



# JEWISH Voice

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## Senator Biden Monitors Palestinian Elections

By Joel F. Glazier  
Special to The Jewish Voice

JERUSALEM. Delaware's senior U.S. Senator, Joseph Biden was one of 2 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee asked by President George Bush to act as monitors at the January 9 Palestinian Elections. Voting was conducted throughout the Occupied Territories, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

"I've been to the Mid-East four times since the Iraq War has started," remarked Biden at Jerusalem's King David Hotel, where the small American contingent was housed. Accompanying Senator Biden was Puneet Talwar, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff member and Norm Kurz, Biden's Communications Director, who has family in Israel.

"It's good to be back in Israel and I have been here many times since my first trip in August 1973. Then, I had the pleasure of meeting with Prime Minister Golda Meir and a young assistant by the name of Yitzhak Rabin," recalled Biden. "I remember taking a tour of the Sinai on that particular trip and seeing activity across the desert into Egypt. The Egyptians said it was sandstorms." When, a mere month later, the Yom Kippur War broke out, Biden, then a new Senator, realized that what he witnessed was "much more than just sandstorms."

### Hopeful for Democracy

"I am very hopeful about the democratic process working with the Palestinians. They are the best candidates in the Arab world for democracy," Biden claimed before heading out to Ramallah to monitor the voting. He explained, "Palestinians are by and large ethnically and religiously united and the least theocratic of all Muslims in the area."

Biden spokesperson James Kurz announced on January 6 that Biden (along with New Hampshire Republican Senator John Sununu) was going to monitor the elections at the request of President Bush. Two days later they were in Israel. They joined several hundred other monitors, who at times, outnumbered the actual voters at polling places, especially in East Jerusalem. Many eligible voters in Arab East Jerusalem opted not to participate out of fear of a new corrupt

Palestinian Authority being in charge of their affairs.

"No," Biden laughed when asked if the training for monitoring had taught him the Arabic word for "chad" [as in hanging chads]. Biden believed that his reputation as an "independent player" made him an appropriate choice for this role. Senator Richard G Lugar, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had originally been asked to serve with Biden by President Bush. However, Committee business prevented him from traveling and Senator Sununu

stepped in as the Republican replacement.

With Iraqi elections scheduled at the end of January, Biden was very clear that "It is not even close" to compare the chances of a working democracy there with the prospects in the Palestinian areas. "I find it highly unlikely for a democracy to emerge in Iraq. A burden has been lifted for the Palestinians after the death of Arafat. They must suppress terror and violence. That is the minimum requirement for an independent nation state of Palestine. It remains to be seen if



Senator Joseph Biden gives an exclusive interview to Jewish Voice Community Reporter Joel Glazier.

they can unite to suppress terror...but I am hopeful."

(Senator Biden briefed interested members of Delaware's Jewish Community at the JCC on January

12. Joel Glazier was on a visit to Israel when the elections occurred and Senator Biden's office helped arrange an interview for The Jewish Voice.)

## Sharon Turns Up Heat On Abbas

By Leslie Susser, JTA

Ariel Sharon took Palestinians, Israelis and the international community by surprise when he broke off ties with Mahmoud Abbas a day before the new Palestinian Authority president was sworn in.

On Wednesday, Sharon and his small Security Cabinet decided to restore ties. But aides say the Israeli prime minister had delivered a clear message - that before there can be any peace-making with the new P.A. government, as is being urged around the world, Palestinian terrorism must stop.

There are signs that Abbas may have been pricked into action by Sharon's moves, but critics on the Israeli left are skeptical: They suggest Sharon is preparing the ground to delegitimize Abbas as a potential peace partner.

Then, some say, Sharon will retract his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank - while other skeptics say he will disengage but use the negative image he has created of Abbas as a pretext for not going further.

The severing of ties came in the wake of a Palestinian attack last week on the Karni crossing point between the Gaza Strip and Israel in which six Israelis civilians were killed. Sharon's anger at the nature of the attack - the complicity of Palestinian Authority security forces, who oversee the Palestinian side of the crossing, was strongly suspected - and

the time it took Abbas to condemn it partly explains the sharpness of the prime minister's response.

But he also wanted to make a point. While Abbas has been protesting that he needs time in office to find his feet, Sharon aides suggest the severing of ties was intended as a wake-up call

In other words, the aides say, Sharon does not want the Palestinians to be lulled into thinking they can get away with anti-terrorist declarations and no action, or that the international community will be taken in again by smooth but empty talk.

The urgency of the matter was underscored by another bombing

According to Gilead, if Abbas were to unify the P.A. armed forces and threaten military action against Hamas, the radicals would back down and Abbas would be able to establish law and order without a civil war.

On Sunday, Sharon told the Cabinet that no one was stopping the Palestinians from deploying their forces in Gaza to stop rockets from being fired at the Negev town of Sderot and mortars from being fired at Israeli settlements in the strip.

Sources close to Sharon say that if Abbas presents a security plan outlining how he proposes to end the attacks, Israel will give him the breathing space he needs.

"But if he doesn't, we won't give him even a day's grace," an official told reporters.

The initial results of Sharon's get-tough policy seem to have been positive: The Americans and Europeans also have been pressing Abbas to take action.

Whether as a result of the mounting pressure, or because Abbas genuinely believes terrorism does not serve Palestinian interests, the tone of Palestinian statements against the militia-men has grown decidedly more threatening. For the first time ever, the PLO Executive Committee put out a declaration calling for "an end to all military actions that undermine the national interest."

P.A. Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei warned that "anyone who



NEW LEADERSHIP FOR PALESTINIANS  
Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas lays his hand on the Koran as he takes the oath of office under the watch of interim president, Rawhi Fattouh, second from right, and other officials Jan. 15, 2005, in Ramallah. Credit: Pool/BP Images/JTA

for the Palestinians and the West. The reinstatement of ties does not lessen the pressure on Abbas to move forcefully, and quickly, against terrorism.

Israel will not tolerate what they call an "Arafat-in-a-suit-syndrome," they say, in which the urbane Abbas says the right things against terrorism, but like his predecessor does nothing to stop it.

in Gaza on Tuesday that killed one Israeli - an agent of the Shin Bet security service - and wounded eight other Israelis.

Israeli officials maintain that Abbas can root out terrorism if he wants to. Amos Gilead, a top Israeli defense adviser, notes that the Palestinians have about 35,000 men under arms in Gaza, where they face fewer than 1,000 Hamas militiamen.

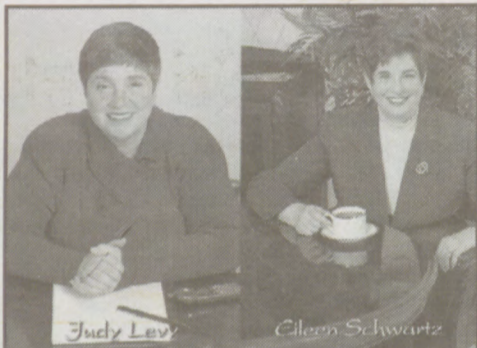
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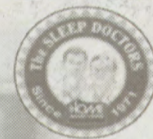
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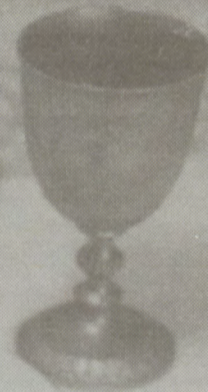
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## INSIDE THE ISSUES

Israelis make the difference –

# Experts in post traumatic stress join IsraAID team in Sri Lanka

By Shachar Zahavi

IsraAID's relief team stationed in Balapitiya, Sri Lanka has been working around the clock to address the immediate needs on the ground.

Over the last 24 hours, The Israeli – Jewish Emergency Medical, Feeding and Children's Station has served thousands of people left homeless from the tsunami.

Today alone, Israeli medical personnel, from Magen David Adom, treated over 350 patients, many of whom are women and children suffering from infecting wounds and injuries. Two of the team's doctors along with a paramedic, are also running an outreach program to the surrounding monasteries and schools that are currently sheltering thousands of people whose homes were destroyed.

The emergency feeding station served meals to over 600 people with the participation of over dozens of local volunteers. The station also provided infant formula to over 80 mothers, traumatized by the disaster and no longer able to properly breastfeed.

Dozens of kids attended the newly established Children's Activity Tent. Afternoon creative programs have been designed for children between the ages of 2-6 and 6-12 in order to begin to ease their level of stress.

On Friday, an Israeli team of six relief personnel set out for the Israeli – Jewish Emergency Medical, Feeding and Children's Station in the southern city of Balapitiya in Sri Lanka to replace the existing team.



In the southern city of Balapitiya in Sri Lanka, the Israeli-Jewish Feeding Station provides hundreds of children with nutritious meals. (Source IsraAID, January 2005)

Among the team are experts in posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The following day a team of nine medical personnel from Magen David Adom will be joining the activities in the camp replacing the Magen David Adom team there.

In the course of treating thousands of people via the Israeli – Jewish emergency stations, the existing team has found that there is a need to extend the program by sending Israeli experts that will help treat



Doctor of Magen David Adom treats patients in the Israeli-Jewish Emergency Medical Station. (Source IsraAID, Sri Lanka, January 2005)

children and youth showing symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The annihilation caused by the tsunami on December 26, 2004 in South East Asia will have an effect on generations. The children who survived the deadly waves are traumatized and vulnerable and are in need of urgent help.

It is believed by IsraAID members that a more holistic program that includes feeding and medical treatments to children and com-

munities affected by PTSD and providing non-formal children activities is of the utmost need.

Shachar Zahavi is employed by IsraAID, a coordinating body of Israeli and Jewish non-governmental organizations based in Israel that are active in development and relief work and concerned about global issues. Members include: Joint Distribution Committee Israel, American Jewish Committee, United Jewish Communities and more.

## Tsunami relief mailbox takes in more than \$6.4M

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) today announced that its campaign to raise money for South Asia tsunami relief has reached \$6.4 million in contributions from more than 25,000 individual donors and local Jewish federation partners.

Of the monies raised, a portion has been set aside for long-term infrastructure reconstruction, such as rebuilding schools, clinics and orphanages. More than \$550,000 has been designated to support immediate relief efforts in the field. Significant additional allocations will be made for immediate relief within the next ten days, once needs assessments conclude.

Current efforts include:

•A partnership with Disaster Mitigation Institute in India to help people re-establish their livelihoods and rebuild homes.

•A partnership with Catholic Relief (Caritas) in the hard-hit areas of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala to provide household supplies, temporary shelter and psychosocial services to 2,000 families and 15,000 individuals.

•A partnership with the International Rescue Committee in Indonesia, which is focusing on identifying and protecting separated and/or vulnerable children.

•A partnership with Chabad in Thailand, which is helping with the identification of bodies, distribution of materials and staffing of medical centers.

•An assessment team in the field in Sri Lanka to determine emergency relief efforts in need of support and identifying possible partners. Additional need assessments in Indonesia, Thailand and India.

"We are already seeing the support from our donors making a difference in the field," said Ellen Heller, President of JDC. "Hundreds and thousands of people in South Asia will continue to need JDC's assistance for months to come, and we intend to deliver it."

More than \$1.5 million of the total sum JDC has raised comes through the generosity of UJA-Federation of New York's tsunami relief efforts.

