

The JEWISH VOICE

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Did You Hear About January 18th?

By DAN WEINTRAUB

Super Sunday Coordinator
January 18 is the Super Sunday all day fun-a-thon to benefit the 1998 UJA Federation Campaign. Once again volunteers will gather together at the MBNA calling center in Stanton-Ogletown to phone friends and neighbors for their annual pledge of support. This year more than ever increased gifts are needed.

As always your gift to the UJA Federation campaign helps people and enhances Jewish life through programs offered by:

- Albert Einstein Academy
- Gratz Hebrew High School
- Jewish Community Center
- Jewish Family Service of Delaware
- Hillel at the University of Delaware
- The Milton and Hattie Kutz Home.

In addition your increased gift to the UJA Federation Campaign supports the following critical services, programs and concerns:

- Newly expanded services and a community organizer/outreach worker for the growing popula-

tion in the Greater Newark and Hockessin area

- New day care programs in the Greater Newark and Hockessin area
- New programs being developed to meet needs identified by the Jewish population study
- Teen programs and Israel Experiences for young people
- Doubled funding of programs offered in Israel by the Modern Orthodox, Conservative and Reform religious streams.
- Programs in Israel to promote Jewish unity

- Feeding hungry elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union
- Resettling olim in Israel

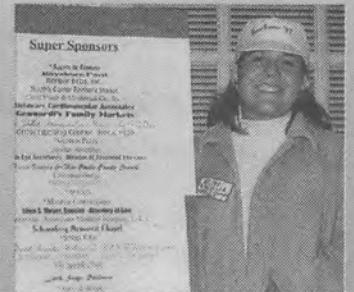
from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union

- Enabling the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to help people in need of food, shelter or medical care in every continent around the globe.

Your gift to the UJA Federation Campaign does not:

- go to the government of Israel
- support programs behind the green line
- go to any religious groups working to delegitimize other Jews.

Volunteers are still needed for all shifts. To volunteer or for more information call 427-2100. If you can't join us on January 18 please answer the call and pledge your support.



SUPER SUNDAY

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If you think we can reach the finish line without you -- cut it out!



Cut out the form below, fill it out and send it in. There is *no way* that our community can attain our goals - *and reach the finish line* - without your help. Volunteer to call your friends and neighbors on Super Sunday to give them a chance to contribute to the 1998 UJA Federation Campaign. And remember, if you can't be with the crew of volunteers on January 18, then answer the call and pledge your support!

The calls and contributions *you* make through SUPER SUNDAY *drive* the quality of life in our community in the year ahead. Super Sunday raises funds for the UJA Federation Campaign, administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware. It is a day long FUN-a-thon in which 200 volunteers will be rallying 2,500 of their friends and neighbors to ask them to contribute to this year's UJA Federation Campaign. Roll out to Super Sunday to help the community shift into high gear.

1998 UJA Federation Campaign
administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware
Fill in the form below, clip it out and send it in today.



TO VOLUNTEER FOR SUPER SUNDAY, PLEASE SPEED THIS REGISTRATION TO
Jewish Federation Of Delaware
100 W.10th Street, Suite 301 Wilmington, Delaware 19801-1628
or fax us at: (302) 427-2438
or call us at: (302) 427-2100

Name: _____ Home Phone Number () _____

Address: _____ Work Phone Number () _____

I will participate from: (These times include a training session)

- 9:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (morning drive-time)
- 11:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 1:15 - 4:00 p.m. (Keep the motor running)
- 3:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (young adult shift, followed by a pizza party)

Yes, I will need child care on January 18 (available in Newark and Wilmington!)



SUPER SUNDAY (NEW CASTLE COUNTY)
WILL BE HELD AT MBNA
IN OGLETOWN-STANTON



No gift touches more lives



DIRECTIONS TO SUPER SUNDAY

FROM POINTS SOUTH: Take I-95 north to Exit 4B (Route 7 North, Route 58). Drive north on Route 7 until it intersects with Route 58, take a left. Drive west on Route 58 until it ends at Route 4. Turn left. Drive past Christiana Hospital. Take a left into the MBNA Christiana Center. We are located in the first building on the right.

FROM POINTS NORTH: Take I-95 south to Exit 4B (Route 7 North, Route 58). Drive west on Route 58 until it ends at Route 4. Turn left. Drive past Christiana Hospital. Make next left into the MBNA Christiana Center. We are located in the first building on the right.

Volunteer - Answer the call - Pledge your support!

BRIEFS

B'nai B'rith And Turkish Representatives To Meet

WASHINGTON, D.C. - B'nai B'rith organized a meeting for representatives of several Jewish organizations to meet with Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz who is in Washington, D.C. for meetings with President Bill Clinton. "We are deeply appreciative of Turkey's efforts to develop warm relations with the State of Israel," said Sidney Clearfield, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith. "This relationship can only serve to bring much needed stability to the region."

In addition to B'nai B'rith, all of the organizations attending the Saturday evening meeting - the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the American Jewish Committee, and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith - have sent delegations to Turkey over the past year.

B'nai B'rith, which has recently opened an office in Brussels to monitor the European Union (EU), told Yilmaz that it would communicate to EU officials that Turkey should not be excluded from the EU on the basis of religion or culture.

B'nai B'rith also expressed its appreciation to Yilmaz for his country's hospitality to the Jewish people in both good and bad times.

State "GET" Law

By ERIC J. GREENBERG
Staff Writer

New York State's get law, which is seen as helping Orthodox agunot, or "chained wives," survived a constitutional challenge last week basically due to a technicality. But the future of the controversial 1992 law, which authorizes judges to take into consideration the circumstances of the agunot when ruling on property division during divorce cases, will remain on the front burner for several Orthodox groups who sharply disagree with it.

At issue is the separation of synagogue and state and the constitutionality of a state law that seems designed to affect a specific religious situation: whether an Orthodox Jewish man is using the rabbinically granted, men-only power to withhold a Jewish divorce, called a get, in order to gain the upper hand in custody battles or division of assets.

Last week a state appellate court ruled 4-0 that a Brooklyn man's constitutional challenge to the get law was moot because his wife already had waived her rights under the law. Thus, the court said, the case of Minna Becher vs. Yehuda Becher was not the proper one to challenge the law.

While "delighted" by the decision Susan Aranoff, founder of the women's advocacy group Agunah Inc., said she was "still worried that the powers that be, as represented in the friends of the court brief against the statute, will look for another case and another woman will be victimized."

Aranoff was referring to a brief filed by Agudath Israel of America, an Orthodox umbrella group, urging reversal of the law. David Zwiebel, Agudah's general counsel, said the Becher case proved significant, despite the outcome, because it established that women have the power to waive their rights granted by the law.

Bronfman Youth Fellowships

ALBANY, N.Y. - Applications are now available for the 1998 Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel.

The Fellowships, now in their 12th year, offer an opportunity for 26 students entering the twelfth grade to spend five weeks in Israel this summer. Fellows will be chosen on the basis of character, intellectual interests, special talents and leadership qualities. In the competitive selection process, merit, not financial need, is the standard for selection.

While living in Jerusalem, the Bronfman Fellows participate in seminars and dialogues with a diverse rabbinic faculty, representing a wide range of Jewish perspectives. They explore Jewish text against the background of Israel's land, culture and customs. In addition, Fellows will meet with some of Israel's prominent political and

literary figures to examine contemporary issues in light of Jewish history and tradition.

In explaining the purpose of the Fellowships, Edgar Bronfman said, "Our hope is to open lines of communication among a group of outstanding young people on the major issues confronting the Jewish people in all its diversity."

High school students in the United States and Canada, who will be in twelfth grade in the fall of 1998, may request an application form and detailed information by mail at The Bronfman Youth Fellowship in Israel, 17 Wilbur Street, Albany, NY, 12202; by telephone at 518-465-6575; by fax at 518-432-8984; by e-mail at yfi@bronfman.org. Visit our web page at: <http://bronfman.org>.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than January 30, 1998.

Celebrating Heschel And Martin Luther King

The Shalom Center, initiator of the world-wide observance of the 25th yohrzeit (death-anniversary) of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, reported that more than 290 rabbis, teachers, and scholars have asked for and received materials to use in their own communities to observe the yohrzeit.

These 290+ people come not only from many communities all over North America, but also from Jerusalem, Berlin, London, Holland, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, and Japan.

In Jewish tradition, death-dates rather than birth-dates are celebrated as memorial times for great teachers.

The world-wide observance was initiated by a letter last June from Rabbi Arthur Waskow, director of The Shalom Center, and Rabbi Arthur Green, professor of religious studies at Brandeis University, former president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and a student of Rabbi Heschel's.

They pointed out that Rabbi Heschel's 25th yohrzeit (18 Tevet, according to the Jewish lunar calendar) will fall on Friday, January 16, 1998. — very close to the date of celebration of Martin Luther King's Birthday on Monday, January 19.

"This confluence is amazingly appropriate," wrote Green and Waskow. "It brings together again two of the wisest American religious leaders of the past generation, who during their lives worked together out of a sense of God's call for healing American society."

"Rabbi Heschel returned from marching alongside Dr. King in Selma, Alabama, to say 'My legs were praying.' His memory calls us not to mere nostalgia, but to exploring how we ourselves can carry the deep experience of God

into public action for peace, justice, and healing of the earth."

Rabbis and teachers who responded to the Waskow-Green letter have created a Council for the Heschel Yohrzeit, chaired by Dr. Susannah Heschel, Rabbi Heschel's daughter and a professor of religion at Case Western Reserve University. (Some members of the Council are noted below.)

Some especially notable observances of the Heschel Yohrzeit are as follows:

In NEW YORK:

At Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, Jan. 16-17, United States Senator Paul Wellstone will join the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Dr. Susannah Heschel, Dr. Edward K. Kaplan (Heschel's biographer), Rabbi Arthur Waskow of the Shalom Center, and others to invoke Rabbi Heschel's teachings and apply them to our own generation. There will be a special Friday-evening dinner, and talks during Shabbat-morning services and a Saturday-evening major public gathering. Information: 212/787-7600.

On Sunday Jan. 18, the national board of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, meeting in New York, will have Susannah Heschel speak on her father's legacy.

Jews for Racial and Economic Justice will sponsor a candle-light vigil for justice at City Hall Tuesday evening, Jan. 20, with Rev. Herbert Daughtry, Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Rev. Peter Laarman, and Rabbi Arthur Waskow among the speakers. Information: 212/964-9210.

Near WASHINGTON, D.C.: A Temple Emanuel on Jan 15, Eugene Fisher, a key leader of the National Catholic Conference, will join students of Rabbi Heschel's

(Rabbis Max Ticktin & Harold White) and Taylor Branch, the biographer of Dr. King, and others in a public forum to honor and to learn from Heschel.

Also in WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Shabbat, Jan. 17: the services at Tifereth Israel Congregation in N.W. D.C. will include special readings and presentations to commemorate Rabbi Heschel, as well as the birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Speaker: Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz, a student of Rabbi Heschel's.

In PHILADELPHIA: The Germantown Jewish Centre is devoting Shabbat Jan. 16-17 to the study of Rabbi Heschel. Its main speaker will be Rev. Richard Fernandez, who was executive director of Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam when both Rabbi Heschel and Dr. King were among its leaders. On Sunday, Jan 18, the Germantown Jewish Centre will host a major public meeting co-sponsored by the Northwest Interfaith Movement and the Northwest Philadelphia Division of the Jewish Community Relations Council, focused on issues of jobs and work in America, in which one of the two speakers will be Rabbi Waskow, speaking on how to apply Rabbi Heschel's teachings on these issues to the present.

In JERUSALEM: On the Yohrzeit day itself three Baka congregations — Kol Haneshama, Mayanot, and Yedidyah (Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox) will do an evening of prayer, study and song. There will begin a campaign to bring Heschel's fusion of Jewish theology, human rights, religious action, anti-racism, prayer, and peace activism to the Israeli public consciousness.

\$5 Million Gift To United Synagogue

The Fuchsberg Family Foundation, a New York-based philanthropic organization vitally involved in Jewish causes, has donated \$5 million to the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism campaign to establish a major Conservative facility in Jerusalem. The announcement was made this week by Rabbi Jerome M. Epstein, Executive Vice-President of the United Synagogue, who declared that the Shirley and Jacob Fuchsberg Center on Agron Street will greatly enhance and expand the Conservative Jewish presence in the State of Israel.

The statement was made during ceremonies in Jerusalem celebrating the planned education and youth center, the centerpiece of the new campus. As part of the ceremony, leaders from diverse arms of the Conservative Movement placed significant items from their respective organizations in a "time capsule" to be embedded in the foundation stone of the building.

In announcing the gift, Rabbi Epstein noted that while the dona-

tion, in itself, is significant, its real import "lies in the vision and commitment of the donors — a vision of what the Conservative Movement can be and a commitment to help us reach our potential."

Noting that the Fuchsberg Family Foundation "shares the dream of building spiritual bridges between North American and Israeli Jewry," Rabbi Epstein added that they also share the belief of the United Synagogue that the current struggle over religious pluralism must do more than produce negativity. Rather, he stated, "They have demonstrated through their generous gift that human beings can work with God to bring miracles in our generation."

The Fuchsberg Family Foundation was established in 1954 by the Honorable Jacob D. Fuchsberg, prominent trial lawyer and judge who served on the New York Court of Appeals from 1975 to 1983. According to Shirley G. Fuchsberg, Chair of the Foundation, the organization was created "to make a difference," not only in issues pertaining to the

Jewish community but in legal matters involving the rights of the individual.

United Synagogue International President Stephen S. Wolnek sees the new Center as a vital part of the organization's mission. Speaking of the need to build bridges between Israelis and Diaspora Jews, Mr. Wolnek noted: "I have always believed that our two communities are interdependent. The Fuchsberg Center will help us forge closer ties."

Capital Campaign Chairman Alan J. Tichnor stated that "for us, this isn't just about buildings. Expanding our presence in Israel is an essential part of the United Synagogue's effort to ensure Jewish continuity into the next century."

Founded in 1913 by Dr. Solomon Schechter as the association of Conservative synagogues in North America, the United Synagogue serves as a resource to its affiliated congregations and works to formulate a Conservative Jewish response to pressing social and religious issues.

