

The JEWISH VOICE

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Jewish Historical Society
Mr. Julian H. Preisler
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"You heard it in
The Jewish Voice"

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Record Number of Volunteers Pull Together at Super Sunday



Governor Mike Castle takes time to stop by Super Sunday and chat with several Soviet immigrants now living in Delaware.

Super Sunday 1992, the Jewish Federation of Delaware's key fundraising event for contributors of \$1000 and under, successfully raised almost \$250,000 from over 1800 contributors Sunday, February 9 from the location of Patterson-Schwartz realtors on Delaware Avenue. A record number of 120 volunteers participated in the annual event. Although contributions were up for this fundraiser, Federation workers are still concerned about the future of the overall campaign. The 1991-92 campaign was down by 15% for allocations to its Jewish agencies.

Early Date Set For Israeli Elections

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Labor and Likud have agreed upon Tuesday, June 23, as the date for Knesset elections.

Ordinarily, elections would not have been held until November, when the term of the 12th Knesset expires. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud-led coalition government lost its parliamentary majority the end of January when the far-right Tehiya and Moledet parties defected.

The latest political polls show voters evenly divided between Likud and Labor, with slight gains for the far-right parties.

According to Knesset member Binyamin Begin, a rising star in Likud, the balance between the two major political blocs will be preserved in the elections, meaning that another national unity government cannot be ruled out.

But Labor is more seriously split over its future leadership than Likud.

Party Chairman Shimon Peres is clearly less popular than Yitzhak Rabin, his longtime rival for the office of prime minister, the polls show.

Moreover, Labor has a younger generation of ambitious politicians who may be ready to challenge either veteran.

They include Yisrael Kessar, secretary-general of the powerful Histadrut trade union federation; Ora Namir; and Haim Ramon, chairman of Labor's Knesset faction.

Shamir's leadership of Likud seems on firmer ground. But a serious problem is posed by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the party's most outspoken hawk, who has announced his candidacy for Shamir's job.

JFD To Consider Loan Guarantees

By REBECCA FALKOWSKI

of the Jewish Voice

The Jewish Federation of Delaware has been asked to guarantee \$1.2 million of a \$900 million loan guarantee request of the Council of Jewish Federations by the Jewish Agency. If the loan is guaranteed by the local federation, \$307,000 will have to be "put up front," or paid, by October 1, 1994.

The amount was announced at a Jewish Federation of Delaware board meeting Thursday, January 30, by Dr. Steven A. Dombchik, JFD president.

The loan guarantees are for helping the Jewish Agency in its efforts to resettle one million Soviet Jews over an approximate three-year period. These loan guarantees are not part of the \$10 billion in guarantees being requested by Israel of the United States government for housing. The Jewish Agency loans will go directly to the new immigrants.

"Can we do it without jeopardizing the assets of our community?" asked Dombchik rhetorically at the meeting. "How do we protect this community? This decision will certainly not be made without community input."

According to Dombchik, three attorneys are presently reviewing the documents and meetings will be held soon to discuss the request.

All of the federations belonging to the Council of Jewish Federations are being asked to guarantee amounts proportionate to their size and campaign. The Jewish Federation of Delaware has to make a decision in the next 60 days, according to Robert N. Kerbel, the executive director of the Delaware federation.

"All of our assets, including everything we own, is attachable," said Dombchik of the loan guarantee. The Jewish Federation of Delaware owns the complex at 101 Garden of Eden Road and the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home.

This loan guarantee program being coordinated by the CJF would guarantee to local commercial banks in Israel loans which would be made directly by the banks to new immigrants.

The Jewish Agency would offer \$900 to each immigrant in the form of a loan instead of the present policy of grants. This loan will not be made available to the elderly, handicapped or those without the potential to repay. These groups would receive the funds as grants. The terms of repayment would be as liberal as possible. A ten year payback is being considered.

Israel May Be Ready To Freeze Housing

By DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israel appears to have conceded it will have to freeze new housing starts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to get U.S. guarantees for \$10 billion in loans badly needed for immigrant resettlement.

Still to be settled is how many of the settlement construction projects begun in the administered territories Israel would be permitted to complete, and what other conditions would be attached to U.S. underwriting of the loans.

When the Israeli ambassador to Washington, Zalman Shoval, emerged last Friday from his latest meeting with Secretary of State James Baker, he indicated the discussions have a long way to go.

He told reporters Israel does not believe that the humanitarian issue of loan guarantees should be linked to the settlements.

But in an apparent sign of resignation, he added, "Obviously that view is not entirely shared by the United States."

Of his meeting with Baker, Shoval said there was "agreement on some points," and disagreement on others. Neither the Israeli envoy nor Baker would give any details.

Baker, in an interview Saturday on Cable News Network, said that any agreement on the guarantees would have to be coupled with a halt to new construction activity, and that anything completed would be reduced "dollar for dollar from assistance to Israel."

Complicating the negotiations are the positions of Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), chairman of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations. He met with Baker after the Shoval meeting.

Leahy, who first proposed the dollar-for-dollar cut, told *The New York Times* that if the administration and Israel cannot reach an agreement, he will make his own proposal.

If either Israel or the administration rejects the proposal, "there won't be a loan guarantee package this year," Leahy told *The Times*.

(JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

Federation Board Allocations Down 15% for 1991-92

By ROBERT N. KERBEL

Executive Vice President
Jewish Federation of Delaware

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation, at its January 30 meeting, approved the recommendations of the Allocation Steering Committee which reduced by 15% all of the 1991-92 allocations to the local Jewish agencies. The final vote of the board was 20 in favor, one opposed, and two abstaining.

The 1991 final campaign total was \$1,288,422.

According to Dr. Steven A. Dombchik, Federation president, the services provided to the Jewish population of greater Delaware are in serious jeopardy. Plans are being developed to find means to enhance the campaign and the funding of the local services. More emphasis will be placed on setting priorities and in developing the Jewish Community Endowment Fund. He stated, "All methods are being studied to ensure that the services needed will be there for those in need."

An analysis of the campaign indicates that, although there was an average 10% increase on a card for card basis, 8.5% of the 1990 gifts were lost due to a combination of factors including the recession, reduction of interest income of a number of fixed income retired individuals, retirement of a number of DuPont and state employees (teachers), deaths and moves to Florida. At the same time 500 individuals who did not make a gift in 1990 made 1991 contributions totaling \$78,000.

The major loss occurred in a few very large

gifts affected by the recession. There were significant increases (8 to 12%) in gifts of below \$1000, \$1000-\$2499 and \$2500-\$4999. The Women's Division had a 13% increase on card for card basis and raised a total of \$297,000, or 23% of the entire campaign.

The need to fund the resettlement of Soviet Jews in Delaware, the Project Renewal Neighborhood in Israel (Jesse Cohen), the need to increase the shrinkage fund for non-payment of pledges from \$15,000 to \$25,000, and the capital maintenance emergencies of the local agencies significantly decreased the funds available for local allocations. (A full Summary and Allocations chart can be found on page 5.) Capital maintenance needs of the aging physical plants of the Jewish Community Center and Kutz Home have in the past been significantly supported by the United Way, which is no longer able to do so.

If the 1991 Campaign had reached its goal of 1.5 million, the monies necessary to provide for those who needed support would have been available. That not being the case, each one of the agencies has had to reduce their budgets to cope with the financial shortfall. The Jewish Community Center has reduced its staff and programs. The Jewish Federation has also undertaken staff reductions as well as prioritizing its functions, reducing programming and relying more on volunteer staff for clerical and committee responsibilities. The Kutz Home has significantly cut back on staff and expenses while attempting to maintain the best possible care to its residents.

Editorial

The Truth, The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth

While each news media has its own flavor, or style, even political bent, all espouse to share a common ideal that the presentation of news is the presentation of truth, and that news should be reported fairly and even-handedly, without bias or prejudice, in order to educate the public so that each person can make his or her own informed decision.

More and more, that ideal is being abandoned.

In an age when fact becomes mingled with fiction to create the "Docudrama" and TV airtime is sold in 30 minute blocks to create the "Infomercial," the lines between news, public relations and propaganda frequently become blurred beyond recognition.

When dealing with commercial promotions, the cost of our ignorance may be measured in unwanted purchases and wasted dollars. When dealing with the world's view of Israel's relationship to her neighbors, the risk is survival itself.

And what have we done about it?

Very little.

Some call Federation and demand that an "official" letter be written in protest of a "slanted" story, a biased headline or perhaps placement of a "letter to the editor." A few dare to write their own dissenting view.

But for the most part, we have become silent.

It's not easy to be Jewish. Being Jewish requires more than lip service to a higher ethical standard. Being Jewish requires more than making an annual pledge to the Federation's community campaign. And it requires more than complaining that someone else should do something about the anti-Israel, anti-Jewish propaganda our public press has come to serve up in the name of news coverage.

Perhaps we have listened to it, read it so often, we've begun to believe it ourselves. Perhaps we've become so ignorant of the facts ourselves that we no longer know the truth. Perhaps we've just become so lazy that we think someone else will do it for us.

Whatever the reason, our individual silence helps create an environment in which hatred and bigotry will flourish and in which a Jew will die. Each one of us has a personal responsibility to fight back, to demand the truth, to protest anti-Semitic courses and programs, to criticize biased news coverage and reporting.

Anything less is an abdication of our responsibility to ourselves, our people and to humanity.



Letters to the Editor

Need for Family Educators

Dear Editor:

In the *Baltimore Jewish Times* of December 27, 1991/20 Tevet 5752, Rabbi Harold Schulweis has written an important article, "Does Judaism Speak to the Heart?" In it, he argues that, although Jews belong to all kinds of organizations, we have ignored the individual and the family. The Jewish family home has become a vacuum, with parents unable to create the memories of song, stories, poetry, and conversation that support our lives. This vacuum is being filled, he argues, with television and the powerful moral lessons of hedonism that it supplies: there is no need to transform yourself, salvation is found in things bought, possessed, or used.

He issues a call to public (Jewish) institutions: form a cadre of family educators,

mechanehei mishpachah, dedicated to the empowerment of the family. "The goal is for Jewish expressivity, Jewish competence, performance, Jewish doing, speaking, singing, decision-making." ... "The community's task is to match mishpachot so that they join at each other's tables to share stories, to learn from each other the art of raising Jewish children, to enjoy their Jewishness — and to know that within the larger circles of their affiliation there are skilled and caring friends of the family to enrich their lives."

As Schulweis says, "...to offer the family parenting competence and confidence is the highest and most significant task confronting the community." Let us begin to work toward this goal.

Dove Seidel

War Veterans Say Thanks

Editor:

We, the officers and membership of the Jewish War Veterans, Department of Delaware, wish to express our gratification and sincere appreciation to the "Jewish Voice" and the Jewish Federation of Delaware for the fine publicity and recognition accorded to us over the past year.

The JWV are the principal National organization of American War Veterans of the Jewish faith, with membership in every State of our great Union. It is not so widely known that we are the oldest veteran's organization with official status in the United States; indeed, we date back to the period immediately following the Civil War. Our current Delaware membership, some decorated with our country's highest military awards, represents military service in our nation's conflicts from World War I thru the recent Desert Storm action. These men and women are your friends and neighbors, most of them also active in the many Jewish organizations in this area.

The agenda of JWV is the support of our Nation and its Democratic ideals, involvement

in public affairs and in the national welfare, a concern and activity on behalf of American veterans of every race and religion, and not the least, a deep and active interest in the support of the State of Israel and the welfare of the Jewish Community worldwide. Locally, we are active in charitable causes, support of Jewish community groups, and solace to the families of departed comrades.

We urge those unaffiliated persons who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States at any time, as well as non-veterans who are interested in our notable history and programs to join one of our three Delaware Posts. Regular meetings are held bi-monthly at the B'nai B'rith Lodge Hall in Claymont, and social events, visitations, and official observances are scheduled on a frequent basis.

Interested persons should contact Philip Pollack, Membership Chairman, at 798-0711, or Harry Lubin, Commander, Post 525, at 475-6521 for information and applications.

Israel Weiner
Commander, JWV,
Dept. of Delaware

The Jewish Voice

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DEADLINE

The next issue of The Jewish Voice will be published FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28. The deadline for stories and photos is noon, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21. Material should be sent or brought to the Jewish Voice office at the Jewish Federation of Delaware, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, 19803. (302) 478-6200. All articles must be typed, double spaced.

The Jewish Voice welcomes signed letters from its readers on subjects of interest to the Jewish Community. For verification purposes, include home address and phone number (day and evening). The more concise a letter is, the less likely it will need to be condensed. A name will be withheld upon request. Send letters typed, double spaced, to The Jewish Voice, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.

Reading Between the Lines

When Jewish Journalists Get Together...

By GARY ROSENBLATT

The question of whether one can be both a committed Jew and a committed journalist was asked — and answered — in any number of ways during an international Jewish media conference in Jerusalem last week.

Can one write an unflattering story about Israel, and still be a good Jew? When, if ever, is it proper for us to pull our journalistic punches?

Ari Goldman, a religion reporter for the *New York Times* and observant Jew, dramatized his response by juggling apples and oranges in front of several hundred of his fellow journalists at the outset of his address. "There is no better metaphor for what we do," he said. "All of us juggle our different identities."

Mr. Goldman noted how he lost his objectivity during the Crown Heights riots last summer in New York. He said the *Times* had been playing the story "right down the middle," reporting on clashes between blacks and Jews. But after witnessing first-hand several anti-Semitic episodes, Mr. Goldman said he called his editors and told them the story was not two-sided, but simply that of blacks attacking Jews.

"I went from neutral observer to passionate advocate," he acknowledged, after 18 years of striving for objectivity.

The editors responded by teaming Mr. Goldman with a black reporter to interview black and Jewish families in Crown Heights and write a story together. But Mr. Goldman remains convinced that his perceptions were correct.

One of the lessons he said he came away with is that "the things we juggle are not always of equal weight. I realized I was a Jew first and everything else second."

Some journalists at the conference, which attracted about 175 Jewish journalists from all over the Diaspora plus another 80 from Israel, resented the media attention Mr. Goldman received during his visit. Besides delivering the opening address at the week-long conference, he was the most sought-out participant for interviews on radio and television and in newspapers.

Critics noted that he was not a Jewish journalist in the strictest sense because he works for a secular daily, not a Jewish community newspaper.

But one quickly learns at a conference such as this, held every two years and sponsored by the World Zionist Organization, that there are few points of consensus.

A journalist from Copenhagen responded to Mr. Goldman's remarks by stating that journalism schools in Europe teach a student to report the facts as one sees them and not to strive for objectivity. And a Dutch journalist said that since Jews have been victims for 2,000 years, it is always our job to defend Jewish causes.

Mr. Goldman maintained that a committed Jewish journalist is one who "deals with the gray areas and does not avoid them."

"The Ultimate Editor," he said, pointing heavenward, "understands our struggles."

But those of us on earth were left to struggle with the cacophony of messages we heard from a number of Israeli political figures, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek as well as members of Knesset representing extreme left and right positions.

If the Jewish journalists were to choose Israel's next prime minister on the basis of speaking skills and quotable quotes, Mr. Peres would be the clear winner. He called for new paradigms in dealing with Mideast problems based on economic participation of both Arabs and Jews. And he charged that the Likud, the party of Prime Minister Shamir, lives in the past and has a "one-legged ideology" based on

Continued on 23

"The Jewish Voice plans to present views of other writers on the media reporting and interpreting the news. We hope this will help you learn how to read between the lines..."

