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JEWISH AGENCY LAUNCHES SPECIAL TASK FORCE

By Lynn Edelman
Editor

The Jewish Agency has launched a special task force, made up of representatives of Jewish communities throughout the world, including leaders of the United Jewish Communities of North America, and Keren Hayesod United Israel Appeal. They arrived in Israel on Monday for a two day visit to the northern border.

In a conference call on Tuesday, several task force participants shared their experiences. Chaim Chesler, Jewish Agency Treasurer, celebrated this historic era in Israel's history as a "time of peace" and pledged the Agency's support to the settler families in Israel's north by strengthening the educational system, investing in the region's infrastructure and developing the economy. He announced that the Jewish Agency has forgiven \$40,000,000 in loans to fortify the moshavim and kibbutzim in this area.

Carole Solomon, immediate past chairman of the UJA Campaign of United Jewish Communities (UJC) and incoming chair of UJC's Campaign-Financial Resource Development pillar, stressed the importance of

developing tourism in the region—"a scenic, picturesque area with bed and breakfasts galore." Solomon encouraged Federations to include visits to Northern Israeli communities on their mission itineraries as a way to "demonstrate our solidarity and our appreciation for the bravery of these settlers."

Bob Shrager, incoming chairman of the UJA Campaign of United Jewish Communities, praised the 170,000 settlers as "true Zionists" and pledged UJC resources to assist them with job training, education and other social services. He called upon the Jewish Agency to convene an international committee of representatives of world Jewry as well as the people and government of Israel to formulate a long-range plan to help the residents of Israel's northern communities.

During the delegation's visit to the north, headed by the Chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, Alex Grass, Jewish Agency Chairman Sallai Meridor, and Chesler, the representatives of the Jewish communities from North America, Europe, Latin America and Australia visited Kiryat Shmona, Metulla, Shlomi and rural communities in the region. The delegation also visited an absorption facility for South Lebanese Army soldiers and

their families.

Chairman Meridor said that "the residents of the confrontation line settled this region as representatives of the entire Jewish people, many of them arrived directly as new immigrants straight from the plane which brought them to Israel and settled the land. They must not feel abandoned and it is the responsibility of the Jewish people to stand by them."

In 1999, the Jewish Agency invested some

\$19 million dollars of assistance in the Confrontation Line region, and in the last three years more than a total of \$45 million dollars. These funds were used to develop cultural and educational programs, for the construction of public buildings, for immigrant absorption, and to strengthen settlement in the region. Jewish communities in western and central United States, Canada, Great Britain, and France are partners in this endeavor.



AN EERIE QUIET IN NORTHERN ISRAEL



By Gil Sedan,
JTA

When Israel ordered its troop withdrawal from Lebanon, government officials did not take into account the fact that cherries and apricots were ripening early this year.

But the farmers here in northern Israel were all too aware that they needed hands to help them with the harvest.

They were also painfully aware that they could no longer count on the help of workers from southern Lebanon, many of whom disappeared during the Israel Defense Force's hectic withdrawal last week.

The farmers cannot depend on unemployed Israelis from neighboring Kiryat Shmona, accusing them of preferring to receive unemployment benefits rather than work in the orchards.

So the farmers were learning the hard way how totally dependent they are on foreign workers.

"I now have only two Thais, two Chinese and two Mongolians. I just cannot cope," said Ehud Neustein, 60, a resident of the northern town of Metulla.

Escorted by his newly recruited Mongolian workers, Neustein went down to his apricot and cherry orchards, which had turned overnight into a front line.

Streams of Lebanese cars could be seen jamming the road across the border fence, located just a few yards from the orchard.

In some parts of town, the border with Lebanon was totally open. Theoretically, Hezbollah fighters could simply walk across the street into Israel.

And some did just that.

They broke down the fence and placed Hezbollah flags on the Israeli side of the border, chanting, "We will continue all the way to Jerusalem."

The army had torn down the former border fence, but a new, more sophisticated electronic fence had not yet been erected.

Everyone had thought there was plenty of time left before Israel would withdraw its troops from Lebanon — a move that was completed, taking many by surprise, on May 24.

As a result, long sections along the border remained relatively open for infiltrators. It was not until Sunday that the defense ministry gave the go-ahead for intensive construction of a new border fence.

"It's not that I am afraid," said Yair Neustein, 16, Ehud's son. "But I know that I should be afraid. Imagine that I am going with the tractor to the orchard, and suddenly I face a Hezbollah fighter. What do I do then?"

On Monday, Israel distributed weapons to residents of the northern communities.

The move came as tensions lessened on Israel's northern border with Lebanon following violence along the frontier over the weekend.

The Fatma crossing, scene of demonstrations and rock-throwing by Lebanese civilians and armed Hezbollah members in recent days, was quiet Monday as the Lebanese army and Hezbollah set up roadblocks preventing civilians from reaching the area.

The previous day, at least three Lebanese civilians were lightly hurt when Israeli troops fired warning shots to push back demonstrators attempting to enter Israeli territory.

Now, despite the relative quiet, the situation is still considered highly fragile, and people are not making predictions.

Last week, just before the IDF staged its dramatic pullout from Lebanon, Zehava Neustein feared the worst.

"All hell broke loose. Everyone was shooting at everyone. One boom followed another," she said.

The eerie quiet that descended this week was a pleasant surprise. "It is almost hard to get used to the quiet," said Meir Shaked, 41,

of Kibbutz Adamit on the western section of the border with Lebanon.

"For the first time in years, there are no helicopters in the sky and no sounds of shelling."

But while he and numerous other northern residents praised the withdrawal, there were many who fear what the future will hold.

And these fears center on economic issues — in some cases, more than on concerns for security.

In recent days, the residents of Adamit have had to deal with just such fears.

Adamit is a small kibbutz of 38 members, located on a cliff in the Upper Galilee. With a magnificent view of the Gulf of Haifa, it is certainly one of the more beautiful spots in Israel.

But it is a kibbutz struggling for its life. Not because of Hezbollah, but because it can no longer pay its debts.

"We were hoping that being a border settlement, facing Hezbollah, the government would show some understanding," said Shaked. But so far, he added, there has been nothing.

On a recent day, when hundreds of Hezbollah grenades fell in the vicinity of the kibbutz, the Mekorot water company cut off the water supply to Adamit.

Why?

"Because we were behind paying our water bill," said Shaked.

Voicing a concern shared by many other Israelis in the region, he added, "The scariest Katyusha rocket in the world does not frighten me half as much as the fear that one day I will find my bank account closed."

The economically weak kibbutzim and moshavim along the border fear that they will not hold out because of their economic burdens.

They maintain that there is a wide gap between the government's statements about being committed to helping the northern settlements, and its actions to help the settlements keep their heads above water.

Meanwhile, Yair Neustein is convinced that it is only a matter of time until the IDF will be forced back into Lebanon.

In fact, he is rather disappointed that when he joins the army in two years, he will not be able to serve in Lebanon.

"I wanted to serve in Lebanon. I wanted to be there, to defend my home, not to stand on top of an observation post, not doing anything."

But people like Yair are really an exception. After several days of tense quiet along the border, there was an air of cautious — very cautious — optimism that Israel would not have to return to Lebanon.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CONSUL GENERAL

Peace, Stability And Security In Northern Israel

The primary objective of Israel's recent action in Lebanon is to ensure the security of Israel and its citizens, and to promote stability and peace in the region. Kiryat Shmona, Metulla, Avivim, Nahariya and all other towns and villages in northern Israel deserve to live in peace. Israel was forced to enter Lebanon in 1978 when the southern part of the country became a launching base for terror attacks against civilians along Israel's northern border. It is important to note that Israel does not and never had territorial aspirations in Lebanon. The implementation of the UN resolutions constitutes an important step forward, meant to bring about an end to the on-going terror acts and confrontation on the northern border, and to facilitate further progress in the peace process. Israel reiterates its commitment to its goal of concluding peace treaties with Syria and Lebanon, and will continue in its efforts to achieve this.

We hope to see the Lebanese government restore and exercise its sovereignty and authority throughout the country, including the border region. UN Resolution 425 obliges also the Government of Lebanon to restore the "international peace and security" to both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border. Furthermore, the Government of

Lebanon bears the responsibility for preventing terrorist attacks against Israel from within its borders, as well as terrorist reprisals against individuals in the areas from which Israel has withdrawn. The implementation of Resolution 425 has been a long-standing goal of Lebanese policy. Now that Israel has fulfilled its part, we expect the Government of Lebanon to deploy its armed forces in southern Lebanon, as required by Resolution 425. As long as other parties maintain presence and control in Lebanon, they also bear responsibility for events in the area. In the event that Israel should be attacked, it will act forcefully against the terrorist organizations and against the interests of those who assist them and stand behind them. Israel is working towards peace but, at the same time, is ready to defend itself, and its citizens, against any aggressor.

It is encouraging to note that Lebanon's Prime Minister has called upon those who left the south to return to their homes. Only time will tell if the Government and the people of Lebanon will be able to reconcile and enable Lebanese Christians, Muslims and Druze to live together in peace. Israel, for its part, has not abandoned the soldiers of the SLA, their families or those who felt

threatened by the influx of Hezbollah. We are morally and politically committed to those who shared the burden with us and who protected the southern Lebanese population from encroachment of terrorist organizations. We have opened our gates to those who chose to relocate to Israel, and thousands have already taken advantage of this opportunity. Israel is working closely with the international community in order to promote the welfare and safety

of those who decided to remain in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah's leaders' declarations stating their intention to "execute" SLA soldiers are intended primarily to obstruct the full implementation of Resolution 425. These declarations stand in stark contrast to the feelings of the great majority of Lebanese who strive for national reconciliation.

Together with its goal of achieving calm and tranquility along its northern border, Israel also views

this withdrawal as a catalyst for the achievement of peace with all its northern neighbors. All parties who are interested in promoting Arab-Israeli reconciliation must remember that a stable Lebanon is an indispensable element of a comprehensive Middle East peace. Lebanon and Israel desire this peace and the people of the region deserve it.

B'Shalom
Consul General Dan Ashbel

Governor Carper's Role In Iran 13

At the initiation of Dan Ashbel, Consul General of Israel, Delaware Governor Tom Carper wanted to ensure that the 13 Iranian Jews received a fair trial. As the 1998-99 chairman of the National Governors Association, Governor Carper wrote a letter to Iranian officials and contacted Governor George Pataki of New York and 26 other governors, urging them to sign the letter and join him in this effort. In all, 28 governors joined together in this effort and signed the document.

Governor Carper is closely monitoring the situation. He is working to ensure that the 13 Iranian Jews receive a fair trial. He is disappointed that many of them were coerced

into issuing confessions and did not receive appropriate legal representations.

