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Jewish Family Service Celebrates Jewish Healing

By BONNIE FALCHUK

Community Reporter

Healing at its best leaves the world a stronger place. This strength can take the form of closer relationships among family and friends as someone nears death. It can take the form of newly-found courage when facing any of life's challenges, such as bereavement, illness, death and divorce.

Imagine facing such a loss. Where would you turn both in the immediate aftermath and later on if the passage of time alone did not help? And where would you turn as a Jew?

Come October, the Jewish community of Delaware will have a new answer for these questions: the Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center. As part of Jewish Family Service of Delaware, the Center will be led by Myriam Klotz, a soon-to-be ordained student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Pennsylvania with an extensive background in Jewish healing care and caring program development.

At a reception and lecture last Sunday at the Delaware Museum of Natural History, sponsored in part by Zeneca, the community had an opportunity to learn about the Jewish healing movement from Myriam Klotz and hear how the plans for the healing center in Delaware came into being.



Celebrating this special day (from left) Dory Zatuchni, JFS executive director, Andy Aerenson, president, Myriam Klotz, speaker, Mort Kimmel, Marcia Kimmel and Larry Kimmel-Spiller.

Listeners were welcomed by Andrew Aerenson, President of the Board of Directors, who noted that JFS is 100 years old this year. He said the idea for a Jewish healing center in Delaware came from JFS Executive Director Dory Zatuchni, who came home from a conference a year ago "flying high on the concept of a Jewish healing

center." Seed money for the venture then came from the Kimmel-Spiller Charitable Foundation.

The founding of the Center is itself the result of response to loss. Mr. Morton Kimmel of the Kimmel-Spiller Foundation spoke of how a 1987 tragedy - the deaths of four members of the Spiller family - led to the

formation of the Foundation. "We hope everyone in the community will benefit," he said of the Center. "You make a living by what you get, you make a life by what you give."

In her remarks introducing keynote speaker Myriam Klotz, Zatuchni said that while a study 3 years ago found that 90% of all who had dealings with JFS found it to be a highly professional organization, only 10% of the community had ever heard of them. The Spiller-Kimmel Healing Center may help change this. "It's about wholeness," she said, and about bringing opportunities and knowledge to the community.

What precisely is a Jewish healing center and what will it offer? It is a concept more than a place, a way to bring prayers, support and healing to more members of the community. It will offer a resource center with books and tapes for those seeking information. It will offer the opportunity to perform the mitzvah of *Bikur Cholim*, the visiting of the sick in their homes or care facilities. Parlor meetings addressing such topics as the healing of trauma through ritual and the healing power of touch are already planned for June and July. Support groups for the widowed and the families of

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Reconciliation in Darmstadt

By SHEELLA MIERSON

Editors Note: Sheella Mierson lives in Newark. She is Director of Creative Learning Solutions, an educational training and consulting company. This is her first article in *The Jewish Voice*.

Thursday morning. Nov. 5, 1998. My uncle Walter and the lawyer who has made this building his law office for the last 5 years are talking animatedly in German. Every so often I can understand what Walter is saying as he slips back into English for a few words. He explains to me that this room used to be the living room, that one the dining room, the two rooms over there were bedrooms, and the room on the other side was a kitchen. He keeps looking at one corner of the room we are in and saying, "Why did they take out the stove?"

As we walk back to our hotel, he berates himself for his difficulty in remembering German words. My aunt says, "I thought you did well. After all, its been 61 years since you've spoken regularly in this language."

This was the beginning of a week I spent this fall in Darmstadt, where my mother and uncle lived until 1937. Our hotel turned out to be a few blocks from their old apartment, in one of the few areas of the city not reduced to rubble by Allied bombing in 1944. The very first morning of our trip, I visited that apartment with my aunt and uncle.

The city of Darmstadt invited former Jewish residents to come for the triple



Author Sheella Mierson (on right) embraces her mother, in front of the synagogue in Darmstadt.

observance of the tenth anniversary of the new synagogue, the sixtieth anniversary of Kristallnacht, and the completion and dedication of a new Torah scroll for the synagogue. (On Kristallnacht, meaning literally night of glass, Jewish synagogues, cemeteries, and businesses all over Germany were burned or vandalized during one 24-

hour period, Nov. 9, 1939. This marked the beginning of increased persecution and arrests of Jews in Germany.) The city built the new synagogue for the Jewish community, as partial replacement for what was destroyed on Kristallnacht, and dedicated it on the fiftieth anniversary. My mother, my sister, my aunt and uncle, and I all went for the week. We were part of a group of about thirty from the U.S., England, and Israel. For many of the former Darmstadt residents, including my uncle, this was the first trip back. The week was remarkable. We were wined and dined and treated very thoughtfully from start to finish. An entire week of festivities was planned for us by the city and by the Jewish community, including a tour of the city and of the Jewish cemetery, concerts and art exhibits, services in the synagogue, a commemoration of Kristallnacht, and visits to high schools to talk with students.

Thursday evening. Epsie, the woman next to me at dinner the first evening, looks up as another woman walks purposely toward her, calling to her using her maiden name. "You and I went to kindergarten together. Our parents were good friends." Epsie's daughter Linda and I smile at each other. I expect to hear a lot of this sort of conversation this week.

At dinner, we are warmly welcomed by Peter Benz, the mayor of the city, and then by Moritz Neumann, the head of the Jewish community. as one of only three in the audience who does not understand German, I am dependent on my mother

and others to translate. Everyone seems impressed and even moved by the welcoming comments. The mayor was born after World War II; relationships with Jews and with the Jewish community are obviously important and valuable to him. He declares that building the synagogue is "not charity, but an obligation of [his] government." My uncle says later that he usually feels uncomfortable whenever anyone talks publicly about Jews, whether the speaker is Jewish or Gentile. The training is simply too ingrained that it is not safe to be open about being Jewish. Walter says that hearing the welcoming speeches this evening, here in Germany in his home town, is the first time he did not have that reaction of discomfort.

The city of Darmstadt, in southern Germany near Frankfurt, had about 3,000 Jews before WWII, out of a total population of about 100,000. There are now about 450 Jews in Darmstadt, 90% of them recent immigrants from Russia and other eastern European countries. My own family left in 1937 and immigrated to Chicago. At that time they could take all their belongings, but no money.

Friday morning. Nov. 6. We are on a guided tour of the Jewish cemetery of Darmstadt. I usually love old cemeteries, and this one is no exception. It is surrounded by a brick wall, with lots of greenery: well-kept lawns, tall trees, vines. The oldest gravestone I find is from the late 1800's. The rabbi, an old man originally from Rumania, gathers people a couple of times during the tour to say Kaddish. The man acting as our guide is

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INSIDE THE VOICE

Reconciliation

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Udo Steinbeck, the grandson of one of only six local survivors of the concentration camps. He himself is technically not Jewish since his mother is not Jewish, yet it is clear that this part of his heritage is central in his life. He is extremely knowledgeable about the history of Jews in this area, and he has taken the whole week off work to spend with us.

During the war 400-450 Jews from Darmstadt were sent to concentration camps; all the rest left in time. My mother's opinion is that Jews in Germany had more advance warning of what was to come than did Jews in occupied countries, so more of them

escaped. According to Udo Steinbeck, this cemetery was not desecrated during WWII, due to the courage of thencustodian Herr Verling. Herr Verling somehow threw vandals out when they tried to enter the cemetery. In one area of the cemetery, we saw a group of gravestones that had a different appearance from the rest. When a Jew died in a concentration camp, at least in the early years, the authorities would send the cremated ashes back to the municipality from which the person came. Herr Verling took it upon himself to bury those ashes in a separate section of the cemetery and to record the names. Gravestones were erected on these sites after the war.

Saturday, Nov. 7. We are at Shabbat services at the new

synagogue. Both after services yesterday evening and at lunch today, we are treated to the delicious fresh bread that is part of German cuisine. What is distinctive about this particular bread is that the challah tastes just like my grandmother's! She had a particular way of making it, and the texture was different from any other challah I have tasted until now.

After lunch the children of the congregation perform a play for us. The children are mostly Russian immigrants, who have been receiving religious education only since they arrived in Mr. Neumann Germany. introduces the play and the theater director Aviva Steinitz, who is also choir director, Hebrew teacher and bible teacher for children and adults in four communities. He says that when the synagogue was first built he was concerned because there were very few children in the congregation. That number has been steadily increasing, and now, if these children are any indication, he thinks the future of the congregation will be in good hands. It is when the curtain rises on beautifully painted scenery, and the children act their roles with confidence and obvious enjoyment, that my tears come. Seeing these Russian Jewish children, performing a play for us in German and Yiddish in a synagogue in Darmstadt, finally loosened my tears.

