

The JEWISH VOICE

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THOUGHTS FROM BAGHDAD

By 1st Lieutenant Scott F. Travis
Special to the Jewish Voice

When I was asked to write about "What it is like to be Jewish in Baghdad," I wasn't quite sure at first where to begin. It is a hard question to answer by itself. I figured the best way to fully explain it would be to start out at the very beginning.

Growing up in Wilmington, I never felt different being a Jew. I went to pre-school at the JCC, knew almost my entire Hebrew School class already from the Brandywine School District and spent every summer of my childhood at the JCC day camp.

When I went off to college at West Point, I encountered the first people in my life who had never met a Jew before. But even there, it wasn't a terrible culture shock because there were about 50 Jewish cadets at the school and we had a Jewish chapel. When I wasn't doing homework or military drills, I found time to participate in the West Point Jewish Choir. So, up until the time I graduated from college, if asked what it was like to be a Jew, wherever I was, I probably couldn't answer the question because it felt like it always did...Normal.

It wasn't until I entered the Army and arrived at my first duty station in Baumholder, Germany that I first felt being Jewish wasn't as "normal" as I was used to. In June, 2002, a German friend of mine invited my roommate and I to a punk rock festival in Saarbrücken. At the festival, we met some of her friends from the University of the Saarland. A young woman named Sonja and I started talking about German culture, traditions and religion. When I told her that I was Jewish, she didn't know how to react. Her mouth dropped open a little, she hesitated and withdrew and then asked me if I hated German people. I was the first Jew that she

had ever met and she didn't know how to react. I found it kind of funny actually, but it showed me how touchy the subject still is in Germany. In the end, it apparently wasn't too much of a problem because she and I ended up dating and are still together.

As early as April, 2002, there were rumors and jokes about us getting deployed to Iraq. It was in the back of everyone's mind, but most of us hoped for the best and tried not to think about it. By October, it looked like we were definitely going somewhere. By January, we started gearing up to leave. A big part of the preparation involves filling out the paperwork — Powers of Attorney, vehicle storage packets, wills and next of kin notifications. Obviously, everyone was nervous, but for the very first time in my life I hesitated about openly stating my Jewish identity when I filled out a request for a second set of dog tags. These tags contain your name, social security number, blood type and religion. I thought to myself, "What would happen to me if I were captured and they saw 'Jewish' on my dog tags?" Hopefully, I'll never know. But it made me stop and think.

We deployed on April 26th, arriving in Kuwait the next day. After three weeks of living in the sand, we mounted up and headed for Baghdad, arriving on the 16th of May. It was very surreal to drive into the city for the first time. There were tattered Iraqi flags everywhere, usually accompanied by the Palestinian flag. Saddam made no secret of his hatred of Jews and of Israel, and I was interested in seeing for myself whether or not that was the dominant feeling among the Iraqi people (who obviously hated Saddam).

I am a combat engineer platoon leader. One of my very first missions was to guard a branch office of the Al-Rasheed Bank in the Al-Yarmuk District of

Baghdad. For three weeks, my platoon guarded that bank, 24 hours a day, seven days a week by rotating squads through on eight-hour shifts. The bank was on a main avenue, wedged in-between shops, apartment buildings and the heavily trafficked road. All day long and into the evenings, neighborhood kids hung around us, asking questions, trying to sell us Pepsis and playing games. We became pretty attached to these kids and joked around with them. When one of the little boys we nicknamed "Frankie" tried to sell me one soda for \$1 as opposed to the going rate of three for \$1, I playfully called him "Ali Baba". (Iraqis think that Americans view this as a definition for thief.) Our little game escalated... Uday... Saddam... to the point where this little 10 year old triumphantly called me the mother of all insults, "Sharon". Several days later, a 13 year old walked up to me and asked me, in pretty good English, if I liked Jews. I shrugged my shoulders in response. He told me that he hated Jews. When I asked him why, out of sheer curiosity, he couldn't answer. He just did.

I don't tell any Iraqis here that I am Jewish. I work with a lot of them-translators, engineers, cleaning ladies, check point security workers—many of whom are genuinely nice, good people. I don't think that religion matters when it comes to friendships and relationships with other people. But I don't know if it matters to these Iraqis. The only one who does know that I am Jewish is an Iraqi Mechanical Engineer I work with named Jassim. He and I are managing and supervising the reconstruction and renovation of eight schools, an orphanage, a public park and ten projects on the Baghdad University Campus. Jassim studied abroad in England when he was in college, and has a very worldly view on life. My friendship with him is one that I think has affected us both.

In late September, I attended Rosh Hashanah services at the Al-Faw Palace, just outside the Baghdad International Airport. The palace was beautiful and was made of pristine marble from floor



Lt. Travis under Saddam's "Evil Arches"

to ceiling. By the entrance, there was a large throne. In the center of that throne was a picture of the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem. The arms of the chair were covered in gold paint with Arabic words. On the wall next to the throne was pasted a translation of what the chair said in English. I can't quote verbatim what it said, but the gist was "We will be triumphant. Jerusalem will soon be ours."

There were about 70 Jewish soldiers at the service who drove or flew in from all over central Iraq. One came up from Kuwait. It was really amazing to see and it probably set some kind of a record. I ended up talking to a guy from the New York National Guard for a while. He was an MP from the Bronx and joined the National Guard after September 11th (Although when he signed up, he thought he'd be guarding the Holland Tunnel, not a Marine Corps base camp on the banks of the Euphrates River). I also ran into a Signal Corps Captain who was in the West Point Jewish Choir with me. It was nice to see a familiar face.

I found it funny that a large percentage of the soldiers that I talked to there, regardless of whether they were National Guardsmen, Reservists or Active Duty, were from New York City. There was a female Active-Duty

Captain who emigrated from St. Petersburg, graduated from NYU Law School and is now a JAG Officer. There was a female private from Queens who joined the National Guard to pay for College at SUNY Binghamton, and then there was the whole gaggle of MPs from all over NY.

That group of MPs had a pretty amusing conversation, describing Iraqi reactions to their being Jewish. The one guy that I had talked to earlier said that one of their interpreters had absolutely loved him and followed him around everywhere until he told him one day that he was Jewish, and not Christian. After that, he said the interpreter asked to move to a different unit. There were lots of stories like that. It seemed like everyone had one but me.

A fascinating thing I learned out here is that Iraqis hate Palestinians. While the Iraqi people suffered under the brutal and egotistical regime of the Ba'athists, living with crumbling schools, dilapidated neighborhoods, starvation and unnecessarily subjected to international embargos, Saddam passed out \$25,000 a head to the families of homicide-bombers in the occupied territories. I had never thought about Saddam's blood money that way before. I'd be bitter too, I guess.

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**FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN
HELP OUR SOLDIERS
ON PAGE 17**

INSIDE THE VOICE

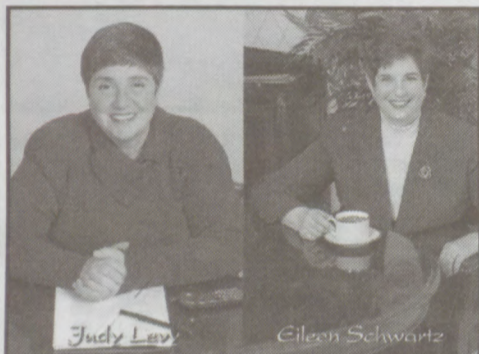
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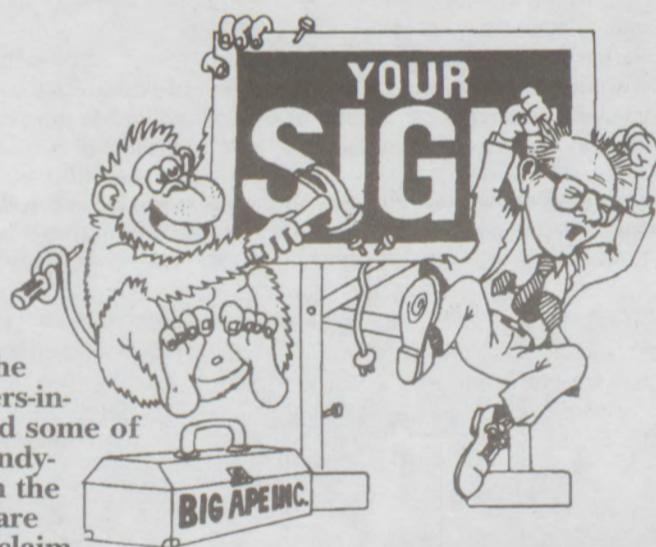
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EDITORIAL

Men and Women of Valor

Veteran's Day is November 11th. It is a time when we pay tribute to the men and women who have brought honor to their families, their community and their country by serving in our Armed Forces.

The Delaware Jewish Community is proud of the many brave veterans who have put their lives on the line to defend our nation in World War I, World War II, The Korean War and other battles on distant shores. Several of these courageous individuals will share their stories with students at Albert Einstein Academy on November 11th. The community is invited to join in this special tribute scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m.

The Jewish Voice is privileged to share with its readers the front-line experiences of Delaware native son Scott F. Travis. Our community can truly kvell at the selflessness and courage exhibited by Scott and fellow West Point alumnus Lev Yampolsky who recently completed a tour of duty and is continuing his military training here in the United States. In the near future, we will surely salute the achievements of Ari Kayne who currently is a senior at the United States Air Force Academy.

On Veteran's Day let us all take time to celebrate the sacrifices made by our service men and women to protect and preserve our nation's honor.

