

The JEWISH VOICE

Jewish Historical Society De
505 Market Street
Wilmington DE 19801

Vol. 31, No. 46 15 Cheshvan, 5760 October 15, 1999 20 Pages
PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE, 100 WEST 10TH ST., SUITE 301, WILMINGTON, DE 19801-1628

From Al's To Zutz — PRESERVING DELAWARE'S JEWISH BUSINESS HERITAGE

By LYNN EDELMAN
Editor

Take a stroll down memory lane to a time when Wilmingtonians schlepped their children to Wilmington Dry Goods for back to school supplies, haggled over the price of groceries at Sam's Market and noshed with friends at Blatman's Kosher Sanitary Bakery. Now through November 6th, you can celebrate Delaware's rich Jewish business tradition through a unique exhibit at the Delaware History Museum in downtown Wilmington.

"From Al's to Zutz" is a proud partnership of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware and the Historical Society of Delaware. This treasure trove of photos, signs, newspaper advertisements, menus and other memorabilia took nearly five years to put together. Judging from the tremendous turnout at opening night festivities, it was well worth the wait.

"More than 400 people packed the gallery space so tightly that you could barely move," said Marvin Balick, President of the Jewish Historical Society. Balick, a Brooklyn, New York native who was "raised here from the time I was a little boy", said that the exhibit sparked fond memories of time spent with his father and six brothers. "In preparation for the exhibit, we collected old Yellow Pages listings from the Wilmington telephone directory," said Balick, who waxed nostalgic over an ad for Turkish and Steam baths operated by Leib Katz. "I can remember packing a lunch and spending the entire day at the *schvitz*," he recalled.

Memories like these mark our very existence," said Dr. Barbara Benson, Director of the Historical Society of Delaware, who finds some parallels between the way that Jewish and Quaker settlers did business in Delaware. "Both peoples established small companies here rather than the large factories that were founded by other ethnic groups," Benson explained. Many of these businesses began with merchandise peddled from carts directly to customers then eventually expanded to become storefronts.

Benson said that jobs at Wilmington institutions like "The Dry Goods" provided more than just an income to the emigres



Enjoying the opening reception in bottom left photo are: (from left) Robert Berman, Debbie Berman, Eileen Conner, Barbara Schoenberg and Joan Wachstein.

The first McDonald's in the State of Delaware opened in Newark. It is owned & operated by Leonard Dukart.

who served as employees. "For many, it was their first experience with the American culture," she stated, adding that "a number of newcomers learned the English language while they assisted customers."

Unlike larger East Coast cities, Delaware Jewish merchants have always marketed their goods to the broader community. Also, because of its small size, Delaware's Jewish community never established a "ghetto", Benson maintained, explaining that "the addresses of these companies marked an economic entry point-many began in lower Wilmington and migrated to the suburban areas along with their customers."

Although extensive, the exhibit "just scratches the surface of Jewish business in

Delaware", said Julian Preisler, JHS Executive Director. Preisler emphasizes that the collection is not "a definitive history of Jewish business in Delaware but rather "a work in progress". He plans to continue to expand the Jewish archives-which are housed rent-free in the basement of the Delaware Historical Society-and to develop a comprehensive data-base so that "people who do not have physical remnants of their connections to Delaware's Jewish business tradition can document their memories."

Throughout the run of the exhibit, community members will have an opportunity to share their stories and compile an oral history of Jewish businesses in Wilmington, Newark, Dover and other communities throughout the State.

Why? "These stores are gone, and many of their former customers are gone as well," said Benson, emphasizing that "We must preserve our past to pass on to future generations."

"From Al's to Zutz" is funded through grants from the Delaware Humanities Forum and the Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment arm of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and through the generosity of numerous community businesses and individuals.

Admission is \$4, but is free to members of the Jewish Historical Society. For additional information about the exhibit or to become a member, please call Julian Preisler at 655-6232.

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JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

Can Hebrew School Be Saved?

By Julie Weiner, JTA

Editor's Note: The following is the first of a five-part landmark series that explores in-depth what's wrong and what's right with supplementary Jewish education.

The teachers are incompetent and uninspired. The students are bored and badly behaved. The parents think their responsibility ends with car-pool duty.

You've heard the complaints a thousand times about supplemental — also known as Hebrew or congregational — schools.

These institutions — which struggle in just a few hours a week to impart the basics of Jewish tradition to youngsters — have earned the contempt of generations of American Jews.

And in the past decade, as Jewish day schools — in which children learn Judaic and general studies under one roof — have

snagged headlines, increased enrollment and philanthropic dollars for their apparent contributions to Jewish continuity, Hebrew schools have become something of a communal whipping boy.

Many still resemble the above complaints. But around the country at individual synagogues, at central agencies for Jewish education and at a handful of foundations, efforts are under way to dramatically improve the much-maligned schools.

Some schools are switching to a more hands-on approach, bringing in problem-solving, independent learning and computers. Others are keeping the classroom pretty much the same, but adding parents to the equation. Enhanced training for teachers is another area being addressed.

In Los Angeles, for example, the Bureau of Jewish Education is encouraging schools to do soul-searching and standard-setting through a voluntary accreditation process. A number of congregations and communities are taking a more holistic approach, in which they are urging that the entire synagogue change to make the role of education more central.

The issue is also getting some national attention. The Jewish Education Service of North America, together with the Association of Directors of Central Agencies of Jewish Education, are expected to release a task force report on Hebrew schools this fall, highlighting some success stories and making recommendations for how other schools might improve.

And a session on "Re-envisioning Supplemental Schools" drew one of the largest crowds at a conference this summer of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education.

Experts say the new focus on re-envisioning congregational schools is partly a reaction to the recent spotlight on other venues of Jewish education, like day schools and camps.

But the re-envisioning discussions come also because — despite their bad reputation and declining share of the overall student pool — Hebrew schools are still where more than half of Jewish kids can be found.

Sixty-one percent of the estimated 470,000 American children enrolled in some form of Jewish education are in supplemental schools.

Among non-Orthodox Jews, the percentage is much higher, and the majority of Jewish education policy-makers agree that — while day school enrollment is increasing — a mass exodus from supplemental schools is unlikely to occur anytime soon.

"If we were to have our druthers, all our students would be enrolled in a more intensive environment, but the reality is that the majority won't, ergo we need to invest significant resources into re-envisioning and re-engineering congregational schools," said Chaim Botwinick, executive vice president of the Center for Jewish Education in Baltimore and a member of the JESNA task force on supplemental schools.

"When you close the doors, these are kids who will not opt for a day school," said Botwinick, who, with JESNA, is seeking funding for a national effort to monitor, evaluate and spread the word about new models for congregational schools. "They will opt for nothing."

Some day school advocates — most notably Chicago businessman

and national day school champion George Hanus — believe that greater scholarship funds could vastly increase the number of American Jews attending day schools.

An experiment conducted by the Avi Chai Foundation, a philanthropy primarily supporting Jewish day schools, is currently exploring — among other things — to what extent that assumption is true.

The experiment offers four years of day-school tuition vouchers for \$3,000 each year in Atlanta and Cleveland for all Jewish students in grades 2 to 8 who have not previously enrolled in day school. By limiting the vouchers to second grade and up, the experiment is designed to draw in families that would not otherwise have chosen a day school.

Approximately 250 families have taken the vouchers, but the reasons for choosing — or not choosing — a day school are more complicated than the money, say the researchers.

"My sense so far, based on data collected and focus groups is that price is no doubt one of the issues, but it's only one of the issues," said Leonard Saxe, director of Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and one of the researchers studying the Avi Chai project.

He said that just as significant "are the feelings about whether or not a day school will segregate your child from the larger American community."

Another piece of it, he said, "has to do with your Jewish identity and do what extent is Jewish ritual and identity central to who you are."

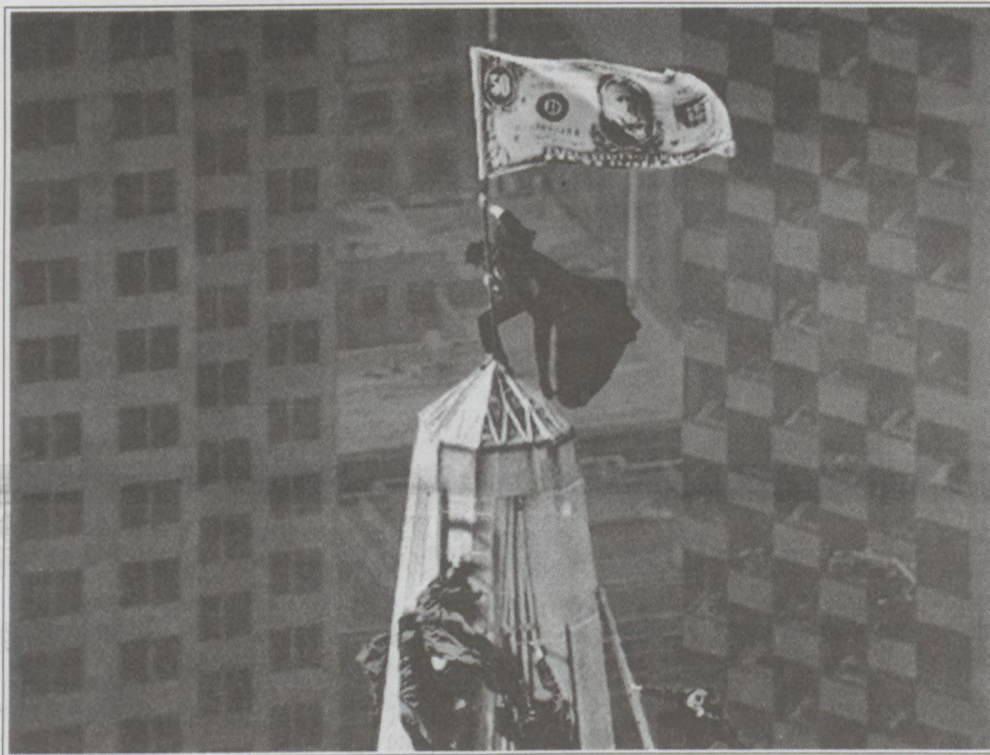
Parents interviewed around the country seemed to echo Saxe's findings, with many noting their commitment to public school and multiculturalism.

