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\$5 Billion Swiss Proposal Hailed, But Legal Obstacles Stand in Way

By FREDY ROM

ZURICH, March 5 (JTA) – Jews around the world are applauding a surprise Swiss proposal for a \$5 billion humanitarian fund, but it is far from certain if and when the moneys would be distributed.

In a stunning announcement Wednesday, March 5 before the Swiss Parliament, President Arnold Koller proposed that his country devote \$5 billion from its gold reserves to endow a fund to help Holocaust victims and others who have suffered.

The proposal is the most dramatic in a series of Swiss steps taken since a push for restitution began a few years ago.

The president's proposal, coupled with recent announcements that Swiss banks and private industries would contribute to a separate fund for needy victims, marked the furthest point the European nation has gone in such restitution efforts.

Still, the fund must pass through some formidable legal hoops before it can be estab-

lished. These include the need to amend two articles of the Swiss Constitution and to revise the national banking laws, according to Swiss officials.

The proposal could also face a national referendum on the issue, which many fear would not pass a public hearing. All told, the process could take at least two years.

Nonetheless, the president's proposal was welcomed by several Jewish groups, including the World Jewish Congress, which has spearheaded Jewish efforts to determine the whereabouts of assets deposited by Holocaust victims in Swiss banks during the war years and to investigate Switzerland's wartime dealings with the Nazis.

"We hail President Koller's announcement as representing a victory for the Jewish and Swiss peoples," said WJC President Edgar Bronfman.

In a statement issued March 5, Bronfman referred to the Swiss contribution as "this historic endeavor" to make "moral and

material restitution to those who suffered under Nazi persecution."

In Israel, Jewish Agency for Israel Chairman Avraham Burg, who has been closely involved in restitution efforts, called the move a step in the right direction.

Rolf Bloch, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Switzerland, also welcomed Koller's proposal.

"Why should we not do something bigger than originally planned?" he said. But he cautioned that the road ahead was long and certain to provoke painful emotions.

Recognizing that the establishment of such a fund could take at least two years, the Swiss National Bank announced that it was contributing \$70 million to an already-created Holocaust memorial fund for needy survivors and their heirs.

That fund was established last month with an initial infusion of some \$70 million from Switzerland's three largest banks – Credit Suisse, Swiss Bank Corporation and the

Union Bank of Switzerland.

The announcement by the Swiss National Bank, which is the equivalent of the U.S. Federal Reserve, was accompanied by statements from several Swiss industrial firms that they would fulfill an earlier pledge to contribute some \$50 million to the memorial fund.

As a result of these developments, the memorial fund is expected to increase in value from about \$70 million to nearly \$200 million.

Also on March 5, a group of independent historians met for the first time to probe Switzerland's profitable transactions with the Nazis.

In his speech before the Swiss Parliament, Koller said the newly endowed "Swiss Foundation for Solidarity" would use proceeds from the sale of Swiss gold reserves to help people inside and outside Switzerland.

By managing "gold stocks made available for public purposes," the fund could generate proceeds of hundreds of millions of dollars a year, Koller said.

The money would help "victims of poverty and catastrophes, of genocide and other severe breaches of human rights, such as, of course, victims of the Holocaust," Koller added.

Koller, who holds the country's rotating presidency until the end of the year, acknowledged that his country had been stung by evidence about the victims' bank accounts and that the nation had profited in its financial dealings with Nazi Germany.

Koller said Switzerland had been tainted by the impression that the country "profited and enriched itself thanks to the war and that for the past 50 years, Swiss banks have been trying to hold on to the assets of Holocaust victims."

Koller, who also serves as his country's justice minister, asked his audience to question "to what extent all Swiss citizens managed to satisfy the high moral demands during the war" and "to admit the dark sides of that difficult period."

Koller also said that because the fund would be based on gold reserves, it would not make use of taxpayer money – a concern raised by conservative politicians in the

Volunteer Relief Worker to Speak at Kutz Luncheon

Dr. Arthur Fost is the featured speaker at the Kutz Home Auxiliary's annual Donor Luncheon on Wednesday, April 16th at the Brandywine Country Club. As a pediatrician, allergist and medical officer, Dr. Fost has spent time as a volunteer relief worker in Third World countries periodically over the last twenty years.

Most recently, Fost was part of a medical team sent to Kibongo, Rwanda, by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for the month of December, 1996, to care for the flood of Rwandan refugees heading home from Tanzania. He was assisted by an Ethiopian nurse, also sent by the JDC, and an interpreter. They worked with a full United Nations medication kit under "somewhat primitive" conditions, he said, including a lack of running water. The refugees were suffering from such conditions as malaria, dehydration, diarrheal infections and the HIV virus.

"When I was asked to go, I went with enthusiasm," said the North Caldwell, New Jersey resident. "My work in places of need offers a good reminder of why I chose medicine as a career. An unexpected benefit of my work is to recognize and appreciate the great country in which we live." Not only did he have the time available to devote to the mission but he also had some experience having participated in such humanitarian efforts before as a volunteer in Ethiopia, Zaire and Guatemala. Also, during the Gulf War, he did volunteer work at Sokora Hospital in Beersheva under the auspices of United Jewish Federation of MetroWest (New Jersey). He returned from this latest trip on January 1.



"As Jews, when we say, 'never again,' that should not just be a slogan but a call to action," says Dr. Arthur Fost. On April 16th he will be the featured speaker at the Kutz Home Auxiliary's Annual Donor Luncheon.

The tragedy in Rwanda has been officially classified as a genocide approaching Holocaust proportions. It involved the mass murder of some 700,000 Tutsi Rwandans by their majority Hutu countrymen. From April to June, 1994, ten percent of the Rwandan nation was killed in a matter of weeks. Most of the six million Hutus were involved in the actions against the one million Tutsis. From December 15th to December 30th, 500,000 Rwandans crossed back into their country on foot from the Tanzanian refugee camps. It was important for Fost to participate in the effort to repatriate and provide medical care to the refugees. "As Jews, when we say 'never again,' that should not just be a slogan but a call to action."

Dr. Fost has been a practicing pediatric allergist for 30 years. In addition, he has been active as a volunteer, having served as

Physician Division Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal of MetroWest and as president of his synagogue, Temple Shalom of West Essex, Cedar Grove, New Jersey. He will speak about his work and about the importance of a Jewish presence in areas in need of humanitarian services.

The Kutz Home Auxiliary, which has a membership of 900, is devoted to enhancing the lives of the residents of The Kutz Home. The annual Donor Luncheon provides funds for such special purposes as the purchase of a paratransit van.

Anyone interested in receiving an invitation to the Luncheon is encouraged to call the Kutz Home at 764-7000 or Miriam Edell, Auxiliary President, at 656-2165. The giving categories for this Luncheon are Diamond (\$150), Gold (\$75), Donor (\$45), and Guest (\$50).

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NEWS AND COMMENTARY

Passage of Conversion Bill Probable: An Analysis

By CYNTHIA MANN

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA) Many Jewish Americans believe that unless something dramatic develops, the legislation in Israel which would only recognize Orthodox conversions performed in Israel is likely to pass within three to six months.

The question is how its passage will affect U.S. Reform and Conservative Jews and their relationship to an Israel that does not recognize their Judaism as legally legitimate.

Over kitchen tables and in living rooms, many are grappling with this question. They then vent their frustration and protest to their local leadership in federations, synagogues and community relations councils.

These leaders' immediate concern is how that frustration may threaten the central fund-raising campaign for human services in Israel. Some donors already have warned that they will bypass the campaign because they believe that it does not assign a high enough priority to the cause of religious pluralism.

While a few of the leaders visiting Israel said they believe that they could continue to influence the legislative process, several said the best they could hope for are stalling tactics by sympathizers in high places.

The U.S. Orthodox establishment has made it clear that it supports the legislation, which has not yet been introduced in the Knesset.

Nonetheless, some Orthodox representatives joined last week's select U.S. delegations from the fund-raising establishment and the religious movements whose mission was to explain to Israeli officialdom that Jewish unity hangs in the balance.

In recent days, the moderate and highly respected chancellor of the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary, Ismar Schorsch, has termed the legislation a "calamity for Israel" and a "calamity for Israel-Diaspora relations."

In light of such threats from Israel, he has proposed the most dramatic challenge to date to the Jewish community's central fund-raising establishment.

He suggested that it take \$100 million to \$150 million "off the top" of the annual national campaign to "level the playing field" and fund Conservative and Reform institutions and other Jewish outreach programs in Israel.

His call has outraged some of the custodians of that campaign, who now funnel roughly \$230 million to humanitarian causes in Israel and have long advocated for more from local federations.

Richard Wexler, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, termed Schorsch's proposal "reprehensible."

Wexler supports an increase in the current funding by the Jewish Agency for Israel for each of the religious streams in Israel, now about \$1 million each a year.

But he said the chancellor was "insensitive to the needs of our people by suggesting that Jewish lives be ignored at this critical time to build up the coffers of the movements."

Countered Schorsch, "There is no self-interest or parochial concern here."

He said the UJA system, which has brought hundreds of thousands of Russian immigrants to Israel, has an obligation to address the fact

that more than 100,000 are not considered Jewish under Israeli Orthodox law.

He said Reform and Conservative Judaism could help.

Otherwise, he said, "they will be battered by the religious establishment for the rest of their lives."

By all accounts, the delegates from the United States sounded a gentle but persistent alarm as they shuttled in and out of ministers' offices and Knesset committees in Jerusalem, even as their primary official business was at the Dead Sea for the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency.

Their message was muted because of Orthodox insistence that any discussion in which they participated not focus on legislation, but on the need to preserve Jewish unity.

But the message resonated nonetheless that this or any other legislation that delegitimizes Reform and Conservative Judaism conversions performed in Israel could jeopardize the majority of U.S. Jewry's connection to and identification with Israel.

The nexus at nearly all of the meetings was Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who heads a new ministerial committee on Diaspora affairs.

In an interview, he said he is committed to have his committee serve as a meaningful "address" for Israel-Diaspora concerns, beyond the immediate legislation, rather than have the two sides "debate in The New York Times."

But the challenges of his job were amply illustrated during a meeting of his committee of ministers and some hand-picked U.S. leaders to begin a "process of dialogue."

While Netanyahu made an appearance at the meeting, Interior Minister Eli Suissa abruptly walked out, muttering threats of a government collapse. Suissa of the Shas Party later said official contact with Reform Jews should be kept to a minimum.