"We are gratified by the generosity demonstrated by the New York Jewish com-

munity resulting in more than \$1 million to UJA-Federation's Tsunami Relief Fund," said Morris W. Offit, president, UJA-Federation of New York.

"We are pleased to transmit these funds to our international agency partner, the JDC,

which is coordinating the North American Jewish community's response and is working with our partners on the ground in these devastated countries to make sure that crucial life-saving services reach survivors in the most efficient and compassionate manner."

### Save the Date

### MAY 24

### Endowment Book of Life event

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Thank you for your consistent support! Please mail back this card soon, so your name will be printed in our next donor listing.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP VICTIMS OF THE TSUNAMI

Send a donation to the Jewish Federation of Delaware and help the hundreds of thousands of people in South Asia whose lives have been devastated by the recent tsunami. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has set up a special emergency mailbox to collect funds for relief efforts following the December 26th earthquake and subsequent tidal waves in South Asia. Your check, made payable to the Federation, will be forwarded to the JDC.

Please send to:

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# EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

## The three "Rs" of Tu B'Shevat

Next Tuesday, we Jews celebrate yet another New Year. Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for Trees, is an Israeli holiday that American Jews have embraced as an opportunity to connect with our Jewish homeland. It is an ideal time to exercise our responsibilities as - *shomrei adamah* - guardians of the earth by committing to preserve and protect the water we drink and the air we breathe.

Trees are the very essence of this environmental ethic. They defend against the greenhouse effect, enhance air quality, prevent soil erosion and protect regions that feed into water sources. What better way to mark this holiday than to plant trees in Israel through the Jewish National Fund? Trees can be planted in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special simcha or lifecycle event. Order on-line at [www.JNF.org](http://www.JNF.org) or call 1-800-542-TREE.

Tu B'Shevat is also a time to taste the fruits of this Biblical land of milk and honey. At special seders we eat wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. Fortified by sips of Israeli wine, celebrants dance the "mayim" the traditional dance for water.

Many socially-conscious Jews have embraced this holiday as a "Jewish Earth Day". They advocate using Tu B'Shevat seders as springboards for discussion on

ways to apply Jewish values to reduce many of the environmental threats that place our planet at risk.

Indeed, it is our duty as partners with G-d in *tikkun olam*-repair of the world-to work to reduce air and water pollution, protect our natural resources, preserve open spaces and support mass transit systems. Everyone can make an important difference in making our world a cleaner and greener place this New Year by remembering the "Three Rs of Tu B'Shevat"!

**Resolve** to drive fuel-efficient cars and car-pool or use public transportation whenever possible.

**Recycle** aluminum, glass and plastic containers to avoid clogging our overly taxed landfills.

**Refuse** to purchase products from companies that dump waste materials into our water supplies and pollute our atmosphere.

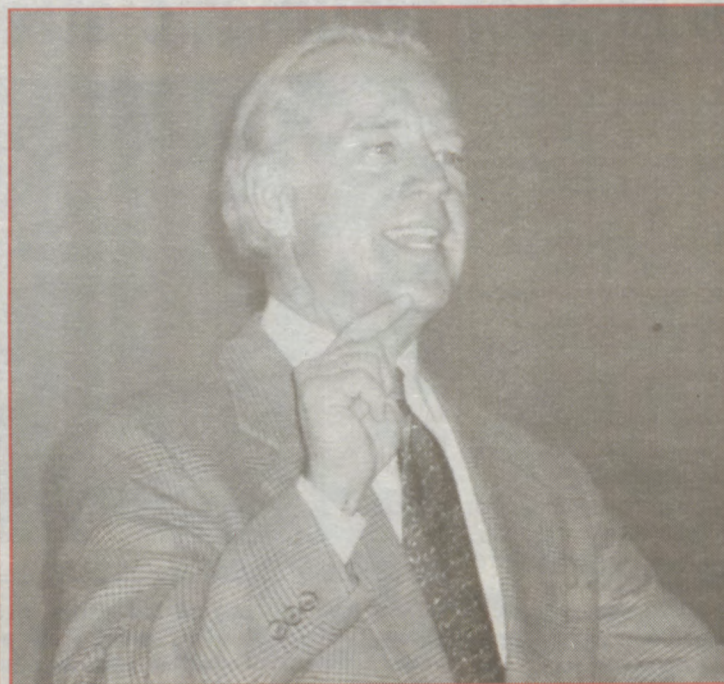
Make Tu B'Shevat an occasion to celebrate and preserve the awesome beauty of this precious planet. We owe it to ourselves, our children and future generations.

Shabbat Shalom,

*Lynn B. Edelman*

Lynn B. Edelman  
Editor

## Photo of the Week



U.S. Senator Joe Biden expressed optimism about prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians during a special briefing for members of the Delaware Jewish community on Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center in Wilmington.

Photo by Jack Zigon

## This Week in Jewish History



**Celebrate 350**  
Jewish Life in America  
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on January 21, 1918, under the leadership of Mathilde Schechter.

### JANUARY 21, 1948

Golda Meir's speech to the General Assembly of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds on January 21, 1948 helped raise \$50 million for the Haganah at a critical moment in Israel's fight for independence.

### JANUARY 23, 1997

On January 23, 1997, Madeleine Albright became the first female Secretary of State, following a unanimous confirmation vote in the U.S. Senate.

"This Week in History" is brought to you by the Jewish Women's Archive. More information about each of the events described below can be found on JWA's website at [http://www.jwa.org/this\\_week/week52.html](http://www.jwa.org/this_week/week52.html)

### JANUARY 19, 1983

Acclaimed author Cynthia Ozick received the Mildred and Harold Strauss Living Award of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters on January 19, 1983.

### JANUARY 21, 1913

156 women from 52 congregations around the United States met in Cincinnati on January 21, 1913 to create the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

### JANUARY 21, 1918

Conservative Jewish women united their sisterhood organizations, creating the National Women's League of the United Synagogue,



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## Dry Bones



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## PARSHA PLACE

Week of January 22 Basalach Exodus 13:17-17:16  
**Accentuate the Optimism**

By Nesanel Safran

Every situation contains within it a possibility of success - and a possibility of failure. When the Jewish people were in the desert, fleeing from the pursuing Egyptian army, nobody knew how it was going to turn out. Many were scared that the end was near, and were preparing for the worst. But, in the end, God made a great miracle by splitting the Red Sea, and saved them.

The grateful people burst out in jubilant songs and praise for God's kindness. While the men only sang, Moses' sister Miriam, along with the other women, played musical instruments to accompany themselves. Where did the women ever find instruments in the middle of the desert? It turns out that they had trusted from the very beginning that God was going to save them. So much so that they had taken instruments with them, so they could celebrate when it happened! God wants us to learn from these great women, to trust Him by being optimistic and focusing on positive outcomes. Not only does this help us to live happier lives, but quite often it even helps open us up to let the good things happen.

Nesanel Safran, originally from Boston, is an Israel-based writer, as well as a student and teacher of Jewish spirituality. For more information about the Parsha of the Week, visit [www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com)

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## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

### The new promise of Poland

By Tad Taube

Auschwitz-Birkenau. This is where it was all supposed to end. Today, the ruins of the crematoria and of the ovens, the rusting barbed wire and the decaying barracks are still there to bear witness, 60 years later.

A pond into which the ashes of thousands were dumped glistens, its waters terrible and dark. The nearby river carried the ashes of hundreds of thousands more. Over 1 million in that one camp alone. One thinks of the air, and the lungs contract. An entire nation, systematically being put to death. The rabbis and the rebels; the merchants and the artists; assimilated industrialists and the Chasidic wonder-workers; the parents and the children. The children.

This is where it all would have ended, if Allied nations had not been finally forced into taking a stand, when their territories were invaded, their cities burned, their battleships sunk. It took six years, from the German attack on Poland to the meeting of American and Russian armies at the Elbe, for the enemy to be defeated. And for almost five of those years, the chimneys at Auschwitz kept belching their black smoke, even as Allied planes rumbled overhead, in quest of more rewarding targets.

For the Jewish people, there was to be no victory. Auschwitz and Treblinka, Babi Yar and Ponary, the Warsaw Ghetto and the anonymous killing fields spreading from Riga to

Saloniki, could not be undone. Nothing could replace the 6 million.

This is where it all could have ended, if not for the determination of the Jewish people not to die; to refuse extinction. The State of Israel was rebuilt, against the hostility of its neighbors and the shifting tides of international public opinion. In the Diaspora, Jews tenaciously clung to their identity even under oppression, and flourished again wherever democracy gave them a chance.

Nowhere more so than in the United States, where the descendants and survivors of East European Jewry found a haven and a country they could call their home. The magnificent success of U.S. Jewry shows what European Jewry might have become, had the continent not betrayed it. For many American Jews today, Auschwitz symbolizes not only that betrayal, but the European continent that committed it — and in particular, Poland, the country on whose soil Auschwitz was built.

Yet the story does not end there. As European Jewry strove to rebuild after the war, so did the Jews of Poland, among the destruction and the ashes. Some remained in their native Poland out of the often-forlorn hope that some of their loved ones also might have survived and also would return. Others stayed out of the misguided belief that Communism would build a future that would atone for the evils of the past. Many remained because they simply felt Poland was still their home. They remembered not

only the wartime indifference and betrayal by their neighbors, but also the unbelievable heroism of those who risked their lives to save them.

They knew that Auschwitz was a German crime committed on Polish soil, and remembered also its non-Jewish Polish victims. Their memories balanced the prewar persecutions with the tolerance and hospitality Poland had extended to Jews for ages. They were to have their share of disappointment and disillusion, and yet they managed to rebuild a Jewish life of sorts for themselves and their children.

And when the veil of communism, oppressive for all, was lifted in 1989 through the struggle of Polish democrats, Jewish life in Poland experienced an impressive renewal. Though the community numbers under 30,000 today, Polish Jewry has its schools and magazines, synagogues and secularists, cultural festivals and community leaders.

This is not the end of the story. Poland was home to the greatest Jewish Diaspora for centuries, and this coexistence, though often a not happy one, has marked Poles and Jews alike. Polish Jews today should have the opportunity to avail themselves of their legacy, while Jews elsewhere need to be more aware of the importance of that legacy for their own identity.

Nowhere is this more true than in the United States, where a majority of Jews have Polish roots, and so do the institutions they have built, with the strains of religious, politi-

cal or cultural opinion they represent. Their negative image of Poland, understandable in the light of the traumas of the history of the past century, needs to be re-examined in the context of today's circumstances.

The new democratic Poland that emerged 15 years ago, friendly to Israel, allied with the United States, and often surprisingly welcoming toward its Jewish heritage, is indicative of these circumstances. Those positive changes in Poland itself have to be encouraged and supported.

This, then, is where the story goes on. As the leaders of Israel, Poland and Russia speak at Auschwitz on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the camp by the Soviet Red Army on Jan. 27, they will be addressing not only the other personalities assembled there for the occasion, and not only their own citizens.

There will be shadows listening as well. To them I do not know what can be said. The words of the Polish anthem, however, say: "Poland will not perish, as long as we live." And Polish Jewry lives on. It is a privilege to be able to help it flourish, and to help others, in Poland and abroad, to appreciate its legacy, resilience and aspirations.

Tad Taube escaped his native Poland just months before the war. He is founder of the San Francisco-based Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture and president of Koret Foundation, which are supporting, among other programs, Jewish initiatives in Poland.

