

Does Our Jewish Community Have a Future?

The Jewish Federation of Delaware 56th Annual Meeting was, as promised, not "business as usual." While traditional annual meetings have been largely ceremonial and retrospective in nature, the message delivered by William M. Topkis, JFD President, was a clear and strong call to action addressing the increasing sense of community apathy and indifference at a time when the needs have never been greater.

The following is the address presented by Mr. Topkis:

As you gathered from the invitations you received from the Jewish Federation of Delaware, the comments some of you may have received from leaders in the community and just general "word on the street," this meeting, at least this part of it, is going to be far different than those past. Because the situation we are currently facing is a far more desperate one than we have ever faced before.

As you may know, for the third straight year, we as a Federation have failed to reach our Campaign goal. This year we project we will have fallen short by \$200,000—nearly 15% away from our \$1.5 million goal. And yet, this \$1.5 million itself is an amount below what we should be capable of providing to those

"The fact is, in the mind of the average constituent, the Jewish Federation of Delaware is that group who calls us for money — and little else. And maybe that's our fault. Because our agencies are the ones who are directly doing the doing

who depend upon us. Projections based on demographics and the successes of other Federation communities our size suggest that we should be able to provide as much as \$2 million or more to our beneficiaries.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are unable to provide much more than half the per capita generosity of our fellow Jews in Charlotte, North Carolina or Allentown, Pennsylvania.

There's another symptom that's also apparent. The dedication of the many people honored here this evening notwithstanding, the contribution of time — perhaps the most precious commodity any of us have to give — is an increasingly rare one in our community. In many areas and in many things, being called upon to serve the community is considered an honor to be cherished and accepted. In our community, it is too often seen as a burden to be avoided.

Why? What are we — the Jewish community as a whole — saying "no" to? I believe it is the image of the Federation as an organization with its hand out.

Always asking, asking, asking. And giving nothing in return. Because the Federation doesn't really "do" anything. "Sure, my kid is getting an excellent Jewish education, but that's Gratz. Sure, the counselor gave my spouse and me some wonderful, caring advice, but that's Jewish Family Service. Sure my daughter has a Jewish home away from home at college, but that's Hillel. Sure, the state of Israel has continued to prosper in the face of tremendous odds, but that help comes from the UJA."

The fact is, in the mind of the average constituent, the Jewish Federation of Delaware is "that group who calls us for money" — and little else. And maybe that's our fault. Because our agencies are the ones who are directly "doing the doing" and they deserve the star billing. However, the fact is that most, if not all, of the 30+ fine organizations under the Federation umbrella would find it difficult to meet their budget without JFD support. The Federation raised the funds to help purchase the facilities and help hire the talents that our organizations utilize to help make life better for all of us. The Federation supports organiza-

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tions that are too small to raise funds on their own. The Federation does the "dirty work" so that they may do what they are chartered to do.

Let me show you what some of this "dirty work" leads to. Some of the human services provided to Jews of all ages and all economic backgrounds. Needed services for the old and for the young, people of all economic backgrounds. People just like you and me, our friends and neighbors and loved ones — none of which would be possible without a strong Jewish Federation of Delaware.

There's Sylvia Rose Fabian, pictured here in front of the Tree of Love in her home, the Kutz Home. Our elderly, and by that I mean our own parents and

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U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. addresses members of the Delaware Jewish community at the Operation Exodus campaign opening event.

Operation Exodus, the special United Jewish Appeal campaign to help resettle hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews, was launched in the Delaware Jewish community May 20 with a Dinner featuring U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden.

With \$500,000 raised, the Jewish community of Delaware is on its way to raising its \$708,000 fair-share goal, which will make Operation Exodus one of the most successful campaigns in Delaware Jewish History.

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(photos: Brett Marshall)



From left, Sheldon & Ruth Weinstein, Operation Exodus Co-Chairpersons, U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Judy & William Topkis, Operation Exodus Co-Chairpersons.



From left, Henry Topel, JFD 1990 Campaign Chairman, U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Nancy Kauffman, JFD Women's Division President.