Yasher Koach Mission participants

It's an exciting time for the 16 men and women from our community who will leave for Israel on November 10th. They will travel to Arad, Delaware's Partnership 2000 community to join in the 40th anniversary festivities. Our thoughts and our prayers will accompany Samuel H. Asher, Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, Robin Exton, Reiko and Barry Kayne, Sheila and Burt Krinsky, Alan Levenson, Lela and Stuart Nemser, Lauren Schultz, Allan Tocker, Bill Wagman, Toni and

Stuart Young and Jack Zigon. They will share their perspectives in future issues of The Jewish Voice. This community applauds your decision to stand beside the people of Israel during these difficult times.

N'SiahTovah-May all of you enjoy a safe and exciting journey!

Lynn B. Edelman

The JEWISH VOICE

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Violence is roadblock to peace

Dear Editor,

On Monday, October 27, three women from Jerusalem, one Christian, one Muslim and one Israeli-Jew, spoke at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church on the personal impact of the Middle East crisis and how it has affected their lives. In brief, they suggested that if only Israel would cease occupying Palestinian land, peace would result. Things aren't as simple as they presented.

All of us need to think of a long-term solution, a long-term commitment between both peoples. This process has to be taken one step at a time, one day at a time. Today Israel has no guarantees that if they withdraw to 1967 lines they won't be confronting exactly the same reality they have today – the violence, the bloodshed, and the daily acts of terrorism.

Israelis will take this one step at a time. With security comes confidence, and with confidence comes cooperation and compromise. Israel is prepared to negotiate land for peace – but peace is just as important to them

as land is to the Palestinians.

These women spoke passionately of the need for removing the numerous humiliating checkpoints they'd documented. I understand that these searches bring a great deal of anger and hurt to Palestinian families on a daily basis.

But the terrorism against innocent Israeli children must stop. Can any of us understand the anguish of the Jewish people? They have lived so long with fear and funerals, not for soldiers, but for children!

Israelis have a right to a normal life. They have a right to security. They want and need a responsible Palestinian partner to achieve the security and a permanent lasting peace that everyone – Israeli and Palestinian – all deserve.

When will the Palestinian leadership take the bold move to stop the continued violence that is harming the next generation of both peoples?

Sincerely,
Cora Carlis
Wilmington

PARSHA PLACE

Week of November 8

Lech L'cha

Genesis 12:1-17:27

ABRAHAM'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Sanford Akselrad

Parashat Lech L'cha defines the ultimate journey of humanity. Within each of us there is a search for meaning. *Lech L'cha* defines this search as one that is deeply spiritual. In these few words, the Torah teaches us a great deal about our relationship with God and how God speaks to us.

The words "Adonai said to Abram, 'Go forth from your native land...'" are remarkable in how little Abram reacted to them. Most of us, upon hearing a voice asking us to leave all that is dear to us to go to a foreign land, would wonder if we were indeed sane. At the very least we would experience some fright, some resistance, and some form of acknowledgment that the request presents a great challenge—a life-altering change.

But Abram was chosen because he was different from us, or perhaps more precisely because he was like all of us, only more so. He was gifted with the ability to hear God's voice in a way that most of us think is impossible, but all of us are able to do. When he heard God's voice, he did not shake or tremble. It was a voice that was familiar to him. It was a voice that he somehow knew was true and pure and good.

The Rabbis sought to explain this by telling the midrash of Abraham as a young boy of three. In the midrash, Abraham went out and observed the world, wondering in his heart who created it and all its creatures. During the day he prayed to the sun. But when the sun set, he decided that the moon was much more powerful. When the moon sank in the west and the sun rose once again in the east, he realized that neither of them could be the Creator. Abraham realized that there was a higher God to which he would pray.

The Rabbis told this story as a way of explaining why Abraham was different. He was in essence a spiritual genius. He had an ability that we all have—namely, to hear God's voice—but in Abraham it was more finely developed.

In heeding God's words, Abram set off on a journey. But it was more than just a geographic journey in which he traveled from one place to another; it was a spiritual journey in which he would find his life and his beliefs challenged and changed forever. This journey required that Abraham break from his father Terah's teachings. The midrash tells a story of Abraham as a little boy left in charge of Terah's idol-making shop. While his father was away, Abraham destroyed the idols with a hammer. When Terah returned, Abraham told him that the idols fought among themselves. When his father challenged him, saying, "That's ridiculous, idols cannot move!" Abraham replied, "Then why do you worship them?"

That midrash explains the turmoil that Abraham's journey caused within his own family. And it also displays Abraham's deep-seated conviction of belief in one God—a God that has no form that can be seen.

Toward the end of *Lech L'cha* we learn that Abram's name is changed to Abraham. In Genesis 17:5 the Torah recounts, "And your name shall no longer be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham..." Likewise, in Genesis 17:15 his wife Sarai, who accompanied him on his journey, also had her name changed from Sarai to Sarah. Like Jacob's name change to Israel, which takes place later in Genesis, Abram's and Sarai's name changes indicate spiritual transformation. It serves as a reminder that when we truly encounter God, our lives, our very beings and our very sense of self, are changed in ways we could not have previously imagined.

Abraham may be the paradigmatic journeyman in Judaism. And as the first Jew perhaps he sets us on a path toward our own spiritual development. These are some of his lessons:

In a world that is so filled with the noise of the every day, find time to truly LISTEN.

A spiritual journey is just that—a journey. We are not meant to encounter God and remain passive. We must not fear change or avoid the challenge of change.

Life is meant to be lived. We are not to hide from life or allow life to pass us by untouched and unappreciated. The tradition reminds us that when we are called before the heavenly court, we will be held accountable for all of life's joys in which we did not partake.

Deep within each of us is the potential to hear God's voice, to hear God's challenge. Someone once said, prayer is our reaching out to God; study is God's way of reaching out to us. Through prayer and through study, through the performance of mitzvot, we embark on dialogues with God that will lead us through our own spiritual journeys. The challenge is finding the time, the courage, and the commitment to begin.

Sanford Akselrad is the senior rabbi at *Congregation Ner Tamid* in Las Vegas, Nevada.

THURSDAY
NOON
DEADLINE

for all articles, advertisements
and news for The Jewish Voice

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Nov. 21	PARTY AND SIMCHA PLANNING	Nov. 13

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SHABBAT

Candle Lighting

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FEDERATION FOCUS

Israeli television icon to speak at Federation Shabbat

Gil Tamary, a highly regarded television journalist in Israel, will be the guest speaker during Federation Shabbat, Saturday, November 22nd at Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth in Wilmington. Since July 1998, Tamary has served as the Washington reporter and Washington Bureau Chief for the Israel Broadcasting Authority - Israel's public TV network (Channel 1) and Israel Public Radio ("KOL ISRAEL").

Recently, he joined Channel 10, the new TV network in Israel as Washington reporter and

Washington Bureau Chief. He covers a wide range of Middle East issues from a U.S. perspective, including the Wye River summit with the Palestinians, the Shepherdstown talks with the Syrians and the Camp David summit of 2000. After the Camp David talks, President Clinton gave Tamary an exclusive interview in which the former President for the first time outlined his vision of peace and his commitment to the state of Israel.

In his years in Washington, Tamary also conducted exclusive



Gil Tamary

interviews with many dignitaries including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and provided coverage of major U.S. stories including the Monica Lewinsky Scandal, the 2000 Elections and the War against Terror.

Before coming to Washington, he served as anchor and chief editor of "Good Morning Israel", a popular morning news show on Israeli TV. Tamary worked for several years as a commentator and a chief economic editor for Israel's national TV and for Army Radio. He is a sabra whose family came

to Israel (then Palestine) with the first immigration wave in 1880. They helped to establish the first settlements in the Galilee. He is a reservist officer in the IDF.

Shabbat services begin at 9:00 a.m. Tamary's presentation and a kiddush lunch will follow at 11:45 a.m. The program is sponsored by The Rabbinical Association of Delaware and the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

For further information, contact Lauren Schultz at 302-427-2100, ext. 10 or email her at Lauren.Schultz@shalomdel.org.

JFF launches charitable gift annuity program



Jennifer Young
Endowment Director

By Jennifer B. Young

The Jewish Fund for the Future/Jewish Federation of Delaware is partnering with United Jewish Communities to offer Charitable Gift Annuities. A Charitable Gift Annuity is an agreement between the donor and the Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, whereby, in exchange for a gift of cash, stock, mutual fund shares, or other assets, the endowment fund promises to pay you, or a beneficiary you choose, a fixed income for life. The assets that remain after the income beneficiary dies may be used to

establish a fund in your name that will be established with the Jewish Fund for the Future.

The Charitable Gift Annuity yields are hard to beat. Money invested in taxable money market accounts of CDs will yield 5% or less. With an annuity the amount you receive is fixed and will not change regardless of current investment or market conditions. For example, a 75-year-old donor would receive 7.1%. Please see the Charitable Gift Annuity ad on the back page for additional current rates. Donors can act now to receive the charitable deduction this year.

Charitable Gift Annuities offer

many benefits to the donor:

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- Income payments are based upon the recipient's age at the time of the first payment- the older the recipient, the higher the payment.

- A Deferred Gift Annuity can be an excellent supplement to retirement planning and is not subject to qualified plan regula-

tions.

- Charitable Gift Annuities provide you peace of mind in that you will be receiving a fixed payment for the rest of your life.

If you would like more information, please contact Jennifer Young, Endowment Director, at 302-427-2100 x 19. The Jewish Fund for the Future can assist you with all of your planned giving needs: Philanthropic Fund/Donor Advised Fund, Named Endowment Fund, Charitable Remainder Trust, Charitable Gift Annuity, Charitable Bequest, Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE), Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE).

A Fiddler on the Roof ... sounds crazy no?



Todd Polikoff
Campaign Director

In the beginning of the play *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye the milkman gives a prologue to the song *Tradition*. He says, "Everyone one of us is a fiddler on the roof trying to scratch out a pleasant simple tune without breaking his neck." He then poses the question "Why do we stay up there if it is so

dangerous?" to which he answers, "It's because Anatevka (the village in the story) is our home and how do we keep our balance, that I can tell you in one word...tradition!"