### Stanley finally makes aliyah

By Nechemia Meyers

There was much talk of aliyah among the members of the Habonim Zionist youth movement in Bulawayo, Rhodesia in the late 50s. But while most left Bulawayo on graduating from high school because the country lacked a university, only a few actually made aliyah. One of them was Vera Altshuler, who came here in 1973 and lives in the Jordan Valley community of Menachemia. Now she has been joined, 32 years later, by another Habonim alumnus, Stanley Fischer, the new head of the Bank of Israel.

Stanley, she recalls, attended Bulawayo's Milton Boys High School, while she went to a parallel girls school. The schools were separated by gender and, to the same degree, by

race. "There were no blacks in our neighborhoods either, except, of course, for our many servants. So all this talk about Stanley's understanding of the blacks because of the environment in which he grew up is so much nonsense. Hopefully he has such understanding today, but not because of what he experienced in Bulawayo."

There were also numerous ties between his family and other members of the small but close-knit Jewish community. Stanley's mother played cards regularly with the lady who was to become Vera's mother-in-law.

Vera is very pleased that her fellow Habonim member has finally made aliyah and hopes he will find time to visit Menchemia. Like many others, she is annoyed at the fact that some small-minded

people here are complaining that the job he is getting should have been given instead to a veteran Israeli, a person who had served in the army and struggled through the various crises that have confronted this country over the years.

"I can't think of another *oleh*," she declares, "who has given up so much in terms of money and position in order to come here."

"He won't find it easy. Those who resent the fact that he has been nominated to a top post on his arrival will be nit-picking from the word go. Comedians will be making fun of his accent and his idealism. And some leading journalists have already pitched in with carping criticism of the appointment."

"Take, for example, Ari Shavit of

'Ha'aretz.' He joins those who denounce it because 'a person cannot be the emissary of a community he has just joined. A person cannot shape the destiny of a community of which he has not been a part until now. There is no shaping of destiny without partnership. It is intolerable that the government of the bank will be handed over to a guest from Manhattan.'

Most "Ha'aretz" readers disagree with Shavit. One wrote: "Kol Hakavod Mr. Fischer. What a great example you are giving thousands of prospective olim from the West. You will be doing a job to which you are entitled in view of your work and life experience and you are bringing your family. What greater proof of ardent Zionism could there be?"

### Vengeance

By Teddy Weinberger

After mentioning the name of a deceased loved one, Jews traditionally add: "of blessed memory," or "peace be unto her." The sages of Israel, in fact, are often referred to as Hazal, which is an acronym for "hahamaynu zihronam livraha" ("our sages of blessed memory"). In print, the custom is usually to signal one of the two phrases with two small Hebrew letters after a deceased person's name. Of course, sometimes this gets competitive, and one can find three and sometimes four letters after a person's name (standing for "sage of blessed memory" and "holy sage of blessed memory"). Occasionally, one will come across a very different acronym after a deceased person's name: the Hebrew letters hay, yud, and dalet, standing for "hashem yinakem damo": "may God avenge his blood." Among the Orthodox population in Israel, this is routinely put after the name of any soldier killed in action or any civilian killed in a terrorist attack. This phrase, like the other two, is also spoken aloud by many people when they invoke the dead person's name.

I have many problems with "may God avenge his blood." For one thing, how are we supposed to know if and when God does

avenge a death? The dedicatory inscription, chiseled upon the facade of the Moroccan synagogue in Givat Ze'ev, contains the name "Lieutenant Uriel Peretz" (a local boy killed in the war in Lebanon), followed by those three letters asking God to avenge his blood. But what if God has indeed seen to it that Uriel's killers have already met untimely ends? That plea for vengeance is still up there, that plea will always be there. It's as if the blood of Uriel can never be avenged. Now it's one thing for a family to experience a loved one's loss as devastating—no one indeed will ever be able to replace that person. But if a populace has erected permanent petitions to God to avenge their citizens' blood, it's hard to even imagine an end to the cycle of bloodshed.

Another problem with "may God avenge his blood" is that this phrase focuses our entire memory upon the person's violent death, and I think it does so primarily in order to suit our own needs for vengeance: we don't want our loved ones' murderers to go unpunished. The two traditional phrases used upon invoking the name of a dead person, "of blessed memory" and "peace be unto him," are so much more appropriate because the focus is less upon us and our world and more on the entire range of mem-

ories we have of the deceased—we are able to think about their whole lives rather than just about how they died.

It says quite clearly in Deuteronomy 32.43 that God will "avenge the blood of God's servants." God works according to

God's own timetable. God doesn't need either our permission or our prodding in order to seek vengeance. What we mainly accomplish when we repeatedly urge God to seek vengeance for the blood of our dead is to make it.

Learn More About Federation's  
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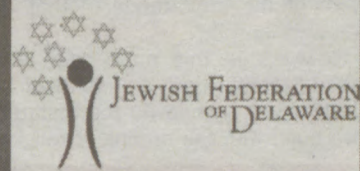


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For more information regarding Bequests or Endowments, please visit [www.shalomdelaware.org](http://www.shalomdelaware.org) or call Jennifer Young at (302) 427-2100 x 19. If you have provided for the community, please let us know, a recognition event is planned to honor all endowment donors on May 24, 2005.

## Israel 2005

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Young adults ages 19-25 are encouraged to apply for this exciting program to work as a counselor in our sister community of Arad/Tamar. The Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Partnership 2000 allocation will cover **all expenses in Israel** - ground transportation, orientation, room and board, touring, and a portion of the airfare. The counselors each pay \$250 towards the airfare. Last summer 8 counselors from our NJ/DE partnership participated in the program.

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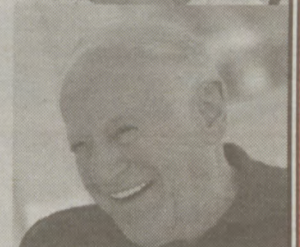
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# INSIDE DELAWARE

## For adults only – Gratz offers special program



Tamar Jacobowitz

Delaware Gratz offers community adult learners two free special sessions with its scholar-in-residence from the University of Pennsylvania, Tamar Jacobowitz. Jacobowitz is renowned by her peers as one of greater Philadelphia's leading scholars of biblical interpretation. Her appearance is made possible by the generosity of an anonymous donor. Please call Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School at 478-8100 to reserve your space for one or both sessions.

**Sunday, February 13, 2005  
12:30-1:15 pm**

"Revisiting the Akedah"— an interactive study of the biblical story and its reverberations throughout the ages

**Sunday, March 13, 2005  
10:00 – 10:45 am**

"Slavery and Redemption"— A study of human and divine responsibility

## NCCJ to close doors in Delaware

At the end of February 2005, the Delaware region of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) will officially close its office. The closure is the result of the national board's need to restructure due to financial challenges that impact smaller regions producing only modest revenue.

The Delaware region became aware of national's intentions to restructure in November 2004. National asked the Delaware region's board, and the boards of more than a dozen other regions, to pledge to underwrite any shortfalls if it planned to continue operating. Delaware's board, along with others, refused to do this and sought to negotiate other alternatives that would help keep the office open.

Weeks later, Delaware NCCJ received a letter announcing that it would be among ten regions required to close.

"We achieved our 2004 budget targets and did not project a deficit for 2005. We were nevertheless required to close our doors," said John Land, board president. "NCCJ has been putting its mission to fight bias, bigotry, and racism into action throughout Delaware for 75 years," said Land. "We are hopeful that although we will be severed from NCCJ's national organization as of February 28, we will still be able to continue with our youth programming, which is so critical at this time."

According to Helen Foss, board member and former executive director of NCCJ Delaware, because the current divisiveness in our nation remains a serious problem, "it is imperative that NCCJ Delaware do whatever it can to sustain programs that promote under-

standing and respect among diverse cultures, races, and religions statewide."

NCCJ Delaware's board is now in the process of evaluating options that will help ensure the availability of unique diversity programming that engages young people in purposeful dialogue around religious tolerance, racism, sexism and homophobia.

According to Foss, NCCJ delivered diversity and tolerance youth programming to countless thousands of children over the years through Green Circle for elementary school children and MiniTown and Anytown for middle and high school youth, among others.

To keep programming available, the board is considering two alternatives. One is to operate under the umbrella of a partnering organization whose mission reflects that of NCCJ. The second is to form a new 501 (C) 3, complete with a new organizational name, structure, and mission which is closely aligned with the current one.

During this period of transition, the board is in the process of confirming that the remaining pass-through funds received from the state and designated for youth programming, which are held and managed by the national organization, will be returned to the state so that they can be used to support continued programming in the wake of NCCJ's transition.

"We are looking to the community for ideas," said Land. "This is a time of transition that calls for the insight and experience of everyone who has been or wants to be involved in keeping NCCJ mission alive."

For more information, contact: John Land or Helen Foss at (302) 655-0039

## Temple Beth El pays tribute to Herman

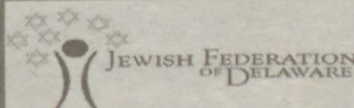
Temple Beth El in Newark invites the entire community to join congregants for a special Shabbat service and festive oneg on Friday, January 28th at 8:00 p.m. The synagogue's officers, board of directors and staff will honor Ann Herman who recently retired from the professional staff after serving more than 24 years as synagogue

administrator and principal of the religious school.

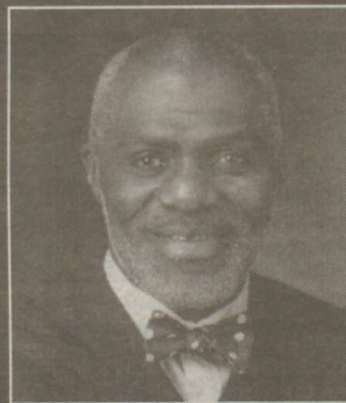
In tribute to Herman's love of Jewish music, Temple Beth El's choir and Klezmer band, A Thread of Blue, will perform.

The synagogue is located on 301 Possum Park Road in Newark. For directions, please call 366-8330.

## Scholarships Available



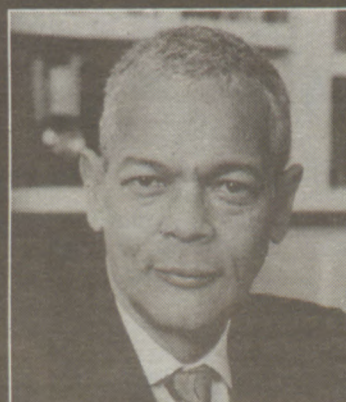
Scholarships are available for Israel experience and leadership development, please contact Gina at 302-427-2100 x 20 for more information about the Jerusalem Study Fund and other opportunities.



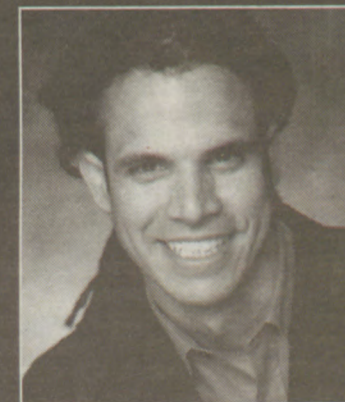
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## INSIDE DELAWARE

### Shabbat 300 – Good food, good feelings

By **Melanie Kaiser**  
Special to the Jewish Voice

It is 6:30pm, on Friday, December 10th, 2004. The smell of kugel and chicken fills the air of the Rodney Room, in the Perkins Student Center, at the University of Delaware. Students sit at long tables, talking and laughing with one another, as they await the Shabbat blessings and the dinner that will follow. So, what makes this Shabbat dinner different from all other Shabbat dinners eaten on campus this semester? Well, this is Shabbat 300. This week, the university's Hillel, Chabad, and Jewish Heritage Program (JHP) have assembled 225 Jewish students

and community members to enjoy Shabbat dinner, together.