Rebecca Falkowski, Editor



Steve Palkin (at podium), chairperson of the Young Leadership Committee General Programs, introduces the panelists at the YLC forum on "Arab and Israeli Images in the Media." Presenters, seated left to right, are Mike Sigman, Gary Wolf, Othman Mohamed and Douglas McLeod.

Critical Perspective Always Needed

By PRISCILLA W. SIEGEL

Voice Reporter

The spotlight is beamed and the cameras are at the ready, waiting for action in Israel — especially if it involves stumbles, fumbles and flops.

At an open forum and brunch sponsored by the Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federation of Delaware on January 26 at the Jewish Community Center, Arab and Israeli images in the media were explored. An audience of about 55 heard three panelists present their views from their own perspectives: Othman Mohamed, an Egyptian Ph.D. linguistics student from the University of Delaware, Gary Wolf, former Executive Director of CAM-ERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America) and Mike Sigman, News Director of Heritage Cable Channel 2, First State News.

Opening the forum, the moderator, Dr. Douglas McLeod, University of Delaware Communications professor, described the general media approach to news. Not surprisingly, the most newsworthy events contain violence, bombings, and demonstrations, resulting in a distorted picture of the areas of the world being covered. Distortions come also from the media sources. For example, if U.S. official sources are used, we get U.S. foreign policy interpretations of world events.

"Readers and viewers," said Dr. McLeod, "must look beneath the outward appearance of news coverage to figure out the reasons and factors which shape media content."

Panelist Gary Wolf, who served in the Israeli army, criticized the excessive media coverage of Israel. "The media," he claims, "is very focused on what is going on in Israel because it's 'under the light' where they can see what is going on."

In fact, added Wolf, during the 1988 American election year, media obsession with Israel and the intifada outweighed airtime coverage of our national election campaigns. "Quantitatively and qualitatively, media scrutiny of Israel verges on the ludicrous. Every Israeli wart is exposed, counted, and analyzed. The Arab world, in contrast, is given little coverage, and the reporting is generally innocuous. Such imbalance inevitably gives the public a distorted perception of events in the Middle East."

Aside from selective negative coverage of Israeli actions, Wolf said the media is guilty of outright exaggerations. For instance, according to Wolf as a consequence of the 1982 war with Lebanon, NBC reported that Israel had created 600,000 Palestinian refugees. The total Palestinian population of Lebanon was 500,000!

Journalists such as Mike Wallace, Peter Jennings and Theodore Stanger were cited by Wolf as being especially hostile to Israel. "When Mike Wallace wants to dig up a story on Israel, he finds an Israeli from the political extreme such as General Peled of the anti-Zionist camp."

Yet another problem for Israel, according to Wolf, is that "Israel has become the moral playground of the world. Israel is constantly being held up to some imaginary lofty ideals, and reproached because 'the dream' is dying." Israel bashing has unfortunately become a popular sport in America and on American campuses, added Wolf, a development which has serious implications for the future of Israeli images in the media.

Panelist Mohamed, presenting an Arab point of view, sees a well organized Jewish lobby in America, compared to the Arab population which has difficulty in bringing their story to the American people. In Mr. Mohamed's view, Western opinion is almost exclusively shaped by pro-Israeli positions while terrorism, oil, and Islamic fundamentalism seem to define western media images of Arabs.

"When Israelis carry out successful raids, these raids are characterized in the media as admirable acts of precision and heroism rather than acts of terrorism. On the other hand, Palestinian resistance to Israel is seen as terrorist and sympathy for the Palestinian cause is interpreted as anti-semitism."

Journalists covering the Arab world do not know the language, said Mohamed, do not understand the culture and the Islamic religion is regarded as strange and frightening. He, too, called for a more critical approach to the media, saying we must "make sense out of nonsense."

Mike Sigman, speaking as a media person, started with the basic premise that bias in the press is unavoidable. "There is no such thing as an objective reporter. Speed, space, time, and reporter's background and bias all shape the way in which a story is reported."

Sigman said readers need to be aware of reporter bias and the limitation of information available to the reporter. Responding to Wolf's criticism of selective negative media coverage of Israel, Sigman defended the example of the widely circulated intifada picture story of three armed Israelis beating an unarmed Palestinian.

"It was the most important story of the year, and still is a very compelling story. It showed Israelis behaving in ways which we don't think Israelis should be behaving, no matter what the reasons are."

The panelists may have had different perspectives, but there was consensus: Readers and viewers need to maintain a critical perspective with regard to the media!

Things Are Not What They Seem To Be

By MORRIS J. AMITAY

In such a rapidly changing world, it can be a mistake to rely on traditional assumptions and conventional wisdom in interpreting the news. Often, things are really not what they seem to be, or used to seem to be for that matter.

Take, for example, the welcome release of the remaining U.S. hostages in Lebanon for which the Iranian government was profusely thanked. This was a "goodwill" gesture, the pundits declared, signalling a desire for rapprochement with the United States — right? Dead wrong — unless you believe in the incredible coincidence that at the very same time we reimbursed Iran \$289 million for military equipment previously impounded and also lifted restrictions on some \$7 billion in frozen Iranian assets. Also, coincidentally, with the return of its own three hostages, Britain agreed to a \$4.2 billion trade and arms deal with Iran.

Another example of a false assumption involves the mounting concern over Iraq's continuing quest to acquire nuclear capabilities. Given this situation, one would imagine that U.S. satellites in the Middle East would be criss-crossing Saddam's realm (and Kadafi's Libya for that matter) seeking out their secret nuclear, chemical and biological facilities. Wrong again. We now learn that these "spies in the skies" are instead busy searching for signs of new residential construction in the so-called West Bank and counting mailboxes.

Actually, this follows logically from another failing of conventional political wisdom. This holds that unlike his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, George Bush had no fixed ideological goals. More uncharitably, some have also described this as a lack of any strong convictions. But the *New Republic* reminded us that this is not the case. To prove this, it quoted GOP

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Israel's Major Papers

Often newspapers are quoted as sources for news in *The Jewish Voice*. For those readers who aren't familiar with the Israeli newspapers, the following list is provided by "For the Record," a digest of news and views from Israeli newspapers, published in Washington, D.C.

Yediot Aharanot — Israel's most popular daily paper. Weekday circulation approximately 400,000. Independently owned and published in the afternoon.

Ha'aretz — Israel's "elite" morning paper. Owned by the liberal Schocken publishing family. Circulation 60-80,000.

Hadashot — Afternoon tabloid also published by the Schocken family. Circulation 70-80,000.

Ma'ariv — Another popular afternoon paper. Circulation about 140,000. Part of publishing empire of the late Robert Maxwell and currently facing a possible change of ownership.

Davar — Labor Party's morning newspaper. Circulation 25-30,000.

Al Hamishmar — Morning paper of Mapam (a left-of-center political party). Most subscribers live on kibbutzim. Circulation about 10,000.

Jerusalem Post — Formerly aligned with Labor Party views. It was taken over last year by a much more hawkish and conservative group. The only widely circulated English-language daily.

Jerusalem Report — Weekly news magazine in English edited and written by Israelis. Editor Hirsh Goodman and other staff are *Jerusalem Post* alumni who founded *Jerusalem Report* last year after the *Post*'s ownership changed.

Candle Lighting FEBRUARY

14TH — 5:18 PM

21ST — 5:26 PM

28TH — 5:33 PM

DELAWARE'S SYNAGOGUES

ADAS KODESCH SHE'EMETH

(Traditional)

Affiliation:

Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America
Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive
Wilmington
762-2705

Rabbi Nathan N. Schorr
Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Gewirtz
SERVICES

Friday — 8 p.m.

Saturday — 8:45 a.m.

Sundays, holidays — 8 a.m.

Monday through Friday — 7:30 a.m.
Monday through Thursday — 5:45 p.m.

BETH SHOLOM

CONGREGATION OF DOVER

(Conservative)

Affiliation:

United Synagogues of America
Queen and Clara Sts.
Dover
734-5578

Rabbi Moshe Goldblum
SERVICES

Friday — 7:30 p.m.

Saturday — 9:30 a.m.

Discussion of Torah Portion takes
place

following Saturday morning service.

CONGREGATION BETH EMETH

(Reform)

Affiliation:

Union of American Hebrew Congrega-
tions
300 Lea Blvd.
Wilmington
764-2393

Rabbi Peter Grumbacher
Assistant Rabbi Sarah Messinger
SERVICES

Friday — 8 p.m.

Saturday — 11 a.m.

Morning Minyan — 7:55

Monday through Friday

A Torah Study group is led by the
rabbi on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

CONGREGATION

BETH SHALOM

(Conservative)

Affiliation:

United Synagogues of America
18th and Baynard Blvd.
Wilmington
654-4462

Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz
SERVICES

Friday — 8 p.m.

Saturday — 10 a.m.

A Torah discussion is led by the rabbi
during Saturday morning services.

MACHZIKEY HADAS

CONGREGATION

(Traditional)

B'nai B'rith Building
800 Society Blvd.
Claymont
798-6846

Friday — 8 p.m.

Saturday — 9 a.m.

TEMPLE BETH EL

(Reconstructionist)

Affiliation:

Federation of Reconstructionist
Congregations & Havurot
301 Possum Park Road
Newark

366-8330

Rabbi David Kaplan
SERVICES

Friday — 8 p.m.

Saturday — 10 a.m.

A Torah study group meets
on Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Synagogues

American Jewish Committee Survey —Finds Rabbis at Odds

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

NEW YORK (JTA) — Almost one-third of Reform rabbis in the United States still oppose the patrilineal definition of Judaism, which was accepted by the movement as policy in 1983.

And nearly a fifth of Orthodox rabbis now support it, even though it runs counter to halacha, or traditional Jewish law.

Those are among the surprising findings of a recent survey of attitudes held by rabbis and rabbinical students representing the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist movements of Judaism.

The survey was conducted for the American Jewish Committee by Samuel Heilman, a professor of sociology at Queens College and the author of "Defenders of the Faith:

Inside Ultra-Orthodoxy," to be published shortly.

Heilman surveyed 525 rabbis and 138 rabbinical students from the four movements, querying them on a wide range of issues, including conversion and the role of halacha in modern life.

The results revealed that the movements, particularly the non-Orthodox, are far from monolithic in their positions.

They also show that Orthodox rabbinical students are consistently more conservative and particularistic than their own rabbis.

This, said Heilman, could indicate that the Orthodox rabbinate will be less pluralistic in the future than it is now, but could also merely be a reflection of the "quasi-monastic life" that some yeshiva students live.

These students' attitudes may

change once they "get into the real world of being a rabbi, where they have to make compromises," he said.

The answers to questions on patrilineal descent show that it continues to be a controversial issue nearly a decade after the Reform movement decided to recognize the children of Jewish fathers and non-Jewish mothers as Jewish.

The Reconstructionist movement also recognizes such children as Jewish. But the Orthodox and Conservative movements adhere to the halachic definition, that Jewish identity is passed matrilineally, or through the mother.

A majority of rabbis from all of the movements, except for the Reconstructionist, agreed that the patrilineal decision was one of the most divisive acts in contemporary Jewish life.

Even 52 percent of Reform rabbis agreed with this characterization. And when asked if they favor or oppose the patrilineal definition, 32 percent of Reform rabbis said they oppose it. When Orthodox rabbis were asked

the same question, 70 percent said they oppose the patrilineal definition. But a surprisingly large minority of 19 percent said they favor it.

The Orthodox rabbis are saying that "they understand that defining Jews by patrilineal descent may have some benefits," said Heilman.

And in the Reform movement, he said, "patrilineality isn't by any means a closed issue, and the rabbis might, at some point in the future, reassess the decision they've made."

The survey also found that rabbis and rabbinical students differ on the status of converts.

Almost all of the rabbis said they accept conversions by an Orthodox beit din, or religious court, but only one quarter of the Orthodox rabbis said they would accept halachic conversions not conducted under Orthodox supervision.

Almost none of the Orthodox and few of the Conservative rabbis would accept any kind of non-halachic conversion.

Almost all of the Orthodox re-
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Dvar Torah

Parshat T'tzaveh

A Remarkable Omission

By NEHEMIA POLEN

It was first noticed 600 years ago by Rabbi Jacob ben Asher, in his commentary Ba'al ha-Turim al ha-Torah, that Moses' name does not appear in parshat T'tzaveh. The name of this central person of the biblical narrative figures prominently in each Torah portion from the moment of his initial appearance at the beginning of the book of Exodus, so its absence in this week's parsha is indeed conspicuous.

To explain this phenomenon, R. Jacob ben Asher calls attention to Exodus 32:32. The children of Israel have just worshiped the golden calf, and G-d threatens to destroy them and make Moses the new patriarch of a "great nation." Moses insists that G-d must forgive their sin, "and if not, erase me, please, from Your book which You have written."

Moses, in offering to surrender his life and his very spiritual identity for his people, uttered a curse, which, willy-nilly, left its impression, achieving at least partial realization — as we find here in parshat T'tzaveh, where his name is absent.

This explanation sees the absence of Moses' name as punishment. But why should Moses have been punished for his breathtakingly courageous defense of the children of Israel, at the risk of his own spiritual destiny? And why was parshat T'tzaveh specifically chosen for the omission of Moses' name? For the answers, we must look at a trend in the biblical narrative up to this point.

The Torah is, in large measure, the story of the rivalry of brothers: Cain and Abel, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers. This pattern is broken by the relationship of Moses and Aaron. Aaron, the older brother, is overshadowed by Moses, the leader and teacher of the people. Yet they both work together without a trace of rivalry or animosity. Indeed, the Midrash suggests, it is precisely because Aaron bore no jealousy toward Moses that he was chosen to be high priest.

Why parshat T'tzaveh? Because T'tzaveh tells of Aaron's elevation to the high priesthood, specifies the garments he was to wear as high priest and — most significantly — describes the dedication ceremony installing Aaron and his sons as priests. The irony is that the officiant for this dedication service was none other than Moses himself.

While his name indeed does not appear in the parsha, he is the one being addressed throughout. He is the one charged with carrying out all the details of the service. He is the priest for this rite. The very first word of the parsha — "Vatah" — "And you" — is addressed to Moses. Nowhere is Moses addressed more directly than in the parsha from which his name is absent.

The time when Moses rose to the defense of his people by asking G-d to remove his name from His book was a moment of supreme self-sacrifice, a surrender to martyrdom not of the body, but of the soul. At that moment Moses was rewarded with a kind of immortality which transcends the mere remembrance of his name. Moses was granted a parsha of the Torah in which his name would not be mentioned, but in which his presence would be most acutely felt, in which he alone would serve as high priest.

Moses' wish that his name be erased was indeed fulfilled, but its fulfillment was transformed into a blessing. Here we encounter the silence not of absence and forgetfulness, but of presence and remembrance. Such is the reward of those who surrender themselves in service to G-d and G-d's people.

Nehemia Polen is associate dean of students and assistant professor of Jewish thought at Boston's Hebrew College, and rabbi of Congregation Tiferet Israel in Everett, Massachusetts. He is translating the works of the Hasidic master, Rabbi Kalonymos Kalmish Shapiro. This column was provided by the National Havurah Committee and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Reconstructionists Issue Paper on Gay Life

By MARILYN SILVERSTEIN

Jewish Exponent

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) — In a historic move, the leaders of Reconstructionist Judaism have issued a comprehensive policy statement calling for complete, unconditional equality for homosexuals in Jewish life.