The week's events were planned

jointly by the city, the Jewish community, and the Christian-Jewish Association. A small army of volunteers from all three helped out at various times during the week. The welcome from the city was not limited to a few official words. In addition to Mr. Schafer,

who was Chief of the Office of Sister City Programs and International Relations coordinated the entire week, the mayor, the assistant mayor, the city manager, and the newspaper editor were in and out of our programs all week long; often they and their spouses joined us for meals. Nor is the collaboration between the city and the Jewish community limited to one week. The relationships established are year-round, intentional, and significant. It was evident that many of the people we met are good friends across the Gentile-Jewish line, and that building these relationships has been a priority for them. Mr. Neumann, in addition to being head of the Jewish community, is on the city council. He and the mayor appeared to be good friends, making jokes with each other and speaking of each other with respect. The high school students we met were interested in talking to us, seemed well-informed about the Holocaust, and have all seen Schindler's List. Both before WWII and now, churches and synagogues in Germany are state-supported from the income tax paid by their own members. In the case of the Jewish community of Darmstadt, with its Russian Jews, many of

whom are too old or do not speak enough German yet to earn much money, the city augments this sum with other funds. The new Torah scroll for the synagogue was commissioned by the Lions Club of Darmstadt; during the presentation of the scroll the mayor donated and placed a beautiful crown on the Torah on behalf of the city. At the events we attended at the synagogue other than Shabbat services, i.e., the commemoration of Kristallnacht and the dedication of the Torah scroll, the synagogue was packed and yet Jews were in

The kinds of relationships between Jews and Gentiles and the efforts at reconciliation on the part of the Gentiles that we saw in Darmstadt are happening other places in Germany too, though there seems to be a special flavor to these efforts in Darmstadt. We were told that this is due to several committed individuals there beginning soon after WWII. A number of Gentile members of the governing Social Democratic party were persecuted under the Nazis, even put in concentration camps, and they were adamant in reaching out to Jews after the war. That tradition has continued. The assistant mayor told us of being raised politically in that environment.

Sunday, Nov. 8. Lotte (my mother), Elana (my sister), and I are having lunch at the Evangelical Sisters of Mary, a Protestant sisterhood. (Evangelisch in German means

Protestant.) Lotte had met other sisters from this convent during a visit she made to Darmstadt in 1961, and had planned to see them on this trip. Friday evening at the synagogue we had met two of the sisters, and they invited us to come today. The sisterhood formed in 1947 to help the Germans atone for what happened to the Jews during WWII. Two sisters are waiting for us when we arrive at the gate. They are all smiles; what a warm welcome! The five of us have lunch in a separate dining room. They sing grace before the meal, and I add a Hebrew prayer. As we are finishing the meal, there is a knock at the door. Half a dozen sisters come in and sing us a song of greeting in Hebrew! Elana and I both cry at that point.

Both sisters tell us their stories: of where they were as children during WWII, how they found out about what happened to the Jews, and how they came to join the order. Neither woman can tell her story without crying. I treasure them for this, because they neither apologize nor try to hide their tears. The stories of what happened to them in the few years after the war are still current and personal for them.

We meet several other sisters. They give us a tour of the grounds, which are beautiful and obviously treated with tender loving care; the convent is in a rural area outside the city and it is incredibly peaceful here. When

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A New Era Dawns...

As we go to press, Charles Bronfman's dream of a "new era in Jewish philanthropy" has moved one step closer to reality. The board of directors of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has unanimously endorsed plans for the merger of the United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Israel Appeal. The "Joint" - which channels UJA Federation campaign dollars overseas to provide rescue and relief to Jews in need will operate as a separate entity following the merger, which is expected to take effect next month. Bronfman, profiled in the last edition of the Jewish Voice will serve as chairman of the new entity.

While this move has been in the planning stages for several years, the pace of the last few months has been dizzying. The Council of Jewish Federations has already voted itself out of business and last week, the UJA board of directors officially dissolved. Soon, the United Israel Appeal is expected to follow suit. If all goes as planned, three historic agencies will meld into one-sharing resources, consolidating staff and realizing a

savings of \$3.6 million.

This powerful new organization will have a budget of more than \$37 million to, in Bronfman's words, "reframe our Jewish future." In a meeting last week in Newark, NJ, Bronfman shared his visions with 170 Jewish Federation professionals and lay volunteers from Maine to Virginia. He spoke of the ability of the new entity to centralize allocations to Israel and elsewhere in the world Jewish community, strengthen fundraising capabilities and stage strong celebrations of milestone events.

Federated communities throughout North America, like the Jewish Federation of Delaware, will serve as shareholders of the new corporation and will hold 2/3 of the seats on its board of directors. They will vote in April on whether to accept or reject the merger.

The JFD board met last Thursday and unanimously endorsed this dramatic restructuring of Jewish communal life. They feel that this new entity will enhance its ability to meet the challenges that face our people in the 21st century.



Morocco paid tribute to its Jewish roots during the rededication of the Danan synagogue in the Old City of Fez. Photo credit: JTA

The Parsha Place

Saturday, March 13

Vayakhel-Pekuday

Exodus 35:1-40:38

Last week Moshe heard from the Holy One that Bezalel was going to be the chief designer for the Tabernacle, an earthly home for God's presence. God tells Moshe that Bezalel has already been appointed. The text doesn't indicate that God spoke to Bezalel, nor does it indicate that Moshe spoke to him. In fact, the verse states: "And Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah made all that the eternal commanded of Moshe." (Exodus 35:22)

Rashi, the most influential of all medieval commentators, had the following comment. "It is not stated here that Bezalel made all that he had been commanded, but Bezalel made all that the Lord had commanded Moshe. That is to say, even those things that his master (Moshe) had not told him, he had intuited their conversation that had occurred on Sinai. For Moshe told Bezalel to make the vessels first and the dwelling place afterward, but Bezalel responded, 'don't we usually build the house first and then place the utensils within?' Moshe answered, 'What you have said is indeed the way I heard it. You are just like your name BeTzal-El (In the shadow of God) for it is as if you were there when we had the conversation.' And this is the way Bezalel made it, the Dwelling Place first and the vessels later."

Bezalel, the wisehearted artisan, represents the seamless merger of the cognitive and the intuitive, of the contemplative and the pragmatic. Inspired by the Creator, he uses his own artistic and administrative skills to create a magnificent Divine home, the epitome of beauty in ancient Israel. To realize one's vision exactly – to combine inspiration with implementation – is truly to stand in "the shadow of the eternal."



By Rabbi Avi Weinstein, Director, Joseph Myerhoff Center for Jewish Learning

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Voice Box

"There is no difference between Arabs and Jews. We all want peace. We are one nation."

- Rana Radan,

the first Israeli-Arab to be crowned Miss Israel

"I place service over politics, consensus over confrontation."

-Elizabeth Dole

in declaring her bid for U.S. president

"Mr. President, it is with great honor, yet immense sadness that I stand today to pay tribute to a man – Rabbi Herbert Drooz – whose spirit, vision and voice will live on for generations to come in my state of Delaware."

THE

-Senator Joseph R. Biden (D-DE) in remarks recorded in the Congressional Record



MARCH

TH — 5:55 PM

26TH — 6:02 PM

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JEWISH TRENDS

The Boy In The Bubble

Editor's note: This article was written by Daniel Green, son of long-time Jewish community leaders Debbie Cohen and Joe Green. The author, who also is the grandson of Leah Kraft and the late Rabbi Jacob Kraft, is a graduate of Dickinson College. He plans to become a professor of Jewish Studies.

Imagine waking up every morning at five. Don't forget to wash your hands and say your prayers. Before you put on your clothes, make sure your mind is focused on God, thanking Him for allowing you to live through the night. Ok, time to go daven (pray). Shackris at the wall, put on your tephillin, and don't forget kavanah (intention). Time to eat. Don't forget to say your blessings over the food. Have to go to the bathroom? Don't forget to pray when you're finished; have to thank God for allowing you to go. By the time it's eight in the morning you've said approximately thirty blessings. Time to go spend the rest of the day learning in the Yeshiva. Go into the Beis Medrash (study hall) and learn Torah, Mishna, and Gemarrah. After occasional breaks for the bathroom and food, not to mention davening Mincha and Maariv, at nine in the evening you can go home and go to sleep. Don't forget to say your prayers before lying down to sleep. Oh yeah, I forgot, if you have any money matters, health questions, questions about politics, sports, or life, it's all done in the Yeshiva.

On August sixth last year I arrived at Aish Hatorah Yeshiva, an accredited institution of higher education, in the heart of the Old City in Jerusalem, to learn an aspect of Judaism not understood by many people; an faction of Judaism many skeptics believe are trying to brainwash our society. I spend the next five months living with them and learning with them. Not only did I learn their philosophies, but also I took part in their religious convictions as I watched and participated in their daily rituals. On Rosh Hashana I spent the whole day in prayer and spiritual renewal. On Yom Kippur, I joined a rabbi friend and davened from fivethirty in the morning until sunset, breaking the fast at his house.

Over the five-month period I attended daily classes on Judaism. These classes were centered on teaching me a better understanding

of religious Judaism, what the people at the Yeshiva call "true" Judaism. First was a class entitled Jewish Daily Living. This class teaches Jews how to live life from totally Jewish perspectives; beginning with prayers over books, people, and daily activities, to davening, and washing the hands before a meal. The second class I took was an Ulpan (Hebrew instruction), focused on understanding modern and biblical Hebrew. After Hebrew was a class named A Crash Course

in Jewish History. This class went through the Torah, and many writings from Josephus and other medieval scholars, outlining the history of Judaism from the perspective that one believes Moses wrote every word of the Torah as it was dictated to him by God on Mount Sinai.

The revelation and kiruv are the two focuses in the teachings of the Yeshiva. When a student comes to the Yeshiva with questions, the Yeshiva answers them. The goal of

kiruv is that a student can come and learn about Judaism, and go back into the world with a clear understanding of the importance of remaining Jewish in a world where

intermarriage is so prevalent. To do this, the Yeshiva teaches that Moses wrote the Torah, and the most important event in the history of Judaism is the revelation at Mount Sinai. Those learning study the Torah, Talmud, Mishna, and Gemarrah, to better themselves, because they believe the best way to live is how God proclaimed we should live to Moses. They believe that people are not doing justice to themselves unless they are learning on a daily basis. Every aspect of their lives is prescribed in these books. This is where the difference in beliefs of Yeshiva Jews, and other Jews around the world, leads to controversy.