Shabbat 300 is an event that has been attempted several times in the past at the University of Delaware. The "300" in the title stems from the goal of this event: to bring 300 people together to celebrate the Sabbath. This year, students were informed of the event through emailed invitations, as well as notices on the Hillel and Chabad websites. There was no cost for attending. "Of course I'm here. There's free food!" says junior Jason Rosenberg, adding "Seriously, though, it's a great feeling to celebrate the Sabbath this way, with so many people."

The Hillel Shabbat services and dinner, which Jason regularly attends, generally have a turnout in the thirties to forties, with themed Shabbats raising the numbers closer to 100. While many Jews on the campus are not observant to the level of attending weekly Shabbat services, Shabbat 300 is a welcome opportunity to bond with others who share their background. Likewise, for those who do attend services weekly, Shabbat 300 is a refreshing reminder that the Jewish community here is larger than the thirty or so people whom they are used to seeing.

Susan M. Detwiler, Executive Director of the University of Delaware's Hillel Founda-

tion, says that she hopes that Shabbat 300 will become an annual event. Every year, the final Shabbat dinner before winter recess, will be promoted as Shabbat 300. While this year, the event was 75 people shy of living up to its title, the 225 person turnout still makes it the largest Shabbat dinner ever held on the campus. Previously, the record attendance was a mere 130. However, whether the turnout is 108 or 360, what is most central to Shabbat 300 is the feeling of unity and camaraderie it promotes within the Jewish community at the University of Delaware.

Melanie Kaiser is a member of the Class of 2006, University of Delaware.

### Local schools participate in JNF educational program

Students at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth/Beth Shalom Community School, Albert Einstein Academy and the religious schools of Congregation Beth Emeth and Temple Beth El are learning about Tu B'Shevat through Jewish National Fund's annual educational program "Tu B'Shevat in the Schools." Tu B'Shevat - the New Year for Trees - will be celebrated on January 25th.

According to the *Mishna*, where it is first mentioned, Tu B'Shevat - the 15th day of the month of Shevat - is the date used by farmers to calculate the year's crop yield and determine the tithe that the Bible requires. It also marks the beginning and end of the first three and four years of a tree's growth, during which it is forbidden to eat its fruit.

As the Jewish Arbor Day, Tu B'Shevat embodies the strong dedication to ecology,

environmentalism and conservation that Jewish National Fund has championed since the organization's inception in 1901.

JNF promotes the celebration of Tu B'Shevat and planting trees in Israel as a way to give children a direct and positive connection to the Jewish homeland. Since JNF was established in 1901, the organization has planted over 240 million trees in Israel—connecting Jewish people around the world to the land of Israel.

Over the course of the next few months, students from schools registered for the program can purchase trees to be planted in the Negev. For \$18, two trees will be planted—one tree in the student's name as a gift from JNF, and one tree in honor or memory of someone special to the student. Students who plant a minimum of four trees will

receive a prize from the JNF Education Department.

"Jewish National Fund's Tu B'Shevat tree planting campaign provides a wonderful opportunity for American Jewish youth to participate in greening the land and improving the environment of Israel," says JNF National Vice President for Education Bob Levine. "The relationship between JNF and the Jewish New Year of the Trees is an inspiring story that has clearly captured the imagination of all Jewish people and has had special appeal for our youngsters. Planting over three million trees a year has been a challenge for the youth of Israel and is an activity that appeals to young people everywhere. In some cases our youth can "Plant their way to Israel" by receiving credit towards a trip to Israel from the proceeds of special tree

sales."

JNF is encouraging schools to celebrate Tu B'Shevat 5765 by planting trees in Israel, holding a Tu B'Shevat Seder using its Haggadah, *Branching Out*, and doing the activities in its educational newsletter, *A New Leaf*.

JNF will also provide registered schools with copies of the Tu B'Shevat issue of their educational newsletter *A New Leaf*, tree order envelopes for each student in the school, and the opportunity to order JNF's interactive Tu B'Shevat Haggadah, *Branching Out* for their Tu B'Shevat seders.

For more information about the JNF Plant Your Way to Israel program, visit [www.jnf.org/education](http://www.jnf.org/education), call the JNF Education Department at 212-879-9305 ext. 263 or email [education@jnf.org](mailto:education@jnf.org).



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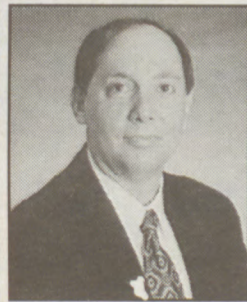
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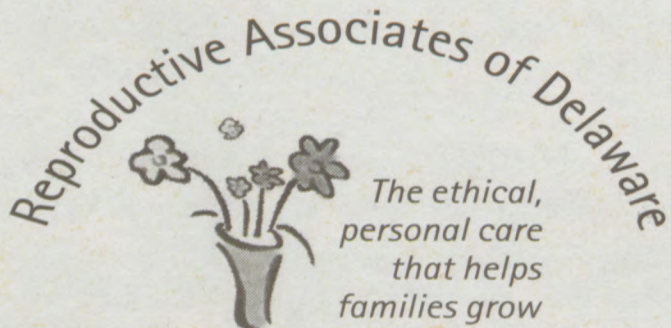
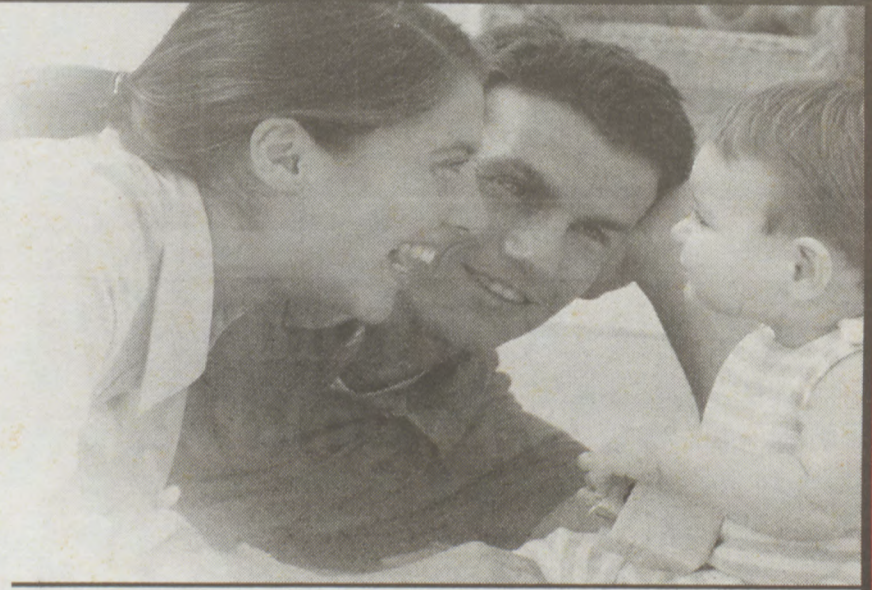
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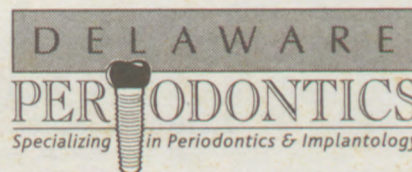
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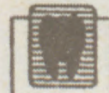
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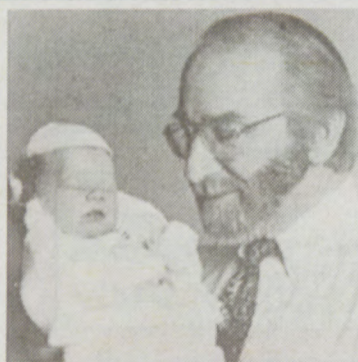
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# GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

## Terrorism – the single, largest impediment to Mid-East peace

By Trude B. Feldman  
Special to the Jewish Voice

January 22nd will mark four years since Dr. Condoleezza Rice became the first female National Security Advisor to the President. If she is confirmed by the United States Senate as the 66th Secretary of State, she will become the first African American woman, and only the second woman to serve in that position.

In a farewell interview as President George W. Bush's Assistant for National Security Affairs, Dr. Rice says the Israel-Palestinian conflict, coupled with the War on Terror, will now be—along with Iraq—the President's "highest priorities."

Sitting in her White House office, Dr. Rice also tells me that new leadership in the Palestinian territories is an important step to a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian impasse and that that solution is now of interest all over the world.

"Mahmoud Abbas (also known as Abu Mazen) or any Palestinian leader needs to understand that the only peaceful outcome is through a negotiated solution, not through the use of terrorism," she says. "The Palestinian people need leadership committed to the legitimate aspirations for a democratic, transparent accountable government. We will work with the new leader when he renounces violence and is committed to stopping terrorism."

Disclosing that she had never met Mr. Abbas's predecessor, Yassir Arafat, who, at age 75, died November 11th in France, she adds: "President Bush's refusal to meet him reflected a determination that the American view be known—that there is no excuse for violence and terrorism, and that President Bush will not legitimize those who employ it."

Dr. Rice believes that a solution is closer with Mahmoud Abbas because he has asserted that, in retrospect, the Intifada (Palestinian uprising) and violence against Israel was a mistake and that he will attempt to end it.

"There is now a good chance for the development of a democratic Palestinian state where the people can self-govern and live side by side with Israel," she says.

"The Palestinians ought to have a state where they are allowed dissent. The best way to reach a peaceful solution is for there to be democracies living side by side."

Asked how she would now begin to help

solve the dispute, she responds: "Some of the fundamentals may soon be in place to make that possible. Israeli Prime Minister (Ariel) Sharon's disengagement plan, where Israel will give back land and dismantle settlements in the Gaza Strip and four settlements in the West Bank, is a good start. He pushed his proposal hard and got a favorable vote in Israel's Parliament to approve the plan and he seems to be managing the politics of it very well. His plan for disengagement can significantly advance our vision for peace and security in the region. That's why the President is supporting it. We certainly support Mr. Sharon's withdrawal and see it as an historic time — when Israel begins to give back land to the Palestinians."

"The plan stands to do more than just begin the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the dismantling of settlements in the Gaza and West Bank. It could provide a new opportunity for reform of Palestinian institutions, particularly now with the new leadership."

When questioned whether the U.S. also supports Israel's security barrier, she replies: "In terms of the security fence, we envision a Middle East in which such a fence would not be needed. We spent the last several months working with the Israelis to make sure that any fence would not prejudice a land agreement, and most important, that it would not intrude too much on the lives of ordinary Palestinians."

What changes in U.S. policy in the Middle East will be considered in the President's second term?

"Well, a lot of it is happening on the ground," Dr. Rice responds. "Our strategy is beginning to change the terms of debate in the Middle East. As you know, we have close relations with Israel mainly because President Bush speaks candidly about the conditions everyone must meet so that Israelis and Palestinians are able to live in peace."

She points out that George W. Bush is the first American president to publicly call for the creation of a Palestinian state, and as an ally of Israel, he views a peaceful and democratic state as being in the best interests of both Palestinians and Israelis.