The 39-page statement, "Homosexuality and Judaism: The Reconstructionist Position," was unanimously adopted by the 40-member board of directors of the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot on January 19.

It affirms that "kedushah," or holiness, resides in committed homosexual relationships, and welcomes lesbian and gay individuals and families as full and equal members of congregations and havurot, "with the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexual individuals and families."

The position is consistent with, but more comprehensive than, that of the Reform movement, which, since 1977, has passed an extensive array of resolutions calling for full equality for homosexuals in civil law and congregational affairs, but has not formulated a detailed position paper.

In contrast, the centrist Orthodox movement, while offering compassion and counsel to homosexual Jews, has traditionally considered homosexuality a violation of halacha, or Jewish law, and thus forbidden.

The Conservative movement, which also defines itself as a halachic movement, is currently struggling with the issue through its committee on Jewish law and standards. Last year, the movement's Rabbinical Assembly adopted a resolution calling for nondiscrimination against gays and lesbians in civil law and welcomed them as members of Conservative congregations.

In effect, the Reconstructionist movement's sweeping position paper on homosexuality is a unique document in the 3,000 years of Jewish history.

Current statistics show that between 7 percent and 10 percent of the American Jewish population — 350,000 to 500,000 people — is gay or lesbian, according to Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, executive director of the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot.

The report addresses head on the traditional rabbinic, biblical and medieval prohibitions against homosexuality, said Liebling.

"We understand those prohibitions as the product of a particular historic period," he explained. "They did not have an adequate understanding of human sexuality at that time."

The report rereads those prohibitions — including the Book of Leviticus' injunctions against sexual activity between men — in the light of contemporary scientific understanding.

"From our reading of science," Liebling said, "homosexuality is a fundamental constituent of somebody's psychological makeup, not something that can be changed, not a segmented part of their life. It's integral to who they are."

That being so, the rabbi said, Reconstructionist values "lead us to respect gay and lesbian people as people."

This week, "Homosexuality and Judaism: The Reconstructionist Position" was placed in the hands of all 160 members of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Liebling said. The Reconstructionist rabbis are expected to discuss and vote on the position paper during the association's convention, planned for March 22 through 26 in Philadelphia.

LOCAL

Karen Venezky Appointed to County Council

By REBECCA FALKOWSKI
of The Jewish Voice

Balancing the needs of people with different interests and backgrounds is something the new New Castle County Council appointee knows a lot about.

Karen Venezky of Newark, who was recently appointed to the Council, said balancing needs and priorities are a definite must for her new position and Hadassah gets much of the credit for her qualifications.

"I am a political novice in terms of government, but I am very familiar with working with the demands of the largest volunteer women's organization in the United States — Hadassah," said Venezky.

Venezky currently serves on the National Board of Hadassah as the chairperson of the Department of Communications. She works two days a week in New York City at that job.

Venezky is the first Jewish person to represent New Castle County on Council, but not the first woman. "There have been three women who have even served as president of the Council."

Venezky replaced Mike Purzycki as the seventh council member, Purzycki retiring after nine years for business reasons.

"I was surprised, and of course delighted, to be appointed," said Venezky referring to her lack of experience in the political arena. "I was



Karen Venezky, New Castle County Council (Photo by Eric Fine)

told when I was called that I would be welcomed as 'a breath of fresh air.' "

Her first vote as a member was on

the controversial plan for proposed construction next to state owned Buena Vista on Route 13. "I feel that

New Jewish Voice Editor Selected

Rebecca C. Falkowski has been named editor of *The Jewish Voice*, announced Robert N. Kerbel, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, last week at a Federation Board meeting.

An experienced writer and editor, Falkowski joined the Federation staff January 6 on an interim basis for the January publications of the *Voice*.

Susan Paiken, the Editorial Committee Chairperson for *The Jewish Voice* commented, "We feel that Becky is eminently qualified, and her commitment to the editorial policy and structure of the paper assures us that the current news content of the *Voice* will be maintained. We look forward to working with her."

A native of Arkansas, Falkowski moved to Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, last fall after living in Dover, Delaware for 17 years.

Prior to joining the *Voice* staff, she was a co-owner in Penngraphics, a graphic design studio, and Postscripts, a stationery and gift shop, in Dover for seven years.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas with a B.A. in journalism, Falkowski has worked as editor of *The Dover Post*, a weekly newspaper, and as a communications associate for the United Way of Dela-

ware. She has also been a freelance writer for the Delaware Division of Libraries and Kent General Hospital.

Falkowski has been active and held board positions over the years in various organizations including Hadassah, American Association of University Women, Congregation Beth Shalom of Dover, Women Business Leaders (Dover) and Friends of

Old Dover. She has also been active in citizen diplomacy projects.

Kerbel said, "I look forward to working with Becky. She was employed because of her newspaper and writing skills. She is well aware that we are not planning to make any major changes in the philosophy of the paper, which is to be a true community newspaper. She has already made some suggestions to further improve the paper to meet those needs."

"As a reader," said Falkowski, "I watched the paper evolve over the years from a community bulletin to a full-fledged newspaper." She believes the paper can serve as a coalescing and empowering force in the community. "I would like the *Voice* to be a vehicle to help create more of a sense of community through sharing our lives and reactions to world and community events as they occur. I am glad to be part of the team and look forward to meeting and working with members of the community."

Falkowski resides in Chadds Ford with her husband, Tony Falkowski. She has three children, Emily, Jeff and Ryan Halpern, and three stepchildren, Brandt, Erica and Lara Falkowski.

Rebecca Falkowski
The Jewish Voice Editor

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Buena Vista is too beautiful a place for a conference plan such as proposed to be built next door. Little did I know that as the only council member voting against the project that a few days later some county officials would be implicated in a scam connected to the project."

The most pressing issue facing the New Castle County Council, according to Venezky, is continuing the seven year old commitment of the Council to planned growth. "I believe there should be a balance of open spaces and development, parks and flourishing businesses both make the county attractive."

Also committed to a good library system, Venezky, who has done de-

sign work through her graphic design agency "Artworks" for the past nine years, refers to a Prentice Hall report showing that availability of good libraries is a key component in rating "the best places to live in the country."

In addition to her work with Hadassah, Venezky has served on the Grand Opera House board of trustees, the national board of HIAS and on the marketing committee for the Jewish Federation of Delaware, the American Cancer Society and the Newark Day Nursery.

She and her husband, Richard Venezky, a professor at the University of Delaware, have two children, Dian and Elie, both college students.

JFD Allocations

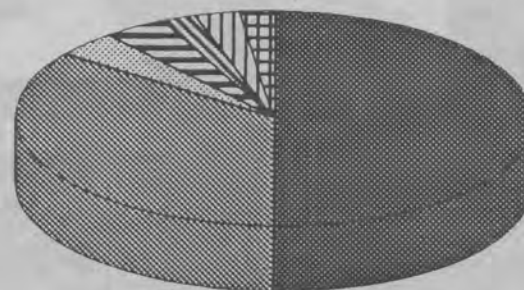
1990 & 1991 Campaign Recapitulation

	Final 1990	Final 1991
Campaign Achievement	\$ 1,288,003	\$ 1,288,422
Campaign Shrinkage	15,000	25,000
Balance for Allocation	1,273,003	1,263,422
Unused Allocations	7,726	4,324
Total Available for Allocations	\$ 1,280,729	\$ 1,267,746

Allocations

Local Agencies & Program	1990-91	1991-92
Albert Einstein Academy	32,686	26,775
Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School	30,725	25,980
Hillel Counseling - U of DE	28,978	28,520
Jewish Community Center	97,750	87,083
Jewish Family Service	30,247	25,710
Judaic Workshop	1,150	1,008
Ki Tov	1,432	1,368
Milton & Hattie Kutz Home	180,505	102,000
Lower Delaware Coordinating Committee	5,269	4,675
Newark Coordinating Committee	4,635	5,058
Jewish Voice	23,417	19,501
Jewish Community Relations Committee	5,698	4,845
Jewish Federation — Administration, Programs & Campaign	341,240	303,237
Endowment Fund	2,757	12,604
Sub Total - Local	793,309	646,464
CJF Dues	—	25,305
National & Overseas Agencies	43,170	14,930
United Jewish Appeal	450,000	450,000
Project Renewal	—	30,000
Capitol Maintenance	23,350	50,000

Total	\$ 1,309,729	\$ 1,216,699
Local Soviet Resettlement		49,675
		\$ 1,266,774



Local Agencies — 50%
United Jewish Appeal — 35%
Local Soviet Resettlement — 4%
Capital Maintenance — 4%
Project Renewal — 2%
Miscellaneous — 3%
Shrinkage — 2%

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LOCAL

Hillel Director at U of D Appointed

By PRISCILLA W. SIEGEL
Voice Reporter

Hillel's new director of the University of Delaware, 25-year-old Michael Balaban, states that he was brought up under unusual pressure — the pressure to make a difference. "My parents did not pressure me to study any particular discipline. The only pressure I ever felt was that as an individual I had to perform in order to make a difference."

Balaban was introduced as the new director at this week's board meeting of the Hillel Counselorship in Newark. The Hillel Counselorship is the Jewish Federation representative on campus to serve the social, cultural and religious needs of the students.

Raised in Somerset, New Jersey, Balaban was throughout his growing up years involved with Young Judea, with summers spent in Young Judea camps where he worked himself up from camper to assistant director. But the defining event in establishing Balaban's dedication to Jewish and Zionist causes was his one month Bar Mitzvah tour of Israel. In fact, when he returned to camp from this tour, Michael manifested his first activist tendencies with a sit-in when the camp rabbi was under threat of being fired for encouraging emigration to Israel.

Balaban continued his Zionist activism throughout high school, working for the Soviet Jewry movement, and attending and speaking at rallies. After high school graduation in 1984, he went to Israel for a busy and varied eighteen months. He studied at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, lived and worked on a kibbutz and a Yemenite moshav, and taught English in an Ethiopian absorption center where he also served as house counselor in a mental hospital. He went on to serve in a liaison capacity between the Israeli army and the

U.N. peacekeeping forces, and finally Balaban was given Israeli army basic training, "an experience," he asserts, "I would not like to repeat."

Balaban came back to the United States to begin studies at the University of Delaware, where his father, as a Delaware student before him, had served as president of Hillel. On campus, Michael founded the "Friends of Israel," a student group now known as the Delaware Israel Political Action Committee (DIPAC).

For his junior year, Balaban was once again Israel bound. This was during the Israel-Lebanon war and Michael, who has Israeli citizenship status, was drafted ostensibly for civilian work in Lebanon to mediate between the U.N. forces and the Israeli army. As a "civilian" worker, he was issued a rifle and sent out on patrols. Dodging mortar fire was not something he had bargained for and after a requested court hearing, Balaban was taken out of the war zone. After completing his junior

year at Hebrew University, he returned to Delaware for his senior year, where he met his future wife, Lynne. Committed to egalitarian ideals, Balaban became active in the student minority council, women's groups, and the pro-choice movement. But he remained dedicated to Jewish causes. He helped stage protests against Soviet Jewish policies at the Soviet embassy, and was arrested for his participation. As an experienced protester, he joined a group of ten to train other protesters.

Though Balaban received a B.A. in psychology and a B.S. in biology from the University of Delaware, he decided that these disciplines were not for him. He took a position as national director of Hamag Shamim (a Zionist oriented organization similar to Hillel), which under his leadership grew from 200 to 1700 members. Under sponsorship of this organization, he helped produce a series of 2 to 20 minute "trigger" films

Continued on 23

JFD Check from Foundation



Sadie Toumarkine, on behalf of the Harry Cohen Foundation, presents a check for \$15,244.87 to Dr. Steven A. Dombchik, president of Jewish Federation of Delaware, for the foundation's 1991 contribution to JFD. Since its founding, the Harry Cohen Foundation has contributed \$2,157,788 to the Delaware federation. The check was presented at the January 30 JFD board meeting.

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LOCAL

From Wilmington to Israel:

Another Glimpse into the "Homeland"

By SETH M. BLOOM

Although visiting Israel last month was my fourth trip to the Jewish

homeland in the past seven years, never before has the concept of "Jewish homeland" been so alive for me.

While I've always intellectually understood that "Israel is there for me and Jews throughout the world," this past trip I witnessed that Israel is truly there for close to 400,000 immigrants who have chosen to make Israel their Jewish Homeland.

As a participant on a United Jewish Appeal Mission to Israel January 14-24, I had a special opportunity to actually feel a country grow. Certainly the country has grown in population with close to 400,000 immigrants since 1989. This surge of immigrants reflects approximately 10% of Israel's overall population. Israel has also grown physically with construction of new apartment buildings and new infrastructure throughout the country. But for me, perhaps most striking was how the country seems to have grown spiritually. It seems as if wherever we went, the topic on everyone's mind was immigration and Israel's commitment to truly being the homeland of all Jews.

There seems to be a myth about Israelis — which I too believed before this most recent trip — that they don't volunteer their time and they certainly don't volunteer their funds. This couldn't be further from the truth. Everywhere throughout the country, there was a sense of excitement, optimism, and pride conveyed by the Israeli's which crossed all socioeconomic, religious, and political boundaries. This "ruach" — spirit — felt like a contagious condition that

was spreading like wild-flower. For example, there are neighborhood associations that are very actively matching newly arrived immigrant

families with "adopted" Israeli families and as of now, there is a waiting list of Israeli's anxious to adopt an immigrant family. Furthermore, there

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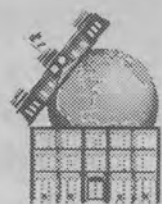
During a recent trip to Israel, Seth Bloom (center), JFD Assistant Director, visits with Ethiopian Jewish families who arrived in Israel in May 1991 through Operation Solomon.

are fundraising drives, soliciting contributions successfully from a country which already is taxed by the government in excess of 50%.

While visiting Ksear, a small community of approximately 300 native born Israeli and newly arrived Soviet families, our group toured the day care program at the community center funded by UJA. I was fascinated

that when we asked the director of the program how many of the children were new immigrants, she had to look at each child and recall who were their parents in order to count the immigrants. There was no distinction made by the children, nor any separatism. As far as they're concerned, they're all Israeli.

Equally exciting was visiting a "cara-

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At a JDC vocational school funded by American Jewry through UJA, a former Soviet teacher, who arrived in Israel in 1980, introduces basic computer skills to a newly arrived Ethiopian

van site" established last May after the dramatic overnight airlift of 16,000 Ethiopian Jews. Although the Soviet Jews participate with "direct absorption" (find their own apartment, job, etc.), because the Ethiopian Jews needed to be introduced to basic standards of living in a modern world (e.g. how to use a bathroom), they have been placed in absorption centers to facilitate a smooth entrance into Israeli society. Their progress is truly amazing. I overheard the children speaking Hebrew while playing. The adults are responsible for maintaining their own homes which include a full kitchen, indoor plumbing, and electricity. One of the highlights of the trip was immediately after visiting the caravan site, we toured a vocational school sup-

ported by UJA which is providing computer training to Ethiopian and Soviet Jews living in Israel less than one year.