The letter, written on April 7 to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Khatami, in Tehran, Iran, states: "We, the undersigned Governors of the United States of America, are writing to appeal that your government take all possible steps to guarantee a just and fair trial that upholds the basic tenets of due process for the thirteen Iranian Jews arrested almost a year ago on the charges of espionage. As executives of our states, we feel a fair judicial process is paramount in protecting the rights of citizens in our communities and around the world.

We welcome the results of parliamentary elections in Iran and the strengthening of the reform movement there, however we urge you to intercede with your government, on the eve of the trial, to live up to its promises and declarations: to provide a fair and open trial, and allow legal representation of the defendants' choice. Indeed, due to the international attention of this trial, your leadership will be judged by its conduct during this trial.

We appreciate your efforts to ensure justice for these individuals."

Federation/JCRC staff wanted our community to know of Delaware's chief officer's role in this situation. We all pray for justice.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER ANNUAL MEETING TO INCLUDE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The 66th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Community Center will be held on Sunday, June 25, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. at the Family Campus, 101 Garden of Eden Road.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Robert Coonin, has nominated the following individuals for election to the Board of Directors of the JCC.

The following have been nominated for elected officers for a one year term:

President.	Amy Leviton
Vice Presidents.	David Bernstein Connie Sugarman Caryl Marcus-Stape Becky Rosen
Treasurer.	Martin Lessner
Secretary.	Sara Bleemer
Assistant Secretary.	Mark Delmerico

The following have been nominated for a three year term:

Mark Albom	Alice Kamen	Wendy Shlossman
Benjamin Cohen	Eva Katz	Bernard Siegel
Mark Delmerico	Stacey Horowitz	Allan Tocker
Lisa Driban	Carol Levin	

The following have been nominated for a two year term:

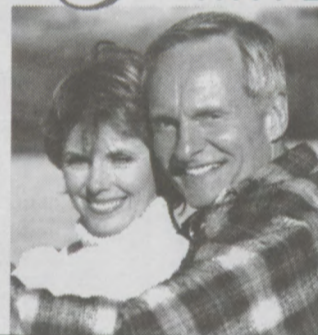
Sara Bleemer
Robert Cooper
Rosalia Crosby
Jordan Rosen

The following have been nominated for a one year term:

David Bernstein
Rona Caplan
Amy Leviton
Connie Sugarman
Caryl Marcus-Stape

According to Article VII, Section I of the By-Laws of the Jewish Community Center: "At least three months before the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee, to meet at least two months before the Annual Meeting, consisting of seven members in good standing. Four of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. At time of said appointment, notice will be posted that the Committee will be meeting and suggestions may be submitted. This Committee shall nominate a slate of officers and members as candidates for the vacancies which shall exist on the Board of Directors, but in no event shall any members of the Nominating Committee be nominated by the Committee as an officer or director. No further nominations shall be submitted to the Annual Meeting."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Message Of Thanks

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who were involved in honoring me at the luncheon on April 30. Special thanks to the Committee who worked so tirelessly in planning the event. I am grateful for the many letters I received from former students, for contributions to the Jewish

Theological Seminary as well as to Congregation Beth Shalom.

I was completely overwhelmed by the outpouring of friendship from the community.

Today Rabah,
Leah Z. Kraft



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EDITORIAL

Giving and Living Our Law

Shavuot, which begins at sundown on June 8th, celebrates both the *bikkurim*, the fruits of the first harvest, and *Zeman Matan Toratenu*, the season which G-d gave the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel. It is a time when we, as descendants of the "People of the Book," engage in spirited study of the Torah. During study breaks, we savor the sweetness of Israel - the land of milk and honey - by snacking on such dairy delights as cheesecake or blintzes.

Shavuot is a traditional time to honor our young people who have made a serious commitment to Jewish studies. Delaware's synagogues, Albert Einstein Academy and Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School proudly recognize their graduates and confirmants on pages 12 and 13 of this edition of the *Jewish Voice*. Kvell with their parents as these "sons and daughters of Israel" take their place in the Jewish community.

Our community also takes pride in the bravery shown by Israel's leadership and its Defense Forces in last week's bloodless withdrawal from southern Lebanon. With little advance warning, the army ended its 22 year unwelcome presence in the region and greatly advanced Israel's standing as a world leader. The success of this pull-out boosted the Israeli public's confidence in their leader, Ehud Barak. Political analysts believe that this enhanced approval will make it easier for the Prime Minister to make the concessions he needs to advance the Palestinian peace track - the topic under discussion during Thursday's meeting between Barak and President Clinton in Lisbon.

In our cover story, we have profiled the monumental efforts of the Jewish Agency to

provide education, job training and social services to enhance the quality of life for the 170,000 settlers who live in communities near the Lebanese border. Representatives of Jewish communities throughout the world who flocked to the region over the recent Memorial Day weekend as a show of solidarity, praised these men, women and children as true Zionists - individuals committed to living in the land promised by G-d to Abraham.

Guided by the teachings of our Torah, the people of the Jewish State have welcomed thousands of Southern Lebanese Army soldiers and their families. These SLA allies have been given temporary housing, schooling for their children and offers of cash assistance to those who wish to settle abroad.

United Jewish Communities wants to help Israel help these courageous refugees. You can make a difference by participating in UJC's Bundles of Hope Campaign. Please send a package of toys, toiletries, shoes and/or clothing in new or excellent condition to:

Met Council
Bundles of Hope Campaign
168 39th Street
Building 19 North
C Section
Basement Level
Brooklyn, NY 11232

The absolute deadline for the receipt of packages is June 7th. El Al has volunteered to transport everything to Israel from the Brooklyn site.

The time is short. The need is great. Please support this great humanitarian effort.

PARSHA PLACE

Week of June 3

BEMIDBAR

Numbers 1:1-4:20

INTO THE WILDERNESS

By Rabbi Kerry M. Olitzky

Bemidbar, "Into the wilderness." Each experience along the way, each encounter on our path, helps to mold us as individuals. Likewise, the travels of our ancestors through the desert wilderness helped to fashion their character. Through the inheritance of our religious tradition, their journey made its impact on our own. As we immerse ourselves in the fullest dimensions of the journey, we feel its imprint on our character, our souls, our very essence. Although it may often feel different, we do not travel alone, unguided, without direction. Just as Torah provided our people with a spiritual map for our ancient wilderness journey, it remains the sacred compass for our sojourn in life today. Torah: black fire written on white fire, revealed to us a short time after our deliverance from Egyptian slavery - only a brief period of time after we had emerged from the narrow places of Egypt into the wide expanse of the desert. With Torah in hand, our ancestors had one goal in mind: to reach the land of promise. But it was the fullness of the journey itself that enabled them to taste the abundant sweetness of freedom, for they never really did reach the Promised Land. According to the beginning of Bemidbar Rabbah, a midrashic work, the Torah was given through fire, water, and the desert. One teacher, Shem Mishmuel, suggests that these the above elements are indispensable for the acquisition of Torah: passionate, fiery enthusiasm with hearts burning for God; calm and tranquil waters so that clearheaded understanding of her teachings is possible; and travel in the desert (some say we must make ourselves into a desert), where we must be willing to undergo sacrifices to achieve Torah understanding.

Generally, the details of the wilderness journey are not given in the text. Most often, we are told only that we have to travel through the desert to reach Canaan. There seems to be no other way. But in this Torah portion, the one that introduces us to the wilderness journey, the one always read just before Shavuot near the end of the counting of the Omer, at the beginning of the Book of Numbers, the details of the journey are clearly articulated, explained so that we may gain insight and understanding. For the entire Book of Numbers is a recapitulation of the desert journey, the one we have already read about in Exodus and recently celebrated during Passover. But here's the primary difference: In this telling we find a self-reflection of the people, a kind of *cheshbon hanefesh* (lit. "accounting of the soul") en masse that opens the final gate for us, the last of the forty-nine gates of impurity that the mystics tell us lie between Egypt and Israel.

For me, the transformative moment in communal worship takes place after the Torah has been read. It's early in the morning - the sun only beginning to make its presence known, reminding us of the renewal of daily creation - and we gather around the reading table just as we did at the foot of the mountain. We have indeed relived the experience of the revelation of Torah through its public reading. And in plaintive tones, we mouth the words of the sacred text: "Renew our days as of old." Return us to that former time in the desert. Rather than the simple, human yearning for younger days of life, the kind of comment we make as the stresses of maturity and growth weigh heavily upon us, is a simpler plea: Bring me back to that time in the wilderness so that I may experience *matan Torah* - revelation - once again so that, as the liturgy continues, I may truly return to You.

Rabbi Kerry Olitzky is the Dean of Adult Learning and Living at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

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FEDERATION FOCUS

We Must Not Be Silent

By Susan Shaffer,
JCRC Director

For over a year, thirteen Iranian Jews are still being held in prison on baseless allegations of "espionage," with a total of three who have "confessed" to spying for Israel. Although no evidence has yet been produced to substantiate this claim, these innocent Jews may face the death penalty. The "trials" in Shiraz, Iran, continue to be held behind closed doors, despite Iran's promises to the contrary. Diplomats, human rights activists, journalists and the victims' families all have been barred from the courtroom. The judge also serves as prosecutor and appointed the defense attorneys. Their families live in fear; reports indicate that Jews have stopped wearing kipot in the streets, and that harassment of Jewish children has intensified.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs, our JCRC umbrella organization in New York, has made the following action recommendations:

Community leadership should communicate with local consuls

immediately to press them on the issue of the World Bank loans to Iran. Iran is waiting for action on two loans from the World Bank totaling more than \$200 million for rural health and sewage treatment projects. The loans should be postponed indefinitely until the fate of the 13 is resolved appropriately. Canada, Italy, Spain, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Holland, Russia, Switzerland, Brazil and Japan should be encouraged to take this position as well.

The Senate has passed a resolution on behalf of the 13; a concurrent resolution is pending in the House. H. Con Res. 307 was introduced by Rep. Benjamin Gilman on 4/13/00, "Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the ongoing prosecution of 13 members of Iran's Jewish community." It has been referred to the House Committee on International Relations. Please contact Representative Castle to urge him to sign on as a co-sponsor of this Bill. Additionally, members in both houses, of both parties, have begun issuing daily one-minute

statements on behalf of the prisoners. Congressional representatives should be urged to join in the daily one-minute statements of concern.

If you would like to contact an ambassador to the U.S. from the European Union to let him/her know your feelings, you can get such names and addresses on the internet by going to "www.jewish-publicaffairs.org/action/recent/europe02-08-00.htm"

Many community members saw the full-page ad in last Friday's (May 26, 2000) *New York Times*. Placed by The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, the ad urged: "Let one hundred thousand men and women - Jews and non-Jews who care - unite their voices to express solidarity with these prisoners and their families. Let them contact their local and state representatives ... in every town in the world. Let their message be clear that these prisoners have not been abandoned, that they have not been forgotten, and that their predicament is completely unacceptable."