"He is also the first American president to say that the nature of any Palestinian state is as important as its borders," she adds. "A Palestinian state must have a just and democratic government that serves the best inter-



Condoleezza Rice, National Security Advisor to the President, grants a farewell interview to White House Correspondent Trude B. Feldman in her West Wing office.

Photo by Paul Morse

ests of the Palestinian people, and one that is a true partner with Israel for peace.

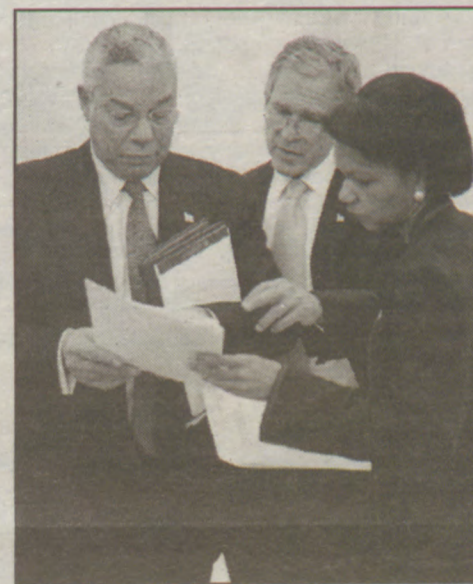
"Creating such a government really is the only way to realize the President's vision of two states—Israel and Palestine—living peacefully side by side. A Palestinian state will never be achieved through terrorism. Neither Israel nor the United States would permit it."

She continues: "Our strategy is to help establish freedom in the area. Freedom is at the core of our approach to the Israeli-Palestinian problem. Those Arab states that are committed to peace need to end incitement to violence in their official media and cut off funding for terrorism. They also need to establish better relations with Israel."

"And Israeli leaders must support the emergence of a viable Palestinian state. I believe if violence subsides, freedom of movement will be restored, and that would help innocent Palestinians resume a normal life. And in accordance with the 'road map' peace plan (proposed by the President on June 24, 2002), settlement activity in the occupied territories needs to end."

"The global war on terror is the struggle of our times. We are not the first generation to face a defining struggle or be called to defend freedom. We're cognizant that no cause justifies terrorism, and that terror—not an absence of will—terror remains the single, largest impediment to peace in the Middle East."

Trude B. Feldman, a veteran White House



L-R Secretary of State Colin Powell, President George W. Bush, and Dr. Rice at the White House on September 19, 2001 during a discussion about the 9/11 terror attacks.

Photo by Eric Draper

and State Department correspondent, has known Dr. Rice for some sixteen years. Ms. Feldman has interviewed every National Security Advisor to the President since Henry A. Kissinger in the Richard Nixon White House.

## Soldiers remember liberating Auschwitz

By Heather Robinson, JTA

When they were young, they fought the Nazis, and then bore witness to the extreme depravity of which human beings are capable.

Now in or nearing their 80s and 90s, the Allied soldiers who liberated the concentration camps of Europe are recounting their memories of the horrors. Approaching the Jan. 27 anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, many of those still living feel urgency to testify about what they encountered.

Anatoly Shapiro, 92, has never forgotten what he saw at Auschwitz on Jan. 27, 1945. That was the day Shapiro, who says he is the first Russian officer to enter the infamous concentration camp, led his battalion to liberate it.

In an interview in his apartment in the Coney Island section of Brooklyn, where he sits alongside his wife, Vita, his tall, thin form is upright and his eyes are clear as he describes, through a translator, the things he says he still sees in nightmares 60 years later.



Auschwitz prisoners greet their liberators in January 1945.

Credit: USHMM, courtesy of Belarussian State Archive of Documentary Film and Photography

"We saw German soldiers, and when we opened the gate, we saw one barrack, then the next, on and on for a hundred barracks," he recalled.

"When I saw the people, it was skin and bones. They had no shoes, and it was freezing. They couldn't even turn their heads, they stood like dead people."

"I told them, 'The Russian army liberates you!' They couldn't understand. Some few who could touched our arms and said, 'Is it true? Is it real?'"

As a commanding officer, his task was to direct his men. Half his battalion — originally 900 men — had died in battle. But nothing they had endured had prepared them for what they found inside Auschwitz.

His men pleaded with him to let them leave.

"The general told me, 'Have the soldiers go from barrack to barrack. Let them see what happened to the people,'" he recalled.

He ordered them to accompany him, and they went from barrack to barrack. He remembers, "In See, SOLDIERS REMEMBER, page 16

# A NEW YEAR FOR TREES

## St. John's Bread for Tu B'Shevat

By Lisa J. Solomon

Once in Israel, many, many years ago, I stood on a hilltop facing the most impossibly beautiful grove of ancient olive trees. The guide who led a group of my boisterous friends and I to the site, stood with one sandaled foot braced behind the other to keep steady on the sloping terrain as he spoke with pride about the healthy grove and the fact that those very olive trees have grown for generations, still bearing their best voluptuous fruit. The day was dry, sunny, and hot, and as I stood there, taking in the rugged landscape, his voice and the restless noises of my friends, began to fade, and I was alone, watching the wide silver-leaved trees, with thick knarled branches, spreading, spreading, almost touching one another, shading the graveled soil, telling their strong story of survival, how they have, for so many years, for so many people and their children, stood right there. And I could hear their wise heartbeat.

On Tu B'Shevat, The New Year for the Trees, it is a well-known custom to plant or make donations to plant

new trees in Israel. But a lesser known custom mentioned in several of my reference books is eating the fruits of the trees of Israel, such as olives, dates, almonds, walnuts, and carob, or as it is interestingly called, St. John's Bread. When I read about this odd name for an Israeli fruit, I kept looking for a recipe. Surely someone, over all these years, would have decided to create something fitting the title. I looked through old and new Jewish cookbooks, several baking cookbooks and in my favorite bread book. No luck. So I bought some carob chips, the sweet chocolate tasting morsel made from the powder of carob, and I set about to create the bread myself. Since along with the carob, different nuts and dried fruits are often included in Tu B'Shevat meals, I decided almonds and dates would be a nice compliment.

Well, after some experimenting, the bread that emerged was deep mocha in color and even deeper in taste. The dates, almonds, and carobs offer little visual contrast to the brown bread but the taste is quietly fulfilling like an old family recipe. Yet the melting carob, hid-



den inside, makes it taste exciting and new at the same time. Something like the sensation all those years ago, when I was very young, facing trees that were very old, showing me that despite it all, they grew taller, and richer, and fuller, bearing their proud fruit, silent witnesses of an ever changing landscape, year after year, no matter what.

### ST. JOHN'S BREAD

This bread is truly delicious. I

bake many fruit and nut breads but this one's dark, homey appearance only adds to the rich surprise of flavor. One hint-make sure you like the coffee you use because it is a strong flavor ingredient.

1 cup fresh dates, chopped small  
3/4 cup strong coffee, boiling hot  
2/3 cup sugar  
1 generous tablespoon butter or margarine, room temperature

1 large egg  
1 3/4 cups all purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/4 cup almonds, chopped or sliced  
1/4 cup carob morsels  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees  
Brush a 9x5x3 loaf pan with melted butter or coat with vegetable spray.

In a heat proof small bowl, pour boiling hot coffee over cut-up dates. Set aside to cool.

In bowl of electric mixer, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg and mix well. Sift flour, baking soda, and salt. Add date mixture, alternately with flour mixture and vanilla into bowl of electric mixture, mixing until all ingredients are blended without over-mixing. With spatula, fold in nuts and carob and transfer into loaf pan, smoothing top.

Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until knife in center comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack for ten minutes. Turn out onto rack to cool completely.

Servings: One Loaf

## Planting Family Trees

By Batsheva Pomerantz

Tu b'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees, is celebrated on the 15th day of the month of Shevat and signifies the end of winter in the Land of Israel. As most of the rain has fallen, the earth begins to awaken and the trees start to blossom, with the almond tree being the first to sprout its pretty pink-white flowers.

In modern Israel, Tu b'Shevat is a welcome day of national celebration and schoolchildren, youth and adults plant saplings throughout the country, mainly through the Jewish National Fund.

Planting trees takes on an added dimension with the increasing interest of Israelis of all ages in discovering their roots.

In the first decade after the Holocaust, says Chana Furman, president of the Israel Genealogical Society ([www.isragen.org.il](http://www.isragen.org.il)), survivors in Israel focused on rebuilding their lives and there was no concerted effort to gather family histories. People were only propelled to search when the extent of the loss of life became known.

IGS, a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, was founded by Jerusalem history teacher Esther Ramon in 1983, and is modeled on similar societies abroad.

Today IGS has some 200 members with six branches throughout Israel, and its Special Interest Groups concentrate on specific geographical areas, such as Eretz Israel, Spain, Germany and Austria.

The Israel Genealogical Society holds lectures of historical interest in Hebrew and English, on subjects such as ketubot from 13th century North Africa, publicizes related lectures and study days, and publishes the Sharsheret Hadorot (Generational Chain) journal four times a year. Although members are usually interested in uncovering their own roots, they attend the general lectures and Special Interest Groups in the hope of gleaned information that can help them in their own personal search.

"We learn from everyone," says Furman. "If another member's research uncovers something - it can sometimes help someone else in their search."

The primary Internet source is JewishGen ([www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)), which connects researchers of Jewish genealogy worldwide with discussion groups, links and databases.

Before beginning an Internet search, however, Furman recommends writing down everything that is known about the family history. "Speak to your cousins. Everyone

tells a different story; these can be pieced together to uncover the full story." Build family trees with photos and make a diagram in pencil for easy correction/updates, which includes approximate date of birth, place of birth (in Hebrew and Latin letters), women's maiden and married names, date of emigration, children and profession, she adds.

One can also write to the Jewish Agency, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Zionist Archives and the kibbutz archives (which have information about the population in Eretz Yisrael before the Holocaust). Hevra Kadisha (the Jewish burial society) is a good source of information as tombstones can provide additional details.

In an attempt to reconstruct the names and life stories of all the Jews who perished in the Holocaust, Yad Vashem has recently put online a database of 3 million names of Holocaust victims, with relevant background details. This provides a wealth of genealogical information ([www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)).

Over 3 million visitors from 163 different countries have visited the site to date - 39% of them from Israel, 33% from North America, 24% from Europe and 4% from the rest of the world.

Zur Chen, 31, a software development expert and content security



Two young brothers plant a pine tree in the Jerusalem Hills on Tu b'Shevat - a day of national celebration.

IPS photo by Avi Ohayon courtesy of the Israel Government Press Office

consultant, is the founder of the Mishpuhe (Yiddish for "family") site ([www.mishpuhe.co.il](http://www.mishpuhe.co.il)) which began nearly three years ago when Chen set up a website to display the digital photos of his own family.

When his grandmother passed away, Chen made a forum in her memory. Memories, photos and even recipes found their way to this forum. Such was its success that in early 2003, Chen set up an application so that other families could use Mishpuhe. Today it is a portal with text, photographs and family events; a popular form of documenting, recording the past and constantly updating the growth and changes in the family.

Chen also created "Digital Roots" ([www.myshorashim.com](http://www.myshorashim.com)), a tool that helps genealogists, teachers and students involved in family research. (In Israel, it is customary for 12-13 year-olds to present root projects coinciding with their milestone year.)