Every Jewish community at one point or another has related to the fiddler's struggle for balance. The task of balancing the needs of Jews around the world with the needs of Jews down the street is the roof on which our community stands. Why do we undertake this effort to balance the needs of all Jews? It is our responsibility, it is our task and it is written in our Tradition.

The tradition that instructs us to help all Jews whenever possible is the foundation on which the JFD annual campaign is built. The mission of the Jewish Federation of Delaware is to assess and address the needs of the Jewish Community of Delaware and the needs of Jews around the world. Locally, this work is performed through our six constituent agencies (Albert Einstein Academy, Gratz Hebrew High, Hillel at the

University of Delaware, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Services and the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home). Overseas our annual allocations, and the Israel Emergency Fund, are ensuring that we are servicing Jews in Israel and around the world.

All of our work stems from the most basic of our traditions; *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) and *Klal Yisroel* (all Jews are one people). We must, as those who came before us, provide a Jewish community for generations to come. The JFD annual campaign is the best and most effective way to carry on our tradition.

The job of assessing and addressing the needs of the Jews of Delaware, Israel and around the world is truly a balancing act that is at times perilous, but it is a job that we will gladly accept. It is our tradition!

For more information on the JFD annual campaign please contact me at (302)427-2100 ext. 16 or www.shalomdelaware.org.

Myths and Facts

MYTH #118: "The Palestinian Authority is helpless to dismantle Hamas and Islamic Jihad because the terrorist groups are too powerful and popular."

FACT: The media has helped create the misperception that the Palestinian Authority (PA) cannot dismantle the terrorist network in its midst because of the strength and popularity of the radical Islamic Palestinian terrorist groups.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad are not huge armed forces. Together, the military wings of both organizations total fewer than 1,000 men. By contrast, the PA has 35,000 people in a variety of police, intelligence, and security forces (Anthony H. Cordesman, "Escalating to Nowhere: The Israeli-Palestinian War - The Actors in the Conflict: The Palestinian Factions That Challenge Peace and the Palestinian Authority," DC: CSIS, September 12, 2003, p. 35). Not only does the PA have overwhelming superiority of manpower and firepower, it also has the intelligence assets to find most, if not all of the terrorists.

It is true these Islamic groups have achieved some popularity, but polls show that together they still are only supported by about one-fourth of the Palestinian population. The PA is not a democracy, so its leaders do not base their decisions on public opinion, but the data shows that it is not hindered from acting by any overwhelming sympathy for the radical factions.

The PA could follow the example of the Jordanian government, which has not allowed Hamas to establish a foothold in the kingdom. King Abdullah closed their offices in Amman, as well as their newspaper, and has arrested and deported numerous members of the organization (International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism, "Jordan Closes Hamas Offices in Amman," August 31, 1999; "Jordan Depots Hamas Leaders to Qatar," November 22, 1999; "The Jordanian Move against Hamas," August 31, 1999).

The Palestinians made the commitment to stop terrorism in 1993, and have repeatedly promised to do so since then, including their 2003 assent to the road map. They still have not lived up to this fundamental requirement for peace. No progress toward Palestinian statehood can be made until the violence stops, and the PA cannot use the excuse that it lacks the means to put an end to the violent activities of a tiny minority of the Palestinian people.

Source: *Myths & Facts Online - A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict* by Mitchell G. Bard, <http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org>. This column is presented as a public service by this newspaper and the Hasbara Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Make your commitment to the Israel Emergency Fund
Call Todd at 427-2100, ext. 16

INSIDE DELAWARE

Newark Campus dedicated in honor of Wolfs

In October, members of the Delaware Jewish community celebrated the dedication of the Milton and Mary Wolf Jewish Campus in Newark. The dedica-

tion was an opportunity to publicly thank the Wolfs for their financial generosity, their leadership in this Community, and for providing the Jewish Community

Center and Delaware Gratz with an opportunity to better serve the Newark Jewish Community.

Located on 318 South College Avenue at the former site of the YMCA, the Campus offers a wide range of services that enhance the quality of Jewish life. They include:

- A Jewish preschool
- Desperately needed before and after school care
- A Jewish Day Camp
- Exercise and aquatic facilities
- A Jewish Arts and Entertainment program
- Hebrew classes
- Cultural and recreational trips and activities...

And much, much more. For additional information about the Milton and Mary Wolf Campus, please call 368-9173.



Milton and Mary Wolf celebrate with their family at the recent dedication ceremony.



Shabbaton: Fun & Learning

By Sharon Rosenblatt

Come one, come all to a week-end full of learning, discussions, fun and food!!

All 9th - 12th graders are invited to come to the JCC in Newark on December 19th, 20th, and 21st for an exciting program focusing

on a variety of personal issues, community issues and global issues explored in the light of Jewish values. Among the topics discussed will be dating, inter-dating, respect of one's body, sexuality, marriage, gender roles, various streams of Judaism, standing up for your beliefs and more. Workshop lead-

ers include Janice Chaiken Selekman, R.N.; Robin Karol-Eng, Ph.D.; Sherri Evans-Stanton, Esq.; Rabbi Eliezer Sniederman and Educational Director Student-Rabbi Brian Eng.

Financial aid and academic scholarships are available to both Gratz and non-Gratz students

who qualify. Gratz will award Presidential Merit Scholarships of \$150 towards the \$300 cost of the Shabbaton to the 20 most enthusiastic Gratz students nominated by their teachers.

Attendees can earn credit hours for attending Gratz Shabbaton Retreat Weekends. Call us to

inquire about the limited availability to earn related volunteer hours for clubs and organizations such as the National Honor Society.

For more information, contact Delaware Gratz at (302) 478-8100; gratz@delawaregratz.org; or Marlene Milunsky at Marlene@delawaregratz.org.

Hadassah to host Amy Kronish



Amy Kronish

Film historian and curator Amy Kronish will address topical issues in Israeli society as expressed through the medium of film on Monday, November 17th at 7:30 p.m. This free program, sponsored by the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah, is open to the entire community. Amy Kronish works freelance in the field of Jewish and Israeli film, curating film festivals, writing and lecturing to diverse groups. She served for 15 years as the Curator of Jewish and Israeli Film at the Jerusalem Cinematheque where she directed numerous Jewish film festivals and

film programs. Recently, she has also begun to work in the field of documentary film production and her award-winning first film, "I am Joseph Your Brother", was screened on ABC-TV in October 2001. Kronish is the author of two books on Israeli film and has published numerous articles and film programs on cinema. In addition, she has lectured widely at film festivals, universities and in communal settings in North America and Europe. She has an M.A. in Communications from N.Y.U. (1973), and has lived in Jerusalem for 24 years.

AKSE hosts visiting scholar

The Men's Club and Adult Education Committee of Congregation Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth will present its first Visiting Scholar program on November 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

Guest speaker will be Rabbi Seymour M. Panitz of Rockville, Maryland. Rabbi Panitz will discuss his recent book "Abraham and Sons" which examines the life and times of Abraham, one of the Jewish tradition's great patriarchs. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m. The cost for breakfast and the program is just \$4.

This event is open to the entire community. For additional infor-



Rabbi Seymour M. Panitz

mation, please call the synagogue office at (302) 762-2705.

Beth Emeth plans new member Shabbat

Members of Congregation Beth Emeth who joined in 2003 or people currently considering membership and their families are invited to a new and potential member Shabbas dinner and service planned for Friday evening, December 12th at Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 West Lea Blvd. in Wilmington. Dinner will be served in the social hall at 6:00 p.m. New members

and their families will be blessed and honored at the service, which will be held at 8:00 p.m. in the chapel. The Oneg following the service will provide an additional opportunity for members of the congregation to welcome guests and enjoy a relaxed chat following the service.

Families and individuals who are currently unaffiliated but would like

to learn more about Wilmington's Reform congregation are especially welcome to attend this event. Call Adele Kessel at 302-478-0776 for reservations. Adele and her helpers need to know how many guests will be coming, so please give her a call by December 3rd.

Questions about this event should be directed to Verna Schenker at 302-478-6673.

Super Sunday & Super Week

December 14, 15, 16 & 18, 2003 at The Wilmington JCC

On-line registration is available at: www.shalomdelaware.org

Cohen memorialized with music at WCU

The West Chester University Symphony Orchestra will honor the memory of the late Dr. Irving H. Cohen, a University professor, with the Cohen Memorial Concert on Saturday, November 23rd, 3 p.m. in Swope Hall Auditorium on campus.

Dr. Cohen served as director of the School of Music and taught musical history and instrumental music at the University for 20 years. The concert is open to the public free of charge and will be followed by a reception in the Swope Choral Room.

For additional information, please call 610-436-2739.

MATTER OF OPINION

Islamic Anti-Semitism

By E. E. Jaffe

The term anti-Semitism was invented by a German journalist in 1897 to express his hatred of Jews rather than hostility toward Judaism, at that time. Since Arabs are also Semites it created a real paradox. Arab anti-Semites claim that they cannot be real anti-Semites because it would amount to self-hatred. Modern day Arab anti-Semites have distanced themselves from anti-Semitic roots of Islam and have adopted the symbols and expressions of Western racist anti-Semites. After all, the ultimate anti-Semite was Adolph Hitler who was on very good terms with the Jerusalem mufti Amin El Hussein, one of the great anti-Semites of his day. All this was worth recalling, including Syria's official press attitude toward Jews.

The official Syrian newspaper Tishrin some time ago issued a crude anti-Semitic barrage, claiming that the Holocaust is a legend invented to extract money and sympathy from the West. Many such accusations have been made in the Arab press. This is nothing new for the Syrian government

controlled press. Syria still provides Nazi war criminals with political asylum and uses extreme anti-Semitic wording in its attack on Israel. The vitriol that they spew is designed to heighten tensions with Israel. Not too long ago at an international book fair in Damascus a book titled "The Matza of Zion" written by Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Tlas, was given a high degree of promotion. It is an Arab version of the medieval Christian blood libel that the Jews use blood of Muslim children to bake matzas for Passover.

