

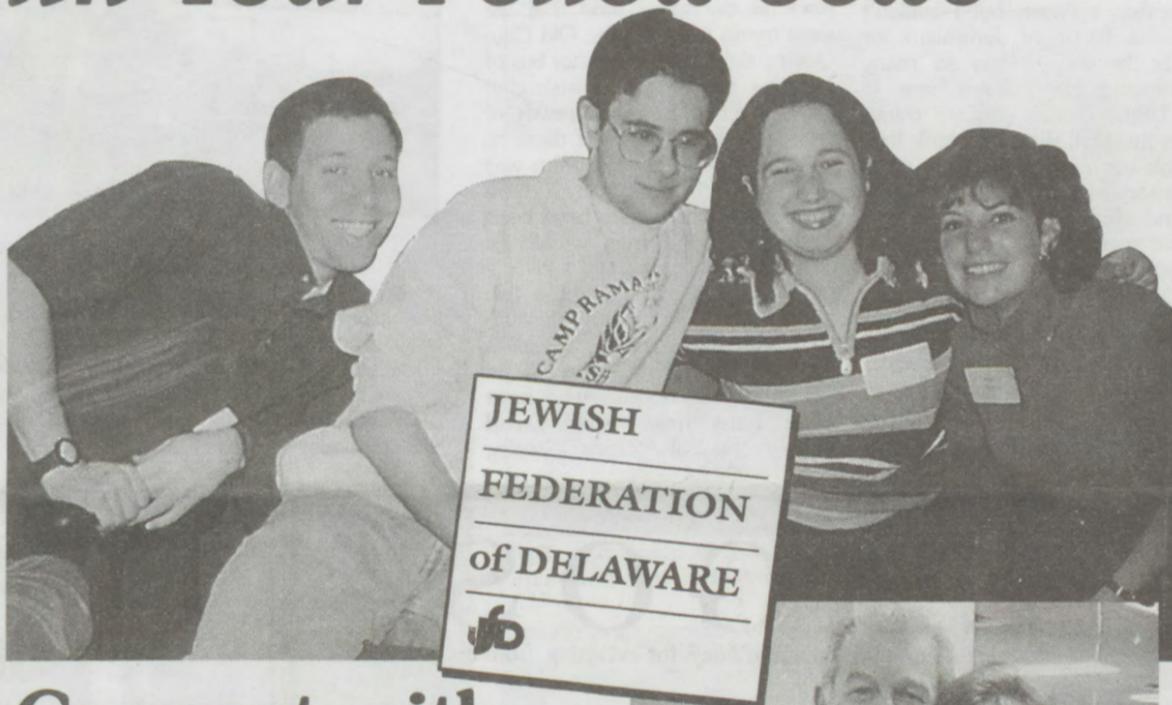
Make It A **SUPER** Weekend! Spend Saturday with Sam, & Sunday, Connect with Your Fellow Jews

The JFD Community Event: Directions on How To Connect with Sam Glaser

☆ Saturday, February 6, 1999 at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Doors open at 7:30 pm. and the concert starts at 8:00. Have a great Shabbat, then join us for a wonderful evening of music and fun!



☆ Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children under 13. Take advantage of the special family rate of \$25 – bring as many as you like! Tickets are available through the Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Center, Adas Kodesch, Beth Emeth and Beth Shalom.
☆ The JFD Community Events Co-Chairs are Amy and Michael Leviton.
☆ Sam Glaser is one of the finest Jewish contemporary musicians in the country! His music has been lauded by the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, and he has many fans throughout the world.
☆ **JFD needs your support!** In the tradition of Debbie Friedman and Doug Colter, the Jewish Federation continues to bring outstanding Jewish music to Delaware. We need the community to respond in kind.



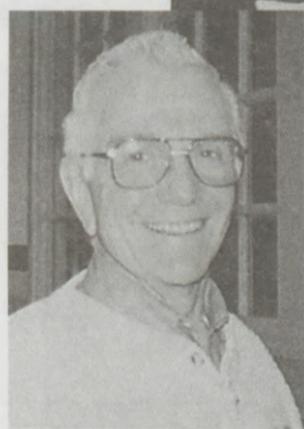
Connect with the Super Sunday Scoop

☆ February 7, 1999 at MBNA Christiana Center. Shifts start at 9:15 a.m. and continue through 6:00 p.m.

☆ Super Sunday '99 Co-Chairs are Debbie Perch, Caryl Marcus-Stape and Jeff Stape. They, along with a dedicated committee and staff co-ordinator Sue Shaffer, have been working hard to ensure this day is a success!

☆ Volunteers are needed throughout the day, but especially in the afternoon! There are non-phone jobs available, and oh yeah, we'll feed you, too!

☆ Please bring non-perishable food items on Super Sunday. These will be given to those in need here in Delaware. This is another way to connect with your



community, and make this a **super** day!
☆ Do your part by answering the call when one of our volunteers contacts you! Remember, **no gift touches more lives.**



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FEATURE

A Trip To Remember

By PAULA SHULAK

"I'll definitely be back in 2 years!" said Eve Kaplan, one of the 20 people who recently traveled to Israel under the aegis of Newark's Temple Beth El. Several of my traveling companions were more sedate but equally exuberant in their reactions to our Israel adventure. According to Ken White, "This trip was a great sampler of Israel - a memorable overview of the country as a whole. I love to see Israel prospering which I really think is the case. We saw real positive things happening." In a slightly different vein was the comment by Sarah Sheffler, "I think every place has a flavor, but I couldn't find the flavor of Jerusalem for awhile because it has so many nationalities and cultures here. In the United States you see things from the Civil War and think they are old but here there's 4000 years of history to uncover!"

And uncover that history we did as we spent 10 whirlwind days in December touring Eretz Yisrael! For some it was a return trip after 20 years or more; for others, it was an unforgettable first time experience; for all it was a trip to remember. Our itinerary emphasized history and archaeology with ample time to savor the nation's unique

culture and customs.

We had our first bit of typical Israeli local color when our bus was forced to play "chicken" on a one lane road by an Israeli who personified the devil-may-care attitude of drivers in this country. If you think traffic jams on I-95 are bad, try the road between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem some time. Road rage is a way of life!

Another interesting experience awaited us when we tried to go to the Western Wall for Kabbalat Services on our first Shabbat. It just happened to be the first Friday of Ramadan and there were 180,000 Arabs leaving the Dome of the Rock at the same time that we were trying to get to the Old City. Quite a sight to see bus after bus of Moslems in this very Jewish city! (To say nothing of the crowds of Israeli soldiers and police there to keep the peace.) I will say this was the nicest Christmas Day I have ever spent. There may have been Arabs but not a tree, wreath or Santa in sight.

The next day we spent a few hours in the Jerusalem Museum located in the Tower of David at the Old City tracing the reigns of the various conquerors who have ruled here from King David through the Babylonians, Greeks,



Rabbi Kaplan prepares to Shepherd His Flock.

Romans, Crusaders, Muslims, Mamluks, Turks, British and finally Israelis, many for no more than 75 - 100 years. It was rather sobering to realize that we have been here 50 years already in modern times and to ponder what the future may

hold. I was particularly impressed by the obvious dissension not only between the Palestinians and the Israelis but also the enmity which is so present between the ultra Orthodox and the secularists in the Jewish population. Jerusalem is a

divided city in more ways than one. Our guide noted that most wars have been fought in the name of religion, but that, more important, the Jews have usually been beaten only when they were first fighting

Continued on page 16

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FEDERATION FOCUS



Barry Schnoll and his wife, JFD board member Beth Moskow-Schnoll.

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The Chai Dinner Co-Chairs spend a moment with Rabbi Alper following his performance. L to R: Shara Bubes, Alper, Wendy Berger and Andrea Feinman.



Gerald and Jinx Blum during the Chai Dinner reception.



"Rabbi, your sermon was superrrrfluous..." - and we enjoyed his stand-up act, too. Bob Alper provided the entertainment at the 1999 JFD Chai Division Dinner, and his *shtik* earned high marks from those who attended.



Ruth and Sheldon Weinstein share a moment with JFD Executive Vice-President Judy Wortman.



Libby Zurkow with Bea Hirshout.



Richard and Serena Winer



Ruth and Charles Levy

All photos
by Nick Carrino



A view from above - the Chai reception at the Delaware Art Museum.

EDITORIAL

Celebrating Our Connections

Tu B'Shevat lifts us out of our winter doldrums. This New Year for trees is a time to savor the sweetness of the first fruits of spring and to celebrate our connection with the land of Israel.

For many Reform and Conservative Jews, this connection with Eretz Yisrael feels fragile. During the past few days the Knesset overturned – by a one vote margin – the Supreme Court decision allowing members of these two movements unrestricted membership on Israeli religious councils. Now, Reform and Conservative council members must pledge their allegiance to the Orthodox code of *halacha*.

This parliamentary decision pits Jew against Jew and erodes the spirit of religious pluralism in our one true Jewish homeland.

The board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Delaware recently signed a statement of commitment to connecting Jews of all streams together into a cohesive community coalition. We showed our solidarity with UJA Federations throughout North America in expressing our shared vision of a Jewish State where every Jew may feel at home.

Next weekend, during Super Sunday, you have an important opportunity to connect with Jews in Delaware, in Israel and around the world who depend on the UJA Federation campaign for their health and well being. Locally, campaign dollars support services that educate Jewish youth, nurture older adults and support families in crisis.

In Israel, campaign dollars enable the Jewish Agency to fund programs devoted to promoting Jewish unity and religious diversity. Your Super Sunday pledge enables the Reform movement to sponsor its *Institute for Judaism, Democracy and Zionism* - sustains the Conservative movement's *Shlichim for Pluralism* and secures the continued existence of *Shevet Achim*, a partnership between Orthodox youth and unaffiliated children from development towns and depressed communities.

And in 60 other nations where Jews feel isolated and alone, campaign gifts are a vital lifeline.