"Digital Roots is user friendly and has numerous links to sources and articles about genealogy. It also enables students to mount videos and presentations."

Chen works with graphic artists from Shorashim Family Mementos who design authentic, customized family trees with photos, which are also digitalized for the website.

Tu b'Shevat is a special holiday that reminds Diaspora Jews of their strong connection to the land of Israel. Likewise, says Chen, "the search for roots is an important tool for strengthening Jewish identity."

In honor of Tu b'Shevat, Chen has created a forest whereby families, individuals and soldiers can plant virtual trees with greetings, creating a virtual forest in a location of their choice in Israel. Just as the individual trees create forests, family trees record the individuals who make up the nation of Israel.

Batsheva Pomerantz is a writer for Israel Press Service.



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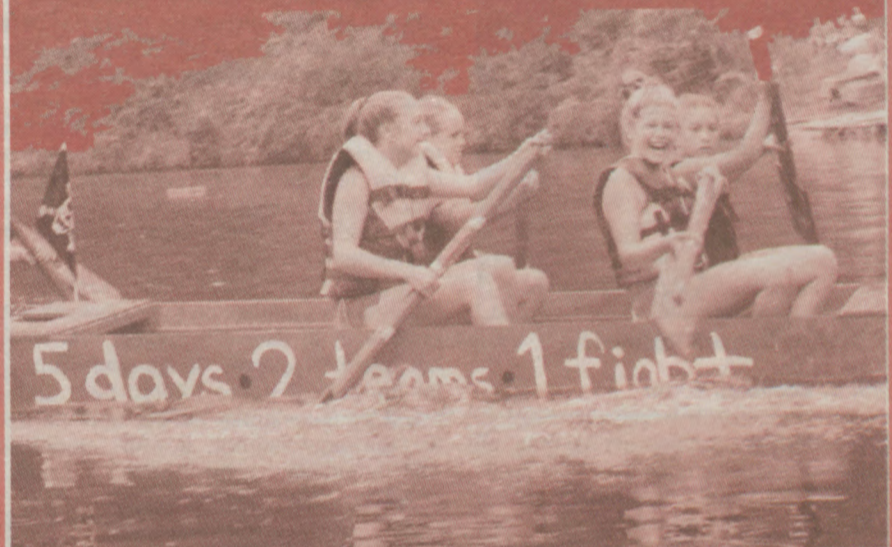
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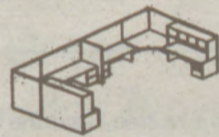
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# JEWISH LIFESTYLES

## Rubenstein Memoir:

### A Tale of Law and Love



Harvey Bernard Rubenstein

By Lynn B. Edelman, Editor

Harvey Bernard Rubenstein is man of many passions—chief among them the practice of law. His varied experiences in 35 years as a Delaware trial lawyer and a solo practitioner are captured in a fascinating autobiography called "Rounding Third". The book's title aptly conveys both the author's stage of life and his life-long love of baseball.

Rubenstein, a Philadelphia native, whose émigré parents placed a strong emphasis on education, was a graduate of the academically challenging Central High School and Temple University School of Law, where only half of the school's freshman class made the cut to sophomore year. Rubenstein's competitive nature, honed by years of experience playing sandlot and varsity baseball, spurred his academic success. He was named editor-in-chief of the Temple Law Quarterly (now the

Temple Review) and was appointed to the school's National Moot Court Team.

Rubenstein passed the rigorous Pennsylvania bar examination on his first try and was admitted by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1956. His search for a law clerk position went South—quite literally—when he was recommended for an appointment with Chief Judge Paul C. Leahy who was named by then President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to the First State's federal district court. Rubenstein was impressed with Judge Leahy's professionalism and the respect he showed to lawyers practicing in his courtroom. He enjoyed the collegial environment of the federal court community and was amenable to Judge Leahy's suggestion that he consider practicing law in Delaware after his clerkship ended.

There was only one obstacle to Rubenstein's admission to the Delaware Bar—proficiency in Latin—a subject that he had not taken in college. Judge Leahy arranged for his protégé to be tutored by a Catholic priest at Salesianum School until he satisfied the requirements. In 1957, Rubenstein was admitted by the Supreme Court of Delaware.

When he began his private practice in Wilmington, he became active in local politics. He served as a committeeman in Brandywine Hundred and helped get out the vote for Democratic candidates. Along the campaign trail he met such powerhouses as Charles K. Keil, then a newly elected state representative who would later become judge and Harold Bockman, head of the Division of Industrial Affairs for the State Department of Labor. Bockman asked Rubenstein to go to Dover and serve as House attorney. He relished the opportunity to draft legislation that would establish a minimum wage, grant public employees the right to organize and establish protocol for wage payment and collection.

His two year tenure in the House had

opened up many doors for the young attorney. After leaving the position he was asked to join with Cy Liberman and James M. Rosbrow as author of a third edition of their book, *The Delaware Citizen: The Guide to Active Citizenship in the First State*. The book, which outlined the structure and operation of Delaware government, was well received and remains in circulation in the Brandywine and Lewes public libraries.

In his practice as solo practitioner in Wilmington, Rubenstein represented many clients who were injured or unemployed workers. He assisted them in their struggles to obtain benefits or compensation. Although he received a contingent fee from his clients, several believed the remuneration to be an insufficient measure of their gratitude. One couple presented Rubenstein and his family with bags of farm-fresh fruits and vegetables for many years after their successful verdict in a workmen's compensation case. Another client, a carpenter, expressed his thanks with a hand-crafted pendulum clock which keeps perfect time to this day.

Rubenstein has enjoyed the many opportunities that his profession has presented him to make a difference in the lives of others. He is a past president of both the Delaware State Bar Association and the St. Thomas More Society, an organization which promotes ethical principals in the legal profession. Each organization has afforded him its highest honor — The First State Distinguished Service Award and the Society's Msgr. Paul J. Taggart Award.

His reputation for high personal ethics and his commitment to inter-faith dialogue led to an invitation by the Most Reverend Michael A. Saltarelli, D.D., Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, to serve on the Diocesan Review Board. The Board was established to oversee the implementation of the "Charter to Protect Children and Young People" and was endorsed by the

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Vatican. Rubenstein took his responsibilities very seriously during this time of national crisis in the Catholic Church.

The Delaware Jewish community has also benefited from Rubenstein's time, talent and energy. He served as president of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth for six years and was a member of the board of directors for the Jewish Federation of Delaware and a former chairman of Federation's Jewish Community Relations Committee. He was a founding member of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware and a former chairman of Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School.

During the time his three daughters, now lawyers themselves, were young, Rubenstein was active in the Parent Teachers Association. As his children grew, so did his involvement in school leadership. Ultimately, he was elected president of the Council of PTAs in the Alfred I. duPont School District, which became a part of the larger Brandywine School District after desegregation in 1982.

"Rounding Third" devotes its final two chapters to Rubenstein's beloved wife, Myrna Lomish Rubenstein, who died in July, 2001 after a brief but devastating bout with cancer. Rubenstein, who describes her as his "only partner in life" credits her with helping him balance the demands of a successful law practice with civic and professional leadership roles. Her involvement as "the entire staff of my law office" enabled him to be selected by the American Bar Association as its 1995 Solo Practitioner of the Year.

If you would like to take a more in-depth look at the inner workings of the Delaware legal profession, you can purchase this book by making a \$100 contribution to the Delaware Bar Association Foundation. The Foundation raises money to provide legal services for the poor—a cause near and dear to Rubenstein's heart.

## Soldiers remember Continued from page 13

German, it said, 'damas,' — women. When I opened the barrack, I saw blood, dead people, and in between them, women still alive and naked.

"It stank; you couldn't stay a second. No one took the dead to a grave. It was unbelievable. The soldiers from my battalion asked me, 'Let us go. We can't stay. This is unbelievable.'

"We went to the barracks for men; it was the same as the barracks for the women.

"People in the barracks were naked, or [had] just thin clothes, no shoes, in the freezing cold; it was January. Only a few people could talk; they didn't have energy. But a few people were able to talk, so slowly. [They told us] once a day they got a little water, no bread, no anything. If someone died, they took the clothes, to get a little warmth, anywhere. They died from hunger and cold.

"I was shocked, devastated."

Shapiro remembers two barracks for children. "Outside it said, 'kinder.' Inside one, there were only two children alive; all the others had been killed in gas chambers, or were in the 'hospital' where the Nazis performed medical experiments on them. When we went in, the children were screaming, 'We are not Jews!'"

It turned out that they really were Jewish children and were afraid they were about to be taken to the gas chambers.

He remembers the Russian Red Cross trying to feed the people. "Immediately they started cooking chicken soup, vegetable soup, but the people couldn't eat because their stomachs were like" — instead of

using words, he shows his clenched fist.

After the Red Cross had removed survivors, Shapiro continues, he directed his soldiers to begin cleaning the barracks to prevent disease from spreading.

Because of the repression of Judaism in the former Soviet Union, Shapiro says he did not know how many Jews the Nazis had killed until he learned that the figure was 6 million when he and his family emigrated to the United States in 1992.

Shapiro has been asked to speak after the president of Poland at the Jan. 27 ceremony in Krakow commemorating the liberation. As it turns out, he cannot be at the ceremony, but he feels it is crucial to speak about what he saw so that future generations will remember. He is particularly gratified to be able to talk about what he saw because he was not able to do so in the former Soviet Union.

"If I had spoken of what I saw, I would have been sent to jail," he said. "Today, I never forget what happened in Auschwitz and in the war to our 6 million, and to all [those who died at the hands of the Nazis]."

Auschwitz was one of the first camps that the Allies reached, so the anniversary of its liberation prompts reflection by the liberators of other camps as well.

Marvin Josephs, 81, of Phoenix, helped liberate Ohrdruf and Buchenwald in Germany. As a master sergeant with Ace Corps headquarters, 3rd Army, Josephs' unit entered Buchenwald on April 12, 1945, with a military chaplain, Rabbi Herschel Schachter.

"Rabbi Schachter announced with a bull-

horn, 'You're free,' and the survivors "came and tried to kiss his boots," Josephs said. "They were emaciated, starving."

One man in particular, who said he had been a professor at the University of Prague, showed the camp to Josephs, the rabbi, and several other American soldiers. The tour included the crematoria and the home of the commandant and his wife, Ilse Koch, whose brutality earned her the nickname "Beast of Buchenwald."

"It was so terrible; it was hard for the mind to absorb it."

Shortly after Josephs' unit arrived, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower ordered the entire U.S. 4th Armored Division to tour Buchenwald so they could see the Nazis' brutality.

"He didn't want people to ever deny what happened," Josephs said.

Eugene Cohen, 89, of Pittsburgh served under Gen. George Patton as chief investigating officer of Mauthausen, a conglomeration of concentration camps including Gusen, in Austria.

He supervised an investigating team of 13 men, including six interpreters and several photographers whose documentation was later used to convict Nazi war criminals, including Franz Ziereis, at the Nuremberg Trials.

He was among the first officers to enter Mauthausen in May 1945.

Cohen recalls that he and his men posted signs that read, "Maj. Eugene Cohen is here to investigate crimes against humanity."

"When the Jewish people saw the name Cohen, they came rushing to me," he

recalled, tears in his voice.

Day after day, he and his men took depositions. His many indelible memories include the time, several days after he had begun his work, when his chief interpreter, Jack Nowitz, summoned him to hear a man's deposition.