While I learned there my life was completely regulated by the rabbis in the Yeshiva. For a period of time a person could become shut off to the outside world. In a sense, those in charge promoted this way of life. A clear example of this, "living in a bubble," was shown to me when I met people learning in the Yeshiva who do not know who Bill Gates is, or who played in the World Series in the last five years. Although you and I may look at this and question the need or reasons to totally surround oneself with a religious bubble, neither of us have the right to persecute someone else because of their belief system.

When I look back on the five months in the Yeshiva from the perspective of a young adult trying to gain knowledge and understanding about Judaism, I recognize that I learned more there than in four years of college. When I say that I do not mean I read twice as many books or attended better classes, I mean that I learned about life. I learned why Judaism is important and more importantly why history is important. More then developing my brain, I spent the last five months developing myself to go out into the world and be the best person I can be.

The next stage in my life is to receive my Masters degree and Doctorate in Jewish Studies. attending the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Without the Yeshiva experience I may never have reached the point in my life where I understand myself enough both academically and spiritually to move forward into the next stage of my life. I believe everyone needs to live in a "bubble," in some shape or form, at some time in his or her lives, to achieve individual goals.

Reconciliation

Continued from Page 2

we leave, they give us quite a farewell. Two of the sisters keep waving to us as we go to the train station. Both their greeting and their waving goodby have the enthusiasm, eagerness, and delight that I usually associate with young children.

The majority of the 150 women in this convent are German, but some come from all over the world including the United States, and they are all ages. They educate Christians about oppression against Jews and they do service for Jews both in Germany and around the world. The main center is here in Darmstadt, but another 100 sisters are stationed in about 15 other countries, including Jerusalem in Israel and Phoenix, Arizona in the U.S. The entire order, world-wide, relies entirely on donations.

Our visit to the convent had a strong impact on all three of us. I was deeply moved by seeing an entire group whose work was so much from the heart. Being with them seemed to make my own heart lighter, and ended up being my highlight of the entire week. When we told the story of the visit to other members of our group that evening, Elana said that she felt enough love and heart-connection from these women to absorb all the pain in the world. In a thank you letter to the sisters after we returned to the U.S., Lotte said that the visit with them was an important part of the trip that demons from her past in Germany.

Tuesday, Nov. 10. Today is the Alsbach, a rural village where my

grandparents. We are looking for the Jewish cemetery and the grave of Lotte's grandfather, who died in the late 1920's. We arrive first at a community center, where there is an exhibit about Kristallnacht. There are pictures of the old synagogue, the old cemetery, and several concentration camps. My mother takes one look at a newspaper article about the Jewish community before the war and says, "Oh, that's about Mina Frank's father." I just about fell over. Mina's is someone I have known since childhood. She and my grandmother were close friends; Mina lives in the same Jewish Self-Help Home in Chicago where Grandma lived. If you knew that Mina was also from Alsbach, and if you knew that Mina's father was the cantor/teacher in the Jewish community there (the town was too small for a rabbi), then it would be perfectly logical to see a newspaper article about the family in an exhibit at a community center for the sixtieth anniversary of Kristallnacht, but I didn't know any of this. The men taking down the exhibit offer to make two copies of the article, one for Lotte and one to take to

One of the men volunteers to drive us to the town hall, where he introduces us to the mayor. The mayor proceeds to spend the rest of the morning with us. Only helped her put to rest some of the a few weeks ago the village finished cataloging all the gravestones in the cemetery. The one free day on our schedule. mayor takes the key to the Lotte and Elana and I go to cemetery, the map of sites, and the listing (a large book), and grandmother grew up and where drives us to the cemetery. It takes Lotte and Walter used to go as quite a while to find the grave; children to visit their the listing is in order of graves,

alphabetical neither chronological. Lotte thinks her grandfather's name was Lazarus David, but is not positive about the first name. We succeed in finding it! At the entrance to the cemetery, which is surrounded by a concrete wall, are three plaques, in German, English, and Hebrew, placed there on the fiftieth anniversary of Kristallnacht. This cemetery dates from the 1500's or 1600's. Its a huge cemetery, no longer in use, and the village maintains it. Several years after WWII, they got the people who vandalized the cemetery on Kristallnacht to do the clean-up. Since it's a small community, everyone knew who did it. The "hoodlums" were from a nearby community, not Alsbach itself, and the action was planned by the government. Now the village pays every year or so to straighten and repair the markers; (thanks to moles, some fall over every year.) We place a pebble on top of my great-grandfather's grave.

The mayor drives us back to the community center and shows us a beautiful inscription in front of the building saying SHALOM in Hebrew and with transliteration. In front of this inscription is ere the memorial service was held last night, with nearly all non-Jews in attendance since there are very few Jews currently in Alsbach. Then he helps us look for the David family's old house. Lotte cannot quite figure out where it was because so much has changed. I am amazed at the mayor's thoughtfulness in spending all this time with us when we just appeared at his office.

That evening at dinner, Lotte tells me, "I found out why the mayor was ready to spend so much time with us." It turns out that Mr. Steinbeck, who had given us the tour of the Jewish cemetery in Darmstadt, knew that Lotte wanted to find this grave. He called the mayor of Alsbach, who was ready and waiting for us...

More Gentiles than Jews played a role in hosting our visit. The Gentiles we met were sincere and adamant that contact with Jews is very important to them. The Jewish community is an integral part of

Two things stand out in my

memory of the week in Darmstadt. One is the Jewish leaders I met. They all work overtime, in part because most of the Jews there are recent immigrants who know very little about Judaism and the teachers and leaders have much work to do. They could be weighed down by their history or by their responsibilities. In fact all the ones I met were full of warmth and life and joy, from Moritz Neumann, who was born in post-war Germany and has lived his entire

life in that country; to Aviva Steinitz, the Hebrew teacher, who was born in Israel but has lived in Germany for many years and views her work as a calling; to the cantor.... The second is the relationships between the Jews and the Gentiles and the extent of the efforts at reconciliation. I had no idea so much of this was occurring.

Wednesday evening, Nov. 11. It is the last evening of our stay in Darmstadt. All of our group and all the local hosts are gathered for a final dinner together. During the farewells, I speak to the assembled group as one of the next generation. I tell them that though I did not experience the events of the Holocaust personally, the effects were passed down to me in the form of fear. I tell them that being here and seeing what is happening in Germany has helped me feel safer as a Jew in the world, and for that I am grateful both to the city and to the Jewish community.

CELEBRATE **PASSOVER**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1999

LOCAL

Celebrate Jewish Genealogy Month

By JULIAN PRIESLER Archivist

Avotaynu, the largest and most respected Jewish genealogy journal, has declared the month of Nisan 5759 (March 18-April 16) as "Jewish Genealogy Month." The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD) heartily applauds this effort to bring the merits of genealogy and family history to the Jewish Community at-large! The

JHSD as part of its commitment to documenting the history of Delaware's Jewish Community, has a number of items and programs helpful to both the experienced family historian and the novice. We have many excellent Jewish genealogy books in our archives as well as family history files, biographical files, and family collections. Our photograph collection contains many family group photos as well as individual portrait.

The Jewish Historical Society provides assistance to those who are starting to work on their family tree and offers problem solving tips and assistance when you get "stuck." We have available a helpful brochure with information on Jewish genealogy in Delaware as well as blank Family Tree charts. As part of the celebration of "Jewish Genealogy Month," the Society will have a small display in the Wall-Showcase at the Jewish

Community Center. The Society is also holding an Essay Contest for children in the Jewish Community in grades 5-12. The topic of the essay should be "Why Family History Is Important To Me." Two winners will be chosen and will receive a copy of From Generation to Generation by Arthur Kurzweil and a \$50 U.S. Savings bond. To enter, send your essay of no more than two pages in length to the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware, 505 Market Street Mall, Wilmington, Delaware 19801. The deadline for entries is May 1,

The study of our family history and the lives of our forefathers and

foremothers helps to link us to our roots,, our culture and history. Learning about our history provides us with a feeling of being "connected" with past generations. Genealogy is for young and old alike! By remembering and documenting the past we honor that past and recognize our continuity. The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware can answer your questions and help you get started with your family history. We welcome the donation of family photographs (color-Xerox copies or originals) and family history data and written histories. For further information please call the Society at 655-

Offered Teen Camp New JCC

Have your teens outgrown camp? Are they too old for traditional camps, too young to work, and too bored without some type of structured activity? If so, Camp JCC has a new program just for them! This summer Camp JCC is offering a new program for teens

entering 7th, 8th and 9th grades called Camp Sabra. Camp Sabra mixes the best of travel camp and traditional camp, while stressing individual initiative, community responsibility, teamwork and

Each week will include a two-

night sleepover, one local day trip and one day at the JCC. The trip destinations include Club Get-A-Way Resort, Washington, D.C., Ocean City, MD. "The Big Apple," Boston, Virginia Beach, Ohio and the Poconos. The trips will include theme parks, sporting events, canoeing, white water rafting, wall climbing, museums, national parks and much more. In addition to the trips, Sabra campers will get involved in community service to teach good citizenship and Jewish values. "The goal is to strike a balance between fun and responsibility," says Ivy Harlev, JCC Executive

Camp Director.

"Sabra campers will also have some say in what they do and they will help choose activities they want to participate in. What's more, Sabra camp is open to non-members of the JCC through a special one-time trial offer," Harlev

So, if you teens are looking for fun activities, opportunities to make new friends and hang-out with old friends plus a touch of travel - then Sabra Camp is the place for them this summer. Teens can be a part of this new camp and be part of the memories.