Make this a week to strengthen our commitment to our people and our planet. Plant a tree on Monday during Tu B'Shevat to celebrate our precious link with the land of Israel. Then on Sunday, renew your connection to Jews the world over by making a capability commitment to the 1999 UJA/Federation campaign.

Good Yom Tov!

Voice Box

"It's a tangible sign, in the heart of America, that this Pope reaches out, especially to Jews, wherever he goes." Rabbi A. James Rudin, Inter-Religious Affairs Director, American Jewish Committee – commenting on Pope John Paul's invitation to St. Louis Jewish community leaders to participate in Wednesday's prayer service at the city's Roman Catholic cathedral.

"Nothing would make clearer the Republican Party's rejection of David Duke, and all the hateful and repugnant things he stands for, than his expulsion from the Republican Party." American Jewish Congress President Jack Rosen – responding to Duke's website allegation that he is an elected official of the Republican Party.

"There are negotiations, I cannot elaborate. I hope that some results will be achieved...I have no doubt that on the agenda of any future government will be the resumption of negotiations with Syria and the withdrawal of troops from Lebanon, but it must be a withdrawal that allows residents of Northern Israel and those North of the border to lead normal lives." Former Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai

The JEWISH VOICE

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UJA Committed To Pluralism

While debate continues in Israel over conversion legislation, UJA Federations of North America maintains its strong support of programs in Israel for religious diversity and unity.

Through its allocations to the Jewish Agency for Israel, UJA Federation of North America remains the largest single provider of programs sponsored by this country's Conservative, Orthodox, Reform, and Reconstructionist branches of Judaism – other than the branches themselves. Indeed, since 1988, the system has allocated \$35 million for direct support of projects promoting religious diversity, said UJA national campaign chair Carole Solomon.

For fiscal '99, UJA Federation of North America will provide \$5 million in support to 61 programs in Israel run by 18 major institutions of the streams.

The UJA-Federation system's support of such projects began more than a decade ago, when American Jews introduced a resolution at the Jewish Agency Assembly establishing grants promoting religious diversity.

"We firmly believe in Israel's founding spirit as a homeland for all Jews," said Conrad Giles, president of the Council of Jewish Federations. "That's why we continue to support programs that open up as many doors as possible for both native Israelis and immigrants to walk through and explore their Jewishness."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who Is A "True" Jew?

In reading your January 8th editorial on *Plurality or Monopoly*, I am reminded of the plight of the passenger ship St. Louis only a few decades ago. A ship loaded with Jewish men, women and children fleeing Hitler and his henchmen roaming the seas and ports of the "free" world for a place of refuge, only to be turned away and eventually slaughtered in the death camps. Had Israel been in existence at that time, would

that ship, or some of its passengers, have been turned away at the port of Haifa because there were the "wrong kind" of Jews aboard? If Israel can sit down and begin a process of recognition, cooperation and peace with the PLO, can it not do the same with Conservative and Reform Jews?

Sincerely,
Marvin S. Cytron

A Call For Plurality And Patience

In response to your invitation to express our views, I submit that I agree with your editorial for plurality in Israel. However, I also agree with Haver Mick Weinstein's letter printed below your editorial (Jan. 8th *Jewish Voice*) which is a reply to Mr. Bob Jacobs and also is a response to your editorial.

Haver Weinstein requests:

"May we have the patience, understanding, and wisdom to build a State of Israel that represents internal peace for its inhabitants and a source of inspiration for the

Diaspora."

As most of our friends know, our son, Yosi, served in *Tzahal* (The Israeli Defense Forces) for nine years and is a captain in *Tzahal's* Reserves.

He and his wife, Debby have blessed us with five grandchildren born in Jerusalem. Of course, they are Orthodox, **Modern Orthodox**.

Respectfully,
Gladys and Rabbi Leonard B. Gewirtz
Rabbi Emeritus, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

The Parsha Place

Week of February 1 Yitro Exodus 18:1 - 20:23

The Torah never refers to the Ten Commandments as *mitzvot*, "commandments", but as "statements." The term "commandment" assumes the presence of those it addresses and relies upon their acceptance. Without followers the commandment is useless and becomes nothing more than a relic of the past. This is not true of the divine laws. G-d calls them "statements." Whether obeyed or not, G-d's laws remain the expression of the one truth, permanent and unchangeable. Even if the entire Jewish people were to stray, the words of the Ten Commandments would remain eternal.

"The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of G-d shall stand forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

Source: *The Call of the Torah* by Rabbi Elie Munk.

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On Super Sunday, the future of millions of Jews will be on the line. Your UJA Federation Campaign is rooted in the traditional Jewish value of tikkun olam, working to repair the world. Your gift to the Campaign is part of that work. It's at the heart of a sacred Jewish trust to build, strengthen and care for our community at home, in Israel and around the world. Keep that trust. When one of our Super Sunday volunteers calls, give generously.



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JEWISH TRENDS

A National Commitment To Jewish Camping

By ADAM EIDINGER
Robinowitz Media Strategics
Two New York area philan-

thropists have created the first national organization to champion the cause of Jewish camping-iden-

tified by the 1990 National Jewish Population Study as one of three building blocks towards a strong Jewish identity. Robert Bildner, who established the Foundation for Jewish Camping with his wife, Elisa Spungen Bildner, explained that "Major Jewish philanthropic initiatives have been launched to support day school education and Israel trips for our young people but, until now, there has been no central clearinghouse to increase resources for Jewish camping."

Elisa Spungen Bildner, stated that she and her husband made a commitment of \$2 million to the Foundation because of the impact that Jewish camping has had on the lives of the couple's two young children. "Our kids return from their summers at overnight camp with a profound love for their Jewish heritage," she said, adding that "We want other Jewish children to share that love."

Currently, only 30,000 Jewish youth (only about 4% of all Jewish young people) attend a Jewish overnight camp each year. Throughout the United States and

Canada, there are 105 camps - the majority of these are sponsored by the five major streams of Judaism, the Zionist movement or Jewish Community Centers.

The Foundation has surveyed the status and needs of these camps and has determined that

many are in need of renovations. Yet, despite the aging facilities, most of the camps are operating at full capacity with many maintaining long waiting lists.

"We have established a goal of

Continued on page 6

An Evening of Comedy At The Grand Opera House



David Brenner



Robert Klein

David Brenner and Robert Klein ...two of the funniest people of our time will be appearing Sunday, March 28th at 7pm.

Beth Shalom has reserved a group of seats and is sponsoring an elegant "meet and greet" reception with the performers after the show. Support the synagogue, have a lot of laughs and eat dessert with David Brenner and Robert Klein.

Tickets priced at \$100 include show ticket and reception. Space is limited. For reservations call Beth Shalom at 654-4462



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JFC Names New Endowment Director



Rachel Gross

By LYNN EDELMAN
Editor

Rachel Gross would like to help you plan for the future. JFD's new Endowment Director will be happy to meet with members of Delaware's Jewish community at their homes or businesses and discuss how to include Federation and its agencies in their estate planning objectives.

"I look forward to sitting down with individuals to show them how their philanthropic interests can be perpetuated from generation to generation leaving a proud legacy of Jewish continuity," said Gross, who joined the Federation staff earlier this month. An attorney, she brings to the job experience in trusts and estate planning gleaned from her work for a small Philadelphia law firm.

(Continued on page 15)

Winter Wedding Issue

Publish Date: Feb. 12

Deadline: Feb. 4



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LOCAL

Annia Yampolsky Selected To Attend HOBY Seminar



Annia Yampolsky

Annia Yampolsky has been selected by Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School as its delegate to the 1999 Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar, to be held March 21-23. This seminar will bring together

high school sophomores from Delaware schools to meet with successful leaders in the fields of business, education, government, the arts, sciences, and professions.

Annia was chosen on the basis of her winning essay answering the question, "In your school and community, what is the most rewarding and challenging aspect of being a leader for you?" Her essay discussed being a role model and the challenge of getting people to follow her example, and includes her feeling that "I like to lead people so I can have experience for when I grow up."

Annia is a sophomore at Brandywine High School, plays on the school lacrosse team, and is a member of the National Art Honor Society. She is the shlichah for Wilmington BBG, volunteers at A. I. DuPont Hospital and in the recent Jack Markell political campaign, and she worked last summer as a counselor at Gan Israel.

Camping

Continued from page 6

sending at least 90,000 children ages nine through 16 to Jewish camp each summer," said Rabbi Ramie Arian, executive director of the Foundation. One hundred new properties would have to be acquired or constructed to make this ambitious goal a reality.

The Foundation also plans to assist camps in recruiting high-caliber staff. "Many Jewish young adults mistakenly believe that working as a summer camp counselor has little resume value," said Rabbi Arian. He hopes to raise the profile, prestige and financial incentive

to attract quality employees and to market these positions as opportunities to develop hands-on leadership and critical thinking skills.

This spring, the Foundation will make available \$225,000 in grants to enhance the Jewish camping experience. The Bildner's initial endowment of \$2 million will make these grants possible and will fund organization expenses during its

start-up years.

Rabbi Arian sees the gift as a "keystone for more substantial fundraising." The Foundation has set a goal of \$20 million from funding sources in the Jewish community including Federations and major philanthropists.

The rabbi is confident that the community will rise to the challenge.

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THE RABBI WRITES

We Jews Have "I" Trouble

By Rabbi DAVID B. KAPLAN
Temple Beth El

Many of you know that I love to play with words. In those rare times that a pun does not emerge from my lips, people assume that I am not feeling well. One of the modern problems in the world in general, but very much affecting the Jewish community, is that we have "I" trouble which keeps us from seeing well. This near-sightedness prevents us from seeing the greater picture of life. It limits us to seeing only that which we want to see in the modern picture and also precludes us from seeing the past. Although this is not just a Jewish issue, I prefer to concentrate on the ramifications for the Jewish community.