Not to be outdone, during a previous Ramadan holiday, Egyptian Television began airing a 14 part series called "A Rider Without a Horse". The series is based on the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion", the 1905 anti-Semitic booklet written and distributed by the secret police of Russia's Czar Nicholas II, which describes a Jewish plot to take over the world. The Egyptians use it to confirm the "Zionist plot to take over Palestine".

Anti-Semitism is alive, active and virulent in the year 2003, after

more than half a century of Holocaust education, United Nations declarations, many museums and memorials, interfaith dialogue, thousands of books that expose this evil, etc. What more can be done? It is prevalent in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and South East Asia.

If further confirmation was required, now comes a new blast of anti-Semitic rhetoric from non-Arab Muslim leader, the Prime Minister of Malaysia Mahathir Mohamad at the very recent meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. In an extensive speech he stated, among other subjects, that the "Europeans have killed 6 million Jews out of 12 million, but today Jews rule the world by proxy, they get others to fight and die for them". What a horrendous lie and a fallacious and perverted statement by a man nominally in charge of a large Islamic country. He knew exactly what he was saying and that his words were carried by radio and TV around the world. This is a man who otherwise appears to be a clever and forthright politician. This is what

Jews of the world are up against. It is fortunate that President Bush who was in Malaysia at that time rebuked him by telling him that his remarks were "wrong and divisive".

Since the Prime Minister is a cagey politician his inexcusable statement was presumably done with careful forethought. Actually he also criticized his own Muslims, and the clerics in particular. He was critical by saying that interpreters of Islam who "taught that acquisition of knowledge by Muslims meant only the study of Islamic theology" leads to the diminution of the study of science, medicine, etc. He stated clearly that "intellectually the Muslims began to regress".

Some Malaysian politicians of note believe that his pronouncement about the Jews is a domestic balancing act, which the Prime Minister had previously used during the Asian financial crisis of 1997. His inflammatory statements appear to be contradictory since on the one hand he made a terribly offensive statement about the Jews, and other he in effect recommends that the Muslims learn from the

Jews how to be successful. He even acknowledged the contribution that Jews made to human rights and democracy. Clearly he is conveying a mixed message. Fortunately he stepped down from his position but he will not disappear from the political scene.

We see that religious anti-Semitism of old has mutated into racial anti-Semitism. It is prevalent everywhere to one degree or another, even where Jews don't reside. I have experienced this first hand in remote Siberia during WW II. Some local people were terribly upset when outsiders did better in schools than their native children.

The best way to combat this evil, besides eternal vigilance, is to wear one's identity with pride. The ultimate solution to the scourge of anti-Semitism is a safe collective home in Israel, where gates are kept open to any Jews afflicted by this human atrocity. In real terms anti-Semitism is a crime against humanity. Those who care about humanity should join in the never ending fight against the evil of anti-Semitism.

No post office for Bedouin professor

By Nechemia Meyers

Prof. Ismael Abu-Saad has a lovely home, a late-model car and a host of frequent flyer points, but when he wants to mail a letter or cash a check he must travel 10 miles to Beersheba. For Lakiya, the Bedouin town in which he resides, has no post office, no bank nor, for that matter, no bus service. But things are better than they were a few years, before Lakiya was granted the status of a recognized town. With the recognition came electricity and running water, but not, Abu-Saad is quick to point out, a public library, a proper sewage system or a host of other amenities usually provided by the Government.

Prof. Abu-Saad founded Ben-Gurion University's Bedouin Center for Studies and Development together with Robert Arnow, an American-Jewish philanthropist. The Center's goals include increasing the number of Bedouin students, particularly female ones, at the university through financial aid and academic support programs, as well as university preparatory courses for Bedouin high school students.

In another Bedouin Center project funded by Mr. Arnow, Abu-Saad and his colleague Prof. Harvey Lithwick prepared an urban development plan for improving the situation of the Government-recognized Bedouin towns in the Negev. "The plan," Abu-Saad says, "was submitted to Prime Minister Barak and then to Prime Minister Sharon. But there have been no reactions to it because nobody cares."

When asked about local initiatives aimed at solving the problems of the Bedouin, Abu-Saad notes that, for example, "there is some 'unofficial transport' for workers, vehicles leaving Lakiya in the morning and returning in the evening. However women who have an appointment at Beersheba's Soroka Medical Center in the middle of the day are out of luck. They have to walk a couple of miles by foot to reach the junction where they can catch a bus that will take them to Beersheba."

Nevertheless, there are plenty of Bedouin women to be found at the Medical Center, particularly in its maternity wards. This is a reflection of the fact that Negev Bedouin have a near world-record birthrate of 55.0 per thousand of population as compared to 19.8 per thousand of population for Negev Jews. This has clear implications for the demographic situation in the Negev, where 140,000 Bedouin now make up a quarter of the population.

It remains to be seen whether birth rates will be affected if the Government succeeds in its attempts to close down small Bedouin communities, which lack official status, and force residents to move to urban areas, where it is assumed that families will have fewer children. But according to research by Abu-Saad and Lithwick, the number of children in the family goes down only as parental educational levels go up. Yet, he charges, little has been done to improve those levels.

As as Abu-Saad sees it, the

relocation of Bedouin is being carried out primarily to facilitate the seizure of their land and use it to advance Jewish settlement in the Negev. The Ben-Gurion University professor admits that his brethren usually lack the documentation that would prove their ownership of the land they claim belongs to them. "What do you expect?" he asked rhetorically. "The Bedouin of earlier generations were illiterate and land ownership was defined by oral tradition rather than documents."

The ownership issue notwithstanding, the progress of the Bedouin obviously depends primarily on their having more professors and professional people and fewer wandering shepherds and unskilled laborers. Meanwhile, Abu-Saad feels special responsibility to his fellow Bedouin and for that reason has decided to remain in Likiya rather than move to Beersheba or return to the University of Minnesota, where he met his wife Kathy, a Wisconsin girl, and earned his Ph.D. in

Educational Policy and Administration. However, next April Ismael will be back in Minneapolis temporarily in order to receive an Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota. The Award recognizes graduates who have attained unusual distinction in their chosen fields or professions, or in public service, and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national or international level.



Professor Abu-Saad (far right) and some Bedouin friends.

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WOMEN LEAD THE WAY

Meet Allison Amorison



Allison Amorison

By Lynn B. Edelman

Allison L. Amorison has worked in Delaware for 11 years but has lived here for less than six months. She loves living close to her job as partner with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, LLP and has discovered many meaningful activities to fill the 1 1/2 hours of time she has gained each day by giving up her arduous commute from southern New Jersey.

She enjoys her work in the field of corporate mergers and acquisitions. "Everyday brings an exciting and different new challenge," said the former litigator who is surprised by the lack of Jewish women attracted to this specialty. In her work with the Women's Philanthropy initiative of the Federation Fund for the Future she finds kindred spirits - women of diverse backgrounds and interests who share a common commitment to Jewish continuity. She believes strongly in the importance of women making an individual gift to the Federation Annual Campaign and proudly wears her Lion of Judah pin as a tangible symbol of her high-level of cam-

paign involvement.

She also has become involved with the Jewish Federation of Delaware as a member of its Board of Directors. "I am happy to help Federation meet its goals of raising funds and allocating them in a way that most effectively meets Jewish needs locally and globally," she said.

How does this young woman find the stamina to juggle professional, communal and parenthood responsibilities?

While Allison admits that she works out frequently at a local gym and can survive occasional nights of 4-5 hours sleep with weekend catch-up sessions, she credits her husband John for her considerable success in achieving a successful life/work balance. She is grateful for his support of her career goals and for his deep involvement in the joys and responsibilities of raising the couple's two daughters.

One of the greatest moments of

Allison's life was the recent Bat Mitzvah of her eldest daughter, Ashley. She is delighted that Ashley is continuing her Jewish studies at Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, a beneficiary of JFD, and is confident that she will be a positive role model for her little sister, Michelle. The two girls attend Tower Hill School and are involved in a wide-range of clubs and other extra-curricular activities.

The family has recently joined Congregation Beth Shalom and look forward to becoming full participants in synagogue life.

Allison believes that her Federation involvement has helped her to feel very much at home in the Delaware Jewish community.

There is a place for **you** at the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

For more information about opportunities for involvement please call (302) 427-2100 or visit the Federation website at www.shalomdelaware.org.

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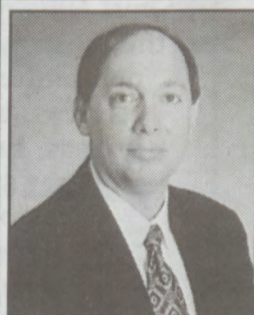
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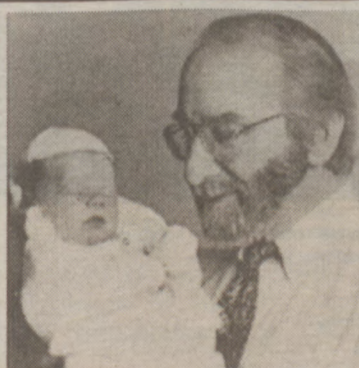
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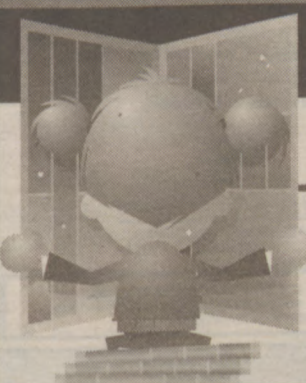
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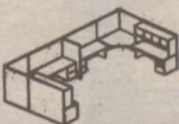
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JEWISH LIFESTYLES

Kosherfest draws eccentric crowd

By Uriel Heilman, JTA

What do you get when you combine pastrami, gefilte fish, kosher cat food and Campbell's vegetarian vegetable soup? A kosher food trade show.