For his part, Sharansky talked about the "Israeli political reality" and pledged only to try to keep whatever conversion legislation that might pass as narrow as possible.

"Keeping the status quo is the smallest of evils," he said, referring to the prospect of a further erosion of the status of non-Orthodox Judaism.

The Jewish Agency, meanwhile, has tried to position itself as a key player on behalf of a diverse world Jewry in the struggle for religious pluralism. It recently formed the Committee on the Unity of the Jewish People.

Agency Chairman Avraham Burg talks passionately about his commitment to the principle. But institutional self-interest clearly is at play.

As the primary Israeli recipient of funds raised by the annual campaign of the UJA and federations across the country, the vast majority of its donors are Conservative and Reform.

"It's about time for the Jewish Agency to position itself at this juncture," Burg told the Board of Governors last week. If it is not a central advocate, "we will be irrelevant to what troubles our constituencies."

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Rembrandt and the Jews

Sunday, March 16, 1997 - 11:30 a.m.
at the Jewish Community Center

Brunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
followed by the free slideshow/lecture at 12:15 p.m.

Art connoisseur Dr. Alfred Bader, founder of Aldrich Chemical Company of Milwaukee, will present a special slide show illustrating the unique connection between Rembrandt van Rijn and the Jews of Holland.

Cost for the Brunch:
\$3.50/JCC Member, \$4.75/Non-Member

Brunch Reservation Deadline:
Thursday, March 13, 1997

For more information or reservations,
please contact Staci Levin at (302) 478-5660.



This program is partially funded by the Delaware Humanities Forum, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Jewish Community Center ☆ 101 Garden of Eden Road ☆ Wilmington, Delaware 19803 ☆ (302) 478-5660

Israel Orders Palestinians to Close Jerusalem Offices

JERUSALEM, March 5 (JTA) — Palestinians are angry because offices in eastern Jerusalem must be closed because of their alleged connections to the Palestinian Authority. The order, given Tuesday, March 4 by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, comes amid Palestinian criticism over the Israeli decision to build a Jewish neighborhood at Har Homa in southeastern Jerusalem.

Issuing the closure order, Netanyahu echoed previous Israeli leaders by maintaining that the Palestinian Authority has no right to operate in Jerusalem. He defended the Har Homa decision by stating that Israel has the full right to build anywhere within Jerusalem's municipal boundaries.

The closure order came at the recommendation of an anti-terror team, which said the institutions were linked to the Palestinian Authority. One of the places was a mapping office, which Israel had ordered closed last August.

The Palestinian Authority agreed at the time to close the office and move it to Abu Dis, an Arab neighborhood outside of Jerusalem. But the office reopened a month later in Orient House, the Palestinian Authority's de facto headquarters in eastern Jerusalem. Israel has long sought to prevent senior foreign diplomats from holding official talks at Orient House.

Leon Ilutovich, 82, is Dead; Led ZOA for Nearly 40 years

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA) — Leon Ilutovich, a longtime leader of the Zionist Organization of America, has died. He was 82. Ilutovich served for almost four decades as executive director and executive vice chairman of ZOA. He retired in 1983.

At the time of his death, he was a vice president of the Federation of Polish Jews and chairman of the Polish Jewry Memorial Forest, which is located in Jerusalem.

Ilutovich began his Zionist career while a teen-ager in prewar Poland and continued after graduating from law school. Until 1939, he was one of the few young Jewish leaders in Poland who gained national prominence as secretary to the Political Representation of Polish Jewry and secretary general of the Organization of General Zionists in Poland.

Fleeing from Nazi persecution, he found refuge in Japan and China, where he served as the Far Eastern representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine during World War II.

In the United States, he founded the Zionist Information Service and became its director and editor.

Ilutovich was recognized as an expert linguist, lecturer and analyst of international and Zionist affairs. He published numerous articles in different languages in the Zionist press and around the world.

Four Knesset Members in Race to Succeed Peres as Labor Head

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA) — Four Knesset members will face off in the contest to succeed former Prime Minister Shimon Peres as head of the Labor Party.

The contenders filed their applications before the March 2 deadline for those running in the party's June primaries.

They include Knesset members Ehud Barak, a former Israel Defense Force chief of staff who served as foreign minister in the previous Labor government, and Yossi Beilin, an architect of the peace process with the Palestinians who served as minister without portfolio in the previous government.

The two other contenders are Knesset members Ephraim Sneh, health minister in the previous government, and Shlomo Ben-Ami, a professor and political newcomer who served as a former ambassador to Spain.

Peres announced last year that he would not seek another term.



This Issue
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Clinton Hosts Arafat ... and Mubarak, Netanyahu

By MATTHEW DORF

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA) — Official Washington engaged in a delicate balancing act as Yasser Arafat's protest against Israeli construction on Har Homa fell on President Clinton's sympathetic ears.

U.S. officials wanted to show Palestinians that Clinton views Arafat as a partner in the peace process.

Clinton also wanted to use the occasion to deliver a stern criticism of Israel for its plan to build a new Jewish neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem. And, in an apparent nod to Palestinian concerns over Har Homa, U.S. State Department officials in briefings began to use the Arabic name for Har Homa, which is Jabal Abu Ghena'im.

But this strategy took careful planning and even sharper execution because while the United States does not confer the status of "head of state" or "head of government" on Arafat, U.S. officials wanted to make him look like one.

Arafat raced around town in a seven-car Secret Service motorcade during his two-day stay. He sat in the yellow armchair next to the president in the Oval Office. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright hosted a luncheon for him.

But because Arafat is not a head of state, according to U.S. protocol, his limousine did not bear the Palestinian flag.

U.S. officials call him "chairman" of the Palestinian Authority, not president. And the White House skipped the customary joint news conference that was afforded last month to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and will be offered in the coming weeks to Jordan's King Hussein and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

Instead, members of the media had a five-minute question-and-answer session with Clinton and Arafat at the beginning of their meeting.

Not only is Arafat not a head of state, he, and most of his delegation, in fact continue to be classified as terrorists under U.S. law. Without regular presidential waivers, U.S. officials cannot even meet with Arafat.

Both U.S. and Palestinian officials expressed pleasure at the relationship that developed between Clinton and Arafat.

"We have decided to give this relationship — which is not a state-to-state relationship, it's a unique relationship — a higher profile," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"It makes sense for us to grow closer to the Palestinian Authority because it is a partner, a friend of the United States."

The only concrete development that appeared to come from the visit was the creation of a new U.S.-Palestinian committee to foster economic cooperation and diplomatic relations.

Albright decided to oversee the committee personally. Exactly what kind of cooperative plans the two sides have in mind was not spelled out.

But the issue of Har Homa clearly dominated the long-planned Arafat visit.

During their hourlong Oval Office session — Arafat's second with the president — the Palestinian leader pleaded with Clinton to pressure Israel to call off ground-breaking for Har Homa.

Arafat did not get the explicit condemnation he was seeking, but he did get direct criticism from the president's mouth.

"I would prefer the decision not have been made because I don't think it builds confidence; I think it builds mistrust," Clinton told reporters.

"I wish that it had not been made," Clinton said, in his first personal statements on the issue.

During a 20-minute session alone, Clinton told Arafat that the United States would bring all its influence to delay building on Har Homa, according to a U.S. official.

At the same time, Clinton received a pledge of non-violence from Arafat if Israel goes ahead with the project, the official said.

In addition to winning support from Clinton on Har Homa, Arafat scored another symbolic victory when the president reiterated the administration's position on Jerusalem.

When asked whether the administration adhered to the congressional law recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, Clinton said that because Israel and Palestinians have deferred Jerusalem to a final-status issue, the United States "cannot serve any useful purpose by saying or especially by doing anything which seems to prejudice" the issue.

As was the case during his last visit in September, Arafat received a warmer welcome by the executive branch than from Congress.

More than 150 lawmakers signed a letter requesting a timetable for implementation of commitments made by the Palestinians in the Hebron accord.

The letter specifically asks for a date when the Palestinians will complete the process of rewriting their covenant. The Palestinians initially agreed to take such a step after voting to amend the portions of the covenant that call for the destruction of Israel.

But in a reminder that disagreement extends well beyond Har Homa, Arafat refused to take such a step.

"When you will have your own constitution, we will draft for you directly our covenants," Arafat told an Israeli reporter in response to a question at the National Press Club.

In New York, Arafat was scheduled to meet with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and to attend a debate of the U.N. Security Council on Har Homa.

He was also scheduled to meet a small group of representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations before heading to Georgia and Texas to meet with former Presidents Carter and Bush.

By NAOMI SEGAL

JERUSALEM, March 5 (JTA) — Despite their differences, the two leaders said they would seek a continuation of the peace process.

During a one-hour meeting Wednesday, March 5 in Cairo, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, however, failed to reach agreement on two issues: Israel's plans to build a Jewish neighborhood in southeastern Jerusalem and Egypt's refusal to release an Israeli accused of spying.

In comments to reporters after their session, the two downplayed their disagreements.

Netanyahu said the Egyptians were making efforts to prevent a violent Palestinian reaction to Israeli construction plans at Har Homa.

"There are still differences of opinion," Netanyahu told Israeli reporters who accompanied him on the daylong trip to Egypt.

"But what has become clear since we took the [Har Homa] decision is that Egypt is clearly taking a position against any kind of violent response. It is also taking certain steps to ensure that the peace process will continue."

Mubarak said before Netanyahu's arrival that he was concerned that construction at Har Homa would damage prospects for the Israeli-Palestinian final-status talks.

He reiterated this view during a joint news conference with the Israeli leader.

"I'm not going to tell you that I was convinced" by Netanyahu, Mubarak told reporters. "I'm afraid this will create problems in the future."

The Egyptian leader said he would discuss Har Homa with Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat, due in Cairo when returns from a trip to the United States, where he tried to drum up support against the Israeli project.

"We are not thinking of taking measures" against Israel, Mubarak said. "Our measures are to push the peace process forward on a fair basis to be a lasting peace."

Along with the Har Homa controversy, Netanyahu and Mubarak discussed Egypt's detention of an Israeli citizen on charges of spying for Israel.

Mubarak said he could not do anything to secure the release of Azam Azam, a Druse who worked in a textile factory in Cairo before Egyptian authorities accused him in December of spying.

"This case is before the court. We have no authority to exclude it from the court until it comes to an end," Mubarak said.

The Egyptian judiciary announced this week that Azam's trial would begin April 24.

Israel has denied all allegations that Azam spied for the Jewish state.