There is a humorous description

of Jewish tradition being passed around on the Internet. It says that most Jewish holidays consist of three parts: 1. They tried to kill us; 2. We won; 3. Let's eat. An essential factor that is omitted in this account is that often during the process we could not agree. We were so busy fighting with our fellow Jews that we did not have the time or energy to properly defend ourselves. When we most needed to be a united Jewish people, we were frequently least capable of exhibiting such cooperation. This is not to say that we would have never been subjected to oppression had we been united, but that much of Jewish history could be different.

We are not capable of changing the events of the past, but we do have the opportunity to learn from

the past. The Jewish press (and often the non-Jewish press) is regularly filled with the arguments between the various branches of Judaism. Proper discussions are accepted as a vital part of Judaism. We read in Pirke Avot 5:17: Every controversy that is in the name of heaven, the end thereof is [destined] to result in something permanent. We are involved in a controversy that may indeed have lasting results but results that may weaken the Jewish community again.

Too many of us have the attitude that we are the only ones with the correct answer. In describing such action, it was once put this way: "If you are more traditional than I, you are a fanatic; if you are less traditional than I, you are a heretic."

This weekend we are celebrating the unity of the Delaware Jewish community. As we gather, we need to be aware that our diversity of celebration can be a tool that helps to keep us vibrant. There is much that we can learn from each other. We learn in Avot 4:1: Ben Zoma said: who is he that is wise? He who learns from everyone. But to learn from each other both our I's and our eyes must be open. We must treat each other with respect and dignity. I must be willing to defend your right to disagree with me. I must be willing to talk about principles without insulting each other.

We have been fortunate that we have had a fairly good record as a Jewish community in general. We

need to continue to respect each other and keep our community strong.

JCC Camp Expands Its Horizons

By SUSAN PANCELS

This summer, Camp JCC will offer more excitement and more variety in day camp programming. With the addition of a rollerblading rink and a 50 foot long water slide last summer, and an indoor rock climbing wall currently under construction, Camp JCC is on the cutting edge in facility development.

The all-new computer camp, designed for grades 2 to 6, has moved to Tech Connections, located in Concord Plaza. This brand new state-of-the-art facility (Mac and Windows formats) feature high-speed internet access, certified teachers with extensive tech-

nology experience and a staff to students ratio 1:5.

In addition to improved facilities, Camp JCC is reorganizing the Teen Travel Camp to better suite the needs of pre-teen campers. The travel program, newly titled Sabra Camp, will incorporate more day trips and sports activities in addition to the famous overnight journeys.

Perhaps the best news for your bank book is that camp fees are frozen at last years rates and a new non-member teen camp user fee has been introduced. For more details or to receive a camp brochure, call (302) 478-5660.

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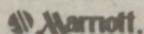


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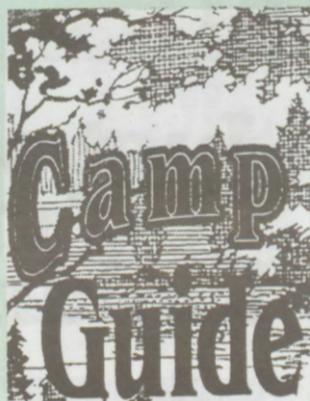
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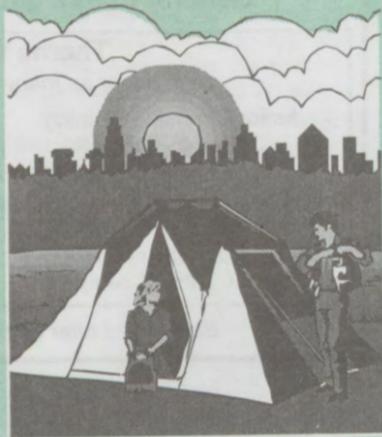
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An Ingathering of Reform Youth

By UAHC News

The largest-ever biennial convention of the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY), the youth organization of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), will be held in Los Angeles, February 12-16. More than 1,500 high school-age Reform Jewish youth are expected to attend the convention, where they will participate in Torah study sessions, discuss Jewish ethics and partake in workshop sessions dealing with challenging issues facing Jewish teens in North America.

The convention comes at a time when American Judaism is experiencing its highest rate of assimilation and intermarriage and Israel's government is attempting to delegitimize the status of non-Orthodox Jews there. And yet, despite these grave concerns, the Reform movement is seeing a resurgence in Torah study and youth involvement.

NFTY conventions, previously held only on the East Coast, are meant to provide Reform youth with the opportunity to bolster their involvement with the organization, strengthen Jewish identity and foster long-term commitment to the ideals and values of Reform Judaism. "NFTY provides an outstanding social and educational forum for young Jews to interact with peers from around the nation and to learn about Reform Jewish values, so they will be able to make informed and responsible lifestyle decisions," says Rabbi Allan Smith, Director of UAHC's Youth Division.

The annual Reform Jewish Youth Workers Conference will also be held in conjunction with the NFTY event and will be attended by professionals working with Jewish teens in various capacities. A variety of programming tracks are planned for the more than 350 rabbis, youth group supervisors and lay leaders who plan to attend.

Some of the programs will focus on making Israel travel integral to youth programs, improving temple youth groups and arming Reform Youth with essential knowledge before going off to college. Other programs will focus on staying in touch with youth after graduation and getting youth on the congregational agendas. "We know that in order to provide our youth with the resources they deserve, we must recruit well-trained, highly qualified youth professionals to work with youth advisors in all our congregations," says Rabbi Dennis Eisner, Director of Junior & Senior High School Programs & NFTY. Finding

and training these youth workers is a major part of the youth initiative announced by UAHC President Rabbi Eric Yoffie in December.

NFTY events contribute to the overall growth and development of Jewish youth. JulieSue Thorer, President of NFTY, says, "regional and national events like the con-

vention are the time when I rekindle old friendships and make new ones. For a few short days, I leave reality and enter dreamland. Emphasis is placed on Jewish learning and sharing, not on clothes and make-up. I return from each event with a wealth of knowledge and a desire to gain more."

The convention marks the 60th anniversary of the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) offering thousands of young people the opportunity to explore and live Reform Judaism. Over 450 Reform congregations throughout North America sponsor temple youth groups, bringing the

NFTY experience to more than 10,000 high school-age young people. NFTY members strive to forge an identity in consonance with the goals and values of Reform Judaism, including: Jewish education, spiritual exploration, social action, personal growth and congregational life.

Right from the "Schorsch"

By TAMAR M. STERNTHAL
Jewish Advocate Staff

A long-time phenomenon in the Conservative moment is now on the radar screen of the movement's driving force.

"I think that the endemic flaw in the Conservative movement has been in the gap between religious leadership and laity, and I believe that we are on the way to closing that gap," said Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

He was referring to the members' lapse in ritual observance despite the movement's "high degree of respect for traditional rabbinic Judaism." Although halachic observance is expected of Conservative Jews, "we've had difficulties in observance," acknowledged Schorsch.

Schorsch continued that the gap "of course makes the job of a Conservative rabbi lonely, and that creates tension."

In a recent interview, the 61-year-old Conservative leader pointed to progress "on the problem because of the mass effort on serious Jewish education."

Pointing to three areas of education "which are increasingly producing an observant and literate laity," Schorsch cited the Ramah camp system, which engages 7,000 children every summer in eight overnight camps and a slew of day camps. "We're turning away youngsters who want to come to Ramah," he said.

In addition, "a tremendous spurt in the Schechter system" has drawn 20,000 students across the country and has initiated a high school in Manhattan. He said that Conservative driven, community-based high schools like the New Jewish High School in Waltham, are becoming more common, with similar programs already existing or on the way in Atlanta, Chicago and Detroit. "All of these high schools come on the foundation of strong Schechter elementary schools," said Schorsch.

Identifying United Synagogue Youth as the third area, Schorsch

maintained that it is the largest Jewish youth movement in the country and that it is playing a critical role in "creating the core of observant laity."

Responding to the Advocate's query about the biggest challenges facing the movement now, Schorsch, who has been chancellor of JTS since 1986, stated, "the issue that faces us in all of American Judaism is survival in a land of unbelievable prosperity."

"Our situation in America is unprecedented in Jewish history," said Schorsch, who has his Ph.D. from Columbia University.

The professor of Jewish history has himself made history in more than one way since he joined the JTS faculty in 1964.

Much of his recent high profile publicity has centered around the religious pluralism debate in Israel. In a 1997 letter to the JTS faculty, Schorsch made a controversial appeal to the American Jewish federations to earmark their Israel allocations to specifically Conservative and Reform movements there. Several weeks later, at the movement's annual Rabbinical Assembly conference in Boston, he likened the "ultra-Orthodox" groups who denounce the non-Orthodox to those who rationalize Yitzhak Rabin's assassination with "medieval" Jewish law.

He cites his background as a Jewish historian as justification for his involvement in the politics of pluralism in Israel. Schorsch stated, "I think my education as a modern Jewish historian is suitable for this job, because it gives me a pretty deep understanding of the contemporary Jewish condition."

At that same conference, he called for the disintegration of Israel's chief rabbinate and its network of courts. "The religious councils are largely unaccountable to anyone and that's an invitation to corruption of a large scale," he reiterated during the interview.

About the American involvement in Israel's religious life, Schorsch said, "We've made it an Israeli issue. When we started, it was an American issue, but today

it's an Israeli issue being addressed by Israelis.

"The issues are becoming crystallized," he said, pointing to the recent rulings to appoint non-Orthodox to religious councils and to revoke the exemption of Orthodox yeshiva students from army duty.

Gearing up for a victory, he said tentatively, but confidently, "It will be sooner rather than later" that religious issues will fall under local rather than national authority.

And JTS is doing its part to develop public support for such a shift, he suggested. The seminary "is attempting to mainstream Conservative Judaism in Israel through the creation of an academic and rabbinic school for Israelis." The Bet Midrash/Seminary of Judaic Studies in Jerusalem is now seeking accreditation through the Israeli Council of Higher Education, which would "certify us as 100 percent Israeli," he added. The school has some 400 students.