"I saw a man sitting there and Jackie said, 'This man sitting before you was to die two weeks after we came to liberate the camp.'

"The Germans kept these things called tote books, in which it was marked down, who was to die on such and such a day. Here was a man who was to die, and he was living because we were there. This man came crying to me, and I cried with him."

Cohen said he felt a kinship with the survivors as fellow Jews, and a unique sense of purpose as a Jewish soldier documenting the atrocities.

"Of course, being of the Jewish faith, we did the best we could to get as much evidence as we could," he said.

At the Nuremberg trials, there were more war criminals charged from Mauthausen — based at least in part on the depositions he and his men gathered — than there were from some of the larger concentration camps. As recently as 2001, the FBI gained access to Cohen's personal records to gather evidence to support the deportation of a Nazi war criminal.

"We looked him up, and sure enough, he was there in my report," Cohen said.

"We're dying off now; there are only a few who witnessed what took place," he said. "The most important thing is never to forget."





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## MILESTONES In Memoriam

### GOLIN

Myron Golin, of Hockessin, died peacefully at home on January 17th after a long battle with cancer. He was 77 years old and a native of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Golin moved to the United States with his family at the age of 8. The Golins emigrated first to Cambridge, Ohio and settled in the Wilmington area when Myron was 13.

He entered the United States Army immediately after graduation from high school and was stationed in Italy with the post-WWII occupation forces. He achieved the rank of sergeant before his discharge in 1947. He went on to Ohio State University where he earned his undergraduate and MBA degrees.

After college, he worked for several years with his father in the family owned business, Delaware Novelty before launching his teaching career. In 1957, Mr. Golin joined the faculty of Pennsylvania Military College. Over the next 30 years, the college expanded to become Widener University. During that period, his responsibilities expanded as well. Before retiring in 1993, he would serve as both assistant dean and associate professor of

economics.

He was active in a wide variety of volunteer roles including: long-time service as Commander of the Delaware Post of the Jewish War Veterans; and stints as a volunteer with the Veterans Hospital, Delaware History Museum, Academy of Life-long Learning, Winterthur and the Ashland Nature Center. He enjoyed painting, golf and cooking and traveling the world with his wife of 47 years, Barbara.

In addition to Barbara, Mr. Golin is survived by his son, Mark and daughter, Stacey Hoppman, his four grandchildren, Samantha, Joseph, Alexander and Nicholas, and his sister, Miriam.

A memorial service was held on January 21st at Schoenberg's Memorial Chapel in Wilmington.

The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to either Delaware Hospice, 3515 Silverside Road, Wilmington, DE 19810, or to the Helen Graham Cancer Center, 4701 Ogletown Stanton Road, Newark, DE 19713

### JACOBS

June Jacobs, 91, of Wilmington,

died January 12. She was the widow of Albert W. Jacobs and is survived by her daughter, Lynda and son-in-law, Stephen Mohl of Wilmington; her son, Mark and daughter-in-law, Barbara Jacobs of Cherry Hill, NJ; a brother, Maynard Love of Chicago; her grandchildren, Marcy, Debi, Michael, Alexandra and Danielle and her great-grandchildren, Daniel, Elisabeth, Andrew, Catherine, Rachel, Mitchell, Aaron, Zachary and Jacob.

Graveside services were held on January 14th at the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

The family would appreciate that contributions in her memory be made to the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey, 1301 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003.

### PEARL

Lillian Aronin Pearl, 88, of Wilmington, died January 4th at the Kutz Home. She was the wife of Irwin Pearl who survives her with fond memories of their 66 year marriage.

Born and raised in Seattle, WA, she graduated from the University of Washington with a BS degree in Microbiology. In 1941, she and her

husband moved to Appleton, Wisconsin where they lived for the next 57 years. She was extremely active in this community's Jewish and civic organizations, holding positions including the presidency of Appleton Hadassah, the American Association of University Women, the Parent Teachers Association and her synagogue Sisterhood. Mrs. Pearl also served as principal of the Moses Montefiore Congregation, as a member of the Great Lakes Regional Board of Hadassah and as a den mother for the local Cub Scouts troop. She and several friends created and ran "Sweet Charity", a resale shop that raised thousands of dollars for Jewish charities.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her children, Cheryl and Ken Kamm of Wilmington, Hugh and Jacqueline Pearl of Sleepy Hollow, IL; grandchildren, Stevie Friedman; Greg Schiff, Charles and Lana Pearl, Kurt Rubin, Amy Trust, Laurie Rubin, Marta Kiesling, Shira, Aviva, Joseph and Benjamin Kamm; and seven great-grandchildren.

Burial was private.

Contributions in Mrs. Pearl's

memory would be appreciated to either Hadassah, c/o Sena Garber, 2302 Swynford Road, Wilmington, DE 19810 or to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809

### WEBER

Reba Weber, 93, formerly of Palisades Park, NJ, died January 6th. She was preceded in death by her husband, Murray and her daughter, Roberta Weber Harris.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Hedy and Howard Mintz of Wilmington; brother, Daniel Rosen of CT; grandchildren, Michelle and David Jasper Brody, Marshall Mintz, Gilla and Glenn Jasper, Ari Jasper, Ilana Mintz and Rena Mintz; and great-grandchildren, Ezra, Tzvi, Tehilla, Temima, Nili, Anina and Raphael.

Graveside services were held on January 9th in Mt. Hebron Cemetery, Fresh Meadows, NY.

Contributions in her memory would be appreciated to the Kutz Home, 704 River road, Wilmington, DE 19809; to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Washington Blvd and Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802; or to the Albert Einstein Academy, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington, DE 19803.

## NACHAS NOOK

### Simkins and Watt to wed

Dr. Alan and Sandra Simkins of Concord Township, PA, formerly of Wilmington, DE, announce the engagement of their daughter, Andrea, to Philip Graham Watt, son of Michael and Hilary Watt of Sydney, Australia. The couple became engaged while vacationing in Turks and Caicos.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Concord High School and graduated magna cum laude from Vanderbilt University with a BA in political science and communications. She currently serves as the senior director at the Corporate Executive Board in Washington, DC and resides in Arlington, VA. The future groom graduated from Trinity High School in Sydney, received his BA degree from Gettysburg College and his Master's Degree from the University of Sydney. He is currently employed by ePlus Technology Group in



Philip Watt and Andrea Simkins

Herndon, VA and resides in Arlington, VA.

A beachside wedding ceremony is planned on Grand Cayman Island.



**MAZEL TOV TO THE KRESHTOOL TRIPLETS!** Rabbi Peter Grumbacher and Cantor Mark Stanton of Congregation Beth Emeth recently led the Shabbat Services on December 11 at which Andrew, Evan and Michael Kreshtool were called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah. Congratulations to the proud grandmother Connie Kreshtool, Parents Daniel and Susan Kreshtool, and Sister Sarah. Photo Credit: Brad Glazier

### Ashman and Kanthal are wed

Sharee Malissa Ashman of Claymont, DE and Jason Allen Kanthal of Plainsboro, NJ were married on November 27th in Temple Beth Emeth.

Parents of the couple are Carole and Jerry Ashman of Claymont and Carol and Mike Kanthal of Old Bridge, NJ.

Sharee graduated with honors from DelCastle Technical High School as a medical assistant. However, for the past 12 years, she has worked as a pharmacy technician. She also attended Delaware Technical Community College and is presently employed by Rite Aid.

Jason graduated from Cedar Ridge High School in Old Bridge, NJ and attended Middlesex Community College

in Edison, NJ. He is presently employed by ATX Communications in King of Prussia.

After a wonderful honeymoon in Las Vegas and Beverly Hills, the couple reside in Exton, PA.

### Schoenberg Memorial Chapels

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of the Jewish Federation of Delaware  
mark with great sorrow the untimely passing  
of Steven J. Rothschild  
a man who enriched the lives of his friends,  
family, colleagues and made his community  
a better place to live and work.*

*Our heartfelt sympathies to his wife, Carol  
and to their children and grandchildren.*

# COMING EVENTS

## NEW DELAWARE HIGHER EDUCATION CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline for graduating Delaware high school seniors to apply for a new state higher education scholarship is Monday, February 14, 2005. The Delaware Constitutional Scholarship program is for students who plan to attend a state-supported college or university and pursue a career in public administration, or advancing their education in the study of American history, civics, political science, economics or a related field of study.

The program offers a top prize of \$5,000 and four \$3,000 scholarships to winning students in each county and the City of Wilmington. The top competition winner may be eligible for a total of \$8,000 by capturing both the grand prize and the regional award. The award money will be paid directly to the recipient's college choice of either Delaware State University, Delaware Technical and Community College or the University of Delaware.

Applicants must write a paper between 500 and 1,500 words, answering a constitutional question posed by the Delaware Department of State. Students with the highest scores will advance to be judged on an oral presentation of their work. The grand prize winner will also have the opportunity to give an oral presentation before the Delaware General Assembly.

The Delaware Constitutional Scholarship program is an effort by the state to promote the learning, interpretation, understanding, and application of democratic principles contained in the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights. Funding for this scholarship program came from proceeds of a bicentennial fundraiser to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Delaware's ratification and the 215th anniversary of when the state held its first federal election.

Scholarship registration and guideline information can be found on the worldwide web at [www.destatemuseums.org](http://www.destatemuseums.org) or [www.doe.state.de.us](http://www.doe.state.de.us) - (click on school curriculum and select the social studies webpage.) Regional scholarship winners will be announced Friday, March 11, 2005. Competition for the top prize will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2005.

## A MELODIC SHABBAT AT BETH EMETH

A "Shabbat of Melody" will take place at Congregation Beth Emeth on Friday, February 11th at 8 PM. Cantor Yvon Shore will present "Melodies in time: from Sinai to New York by way of Germany. Our sacred text through music." Cantor Shore grew up in Wilmington and is Director of Liturgical Arts and Music at Hebrew Union College - Institute of Religion, Cincinnati Campus. Cantor Shore will also speak at Torah Study on Saturday morning starting at 9:15.

## BRUNCH AT BETH SHALOM

Congregation Beth Shalom will host its second "Brunch and Learn" of the season on Sunday, January 30th. The program will consist of a mini presentation of the show "Cabaret" presented by the New Candlelight Dinner Theater followed by a delicious brunch. The brunch begins at 10 AM with the presentation following immediately afterward. For questions or reservations call 654-4462.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ISRAEL?

OTZMA is a service-based leadership development program offering young adults ages 20-26 the unique opportunity to contribute and acquire an in-depth understanding of Israel and the Jewish people. The OTZMA program combines social action, civil rights and community building. Spend three months in an absorption center learning Hebrew, three months doing community service using your skills in a development town and three months on a kibbutz or participating in our new internship track! For more information check out our website at [www.otzma.org](http://www.otzma.org) or contact us at [otzma@ujc.org](mailto:otzma@ujc.org).