Abby Stamelman Hocky, a parent at Beth Am Israel Congregation in suburban Philadelphia, said she had considered day school for her children but opted instead for public school.

Stamelman Hocky, who works professionally in the local Jewish community and is the chair of her synagogue's education committee, said she and her husband are "philosophically committed to public education and all that represents, and to raising children in a world that is diverse."

Ultimately, say advocates for congregational schools, these schools need attention because unlike day schools, which generally reach an already committed Jewish family, Hebrew schools can make the critical difference for the Jewishly ambivalent, people for whom Judaism competes with other priorities.

"Kids get exposed to a whole lot of critical information" at Hebrew school and "it makes or breaks whether they will stay involved afterwards," said Elizabeth Greenstein, program associate at the Nathan Cummings Foundation, which funds congregational schools.



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Gerry McShane has 25 years of experience in the financial services industry. He studied finance and accounting at Widener University and attended the Cannon Trust School. He has several years of experience in investment management services. He is a member of the Delaware Estate Planning Council and Wilmington Tax Group.



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Gerard J. McShane
Vice President



EDITORIAL

Buenos Dias, Israel!

During the past week, the British and Canadian press broke a story of international intrigue. Under the aegis of "Operation Cigar", some 400 Cuban Jews have quietly emigrated to Israel since 1995 — their safe passage secured by the Jewish Agency for Israel with the blessing of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.

The international Jewish community is mesmerized by this mysterious modern-day exodus which was confirmed by the Israeli government yet received a "no-comment" reaction from Jewish Agency spokesman Michael Jankelowitz. Its allure deepened with the sidebar story that the Canadian government had also been secretly assisting the Jews of Cuba through a special office in Canada's Embassy in Havana. For the past 25 years, Embassy workers have forwarded emigration requests to the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa, which sends them to Tel Aviv for processing. Cuban Jews leave their homeland with Cuban exit visas and passports and enter Israel with Canadian travel documents.

Cuba and Canada maintain diplomatic ties. Cuba dropped its relations with Israel after the 1973 Yom Kippur War. The United States has maintained an economic embargo on Cuba since 1959 and further tightened its sanctions in 1996.

Why would Cuba's Castro, a passionate supporter of the PLO, and an avowed anti-Zionist, allow his people to make Aliyah? Analysts cite economic rather than humani-

tarian motivations. When the Soviet Union-Castro's comrade in communism-collapsed, Cuba lost \$5 billion in annual economic aid. The dictator was forced to forge economic alliances with capitalist nations to reduce its massive debt.

And why should "Operation Cigar" be shrouded in such cloak and dagger secrecy? An unnamed Israeli official expressed concerns that the United States would frown upon ties between the Jewish State and Cuba. Yet, this same source admitted that he was unaware of any U.S. concern that Castro gave his blessing to the exodus to influence America to lift its sanctions.

Indeed, State Department Spokesman James Rubin publicly expressed pleasure that "members of Cuba's Jewish community have been allowed to emigrate to Israel. He termed the exodus "...a step forward in Cuba's overall religious freedom policy."

Meanwhile, the most recent group of Cuban emigres is beginning the process of becoming Israeli citizens. They were swamped by reporters at the immigrant absorption center in Ashkelon and worry about the damaging effects that the publicity might have on prospective olim.

We hope that their fears will prove groundless and anxiously anticipate the arrival of an additional 20 emigres next week.

It is not good policy to play politics with human lives!

Parsha Place

Week of October 16

Noach

Genesis 6:9-11:32

Earning The Privilege of Walking Before God

By Dow Marmur

What Noah is to humanity, Abraham is to the Jewish people. Both were destined to initiate something new: Noah became the ancestor of a renewed humankind; Abraham revolutionized faith by relating to God in a new way.

As human beings, we look to Noah-the second Adam-and his family for our origins; as Jews, we are the descendants of Abraham and Sarah. Noah is our human ancestor, but Abraham is our Jewish role model. That our Jewish descent is not a matter of biology is attested to by the fact that every Jew-by-choice is to be called "son/daughter of Abraham and Sarah." All people are the children of Noah, but only Jews are the descendants of Abraham.

The similarities between Noah and Abraham also point to differences between the two. Thus we are told in the very first verse of the parashah, Et ha'Elohim hithalech No'ach, "Noah walked with God." (Genesis 6:9) Later in Genesis (24:40), Abraham says about himself, Adonai asher hithalacht le'fanav, "God before whom I walked."

Rashi notes the difference between et ha'Elohim, "with God," and le'fanav, "before God" and explains: "Noah needed God's support to uphold him [so he walked with God], whereas Abraham drew his strength from himself and walked in his righteousness by his own effort [therefore, before God]."

Both Noah, our biological ancestor, and Abraham, our spiritual father, "walked." But based on the difference he perceives between "with" and "before," Rashi discerns a distinction between the second Adam, Noah, and the first Jew, Abraham: Noah had not reached his full potential because he only walked with God; Abraham, in contrast, took the initiative and paved the way for God in the world by walking before God.

To be a Jew is to be like the rest of humanity, only more so. Jewishness requires additional obligations and initiatives on our part. This, in turn, raises the issue of the chosen people. We Jews are not special because of our genes but because our ancestor showed us how to make way for God. Other peoples can be the sons [and daughters] of Noah, "God-fearing Gentiles" who "walk with God" and whom Jews respect and honor. But we Jews must aspire to be more: we must be the forerunners of God, the trailblazers for humanity. It is an obligation and a burden that can become a privilege, but we must earn it. It is our role to alert others that the divine command is central to human existence by walking ahead of it. We have been chosen to be the chalutzim, the pioneers of humanity who pave the way for God in the world. To be a privilege, chosenness must become a mission.

In the messianic future, when our testimony will have been affirmed by all, the nations of the world will emulate us and come to worship God the way we worship God. In the meantime, our role is to show the way.

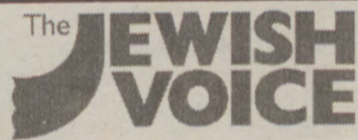
Dow Marmur is the Senior Rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, ONT.

Voice Box

"Most Jews are disloyal... you can't trust the bastards. They turn on you,"

Former President Richard Nixon in newly released White House tapes

"I hope to God he's not Jewish... It's a bad thing for us,"
Nixon said of Daniel Ellsberg when told of his role in leaking the Pentagon papers



Published semimonthly, and monthly in July and August, by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

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Periodicals postage paid for The Jewish Voice (USPS-704160) at Wilmington, Delaware. Subscription price: \$18.00. Circulation: 3,200. 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. E-Mail: jewishvoic@aol.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Words of Praise for Wolpert

Harry Wolpert's obituary, which appeared in the October 1st edition of the Jewish Voice, was so short because he had no immediate family in the area. He deserved more. As a friend, I would like to share some additional information with your readers.

Harry was an active member of Congregation Beth Emeth. His service on the House Committee involved coming to the synagogue at all hours of the night to meet the police whenever the alarm would sound. His congregation leadership included service as Treasurer and Finance Chairman. Of all the purchases he made for the synagogue, he was particularly proud of the Torah covers. Although he prided himself on his personal frugality, he was extremely generous to others. He was always available to support the needy, both financially and emotionally.

He served with distinction as the only man on the board of the Kutz Home Auxiliary and served as their competent Treasurer for many years. He visited the "Home" regularly, supported it financially and adopted several of the residents. Harry also volunteered his time and talent to Riverside Hospital, helping to design the addition to the building.

My friend was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Blanche and is survived by two sons; Dr. Scott Wolpert, who heads the Math Department at the University of Maryland and Dr. Jack Wolpert of Boulder, Colorado. He is also survived by his brother, Norman, of Philadelphia, his sister, Mildred of Atlantic City and four grandchildren who were devoted to their "Pop-Pop".

Sincerely,
Verna K. Schenker

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29TH - 5:46 PM
NOVEMBER
5TH - 4:38 PM

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12 NOON THURSDAY EIGHT DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION

FEDERATION FOCUS

UJC Taps Career Communal Leader as President

By Julie Wiener, JTA

The man chosen to head the Jewish community's central fund-raising and social service system has spent his entire career working for Jewish organizations.

In picking Stephen Solender, 61, to become the first president of the newly formed United Jewish Communities, the group's search committee opted for a man with extensive experience and intimate knowledge of the federation world.

"We were looking for people who understood the system," Charles Bronfman, UJC's chairman of the board, said in a news conference Tuesday announcing Solender's appointment.

