100 sites supported by Federations and operated by our overseas partner agencies, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Ethiopian National Project (ENP). The challenge and needs to strengthen Israeli society and successfully integrate the many new immigrants arriving daily are great. We were able to see firsthand the educational, humanitarian and social service programs which are vital to help millions of people around the world every day.

Without a doubt, the greatest part of our visit was being able to see the smiling faces of the people whose lives we are enhancing. You can imagine the emotional high of our experiences, interacting with the people of Israel. These life changing programs are made possible through our local efforts. The support from Federation is critical to the success of these projects and I take great pride in knowing we have a part in securing the future of Jewish lives all around the world.

The goal of Tel Aviv One was to

give the participants many reasons to connect with their local Federation. I am confident that Tel Aviv One accomplished just that. The five of us here in Delaware are energized and ready to pass on our excitement to others. We witnessed how the Jewish Federation system carries out the tradition of

tikkun olam, by changing and saving lives. Join us in our efforts to "repair the world." If you are interested in learning about more ways you can get involved, call (302) 427-2100 ext.10 or email Lauren.Schultz@shalomdel.org.

Live Generously...It does a world of good.



Members of Delaware's delegation enjoy Tel Aviv One.

By Lauren Schultz

Imagine a room filled with 1200 people. Now imagine that they are all Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s and that this room is in Tel Aviv. It is an incredible vision, right? A few weeks ago, I was lucky enough to be included in this group of over 1200 young Jewish adults from across North America, Israel and other countries around the world. So what was the purpose of this tremendous gathering? To connect. To connect with our peers around the world, with Israel and with the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam, repairing the world.

For the first time this year, UJC's National Young Leadership conference was held in Israel. Tel Aviv

One participants were chosen by their local communities to join young Israelis and other Jews from all over the world so that we could work together to build Jewish connections. Whether it was connecting with old friends, with new friends, with Israel or with our local communities, making these connections ensures the future of Jewish leadership on a local, national and international level. George Danneman, Roland Roth, Brian Singer, Ann Young and I proudly represented the Delaware delegation. In four days, we experienced the beauty, history, music, foods, sports and fashion of modern Tel Aviv and the ongoing effort to secure the Jewish community worldwide. With a warm welcome

Save the Date



Yom HaShoah
Holocaust Day of
Remembrance

**Tuesday, April 25, 2006
at 12:30 p.m.**

(Please note new time)
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Presented by the
Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center
A program of the Jewish Federation of Delaware

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Kadima:

Israel moves forward with Olmert

The voters have spoken and Israel has a new prime minister. Ehud Olmert, acting PM since Ariel Sharon was incapacitated by a massive stroke in January, will officially seize the reigns of power. His centrist Kadima Party, founded by Sharon shortly before his health failed, will gain 29 seats in Israel's 120 member Knesset. Following close behind was Labor, which, with 22 seats will most likely be Olmert's chief coalition partner.

Perhaps one of the biggest ironies in the election results is the poor turnout of Likud which gained only 11 seats. Sharon founded this right-wing political party in 1973 and remained an active member up until he formed Kadima.

Tuesday's vote is viewed as an affirmation of Kadima's call for reaching a peace agreement with the Palestinians consistent with the US-backed Road Map Peace Plan. Olmert maintains that disengagement from the Palestinians is the sanest way to deal

with the threat to Israel's security posed by the PA's Hamas-led government. He plans for a massive Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and establishment of permanent borders within four years. In the best-case scenario, Israel's new prime minister hopes to achieve these goals through negotiations with the Palestinians. If this is not possible, he intends to advance his agenda unilaterally.

This newspaper and its publisher, The Jewish Federation of Delaware, congratulate Ehud Olmert on his victory. May he lead his people "forward" the English definition of the Hebrew word "kadima" towards the goals of peace and prosperity.

B'Shalom,

Lynn B. Edelman

Lynn B. Edelman
Editor

OLMERT

Continued from page 1

power of wealth. Suave and athletic, he pursued a lucrative legal career and dodged a slew of corruption allegations, sniping back at any and all accusers.

Throughout, Olmert managed to convey a sense of humor — or, his detractors would argue, cynicism. Some attribute this to the fact that his wife, Aliza, and their four children are Olmert's polar opposites politically. Olmert once quipped that, as diehard supporters of liberal causes, his family had never voted for him.

Olmert's tone sobered somewhat after he became interim prime minister, and he took an ideologically moderate line that surprised and angered some supporters who knew him as a right-winger. Yet he continued to be the no-nonsense, pragmatic decision-maker.

After suspending ties with the Palestinian Authority following Hamas' victory in January parliamentary elections, Olmert declared that, if peace talks remain stalled, he would set Israel's border — and annex major West Bank settlement blocs — by 2010.

"The Israeli people hasn't the time or the need to wait 20 years for Hamas to mature," he

said in a television interview.

On receiving word that the Palestinian Authority planned to release a terrorist squad jailed for assassinating Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi in 2001, Olmert sent commandos to seize them in the West Bank. Few remembered that Olmert and Ze'evi had exchanged fiery libel lawsuits in the 1980s.

Olmert also drew battle lines with settlers, ordering a bruising police crackdown on an unauthorized West Bank outpost in what could presage future evacuations in the territory.

In contrast to Sharon's refusal to discuss his key diplomatic plans in detail, Olmert's openness represented "an end to ambiguity," the liberal newspaper Ha'aretz noted. At the least, it set the election agenda.

Many analysts suggested that Olmert's forthrightness was intended to compensate for his perceived lack of experience in matters of national strategy and security.

"The special power of Sharon derived from the fact he did not have to prove anything," Doron Rosenblum wrote in Ha'aretz. "If only we could finally get a prime minister who would stand up and not feel inferior because he is a civilian."

TASTE OF TORAH

Drawing closer to G-D

By Rabbi David B. Kaplan
Temple Beth El, Newark, DE

The subject of the Torah Portions for the next two weeks, "Vayikra" and "Tzav", is sacrifice, which is referred to as either *Korban* or *Olah*. The root of *Korban* is to bring near; the root of *Olah* is to ascend. One might understand that the purpose and result of performing a sacrifice was to bring the one who offers the sacrifice closer to G-d and to raise that person up to a higher spiritual level.

Our modern-day connection with G-d comes in the form of *mitzvot*. Before doing a *mitzvah*, we say the blessing "asher kidshanu bemitzvotav," translated as, "Who makes us holy by G-d's mitzvot." It is not easy to perceive the presence of the Eternal One. Life has a way of pulling us away from our spiritual



Rabbi David B. Kaplan

selves. Coping with the stress of every day existence may bring out the worst in us. We need reminders that life is really worth living.

Performing mitzvot with *kavanah*, with intention, has the potential to return us to that place of peace and serenity. The mitzvot can transform our drudgery into opportunities for growth. Our spiritual connection gives us the proper perspective to have our tasks be fulfilling, rather than our tasks

simply filling our time.

Proper attention to the mitzvot can allow us to hear that the Eternal One is calling each of us to be holy.

May these Torah portions help us to be elevated spiritually and to better sense the Divine Presence.

This Week in Jewish History



Celebrate 350
Jewish Life in America
1654 - 2004

This Week in Jewish History" is an introduction to 350 years of American Jewish life, brought to you by the Jewish Women's Archive. More information about each of the events described below can be found on JWA's website at http://www.jwa.org/this_week/week_31.html

MARCH 29, 1951

On March 29, 1951, actress and comedienne Judy Holliday received an Academy Award for her performance in "Born Yesterday."

MARCH 30, 1928

Hadassah President Irma Levy Lindheim condemned the president of the Zionist

Organization of America on March 30, 1928, accusing him of "political machinations" counter to Zionism's aims.

APRIL 1, 1895

"The American Jewess," the first English-language publication published by and for American Jewish women, first appeared in April 1895.

APRIL 1, 1999

Merle Feld's *A Spiritual Life: A Jewish Feminist Journey* was published on April 1, 1999.

APRIL 2, 2002

On April 2, 2002, Frieda Caplan's specialty produce company, Frieda's Inc., which has introduced a wide array of exotic produce to the American market, celebrated 40 years in business.

Shabbat Candlelighting Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH - 7:14 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12TH - 7:19 PM (EVE OF 1ST DAY PASSOVER)

THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH - 8:19 PM (EVE OF 2ND DAY PASSOVER)

FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH - 7:21 PM

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE

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for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE
April 14

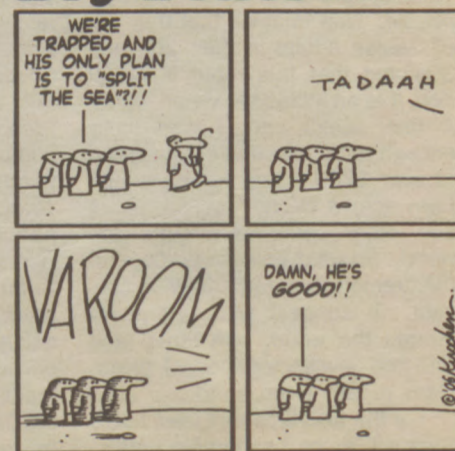
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April 6

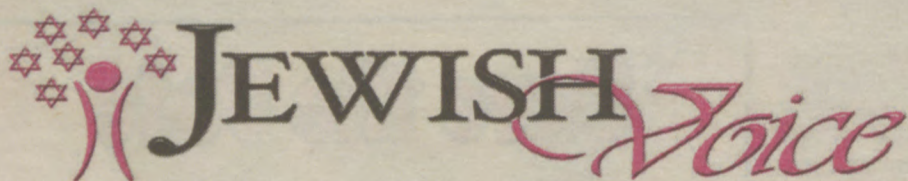
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Wilmington, DE 19801-1628

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Published semimonthly, and monthly in July and August, by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.
100 W. 10th St., Wilmington, DE 19801

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Periodicals postage paid for The Jewish Voice (USPS-704160) at Wilmington, Delaware.
Subscription price: \$25.00. Mailed to subscribers and contributors to the Jewish Federation of Delaware. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Jewish Voice, 100 W. 10th St., Wilmington, DE 19801. (302) 427-2100.
The FAX number of The Jewish Voice is (302) 427-2438.
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EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Hamas Duplicity: Talk Peace in English and deny it Arabic

By Itamar Marcus
and Barbara Crook

In its attempt to gain international legitimacy, Hamas is presenting a conciliatory face to the Western media, while rejecting peace to its own people in Arabic, and even denying that the conciliatory statements were made.