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Arafat's Coming To Breakfast

By MATTHEW DORF

As a sign of Yasser Arafat's growing stature, a leading conservative member of Congress has invited the Palestinian Authority chairman to the annual National Prayer Breakfast.

Arafat, who has rejected three previous invitations to the event, plans to attend the Feb. 4 reception, which will bring together American leaders and international guests to, in the words of organizers, "bring about reconciliation all over the world."

President Clinton, who is also scheduled to attend the prayer breakfast, said he would host Arafat at an informal meeting during the Palestinian leader's brief U.S. visit.

The decision by U.S. Rep. Steve Largent (R-Okla.) to invite Arafat to the prayer breakfast has sparked furor from some of his closest allies in the evangelical Christian community. Previous invitations came from Democrats, who held the rotating chairmanship of the breakfast.

According to sources familiar with a campaign now under way, three of the nation's largest evangelical Christian groups — the Christian Coalition, the Family Research Council and Focus on the

Family — oppose Arafat's appearance.

"It is an ill-informed, bad decision to invite a known terrorist and murderer of Jews and Christians, and Americans, to participate in a public exercise of faith here in the nation's capital," said Jeffrey Taylor, director of government relations for the Christian Coalition.

"While we applaud and support all efforts to reach out to people of all different faiths, we do not think this is the time or the place to embrace a known terrorist," said Taylor, who will not attend a dinner the night before the breakfast to protest the Arafat invite.

After Arafat's planned attendance became public, Largent sought to distance himself from the decision, saying he was not aware of the hundreds of individuals included on the invitation list, according to Brad Keena, Largent's spokesman.

At the same time, Largent has said he believes it would be beneficial for Arafat to hear the Gospel. But Taylor said, "This is not the place to do it."

Guests are expected to include most members of Congress, Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. Representatives from the

diplomatic corps from 160 countries were also invited to attend.

The breakfast became increasingly controversial in the evangelical community after sections of the Koran were read last year and organizers invited ambassadors from countries accused of persecuting Christians.

Palestinian officials said they did not know why Arafat decided to accept this year's invitation. Israel's ambassador to the United States and the United Nations were also invited to the event. It is unclear if either would attend.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was not invited this

year because his staff told the organizers that he would be unable to attend, Keena said. Leah Rabin, widow of the former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, may attend the breakfast, organizers said.

Jews have been silent on the issue.

Orthodox Win Vote

By NAOMI SEGAL, JTA

In the seesaw battle between Orthodox and non-Orthodox interests in Israel, the Orthodox have won the latest round in the Knesset.

But Conservative and Reform leaders both in Israel and the United States say the Orthodox victory is only a partial one because the aim of the legislation passed Tuesday — to keep non-Orthodox Jews from serving on local religious councils — will not succeed.

The legislation, vigorously pursued by the Orthodox parties and opposed with equal intensity by the Reform and Conservative movements, requires non-Orthodox representatives of local councils to pledge their acceptance of the

halachic authority of the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate on matters dealt with by the councils.

The law, approved in its third and final vote by a razor-thin margin of 50-49, was intended to bypass recent rulings by the High Court of Justice that non-Orthodox representatives must be allowed to sit on the councils.

The councils have jurisdiction, including the allocation of funds, over issues relating to marriage, kashrut, burial and other religious matters for Jews living in Israel.

The issue, the latest in the battle over Reform and Conservative recognition in Israel, comes as Israel is gearing up for a new election and therefore takes on increased political significance.

Observers noted that Yitzhak Mordechai, who recently was fired as defense minister and announced that he would run for prime minister as head of a new centrist party, voted for the legislation, as did Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and most members of the governing coalition.

Labor leader Ehud Barak voted against the legislation as did Natan Sharansky, leader of Yisrael Ba'Aliyah.

Orthodox legislators had said they would hold up all legislation needed to enact the nation's 1999 budget until after the religious council bill was approved.

In a separate Knesset vote Tuesday, legislators rejected by a vote of 43-28 a religious freedom bill that included a provision to recognize civil marriages and divorces performed in Israel.

Despite the law's intention to keep them off the councils, Reform and Conservative representatives say they will do everything necessary to take their seats — including taking the necessary oath dictated by the new law.

"The religious councils bill was only a partial victory for our political opponents. Our people will sit on the councils anyway," said Rabbi Joel Meyers, executive director of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly of America.

His Israeli counterpart, Rabbi Mauricio Balter, president of the Israel Rabbinical Assembly, said during a visit to New York this week, "We have always viewed (the councils) as administrative rather than halachic instruments."

Should the rabbinate "attempt to expand their authority and try to make religious councils into a rubber stamp, we won't allow that," said Balter, who said he intends to take his place on the religious

council in Kiryat Bialik, just outside of Haifa.

Pointing out that the councils allocate government moneys for various programs, Balter vowed "to see to it that proper provisions are made and that they are given to Reform and Conservative congregations, not only Orthodox ones, and that the money is not used by the Orthodox as a slush fund."

Still, Conservative and Reform leaders in Israel and the United States lashed out at the Knesset decision, calling it a "slap in the face" and a deep disappointment.

In New York, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, the president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, called the Knesset action a "significant disappointment," particularly because "we have been litigating this matter for years and the Supreme Court has again and again affirmed that discrimination on these religious councils is forbidden."

Orthodox groups praised the passage of the legislation, which they called an important step to preserving authentic Judaism in Israel. The Orthodox members of Knesset had vowed to secure the law's passage after the Supreme Court ruled in November that Reform and Conservative representatives be installed on local religious councils in five cities.

Following another recent court ruling on the same issue, Orthodox, Reform and Conservative representatives attended a meeting Monday of the Haifa local religious council.

Shortly after it convened, the Orthodox members successfully moved for an adjournment.

Reform and Conservative leaders, meanwhile, took comfort in the close vote in the Knesset.

"The Orthodox could muster only a one-vote majority, and it shows the success we've had in conveying our message," Yoffie said.

Rabbi Reuven Hammer, a Masorti leader in Israel, echoed this theme.

The vote's close margin reflected an "enormous change in public opinion in Israel," he said while in New York this week. "It is no longer simple for religious elements to pass a religiously coercive bill even when they put all their effort in it."

Meanwhile, Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, who has generated controversy by suggesting abolishing the councils altogether, caused another uproar this week by calling Reform Jews

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Buchanan Shows A Darker Side

By RICHARD M. JOEL

President

Hillel Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

Pat Buchanan has a New Year's resolution for the Republican Party. In a January 1 column he proposes that the GOP addresses the "the deeply ingrained leftist and anti-Christian bias on elite campuses."

He cites as evidence of this bias the fact that at Harvard "nearly 20 percent of the Harvard University student body is Asian-American, and 25 percent to 33 percent is Jewish, though Asian-Americans make up only 3 percent of the U.S. population and Jewish-Americans even less than 3 percent. Thus, 50 percent of Harvard's student body is drawn from about 5 percent of the U.S. population!" The situation is just as bad, Buchanan says, in other prestigious schools and in the elite professions they feed.

"[T]here is no doubt who is going to run America in the 21st century," Buchanan laments. Buchanan has been pressing this point since fellow conservative activist Ron K. Unz published a critique of affirmative action in the Wall Street Journal in November.

The Buchanan/Unz argument proceeds as follows. Affirmative action guarantees African Americans and Hispanics a percentage of seats in prestigious schools. The spots set aside for foreigners, alumni children and students from the "WASP elite" further diminish the number of open seats. The remaining open slots are being filled disproportionately by Jews and Asians. "[I]t is clear Evangelical

Christians, Catholics, Mormons and Muslims are the victims of a bigotry so embedded Harvard cannot see it right in front of its eyes," Buchanan writes. "Now we know who really gets the shaft at Harvard — white Christians." If affirmative action is to be maintained, they say, college berths must be assigned on the basis of race and ethnicity — never mind merit.

"If proportional representation is the name of the game," Buchanan suggests, "Christian and European-Americans should get into the game, and demand their fair share of every pie: 75 percent, and no less."

Their arguments are faulty on many levels. First, they are not founded in fact. Buchanan and Unz admit that their analysis is based on fabricated numbers, their own estimates. Harvard does not maintain a listing of Jewish students, nor does any other school.

But let us assume for a moment that Jews and Asians are "over-represented" in elite schools and professions. Are not all Americans guaranteed the right to the "pursuit of happiness?" If their academic achievements, their merits, enable them to enter the finest academic institutions and professions, is that not the American dream at work?

Buchanan promotes meritocracy in his campaign against affirmative action. At the same time, however, he writes: "A liberal elite is salvaging its social conscience by robbing America's white middle class of its birthright, and handing it over to minorities." "Where does the Constitution — the one document

that really matters in this debate — guarantee any ethnic grouping the "birthright" to lead?

Unfortunately these writers cannot be dismissed as fringe zealots. Unz is the author of Proposition 227, the successful California initiative to limit bilingual education. Buchanan, a television host and syndicated columnist, is a longtime Republican activist.

These men have a following and they know how to use the tools of power successfully. Buchanan and Unz have a right to their political opinions. But it is odious to purport to promote a healthy, democratic and pluralistic country by stirring up dormant animosities, invoking ugly stereotypes, and otherwise engaging in politically motivated group-baiting.

The writers are playing both sides against the middle. Affirmative action is not good because it yields too many African Americans and Hispanics. Meritocracy is not good because it yields too many Jews and Asians.

In truth, their polemic is neither an attack on affirmative action nor an attack on meritocracy. It is a blunderbuss rage at sharing ownership of this country with "outsiders" who don't conform to some distorted profile of "true Americans."

However it is dressed up, an exclusionary view of the American birthright diminishes us all.

The American dream is our shared birthright.

The Framers would recoil in shame.

OPINION

Jews Can Be Justly Proud

By E.E. Jaffe, Ph.D.