## CABARET PROGRAM AT AKSE

What good is sitting at home in your room, come to the Cabaret Night at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation on Sunday, January 30th at 7:00 p. m. AKSE's own Cindy Goldstein will share the stage with Rebecca Buswell and an ensemble cast will perform songs from Broadway's most popular shows. Buswell's Well Whaddya Know - That's Life played to sold-out audiences during a Fall, 2004 weekend run at the Society Hill Playhouse in Philadelphia. Ticket prices are \$15 in advance (until January 27th), \$20 at the door and \$7 for children ages 12 and under. Make checks payable to AKSE Men's Club, Washington Blvd. and

Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802

## BETH SHALOM

## WINTER FILM SERIES ENDS THIS SUNDAY AT THEATRE N

The Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation of Congregation Beth Shalom's inaugural "Winter Film Series" at Theatre N in Wilmington culminates on Sunday, January 23 at 8:00 PM. "Gloomy Sunday" is a romantic melodrama set in pre-World War II Budapest that features an agreed upon love triangle and international intrigue as the Nazis occupy Hungary.

As the series is a fundraiser for Congregation Beth Shalom, donations are \$11.00 per ticket. Advance tickets are available for purchase by credit card by calling 302-571-4699 or online at [www.theatren.org](http://www.theatren.org). Tickets can be purchased at the theater starting one hour before each show. Validated parking is available in the City Center garage on 11th Street between West and Tatnall Streets. Bring in your parking ticket and we'll validate it so it's \$1.00 to park. Parking meters are free all weekend too!

A discussion will follow the film and refreshments will be available. Keep your ticket stub for your tax deduction. For further information call Beth Shalom at 302 654 4462.

## JUDAISM FOR INTERFAITH FAMILIES

Congregation Beth Emeth Outreach invites you to join interfaith couples and those new to, or curious about Judaism for its special 6 week interactive course. All questions on Judaism will be answered and discussed in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. The course starts Thursday, 1/27/05 at 7:00 p.m. and meets weekly through 3/3/05. The instructor is Dr. Henry Schenker. Space is limited! Please pre-register by calling the temple office at (302) 764-2393 or email [beout2@minque.com](mailto:beout2@minque.com). Visit [www.bethemethoutreach.com](http://www.bethemethoutreach.com) for more info.

## AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR ISRAEL STUDY

The Israel Scholar Development Fund of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise is pleased to offer awards to encourage students to pursue academic careers in fields related to the study of Israel. Awards will be available to undergraduates who have already been accepted to a graduate program, graduate students who have received master's degrees in Middle East related fields who wish

to pursue a doctorate and doctoral students who are writing dissertations related to Israel.

Each award will be for \$10,000. The grants are for one year. Doctoral dissertation awards may be used for tuition, books, living expenses, travel costs, and other expenses to enable dissertation research. All other awards will be for tuition and books.

Proposals from candidates in all disciplines are welcome. The competition is open only to U.S. citizens.

Complete applications including transcripts and references must be received by January 30, 2005. For more information and an application, go to the [Jewish Virtual Library](http://www.jewishvirtualibrary.org/jsource/isdf.html) (<http://www.jewishvirtualibrary.org/jsource/isdf.html>)

## SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its 16th annual Scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or Israel. Applications may be picked up at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth office, Washington Street Ext. and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802, and must be returned by the deadline on March 1, 2005.

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

## MOONLIGHT DINNER CRUISE

Dine, dance and tour Baltimore's inner harbor by moonlight as part of an elegant Beth Emeth Outreach fundraising event on Saturday, March 5:00 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.. Enjoy a romantic and cozy atmosphere. Minimum donation of \$100 per person includes 3 hour cruise, dinner buffet, and open bar. Tickets are limited - Reserve yours today by making your donation at the Congregation Beth Emeth Temple Office (Phone 764-2393). Dress is upscale festive - boarding starts at 6:30. For directions, local hotel information, and the menu, please visit [www.bethemethoutreach.com](http://www.bethemethoutreach.com).

## BETH EMETH ADULT ED COURSES OPEN TO COMMUNITY

Congregation Beth Emeth invites members of the community to attend a six week series of adult education classes.

Courses will be held on Wednesday evenings starting on February 2nd and continuing through March 9th.

The following courses will be offered at 7:00 pm

Advanced Hebrew for Beginners: Reading the Prayer Book, taught by Myrna Pollack

You Call That Jewish! A Look at "Jewish" Music by Non-Jewish Composers and "Other" Music by Jewish Composers, taught by Cantor Mark Stanton, and Israel's Challenges

Political, Religious, Economic, Demographic, Diplomatic, etc., taught by Connie Kreshtool;

8:00 pm - Cycling through the Cycles of Life: How the Jew Negotiates from Birth to Death, taught by Rabbi Peter Grumbacher;

The Moon and Judaism: Festivals and Celebrations around the Calendar, taught by Sue Paul.

The cost of the series is \$10 for two classes with a registration deadline of January 31st.

For further information, please contact the Temple Office at 302-764-2393.

## BETH EMETH'S DRIVER PROGRAM OPEN TO COMMUNITY

Congregation Beth Emeth's Daily Designated Driver Program, open to all members of the local Jewish community as a service of the Caring Community Committee, is modifying some functions: Effective in 2005, people desiring a ride should call the CBE Office, between 9:30 and 4:00 weekdays, at 764-2393. The staff will notify scheduled drivers of the need and request these DDD's to arrange details.

Riders are urged to make contact at least a week in advance, although last-minute needs will be accommodated if possible. For now, if an urgent need occurs outside these hours, Fred DeVries can be called at (610) 388-6135 or [cell] (610) 909-4288. We cannot guarantee to have a driver always available; we would gladly welcome more volunteers: Many volunteers have been most gracious in committing to cover a specific day every month; if we had more drivers, they could be given occasional relief!

Anyone wishing to assist either as a driver or in administering the program (e.g., setting up the monthly schedule, being available during off-hours to contact drivers, etc.) should not hesitate to call! The continuing success of this program will be a function of how many devoted volunteers participate.

Fred DeVries, Transportation coordinator, expresses his "thanks to the forty or so "charter drivers" who have helped to launch this effort!"

## Sharon Turns Up Heat On Abbas Continued from page 1

engaged in terror would be punished," and Abbas told P.A. security commanders that he had received a mandate to end the armed intifada. He ordered them to take action to stop the Kassam rockets, and to deploy in the areas from which the rockets were being fired.

In a meeting Monday with Israeli left-wingers, Abbas outlined his plans: He said he would need about a month to reorganize the P.A. armed forces and bring the terrorists to heel. He would try to do so not by confronting them, but by getting them to sign onto a comprehensive cease-fire, he said.

Most significantly, he said the cease-fire he had in mind would apply not only to attacks inside Israel proper but also in the Gaza

Strip and West Bank. On Tuesday, Abbas went to Gaza in an effort to persuade the radicals to accept the cease-fire call.

The big question is what will happen if the terrorist groups don't accede to Abbas' urgings. Will Abbas impose his will?

Israeli media quoted a senior P.A. security official Tuesday as saying that the Palestinian Authority indeed planned to disarm terrorist groups. But so far there is no sign of any movement of Palestinian forces to confront the terrorists on the ground, Israeli officials say.

Israel isn't prepared to wait much longer. If Abbas fails to act within the next few days, the Israel Defense Forces are threatening to mount a wide-scale assault on the

terrorists in Gaza. Some even talk of an attack similar to Operation Defensive Shield, the massive re-invasion of the West Bank in April 2002 that decimated the terrorist infrastructure there.

Though the Palestinians surely would protest loudly, a thorough Israeli military action to destroy Gaza's terrorist infrastructure might be the best present Abbas could receive in his new post, sparing him the dirty work, some analysts said.

But such Israeli posturing worries Israeli critics on the left. Several pundits suspect Sharon's tough talk means he intends to backtrack on his commitment to withdraw from Gaza and part of the West Bank next summer, while others suggest he may try to discredit Abbas to

avoid having to negotiate with him.

Ironically, several pundits say, the more hawkish line has been made possible by the presence of the relatively dovish Labor Party in Sharon's new government. Writing in the mass circulation daily Yediot Achronot, Nachum Barnea argued that whenever Labor joins a Likud-led government, the Likud seems to move to the right.

"Maybe it's an optical illusion, maybe paranoia, but it's difficult to avoid the impression that every time the" Labor politicians "join the government, the tanks start rolling. It's happened before, in unity Likud-led governments, including the last one led by Ariel Sharon, and it's happening again now after Labor's entry into the government," Barnea wrote.

In the left-leaning newspaper Ha'aretz, Doron Rosenblum suggested that Labor's presence in government gives Sharon the confidence "to do what he likes."

Yossi Beilin, leader of the dovish Yahad party, maintains that Israel will not find a better partner than Abbas, and that Sharon, aided by Labor, may be about to miss an opportunity for historic compromise.

Israeli-Palestinian relations are at a critical juncture with many key questions still unanswered: Will Sharon's tough line help stabilize the situation or lead to a new escalation? Will Abbas fight terrorism? And will Labor's entry into the government prove a force for moderation or a cover for a more hawkish Israeli policy?



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### A One Man Tour de Force

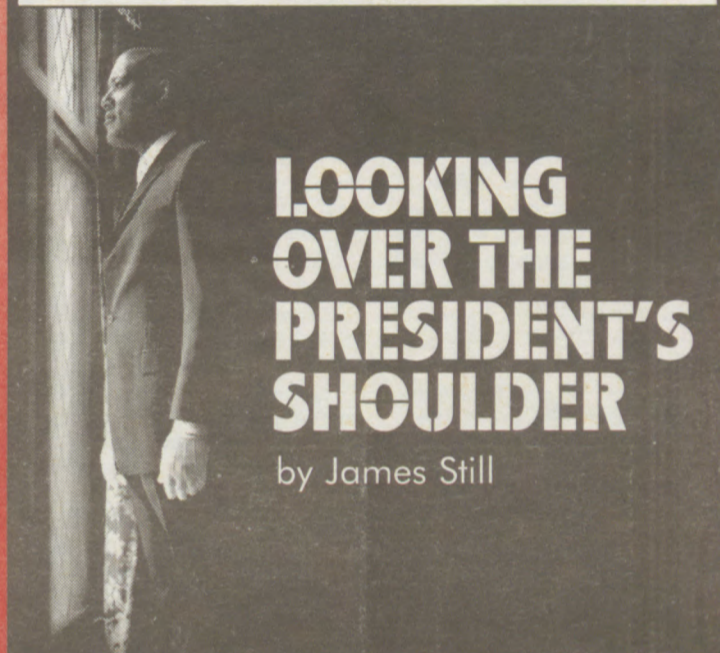
In a one-man tour de force, David Alan Anderson portrays Alonzo Fields, the first African American to be named Chief Butler for the White House. Fields first came to the White House temporarily to earn a stable income while he pursued his quest to become a professional opera singer. But before long, he was managing the staff that catered to the needs of presidents and their families.

In his 20 plus years at the White House, Fields "held the chair" for four presidents — Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower — and came in contact with kings, queens, rabble rousers and movie stars. He witnessed history as few others ever have — events both momentous and mundane. Now his stories can be told.

Who ever took a drink? What was the staff's nickname for Eleanor Roosevelt? Which President took an interest in the lives of their staffs and who stood aloof? James Still's illuminating true-life drama answers these questions and many, many more with warmth and wit.

"Amusing and shrewdly perceptive."

CurtainUp Los Angeles



## LOOKING OVER THE PRESIDENT'S SHOULDER

by James Still

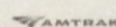
Let Alonzo Fields, the first African-American to become White House Chief Butler, introduce you to Presidents from Hoover through Ike, as only he saw them. Mr. Fields can't wait to share his experiences in this warm, fact-based, one-man tour de force.

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1/05

Just a Reminder!  
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