In the latest example, Hamas Prime Minister-designate Ismail Haniyah told CBS on March 16 that he hoped to some day sign a peace agreement with Israel. A Hamas member of Parliament immediately told the Palestinian Authority media that the CBS report was "unfounded," and part of a "crazy campaign which aims at embarrassing and confusing the Palestinians and undermining the trust of the mass-

es in Hamas." [Al Hayat Al Jadida, March 19, 2006]

Haniyah was interviewed on CBS news and said, among other things, that he was "seeking a peace settlement and stability in this region," "looking forward to peace and tranquility in this region," and "seeking American administration to create this missing peace." [www.cbsnews.com]

Hamas denies statements were made:

A Hamas MP, speaking in Arabic to a PA newspaper, immediately denied these statements as lies, and part of a conspiracy of the US media to damage the true image of the Hamas:

"[Hamas] MP Mushir Al-Masri denied what was reported in various places in the media about Hamas

abandoning its principles, relying on statements attributed to the Prime Minister designate, Ismail Haniyah, according to which he hopes that a peace treaty will be signed with the Israelis. He said that these statements, released on CBS, are unfounded [lit: naked of all truth]. Al-Masri said that these matters are part of a crazy campaign which aims at embarrassing and confusing the Palestinian arena and undermining the trust of the masses in Hamas movement... He added: 'the Palestinian media grasps that this campaign should not be related to... and it understands that America endeavors to undermine the [Hamas] movement in the eyes of the Palestinian people...' As to the PM's statements, which have been distorted, Al-Masri said: 'the

American channel [CBS] broadcast that Sheikh Ismail Haniyah had said in an interview that he hoped that a treaty with Israel would be signed in the White House. I believe that the basis for the controversy over the [Hamas] political plan are the [peace] agreements, which in our opinion bring no benefit...' [Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah, March 19, 2006]

It should be noted that the reason for this strong rejection of the willingness for peace with Israel is that it violates the most basic tenet of Hamas' belief, that Islam demands the destruction of Israel. Article 13 of the Hamas charter states: "... Renouncing any part of Palestine [i.e. accepting Israel] means renouncing part of the religion." Hamas would have to scrap

and recreate the basis of its religious ideology to accept Israel.

Itamar Marcus is director and Barbara Crook is a staff member of Palestinian Media Watch. Palestinian Media Watch was established in 1996 to gain an understanding of Palestinian society through the monitoring of the Palestinian Arabic language media and schoolbooks. Palestinian Media Watch analyzes Palestinian Authority culture and society from numerous perspectives, including studies on summer camps, poetry, schoolbooks, religious ideology, crossword puzzles, and more. The organization documents the contradictions between the image the Palestinians present to the world in English and the messages to their own people in Arabic.

Propaganda Masquerades as Scholarship at Harvard

By Dr. Mitchell G. Bard

The Saudi sheikh who gave Harvard \$20 million to advance the anti-Israeli agenda in the United States did not have to wait long for the university to deliver. In a recently released paper from the Kennedy School of Government, Stephen Walt, the academic dean of the school, and John Mearsheimer a University of Chicago political scientist, have produced a work of anti-Israel propaganda masquerading as scholarship that calls into question the standards at America's most prestigious university.

The paper, "The Israeli Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy," demonstrates once again that the greatest threat to Israel on campus is not anti-Israel student theatrics, but faculty who use their academic positions to advance their personal agendas. By loading their 41-page diatribe with another 40 pages of footnotes, many from post-Zionists and anti-Israel sources, the authors apparently believe their misrepresentation of Middle East history can pass for scholarship.

Usually in the academic world, papers are subject to peer review, which is supposed to be a form of quality assurance. Indicative, however, of how this system has broken down in the case of scholarship regarding Israel, this paper seems to have escaped scrutiny by anyone with even a passing knowledge of

the subject.

Space does not allow for a point by point rebuttal to the specious arguments the authors make in nearly every paragraph (one can be found at www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org), so I will restrict myself to a few specific examples and a broader overview of the defects in their paper.

A fundamental flaw is the authors' apparent ignorance of Middle East history, exemplified by the suggestion that Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons is a result of Israel's nuclear arsenal. True scholars of the region would have known that Iran was motivated primarily by the perceived threat from its rival Iraq, not Israel, which it knows poses no threat. They also suggest that a nuclear Iran is no different than a nuclear China or North Korea even though neither of those Asian nations regularly threatens the United States and its allies, and that the Islamic theocracy has a very different world view than the communist dictatorships.

A central thesis is the familiar Arabist line that U.S. support for Israel harms relations with the Arab world. The problem with this theory, of course, is that as U.S.-Israel relations have grown stronger over the years, U.S.-Arab relations have also improved, so that the only outspokenly anti-American country is non-Arab Iran.

The report also focuses entirely

on Israeli actions as though they occur in a vacuum. The authors never mention Palestinian terrorism or suggest that Arab, Muslim or Palestinian policies have anything to do with events in the region or U.S. and Israeli policy. They repeatedly call Israeli policy "expansionist" despite Israel's long history of territorial concessions, including the disengagement, which they ignore.

The shocking ignorance of the professors is particularly clear in their repeated claims that Israeli policy, and U.S. support for it, is the cause of terror. They are apparently unaware that al-Qaeda is fighting a war against the West and bin Laden's desire is to reconstitute the Muslim empire.

The authors' bias is particularly clear when they discuss Iraq. They are obviously frustrated and angry about the decision to go to war with Iraq and seek to blame Israel and its supporters for what they see as an effort "to make Israel more secure." They offer no evidence, but simply regurgitate the standard conspiracy theories about Jewish neocons run-

ning the White House and driving us to war.

Repeatedly, claims are made that show the authors' unfamiliarity with the subject on which they're writing. One example is their assertion that "pro-Israel forces have long been interested in getting the U.S. military more directly involved in the Middle East, so it could help protect Israel." To the contrary, one of the principal arguments of the lobby has always been that Israel has never asked the U.S. to defend it or to send soldiers to fight on its behalf. Most friends of Israel, and Israelis themselves, oppose any formal military alliance because of the fear that a defense treaty might limit Israel's freedom of action.

It is not until nearly the last page that the authors lay their cards on the table and disclose their real agenda, namely to see the United States "pressure Israel to make peace."

The paper is an acute embarrassment to Harvard, which has not produced any serious scholarship about Israel since Nadav Safran

published, *Israel the Embattled Ally*, more than 25 years ago. The paper caused such an immediate firestorm that Harvard logos that originally appeared on the report's front page were removed and the paper now carries a sterner disclaimer that says the authors are "solely responsible" for the content and that Harvard and the University of Chicago "do not take positions on the scholarship of individual faculty." But they don't get off that easy. Universities can't publish papers and then try to disavow their contents when they are found to be scurrilous works of propaganda. This is an example, however, of how low the standards of even our most prestigious universities have fallen and illustrates the need for oversight. While universities once could be trusted to review material to insure it meets minimal standards of scholarship, today this is no longer the case.

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

DARFUR

Continued from page 1

social justice and the promotion of our shared value of tikkun olam — repairing the world.

JCPA is working with other organizations, including the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) and the Save Darfur Coalition to organize a rally in Washington, D.C., at the National Mall on the afternoon of Sunday, April 30. The federation system is committed to spreading the word, through this mass action event, that we will not be a party to genocide. We will do everything in our power to end the mass murder that is taking place on our watch.

As Elie Wiesel said at the first Darfur Emergency Summit, "the perils of indifference enable killers to

kill and tormentors to torment ... We cannot stand idly by [as genocide is perpetrated in Darfur] or all our endeavors will be unworthy. We must act."

I wish there had been a similar outpouring 60 years ago, which might have saved my father's family before they were wiped out in Auschwitz in 1944. Surely by then, the world knew what had been happening. Please join thousands of federation leaders and activists in acting against the killers and tormentors in Darfur and beyond. Then one day, the people of Darfur will not have wondered why we stood idly by.

Howard M. Rieger serves as President & CEO of United Jewish Communities.

Myths and Facts

MYTH #213:

"The Jews have no claim to the land they call Israel."

FACT:

A common misperception is that all the Jews were forced into the Diaspora by the Romans after the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E. and then, 1,800 years later, suddenly returned to Palestine demanding their country back. In reality, the Jewish people have maintained ties to their historic homeland for more than 3,700 years.

The Jewish people base their claim to the Land of Israel on at least four premises:

the Jewish people settled and developed the land;

the international community granted political sovereignty in Palestine to the Jewish people;

the territory was captured in defensive wars;

God promised the land to the patriarch Abraham.

Even after the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, and the beginning of the exile, Jewish life in the Land of Israel continued and often flourished. Large communities were reestablished in Jerusalem and Tiberias by the ninth century. In the 11th century, Jewish communities grew in Rafah, Gaza, Ashkelon, Jaffa and Caesarea. The Crusaders massacred many Jews during the 12th century, but

the community rebounded in the next two centuries as large numbers of rabbis and Jewish pilgrims immigrated to Jerusalem and the Galilee. Prominent rabbis established communities in Safed, Jerusalem and elsewhere during the next 300 years.

By the early 19th century — years before the birth of the modern Zionist movement — more than 10,000 Jews lived throughout what is today Israel (Dan Bahat, ed. *Twenty Centuries of Jewish Life in the Holy Land, Jerusalem: The Israel Economist*, 1976, pp. 61-63.). The 78 years of nation-building, beginning in 1870, culminated in the reestablishment of the Jewish State.

Israel's international "birth certificate" was validated by the promise of the Bible; uninterrupted Jewish settlement from the time of Joshua onward; the Balfour Declaration of 1917; the League of Nations Mandate, which incorporated the Balfour Declaration; the United Nations partition resolution of 1947; Israel's admission to the UN in 1949; the recognition of Israel by most other states; and, most of all, the society created by Israel's people in decades of thriving, dynamic national existence.

This article can be found at: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsources/myths2/Israelsroots.html#a1>

Source: REVISED Myths & Facts Online — A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Mitchell G. Bard.



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If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bev Zimmermann at 302-576-2137 or by email at theatren@ci.wilmington.de.us. You may also sign up on our website at www.theatren.org - click on the "Contact Us" page and fill in your contact information.