Nobel prizes are awarded each year in five different categories of endeavor to persons who made valuable contributions for the "good of humanity." Three of the five awards are in the fields of chemistry, physics, and physiology and medicine. Since the prizes are awarded to people of merit and accomplishment regardless of their religion, country of origin or ethnicity it is a good barometer of the winners' countries' scientific achievements.

Historically, going back to the Middle Ages the Catholic church barred Jews from participating in most professions, including those in science and technology. The effect of these policies lingered until the French revolution which lifted these restrictions. However, in a Catholic country like France Jews are still likely to achieve less than in other predominantly Protestant countries. Performance by Jews in the sciences depends on the culture in which they live. They have done best in countries where Protestantism is the dominant religion. Since the Jews were emancipated, their extraordinary contributions in the sciences of European, mostly Protestant, countries and

the USA developed gradually, the impact became particularly apparent in the first four decades of the 20th century. This subject has been comprehensively treated in a 1996 book entitled "Comets, Jews and Christians" by J. Hully.

During the 18th and 19th century Protestant countries were the key centers of technical progress. In the 18th century Britain led the world in inventions with some contributions from France. In the 19th century the USA grew in importance and eventually surpassed Britain. The Germans lingered until the final quarter of the 19th century, when they began a swift rise toward first place. With the exception of Germany, modern progress in science has been an Anglo-American phenomenon. The exception occurred during the turn of the century, when for a few decades German led the world. Inventions in Germany sky rocketed rather suddenly. During the first two decades of the 20th century Germany received more Nobel science prizes than the USA, Britain and France combined, 18 compared to a total of 17 for the other three. Then, a decline set in just as swiftly as the rise. By mid century, Germany fell to third place and the

USA moved into a commanding lead in Nobel science awards. Thus, prizes given to scientists in English speaking countries rose from 20% in the first three decades of the 20th century to around 70% in the last four decades, and conversely awards received in continental Europe dropped from around 80% in the opening decades to about 20% in recent times.

How can one explain these relatively rapid changes? It might appear that wealthy nations are more likely to innovate. Actually, historical data show that wealth does not necessarily lead to innovation and discovery, just the opposite invention and innovation leads to wealth.

During the earlier part of the 19th century three times as many Jews lived in Germany than in Britain, France and the USA combined. Millions lived in Russia and Poland, hundreds of thousands in Germany and the Austro-Hungarian empire. Only tens of thousands in Britain, France, even fewer in the USA. The Jewish population of Germany was far ahead of the other Protestant countries. Later, when Germany became the leading winner of Nobel science

awards Jews received 20% of all prizes even though their numbers amounted to 1% of the German population. On a worldwide basis, a Jew is five times more likely to win a Nobel science prize than an average Protestant. A Protestant in turn is ten times more likely to win than an average Catholic. This shows the overwhelming advantage Jewish scientists hold over their compatriots of the other two major religions.

At the end of 19th century, circa 1880, pogroms in Eastern Europe caused hundreds of thousands of Jews to flee or emigrate to Western Europe, even millions to the USA. Later in the 20th century while the number of Jews grew in Western Europe and the USA it declined even more sharply in Germany. In the early 1940's the Holocaust shifted the distribution of Jews further in the same direction. After World War II about 400,000 Jews lived in Britain and only 30,000 in Germany. The number of Nobel prizes in the sciences changed as the Jewish population changes took place. In the first four decades of the present century Germany won almost twice as many prizes as Britain, in the next four decades it was reversed,

Britain winning three times as many as Germany. With the diminution of the Jewish population in Germany the advantage which it held over Britain was completely reversed.

With the migration of Jews to the West and across the Atlantic ocean, leadership in science and technology gradually shifted to the USA. Now the USA wins more Nobel science prizes each decade than the rest of the world combined. Is this a coincidence? Hardly. Cause and effect leads one to the conclusion that leadership in science and technology throughout the world can reasonably be explained on the basis of Jewish population distribution.

Thus, the emancipation of Jews in continental Europe brought the leadership from Britain to Germany late in the 19th century. The shift of Jewish population to the West early in the 20th century moved leadership to the USA. Today, Jews constitute about 2.5% of the US population but have won 32% of all US Nobel science prizes since the prize was established in 1899.

This record is very impressive indeed. It is a historical record of which Jews can be justly proud.

E.E. Jaffe, Ph.D.

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Jewish Ritual Is The Tie That Binds Adoptive Families

By KAREN KOENIG

Jewish Bulletin of Northern California

When Jewish parents adopt, chances are overwhelming that the child they will adopt will be born to a non-Jewish mother. As a result, many Jewish adoptive parents face interfaith and interracial issues.

But Jewish ritual in the home unifies a family in a way nothing else can, said two Jewish mothers of adopted children who also happen to be adoption professionals.

Celebrating "all Jewish holidays and Shabbat have been unifying things," said Gail Steinberg, director of PACT, an Adoption Alliance, which is an interracial agency. "My children will continue the rituals because it means a family."

Lynne Fingerman, co-director of Adoption Connection, a program of the S.F.-based Jewish Family and Children's Services agreed. "We realized that rituals and traditions are really important for kids," she said. The two addressed more than 60 adoptive parents and would-be adoptive parents earlier this month at a San Francisco conference on Adoption and the Jewish Family.

Steinberg adopted her four children who are now adults and have made her a grandmother twice. Her oldest daughter is Korean, one son is biracial and the other is white. Her younger daughter is African-American. She and her husband raised all their children Jewish.

When her oldest daughter was an adult, she told Steinberg about a recurring dream in which her mother took her someplace and tried to drown her.

"I realized," Steinberg said, "she was describing the experience of going to the mikvah," a ritual bath for conversion of Judaism.

Steinberg recalled taking her child to a mikvah in Ohio. "There was hostility in the air" toward the Korean child, she said. As she was instructed to hold her screaming daughter, age 3-1/2, under water three times, "I did it, thinking, 'What am I doing to my child?'" She said, "We wanted her to be identified as Jewish as possible." Yet, as her non-white children grew, Steinberg realized, "People see them first by color and second, if ever, as Jews."

In one Jewish congregation, she said, her African-American daughter was treated as if "you're here only because you're part of your family."

These disappointments showed Steinberg the "need to educate the Jewish community to accept our [adopted, non-white] children." Today, she warned her listeners, "for kids who are not white, the primary identification of others to them is based on their packaging. These kids can have [Judaism] as their identity, but the rest of the world will not see the that way."

To those in her audience who are raising non-white children in Judaism, she said, "My best mes-

sage to you is that your child is having a different experience than you are, most likely."

In contrast to the bad news, Steinberg said all her children were married by the same rabbi, one married another Jew and her grandchildren are Jewish.

Fingerman has two teens - a biological son, 19, and an adopted daughter, 15. Before adopting her daughter at birth from non-Jewish birth parents, she had been rejected previously by an evangelical Christian birth mother who did not want to relinquish her baby to a Jew.

"I was terrified the next birth mom would reject us," she said. When Fingerman rushed to a Catholic hospital to pick up the newborn who was to become her daughter, she felt uneasy as the nurse suggested naming the baby Christina and asked, "What faith are you?"

But the adoption went through, and her daughter had a conversion ceremony with an Orthodox rabbi. Fingerman decided, "I wanted her to be seen as Jewish in every way." Still, she wondered if her baby would grow up identifying with Jewish heritage all the way back to Exodus, the way she had.

After more than six years of Jewish day school, before her bat mitzvah, her daughter announced: "You know I'm not really Jewish. I'm Christian."

Fingerman countered, "You inherit ethnicity, not religion."

After much discussion, her daughter said: "Mom, my soul is Jewish, but my body is Christian."

Then came a family trip to Israel. "Being in Israel had an incredible effect on her," said Fingerman. "Suddenly her favorite classes became Jewish studies. Now she wants to be in the Israeli army." Unlike her parents, Fingerman's

daughter has decided to keep kosher and has even rejected her former skimpy outfits for more modest dress. "My daughter is very Jewish - she can't wait to make her 16-year-old trip to Israel."

But Fingerman acknowledged that teens are changeable. "And next year I may have a very different story to tell you."

Rachel Gross

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Gross also contributes her passion for Jewish education and her deep commitment to Israel. She attended Jewish day school in her hometown of Scranton, PA and spent many summers at Camp Ramah in the nearby Pocono Mountains. "I believe that Jewish camping was the most positive Jewish experience in my life," said Gross who remains an active member of the camp's alumni association.

While an undergraduate at Barnard College of Columbia University, she became active in the Conservative movement's Aliyah program. Her Zionist commitment deepened during her junior year which she spent abroad in Israel. She returned to the Jewish State for a year between college graduation and her studies at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

A Philadelphia resident, Gross is involved in the Jewish Community

Relations Council's Israel Affairs Committee and co-chaired the bazaar segment of last year's Israel Independence Day festival at Penns Landing.

She and her husband, H.P. Baker, a fellow attorney, are members of Society Hill Synagogue.

Orthodox

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"more dangerous to the Jewish people than the Holocaust."

He later said he never meant to compare Reform Jews to the Nazis, but wanted to make the point that Reform Jews had not learned from the Holocaust and were encouraging assimilation.

Among those criticizing Bakshi-Doron for his remarks was Moshe Kaveh, president of Bar-Ilan University, who said, "We have to combat assimilation through education, not battle each other with intemperate, divisive statements."

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ANALYSIS

Will Impeachment Impede Our Jewish Agenda?

By DANIEL KURTZMAN
JTA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (JTA) – Like everyone else with a hand in the Washington power game, the Jewish community has a clear stake in the outcome of President Clinton's impeachment trial.

The concern, however, has less to do with what happens – few anticipate he will be removed – but how the trial ends and in what kind of spirit.

As Clinton's fate hangs in the balance, so, too, do the prospects for bipartisan cooperation in the 106th Congress. Conventional wisdom holds that if the impeach-

ment trial becomes a drawn-out process, replete with witnesses, the chances of bipartisan support for any substantive legislation will all but vanish.