ORT Announces Mega Event

can ORT will present its own "mega-event" - the North American premier of its Beach for the Stars Academy Awards Night. The Brandywine Chapter is one of more than twenty chapters and regions throughout the country planning to host this one-of-a-kind event which will raise essential funds for ORT students in the United States, Russia, Israel and around the world.

In Wilmington, the event will take place at the home of Michael

Move over Titanicl On Sunday, and Connie Sugarman. Committee March 21, 1999, Women's Americhairs are Dorothy Bobman and chairs are Dorothy Bobman and Cheryl Tucker.

> With the Academy Awards Ceremony as a backdrop, the local ORT event will feature an appetizer and dessert buffet. The event is open to all ORT supporters who are first time donors at \$100 or who upgrade last years contribution by at least \$25.

> In a world that is continually rediscovering the need for education with lasting value, Women's American ORT has been making such education a reality for more

than 75 years. Our success is than 260,000 students every year.

For more information about ORT or the Beach for the Stars Event please contact the Brandywine Chapter of Women's American ORT office at 610-388-8575. The community's participation and support is warmly welcomed.

achieved by supporting the growing network of ORT schools and programs around the world. In more than 60 countries, from the United States to Israel to Latin America and Africa, ORT provides hope and opportunity to more

Temple Beth El Prepares For Art Auction

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El is busy preparing for the year's biggest fund-raiser. An Art Auction is scheduled for Saturday night March 20, 1999. A wine and cheese preview will begin the

Albert Einstein **Academy Slates** Open House

You are invited to come see AFA in action during an Open House on Friday, March 19, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Met the teachers, observe a class and see.

Plan for your child's future. AEA is the Jewish Day School in Delaware for children in Pre K-6th grade. Call 478-5026 for more information.

evening at 7:15 along with musical hood, 301 Possum Park Road, accompaniment for your listening Newark, DE 19711. pleasure.

The auction will begin at 8 p.m. with the Heisman Fine Arts Gallery of Ardmore, Pa. displaying such artists as Wyeth, McKinney, Delacroix, Llewlyn, Renzulli,

This is an ideal opportunity to add to your collection or begin decorating your home with fine art and sculptures at reasonable prices.

This function is open to all. We encourage you to bring your friends, neighbors and co-workers for a delightful evening of fun.

A dessert buffet will be presented at the conclusion of the auction. Tickets are \$5.00 if purchased in advance or \$7.50 at the door. You may call 366-8330 or send your check to Temple Beth-El Sister-



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In The Synagogues

AKSE and Beth Emeth Host **Community Seders**

Two Wilmington area congregations invite community families and individuals to participate in a Thursday, April 1 seder celebrating the second night of Passover.

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation hosts its 6th annual seder at 7 p.m., conducted by Rabbi Sanford Dressin. The Glatt Kosher meal is catered by Steve Bonner of Ala Carte Caterers. Reservations are \$25 for adults, \$12 for children ages 6-13 and free for children ages 5 and under. Send checks ASAP to the synagogue: AKSE, Washington Blvd. & Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802

Congregation Beth Emeth's annual event begins at 6 p.m. Seder will be conducted by Rabbis Mallinger. Traditional dinner is gical, folk and popular music will

catered by congregant Ron Leones, formerly of Town Talk Restaurant in Wilmington. Cost is \$22 for adults, \$10 for children under 10. Please send check to: Susan Cherrin, 2202 Carlton Lane, Wilmington, DE 19810-

Absolute deadline for reservations is March 24.

Beth Shalom Hosts Cantor's Concert

The Ensemble of the Cantor's Assembly of the Delaware Valley Region will perform on Sunday, March 21, 7 p.m. Cantor Judith Naimark of host Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington will participate along with AKSE's Cantor Daniel Leeman who is also a cellist and AKSE alumna Deborah Tanzer Cohen who now is hazzan at Har Zion Temple in Peter Grumbacher and Laurence suburban Philadelphia. Jewish liturbe featured. Tickets are \$18, \$13 in this program are Dana for seniors and \$7 for students. Call 654-4462 for further informa-

Young Artists Sing Out

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth's 16th annual Young Artists Concert will be performed on Saturday, March 27, 8 p.m. Kathy Cammett of Opera Delaware, Inc. and her students, Lisa Hoopes, Brandon Burke and Nathaniel Rosenthalis will perform classical music, show tunes and Hebrew melodies. Admission is \$18 for adults and \$10 for students. For additional information, call the synagogue at 762-2705. Tickets will be available at the door.

Leo Brenner Memorial Fund **Benefits Holocaust Studies**

Marion Brenner has created a fund in memory of her husband, Leo at AKSE. The Leo Brenner Holocaust Study Memorial Fund will provide financial awards for educational projects related to Holocaust studies. The names of Fund recipients will be announced annually on YomHaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Mr. Brenner spent six years in a concentration camp before his liberation in 1945. "This fund will celebrate his life by establishing a living memorial which will continue to grow and benefit others," said Marion Brenner. Interested applicants may call the synagogue at 762-2705.

Lighting The Way Through Dance and Song

Harokdim, a teenage dance troupe sponsored by Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, is on its way to New York City to participate in the 48th annual Israel Folk Dance Festival and Festival of the Arts. The day-long event, whose theme this year is Baderech El Ha'Or -Dancing Toward the Light - will be held on Sunday, March 21 at the Martin Luther King High School in Manhattan. Over 250 dancers and singers will participate.

Harokdim dancers participating



Anti-Semitism is on the rise in Siberia. This synagogue in the city of Novosibirsk was virtually destroyed last week during a rampage.

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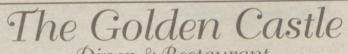
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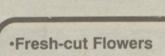
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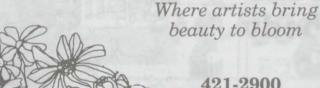


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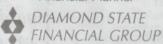
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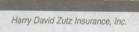




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THE RABBI WRITES

The Power of Positive Peer Pressure

By Rabbi DANIEL J. SATLOW Congregation Beth Shalom

As a division head for Camp Ramah in New England in the summer of 1995, I was in charge of the 12-year-olds. Among my 19 counselors was a college sophomore named Alisa, who was always late for meetings, always breaking curfew, and one of my favorite counselors. Allow me to explain why

Everyone knew Alisa was a rebel, and had no patience for a rule she didn't agree with. She was the last one in and the first one out of any required activity. But every Friday night, something magical would happen.

Instead of racing with her kids back to the bunk after Shabbat dinner like every other counselor at camp, Alisa would keep her kids at the table. And while the porters were sweeping the floors around her, she would be singing her kids into a frenzy with her favorite

Shabbat zemirot (table songs). I can still hear her at the top of her lungs "Y-o-o-o-om she-kulo Shabbat..."

Her kids stayed longer than anybody else, and because of Alisa's enthusiasm, they couldn't have been happier.

At Ramah, morning services are required daily, but afternoon and evening services are optional. In 1992,I was a counselor for sixteen-year-olds, a group not known for their enthusiasm toward prayer. There were 36 kids on the edah (division).

We also had someone in the edah who had lost her father a few years earlier. She asked if we could have a minyan on her father's yahrzeit so she could say kaddish. We didn't want to make it mandatory, so we scheduled it during free time, mentioned it to the kids, and hoped that at least ten would show up.

Every kid in the whole edah

These stories bespeak a powerful piece of wisdom that we all know and tend to ignore: kids learn a tremendous amount from their peers and from those a little bit older than they are. A recent survey of Delaware youth reports that the single greatest source of information on sex is older siblings. The second largest source is friends with older siblings. The same holds true for Jewish involvement. As a rabbi I can be funny, involving, respectful, complimentary, stand on my head and hand out money. But if their friends aren't going to be there too, I don't have a chance of getting kids to synagogue.

The place where this insight is best used to advantage is Jewish summer camps. Where else can kids of all ages, from 4th grade through college, see what it is like to live as a Jew in the next age bracket up? Older campers inevitably model for younger ones, junior counselors for the older

JEWISH

campers, counselors for the JC's, and so on, through former campers returning on staff now that they have children of their own. Personally, I know that my camp experience after graduating from high school played an instrumental role in my decision to become a rabbi.

Camp is living, breathing Judaism with peers and role models that creates a powerful identity that remains with the kids forever. I invite you and your family to explore the many local Jewish camping options for this summer, and for many summers to come. Enjoy the magic!

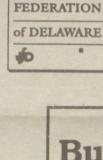


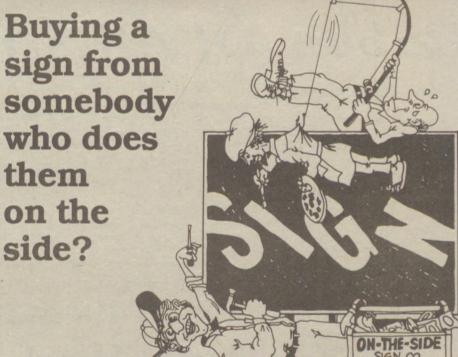
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JEWISH TRENDS

JCPA Plenum Addresses Challenges of 21st Century

By ERIC FINGERHUT

Washington Jewish Week

Delegates discussed the challenges of the coming century, lobbied their senators and congressmen, and listened to a Supreme Court justice outline a judicial philosophy that many of them disagree with at the recent Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) 1999 Plenum in Washington.

The JCPA is an umbrella group representing 13 national groups and 122 local Jewish agencies in formulating public policy and pro-

One of the highlights of the fourday event, which included a speech by Vice President Al Gore, was a visit by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who called himself an "originalist" who reads the U.S. Constitution "as it was written, not as it should have been written."