Just Say Yes on
January 18

EDITORIAL

Do You Know How Much You're Needed On Sunday January 18 ...

Super Sunday is one day where your volunteer spirit can help Jews in need at home, in Israel and in 60 countries around the world - while you also have fun and nosh.

Join the community in phoning friends and family for their pledges. Special thanks go to Debbie Perch, Caryl Marcus-Stape and Jeff

Stape, co-chairs of a dynamic and hard-working Super Sunday planning committee. Call 427-2100 to volunteer. If you plan to be

at home on January 18, answer the call and pledge your support generously. Remember, no gift touches more lives.

Fifty Years Of A Full Circle?

It's fifty years since the world recognized that the Jews need a safe haven to call home. It's more than fifty years since the horror of the Holocaust. It's fifty years that Jews have made a strong commitment to keeping Israel as a sanctuary, vibrant.

In fifty years our children have come to understand tzdekah, (charitable giving), have planned celebrations in Israel, dreamed of summers in Eretz Yisroel, and even made aliyah.

In these past fifty years the world has come to accept and cheer for the constant struggle under which Israel lives. Conversa-

tion about Israel as a Jewish state is accepted as the norm.

The very establishment of the State of Israel was something of a miracle. In fifty years Israel has developed a Gross National Product that is higher than that of most nations. Jews have been rescued from lives of despair from all over the world and brought to restart their lives of hope. People have walked across countries on foot just to reach Eretz Yisrael. During the '67 war soldiers broke down in tears when they reached the kotel and liberated Jerusalem for the first time in 1900 years. Hadassah Medical

Center is re knowned for its medical innovation and life-giving care. In fifty years, the Jews have taken a barren desert and bathed it in green. In fifty years Israel has attained a reputation of military superiority. Israel has nurtured and been home to world class musicians the likes of Yitzhak Perlman, artists, clothing designers. This tiny country has absorbed enormous waves of immigrants. The start of the peace process has brought pride and a sense of accomplishment to all Jews.

Israel To the Diaspora, is the dream of coming home.

Now fifty years later where are we? Israel is wrestling with pluralism and non-acceptance. This is unfortunate and ironic in the context of fifty years of the haven of a Jewish State with religious freedom.

The Jews have had a 4000-year history of pluralistic beliefs and we have thrived because of them. This is a time for us to continue to celebrate our differences and engage in dialogue as we celebrate our statehood.

In keeping with Israel's Declaration of Independence, only a state committed to both religious pluralism and peace will fully attain its vision.

VOICE BOX

As a human being, as a Jew, and as a lifelong Zionist, I deplore disharmony and its manifestation. Yes, respect is a two way system and we will return respect for respect, tolerance for tolerance, acceptance for acceptance.

Theodore Bikel, addressing 50th Zionist Conference.

Lurie's NewsCartoon



Candle Lighting JANUARY

16TH — 4:43 PM

23RD — 4:51 PM

30TH — 5:00 PM

FEBRUARY

6TH — 5:08 PM

The JEWISH VOICE

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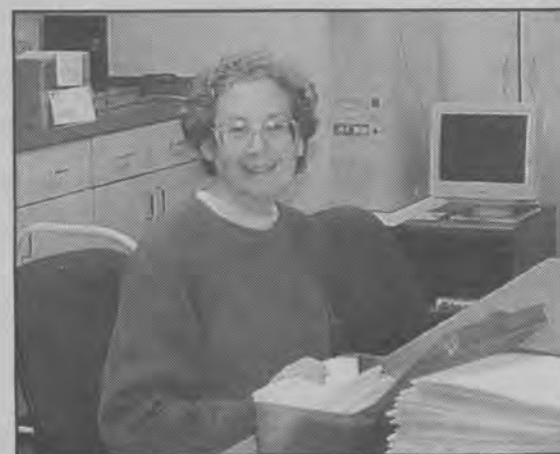
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Many thanks to our JFD hard-working volunteer Gloria Nadel.

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE

for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE	FOCUS	DEADLINE
JAN. 23	JEWISH WOMEN	JAN. 15
IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES & BUSINESS		

All submissions *in person* for The Jewish Voice due at JFD offices or mail: The Jewish Voice, 100 W. 10th St., Suite 301 Wilmington, DE 19801-1628 e-mail: jewishvoic@aol.com

12 NOON THURSDAY EIGHT DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION

12 NOON THURSDAY EIGHT DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION



UD President Roselle Rebukes Holocaust Denial

By DAN WEINTRAUB
JCRC Director

"The fact is that the material is an affront to all of us," said President Roselle in a statement condemning offensive items which ran in a December issue of the University of Delaware's student newspaper, *The Review*. A Holocaust denial ad, a Holocaust denial column and a cartoon widely regarded as anti-Semitic were printed in the December 5 issue of *The Review*.

Roselle's condemnation was printed in a December 18 issue of *UpDate*, another campus publication. The President noted that he would have spoken out sooner but he first wanted to know whether the student journalists had printed this material out of malice or incompetence. He concluded there was no malice on the part of the students.

Roselle characterized the editorial decisions as both independent of the University and as uninformed. He added that "The absurdity of Holocaust denial is exceeded only by its obscenity and it is regrettable that our institution has become associated with such nonsense. The President said his feelings about this incident "are not at variance

with those in the statement from the President's Commission to Promote Racial and Cultural Diversity. (This strong early statement was discussed in the last issue of *The Jewish Voice*).

Roselle advocates that the independent student journalists more broadly consult with others as professional journalists do. He said he was heartened by offers by Holocaust survivors to speak on campus.

Roselle concluded, "I want all members of the campus community to be aware this is a very serious matter. I deeply regret the situation and apologize to all who have been pained by it." He welcomed comments to help their "institution design educational programs or other responses related to this situation...."

On the facing page the *UpDate* published a historical perspective by Raymond Callahan, UD History professor, a December 14, 1997 editorial reprinted from *The News Journal* titled "Student editors made mistakes, but there's no sign of anti-Semitism", and a reprint of an apology issued by *The Review* editor on the student newspaper's Internet web page.

Wilmington High School Wall of Fame

The names and brief biographical sketches of 13 members of the local Jewish community appear on the Wilmington High School Wall of Fame in that institution's building at Lancaster Avenue and DuPont Road.

The wall represents achievements of some 90 persons who have graduated from Wilmington High School over the years. The following are the 13 from the Wilmington Jewish community:

William P. Frank, columnist, editor, radio commentator, historian, actor.

Estelle Frankel, violin teacher.

Dr. Victor H. Frankel, president of the Hospital for Joint Diseases Orthopaedic Institute, New York City.

Mark Golden, State pharmaceutical control officer.

Hon. Daniel L. Herrmann, Chief Justice of the State of Delaware.

Joseph Labovsky, assistant to Dr. Wallace H. Chambers, inventor of Nylon; international consultant of synthetic fibers.

Daniel Nathans, Nobel Laureate in medicine.

Al Mezell, DeLaWarr High School basketball coach.

Herm Reitzes, football player, coach and sports announcer.

Isadore Reitzes, basketball player and umpire.

Martin Sloan, a founder of Charcoal Pit, Sloan's Camera Shop and other businesses.

George Shtofman, political and legislative writer; assistant sports editor and secretary to the Mayor under Albert W. James.

Hymie Swartz, University of Delaware diver and aquatic director of the Jewish Community Center Day Camp at Sellers Estate.

NCJW Offers Women Opportunities

There are many issues that threaten our freedom, our families, and our quality of life. Domestic violence, welfare reform, reproductive freedom, and education, are only some of the many causes to support and there is one vital organization through which you can have a real impact, NCJW.

For over 100 years the National Council of Jewish Women has affected public policy concerning women, children and families in the United States and Israel. Through education, advocacy, research and community service, NCJW has fought for social justice.

Discover what NCJW does and the opportunities it offers women in all stages of life to make a difference in our community.

Wednesday, January 14, 1998, 9:00 a.m.
Temple Beth El

Thursday, January 15, 1998, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Leslie Goldenberg

Tuesday, January 20, 1998, 9:00 a.m.
JCC Board Room

Please RSVP by leaving a message for Barbara Levitt, 302-652-1193 or Barbara Spiller, 610-388-6078.



Dance Troupe Maagal from Mexico City performing at JCC December 25.

Are you concerned about the future of the Jewish Community in Delaware?
Marc Shandler wants to speak with you.
Call him at 427-2100, Ext. 19.

Touch Points

Super Sunday is a Community building fun-a-thon that connects with more Jews than any other activity in Delaware.



JEWISH
FEDERATION
of DELAWARE

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Your contribution helps:

- ✧ Jewish Family Service provide hope to frail elderly at risk of losing their independence.
- ✧ a state-wide Jewish teen coordinator involve teens in programs which bring their Jewish heritage to life.
- ✧ Albert Einstein Academy, Delaware's only Jewish day school, increase standardized test scores over the past recent years.



UJA FEDERATION CAMPAIGN
No Gift Touches More Lives

During Israel's fiftieth anniversary year, the JHSD is collecting material about Delawareans in Eretz Yisrael. Please send papers and pictures about your connection, whether it is brand new or pre statehood, to the JHSD at 505 Market Street Mall, Wilmington 19801 or call the JHSD at 655-6232 for additional information. Selected stories will be published in this column throughout 1998.

NATIONAL

American Jewish Military History On Display

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Hershel Gober, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, visited the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) today, and left "impressed" with the depth of research and professionalism on display at the nation's only museum dedicated to preserving the role of the Jewish American in defense of this country. As he prepared to leave after the tour, Mr. Gober said, "You have a great (museum) here. You should be proud of it."

Museum President Edward D. Blatt, of Philadelphia, PA, led a tour through the Museum's two levels and four exhibits. Mr. Gober, a friend of the Jewish War Veterans for many years, viewed the exhibits with interest and asked many questions of the Museum leadership and staff.

The Museum's current main exhibit focuses on Commodore Uriah Levy, one of American Jewry's greatest patriots and a hero of the U.S. Navy. Levy is known for leading the effort to have corporal punishment banned from use in the Navy and creating the apprentice system. He was also a great admirer of Thomas Jefferson, and after the death of the founding father, Levy pur-

chased and restored Monticello, Jefferson's home, and opened the home to the public. He is considered in some circles as the father of historic preservation. Levy's accomplishments were commemorated by the Navy by having a cruiser named in his honor during World War II, and a chapel at Norfolk Naval Base is also named for Levy.

Past exhibits of the NMAJMH have centered on Jewish chaplains in the military and Jewish soldiers during Operation Desert Storm. NMAJMH has also had exhibits on the end of World War II and the liberation of concentration camps. Future exhibits will focus on the role of Jewish women in the military and Jews in the Civil War, along with Jewish Medal of Honor winners.

The NMAJMH, under the auspices of the JWV, with its exhibits, archives and library, documents and preserves the contributions of Jewish Americans to the peace and freedom of the United States, and informs the public concerning the courage, heroism and sacrifices made by men and women of the Jewish faith who proudly served in our nation's armed forces since its founding.

AJC Urges U.S. Commission To Respond To Religious Persecution

NEW YORK - In testimony before members of Congress, in Philadelphia on December 5th, at a special hearing on religious liberty for the 55-nation Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the American Jewish Committee urged the adoption of a ten-point plan to respond to religious persecution abroad.

Rabbi Andrew Baker, AJC's Director of European Affairs, told the commission that the experience of the American Jewish community in working for freedom of Jews in the former Soviet Union presented "lessons to be learned" that could be applied to assist people elsewhere "who are suffering death, torture, or other grievous abuse of their rights because of their religious beliefs."

Rabbi Baker noted the importance of an international advocacy movement to the success of the Soviet Jewry campaign, as well as its inclusive nature, its attention to meticulous documentation of human rights abuses, and careful consideration of goals and "tactics that would best serve those goals."

The AJC's ten-point plan includes, in particular, a recom-

mendation that sanctions be country-specific and situation-specific. Other points of the plan include:

- Strengthening the universality of all human rights norms, including those affirming religious freedom.
- Encouraging interreligious contacts;
- Speaking out and leading new initiatives wherever possible. At summit meetings, and other high-level encounters, the U.S. should expend greater effort to put religious freedom and other human rights issues into a position of prominence;
- Promoting specialized education at home and abroad;
- Beefing up the field presence at every U.S. embassy to identify and prevent religious persecution while promoting religious freedom;
- Analyzing situations and developing ways to convey facts and concern over religious persecution when and where it exists;
- Strengthening local human rights institutions;

• Working with new constituencies such as women, human rights, religious communities, business activists, and other local constituencies;

• Reviewing and revising U.S. asylum procedures to make them more fair.

In his overview of changes to Jewish communities in some of the countries of the former Soviet Union, Baker said, "Anti-semitism remains, albeit in different forms." New freedoms have allowed for the printing of "rabidly anti-Semitic newspapers" and "the development of political leaders and parties, espousing openly anti-Semitic themes and parties."

The commission hearing was on "The Status of Religious Liberty for Minority Faiths in Europe and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)."

The full text of Rabbi Baker's testimony is available on the American Jewish Committee's web site (www.ajc.org) or by calling (212) 751-4000, ext. 272.

Dershowitz Speaks

By ENID WEISS
The Jewish State

Education rather than fighting anti-Semitism is the key to the survival of Judaism, celebrity defense lawyer Alan Dershowitz told more than 200 people gathered at a Warren synagogue. Dershowitz discussed his new book, "The Vanishing American Jew: In Search of Jewish Identity for the Next Century" and some of his famous clients such as O.J. Simpson, Anatoly Shcharansky, Claus von Bulow, Michael Milken and Jonathan Pollard. He is also a Harvard Law school professor.

He entertained the crowd gathered on Dec. 14 at the Reform Temple Har Shalom with stories and jokes to illustrate his points.

"He was great," Neal Drasin of Warren said about Dershowitz. "He was as funny as Seinfeld, but he had the wisdom and insightfulness of a rabbi on Yom Kippur."

One story took the audience back to 1812 and the war between Napoleon and Czar. Jews were promised better living conditions under French rule. Yet the Lubavitch rabbi prayed for the Czar

on the grounds that the Jews needed oppression to make them strong.

"I call it the Jewish tsouris theory of survival," Dershowitz said.

"If we need enemies ... we're not going to make it," Dershowitz added.