EDITORIAL

Heroes Worthy of Emulation

Heroes are people who do extraordinary things which make them worthy of emulation.

Steven Spielberg, Edgar Bronfman, Ronald Lauder, and Leslie Wexner, invest considerable hours in their day initiating and helping Jewish causes.

Steven Spielberg, maker of "E.T." and "Schindler's List," created two foundations after completing the graphic Holocaust film which was recently aired on television.

Why does the filmmaker use his resources in this manner? "I became a humanitarian when my characters started eating people," said the creator of "Jaws" and "Jurassic Park" at the 1997 American Jewish Committee Annual Dinner.

Taking aim at college campuses, Edgar Bronfman, chairman of Seagram Company, Ltd., wants to "create a renaissance of Jewish life; to get awareness of Jewish religion out to Jews."

Active in the revitalization of Jewish life in Eastern Europe through student exchanges, the building of schools and summer camps, the renovation of synagogues, and the preservation of Jewish manuscripts, Ronald S. Lauder, the international businessman and former U.S. Ambassador to Austria has committed millions in Austria, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Belarus.

Leslie Wexner, CEO of The Limited, Inc. has spent millions of dollars funding the education of future leaders of the North

American Jewish Community. Each year 20 Wexner Fellows are selected from hundreds of applicants who are entering rabbinical, cantorial, Jewish education and Jewish studies graduate programs.

So we salute these menschen as tzedakah heroes worthy of emulation.

Voice Mail

Har Homa Construction Plan Has Been Unfolding for 30 Years

To the Editor:

Media coverage of Israel's Har Homa housing project in Jerusalem has created a false impression that building a Jewish neighborhood in this strategically vital section of Jerusalem is advocated only by Israel's right wing and not by the center/left and supporters of the peace process.

Har Homa is the last major building block of a Labor-party grand strategy initiated by Levy Eshkol's dovish government three decades ago — in 1968. It was aggressively implemented by Golda Meir and all subsequent Israeli governments and by Jerusalem Mayors Teddy Kollek and Ehud Olmert.

The Eshkol plan's central concept and purpose is to construct Jewish neighborhoods all the way around Jerusalem's perimeter, to ensure the city's unity as Israel's permanent capital and to prevent its division or repartition in the future.

The change of government in May 1996 slowed the project down. In recent months, leading figures across the political spectrum have made the case that delays in this project are sending an unintended message that Israel's commitment to the unity of its capital is somehow lessening.

Labor Party Knesset faction chairman Ra'anah Cohen — a strong supporter of the Oslo accords — said he would submit a non-confidence motion if Netanyahu does not move expeditiously to approve the project.

Within Netanyahu's own coalition, some of the most moderate elements — Sharansky's immigrants party, The Third Way, and David Levy's Geshar faction — have demanded immediate implementation of the project.

Why Now?

Those who question the timing of the project miss the point that its implementation is not a new policy, but merely continues and com-

pletes a plan that has unfolded methodically for three decades under governments of the left and right equally. It is cancellation of Har Homa that would be new — and to most Israelis, unacceptable — for it would mean that Israel's commitment to united Jerusalem as its capital is no longer absolute.

Palestinian Threats of Violence

Worse yet would be a postponement in response to threats of violence. Palestinian threats of violence are a breach of the spirit and letter of the Oslo agreements, and will only heighten the Israeli government's resolve to proceed with the project.

Israel cannot yield to threats like this from Faisal Hussein, the PLO Executive Committee member in charge of Jerusalem affairs: "The peace process will collapse at once. What happened after the opening of the Jerusalem tunnel is nothing compared to what is liable to happen here ... [It would be] a decision of war on the Palestinians."

The entire area of Har Homa is under 460 acres. It is completely vacant and is not adjacent to any Arab population. Most (78 percent) of the land for Har Homa has in fact been expropriated from Jewish — not Palestinian — owners. Israel's Supreme Court has found appeals by both Jewish and Arab landowners against the construction of the project to be without legal foundation.

For thirty years Israel has constructed housing in the belt around Jerusalem, and the peace process has proceeded. The Rabin/Peres government actually accelerated Jerusalem-area construction compared to the Shamir government that preceded it.

Howard Kohr Executive Director American Israel Public Affairs Committee

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OPINION

The Rabbi writes: Haman's Ring



By Rabbi Leonard Gewirtz

The Talmud teaches, "The Ring of Haman was more effective than the 48 Prophets and 17 Prophetesses that prophesied in Israel ... and the threat of the Ring returned them to righteousness" (Megillah 14b).

It was the threat of persecution that was more influential to bring Jews back to Judaism than all the glory and power of Prophecy. The Prophets in the First Commonwealth, *Bayit Rishon*, could not bring the people to repentance, to *Teshuvah* and prevent the destruction, the *Hurban*. The people rejected Prophecy and wallowed in their three sins: *Avodah Zarah*, *Sh'fikhat Damim* and *Gilui Arayot*.

However, the *Hassarat Hataba'at*, the Ring of Haman, the threat of persecution and anti-Semitism aroused the people and brought

them to Torah. "*Kiyumu V'Kiblu*" (Esther 9:27), "They reaffirmed their commitment to observe the Torah as they previously had done at Sinai" (Shabbat 88a).

The *M'forshim* deduce that *Kabbalat Hatorah* at Purim was of a higher spiritual level than the *Kabbalat Hatorah* at Sinai. For at Sinai, the mountain was held over them. They stood *B'tahit Habar*, and G-d said to the people, "If you accept the Torah, all is well; if not, your graves will be under the mountain" (Shabbat 88a). They were compelled into accepting the Torah.

In Purim the people willingly accepted the Torah "*Kiyumu V'Kiblu*" (Esther 9:27). The *Midrash* indicates, "Even if all minor festivals will be dissolved, the Festival of Purim will always remain" (Prov. 49). Despite the threats of Haman against the people, they willingly accepted the Torah. Purim celebrates that re-dedication.

Now, we are presented with a problem. In both historic moments, at Sinai (Shabbat 88a) and in Persia (Megillah 14b) there was compulsion. Why, then, is *Kabbalat Hatorah* in Persia more noble? Further, why do *M'forshim* say that "*Yom Kippur*" is a day like Purim, "*Yom K'Purim*", its sanctity is derived from Purim? And in *Y'mot HaMashiah*, *Yom Kippur* will be transformed from a Fast Day into a day of *Oneg* - joy, like Purim (Tikkunay Zohar, 86)?

II

A basic concept in Talmud will help us to understand a distinction between the two types

of *Kabbalat Hatorah*. We cite a fundamental principle in the psychology of human behavior: "*Kofin Oto Ad Sheomer Rotzeh Ani*." We use a forceful form of persuasion to help the person to do the *Mitzvah*. (I am not going into depth psychology to see how compulsion may lead to *Ratzon*, free will. This is *Haza'l's* insight).

At Sinai, compulsion was a natural phenomenon: a mountain overhead. There was no alternative but to accept, *Ein B'rarah!* So the people said, "*Na'aseh V'Nishma!*" The mountain overhead left no choice. In Persia, compulsion was an historic social phenomenon, anti-Semitism. It was *Taba'at Haman*.

The contemporary Madeline Albright-Josef Korbel Syndrome gives clear insight into Jewish behavior when exposed to anti-Semitism and the *Taba'at Haman*. In this social situation there is choice. If there is *Yesh B'rarah* an alternative by losing Jewish identity, assimilating and avoiding persecution, many Jews will accept this option to survive. Tens of thousands of Jews in our long history quietly slipped away to avoid persecution. Through a change of identity, Jews can avoid *Taba'at Haman*.

Therefore, those Jews who remained with their Jewish identity, even at the pain of death, *Kiyumu V'Kiblu*, affirm and accept their destiny. There may be compulsion in their choice, but they say "*Rotzeh Am*" - I want to remain a Jew and even die as a Jew."

In Persia there was compulsion with a choice, and Jews responded with, "I want to

remain a Jew." Persian Jews could have assimilated like the Korbels. Many did assimilate and they ate non-kosher food at the King's parties. But others did not hide their identity. Mordecai did not bow down to the icon on Haman's chest. Most of Persian Jewry did not hide their identity. Therefore, Purim will never be forgotten although other minor festivals will disappear, and *Yom Kippur* is *Tom K'Purim* (Tikkunay Zohar, 86).

Rav Kook, *Z'TZ'L*, the *Ro'eh*, the "Kook" of our century, "saw" this *Kedushah* in the *Halutzim Hofshim* who came to Israel. They could have assimilated like the other Jewish socialists and communists who remained in Poland and Russia to fight the class-struggle in Europe. The Zionist Socialists believed in *Am Yisrael* and *Eretz Yisrael*. They responded to *Taba'at Haman*, left Europe and came to Israel to build a new life for our people. Rav Kook understood this when he took *Ral Haim Sonnenfeld* to dance with them in the *Socialist Kibbutzim*. Rav Kook understood that these *Hofshim* were in the stage of *Kiblu* self-acceptance, but not yet *Kiyumu*. They were in the ??????? of *Tinok sh'nishba* and not *roshim*. These Zionist Socialists did not assimilate. They were proud of their identity and wanted to build a Jewish State. With *ahavat hinam*, "causeless love" Rav Kook hoped to raise their *Kiblu* to *Kiyumu*, thus bringing them to full *Kabbalat Hatorah*.

Purim accepts the Jew who chooses to be Jewish and hopes to raise him to "*Kiyumu V'Kiblu*", to full *Kabbalat Hatorah*.

The Last, Best NJCRAC Plenum?



By DAN WEINTRAUB
JCRC Director

If you still do not know how to pronounce NJCRAC don't worry, relief is on the way. Barring the unforeseen, NJCRAC will soon be taking the name JCPA (The Jewish Council on Public Affairs) consistent with an action

taken in mid-February at the NJCRAC Plenary session, held at the Renaissance Mayflower hotel in Washington, D.C.

By whatever name, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) has proven to be an effective coordinating body for 117 local agencies, such as the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD) and 13 national agencies throughout the United States that together comprise the Jewish community relations and public affairs field. This premier multi-issue public affairs body of the organized Jewish community was created in 1944.

The plenary session or plenum which took place in recent weeks was a remarkable festival of priority setting, education, lobbying, program sharing, idea exchange, conflict resolution and community building. Concurrent with the plenum was the Hillel Spitzer Forum on Public Policy and Institute of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL).