While the numbers are impressive — 343,930 Soviet Jews since 1989 and close to 20,000 Ethiopian Jews — they just can't adequately convey the wonders as well as the challenges facing Israel through this truly historical time in Jewish history. The wonders are simply unlimited and unavoidable. Street signs are now in Hebrew and Russian. Israel stands to become the most advanced country in the world with the highest percentage per capita of University educated professionals.

The challenges however are equally omnipresent. Unemployment is now

Continued to 17

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

High School Students Sound Off On Politics

By HOWARD ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Reform Jewish high school students give mixed reviews to President Bush's domestic policies as well as to the Reform movement's own positions.

Some 250 teen-agers from around the country spent last weekend here discussing Reform views on contemporary political issues, including AIDS, abortion and the environment.

The students lobbied members of Congress to support \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees to Israel and to co-sponsor a religious liberties bill about to be introduced by Sens. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah).

They also debated two recent Supreme Court cases: a pending case challenging the constitutionality of a Minnesota hate crimes law, and a 1990 case giving states more leeway in enacting laws that incidentally infringe on religious liberties. It is that latter decision that the Biden-Hatch bill, dubbed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, is designed to circumvent.

Asked to assess the current state of domestic affairs, Mark Sparberg, a junior from Oceanside, New York, said, "I think President Bush is more concerned about making the rich richer and the poor poorer."

Sparberg said he would "like to see a Democrat get back into office in '92, do more AIDS research, and keep Roe vs. Wade alive and help the environment."

Roe vs. Wade is the 1973 Supreme Court case that recognized a woman's constitutional right to an abortion.

Gary Legum, a senior from Norfolk, Virginia, expressed support for Bush's policies that limit aid to minorities and the poor.

"I think there are some people who just need to help themselves, there's really nothing we can do," Legum said. "We spent 25 to 30 years pouring money into affirmative action programs and they haven't gotten us anywhere."

The Watts section of California is "worse off now than it was in the riots of '65," Legum said. "We need to find something else. I think that some-

thing else is self-help, stressing family values in the ghetto for the underprivileged."

Mike Fedock, a senior from Baltimore, said the president and Congress should be trying to enact new clean air and water legislation. But "I think they can't do a lot more because they're all afraid of saying something against the big businesses" that give them campaign contributions, Fedock added.

Scott Katzenell, a senior from North Brunswick, New Jersey, called Bush "one of the best foreign policy presidents."

But on the domestic front, Katzenell said that while Bush and Congress are equally to blame for economic problems, "unfortunately the president gets most of the blame because he's one person, he's easy to blame."

Many of the students also had strong views about the Reform movement's stands on the issues.

Traci Maultasch, a sophomore from Monroe, New York, said she agrees with the movement's advocacy for "more rights" for women.

Also, Reform Judaism is "more relaxed" and explains its positions "better than the traditional" branches of Judaism do, Maultasch said.

"It applies the old biblical laws to modern-day society and that helps us to see what our religion thinks about our decisions," she said.

"We believe in helping the homeless," she added. "I think the government wants to do that, it's just that they can't find a good way to do it yet."

Sherri Silverstein, a sophomore from Oradell, New Jersey, said, "a lot of the Jewish views are a little bit too liberal for me." She said that while much of the government's domestic programs are aimed at the disadvantaged, "a lot of the liberals are forgetting to think about the average person too," especially the middle class.

Seth Orkand, a freshman from Westport, Connecticut, said he is "strongly pro-choice and the Reform movement is also."

"The government and the Supreme Court right now are making a big

Continued on 20

"Peace Bloc" Organizing

By DAVID LANDAU

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Three left-Knesset factions have begun to organize for the June 23 elections, in which they will run on a single list as a "peace bloc."

The new group, consisting of the Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam and the Center-Shinui, was formally founded Monday at a brief meeting at the CRM offices in the Knesset.

It was chaired by CRM leader Shulamit Aloni, whose place at the head of the joint list was unanimously agreed to.

The dovish parties, which hold 10 seats between them in the soon-to-be defunct 12th Knesset, agreed to form working groups to choose a name, to set up a joint campaign staff and to decide on how the joint Knesset list will be made up.

They have agreed to preserve the present proportions. The CRM has five seats, Mapam three and Shinui two.

But the new bloc also wants representation for Arabs, women and

possibly a religious dove. They would also like to enlist a major literary figure for their maiden run in the Knesset.

The first 15 slots on the new list are considered realistic, according to current opinion polls.

The three parties will preserve their independent identities and separate organizational structures. Each will select its own candidates and the joint working group will then place the individuals on a common list.

Another working group will draft a platform or election manifesto.

Observers say that will not be a simple matter considering the broad differences, for example, between the liberal Shinui and doctrinaire socialist Mapam on social and economic matters.

Yossi Sarid of the CRM suggested that the platform simply say that while there is no agreement on some issues, the bloc was formed in the interests of promoting the peace option for Israel.

An "Insult to Gandhi" India Honors Yasir Arafat

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

WASHINGTON — Presentation to PLO chairman Yasir Arafat of the first Indira Gandhi Award for International Justice and Harmony in New Delhi (January 21) was denounced as "grotesque" by Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"Yasir Arafat is the world's leading terrorist, a killer who sent hired assassins to murder Jewish children and Olympic athletes and who continues to this day to dispatch terrorists into Israel to attack innocent civilians," Hoenlein said. "Honoring

him for his contribution to 'international justice and harmony' is grotesque."

"Moreover to give Arafat the Indira Gandhi Award — a woman whose name is associated with that of the Indian leader who abhorred violence and abjured terrorism — insults the memory of Mohandas K. Gandhi and mocks the political history of India."

Noting Indira Gandhi was herself assassinated by a terrorist, Hoenlein

asked, "does the Indian Council for World Affairs have any idea what it is doing by paying homage to the inventor of modern terrorism? The announcement is particularly baffling because of the government of India itself is experiencing terrorist attacks in the Kashmir and other areas. This award to the international criminal Yasir Arafat will only encourage further PLO attacks. It is a major defeat in the international war against terrorism."

Soviet Immigration Continues to Plunge

By HUGH ORGEL

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Immigration from the republics of the former Soviet Union, which last month reached its lowest level in two years, is continuing to plunge, and aliyah officials here disagree sharply about the causes of the slowdown.

Some blame deteriorating economic conditions in Israel. Others cite the expectation of improved conditions in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the other successor republics of the old Soviet Union.

The reasons seem to vary with the officials' political affiliations. But none denies that a crisis is at hand.

Only 975 olim arrived in the first nine days of February, compared to about 2,000 during the same period last month. And January itself was the worst month for aliyah since the Soviet Union flung the emigration gates open wide in the fall of 1989.

While 6,000 former Soviet Jews came to Israel last month, 4,300 went to the United States. The concern here is that if this trend continues, soon more Jews will be going to America each month than to Israel — a return to the situation that existed for most of the 1980s, when the Soviet authorities tightly rationed exit visas and the United States was willing to admit all Jews who got out as refugees.

This fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, around 50,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union will be allowed to enter the United States as refugees. Just over half that number arrived during the 1991 fiscal year, compared to some 195,000 Soviet Jews who arrived in Israel during the same period.

American Jewish officials point out that the decline in aliyah and the increase in U.S. immigration are unrelated, since those refugees now coming to the United States applied well over a year ago, long before the Israeli plunge began.

Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz and Uri Gordon, director of the agency's Aliyah Department, both staunch Laborites, blame the decline on the Likud government's failure to take measures to create jobs for the newcomers.

Government officials concede that unemployment may be a "minor" deterrent to aliyah. But they insist the main reason fewer Jews are coming from the former Soviet republics is the expectation of improved living conditions where they are.

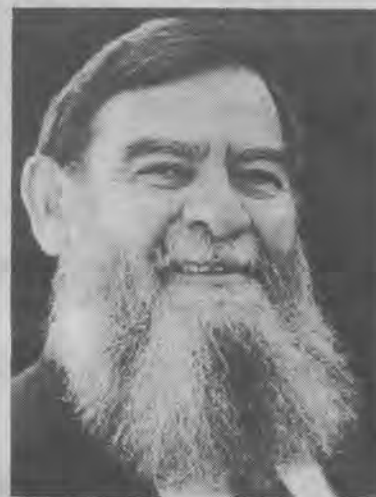
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NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

In Middle East Peace Negotiations Diplomacy May Not Be What It Seems

By DAVID LANDAU

JERUSALEM (JTA) — If diplomacy is an area where nothing is quite what it seems to be, Middle East diplomacy is a prime example.

The two-days of multilateral discussions of Middle East regional issues last week in Moscow seem to have left barely a ripple on the surface of international affairs.

Media interest was minimal, compared to the massive coverage of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid back in October or even the two rounds of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks that followed in Washington in December and January.

But the news media are not always the best judge of significance. In fact, many astute observers see the Moscow conference as the major milestone so far of the Middle East peace process.

Granted that without the Madrid conference, peace talks between Israel and its immediate neighbors would not have materialized. Granted, too, that without the bilateral talks Israel held separately with Syria, Lebanon and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the question of regional cooperation would be hardly relevant.

Still, the moment at which the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and a dozen other conservative Arab states entered the conference hall in Moscow alongside the Israeli delegation was a watershed in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The last time Zionism attempted to reach an accord with the Saudi kingdom was in the era of Chaim Weizman and the Emir Feisal. An old photograph of the two of them together has for decades seemed to project a lesson in missed opportunities.

Now, for the first time since those bygone days, representatives of the two sides were photographed together in Moscow.

Their speeches from the rostrum were predictably at cross-purposes. The Arab ministers dwelt on the Israeli settlements and "occupation"; the Israelis on development and cooperation.

But in the corridors, far from prying camera lenses, delegates from Israel, Oman, Qatar and other previously hostile places actually exchanged small-talk.

That may not seem like much in this epoch of collapsing "evil empires." But for the Arab-Israeli conflict, it is a very great deal indeed.

When, the next day, the same Saudis, Omanis, Qataris and other Arabs made a point of attending the

sessions of the various working groups with Israel, seasoned observers on the Israeli side felt that a physiological barrier of monumental proportions was crumbling before their eyes.

Plainly, the conservative Arab states were honoring the pledges they made to the Bush administration in the dark days of the Persian Gulf War.

Nevertheless, they acted in Moscow in a way that compromised for-

long negotiations of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe were a case in point. They were largely ignored until, in a flash of hindsight, it suddenly dawned that they significantly contributed to the end of the Cold War.

Bilateral talks, by contrast, make for more dramatic media fare. But there, too, the suggestion is that things are not as they seem.

The Syrian and Israeli delegates were barely civil to each other at the bilateral talks in Madrid and Washington, which appeared to achieve nothing concrete.

But if a banner headline recently in the Histadrut newspaper Davar is correct, the bilateral meetings are a charade to keep the public in the dark as to what is really happening.

The Davar story claimed that Syria and Israel are engaged in secret diplomacy over an interim settlement involving a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The newspaper's correspondent in New York, Samuel Segev, a veteran journalist with credible contacts in the intelligence community, cited "reliable U.S. diplomatic sources" for his information.

In the same edition, a strategic expert at King's College, London was quoted as saying that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Syrian President Hafez Assad were "like Siamese twins" in terms of their co-inciding interests.

The expert predicted back-channel negotiation between them, proceeding separately from, though simultaneously with, the ongoing bilateral negotiations.

If, on the other hand, the atmosphere at the bilateral talks is true indication, no breakthrough is in the offing. The Syrians, after nearly 30 hours of meetings, still refuse to return the Israelis' courteous "Good mornings," according to Israeli negotiator Yigal Carmon, an adviser on terrorism to Shamir.

Of course, the polite Israelis may be deliberately courting rebuffs for their negative impact on the Syrians' image.

Similarly, Syria's demonstrative absence from the opening of the multilateral talks in Moscow appear to point to still-unremitting recalcitrance on the part of Damascus.

But Segev's story pointed out that the original Israeli-Egyptian negotiations were conducted in secret, by the late Moshe Dayan and Ha'an Tohamy in Morocco, while in the public arena no concrete indication of the historic breakthrough was evident.

Analysis

ever their decades-long boycott of "the Zionist entity."

Although their ministers still gagged on the word "Israel" in their speeches, they did not even bother to mention the Palestine Liberation Organization. And all, to a man, vowed their commitment to a peaceable resolution of the conflict.

No one in Washington is naive about the problems in Middle East peacemaking. But policy-makers there, as in European and other world capitals, believe that the prospect of regional cooperation, funded by the world's wealthy nations, can in time soften resistance among the Arab and Israeli protagonists and significantly speed progress in the bilateral negotiations.

The multilateral conference in Moscow was not without snags. Syria, Algeria and Yemen did not attend. The Palestinians boycotted the event when the enlarged delegation they sent, breaking ground rules agreed to by all sides before the Madrid conference, was refused accreditation by the Russian hosts, backed by the United States.

They had hoped for support from the world media in their bid to seat diaspora Palestinian representatives at the multilateral conference and working groups.

But they found their public relations task much harder than in Madrid, where thousands of journalists hung on every word uttered by Palestinian leaders Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi. The two returned to Jerusalem, claiming a success of sorts. The United States and Russia pledged to support the presence of diaspora Palestinians in the working groups on refugees and on economic development when they reconvene this spring. But Israel says it is opposed to their inclusion.

Multilateral negotiations, by nature, are drawn out and boring from the media standpoint. The decades-

Israeli Arab Arrested For Spying

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An Arab citizen of Israel, arrested in Cairo, this week allegedly confessed to spying for the Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence service.

Actually, three Israeli Arabs are suspect. Farres Mussarti, a 41-year-old resident of Ramia, and his daughter, Faya, 17, were also arrested while visiting Cairo last week and reportedly confessed to espionage after several days of questioning.

Mussarti's son, Majed, 21, who returned to Cairo from Libya on Sunday, reportedly turned himself in

to Egyptian authorities.

The case is the first since Israel and Egypt signed their peace treaty in 1979 in which Israeli nationals have been detained by Egypt as suspected spies.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry refused to comment on the allegations, but is reportedly furious over the way the Egyptians have handled the matter, leaking information to the media but refusing to inform Israel through official channels of what is going on.

No Israeli representative has been allowed to meet with the detainees.

Mussarti and his wife, Sara, par-

ents of four children, live in a poor neighborhood of Ramia. They previously lived in Kafr Sava, where Farres had been a blacksmith and did odd jobs.

Last year, they sold their apartment in the village and moved to the Ramia house, owned by Farres' parents. They used the proceeds of the sale to take the entire family on an extended tour of Egypt, where they "stayed with friends," Sara said in an interview last week.

A month ago, Sara said, she tired of traveling and returned home with

Continued on 22

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Still Has Human Rights Concerns

By DAVID FRIEDMAN
WASHINGTON (JTA)—The level of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip declined sharply last year, but the U.S. State Department continues to be concerned about Israeli human rights practices in the territories.

Richard Schifter, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, made this assessment last week as the State Department released its "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1991."

The report, which covers more than 150 countries, is required by law to be submitted to Congress each year.

The report found that the Israeli government last year began reducing

some of the restrictions on Palestinians in the territories. But it also said human rights violations continue to occur.

One major concern raised in the report is Israel's practice of deporting Palestinians, which the United States considers illegal under international law.

In January 1991, Israel deported four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who it said were leaders of Hamas, a fundamentalist Islamic group. The current dispute over Israel's plans to deport 11 Palestinians is not mentioned, since this occurred shortly after the new year began.