That would not bode well for Jewish interests, Jewish activists here say, because much of the agenda they hope to see enacted depends on compromise between Democrats and Republicans.

But there is another line of thinking that paints a more optimistic picture.

Some political observers, including many in the Jewish community, believe a conclusion to the trial within a reasonable time frame

could generate tremendous momentum for both parties to get important legislative work done in the months ahead.

"You have two major trends coming together – the president wanting to leave a legacy of significant positive change for America and the world, and a Republican leadership that knows the worst thing that can happen is to be perceived as a do-nothing Congress," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

"Both are powerful dynamics that mandate bipartisan cooperation to achieve the goals that each

of the parties thinks are so vital."

For that reason, some political observers are predicting that the administration and Congress will be looking to work together in all areas where they can find common ground.

In his State of the Union speech, Clinton highlighted several issues in which there may be room for cooperation, including saving Social Security, fixing the education system, protecting patients' rights and strengthening hate-crime laws.

All of those issues have been key concerns for the Jewish community, with Social Security now top-

ping the legislative agenda for many groups. Most have yet to formulate positions on the retirement program, but all agree it needs to be a priority issue.

"We have a big interest in it because 20 percent of our population – disproportionate to any other community – is over the age of 65, and many are dependent on Social Security to meet costs of living," said Diana Aviv, director of the Council of Jewish Federations' Washington office.

The Middle East peace process is another area in which the Jewish community, the administration and

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A Trip To Remember

Continued from page 2

among themselves. Is the current furor between the Orthodox and the more liberal elements of Judaism a portent?

It was very interesting to see how American capitalism has made such inroads in Israel. We felt right at home with the McDonald's, KFC, Burger King, Office Max and other franchise stores. And of course almost all the signs are in English and Hebrew. I hardly had a chance to try out my rusty Hebrew. However, as the week wore on I attempted a bit of conversation. We did many of the typical tourist things like going to see the Chagall Windows at Hadassah Hospital, Yad Vashem, the Knesset and the Israel Museum with the Shrine of the Book and its Dead Sea Scrolls. It was exciting for Rabbi Kaplan to find that he could actually read the Hallelujah portion of one of the scrolls through the glass.

Going to the Knesset was a rude awakening. Twenty years ago, I remembered a small guard booth. Today there is a huge electrified fence totally surrounding the grounds with a massive security check station both at the entrance and later on inside. This is a sad testament to today's world of terror!

I had not been too impressed with the Chagall windows but was utterly charmed by the Chagall tapestries and wall mosaic in the Parliament building. We stood on the floor where there are more Chagall mosaics and that was an

experience in itself – imagine, walking on a Chagall!

We also spent part of the day in the magnificent tunnel which has been dug adjacent to the original Western Wall. This was not here the last time I was in Israel and walking through time as we did was mesmerizing. The models they have built clearly explain what the area under the city where we stood had looked like 3,000, 2,000 and 1,000 years ago. We saw a piece of marble left there (on what was then an open street but which is now several stories underground) when Herod died and work stopped on his improvements to the Second Temple; we walked through the cisterns used by the Hasmonean Kings; we touched a 480 ton single stone which was one of many used to build the original wall and marveled at this ancient engineering feat.

My observation at the end of the day was that we had experienced the oldest (at the Wall) and the newest in Israel (the Knesset met an hour after we left and Netanyahu announced the May 17 elections) – all in one 8 hour period.

The next day we traveled North to Caesarea, Haifa, Akko, and Rosh Hanikra (the beautiful grotto on the Lebanon border). The traffic jams prompted a discussion again with our guide of the Israeli psyche which seems to be "Live every day for the moment recklessly and to the fullest, for tomorrow we may not be here. They drive this way

and apparently, they live their whole lives in this manner, constantly having overdrafts in their bank accounts and living beyond their means. Who can blame them when life is so uncertain? Car accidents are the Number 1 killer in Israel.

As we passed several seacoast cities, the reality of what the Palestinian peace process would mean to Israel was brought home to us. The so called "right of return" which the Arabs want would entitle them to take over all areas which they had prior to 1948, including Hebron and Jericho on the West Bank (already given back to them under the terms of Oslo and Wye) as well as places like Ramle and Lod which are as far West as you can get in Israel, thus essentially emasculating the territory of the Jewish state. This can never be agreed to; anyone who advocates such a policy is counseling suicide in my opinion.

Back to the itinerary! Haifa has always been my favorite Israeli city. The Bahai who have their world headquarters there have taken on a new project, to recreate the famed Persian Hanging Gardens and standing at the top of Mt. Carmel overlooking this area (even though it was a cold and wind whipped day) was very interesting during the Gulf War and our guide wryly said that most people pay little attention to the issuing of gas masks nowadays. Perhaps that is just another example of the cavalier

attitude mentioned above. You can never get far away from the fact that this is a country in constant threat for its safety. When asked about signs all over labeled Bor B'tachon, our guide calmly replied that those were the holes in the ground where the police would put suspected bombs to dismantle them. And yet not once in the entire time we were there did any of us feel unsafe or fearful! I have had more trepidation walking on a dark street in New York or Philly than I did in Israel.

Akko was a pleasant surprise since the point where I had stood 20 years ago was now 3 stories above my head. The excavations have been so successful that a whole new area has been uncovered where the Crusaders lived, horses and all – and the government is in the process of turning it into a beautiful new conference center. We started our tour with two workmen actually laying a sidewalk for us to enter. Here in the place where the British jailed the Irgun and knights from France carved fleur de lis on marble columns centuries earlier, we watched an Israeli patrol boat guard against Palestinian terrorists trying to enter the country in dinghies.

This is a country of never ending change. On to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee, which is offering from drought as it had the last time I was here. Since this is the source of most of Israel's water supply it is a problem they are eagerly trying to solve. There is a thriving cattle industry here which is a change from my last visit when beef was very hard to find. Of course McDonald's has helped all that! We visited Safed, that very mystical city and saw several old tiny synagogues which are still in use today, one Ashkenazic and one Sephardic. Then we went shopping in the art colony which flourishes in Safed and marveled at the latest fad, micro calligraphy of the Tanach which allows entire books to be printed on a canvas in an artistic manner and embellished with paintings and drawings. It is quite an industry – thanks to the computer.

Leaving Safed, we drove to the northernmost part of Israel through Kiryat Shemona (where very recently a rocket was launched from Lebanon) and arrive finally at

an abandoned bunker on the Golan Heights on the border with Syria. When I was here in the 70's it was a very short time after the Golan was captured and there was not much to see.

Now, over 20,000 Israelis call this area home and it is a thriving area. Of course there are still mine fields which have not been cleared and old Syrian camps and bunkers to remind you that this once was a place for Arabs to have mastery over all the settlements below them in the valley. We looked at the hills and saw the miles of radar and other sophisticated equipment which now allows Israel to keep watch and guard its borders and realized that this land too must never be returned.

As we drove back to Jerusalem we passed banana plantations and fertile fields none of which existed 20 years ago. This is the West Bank where so much dissension exists over the Palestinian return. Relations with Jordan are far better than with the other Arab border states, but an electrified security fence and numerous patrols reminded us that nothing is certain.

Finally, we arrived at Beit Shean, an amazing archaeological excavation which has unearthed an entire Roman city. 17 years ago a farmer stumbled across the top of a column sticking up 6 inches out of the sand and that was just the beginning. This is where King Saul fought and died. This is where they have found a Cardo (colonnaded main shopping street), an Agora, the market place, a 10,000 seat theater, a huge amphitheater, a hippodrome for horse racing, a huge bathhouse area, dwellings, a Temple and they have hardly scratched the surface. In 749 BCE Beit Shean was destroyed by an earthquake and what was there has been preserved ever since, with all the columns but one knocked over. It is that one column that the farmer found. Incredible! On the way home, we passed Mt. Nebo where Moses stood and looked at the Promised Land knowing he could not enter. How fortunate we were to be there now so many years later!

(To be continued)

Editor's Note: In the next edition of the Jewish Voice Paula Shulak will relate Temple Beth El's adventures in Masada and Tel Aviv.