In recent months, Solender has balanced two of the most demanding jobs in communal Jewish life: serving as acting president of the UJC — the product of the merger of the United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Israel Appeal — while continuing his 13-year post as executive vice president of UJA-Federation of New York.

When he accepted the temporary UJC post in April, Solender said he was not interested in taking

the helm of the UJC on a long-term basis.

However, in the months that followed, as the search process continued, Solender — who describes himself as a workaholic — decided to go for it after all.

Federation executives from around the country, many of whom had pushed for someone with extensive federation experience, praised the appointment.

Asked why he has devoted his career to Jewish organizations, Solender said it was out of "family tradition and a natural interest."

"What's been most rewarding is the impact we've had on so many people's lives," he said. "We've helped so many people in the U.S., Israel and around the world."

Solender is part of a three-generation dynasty of communal machers: Solender's father, Sanford, was executive vice president of what was then the New York UJA-Federation Joint Campaign, and his grandfather directed a Jewish community center in Manhattan's Washington Heights neighborhood.

Solender's first job out of graduate school — Columbia University School of Social Work — in 1962 was working with teens for the



Stephen Solender

Jewish Community Centers of Chicago. Within seven years, he had risen in the ranks to become program director and then branch director of that institution.

He later worked for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and then became the executive vice president of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore.

In New York, he oversaw the 1986 merger of the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies with the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York to form one of the country's largest private philanthropies. He also helped craft a strategic development plan and almost triple the

fund-raising revenues of the UJA-Federation of New York.

The longtime Jewish professional has been known to hammer out e-mail messages at 4 a.m. and said he goes jogging every morning at 5 a.m., "no matter where I am in the world." Asked if he sleeps at all, Solender said, "Quickly."

In the few hours that he is not working, Solender enjoys spending time with his five grandchildren, listening to music, reading biographies and nonfiction and — occasionally — joining his wife of 40 years, Elsa, for discussions about Jane Austen's work.

Elsa Solender, a former journalist, is the international chairwoman of the Jane Austen Society, an organization that — according to its Web site — "brings scholars and enthusiasts, amateurs and professionals together on equal terms to study and celebrate the genius of Jane Austen."

The couple worship at Manhattan's Or Zarua, a Conservative synagogue, every Shabbat they are in New York, said Solender.

James Tisch, president of the UJA-Federation of New York, praised Solender for his dedication and savvy.

"Steve has a phrase he loves to say sometimes in an exasperated way: 'Well, just another day of service to the Jewish people,'" said Tisch.

"The thing is, he really means it. He is totally devoted to what he does, is totally devoted to serving the Jewish people and does a phe-

nomenal job of doing it."

Tisch added that Solender "understands the UJA-Federation world and has avoided a large number of problems that people of less capability might be able to get out of, but he never gets into."

Solender and his fans say his insider status will not be an obstacle to effecting change in the world of communal Jewish philanthropy.

Solender noted that the new members of his management team — Louise Frankel Stoll, who has been named chief operating officer, and David Altshuler, who will head UJC's newly created independent foundation — bring experience from outside the Jewish federation system.

Stoll, the senior vice president for strategic planning and corporate communications for an international engineering and consulting firm, is the former assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation for budget and programs and served as chief financial officer of that department from 1993 to 1997.

A former pro-Israel activist in the San Francisco area, she has also been involved with the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League.

Altshuler is the founding director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York, a position he has held since 1986. Before that he occupied the Charles E. Smith Chair in Judaic Studies at George Washington University.

Join The Holocaust Education Committee

The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center is seeking men and women to join its Committee and participate in its educational programs. For twenty years the Committee has carried out a program to educate the community about the lessons of the Holocaust and to create an awareness that it must never happen again. The Committee's primary focus has been educating the non-Jewish community especially young people. It does this by offer-

ing workshops for teachers, organizing trips for teachers to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, sponsoring lectures and programs for the general public, providing speakers for classrooms and holding an annual interfaith observance on Yom HaShoah.

The Jewish Federation of Delaware is the sponsor of the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center. For more information please call Sue Shaffer at 427-2100.

JFD Holocaust Committee Presents play and Discussion

The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, invites the community to a special presentation of Address Unknown, a powerful play about the Holocaust. The play, which tells the story of two friends and business partners, one in California, one newly reestablished in Munich in the early 1930's, will be pre-

sented on Sunday, November 7, 2:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Road, Sharpely, Wilmington, DE.

Address Unknown, presented by the Possum Point Players of Georgetown, DE, depicts, through the story of an exchange of letters, the rapid change in the relationship of two friends with the rise of Hitler and the enactment of the

racial laws. Members of this 26 year old community theatre troupe will challenge the audience to think about racial issues, friendship and family—all within the historical context of the rise of Hitler.

The play, and discussion to follow, is free and open to the public. For further information, call Sue Shaffer, at (302) 427-2100, ext. 17.

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JCRC UPDATE

By Sue Shaffer, Director

PUBLIC EDUCATION: Please be sure to read your school / school district's calendar for 1999-2000 and be aware of any major events being scheduled for major Jewish holidays. If you see a conflict in scheduling, please call your child's school and/or the school district; if you write a letter, please send a copy to Sue Shaffer c/o JFD. If you are on a HSA or any committee, please voice your objection to any programs being

scheduled on a Jewish holiday! If the school administrators hear that (Jewish) parents are unhappy over school calendars, there is some chance that the administrators will take those concerns into consideration in their planning.

As we go to press, Donald C. Fantine, Jr., Director of School Operations for the Brandywine School District has addressed our complaint over the fact that high school final exams were scheduled to start on June 9, 2000—the first day of Shavuot! He advised us that

Jewish high school students will have the opportunity to work with their teachers to reschedule these exams at a mutually convenient time. He shared with us the contents of a memo addressed to all K-12 Building Principals, listing the dates and times of major Jewish holidays "that may cause absences from school for purposes of religious observances; Administrators and staff should not schedule tests, major term papers, significant class reports, parent meetings, or any

Continued on page 15

JEWISH WOMEN'S GATHERING

Please plan to join us for the Fifth Annual Jewish Women's Gathering...

Thursday, November 4, 1999
6:45 p.m.

Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth
(Washington Boulevard & Torah Way)

A Panel Discussion:

"The Changing Face of Contemporary Jewish Women"

*Featuring Panelists: Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell,
Ofira Seliktar and Yvette Rudnitzky*

Community women's organizations will have display tables and members representing their organization.

Registration Deadline: Thursday, October 28
Cost: \$10/person (Includes light dinner and program)
Transportation and babysitting available with advance registration only.

For additional information on the Women's Gathering, contact Ivy Harlev or Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

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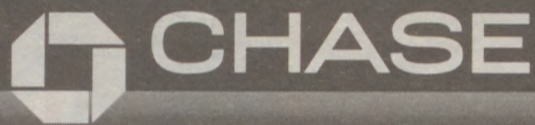
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LOCAL

Gratz Speaker Helps Build Kehillah

When Marlene C. Milunsky became principal of Gratz Hebrew High School, she vowed to make the school a kehillah—a community where students from all streams of Judaism would feel welcome and respected. To help her achieve this goal, she recruited Rabbi Richard S. Fagan, the Consultant for Adolescent Education at the Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education.

Rabbi Fagan, who also serves CAJE as Consultant for Conservative and Traditional Supplementary Schools, is uniquely qualified to build respectful working relationships between Jews whose perspectives differ. He was raised in the Reform movement, served as a Conservative rabbi and has been involved as a member of an Orthodox congregation.

Passionate in his quest to “turn on” Jewish youth to Judaism, Rabbi Fagan co-developed and wrote the teacher’s guide for MTV challenge. This popular program takes snip-pets from this teen-oriented television programming and analyzes them based on issues raised in the Talmud and Torah.

During the summer months, Milunsky consulted with Rabbi Fagan to design a workshop for Gratz faculty to help them learn about the diverse beliefs and practices of their colleagues and the students they teach. The need for such a workshop was particularly pressing, as Gratz accepting students for the first time this Fall from Congregation Beth Emeth. These 11th and 12th graders are training for their Reform teaching certification.

Their brainchild - Ohev Shalom-Rodef Shalom, loosely translated as Love Peace and Pursue Peace—was offered to Gratz teachers and other community Jewish educators just before the start of the current school year. Funded by the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation, it was well received.

Rabbi Fagan helped workshop participants identify ways to be sensitive to other Jews or Jewish groups and avoid hurting, offending or belittling them even when they differ profoundly. Through readings and hands-on activities, the teachers learned how to “agree to disagree.” Rabbi Fagan explained that “Working together doesn’t necessarily mean accepting other viewpoints.” He gave participants permission to continue to believe in the supremacy of their

own positions as long as differing positions are not denigrated.

“We are commanded to love our fellow Jews,” said Rabbi Fagan, adding that “We don’t necessarily have to agree with them.”

Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School provides teenagers with a strong religious and ethical foundation. Students develop an enhanced sense of pride and identity as Jews and feel connected to the Delaware Jewish community

and to the State of Israel.

High school and college credits, as well as both the JCHS and I.M. Wise teaching certificates are conferred upon qualified students. Classes meet on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Part-time programs and inter-generational learning opportunities also are offered.

For information call Marlene C. Milunsky at 254-4306.

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Congregation Beth Shalom in Dover invites the community to a family night on Wednesday, November 17, 6:00 p.m. Enjoy a dinner of pizza, salad and ice cream while browsing through the synagogue gift shop for Chanukah presents, gift-wrap and decorations. The cost for dinner is just \$2.00 for adults, free to Hebrew School students. The event is sponsored by Beth Shalom's Sisterhood.