The report said that since the outbreak of the intifada in 1987, Palestinian violence has been met by "severe Israeli countermeasures." But

the level of incidents was significantly lower in 1991.

"The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces and intra-Palestinian violence was significantly lower than in 1990," the report said.

Specifically, 27 Palestinians were killed by Israeli security forces in 1991 and 140 killed by other Palestinians.

However, there was an increase in the number of Israeli soldiers and civilians killed in the territories during 1991. Twelve Israelis were killed and at least 124 injured last year. Israeli civilians killed four Palestinians in 1991.

"Sentences given to Israelis for killing Palestinians are generally much lighter than sentences handed down to Palestinians convicted of killing either Israelis or Palestinians," the report said.

The report also noted that there were fewer demolitions of Palestinian homes and sealing of houses and rooms in 1991. "According to press reports, security authorities demolished 55 houses and sealed 62 for security reasons," the report said. "Israeli authorities reported 43 demolitions and 58 sealings."

The figures for 1990 were 94 demolished and 87 sealed.

"The number of administrative detainees of torture, abuse and mistreatment of Palestinians detained in prisons and detention centers, despite Israeli laws prohibiting torture."

"The major controversy between Israel and the United States over the territories on human rights and other issues results from their different interpretation of international law," the report said.



Kahane Sentence Delivered



Supporters of Israeli extremist Meir Kahane protest outside of a New York court house January 29 as they wait for the sentencing of El Sayyid Nosair on assault charges related to the death of Kahane on November 5, 1990. Nosair, acquitted earlier of killing Kahane, was found guilty of shooting two other men the night Kahane was killed and was sentenced January 29 to 7 1/3 to 22 years in prison.

Iranian Stamp Condemned

By TAMAR LEVY
GENEVA, (JTA) — The United States has joined Israel in condemning an Iranian postage stamp that depicts a young boy hurling a rock through a blue glass window with a Star of David.

It is Iran's contribution to the 1991 International Day of the Child.

The stamp is the most egregious example of state-sponsored religious intolerance, John Burgess, the U.S. delegate to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, said at its annual meeting here.

The stamp, which evokes memories of Kristallnacht in Nazi Germany 54 years ago, encourages intolerance and violence against members of the Jewish faith, the U.S. envoy told the commission Monday.

"It violates both the 1991 declaration and a 1984 resolution of the Universal Postal Union, which called for the avoidance of stamp designs that are offensive to people or countries," Burgess pointed out.

"Such activity should be deemed completely unacceptable, particularly for a member of the Human Rights Commission," he said.

Meanwhile, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Yitzhak Lior, wrote to the commission's chairman on the subject and asked that his letter be circulated as a commission document.

"It is particularly distasteful that such a stamp was issued to commemorate the U.N. International Day of the Child, so that an event dedicated to fostering the respect for children's rights was perverted by the

Iranian government into a manifestation of its wish to imbue their children with hatred," Lior wrote.

He also said the incident further demonstrated "the absurdity of a delegate from Iran," Cyrus Nasseri, "having been elected this year as a vice chairman of the Commission on Human Rights."

King Hussein Condemns Violence By Palestinians

By MICHEL DI PAZ
PARIS (JTA) — Jordan's King Hussein has spoken out against the recent wave of armed violence by Palestinians against Israeli civilians in the administered territories.

In an interview published recently in the French daily *Le Figaro*, Hussein said, "There may be a minority willing to torpedo all peace efforts, but we should not allow this minority to achieve its aim."

The king pronounced himself in favor of democracy and human rights in the Arab states. "Democracy must exist. Human rights must be respected. I hope the Arab world, as a whole, will understand that it has to go in this direction, that these reforms are mandatory," the king was quoted as saying.

He expressed hope that the Arab world would evolve like Europe has done in recent times, so "that the walls of fear, suspicion and doubt will fall down."

"I know that saying this, I make myself rather unpopular," he admitted. "But I am sure I am echoing the feelings of the Arab people."

Hussein deplored the use of religion as a political tool. "Islam is not the property of a small group. No one can pretend to have the monopoly of truth," he said.

The king said he had tried in vain to convince the Syrians to participate in the multinational conference on Middle East regional issues that opened Tuesday in Moscow.

Syria and Lebanon, which participated in bilateral talks with Israel in Washington, boycotted the Moscow conference. Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and several other Arab countries attended. A Palestinian delegation whose makeup is different than that which attended the talks in Madrid and Washington went to Moscow but refrained from immediately joining in the talks.

Decision Reversed

NEW YORK (JTA) — Yeshiva University, following an uncharacteristically loud student outcry by its generally quiescent Orthodox student body, has announced that it will continue to award graduate degrees in Jewish studies.

"The reactions of concern had positive results," said Y.U. President Norman Lamm, reporting that \$1.5 million had been raised for the Bernard Revel Graduate School, and that a board has been organized to raise another \$1.5 million.

The Y.U. board had decided in December that the school should replace its master's and doctoral degrees in Jewish history, Jewish philosophy, Bible, Semitic languages and Talmudic studies with a non-degree program in Jewish thought.

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BRIDAL GUIDE



It Simply Can't Be Simple, Even the Second Time Around

By SHEILA DYAN

Special to The Jewish Voice

It was to be a small, intimate affair ... just the immediate family and a few close friends...

It was, after all, a second marriage for us both. There would be no white gown, not even a veil. There would be no formal procession down the aisle. There would be no strains of "Here Comes the Bride."

There would be a quiet ceremony in the Rabbi's study ... a quiet dinner with those nearest and dearest to us ... a little chamber music ... and then a quiet honeymoon. This was, after all, a serious event as well as a joyous one.

We had both been unmarried for a number of years, so we had had a lot of time to think about what a marriage should be ... or at least what we wanted it to be ... and if we wanted it to be.

Finding in each other an element of resolution to the chaos of the universe — a kind of peace — we were aware of our similar feelings and needs, but we were also aware of our differences.

We are incredibly different, he and I, and although every person is an individual, with an individual perspective, rationale, and manner, we found that years add yet another dimension to individuality: habit. Whatever we are, the older we get, the more so we are. Change becomes difficult.

We made promises to each other: to understand ... to compromise ... to adjust. I had to give up my dream of a full-time career; he had to give up

his other girlfriends. I had to get used to extensive travelling, sometimes without much notice; he had to get used to once again being tied to a home with children.

I attempted to gain new insights into football, basketball, hockey, and (yawn) baseball; while he attempted to gain new insights into Masterpiece Theater, orchestra concerts, and (gasp!) the ballet. He learned to play Scrabble; I learned to shoot craps.

And we broke promises to ourselves: I had once promised myself that I would never remarry until my children were grown and I was financially independent; he had once promised himself that he would never remarry.

We vowed to change for the right reason: love — that inexplicable feeling that can motivate one to change.

Years and living had enriched and depleted us. I could no longer be a blushing bride, nor he a naive groom, so a private ceremony in the Rabbi's study seemed appropriate. That is, it seemed appropriate to me.

Of course our children, grandchildren (he had two), parents, sisters and brothers should be there, I agreed.

"But what about those who were as close, and closer to us?" he asked quietly. Of course, I relented, they should be there, too.

We made lists.

As I looked over my list, thoughts of those omitted came to mind like snatches of a favored forgotten song. Wouldn't he love to see us get married? And wouldn't we want to share

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Second Time Around

Continued from 14

it with her? And wouldn't they feel left out if they weren't there ... all those who love us ... had seen us alone ... and shared in the joy of our finding each other?

But as I glanced at his list, visions of Time's Square on New Year's Eve, the zoo at Easter, Penn's Landing on the Fourth of July exploded in my mind.

"It should be a party!" he cheered. "But not a circus," said I.

We made another list ... together. Almost three-hundred people, and this time I recognized all of the names.

Perhaps we could trim a bit. After all, some were just business acquaintances, so ... And, yes, said I, I'm sure your favorite teller at the bank would love to see you get married; seeing is believing, after all, but ... And my hair-stylist, too, would love to see me get married; he'd been telling me for years that I should settle down, but ...

We made another list.

There it was: two-hundred nearest and dearest.

"It'll be a great party!" said he. "As long as we can keep it intimate, I'll adjust," said I, already adjusting my definition of intimate.

THE CEREMONY ... HIS AND HERS ...

It was a beautiful spring day. Adorned with garlands of fresh flowers and warmed by the bright rays of sunlight filtering through the trees, the ritual wedding canopy, signifying our marital home, provided an intimate alcove for the garden ceremony. Surrounding the canopy, the two-hundred guests all but melted into the grass and flowering shrubs. He and I saw only each other.

I saw him and wondered if I was really there. He saw me and wondered how he got there. I kept choking back tears of excitement and joy. He kept choking.

It was to be a light afternoon meal, starting with just a few tasty hors d'oeuvres while we circulated and greeted our guests. No lavish banquet of a cocktail hour, we decided — too showy. No reception line — too formal.

I understand the baby lamb chops and the hot pasta at the cocktail hour were wonderful, although we didn't get to eat any, because, even though there was to be no formal

reception line, we had to hold each and every one of those dear to us, near to us, if just for a moment, to let them know that we were as glad they were there, as they were that we were.

For an entree, we thought veal would be lovely — so much lighter than beef.

The creamy wine sauce was a must, according to the caterer. And, of course, the hollandaise on the asparagus was *de rigueur*.

We felt a green salad would be in good form. True, said the caterer ... as would a fresh fruit compote. We couldn't decide which.

Both were refreshing, we were told by our guests.

I put my back up and my foot down at the idea of a flaming dessert. There was to be no "dessert ceremony": no drum roll ... no spotlights ... no swans carved out of ice ... no flames!

There were, at least, no flames.

The music would be lovely: intimate chamber music before the ceremony, played on a guitar and melow, flute-like recorder. But then there was the matter of the hora. After all, what's a Jewish wedding without the hora.

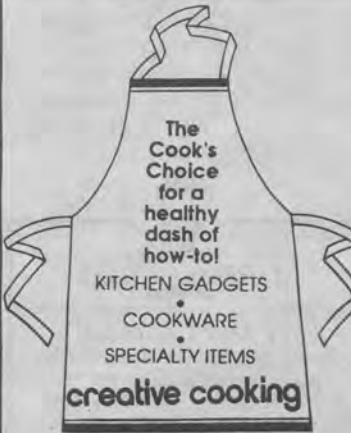
Everyone commented that the six-piece band was wonderful and played a very live hora, indeed.

Of course there had to be pictures, but we wanted no formal photographs. A photographer begging for formal poses would be so intrusive.

No one complained about the lights of the videotape camera.

After the wedding ... after the honeymoon (to a quiet, sunny island for three weeks ... just the two of us ... along with his daughter for a week, my sister and brother-in-law for a week, and his "ex" — ex-business partner, that is — and his wife for a week) ... when we settled into our new life, just the two of us watched *The Wedding* videotape ... along with my son and daughter, and his son, two daughters, son-in-law, and grandchildren. And we agreed that even three-hundred people would have been wonderful, as would formal photographs, and even a flaming dessert. We may have been older and wiser when we had made this serious commitment to each other, but we made it because we were in

love, and so our wedding was a joyous event as well as a serious one ... a celebration as well as a ceremony. Strike up the band!



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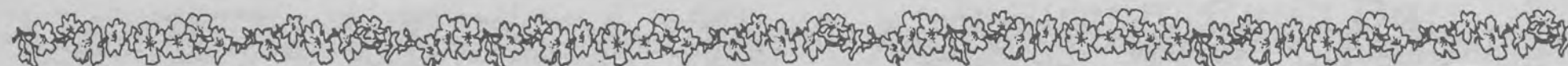
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Homeland

Continued from 8

at 10% and rising. Even for those that have secured employment, a high percentage of them are under-employed. Tensions are expected to escalate as more and more Arab workers are replaced by new immigrants. Other tensions are mounting because of the focus the Israeli government and world Jewry has devoted to the immigrants at the "expense" of equally needy Israeli citizens.

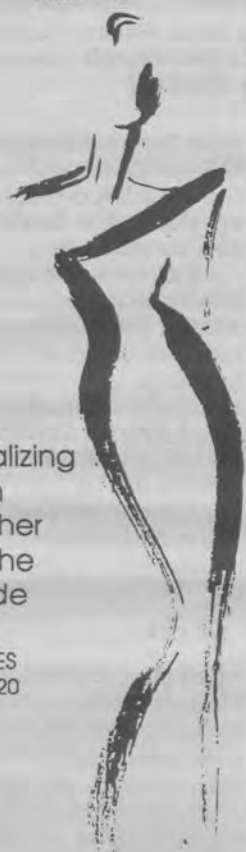
Even with all of the challenges facing Israel, which are certainly overwhelming when considered all at once, I left the country feeling more pride and hope than ever before. In addition to truly understanding the significance of "Jewish homeland," I recognized the permanent partnership between Israel and world Jewry. Throughout the trip, my understanding of partnership went beyond the agencies and services that are funded by contributions made to annual Jewish Federation campaigns. I felt the

partnership with 20,000 Ethiopian Jews who wished me a "Shabbat Shalom" and I felt the partnership with the former Soviet physician who was working on the production line in a factory who couldn't tell me enough about his happiness to now live as a free Jew in the Jewish Homeland.

I can't wait to go home again.

Seth Bloom is the Assistant Director of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

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Inside Israel

Israel Looks Over New Ambassador

By CARL ALPERT

The arrival in Tel Aviv of a new American ambassador inevitably stimulates nostalgic memories of previous incumbents in that post.

The first, appointed by President Truman in 1948, was James G. McDonald. For over ten years he had been involved in activity seeking to rescue Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, first as League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and then as Chairman of President Roosevelt's Advisory Committee on Refugees. In 1946 he was a member of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine. He came here as an open and avowed Zionist. No one could have understood Israel's cause better, but Jerusalem soon learned that for that very reason the State Department tended to discount his advice and minimize the importance of his reports.

The stated objectivity of some of those who followed him, for all their lack of warmth for Israel, was therefore often seen as better serving the diplomatic function. One ambassador followed another. Some remained

for short periods of time; others had prolonged tours of duty. Among the names that come to mind are Ogden Reid, Walworth Barbour, Thomas Pickering.

At least two of those in the line of succession established a close relationship with Israel. One was Samuel Lewis, who served from 1977 to 1985. He and his wife Sallie became deeply involved in local affairs and were regarded with affection. He transformed the embassy from a rubber stamp to a source of initiative. His close relations with Premier Menahem Begin played an important part in the ensuing peace initiative with Egypt.

Another ambassador who left a deep impression on Israel and Israelis is the man who has just departed, William Brown. He and his wife Helen followed in the Lewis tradition, mingling with Israelis and making friends. Of him too it was said, as with McDonald, that Washington considered him to be too partisan in favor of Israel. Nevertheless, his will be a hard act to follow.

His successor, William Harrop, has

had almost no experience in the Middle East. His many years in the American foreign service were spent either in administrative posts in Washington, or in Africa. He was a consul in Zaire, an ambassador in Guinea (population 95% Moslem), ambassador in Kenya and then ambassador to Zaire.

In none of these positions was he ever projected into the news, and some consider him a gray and colorless character. His views on Israel are unknown. For that matter, technically an ambassador is not supposed to have views. His very neutrality is considered an asset in serving his nation overseas. Some say that he was chosen for the Tel Aviv post precisely because the State Department wanted a man who would take orders, and be a conduit for the line determined in Washington, rather than one who would involve himself on a personal basis.