Bernard Borine, United Jewish Appeal Vice Chairman discusses his first hand experiences with Israel's newest residents.



Operation Exodus At-A-Glance

- Exodus:** A mass migration of people — from oppression to freedom.
- Operation Exodus:** A special campaign to help meet the resettlement needs of more than 200,000 Soviet Jews.
- Delaware Operation Exodus:** Participation of the Delaware Jewish community with the national United Jewish Appeal Operation Exodus campaign.
- Total Israel Resettlement Budget:** \$3.6 billion — includes air-fare, housing, education, health care, job training, clothing, food, etc.
- Operation Exodus Goal:** \$420 million from the American Jewish Community and \$180 million from the rest of world Jewry — to supplement the \$3.6 billion resettlement budget.
- Delaware Goal:** \$708,000 - a fair-share portion of the total U.S. Operation Exodus campaign.
- Operation Exodus Pledges:** Separate from the regular Jewish Federation of Delaware annual campaign — payable over three years.



Arrangements Committee — Clockwise from left, Judy Topkis, Deane Kattler, Judy Wilk, Ellen Koniver, Ruth Weinstein, Pat Sloan.



Rabbi Peter Grumbacher delivers the D'var Torah at the Operation Exodus campaign opening.



U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. receives a standing ovation for his support of Soviet Jewry.



ONE WAY TICKET TO FREEDOM

Thanks to the current wave of political reform in the Soviet Union, hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews will be receiving a one-way ticket to freedom many of us never thought was possible. Since January 1990, close to 30,000 Soviet Jews emigrated to Israel, with a steady increase each month. This is more than emigrated through the entire 1980s.

But paying for the ticket to freedom is just the beginning.

Once they arrive in Israel, they start an entire new life. They need housing, education, health care, job training, clothing, food, etc.

Operation Exodus, the national United Jewish Appeal campaign to assist with the resettlement of Soviet Jews, is the ticket these Soviet Jews need.

Be a part of this modern day exodus. Help extend a ticket to freedom.

Plan to attend the Delaware Jewish Community's Operation Exodus Community Rally, Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m. in the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Social Hall.

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\$500,000 Raised a



Front left, clockwise — William & Judy Topkis, Operation Exodus Co-Chairpersons, Sheldon & Ruth Weinstein, Operation Exodus Co-Chairpersons, U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Toni & Stuart Young, Operation Exodus Freedom Concert Co-Chairpersons, Marjory Stone, Harry David Zutz, Marsha Borin, Richard & Karen Venezky, Operation Exodus Freedom Concert Co-Chairpersons.



Front left, clockwise — Helen Schutzman, Norman Schutzman, Judy Melman, Bennett Epstein, Alice Epstein, Rabbi Peter Grumbacher, Serena Winer, Richard Winer, Henry Topel, 1990 JFD Campaign Chairman, Phyllis Topel, Barbara Yalisoue.



Front left, clockwise — Mel Lichtman, UJA Consultant, Roberta Lawitt, UJA Consultant, Richard Levine, Ruth Morelli, Sandy Taub, Sylvan Taub, Susan Stoltz, Jack Stoltz, Cynthia Kane, Richard Kane.



Front left, clockwise — Stuart Nemser, Lelaine Nemser, JFD Staff Associate, Bea Snyder, Harold Snyder, Errol Ger, Ruth Ann Ger, Steven Rothschild, Carol Rothschild, Jeffrey Rothschild, Garth Koniver, Ellen Koniver, Operation Exodus Community Rally Co-Chairperson.



Front left, clockwise — Perry Pollak, Otaker Pollak, Ruth Levy, Charles Levy, Terry Dannemann, Ernst Dannemann, Dora Dukart, Leonard Dukart, Julia Blumberg.



Front left, clockwise — Irving Grossman, Ralph Friedberg, Elaine Friedberg, Bernard Borine, UJA Vice-Chairman, Meryl Borine, Laurence Fenton, Gloria Fenton, David Levinson, Delaware Insurance Commissioner, Marilyn Levinson, Sandy Berg, Howard Berg.