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INSIDE DELAWARE

Kosher fresh fish now available in Delaware

By Cantor Joel Kessler

When one buys fish at a supermarket, one assumes that the fish that "what you see is what you get". However, things are not always what they seem. For example, there are 16 species of fish sold under the name "Jackfish." There are 47 species of fish sold as "Sea Robin." How would one know whether the fish being sold is Kosher? Did you know that there are 22 species of fish that

are sold in supermarkets and fish stores as "flounder?" Did you know that two of them are NOT Kosher? This is why most major kosher supervising agencies frown on publishing Kosher fish lists.

Obviously care must be taken when buying fresh whole or filleted fish because of the possibility of substitution of non-Kosher fish. Many are also fearful of contamination by remnants of non-Kosher fish from knives and cutting boards. For these reasons, the

cutting of fish must be supervised by a reliable Kosher supervising agency that will make sure that the fish that you are getting is Kosher and has the required fins and scales.

For those who keep Kosher here in Delaware, obtaining Kosher fresh fish has been very difficult forcing many to go to Philadelphia or Baltimore to make their purchases. Now, however, Dawson's Sea Food, Inc., supervised by the VAAD of Delaware, will

be offering Kosher fresh fish to the Jewish community. Dawson's, a fourth generation seafood wholesale business that was established in 1925, serves various markets including restaurants, nursing homes and hospitals in Delaware and Pennsylvania. They purchase fish globally on a daily basis and will be offering several kosher species each week dependent on the season and availability.

Fish should be pre-ordered by

calling Dawson's Tuesday through Thursday morning. Cutting will take place on Thursday mornings and can either be picked up at Dawson's or at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth by prior arrangements. Cash or check only. Dawson's is located at 821 N. Madison Street in Wilmington. Their phone number is (302) 658-4238. Hours of operation are Tuesday and Wednesday, 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Thursday, 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Meet Micha Feldmann on April 27



Micha Feldmann Delaware Board of Directors on Thursday, April 27, 8:00 p.m. at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center in Wilmington. Community members who want an insiders' look at Operation Promise - an historic effort by Jewish Federations of North America to help Ethiopian Jews complete their exodus and successfully

assimilate into Israeli society - are urged to attend.

Since 1970, Feldmann has worked for the Jewish Agency and other organizations on immigration and absorption projects. For nearly a quarter century, he has devoted his life to bringing the Ethiopian Jews to Israel and helping them make a complete transition to life in the Jewish homeland.

He was one of the chief architects of "Operation Solomon," the 1991 rescue and resettlement mission that brought more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in a period of 36 hours. Prior to this, he served as the head of the Jewish Agency Mission to Ethiopia and was the Israeli consul there.

In 1994, he spent four months in Rwanda, helping more than 100,000 refugees return home from neighbor-

ing nations.

Feldmann speaks Amharic fluently and currently serves as a consultant on Ethiopian issues to the IDF, the Jewish Agency, and the Israel Crisis Management Center, where he takes care of new immigrants from Ethiopia and the Former Soviet Union, who have experienced tragedy and trauma.

In 1998, Micha published his first book (for now only in Hebrew), called "The Ethiopian Exodus."

Married and the father of four, Feldmann travels to Jewish communities in the United States, Canada, Europe, South Africa and Australia on behalf of Israel and Ethiopian Jewry.

For additional information, please call Ruth Rosenberg, campaign director, Jewish Federation of Delaware, at 302-427-2100, ext. 17.

Temple Beth El to host Holocaust Memorial Observance

Temple Beth El will host the community-wide Yom Hashoah Commemoration this year on Monday April 24th at 7:30 p.m. This observance will be a moving tribute to the victims of the Holocaust as we celebrate their lives and remember them.

The synagogue's choir and Klezmer Band, Thread of Blue, will be participating along with a student choir. A one act play will also be presented which shows the personal trauma concentration camp survivors had to endure even after the war was over, especially when part of a family had managed to escape to America in the 1930's while other members were sent to the camps. The reunions were equally traumatic and guilt-ridden.

The Rabbinic Association of Delaware invites all community members to attend.

Please call the Temple office at 366-8330 if you need directions.

Jewish Historical Society to host genealogy expert

Miriam Weiner will speak on "Routes to Roots: Tracing Jewish Genealogy", Sunday, April 30, 2006 at 3 p.m. at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center auditorium, 101 Garden of Eden Road Wilmington, DE. The community is encouraged to attend.

Weiner is an internationally-known genealogist, author and syndicated columnist. In preparation for her two books, Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories and Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova, she has traveled to and researched family records in these areas for more than a decade. Her expertise in researching families from Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Bessarabia, and Galicia/Austro-Hungary is especially relevant to

many Delaware families.

She is president of The Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc., a non-profit

Organization which is publishing inventories of Jewish documents in Eastern European archives. She will share her experiences of the journey back to the villages and communities some of our ancestors left perhaps a century ago.

Weiner's presentation will be even more interesting for those who know the birthplace of their immigrant ancestors. Bring the name of your ancestral town, if you know it.

Audience members will receive a packet of reference materials and there will be a question and answer period. Call 302 655-6232 for more information or visit their website at www.jhsdelaware.org.

Be a Pacesetter! Make your bid count for a worthy cause!

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JCC Passover Restaurant Features Chocolate Feast

Celebrate Passover with family and friends at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center on Monday, April 17, 2006. A homemade Kosher for Passover meal including salmon, salad bar, baked potato and more will be served from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Children will enjoy "make your own matzah pizza". After dinner, everyone will enjoy a feast of chocolate. This will be one seder you'll never forget! The cost is \$12.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors

and \$8.00 per children with a maximum cost of \$44.00 per family. The deadline for registration is April 11th.

The Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center is located on Garden of Eden Road, just off Route 202 behind the Holiday Inn, in North Wilmington. For more information, please contact Donna Schwartz at (302) 478-5660, ext. 228 or by e-mail to donnaschwartz@siegeljcc.org.

Save the Date

for the

71st Annual Meeting

of the

Jewish Federation of Delaware

to be held on

Thursday, June 15, 2006 at 7:00 PM

at the Bernard & Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center

GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

Munich Olympics survivor speaks out

By Sarah Laskow, JTA

Dan Alon, an Israeli fencer and 1972 Olympic athlete, never talked about his experience at the Munich Games and the Palestinian terrorist attack on the Israeli delegation. The reason was simple: No one ever asked him.

At the time, he said, the media was focused on the victims and their families.

"I couldn't just go out on the street and shout, 'I'm a survivor, I want to talk!'" says Alon, 61. "So I didn't talk about it for 30 years."

On Thursday night, Alon's wife and daughter heard his story for the first time, along with more than 200 students at Yale University. Alon began speaking in depth about the attack and the death of his coach, Andre Spitzer, only after Steven Spielberg's film "Munich" prompted a Chabad group in England to seek out a survivor's story.

The event at Yale, the first time Alon has spoken in the United States about his experiences, was sponsored by Chabad at Yale and the student group Yale Friends of Israel. Alon, who recently spoke at universities in England, will also speak at the University of Connecticut, Dartmouth and Princeton.

Alon began fencing when he was 12 and dreamed of competing in the Olympics. In 1972, then aged 27, Alon

marched into the Olympic stadium in Munich under the Israeli flag.

"I was in heaven," he said. "It was the most beautiful day of my life."

Six days later, on Sept. 5, 1972, the Palestinian terrorist organization Black September took 11 Israeli athletes and coaches hostage in their rooms at the Olympic Village. None of the hostages survived.

Alon appears briefly in the flashback footage in "Munich." While he says he has no special insight into the Israeli retaliation for the Olympic attack — some critics have dismissed Spielberg's rendition of the Israeli operation as Hollywood pageantry — Alon says the parts depicting the kidnapping in the Olympic village are quite accurate.

At 4:30 a.m., Alon was sleeping in his room in the second of five units that housed the Israeli squad. He and his teammate awoke to the sound of machine gun fire. The walls of the room shook.

The eight terrorists already had captured the coaches in the first suite, inexplicably passed by Alon's room and overpowered the weightlifters and wrestlers in the third unit.

Alon recalled that he had arrived the week before with Spitzer ahead of the rest of the Israeli delegation. The two fencers, who were the same age and from the same fencing club in Israel, were close friends.

Faced with the choice of five empty



Munich Olympic attack survivor Dan Alon, a former Israeli fencer, speaks about his experience at the 1972 Olympic Games, to students at Yale University on March 23, 2006.

Credit: Chabad at Yale

rooms, Alon insisted, for reasons he can't explain, on taking the second one. Spitzer settled into the first suite.

Alon says his survival was pure chance.

"I chose No. 2," he said. "It had nothing to do with me."

On the night of the attack, the athletes in No. 2 avoided capture, but were trapped in their suite. Their clearest exits — the front door and the second-floor balcony — would expose them to the terrorists guarding the suite next door.

With tense energy, Alon described his escape for the crowd at Yale.

Initially, members of an Israeli marksmanship team at the Games proposed attacking the terrorists, but — without knowing the number of adversaries — the plan seemed too risky. Instead, the athletes decided to leave through the first-floor window.

Alon remembers one shooter hesitating as they were leaving: The man wanted to brush his teeth. Alon and his companions walked with excruciating care down the noisy wooden steps to the first floor. One by one the four exited, sprinting toward German police officers and safety.

For the next hours, the survivors waited for news of their teammates. Late that night the hostages and the terrorists traveled to a nearby airport. German police engaged the terrorists in a shootout, and the Palestinians killed the Israeli hostages. In the end all of the hostages, and five of the kidnappers, were killed.

Alon said he agreed with the Olympic Committee's decision to continue the Games.

"We can never give in to terrorism," he said.

The remnants of the Israeli team returned home on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, but it was four or five months before Alon could sleep soundly at night.

"I asked my brother to sleep with me in my bed. One night a chair fell on him, and he jumped up," he said. "I started to scream and hit him."

Despite his talent and many championships, Alon gave up fencing. He returned to the sport only once, at age 46, when he again won the Israeli fencing championship.

He began a career in business and now is a manager-director at a plastics company. He met his wife, Adele — a native of Cape Town — while she was hitchhiking in Israel. They have three children, one of whom also fences.

Adele Alon said her husband's willingness to relive his Munich experience astonished her.

"He knew exactly what he wanted to say," she said. "Danny has a phenomenal memory. He remembers everything."

Alon has returned to Munich only once since the Olympics, and — by coincidence — the trip happened to fall on Sept. 5. He took a taxi to the Olympic Village, stood outside the building for 20 minutes and then left.