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LOCAL

University of Delaware Hosts Israel Labor Specialist

David Bartram, PhD, will present a program on "Foreign Workers in Israel: Political Origins, Political Implications, on October 26, 7 p.m. at the University of Delaware, Gore Hall, Room 104.

Dr. Bartram, a professor at Haverford College, spent several years in Israel doing research on foreign workers there. He has

published articles on foreign labor in Israel as well as in Japan. Funding for this research has been provided by the Social Science Research Council and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

His appearance is co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies and the Department of Political Science.

NCCJ Honors Leslie Newman

Leslie Newman, a Past President of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, is one of five distinguished Delawareans to be honored by the National Conference for Community and Justice-Wilmington Region. Newman will receive the organization's 1999 Community Builders Award during a luncheon program on Friday, October 22nd, 11:30 a.m. at the Wyndham Gardens Hotel, 7th and

King Sts., Wilmington.

Newman serves as Director of Development for Children and Families First, where she is responsible for communications, fundraising and strategic planning. She also conducted a needs assessment in nine high school communities throughout the State of Delaware towards a goal of establishing Wellness Centers.

During her tenure as JFD

President, she identified the need for Jewish Community Centers to serve southern New Castle County and remains involved in a community planning process involving all Federation constituent agencies.

She is a past President of Jewish Family Service and has served on the Board of Directors of Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington.



Leslie Newman

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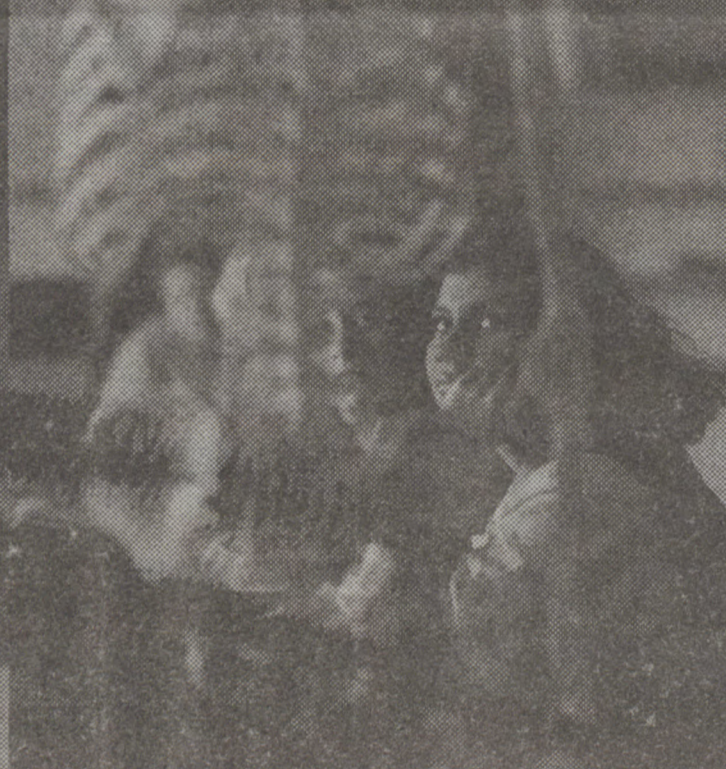
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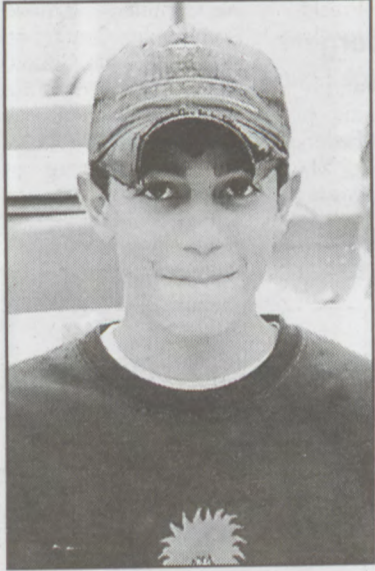
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LOCAL

Akiba Students Travel to Israel



Ari Roisman

Forty-nine Akiba Hebrew Academy students recently flew to Israel where they will spend the first semester of their 11th grade studies. They will carry a full Akiba course load while immersing themselves in the daily life experiences of the Jewish State.

During their five months in Israel, the students will stay at the Alexander Muss Campus in Hod HaSharon. They will live and study with 300 Israeli students as well as

young people from Europe and the United States whose families are planning to emigrate.

Two Wilmington students are participating in this program. Pictured is Ari Roisman, son of Barbara and Joel Roisman. Becky Lewittes, daughter of Lauri Cowan and Mark Lewittes, also is spend-

ing the semester in Israel.

The young people will return to the United States in January, 2000.

Akiba Hebrew Academy is the only Jewish Day School in the United States to offer this opportunity to first semester high school juniors.

AKSE Men's Club Brunch Sparks Memories of Jewish Life in Delaware

"Memories of Jewish Life in Delaware" will be the theme of the Sunday, November 14th brunch sponsored by the Men's Club of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth.

A panel of multi-generational Adas Kodesch members will be asked to relate their early memories and memories shared with them by their families.

This program is open to the public and will be presented from 10:00-11:00 a.m. immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Men's Club Brunch. The cost is \$4.00 for the all-you-can-eat deluxe Sunday brunch. Reservations are suggested for nonmembers and can be made by contacting the A.K.S.E. office at (302) 762-2705.

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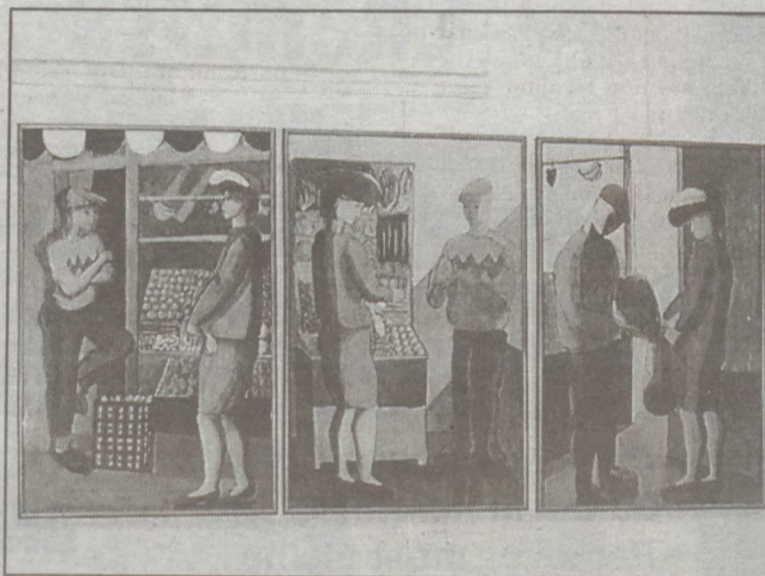
Lauding Cultural Diversity in Delaware

By Paula Shulak

There are two excellent exhibits currently on display in Delaware which I urge readers to find time to see. Both bring to light the accomplishments of ethnic groups in our state, but in a very different manner. The Jewish Historical Society and Delaware History Center (on Market Street in downtown Wilmington) have joined forces to present FROM AL'S TO ZUTZ, a retrospective on the Jewish business community in the last 100 years while the Dover Art League, under the leadership of Phyllis Levitt, culminates its five year long COLLAGE OF CULTURES series with an exhibit highlighting the best of those four previous presentations including artwork by Delawareans who come from several diverse backgrounds — Native American, Hispanic, Far Eastern and East European.

As I reminisced my way through FROM AL'S TO ZUTZ (a very clever title), I found myself remembering my first days in Wilmington some 37 years ago. You would walk down Market Street (before it was a "mall" of course) and pass Arthurs, Kennards, LeRoys Style Shop, Feinberg Furniture, Braunsteins, and many other shops all bearing recognizable Jewish names. And of course there was always The Dry Goods! Where are they all now? It was almost incredible to browse through the 200 familiar business names in this exhibit and realize that there are only a handful still left in existence. And most of them are now no longer the small, owner operated stores we knew in the past but large corporations like Happy Harry's and Delmar News Agency. The nostalgia engendered by this exhibit is very powerful.

Almost every type of business imaginable is represented by the interestingly designed displays. All



COLLAGE OF CULTURES, Street Market, England by Yolanda Chetwynd.

parts of Delaware which had a sizeable Jewish presence are there from Wilmington to Newark to Dover. You start with clothing stores and move to groceries and delicatessens, furniture and fabric stores, liquor dealers, jewelers, drug stores, cleaners, real estate, insurance and yes even an egg farm, plus many others. The whole panorama of Delaware business life is represented and the great contribution of Jewish merchants to the fabric of life in Delaware while not touted is clearly evident. I did miss seeing a few obvious store names but my guess is that since this exhibit was put together by Julian Preisler of JHS mainly with the help of those people who contributed their own personal memorabilia, the missing businesses simply did not submit any articles or photos. Browsing through the History Center is a fun experience which also teaches us a clear lesson about the evanescence of life. The passage of just 40 fleeting years

can bring so much change to a community. At least the two historical societies have given us the opportunity to reflect on what once was. Don't miss your opportunity to do so! The exhibit runs from now until Nov. 6. For more info on times and fees call 655-7161 or 655-6232.