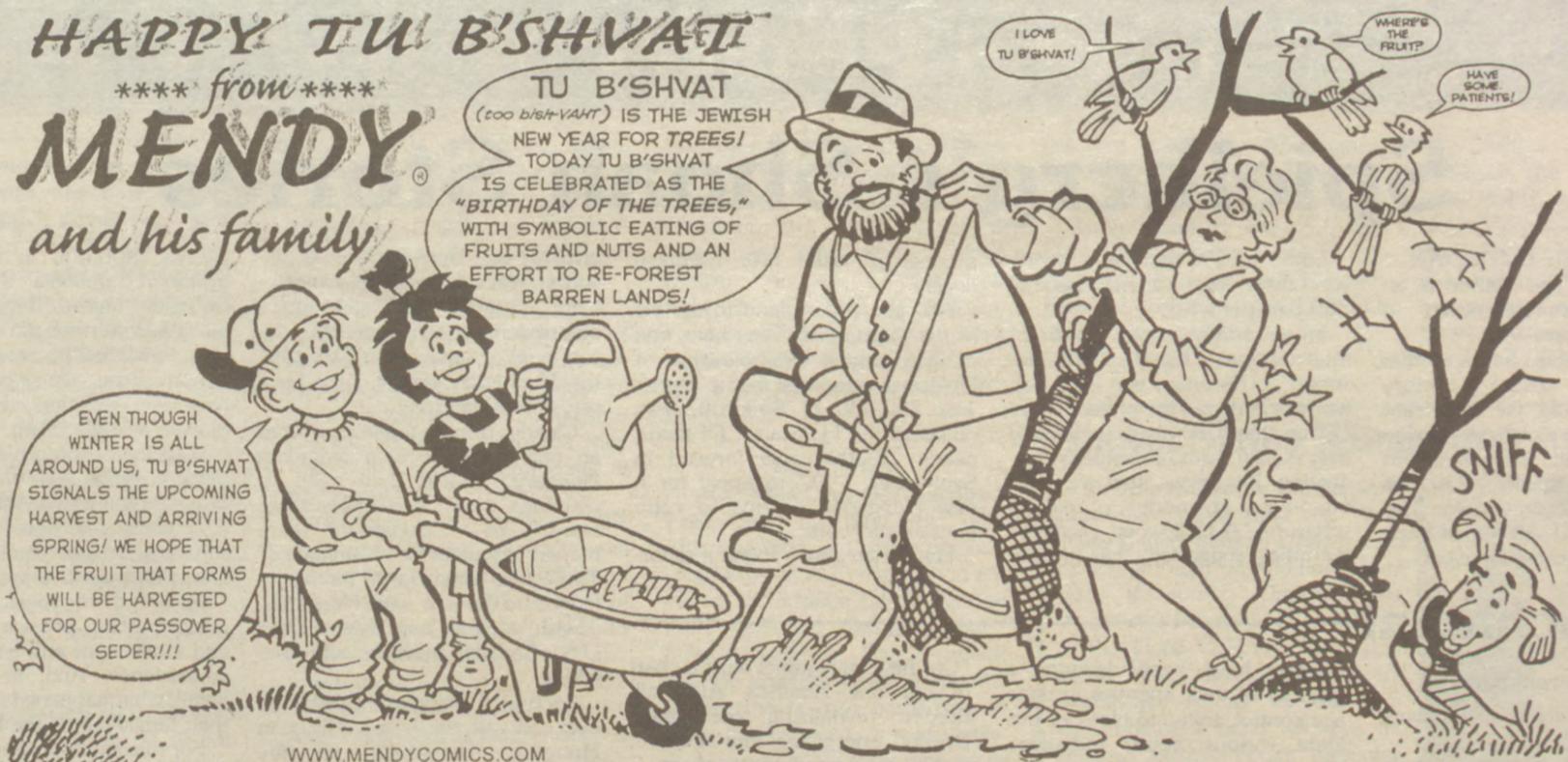
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JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

Spielberg's Shoah Stories

By MICHAEL J. JORDAN

Editor's Note: The author is an American journalist based in Budapest, Hungary

It was inevitable, perhaps, that the Shoah Visual History Foundation would fail to please everyone. The ambitious Steven Spielberg project, inspired by his 1993 epic "Schindler's List," is now in the home stretch of a drive to amass 50,000 videotaped interviews with Holocaust survivors.

Some 48,000 have been recorded in three years—a frenetic pace of 300 plus per week.

In an article in the April 14 International Herald Tribune, American historians and ex-Shoah workers criticized the project. They charge that it emphasizes quantity over quality, with non-experts conducting interviews that rely on often-fuzzy memories of elderly survivors. "A Hollywood mindset," the article suggested, "has favored

production values over historical fidelity."

Add Hungarian Jews to the list of the disgruntled. They have one of the largest community's of Holocaust survivors in the world. Just 200,000 of 800,000 Jews outlasted the Holocaust. Of them, nearly 20,000 came forward in September, 1997 to apply for a new Hungarian scheme to compensate survivors.

Hungarian Jewry found it unfor-

giveable that Spielberg's \$60 million project would visit 54 nations - from Uruguay to Uzbekistan - before coming here. Ironically, the vast pool of survivors in Budapest, the Hungarian capital, may have served as a deterrent.

Clearly, project organizers faced an unenviable decision regarding Hungary. Should they head to countries where eyewitnesses are scarce?, or to Budapest, where human resources seem unlimited? To be fair, some 5,000 interviews logged so far are with Hungarian Jewish emigres now living in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and elsewhere.

Such cool pragmatism didn't go over well with the Jews still living in Hungary. Reminders of the Holocaust are everywhere, while three or four survivors are said to die each day.

The hard feelings, though, are quickly dissipating: The Spielberg Foundation is finally here, and began to roll tape in early December. The Shoah Project's mere presence, many Hungarian Jews believe, will uncork Holocaust stories bottled up for half a century under repressive Communism. For survivors who had grown to believe no one cared, this may trigger a catharsis of sorts.

The project plans to tape 500 to 600 interviews over the next six months. (Significantly, these will include first-ever interviews with several Roma, or "Gypsy," survivors. Little is documented about the Hungarian Roma Holocaust.)

I am convinced that the project's detractors are missing the big picture. Historians shouldn't feel threatened. This won't supplant or supplant their meticulous gathering of genocidal evidence - documents, diaries, letters, etc. It merely complements such vital work. By capturing face and voice of victims, the project breathes life into accounts of the Holocaust that can sometimes seem to abstract and unbelievable to the generations that have followed.

We journalists toss around these staggering death tolls - 250,000 in

Bosnia, 800,000 in Rwanda, 1 million in Cambodia - and the typical reader breezes through it without a second thought. Such numbers, I now realize, are too huge to fathom. Especially since few of us have ever experienced the horror of even a single killing.

Well, the Shoah project seminars made it all too real. We saw tapes of earlier interviews, then conducted practice interviews with actual survivors. Trainers implored participants to unearth those anecdotes. "Just let them speak," was the mantra. About pre-war Jewish life and families, of anti-Semitism and co-existence. And, in wrenching detail, what happened to them and their family during the Holocaust.

For maximum impact, I'm learning, no medium compares with the visual. Particularly when it comes to survivors recounting their hellish journey. Like the young man who watched helplessly as his 86-year-old grandmother collapsed along a death march to Germany and was swiftly shot in the head. Or the girl who recalls the newborn boy delivered in the cattle wagon bound for Auschwitz, and how its skull was crushed minutes later under the boot of an irate Gestapo officer. Or the teenager who still feels her mother squeezing her hand, after disembarking at Birkenau, just before they were torn apart from each other - she to the barracks, her mother to the gas chambers.

Only after hearing a handful of these testimonials could I finally begin to comprehend the magnitude of it all - SIX MILLION.

The interviewees are indeed elderly. And sometimes they confuse dates or details. But this project is less about the facts of their war-time experience than how they perceived it. Trust that these events were burned into their memories.

Survivors, as only eyewitnesses can, provide invaluable insight in dissecting Hitler's Final Solution. It's material you simply can't glean from a musty library or archive.

It's one thing to question the veracity of a single interview. Quite another to dismiss the testimony of 50,000.

Impeachment

Continued from page 16

Congress will likely be able to work together.

In the coming months, lawmakers are expected to determine how much aid to allocate to the Palestinians for economic support and to Israel for troop redeployment in the West Bank as part of the interim peace accord signed in Washington in October.

In his State of the Union speech on Jan. 19, Clinton asked Congress to provide resources to implement the Wye agreement, "to protect Israel's security, stimulate the Palestinian economy and support our friends in Jordan.

"We must not, we dare not, let them down," he said. Despite the listless response on the Republican side of the aisle to those remarks, many believe that if the pro-Israel lobby, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and Israel appeal to Congress for that funding, they'll get it.

The White House, however, has indicated that it would not deliver the aid until the peace process is back on track.

In other legislative arenas, the battles are likely to shape up along more traditional lines. Since the Republicans took control of Congress in 1994, most Jewish

activists have been devoting a majority of their energies to damage control, trying to block or mitigate various policy initiatives. More of the same can be expected in the months to come.

After successfully countering a school prayer amendment to the Constitution in the last Congress, for example, church-state watchdogs in the Jewish community are regrouping for round two. Lawmakers have indicated they may bring out a second incarnation of the controversial proposal, this one perhaps dealing more directly with funding for sectarian organizations.

Similar debates over school voucher initiatives - an issue that has split the Jewish community - are likely as well, as Republicans again look for ways to permit families more choice in where their children attend school.

In another fight with which the community has become well acquainted, activists expect to devote considerable time to protecting the rights of immigrants, particularly as Congress again takes up the issue of restructuring the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Clinton highlighted this issue in his State of the Union, saying,

"Our new immigrants must be part of our one America. After all, they're revitalizing our cities, they're energizing our culture, they're building up our economy."

That doesn't leave much time for putting forth a proactive agenda, but Jewish activists say they are determined to make some positive advances in the areas of religious and civil liberties.

At the same time that Jewish activists are countering various measures, they are determined to be proactive as well, with an emphasis on crafting a new law to restore protections for religious practice and a separate law guaranteeing religious freedom in the workplace. Strengthening the nation's hate crime laws will also be a central focus.

Securing federal funding for social services remains another major concern, with Jewish nursing homes, hospitals and local federation agencies dependent on social service block grants funding made available to the states.

The funding battle is also a familiar one, but with one important difference this year. For the first time in years, Congress has come into session with a federal budget surplus, which enables lawmakers to shift away from the budget-cutting mode that had plagued previous sessions.

"We're not operating within the same constraints as we had in the past," said Aviv of CJF.

Most concede that the central challenge to getting anything done will be the relatively compact legislative calendar. With Congress still focused on impeachment, only a few months remain before lawmakers must begin working on the budget for 2000, which must be completed by this October.

By then, the presidential election cycle will have kicked in. As both parties begin jockeying for position for the 2000 campaign, everything risks becoming a function of presidential politicking, and compromise is almost certain to become elusive.

"The window of opportunity to get anything done" this year "is diminished, and the need to ratchet up and amplify our voices is greater," said Michael Lieberman, Washington counsel for the Anti-Defamation League.

"It's going to be harder to get legislators' attention for the progressive side of our agenda because there's a lot of background noise from impeachment, there's a lot of ill will and there's a lot of people who almost immediately will begin to think about the 2000 election."

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MARION SAMET LEVENBERG

Marion Samet Levenberg died Jan. 16 in Forwood Manor, Brandywine Hundred. She was a volunteer coordinator for the Delaware Division of the Visually Impaired for 10 years. Prior to her tenure with the agency, she worked with her late husband, Morris Levenberg, owner of the Wilmington Printing Company.