Whether from the movie or from his story, Alon wants the world to know what happened in Munich. Now that he has begun talking, he says, the words come more easily each time.

Imams, rabbis meet for peace in Spain

By Danny Wood, JTA

It's not often that the keynote speakers at a conference speak openly about the possibility that the meeting will fail.

But speakers at the second World Congress of Rabbis and Imams for Peace, held last week in Seville, Spain, made it clear that if this year's event didn't lead to a concrete plan of action, it will have to be judged a failure.

The congress was the second time that more than 150 rabbis and imams have come together in the name of peace, with the last meeting held in Brussels. The group already is taking some small steps, such as examining textbooks used by Jewish and Muslim schools in Jerusalem to ensure that educational materials don't encourage intolerance.

At the conclusion, the congress' executive committee issued a statement condemning violence in the name of religion, with words that could be seen as a repudiation of anti-Jewish agitation by Hamas and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

"We deplore any incitement against a faith or people, let alone any call for their elimination," the statement said.

The Congress also called for respect for religious institutions, cemeteries, symbols and holy sites, and reaffirmed that "there is no inherent conflict between Islam and Judaism."

"One cannot exaggerate the importance of this event. Taking into account the backdrop of violence in Europe and ongoing conflict in the Holy Land, the very fact that we are meeting here is nearly a miracle," Shear Yeshuv Cohen, the chief rabbi

of Haifa, said as the conference concluded March 22. "We will return to our communities to educate for peace and reconciliation, because that is what God wants from us."

Sheikh Imad al-Falouji, imam of Gaza and the senior Palestinian Authority figure at the conference, said, "Religious leaders must play a role to promote a culture of dialogue. We can impact on our political leaders to consider these values in their policy-making decisions."

The patrons of the event — the kings of Spain and Morocco — didn't attend the forum, but the Hommes de Paroles Foundation, which sponsored it, stressed that the delegates who attended carry enough weight in their communities to make a difference.

The aim of the conference is to make a positive contribution toward resolving religious conflict wherever it arises. According to the Jewish representative of Moroccan King Mohammed VI, Andre Azoulay, "the word of God has been kidnapped," and it's no longer enough for religious representatives to watch from the sidelines as religion is used by those who preach hatred.

Things got off to a strong start: Rather than wait for the workshop sessions, Israel's Ashkenazi chief rabbi, Yona Metzger, called at the opening ceremony for the formation of an international association of religious groups, a sort of United Nations of Religions.

There also were signs of mutual understanding. When Abdulaziz Othman, director general of the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization angrily called for an international law to stop the publication of offensive material such as the cartoons of the Islamic prophet Mohammed that touched off

violent riots throughout the Muslim world, Rabbi Michael Melchior, chief rabbi of Norway and a former Israeli Cabinet minister, condemned disrespectful attacks on any faith.

There was a willingness on both sides to take some level of criticism. When an Israeli rabbi harangued Muslims for not standing up sufficiently to Osama bin Laden, imams in the audience listened respectfully.

But rather than presenting specific ideas for joint initiatives, many of the religious leaders still seemed to behave as if it were the first congress of this sort, proud that rabbis and imams were simply meeting and talking together.

Meanwhile, difficult and relevant questions often were swept aside.

On the issue of terrorism, the leaders condemned any act of violence in the name of religion. When pushed to comment on how this might apply to Palestinian suicide bombers, however, al-Falouji instead

demanding that Israel change its policy toward the Palestinians.

When rabbis were asked to comment on the conditions that could lead to a sharing of the Holy Land, Rabbi Daniel Sperber from Bar-Ilan University in Israel said that was an issue for politicians.

Tensions were never far from the surface, even over coffee, where al-Falouji argued with Stuart Altshuler, a rabbi from Orange County, Calif., over the status of Jerusalem and Israel's occupation of West Bank land the Palestinians claim.

Faced with difficult questions from journalists, the rabbis and imams often would respond with bromides about believing in the same god and how peace begins with dialogue.

To break down barriers, the organizers brought in a Philadelphia communications specialist. Wearing a cowboy hat and barking orders into his microphone, he encouraged the

religious leaders to write down their "issues" on pieces of paper, then line up to announce them to the audience.

These "open sessions" became the focus of the conference. Rabbis and imams lined up to announce issues ranging from anti-Semitism in Iran to Islamophobia, from gender equality to Holocaust denial. The list was endless.

Rabbi Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress' Policy Council, rejected the idea that Jewish-Muslim tensions lie at the root of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He added that "religious crusaders" like Ahmadinejad "must be exposed for what they are: impostors."

One topic that came up repeatedly was the Mohammed cartoon controversy. The hope is that in the future, the interfaith group could act to defuse such tensions before they get out of hand.

Study: Anti-Semitism high in Canada

By Bill Gladstone, JTA

The number of anti-Semitic incidents remained high in Canada in 2005, according to a new study, continuing a deterioration that began after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

There were 829 anti-Semitic incidents reported in Canada in 2005, a slight decline from the peak of 857 in 2004, according to the annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents released this week by B'nai Brith Canada.

There has been almost a three-fold increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents reported since 2001, said Ruth Klein, national

director of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights and one of the lead authors of the 60-page report.

"It's like with 9/11, the genie was let out of the bottle," she said. "All of the polite prejudices that were just under the surface, they've now become much more evident."

Of the incidents in 2005, 531 were classified as harassment, 273 as vandalism and 25 as violence.

Reports of anti-Semitic activities came from every province in Canada, though activity was mainly concentrated in the Greater Toronto and Greater Montreal areas.

There were 35 incidents reported against synagogues, 19 against

Jewish communal buildings and 113 against private homes.

Public schools and universities were not immune, with 48 incidents each. Another 46 occurred in the workplace.

Internet hate was a particular focus of the audit, which recorded 161 such incidents, including 34 cases involving hate messages sent by e-mail. B'nai Brith officials speak of an "explosion" of Internet hate.

"Today, more people are exposed on a daily basis to anti-Semitic literature and stereotyping of Jews than they were in 1939," at the height of Nazi Party propagan-

See Study, page 17

JEWISH LIFESTYLES

Out of the Ashes...

By Connie Kreshtool
Special to the Jewish Voice

Less than an hour's bus ride from Hannover, a city of half-million in Lower Saxony in Germany, lies the medieval town of Hameln, the site of the "Pied Piper" folktale and the home of Gluckel of Hameln whose memoirs are an important record of 18th Century German Jewish life. I was in Hannover attending a meeting called by the World Union for Progressive Judaism as part of the Biannual European Regional Conference.

Jews settled in Hameln at the end of the 13th Century; the community remained in existence until 1940 when the Nazis transported the Jews either to ghettos in the East or directly to concentration camps. None of the surviving members of the community returned after the war. However some Polish Jews from the DP camps made their way to Hameln and subsequently organized a small Orthodox community.

In the early 1990's Germany invited Russian Jews to immigrate in a program to rebuild its Jewish communities. Over two hundred Russian families are now living in Hameln. For the few Americans and others who did not feel comfortable in the Hameln's Orthodox congregation there were now enough people to begin the development of a Liberal Jewish Congregation. Rachel Dohme, originally from Pennsylvania, has successfully led this effort. All over Germany Americans, Israelis and other expatri-

ates together with the Russian immigrants are organizing liberal congregations, reviving what was the most vital segment of pre-World War II German Jewry. Significant progress has been made recently in achieving formal state recognition, an important step in obtaining a share of state funding that had been vehemently opposed by the Orthodox community.

Today Hameln is a picture-postcard town with beautifully preserved old town with brightly decorated stone and timber buildings surrounding a large open square. On a tour through the town led by Rachel Dohme and a local Christian historian we stopped at three buildings to learn the history of their last Jewish occupants.

The first was an impressive large three-story home belonging to the revered town doctor who was the leader of the Jewish community. He was badly beaten during Kristallnacht and forced to watch the burning of the synagogue. He had already succumbed by the time his family was deported to a ghetto and eventually to their death in the camps. The second building was on the Town Square and belonged to a family who were cattle dealers. They lived in the apartment above their business and were able to send their son out of the country before deportation. The other family members perished. The third building housed a very prosperous clothing store belonging to a leading Jewish family in town. Only one of their many children survived the war.

Our tour took us to the Jewish cemetery that had been destroyed

during Kristallnacht and the old grave-stones were given to a local landscaper for use as paving stones. He had never used them and when the Jewish community restored the cemetery he returned the stones and they were erected once more.

It was at the site of the synagogue that the past and the future meet. At present the ground is bare except for a memorial to the Jews of Hameln who lost their lives during the Holocaust. The synagogue building, erected in 1879, was designed by the famous Jewish-German architect Edwin Oppler and dedicated in 1879. Pictures show that the architect incorporated into its design some architectural elements of the remnants of the city walls. Two pyramid oak trees planted on the day of dedication are still growing there today.

Through the magic of the worldwide web, Arnold Oppler of Silver Spring, Maryland, learned of the community's plan to rebuild on the site. He is an architect and the great-grandson of the architect of the original building. He offered his services and designed a beautiful new modern building with some design features of the old building. This promises to be the first Reform synagogue to be constructed in post-World War II Germany.

Similar stories of a destroyed German Jewish community rising out of the ashes of the Holocaust can be found in many places today in Germany. Hannover's Liberal Congregation numbers over 200 members. While they are meeting in rented facilities they also have plans



Rachel Dohme of Hameln, Germany and Gregor Wettberg, of Hannover, discuss Jewish life in Germany at a World Union of Progressive Union Biennial in Washington, D.C.

to build a synagogue and rebuild what was an important Jewish community. The World Union delegates joined the Hannover congregation at Shabbat Services for the special presentation of a Torah from Congregation Emanuel of Chicago in honor of their Rabbi Herman Schaalman who had emigrated from Germany in the mid-1930's as a young rabbinical student.

Nearby to Hannover is Seesen where liberal Judaism began about 200 years ago. The story started with Israel Jacobson's school for boys. Today there are twenty congregations and the rabbinical seminary Abraham Geiger College. No one expects that the pre-World War II community will be replicated but as long as there are Jews in Germany the World Union accepts the respon-

sibility of rebuilding a liberal movement for them.