Front left, clockwise — Reiko Kayne, Barry Kayne, Alan Schoenberg, Barbara Schoenberg, Jack Blumenfeld, Jean Blumenfeld, Ethel Parsons, Donald Parsons, Gail Tolpin.



Front left, clockwise — Arthur Inden, Sheila Inden, Barbara Miller, Andrew Miller, Howard Simon, Arlene Simon, The Honorable Bernard Balick, The Honorable Helen Balick, Sidney Balick, Carol Balick, Judy Zucker, Howard Zucker.

OPERATION EXODUS CAMPAIGN at Opening Event



Front left, clockwise — Phyllis Aerenson, Steven Dombchik, Rhoda Dombchik, Al Morris, Felice Morris, Robert Kerbel, JFD Executive Vice President, Ruth Kerbel, Barbara Longwill, Richard Longwill, Nancy Kauffman, JFD Women's Division President, Robert Kauffman.



Front left, clockwise — The Honorable Jack B. Jacobs, Irving Morris, Doris Morris, Karen Morris, Alan Levenson, Karin Morris, David Morris, Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz.



Front left, clockwise — Howard Kattler, Deane Kattler, David Sorkin, Arlene Sorkin, Roger Pernick, Ruth Pernick, Richard Levin, Marilyn Levin, Theodore Zutz, Sylvia Zutz, Efrem Lieber, Denyse Lieber.



Front left, clockwise — Leon Levy, Alma Levy, Leo Zefitel, Sybil Zefitel, Herbert Wolfson, Harriet Wolfson, Pat Chalphin, Robert Chalphin.



Front left, clockwise — Leslie Newman, James Newman, Pat Sloan, Doris Budner, Stanley Budner, Judy Wilk, Howard Wilk, Diane Levin, Alan Levin, Ellen Levin, Shelly Mand.

Also present:

Betty Diznoff
 Barry Diznoff
 Miriam Edell
 Steven Edell
 Micki Edelson
 Lanny Edelson
 Leslie Goldenberg
 Edward Goldenberg
 Susan Labowitz



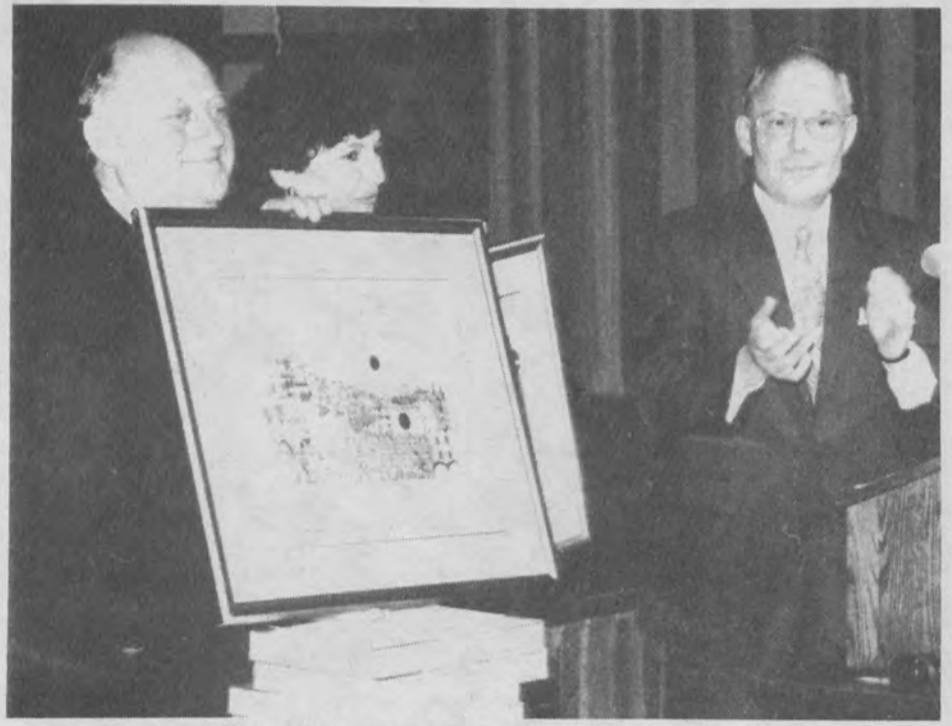
Front left, clockwise — Dale Semler Rosenthal, Allan Rosenthal, Suzanne Grant, Lisa Fink, Lori Barbanel, Mark Kuller, Daniel Kreshtool, Susan Kreshtool, Kathy Bloom, Seth Bloom, JFD Director of Community Development.