We must not be silent!

Federation Mission To Israel!

It's a once in a lifetime opportunity - A dream vacation to some - A spiritual awakening for others. A call to adventure that must be answered. Or a community experience that can become the foundation for the rest of your life.

Take off for Israel on November 5th and return on the 13th empowered by the capacity to more thoroughly understand local, continental and global Jewish needs. Participants will

spend time in the northern most section of Israel; in Jerusalem; and meet "family" who live in Arad and Tamar, our Partnership 2000 Region.

Anticipated costs are \$1818 per person/double occupancy plus extra expenses for tips and a bus to and from the airport; Final Mission costs may change and are subject to final confirmation of airline and hotel costs. During the Mission, all participants will be asked to contribute to Jewish

social services at home, Israel and world-wide by making their gift to the 2001 Jewish Federation of Delaware/UJC Annual Campaign. A voluntary minimum Annual Campaign gift of \$500 is encouraged for each participant.

Due to the extraordinary enthusiasm for last year's community-wide Mission, individuals with interest in participating in this year's endeavor are asked to phone Rhonda Falk, Campaign Director, 427-2100, Ext. 16.

ENDOWING THE FUTURE

Gifts - Of Torah, Of Jewish Life



By Rachel A.
Gross, Esq.
Endowment
Director

Shavuot, which begins Thursday night, June 8, is called Zaman Matan Toratenu, the time of the giving of our Torah. It is also when we celebrate the harvest. Both of these meanings were beautifully illustrated to me during a recent professional mission to Odessa and Israel that I attended.

One of the many highlights of the Mission was a first-hand look at how the Joint Distribution Committee ("the Joint") is serving overseas needs. The Joint was instrumental in providing relief to Holocaust survivors who spent the post-war years in displaced persons

camp in Europe. Today, the Joint provides many of the necessary services to keep Jews and Jewish communities alive, literally and spiritually, in over 50 countries including the former Soviet Union and Israel.

Caring for the elderly is one area of focus for the Joint. A poignant example of this particular role is the story of Boris. He, his wife and one other person, are the only Jews living in a small Siberian village with a population of 15,000. This village is 8 hours from Barnaul, which has a Jewish population of 500. Last year, Boris wrote and sent a letter, addressed simply:

The Weinberg Foundation
The Joint
Baltimore, USA

The Weinberg Foundation provides funds for projects which help the elderly all over the world. In Odessa I visited the Weinberg Gimilus Chesed Center which houses a medical clinic and offices for volunteer and professional "social workers." The Center provides meals and food packages, offers social and leisure activities and loans medical equipment to the elderly Jews of Odessa.

Somehow, Boris' letter, one of 100,000 received each year, reached the Weinberg Foundation in Baltimore and was shared with the Joint. Boris wrote that his leg had been amputated and he had no prosthesis or other medical equipment. He further wrote that after paying for rent, heat and telephone there was little left of his \$25.00

monthly pension.

After receiving his letter, the Joint arranged for a staff member to visit Boris and take him a wheelchair. The Joint also arranged for someone from Barnaul to visit Boris and his wife four times a year and to bring food, Jewish books and newspapers and companionship.


None of us will ever meet Boris, but each of us, through our support of Federation, has helped connect Boris to Jewish community - possibly for the first time in 70 years. Because of our commitment, Boris will receive gifts of food (harvest) and Jewish learning - the gifts of Shavuot.

Here in Delaware, our endowment dollars are critical to the preservation and furtherance of



Rachel A. Gross, Esq.

Jewish community, education and culture. Planned gifts and endowments can be created to help the Jewish elderly, children-at-risk, new immigrants and others in Israel, in the former Soviet Union and around the world. Please call Rachel Gross, Endowment Director, at 427-2100, x 19, to discuss the various ways you can fund an endowment gift.



★★★ The Jewish Federation of Delaware ★★★
cordially invites you to attend the

66th Annual Meeting
honoring Outgoing President
Barbara Schoenberg
and
welcoming Incoming President
John Elzufon, Esq.

Installation of Officers and New Board Members
and
Special Tribute to Judy Stiebel

Wednesday, June 21, 2000
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MATTER OF OPINION

Saigon Or Dunkirk

By Nechemia Meyers

The press and public here are still trying to decide whether the withdrawal from Lebanon was a rerun of Saigon or of Dunkirk.

Initial TV footage certainly looked like the former, thanks to those scenes of supporters of Israel frantically trying to escape the vengeance of the new rulers of southern Lebanon. The shots next day of joyous Israeli soldiers returning, unscratched, from "the north" seemed to indicate that this was perhaps a Dunkirk situation where, although we had lost, we would live to fight another day. And most people fear that that day will come quite soon.

As usual, my wife and I are

focusing on our own family—a daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren—in Kiryat Shmona. They came to us when, during the withdrawal, it was announced that residents of the town should go down to air-raid shelters.

It didn't take them long to move, as our daughter Dana had packed their essential clothing in a couple of suitcases long beforehand. "I had to do so," she later explained to us, "for the same reason that I had prepared a suitcase when I was about to give birth. I didn't know when I would need it, but I was certain that, sooner or later, I would."

What hit us hardest after they arrived was the fact that our grandchildren were obviously plagued by

anxieties. The eldest, 10-year-old Yuval, was the most articulate. He kept recalling the various terror attacks that had taken place in the Galilee over the last couple of decades. How he knows about all of them, including many that occurred before he was born, we can't figure out, but he does. Among other incidents, Yuval spoke of the school bus with children from Avivim, 12 of whom were killed in a terrorist ambush, of the many teenagers from Safed who died when terrorists seized a building in Ma'alot where they were staying and of the families slain in attacks on Kfar Yuval and on Kiryat Shmona itself.

His six-year-old brother, Omer, displayed his feelings in other ways.

He jumped when he heard the wailing of an ambulance or the siren of a police car. But what really frightened him was the sound of fireworks shot off as part of a Students' Day celebration that took place near our home. The incident reminded my wife of what had happened with our son Eytan, then five-years old, when she and the kids were on a visit to Australia in 1967, shortly after the Six Day War.

He had been put to bed at about 7:00 p.m., but an hour later, when the adults were watching a film about the War, he somehow heard a siren from the TV set and rushed into the living room and blurted out: "Where is the shelter? Where

is the shelter?"

It seems to my wife and myself that our grandchildren, and their parents for that matter, are in far greater emotional turmoil than we have ever seen them. And all this despite the fact that they live in a town which has been hit by no less than 4000 Katyushas over the years, as the result of which 36 people have been killed and 6000 apartments damaged or destroyed.

Perhaps the reason for their mood is the uncertainty they face, which, contrary to expectations, seems greater now than before the withdrawal from Lebanon.

Nechemia Meyers lives in Israel and has roots in the Wilmington Jewish community.

Iran Responds To Public Protest

By Avi Weiss

Amir Zamaninia, consul of the Iranian Mission to the UN, was as cordial as could be as he offered a spirited defense last week of his country's trial of thirteen Jews accused of espionage to Rabbi Abe Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and to me.

Mr. Zamaninia's willingness to consent to a meeting took us by surprise. As part of our preparations for a prayer vigil on behalf of the Iran 13, we faxed a letter to the Iranian Mission requesting that a delegation of rabbis be permitted to present its concerns to Iranian officials. Within hours our request was answered and the next morning the precise time was set.

The meeting was the first to take place between U.S. Jewish leaders and Iranian officials since the arrest of thirteen Iranian Jews sixteen months ago on charges of spying for Israel. Apparently, all previous official attempts to sit down face to face with Iranian representatives had been rebuffed.

No doubt the Iranian UN Mission staff had not independently made the decision to convene the meeting. Orders came

from authorities in Teheran who could not ignore announcements of the prayer vigil in the New York Times and on several area radio stations.

But during the week prior to the vigil, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations did its best to sabotage our efforts. This Jewish establishment group claimed that a prayer vigil convened as the trial drew to a close would have no impact since Iran was impervious to public outcry. Conference officials argued that the vigil would ignite a backlash in Iran and precipitate protests against Jews living in Shiraz.

As we sat in Mr. Zamaninia's office, it was clear that the reverse was true. If the Iranians were impervious to world public opinion, why would they bother to meet with us? Why offer a spirited defense of the proceedings to American Jews if they didn't care about our reaction?

The Conference of Presidents assured American Jewry that it was working quietly behind the scenes to effect sanctions against Iran, specifically through delays in granting Iran significant loans from the World Bank. But in the

days before the prayer vigil took place, the loans were given the go-ahead. Even the Conference of Presidents' assertion that the families of those jailed preferred that there be no public outcry proved to be incorrect.

I spoke with family members who gave us their blessing for the dignified public prayer on behalf of their relatives.

During the Holocaust, the Jewish community relied on a select group of individuals who maintained that it was privy to facts it could not share with anyone. Even so, these individuals demanded the trust of the Jewish community. Germany is impervious to protest, they argued, and therefore public outcry would be counterproductive. Their motives are not to be questioned, but in the end they were wrong.

In the case of Iran, public protest not only sends a message that the eyes of the world are watching, but it also inspires governments around the world to pressure Iran to put an end to this outrage. Today, America is prepared to allow Iranian soccer teams to visit the U.S.; it has allowed Iranian officials to travel across the U.S. despite Iran's

presence on the list of terrorist countries; and it is negotiating to restore diplomatic ties with Iran. Only through public outcry can we emphasize to our government that relations with Iran must be based on the pillars of human rights.

Not to be underestimated is the effect public expressions of solidarity have on those in jail, who, as a result of such actions, understand and feel that they are not alone. The recent recanting of a confession implicating his brother by one of the accused is, we are convinced, due to a greater awareness that people in the West really care.

Sitting in his office as the crowds gathered on the streets below for what would prove to be—despite the undermining attempts of the Conference of Presidents—the largest outpouring of solidarity with the Iran 13, the consul wanted to know why we were protesting the trial before it was concluded. Rabbi Cooper and I responded that the proceedings themselves, carried on behind closed doors, with the prosecutor and judge one and the same person, are fundamentally flawed. Mr. Zamaninia countered that

even in the U.S., a trial that involves national security issues, such as that of Jonathan Pollard, is closed. We informed him that the Pollard case never even went to trial. Mr. Zamaninia's next tactic was to claim that open trials would cause problems for Jews in Iran. Why then, we asked, did the Iranian government allow the confessions of the accused to be aired on Iranian national TV?