In the opening session of the Conference the President of the Lower Saxony Parliament said, "I see your presence here today as a sign that confidence has grown where, only sixty years ago, virtually everything that could have generated trust, was destroyed....We are now living in a stable liberal democracy in a proven constitutional state, the Constitution of which commences with the sentence: 'The dignity of man is inviolable.' These decades have been the most liberal and peaceful decades that Germany has ever experienced. And I believe that the chances for a future of 'permanent peace, liberty and democracy are good.'

Let us pray that it is so.

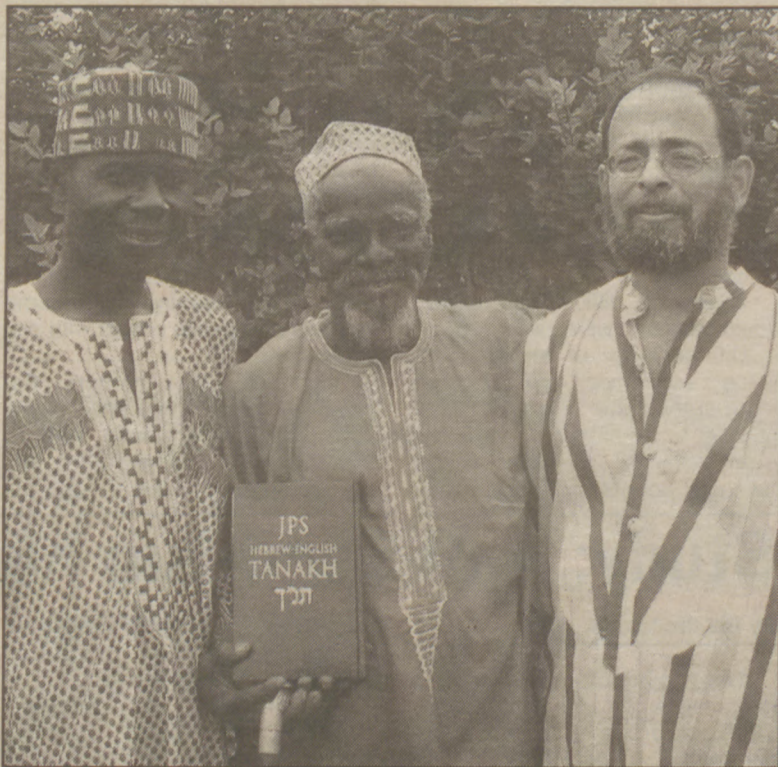
Nigerian Jews benefit from Books without Borders

The Jewish Publication Society (JPS) donated almost 3,000 pounds of Jewish books to the Jewish community of Nigeria this year. The shipment, which arrived in Nigeria in February, included Hebrew-English Bibles, as well as books in English on Jewish topics. The books will be distributed across five Nigerian provinces to the Igbo Bnei Israel, making Jewish learning available to this ancient and remote population, thirsty for Jewish knowledge.

The Jewish Publication Society donates slightly damaged books to Jewish communities, matching their books with donors who cover shipping and handling. In the last three years, two tons of Mitzvah Project books have gone to places as diverse as India, South Africa, Nicaragua, and China. Upcoming Mitzvah Projects include copies of books for the Abuyudiah Jews of Uganda, as well as for Haifa schools through the Books for Israel Project.

JPS collaborated on the Nigerian distribution through Rabbi Howard Gorin of Congregation Tikvat Israel of Rockville, MD and Kulanu, a grassroots organization that seeks to aid underserved Jewish communities around the world.

The Jewish Publication Society is a nonprofit educational organization formed to enhance Jewish culture by promoting the dissemination of religious and secular works, in the United States and abroad, to all individuals and institutions inter-



Jewish Publication Society Mitzvah Project books presented to the Igbo Bnei Yisrael Jewish community of Nigeria in February by Rabbi Howard Gorin of Rockville, MD, a Mitzvah Project volunteer (pictured in photo on far right). Rabbi Gorin, with the help of his Congregation Tikvat Israel and in conjunction with Kulanu, a grassroots organization that seeks to aid impoverished Jewish communities around the world, collected and distributed clothing, bicycles, and over two thousand pounds of slightly damaged returned Mitzvah Project books, primarily TANAKHS.

ested in past and contemporary Jewish life. Founded in 1888, JPS is the oldest publisher of Jewish titles in the English language.

To learn more about JPS Mitzvah Projects please contact Barry Nove, Director of Development at (215) 832-0621 bnove@jewishpub.org

Another four questions

Here is a slightly offbeat version of the four questions. However, if there is someone around the seder table who has a need for an organ or tissue donation, the answers are lifesaving. Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, hopes that all Jews will proudly wear a green ribbon, symbolized in the art work which accompanies this article. It is the symbol for organ donation.

Q: WHAT IS ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION?

A: It is a unique opportunity to participate in the mitzvah of pikuah nefesh, on the saving of life. Each year, tens of thousands of people receive transplants. You probably already know somebody who has benefited from a transplant. In fact, you or someone close to you may need a transplant someday, because organ failure can happen to anyone at any age.

Q: WHAT IS THE MYTH ABOUT JEWISH VIEWS ON ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND WHAT DOES JUDAISM REALLY SAY?

A: Contrary to the myth, all Jewish denominations encourage organ and tissue donation. The major movements within Judaism have all drafted official responses advocating donations. In 1991, the Rabbinical Council, affiliated with Orthodox Judaism, declared, "When human life can be saved, it must be saved.... The halakhah (Jewish law) therefore looks with great favor on those who facilitate the procurement of life-saving organ donations."

Q: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DONATE ORGANS AND TISSUES?

A: Organ and tissue transplantation is one of our era's medical triumphs. It can dramatically save or improve the lives of those suffering from organ failure or those suffering from eye and tissue disease or trauma-related defects. The need for transplants overwhelms the availability. Over 90,000 Americans are awaiting organ transplants today. Typically, 17 such patients die each day.

Q: HOW DOES ONE BECOME A DONOR?

A: Becoming a donor is an important decision. Talk to your family and friends about why you are thinking about becoming a donor. Let them express how they feel about organ and tissue donation. Keep in mind that: Becoming a donor will not interfere with your health care—you will receive the same care that a non-donor receives.

The body of an organ donor or tissue donor is always treated with care and respect.

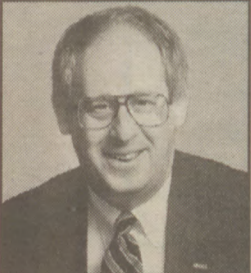
There is no charge to the donor or his/her family. The procurement agency pays the costs associated with recovery of organs and tissues.

The donation of organs and tissues is often comforting to family members—a symbolic way for life to continue.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY BECOMING A DONOR. Signing a Hadassah Donor Contact Card signifies your commitment to renewing the life and health of others in need. For more information, please call (212) 303-8061 or visit the organization's website at www.hadassah.org.

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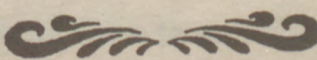
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April 14th

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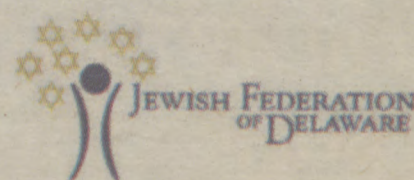
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Former Israeli Consul to Ethiopia
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PESACH AROUND DELAWARE



Celebrating Passover in Delaware

Pesach lasts from Wednesday evening, April 12 - Thursday night, April 20, 2006. (Yizkor is said on the last day.)

Please note: Advance reservations are needed for ALL group seder meals.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM (Egalitarian Conservative)

1801 Baynard Boulevard, Wilmington, - Phone: 654-4462

6:30 p.m. Interfaith Model Service designed for Jews and non-Jews.

No charge, but PLEASE make your reservation(s) ASAP.

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2006

KRISTOL CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE - UNIV. OF DELAWARE/ HILLEL FOUNDATION (Egalitarian)

47 West Delaware Ave, Newark, DE 19711. Phone: 453-0479

Chocolate Seder for College Students: Ever heard of a Passover seder done with all chocolate?? Come for this yummy & unique seder, unlike anything you've been to before. For more details, contact Brian at brianr@udel.edu.

Sponsored by KESHER

Erev Pesach, Wednesday, April 12, 2006 - Nissan 14, 5766

Chometz must be sold by early Wednesday morning. Link here to sell by e-mail before then.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF DELAWARE, 1811 Silverside Road, Wilmington, DE 19810

Phone: 529-9900

(Orthodox)

8:00 p.m. There is a place for you at our table for the Seder.

Join us as we live the Exodus, experience true freedom, eat hand baked Matza and connect with Jews through the ages.

No charge for Seder; donations may be sent by mail.

Please call to reserve, no later than April 7.

KRISTOL CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE - UNIV. OF DELAWARE/ HILLEL FOUNDATION (Egalitarian)

47 West Delaware Ave, Newark, DE 19711 - Phone: 453-0479

Sundown begins Passover. Join us at Hillel (the KC) to celebrate Passover with the 1st seder.

To register for the seder or for more information, email Jacque at jspicer@udel.edu by April 5th.

NOT restricted to students.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

2nd Seder Evening - Count the Omer With Homer (Simpson)

ADAS KODESCH SHEL EMETH CONGREGATION (Traditional)

Washington Blvd. & Torah Way, Wilmington. Phone: 762-2705

7:00 p.m. Maariv; 8:00 p.m. Annual Community 2d Seder Glatt Kosher catered by Steve Bonner of Ala Carete Caterers.

Meal includes wine, gratuities, and waiter service. Adults, \$25; Children 6 - 12, \$12; Younger - Free.

Don't let inability to pay stop you from joining us. Make reservation by check to AKSE by Friday, April 9

CONGREGATION BETH EMETH (Reform), 300 W. Lea Boulevard, Wilmington - Phone: 764-2393

6:00 2nd Seder. Adults, \$30; Ages 6 - 13, \$18; Younger free.

Reservations by April 7 with check to: Sue Cherrin, 202 Carlton Lane, Wilmington DE 19810

KRISTOL CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE - UNIV. OF DELAWARE/ HILLEL FOUNDATION (Egalitarian)

47 West Delaware Ave, Newark, DE 19711 - Phone: 453-0479

6:00 p.m. Celebrate the second night of Passover at the 2nd Seder at Hillel (the KC).

To RSVP or for more information, contact Jacque at jspicer@udel.edu

After the second seder, come to the campus-wide search in The Great Afikomen Challenge. Who thought that looking for the Afikomen was just child's play? CONTACT: Sydney at sschneir@udel.edu

SEASIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY (Egalitarian, Unaffiliated) in Delaware's beach areas.