Front left, clockwise — Lois Chalawsky, JFD Office Manager, Paula Berengut, Jewish Voice Editor, Robert Coonin, Sally Coonin, Paula Pernick, Norman Pernick, Nancy Pincus, Robert Pincus, Dennis Toner, Senator Biden's Staff Assistant, Ted Kaufman, Senator Biden's Administrative Assistant, Henry Topel, 1990 JFD Campaign Chairman.



Bernard Siegel, JFD Annual Meeting Chairman, and William Topkis, JFD President.



William Topkis, JFD President, presents campaign awards to Henry Topel, JFD 1990 Campaign Chairman, and Nancy Kauffman, JFD Women's Division President, for their outstanding leadership.

Does our Jewish community have a future? **YES!**

56th Annual Meeting - Jewish Federation of Delaware



Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz delivers the invocation at the Jewish Federation of Delaware 56th Annual Meeting.



Robert N. Kerbel, JFD Executive Vice President, discusses challenges facing the Jewish community of Delaware for the next decade.



David Margules delivers the Nominating Committee report.



Dana Ger, 1988 graduate of Gratz Hebrew High School, wishes Gratz a Happy 25th Birthday. Gratz is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.



Ellen Konner receives the Volunteer of the Year Award from JFD President William Topkis.



Kathy Bloom receives the David Braunstein Young Leadership Award from JFD President William Topkis.



President Award Recipients

Standing, from left:

Toni Young - *Jewish Voice* Chairperson

Arnold Lieberman, Executive Director, Leslie Newman, President
Jewish Family Service — Russian Resettlement

Susan Paikin, Norman Pernick — Co-Chairpersons
Young Leadership Development

Ellen Koniver — Volunteer of the Year

Seated, from left:

Rachel Yoskowitz, Chairperson
JFD New American Resettlement Committee

William M. Topkis, JFD President

Roberta Burman, Jewish Family Service, Coordinator
Russian Resettlement Program



1990 JFD Campaign Leadership

Standing, from left:

Steven J. Rothschild, Chairman, Major Gifts Division

Nancy H. Kauffman, Women's Division Campaign Chairperson

Henry Topel, Campaign Chairman

Judy Topkis, Women's Division Co-Chairperson, Pacesetters

Seated, from left:

Cas Anolick, Co-chairman, Advanced Gifts Division

Kathy F. Bloom, Co-Chairperson, Super Sunday

Alan Paikin, Co-Chairperson, Super Sunday

Ruth E. Weinstein, Women's Division Co-Chairperson, Pacesetters

Not photographed: Alene Berkowitz, Barry Kayne, Ruth Pernick



1990-91 Jewish Federation of Delaware Officers

Standing, from left:

Jack B. Blumenfeld, Treasurer

Nancy H. Kauffman, Assistant Treasurer

William M. Topkis, President

Steven A. Dombchik, Vice President

Henry Topel, Vice President

Seated, from left:

Leslie Newman, Secretary

Toni Young, Vice President

Robert B. Coonin, Assistant Secretary



Jewish Federation of Delaware

New Board of Directors
Term to Expire in May 1993

Standing, from left:

Martin I. Lubaroff

Cas Anolick

Leslie Newman

Deane Kattler

Mark Kuller

Ruth E. Weinstein

Seated, from left:

Henry Topel

William M. Topkis, JFD President

Susan Jonas

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grandparents — are leading longer and longer lives. But what happens to them when they are no longer able to live on their own? It's an uncomfortable subject for many of us to face. Want an answer? Ask Mrs. Fabian herself. "There's never a dull moment here," she says. "There are current event programs, painting classes, exercise sessions — I'm on the go all the time." And enjoying herself, thanks to her niece and nephew Sybil and Leo Zeffel, the wonderful people in Kutz, and the efforts of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Another concern that many of us share — what happens to our children when we're at work or have infants at

member organizations. But these are mere numbers on a page — it is the human cost that should concern us. Who will we have to say "no" to in the coming year? Mrs. Fabian? Elliot? Nathan?

And looking at the larger picture, what does this say about our community to outsiders? To fellow Jews? To non-Jews? As a matter of fact, the amount of funding Israel receives from the United States Congress is based heavily on how much we ourselves have raised. They say "We'll give you money, but first, let's see what your own people have given you." What do we say to them? How do we answer?

Well, now I've stated the problem, and if I were in your seats, I'd be waiting to

Federation. Discuss it practically, factually, unemotionally, *strategically*. We'll ask "What is it now?" And "what will it be when it grows up?" This is called a Vision Statement and although its creation is a necessity for just about any modern business, we have never had one. Like many businesses — like many people — we have fallen into the trap of living day-by-day. As a result we have some pretty nice trees — well pruned, tall and proud. But our forest is steadily eroding.

Let me tell you from personal experience, a Vision Statement is a valuable tool as we move forward. First and foremost, it will point us in a direction that we will agree upon and buy into. So there is less energy wasted in parallel or even divergent courses and more generated toward pure forward motion. It's a continual reference point that will guide our day-by-day activities, allowing us to prune the trees as we expand the forest. It will lead to the implementation of strategic planning task forces, which will include representatives from all agencies and the entire community, who will operate with common consent. They will work thoroughly, they will work methodically, and they will bite off the challenges before us in manageable 5-year sections.

more than a thousand a week in the early part of 1990.

We have been given a major opportunity to rescue hundreds of thousands of our people. What we are rescuing them from varies. Some we are rescuing from persecution or even death. Others we

what kind of person will my child be?

are "merely" rescuing from a gray existence devoid of religious freedom, free, intellectual thought or the basic human right to fulfill their personal potential.

Events are moving quickly in the Soviet Union. The situation for our people is very unstable, and we have no way of knowing how long that window to freedom will stay open. We must act and act now.

As many of you know, the Worldwide Jewish Community has established Operation Exodus — a program to help resettle up to 100,000 Soviet Jews per year in Israel — find them jobs, decent housing and a chance to build a real life

Many of us, I know, say "no" automatically. Very politely and diplomatically, and probably a little guiltily, but "no" nonetheless. We might look like we're thinking it over, but we already know what our answer will be. "No."

home? The answer to this question is a crucial one. David and Michelle Margules have evidently solved it to their satisfaction. The day care programs at the JCC, they say, have provided their son Elliot "with a loving and caring environment" while they are at work. Thanks to the special people at the JCC, and behind the scenes, the dollars of the Federation.

And when our children get a little older — and those of us who have gone through this period of life know what I mean — we can see our children's personalities and value structures begin to take shape. And each of us asks ourselves "what kind of person will my child be? The staff of Albert Einstein Academy have this question in mind every day. Their goal is to help youngsters enhance their secular education — develop the ability to filter their learning through an ethical context and *think* and *feel* what they learn. Sound like it's hard on the kids? Well, let's ask Nathan Blumenfeld. "I love everything about my school," he says. "I love latkes at Hanukkah especially with applesauce and I love the story of Noah's Ark especially the Ninja Turtles." Well, that's not quite how I remember it, but I think that what we have here is one happy little boy destined to be a fine Jewish adult. Thanks to the people of Einstein, and the efforts of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Of course these are only a few examples — all of our agencies are doing important work that touches the hearts of our people every day. We are proud of their successes in helping Mrs. Fabian, the Margules, the Blumenfelds and thousands of people just like them. People just like us. And, we are proud of the support we, the Jewish Federation of Delaware gives them, providing the foundation that allows them to do these good works.