And while you are at the Delaware History Center, be sure to sneak a peek at their other exhibits — Grandma's Attic Kids Museum, George Washington: Man, Myth and Memory, and Through Thunder and Rain, Caesar Rodney's famous letter. The latter two are only there for a

short time. In addition the permanent DISTINCTIVELY DELAWARE exhibit is absolutely fabulous. I plan to do an article on just that in the near future. We have an unknown gem in our midst which more people need to hear about. So watch this column!

Switching to the Dover Art League, I also highly recommend this exhibit which is currently housed on Loockerman Street in Dover but which will be moving upstate to the Wilmington Library on Rodney Square for the month of November. It will also be at Bellevue State Park in January and February next year. COLLAGE OF CULTURES V, Many Visions, One Community is also billed as The Millennium Exhibition and that is a very fitting title for this paean to the creativity and cultural diversity which is so abundant in our state. The Art League exhibit begins in the storefront window of their headquarters (which ironically enough used to be the home of Marvin Kahn's Men's Store one of those extinct Jewish businesses in Dover that was missing from the Historical Society exhibit). Every possible kind of art is evident in COLLAGE. There are baskets, jewelry, charcoal paintings, lithography, embroidery, weaving, pottery, watercolors, pastels, photographs, glass works, paper cuttings, crocheted materials, Indian beadwork, wood carvings, styrofoam flowers, oils and collage. You name it; one of the many faceted ethnic artists has tried it! In



A handwoven black jacket by Artist Ester Kilma, COLLAGE OF CULTURES.

Baltimore there is a fascinating Museum of Visionary Art which displays works by unknown and untrained artists; in my book Phyllis Levitt and The Dover Art League have created Delaware's own Visionary Art Museum here in our state. Over 200 pieces are contained in this exhibit, each unique and each expressing the creativity of the artist. In addition, the League has produced a book which contains in their own words the feelings of all of the artists about

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Klezematics at the Grand Opera

By Paula and Carl Shulak

"A little bit of this; a little bit of that..." - echoes of the legendary fiddler on the roof were heard at the Grand Opera recently when the renowned Klezematics band appeared and wove their musical spell. The program was eclectic and appealed to everyone because it had a little happiness and a little sorrow, a little Mideastern and a little European, a little snatch of what sounded like blues and jazz, and most important, a lot of what we have come to recognize as authentic ghetto klezmer music. The timing of the musicians was impeccable and even their sometimes slightly discordant sound was interesting. In particular, the score from Tony Kushner's DYBBUK was fascinating to hear.

The popularity of such Klezmer music in this day and age never ceases to astound. What was once looked upon as the sound of the greenhorn is now very much in

vogue and klezmer bands are popping up all over this country. Even our own Temple Beth El in Newark boasts its own Thread of Blue (which if you haven't heard is a treat you should not miss). What caused the transformation that made this old fashioned music so new and fashionable? Perhaps it was nostalgia; perhaps it was the fact that a modern element (such as the bits of American jazz and blues which rang so richly through the Klezematics performance) has been added. But there is no doubt that klezmer is "in". Listening to the informally dressed small group of six musicians on the Grand stage play their hearts out (particularly violinist Alicia Svigals, who made her instrument almostsing), one could feel the pathos of the wandering Jew. The music of our forefathers has found a new home in America. And hearing a group as excellent as this play that music was a definite treat.

Children's Theatre Abounds in Delaware

By Paula Shulak

This past weekend was a bonanza for theater lovers who want to introduce their children to live performance. And the next few weekends will be more of the same! Last Saturday, I attended the University of Delaware Family Performing Arts Series at Mitchell Hall where The American Family Theater, Inc. was performing its version of BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (not to be confused with the Broadway Disney show). And on Sunday I saw the Delaware Children's Theater opening show JACK AND THE BEANSTALK which is our state's home grown family theater venue. While the mostly juvenile audiences seemed to like both of the performances they witnessed, there is no doubt in my mind that Delaware's own had the so-called professionals beat a mile!

While BEAUTY had performers electronically amplified and artificially enhanced (some with crackling and other disturbing eccentricities like much too loud musical accompaniment), JACK relied on its actors' natural and energetic ability to make their characters truly come alive. They were simply much more fun to watch and hear. While BEAUTY relied on unnecessary and gimmicky technical lighting and sound effects which detracted from rather than added

to the show (often because they were inaccurate such as a completely wrong music cue which played happy music instead of sad as the Beast was dying), JACK used simple but completely effective techniques to do such things as make a beanstalk grow in front of your eyes. There was no expensive, elaborate equipment here such as was the case in Mitchell Hall. At DCT they rely on moxie and talent to create the illusion and they do a far better job of involving the audience because of that. In my mind, the greatest faux pas of the touring company at UD was the fact that one character totally missed an entrance and forced her fellow actors to ad lib onstage, an occurrence which was obvious not just to someone like me who has theater experience but also to my companion who does not. That kind of thing is pardonable in an amateur setting but not when the actors bill themselves as professionals.

There were some decent performances evident in the American Family Theater production. Brad Haines as the Beast did a fine job of portraying this pitiful creature and has a lovely voice. Edd Ohlsen as the Father and Nadine Quattrone as Beauty were acceptable but their acting was contained and almost did not reach across the footlights. Darren Jenkins was a

rousing butler and was perhaps the most animated of all the performers. The highlight for me in this production was a simple dance done by two wolves who were not even identified in the program. With the exception of this lovely moment much of the show was plastic and did not move the audience. At Delaware Children's Theater on the other hand, much of the action was actually in the aisles and performers like Jeff Santoro as the evil Baron and Bill Healy as the Giant engaged the children in the audience in a close and intimate way which had the audience enraptured. Gerri Weagraff as Jack's mother was both charming and hysterically funny as she continually fainted onstage; Art Sennett as Jack's long lost father was equally fun to watch. And even Lynne Lew as the Golden Goose was cute and perky. The children laughed and clapped along with the music and simply had a more enjoyable experience. But the true star of the Children's Theater show was Jared Goldstein in his first major role. This is a little boy with a sweet voice, wonderful stage presence and timing and tremendous energy. He played the part to the hilt, incidentally singing some very difficult music for a debut. And the Bean Sprout Chorus of several adorable children

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Cultural Diversity

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being a part of the five Collage exhibits. The following are quotations from that book: "I was not allowed to put my work on exhibition in the Soviet Union...It is a closed society. There is more freedom here. I was lucky I was found." (Boris Brayman - Wood Carver) "My participation in COLLAGE has given me tremendous confidence. Before I never signed my artwork because I didn't think it was good enough. Now I sign all my artwork. Before I had never thought of myself as an Asian artist...Now I know I am an artist, and I have opened up my feelings for my Korean cultural background." (Aekyung Maria Ruffin - painter) And that book is also the basis for a Conference entitled THE POLITICS OF CULTURE which will be held in April at Delaware State University. Just as the AL'S TO ZUTZ exhibit stirred deeper thought in my mind about the fleeting days of our lives, the COLLAGE exhibit should stir comment on how important it is for our country to value the creativity of all its citizens, new as well as old.

From the magnificent wood carvings of Boris Brayman to the glass metal structures designed by Svetla Kravlevska (which reminded me in a way of the Tiffany lamps which will soon be on display at the Delaware Art Museum) to the masterful painted silk and metallic collages of Tzu Wen Kwok to the paintings of former migrant worker Juan Perez who now has showings of portraits of migrant children to the woven clothing of Ester Klima (which so impressed that I bought a magnificent coat she made) — to the many beautiful works of art too

numerous to mention, this exhibit is well worth seeing. The prices of the objects have risen since the first Collage, but that is only right as the world discovers the talent of these hitherto unknown artists. COLLAGE OF CULTURES will grace our state throughout the next six months. It should be on everyone's "To Do" list. Call 674-0402 (DAL) or Phyllis Levitt 674-4680 for more info.

JCRC

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other important happenings on these dates."

RED CLAY SCHOOL DISTRICT did hold their graduation on a Saturday in 1999, but the date for high school graduation 2000 is SUNDAY, JUNE 4! It will start at 12:30 p.m. at "The Bob." Thanks to Mark Wagman and the Public Education Task Force for their efforts. If you have heard any information/or raised a complaint about other incidents, please let Sue Shaffer know by e-mail(Shalomdel@aol.com) or phone (427-2100, ext 17). Thank you. If you indicate your concerns early, perhaps conflicts can be avoided in 2000-2001.

PRAYER IN PUBLIC SCHOOL BILL did pass in the House, but was not brought up in the Senate, and all indications are that the Bill will probably be dropped in the Senate.

NEWARK NEWS

The 1995 Population Study conducted by the Jewish Federation of Delaware noted that the Jewish community in the Newark area-which includes Bear, New Castle and Landenberg-has been steadily increasing. Jewish Family and Children's Service has opened its Newark Relationship Center to better serve this community through a wide-range of counseling and family education programs.