American Jews are entering the post-persecution era of Jewish life, which is why intermarriage and assimilation are so troublesome. Years ago there was no intermarriage because no one wanted to marry a Jew. Now everyone wants to marry a Jew except another Jew, he said.

Instead of framing the issue as "don't date out of the faith," parents should stress the importance of having relationships with other Jews.

"We have an obligation to our children to make Judaism more positive," Dershowitz said. "To put an end to the OEoys' and add more OEjoys'."

(Enid Weiss is a staff writer for *The Jewish State*, an independent weekly newspaper based in Highland Park and covering Central New Jersey.)

Workshop for Parents/Grandparents

Workshop for Parents & Grandparents of Interfaith Couples at Temple Beth El

An Interfaith relationship or marriage often presents stresses and conflicts for families of the couple. If you are facing the difficult feelings and dilemmas involved with your child's intermarriage, please take part in a special two-part presentation and discussion on the topic led by Rabbi Kaplan and Lauren Pokras, MSW, a social worker at Jewish Family Services. We will provide an overview of the issues from several angles, including research done on interfaith marriage, personal impact on par-

enting and grandparenting relationships, coping with holidays, transmitting values to grandchildren and sharing religious values through respectful discussion. Join us on Wednesday, Jan. 21 and Thursday, Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth El.

This workshop is sponsored by Temple Beth El, Jewish Federation of De., and Jewish Family Services. Reservations are due by January 12. There is no charge for the program and is open to all members of the community. Call the Beth El Temple office at 366-8330 for more information.

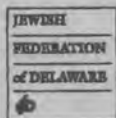
Federation Shabbat with Israeli Holocaust Educator and World Zionist Organization Official Rachel Korazim

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427-2100.



INTERNATIONAL



Fly by night
On a recent trip to Israel, Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met to discuss the work of Jewish National Fund. Lauder, who is JNF president, raised more than just eyebrows after pledges of \$23 million were made by his 11 guests during the visit to see JNF projects in Israel. The invited mission participants flew to Israel aboard his private jet.

Hebrew University Researchers Orchestrate Better Sex For Ostriches

JERUSALEM - Despite one of the showiest displays of the animal kingdom designed to attract the opposite sex, ostriches have a surprisingly low sexual appetite. This, combined with a low fertility rate for their eggs - only 50% - creates a major problem for breeders. In an attempt to enhance reproduction, researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have discovered an unusual way to enhance the love-making process for these difficult, sometimes passionless animals - get the ostrich handlers involved.

A kind of "manage a tri" with a male and female ostrich and a handler heightens the experience for the birds and increases reproduction. Male and female ostriches who have been raised with an especially strong attraction to their handlers are placed together with the handler in an enclosed area, thereby enhancing the ostriches' sexual arousal, according to a team of researchers from the University: Israel Rozenboim, Gadi Gvaryahu, and Nachum Snapir, the Charles Charcowsky Professor of Poultry Science and Animal Hygiene. The research, with support from the Rashi Foundation, was carried out in conjunction with Professor Allan Degen of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Increasing the rate of reproduction is an important economic issue. These rare and lucrative birds pump a significant amount of money into the country's economy, making it second only to South Africa in the field of ostrich raising.

Because the ostrich is prone to violent activity, attempts by farmers to increase reproduction have proven difficult. To help them, Hebrew University's Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences took up the challenge.

When changes in the ostriches' environment and other methods were unsuccessful, the researchers turned to artificial insemination as a way to increase reproductivity. An effort to tempt the male ostrich to ejaculate through the use of female ostrich "sex dolls" was successful, but technical problems involved in the doll's construction made it difficult to collect the semen. By arousing interest in mating through the present of the han-

dlar, the researchers have not only been able to get the male and female ostriches to mate, but the handler, through a special technique, is also able to collect semen for artificial insemination.

Israel's first university, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is today one of the world's leading centers of education and research. With an enrollment of 24,000 students and a faculty of 1,400, the University is non-denominational and attracts students and faculty from Israel and around the world. The University is the premier educational institution in Israel, drawing the best and the brightest students from Israel and 60 other countries.



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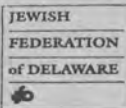


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ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • BOOKS

One Woman's View:

Meet Michael Zinn

By PAULA SHULAK

As the lights went out in the Loudis Recital Hall a few weeks ago, a hushed, expectant silence filled the room. The darkness soon reverberated with the quiet sound of bells, chimes, and gongs, understated by a persistent drumbeat. And as the lights slowly rose again, those of us in the audience were transported to a land far across the sea, to a time long ago and yet as modern as today. I hope that I will be able to share with you through the words of this column some understanding of what a tremendous musical experience I had and to introduce you to the man who was responsible for it.

Meet Michael Zinn, Professor of Music at the University of Delaware, active member of the Newark Jewish Community and creator and Director of one of only four unique musical ensembles on the entire East coast, the Gamelan Lake of the Silver Bear. For those of you who have absolutely no idea of what a Gamelan is (as I did not a year ago), let me hasten to explain that this is one of the oldest type of orchestras in the world and the major performing ensemble of Southeast Asia, native to Indonesia. So, of course, your next question is - what's a nice Jewish boy doing in a turban and authentic Javanese sarong (topped incidentally by a shirt made specially by Land's End) composing and leading the music of a totally foreign

culture? The answer is a fascinating story which Michael recently shared with me in an interview. I have attended two Gamelan concerts at the University of Delaware, one last Spring and one in early December and on both occasions was utterly amazed at the beauty and ability of this music to either lull you into a benign contentment or stimulate you as its beat increased in intensity.

Michael's foray into the music of Southeast Asia began when he read an article almost 20 years ago which stated that Western music comprises only 6% of the total music in the world. It suddenly occurred to him that he was a recognized expert in a discipline that he did not understand from a truly global perspective. So he then began a journey which took him from a Post Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Michigan to colleagues in California (where hundreds of Gamelans exist) to two builders in Vermont who helped him actually construct his own set of clay pot instruments (yes that is how some of this beautiful sound originates) and finally to a six months sabbatical in Indonesia where he took his new bride and they both taught music at the Institute Seni Indonesia in Yogyakarta, Java. Michael and Jennifer taught Western music and at the same time, they learned all they could about Asian music. But I am jumping too far ahead in this

saga! Michael returned from his Michigan fellowship in 1980 and was almost obsessed by the haunting new musical sound he had come to love. He spent day and night building a unique set of instruments (including the clay pots and gongs which he hammered out in his backyard using a balpeen hammer and the construction advice of Wilmington Sheet Metal Company). It took him two years to complete his first set of instruments. As he describes it, "There are hundreds of scales in Asian music in contrast to the equal tempered 1/4 tone scales we are used to hearing in Western music. It's like playing in the cracks of a piano keyboard!"

Technically, Indonesian scales are not standardized as ours are and so no two Gamelans are the same. Michael has built two sets of instruments, one which uses the pelog scale (and which are red in color if you ever go to hear a concert) and one which uses the slendro scale (and are green). The exact tuning is decided by the builder and all instruments in a single set are tuned in the same way because the Asian musicians believe there is a special, unique spirit in each Gamelan. If one builder copies from another, he is stealing that spirit; thus it is not usual for the two sets of instruments to be played together at the same time. It also means that the members of a Gamelan must be very versatile and able to play sev-

eral different instruments in the orchestra. This cleared up a mystery for me, incidentally, because one of the interesting aspects of a Gamelan concert is the fact that following each number, the musicians change places. Can you imagine what we would think if the first violinist of the Philadelphia Symphony suddenly stood up and walked over to a trombonist position and began to play? And, of course that is also why the name of the Gamelan at the University of Delaware is Lake of the Silver Bear. The spirit is their own unique one.

Gamelan music is based on a cypher or numbering system so different from our Western musical notation and harmonic elements. Every pitch on the music used by Gamelan members is numbered and dots underneath indicate the beats. Compositions use stereotyped patterns so players read the numbers which correspond to the numbers on their cymbals, chimes, gongs or clay pots and a magnificent though unusual sound (to our ears) is produced. Some instruments carry the melody, some mark a basic time cycle, and some add an embellishment to the melody. At the concerts I have attended, pieces have included traditional Javanese melodies dating back in the ninth century as well as contemporary compositions which Michael wrote this past year. The Hindu influence is obvious, but

his creative genius in composing modern melodies on such ancient instruments is incredible.

Being a Jew so immersed in the music of a very Moslem country has not always been easy for the Zinns. While they love the Gamelan and the music it brings to their lives, Michael also remembers that at the time they were living in Indonesia, *SCHINDLER'S LIST* had just been produced and released. But Jen and he had to wait until they returned to this country to see it because the film was banned by the government of Java. One can appreciate and admire the culture of other lands; however, it is always wise to remember that we are fortunate to have the freedom to do so. I do urge you to take advantage of the unique musical experience we have at our fingertips here in Delaware. The Gamelan Lake of the Silver Bear will present its spring concert on May 13, 1998 at the University. It's free and open to the public. If this short introduction intrigues you, mark your calendar now! And lest you wonder, Michael Zinn has put his creative energies to work in other musical areas for our community. Perhaps you will also get the chance this year to hear a concert produced by a second ensemble which Michael directs, A Thread of Blue Klezmer Band. This talented Delawarean is a musical treasure of whom we can all be proud.

Marvin Balick's A Social History Of The West Second Street Jewish Community

Reviewed By JULIAN PRIESLER

In New York City "it" was Orchard Street. In Los Angeles "it" was Breed Street and in Detroit "it" was Hastings Street. Well, in Wilmington "it" was West Second Street! Now what exactly is "it?" "It" is the old immigrant Jewish neighborhood — the area where immigrant and first generation Jews lived, shopped and worshipped and the nucleus of the original Jewish Community.

In Wilmington, West Second Street and the immediate surrounding area was the location of the original Jewish neighborhood in the city. There were kosher bakeries, butchers, dairy stores, and delis, as well as other businesses owned by the Jewish residents of the area. The synagogues were close by as were such institutions as the Turkish/Russian Baths (or "the schvitz") and the Jewish "morgue" as it was called.

The Jewish era of West Second Street is now just a memory. Over the years the area declined as the Jewish residents prospered and moved on to other parts of the city and suburbs. Most of the original buildings are gone, having been replaced by the large Delaware Technical and Community College campus.

The history of the West Second Street Jewish Community is being

preserved through the efforts of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD) and retired educator and JHSD Board member Marvin Balick. Mr. Balick has compiled an extensive oral history of this neighborhood in *A Social History of the West Second Street Jewish Community: Wilmington, Delaware 1930-1940*.

I had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Balick specifically about his work on the book and his reasons for undertaking such an enormous project. From start to finish the project has taken him about 1 1/2 years. The purpose of the book is to tell the story of West Second Street and the people who lived there. What was unique about the people of West Second Street was the fact that the community was characterized by family togetherness and much warmth. People helped one another through difficult times and situations. In many ways, the Jews of West Second Street helped to form much of the current day Jewish community. The people interviewed for the book spoke of life in the neighborhood as being hard, but good. The phrase, "we were poor, but happy" was common.

Marvin Balick felt that, because the West Second Street community is now only a memory, the stories

of its past should be told. Many young people today know so little about the history of their own Jewish community. This book is a way to help teach and preserve our past.

A Social History of the West Second Street Jewish Community: Wilmington, Delaware 1930-1940 contains 14 oral history interviews and over 50 photographs. Though the book concentrates on the period 1930 to 1940, there is ample information on the years prior to 1930 and post 1940.

The author's favorite part of assembling this compilation was the process of doing the oral history interviews. The importance of oral history and this book is underscored by the fact that Mr. Philip Simon passed away less than a year after being interviewed for this book. His wonderful memories, stories, and anecdotes are now part of our Jewish community's historical record.

Publication of the book is being sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware. A "Book Signing" will be held on Sunday, January 25th at the Jewish Community Center Library from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Cost of the book is \$18.00. For those unable to attend the program, copies will be available for pick-up at the

Jewish Historical Society and by mail. Postage and handling charges are \$2.50 per book.

For further information, please call the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware at 655-6232.

David Broza

NEW YORK — Popular Israeli artists David Broza, Noa, the Gevatron folk Singers, Chava Alberstein and the Israeli Camerata are among those who will conduct a cultural tour of Israel's fifty year history as a state when ABC-TV broadcasts *Israel: A Nation Sings* on Sunday, January 18, the final production in the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission's 1997-98 "Vision and Values" series.

The program, written and produced by the Jewish Theological Seminary, captures Israel's brilliant

landscape and the diversity of its culture through an in-depth look at the musical expressions that evolved there. *Israel: A Nation Sings* will serve as a kick-off to a year-long birthday celebration and the hundreds of events happening worldwide to commemorate this milestone.

For local times and ABC stations broadcasting *Israel: A Nation Sings*, check local listings. A videotape will be available for purchase following the broadcast.

5th Annual Jewish Video Competition

The Judah L. Magnes Museum presents the Fifth Annual International Jewish Video Competition. The 1998 competition welcomes all entries on Jewish themes from every level and category of production including audio and interactive media. Cash awards

and nationwide screenings. Deadline for entries is March 31, 1998. For entry form and more information, send SASE to:

Video Competition, Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, CA 94705; e-mail: jewvideo@slip.netwchayes

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B'nai B'rith National Jewish Museum

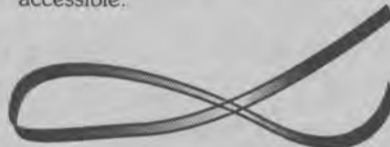
WASHINGTON - The B'nai B'rith Klutznick NATIONAL JEWISH MUSEUM is pleased to present a very special performance piece on January 22, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum galleries. The Penguin Players will present "SEPHARDIC TAPESTRY: A Celebration of the Sephardic Heritage," featuring solo performance artist, Judith Goldsmith.

Ms. Goldsmith's program celebrates the Sephardic heritage by featuring the dramatically moving story of an "underground" Bar Mitzvah during the Spanish Inquisition, as well as mini-portraits of three outstanding women of Sephardic ancestry: Dona Gracia Nasi, who helped many survive expulsion from the Iberian peninsula; Rebecca Gratz, the inspiration for the Jewish heroine in Sir Walter Scott's Ivanhoe; and Emma Lazarus, poet of her people and the "voice" of the Statue of Liberty.