Mrs. Levenberg was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth, where she taught Hebrew School and served as a past president of the Temple's Sisterhood. She also was a former officer of B'nai B'rith Women.

She is survived by a son, Benjamin, a daughter, Fredda S.

Pennock and three grandchildren.

Contributions in her memory can be made to the Delaware Division of the Visually Impaired or Congregation Beth Emeth.

DORIS MILDRED SHATKIN

Doris Mildred Shatkin of Rehoboth Beach died January 24. A homemaker, she is survived by her husband, Morris; sons, Dr. Aaron J. Shatkin of N.J.; Steve Stevens of England; and Leon Shatkin of Mass.; daughters, Frances Yarlās of Rehoboth Beach and Maria Shatkin of Mass.; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Contributions in her memory can be made to the Southern Delaware Hospice in Georgetown.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JANUARY

Saturday 30

Pro Boxer Damon (The Jewish Bomber) Feldman takes on Pro Wrestler Billy Austin at The Big Kahuna in Wilmington, 6 p.m. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Jewish Federation of Delaware. For more information, call (610) 658-1207.

Sunday 31

Congregation Beth Shalom, Tu B'Shevat Festival, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Food, crafts and games for kids. Entertainment by N'Ranena. Admission fee. Call 654-4462 for information and reservations.

FEBRUARY

Monday 1

Applications for staff, coaches and athletes interested in being part of the U.S. delegation at the 9th Pan American Maccabi Games are due today. All U.S. citizens are eligible for the Pan American Maccabi Games team. Applications must be accompanied by a \$36 application fee. For more information or to receive an application, call the Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel hotline at (215) 561-6181, send e-mail to panam@maccabiusa.com, or visit the Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel website at www.maccabiusa.com.

Friday 5

Sam Glaser, singer and composer of contemporary Jewish music will be in hosted by Temple Beth El in Newark for a special Friday night Shabbat dinner at 6:30 followed by creative services at 8 p.m.

Saturday 6

Sam Glaser, leads Temple Beth El 10 a.m. services and will entertain at a children's concert from 1-2 p.m. Please call 366-8330.

At 7:30 p.m., Glaser travels to Wilmington's Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth for The 1999 Federation Community Event. Bring the entire family at a special rate of \$25 for parents and kids. Call 427-2100 for reservations.

Sunday 7

Women's American ORT presents storytime at Border's Books on Rte. 202 in Wilmington, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Professional story teller Clem Bowens will bring original stories to life through folk songs and musical instruments. Special appearance by the cartoon character Arthur.

Wednesday 10

The Divorcing and Separating Parents Education Program helps participants understand the impact of divorce on their children and prepares them to co-parent more effectively. This class is mandated by Family

Court and is offered by Jewish Family Service at the Jewish Community Center in North Wilmington tonight and Wednesday, February 17th. For times and fees, call Lauren at 478-9411.

Sunday 14

Jewish Young Adults of Delaware sponsor a trip to the National Jewish History Museum in Philadelphia and a kosher Chinese meal following the tour. Call Phil for times and costs at 652-6688.

Saturday 20

Enjoy dinner, a movie and sundaes making with members of the Young Jewish Adults of Delaware. Call Phil at 652-6688 for more information.

Thursday 25

Paul Bernard Liptz, a native of Zimbabwe currently living in Israel will discuss "The Jewish World in the 21st Century: Exciting Challenges," 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center in North Wilmington. This free community program is presented by the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation of Congregation Beth Shalom. For additional information, please call 654-4462.

LOOKING AHEAD

Albert Einstein Academy invites parents of 5 year olds born between 8/31/99 and 12/31/99 to consider its transitional kindergarten program. "Gesher" offers Judaic and secular activities with half-day or full-day options. For more information, please call Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, Head of School, at 478-5026.

Ambassadors of Israel, Jordan and Egypt, the Chief Representative of the PLO and PNA and the Director of Israeli Affairs of the U.S. Dept. of State will participate in a "Forum on Middle East Peace & Economic Opportunities," Wednesday, February 17, 11:30 a.m. at the Hotel DuPont, Wilmington. For further information, call the Delaware Chapter of People to People International at 764-8952.

MARCH

Saturday 20

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

DAFFODIL DAYS

Help the American Cancer Society bring hope to cancer patients throughout the State of Delaware. Order daffodils now through March 8th by calling 324-4227. Buy a bunch for \$6 or a potted plant for \$8.50. Last year's drive raised more than \$80,000 to support agency programs and services for the people of New Castle County.

GOLDEN SLIPPER SLATES CAMP REUNION

If you were ever a camper or counselor at Golden Slipper Camp in the Poconos, Gary Discount is looking for you.

Discount, a former director of this camp for underprivileged children, is chairing its 50th anniversary celebration. The camp, which is owned and operated by Golden Slipper Club and Charities, will hold its Golden Anniversary reunion on Sunday, Nov. 28 at the Twelve Caesars in Philadelphia. For more information, call (610) 660-0520.

ONGOING

JCC Members Get Aerobics Free. Start the New Year right with free land and water aerobics classes for all JCC members. Free classes will include Cardio Combo Plus, Aerobics, step and Step/Interval Training, Cardio Sculpt and five Water Aerobics programs. Non-members may participate in these classes, if space is available, at a non-member rate. For more information, contact Scott Katz, at 478-5660.

The Mental Health Association of Delaware provides support groups for people experiencing depression, anxiety or who have lost a loved one. For more information, call 656-8308.

Jewish Interactive Studies offers free Internet classes on Jewish holidays, bible themes and more. For more information, visit the JIS website at www.jewishstudies.org. (610) 388-1000, ext. 100.

Mah Jongg at the Senior Center. Learn to play mah jongg on Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m. at the JCC Senior Center. First timers and advanced players are welcome. The cost is \$2.50 for the class. Please call Wendi Weingartner at (302) 478-5660 for more information or to register.

Young Jewish Singles Holds Weekly Volleyball. Young Jewish singles of Delaware, a social group for Jewish singles in their 20's and 30's, sponsors a weekly volleyball and dinner sampler every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Wilmington, Delaware J.C.C. The volleyball game begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m.

For more information, to be put on the group's mailing list, or for the location of the dinners, call: Phil Gross (302) 652-6688 or the Jewish Community Center (302) 478-5660.

Summer Scholarship Available. The Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its tenth annual Scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or Israel. Applications may be picked up at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth office, Washington St.

Ext. and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802, and should be returned by March 15, 1999.

Teen Hour at the JCC Fitness Center. Teens, ages 14-16, are welcome to join our Certified Personal Trainers at the JCC. For more information, contact Jay O'Neill, Head Trainer, at (302)

478-5660.

Meet the Physical Therapist. Bob Catalano from Rehabilitation Consultants will be available every Wednesday at noon in the JCC Fitness Center. For more information, call Suzanne Rodriguez, Fitness Center Coordinator at (302) 478-5660.

Shoval Slates Wilmington Appearance

People to People International's Delaware Chapter and the World Trade Center Institute Delaware will present a forum on *Mid-East Peace and Economic Opportunities*, Wednesday, February 17, 11:30 a.m. at the Hotel DuPont, Wilmington. Jacob Walles, director of Israel and Arab-Israeli Affairs for the U.S. Department of State will give the keynote address. Forum presenters include: Hasan Abdel Raman, Chief Palestinian National Authority and Palestinian Liberation Organization Representative in Washington; Ahmed Maher El Sayed, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States; Dr. Marwan Muasher, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States and Zalman Shoval, Ambassador of Israel to the United States. Tickets are \$35 and include lunch. Limited student seating is available for \$20. For further information, call Carl Hutter, executive director, Delaware Chapter of People to People International at 475-9231. Reservations close on February 12.



Ambassador Zalman Shoval

Adas Kodesch Hosts Klezmer Band

Thread of Blue, Delaware's only klezmer band, is coming to Adas Kodesch on Saturday, February 20, 6:30 p.m. Thread of Blue consists of eighteen pieces, five violins, a viola, three flutes, three trumpets, an alto sax, mandolin, bassoon, trombone, bass accordion and drums. The players, all members of Temple Beth El in Newark, include three University of Delaware faculty members. Thread of Blue reflects the musical group's Jewish background, with its name referring to the traditional blue fringe of the tallit worn in the synagogue. The group is led by Michael Zinn, Professor of Music at the University of Delaware, and music director of Temple Beth El. Zinn started the band four years ago at the request of Rabbi David Kaplan and temple administrator Ann Herman.

They started off performing only at their temple, and now are in demand at community events, weddings and bar and bat mitzvahs throughout the state.

This is a program designed for families. The evening's activities will start with mincha services at 4:30, then a dairy supper at 5:00, maariv and havdalah at 6:00 and Thread of Blue performance at 6:30. The cost is \$12.50 for adults and \$8.50 for children 12 years and younger.

Please send your payment to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Washington Boulevard and Torah Way, Wilmington, Delaware 19802. Your check will serve as your reservation. Registration deadline is Tuesday, February 16. For additional information, call 762-6705.

Jewish Federation Seeks Campaign Director

Successful candidate should have MSW or equivalent, 3+ years fundraising experience and a strong Jewish background. Please fax or mail resume to:

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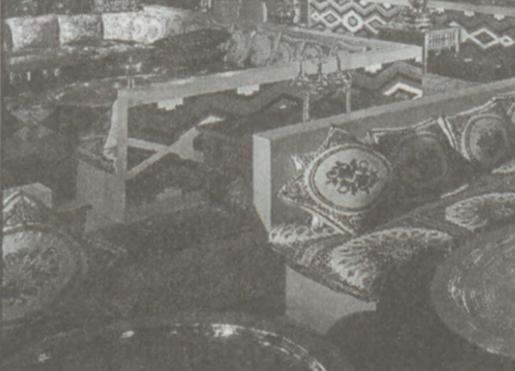
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