Mr. Zamaninia continued to defend his government's actions even as we rose to leave to begin the prayer vigil. Expressing appreciation for his time, Rabbi Cooper handed a letter to the consul asking permission for a small delegation of rabbis to visit the prisoners in Shiraz.

The fact that this meeting even took place proves once and for all that Iran is exquisitely sensitive to western public opinion. It underscores the truth that public protest protects the oppressed, and enhances the voice of those engaged in quiet diplomacy.

Avi Weiss is rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale and president of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns-Amcha. Tel: 718-796-4730, 718-884-0930.

CHAMBER VIEW

A FEATURE OF THE AMERICA-ISRAEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

At Home In Israel

By Paula Joffe,
Executive Director

When you pack your bags for that long weekend at the shore, did you ever consider that you could be dipping your toes into the Mediterranean? Israel as a place to buy real estate, for personal use or commercial investment, is a realistic location to set your sights.

There is an open and positive attitude in Israel towards foreign investment, with the government posting almost no restrictions as to where investors can put their money. During the past decade, the country has attracted international investment in four main areas:

1. Financial investment due to

opportunities in local markets.

2. Industrial investment because of the high level of skilled workers.

3. Investment in previously government-owned businesses.

4. Real estate, thanks to Israel's historical record of property appreciation.

Although the process of securing and managing a property so far away is a little more involved than buying a home or commercial site here in the United States, it can be done if you put the right team in place. Aytan Dove, who holds the title of Ambassador to Israel for Commercial Investment Real Estate at the Institute of the National Associate of Realtors, suggests hiring an appraiser, bro-

ker, attorney, insurance agent and tax advisor. It may seem like overkill, but it will ease the process and make the transaction a much smoother one.

Aytan says that now is the perfect time to look for property in Israel. He cites the 1995-96 real estate depression that caused property values to drop, making now the right time to buy. He observes that things are just beginning to turn around because of confidence in the peace process, because privatization is creating a better level of competition and opportunity for industrial expansion and because Israel enjoys better trade agreements with more countries than it ever has. All this

points towards the opportunity for a more stable economy. And this means that real estate is a good investment.

The benefits of owning property in the Holy Land can be greater than just the profits realized. Ask local businessman Robert Dunn, who is an investor in a hotel at Kfar Bloom in the northern part of the country. When his father-in-law, Joseph Husher, the initial partner in this \$500,000 real estate transaction, passed away, Bob assumed the leadership role. In a new effort to raise money for the project, he conducted a feasibility study about expanding the dining room and adding a fitness center. After six months, Bob,

working with Kfar Bloom's hotel manager Dubi Benari, was able to raise an additional \$110,000. The site has become an attractive place for American vacationers.

Bob talks about this project with great pride. Transacting business long-distance has generated strong ties between family and his partners in Israel. "It gives us a chance to create jobs and buy in Israel. 'I own a piece of the rock,' he says with a smile.

For additional information about investing in the State of Israel, call the America-Israel Chamber of Commerce at (215) 790-3722.

Michal Katz also contributed to this article.

INSIDE DELAWARE

JCC To Compete In Maccabi Games

Delaware teens will compete in roller hockey, girls and boys basketball and swimming during the 2000 JCC Maccabi Games in Staten Island, NY. Thirty Jewish area athletes will vie for prizes with some 1,300 teens from as far away as

Australia and Israel. This year's event takes place during the week of August 20.

Many in the JCC Delaware delegation also competed in last year's Games which were held in Cherry Hill, NJ. Team Delaware brought

home 25 medals. "Excitement is running high right now," said JCC Executive Director Jeffrey S. Metz, adding that "Participating in the Maccabi is the experience of a lifetime for our Jewish teens."

Throughout their history, the

Maccabi Games have attracted top-talented Jewish athletes. Many of them, like swimmer Mark Spitz and gymnast Mitch Gaylord have earned gold medals in Olympic competitions.

Sponsorships are requested to

help defray the costs of sending the athletes to the 2000 Maccabi Games.

For additional information, please call Randy Rosenthal, JCC Recreational Services Director, at 478-5660.

On The Road With The Newark JCC

Don't just sit by the pool this summer. Join the Newark Jewish Community Center for a series of bus trips. Air-conditioned, escorted motorcoaches will depart from the Newark JCC, 288 East Main

Street, Newark. Limited seating is available. Please call (302) 286-1401 to make your reservations.

On June 28th, the bus departs at 9:00 a.m. for a day of outlet shopping at the Franklin Mills Mall

in Philadelphia plus dinner at the famed Philadelphia Restaurant School. Cost per person is \$54 and includes dinner.

On July 5th, visit historic Bucks County. The bus departs at 8:00a.m. and stops at New Hope and Peddlers Village. Return to Newark at approximately 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$34.50.

Journey Through Pet Loss

Jewish Family Service sponsors a two session workshop on coping with the loss of a canine or feline companion on Wednesday, June 7 and Wednesday, June 14, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Wilmington. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$20. To register, call 478-9411.

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INSIDE DELAWARE

Memorial Trust Awards Grants

The Anna E. Finger and Ruth Gordon Memorial Trust has awarded grants to the following individuals and organizations for the calendar year 2000:

1. Claire Brown Kantar for funding materials relating to curriculum matters at Albert Einstein Academy.
2. Anika Mamberg to defray

costs of participation in the March of the Living.

3. Lewis P. Bennett for translation of historical matters relating to the LEHI movement in pre-Statehood Israel.

4. Theatre Voices South, a theatrical organization directed by Paula Shulak, to defray the costs of

performances of "Kindertransport", a staged reading of the story of one child who was saved from Hitler's Germany.

5. Three scholarships for students at Albert Einstein Academy to help subsidize trips for the TEVA Learning Center Science/Judaic Studies Nature Trip.

JCC And MTV Join Forces For Teens

Join the Delaware JCC and MTV at the Katz JCC in Cherry Hill, N.J., Sunday, June 11 from 5:45-10:00 p.m. MTV's Matt Simon from "Real World Hawaii" and Lindsay Brien from "Real World Seattle" will address issues of interest to teens. The cost is \$5 per person if you register by June 5 or \$7 per person after that date.

Designed for teens in grades 8 through 12, the program is sponsored by the Cherry Hill Alliance on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Creative Point Group, the Hilton of Cherry Hill and Smith Bros. For more information, please call Robyn Greenberg, Community Teen Services Director, at 478-5660.

WCI Offers Master Degree In Holocaust And Genocide

West Chester University, which has offered classes on the Holocaust since 1977, debuts a Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies program this coming Fall. It is the only American university to offer a master's

degree in this field. The program will be under the leadership of Dr. Irene G. Shur, founder and director of the National Association for Holocaust Education. It is designed to meet the growing need for teachers and museum curators

trained in this topic. In addition to the master's degree, a Certificate of Advanced Holocaust and Genocide Studies is also offered. For additional information, please call 1-610-436-3383 or email <http://www.wcupa.edu>

Building Successful Remarriages

JFS will sponsor a three-session workshop series for those contemplating remarriage. Participants will discuss how to learn from past mistakes and improve their chances for success in new relationships. Workshops will be held Thursdays, June 8, 15 and 22, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 for the series and pre-registration is required. Call 478-9411 to sign-up.

Jewish Community Center Plans Showcase

The Jewish Community Center of Delaware will hold their Annual Jewish Community Showcase on

Sunday, June 25, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the JCC Campus, 101 Garden of Eden Road in North

Wilmington. Also known as Membership Appreciation Day, the event will feature entertainment, games and activities for the entire family including pony rides, computer games, gymnastics, face painting, arts and crafts and more.

Throughout the day, special membership promotions, referral credits and class demonstrations and tours will be available. From 5-6p.m., a family barbecue dinner will be served.

For more information, please call Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

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918 Sharpless Road - Hockessin - Spacious stone ranch home is on 2.57 private acres with woods, stream, deck & in-ground pool. A wonderful floor plan for entertaining, a natural brick foyer. Finished basement is great for home office, 2 fireplaces & a 2-car garage. \$335,000

2511 Channing Drive - Channin - Spacious, 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath in popular Channin! Remodeled kitchen with new cabinets, range, counter & flooring. Family room, first floor office & laundry room, CA, 2-car garage with insulated garage door & fenced back yard. \$178,000

128 Ballymeade Drive - Ballymeade - One-year-old Colonial in N. Wilmington includes many extras with 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, sitting room off MBR & enlarged master bath with soaking tub. Large eat-in kitchen with adjoining family room, 1st floor office & laundry area, 10x20 deck, full basement and a 2-car garage. \$257,500

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with Albert Einstein Academy, Gratz Hebrew High School, Hillel at the University of Delaware, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, and the Milton & Hattie Kutz Home. It is an equal privilege to be partnered with the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. We are especially proud of our warm and unique relationship with Arad and Tamar, Delaware's Partnership 2000 Region

"family" in Israel.

With over \$1.6 M raised, the 1999 Annual Campaign set a standard of giving at a level of which we can all be proud. The Jewish Federation of Delaware Board of Directors expresses warm gratitude to all whose commitment to *Tikkun Olam* and *K'lal Yisrael* has truly enhanced our community.

The Honor Roll lists all contributions made to the 1999 Annual

Campaign. All gifts are printed in the category representing total household contributions. Unless otherwise requested, listings of one unit represent one family gift. Listings with two complete names indicate an individual gift from both spouses. Some donors have requested not to have their names published. Thank you to those whose names do not appear but who are equally committed to *tzedakah*. In advance, we apologize

for any errors or omissions and ask that revisions be brought to our attention by calling 427-2100.

1999 Annual Campaign Leadership Levels: Abraham, \$50,000+; Sarah, \$25,000-49,999; Isaac, \$18,000-24,999; Rebecca, \$10,000-17,999; Jacob, \$5,000-9,999; Leah, \$1,800-4,999; Rachel, \$1,000-1,799; Judah, \$613-999; Deborah, \$360-612; David, \$180-359; Ruth, \$100-179; Akiba, \$1-99.

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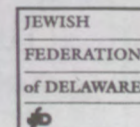
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INSIDE DELAWARE

Annual Meeting At The Kutz Home

Friends of The Kutz Home gathered in the Visitors' Center on Sunday, May 21st for the Annual Meeting on Sunday May 21st. Rick Alexander, starting his second year as President of the Board of Directors welcomed residents, family members, staff, volunteers and Board members. Rabbi Sanford Dresin of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth gave the D'Var Torah, stating that "we increase our days by honoring our parents."

In his report, Alexander discussed the healthy financial status of The Home and the need to be vigilant in maintaining that status. He also remarked on the high quality of care that Kutz Home residents receive. He thanked all those responsible for the success of The Home. Executive Director, Karen Friedman praised

the community for its long term and ongoing support. She discussed the difficulties facing the long-term care industry today and how important that support is to keeping The Kutz Home viable. "It is a cooperative effort between Board, Auxiliary, Federation, volunteers, residents and family members and staff," she said.