Located at 280 East Main Street, the Center offers easy access to University of Delaware students and faculty. Programs scheduled for the Fall and Winter session include:

Yoga and Meditation for Wellness and Healing

Torat HaGuf (Torah of the Body):

Tuesday Mornings 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

October 19, 26 November 9, 23, 30, December 7

Lunchtime Book Discussion Group:

Kitchen Table Wisdom - Stories That Heal

2nd Tuesdays of the month 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Beginning November 9 (ongoing)

Spiritual Support Group for Caregivers

Tuesday Afternoons 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 21

Smoking Cessation Group

Thursday Mornings 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

November 4, 11, 18 and December 2, 9

Transition Group: Dealing with Change in Our Lives

Wednesday Mornings 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

November 10, 17, 24 December 1, 8

College Women's Lunchtime Discussion Group:

Our Feelings, Our Choices

Wednesdays 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

November 17, December 1, 8

Separating and Divorcing Parents Education Seminar*

Wednesday Evenings 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

November 3 and 10

December 1 and 8

*Certified by the Family Court of Delaware

Married and Conflicted about Sexuality

First and Third Thursdays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Starting November 4, (ongoing)

All programs are open to everyone.

Please call for more information and fees on these and other programs offered throughout the year: (302) 478-9411.

Jewish Women the Focus of November 4th Celebration

The fifth annual Jewish Women's Gathering, celebrating the contributions of women to Delaware's Jewish community, will stage its November 4th program in a new location - Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth in Wilmington. This year's theme: "The Changing Face of Contemporary Jewish Women"; will be executed with a 6:30 p.m. panel discussion featuring three women of diverse professional

and life experiences.

Panelists are: Ofira Seliktar, Ph.D., a graduate of Hebrew University of Jerusalem who serves as Associate Professor at Gratz College. Dr. Seliktar is also an accomplished author; Yvette Rudnitzky, a psychotherapist with a feminist perspective who has maintained a private practice for 15 years. She has been involved with women's issues for more than a decade; Rabbi Sue Levi

Elwell, a nationally known scholar and speaker on Jewish women's history, Jewish spirituality and healing and integrating gays and lesbians and their families into synagogues and Jewish communal life.

The program fee is \$10 per person and includes a light dinner. Community women's organizations will host display tables and discuss volunteer opportunities. Registration deadline is October

28th. For additional information, call Ella Zukoff at 478-5660.

The Jewish Women's Gathering is sponsored by: JCC Cultural Arts Department; Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Sisterhood; Beth El Sisterhood, Women's American ORT; Hadassah-Wilmington; Hadassah-Newark; Newark Jewish Community Network Committee and the National Council of Jewish Women.

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A MATTER OF OPINION

Life is KVELL

By Joseph Aaron

I kvell.

That's the only word for it. That's the perfect word for it. There ain't no other, there ain't no better word for it.

I kvell.

I kvell when I hear about President Clinton's speech to the opening session of the United Nations' General Assembly and note is made that Clinton spoke on Tuesday not Monday because Monday was Yom Kippur and he refused to speak on Yom Kippur.

I kvell from that because he didn't have to do that. I kvell that he did that even though no one would have been very offended if he had spoken on the opening day as is the custom. I kvell because of the sensitivity, because of the regard for our feelings, because of what it says about our place in this society and because of what it says about this president and his caring about our people.

I kvell when I read all the stories about the giant merger of CBS and Viacom and saw how CBS chairman, Mel Karmazin, said he had been dreaming of making such a deal since his bar mitzvah.

I kvell because he not only didn't hide his Jewishness but made a point of bringing it up for all the world to see. Not ashamed, not afraid but rather proud of his part in putting together one of the world's biggest media companies.

I kvell because that's a long, long, long way from the attitude of William Paley, founder of CBS and its chairman for about half a century, who worked very hard to hide his Jewish roots, did all he could to obscure and escape them. This included marrying the most unJewish woman in New York high society.

And Paley wasn't alone. He was joined by many others, including Walter Lippman, the most prominent print journalist of his time, a man who influenced presidents and often formulated policy. A man who devoted exactly one column in the years between 1933 and 1945 to the plight of his fellow Jews in Europe. Though, of course, he never, never thought of them like that.

I kvell because the other major player in that big CBS-Viacom merger was Sumner Redstone, who may not appear to be Jewish at first glance at his name (a nice Jewish boy called Sumner?) but who, in fact, is Jewish. Real name being Sumner Murray Rothstein. I kvell because while he did change his name to unJewish it, he doesn't deny that he's Jewish and even supports Jewish causes.

I kvell because you have this huge multi-billion dollar merger, which is a lot of money, and none of us freaked about it, fearing it would be bad for the Jews to be seen to dealing in so much money. I kvell because even though it was a media merger, and we all know what the anti-Semites say about Jews and the media, that none of us was made uncomfortable by it, feared what the backlash to it might be. We took it in stride, as did everyone else. Sometimes quiet can be the surest sign of progress.

I kvell because a major movie star, Robin Williams, made a major movie about Jews in a ghetto in Poland during the Holocaust.

I kvell because "Jakob the Liar," is the kind of movie that might bring home the horrors of what Jews went through in a way more accessible and more real to more people. Lots of people are Robin Williams' fans and that fact alone may get people to see this movie

who otherwise wouldn't get near anything having to do with Jews, let alone the Holocaust.

I kvell because the story of what everyday life was like for everyday Jews under the Nazis is one that needs to penetrate as many hearts and souls as possible.

And I kvell from the new TV season, which like almost every TV season for the last decade or so, is full of Jewish characters, each of whom are professional, articulate, successful, accomplished. We may be quick to complain about stereotypes or exaggerations but the truth is blacks and Italians and Poles and certainly Arabs only wish the portrayals of them were even close to as positive as are portrayals of Jews.

I kvell because while attending the United Nations opening that President Clinton waited a day for, Israeli foreign minister David Levy held a meeting that 16, count 'em, 16 Arab countries attended—countries including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Qatar.

Read that list of countries and you can't help but kvell that they showed up at a meeting called by Israel's top diplomat. Only five years ago, such a thing was beyond our imagination. What it will mean for Israel five years from now is beyond kvelling about.

I kvell because in Disney World's Epcot Center, there is a pavilion dedicated to the State of Israel among two dozen pavilions dedicated to select nations of the world. There was a time not very long ago that places like Disney simply avoided anything having to do with Israel. Too messy, too complicated, not worth it.

Now Israel is included, which is a public relations bonanza considering how many millions of people

go through Epcot each year. Yes, those cynics among us can whine about the fact that the exhibit fudges on the fact that Jerusalem is Israel's capital. You can't turn the world over in a day. Just the fact that Disney, that most cautious of companies, that most timid of places, included Israel speaks volumes about how far we have come, how accepted Israel is, how mainstream things Jewish have become. I kvell from that.

I kvell that everybody jumps all over Pat Buchanan when he puts out a book that says America had no business taking on Hitler and implies that it was the Jews who pushed us into the war.

I kvell that as Time magazine has listed its 100 most influential people of this century in special issues throughout the year, how many have been Jewish. And how many that were not Jews, were criticized for their anti-Semitism, from Charles Lindbergh to Henry Ford.

I kvell that in the inaugural issue of Talk, the hottest magazine gong with the biggest buzz, the one edited by Tina Brown, the one in which Hillary tried to explain Monica by letting us know Bill was in the middle of a tug of war between his mom and his grandma, that there is a major feature story about playwright Tom Stoppard's discovery that he is Jewish.

I kvell that the Catholic archbishop of New York, Cardinal O'Connor begs forgiveness from the Jewish people for all the sins committed by him and all Catholics now and in the past.

I kvell that Jews are cited as a group that stands up for themselves, doesn't take insults lying down, is strong and unafraid to speak up. I kvell when I watch

"Crossfire" on CNN and the subject is the exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, which many Catholics view as offensive, including as it does a picture of the Virgin Mary smeared with elephant dung.

One Catholic makes the point that if it was a Star of David or some Jewish symbol similarly portrayed, there would be no such exhibit. I kvell from that.

I kvell, too, when someone on the radio is angry that the guy who started shooting at a Ft. Worth church wasn't charged with a hate crime. If it was a synagogue, the caller says, he would have been. I kvell from that. Yes, we defend ourselves, yes, we protect ourselves, yes, we speak out loudly and clearly and unafraid.

I kvell that pop star Michael Jackson recently joined worshipers at an Orthodox synagogue in New York, that Madonna and Roseanne and lots of Hollywood stars study the kabbalah.

I kvell that the Microsoft Co. has signed an agreement with an Israeli company to establish a Hebrew-language portal to the Internet.

I could, thankfully, keep kvelling but I'm getting to the bottom of the page. Which is, in itself, something to kvell about. For most of our history, we filled most of our pages with things to kvetch about, feel sorry about ourselves about, bemoan, bewail.

No more. There is reason to kvell all about us. Wonder of wonders. All we have to do is make sure to notice. And to kvell.

Editor's Note: Joseph Aaron is a columnist for the Chicago Jewish News

JEWISH LIFESTYLES

Green Is A Jewish Color

By Jan Weber

Go for a walk together. Drive with the radio off. Enjoy a picnic lunch.

Lie on the grass and watch the clouds. Take the time to listen to your children.

This is not an original idea; it is a reminder. Just about every parenting lecture I have attended has stressed the importance of listening. There are entire books written about the how to's and importance of listening skills. It is what we teach our children from birth.

In this world where children kill while the millennium clock ticks away, we parents need to remember to listen. With two boys, ages eight and ten, it is often difficult to hear even myself over all the noise. However, in the quieter moments, the questions the children ask and the statements they make are well worth hearing. We must make time for quiet — no television, no video

games, no music — just quiet. And then the sound of voices, our children's voices, will have the chance to emerge. Instead of asking so many questions, I now try to let their voices fill the needed silence.