Scalia said the "centrality" of the Constitution to America is "hard to exaggerate," since the political ideals in that document is "what binds us together" - "not blood or residence, but fealty to certain ideas." He said that the most important part of the Constitution is the portion which "constitutes the organs of government," since

the freedoms given in the Bill of Rights are useless without the dispersal of power among various branches of government checking each other and ensuring those

He noted that many dictators, when they first come to power, promulgate a bill of rights for their citizens, but it does not mean much, since the dictator, holding all the power, can bestow those rights in whatever way he sees fit.

But Scalia worries that fidelity to the Constitution has been under attack by a new attitude of the last 50 years, the "living Constitution that changes from age to age." He said, "To my mind, that philosophy is the biggest threat to justice in the courts ... The Constitution is not an organism, but a charter for selfgovernment.

Scalia argued that most lawmaking should be left to Congress and state legislatures, not to the courts, since the legislative arena is much more democratic than the judicial branch of government. Otherwise, Scalia said, the laws are left to the day-to-day whims of judges.

"Whatever I think is a good idea should be in the Constitution? If that's a criteria, that is intolerant. I'm willing to impose this upon my fellow citizens without persuading them, even though there has never been a democratic decision of the society to impose it," he said.

For instance, "the Constitution says nothing about abortion,' Scalia said, but while liberals say abortion is protected under a right to privacy, conservatives say other parts of the Constitution prohibit abortion. "Why one rather than the

'Non-originalists" who argue that they are bringing flexibility to the Constitution are wrong, Scalia said. He noted that if the death penalty is declared unconstitutional, "that is not flexible. [My philosophyl is flexible - you can pass a law either way.'

In a sometimes contentious question-and-answer period after the speech, Scalia addressed the 1990 Employment Division vs. Smith decision, which Jewish organizations - and many others - feel threatens the right to freely exercise one's religion. Scalia said the ruling, which stated that members of the Native American Church did not have the right to unemployment benefits after being fired for smoking the hallucinogenic drug peyote as a religious sacrament and overturned the 1963 Sherbert



Vice President Al Gore addressed hundreds of Jewish professionals at the recent JCPA Plenum. JTA

vs. Verner case, did in fact square with his "originalist" philosophy.

'The free-exercise clause of the Constitution says Congress shall make no law prohibiting free exercise. The law [at issue in the case] prohibited certain acts society felt were destructive," such as smoking

peyote. "No one had ever thought [until the Sherbert v. Verner case] that general laws by reason of the First Amendment had to contain an exception saying anyone who wants to ignore this can go ahead and ignore it. The law against smoking peyote was not motivated by any animus against Indians; it is not a law prohibiting free exercise.

[The First Amendment] didn't say Congress shall make no law prohibiting any act God tells [someone] to do.

In response to a question about the relative lack of women and minorities who serve as clerks on the high court, Scalia said he did not believe there was a paucity of women clerks, but there is only a problem in this area "if you believe Supreme Court clerks should look like America." He feels that the court should have the "best and the brightest," and said, "I would think Jewish groups in particular would applaud" this philosophy as opposed to some sort of "racial quota" system.

Rabbis Of All Stripes Join Together

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN JTA

Nine months after first meeting, the North American Boards of Rabbis is officially getting off the ground with financial backing for two years and the goal of serving as a clearinghouse of information for rabbis around the continent.

About 30 people representing 25 boards of rabbis met this week in Washington to choose a national board and update each other on local activities, said Rabbi Marc Schneier, who was elected the group's president.

Schneier, rabbi of The Hampton Synagogue, an Orthodox congregation in Westhampton Beach, N.Y., is also president of the New York Board of Rabbis.

It is the first time since the Synagogue Council of America, a 70year old umbrella group of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis, disbanded in 1995 that a national interdenominational group has tried to become a permanent fixture.

That group, with a similar mission to this new one, collapsed in part for financial reasons after some Orthodox participants decided they were no longer interested in interdenominational dialogue.

We believe that by creating this umbrella we can sensitize our colleagues to the number of Orthodox rabbis who have made a commitment to being involved in this kind of activity," Schneier said.

"In light of the current state of divisiveness and polarization within the Jewish community, boards of rabbis can play a significant role in finding common ground.'

Schneier said the new group, which also includes Reconstructionist rabbis, will focus on five initial projects:

*an annual conference;

*a quarterly newsletter providing a forum for exchanging program information and ideas among boards of rabbis around North

*a report documenting examples of interdenominational cooperation among rabbis of different movements, to be released shortly before Rosh Hashanah;

*a grass-roots effort to promote interreligious relations by linking local boards of rabbis with representatives of other faith groups; and

*trips to Berlin and to the Czech Republic, whose leaders have invited the nascent group to show them

how rabbis of different denominations can work together.

The group, using the acronym NABOR, is being funded by three

major philanthropists — S. Daniel Abraham, Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt - who together have pledged \$100,000 for each of two years, said Schneier.

The new organization will be based in Manhattan. It isn't known precisely how many boards of rabbis exist around the country, though there are thought to be between 30 and 40.

Just a handful have a professional staff. Most are small, informal groups whose members meet peri-

And fewer than ever include Orthodox rabbis, who in recent years have increasingly opted out of participating in interdenomina-

Israelis And Palestians Work On Olive Branch

By RICHARD AULETTA AFHU

The olive branch, recognized internationally as a symbol of peace, has Palestinian and Israeli researchers working together. The two sides, known more for their conflicts, are cooperating in an effort to improve the yield of olive trees in both Israel and the Palestinian autonomous area.

The researchers have found that through the use of drip irrigation and fertilizers, it is possible not only to increase the yield of olives per tree but also to obtain a higher quality oil than has been previously

together on olive trees is a good example of the many cooperative University researchers have been in the two groves. efforts between the two groups which are ongoing under the auspices of The Hebrew University. Many of the programs offered at the University encourage diversity and the promotion of peace and understanding of other cultures.

The research is being conducted by Prof. Ben-Ami Bravdo and Shimon Lavee of The Hebrew University Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences and a team headed by Prof. Hassan Dweik at Al Quds University. The Palestinians carried out their research in Abu-Dis vilexperimenting the Dir Katat Monastery groves near Kibbutz

Laboratory tests of the fruit, the oil and the leaves of the experimental trees were evaluated at the Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences of the Hebrew University of Rehovot. The scientists developed special testing techniques for this purpose.

The research, supported by Belgian government funds, is continuing, with attempts to examine whether recycled waste water can be utilized to irrigate the experi-

Palestinians and Israelis working lage olive groves on the outskirts of mental olive tree groves, using a Jerusalem while The Hebrew drip irrigation system to be installed

The Hebrew University was founded by leading statesmen and scholars, including Chaim Weizmann, Sigmund Freud, Martin Buber and Albert Einstein. Its cornerstone was laid in 1918, and the University opened in 1925. The scholarship and research done at the University formed the basis for Israel's science, technology, medical systems, education, agriculture and economy. Today, more than 24,000 full-time students from Israel and over 70 countries around the world attend classes at its four campuses.

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We can't always predict the questions we'll face in the future, but we can plan for them. In fact, planning for the future is at the heart of our shared commitment to build, strengthen and care for the Jewish community. That's why thousands leave legacies to their local federations. Securing a vibrant Jewish future is at the heart of a UJA Federation PACE program. Call your federation endowment professional for information. At home, in Israel and 60 countries around the world, no gift will touch more lives.



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JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

Jews Unlikely To Cut Circumcision

By JULIA GOLDMAN

Most Jews aren't flinching at the medical establishment's most recent findings on circumcision.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is recommending for the first time that pain relief, such as local anesthetics, be provided to infants being circumcised.

The group, which issued its latest policy statement on circumcision last week, also found the procedure's potential health benefits are "not significant enough" to recommend the routine circumcision of newborns.

But rabbis and mohels, who perform Jewish circumcisions, say the report – which reflects 40 years of medical research – will have little effect on the 4,000-year-old tradition of brit milah, the circumcision ceremony by which Jewish males are accepted into the community.

"Obviously we don't recommend circumcision for medical reasons, but for religious reasons," said Ismar Schorsch, the chancellor of the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary.

"It is a sign of the bond between Israel and God, a sign of Jewish identity," he said. "And it will continue to remain a rite of passage for Jews as long as there is an organized Jewish community."

The covenant of circumcision, first commanded by God to Abraham, was reiterated to the Israelites by Moses at Mount Sinai. The practice is still followed by the majority of Jews around the world.

But some Jewish parents have opted to forgo what they see as a barbaric custom.

It is precisely the pain of circumcision that is at the center of the debate over the necessity of the brit milah, literally the "covenant of circumcision."

Opponents argue that circumcision inflicts permanent physical and psychological damage. Some 60 percent of all newborn males in the United States are circumcised, as are 48 percent in Canada, according to statistics quoted in the academy's report – down from a peak of 90 percent in the 1960s.

Until recently most circumcisions in hospitals were performed without any anesthesia. The practice among mohels varies considerably both with regard to technique and the level of pain relief provided.

The academy's policy statement cites new evidence showing that newborn circumcised without analgesia experience "pain and stress."

But this finding is no surprise to most Jews.

"Suddenly now, pain is a new medical condition?" asked Rabbi Moshe Tendler, a mohel and professor of medical ethics at Yeshiva University in New York.

"Pain has been with us from the time of Adam and Eve." Tendler also noted that the academy had issued a report in 1993 on the effectiveness of lidocaine as a topical analgesic for use during circumcision.

The current statement represents the academy's third official policy on circumcision. In 1971,

the group concluded that there was "no absolute medical indication for routine circumcision."

But by 1989, new research indicated that circumcision did carry potential health advantages.