His is not an easy task at this moment when there is a strain in American-Israeli relations. Locally he is being looked over critically, as government and press seek to get a line on him. Friends in Washington warn that he is not a social personality, and is unlikely to follow in the pattern of Lewis and Brown. On the other hand, it is reported that since he learned of his impending appointment he began studying Hebrew. He already knows French and Italian.

A few Israelis did cross paths with him during the years. Roi Reshef in Haaretz reports that some of them



The new United States ambassador to Israel, William Harrop, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reach out to shake hands January 21 during their first meeting in Shamir's office. (Reuters)

recall Harrop's calling on Israel to show greater flexibility toward the Arabs. After the outbreak of the intifada he is said to have voiced support for the national aspirations of the Palestinians. One report quotes him as saying to the Jews: "As a people who have suffered in the past, you should understand and take into consideration...."

Two Israel ambassadors who served in Zaire give favorable reports, and believe he will be friendly to Israel. Yet it is recalled that on occasions of tense relationship between Zaire and the U.S. Harrop

more than once threatened that the U.S. would suspend its aid to that country unless certain reforms were introduced. Was he only a spokesman for Washington?

All who know him pay tribute to his administrative and organizational abilities. For Israel, however, he remains something of an enigma. Only the weeks and months to come will tell what kind of man he is, and how he will serve the common interests of the U.S. and Israel.

Bill Brown has been succeeded by Bill Harrop. One local wit refers to this as fresh billing.

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Still Waiting for McDonald's....

By NECHEMIA MEYERS

Israelis have long been waiting for McDonalds and the Messiah, but neither — despite periodic reports about their impending arrival — has so far show up in the Holy Land.

Yet even without the famous golden arches of McDonalds, people in this country don't lack for hamburgers. There are already several chains in operation, with pride of place going to a local firm, Burger Ranch. Started by former South Africans, it now has 49 franchised outlets with a total annual turnover of some \$25m. They all purvey roughly the same array of goodies, though some are kosher and others are not. This means that only in the latter can you get a milk shake with your hamburger.

No one chain dominates the pizza field here. However, Pizza Hut, the Pepsi subsidiary which started up in Israel only a few months ago, is doing particularly well, as is another recent arrival from the States, Domino Pizza.

The success of culinary imports notwithstanding, Middle Eastern foods remain the first choice of young people, who in the Jewish State, as elsewhere, determine the economic success of fast-food outlets. So far most of those who sell shashlik, kebab and falafel are individual entrepreneurs, with just one stand or restaurant. But franchising has also come to this sphere, particularly with the appearance of the Nargila chain several years ago. It already has some 30 outlets, and new franchises, still being handed out, cost an average of \$75,000 each.

Nargila has come to the fore primarily because of the public relations flare of its founder, Nari Avneri. Among other things, he has garnered reams of free publicity by drap-

ing nude women all over his menus (though he also has standard menus for older patrons).

Now Avneri is going to see whether the same formula that works in Israel will also be effective in the U.S. His first outlet will be in New York, and then, all being well, he will open up elsewhere in the States. Burger Ranch, moving in the opposite direction, will soon to be merchandising its products in Szekszard, Hungary, not far from the border with Yugoslavia. Burger Ranch General Manager Barry Scop says that his company has taken a deliberate decision to out-race the major hamburger firms to the Hungarian hinterland, rather than choosing Budapest, where most of the international giants have already begun doing business.

Still more far-sighted (or foolish) is Israel's Apropro Coffee House chain,

which plans to establish branches in Moscow. Apropro owner Nahi Laor is attracted by the fact that a relatively small initial investment is required. He points out, for example, that a chair costing him \$100 in Israel can be obtained for only three or four dollars in Russia.

Laor is aware of the fact that the average Russian is too poor to buy his cream cake and cookies; after all, even McDonalds, which not long ago had thousands of impatient customers constantly lined up outside its Moscow branch, is now selling "only" 25,000 hamburgers a day. But Laor feels certain that there are still enough well-to-do Muscovites (and foreigners) to ensure the profitability of his coffee houses.

Moreover, he may even pull in a few Israelis who have come to Moscow for a McDonalds burger.

Direct Talks...By Phone

The Israeli telephone company, Bezek, is unilaterally opening one-way direct telephone communication with 12 Arab countries, according to a December 10 report in the *Jerusalem Post*. Previously, all calls to the Arab world were via a private phone company that patched calls through England.

The *Post* report disclosed that Jordan, Qatar, and other Arab states protested that the one-sided Israeli initiative violated agreements of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), but said these charges were denied by officials of both the Israeli Ministry of Communications and Bezek.

In an editorial the day after its report, the *Post* commented that the

initiative "is a beginning, and if the Arab countries are sincere about their professed desire for peace, they should quickly reciprocate." The paper also reported that Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein, on learning of the new service, picked up the phone and called his brothers in Amman. "It was a big surprise to see that we can call Arab states directly," Hussein said. Asked if he saw the move as a confidence-building measure, Hussein replied, "We can look at this as a step forward, but we want other important steps."

(For the Record, January 1992)



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Announcements/Events

Former NASA Scientist to Speak at JCC

Chabad-Lubavitch of Delaware announces an upcoming Melaveh Maikah (post Shabbat meal and celebration) Saturday night, February 29, which will take place in the Jewish Community Center at 8:30 p.m. Professor Velvl Greene of Ben Gurion University, Israel, is the featured guest speaker, and the title of his talk is "Science v. Religion: Is it still an issue?"

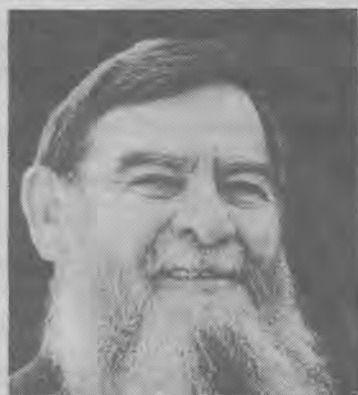
Professor Greene is a noted scientist, educator, and scholar, and holds the Elizabeth and Isaac Carlin Chair of Public Health and Epidemiology at the Ben Gurion Medical School of Israel. He is also the director of the Lord Jakobovits Center for Jewish Medical Ethics.

Prior to his aliyah to Israel in 1986, Professor Greene spent most of his academic career at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health. He was one of the original participants in NASA's exobiology program—searching for life on Mars—but is better known for his publications in the fields of nosocomial infection control, disinfection and sterilization, and environmental sanitation. He has lectured on and provided consultations services in these areas around the world. His courses in Community and Personal health at Minnesota enrolled more than 32,000 students. In 1983 he was awarded both a Bush Fellowship for excellence in undergraduate education and a Fulbright Fellowship for research and teaching in Israel.

The Melaveh Malka will also feature a musical presentation by Rami Goren of Imag-In Music.

Professor Greene will also be the

guest speaker at the Chabad House of the University of Delaware, Friday night (February 28) Shabbat dinner. His talk will focus on Assimilation as a Disease; Epidemiology, Prevention and Cure."



Professor Velvl Greene

Reservations can be made by calling the Chabad office at 478-4400, and the cost is \$9. A Havdallah service will precede the meal.

NCCJ To Honor Builders At Peoplehood Celebration

The Delaware Region, National Conference of Christians and Jews will recognize the work of six individuals at its annual Peoplehood Celebration Luncheon on Wednesday, February 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Wilmington.

NCCJ presents the Community Builders Award each year to honor individuals who are not widely known nor previously recognized publicly

for their service to those in need throughout Delaware. This year's award recipients are Gregory T. Chambers, Margaret E. McGee, Katharine A. Pearson, Patricia A. Saez, Barbara Y. Washam and Thomas E. Weyant.

The event is open to the public. Reservations are necessary. Tickets are \$15 and can be obtained by calling the Delaware Region, NCCJ office at 655-0039.

The special benefit performance will help support Jewish Family Service of Delaware programs such as family counseling, educational pro-

grams, programs for the elderly, their families and caregivers, and referral services for a range of support groups. The agency is also actively involved with resettling Soviet immigrants in the Delaware Valley.

Tickets for "The Price" start at \$50 each for Contributors. Sponsor

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experiences, from biblical times to the present.

The spring meeting will feature the book, *On Being A Jewish Feminist*, by Susannah Heschel.

For more information call Myrna Ryder at Jewish Family Services, 478-9411.

Israel Scholarships Available

Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher, chair of the Kutz Foundation Israel Allocations Committee, announces that applications may be submitted for financial assistance for those planning on educational trips to Israel in 1992.

The assistance is primarily for students in grades ten and up who are participating in summer programs organized by national and international Jewish organizations. Those

young people interested in more formal programs in Israel may also apply for financial assistance.

The deadline for applying is March 18, 1992 with decisions to be made in April. Write Rabbi Grumbacher c/o Israel Allocations Committee, 300 West Lea Boulevard, Wilmington, DE 19802, for forms and information, or call (302) 764-2393 and ask to speak to Kim.

Albert Einstein Open House

Parents of children who will be entering first to sixth grades are invited to attend an open house at Albert Einstein Academy to learn about the school Sunday, February 23 at 7 p.m.

Parents will have an opportunity to meet with staff members and current parents to learn more about school and how it integrates youngsters who begin their studies at the

school in the upper grades into the Hebrew program.

Albert Einstein Academy, for kindergarten to sixth grade, is the only Jewish day school in Delaware. It provides a full secular curriculum along with a Judaic studies program.

For more information contact Eleanor Weinglass, principal, at 478-5026.



Janice Booker

Author To Speak At Hadassah

Author Janice Booker will be the guest speaker at the Monday, March 9, meeting of the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center on Garden of Eden Road.

In her book, *The Jewish American Princess and Other Myths: The Many Faces of Self-Hatred*, Booker discusses the consequences of Jews "behaving like anti-Semites." She deals with JAP jokes, Jewish mothers and other stereotypes. Comics and writers who perpetuate these negative stereotypes are mentioned.

Booker, a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania, has her own radio program called "Speaker's Corner" which is broadcast on WIBF in Jenkintown.

The public is encouraged to attend. There is no charge. For more information contact Sandra S. Rotholz at 478-1671.

Announcements/Events

Russian Club

By
Mark Gayduk
and

Valentin Livanov

Вот и рухнула, развалилась у нас на глазах империя большевиков, так, к счастью, и не сумевшая до конца подавить и исковеркать в человеке стремление к свободе. Навсегда опущен кровавый флаг, семь десятилетий развешивавшийся над страной, которую мы называли Родиной. Но где она сейчас, наша Родина? Скоро и на картах будет невозможно отыскать ее, потому что превратилась она в мелкие разноцветные лоскутки, покрывшие бывшую великую страну, занимавшую шестую часть суши.

Предвидя эту ситуацию, мы и оказались за океаном, пройдя первые уроки эмиграции в Австрии и Италии или же, как вновь прибывшие, в очередях к кассам Аэрофлота. В Делавере нас приняли очень тепло и дружелюбно, старались помочь как могли, за что мы выражаем свою искреннюю благодарность. Постепенно наша эмигрантская жизнь входит в свою колею. Слава Богу, все сыты, у всех есть крыша над головой и даже автомобили. Дальше, как говорится, все зависит уже от нас самих. И нет сомнения, что рано или поздно все мы добьемся поставленных целей. Это показывает опыт предыдущей волны.

Но не хлебом единым жив человек. Нам необходимо вливаться в американскую жизнь и культуру, но одновременно мы не должны забывать, что мы родились, выросли и получили образование в стране Пушкина и Толстого, Чайковского и Рахманинова, Менделеева и Вернадского, Сахарова и Солженицына, что мы несем в себе частицы культуры, которая в состоянии обогатить любую другую. Да, трудно начинать жизнь практически сначала, приходится много работать, причем в условиях чужой языковой среды, что приводит к сильному физическому и психическому утомлению, и, кажется, что ни для чего больше сил не остается. Однако, если поддаться этому и отбросить от себя все, связанное с русской культурой, мы можем потерять то, чем мы все еще обладаем сейчас, но что все больше и больше стирается в нашей памяти. Это можно наблюдать на примере наших детей: они все меньше говорят по-русски и отучаются думать на этом языке, даже когда они на нем говорят. Одним из результатов этого может быть возникновение психологического барьера между родителями и детьми. У нашего старшего поколения тоже есть проблемы, не всегда ограничивающиеся языковыми трудностями или непривычностью американской кухни.

Безусловно, мы во многом разные люди, приехавшие из разных частей огромной страны, а теперь, как оказалось, даже из разных стран. Тем не менее у нас есть общий язык, общая культура и общие интересы. Мы нужны друг другу. Пришло время, когда нам необходимо создать свой клуб в Делавере.

Sound Off

Continued from 9

mistake by trying to overturn Roe vs. Wade because basically it goes against everything democracy stands for and it's a woman's right to choose," Orkand said.

David Raff, a junior from Silver Spring, Maryland, said his is "a lot more conservative" than the Reform movement. On abortion, "I see it as being pro-choice but I think the choice is made when they have sex. I don't think there should be that much freedom afterwards."

Kate Goldman, a sophomore from

Abington, Pennsylvania, expressed concern as well for the future of Judaism.

"My biggest concern is that Judaism in the years to come will not be prevalent in society at all and that people are not going to observe religion," she said. Today, many Jews "don't identify themselves as Jews."

Goldman also voiced concern about the Reform movement's impact on politicians, saying: "I think we're just another political group to them."

Sephardic Jewry Is Topic At Beth Shalom Meeting

Rabbi Marc D. Angel of New York's Congregation Shearith Israel, will discuss "The Sephardic Jews of the New World" on Sunday, March 8 as part of Congregation Beth Shalom's adult education series, "Scattered Seeds: The Expulsion of 1492 and the Survival of the Sephardim."

Widely recognized as a spokesman for Sephardic Jewry in the United States, Rabbi Angel is the chairman of the board of Sephardic House, a national institution dedicated to Sephardic history and culture and is a member of the board of the American Sephardic Federation. Dr. Angel is the author of two books,

The Jews of Rhodes: The History of a Sephardic Community, and *La America: The Sephardic Experience in the United States* as well as dozens of articles about aspects of the Sephardic experience.

Rabbi Angel is Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis and a member of the National Rabbinic Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal. He is active in a variety of Jewish communal organizations.

Dr. Angel's lecture will be delivered at 7 p.m. at the synagogue. Admission to the lecture, for those not already registered, is \$5.



Rabbi Marc D. Angel

Hadassah Awarded Series Grant

The Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah has been awarded a \$3,000 Enhancement Grant by National Hadassah for their Jewish enrichment program entitled "Journey Through Jewish Living" for the entire Jewish community, including Jews by Choice, as well as for non-Jews interested in Judaism. As part of the program, Hadassah will sponsor events focusing on Jewish history, culture, holidays and K'lal Yisrael.

"This is the first time that National Hadassah has awarded enhancement

grants. Recipients were chosen based on several criteria. Only a few of these prestigious Enhancement Grants were awarded to chapters throughout the United States and we feel very fortunate to be chosen as a recipient," stated Faith Brown, chapter president.

The first event in the series will focus on Jewish historical links on Sunday, March 22 with an Annapolis Jewish Heritage Tour. The two-hour walking tour explores Jewish settlement in the colonial era, the Jewish presence at the U. S. Naval Academy, the role of Jews in the commercial development of Annapolis and Jewish participation in Maryland government and education.