More than 12,000 people turned out last week for Kosherfest 2003, the kosher food industry's largest annual trade show, held Oct. 28-29 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York.

All the usual suspects were on hand — Empire chicken, Tabachnik soups, Osem snack foods and Gold's horseradish, among others — and the convention floor was a panoply of nearly every different kind of Jewish food imaginable.

From kasha to cheesecake, lox spread to mint-flavored soda, bison beef to fine wines, there was plenty to sample and scrutinize at the annual gathering of kosher food lovers and sellers.

They came from as close as Brooklyn and as far away as Jerusalem — and from Chile and London and Mexico City, too.

Old-timers like Scholomberg Raskin, of Raskin's Fish, were peddling pieces of gefilte fish that looked like they could have come straight from the rebbe's Shabbos table. Down the aisle, a group of young Israeli entrepreneurs were demonstrating the subtle virtues of a new dessert wine made in the Galilee.

Squeezed between a cookie stand and a meat purveyor, two fervently Orthodox men from Brooklyn tended to their display of pickles, whitefish salad and lox spread, stirring the samples whenever they started to get a little crusty.

Pressed to explain the difference between sour pickles and half-sour

pickles, which are crunchier and a lighter shade of green, the pickle-sellers hesitated.

One murmured a few words in Yiddish to the other, then turned back to the customers and shifted into Yiddish-accented English.

"The way I'm processing the pickles," he said. "It's not the ingredients; it's how long it stays in the ingredients."

Half-sour pickles are refrigerated, sour pickles heated, he explained.

The pickle salesman, Meyer, insisted his last name not be printed for fear that readers would try to mooch pickled treats off him.

"I don't want people should beg me for some stuff," he explained.

According to Menachem Lubinsky, president and CEO of IMC Events and Exhibitions, which co-produced Kosherfest along with Diversified Business Communications, the U.S. market for kosher food is about \$7.5 billion annually.

Some of the demand comes from people who eat kosher because they think it is cleaner or healthier, Lubinsky said. Other non-Jews, including Muslims and Hindus, eat kosher because they seek foods that are certifiably meat-free — or, if they're lactose intolerant, dairy-free.

The United States produces \$170 billion worth a year of processed food certified as kosher, and \$300 billion of kosher ingredient foods, said Lubinsky, who also is the editor of Kosher Today, the industry's monthly trade publication.

Israeli products are one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S. kosher food market. In the past six months, exports of foods from

Israel to the United States rose by 35 percent, Lubinsky said. Many of the purveyors at Kosherfest were Israeli.

Down the aisle from the pickle-sellers, a crowd was gathered in front of the Abeles & Heymann booth, where a steer's worth of glatt-kosher meats was on display. People snapped up sample salami slices with toothpicks or their hands, plunging the meat into a bowl of mustard and popping it into their mouths three, four or five slices at a time.

Israel Wertentheil, a young sales manager at the Bronx-based gourmet meat company, reported that earlier in the day an elderly convention-goer had grabbed a 12-inch garlic stick — basically, a long, spicy hot dog — before it was finished cooking on the grill, dropped it into a bag and disappeared before employees could stop him.

Others tried to grab whole salamis and smoked meats that were not part of the free samples.

Security guards who looked as if they moonlighted as bouncers for Manhattan nightclubs eyed convention-goers suspiciously at the exhibition hall's exits, stopping more people than agents at airport security.

"Is that a salami in your pocket?" a guard asked one middle-aged man who was trying to slip past.

The man turned red. It was a salami, and a package of hot dogs was stowed under his arm. Both were confiscated.

"Almost every food show or trade show has that," Lubinsky said. "We tried to confiscate most of the food going out, to make sure that the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty gets more food after the show."



Two officials from Flaum, a manufacturer of traditional Jewish appetizers, staff the company display and note that the sour pickles were a hotter item than the half-sours during Kosherfest on Oct. 29, 2003, in New York. Credit: Uriel Heilman/JTA

Most purveyors donated their leftover food to the Met Council, which this year distributed almost \$200,000 worth of Kosherfest leftovers to poor people in New York, according to Lubinsky.

The entrance fee for the two-day show was \$50, and it seemed that more than a few customers had come to load up on at least \$50 worth of free food.

They came with their children and their wives, their husbands and their friends. Some wore business suits and were doing as much hand-shaking and schmoozing as they were sampling. Others focused solely on the food, mapping out a strategy to visit each booth during the show, dividing their time between dairy and meat.

Attendance at the trade show was up slightly from last year,

Lubinsky said, and more than 280 exhibitors were on hand.

Not everyone at the trade show was showcasing food. The U.S. Department of Agriculture was on hand to answer questions about oversight, policy and law. Kosher certification agencies came to promote their certifications.

Fabulous Paper came to sell its food-related paper products.

Perhaps the items that won the most oohs and aahs were La Briute's ready-to-eat meals. Packaged in boxes that look much like frozen dinners, the meals do not need refrigeration and are self-heating.

Each prepackaged entree — dishes such as chicken primavera and beef stew — comes in a sealed pouch, along with a small bag of sodium water and a little tray. Diners pour the sodium water on the tray, put the food on top of it, and slide it back into the box package. A couple of minutes later the box starts to steam, and soon the meal is hot and ready to eat. (Editor's Note: La Briute meals are available in Wilmington at Shop-Rite.)

A few hundred of these meals were sent to Jewish U.S. troops in Iraq during the High Holidays, the president of the company, Abe Halberstam, said.

When asked how he came up with the formula for the self-heating meals, Halberstam, who looks like a Bobover Chasid, quipped, "Let's put it this way: It didn't come from graduating from Bobover University."

Avidov Bernstein was one of many Israelis who came to the show. Bernstein runs a Jerusalem catering company called Quiche, and he said he came to Kosherfest see what was out there in the market.

"I told my wife I had to come, since it was business," Bernstein said. He patted his stomach. "There was nothing she could say," he said with a grin.

Shalom Cuba

By Larry Luxner, JTA

Care for an authentic Cuban mojito at the L'chaim bar? How about Israeli salad, matzah-ball soup and cheese blintzes?

They're all now on the menu at the Hotel Raquel, Cuba's first boutique hotel catering specifically to adventurous Jewish tourists.

Richly illustrated passages from the Old Testament cover the walls of the small but elegant property, located in what was once a thriving Jewish neighborhood of Old Havana.

The 25-room hotel originally was built as a bank in 1908, a time when thousands of impoverished Jews from Eastern Europe, Turkey and Syria were immigrating to Cuba.

After the 1959 revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power, nearly all of the Jews fled to the United States and elsewhere. Today, no more than 1,300 Jews live in Cuba, most in Havana.

For many years, the structure housing the Raquel was used as a

warehouse and fabric depot. Now, its eclectic architecture and romantic Art Nouveau interiors — all refurbished — have made the Raquel a jewel in the crown of Habaguanex S.A., the state entity charged with fixing up Old Havana's hotels and restaurants.

The property is located six blocks from Congregation Adat Israel, Cuba's oldest synagogue, and boasts the largest stained-glass window on the island. General Manager Jose Manuel Quesada said that since the Raquel's inauguration in June, it has become popular with Spanish tourists as well as Americans circumventing the U.S. ban on travel to Cuba.

He expects the occupancy rate to reach 80 to 85 percent this winter, thanks to an influx of visitors from France, Germany and Great Britain.

In addition to American Jews, the Raquel clearly hopes to attract tourists from Israel. Though Castro broke off relations with the Jewish state in 1973, tour operators in Tel

Aviv estimate that at least 10,000 Israelis have visited Cuba.

Near the Raquel is a kosher butcher shop and a bakery. Some Jewish families still live in the vicinity, and according to Leal, at least seven hotel employees are Jewish.

Eusebio Leal Spengler, director of Habaguanex and Havana's official historian, said the revival of Jewish culture at the Hotel Raquel is a long and involved process. "We have built a place of harmony in a Havana neighborhood that respects the best traditions of the Jewish people, members of a community that live in Cuba together with citizens of other beliefs," he said.

In high season, rooms at the Raquel start at \$180 for a double, going up to \$282 a night for one of the hotel's two junior suites. These prices include a welcome cocktail, breakfast, access to a safe, free entrance to all museums, and 10 percent off at all Habaguanex-managed restaurants.

The Jewish touch seems to be everywhere in the building, with

rooms on the second floor named after biblical matriarchs like Sarah, Hannah, Leah, Ruth and Sephora. First-floor rooms have names like David and Solomon.

It's the only hotel in Cuba whose phone system plays the theme song from "Schindler's List" when callers must be placed on hold.

Four ornate chandeliers patterned after Stars of David hang in the lobby, while contemporary paintings by Cuban Jewish artist Jose Farinis hang on the hotel's walls.

The lobby bar, meanwhile, is named L'chaim. It's right next to the Bezalet boutique and gift shop, which sells Judaica, and the Garden of Eden restaurant, where guests can choose a variety of kosher-style items ranging from potato latkes to red beet borscht and vegetable knishes.

For really hungry tourists, the Garden of Eden offers lamb shishlik, sweet-and-sour beef tongue, Hungarian goulash and gefilte fish.