6:00 p.m. Please join us in what started our congregation. Served at Baywoods Clubhouse off of Route 24 (32267 Clubhouse Way, Longneck DE)

2nd Seder will be led by Beth Cohen & Cindi Silverblatt. Adults \$37 and children \$19.

Reservations, payment and Entree choices due by April 9th.

Adult: Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls, Tossed Salad, Red Skinned Potatoes, Green Beans,

Dessert and choice of 1) Grilled Chicken with Pineapple Mango Chutney or 2) Salmon with Citrus Salsa

Children: Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls, French Fries, Apple Sauce, Dessert and choice of 1) Hamburger without bun or 2) Chicken Legs. Kosher Wine & Grape Juice will be served!

Please send checks to Seaside Jewish

Community P.O. Box 1472, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971. For more information, call Seaside at 226-8977.

MONDAY, APRIL 17

BERNARD & RUTH SIEGEL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington - Phone: 478-5660

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Annual Kosher Passover Restaurant & Chocolate Seder, including salmon, salad bar, baked potato and more. Children can make their own "matzah pizza." Desert: A Chocolate Feast!

Register at JCC Front Desk by April 11. Adults - \$12; Seniors - \$10; Children - \$8 (Maximum).

Cost/Family: \$ 44.00) Checks payable to SiegelJCC

Info: Donna Schwartz, 478-5660, or e-mail to donnaschwartz@siegeljcc.org

Information courtesy of Jewish Delaware, <http://JewishDelaware.eSmartWeb.com> or <http://JewishDelaware.com>. Jack Shattuck serves as webmaster.

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Thank you!

Live Generously...It Does a World of Good.

Study

Continued from page 14

dizing, said Frank Dimant, B'nai Brith Canada's national executive vice president.

The audit identifies individuals of apparent Arab origin as being the largest single number of perpetrators, with 56 incidents.

Since only 10 percent of anti-Semitic incidents are reported, the latest figures represent only the tip of the iceberg, Dimant asserted. Most employees facing workplace discrimination or students enduring anti-Semitic remarks from their professors keep quiet for fear of losing their jobs or jeopardizing their grades, he said.

The survey is widely reported by Canadian news media and is regularly cited in U.S.

State Department reports. It "is certainly the best known survey of its kind in Canada," said Harvey Goldberg, the team leader of strategic initiatives at the Canadian Human Rights Commission in Ottawa.

The 2005 survey is "particularly useful to us," he said, because of its data regarding Internet hate, a key focus of the commission's work.

B'nai Brith recommendations to ameliorate the situation include more consistent courtroom sentencing for hate crimes across Canada, the definition of Holocaust denial as a hate crime, criminalization of racist groups and the display of racist symbols, and stronger legislation against Internet hate.

MILESTONES

In Memoriam

BARROW

Blanche Brenman Barrow, an educator who instilled a love for learning in her children and grandchildren, died March 24, 2006, shortly before her 75th birthday. She was the wife of the late Jerome Ira Barrow; mother of Hal (Terri) Barrow, of Southampton, PA, Cindy (Robert) Wexler, of Toluca Lake, CA, and Ruth (Matt) Rosenberg, of Wilmington, DE; sister of Norma Levin, of North Wales, PA; and grandmother of Nate and Paige Barrow, Dallas and Reese Wexler, and Jennifer and Kenny Rosenberg.

She was an accomplished artist, adept in watercolors, charcoals, oils and needlepoint. She delighted in creating Purim costumes for her children and grandchildren, who brought her great joy.

A funeral service was held on March 26 at Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael-Sacks in Southampton, PA with interment will be in Montefiore Cemetery in Jenkintown, PA. Contributions in Blanche's memory, may be made to Martin's Run Life Care, 11 Martins Run, Media, PA 19063.

COHEN

Elaine S. Cohen, 74, of Middletown, DE died Wednesday, March 15, 2006.

She was a member of Middletown, Odessa, Townsend Senior Center and Odessa Women's Club.

She is survived by her husband, Arnold; sons, Bert and his wife, Kathy, and Bruce and his fiancée, Rosa; brother, Alfred Samuels; 3 grandchildren Daniel, Brian and Amy Cohen; 3 step grandchildren, Francis, Christina and Amy Lawler; and 3 step great grandchildren, Isabella, Julian and Alessandra.

A funeral service was held on March 20, 2006, in the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 2465 Chesapeake City, Rd., Bear. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to MOT Senior Center, 300 S. Scott St. Middletown, DE 19709.

Arrangements were coordinated by Schoenberg Memorial Chapel in Wilmington.

FELZER

Lionel H. Felzer, of Elkins Park, PA, died March 23, 2006.

He was the husband of the Doris Rotko Felzer; father of Dr. Stuart Felzer (Barbara) of Wilmington, Jordan Felzer (Robyn), and Dr. Benjamin Felzer; brother of Dr. Stanton Felzer (Stephanie), and

Herbert Felzer; and grandfather of Brian, Alex, Carley and Ian.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, March 26, at Adath Jeshurun Congregation, 7763 Old York Rd., Elkins Park, PA 19027. Interment was in Roosevelt Memorial Park.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Adath Jeshurun Congregation or to a favorite charity.

HEIMANN

Johanna Heimann, 93, died Tuesday, March 14, 2006.

She was an active member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Cong., its Sisterhood and a Past Leader of the Pioneer Women.

She was predeceased by her husband, Arthur; and son, Erich. She is survived by her son, Max; daughter-in-law, Barbara; grandchildren, Cindy Armstrong, Terri Klein, Robin Heimann and Mark Heimann; and 9 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held March 17, 2006 at the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel in Wilmington. She was interred in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Rd. The family suggests contributions in her memory to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Cong., Washington Blvd. & Torah Dr., Wilmington, DE 19802.

KLASSMAN

Herman Klassman died March 13, 2006.

He was the husband of the late Rose Cutler Klassman; father of Elaine Levin and Dr. Barry Klassman (Shirley); and is also survived by 9 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren; and 1 great-great grandchild.

A funeral service was held on March 15, at Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael Sacks, Suburban North in Southampton, PA. Interment was in Montefiore Cemetery.

Contributions in his memory would be appreciated to the Abramson Center for Jewish Life, 1425 Horsham Rd., North Wales, PA 19454.

MARTIN

Henry Martin, 83, of Penn Valley, PA, died March 15, 2006.

He was the father of Phyllis (Ken) Krutsch, Robin (Kimm) Perlin, Susan (Dan) Kreshtool, and Steven Martin; and grandfather of Nancy and Brad Krutsch, Rachel and David Perlin, and Sarah, Michael, Evan and Andrew Kreshtool.

A graveside service was held privately.

PANITZ

Sylvia Freeman Panitz, died March 29, 2006, after a short illness.

Sylvia was born in Baltimore, MD. She graduated from Forest Park High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland. She taught in the Baltimore City Public schools for a short time until she married Bernard Panitz and moved to Wilmington, DE.

She taught briefly in Wilmington until she left to raise a family. She was very active in the Parent Teacher groups at the various schools and was secretary of the Hanby Jr. High PTA. She was secretary of the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Sisterhood.

She is survived by her husband, Bernard D. Panitz; children, Joel and Gary Panitz of Wilmington, Deena Bleich of Montgomery Village, MD and Debra Fredman and Beth Edwards of Rockville, MD; brother, Emanuel Freeman; grandchildren, Rachel, Nathan and Judah Fredman; Ilana, Jessica and Kayla Bleich and Samuel Edwards.

Graveside services were March 30, 2006 at the Farband Cemetery, Essex, MD.

Shiva will be observed 7:00 p.m. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at 2405 Newton Dr., Chalfonte, Wilmington, DE.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Washington Blvd. & Torah Dr., Wilmington, DE 19802.

Arrangements by Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

SHRENK

Viola H. Shrenk, a resident of the Methodist Country House in Greenville and formerly of The Devon, in Wilmington, and Philadelphia, PA, died March 14th. She was deeply involved in the Academy of Lifelong Learning and was devoted to her family and friends.

She will be missed by her son, Donald and his wife, Carol of Hockessin and her grandson, Dennis of Wilmington.

A memorial service was held on March 17th in the chapel at the Methodist Country House, 4830 Kennett Pike, Greenville, DE 19807, where memorial contributions may be directed. The family would also appreciate donations in her memory to The Academy of Lifelong Learning, 2801 Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19806.

SWERDLOW

Alvin Swerdlow, died March 26, 2006. He was the husband of Estelle (Goldberg), father of Dee Smith (Sloven) and Wendy O'Connor (Rev. Thomas P.). He also will be missed by his grandchildren, Jaime and Andrew Swerdlow and Jennifer and Sean Smith and his great grandson,

Benjamin Anthony Davis.

Funeral services were held on March 29 at Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael Sacks Suburban North, in Southampton, PA with interment in Roosevelt Memorial Park. Shiva will be observed at both the residence of Dee and Steven Smith and Wendy and Rev. Thomas P. O'Connor.

We would like to
thank our friends
in the community for their
wonderful letters and
contributions in memory of
our beloved mother and
grandmother,

Leah Z. Kraft

Your love and support is
greatly appreciated!

In Gratitude,

*Debbie Cohen
& Family*

Wishing you and your family
A Happy Passover

The Entire Staff of Schoenberg Memorial Chapel



Why keep the Jewish Funeral
Jewish?

No matter how far we stray from our roots, Jews in times of need return to the kinship of family and community.

The fabric which binds Jews together as a people and a faith has been woven throughout nearly six thousand years of Jewish history.

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Save the Date

Yom HaShoah

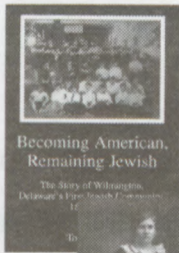
Holocaust Day of Remembrance

Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 12:30 p.m.