Delaware was well represented with the attendance of Dr. Mark Wagman, Chair of the Educational Task Force of the Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of JFD; Beth Shalom's Spiritual Leader Rabbi David Wortman (formerly the Executive Director of The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia) and who is now a member of the Delaware JCRC; University of Delaware (U of D) students Debbie and Robert Respler; former Delawarean Bruce Seltzer; U of D alumnae Rachel Saifer and Suzanne Borden; former JCRC Director Rabbi Marla Feldman as well as the current JCRC Director, Dan Weintraub.

Policy addresses by such luminaries as Israeli Ambassador to the United States Eliahu Ben Elissar and former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres provided insight into current thinking on the Middle East peace process. Former U.S. Cabinet Secretary and Vice-Presidential Candidate Jack Kemp and Eleanor Holmes Norton of the US House of Repre-

sentatives both spoke passionately about urban policy with a particular focus on tax-cut based solutions. United States Senator Carl Levin received the Albert Chernin Award and Ambassador Dennis Ross, Special Middle East Coordinator, U.S. Department of State was given a special tribute by NJCRAC.

Concurrent forums revealed new information and perspectives pertaining to such provocative issues as private-school vouchers, Jewish-Arab coexistence, spousal abuse, US immigration law, welfare reform, the infamous "Churches for Middle East Peace" campaign, the potential for insurance discrimination based on genetic factors and human rights abuses of Christians around the world.

In an address titled "Weighing The Balance: Choices For The Future," Dr. Lawrence Rubin, Executive Vice-Chairman of NJCRAC, renewed his question of "whether Israel would not benefit from some kind of separation"

Continued on page 16

Cloning Debate Triggers Theological Questions

By DANIEL KURTZMAN

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA) — Forget about counting sheep. Dolly raises enough pressing questions about faith, immortality and the nature of self to last an insomniac's lifetime.

A genetic clone created by scientists in Scotland and unveiled to the world — the first carbon-copy mammal and most-famous sheep — has generated a host of theological and moral concerns.

Across denominational lines, there appears to be clear consensus within the Jewish community that the controversial feat — which could presage the ability to clone human beings — constitutes a morally unjustifiable intrusion into the realm of the Divine.

Some see cloning as a kind of modern day Tower of Babel — an attempt by people to raise themselves to the level of G-d through human achievement.

"Do we move into the area of G-d by creating human beings?" said Rabbi Kassel Abelson, chairman of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly.

"How does the clone relate to the original subject? Who is responsible for the clone? These areas need thought, exploration and careful consideration."

From a biblical perspective, rabbis are particularly troubled by the notion of a human made in one's own image rather than the image of G-d, as stated in the Book of Genesis.

"If you begin to manufacture people, that flies in the face of the very value system that is inherent in the text," said Rabbi Richard Address, director of the Reform movement's committee on bioethics. "It flies in the face of the mystery of human existence, what makes you you."

Rabbi Moshe Tendler, an Orthodox professor of Jewish medical ethics at Yeshiva University in New York, sees additional dangers in the new technology.

"The real problem is whenever man has shown mastery over man, it has always meant the enslavement of man," Tendler, who could not be reached for comment, was quoted as saying by The New York Times.

Some of the more ghastly scenarios batted

about include the possibility of cloning donor bodies that could be harvested for bodily organs, as well as the creation of a sort of techno-slave culture.

The scientific breakthrough also sounds a particularly disturbing note for Jews, given Nazi Germany's pursuit of a society of superior beings.

"Can you really do this in a Jewishly sanctioned framework in light of the Holocaust, where you had genetic experimentation on human beings carried out in that context?" said Address of the Reform movement.

Most ethicists believe that the practice of cloning humans would fly directly in the face of lessons derived from the Holocaust.

Continued on page 19



Emerging Forms Molding the Future

On March 18, Susan Felix, ceramic artist and activist, will discuss Emerging Forms: Creating Contemporary Ritual Objects. Her presentation will be in Kirkbride Hall (corner of South College Avenue and Delaware Avenue) at the University of Delaware from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m.

A pioneer in contemporary Judaica, Susan Felix is an artist whose ceramics have been exhibited internationally, from the Oakland Museum to Christie's in London, as well as being in permanent collections. Also a dancer and poet, she is the director of the Jewish Arts Community of the East Bay, and she is a co-founder of JACOB and served as its first executive director. Listed in

the 1993 Who's Who in the World of Women and nominated as a 1993 International Woman of the Year, she has been honored as an artist/activist by the state of California and by the city of Berkeley.

Spiritual art and housing for the homeless are two separate interests, but Ms. Felix brings them together in her life. She feels that the balance in her life between social action and her artwork gives her the joy and energy she needs to work. She has developed a social conscience to repair the world. As director of University Avenue Housing in Berkeley, she raises funds and personally helps to refurbish old buildings and hotels to provide homes for low-income families and the homeless. Her lat-

est project, which houses 75 single adults, serves as a multipurpose center where residents have access to such services as Alcohol Awareness programs, job training, poetry workshops and art classes. The project provides not just a building, but a place where people can rebuild their lives.

The ceramic pieces she fashions in her studio represent the constant struggle to find the light amidst the darkness and chaos of our lives. She says, "My works employ the forms and themes of ancient Judaic ceremonial objects to create pieces relevant to contemporary life. The pieces marked by the ancient processes of pit-firing and smoke-firing emerge out of shadow into vibrant

light. Bearing distinctly the evidence of fire, they stand far from the glazed smooth surfaces of untroubled life; they reflect the turmoil of our lives and times. In Hebrew, art and faith come from the same root."

Ms. Felix's presentation is free and open to the public. For additional information, please contact the Frank and Yetta Chaiken Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Delaware at (302) 831-3324.

Flatow Advocates Jewish Activism

By ANDY GROSS

Special to The Jewish Voice

On April 9, 1995, Stephen Flatow's life was irrevocably altered. On that tragic day, his daughter was murdered in a bus bombing in the Gaza Strip perpetrated by Arab terrorists. However, in the midst of this horrible personal tragedy, Mr. Flatow learned the value of Jewish activism.

On Sunday, February 22, 1997 Stephen Flatow spoke at Hillel Student Center at the University of Delaware in Newark. As he spoke to a diverse crowd, he recounted his ordeal, but also he encouraged the audience to reach out to their fellow Jew in as many ways as humanly possible.

From the time she was a small child, Alisa Flatow was interested in Judaism. Prior to entering Kindergarten she coaxed her parents into letting her attend a Jewish day school with one of her close friends. From that day until her life was abruptly cut short, Alisa possessed an undeniable spirit and enthusiasm for Ju-

daism and Israel.

From her four trips to Israel, to her work with Russian Jews at Brandeis, to her assistance in the kosher dining hall at school, Alisa Flatow embodied Jewish activism. Her father said, "Judaism was burned in to her heart and soul."

On the morning of April 9th, Stephen Flatow got up like any other day. However, he had a feeling that something was wrong. After returning from shul, he received a phone call. Initially, with the speaker's broken English all he could decipher was "come right away." He learned that Alisa had been on that ill fated bus in the Gaza Strip. Following that revelation, Mr. Flatow embarked immediately for Israel to learn Alisa's fate.

Curiously, as he disembarked from his arduous flight he received a letter from cousins named Morganstern of whom he had no recollection.

Without looking back, he was whisked away to Siroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva. Upon reaching



Stephen Flatow

Alisa's room he saw her lying in hospital bed with only a bandage on her head. However, unreminiscent of popular media, there was no touching moment or goodbye. Unfortunately, shrapnel from the blast had lacerated her brain and she died.

Minutes later, the doctors at the hospital came to speak with him, and without even realizing it blurted out "You want her organs, don't you."

In Israel, there is great amount of misinformation on the donation of organs because many believe the body should be buried whole regardless of the situation. Nevertheless, after consultation with Rabbi Moshe Tendler, one of the leading Orthodox rabbis, Mr Flatow, elected to donate Alisa's organs.

From death there was life. Six peoples' lives were saved due to transplants from Alisa's organs.

Meanwhile, Mr. Flatow discovered the true identities of his "cousins." In fact, they were not cousins, relatives of any kind, or even friends. Morganstern was a cardiologist from Haifa who just wanted to know if something could be done to help. People lied just to offer him their help and get in to the hospital. In fact he was inundated by his so-called cousins. He was completely amazed at the generosity of complete strangers.

Despite the fact that he lost his daughter in a horrible tragedy, Stephen Flatow learned the true meaning of Jewish activism. He spoke of the Torah's commandment "Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof." "Righteousness, Righteousness, you shall pursue." It means helping a fellow Jew in need, or donating to the United Jewish Appeal, or visiting the sick.

Continued on page 19



Mindi Hankin (l), VP of DIPAC and Mindy Albert, Hillel President, with Stephen Flatow.



TODAH RABAH

from the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah

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If you would like to contribute or would like more information about Hadassah and its projects, contact Suzy Grumbacher, President, 300 Woodland Dr., Wilmington DE 19809, 764-8050



Frances Klein Named Advertising Manager of The Jewish Voice

by JORDAN SOPINSKY
Editor of The Jewish Voice

She's still going to offer every client special attention, only now it will be completely painless. Frances Klein, formerly a pedodontist, is filling the hole left vacant by retiring

Advertising Manager Irv Epstein. And, given her knowledge of the community from time spent doing volunteer work for the local schools, synagogue, hospitals, and as a member of The Jewish Voice Editorial Committee, one could easily say she

knows the drill.

"I love this type of work," Frances said. "I feel that I can do a great service for the community by helping businesses to succeed while informing the public about the services and products which are available to us."

Born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Frances is the mother of two children, David and Anna, and the wife of Dr. Steven Klein. She spent seven years working as a pedodontist in Georgia after graduating from Duke University and University of North Carolina School of Dentistry in addition to completing her residency at the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The pedodontist-turned-Advertising Manager is not chewing on anything entirely new. "Much of my many years in volunteer work has centered around planning and purchasing for events, publicity, and



Frances Klein

fund raising activities," Frances said. "It has made me extremely sensitive to the needs of the community and to what appeals to the public in terms of purchasing and advertising. I was never in the retail business, but as my husband can assure you, I have been an active consumer for years."

Having recently moved to Wilmington from Dover, and having lived with her family in many other parts of the country, Frances said that she is looking forward to hopefully enhancing this already wonderful community by bringing to the job ideas and experiences which were successful elsewhere.