Friedman, Carol Williams, Director of Nursing, Kim Kauffman, Dietary Director, and Joy Honig, Auxiliary President, presented awards to those employees who had been with The Kutz Home for five, ten and twenty-five years. Doris Bowers, who has been a certified nursing assistant at the Kutz Home for twenty-six years was honored as 'Employee of the Year'. She was praised for her diligence and her compassion.

Joy Honig explained the many important contributions made by the Auxiliary to the quality of life of the residents. Friedman paid tribute to the many residents who received "Volunteer Recognition Awards" for their service to The Home and the other residents.

Joan Wachstein, Kutz's immediate Past-President gave the Nominating Committee report and Judy Wortman, Executive Vice-President of the Jewish Federation of Delaware announced the Federation appointments to the Board. New Board members are Irwin Engelson, Rory Colton Godowsky, Susan Rohrbacher and Michael Rosen.

Guests enjoyed refreshments prepared by The Kutz Home dietary staff.



(L to R): Incoming Jewish Federation of Delaware President John Elzufon, Rabbi Sanford Dresin of AKSE, and Judy Wortman, Executive Vice President of JFD at The Kutz Home Annual Meeting.

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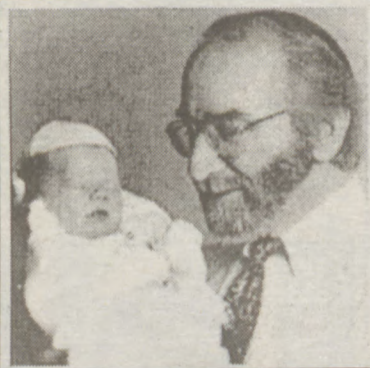
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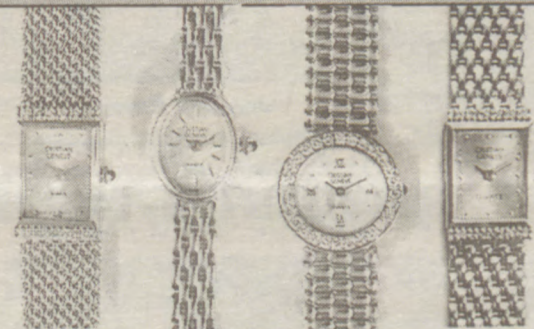
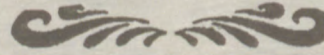
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Gratz College Hebrew High School Says Mazel Tov To Members Of The 2000 Graduation Class



Yana Avdeeva

Yana was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and moved to the Ukraine as a young child. She participated in Drama Club and ballroom dancing competitions as well as other activities. Her interest in foreign languages brought her to the U.S. this year as an exchange student. Yana studied at both William Penn and Brandywine High Schools and stayed at the home of Eileen and Howard Cohen. She has participated in the activities of B'nai Brith Girls as a member of the Wilmington Tikvah chapter. Although Yana will be returning home before the end of this school year, she has received an acceptance to the University of Delaware where she plans to begin her college studies this fall in foreign languages, International Business or Judaic Studies. She is most grateful for the generosity of Gratz, the Jewish Federation of Delaware, and her host family, the Cohens, for all they have done to help her become a part of Wilmington's Jewish Community.



Maya Baruch

Maya is an eleventh grade student at Concord High School where she has participated in the Concord Players and Chorale. She has participated in other activities in high school as well, including serving on the yearbook committee and Model UN. At Concord she has been a student liaison. Maya has worked in the summers at The

Brandywine Zoo and at B&M Meats, Inc. The daughter of Annette and Josef Baruch, Maya attends AKSE and is also a member of BBYO. She will be a senior in high school next year and is unsure of her plans beyond that. She does know that she would like to attend college in a big city and wants to do something 'free-spirited' with her life!



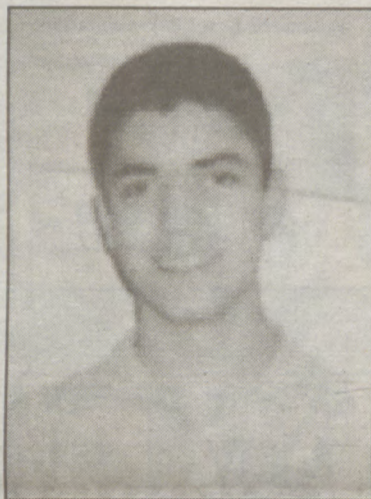
Jennifer Berry

Jennifer, a senior at Concord High School, has been very busy throughout her high school career and has excelled in many areas. She is one of the top vocalists at Concord and has participated in All State Choir, as well as having performed in the school's musical and dramatic productions. A member of the National Honor Society since the eleventh grade, Jen has received many academic awards at Concord High School. She has also been very active in BESTY and NFTY. Writing for her high school newspaper throughout high school led her to become a co-Editor-in-Chief for her senior year. This experience will serve her well as she aspires to one day have a career utilizing her writing skills in the field of journalism or advertising. A daughter of Sharon and Dan Berry, Jen will take the next steps to this career by attending University of Delaware beginning this fall and participating in the Honors Program. She hopes to be happy and satisfied with life!



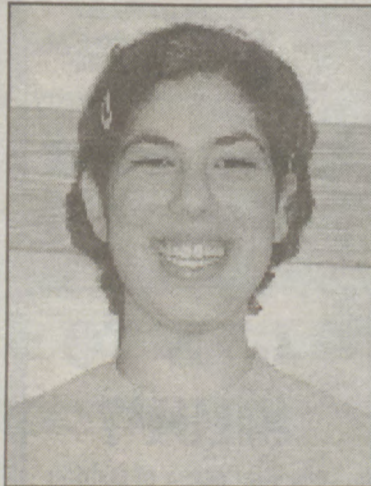
Rebecca Cobin

Rebecca will be graduating from Concord High School this June. She has been on the Honor Roll throughout and has been designated as a top 11th grade student in History. A member of BESTY and NFTY, Rebecca has also found time to work at Happy Harry's as a cashier. In preparing for her future goals, she has been a member of the Future Educators of America. Daughter of Susan and Malcolm Cobin, Rebecca plans to attend college and become an elementary school teacher.



Jonathan I. Echt

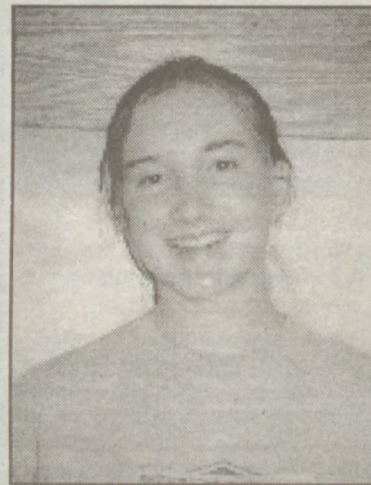
Jonathan will be a senior next year at Concord High School where he is on the Academic Honor Roll. He is a member of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society and plays on Concord's soccer team. Jonathan has his own band for which he plays bass guitar. He can often be found performing at the Wild Child Café. A member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Jonathan is the son of Mitzi and Elliott Echt.



Jordyn Gamiel

Jordyn will be graduating from Concord High School this June. She is a member of the school's National Honor Society and is one of the top 25 students of her class. She participates in three seasons of sports at Concord including soccer, volleyball and basketball. A daughter of Beryl and Robert Gamiel, Jordyn attends Beth Emeth where she has been a Cadet Aide. She has also served as Vice-President

for Social Action of BESTY. Jordyn works at Happy Harry's and also performs community service. She plans to study neuroscience in college and hopes to one day become a physician.



Whitney Golden

Whitney Golden is a senior at Concord High School, where she is active on the yearbook and is a member of the Concord Chapter of the National Honor Society. She is a president of the youth group at Congregation Beth Emeth, as well as a student aide for its Sunday School program. Whitney works part-time at Happy Harry's. She plans to attend the University of Delaware and major in criminal justice, psychology or pre-law, and she hopes to enter a career related to one of those fields. Whitney is one of the top 25 students at Concord, and she was the top student in Concord's computer applications course this year.



Aileen Heiman

Aileen is a senior at Tower Hill School where she has been an honors student throughout the upper school. She is a member of the school's Cultural Diversity Club and a liaison between the club and the school's Board of Trustees. Aileen writes for the Dial (school newspaper) and is a leader of the Green Key Guides. A member of AKSE, Aileen has been an aide for the Talmud Torah since the ninth grade. She has served as President and Secretary of the local BBG chapter and as the Regional

Secretary for BBG's Central Region East. Aileen was a winner of the Delaware Jewish War Veterans Essay Contest and participated in Panim al Panim. She volunteers as a tutor at Wilmington's West End Neighborhood House and is a recipient of the Public Allies Delaware 'Tomorrow's Leaders Today' award. Aileen, a National Merit Finalist, is the daughter of Tina and Henry Heiman. She will be attending Goucher College this fall on a full-tuition Dean's Scholarship.



Kenan Jaffe

Kenan Jaffe is a junior at Brandywine High School, where he runs cross-country and plays tennis. He also participates in the Brandywine High School math league team, is on the school's web page team, and volunteers in the library. He is president of minyonaires at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth this year and volunteers at AKSE events. This summer he plans to be a counselor-in-training at Habonim Dror Camp Moshava, where he has been a camper for many years and through which he visited Israel last summer. Kenan will graduate from high school next year and then attend college. He is a member of the Charles W. Bush Chapter of the National Honor Society.



Anika Mamberg

Anika Mamberg is a senior at Brandywine High School, where she was elected to serve as the student representative on the Brandywine School District School

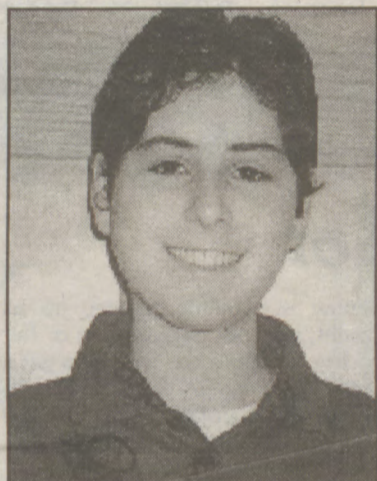
CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH

Board. She is also a member of the National Art Honor Society, Business Professionals of America, and the ski club. She chants Haftarah at Congregation Beth Shalom and cooks meals for Ronald McDonald House, in addition to which she also works part-time at the law firm of Grant & Eisenhoffer. Anika is undecided where she will attend college, but she plans to major in political science. In 1999, she attended the Penn State summer program. Through B'nai Brith, Anika participated in the March of the Living in Europe and Israel this spring.