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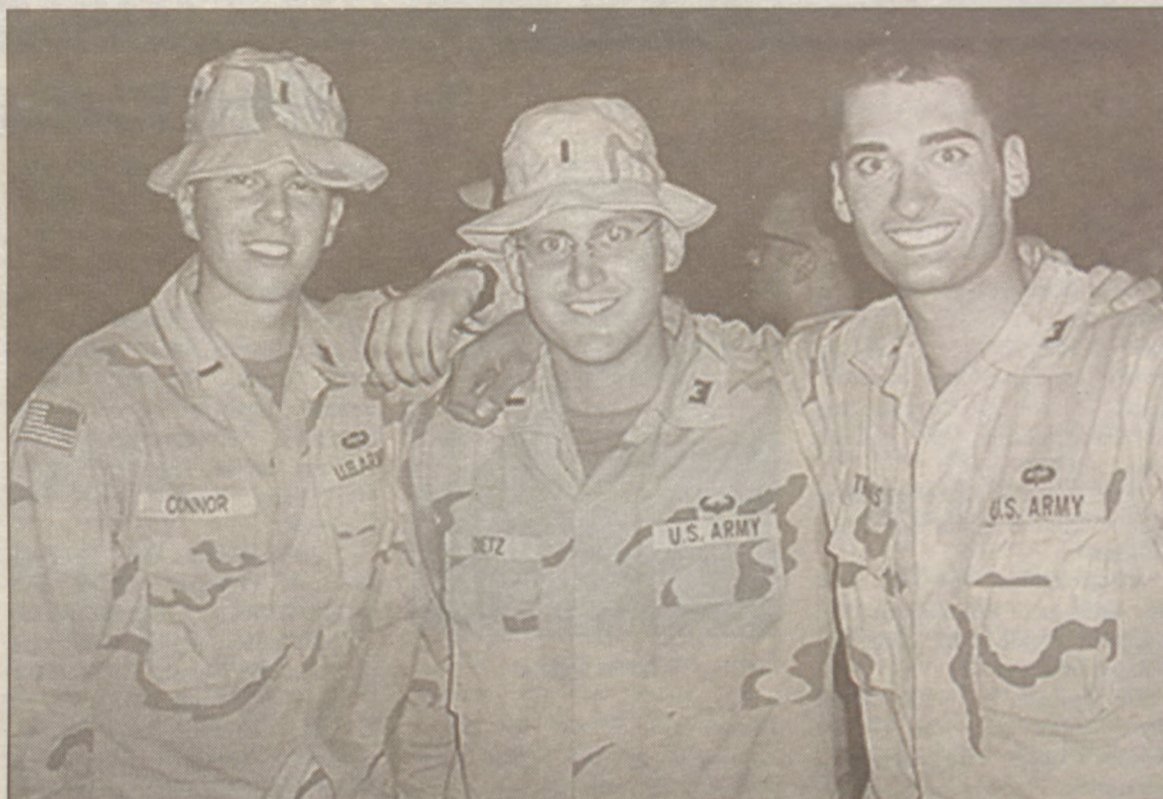
Thoughts from Baghdad

Continued from page 1

All Iraqis could watch before the war was State-run television and all they saw were pictures of Gaza and the West Bank. They viewed pictures of dead children and heard words of praise for brainwashed youth in green and white, marching to their death with explosives strapped to their chests. You can't blame a people for their hatred when it is so deeply engrained in their culture, in their society, in their place of worship and in their lives. That is why I think what we are doing here now for the Iraqi people is so critical and important. We are giving Iraqi children good schools in which to learn. We are opening up this closed society to Western influences, tolerance, culture and economy. We are arresting foreign terrorists who have come to attack the United States and then take cover behind the innocent Iraqi population. Most importantly, we are giving these people a chance to live as free men and women, giving

them a chance to make their voices heard and creating a model for neighboring, failed Arab societies to one day emulate. As more and more Iraqis get satellite TV and begin to watch more than just Al-Jazeera, hopefully they will see that the world really isn't out get them, and hopefully, they will learn that this fragile opportunity for freedom is the only way to end their decades-old suffering.

I hope this letter has helped you all to understand a little bit more the situation as seen through my eyes. It has been an amazing experience for me, and as much as I miss home and the ability to just crash out on my couch after a long day, I am humbled and proud to be able to serve during these historic times. I think my being Jewish only makes it more meaningful and important that we help these people as much as we can. The sooner we can help them to reclaim their lives and to embrace civilization, the better the world will be for all people, Jews and Muslims and Christians alike.



Scott Travis (far right) and his buddies in Baghdad

How you can help our soldiers

Judy and Art Travis, parents of 1st Lt. Scott F. Travis, are members of the West Point Parent's Clubs. Club branches across the country are requesting participation in a number of humanitarian projects. They want to spread the word to area school groups, religious and service organizations that our soldiers really need "Goodies from Home". Scott and his fellow soldiers would really appreciate items from the list that appears below. They can be dropped off at Congregation Beth Emeth, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth and Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington or Temple Beth El in Newark. Readers who live downstate can call the USO office in Dover, (302) 677-2491 to make arrangements. If you would like to help assemble the packages for shipment, please call Judy at 475-2526

Things to Eat: nuts, pistachios, sunflowers, cashews, etc., trail mix, dried fruit, individual little cans of fruit and puddings, Fruit Roll-Ups, Granola Bars, Power Bars, gum, all kinds of candy, (unfortunately, no chocolate due to the terrible heat), M&M's are OK, Star Bursts, Sweet Tarts, (no Skittles - they get them already), Gatorade powder (Blue flavors), single coffee bags, instant cider mix, flavored teas, (Country Time Peach and Raspberry Ice Tea,) Tang, Empty plastic container so they can mix their drinks, any kind of cookies, individual snack cakes, chips, Fiddle Faddle, Pringles, Doritos Scoops, spicy snack foods, pretzels, Salsa, cheese Conqueso dip & canned dips (not refrigerated), Tostitos, pop corn, Cracker Jacks, cheese & crackers, individual peanut butter & crackers, Ramen soup, cup of noodles, any instant-type foods, individual cans of tuna, chicken or turkey, Campbell's Chunky Soups, Dinty Moore Beef Stew, Vienna Sausages, Beef & Turkey Jerky, Beef sticks, summer

sausage (no pork products are allowed at all), small size cereals, Lucky Charms, instant cereals, instant oatmeal, instant grits, sweetened dry cereals that can be eaten as a snack.

Games: dominoes, cards, crossword puzzles, velcro darts, Trivial Pursuit, board games, Nerf footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, whiffle ball and bat, soccer balls, hand pump for balls if they leak air, patches to repair balls, electronic games and batteries, any reading material (no sexually graphic stuff is allowed), magazines, newspaper sports section, paperback books, music CD's, Video tapes of current TV shows: Simpson's, Friends, etc., The soldiers have electricity and access to television. Donations of DVDs would be appreciated.

Toiletries: Lip balm, dry skin lotion, hand cream, foot cream, foot powders, Gold Bond Powder, Lotrimin, Athlete's foot spray, mole skin for blisters, nail clippers, nail files, face cleansing pads, non-medicated eye drops, unscented baby wipes (for some, their only baths), sun block lotion, Purell hand wash, dental floss, Q-tips, extra toilet paper, small packet of tissues. Small sizes are easier for them to store rather than the big large size of these products.

Clothes: White tube athletic socks, large white handkerchiefs, extra underwear, only tidy whites, and large V-neck undershirts. (There are not a lot of opportunities to do their laundry)

Vitamins: Vitamin C tablets, cough drops, throat lozenges, Vitamin E, Zinc.

Misc.: Freezer Ziploc plastic bags, all sizes especially large sizes (to keep out the sand), AA batteries, AAA batteries, D batteries, disposable cameras, Stick-ums air fresheners, Febreeze, pens, paper, unused greeting cards that the troops can send back to their families, battery operated vacuums to get the sand out of their stuff, fly

swatters, mouse traps, battery operated fans and fan misters, Pictures of SNOW to help to cool them off.

Things that CANNOT be sent:

No flammable items, no alcohol, no pork, no Sports Illustrated Bathing Suit issue, no pornography, no bibles or religious articles, no fresh fruit or plants.

Toys for area children: A local orphanage has a very great need for new toys. Small quantities of the following appropriate items would be appreciated:

List of Toys: candy, snacks, all kinds of school supplies, drawing tablets, paint, scissors that cut in fancy patterns, clay, playdough, paints, markers, paper punches. Also small fleece blankets, new stuffed animals, soccer balls, building blocks, cars and trucks, chalk, bubbles, new and clean clothing (they all wear western clothes) and new underclothing (ages 9 - 16 years).

Toys that cannot be sent: No water pistols, no Barbies, no G.I. Joes, no action figures, no coloring books are allowed.

Operation Restore Faith- Support American sick and wounded soldiers who are sent to our hospitals in Germany or at the Walter Reed Hospital here in the states. Soldiers who arrive wounded come to the hospital with only a hospital gown. In addition any soldier who has any medical needs such as asthma, kidney stones, eye problems, will also go to Germany for treatment. So, there is a large influx every week

Suggested items:

NEW CLOTHING

Please prioritize Small and Medium sizes in clothing.

- Boxer shorts (preferred)
- Shorts (mesh or cotton gym style, elastic waist or drawstring for physical therapy; pocket style helpful) (mens and womens)
- Mens and womens light

weight sweat pants (pocket style helpful)

- Mens and womens sweat shirts (front zip)

- Cargo pants (pockets are helpful)

- White socks: crew and knee high

- Sneakers (sizes 9-13)

- T-shirts (with logos like sports or collegiate teams)

- Womens Sports bras

TOILETRY ITEMS

- Packed into one Ziploc bag: small toothpaste, toothbrush, bar soap, chapstick, deodorant, comb, small mouthwash (look in travel section of Target/Walmart).

- Pre-moistened wash cloths

- Ditty bag/utility bag to use for toiletries.