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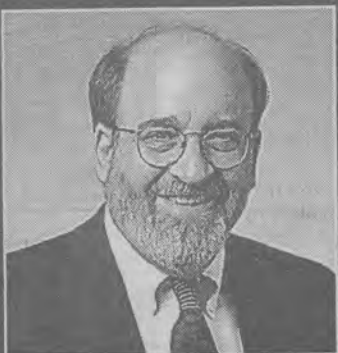


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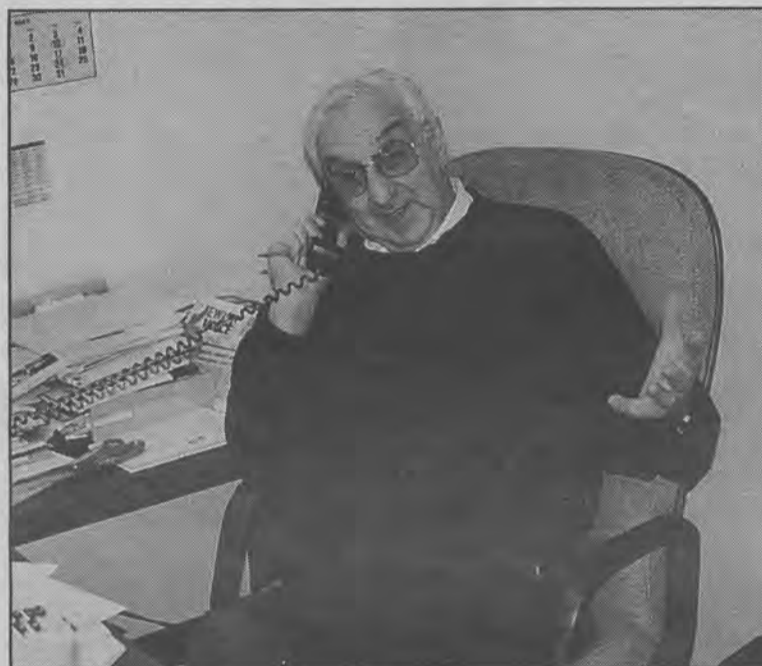
Epstein Unbound: Advertising Manager Retires from The Jewish Voice

By DAN WEINTRAUB Publisher's Representative

An era ends as Irv Epstein steps down after nearly four years as Advertising Manager of The Jewish Voice. For 40 years Epstein and his wife Tillie owned and operated a clothing store in Maple Shade, New Jersey. With an active mind and sales in his blood Irv wanted to keep busy after selling The Apparel Shop. The World War II veteran and former English teacher enjoyed a second career in advertising sales. Before Irv came to The Jewish Voice in Delaware, he did part-time sales work with the twice-monthly The Jewish Community Voice, a publication of The Jewish Federation of Southern

New Jersey, and before that sales with a Shoppers Guide.

The silver-haired Epstein has been more than just an advertiser's best friend. This maven of the Yiddish phrase has been a great resource to co-workers. His family has had a great history of involvement in the Jewish community, the Federation campaign and beneficiary agencies. Irv himself was formerly the President of the Jewish Community Center in Southern New Jersey. Irv could often be counted on for an anecdotal recollection of how prominent Jewish leaders had over the past decades addressed challenges similar to those facing our Jewish community here in Delaware today. This father of



Irv Epstein

many events - when the celebrated and controversial writer Philip Roth came to Delaware under the auspices of U of D Department of Jewish Studies, family friend Epstein was in the audience with a kind word - Irv's stories of colorful people in his life such as his cousin, songwriter Anna Sosenko - his recollections of distinguished service to his country and the warm reception from the American people on his return.

His quick-witted wife Tillie spent a generous amount of time volunteering for The Jewish Voice advertising department. Together the couple were a dynamic duo of advertising sales. Tillie formalized the arrangement by joining Irv for a period working part-time with The Jewish Voice as well. Her quips won her fans with the Dover Post Composition workers who loved her sass. Tillie, a nutritionist by training, was often praised by Irv for her work during their many years at the Apparel Shop.

Now that he has completed his work with The Jewish Voice, Irv plans to travel, spend time with his wife Tillie and other family. He continues his connection to the world of Jewish newspapers by serving on the advisory board of The Jewish Community Voice in Southern New Jersey. Irv has agreed to offer advice and other assistance to The Jewish Voice here in Delaware as needed. Irv will be missed and his colleagues wish him the best. It should go smoothly for Eppie. Au revoir, mon ami.

three and grandfather several times over also repeated tales of his own father the grocer who came to America and knew Lenin and Trotsky. The grocer's son followed his father's admonition to become involved in the Jewish community in order to help shape a better world.

advertisers winning advertising slogans, strategies or concepts which helped to set The Jewish Voice apart in service to the advertiser. He often printed the Yiddish reminder "A zey vige schmeert - it should go smoothly, just like your ad in The Jewish Voice."

With The Jewish Voice, Irv was an important part of a successful effort to increase revenue for the publication, reduce the allocation received by The Jewish Voice from the UJA/Federation Campaign and thereby allow those critical resources to be made available to other communal needs. Epstein's success with The Jewish Voice advertising department had much to do with his concern for both the advertisers' best interests and the Delaware Jewish community's best interests. On numerous occasions Irv suggested to

What memories stand out during Irv's service to the Delaware Jewish community? His devotion to The Jewish Voice which showed in the look and the size of the issues - his razor-sharp song parodies livened

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PANIM EL PANIM
(Face to Face with JFD People)



Left to right: Stan Wollin, Irv Levitt, Phyllis Levitt, Frank Zaback are the volunteers who worked Super Sunday in Dover. The Lower Delaware Jewish Community was responsible for pledges amounting over \$9,000.



Steve Schwartz, President of Congregation Beth Shalom, Dover, and Chair of the Super Sunday annual Campaign in Lower Delaware.

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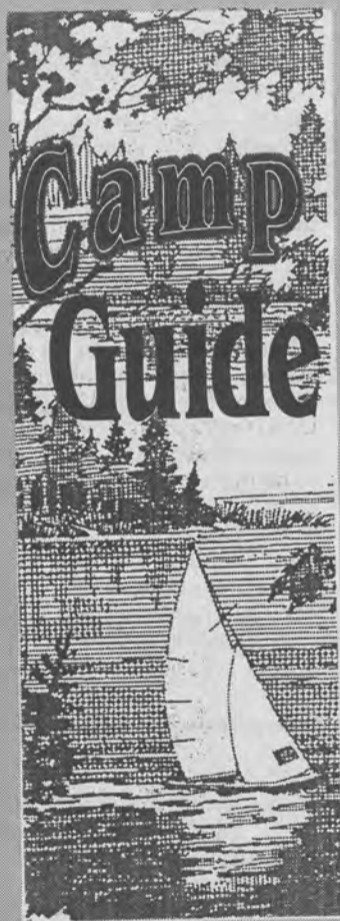
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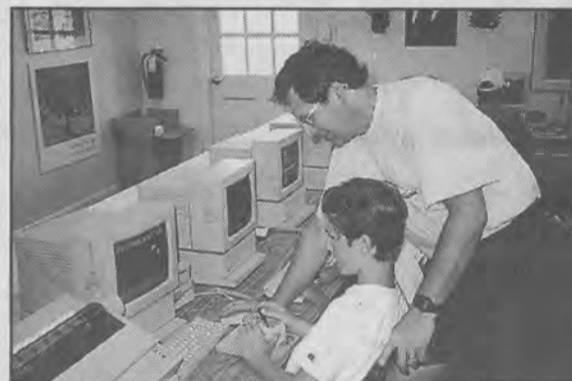
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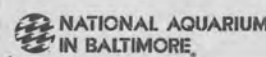
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ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • BOOKS

Words & Music:

Another Midsummer Night, Joyful Noise

By STEVE COHEN

The Jewish Voice

Entertainment Reporter

Shakespeare's *Midsummer's Night's Dream* provides an excellent framework for the charming *Another Midsummer Night* which is the latest offering of the American Music Theatre Festival, now at Plays & Players on Delancey Street in Philadelphia. The AMTF Artistic Director is Ben Levit, from the Wilmington Jewish community.

Book and lyrics are by Arthur Perlman and the music is by Jeffrey Lunden. The Jewish New York-based team has previously written a successful musical version of Arthur Kopit's *Wings*, which was recently released by RCA Victor. The two have been working together since their junior high school days in Maryland.

Two contemporary New York couples, believable and likable, accept the invitation of a performing artist named Nikki Patos — after the Shakespearean Nick Bottom (*patos* is *bottom* in Greek, and the original story takes place in Greece — to attend her version of Shakespeare's play in Central Park, and then the adventure begins. Five of the bard's characters come to life and get involved in the romantic life of the con-

temporary characters.

The songs for Oberon, Titania, Puck, Cobweb and Peaseblossom are in rhyming couplets that approximate Shakespeare's language. Perlman has fun with the contrasting styles of speech — much as Lorenz Hart did in *A Connecticut Yankee*. Lunden uses a variety of musical genres: there's a little Sondheim influence and some Bill Finn. Then, when the multiple threads of plot come together and twelve people are on stage singing together, Lunden contributes some beautiful ensemble music that's on a level with what Lucy Simon write for *The Secret Garden*.

The cast is talented and engaging, and John Lathan as Puck is a particular standout with his voice and his personality. If you like complex drama, perhaps you'll feel short-changed. But within the honored tradition of musical comedy — where narrative is simplified and the music tells the story — this is an enjoyable fanciful fable.

The Jewish Archives Center in Philadelphia is celebrating its 25 years of existence with two interlinked events. The Archives has commissioned a documentary film called *A Joyful Noise*, which ex-

plores the local klezmer music scene over three generations. Through music, interviews and archival materials, the vibrant community of the 1920's, 30's and 40's is again being brought to life.

In addition, some of the people involved in *A Joyful Noise* will participate in a live concert on Sunday, March 16, at the Gershman Y, Broad & Pine streets in Philadelphia. The Klezmer Heritage Ensemble will feature Hankus Netsky, the Philadelphia-born founder of the Klezmer Conservatory Band.

The film and the concert are part of the Jewish Archives mission to document and preserve the history of the Jewish community of the Delaware Valley.

Public television WHYY will be presenting a telecast next week about Jewish identity in the United States. *A Laugh, a Tear, a Mitzvah* will include appearances by performers Theodore Bikel, Jackie Mason and Fyvush Finkel and by writers such as Calvin Trilling and Letty Cottin Pogrebin. They'll be talking about the experiences of being Jewish in America: Bar Mitzvahs, Shabbat, comedy, theater, the Yiddish language.

The program explores how Jews

assimilated yet remained distinct. It was produced by Long Island Public Television with financial support from — are you ready for this? — Hebrew National.