The series will also include a Jewish Holiday Tour on April 5. Five Jewish holidays will be highlighted and explained in the homes of Hadassah members. For example, one home will have the dining room table set for a Passover Seder, with seder plate and some of the holiday foods. Docents will supply information for each holiday. The program will be open to the non-Jewish community through various church groups.

The third event being planned will be a program of on-site visits in the community to educate members about the Jewish resources available

here in Delaware.

Rachel Cowan, a Jew by Choice, author of *Mixed Blessings* and a Reconstructionist Rabbi, will speak to the community on January 10, 1993 as the culmination of the series.

According to Brown, the chapter hopes the series will be successful in helping to integrate Jews by Choice into the world Jewish community, raise the consciousness of all Jews about Israel and Jewish life around the world, and to instill a sense of responsibility for K'lal Yisrael.

The committee, which consists of Faith Brown, Suzanne Grumbacher, Audrey Katz, Lelaine Nemser, Karen Weiner and Helen Winslow, chairperson, is developing other programs connected with the grant, such as a mentor program, for extending personal invitations to newcomers in the Jewish community to Jewish communal events, and a support group for Jews by Choice.

Anyone interested in helping with any of these programs or for more information on "Journey Through Jewish Living" can contact Helen Winslow, (654-2689), Faith Brown (475-8065) or VP Suzy Grumbacher (764-8050). For membership info contact Sandye Turnauer (571-1168) or Dina Lipschultz (762-4241).

Naches

Wishkoff

Ari Ross Wishkoff will become a Bar Mitzvah on February 15 at Congregation Beth Emeth. Ari is the son of Joan Kaye Wishkoff of Claymont and Harvey L. Wishkoff of Wilmington.

Ari is an honor student at Hanby Junior High School. He has been active in school theatre productions and last year performed with the Wilmington Drama League. He has also participated in the Naamans Little League.

Saran

Bruce and Robin Saran announce the birth of their daughter, Allison Elaine, August 23, 1991, in Chicago, Illinois.

Allison's grandparents are Robert and Nancy Kauffman of Wilmington and Leonard and Marcia Saran of Buffalo, New York. Her great-grandmother is Bess Walk of Pompano Beach, Florida.

Gorin-Cook

Paul Gorin, of Merion, Pennsylvania announces the engagement of his daughter, Rae Ilene, to Dr. Michael Joel Cook, son of Dr. Leonard and (the late) Rheva Cook, of Newark, Delaware. Rae is the daughter of the late Gloria Gorin.

Rae is Executive Director of Gorin Communication, specializing in advanced presentation training. Michael is a senior business and manufacturing consultant with the DuPont Company.

A June wedding is planned.

"Share A Shabbat" in Dover

Congregation Beth Shalom of Dover is sponsoring "Share-A-Shabbat" on Friday, March 6, for Jewish families throughout the Dover community.

Families who participate will be matched up with another family to

share a Shabbat dinner. A special family service will be held at the synagogue at 8 p.m. following the dinner.

For more information contact Sue or Chazz Salkin, 678-1175, or Linda or Dean Snider, 697-8885.

Jewish Singles Expo To Be Held in Baltimore

On Sunday, March 22, the JCYP Singles of the Baltimore Jewish Community Center and the Baltimore Jewish Times will co-sponsor a Jewish Singles Expo at the Hyatt Regency, Inner Harbor.

The keynote speaker will be Bob Berkowitz, author of the best-selling book, "What Men Don't Tell You But Women Need to Know." The one day conference will include brunch, three workshop sessions covering a variety of topics, a cocktail reception

with live music, an optional kosher dinner, and an evening gala with a live band.

Also featured will be "Meet Your Mate", an opportunity to publish a personal ad and receive a response during the Expo.

Jewish singles from as far away as Philadelphia and Richmond are expected to attend.

For more information, call Sharon Mond at (410) 542-4900.

Announcements/Events

Record Number from Delaware To Attend Young Leaders Conference

The Jewish community of Delaware will set a record at the Eighth United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Conference March 15-17, in Washington, D.C., with 22 young adults registered to attend, according to Steven L. Biener, chairperson, YLC Missions Incredible Committee.

More than 2,000 young Jewish leaders from every state in the United States are expected to participate in the conference which has the theme of "Our World at a Turning Point ... A call to Action."

Featured speakers addressing the conference include Israeli Minister of Defense Moshe Arens, Senators Phil Gramm (R-Texas) and Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland), and members

of the Knesset Avrum Burg and Chaim Ramon.

Arens will discuss Israel's defense posture in the nineties and the government's participation in a peace conference with its Arab neighbors.

Senators Gramm and Mikulski, who will be honored by the UJA Young Leadership Cabinets, will bring the audience up-to-date on proposed legislation affecting domestic and international legislation affecting the Jewish community.

During the conference, the Delaware contingent will also have the opportunity to visit with Congressman Tom Carper (D-DE), Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE), and Senator Bill Roth (R-DE) at private meetings in their Capitol Hill offices.

Attending the conference from Delaware are: Brian Abrams, Steve Biener, Seth Bloom, Lisa Cain, Matt Denn, Aaron Gobler, Stuart Grant, Suzanne Grant, Debra Kattler, Mark Kuller, Peter Kline, Lisa Levin, Craig Lewis, Frances Ratner and Roslyn Sherman, all of Wilmington; Also Marce Ross, Julia Scher, Michael Schwartz, Pam Sue Schwartz, all of Claymont, and Sharon Mittelman, Julie Sterner and Jerry Weinstein, all of Newark.

Registration for the Young Leadership Conference is open until February 26. For more information about the Young Leadership Conference contact Seth Bloom, Jewish Federation of Delaware Assistant Director, 478-6200.

Purim Dinner Planned for Russian Emigres

Beth Shalom Holiday Committee and the Jewish Federation of Delaware Acculturation Committee for New Americans are cosponsoring a Purim Family Masquerade Dinner for Russian emigres.

The dinner will be held Wednesday, March 18, at Congregation Beth Shalom. The program begins at 5:15 with the Megillah reading, 6 p.m. for dinner and 7:15 for the family masquerade.

The purpose of the joint endeavor is to provide not only an educational experience for the newcomers but a method of integration into the American Jewish Community.

Local synagogue members should watch for announcements in the mail regarding phone numbers for reservations. New Americans may reserve through LeLaine Nemser at Jewish Federation of Delaware, 478-6200, or contact Elaine Miller of Beth Shalom regarding details.

Dear Rachel

I wasn't trying to get pregnant, and it took me a few weeks to get used to the idea that number three was on its way. Even though I felt pretty sick (normal for me when I am pregnant), we rethought the kids' rooms, my job, childcare, all the things that would change when it arrived. I told my friends. In the eleventh week, my doctor sent me for a sonogram. The baby was dead, and I had a D & C the same day.

This baby wasn't expected, but it certainly was wanted. The doctor told me we could start trying again this month if we wanted. But that isn't the point. This baby is gone. It would have been my first summer baby. He or she would have been named after my aunt, who died last summer of cancer. We had the names picked out. Our lives were full before this happened; now they look the same but there is an empty space.

My family doesn't know what to say, let alone my friends. Everyone has a miscarriage story, which brings me no comfort at all. Other people who know what happened ignore the whole thing. Please let people know that I have lost something real; that my grief is real; that it will take time before I am ready to get pregnant and risk this pain again.

Mother of Two and A Half

Dear Mother,

A pregnancy isn't initially visible, but any mother can tell you that it is a very real experience. The hopes and fantasies about that child-to-be begin immediately. You have lost a world of potential, and it will take grief and time to recover. In the meantime, your relatives and friends need to let you know how much they care, and how much they want to understand what you are going through. Keep talking about your loss. Join a support group for parents who have lost a child; they know what you are going through.

There is a season for grieving, and a season for recovering from grief. Keep working toward that goal. If you need help, give Jewish Family Service a call.

Rachel

Send letters to "Rachel, c/o Jewish Voice, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810." Names and details will be altered to preserve your privacy.

Riding

Continued from 24

represents time and space; the sphere is the universe. The configuration is simply a symbol of our awareness of the human being's interrelationship with all that exists in the earthly and heavenly realms.

Riding's kabbalistic surge materialized into reality during her decade-long involvement with Robert Graves. The Fugitives introduced him to Riding's poetry. At the time, he was living in London, married to Nancy Nicholson, an artist and liberated woman. They invited Riding to join them in a *menage a trois* in 1926. Having abandoned Gottschalk some time before, she accepted the invitation. By then she had become a formidable woman with the literary perspicacity that in the short run fashioned Graves into a major poet and in the long run might have redirected the course of modern litera-

ture. What Riding needed was disciples to listen to her and spread her gospel.

In 1929 Riding recruited an impecunious minor Irish poet named Geoffrey Phibbs. She invited him into the *menage*. She fell in love with him but he rejected her for Nancy. Their farcical squabble had its near-tragic consequences. After swallowing a bottle of Lysol, which had no perceptible effect, Riding said to Phibbs, Nancy and Graves "goodbye chaps" and threw herself out of a fourth story window. Out of loyalty, Graves followed her from a third story window. He was only shaken up, but Riding severely injured her spine and pelvis and was unconscious for two days. After major surgery she recovered. She and Graves left England and settled in Majorca.

Once in Majorca, Riding announced she had died during her suicide leap and had been miracu-

lously reborn, with the truths of the universe vouchsafed to her. It would be her mission to propagate them through linguistic purification of the English language. All of this is to say that out of her temporarily inert substance, she created a golem whose purpose was to pursue the kabbalist's dream of restoring language to its pre-Babel purity.

Now she is gone. Was hers a wasted life? One is tempted to say yes, but then again, no. She left behind some remarkable poetry and some literary criticism that has illuminated the age. She dreamed the impossible dream, and though she failed, without eccentric geniuses like her our world would be more impoverished culturally than it is and a whole lot duller as well.

Joseph Cohen is Emeritus Professor of English at Tulane University and the founding director of the Jewish Studies Program.

Students Commended

Students recently commended by the Brandywine School District for their achievements on the 1991 National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Tests included:

Sharon Nemser, Brandywine High School, daughter of Lelaine and Stuart Nemser of Wilmington;

Sandra Rapkin, Brandywine High School, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Leslie Rapkin of Sharpley;

David Rappaport, Brandywine High School, son of Dr. Jay and Bryna Rappaport of Wilmington; and

Stacy Hochheiser, Mt. Pleasant High School, daughter of Ruth and Martin Hochheiser of Wynnwood.

The Jewish Voice incorrectly acknowledged the students in the January 24 issue for participation in the District's TABS Program.

Bakers Needed

Hamentaschen bakers are needed by the Sisterhood of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth.

Anyone interested in helping is asked to call Rhonda Lehr at 475-0573.

How to Lobby Training

The Young Leadership Cabinet Leadership Development Committee has scheduled its second leadership training session "How to Get Around the Hill ... Learn to Lobby", for Thursday, March 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center.

Keynote speaker will be Josef Blumenfeld, Mid-Atlantic Field Coordinator for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), who will present effective techniques and strategies to utilize when meeting with elected officials.

The training session is scheduled prior to the United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Conference March 15-17 in Washington, D.C.

Preceding the 7:30 p.m. session, a 5:45 p.m. dinner meeting will be held at Confetti's Restaurant to discuss plans for the conference.

For more information about the



Josef Blumenfeld

dinner and training session, call Seth Bloom, Jewish Federation of Delaware Assistant Director, 478-6200.

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Obituaries

Florence S. Levin

Florence S. Levin, 80, died January 19.

She is survived by a son, Irvin Louis Levin of Radnor Woods; a daughter, Roslyn L. Cummings of Channin; a sister, Helen Blum of Silver Springs, Maryland; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Her husband, Samuel Levin, died in 1988.

Arrangements were by Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Delaware Special Olympics, 501 Ogletown Road, Room 123, Newark, DE 19711.

Zelik Broshi

Zelik Broshi, 88, a dictionary writer and author of books on Judaic topics, died January 23 in Wilmington Hospital where he was a patient.

Mr. Broshi, formerly of Brooklyn, N.Y., had lived at the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, for two years.

Born in Stavisk, Poland, he came to the United States in 1939. Mr. Broshi had been a schoolteacher in New York City. He was also a lexicographer at YIVO, the Yiddish Scientific Institute in New York City, for 11 years, retiring in 1975.

He authored several books and many papers on Judaic subjects, his family said.

"He was a literary giant in a very small field," said his son-in-law, Robert Silber.

He was a member of Farband Labor Zionist Order, New York City.

He is survived by his wife, Miriam; a son, Aviad of Scarsdale, New York; a daughter, Amira Silber of Chalfonte; a brother, Max Granit of Albertson, New York; and three grandchildren.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Albert Einstein Academy.

Louis S. Zaret

Louis S. Zaret, 76, of 8 Colony Boulevard, Colony North Apartments, Wilmington, died January 24 of apparent respiratory failure in Springfield, Pennsylvania, where he was a patient.

Mr. Zaret had been manager of the shoe department of Bonwit Teller, Philadelphia, retiring about six years ago after more than 20 years.

He was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom and its Men's Club, Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society, Washington Lodge 1 AF&AM and Delaware Consistory, all in Wilmington. A member of Nur Temple Shrine, New Castle, he sold the most tickets for the Shrine's annual circus benefit for five consecutive years, family members said.

His wife, Frances M., died September 27. Surviving are a son, Stephen of Geneva, Switzerland; a daughter, Marcia A. Gordon of East Brunswick, New Jersey; and four grandchildren.

Arrangements were by Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Dana Farber

Cancer Institute, in care of Louis Zaret/Shriner's Fund, 44 Binney Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Clara K. Jacoby

Clara K. Jacoby, 76, of 1105 South Riverside Drive, Pompano Beach, Florida, formerly of Wilmington, died January 26 of complications from Alzheimer's disease in Mount Vernon Manor Nursing Home, Fort Lauderdale.

Mrs. Jacoby, born and raised in Wilmington, was a homemaker. She was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth and moved to Florida 15 years ago.

She is survived by her husband, I. Willis; a son, Samuel of Wilmington; a daughter, Barbara Adelstein of Long Island, New York; three sisters, Sylvia Shtofman and Blema Brill, both of Wilmington, and Bertha Kessler of Media, Pennsylvania; and four grandchildren.

Arrangements were by Chandler Funeral Home.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 Lea Boulevard, Wilmington.

Sylvia S. Kimmel

Sylvia S. Kimmel, 72, of Park Plaza Apartments, Wilmington, died February 6.

She is survived by her husband, Benjamin Bert Kimmel; a son, Morton R. Kimmel of Greenville; a daughter, Marlene Leff of Villanova; two brothers, Abe Alabaster of New York and Harry Alabaster of California; a sister, Shirley Caffin of Florida; and four grandchildren. She was also the mother of the late Judith Spiller.

Arrangements were by Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to either Delaware Hospice, 100 Clayton Building, 3515 Silverside Road, Wilmington, DE 19810, or to Sloan Kettering Memorial Clinic, 1275 York Avenue, New York, New York.

Morris Swinger

Morris Swinger, 85, of 3415 Franklin Place, Wilmington, died February 6 in St. Francis Hospital, where he was a patient.

Mr. Swinger served in the 172nd Army Infantry during World War II.

Wilmington Businessman Carl Cobin Dies at 79

Carl Cobin, a longtime downtown Wilmington businessman, died January 27 in St. Francis Hospital of a heart attack after being stricken at home.