Touring libraries, museums, schools and colleges, religious and charitable organizations, the actress has also appeared Off-Off Broadway, as well as on radio and television. She has been heralded for her ability to provide an extremely powerful performance. Goldsmith is a graduate of Barnard College, trained in the performing arts.

Tickets for this marvelous event are \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members. To make reservations, please contact Kelly Rutt at 202/857-6647.

The National Jewish Museum is located at 1640 Rhode Island Avenue NW, a short walking distance from the Farragut North Metro Station and is handicap-accessible.



Peter Max To Paint Israel 50 Posters

Pop artist Peter Max is now painting in his Manhattan studio colorful posters for Israel's 50th Birthday and for the Israel 50 national concert tour. Plans called for Max to unveil the poster project at the White House with President Clinton in mid-December and on the first night of Chanukah at President Ezer Weizman's house in Jerusalem. Max was the official artist at Clinton's last inauguration.

Unknown to most of his millions of fans, Peter Max was born in Shanghai following the escape by his parents from the Nazis in

Europe. In 1949 he and his family immigrated to Haifa, Israel.

"At the age of 12," Max commented, "I found my life's career as an artist, in Haifa." Max spent nearly five years as a child in Israel learning the language, its culture and customs.

"Having Peter Max join our celebration gives a wonderful and colorful lift to Israel's 50th Birthday. It is a great treat for those of us in the Diaspora and in Israel who want to celebrate with all the enthusiasm we can muster. Having his talent added to our Israel 50 concert tour gives a new dimension to our pro-

ject," stated Phil Blazer, Chairman of Israel 50.

Max is preparing a poster on each of the dramatic readers who are a part of Israel 50. His posters of the celebrities participating will be available, with personal autographs, as a fundraising project for the organizations sponsoring Israel 50.

To date over 50 cities have, or plan, to book Israel 50 in their communities. For further information please call Phil Blazer or our staff at 1-800-ISRAEL-1 (1-800-477-2351).

The Israel Philharmonic 60th Anniversary

Friday, January 23, 9:00 p.m. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra: A 60th Anniversary Gala

On December 26, 1936, in the tiny Jewish settlement of Tel Aviv, Maestro Arturo Toscanini raised his baton over a remarkable new orchestra of first-chair musicians who had been displaced from Germany and Eastern Europe by the rise of Nazism. That premiere concert of the Palestine Orchestra ultimately launched the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, which has become one of the world's most

distinguished symphonies under the brilliant decade-long leadership of Maestro Zubin Mehta. On December 26, 1996, The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra turned 60 with style, putting on a concert featuring a world-famous roster of conductors and musicians-second and third-generation "sons of Israel" who have grown up with and learned from the nation's proudest cultural institution. In addition to great performances, the program offers historical footage, interviews, rehearsals,

social events, backstage activities and narrative by Itzhak Perlman 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, including Artur Rubinstein and Leonard Bernstein. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra will be playing in Philadelphia on Saturday, January 24. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra: A 60th Anniversary Gala airs Friday, January 23 at 9:00 a.m. on TV 12.



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Elena, 67, living in the former Soviet Union, went to bed tonight without any food. She doesn't have any. Please ... answer the call January 18th! Elena needs you.



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Only a few students are selected for this rigorous program. Tatnall graduates over the past four years who have successfully completed the MTS curriculum have been

accepted at some of the finest colleges in the country including Cornell, Dartmouth, Duke, Harvard, Haverford, MIT, Princeton, Smith, Swarthmore, and Yale.

The exam will be administered at The Tatnall School, located at 1501 Barley Mill Road in Greenville. Tatnall is a coeducational college preparatory school for students age three through grade 12. In addition to the school-year program of academics, arts, and athletics Tatnall features extensive summer and extended day programs. Financial aid is available.

To register for the MTS exam, or for more information, contact Mick Ferrucci in the Admissions Office at (302) 892-4285.

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AKIBA

Naomi Itzkowitz, a sophomore at Akiba Hebrew Academy in Merion, has been named a Kodak Young Leader under a national program sponsored by the Eastman Kodak Company. Itzkowitz is the daughter of Edith and Herman Itzkowitz of Bala Cynwyd.

Naomi was named on the basis of her outstanding leadership qualities and academic achievement. As a Kodak Young Leader, Itzkowitz will receive an award from Kodak and will be eligible to apply for a Young Leaders Scholarship at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York.

Naomi was nominated by Glenn Simpson, Athletic Director at Akiba, who says, "In addition to being a top notch student, Naomi is very active in the athletic program. She was selected to be captain of the Girls Cross Country team and serves as manager and statistician for the Boys' Varsity Basketball team."

Naomi also serves on the Board of Young Judea and is active in the Student Association, French Club and musical production at Akiba.

Charter School

In just its second year of operation, the Charter School of Wilmington is already a hit with parents and students. Applications for the ninth grade have increased from 175 a year ago to 252 this year - an increase of 44%.

Charter schools are independently-operated public schools. In the case of the Charter School of Wilmington, the school operates under the auspices of a business consortium which includes six local corporations.

The academic focus of the Charter School of Wilmington is mathematics and science. The school's founders recognize that almost every career today (and even more in the future) requires a grounding in these fields. In Delaware this may be even more important than in other states because of the large number of science and technology oriented companies located here. To learn more about the school call the admissions office at (302) 651-2727.

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ALBERT EINSTEIN ACADEMY
 At left, Geography Bee participants from Albert Einstein Academy. Top row, left to right: Pamela MacDonald, Kyle Fretwell, Jessica Ram, Michael Xarholakos; Second row: Josh Swinger, Jessie Neipris, Briana Mamberg; Bottom row: Lara Goldstein, Ben Warheit, Beryl Schragger, Jeff Kralovec, Russell Katz.

TOWER HILL STUDENTS GO STRAIGHT TO THE SOURCE FOR ANSWERS ABOUT DEMOCRACY

Is the public truly informed about political issues? What would presidential elections be like if there were no electoral college? What kind of privacy rights do homeless people have?

These are examples of the questions ten seniors at Tower Hill School are asking in their Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. Government and Politics course. And they've been calling on political experts to help them decide on some answers.



Tower Hill senior Chelsea Beck contributes to a discussion about the merits of an electoral college while classmate Jonathan Kauffmann looks on.

Ed Freel, Delaware's Secretary of State, discussed federalism with the class in October. Catherine Blough, Assistant Director of the Delaware office of the American Civil Liberties Union, visited the class in November. Upcoming scheduled guests include Michael Battaglia, Delaware's Recorder of Deeds, who will talk about campaigning; William Wood, a lobbyist; Richard Bayard, chair of the Democratic National Committee of Delaware; and Basil Battaglia, chair of the Republican Committee of Delaware.

"Our guests add a tangible dimension to the students of politics," explains teacher C.T. Henry. "My students are all intellectually curious, and having visitors in the class gives them an opportunity to ask questions of people who are experts in their fields."

The students will take the three-hour AP exam in May, and Henry is expecting similar results as last year, when the class averaged a score of 3 out of a possible 5. But Henry's real goal is more long term. "One of the most important things my students can get out of this class is an understanding of the importance of politics and their role as citizens," he explains. "I want to give them a base of knowledge they can use to approach what the politicians are saying and what the media is saying."

And it looks as though that goal has been met. Many students in the class report that they have a new appreciation of politics. They now see politics as both a fascinating public arena and a crucial personal matter. Jonathan Kaufmann says that the class has helped him figure out where he falls in the political spectrum. Kaizer Campwala reports that "our study of privacy has changed my mind about the government's right to know about me." Preparation for an AP exam aside, this course has helped each student prepare for informed, life-long participation in the American democracy.



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TOWER HILL SENIORS GARNER NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Thirty percent of the senior class at Tower Hill School, a private, PK-12, co-educational college preparatory school located in Wilmington, Delaware has been recognized in the 1998 National Merit Scholarship Competition either as commended scholars or as semi-finalists. To qualify for recognition, students must be among the highest scorers on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).



Five of Tower Hill's 46 seniors were named National Merit Scholarship competition semi-finalists. Left to right: Alope Chatterjee, Kaizer Campwala, Maria Karas, Gerard Baltazar and Fred Baiz.

Fred Baiz, Gerard Baltazar, Kaizer Campwala, Alope Chatterjee, and Maria Karas are semi-finalists in the competition and will be notified of any further honors in the spring. These students represent 11% of Tower Hill's senior class. This is the highest percentage of semi-finalists at any single school in Delaware.

Nine other seniors were named commended scholars. They are: Andy Finkelman, Chip Gates, Jeff Hobbs, Jordan Hollender, Zach Johnston, Johathan Kaufmann, Danielle Morris, Greg Roeborg, and Laurie Smith.

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SYNAGOGUE LIFE

Rabbi Writes Rabbi David Kaplan

A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are much too numerous for us. Let us deal shrewdly with them so that they may not increase; otherwise in the event of war they may join our enemies in fighting against us and rise from the ground." (Exodus 1:8-10, The Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures, The Jewish Publication Society.)

From these words at the beginning of the book of Shemot, we begin to understand the personality of the new Pharaoh. It would appear that he not only never knew Joseph personally, but in addition, as Rashi suggests, he acted as if he had not even heard of Joseph. Pharaoh then poses a possibility that since the Israelites have grown in numbers, maybe someday they will turn on Pharaoh and the Egyptians. There might some day be a war and the Israelites might join the enemy. The second thought suggests that Pharaoh may be paranoid. Since the Israelites had not shown any signs of being disloyal up to that point, why would someone think that they would suddenly become traitors? If Pharaoh was not paranoid, then the idea that Israelites might become enemies of the Egyptians was but an excuse to enslave them.

Normally, we as Jews concentrate on the fact that we became slaves and that this is a story of how God freed us from that slav-

ery. Perhaps this story should lead us to ask some other questions. First, if the famine was only seven years in length, why are the Israelites still in Egypt after so many years? Should they have not returned to Canaan? Was Goshen such a wonderful place that no one thought of going home?

One might also look at Pharaoh's personality and realize that many of us act in a similar fashion at times. Are we not guilty of forgetting many of the good things that people have done for us? How often in describing our side of an argument do we forget important details, details which might slant the story, at least partially in favor of the other person?

Are we not often like Pharaoh in imagining the worst? Most of us will have a difficult situation at times, and before we know all the facts, we will imagine the worst. We will assume the worst case scenario. Then, combining our convenient lack of memory and our assuming that things will turn out for the worst, we make decisions which we think show wisdom but are like Pharaoh's decision to embitter the lives of the Israelites. And like Pharaoh, when friends try to tell us about the flaws in our thinking, we will not listen. Our hearts become hardened, and we become entrenched in what we believe to be reality.

When Pharaoh began the process of enslaving the Israelites,

he never assumed that any harm would come to him. He believed that his actions would only bring pain on others. Even when the plagues began, his heart was so hardened that he was unable to see what was happening to him.

When our hearts become hardened and we are convinced that others are all wrong, we begin to put ourselves into a situation in which we cannot see the harm we are doing to ourselves. At times like this, we are in Mitzrayim, the Hebrew word for Egypt. The root of Mitzrayim, *tzar* means a narrow place. The Yiddish word *tzuris*, trouble, comes from the same root. When we become like Pharaoh, ignoring important facts, imagining the worst, and making poor decisions based on our faulty thinking, we enslave ourselves.

However, as the Israelites were freed from slavery, so we too may find a way out of our *Tzuris*. In the Hagaddah we are told that all of us are required to see ourselves as personally having gone forth from slavery. There is hope when we stop emulating Pharaoh and become more like Moses. This is not to say that such action is always taken willingly; even Moses argues with God about the task God assigned to him. But, Moses did listen instead of having a hardened heart.

May we all strive to be more like Moses and free ourselves from the slavery we create for ourselves.

Jewish Identity And Religious Commitment

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Just how effective are the myriad programs and services designed to promote Jewish identity and commitment to the faith and traditions? This is the question being asked repeatedly - in rabbis' studies, in offices of educational directors, around the tables of synagogue boardrooms and wherever Jews gather to talk about their future.

Dr. Jack Wertheimer, provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary who directed the study, and his team of scholars tackle it head-on in their latest published findings, "Jewish Identity and Religious Commitment." In this series of eight specially-commissioned essays, Drs. Wertheimer, Samuel C. Heilman of the Graduate Center of CUNY, Barry A. Kosmin of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research in London, Steven M. Cohen of Hebrew University in Jerusalem and others reflect on their findings. Their work offers sharp new insights into issues that have implications for the Jewish community and its policy-makers nationwide.

Among the most significant conclusions:

- Too few American Jews and Jewish women are seen by our children as role models;
- Among today's young teens: God is in, fear of anti-Semitism is out, but so is marrying Jewish;
- Only the richest and poorest among us can afford a day school education;
- Many converts to Judaism have stronger religious commitments than ethnic connections;
- Children in conversionary households need to learn the value of infaith marriage;
- How Jews are dispersed geographically affects their religious identity and observance.

The challenges raised by this report are serious ones: What values are being transmitted to our youngsters through our system of Jewish education? To what extent do parents and their children share religious beliefs and perspectives on a Jewish lifestyle? What have we learned about Conservative Jewry that can help Jewish community centers, synagogues and a host of other communal agencies in their planning of future programming and services?

"Jewish Identity and Religious Commitment" is a project of the Ratner Center for the Study of Conservative Judaism at the Jewish Theological Seminary and has been produced under a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts. Its publication was financed by the Detroit-based private foundation of Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman. Copies are available through the Seminary's office of the provost. Please telephone (212) 678-8065.

The Jewish Theological Seminary is the spiritual and academic center of Conservative Judaism worldwide.

Golden Jubilee Raffle

In celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary, AKSE Sisterhood is sponsoring the GOLDEN JUBILEE RAFFLE 1998. Here's the deal. You buy a raffle ticket for \$18

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ISRAEL AT 50

Israel At 50 Celebrating

Delaware's Connection To The Holyland



By **TONI YOUNG**
Past President of JFD &
President of JHSD

For more than seventy years, Delawareans have traveled to Eretz Yisrael to work, study, tour, visit relatives, and attend conferences. They have assisted in the development of the country, have experienced the connectedness of the Jewish people, and have enriched the Delaware community upon their return. Some have even made aliyah.

In celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary, the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware, in cooperation with The Jewish Voice, will feature stores about Delawareans in the Holyland. Our series will encompass a wide variety of experiences and perspectives. We will integrate stores from early prestate days with those of 1997-98. By exploring the breadth and meaning of our community's connections to the Holyland, we will be in a better position to forge new bonds for the twenty-first century.

In February 1923, William Topkis, one of Wilmington's leading businessmen and civic leaders, his wife Vi, and their young daughter Esther, arrived in Haifa. During their months in Eretz Yisrael, Topkis opened an American Information Bureau, directed and produced "Palestine Awakening," a travelogue to attract American tourists to Eretz Yisrael, became an advocate of the need for Americans in Palestine, and assisted a wide range of community efforts, like the Asylum for the Blind and the Artisans' organization.

William Topkis, born in Odessa, Russia in 1878, arrived in Delaware with his parents, Jacob and Rosa, and siblings David, Louis, Sallie, and

Charles by 1884 when brother Harry was born in Wilmington. In 1895, William and Louis opened a dry goods store at 417 King Street. The successful store, later known as Rosa Topkis dry goods and Topkis Brothers, was run by William and Charles until 1923. William Topkis was so well-respected that was made a board member of Delaware Trust circa 1910 and held the position until his resignation in 1924. He became a friend of Samuel Goldwyn and a partner in the Goldwyn Picture Company. Topkis served the Jewish community in numerous capacities including as president of the YMHA and secretary of Adas Kodesch. In 1917, Delaware Jews elected him as their delegate to the first American Jewish Congress, held at the end of World War I.

During the 1920s, Topkis became increasingly active in national Zionist affairs. He decided to spend several months in Eretz Yisrael because only by going and staying there could he get a real picture of what was happening. Topkis had no personal interest in moving to Palestine, but he recognized the need for a homeland for others. In January 1921, before he embarked on his trip to Eretz Yisrael, Topkis wrote to a friend, "My parents, brothers, sister and thousands of others of my people, have had a wonderful opportunity here in America. We have taken advantage of it, have given America all that is in us and intend to do so hereafter, but we have presently an immigration law that is very strict and which is liable to become stricter, not allowing the same opportunities for my people to have the same advantages as I have had here. Therefore, some haven must be made for them

where they can go out of the war-stricken lands ... Palestine can absorb several millions of them."

Palestine of the 1920s appeared very foreign to the American tourist. Upon arriving in Haifa, Topkis wrote in his diary, "Went to synagogue, dirty unkept place, and said kadesh for my mother. Streets in lower part of town very narrow and dirty. What an impression of our



first view of our homeland." Indeed, a major problem in Palestine in the early 1920s was the tourists' difficulty in finding accurate information about the work being done in Palestine. The official tour guides were not Jewish and did not show Jewish sites. Tourists returned with their minds poisoned against the work of the Palestine Foundation Fund. To solve this problem, in March 1923, Topkis planned and opened an American Information Bureau to train and supply Jewish guides. The American Information Bureau took visitors to places that were interesting to them, provided

information about the work being done, and encouraged businessmen to invest in Eretz Yisrael. During the months he was in Eretz Yisrael, Topkis paid the office rent and his secretary's salary himself.

Topkis became increasingly aware of the need for Americans in Eretz Yisrael. He later explained, "What Palestine needs most is for successful American Jewish businessmen to go there and apply their experience, their capital and their energy to the building of the land ... American Jewish businessmen of creative ability would unlock the natural resources of Palestine, many of which have as yet been untouched, and remedy the present disproportion between agriculture and industry, thus furnishing many employment opportunities for immigrants ... I am convinced that one hundred men of that type would revolutionize Palestine in a period of five years."

On May 1, Topkis agreed to direct a film that the pioneer filmmaker, Yaakov Ben Dov was shooting for the Jewish National Fund. With his characteristic efficiency, Topkis hired an actor to play the American tourist and engaged a real guide to play the role of the guide on May 2, and began filming the next day. In "Palestine Awakening," a tourist, John Bloomberg, is persuaded to leave his ship and spend twenty-four hours in Eretz Yisrael. "Only twenty-four hours," Bloomberg insists. "There can be nothing to see in this filthy Orient." After touring the entire country for thirty days, Bloomberg becomes enamored of Eretz Yisrael and decides to return to the United States to close up his affairs and come to live in the land of his fathers. Although the film was a propaganda piece, it captured the excitement and spirit of pioneers

building a country of immigrants. "Palestine Awakening" was translated into thirteen languages and shown around the world for several years.

At the end of June, when the Topkis family left Eretz Yisrael for Egypt, Europe and the Zionist Congress in Carlsbad, their numerous friends, including all of the guides, feted them. "What a send off! How fine, it is good to have friends," Topkis wrote in his diary. Topkis' intimate connection with people in Palestine resulted in his increased work for the Zionist Organization during the next two years. According to the *Jewish World*, "William Topkis made Wilmington, Delaware the leading city in the country in giving to Keren Hayesod. In proportion to its population, Wilmington gives annually more than any other city in the country. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Topkis who has headed every campaign in Wilmington, every Jew in that city has given at least the minimum contribution of \$25 to the Palestine Reconstruction Fund. That record has never been equaled elsewhere."

When he died in 1925, "a whole city came to honor a fellow citizen." Topkis was a "beloved man, respected for his work, and loved and respected for his personality."

During Israel's fiftieth anniversary year, the JHSD is collecting material about Delawareans in Eretz Yisrael. Please send papers and pictures about your connection, whether it is brand new or pre statehood, to the JHSD at 505 Market Street Mall, Wilmington 19801 or call the JHSD at 655-6232 for additional information. Selected stories will be published in this column throughout 1998.

50 Years Ago In Jewish Telegraph Agency Dispatches

LAKE SUCCESS Nov. 10 (JTA) - A 10-point plan which bridges the gap between the American and Soviet proposals for implementation of Palestine partition was agreed on this afternoon in the four-nation working group. The plan, which was based chiefly on Russian modifications of the Canadian compromise proposal, was hailed by other delegations and by leaders of the Jewish Agency as paving the way for approval of a Jewish state at the current session of the U.N. General Assembly. It provides for, among other steps, the following:

- The mandate for Palestine shall terminate by May 1, 1948 and the armored forces of the Mandatory power shall be withdrawn by that date.

- The independent Arab and Jewish states shall come into existence in Palestine on July 1, 1948, or at such earlier date subsequent to May 1 as the United Nations Security Council approves as desir-

able and practicable.

RESTITUTION LAW PROMULGATED IN U.S. ZONE OF GERMANY BY AMERICAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON (Nov. 10 JTA) - A restitution law providing for the return of Jews and other religious, racial and political persecutees of property stripped from them by the Nazis between Jan. 30, 1933 and May 8, 1945 became effective today in the American zone in Germany.

A joint release by the Departments of State, of the Army and the Office of Military Government announces the establishment of a Central Filing Agency at Bad Neuheim, Germany, through which claims to real estate, business property, securities, personal and other types of property may be filed up to Dec. 31, 1948.

No provision is made in the law for the restitution to Jewish organizations of money accruing from heirless Jewish property. Within the next few weeks, however, another regulation of the law will

be completed which will designate a central Jewish organization to "succeed to" heirless Jewish property and to distribute any funds accruing from it among Jewish organizations for use in assisting persecutees. Section 10 of the law provides that property shall revert to the German state but shall either be returned to its rightful owner, if living, or to a "successor organization" designated by the American Military Government.

EXODUS JEWS REFUSE TO ACCEPT DP STATUS OFFERED THEM BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES

WILHELMSHAVEN, Germany, Nov. 11 (JTA) - The Exodus Committee, representing the refugee Jews at the camp here, refused today to accept displaced persons' cards offered by the British authorities. The committee insisted it would accept only Palestine certificates.

A spokesman said the Jews did not wish to become DP's, pointing out that they were forcibly removed "from our home, Palestine, and

must return there, where we seek to establish a normal life." The British had renewed their offer in order to clear up the status of the refugees who have no official status at present although they received DP assistance.

SOME ARAB STATES PLAN TO INTERN NATIVE JEWS AS "ENEMY ALIENS" IF JEWISH STATE FORMED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 12 (JTA) - The preparations of the Arab League states to oppose the partition of Palestine by force include a plan to intern as enemy aliens leaders of Jewish communities in Arab states suspected of harboring Zionist sympathizers, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned. This report follows the recent visit to Baghdad, capital of Iraq, of Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, secretary general of the Arab League.

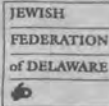
It is not known for the present whether Egypt, with its population of 80,000 Jews, is prepared to go along with this scheme. Iraq, on the other hand, probably will, judging by the frequently expressed

anti-Jewish sentiments of Emir Abdul Ilah, the Regent. Of all Arab states, Iraq has the largest Jewish minority, numbering more than 100,000, concentrated mostly in Baghdad.

BRITISH MAINTAIN REFUSAL TO JOIN IN IMPLEMENTING SOLUTION OPPOSED BY ARABS OR JEWS

LAKE SUCCESS, Nov. 13 (JTA) - The British Government, although it will not take any action contrary to a decision of the U.N. General Assembly, will not actively participate in implementing a solution of the Palestine problem which is not agreeable to both Jews and Arabs, Sir Alexander Cadogan today told the U.N. subcommittee on partition.

The chief of the British delegation to the U.N. said that his government cannot assume responsibility for administration of Palestine after termination of the Mandate, which it will feel free to relinquish as soon as it becomes clear that there is not possibility of Arab-Jewish settlement.



PANIM EL PANIM



The Jewish Community Center, The New Jewish Neighborhood

The Jewish Community Center, the hub of the Jewish community, could also be aptly called Delaware's "New" Jewish neighborhood, a neighborhood that includes families from neighboring southeastern Pennsylvania all the way to Newark and Hockessin. It's at the JCC where one can see, hear, smell and experience the flavor of Yiddishkeit... all under one roof!

From the moment one approaches the Center, the welcome is unmistakably Jewish... the Garden of the Righteous and the sign on the side of the building proclaiming, "Heenay ma tov umanayim shevet schim gam yachad: Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." And upon entering the building, the displays of Judaica abound... from the Agam Mezuzah, the framed Ketubah, the Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Purim, Pesach, and Chanukah displays to

Rosenstein's "Dor L'Dor", Generation to Generation painting. The Jewish ambiance is further enhanced by the sounds of Israeli and Yiddish music throughout the lobby, the Art Gallery, which features Jewish artists on Jewish themes, varied displays by the Jewish Historical Society and the permanent wall honoring the community's Jewish War veterans.

A neighborhood is a place where children are nurtured, where they feel comfortable and safe and where they can interact with other children and be guided, influenced and loved by adults. JCC's Jewish neighborhood is such a place, where the 800 children who are part of pre-school, day-care, after-school care or camp have the opportunity to grow and become enriched by the rauch (spirit) that is part of every program.

On Friday mornings the JCC becomes the Jewish neighborhood's bakery, where challahs are

sold in the lobby. Kabbalat Shabbat is celebrated by the pre-schoolers, their parents and Staff, and the Seniors enjoy a pre-Shabbat traditional luncheon that includes fragrant roasted chicken and challah. And at the close of Shabbat, when the school-age children gather for clubs 34 and 56 and the teens meet for their programs, the evening begins with Havdalah, the fond farewell to the Sabbath.

Cultural programs at the JCC include the annual Jewish Women's Gathering, Jewish Book Fair, featuring hundreds of titles for children and adults. Book Fair Author Series, Film Series, the Sol Toumarkine Family Education Series, The Jewish Great Books Group and the Adult Institute of Jewish studies, which this year culminated with a presentation by John Loftus, noted author. Recently, the JCC has become the site for the Jewish Heritage Video Series, (co-sponsored with Albert

Einstein Academy, Gratz Hebrew High School, and the Jewish Federation of Delaware), which is available to the community. Since 1994 the JCC has also been the site for several Elderhostels, where participants gather from all over the country to study topics of Jewish interest, enjoy strictly kosher meals and Shabbat services, socialize and take advantage of the Fitness Center, pool and Family Campus.

The JCC is also the meeting place for a Jewish Boy Scout troop and a very active AZA and BBG, part of the B'nai Brith Youth Organization. In addition, the JCC has a teen lounge with fooseball, ping pong table, and stereo that is designated exclusively for the "older children" in the community and staffed by the Community Teen Director, Lauren Nassau. Our JCC also hosts YJAD (Young Adults of Delaware) where Jewish singles can meet, mingle and enjoy sports and social events. And, yes,

many "matches" have been made at the JCC!

Maimonides, the great Jewish philosopher, writer and physician, extolled and virtues of not only a sound mind, but a sound body, as well. JCC's Fitness Center, which boasts an olympic size pool, Spa, Fitness Center and racquetball courts makes health and wellness a priority. In addition, the JCC is a venue for flu shots for seniors, and in conjunction with Jewish Family Services, sponsors awareness programs for breast and prostate cancer.

And finally, what neighborhood would be complete without a playground? Ours is a playground with a Jewish theme, from the star of David sandbox to Haifa Highway, King David's castle and Noah's Ark.

Yes, the JCC is the community's "New" Jewish neighborhood! Come be a part of it.

For more information, please call Ella Zukoff, Membership Director, at 478-5660.

Federation Shabbat Features Rachel Korazim

By DAN WEINTRAUB
Special to The Jewish Voice
On Friday, January 30 and Saturday, January 31, Israeli Holocaust educator Rachel Korazim will be in Delaware for the annual Federation Shabbat which will be held this year at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Services Friday night begin at eight o'clock. On Saturday after Mincha at 4 p.m., Korazim will lead a study session with the Seudah Shlishshit meal at 4:30 p.m. All of Delaware's Jewish congregations are invited to the Federation Shabbat and Study Session.

Federation Shabbat has been an uplifting tradition connected to the UJA Federation Campaign. The event brings Delaware's Jews together in unity and uniquely as a campaign event it involves religious services. Federation Shabbat is held at a different congregation each year.