Israel Beyond the Horizon will also air on TV12 next week. It's an aerial tour of Israel, photographed over a six year period from helicopters, set to a lush musical soundtrack.

Imagine the thrill of being present at the premiere of an opera by Tchaikovsky — one of the most popular composers of all time! My great-grandfather couldn't make the St. Petersburg premiere in 1893; he couldn't get the evening off from the pogroms. But here I was, 107 years later, able to be present at the Delaware Valley premiere last week.

The romantic one-act opera *Iolanta* was written at the same time as the *Nutcracker* ballet and the two compositions were presented on the same evening. Tchaikovsky died that year at the age of 53. *Iolanta* has rarely been seen since. The Curtis Institute of Music produced it here in concert form.

The music is lush and full of sweeping melodies. The story, by Peter Tchaikovsky's brother Modeste, is a fairy tale about a princess who is blind from birth and is full of allegories

about knowledge, light and beauty. The orchestral opening section for just the woodwinds — signifying the incompleteness of *Iolanta's* world — was dramatized when Curtis's director chose to plunge the stage into darkness and spotlight just the wind instruments.

This was a magical evening. Opera companies elsewhere shouldn't wait another century.

An unusual and valuable new CD from RCA Victor is *Rothschild's Violin*, a composition started by a young Russian-Jewish student named Benjamin Fleischman in 1939. He died fighting the Nazis in Leningrad and his opera was completed by Dmitri Shostakovich. The story, set in a *shtetl*, is by Anton Chekhov and it affirms the power of music in the lives of oppressed Jews.

Appropriately completing this excellent CD is another Shostakovich piece, *From Jewish Folk Poetry*. The lead singer is bass-baritone Sergei Leiferkus. Gennadi Rozhdestvensky conducts. It should be noted that Shostakovich used Jewish folk music in several other compositions during the post-World War II era.

What's on TV?

"A Laugh, A Tear, A Mitzvah"

This program explores and celebrates the dynamic evolution of the Jewish identity in the United States.

"A Laugh, A Tear, A Mitzvah" shows

how Jewish working communities assimilated and succeeded in the United States. Well-known celebrities

including former Congressman Bella Abzug and comedian Jackie Mason offer their personal memories reflecting Jewish experiences in modern times. This program also revisits fixtures of Jewish life such as the Yiddish theater which proved essential for keeping the Yiddish language alive in the United States. "A Laugh, A Tear, A Mitzvah" airs Thursday, March 14 at 8:50 p.m. on TV 12.

"Israel Beyond the Horizon: A Journey From Heaven to Earth"

This 40-minute special features an energetic New Age soundtrack that serves as a backdrop for scenes of wild horses, breathtaking canyons, and verdant patchworks of farmland all photographed from the air. "Israel Beyond the Horizon" is divided into eight segments. Highlights include King Solomon's Pillars, St. George Monasteries, the Jordan Estuary at the Sea of Galilee, David's Citadel, the complex traffic patterns of Tel Aviv and the Ayalon Highway, and the Dead Sea Works. The eighth and final segment concludes with shots of the Dead Sea and Pidgeon Island. "Israel Beyond the Horizon: A Journey From Heaven to Earth" airs Thursday, March 13, at 10:10 p.m. on TV 12.

Entitled "A 60th Anniversary Gala," Izhak Perlman hosts the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's 60th birthday concert at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium. The concert features a world-class roster of conductors and musicians who comprise what is known as the "sons of Israel," second- and third-generation Israelis who have grown up with and learned from the nation's proudest cultural institution. Highlights include von Weber's *Overture to Oberon*, Bach's *Concerto in D Minor*, Mozart's

Serenata Notturna No. 6 in D Major, and Handel-Halvorsen's "Passacaglia." In addition to the concert, the program will also include historical footage, interviews, and narrative tracing the history of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the founding of the state of Israel, and the IPO's long association with the great musicians of the 20th Century. "The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra: A 60th Anniversary Gala" airs on Wednesday, March 19 at 8:00 p.m. on TV 12.



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Swiss

Continued from page 1
ongoing debate over compensating Holocaust victims.

Nonetheless, right-wing politician Christoph Blocher, who has fiercely opposed the use of public funds for Holocaust victims, said the federal council "had lost its head."

Koller said the fund would "reinforce Switzerland's humanitarian tradition and prove our gratefulness for having been spared during two world wars."

Koller's speech came in stark contrast to remarks made by his predecessor, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, who in the course of an interview in late December dismissed Jewish calls for compensation to Holocaust victims as "extortion and blackmail."

Delamuraz later apologized in the face of an international outcry.

In another development the same day, the chairman of Credit Suisse, Rainer Gut, said he was willing to seek an out-of-court settlement to resolve pending legal actions by several groups claiming that the bank misappropriated assets of Jewish Holocaust victims.

Gut would not provide details, but said he would not exclude the option of a cash settlement.

Earlier this year, Gut was the first major Swiss banking official to urge creation of a fund to begin compensating Holocaust survivors, thereby helping to break an impasse between Switzerland and the international community.

Jewish and U.S. officials, citing wartime documents, have accused Credit Suisse of playing a leading role in purchasing looted gold, financing the Nazi war effort and turning its own profit from the Holocaust.

Word emerged earlier this week that Credit Suisse had hired a top

U.S. law firm, Cravath, Swain & Moore, to help the embattled bank come to terms with its past and right a series of historical wrongs.

While soul-searching apparently preceded the law firm's decision to get involved, Robert Rifkind, a senior partner at the law firm who also serves as president of the American Jewish Committee,

defended his firm's decision to advise Credit Suisse.

"They've made it very clear to us that they are bound and determined to address this matter in an open, complete and absolutely fair manner," Rifkind said of the Swiss banking giant. "We were brought on board to help them achieve that aspiration."

NJCRAC

Continued from page 5

between religious and political power. Rubin expressed the "hope that the traditional establishments, those that benefit in material terms from the status quo, would recognize the deeper spiritual enrichment that separation promises, and embrace the opportunity to create in Israel a more spiritual Jewish center by relinquishing their hold on the levers of power. And, similarly, one would hope that those movements seeking recognition in Israel would make it clear that they seek only equality of status and opportunity with respect to affairs of the spirit and not the same right to wrap their hands around the levers of political power."

Throughout the Plenum a strong undercurrent of concern was evident about the impact of Israeli law and policy on the opportunities and legitimacy in Israel for the Reform and Conservative movements. A special plenary session, "Challenges to the American Jewish-Israel Relationship" featured a dramatic debate between past Chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Shoshana Cardin and Julius Berman. The NJCRAC is one of the few and perhaps the only umbrella organization within organized Jewry which still brings to the table representatives of the Ortho-

dox, Reform and Conservative movements. Preserving that status limits the ability of NJCRAC to take official positions respecting religion in Israel, notwithstanding the views of a majority of NJCRAC constituent members. Many JCRC directors brought their communities' deeply felt convictions on these matters to representatives of the Israeli government during a directors meeting immediately following the Plenum. Partnership 2000 was discussed as a means to influence Israel's approach to Progressive streams of Judaism.

Another highlight of the Plenum was visits with Senatorial and Congressional staffs to discuss such issues as foreign aid and the potential for insurance discrimination based on genetic factors. One of the few disappointments was the session "Politics and Ethics: Competing Visions" which featured Rabbi Michael Lerner, Editor of *Tikkun* magazine and Ben Wattenberg, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute. Several observers agreed that Lerner failed to translate his often thoughtful politics of meaning into a concise, articulate or easily understood spoken context.

The Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware participates in the NJCRAC, or JCPA, process and wrestles with similar concerns here in the First State. For more information about JCRC call (302) 427-2100, Ext. 17.



Jack Kemp and Eleanor Holmes Norton



Michael Newmark, NJCRAC President, listens while Shimon Peres speaks.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Maccabi Gymnastics School Comes to the JCC

The Jewish Community Center now offers gymnastics classes through the Maccabi Gymnastics School. Classes are offered for children, ages 6 months and older.

The Maccabi Gymnastics School is led by Ronald Jackson. Ron brings with him seven years of experience in gymnastics and cheerleading to this program and is a member of USGF. In addition to teaching gymnastics, Ron works part-time as a Physician's Assistant and enjoys spending time with his 21-month old daughter, Taylor.

Ron places emphasis on gross motor skills, balance, developing spatial awareness and self-esteem, all while having fun. Jean Blumenfeld, when asked about the new program, answered, "It is a breath of fresh air ... the look of excitement on their (the children's) faces is exhilarating." Will Margules, age 4, says, "I like it. It's fun."

Classes are offered for children 3 years and older on Tuesdays. Parent and Tot gym classes are offered on Fridays. For more information, please call Scott Katz, Recreational Services Director, at (302) 478-5660.

Send Mishloach Manot to Your Friends

On Purim, all Jews are commanded to give a gift of food, Mishloach Manot, to a friend, at least two different types of "ready-to-eat" food to one person. This promotes community, which is reminiscent of the time when the Jews united as one to safeguard Queen Esther's well-being and to fight together for their own survival.

The Jewish Community Center is holding a Mishloach Manot Factory to help you fulfill your Purim gift obligation. The packages will be decorated by the children in the JCC Children's Center and Kidsplace programs. Each package will contain hamantaschen baked by our seniors, fruit and candy and the bags will be sorted and labeled by our teens.

All proceeds generated from this year's Mishloach Manot Factory will be contributed to the 1996-97 Combined Scholarship Campaign. These funds provide scholarships to children attending the Children's Center, Kidsplace and Day Camp programs.

The cost is \$3.00 per package and all orders must be received at the JCC Front Office no later than Friday, March 14. Mishloach Manot will be distributed in the JCC Lobby on Friday, March 21 during the JCC's Purim Celebration. Order forms are available at the JCC Front Desk.

JCC Art Gallery Features the Works of Dr. Barry A. Wexler

Dr. Barry A. Wexler has a singularly unique background. Having received a Ph.D. in 1981 from the University of Pennsylvania in chemistry, he worked in his field of training for 15 years.

Moved by his frequent trips to Israel, he began to blend his talents as a scientist and computer expert with his love for Judaica. At the age of 45, he left the scientific world to devote, full-time, to his new found love - Judaic Art.

His work is recognized as one of

the newest art forms being explored today. The unique combination of art, science, computers and Judaism blends together producing new, colorful and vivid images. It is a truly refreshing approach to Judaic Art.