- Shower shoes with sturdy sole that slip on and don't go between the toes

PERSONAL ITEMS

- 30 or 60-minute phone cards

- Appropriate magazines in excellent condition (Time, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, Maxim, sports magazines, People; avoid Fortune, Money, women's magazines like Good Housekeeping or controversial magazines)

- Small portable radio and headset (jack)

- Walkman and headset

- Portable CD players

- Batteries for portable CD players, typically AA or AAA

- Watch w/stretch band - no buckles

- Wallet (nylon sports style)

- Disposable cameras

- New books (appropriate titles, no romance novels)

- Note cards and envelopes for letter writing

- Stamps for mailing letters

LARGER ITEMS

- Lightweight windbreakers for fall outings

- Luggage (wheelie bags for travel)

- Small Backpacks (soldiers are

using plastic grocery bags to carry their things)

MONETARY DONATIONS

Contributions are tax deductible and can be donated in two ways:

#1 Contributions over \$250 or a corporate matching contribution should be made out to the American Red Cross AFES (Armed Forces Emergency Services) and mailed to National Headquarters:

American Red Cross National Headquarters "Operation Restore Faith" 2025 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20006

#2 Contribution checks of less than \$250 can be made out to the American Red Cross and mailed directly to the Red Cross office at Walter Reed for use by the hospital account in support of the Red Cross mission:

American Red Cross "Operation Restore Faith" c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave., NW Washington, DC 20307

ALL Donated items can be mailed to either of the following addresses:

OPERATION RESTORE FAITH c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave., NW Washington, DC 20307

OR **OPERATION RESTORE FAITH** Landstuhl Medical Center Attn: Pastoral Services Ms. Loretta Wood CMR 402 APO AE 09180

If any further information is needed, you can email Ms. Rosemary Bueger. She is managing this project in Germany. Her email address is: roseandsteve@yahoo.com

Be sure to put a note including your address in your box and I'm sure you'll receive a note back from a very grateful and appreciative and brave young soldier.

God bless all of our brave service men and women.

MILESTONES

In Memoriam

ABEL

Robert Abel, 90, of Huntingdon Valley, PA, died October 26th.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy W.; son, Robert Jr. and his wife, Mike; daughter, Nancy Hoffenberg and her husband, Hack. He will also be missed by his grandchildren, Ari, Lauren, Adam and Katie.

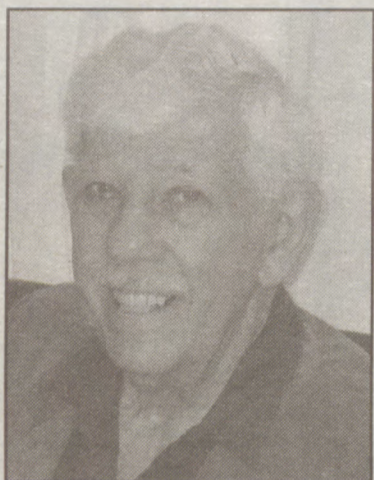
A memorial service was held on October 29th in Elkins Park, PA.

COHEN

Milton Cohen, age 79, a lifetime resident of Wilmington, died peacefully October 10, 2003, surrounded by his family.

He graduated from P.S. duPont High School and from Goldey Beacom College with a degree in accounting. He was an Army Air Corps combat veteran of World War II who participated in the invasion of Guam. He was a member of the Commanders Club of the American Disabled War Veterans, the Delaware Jewish War Veterans, and the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware. Upon his discharge from the Army Air Corps, he married his childhood sweetheart, Lenora (Miller) Cohen in August 1946.

Mr. Cohen retired in December 1996 from the New Castle County



Milton Cohen

Division of Revenue. He was also employed by the Brandywine Raceway for many years.

He was an avid sports fan who played numerous sports in high school. He loved to dance and won numerous competitions.

A thespian, he was involved in many local theatre productions including "Milk and Honey", "Fiddler on the Roof" and a production of comedy acts at the DuPont Playhouse.

Predeceased by his sister, Frances Klein, he is survived by Lenora, his wife of 57 years; his daughter, Lynne Feinman and her

husband, Dar; sons, Gary Cohen and his wife, Colleen, Randy Cohen and his wife, Debbie; and daughter, Renee Purzycki and her husband, Ed.

He will also be missed by his six adoring grandchildren, Melissa and Alexis Cohen, David and Jenna Feinman and Alison and Jaclyn Purzycki. Survivors also include his sister-in-law, Florence Cohen; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Monday, October 13 at the SCHOENBERG MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Wilmington with interment in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

The family suggests contributions to the Deborah Hospital, c/o Mary Weinstein, 8602 Society Dr., Claymont, DE 19703; or to the Jewish War Veterans, c/o Art Samuelson, 3209 Heather Court, Wilmington, DE 19809.

MARKS

Barnard M. Marks, 98 of Media, PA—formerly of Kansas City, MO—died Friday, October 10th. Dr. Marks moved East after graduate school in 1929. He lived in New Jersey and Delaware while working for the DuPont Company as a research chemist for 38 years before his retirement in 1967. He

was a pioneer researcher in polymer plastics and was granted 48 international patents for his development of Lucite and other plastics. He moved to Pennsylvania in 1981.

Dr. Marks was a member of Congregations Beth Shalom and Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth in Wilmington, B'nai B'rith and State of Israel Bonds. He also was involved in the American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi and the Alumni Associations of both the University of Missouri and the University of Minnesota.

Preceded in death by his wife,

Jeanette B. Marks and four siblings, he is survived by his daughters and son-in-law; Esther Schleifer of Newton, MA; Golda and Arnold Kagan of Boston; sister, Evelyn Marks of Kansas City; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren and 11 nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on November 11th, 1:30 p.m. at Martins Run Life Care Community in Media, PA.

The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to Martins Run, to Mercy Health Hospice, Darby, PA or to B'nai B'rith.

Lenora S. Cohen and her family would like to thank the many friends and family of Milton Cohen for their loving thoughts, sympathy and gifts of condolence. The magnitude of well wishers has been very comforting, but also makes it difficult to extend our thanks personally to each of you. We hope that you will accept this note in sincere appreciation of your many expressions of sympathy to us.

Survivors face the future by remembering the past

By Matthew E. Berger,
JTA

Helen Potash stood in front of a cattle car at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's permanent exhibition, but she would not venture forward.

"I went through it once," the Holocaust survivor said. "I am not going again."

She went around it instead.

Potash was one of more than 2,200 Holocaust survivors who came to Washington this weekend for a reunion, part of a yearlong marking of the museum's 10th anniversary.

There have been Holocaust survivor reunions before, but this gathering focused more on the future than the past. The survivors here spoke candidly about their advancing age and said they looked to their heirs to tell their stories.

More than 4,000 children, grandchildren and great grandchildren joined the survivors on the unusually warm November afternoon, learning about their family members' experiences and pledging to keep the memory alive.

"It's an incredible lineage we all share," said Helen Burstin, of Washington, who came with her parents, both survivors. "It's a remarkable thing to walk into this tent and see 6,000 people connected to survivors."

At times the event resembled a wedding, with survivors and their families dancing the Hora to Israeli folk music in an enormous tent nicknamed "Survivor's Village." Later, there was a sing-along in Yiddish.

"It's totally overwhelming," said Rabbi Jay Miller of San Mateo, Calif., watching the dancing from

the sidelines. He was on vacation in Washington and happened to find himself amid the festivities. He was one of the few in the tent whose family had not been directly affected by the Holocaust.

"The smiles on people's faces are an expression of vitality and commitment to life," said Miller. "I wish there was a way I could translate this to people when I go home."

In one room, survivors offered their artifacts to the museum; others related oral histories into tape recorders and to transcribers. Images from the museum's database flittered across a bank of computer monitors. Survivors researching the fate of their families used the computers; alongside each terminal stood a box of tissues.

Joan Weiss of Marlboro, N.J. brought her 18-year-old daughter to the reunion, even though her father, who survived the Holocaust, did not make the trip to Washington.

"This is something I have waited for all my life," she said in the archive room. "I've been waiting for something special, to find

someone who knew my parents or a relative we didn't know about."

There were to be no new revelations for Weiss, just an educational experience for her daughter, Natalie.

"We shouldn't forget it ever," said Natalie, a high school senior. "We need to keep talking to our children."

Many of the survivors were viewing the museum for the first time. Some said they had always longed to come here, and found the reunion a great opportunity. Other said they avoided the museum, but felt a yearning to see it at least once.

"I felt this time I had to go," said Eddie Weinstein. "Because I am getting old."

Weinstein wandered the tent, slowly, with a cardboard placard resting on his chest, attached to a string around his neck. It read: "I am looking for people who escaped from Treblinka."

"I didn't find one person," said Weinstein, whose story of escape from the Polish extermination camp has been documented in a book, "Quenched Steel."

Nessie Godin, a survivor from

Lithuania, volunteers at the museum once a week. She says it is her responsibility to those she survived in the camps.

"I wasn't any smarter and I wasn't any stronger," said Godin. "The wonderful Jewish women who held my hand, gave me hope and maybe a bite of bread, they told me that they should never be forgotten and to tell the world of this hatred."

She said the reunion and the museum shows the world that Hitler did not win.

Burstin says that children of Holocaust survivors have obligations to their parents and their experiences.

"We want to make it clear to our kids and our kids' kids and everyone who knows us that this is part of our heritage," she said.

Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel told the audience that amid the joy of the occasion is a void of sadness for the faces that were left behind.

"Your presence — our presence — here today is our answer to this silent question," he said. "We have kept our promise. We have not forgotten you."

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In times of simchas and sadness you may share your lifecycle event with Jewish Voice readers

Email lynn.edelman@shalomdel.org

Deadline for the November 21st edition is November 13

COMING ATTRACTIONS

SEASIDE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Dr. Paul Gorin has donated a small house for us to auction off. Lawson's auction house will be running the show and they have decided to operate one of their regular auctions there. Seaside Jewish Community will make all the proceeds from the house and will receive 10% of the rest of the auction's takes. They also said that if we have anything else that we wanted to auction off that we can keep 100% of that take also. They would like us to please sell hot dogs, chips and drinks to the people coming to the auction (all profit for us). We need some people to help in the following ways:

- cook and sell the food and drinks
- donate the food and drinks to sell
- contribute items for auction on Seaside's behalf!