Rachel Korazim is a dynamic speaker who came to Delaware last year to speak to the Jewish community in Dover. Korazim is a Holocaust educator who has also met with members of the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee to discuss innovative approaches to Holocaust educa-

tion. On Sunday, February 1 she will serve as a resource for a teachers seminar sponsored by the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Korazim is the director of high school programs for the Department of Jewish Education and Culture in the Diaspora, a division of the World Zionist Organization. She also heads its East European Desk. As an official with the World Zionist Organization Korazim has traveled to Europe and North America to promote Jewish life. The Israeli-born Korazim graduated from Haifa University with a B.A. in English and French literature and an M.A. degree in English literature specializing in Holocaust literature. She is fluent in a number of languages. The Jewish Federation of Delaware administers the 1998 UJA Federation Campaign. The UJA Federation Campaign benefits people at home, in Israel and in 60 countries around the world. No gift touches more lives. For more information call 427-2100.

Albert Einstein Academy Honors Eta Knepler

On Friday evening, Dec. 19, 1997, Albert Einstein Academy students conducted the service at Beth El in Newark. The service was dedicated to Mrs. Eta Knepler who has been teaching at the Academy for 25 years. Mrs. Knepler was born in Israel and came to the Wilmington area over a quarter century ago. She and her husband of blessed memory raised their family in this area. Mrs. Knepler has taught at Einstein and other synagogue schools throughout the Wilmington area.



Mary Blumenfeld, Mrs. Eta Knepler, Shoshana Blum.



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INTERNATIONAL

Zionist Congress Resolution On Pluralism

Text of Zionist Congress resolution:

Whereas religious and secular pluralism in Israel is a subject of concern for Zionists in the Diaspora, the Congress calls on all the political parties in Israel to recognize the fact that:

A. In a democratic society, the expression of Judaism must be pluralistic.

B. Secular and religious Jews, of all the streams, have equal democratic rights to observe their faith and lifestyles their own way.

C. An attempt by any entity to impose religion or to prevent its observance by the other side, is anti-democratic and is liable to undermine respect toward Judaism.

With concern and criticism in Israel and abroad regarding the reality as it has developed since then within the Jewish world.

With deep apprehension for the unity of the Jewish people, the Congress calls on the leadership of the religious streams in Israel and abroad to work in cooperation with the Israeli government to ensure the success of the Ne'eman Commission's work, in its efforts to solve the painful issues on the agenda of the Jewish people, among them issues within the area of personal status and the possibility of operating in Israel.

If, God forbid, this cooperation is not successful, the Congress calls on the movement's management and institutions to take all the appropriate steps in order to continue calling on the Israeli government:

1. Not to allow any change in the Law of Return, which is one of the foundations for the identification of the Jewish people with the State of Israel in all the Jewish

communities throughout the world.

2. To refrain from any legislative changes, or new religious legislation, unless it is done through broad consensus and consideration of all the sectors of the people in Israel and abroad.

3. To maintain open and frank dialogue with all the sectors of the Jewish people about the challenges, the opportunities and the dangers that the Jewish people face, and about reinforcing its spiritual strength.

The Zionist Congress condemns the recent violent and sacrilegious acts, among them the arson burning of a preschool, aimed at individuals and religious and educational institutions in Israel.

The Congress calls on all involved public figures to avoid hurtful and degrading statements, which call for the banning of sectors of the Jewish people due to

their different interpretations of Judaism and its sources.

The Zionist movement is a pluralistic Jewish movement, which holds of supreme importance the maintaining of the wholeness of the Jewish people, which is being variegated and enriched thanks to the great number of its views and the many positions of its members.

The Zionist movement respects, both in theory and in practicality, the inclusion of the various interpretations of Judaism and its tradition in the spirit of pluralism in Judaism. The Zionist movement is unique in as much as it is the singular volunteer, democratic movement within the Jewish people. [It is] a movement that maintains cooperation among all sectors of the Jewish people with equality and mutual respect.

The Zionist Congress instructs the Zionist management to call on

the Israeli government to adopt and implement the spirit of this resolution, followed by the Congress Resolution No. 94 namely: "Equal Rights for all Streams in Judaism."

The Zionist movement will continue to seek and to work for the establishment of mutual appreciation among all the streams and ideologies within Judaism in accordance with these values.

If, God forbid, the efforts of the Ne'eman Commission are not concluded successfully, the Congress calls on the government, in accordance with the proposal made by the Labor-Meretz faction, the New faction, The Center [faction] and others, to refrain from passing the Conversion law, The Congress puts on the record the position held by Hamizrachi, Likud, Tsomet, Moledet, and others, which opposes this stance for religious and conscientious reasons.

Israel Museum Receives \$42M Gift

The Board of Directors of the Israel Museum announced today a \$42 million gift from the late Caroline and Joseph Gruss for the construction of a new 130,000 square-foot facility for visitor resources, orientation, and special programming. During their lives, Caroline and Joseph Gruss generously supported education and cultural projects in the State of Israel. Constructed at the entrance of the existing 20-acre Museum campus, the new building will serve as the gateway to the Museum's 500,000-square-foot facility and 6-acre sculpture garden, preparing visitors for the experience of its diverse collections and programs. As an acknowledgment of the importance of this gift, one of the largest ever made to an art museum, the Israeli government is contributing an additional \$8 million toward the project.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of the State of Israel, stated, "The Israel Museum is a global institution. This gift will enhance its international stature and improve immeasurably the experience it offers to the people of this country and to visitors from abroad for generations to come. On behalf of the people of Israel, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the Gruss family for bringing this gift to Jerusalem and to the people of Israel."

Martin Gruss, son of Caroline and Joseph Gruss of New York, said, "I conceived this gift as a tribute to my parents because they had a deep love of the arts, culture, and education and an extraordinary commitment to helping people and enriching the lives of others."

The new visitor resource and orientation center will unify the architecturally diverse six-building Museum campus; bring cohesion to its broad array of collection, exhibition, and service facilities; and enhance immeasurably the overall Museum experience. It will include interpretive facilities for visitors with different levels of cultural and historical knowledge; a new

auditorium and other spaces for public programs; and services and amenities to enhance the Museum experience and ensure that it is meaningful and accessible to the broadest range of the public. The project also includes new routes for pedestrian and vehicular traffic and below-ground parking.

Founded in 1965, the Israel Museum is the largest cultural institution in the State of Israel with encyclopedic collections ranging from archeology, Judaica, and ethnography, to all forms of Western and non-Western art, from Old Masters to contemporary art. The Museum, which receives 750,000 to 1,000,000 visitors annually from Israel and from around the world, mounts nearly forty exhibitions each year and has a permanent collection of nearly 500,000 objects. The collection encompasses the most comprehensive holdings of Biblical and Holy Land Archeology in the world, including The Dead Sea Scrolls, housed in the architecturally-renowned Shrine of the Book; the world's most comprehensive collection of Jewish ceremonial art and ethnography; a fine arts collection of over 125,000 objects encompassing Old Masters through Impressionism, and modern and contemporary international and Israeli art; and works from Asia and the Far East, Oceania, Africa, and the ancient Americas; a Youth Wing offering programs for 100,000 children and adults each year; and the Billy Rose Art Garden, designed by Isamu Noguchi in 1965, which displays modern and contemporary sculpture.

James Ingo Freed, of the renowned architectural firm of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners, has been commissioned to design the new \$50 million visitor orientation center. Acclaimed for his work worldwide, Mr. Freed has extensive experience in designing new facilities for cultural institutions, most recently the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and

the San Francisco Public Library. The expansion of the Israel Museum marks his first project in Israel. In many ways, the building project will address the same issues which the Grand Pyramid resolved for the Louvre Museum in Paris, designed by Mr. Freed's partner, I.M. Pei. Mr. Freed is working in association with Arthur Spector of the Jerusalem architectural firm of Spector/Amisar.

Teddy Kollek, former Mayor of Jerusalem and Founder and President of the Israel Museum, stated, "Thirty-two years ago when the Israel Museum opened to the public, we realized our dream of establishing a national cultural center for the new State of Israel. Since that time, the Museum has become a vital part of this country and has gained international renown. This extraordinary initiative on the part of the Gruss family enables us to build on the strengths of our past as we look to the future."

Dov Gottesman, Chairman of the Board of the Israel Museum, noted, "Since its founding, the Israel Museum has achieved incredible growth in its size, in the scope of its collections and exhibitions, and in its scholarship, in large part through the generosity of its friends and supporters worldwide. With this remarkable gift, the Israel Museum will be able to create a facility commensurate with the stature of its collections and to reinforce its role as a cornerstone of the cultural and social landscape of the State of Israel."

Ehud Olmert, Mayor of Jerusalem, commented, "The Israel Museum plays a unique role in the cultural life of this city, and of the State of Israel. Through this gift, it can play an even more vital role in our lives. We are deeply grateful to the Grusses for this visionary gift which will further enrich one of Jerusalem's greatest assets."

David Takes On Goliath

By TOBY AXELROD

MUNICH, Germany (JTA) - David is getting ready to take on Goliath.

But this time, the underdog is the tiny, but feisty, progressive Jewish community of Europe. And the giant is Israel's Religious Affairs Ministry.

Of course, Europe's liberal Jewish communities are struggling for acceptance in their own countries.

But at the close of a weeklong conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism here earlier this month, Israeli representative Menachem Lebowicz urged participants to join liberal Jewish organizations and add their voices to the movement working to legitimize non-Orthodox conversions and marriages in Israel.

"It is not only an American problem it is a world Jewish problem," said Lebowicz, executive director of the WUPJ in Israel and the former Soviet Union, noting that U.S. Jews have applied most of the pressure to win legal recognition in Israel for the Reform and Conservative movements.

"Diversity is the essence of Jewish life," Primor told the gathering of some 200 men and women from Europe, Scandinavia and Israel. "Diversity is the contradiction of dictatorship, the contradiction of totalitarianism."

The remark was particularly poignant considering the venue. The London-based WUPJ had not held a meeting in Germany since 1928, according to its chairwoman, Ruth Cohen.

Most of the post-Holocaust European Jewish communities are officially Orthodox. Today, however, the status quo is shaken by increasing demands for participation by women and for liberalization of the definition of who is a Jew.

Indeed, the relationship between Orthodox and liberal Jews can be hostile. In Barcelona, Spain, the Orthodox leadership asked politicians to delegitimize a new pro-

gressive congregation, said Rabbi Ruben Sternschein of the progressive group Atid.

But there was also good news for the liberal community of Munich, which dedicated a new cemetery on the first day of the conference.

The cemetery will be a final resting place for partners in mixed marriages and others who may not meet the traditional requisites and, therefore, may not be laid to rest in plots of the official community.

Membership may be small and funds not plentiful, but enthusiasm appears to be strong, according to the WUPJ European region's annual report.

For example, some 35 people regularly attend Sabbath services at the liberal Jewish congregation in Toulouse, France.

In Prague, Beit Simcha has moved to a new meeting place that is financed by congregation chair Sylvie Wittmanova and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. In June, a 19th-century Torah of Polish origin was dedicated by the congregation.

The liberal community of Geneva reports 215 members in its Women of Reform Judaism section.

Peace for the dead was one of many themes at the conference, which began with prayers at the nearby Dachau concentration camp memorial and included workshops on Jewish law, synagogue fund raising and membership recruitment.

Money problems were high on the priority list, with several leaders calling for more visiting rabbis for congregations that can't afford to hire one.

Evening Sabbath services were held at a prominent music hall in Munich, with rabbis standing on the same stage where Adolf Hitler had once held forth.

"To read the prayer for Israel standing in the [hall], with its history as the headquarters of the Nazi party, it was indescribable," said the WUPJ's Cohen.

By CONNIE KRESHTOOL

In August, 1897, more than two hundred delegates from all over the Jewish world, including two from New York, answered the call made by Theodor Herzl to come to Basel, Switzerland, to establish the World Zionist Organization (WZO). Its purpose was "to secure for the Jewish people a publicly recognized, legally secured home in Palestine." Over the next seven years through the force of Herzl's personality, his passion for a solution to the Jewish problem and his diplomatic skill, the groundwork was laid for the Jewish State. Herzl dies in 1904 but with amazing prescience he predicted the establishment of a State within fifty years.

It is now 100 years after that first Congress and the 33rd World Zionist Congress has just met in Jerusalem celebrating 100 years of Zionism and 50 years of the State of Israel. I had the privilege of attending the Congress as an ARZA delegate, one of the 559 full delegates and 178 special delegates (including Hadassah) from around the world. Of the full voting delegates 29% were from the United States, 38% from Israel and 33% from other countries. The Israeli delegation was divided among the political parties according to their strength in the Knesset.

For the ARZA delegation there still another anniversary to be celebrated. It was twenty years since the Reform movement began the process of joining the WZO. At this 33rd Congress the ARZA delegation (United States and Canada) together with the Reform delegations from other countries was equal in size to the Labor and Likud delegations. In coalition with other like-minded groups we had enough votes to carry forward our

position on pluralism.

The Congress is as much about what goes on behind the scenes as it is what takes place in the plenaries. The goal of the Reform delegation was to show to the Jewish world a new face of Zionism — religiously based, liberal and not willing to accept anything less than equal treatment in Israel-Diaspora relations. The question was could we effectively make this World Zionist Congress a catalyst for religious pluralism?

In lively discussions preceding the opening of the Congress the Reform and Conservative delegations from America brought their influence to bear on the negotiations for the Chairman and other leadership positions and the department heads. While the recent reorganization of the linkage between the WZO and the Jewish Agency has reduced the influence WZO department heads had over fund allocations and personnel there was still a great deal of jockeying for positions. If one wants to see politics at work there is no better place than the WZO.

Prior to the festive opening of the Congress representatives of Zionist youth groups in a lively session demanded voting rights. Later they were given limited voting rights for this Congress only with a promise to study future action.

The First Hanukkah Candle-The Congress officially opened with the lighting of the first Hanukkah candle by the mother of the missing Air Force navigator Ron Arad. In their welcoming speeches President Ezer Weizman said, "Zionism is aliyah," and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu urged education and aliyah as antidotes to assimilation.

A panel of distinguished leaders

discussing "The Independence of the Zionist Movement" raised the issue of pluralism which was to dominate the proceedings of the Congress. Rabbi Norman Lamm (Mizrachi-Orthodox) said that the Zionist movement is not the only element in the building of Israel; while it can promote aliyah it must not determine positions on every issue that affect the Jewish People. "Mizrachi does not believe that the Zionist movement should interfere with religious issues; the problem of democracy in religion is important but it is not in the Zionist Movement's purview."