(Please note new time)

Carvel State Building Auditorium, 820 French Street, Wilmington, Delaware

Presented by the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center
A program of the Jewish Federation of Delaware

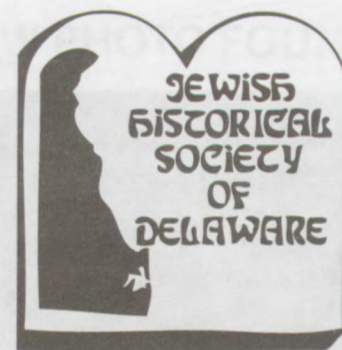


Jewish Historical Society of Delaware

505 Market Street Wilmington, DE 19801

(302) 655-6232

www.jhsdelaware.org



Spring 2006

We're the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware and we love the past. We treasure photographs and documents that remind us of our youth, of our parents, grandparents and community. But how much do we know of our families' lives before they came to Delaware? Many Delaware Jewish families emigrated from Central and Eastern Europe. More than 75 percent of American Jews can trace at least one grandparent to villages in the former Soviet Union or the lands once shrouded behind the "Iron Curtain." What do we know about those communities?

To help us learn more about our roots, the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware has invited Miriam Weiner, an internationally known genealogist, author and syndicated columnist to speak on "Routes to Roots: Tracing Jewish Genealogy." Weiner is the author of *Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories* and *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova* and has travelled and researched family records in these



Miriam Weiner, president of Routes to Roots, will speak April 30

areas for more than a decade. Her expertise in researching families from Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Bessarabia, and Galicia/Austro-Hungary is especially relevant to many Delaware families.

Weiner, is president of The Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc., a non-profit foundations which is publishing inventories of Jewish documents in Eastern European archives. She will share her experiences of the journey back to the villages and communities some of our ancestors left perhaps a century ago.

Ms. Weiner has received recognition for her publications and research over the last fifteen years. In 2003, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies presented her with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Weiner's presentation will be even more interesting for those who know

the birthplace of their immigrant ancestors. Bring the name of your ancestral town, if you know it. Audience members will receive a packet of reference materials, and there will be a question and answer period. We hope to see many of our members and their friends and neighbors there.

ROUTES TO ROOTS: TRACING JEWISH GENEALOGY

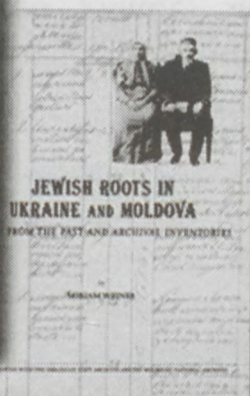
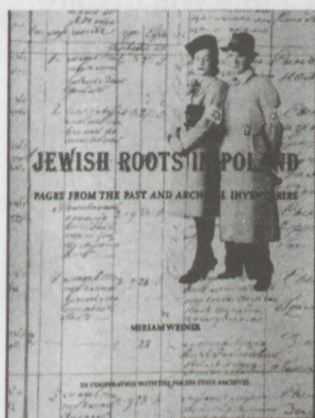
Sunday, April 30, 2006

3 o'clock

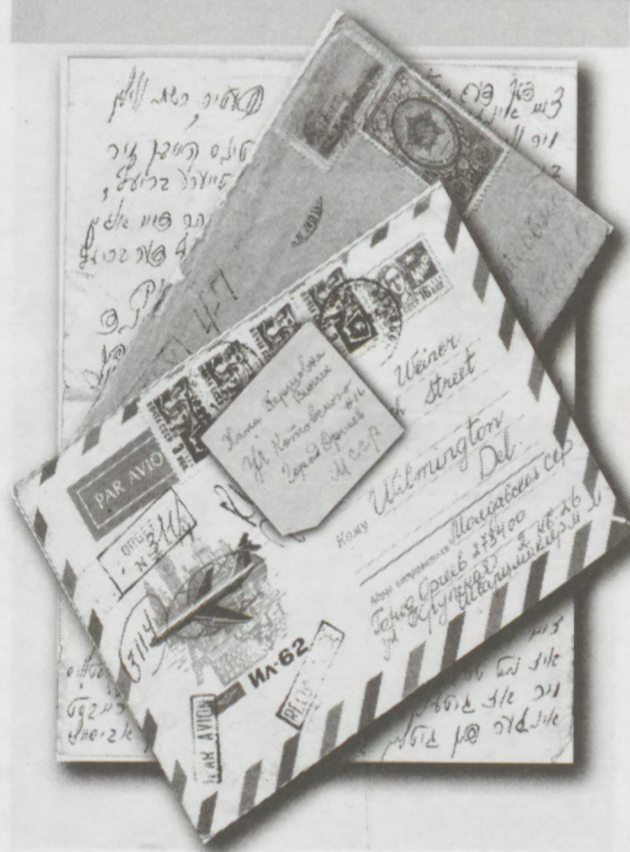
Bernard and Ruth Siegel
Jewish Community Center
Auditorium

101 Garden of Eden Road
Wilmington, DE

Call 655-6232 for information



Ms. Weiner's publications on her research of Jewish archival records in Eastern Europe. Weiner is also co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy*, Volume I and contributing author to several other works.



Letters from family members in the Moldovian Soviet Socialist Republic to a Wilmington resident, 1950s-1970s. From the collections of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware

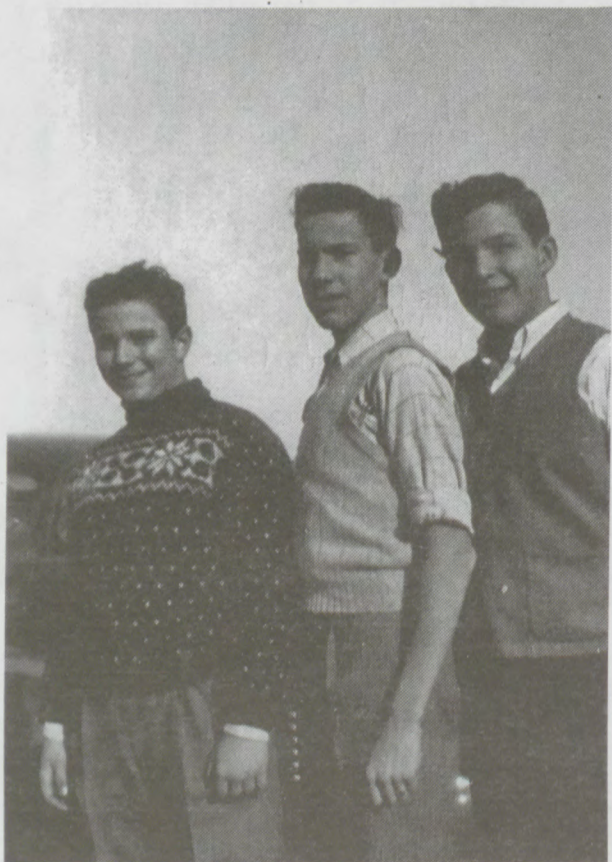
A PEEK AT THE PAST



Sigma Alpha Rho's Snow Ball, c. 1947. The parents and grandparents of today's teens are pictured here. Can you name all 28?

Fraternities and sororities were popular in the post-World War II years. Many held annual dances, such as the Foot Ball, The Matzo Ball, The Crystal Ball, the Snow Ball, and the Sweetheart's Frolic.

Thanks to all our readers who called to identify the Fraternity membership roster in our Fall newsletter! It's great to hear from you. Why not call us with trivia questions for our next issue?



left to right: Larry Jacobson, Dick Sklut, and Herb Goldberg



"The Handshake": Buddy Aeronson and Norman Tomases

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Howard G. Kristol

Is it Jewish? Is it history? Does it relate to Delaware?

These are the criteria for the interests of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware. While at first glance the scope of the Society's interests may seem narrow, there are in fact an endless number of areas of inquiry, ranging from the narrow and personal to the wide-ranging and general. Last year we mounted an exhibit that told the story of Jewish Delawareans from the earliest days of colonial settlement to the middle of the 20th Century. We dedicated a plaque that commemorated the founding of an organized Jewish community in Delaware in the 1870's. This year our focus is on the near at hand and the personal.

Where did we, the living Delawareans, come from? What were the places of origin of our ancestors? How did they get here? If you have not already done so, we urge you to complete and send us one of the Society's survey questionnaires. To provide a focus for our inquiry, we are presenting a talk by Miriam Weiner, a renowned genealogist and author, on Sunday, April 30, that will provide insights and helpful guidance for tracing one's Jewish genealogy. Open free of charge to the wider community, we hope that Ms. Weiner's talk will inspire listeners to want to explore in depth their family's past and contribute to the story of the Jewish people in Delaware.



NEWS FROM OUR ARCHIVIST

Gail M. Pietrzyk

We're all excited about our Annual Meeting program. It's a thrill to find an ancestor's name on a ship's manifest or to read the names of a grandfather's brothers and sister when he was an infant on a census record. These documents give us a real sense of stepping through a door into another world - a world where the census takers wrote each name by hand. You can almost imagine the chilly, overcast Thursday, the 21st of April, 1910, at the home of Hyman and Sarah Goldstein on Lombard Street. Preparations for Passover were underway and perhaps Sarah took a break from her cooking or cleaning to answer the census enumerator's questions. Records, such as these, when used for genealogical research, can provide a wealth of information to future generations.

So can the documents and ephemera saved by family members, and it is

with thanks to our generous and thoughtful donors that our collections continue to grow.

Marvin Balick has been organizing family photos and memorabilia and deposited three boxes of material in our collection.



Balick family reunion, 1995.

Helen Goldberg has been saving newspaper clippings that we're adding to our Biographical files. Charles and Barbara Keil have brought in photographs and items from the Jacoby family. Our thanks to the Keils and to Suzanne Jacoby.

We're grateful to all our donors. Thank you!

NEW PHOTO FOUND

Our article in the Fall 2005 newsletter helped us obtain a photograph of Seymour Miller, killed in action in the European theater July 25th, 1944. Thanks to his great-nephew, Michael Wirtschafter.



Seymour Miller

We are still looking for photos of Nathan Aeronson, Gordon Goldstein, Bernard Goodlewege, Edward Pikus, Max Schwitzgold and Arthur Weiler. If you can help, please call the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware at (302) 655-6232 or email us at jhsdel@yahoo.com



Louis B. Ferber in front of his jewelry store. From the JHSD collections.

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware is happy to help you learn more about your history. While we don't have all the records you'll need to research your family's past, we can help you get started and provide information about the places you'll need to look for federal, state and local records. Visit our website at www.jhsdelaware.org for more information or call us at 655-6232 for help.

Family History Survey

Help the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware learn where our families came from.

Complete as much information about your family as you can. and submit the information to us.