Among the benefits most widely lauded are reduced incidences of urinary tract infections and penile cancer. Circumcision is also believed to decrease the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

But debate over the procedure's benefits and risks as a part of routine medical care continued for a decade, resulting in the most recent recommendations.

The report, which appears in the March issue of the academy's journal, Pediatrics, indicates that while uncircumcised males are more likely to develop urinary tract infections during the first year of life, the risk is low – around 1 percent.

And while uncircumcised men are three times as likely to develop

penile cancer, the disease is rare, affecting only 10 or fewer men in a million each year in the United States.

"There are some medical benefits to circumcision," said Dr. George Kaplan, one member of the seven-person task force that prepared the latest report. But "the benefits are not so compelling that the academy feels that it should recommend routine circumcision for everyone," Kaplan, a San Diego-based pediatric urologist, said in a telephone interview with JTA."

The task force also noted studies that suggest circumcised infants may respond "more strongly to pain of future immunizations" compared to uncircumcised boys.

"Parents should discuss it with their pediatricians and come to some conclusion as to what's right for their son" on medical as well as religious, cultural and ethical grounds, Kaplan said.

Kaplan, one of at least two Jewish members of the task force, said the doctors had "looked at this strictly from a medical standpoint."

Dr. Gwenn Robinson, one of some 200 medical professionals certified to perform ritual circumcision by the Reform Movement's Brit Milah Board, said most parents who request her services have their minds set on the traditional circumcision ceremony.

"I never try to convince people based on medical reasons," said Robinson, a family physician in Albuquerque, N.M.

"I tell them the medical reasons, but I talk to them more about the important covenant and the establishing of a Jewish life."

Some Jewish parents have developed alternative "welcoming" ceremonies that, they feel, incorporate elements of the traditional ritual.

"I believe the debate in the

Jewish community is just beginning, so we don't know where it will go," said Ronald Goldman, the executive director of the Boston-based Circumcision Resource Center.

Goldman, the author of "Circumcision: The Hidden Trauma," said recent studies demonstrate that circumcision has traumatic effects and cited decreased sexual activity is one of its significant long-term effects.

The academy's report, he said, "gives us all pause for thought and reconsidering what is still common in this country."

But for most Jews, what Schorsch calls the "mark of unique distinction" is essential to the Jewish male identity. "I don't think Jews ever deluded themselves into thinking that it wasn't a painful moment," said Schorsch. "But that's all it is, a moment."

Thousands Rally In New York City In Solidarity With Israeli Orthodox

By NEHAMA MILLER

JTA

Amid a heavy downpour of rain – and an even heavier downpour of controversy – an estimated 40,000 American Orthodox Jews gathered in New York City this weekend to express their concern over the future of Jewish tradition in the Jewish state.

For 90 minutes, one could see huge clusters of black hats and modestly dressed women from and beyond the New York area as the sounds of prayer filled the streets of a 12-block radius in Lower Manhattan.

With prayer books and umbrellas in hand, the crowd, which included individuals from all streams of Orthodoxy, rallied, in the words of the event's planners, with "no speeches, no dais, no organizational sponsorship, just Jews coming together to pray and express solidarity with their brothers and sisters in the Holy Land."

"They are not praying for politicians to do a particular thing. It's just Jews gathering to pray en masse," said Rabbi Avi Shafran, spokesman for the fervently Orthodox Agudath Israel of America and one of the organizers of the events.

"There are no speeches at this gathering and no references to what happened in Israel."

Although the situation in Israel was not spoken of at the prayer vigil itself, last Sunday's gathering was reminiscent of a similar event in Jerusalem two weeks ago, when 250,000 Orthodox Jews came together in the wake of Israeli court decisions that many Orthodox fear could change the nature of the Jewish state.

The fervently Orthodox, or hare-

di, leaders in Israel called for a demonstration after the high court issued an order to allow Conservative and Reform representatives to serve on local religious councils.

The haredi leaders also were stung by court rulings that canceled a decades-old arrangement under which yeshiva students are entitled to army draft exemptions and a separate decision allowing a kibbutz to maintain business operations on the Sabbath.

The debate over religious pluralism in Israel has often reverberated among American Jews, with Reform and Conservative Jews expressing outrage at the lack of official recognition for their movements in Israel.

For their part, many Orthodox Jews here have voiced their concern about altering the status quo in Israel, which grants the Orthodox sole authority on religious matters

The fervently Orthodox Agudath Israel last year launched a \$2 million campaign explaining its opposition to the introduction of pluralism in Israel.

Am Echad, which is independent but is led by some involved with Agudah, has placed ads in The New York Times, charging that U.S. Reform and Conservative leaders "want you to believe that Israel's Orthodox parties don't want to recognize American Jews as Jews."

In the wake of Sunday's gathering, the Reform and Conservative movements criticized the Orthodox for not acknowledging the religious diversity in Israel.

"If they are praying for the unity of Israel, they should demonstrate a way of bringing people together by allowing one to believe however

one wants to believe," said Rabbi Jerome Epstein, executive vice president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. "Prayer is important, but not sufficient. They have to resolve and change their attitude."

Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, the executive director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, said, "Rallies are no sign of strength; they are signs of weakness.

"Why after all these years are they suddenly coming out now? Power is slipping out of their fingers.

"If they want to pray, that's what synagogues are for. You have to take what they say with a grain of salt. The purpose of this gathering goes beyond prayer," Hirsch said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mandell Ganchrow, president of the centrist Orthodox Union, opted not to participate in Sunday's gathering, but

applauded the effort.

"They are doing a credible job, and they are representing their issues properly," he said of the event's organizers.

Although the rain persisted, the organizers of the rally were over-joyed at the turnout of people coming to pray and recite psalms.

Participants said they felt a similar joy at the intensity of the vigil.

"This gathering is to show that we have a deep love for all Jews," said Gary Litke, an attorney from New York. "We are all brothers and sisters. We are uniting in recognition that in Orthodoxy a Jew is a Jew "

"It is because of segregation between Jews that we are out here," said Chani Friedman, a New York-based writer. "This is all about love. Not much else can get us out in the rain."



Orthodox men brave a rain storm to show their support of their Israeli brothers. JTA

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Book Review:

The Ghosts of Market Street

By JULIAN H. PREISLER JHSD Archivist

If you've lived in the Wilmington area for at least 20 or 25 years, you are familiar with such names as: Braunstein's, Wilmington Dry Goods, Kennards, Arthur's and a host of others associated with shopping on Market Street in downtown Wilmington. Newer residents no doubt have heard people talk about these and other stores the days when the center of

Wilmington was the shopping capital of the area.

In her new book, "The Ghosts of Market Street: Merchants of Yesteryear," author Ellen Rendle provides a brief introduction to the history of retailing on Market Street enabling people to both reminisce and learn. Rendle is the Curator of Photographs and Maps at the Historical Society of Delaware.

The book is divided into sections

approximately by time-periods. The author gives the reader a flavor of the history of retail in general and provides an introduction to a variety of businesses that once existed on Market Street. Many of the stores featured in this book were Jewish-owned businesses. It is a well-known and respected fact that, for a long period of time, a large majority of stores on Market Street were Jewish-owned and

Market Street and the surrounding streets held a wealth of stores that catered to a varied clientele and offered every conceivable product. Not only were there stores selling merchandise, there were also service businesses, restaurants, cocktail lounges, and hotels. Residents found whatever they needed and wanted in the central business district. Indeed, Market Street was the center of that world. In most cities across the nation, the downtowns are no longer the centers of retail commerce they once were. The development of the suburbs and the exodus from the cities changed our shopping patterns and also our shopping needs. The "Ghosts of Market Street" gives us a glimpse of what once was.

I found the book informative and interesting not only as a resident of Wilmington, but as someone who enjoys reading about history. So much of what we take for granted in today's world of shopping and business has an interesting story

Searching For Treasures:

The JHSD Wants

behind its development. This book provides a wonderful introduction to the world of retail. This is the first book, of which I am aware about, to feature this aspect of Wilmington's history. Members of the Jewish Community will especially enjoy reading about the Jewish-owned businesses that are featured in the book. It is my hope that more research and writing will be done regarding the history of our city's downtown. One such project in the works, is an extensive exhibit by the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware, which will showcase the history of Jewishowned businesses in Delaware.

"Ghost of Market Street" is available at Borders, Mitchels, Barnes & Nobles, Ninth Street Book Shop and the Historical Society of Delaware. This hard-bound book is 77 pages in length and contains many wonderful black and white photographs and store advertisements. It is good reading!

"Gypsy" On Stage In Media

By PAULA SHULAK

Cultural Arts Critic GYPSY is a show with which I am very familiar so when I recently saw the Media Theater production (which opened on March 3 and runs to April 4), I watched it with a very keen eye. Leading lady Shaelyn Parker is excellent as Mama Rose and well she should be since she understudied Tyne Daly in a national tour of the show. While her musical abilities are not remarkable, her acting and the way in which she delivers the songs make her one of the best leads I have seen in local productions. Her rendition of the scintillating Rose's Turn was fantastic as she brought to life the passions and frustrations of her entire life.

Based on the story of Gypsy Rose Lee, the notorious burlesque queen who was pushed by her

mother (along with her sister June Havoc) into a life onstage, GYPSY has been a favorite of mine for years. While this production had many things in its favor, I was a little disappointed in the settings and technical aspects of the show. There were dark spots in the middle of the stage and on several occasions the lighting was intrusive and even bothersome, which should never happen. Lights should always be subtle and act as an enhancement to the performance not be an intrusion. For instance the strobe light used to indicate the passage of time when the young Baby June and Louise grow up was far too close to the audience. Again in the second act as Louise begins her first striptease, a bank of lights was placed on the upstage floor and when lit, totally blinded the audience. In-

stead of enhancing the scene they detracted. Costumes also showed poor design; the "cow" was shabbily dressed and took away from the effect which should have been made in the scene when the young performers Mama has so steadfastly promoted finally get their big chance to audition on Broadway What are referred to as unbelievable sets for this "big scene" are also quite paltry and belie the dialogue which describes them as extraordinary. I imagine that the producers of the show felt this was the best way to cut the costs of this fairly expensive production, but to my mind these were detrimental cuts. I have seen community theater productions which did a better job in the technical areas.