Rabbi Ismar Schorsch (Mercat-Conservative) said that if Israel becomes a shetl it will lose the support of the religious streams abroad. "Devotion to Israel is strong in synagogues ... the synagogue is the most vibrant cell of Zionism."

Shoshana Cardin, Chairman of the United Israel Appeal, called on the WZO to promote the philosophy of Achad Ha'Am who envisioned that Jews would remain outside of Israel but would be connected spiritually and culturally to the Jewish State. "The challenge to Zionism is to overcome the chasm that separates Israelis and Jews."

Another distinguished panel discussed "The Zionist Institutions Facing New Challenges." Rabbi Eric Yoffie (ARZA-Reform) said, "Israel is a military and economic power; political Zionism has triumphed. Now we need to look at religious and spiritual Zionism ... Israel exists to enrich Judaism not to substitute for it."

Professor Yehezkel Dror said, "The failure of Zionism is not making Israel the focus of aliyah from the West; it must be made the primary goal."

Ammon Rubenstein drew the delegates' attention to the pictures in the Israeli newspapers that morning which showed political leaders around the world lighting a Hanukkah candle. "The realization of the Zionists' dream made this possible." He continued, "Dialog between Israel and Diapora Jewry cannot be a one-way street."

Do not believe that all that came from the podium during these discussions passed unnoticed by the delegates. As is the style in Israel there were outbursts of boisterous applause and boos from the various factions (voting blocs).

The Second Hanukkah Candle - With all the preliminary discussions completed it was now time to get down to the business of the Congress: the consideration of the resolutions submitted by the various factions. This perhaps was one of the most interesting part of the proceedings for me. All the delegates were assigned to one of nine committees which considered resolutions on topics including Education, Promotion of Aliyah from the West, Dissemination of the Hebrew Language, Settlement, Zionist Activity within Israeli Society, Zionist Activity among the Jewish Communities, Funding Sources, Zionist Federations and Institutions of the Zionist Movement.

In these committees as in the Plenaries translation was available on headphones in English, Hebrew, French and Spanish. We did hear a complaint from the representatives from the Commonwealth of Independent States that there was no Russian translation. In my Committee on Zionist Federations there were lively debates among the delegates speaking all of these languages.

Behind the scenes throughout the Congress there were negotiations taking place among the representatives of Mizrachi (Orthodox), Arzenu (Reform) and Mercat (Conservative) to frame a resolution on pluralism. The World Zionist Congress is the only place where Jews of all streams from Israel and the Diaspora come together. There was the fervent desire to have a resolution on pluralism that would satisfy all factions. But this was not to be.

The Third Hanukkah Candle - The Resolution on Religious Pluralism did pass, however not unanimously, as a direct result of the strength of the Reform and Conservative factions and their support among other factions. All the delegates urged cooperation with the Ne'emman Commission which is seeking a compromise on the Conversion Bill. However if the Commission should fail the Resolution calls on the Israeli government not to pass the Conversion Law. Mizrachi and their coalition partners opposed this based on religious and conscientious reasons.

With the passage of this Resolution the 33rd Zionist Congress adjourned. All unresolved matters were referred to the Zionist General Council which meets until the next Congress.

When the ARZA delegation gathered for a wrap-up session we noted that in twenty years we had become a dominant force in Zionism. Where previously we had had to fight to get religion on the agenda at this Congress religious issues had dominated. We felt encouraged that our success in the WZO could be the stepping stone to religious pluralism in Israel.

Mazon Awards Grants

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger has announced 1997 grants totaling a record \$2 million, to 225 organizations.

Since 1986, Los Angeles-based MAZON has granted nearly \$14 million to organizations working to prevent and alleviate hunger in the United States, Israel and throughout the world.

MAZON is now one of the largest privately supported philanthropic organizations in the U.S. working to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Grantees include food banks and pantries, anti-hunger advocacy groups, multi-service agencies and small-scale hunger relief and development projects in Israel and poor countries.

MAZON ("food" in Hebrew) raises funds principally from Jews

nationwide who donate a suggested amount of 3 percent of the cost of weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs and other joyous events. Other funds come from annual Passover and High Holydays appeals and thousands of commemorative contributions. By the end of 1997, MAZON will have received more than 40,000 individual contributions.

Charities, in turn, are looking to funders like MAZON for increased support. The importance of MAZON's funding strategy, which balances grants to organizations providing immediate help to hungry people with those to organizations working to increase the self-sufficiency of poor families and to promote beneficial changes in public policies.

Jewish Student Youth Concert

As the president of The Union of Jewish Youth of Latvia, 21-year-old Yarik Mashutin has learned how to take charge as an emerging community leader. But when it came to planning a student concert aimed at helping Latvia's elderly Holocaust survivors, Yarik called in a local expert for consultation: his Grandma.

"We knew we wanted to do something," explained Yarik. "But we really didn't know what they needed. So she helped us figure it out."

Thus began an inter-generational collaboration that resulted in a

unique evening encompassing Jewish renewal, aid to the elderly and tzedakah, a concept of communal responsibility unable to be realized in many Jewish communities under Communism.

Even before the concert, Yarik and the other Jewish youth group members would meet regularly at the Jewish Community Center, both of which are supported by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC.) And over the past few years, they've planned a variety of events, including the JDC-sponsored Baltic Conference for Jewish Youth, a project that brings together young Jewish leaders from Estonia and Lithuania as well as Latvia.

Still, they all understood that the recent concert for the survivors was special.

"Without them, we wouldn't be here," said Yarik. "They kept Judaism alive for us - from World War II through Soviet times and now, to us."

Yarik's grandmother, Yevgenia Barowska, explained the situation as two-fold: First, she and the other 80 survivors in Riga, Latvia's capital, were in dire need of non-prescription medication such as aspirin and heart pills. But rather than deliver the medication, as the students initially thought, Yarik's Grandma suggested planning an evening out.

The survivors longed for contact with young people who could share a bit of yiddishkeit with them, she said. Many of the elderly had no family at all and suffered from overwhelming loneliness. And even those who did have family weren't all blessed with such attentive grandsons, she said.

Yarik and the other students began by convincing a local Jewish businessman to donate aspirin and other medications from a pharmacy he owned. Then, they practiced some Yiddish and Hebrew songs, such as Shir L' Shalom - The Song of Peace, and matched dance steps to the words. That done, they sent out invitations.

All 80 of Riga's Holocaust survivors came out for a warm evening of singing, dancing, clapping - and medication: Indeed, health care for the body and soul.

"The survivors have given us a sense of history, of what it meant to be Jewish for generations here," said Yarik. "Now, we can give them back a sense of what it means to be Jewish today. It's important for them, but it's also important for us."

Activities of the JDC are funded by the regular campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal and Federations throughout the United States.

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JEWISH WOMEN IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES & BUSINESS ISSUE

In conjunction with the Jewish Women in Professional Services & Business edition of *The Jewish Voice* of January 23, 1998, we are compiling a Directory of Jewish Women in Professional Services & Business. To insure inclusion of your business, please mail or fax name of business, address and telephone number, and if necessary a very short description of your business. Please enclose a \$5.00 donation per listing. Send information to: Faye J. Harris, Editor, *The Jewish Voice* @ jewishvoic@aol.com or fax to 302-427-2438. Deadline is January 15, 1998 for ads and listings.

TO YOUR HEALTH

Exercise For Arthritis Relief And Fitness

By JAY O'NEILL

Head Trainer at the JCC

Arthritis is a condition which affects over 40 million Americans in its various forms. Among them are rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, tendinitis, fibromyalgia and some 120 other diseases which together form the number-one perpetrator of pain and disability in the United States. If you're one among those who suffer from this condition, you don't need to be told that the pain and fatigue caused by arthritis limit the daily activities you would otherwise be able to perform. It may come as a surprise, however, that the number of those afflicted is increasing. According to the Arthritis Foundation approximately 60 million Americans are expected to suffer from arthritis by the year 2020.

This can primarily be attributed to the fact that the mean age of the American population is increasing and arthritis typically affects those who are reaching their more mature years. The most common form of arthritis, osteoarthritis, has a typical onset period between the

ages of 40 and 90. This by no means insinuates that only older adults are at risk from the potentially ravaging condition, as rheumatoid arthritis (the second most common form) can onset in children just entering their adolescent years.

No matter what the age of origin is for anyone's bout with arthritis, there isn't an individual suffering from it who doesn't want to do all they can to counteract the effects. Naturally pain relievers and anti-inflammatory medications help in the eradication of arthritic pain, but can leave the condition unimproved, simply temporarily relieving the symptoms. "So what is the answer?" you may be asking yourself. If there is an answer pertaining to what can be done to improve the condition, it has been brought to light by medical research of recent years. Fundamentally, it has gathered substantial evidence that exercise is the best natural remedy to counteract the degenerative and debilitating effects of arthritis.

Before any individual with arthri-

tis, young or old, commences an anti-arthritic fitness program they must examine the three major types of fitness activity. These are: cardiovascular exercise, resistance training, and stretching. Each one should be approached with an air of contemplation pertaining to what benefits (or absence of benefit) may be brought about. Thus, let us explore the potential and current research behind each one.

CARDIOVASCULAR EXERCISE: Oddly enough, the most important fitness activity for the majority of healthy individuals is also the one least explored for countering arthritis symptoms. This is probably due to the high-impact nature of many aerobic activities. Many recent studies have examined the benefits of water aerobics and water jogging finding that both allow individuals with arthritis to meet their needed exertion levels for improved fitness while providing a comfortable aquatic environment. Low-impact cardiovascular exercise such as walking and bicycling can be non-stressful while improving cardiovas-

cular fitness as well.

RESISTANCE TRAINING: Probably the most thoroughly examined form of anti-arthritic exercise, resistance (or weight) training can be extremely important to the arthritis sufferer by preventing muscle atrophy and improving joint stability. One recent study of progressive resistance exercise on elderly individuals with rheumatoid arthritis showed that they significantly increased muscular mass and strength while decreasing arthritic pain.

A resistance training program should be initiated with light weights which can be lifted within the boundaries of comfort and without maximal effort. Weight should be lifted within a pain-free range of motion and additional weight should not be added until at least eight to ten successive repetitions can be performed with relative ease. Warmup and cool down periods comprising three to five minutes of light aerobic exercise are also very important before and after resistance training.

STRETCHING: Stretching exercise generally helps in improving range of motion and joint mobility. This can naturally be of extreme importance to arthritis sufferers. Gentle stretching movements in which an easy, static stretch is held for at least 15 seconds should be performed daily. Twice a day can be beneficial: both in the morning to limber up and in the evening to reduce next-day morning stiffness. Performing a few minutes of light warm-up movements before stretching is very important to safe stretching and avoiding injury. Above all, *always* perform stretching within a comfortable range of motion without extreme exertion.

For all those who experience arthritic pain, these basic parameters should help get you on your way towards better fitness and arthritis relief. Be certain that before you commence your program, you consult a certified fitness trainer as well as your physician or physical therapist. The journey begins with a single step, and the destination isn't as far away as you may think.

FEATURES

Men's Jewish Renewal Movement

There is a burgeoning movement on the American Jewish scene which to some may seem unusual. It is known as Jewish Men's Renewal and is, therefore, for many, almost an oxymoron. Judaism has for centuries been a patriarchal religion which has only recently given opportunity to women to play any kind of leadership roles. Why then would there be a need for men's renewal?

The key to answering this question is to realize that the current movement is one in which men are discovering who they really are, where they belong and how to be whole human beings. The classical role of the Jewish man has often been described as controlling, dominating and domineering, not in the sense that a Mafia Don ruled his family but in the sense that the male was the one charged with the responsibility to study and to fulfill the mitzvot, therefore relegating women to what many believe was second class status. Now in liberal circles that role has changed and we find women taking on more and more functions and responsi-

bilities. So where does that leave the traditional male? In search of himself and his identity, according to the leaders of this new movement.

Men have generally been looked on as strong, courageous, the providers and protectors who could not and should not reveal or show their emotions, at least in our society. But in the 1990s things are changing. Shawn Israel Zevit, a forerunner in the emerging Jewish male renewal, says that Jewish men's groups are based on the same rationale as Jewish women's groups. They are looking for a safer place to discuss the impact of feelings and hopes. He also believes that the men's movement is searching for a new male mythology to take the place of the old mythology that centers around dominion. Zevit, who attended the Reconstructionist College in Philadelphia, Harry Brod, a University of Delaware Philosophy professor and Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park are just some of the local authorities

who are national leaders in this movement designed to help the male find a new place in Judaism. As Zevit wrote in 1995 in the *New Menorah*, it is "...not a safe assumption to think that Jewish men seeking a renewed connection with their Judaism would necessarily see their male forms of identity and spiritual expression as pressing. At least to make this an important item on the progressive Jewish agenda would take patience, authentic soul-searching and a willingness to break through the barriers to intimacy, trust and connection many Jewish men carry like a backpack on the journey."

Some believe that the roots of the men's renewal effort sprang from the feminist movement and, indeed, there are groups such as the National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) which advocate feminism. This entire subject area is one which is very much on the horizon and will be the topic of additional articles in future editions of the *Voice*. Readers are urged to write and share their reactions to the concepts described as this series continues.

Forget Jerusalem

By YOSEF I. ABRAMOWITZ

(JFL) Next week I am going to have breakfast with my children as a declaration of spiritual independence.

Thursday, January 8, was Asarah B'Tevet, one of three minor fast days in the Jewish calendar, when religious Jews abstain from eating or drinking from sun rise until sunset. For the past decade I have observed these fast days - which commemorate the stages of the destruction of ancient Jerusalem - to join my consciousness with Jewish history and martyrdom. By denying my body sustenance, I have recreated the sense of vulnerability that the Jewish people have felt in diaspora since our expulsion from the Holy City. By observing these days, I have tied my spirituality to Jerusalem, as I am commanded to do.

No more. Jerusalem's holiness is wrapped up in the holiness not of the stones, but of the actions of its inhabitants. We are taught that when the Temple was destroyed over 2,000 years ago, God's spirit left Jerusalem to dwell with the exiled people. In recapturing and reclaiming Jerusalem in 1967, the Israel Defense Forces opened the door for God to return. And by most accounts, the reunited and rebuilt Jerusalem has emerged once again as the spiritual and political center of world Jewry.