What is on their minds and in their hearts is sometimes humorous, sometimes challenging, and always insightful. Listening to my children puts me more in touch with their needs than the answers I would get when I asked the questions.

Sure, we often listen to the radio while driving to school, soccer, Hebrew school, and Bubbie's house. Yet, in the quiet of the car one day after driving past a neighboring church and synagogue, my son asked, "If G-d is everywhere, can I pray in a church?" If there hadn't been silence prior to that question, there was brief silence after hearing a question I myself had never considered. And so I pondered a response. "Well yes, G-

d is everywhere, so I guess it's o.k." Then there was the time, upon entering a sukkah, my son looked up into the quiet night sky and stated, "I can see G-d, Mama." I looked into his eyes and I too saw G-d.

During a walk one afternoon with the boys, we passed a dead bird. "Should we say Kaddish?" they asked. "Yes, we could do that," I replied. We did recite Kaddish, I not knowing if it was

truly the right thing, but they knowing in their hearts that it was right. And so on to the color green.

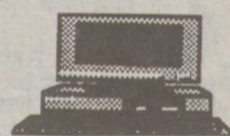
One day as I was preparing Shabbas dinner, my son sat at the kitchen table doing his homework — or so I thought. Out of the clear blue, he said, "I know why green is my favorite color... (I thought I knew why — it is the color of his eyes)...because green is a Jewish color."

He continued, "Blue is a color

on the Israeli flag and yellow comes from the light of the Shabbas and Hanukkah candles. Blue and yellow make green." I went over to him and hugged and kissed him. Make time for quiet, listen to your children, and let their voices fill the needed silence.

How else could you learn that green is a Jewish color?

Editor's Note: Jan Weber is a contributor to the Jewish Times of Southern New Jersey.



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ISRAEL FOCUS

Israel Wages War on Breast Cancer

By Wendy Elliman

Editor's Note: This is part of an occasional series of feature articles spotlighting medical, scientific and technological developments in Israel. The articles have been put together by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America; American Society for Technion; American War on Breast Cancer. The author is a freelance writer.

Fact: Every year, breast cancer attacks one in every eight Israeli women. Fact: In more than a third of them, the disease has spread beyond the breast by the time it is diagnosed.

Fact: Within two years of diagnosis, a quarter of its victims will be dead.

"Metastatic breast cancer remains an undefeated enemy, but it's coming under tightening siege," says Prof. Tamar Peretz, who heads the Sharett Institute of Oncology at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem, where a quarter of all Israel's cancer patients are treated. "Years of basic and clinical research are finally bearing fruit. Where we're able to help, we help a lot. And where we can't cure, we can do much to extend a patient's life and improve its quality."

A woman's breast is more susceptible to cancer than any other organ in her body, but breast cancer's ravages are, it seems, far from indiscriminate. Breast cancer in Israel attacks, for example, 65 Jewish women compared with 17 non-Jewish women in every 1,000. Its incidence is significantly higher among Ashkenazi immigrants to the country than among newly arrived Sephardim (Jewish newcomers from Russia have the highest rate of all, while the disease is virtually unknown in the Ethiopian Jewish community) — but in Israeli-born Jewish women of all ethnic backgrounds, breast cancer levels approach those found among Ashkenazi newcomers.

All of which constitutes an unparalleled human laboratory, within which Israeli researchers are urgently working to learn more about the causes and prevention of this growing scourge.

The susceptibility of Ashkenazi women to breast cancer was confirmed some years back by discovery of a so-called 'cancer gene' — genetic mutations known as BRCA1 and BRCA2, which bestow an unwelcome 90 percent lifetime risk of developing breast cancer. Prof. Nadine Cohen-Elbaz of the Technion's Tamkin Molecular Human Genetics Research Facility estimates that five to 10 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer each year have a family history of the disease, with around 45 percent of them carrying a BRCA mutation. In a unique multidisciplinary study involving clinical geneticists, oncologists, psychologists, epidemiolo-

gists and a philosopher, she is screening families of different ethnic backgrounds to identify common gene mutations, and studying their medical histories, diet and lifestyle. The aim is to identify environmental and lifestyle factors that may contribute to development of the disease.

One of her early findings is that breast cancer is 50 percent less common among Arab women in Israel than their Jewish sisters. Prof. Eliezer Robinson of the


Technion's Faculty of Medicine (who lost his mother to breast cancer) has observed that while the disease is far rarer among Israeli Arab women, it tends to surface at younger ages, metastasize more vigorously and offer far shorter survival. To explain these differences, Prof. Robinson has been looking at nutrition, genetics, lifestyle and socio-economics, and one area of his research which seems, quite literally, to be bearing fruit is diet. Arab women generally eat far

more fruit and vegetables.

"Evidence suggests that a population which eats a lot of cruciferous vegetables, such as cabbage, broccoli and radishes, has a lower incidence of breast cancer," says Prof. Shmuel Yanai of the Technion's Faculty of Food Engineering & Biotechnology. With Dr. Gad Rennert of the Medical Faculty and two physicians from the Hebrew University, he has isolated what he believes is a protective substance from these

vegetables. Tests run on kibbutz volunteers have supported these early results.

Vegetables, specifically tomatoes, are the focus of Dr. Michael Koretz, director of the Elisheva Eshkol Breast Health Center at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. "Epidemiological data show lower incidence of breast cancer among women who eat a lot of tomatoes," he says. Together with endocrinologist Yossi Levy, he has



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War on Breast Cancer

Continued from page 17

isolated from tomatoes what may be a preventive substance called lycopene, and he is now studying its absorption into body tissues.

At the laboratory bench in Hadassah, researchers are trying to stimulate the body's own immune system into fighting the cancer — urging its cells to defend themselves in what they call immunotherapy. They are also examining the mechanism of tumor metastasis, and looking for ways to block that mechanism.

While the search for protection and prevention continues, early detection and speedy treatment still offer women the best chance of survival. As Dr. Koretz reminds us, "cancer is a disease that's highly treatable, if caught early."

Despite this, however, fewer than half of Israeli women aged 50 and more go for mammograms. "It's women with a Western perception of health and a Western belief in the power and correctness of medical intervention who tend to seek mammography," says Prof. Lea Baider, psycho-oncologist at the Hadassah Medical Center. "Among Arab, Beduin and certain ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities, for example, pain and body changes are regarded as normal. Neither is a reason to run to a doctor."

In two of every three instances, they are right.

Only one in three breast lumps is, in fact, malignant, but it takes a biopsy to find out — though this may now be changing. Researchers at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot have pioneered a non-invasive way of identifying breast tumors, which they call 3TP. Developed by Prof. Hadassa Degani of the Biological Regulation Department, together with radiologists from Hadassah, their method consists of injecting a dye into the patient's blood stream and monitoring how it is taken up and cleared by tumor tissue, using

magnetic resonance imaging or MRI.

"Malignant and benign growths deal with the dye in strikingly different ways, so this approach can markedly reduce the number of biopsies performed to diagnose tumors," says Prof. Degani. As well as diagnosing breast tumors, the Weizmann method may help establish the prognosis of the cancer by revealing the network of blood vessels that feed the tumor, and it may also monitor the effectiveness of therapy by visualizing these blood vessels and the spaces between them.

And what of the 2,900,000 women in Israel who, despite all efforts, are today fighting breast cancer? Treatment provided in Israel is on a level with the best in the world, from painless removal of breast lumps by computerized mammographic guidance (ABBI) at the Ben-Gurion University's Breast Health Center, through surgery and breast reconstruction, aggressive adjuvant therapy (radio-, chemo- and hormonal) and, in women with advanced disease who have a 95 percent chance of relapse, polychemotherapy followed by bone marrow transplantation.

"With adjuvant therapy, we can reduce the number of women in whom the disease will recur by one third," says Prof. Peretz of Hadassah. "Bone marrow transplantation can cure a doomed patient. Overall breast cancer survival during the past 40 years has climbed steadily from one in three to one in every two women."

Despite the improving figures, breast cancer remains a devastating illness.

"Psycho-social support is a key element in the service we provide," says Dr. Koretz of the Ben-Gurion University Breast Health Center. "We have both qualified professionals and peer-support empower-

ment groups to help patients cope." At Hadassah, the psycho-oncology team led by Prof. Baider researches extensively on the impact of family support, the marriage bond, a personal belief system and earlier life-traumas on the

ultimate answer lies with cellular warfare, eating more vegetables or with something not yet stumbled on, they may yet share the prize of comprising the human laboratory in which the disease finally met its defeat.

Israel's ethnic kaleidoscope of women share the unhappy distinction of one of the world's highest rates of breast cancer. Whether the

Children's Theatre

Continued from page 14

were a real treat. Director Marie Swajeski has an almost magical ability to bring out the best in her young actors. They obviously enjoy themselves onstage which makes the audience enjoy them even more.

I make this comparison between AMFT and DCT because people often tend to put down local theater groups as "amateur" and opt instead to visit the Playhouse, Grand Opera, or as in this case, Mitchell Hall, for their entertainment needs. This is as true for adult

shows as it is for children's. And I firmly believe this is a disservice to our local talent, many of whom go on to national or regional fame. I am not by any means suggesting that Delawareans boycott professional touring companies; there are many excellent shows at the venues listed above. It is simply a shame, in my opinion, that more people do not avail themselves of the opportunity to watch equally good productions at community theaters in our area. I have watched friends travel to New York and Philadelphia and pay far more

for tickets than they would at home when they could have seen fine theater right here in Wilmington or Newark or Dover. BEAUTY AND

THE BEAST was a one night stand, but JACK AND THE BEANSTALK continues at DCT for the rest of October. Do your children a favor and take them to

see a funny, lively, wonderful show. It is not a sophisticated extravaganza; it is just meaningful, good theater. Call 654-1014 for tickets.