Of particular note is his work in Microcalligraphy. Highly influenced by the art work of Sefat, he has put together his own version of Sefat's Microcalligraphy. The results are marvelously intricate yet simple and unique calligraphies.

Dr. Wexler's art will be exhibited in the Art Gallery through April 30, 1997 and will be available for purchase. Gallery hours are Sunday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

New CIT Program to Begin at JCC

All teens entering the 10th grade are encouraged to participate in a new and improved Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program at Camp JCC. Designed to train teens to be camp counselors, this program will also help teens learn about general employment procedures and will help them understand what it means to be a quality employee. CIT's will learn valuable communication skills used with peers and supervisors. In addition, they will be evaluated on their performances and will be oriented towards our work-force.

The JCC and its Camp Committee are so dedicated to the CIT process that this year, all teens entering the 10th grade will be eligible to participate, regardless of whether they are JCC members. An interview and a \$100.00 registration fee are required. After successful completion of the eight week program, each CIT will receive a \$75.00 stipend. Dates for the CIT program are June 23 through August 15, 1997. To secure your spot as a CIT, please call Artie Allen, Camping Services Director, at (302) 478-5660 to arrange for an interview.

New Camp Staff Promises A Summer to Remember

"Each year Camp JCC seeks to recruit the best camp staff available and this year we're off to a great start. Many new faces, along with some 'old' faces, will greet your children as they arrive at camp each morning," says Artie Allen, Assistant Executive Director.

"We are pleased that Rachel Levy, Scott Bowers and Sharon Kaplan have joined this year's camping services team. While they may be new to our administrative camp staff, they are very familiar faces in our community."

Rachel Levy, who worked with our Teen Travel Camp last summer, has assumed the responsibilities of Assistant Camp Director this year. She is very enthusiastic and has already been involved in the planning our upcoming camp staff retreat, camp staff orientation and daily camp calendar. During the school year, Rachel serves as the JCC's Youth and Family Program Coordinator.

Scott Bowers will also play an important role at camp this year. Scott has worked as a camp counselor in our traditional camp and specialty camp programs in the past. This year Scott will assist in the coordination, planning and staffing of our Teen Travel Camp. He already knows

many of the teens who will be participating in the travel program from working with them in other areas.

Sharon Kaplan will serve as director of the New Fine Arts Camp. She is new to our community and is currently the director of the Fine Arts program at the Albert Einstein Academy. She is an extremely talented individual and is quite enthusiastic about her plans for the upcoming summer.

"Rachel, Scott and Sharon are evidence of our strong commitment to providing quality staff to insure a great summer for all of our campers. New people bring in new ideas and enthusiasm to our camp. We will be looking for more staff of this nature, as we continue to plan for "A Summer to Remember," adds Allen.

Purim Celebration Planned

The Jewish Community Center will celebrate the Purim on Friday, March 21, 1997. It is customary to dress for masquerades, participate in carnivals and parades, and parties. Members and staff of the JCC will dress for the occasion and participate in a day-long celebration to be held at the JCC.

Mishloach Manot will be distributed in the JCC Lobby from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and children enrolled in the Children's Center will participate in various parades throughout the day.

The Jewish Community Center is collecting toiletries to be placed in Purim baskets. The baskets will be delivered to residents of the residents of the Milton & Hattie Kutz Home by the JCC children.

For more information, please call Artie Allen at (302) 478-5660.

"Building a Jewish Bridge to the 21st Century"

Dr. Rela M. Geffen will speak at the Torah Fund luncheon at Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th and Baynard Boulevard, on Sunday, March 30 at 1 p.m., sponsored by Beth Shalom Sisterhood. Her talk is entitled, "Building a Jewish Bridge to the 21st Century."

Dr. Geffen, professor of sociology at Gratz College in Philadelphia and coordinator of the Jewish Communal Studies programs there, is a distinguished scholar in the sociology of religion, especially the American Jewish community, gender roles, and the sociology of the family. During the fall of 1996, she was a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University and in 1992 was a Skirball Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Studies at Oxford University. She is a Fellow of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and serves on the Advisory Committee of the National Jewish Family Center of the American Jewish Committee and of the Center for Jewish Family Life of B'nai B'rith.

Dr. Geffen has published over 30 articles and books, such as *Celebration and Renewal: Rites of Passage in Judaism* (Jewish Publication Society, 1993) and *Freedom and Responsibility: Exploring the Dilemmas of Jewish Continuity* (co-edited with Marsha Bryan Edelman, to be published in 1997 by K'tav and Gratz College). She serves on the editorial boards of *Jewish Political Studies Review* and *Contemporary Jewry*, as the social science contributing edi-

tor of the *AJS Review*, and as a contributing editor of *Sh'ma and Lilith*.

Contributions to the Torah Fund support programs and affiliates of the Jewish Theological Seminary, including, for example, training of clergy, The Jewish Museum, Camp Ramah, Israel programs and many educational outreach programs.

The plate charge for the luncheon is \$10 for members of Beth Shalom Sisterhood, \$12 for nonmembers. Please call Barbara Keil (798-4794) or Irene Plotzker (475-9329) for reservations or Dr. Ruth Morelli (610-358-9315) for additional information.

A.K.S.E. Men's Club

Brunch - On Sunday, March 23, 1997, at 9:30 a.m., the A.K.S.E. Men's Club will feature John H. Braunlein to speak on the topic of "Rockwood Museum & Victorian Gardens—A Synagogue Neighbor & Community Treasure." Jack is the Director of Rockwood Museum



John H. Braunlein

and is responsible for all aspects of museum operation. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Delaware and teaches museum studies to undergraduate and continuing education students. It is open to the public. Brunch is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. and the program is from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$3.00 for an all-you-can-eat deluxe Sunday brunch. Reservations for nonmembers are suggested and can be made by contacting the A.K.S.E. office at (302) 762-2705.

ARZA National Assembly - The Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Zionism and the 20th anniversary of ARZA at its National Assembly "Israel, from Dream to Reality," in Washington, D.C., April 2-6, 1997.

Featured speakers during the assembly will include the Israeli Ambassador, Eliahu Ben-Elissar; President of the UAHC, Rabbi Eric Yoffie; and ARZA Executive Director, Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch.

For more information and registration, contact the ARZA office, (212) 249-0100.

Divorced Men's Support

Group - Newark. 7:30 Sunday night. 10 Casho Mill Rd. Call JFS, 478-9411 for reservations. Join a group of men as we discuss issues confronting divorced men.

Happy Hour - Happy Hour Drop In. Meet monthly 3rd Thursday. Meet new people and see old friends. We will meet for Happy Hour then have dinner on Thursday, March 20th at 6 p.m. at Chi Chi's in Newark, Delaware on Churchman's Road.

Investment Seminar - Ann Marcus, president of the Winning Investment Partnership, Delaware's most successful (#1 in 1996 & 35th in the country) Investment Club, will be the featured speaker at the Jewish Community Center on Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. The seminar is designed for people interesting in joining an existing club, forming their own club and learning methods used to select stocks. A question and answer session will follow the seminar. Bring your questions and learn ... everything you wanted to know about investment clubs. The cost is \$10 for JCC members and \$12 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. For more information, please call Staci Levin or Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

Israel Lecture "Another Perspective on the Peace Process," to be held on Thursday, March 13, 1997 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road in Wilmington, DE. This event features Ruth Matar of Women in Green. Both the lecturer and her organization have criticized the Oslo accords and the Peace Process as, being counter to Israel's best interests. There is no charge for this event sponsored by the JCRC of Delaware.

Israel Scholarship - The Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its seventh scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or Israel. Applications may be picked up at the AKSE office, Washington Street Ext. and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802, and should be returned by March 14.

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

Judaic Needlework - The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework will meet on Sunday afternoon March 30, 1997 at the Wilmington, DE studio of Steve Medwin. See a demonstration of a Mezuzah woven on a loom with the aid of a computer. For information and supplies, call 609/234-7697, 215/627-4698, 610/789-6461, 302/478-4104. To order a kit, the deadline is 3/23/97.

Minyans - Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth (traditional), Washington Boulevard and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE, 762-2705, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Sunday-8:00 a.m.

Chabad (Orthodox), 1306 Grinnell Road, Wilmington, DE, 478-4400, Sunday, 9:00 a.m., 208 Cheltenham Drive, Newark, DE, 455-1800, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Congregation Beth Emeth (Reform), 300 West Lea Boulevard, Wilmington, DE 19802, 764-2393, Monday through Friday, 7:55 a.m.

Congregation Beth Shalom (Conservative), 1801 Baynard Boulevard, Wilmington, DE, 654-4462, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m., Sunday, 9:15 a.m.

Mitzvah Day - Mark your calendars now for Beth Emeth's first ever Mitzvah Day on Sunday, April 13, 1997. Planned as a day of reaching out to those in need in the Wilmington area, Mitzvah Day will

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

feature a range of diverse community projects suitable for all ages. Family participation is encouraged. Modeled after highly successful

community events in other congregations nationwide, Mitzvah Day is being arranged by Beth Emeth's Social Action Committee.

Volunteers are needed. Call Connie Kreshtool at 654-4663 or Bonnie and Bryan Silbermann at 239-9448 for more information.

game booths and new vendors. There are still some tables available to sell your merchandise (\$20 by prior reservation at the Talmud Torah office - tel. 762-3618.) Enjoy pizza, nachos, ice cream, and, of course, hamantashen! Celebrate the happy holiday of Purim with your friends at AKSE!

basketball, soccer, hockey and volleyball. In addition, the teens can enjoy use of our state-of-the-art Fitness Center. The basic principles of exercise and fitness are taught on new strength training and aerobic conditioning machines. Teens have the opportunity to develop their overall fitness level. For more information about Teen Gym Nights, please call Etai Belinky, Community Teen Coordinator, at (302) 478-5660.

NACHES



Levy-Sopinsky

Danna and Roger Levy of Wilmington, DE proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Natalie Myra, to Jordan Sopinsky, son of Lucille and Philip Sopinsky of Elkins Park, PA. Natalie is the grand-

daughter of Mrs. Ethel Levy of San Diego, California. Jordan is the grandson of Mrs. Lee Glick of Wilmington. The couple will be married in Wilmington at the end of this summer.

Piano Concert - Adam Neiman, winner of the 1996 International Auditions, will perform at 8pm on April 5, 1997 at



the 14th Annual Music Concert at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. For more information, call 762-2705.