While the rest of the cast did not rise to the standard set by Miss Parker, several were very commendable. Herbie, the long suffering agent was particularly good, Ann Sweeten as Miss Cratchitt also stood out, and Laura Griffith held her own as Louise/Gypsy (although her transition from frightened ingenue to striptease artist in her first appearance was not as believable as it could have been). As June, Eileen Duffy had trouble with her high notes and the three over the hill strippers did a good job on their musical number but lost many of their laughs due to poor timing. I also could not understand why Tulsa in his very significant song and dance number did not wear tap shoes. It was awkward to watch a tap number done

The last two scenes of the show, however, almost made me forget the lapses of what came before because they were truly dynamic, due primarily to Mama Rose's vibrant rendition of Rose's Turn and to the acting in the short but poignant reconciliation between Gypsy and her mother. While this production at the Media Theater is not without fault, it is a worthwhile evening's entertainment, especially if you have only seen the movie versions of this Broadway classic. To purchase tickets for the March-April run, call 610-566-4020. Media Theater is at 321 State Street, a short ride up I-95 and the Blue Route. Prices range from \$37 -\$43 and there are Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday matinees as well as Wednesday-Saturday evening performances.

To Hear From You By JULIAN PREISLER

JHSD Preparation for our exhibit on Jewish-owned businesses in Delaware continues! The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD) would like to enlist the assistance of all members of the community. If you or your family currently own or once owned a retail, wholesale, or manufacturing business in Delaware, we need to hear from you.

The exhibit will be on display in 'Gallery One" of the Delaware History Museum in downtown Wilmington. It will focus on Jewishowned business in the First State from 1870 to approximately 1970. In addition to the exhibit we are collecting data for a small catalog documenting as many Jewishowned businesses as possible. This exhibit will be one of the largest and most extensive that the JHSD has done to date!

What can you do to help? If you have business cards, shopping bags, photographs, stationery, signs, memorabilia etc. relating to a Delaware Jewish business, you should consider donating them to the Society. Some specific stores and items that we would like to find

1. Menu from "Lundy's Satellite room" and "Gamiel's" restaurants 2. Materials from "RGE" stores: Retail Grocers Exchange

3. Any materials from "Rosenbaum's" toy store in

Wilmington 4. Materials from businesses located in Kent and Sussex Counties

5. Materials from the "Charcoal

6. Clothes hangers; shoe, hat and clothing boxes from businesses 3-D and promotional items

8. Old store display cases

Check your basements, attics, closets!! If you are a collector and/or you never throw anything out - the JHSD definitely wants to hear from you! In addition to donating items to the Society, items can be loaned to the JHSD for the exhibit only. Color-Xerox copies of materials are also welcome. No item is too large or too small. Remember, now is the time to contact us, not after the exhibit is over! For further information, please call Julian Preisler at the JHSD archives, 655-6232

Life Is (Indeed) Beautiful

By PAULA SHULAK

Yes, life is indeed beautiful as you leave the movie theater after viewing the Academy Award nominee for best picture starring Roberto Benigni. What a torrent of feelings you have in your heart; what a mixed vocabulary you use to describe what you have just seen? Clever, heartwarming, slapstick, ironic, appalling, improbable and, of course, beautiful - all these words can be applied to the film which stays with you long after you have left the movie house.

I had heard about the basic premise of the movie before going to see it, but I honestly was not prepared for the simple yet heroically tragic message it brings. What starts out as a fairly ordinary comically slapstick film soon turns into one of the most heartwrenching tales of the Holocaust which I have ever seen. I do not think it serves the theater public well to be told the plot of a film or play in a critic's review so I will not recount the story of LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL, except to reiterate what you probably already know. This is an account, told in the simplest way, of the greatest love a man could have for his child. It is unassuming

and as I said totally improbable. For instance, Benigni, in his role, takes his friend's car and totally ruins it in an attempt to impress his lady love, but his friend gives no indication of any kind of anger; the hero also uses the loud speaker system in the concentration camp where he and his family are interned to talk to his wife and let her know that he and their son are alive, and there is no retribution

given to him by the Gestapo; Benigni as a waiter able to work in the dining room serving the Germans, sneaks off and puts a record of Offenbach music on the victrola and plays it out the window so his wife will hear in her barracks and no one punishes him. These are just glossed over so that the thrust of the movie is solely on the hero's successful ruse which convinces his son that this camp of horrors is just a game and that if they continue to follow the rules, they will win first prize, a real tank. The agony and ecstasy of the film are magnificently portrayed. It is a classic in the true sense of the word. This is no SCHINDLER'S LIST but in its simplicity and pathos it is every bit as potent.



In Memoriam - Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun

By DANIEL KURTZMAN

Harry Blackmun may best be remembered for authoring the historic 1973 decision legalizing abortion, but his defense of religious liberties stands as no less important in the minds of many Jews.

The retired Supreme Court justice, who died last Thursday at the age of 90 following complications from hip replacement surgery, served 24 years on the high court before stepping down in 1994.

Appointed by President Nixon in 1970, Blackmun, a lifelong Republican, was expected to serve as a voice of staunch conservatism. But he moved to the left as the years went by and was considered one of the court's more liberal jurists by the time he retired.

A stalwart defender of both a strict separation of church and state and the free exercise of religion, Blackmun opposed mandatory prayer in public schools, the display of sectarian symbols on public property and the use of tax funds for parochial schools.

At the same time, he supported wide accommodations for religious practice free from government intrusion or discrimination.

Blackmun "was one of the most eloquent defenders of America's core concept of fundamental liberties and freedom who has ever sat on the Supreme Court," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

"In his passionate defense of religious freedom, in the sensitivities to minority religions manifested in his decisions and in his support for the wall separating church and state, he eloquently represented a view that is shared by a substantial number of American Jews – a view that has greatly enhanced the freedoms and opportunities that Jews have enjoyed in America," said Saperstein, who also teaches constitutional law at Georgetown University Law School.

He summed up his church-state philosophy in a concurring opinion

he wrote in a 1992 case, Lee vs. Weisman, opposing school-sponsored prayer at graduation ceremonies.

"The mixing of government and religion can be a threat to free government, even if no one is forced to participate," he wrote.

"When the government puts its imprimatur on a particular religion, it conveys a message of exclusion to all those who do not adhere to the favored beliefs. A government cannot be premised on the belief that all persons are created equal when it asserts that God prefers some."

While most Jewish groups concurred with Blackmun's philosophy on the separation of church and state, some in the Orthodox community viewed him as too inflexible in his opposition to government assistance to religious schools.

But his commitment to protecting religious freedom for all Americans was unmistakable.

It was Blackmun's decision in Roe vs. Wade – the controversial abortion ruling that touched off one of the century's most polarizing and emotional political debates – that will endure as his legacy.

Marc Stern, co-director of the American Jewish Congress' legal department, called it "unfortunate" that "one opinion sort of marked him for life and after death, too."

Most of the organized Jewish community supports abortion rights, although many Orthodox Jews are opposed.

David Zwiebel, general counsel and director of government affairs for the fervently Orthodox Agudath Israel of America, said that while his organization does not support Blackmun's decision on abortion, he is troubled that some of his group's allies in the pro-life camp still invoke Blackmun's name with "disdain and contempt."

"That's quite unfortunate because whatever one's position on the abortion issue, and whatever the quality of that particular opinion, this man built a legacy over 24 years and to think of him only in

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terms of this one ruling does his memory a disservice," Zwiebel

Blackmun received a number of death threats and a slew of hate mail from anti-abortion groups over the years. He once said in a television interview that he had been called "butcher of Dachau, murderer, Pontius Pilate, King Herod – you name it."

Blackmun once told the Associated Press that he hoped he would be remembered "as a person of judicial integrity who wrote acceptably well and contributed in more than one field.

"I'd like to be known just as a good worker in the vineyard who held his own and contributed generally to the advancement of law."

For many in the Jewish community, he will also be remembered for his warmth and humanity.

Over the years, Blackmun cleared time to speak to a number of Jewish groups, including an appearance before the National Council of Jewish women, a staunch pro-choice organization.

"He was so generous with his time in terms of staying around to shake hands with people, had a warm word for everybody and just was such a down-to-earth, decent guy," Sammie Moshenberg, director of the group's Washington office, said, adding that she had him autograph a copy of the Constitution she still carries in her briefcase.

"He was a great and very courageous man, who understood that first and foremost the court's responsibility was administering

justice, and he never deviated from that vision," Moshenberg said, adding that his death marks "a great loss."

MILESTONES

In Memoriam

MARSHALL FEINSILBER

Marshall Feinsilber, 67, of Wilmington, died March 6. Contributions in his memory may be made to Jewish Education for Special Needs Children in care of Torah Academy, Box 310, Wynnewood and Argyle Roads, Ardmore, PA 19003.

S. SAMUEL ARSHT

S. Samuel Arsht, a Wilmington native and esteemed lawyer, died Wednesday, March 3 at the age of 88. The son of Russian immigrants, Mr. Arsht rose through the ranks of the Wilmington law firm Morris, Nicholas, Arsht and Tunnel. He joined the firm upon graduation from the University of Pennsylvania's law school and remained with them throughout his entire legal career.