SYNAGOGUE LIFE

Explore the Ten Commandments in Monthly Installments

Most Jews are aware of the Ten Commandments but few realize their relevance in their daily lives. Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth invites the community to explore the significance of this ancient text in the modern era during a series of monthly programs at the synagogue.

Participants in this Ten Commandments Club will:

- * study together using the book, The Ten Commandments: The Significance of God's Laws in Everyday Life by Dr. Laura Schlessinger and Rabbi Stewart Vogel

- * discuss the real implications and applications of the Ten Commandments

- * consider how daily, seemingly

mundane actions make a difference.

Most classes will meet on Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Club sessions begin October 24th and run through June 18th. Pre-registration is required. For additional information, please call Eileen Cohen at 478-1815 or Eleanor Weinglass at 475-7630.

MILESTONES

Welcome Samantha Brooke

Judi (nee Ufberg) and Edward Weinstein, along with big brother Alex, welcome with love their daughter and sister, Samantha Brooke. Sami was born on May

12, 1999. Her grandparents are CeCi and Hal Ufberg of Wilmington and June and Larry Weinstein of Wantagh, New York. Her great-grandmothers are Hilda

Shames of Ventnor, New Jersey and Longport Key, Florida and Bettye Ufberg of Coconut Creek, Florida.

Sami is named in loving memory of her three great-grandfathers, Samuel Shames, Samuel Ufberg and Samuel Goldman and our dear friend, Moses "Buzz" Rosenberg.

In Memoriam

Klosic

Bertha Klosic, 90, died September 19. She was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington. Ms. Klosic is survived by five nieces and two nephews.

Berger

Miriam L. Berger, 78, Claymont, died Oct. 10. She is survived by her husband, Irving Berger; son, David I. Berger of Wilmington; daughter, Arlene M. Simon of Augustine Ridge; sister, Evelyn Mozenter of Florida and four grandchildren; Michelle and Jennifer Simon and Rachel and Stacy Berger. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries for the Calendar of Events are due on the Thursday deadline published in *The Jewish Voice*. Please provide entries in the same format as seen on this page. *The Jewish Voice* fax number is 427-2438.

OCTOBER

Sunday _____ 17

Join Young Jewish Singles of Delaware for a tour, tasting and lunch at Smithbridge Cellars Winery in Chadds Ford, PA. The fun begins at 11:00 a.m. \$13 covers all costs.

Call Phil at (302) 563-5700 for more information.

Saturday _____ 30

Join Young Jewish Singles of Delaware for an old-fashioned hayride and bonfire at Bellevue State Park. Meet for dinner at 5 p.m. at Lamberti's Cancina Restaurant and car-pool to the Park. Pay as you go for dinner. Hayride and bonfire are \$7. Call Phil at (302) 652-6688 to reserve your space. Last year's event was a sell-out so call today!

NOVEMBER

Friday _____ 12

Join members of Congregation Beth Shalom for an adult weekend retreat at Makom Shalom on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Special guest is Rabbi Siegel, author of "Who Are The Prophets and What Do They Say To Us?" Call Norman Schutzman, (302) 478-0200 for additional information.

Sunday _____ 14

Temple Beth El in Newark offers one-stop shopping for all your Chanukah needs.

Come to the synagogue's holiday bazaar and stock up on gifts, decorations and wrapping paper. Games, crafts and fun for the children. Latkes for lunch. Come one, come all, 11a.m. to 1p.m. at the synagogue, 301 Possum Park Road, Newark. Call 366-8330 for more information.

ONGOING— Counseling and Support

Jewish Family Service of Delaware offers ongoing workshops for individuals interested in women's issues, healing services, support groups for caregivers of children with special needs, Family Court mandated divorce workshops and support groups for widows, men and individuals experiencing cancer. JFS serves people of all denominations. For additional information, please call 478-9411.

OSI SEARCHING FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS....

who lived in Kupishok, Lithuania or surrounding towns during July, August or September of 1941. Their testimony is needed in connection with a pending criminal case against an alleged war criminal. For additional information, please call Stephen Paskey or Susan Adams at the Office of Special Investigations, (202) 616-2501. Collect calls will be accepted.

VOLLEYBALL ANYONE?-

Young Jewish Singles of Delaware sponsors a weekly volleyball game and dinner outing for adults in their 20s and 30s. Non competitive play every Wednesday at 6p.m., dinner at 8p.m. Call Phil at 652-6688 for more information.

DELAWARE GRATZ NEEDS A "GOOD FAIRY"

Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School needs two, new or "gently used" tall standard sized (not legal) file cabinets. If you can help, please call Marlene Milunsky, principal, at 478-8100.

ISRAEL AND JEWISH STUDIES

The WUJS Institute offers scholarships of \$200 during the year 2000 to all young adults in the Delaware/NJ Partnership 2000 Region. The scholarship brings the cost of the seven-month Institute to \$2000 and includes Hebrew Ulpans, Jewish-Israel Studies, camping trips, seminars and a wide range of social and cultural activities over seven months. Also included in the cost are accommodations, one cooked meal a day and employment assistance. For additional information, call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 427-2100.

Congratulations to the University of Delaware Hillel

On the honor of sending the largest delegation in the nation to the UJC Leadership Conference in Chicago, Oct. 22-24.

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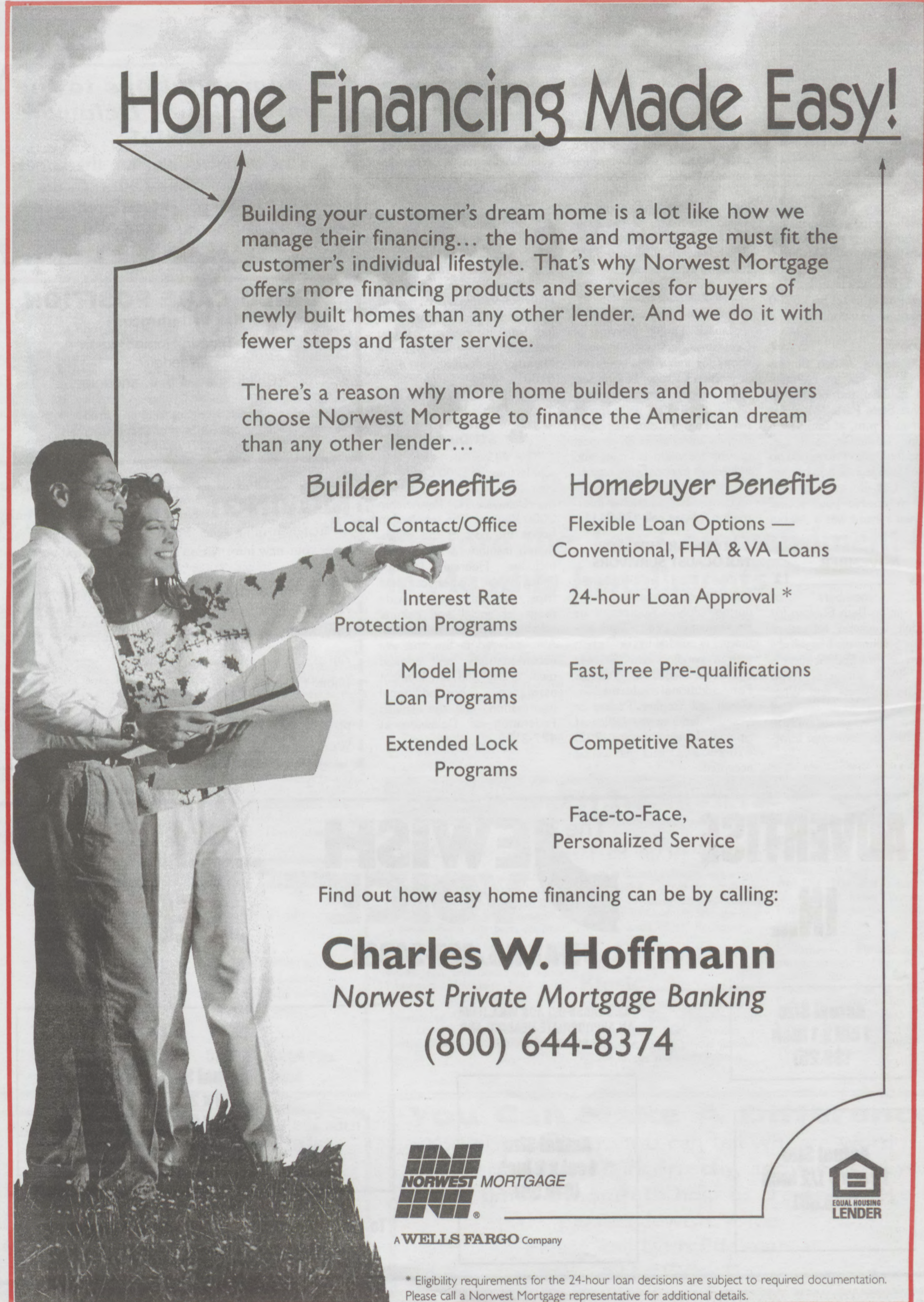
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