Spread the word to people to ensure a big showing!

The date of the auction is November 22nd @ (time TBA) and will be held at the house for sale located on Northbound Rt. 113 just 1 block south of the Rt. 24 intersection. Please call Cheryl at 227-1107 if you can help in any way.

HADASSAH HOSTS LUNCHEON IN DOVER

Hadassah of Lower Delaware will hold its Annual Donor Luncheon on Sunday, November 23, 11:30 a.m. at the Wild Quail Country Club. All Hadassah members and their guests are urged to attend. For more information, please call Helen L. Berman at 302-678-0550.

CAMERA HOSTS LOCAL CONFERENCE

CAMERA, the Committee on Accuracy in Mid East will sponsor a day-long workshop in the Philadelphia area on Sunday, December 7th. Registration begins at 1:00 PM, and sessions

will run from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, with an optional letter-writing workshop from 6:30-7:30 PM. (A light dinner will be provided for those attending the letter-writing workshop.) For more information, call toll-free 888-736-3672.

Speakers will include:

Maxine Laura Wolf, Opening Remarks, past Chairman of the Board of CAMERA and is currently on its Executive Board. She is a member of the National Board of Hadassah and its former president of the Boston chapter. Ms. Wolf lectures widely on Middle East media issues and writes for a variety of publications.

Alex Safian, "Media Myths and How to Refute Them." Safian is Associate Director of CAMERA, and appears on television and radio, as well as in the print media. His columns have been published in newspapers and magazines across the U.S., including the Wall Street Journal, the Boston Globe, the San Diego Union Tribune, the Jerusalem Post, National Review Online, and in academic journals, such as the Middle East Quarterly.

Gerald Steinberg, "1947-2003: Has Anything Changed in the Arab-Israeli Conflict?" Steinberg is a professor of political studies at Bar Ilan University and directs the program on conflict management and negotiation. He specializes in Middle East diplomatic and security issues, with an emphasis on arms control and CBM's, Middle East peace efforts, Israeli foreign and security policy, and the U.S.-Israeli relationship. He is also a consultant to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Security Council and is a fellow of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. His analyses are published in the Jerusalem Post, Wall Street Journal, Toronto Globe and Mail, Financial Times, International Herald Tribune, and other publications.

Andrea Levin, "The Media and Public Activism: Challenges and Strategies." Levin is President and Executive Director of CAMERA; her Eye-on-the-Media column appears bi-weekly in the Jerusalem Post and in Jewish newspapers across the country. She writes and lectures widely on media coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its impact on public opinion. Levin has also been interviewed on major media including CNN, and her articles regularly appear in publications across the U.S., including Commentary, the New York Post, Editor & Publisher, the Middle East Quarterly, the Washington Times and the Boston Globe.

Ruth R. Wisse, "Anti-Americanism as the New Anti-Semitism: Will It Work?" Wisse is the Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish literature and professor of comparative literature at Harvard University. She helped found the Jewish Studies department at McGill University in Montreal in the late 1960's. She has written and edited eight books on Jewish literature and culture. She lectures widely and publishes articles about anti-Semitism and anti-Israel activism, as well as on Jewish literature and culture.

Lee Green, "10 Ways to Help Israel — How to Get Your Letters Published and More." (Optional Letter-Writing Workshop on how to write effective letters and educate the media and public about Israel.) Green is the founding director of CAMERA's National Letter-Writing Group. A graduate of Brandeis University, Lee is also a life member of Hadassah and serves as Treasurer for American Friends of Shemesh, an organization for Jewish-Arab Friendship in the Galilee.

The cost of \$15 dollars per person (\$10 for CAMERA members and \$5 for full-time students) includes refreshments (dietary laws

will be observed). To sign up for the conference please complete the form at http://camera.org/index.asp?x_context=44&x_conf=5, including your e-mail address. If paying by credit card you can either click submit to send immediately, or you can print the completed form, including your credit-card number, and fax to (617) 787-7853.

If you prefer to pay by check please print the completed form and mail it with your check to: CAMERA, PO Box 35040, Boston MA 02135-0001.

GUILD OF TEMPLE MUSICIANS ANNOUNCES 15TH YOUNG COMPOSERS AWARD

The Guild of Temple Musicians sponsors the 15th annual Young Composers Award open to any Jewish musician born on or after January 1, 1969. The competition, one of the few in the world to include a cash prize (\$1800), a performance, and the possibility of publication, is open to any Jewish composers who will be at least 18 years of age by the deadline for submitting an entry, which must be postmarked no later than Jan. 9, 2004.

Unlike other competitions, the type of composition changes annually in keeping with the objective of encouraging young composers to add to the repertoire of good synagogue music for worship and concert, as well as to inspire the religious experience of congregations and communities. The criteria for the 2004 Award requests a set of three pieces with a total duration time of ten to 12 minutes. The music should be written for a cantor with a medium or high voice, accompanied by piano and one other instrument. The texts of the three pieces should be related by source or topic, should be in Hebrew, and should be drawn from Jewish liturgy, biblical sources, or Jewish

commentary.

There is no entry fee required for submitting a composition, and a complete description of the 2004 assignment may be requested from Ben Steinberg, YCA Competition chairman, who may be contacted by e-mail ben@templesinai.net, by phone at (416) 487-4161, by fax at (416) 487-5499, or by writing to Ben Steinberg, Composer in Residence, Temple Sinai Congregation, 210 Wilson Ave., Toronto, ON M5M 3B1, Canada.

BOARD THE BUS FOR NEW YORK HIT SHOW

Limited openings are available on the Thursday, December 11th bus trip to see A Stoop on Orchard Street, a hit off-Broadway show about tenement life in New York's Lower East Side. Join Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth for a fun day in the Big Apple. Bus leaves from AKSE at 8:30 a.m. Show starts at 2 p.m. Enjoy lunch before the show at a kosher restaurant. The day costs \$75 and includes bus transportation, theatre ticket and snacks. Lunch is on your own. Room on the bus may be available for individuals interested only in New York shopping or sightseeing. Bus transportation only costs \$30. Space is very limited. Call AKSE today at 762-2705.

COHEN MEMORIALIZED WITH MUSIC AT WCU

The West Chester University Symphony Orchestra will honor the memory of the late Dr. Irving H. Cohen, a University professor, with the Cohen Memorial Concert on Saturday, November 23rd, 3 p.m. in Swope Hall Auditorium on campus. Dr. Cohen served as director of the School of Music and taught musical history and instrumental music at the University for 20 years. The concert is open to the public free of charge and will be followed by a reception in the Swope Choral Room. For additional information, please call 610-436-2739.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach

to speak at

Adas Kodesch, Washington Boulevard & Torah Way, Wilmington

November 23rd 7:00 pm

Internationally known author, lecturer

Rabbi Boteach will discuss

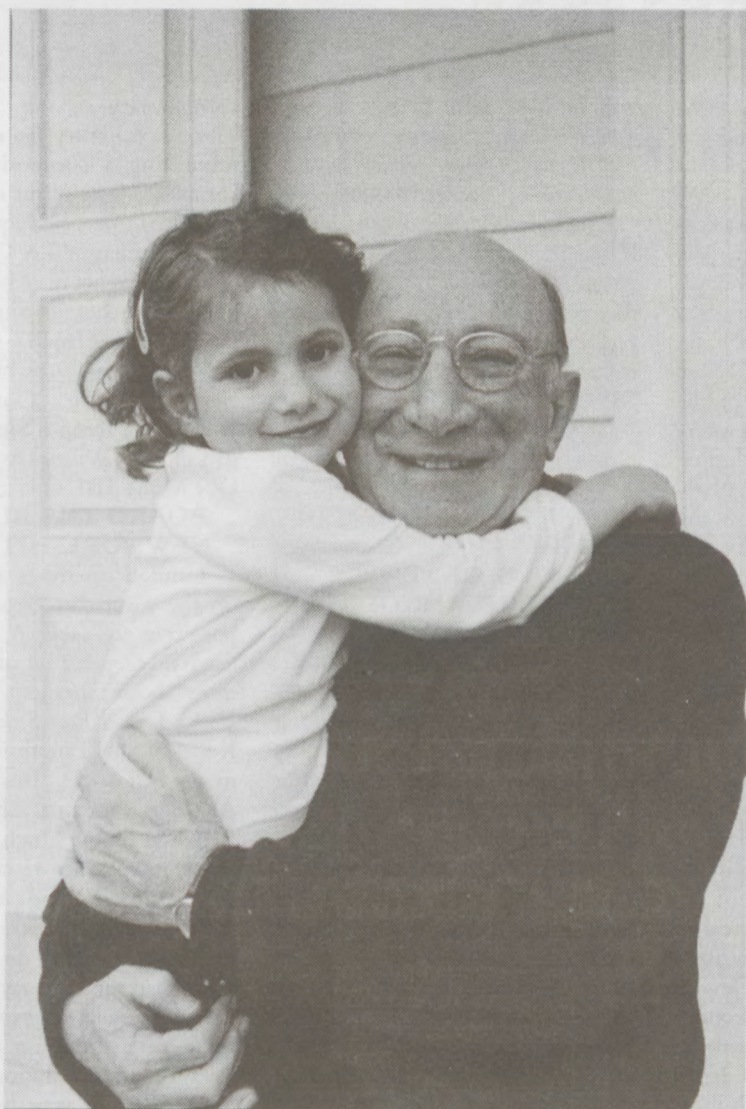
"Hating Women - The New Racism"

during a special program presented by the
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