My name _____

My age _____

My birthplace _____

My father's name _____

My father's birthplace _____

My paternal grandfather's name _____

My paternal grandfather's birthplace _____

My paternal grandmother's name _____

My paternal grandmother's birthplace _____

My mother's name _____

My mother's birthplace _____

My maternal grandfather's name _____

My maternal grandfather's birthplace _____

My maternal grandmother's name _____

My maternal grandmother's birthplace _____

My phone number _____

My e-mail address _____

JEWISH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS TO BE FEATURED IN EXHIBIT

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware is planning an exhibit for the administrative offices of the Historical Society of Delaware. The exhibit will open in July 2006 and be on display through October. We're planning on celebrating the accomplishments of Delaware's Jewish women's organizations. We will feature scrapbooks from B'nai B'rith Women, Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women, as well as materials



Mrs. Charles Kaufman, left, presents a birthday cake to a Golden Age Group member, October 1953. From the National Council of Jewish Women Collection, JHSD.

from Pioneer Women and Mizrahi Women.

Many of these organizations have kept wonderful records and fabulous scrapbooks! Thanks to donations from Rose Reitzes, Celina Reiman, Barbara Keil and many, many more, some of these organizations are really well documented. We're looking forward to being able to display these items. But we also suspect that there are a lot of items that members have, too. If that delegate's badge is just getting in the way, or it seems a shame to throw away that old newsletter, give us a call. We would be happy to accept your donations of what may be a great addition to our collections and the exhibit.

We welcome volunteers and appreciate all the help you can offer. Come help us select the best material to display. Call 655-6232 for more information today.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

WHAT WE ARE

The JHSD was founded in 1974 and incorporated in 1975 for the purpose of acquiring, preserving and sharing materials pertaining to the history of Jewish settlement and Jewish life in the State of Delaware.

WHAT WE DO

The Society seeks out, collects and preserves written, spoken and photographic records; publishes a newsletter, mounts displays and exhibits and provides access to archival collections to genealogists, researchers, students and other interested persons.

*Interested in volunteering at
the Jewish Historical Society of
Delaware?*

*Call 655-6232 to learn how
you can help.*

LEND US YOUR SUPPORT! If you have not already made a membership contribution, or if you want to lend your financial support to this vibrant, active organization, please clip this portion of the newsletter and return it with your check to Joan Balick, Treasurer, 730 Hertford Road, Wilmington, DE 19803.

Enclosed please find my contribution in the amount of:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ |

Please make check payable to Jewish Historical Society of Delaware. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible under IRS guidelines.



Jewish Historical Society of Delaware

505 Market Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

www.jhsdelaware.org

Name _____

Address _____

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COMING EVENTS

Hadassah To Meet This Monday- On Monday night April 3, Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah will meet at the Hillel House, 47 W. Delaware Ave., University of Delaware at 7:30. Yvette Rudnitsky, retired psychotherapist, former Delaware Chapter and State president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), and a Hadassah member, will host a discussion on the documentary *SISTERS OF '77*. This film invites viewers to reflect on how far women have come in the United States and chronicles the first and only federally funded women's conference. Our Hadassah leaders caucused with activists and leaders including Bella Abzug and Gloria Steinem. Join us along with the new generation of women at the University of Delaware for a poignant film and lively discussion. Contact Rhoda Dombchik, 475-7150 or Ellen Pell

478-3050 for more information about the meeting.

Free Haggadahs for Visually Impaired- The Jewish Heritage for the Blind is offering extra large print Haggadah's to the visually impaired free of charge. A doctor's note is not required. The JHB has specialized in publishing Braille and large print Jewish texts for over 25 years, all at no charge to their recipients. To receive a complimentary copy, email them at JewishHeritage@gmail.com or fax request to 718-338-0653

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

The Jewish War Veterans of Delaware need new members,

young or old and patrons. It is extremely important that this Jewish Organization continue. Please call Len Markovitz at 302-234-4785 or Milt Slovin 302-478-4888. You do not have to be a veteran to join. Please note because of Passover, there will be no Jewish War Veterans meeting for the month of April. The next meeting will be our Annual Installation luncheon Sunday, May 28, 11:00 a.m. at Harry's Savoy Grille on Naamans Road. All paid up members and their spouses are invited. We will be running a trip to Atlantic City in May. The Date is pending

Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School Scholar-In-Residence Program hosts Rabbi Moriah Hazani, a doctoral student in rabbinics at the University of Pennsylvania for a special adult education class on Sunday, April 30, 11:15 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Rabbi Hazani will discuss **BRAINS: THE STORY OF BRURIAH - A WOMAN IN THE WORLD OF MEN**. All are welcome. Please contact Delaware Gratz to register at 478-8100, or gratz@delawaregratz.org. This program is sponsored by the Margules Family Fund.

Jewish Historical Society to host genealogy program- Miriam Weiner, an internationally-known genealogist, author and syndicated columnist will speak on "Routes to Roots: Tracing Jewish Genealogy" on Sunday, April 30, 2006 at 3 p.m. at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center auditorium, 101 Garden of Eden Road Wilmington, DE. Weiner is the author of *Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past* and *Archival Inventories and Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova* and has traveled extensively to these areas to research family records.

Speaker to Discuss Sexuality Issues in 50+ Population- AIDS Delaware will host a nationally recognized educator and speaker on the subject of "Sex and Sexuality" on April 27, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1502 Pennsylvania Ave. Wilmington, DE. Jane Fowler, 69, an HIV+ woman who never suspected that she could be vulnerable to this disease, will be the keynote presenter in this forum, which specifically addresses the age 50+ population and issues around HIV/AIDS.

Fowler, who has appeared on national evenings news programs, 20/20 and the Oprah Winfrey Show, will address some of the reasons why the straight, white suburban community is one of the fastest growing new populations for HIV/AIDS in Delaware. The community is encouraged to attend.

SEASIDE MARCH EVENTS

4-07-06 Shabbat Dinner at 6PM, followed by services at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. \$10 per adult and \$5 per child under 3 years. Reservations are a must! Please call 302-227-1107.

4-13-06 Our annual Passover Seder will be held at Baywoods County Club in Long Neck. Seder will begin at 6PM. Call 302-227-1107 for more information and for reservations. Reservations must be made by 4-07-06

4-15-06 Shabbat services at 10:00 AM at our building on Holland Glade Road in Rehoboth. Call 302-226-8977 for more information.

4-21-06 Join us for a tour of the Marine Studies Center at the Verden Center in Lewis at 2PM. There is limited space and reservations are a must. Call 302-226-8977 for more information.

4-23-06 Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, will be observed at 1 PM at our building. Call 302-226-8977 for more information.

4-27-06 Discussion Group meets at 7:30 PM, featuring a presentation on the Weimer Republic by Dr. Ira Wexler. For more information please call 302-226-8977.

Local business owner to be honored during memorial program

On Sunday, April 2, the family of the late June Rothstein Goldfein, will stage a memorial celebration of her life. Friends and former customers of Handbags 'n' Things, the Wilmington business that she operated for nearly 20 years, are invited to pay tribute to her from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Community Room at Park Plaza, 1100 Lovering Ave., Wilmington. Mrs. Goldfein, 71, died February 27th at Wilmington Hospital after suffering a stroke.

Mrs. Goldfein co-owned several businesses with her former husband, Steven Goldfein, in Delaware, Atlantic City and Florida, before her 2005 retirement.

She was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Wilmington. She graduated from the R.S. du Pont High School and attended Goldey Beacom College. She worked for a time in the X-ray department at Wilmington General Hospital.

When she moved back to Wilmington, she opened Handbags 'N' Things in 1987 and ran it until she retired last year.

Goldfein loved animals and insisted on having a cat even though the condo where she

lived forbade pets. Despite being on the verge of eviction, she acquired another cat. The animal wound up living with her daughter, Ronda, and her husband David Lee Preston, a copy editor for the *Daily News*. "She was really a wonderful, kind, special woman," her daughter said. "She was always happy."

Besides her daughter, who is executive director of the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania, she leaves a son, Fredric Goldfein, managing partner in the Philadelphia law firm of Goldfein & Joseph; a brother, Dr. Jerry Rothstein; her ex-husband, Steven S. Goldfein; three other grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Marshall Feinsilber, and a brother, Sidney Rothstein.

Memorial contributions may be made to ATZUM Victims of Terror in Israel Project (www.atzum.org), Box 252, Youngsville, NY 12791; or to the Delaware Humane Association, 701 A St., Wilmington, DE 19801.

She was a tireless supporter of animal rights groups.

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Where: The Bernard and Ruth Siegel JCC
Time: 10am until 6pm

Share your lifecycle or business news and events with Jewish Voice readers

Email or fax your announcement to lynn.edelman@shalomdel.org

or 302-427-2438

Don't "Pass Over" this opportunity to support the



Dear Jewish Voice Readers:

During the coming Passover holiday I ask that you reflect on the many ways that this newspaper has helped enrich your connection to the Jewish community here in Delaware, in Israel and around the world. 22 times a year, we bring you news, features, provocative commentary, editorial cartoons, holiday recipes and lifestyle pieces from a decidedly Jewish perspective.

Your participation in our special Passover 2006 Subscribers' Appeal enables this unique publication to continue our Exodus from the plaques of:

- *Postal increases
- *Rising Production Costs

toward our goal of financial self-sufficiency.

While all gifts are appreciated, we offer special incentives to those readers who can contribute on a Benefactor or a Sponsor level.

BENEFACTORS: who contribute \$300 or more can enjoy
 *A full day of pampering at the famed Cielo Salon & Spa in Wilmington. Your customized Day of Beauty may include: a manicure, pedicure, facial and massage.

SPONSORS, loyal readers who contribute \$150 or more, may choose one of the following premium prizes:

- *A \$100 gift certificate to AR Morris Jewelers
- *Two tickets to a performance of your choice during the 2006-2007 Delaware Theatre Company Season
- *A family membership to the Delaware Museum of Natural History
- or
- *Two tickets to a performance of the acclaimed Forum USA series at the Dupont Theatre.

On behalf of our editor, Lynn B. Edelman, Advertising Sales Manager, Sid Stein, Publisher's Representative, Samuel H. Asher and Editorial Committee Chair, Marion Hamermesh, please accept our sincere thanks for your continued generosity.

Please take a moment now to return this coupon and show your support!

Here's my tax-deductible contribution to demonstrate my support for The Jewish Voice. If you wish for your name to appear in a list of contributors in a future issue of The Jewish Voice, please print it exactly as you wish for it to appear.

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