Purim Carnival at AKSE - Plans are underway for the annual AKSE School Purim Carnival, to be held on Sunday, March 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Michael Cabelli, Steve Rudnitsky, Wendy Shlossman and Gail Weinberg are hard at work preparing for this exciting family event. Come enjoy the wide variety of games, food and festive atmosphere! All children will receive toys for playing the games. The Cheshire Cat Bookfair will be open on that day to purchase books as well as during Hebrew school hours on March 10 and 12. An excellent selection of Jewish cassettes and CDs will also be sold. In addition, individual raffles will be available for purchase with either adult or child-oriented prizes. This year, there will be new

Purim Service and Carnival - Don a costume and join in the merriment of Purim on Sunday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m. Temple Beth El's Klezmer Band, Thread of Blue, will provide the music during the Megillah Reading and help stomp out the name of Haman. The service will be followed by Sisterhood's Carnival with games and prizes for the children, Judaica gift items, lunch, and a few surprises. Call Temple Beth El at 366-8330 for more information.

Renewal Service - On Saturday, March 15, Saturday morning services will be conducted in the Renewal style. A renewal service is one in which the focus is on the people and their spirituality, rather than the liturgy. All of the traditional sections of the liturgy are present but explored in alternative methods such as meditation, davening in pairs, nigunim, movement, percussion instruments and breath exercises. There is also an attempt to make the liturgy more gender neutral, in regard to both G-d and humans. It is an opportunity for all present to experiment or play with their spiritual path and to experience greater spiritual depths and heights. The service begins at 10:00 a.m. and runs about two hours. For more information, call Rabbi David Kaplan at Temple Beth El (302) 366-8330.

Softball - JCC softball team tryouts soon! Call Delaware JCC for more info., 478-5660, Tuesdays or Thursdays during the summer.

Teen Gym Night - The Teen Services Department at the JCC is currently offering free Teen Gym Nights for 7th through 12th graders. The first Saturday of the month is reserved for all Junior High students to use the facilities from 8:00-10:30 p.m. and the second Saturday of the month is reserved for all Senior High students.

Teens can play half/full court

Teen Trip to NYC - Temple Beth El's Confirmation Class annual trip to New York City is on Sunday, March 16th. This year we will be visiting Ellis Island and the Lower East Side. The cost is \$20.00 which includes bus transportation and a guide for the day. The coach bus will leave promptly at 7:15 a.m. and return at 7:30 p.m. The trip is sponsored by the synagogue and Jewish Federation of DE and is open to all Jewish teens in the area. There are spaces for interested people from the community. Please call 366-8330 for more information and to reserve a spot.

Torah Classes in Wilmington - Mondays: 8 p.m. - Talmud. Tuesday: 12:30 at 1 Rodney Square - Skaden Arps: Talmud. Wednesdays: Behind The Lines, The weekly Torah portion, 8:30 p.m. Call Rabbi Vogel at Chabad in Wilmington at 478-4400 for more information.

Torah Study in Newark - Mon. - 7-8:30: Secrets of Existence; 8:30-9:30: Talmud. Tues. - 7:00: Rambam's Mishnah Torah; 8:00: Intro to Jewish Mysticism. Individual classes available. Call Rabbi Sneiderman at Chabad, 455-1800.

Volleyball - Young Jewish Adults of Delaware (YJAD's) co-ed, noncompetitive volleyball league continues every Wednesday night from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the JCC.

Young Jewish Adults of Delaware Brunch & Wine - Sunday Brunch and Chadds Ford Winery Tour and Wine Tasting on Sunday, March 16, 1997. Brunch: 11 a.m. Winery: 1 p.m. Brunch at Ramada Inn at Rt. 202 and Rt. 1. Tour and tasting at Chadds Ford Winery on Rt. 1. Call Phil Gross, (302) 652-6688, for more info.

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OBITUARIES

JULIUS GUTTER

Julius Gutter, 83, of Pembroke Pines, Fla., formerly of Bexley, Ohio, died Tuesday, Feb. 25 in Memorial West Hospital, Pembroke Pines.

Mr. Gutter was the owner of J&M Grille in Columbus, Ohio, for 40 years, retiring in 1981.

He was a member of Congregation Tifereth Israel, Columbus, and its Chevra Kadisha and men's club, Pembroke Pines Jewish Center and B'nai B'rith.

Survivors include wife, Evelyn Gutter; sons, Leslie of Pickerington, Ohio, Henry of Wilmington and Marc of Bexley; a daughter, Arlene Sue Bengel of Oldsmar, Fla.; 16 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th Street and Baynard Boulevard, Wilmington 19802.

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Cloning

Continued from page 5

Robert Pollack, a professor of biological sciences at Columbia University, believes that cloning humans would stand as a violation of medical ethics standards adopted at an international conference in Nuremberg in the 1940s.

In the wake of the Holocaust and the horrible medical experiments performed on its victims, physicians gathered at that symbolic site to formulate a set of guiding principles on issues surrounding human experimentation.

They agreed that no experimentation should be performed without full disclosure and voluntary participation. Moreover, the volunteer must be free to withdraw at any time.

Pollack believes that cloning violates that standard: "I don't see how a cloned person can withdraw with-

out committing suicide," he said.

Despite a frantic waving of red flags in the wake of the cloning breakthrough, the reality is that human cloning may be impossible to stop. The biotechnology, scientists say, is relatively simple.

"In science, the one rule is that what can be done will be done," Tendler said.

That is why Jewish theologians and medical ethicists see a pressing need to weigh in on the cloning debate as it begins to be shaped.

Their hope is that society will think twice about trying to play the role of G-d and focus instead on less morally objectionable applications of the scientific knowledge.

"Technology by definition is neutral," Address said. "What we do with it and how we choose to use it will determine whether it's a blessing or a curse."

Flatow

Continued from page 6

Universally, the students, guests, and faculty who attended the speech and brunch at Hillel were moved by Mr. Flatow's tragic and uplifting story, and his captivating style. Janice Selekmán, the Hillel community board president remarked that she was "elated that he could share his story with the community." Hillel stu-

dent board president, Mindi Albert said, "It was a good program and we appreciate the support from the Delaware Jewish community."

Stephen Flatow demonstrated extreme strength in dealing with the loss of his daughter and honors her memory each and every day by urging his fellow Jews to advocate Jewish causes and concerns.

Conversion

Continued from page 2

The Jewish Agency "is the only international body at which we have all Jewish people working together," he said, referring to representatives of the three main religious streams.

But the agency's broad representation itself serves as a constraint, which surfaced in a discussion on the matter by the Board of Governors. Several Orthodox members got up and said they would not countenance Burg turning the unity committee into a politicized campaign.

And they took issue with Burg's stance on the legislation.

"I don't want you to leave with the impression that the Orthodox community in the United States agrees" with the Jewish Agency position, said Dr. Mandell Ganchrow, president of the Orthodox Union.

"We believe the law should be adopted and quickly," he said. "We are united as never before."

Burg, who is Orthodox, shot back that there had been unanimous support at June's Jewish Agency Assembly for a resolution in support of Jewish unity and for the formation of the committee. "This is what I'm committed to," he said.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, registered his support for the central fund-raising enterprise at platforms throughout his visit in Israel. But at the board meetings, he sounded a

warning.

"If you care about the viability of the campaign, I think [you] have to be concerned," he said. He called on local federations to follow the lead of the Council of Jewish Federations and adopt resolutions calling on the Israeli government to refrain from enacting divisive religious legislation.

Despite the futility felt by some in preventing passage of the conversion legislation, many of the U.S. del-

egates felt their meetings with the Israelis helped to narrow the gaps in understanding.

"The Israeli politicians don't have a clue going in as to the impact of their actions on the Diaspora," said Dr. Conrad Giles, president of the Council of Jewish Federations.

As a result, he said, "I don't think there's any question that something good" is accomplished by "the continuing barrage" of groups showing their concern.



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This year the Mid-Atlantic AAR and SBL will hold its annual meeting on Thursday-Friday, March 20-21, in the heart of Wilmington. Join scholars of religion in programs from New York to Washington, DC, as they gather for over 120 talks, panels, and open exchange on a broad range of topics, several touching directly on Jewish tradition and concerns. In addition to an open roundtable discussion on the Prophetic writings, specific talks of interest include:

- ☆ "Dressed for Shuel: Aesthetics, Clothing, and the Evolution of American Judaism."
- ☆ "The Israelite Heroic Register."
- ☆ "Karl Barth and Franz Rosenzweig on the 'God Gestalt': A Theological Critique of Psychoanalysis."
- ☆ "Osarseph and Exodus: Literary Reflections in an Egyptian Mirror."
- ☆ "Affirming the Other's Theology: How Far Can Jews and Christians Go?"
- ☆ "Identity, Continuity, and Change in the Samaritan Passover Celebration."
- ☆ "Sarah and her Seven Husbands: Readings in the Book of Tobit."
- ☆ "Qohelet: Too Wise, Not Sufficiently Orthodox or Dogmatic."
- ☆ "Requiem for Humanity: Qohelet 12:1-7, Again."
- ☆ "The Background to Proverbs 30:40a."
- ☆ "Law and Lore: A Structural Analysis of the Passover Haggadah."

Onsite registration starts at 9 a.m. on Thursday at the Holiday Inn; the meeting closes at 3:30 p.m. on Friday. The cost is \$25 for Thursday only, or \$30.00 for the entire conference. For any questions about registration, contact: Dr. Frank Connolly-Weinert, Mid-Atlantic AAR Sect./Treasurer, Phone 718-657-2856; Fax 718-990-1907; Email: FDCW@aol.com.



Jewish Community Center

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Purim Masquerade Ball

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Thurs., Mar. 13, 11:30 a.m.
Thurs., Mar. 27, 10:00 a.m.
Thurs., Mar. 27, 11:30 a.m.
Thurs., Mar. 27, 1:00 p.m.

Newark

Christiana Hilton
100 Continental Drive
Tues., Mar. 11, 11:00 a.m.
Tues., Mar. 11, 3:00 p.m.
Tues., Mar. 11, 6:30 p.m.
Tues., Mar. 25, 10:00 a.m.
Tues., Mar. 25, 11:30 a.m.
Tues., Mar. 25, 1:30 p.m.

Wilmington

Brandywine Country Club
2822 Shipley Road
Wed., Mar. 19, 10:00 a.m.
Hercules Country Club
Route 48 & Hercules Road
Tues., Mar. 11, 10:00 a.m.
Tues., Mar. 25, 10:00 a.m.

Wilmington

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Kirkwood Highway & Limestone Road
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Wed., Mar. 26, 9:30 a.m.

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