Avigail Rosenthalis
Avigail Rosenthalis is a junior at

A. I. duPont High School, where she is captain of the varsity tennis team. Avigail is involved with Key Club, participating in many of its community fundraisers. She also plays flute and guitar and is a member of Congregation Beth Emeth. Avigail works part-time for the Superior Court of the State of Delaware. This summer, she plans to return to Kibbutz Tsoroa outside of Jerusalem as a summer camp counselor. For the future, she is interested in forensic psychology.



Pamela Rothenberg
Pamela will be graduating from Garnet Valley High School this year. She has been a member of the National Honor Society,

National Art Honor Society and has participated on the track team. She also finds time to help the guidance department at Garnet Valley as well as being a Science Buddy. In addition to excelling on the ice rink and at the piano, Pamela also assists senior citizens at the JCC. She has received a German award at Garnet Valley and has also been a recipient of a Rotary Club award. Daughter of Renaye and Desmond Rothenberg, Pamela will graduate with distinguished honors from high school and plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania and major in bio-chemistry.



Heather Simmons

Heather Simmons is a senior at Concord High School, where she is the captain of the tennis team. She is a member of Congregation Beth Emeth, where she is a cadet aide. Heather has been a member of the senior youth group, BESTY, for four years. She has served as its president and treasurer. Heather is attending the University of Delaware, where she plans to major in Elementary Education, after which she hopes to attend Hebrew Union College to become a rabbi.



Annia Yampolsky
Annia Yampolsky will be a senior at Brandywine High School, where she is a member of the

lacrosse team, the drama club, and Future Educators of America. She works backstage on drama productions at Brandywine. She is a member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth and serves as her regional and chapter Sh'licha for the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. She volunteers at A.I. duPont Hospital and also volunteered for Jack Markell's successful campaign for state treasurer. Annia is a HOBY Ambassador, a winner of the Jewish Veterans Essay Contest, and a participant of Panim al Panim. Her goal is to finish high school and attend the college of her choice.

*Congratulations
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in your
future
endeavors!*

AKSE Honors Bikkurim Graduates

On June 8, 8 p.m., erev Shavuot, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth will honor its Bikkurim graduates. AKSE will publicly recognize and honor the commitment these young adults have made to furthering their Jewish education.

Those pictured have completed many hours at Gratz Hebrew High School and participated in the post Bar/Bat Mitzvah programs that AKSE offers. These programs, Chavarot, (for the women, Minyanaires for the men,) typically meet Sunday mornings for several hours of prayer, discussion, fellowship and food.

Mazel Tov to (first row, from left) Danny Weinberg (son of Gail and Mark Weinberg), Mark Shlossman (son of Wendy and Phil Shlossman), Mara Susan Seidel (daughter of Jeffrey and Dianne Seidel), Stefanie

Beth Makar (daughter of Ron and Mollie Epstein Makar), Laura Emily Brown (daughter of Carol and Barry Brown), Dana Anderson (daughter of Sandy and Richard Anderson), Ruthie Elana Cabelli (daughter of Rosanne Griff-Cabelli and Michael Cabelli).

Also, (second row, from left) Rabbi Sanford Dresin, spiritual leader of AKSE, Jason Daniel Rosenberg (son of Judith and Max Rosenberg), David Benjamin Drowos (son of Shirley Fischer-Drowos and Stuart Drowos), Emily Anne Cohen (daughter of Eileen and Howard Cohen), Kenan Winslow Jaffe (son of Helen Winslow and Jonathan Jaffe), Aileen Danielle Heiman (daughter of Tina and Henry Heiman) and Michael Weinberg (son of Gail and Mark Weinberg).



Beth Emeth Salutes Confirmands

Congregation Beth Emeth will honor its 1999-2000 Confirmation Class during Shavuot, 6 Sivan 5760/ Friday, June 9, 2000

Mazel Tov to:

- PAULA H. BERNHARDT daughter of Sonia Rice and Steven Bernhardt
- AL BROWN son of Bill and Riva Brown
- PAMONEET RACHEL CHAMBERS daughter of Ahuva and Michael Chambers
- ALAN M. DECKTOR son of Brian and Drenna Decktor
- CATHERINE DENENBERG daughter of Carol and Barry Denenberg
- ELIZABETH DENENBERG daughter of Carol and Barry Denenberg

- RACHEL JAN DICKER daughter of Ira Dicker and Marcy Katzen
- ELIE JOSHUA DINER son of Bruce Aaron Diner and Judith Bruskin Diner
- JENNIFER KAROL ENG daughter of Jerald Eng and Robin Karol-Eng
- SAMANTHA D. FACCILOLO daughter of PJ Facciolo and Carmen Facciolo, Jr.
- ROBERT L. FRANCE son of Sharon and John France
- SHARON MICHELE GREENBAUM daughter of Karen and Jack Greenbaum
- BETH RACHEL HARDY daughter of Bill Hardy and Marcie Hardy
- DINA LYNN HARDY daughter of Bill Hardy and Marcie Hardy
- DAVID IAN HINDIN son of

- Richard and Beverly Hindin
- JEFFREY ALAN HOROWITZ son of Vicki and Harold Horowitz
- AARON JACOB JAFFEY son of Carla and Alan Jaffey
- DANIEL M. JOSEPH son of Michael and Dayle Joseph
- JESSICA L. KEANE daughter of Lori and Chris Keane
- ROBERT M. KLEINER son of

- Steve and Julie Kleiner
- REBECCA ROSE KRINSKY daughter of Holly and Steve Krinsky
- ELSPETH MIRIAM KURSH daughter of Elisabeth W. Harpham and Samuel J. Kursh
- JADA SIMONE LITTMAN daughter of Carrie Wenzler Littman and James A. Littman
- LAUREN E. MONHAIT daughter of

- ter of Marcia S. Halperin and Norman M. Monhait
- CRAIG J. NEWMAN son of Leslie and Jim Newman
- RACHEL C. OBLATH daughter of Deborah T. Oblath
- SAMUEL ROVINE son of Joyce and Harvey Rovine
- MATTIE BLYTHE WILSON daughter of Larry and Rona Wilson

Beth Shalom Salutes Confirmands

Congregation Beth Shalom of Wilmington, 1801 Baynard Boulevard, will honor its Confirmands during the 2nd day of Shavuot, Saturday, June 10 at 9:30 a.m. They will participate in Shabbat services and make a brief educational presentation. The

community is invited to participate in a special Kiddush in their honor immediately following services. Mazel Tov to Elana Caplan, daughter of Rona Caplan, Liza Lewis, daughter of Jeffrey and Judy Lewis, Rebecca Ryder Neipris, daughter of Myrna Ryder

and Jonathan Neipris and Elana Romirowsky, daughter of Ellen Bernhardt and Samuel Romirowsky.



CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH

Yasher Koach To Temple Beth El Confirmants

Matthew Altshuler, son of Steve and Jane Altshuler
David Arthur, son of Bob and Ellen Arthur
Andrea Bock, daughter of

Frank and Claudia Bock
Ari Kaplan, son of Rabbi David and Terri Kaplan
Jay Milnamow, son of James and Janet Milnamow

Ruth Novick, daughter of Steve and Sandy Novick
Josh Prager, son of Ken and Terry Prager
Jessica Schultz, daughter of

Harriet Schultz
Ron Wallach, son of Bill and Orly Wallach
Max White, son of Ken and Susan White

Alison Witkin, daughter of Gary and Jennie Witkin



Albert Einstein Academy Mazel Tov To Temple Beth El Hai Graduates Salutes Graduates

Mazel tov to the 15 members of the 6th grade graduating class of 2000 and their teachers Mrs. Karen Bradley, Mrs. Judy Smith G'veret Michal Cherrin, Hamorah Tamar Saig.

Anna Brousell, Jonathan Cohn,

Justin Finkelstein, Jared Goldstein, Naomi Hamermesh, Sara Leviton, Jennifer Rosenberg, Rachel Sawicki, Oren Schragger, Sarah Stauber, Shira Tiffany, Rina Wagman, Robin Wasser-man, Gregory Yugov, David Zussman

Danielle Aaronson, Kyle Altshuler, Marci Blumenfeld, Rachel Caine, Eric Denmark, Rachel Despina, Leah Dior, Nathan

Draper, Stephen Giattino, Jordan Hepler, Scott Kaplan, Adam Lewkowicz, Melissa Menago, Jessica Pernick, Rachel

Proujansky, Allison Rudolph, Robyn Schwartz, Stephanie Smith, Jenna Suekoff, Stefanie Willstein, James Witkin



The Jewish Voice celebrates our community's youth at Shavuot



Savoring Shavuot

By Elizabeth Applebaum

Virtually every Jewish holiday involves a seudah, or festive meal, and that means meat. Shavuot is the exception. Why? There are several theories as to why it's preferable to dine on dairy dishes during this holiday. One reason is that the Torah is compared to milk, in Song of Songs 4:11. For a fun treat on Shavuot afternoon, why not host an old-fashioned soda shop party? The following recipes

are from a cookbook, published in 1940, made specifically for owners of soda fountains and luncheonettes.

COLA MALTED MILK

Into shaker draw 1 to 1-1/2 oz. chocolate syrup; add 3 soda spoons of malted milk, small scoop ice cream and milk. Mix well. Top off on inside of glass with whipped cream.

GRAPE JUICE MILK SHAKE

Into shaker put 5-oz. cold milk and 5-oz. grape juice, 1/2 oz.

Lemon syrup, some cracked ice, and shake vigorously. Strain into a 12-oz. glass and garnish with a cube of pineapple, 1 red cherry and 1/2 orange slice. Serve with straws.

The Night is Young

Many Jewish men and women like to stay up all night learning on Shavuot. Yet even the greatest insomniac attending the most fascinating lecture may find herself nodding off a bit when it comes to the 2-4 A.M. stretch. If someone you

know is planning to stay up all night, why not prepare him or her a bag to help when the times get a little challenging? You could put in a packet of instant (caffeine filled) coffee, along with a bar of chocolate (most chocolate has lots of caffeine), a moist towelette to wipe the face.

Shiny, Happy Vases

There's not much that children love more than arts and crafts. Gather all kinds of tidbits—leftover bits of felt, rhinestones, broken bits

of jewelry, ribbon, pieces of pasta—and give children some glue and an old jar (or one of those vases that once held flowers you received as a gift—you know have millions of them). Let them decorate a lovely vase for Shavuot flowers.