But, as I noted, we are nearly 15 percent short of our goal this year. Fifteen percent short in our ability to help our people. The Federation has 1/7 less ability to fund the programs of our

hear the solution. And I don't have it to give you. Furthermore, I'm going to present you with a paradox. None of us has the answer. Yet, all of us have the answer. And let me suggest a few strong steps toward discovering it.

First of all, I say to all Jewish Delawareans — give a little time to the Federation, to the community. Volunteer for a Committee or a Board if you haven't already, and encourage your Jewish friends and neighbors to do the same. Many of us, I know, say "no"

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automatically. Very politely and diplomatically, and probably a little guiltily, but "no" nonetheless. We might look like we're thinking it over, but we already know what our answer will be. "No."

Believe me, I know. I'm describing myself for the first 40 years of my life. But I adopted a new life goal, call it a midlife crisis if you will, in the last 5 years or so. I knew I couldn't change the world. But I believed if I tried, if I really worked at it, I could make it just a little bit better for having been here.

The bottom line? Please pass it on: if you *really* can't help, if helping in a personal way would make you feel uncomfortable, that's OK. But please, think about it. Your people need you. And the benefits you can receive are well worth the investment. Just ask any of the people we've honored here tonight.

Very soon, a team led by a consultant and including several past Presidents of the JFD will get together to discuss the

For years we have begged, we have pleaded. To a modern day pharaoh we have said "let our people go." And we got what we wanted. Our people are leaving - escaping - the Soviet Union in unprecedented numbers - from fewer than a thousand a year in the mid '80s to more than a thousand a week in the early part of 1990.

But even more valuable than the statement itself is the process of creating it. Never before have we brainstormed together to this extent. Never before have we thought through and strategized at this level. Never before have we dissected the workings of the Federation. And I think that never before have we achieved the level of enthusiasm and teamwork this process will generate.

But the Vision takes a long term view, and as many of you are probably thinking it is more philosophical than practical in the short term. We have a number of long-term humiliating problems, and they cannot be solved with other than long term methods.

We do, however, have a new challenge. One that needs fast action. Immediate action.

In his infinite mercy, the good Lord has presented us with an opportunity to redeem ourselves, or with his infinite sense of humor, an opportunity to fall flat on our faces. For we are now being presented with the greatest challenge in Delaware Federation history, probably one of the greatest challenges in Jewish history.

For years we have begged, we have pleaded. To a modern day pharaoh we have said "let our people go." No frogs or locusts this time. Just winds. The winds of political change. And we got what we wanted. Our people are leaving — escaping — the Soviet Union in unprecedented numbers — from fewer than a thousand a year in the mid '80s to

for themselves and their families. For some, for most, it's the first chance they've had to do so.

The resettlement program has a total price tag of \$3.6 billion, with the government of Israel shouldering the burden of \$3 billion of that amount. The United States Jewish community as a whole is committed to raising \$420 million. And of that amount, from the total of \$3.6 billion, the amount that the Delaware community has set as its goal — a "fair share" amount based on our demographics and past experience — is \$708,000. That's less than \$30 per person per year for the three years that Operation Exodus will be in force. \$2.50 per month. 8 pennies a day.

As the world's fortunate minority, it is sometimes difficult for us to fathom how little it takes to make a real difference in the lives of the truly needy.

Well, I've outlined some of the problems we face. And I've made some modest suggestions. The challenges before us are not easy, but they never have been for our people. From our days of bondage in Egypt to the aggression that threatens the very existence of our homeland today, we have always survived by *sticking together and becoming involved*. And now, this wonderful ability of ours is being called upon once again in a time of crisis. So let me ask you, do you think we can do it?

Yes. We can. Together, we can. Thank you very much for listening. I look forward to working with all of you.