Yet I wonder if God has recently returned to exile.

I do not have the heart to tell my daughters that they are not allowed to have their bat mitzvah at the Western Wall, the only remaining part of the ancient Temples, even though boys regularly celebrate their bar mitzvahs there. It is not only the ultra-Orthodox who prevent this, but Israel's civil government and police. How do I tell

them that their mother was tear gassed at the Wall because she chose to pray there with a prayer shawl and with other women? How do I tell them that feces were thrown at American Jewish worshipers by ultra-Orthodox Jews during the holy festival of Shavuot? How do I explain the violence, curses, and spit heaped upon Jews like us by Jews like them? And, most significantly, how do I explain the indifference of Israeli society to the corruption of Judaism in the Jewish state?

I refuse to make excuses to my children for the growing extremism of Israeli society, as many of Israel's apologists do. It is wrong and the religious leaders have to take responsibility for their silence and the actions of their devout followers. Who would have ever thought that the only remaining place on earth where Jews are denied freedom of religion is in Jerusalem?

So I am reluctantly severing my connection to you, Jerusalem, for at least three days a year. And this is only a first step. I want my Judaism to be filled not with hatred and anger, as yours is, but with joy and blessing. So on this day when I am commanded to mourn for your ancient destruction, I choose to affirm instead that you no longer have a monopoly on God's spirit. Indeed, I choose to testify that my children's Judaism is not built on martyrdom and a sense of spiritual inferiority. Real Jewish values are being taught, lived and reinvigorated - with God's blessing - 6,000 miles away.

Pass the bagels, please.
(Yosef I. Abramowitz is editor of www.Jewishfamily.com and co-author with Rabbi Susan Silverman of *Jewish Family & Life*)

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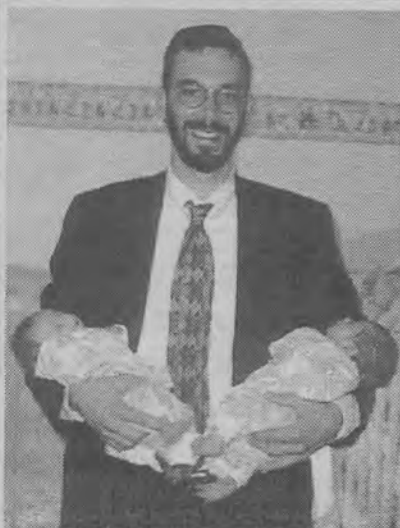
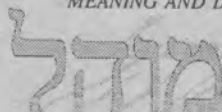
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OBITUARIES

ZELDA S. COHEN

Zelda S. Cohen on January 4, 1998 Widow of Michael Cohen, mother of Gerald Cohen and Allan B. Cohen, sister of Libby Plafker. Also survived by 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Companion of Norman Robbins. The family suggests contributions to either Alzheimer's Disease, 1701 Gilpin Ave., Wilmington, DE or Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

STEVEN BARTLEY OBLATH

Steven Bartley Oblath, 43, died on January 3, 1998 at home. Mr. Oblath was a chemist at the DuPont Co. Experimental Station for 16 years. He was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth and its Brotherhood; and a board member and treasurer of the Western 'Y' Swim Team. Survivors: wife Deborah T. Oblath, daughters, Rachel and Emily, both of Hockessin, father Leo of Los Angeles; sisters Patti and Carol, both of Los Angeles. The family is suggesting contributions to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund of Congregation Beth Emeth; or Delaware Hospice.

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NACHES

De Witt Birth

Carol and Bruce De Witt of Wilmington announce the birth of their grandson, Collin Louis (Chaim Lalb), son of Andrew and Sarah De Witt, in Lancaster, Pa. on December 20, 1997.

Maternal grandparents are Shirley and Ronald Moritz of Pittsburgh, Pa. Great-grandparents are Etta and Harry Turkin of West Palm Beach, Fl., Rose and Szymon De Witt of Peabody, Ma.,

and Pearl and Jules Karpas of Lauderdale Lakes, Fl.

Collin Louis is named for his maternal great-grandparents, Clara and Louis Moritz.

Malinger Birth

Rabbi Laurence and Samantha Butt proudly announce the birth of Alyson's

baby brother, Joseph Lake Malinger on Friday, December 26, 1997. He weighed in at 9 lbs. 14

oz. and is 22" long. Rabbi Malinger is the Associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Emeth.

Schmerling-Butt Birth

Elaine Schmerling and Warren Butt proudly announce the birth of Shira's brother Jordan Nathan,

born on December 29, 1997. The maternal grandparents are Esther and Irwin Schmerling, the paternal

grandparents are Gladys and Byron Butt.

Weinstein Engagements

Ruth and Sheldon Weinstein proudly announce the engagements of all three of their children:

Lynne Weinstein to Andy Katz, in Jerusalem; Debbie Weinstein to David Paulson in San Francisco;

Mick Weinstein to Hila Zeira in Jerusalem. The weddings will be March, June and November.



Geography Bee participants from Albert Einstein Academy included Beryl Schragger, left, and Russell Katz.



Students from the Albert Einstein Academy participate in the Chanukkah celebration and intergenerational program.

JCC Camp - A Family Celebration This Summer?

Summer '98 is only a few short months away, and the staff of Camp JCC has exciting plans. It all begins with our theme: "Mishpacha" or "We're A Family." This summer we will celebrate being a family by exploring our biblical, historical and cultural roots in the Jewish community. All of our programs grow out of this theme, from our history walk in Philadelphia, to our Parent's Night Program, "The Family Reunion." Mishpacha will guide our activities.

In addition to planning themes for the summer, the camp staff and the Camp Committee have made a concerted effort to improve the Judaic content of camp. A Program Sub-Committee is working to ensure that all camps participate in the themes of the summer and incorporate Judaic content into their activities.

Camp JCC has also named its new Camp Director, Joe Consigilo. Formerly the Program Director, Joe is returning to Camp JCC for his ninth summer. Joining Joe as our Assistant Camp Directors, Shay Rosene and Sonja

Hilderbrand. Together, they share nearly three decades of camp experience. Lauren Nassau recently joined the JCC staff as the Community Teen Services Coordinator. Lauren's enthusiasm will add sparks to an already successful Teen Travel Camp.

Camp JCC will introduce several new programs this summer. In response to parent requests, a Dance Camp and Karate Camp will be added to the Specialty Camp offerings. The Counselor-In-Training (CIT) Program has been revamped, offering specific training in lifesaving, first aid and CPR. Eligibility requirements have also

been changed in the CIT Program, so that campers entering 9th grade may participate. Campers in this age group can combine participation in the four-week CIT Program with Teen Travel Camp.

With an eye to tradition and with an enthusiasm for innovation, Camp JCC promises that the Summer of '98 will be one of the finest ever. The Camp Brochure, detailing all offerings, will be mailed to families shortly. For more information on camp registration or job opportunities this summer, contact Sonja Hilderbrand at (302) 478-5660.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JANUARY

Saturday 10

Guest Rabbi David Wolfe-Blank. 10:00 a.m. Temple Beth El.

Sunday 11

Beth Shalom Sisterhood in a Dialog with Daniel Chejfec, Jewish Federation Community Organizer. To hear plans and offer suggestions on the effort to strengthen the Jewish community throughout the state of Delaware. 10:30 a.m. Congregation Beth Shalom, coffee.

Wednesday 14

National Council of Jewish Women - Policy Effectors. There are many issues that threaten our freedom, our families, and our quality of life. Domestic violence, welfare reform, reproductive freedom and education, are some of the many causes to support and there is one vital organization through which you can have a real impact, NCJW.

For more than 100 years the NCJW has affected public policy concerning women, children and families in the United States and Israel. Through education, advocacy, research and community service, NCJW has fought for social justice.

Discover what NCJW does and the opportunities it offers women in all stages of life to make a difference in our community. 9:00 a.m. Temple Beth El. Please RSVP by leaving a message for Barbara Levitt, 652-1193 or Barbara Spiller, (610) 388-6078.

Thursday 15

National Council of Jewish Women - Policy Effectors. 7:30 p.m. Home of Leslie Goldenberg. Please RSVP by leaving a message for Barbara Levitt, 652-1193 or Barbara Spiller, (610) 388-6078.

Friday 16

Family Shabbat Service. Young Adult Shabbat. 7:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Shalom.

Saturday 17

Junior Congregation Shabbat Lunch and Learn. Congregation Beth Shalom.

Monday 19

School's Out Day. The JCC will hold a School's Out Day for kindergarten through 6th graders on Monday, January 19 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. School's Out Day hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Parents are asked to register their child(ren) early, as spaces are limited. Registration forms can be picked up at the JCC Front Desk. Early morning (7:15 to 9:00 a.m.) and late afternoon (4:00 to 5:45 p.m.) care is available at an additional charge.

For more information about School's Out Days, contact Shay Rosen, Youth & Family Program Coordinator, at (302) 478-5660.

Tuesday 20

National Council of Jewish Women - Policy Effectors. 9:00 a.m. JCC Board Room. Please RSVP by leaving a message for Barbara Levitt, 652-1193 or Barbara Spiller, (610) 388-6078.

Wednesday 21

Workshop for Parents & Grandparents of Interfaith Couples at Temple Beth El. Two-part presentation and discussion on the topic led by Rabbi Kaplan and Lauren Pokras, MSW, a social worker at Jewish Family Services. Join us on Wednesday, Jan. 21 and Thursday, Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth El.

Friday 23

The Seaside Jewish Community of Sussex Co. will hold the Jan. 23 event at All Saints Parish, 18 Olive Ave., Rehoboth Beach, DE at 7:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Daniel Chejfec, a native of Buenos Aires, representing the Jewish Federation of Wilmington, DE. Mr. Chejfec's topic will be "What is Happening with the Jewish People Around the World Today." A gourmet dinner will be available. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Reservations a must. Questions, call Lynne Chichi, 302-644-2209, Harvey Fruman, 302-226-2209, or Lenore Cohen, 302-645-0183.

Saturday 24

Hear O'Israel. 7:00 p.m. at the CoreStates Center in Philadelphia. Gala event with Israeli Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orches-

tra, Tony Bennett, Leonard Nimoy, Issac Stern, Barbara Walters and other prominent entertainers are scheduled to appear. For information or reservations, call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 427-2100. Bus transportation is available at the JCC at 5:45 p.m. by prior arrangement and at an additional charge.

Kids Enjoy a Night Out at the JCC. Children in kindergarten through 6th grade can enjoy an evening with friends at the JCC. Activities include swimming, sports, rollerblading, in-house movies and overnights as well as trips to movies, bowling, roller or ice skating. Refreshments are served.

Kids Club is for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade and runs from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The January Kids Club program, to be held on January 24th, will include dinner and swimming. The cost for JCC members is \$10.00 per person; the cost for non-members is \$25.00 per person.

Club Night, for children in 3rd through 6th grades, runs from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. and the program, to be held on January 24th, will include pizza dinner and "The Magic of Guido" with the Beth Emeth ETC. group. Guido has been performing his delightful magic tricks for nearly 30 years. The cost for JCC members and Beth Emeth ETC members is \$10.00 per person; the cost for non-members is \$25.00 per person.

Free transportation to and from Temple Beth El in Newark to the JCC is available for Club Night participants only.

Advance registration is required by January 22nd. For more information, call Shay Rosen, Youth & Family Program Coordinator, at (302) 478-5660.

Young Jewish Singles of Delaware 20's and 30's. Game night we will be meeting at Phil Gross's home for a fun night of games and schmoozing. Bring your favorite games. Drinks and snacks will be served. 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$3.00. Phil Gross' home, 1116 Parkside Drive in Oakland Manor in northern Delaware, minutes from Philadelphia. To R.S.V.P., receive further directions, or to receive our monthly schmoozing letter, call Phil at (302) 652-6688.

Saturday 31

Art Auction, 7 p.m. Call 654-4462 for ticket information. Congregation Beth Shalom.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1

AKSE Men's Club Annual Spaghetti Extravaganza. Runway Rhythms, Glitz & Glamour, Fashions Set to Music, Mesmerizing Moves, Family Fun & Food! 6:00-8:30 p.m. Featured on the Runway are: Cindy Goldstein, Linda Vodovis, and Bob Weiner, Jennifer Berry, John Elzufon, Ruth Hochheiser, Debbie Kahn, Bob Kaplan, Lauren Katz, Jonathan Makar, Ron Makar, Elaine Mendel-son, Amalia Snyderman, Craig Sternberg, Iris Tocker, Andy Vinokur, and Larry Weiner.

Fashions provided by local men's and women's boutiques and complete spaghetti dinner. Reservations a must! Adults: \$10; Children (12 & under) \$5. For more information and reservations, please call (302) 762-2705.

Friday 6

Hanna Tiferet Siegel, singer, songwriter, and spiritual guide will lead services. Her music is sung around the world in synagogues, havurot, homes, and spiritual gatherings. Friday, Feb. 6 8:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 10:00 a.m. To reserve for the lunch on Saturday, call 366-8330. Temple Beth El.

Sunday 15

2nd International Conference on Feminism & Orthodoxy

will focus on an expansion of roles and rights of women committed to an Orthodox Jewish life. All day, Sunday and Monday, Feb. 15 and 16, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Park Avenue at 42nd Street, New York City. Sponsors of the conference include the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education; Edah, devoted to modern Orthodox leadership development; the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance; Ohr Torah Institutions/Midreshet Lindenbaum, and the Women's Tefillah Network. Registration fees range from \$185 for the full conference, including meals, to a \$30 special rate for students. More than 30 sessions are scheduled. Speakers and discussants from the U.S. and abroad. Open to women and men. For more information and reservations, call toll free (800) 550-6614.

Ongoing

Young Jewish Singles or Delaware 20's and 30's. Weekly volleyball and dinner sampler after. Noncompetitive! Even if you're not that great, come play and schmooz. Every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Wilmington, Delaware J.C.C. Volleyball 6:00 p.m. Delaware J.C.C. Dinner 8:00 p.m. Call for location! Jewish Community Center, just off Rt. 202 in Delaware. For more information or to be put on our groups mailing list call Phil Gross at (302) 652-6688.

Benjamin, 5, didn't have Hanukkah this year; his Dad left home, his Mom doesn't have a job. Please ... help him. Say yes on January 18.

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