Elizabeth Applebaum is a writer based in Michigan. She wrote this article for the on-line magazine Jewish Family & Life—www.JewishFamily.com

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

New Flick Focuses On Jerusalem

By Jeremy E. Meyer,
Special to the Jewish Voice

"Kadosh" ("sacred") is the latest film by Israeli director Amos Gitai, who continues his series of films focusing on aspects of life in the major Israeli cities. While his two prior films took place in Tel Aviv and Haifa, Kadosh focuses on Jerusalem, in particular the life of women in the ultra-orthodox community of Mea Shearim.

The film features two sisters in the community, Rivka and Malka. Rivka is in a loving marriage with Meir, but after ten years of marriage, they remain childless. Despite their clear affection for each other and despite the film's hints that Meir may be the one who is infertile,

Rivka is deemed to be barren and Meir is pressured into divorcing Rivka to marry another woman. Without being a wife or mother, Rivka has no other role that she can play and becomes an exile within the community.

Malka, on the other hand, is in love with Yakob, a man who has escaped Mea Shearim for the secular world. Nevertheless, she is forced to enter into a loveless marriage with Yossef, a particularly strict yeshiva student. The cruelty Malka endures with Yossef contrasts with the tenderness that formerly existed between Rivka and Meir. The orthodox community favors cruelty over tenderness, so long as there is the promise of children.

Implicit throughout the film is the ongoing conflict between the orthodox and secular. The rabbi justifies his decisions with regard to Rivka and Malka's marriage as necessary to counter "the others", the secular Israelis. At times the religious leaders appear to view themselves at war with the secular world, confident that they will ultimately be victorious because of the inevitable demographic advantage their large families create. As children are viewed as the means for dominating Israeli society, women are reduced to the roles of bearing and raising them.

Just as compelling as the plot is the style in which Kadosh is filmed. Almost all the scenes are filmed in a

handful of tiny drab rooms. The camera rarely uses wide shots, focusing on individuals or small groups of characters to give a claustrophobic view of society. Many of the scenes consist of long uncut sequences. The camera lingers on silent moments and carefully documents the details of the intricate rituals that structure the lives of the community. These techniques pull the viewer into the isolated lives of Rivka and Malka. The film juxtaposes these images with a few tantalizing glimpses of the outside world. Those scenes are dominated by wide shots that emphasize the closed insular world portrayed in the rest of the film.

Kadosh is not always easy to

watch and is often slow. However, the slowness is itself part of the point. Some may argue that Gitai has not been particularly fair to religious communities in Israel, as all the characters seem to have their happiness foiled by the oppressive rules of the community. Nevertheless, the film effectively highlights tensions between orthodoxy and the modern world.

I give it seven ferrets (out of eight).

(Kadosh, which recently ended its Philadelphia run at the Ritz Theaters, should soon be available on videotape.)

(Jeremy E. Meyer, who grew up in Wilmington, is a lawyer in Philadelphia.)

Spectacle And Sentiment At The Walnut

By Paula Shulak

If you love an old fashioned musical comedy but with a very 90's aura, be sure to travel to Philadelphia's grand old Walnut St. Theater before July 2 to see LA CAGE AUX FOLLES. The winner of six Tony Awards when it was first produced in 1984, this musical's premise may at first make some people pause, but rest assured the story of two gay men who have raised a son together is presented with much sensitivity and brilliance by its creators, Jerry Herman and Harvey Fierstein, as well as by Director

Bruce Lumpkin. It is a tale of faithfulness and love which does not depend on gender but on honesty and soul searching truth.

Jamie Torcellini in the leading role of Albin is perfection itself as he flits effortlessly from one persona to another in his role as companion to Georges (played magnificently by Dan Schiff), "mother" and sometime Uncle Albert to Jean Michel (handled nicely by Jeffrey Coon), and, most important, sensational singing star of the transvestite review at the eccentric Parisian nightclub in which the story takes place. Jean Michel is about to be married and

Albin laments, "Where oh where did we go wrong?" But Jean's ultra conservative future in-laws must not know of his background and the plot thickens as they try to fool Ann's (a lackluster Jennifer Dawn Stillings) parents and hide the truth. Georges gives a beautiful rendition of the song "Look Over There", a plea for understanding and respect and in the end the message of the play rings out clearly in another song, "Life's not worth a damn until you can say I am what I am." All finally turns out well. It is interesting to note that at one point the microphone worn by Albin went bad

and he had to rely on his natural talent and energy to project his role. He did not miss a beat and I was so glad to see that some actors can still get along without today's overpowering technology.

But it was the chorus of "female" dancers billed as The Cagelles that stole the show in my opinion, along with Jacob, the butler/maid of the household played by David Jackson. These were the most fantastic male bodies (especially the legs) that I have ever seen. And the magnificent makeup and costumes were breathtaking. This is stage spectacle reminiscent of the Ziegfeld fol-

lies at its best. The choreography of Richard Stafford (nicely influenced in segments by Sue Stroman's characteristic use of props) and the sets designed by John Farrell are superb. There was not a moment when your eyes were not totally focused on the stage, admiring its splendor. Lorraine Serabian, in a small role as Jacqueline, was her usual excellent self, unfortunately almost wasted in such a small part. LA CAGE is theater in the finest sense; try not to miss it. Tickets from \$8 to \$45 may be obtained by calling 215-574-3550 or on the web at www.wstonline.org.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Naughty But Not Nice At Media Theater

By Paula Shulak

The current show at Media Theater, NAUGHTY MARIETTA, by Victor Herbert is one of the classics of American musical theater which up until now I have not seen. And after my trip to Media, I wish I never had. Not only is the plot and music unappetizing to our modern sensibilities, but this production was so lacking in talent, eye appeal and good direction that it was a waste of time. The only redeeming quality in the whole evening was the opportunity to listen to 3 musical favorites which have

lasted through the years — Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life, Italian Street Song, and I'm Falling in Love With Someone. The rest of the score was totally banal. As far as the cast is concerned, not one of them gave a satisfactory performance (with the possible exception of Joseph Beredino as the rube named Silas Slick). The leading actors (Nick Robinson and Robert Hoyt) as well as the second lead contralto (Jessica Ferraro) had good singing voices but their acting ability was nil minus. And Christina Amonson in the title role of Marietta was

neither an acceptable actress nor soprano. Her high notes wobbled and she was almost annoying in her interpretation. Even the orchestra was a little thin.

Part of the problem was the script itself which in its day might have been de rigeur, but the unsophisticated dialogue, the deus ex machina solution which caused more action to occur in the last five minutes than in the entire plot which preceded it and, finally, the lackluster score all combined to make this a tedious show when

viewed in the 21st Century. And Jesse Cline's direction was stilted and static. Perhaps he was trying to remain true to the original type of production common 100 years ago when NAUGHTY MARIETTA was first produced, but if so, his vision fell flat. There was no Jeannette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy to carry the day. And the historical allusions were a bit much for a modern audience to understand as well, although a noble attempt by the director to explain some of the background necessary to understand the plot

was made. In addition, the massive set dominated the stage and caused the actors to run up and down staircases so much of the time that you wondered if someone would ever fall or at least run out of breath. There are many worthwhile classic operettas such as The Student Prince, Desert Song, New Moon etc, which stand the test of time and which Media Theater has presented in the past. Naughty Marietta is not one of them. If, however, you would like to see for yourself, the show continues until June 25th.

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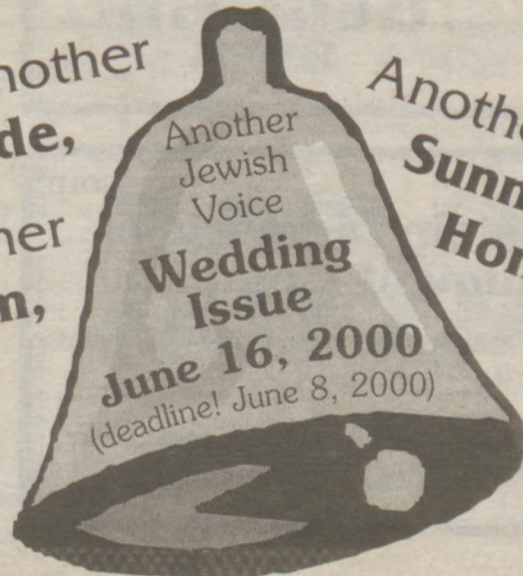


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MILESTONES

CORBETT

Clara Corbett, 85, of Kentmere, died May 14. She was a former resident of B'nai B'rith House in Claymont. She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas H. Corbett and is survived by one daughter, Margaret A. Grier of Chadds Ford, PA; one sister, Florence Zeaflea of Morris, PA; three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the B'nai B'rith House, 8000 Society Drive, Claymont, DE 19703.

DANBERG

Irvin L. Danenberg, 77, died May 18 after a brief illness. He was a life-long resident of Wilmington who graduated from Wilmington High School and attended the University of Delaware. At the age of 11, Mr. Danberg apprenticed at his father's King Street barber shop. He eventually became a barber and ran the shop until the building was torn down in 1984. He worked there his entire life except for the three years he spent in the US Army during World War II.

His life-long passion for the violin began with childhood studies at the Settlement Music School in Philadelphia. He performed in many Delaware area orchestras and served as concertmaster of the old Wilmington Symphony.

He was a member of the Jewish War Veterans, Temple Beth Emeth and the Montefiore Society.

Mr. Danenberg was married to Edith Rothstein Danberg, his wife of 43 years, until her death in 1991. He is survived by his son, Frank M. Danberg and two grandchildren, Michael and Laura of Hockessin.

GLUCKMAN

Jay Gluckman, 72, of Las Vegas, NV, formerly of Wilmington, died May 18. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Eileen (nee Miller); sons, Neal and Howard; daughter, Carole Wolliver and three grandchildren. Contributions in his memory may be made to Nathan Adelson Hospice, 4141 South Swenson Street, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

HENDEL

Estelle G. Hendel, 74, Newark,

died May 18. She is survived by her husband, Julius M., a son, Alan and a daughter-in-law, Florence. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions in her memory be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.

LAVINE

Belle Lavine, 90, Raleigh, NC, died May 16. She is survived by her children, David Lavine and Adele Kaplan. Graveside services were held on May 18 at the Jewish Community Cemetery in Wilmington.

PROTIGAL

Bernard D. Protigal, 82, of New York City, formerly of Wilmington, died May 24. Graveside services were held on May 26 at the Jewish Community Cemetery in Wilmington.

SPECTOR

Bella Spector, nee Benn, 95, died May 18. She was the matriarch of the Spector/Orobono family. She was the wife of the late Harry Spector; beloved mother of Natalie Orobono and Natalie Spector;

grandmother of Norman Spector, Robin Kauffman, Michele Jenkins, Francine Bender, Myra McCracken, Frank Orobono and Renee Orobono. Mrs. Spector was also the great grandmother of Danielle DeAntonio, Andrea Kauffman, Michael Jenkins, Jennifer McCracken, Kelly Kauffman, Steven Bunk, Joseph Bender and Amy Orobono. Services were held on May 21 at Congregation Ohev Shalom, Wallingford, PA.