Mr. Cobin, 79, who lived at 2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, The Devon, had been in the shoe business since 1939. He was president of Carl Cobin Shoes at Ninth and Market streets for 23 years until closing the store and retiring in 1981. Before that, he was president of Quality Store Inc. at Third and Market streets.

He was long active in programs for downtown Wilmington and was a founder of Central Wilmington Business Inc., the downtown retail and service organization created in 1970 as successor to the Downtown Wilmington Business Department of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce.

He was first a member of the Wilmington Parking Authority and

then chairman for five years.

He was vice president of the Kutz Home, a member of Congregation Beth Shalom and its men's club, and a former board member. He also served on the board of Ingleside Retirement Apartments.

He was a 1929 graduate of Wilmington High School, received a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware in 1933, and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1936.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Cobin; two sons, Bruce of Claymont and Malcolm of Chapelcroft; a daughter, Ellen Freireich of York, Pennsylvania; a brother, Judge Herbert of Forwood Manor; and five grandchildren.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Kutz Home Auxiliary, 704 River Road, Wilmington 19809.

Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington.

Bertha Keil Kessler

Bertha Keil Kessler, 84, of Martins Run, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, died February 11 in Martins Run Health Care Center.

Mrs. Kessler lived in Lancaster from 1933 to 1965 and later in San Francisco and Wilmington. She had been a high school teacher and a business partner with her husband in Lancaster.

She was a 1928 graduate of Beaver College and attended graduate school at Columbia University.

She was active with the boards of Lancaster Association for the Blind, Family Service of Wilmington, Hadassah and Beth Emeth Congregation in Wilmington.

Her husband, Jules, died in 1970. She is survived by two sons, Franklin of Jacksonville, Florida, and Mark of Haverford, Pennsylvania; a sister, Sylvia Shtofman and a stepsister, Blema Brill, both of Wilmington; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were by Chandler Funeral Home.

Contributions may be made to Allied Jewish Appeal, Philadelphia.



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Spying

Continued from 10

her youngest daughter, Hadije. Since then, she said, she has not heard from her husband or other children. She said doctors had advised her husband to stay in Egypt because the climate was good for his asthma.

But he was "only traveling," she has said repeatedly. The idea that he was spying was incomprehensible, she insisted.

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Not What They Seem—

Continued from 3

Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas who recently stated "I've known George Bush for twenty-five years and there is no subject he feels more adamant about than settlements". Now we know that the President may not care deeply about jobs, trade, the Republican Party or the war on drugs - but the thought of Jews living on the West Bank really gets to him.

Many commentators routinely allude to the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt as the basis for the future development of peaceful Arab-Israeli relations. But only last week the Egyptian Foreign Minister (whose country we should recall has \$7 billion in U.S. debts forgiven in grati-

tude for its relatively miniscule contribution to Desert Storm) warned the United States against providing Israel with any loan guarantees. This reflects more than the perpetuation of the "cold peace" between Israel and Egypt - it was sheer *chutzpah*. So much for Israel and its friends in Washington never uttering a discouraging word about the two billion dollars in aid annually voted by the Congress for Egypt.

And finally, there is the example of the uniform portrayal by the media of American Jews as demanding, aggressive and powerful - descending on Washington with "a thousand lobbyists" - to quote President Bush. The sad reality is that in recent

months, the pro-Israel community has shown itself to be more of a paper tiger, reacting feebly to the anti-Israel actions of the Bush Administration. In fact, the actions of some mainstream leadership actually have undermined a number of reasonable Israeli diplomatic and economic positions. It was a non-Jewish U.S. Senator who upbraided two of his Jewish colleagues for their lack of support for a maximum level of loan guarantees for Israel. Another pro-Israel legislator was heard to plaintively ask where was the Jewish community on this same issue? It seems as though there is a constant stream

of American Jewish leaders going to Israel to urge Shamir to be more amenable to Bush, thereby making their own lives easier. yet another delegation, this one from the American Jewish Congress was officially received in Saudi Arabia. One might (mistakenly again) assume this was a positive development. However, in recent years this particular organization has sought both greater publicity (and funding) by its criticism of Israeli government policies. Certainly no one questions their right as American citizens or Jews to express their views. But one long-time pro-Israel activist here in Washington described the A.J. Congress' spokesman in

Riyadh as "the Jane Fonda of the Jewish community - without the aerobics". The Saudis, demonstrating their growing sophistication, obviously chose well in permitting this particular group of infidels on their sacred soil.

It is an open question as to who will ultimately benefit from this cross cultural experience. But it makes more sense at this juncture in U.S.-Israel relations for American Jewish leadership to be focusing their energies closer to home educating more Americans and their elected officials on the realities of the Middle East, and why it follows that a secure Israel is in America's best interests.

Hillel

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designed to stimulate discussion about such issues as "What Is a Jew?" and "Is it Safe to be Jewish in America?"

Balaban is currently working on a co-authored book called *Is There Anybody Out There?* which is based on interviews with Jewish activists from the 60's whose efforts were directed toward Jewish causes. He wants to know what they were doing then and what they are doing now.

Balaban believes that his past experiences and research will be valuable in working with Hillel students in identifying positive role models such as Buber and Kafka who were thinkers, leaders, and philosophers," he observes.

Balaban has an ambitious agenda for Hillel. He wants to establish links with the inter-faith ministry and student minority groups in an effort to break down barriers between groups.

He believes it is important to educate non-Jews about how it feels to be a Jew in America and what issues such as assimilation and intermarriage mean to American Jews.

Michael Balaban is optimistic about a positive climate for Jewish students at the University of Delaware. "We now have Hebrew on campus, Judaica courses, and the Federation has become much more involved," he notes. "The time is right for the Jewish organizations on campus to grow and to prosper."

One of Balaban's major goals is to develop in students the feeling he has about himself: that they can change things — that they too can make a difference. Invoking the ancient "generation to generation" theme, Balaban says, "it is the hope that this student board will train the next student board to carry on in a tradition of activism."

Survey

Continued from 4

spondents, and most of the Conservative respondents, said Reform rabbis are often too quick to perform conversions to Judaism. And one-fifth of Reform rabbis agreed with that statement.

And when it came to bringing converts into their own families, even the liberal rabbis showed a marked preference for those converted under traditional standards.

Interestingly, more Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist rabbis approve of having Orthodox converts in their own families than Orthodox rabbis do.

More than one-third Orthodox rabbis said they would approve of their son marrying a Conservative convert, and more than one-quarter said they would approve of a Reform convert. But none of the Orthodox rabbinical students approved of having a non-Orthodox convert in the family.

When it comes to divorce, nearly all of the Orthodox rabbis said that a get is indispensable in the dissolution of a marriage. Eighty-five percent of Conservative rabbis agreed, and about an equal percentage of Reform rabbis disagreed. The Reconstructionists were split.

When it came to determining the status of children of a second marriage whose mother's first marriage was dissolved without a get, the Orthodox rabbinical students were far less flexible than their rabbis.

More than a quarter of the Orthodox rabbis said they would not consider these children mamzerim, or halachically illegitimate, but only 3 percent of their students agreed.

Conservative rabbis equivocated

on the issue, though more said they would not consider those children illegitimate than would.

A majority of Reform and Reconstructionist rabbis would not consider these children mamzerim.

And when it came to bringing converts into their own families, even the liberal rabbis showed a marked preference for those converted under traditional standards.

As might be expected, the movements differ on the role of halacha in modern life.

When asked if halacha must sometimes be compromised to preserve the Jewish people, just over one-third of Orthodox rabbis agreed, and 55 percent disagreed. By contrast, 70 percent of the Orthodox rabbinical students disagreed that halacha must sometimes be compromised.

A clear majority (82 percent) of Conservative rabbis agreed that halacha must sometimes be compromised, while 15 percent disagreed. Half as many Conservative students as rabbis were willing to compromise halacha.

The Conservative movement was evenly split on whether halacha must sometimes be ignored for the sake of Jewish unity. Heilman called their attitude toward halacha "one of the most ambiguous elements of their Judaism."

When asked if they agree that in Jewish observance the middle road is best, a majority of Orthodox rabbis disagreed. Fifty-six percent of Conservative rabbis agreed, and more liberal rabbis disagreed than agreed.

Significant minorities of students in each of the movements were simply not sure how moderate or flexible they should be.

Journalists

Continued from 3

maintaining the land.

"Why should we police Gaza," he asked. "We have enough problems policing the Jews."

Mr. Peres said that it is unrealistic for Israel to keep all of the land, and that security is not the issue because whatever land is given to the Arabs will be demilitarized.

Mr. Shamir, not surprisingly, held fast to his position that Israel should build settlements throughout the land, including Gaza, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. And he expressed confidence regarding negotiations with Washington over loan guarantees as well as with the peace talks with the Arabs.

His speaking style is to say as little as possible, then stick to his guns during questions. This may be frustrating to journalists, but Mr. Shamir remains popular in the polls. As one Russian cab driver told me, "we like him because he is tough cookie."

There is surprisingly little talk on the streets of the historic peace talks taking place. Israelis view them as a form of cod liver oil: something that has to be endured, as distasteful as it is, because in the long run it may prove helpful. But make no mistake, no one is excited about the prospects.

By the end of the conference, the journalists took comfort interviewing each other about the problems and

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Views and Reviews

The Secret Files: Washington, Israel and the Gulf

A Public Television Review
By MORRIE WARSHAWSKI

EDITOR'S NOTE: This program premieres nationally February 17 on PBS. Locally it will be shown on WHY TV12, Monday, February 17 at 10 p.m.

Ben Bradlee, correspondent for The Washington Post, narrates a

new one-hour documentary on PBS called THE SECRET FILES: WASHINGTON, ISRAEL AND THE GULF. With the Gulf War just a year behind us, the timing couldn't be better. If you are looking for some big secrets to get unleashed, however, this is not the place to find them.

The fact that presidents have always been involved in some form of secret diplomacy, and that they are often influenced by friends should come as no surprise to anyone. On the other hand, if you are interested in getting a concise and cogent history lesson in the backdrop for developments that led to America's recent handling of Middle East diplomacy, this program is a good place to start.

The visual style of producer Polly Wells might catch viewers a bit off guard. Bradlee's gruff voice matches his journalistic demeanor — matter of fact, sleeves rolled up, and last year's shirt and tie combination open at the neck. Production values are slim. The emphasis is on presenting give-and-take between Israeli writer Amos Elon, and Lebanese journalist Jamil Mroue.

In a workmanlike manner Bradlee bangs away at the chronology of Middle East history going back to Franklin D. Roosevelt. The show uses some archival footage, excerpts from once classified documents obtained from presidential libraries and national archives, and interviews with

former diplomats. Most of the interviewees and much information is framed by the image of a file card with a label, a clever device for a program that purports to rifling through old files.

The program's emphasis lies clearly on America's special relationship with Saudi Arabia's legendary King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud. Through a series of presidents — Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy — the U.S. establishes a see-saw of influence wherein it tries to remain sympathetic to the Arabs without harming Israel. The balancing act historically has entailed the selling of arms to both sides, encouraging a proxy arms race that continues to this date.

Bradlee reconstructs a number of dramatic moments in the personal history of presidents as they tackled the pressure cooker of Middle East diplomacy. One interesting story is of a secret meeting in the Suez Canal between King Saud and President Roosevelt after Yalta and just a few weeks before his death. It was there that Roosevelt promised support to Saudi Arabia.

The famous story of Truman and his friendship with Kansas City crony Eddie Jacobson also gets recounted here. Jacobson wrote a note describing the meeting where he convinced a particularly frustrated Truman to finally meet with Chaim Weizman. Truman kept teetering first towards



Benjamin C. Bradlee of The Washington Post is joined by Lebanese journalist Jamil Mroue and Israeli writer Amos Elon (left to right) for a historical look at the colorful and dramatic relationship between the U.S. and the Middle East unveiled in "The Secret Files: Washington, Israel and The Gulf" premiering Monday night on PBS. (Photo courtesy of The Washington Post)

the Jews then towards the Arabs. He was obviously sick of dealing with both sides.

During that meeting Jacobson aroused Truman's ire. "My dear friend was as close to being an anti-Semite as a man can get." Later Truman capitulated calling Jacobson "You bald headed son of a b...." The meeting Truman had with Weizman led the way for eventual U.S. recognition of the State of Israel.

One of the more recent "secrets" revealed here is the role of America's Army Corps of Engineers in helping Saudi Arabia construct seven major

military cities since 1973. Many of these are strategically placed to defend Saudi Arabia against a possible attack from Israel.

It is ironic at the end of the program to hear Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney saying of all the players in the Middle East, "I don't know if they really want peace."

Early in the program Elon says that many have seen the Middle East as a struggle between right and wrong. "Really this is a struggle between right and right — the very essence of high Greek tragedy."

Laura Ridings Was A Necessary Eccentric

By JOSEPH COHEN

On September 4, 1991, the New York Times reported that Laura Riding Jackson had died in Florida of cardiac arrest. She was ninety years old. In those ninety years, she had traveled a rocky road from her beginnings in New York as Laura Reichenenthal, the daughter of a poor immigrant Austrian Jewish tailor. No doubt, most people have never heard of her. Yet, like Ezra Pound, she was one of the great movers and shakers of modern poetry and literary criticism. And also, like Pound, she was an eccentric.

Among her eccentricities was a belief that she could single-handedly purify the entire English language. It was a mission foredoomed by the sheer immensity of the project. She didn't see it that way, choosing rather to believe that over the years a host of powerful enemies in the literary establishment were engaging in conspiracies to thwart her efforts, steal her critical theories, diminish her reputation, and render her ridiculous. It made her paranoid. The result was that she renounced writing poetry to expend her time and energy in futile literary battles. It was a substantial loss to modern poetry.

As Laura Reichenenthal grew up, her father sought to imbue her with Socialist idealism. Her interests, however, turned more to poetry than to politics. Nonetheless, her father's training served her well for, in retrospect, it is clear that she saw herself as a working-class person with a mission to save the literary world from its capitalist exploiters in the literary establishment. It is no accident that as early as 1928 she published a book about poetry entitled

Anarchism Is Not Enough.

While she was a student at Cornell, Riding (the name she adopted) married Louis Gottschalk. In 1923 he joined the history faculty at the University of Louisville. Louisville is close to Nashville and Riding soon discovered the emerging Fugitive poets at Vanderbilt University. Her first published poem appeared in *The Fugitive* soon afterward; it was described as "the discovery of the year."

Through her association with the Fugitives, she came under the influence of the group's impresario Sidney M. Hirsch, the scion of a well-to-do Nashville Jewish family. A non-academic, he underwrote the group's literary expenses and directed its activities. He was heavily into Jewish Mysticism. I am convinced that he set the direction for what was to be for Riding a kind of kabbalistic surge through life. Hints and glimpses of Kabbalah occur in her early poems, of which the best example is these lines from "Echoes":

Intelligence in ladies and gentlemen
And their children
Draws a broad square of knowledge
Within their house walls.
But four corners to contain a square
Yield to an utmost circle—
The garden of the perpendicular is a sphere.

These lines make little sense until one realizes that they are a poetic rendering of the second section of chapter 5 of the *Sefer Yetzirah*, the seminal work of ancient Jewish Mysticism. This section presents a verbal image of a person inside a cube, encompassed by a sphere. The cube

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