When his wife, Roxana Cannon Arsht, was admitted to the Delaware bar in 1941, the couple became the first husband and wife in

Delaware history ever to serve on the bar together. She was named an associate judge of Family Court in 1971, becoming Delaware's first female justice.

Mr. Arsht was appointed in 1949 by former Delaware Governor Elbert N. Carvel to revise and codify state law. In 1955, he

served as counsel for the former State High Commission and commanded bi-partisan support. However, the highlight of Mr. Arsht's legal career came in 1967 when the General Assembly approved Delaware's first total revision and modernization of its corporate statutes in more than 60 years. Mr. Arsht served as chairman of the committee that prepared the revisions.

His Jewish communal involvement includes service as a former director of the Kutz Home and the Jewish Federation of Delaware. He was a long-term supporter and former member of the governing council of the University of Delaware's Academy of Life-Long Learning. In 1991, the Academy's mew building in Wilmington was named the S. Samuel and Roxana C. Arsht Hall in tribute to the \$2 million donated by the couple for construction costs.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Arsht is survived by his daughter, Adrienne Arsht of Key Biscayne, Florida; his brother, Harold of Montchanin, DE and his sister, Sarah Levin, also of Montchanin.

A memorial service is scheduled for March 30, 4:30 .m. at Arsht Hall, University of Delaware, Wilmington Campus, Pennsylvania Avenue in Wilmington. The family requests that contributions be made in his memory to either the Allison Arsht Foundation, 415 Kennett Road, Greenville, DE 19807 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Celebrates

Continued from Page 1

physically challenged children are slated, as well as groups focusing on the needs of different age groups. Klotz emphasizes that healing does not mean trying to cure the body, but it can promote the healing of body and spirit even when there is no cure.

Prayer services will also be offered. Klotz related how the healing services she has led in Philadelphia have had far-reaching effects in the lives of those attending. From one such service came contact with a woman who was living with ovarian cancer. A non-affiliated Jew, she started attending services with her sister. Both became closer and found aus to prepare for death. The woman, now too ill to attend services (they are trying to bring the services to her), is hoping to have a hevra kiddush, or burial society, prepare her body after death, so that both her last days of life and death will find expression in a Jewish way. Of her enriching experience with this woman, Klotz says, "She is dying well. It's about finding the way to live fully and it is mutual.

Volunteers are needed to make the Center a reality. "We need one more volunteer than we have people in need," Andrew Aerenson said in his introduction. Volunteers will not find it an empty experience - healing is, as Myriam Klotz noted, mutual.

The healing center movement started roughly ten years ago in New York City as five women three of them rabbis - tried to find new ways to bring help to those in need. Each had explored Jewish resources and knew that others were in search of tools to aid healing. The tools needed to be organized, consolidated, and "lifted up."

Jewish healing centers now offer support of all kinds including Jewish hospice care in over 20 communities in this country. "Each center is also a little bit different from the next one," Myriam Klotz says, noting that what works in New York City might not work in Minnesota.

Some centers also sponsor healing conferences. One held last April at Gratz College was attended by 300 people, and 100 more had to be turned away. Conferences can offer a particular kind of excitement which can catalyze people's involvement, as Myriam Klotz noted.

Following her lecture, the Ken Ulansey Ensemble offered Klezmer music. The haunting melody, Tumbalalaika had Yiddish words which ask:

"Maiden, maiden, answer me true What can grow without the dew? What can burn for years and years?

What can cry and shed no tears? The song then reveals that it is love that can grow and burn for years and years, and a heart that can cry without tears."

But tears shed are a part of healing. It is to be hoped that the Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center will help us find a safe place for all the tears, emotions and actions involved in the mending of the spirit.



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

MARCH

Monday

JCC hosts Passover cooking demonstration by chef Shawna Goodman, 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members. Call Ella Zukoff at 478-5660 for more information. Saturday . March 20

Temple Beth El in Newark is hosting an art show and auction of paintings, lithographs, etchings, prints and sculptures. Wine and cheese preview at 7:15 p.m. Auction begins at 8 p.m. Call 366-8330 for information and tickets.

Albert Einstein Academy will present its Community Builder Award to Gloria and Paul Fine during their annual dinner dance. "A Royal Gala Fit For Kings & Queens," is slated for 7:30 p.m. at the First USA Riverfront Arts Center in Wilmington.

Sunday March 21

Camp JCC Carnival and Camp Reunion will be held from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Free activities include face painting, maccabi games, camp songs, art projects and refreshments.

Young Jewish Singles of Delaware host a trip to the Phantoms hockey team in Philadelphia. Leave from the JCC in Delaware at 3:45 p.m. Arrive at the stadium at 4:30 p.m. Call Phil at 652-6688. Only 12 seats are available.

Friday March 26 Jewish Family Service Shabbot Ha-Gadol. Join JFS at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth for a

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6:00 p.m. Shabbat service and presentation by JFS President Andy Aerenson. This is part of a nationwide celebration to spotlight Jewish human service agencies. All are welcome.

Saturday Shel

Adas Kodesch Emeth's 16th annual Young Artists Concert featuring Kathy Cammett, of Opera Delaware, Inc. Cammett and her young students will perform classical music, show tunes and Hebrew melodies beginning at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$18, \$10 for students. For additional information, call the synagogue at 762-

Sunday

Brunch and Bowling for Jewish Singles in their 20s and 30s at Prices Corner Bowling Lanes on Kirkwood Highway in Wilmington. Event begins at 9:00 a.m. \$8 includes food and non-competitive play. Call Phil at 655-5561 for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS Livnot U'Lehibanot, the hiking, study and community service program of Tzfat and Jerusalem, is accepting registrations. Through a special arrangement with the Jewish Federation of Delaware, the Livnot experience is available to qualified young adults, ages 21-30, from Delaware for as low as \$600 including air fare from New York. Short term and long term programs are offered throughout the year. No knowledge of Hebrew is required. JFD offers a limited number of scholarships to qualified applicants. Please call Judy Wortman at 427-2100 for an application.

For complete information about program dates for 1999 call Livnot at 1-800-LIVNOT-0 or visit their website at www.livnot.org.il.

LOOKING AHEAD

Delaware Joining Junior Maccabi Games. Delaware Jewish Community Center will send a boy's soccer team to participate in the Tri-State Junior Maccabi Games to be held on Sunday, May 2 at the Kaiserman JCC in Philadelphia. Participation in the games is open to Jewish children, ages 10-12. The program costs \$36. Practice begins on April 4. For more information, call Scott Bowers at 478-5660.

Rent "The Long Way Home" at the JCC. "The Long Way Home," an awardwinning film that explores the plight of the tens of thousands of refugees who survived the Holocaust, has been recently added to the Jewish Heritage Video Collection, housed in the JCC lobby. Thanks to a grant from Ira and Barbara Lipman of Tennessee, the film has been made available to every JCC in the nation through the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Moriah Film Division. Nightly rentals are \$2. For more information, please call Ella Zukoff at 478-5660.

Broadway Bound. Community is welcome to join congregants from Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth on April 25 for either of two New York shows. See "Never On Friday," at the Jewish Repertory Theatre or "Marlene," based on the life of the legendary Marlene Dietrich.

Bus will leave the AKSE parking lot in Wilmington at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$56 for either show and includes transportation, ticket, snacks and tip. The synagogue has only 20 tickets for each show. Mail your checks to AKSE, Washington Blvd. & Torah Way, Wilmington, DE

Volleyball Anyone? Young Jewish Singles of Delaware sponsors a weekly volleyball game and dinner outing for adults in their 20s and 30s. Non competitive play Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 8:00 p.m. Call Phil at 652-6688 for more information.

Youth Now Can Tour Israel For College Credit

B'rith Youth Organization lets young people earn college credits while exploring the land of Israel. Due to debut in July 1999, BBYO's Academic Tour to Israel was developed in partnership with Tel Aviv University.

This month of study is open to first-year college students, and high school graduates with a B average and minimum combined SAT score of 1200. It combines lectures, workshops, and seminars with guided tours of the Jewish state. After hours, students can enjoy mountain biking, rappelling, and other summer fun.

"We want to make sure that travel to Israel touches a stu-

A new program from the dent personally - and also gives him or her a deeper knowledge of Jewish her-BBYO itage,' says International Director Sam Fisher. "This program does both.

> The Academic Tour covers a broad range of topics. Highlights include Jewish history, Israeli culture, an intensive seminar on Jerusalem, the Arab-Israeli peace process, and Israel's natural environment. Upon completing the program, young people will receive six college credits, along with an official transcript from Tel Aviv University. The cost of the tour is \$4,465.

> BBYO will inaugurate two other new Israel experiences

This Passover, let one who is hungry enter and eat.

We all begin our Passover seders with the words, "Let all who are hungry enter and eat." Again this year, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger asks you to give meaning and life to those ancient words by letting one who is hungry enter and eat.

A gift to MAZON of chai (\$18), or whatever you would spend to invite one extra person to your seder, will bring food, help and hope to poor and hungry people in our own country, in Israel and around the world.

As we celebrate our freedom during Passover, we must remember those millions still enslaved by hunger and poverty. In a world with more than enough food to feed everyone, we can work toward a day when everyone has enough food.

Through MAZON, you can fulfill our ancient Jewish tradition of feeding the hungry. As the poor are fulfilled, so, too, will you be

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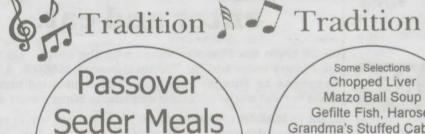
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