WINER

Richard Winer, 83, died May 20. Mr. Winer enjoyed a distinguished career as a chemical engineer with Hercules, Inc. When he retired in 1981, he was director of the company's Research Center. A member of the American Chemical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he received the prestigious Distinguished Public Service Medal from the U.S. States Navy for his contributions to the advancement of chemical propulsion. This is the Navy's highest civilian honor. He

also was honored by the Maryland Section of the American Rocket Society.

Upon his retirement, Mr. Winer turned his hobby of sculpting into a second career. He returned to school and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Delaware in 1991. His works have won numerous awards and have been exhibited locally and in Spokane, Washington, Pittsburgh, PA and Paris, France. He taught the art of sculpture at the Academy of Lifelong Learning.

He was a Life Master in duplicate bridge and also enjoyed golf and gardening.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Serena; a sister, Dorothy Fall of Washington, D.C.; two children, Harley of new Orleans and Ronna Chalvet of l'Ardeche, France and four grandchildren.

A memorial service was held May 25 at Congregation Beth Emeth. Contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

MAZEL TOV

Sands, Costas Engaged

Howard and Michele Sands (Chalfonte) are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Deborah Elizabeth Sands, to Evan Matthew Costas, son of John and Bonnie Costas (Northminster).

Deborah and Evan are graduates of Concord High School and Deborah also graduated from Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School. Deborah currently is a student at Rutgers University and Evan attends the University of Delaware.

A summer 2002 wedding is planned.



Deborah Elizabeth Sands and Evan Matthew Costas

A New Son Of Israel

Jerry and Sandye Turnauer are proud to announce the birth of their grandson, Jacob Eliezer on April 28, 2000 to Dr. Stewart and Linda Slomowitz in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

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Thank You!

Thank you to all of you who came (at such short notice) to support the public meeting with our neighbors regarding the Chabad Jewish Enrichment Center. It was a great success due in good part to the overwhelming numbers.

However, at this time we need a flood of letters from across the community to reach Conectiv to urge their fulfillment of their clear promise to lease us land for parking (in the right-of-way adjacent to our property).

Conectiv has similar arrangements with other religious facilities and wants to see the broad community support for our project. As members of the Jewish community and customers of Conectiv we expect their commitment to be fulfilled.

Your letter WILL make a difference! Stand up and be counted! Please send your letter today to:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JCC HOSTS SPORTS CLASSIC

The Jewish Community Center of Delaware will hold their 8th annual JCC Sports Classic on Thursday, July 6 at the DuPont Country Club. Golf, tennis and lawn bowling tournaments will be featured throughout the day. All proceeds from the event will benefit JCC programs and services. This year's Overall Sponsor is Wilmington Savings Fund Society. Please call Susan Parcels, administrative coordinator, at (302) 478-5660 to receive a participant brochure or to find out how to become a Sports Classic sponsor.

JFS AND JCC JOIN FORCES ON ORIGINAL PLAY

"Stories from the *Other Millennium*" - an original play created as a loving legacy for teenagers - will be presented by Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Community Center on Wednesday, June 14, 6:00 p.m., at the JCC Auditorium in North Wilmington. Eight elder members of Delaware's Jewish community will share their stories of compassion, courage and wisdom. The performance is free. Please call Lauren Pokras for additional information, 478-9411.

LAST CALL FOR THE THREE MEZZOS

The Three Mezzos, a trio of three cantors featuring Congregation Beth Shalom's Cantor Judy Naimark, will perform in concert this Sunday, June 4, 7:00 p.m. at Beth Shalom in Wilmington. Tickets are available at the door.

Also on Sunday, Singles Mingles, a friendship group for men

and women over the age of 40, hosts a planning meeting, 4 p.m., at Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington. Get in on the action as the group schedules activities for the summer and fall.

CALLING ALL LIVNOT ALUMNUS

Livnot U'Lehibanot, an Israel Experience program for young adults ages 21-30 in Jerusalem and Tzfat, will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a reunion at Camp Sternberg in the Catskill Mountains, August 24-27. This program, which incorporates hiking, study and community service work, boasts over 2000 North American alumni. For further information about the reunion, call 1-888-LIVNOT-0 or visit their web site at www.livnot.org.il.

JFS HELPS PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE

Jewish Family Service of Delaware and Prevent Child Abuse Delaware will present Cloe Madanes, director of the Family Therapy Center of Maryland, on

Friday, June 16, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the MBNA Bowman Conference Center. Madanes will speak on the topic of "Strategic Therapy in Addressing Family Violence." The cost is \$130 per person. To register, call JFS at 478-9411.

NEW LOOK, NEW FEATURES, NEW NAME FOR JEWISH SINGLES SITE

JewishMatch, <http://www.jewishmatch.com/>, formerly known as JewishPersonals, the leading destination web site for Jewish singles to meet and develop rewarding relationships, has announced the relaunch of their site.

JewishMatch now offers instant access to; JewishMatchEvents, a comprehensive events calendar; JewishMatchDigest, an online magazine with relevant and newsworthy content; and additional features on JewishMatchPersonals. New email, search, profile, and photo features have been added to the personals services. Soon, JewishMatch will bring Social Coaching services online. These services will help individuals in the Jewish community cope with social issues like anxiety and romance skill development.

SUPPORTING THE BEREAVED

Jewish Family Service offers an ongoing Bereavement Support Group, every other Tuesday at their North Wilmington offices. Partici-

pants are encouraged to share their stories and detail what has and has not helped them to cope with their personal grieving process. For further information, please call JFS at 478-9411.

GROW THROUGH PERSONAL TRANSITIONS

The Relationship Center, 288 East Main Street, Newark offers four Thursday sessions on understanding the effects of life's transitions and learning from these experiences. The cost of the program is \$40. For additional information, please call (302) 478-9411.

TIRED OF BEING SINGLE?

Join YJAD, the Young Jewish Adults of Delaware for interesting programs and events throughout the year. This is the place for young professionals in their 20s and 30s to meet new friends and have fun. Meet for volleyball each Wednesday at the JCC. Participate in trips throughout the Delaware Valley. For information or to receive the group's monthly *Schmoozeletter*, contact Judy Gendler at (302) 325-1836.

THE KIMMEL-SPILLER

Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service offers Jewish healing services on the second Monday of every month from 7-8 p.m. Led by Rabbi Myriam Klotz, the service will include prayer, songs, meditation and reflection. For additional information, please call Rabbi Klotz at 302-478-9411.

MYRIAM'S WELL

Thoughts on Jewish Healing



Rabbi Myriam Klotz

Rabbi Myriam Klotz, Director, Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center

Recently I sat with "Marge". Her husband "Phil" is awaiting a heart transplant. He has suffered a severe heart attack, has had surgery twice already to clear his heart valves, and now his life hangs in the balance as he awaits a heart organ to be donated. Marge spoke of the roller coaster ride she has been on for the past several months, as one day Phil's energy and spirits are high and strong, while the next he is weak and fears his dying.

Marge spoke, pursing her lips and looking up while she thought for a moment. She remarked, "You know, in December when Phil had his first operation the doctors told us they weren't sure how it would turn out, how long he had. Then, we thought that every day was a gift to us. Since that time there has been another operation, and now we wait to see if he will be eligible for a heart transplant. If he's too healthy, he will be moved down the list to make way for more critical patients. If he is too weak and sick, he will not be able to withstand the operation, so he will become ineli-

gible." She sighed, paused again, crossed her hands, and said, "Well, now we *really* feel that each day is a gift. We truly don't know what tomorrow is going to bring. So, all we can do, is to make today count for all it is worth."

As Marge shared her experience, I sighed. I wondered, do I myself truly find in each of my days a gift, irreplaceable and precious? I try; I do not always succeed. Sometimes I think it is harder to appreciate the gift of this life precisely when there is so much to be grateful for: good health, a functioning family, meaningful work. Sometimes, I need wake-up calls to remember to make each day count. In truth, I don't believe I am alone in this. For example, let's face it—for those of us blessed with good enough physical and mental health to have a driver's license, and economically blessed enough to own a car, it is a blessing to be driving on I-95 even when the traffic slows to an excruciating crawl...see what I mean?

Luckily, the Jewish spiritual tradition understands human nature. It helps us by encouraging us to cultivate our gratitude for life, day by day. During this spring season, the Jewish calendar sparks our awareness that what we have are moments in time. That when we are blessed with the life we have it is our task and invitation to make each day count, deeply, for goodness and for growth.

During the forty-nine days between the festivals of Passover and Shavout, the ancient Israelites would mark each day. They gave an *Omer* offering, a gift of barley, at the sacred Temple. Following the destruction of the Second Temple, however, when there was no external place to give this offering, the practice has attained a less physical and more spiritually focused slant. Each of the forty-nine days is understood to be a time of working on oneself, of

refining one's inner qualities of compassion, judgement, discernment, endurance, humility, creativity, and the ability to manifest all of this in the physical world. Each night as the new day begins (Judaism, a religion full of paradox, begins the new day at sunset), we bless the counting of the *Omer*. We reflect upon how we can live our lives on that day, moment to moment, manifesting these qualities transforming ourselves little by little, day by day.

The practice of counting the *Omer* helps us remember to make each day count. Really count. To count and matter so much that if this were the last day I had on earth, I would not regret how I have used this time to grow, to give to others, to give to myself, to be of service and to delight in appreciation of these moments. The psalmist says, "*Limnot yameynu*—teach us to number our days, that we may acquire a heart of wisdom." Indeed, it is the wise heart which knows of the mortality which pulses in each beat.

As we approach the fulfillment of this season with the festival of Shavuot, it is a marvelous time to pause—tilt our head, purse our lips, to clasp our hands, perhaps to stretch and take a deep breath—and to remember, our days are numbered. What can be done today to embody the sacred dimension of my life? What does it mean for me today to live with a wise heart? Even if my heart is breaking—though my heart be weak, and mortal—how might I embrace a heart filled and enlivened with compassion, joy, love, and healing? The counting of the *Omer* and the celebration of Shavuot help us to deeply open to the hard-won wisdom that Marge and Phil know, that today is what I've got. Let me make the very, very best of this precious moment in time. You know what to do.

Can today be the day?

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES

A part-time position is available for a mature (over 21) adult who is young at heart, as Director of Youth Activities at Congregation Beth Emeth. This individual will oversee all youth group activities, ages preschool through high school, working with the clergy and volunteer advisors. This position offers flexible hours and the opportunity to meet and work with many different people in the synagogue community. If interested, or to obtain more information, call Sue Rohrbacher, President, Congregation Beth Emeth at 764-2393.

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