

# The JEWISH VOICE

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## Harry Cohen's legacy lives on

By LYNN EDELMAN  
Editor

Sadie Toumarkine continued her father's legacy of tzedakah last month by presenting the Jewish Federation of Delaware with a \$32,741.20 check from the Harry C. Cohen Foundation. Federation President Barbara H. Schoenberg accepted the gift and thanked Mrs. Toumarkine for the broad spectrum of programs and services supported through her father's philanthropy.

The Foundation was established in 1959, two years after Mr. Cohen's death. The Foundation's initial assets of \$1,250,000 were bequeathed to charitable endeavors. Since then, some \$3 million has been distributed to a wide variety of institutions and synagogues locally and in Israel. The Foundation is ecumenical in its largesse, supporting such

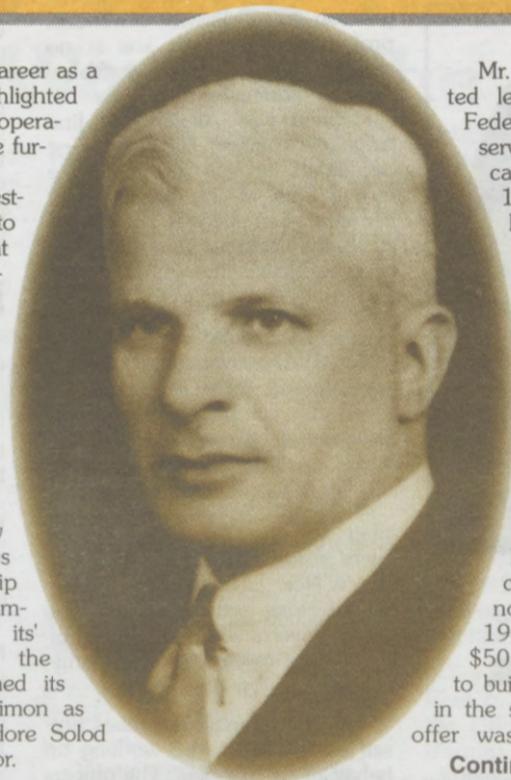
community organizations as hospitals, Toys For Tots and the Needy Family Fund.

The Foundation's beneficiaries include the JCC, the Kutz Home and the Federation. This year's allocations to these three agencies total \$76,951.52. Through the years, the JCC has received \$392,927.09, the Kutz Home, \$319,849.97 and Federation, \$487,111.01—for a grand total of \$1,190,888.07. The cumulative total contribution to the three Jewish agencies plus two local synagogues is \$2,175,387.01.

Harry Cohen personified the American immigrant work ethic. He arrived in the United States from his native Odessa in 1905 impoverished, yet driven to succeed. He toiled as a barber, leather worker and coal stove blackener until he saved enough money to open a grocery store in downtown Wilmington. This store marked the beginning

of his successful career as a businessman highlighted by Mr. Cohen's operation of a profitable furniture store.

Mr. Cohen invested these profits into the community that nurtured his success. He enlisted his friend, Charles L. Belfint, to join a campaign to transform the vacant Adas Kodesch Center at 512 French St. into a viable Jewish Community Center. Charles Belfint's leadership enabled the campaign to achieve its goal. In 1934, the YM/YWHA opened its doors with Lou Simon as president and Isadore Solod as executive director.



Mr. Cohen was a committed leader of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, serving as treasurer and campaign director. In 1940, he asked Milton Kutz, then Federation president to undertake a survey about Jewish education in Wilmington. The survey led to the establishment of the Associated Hebrew School in 1943.

Known as a visionary, he was among the first to chart the migration of Delaware's Jewish community into the northern suburbs. In 1945, he offered \$50,000 for a campaign to build a new YM/YWHA in the suburbs. Although his offer was not accepted, Mr.

Continued on page 2

## Can Netanyahu survive a Mid-East peace agreement?

By DAVID LANDAU  
JTA

JERUSALEM — While President Clinton's Middle East visit is widely seen as a major success for the Palestinians, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is also claiming victory.

But it remains unclear whether these claimed victories will enable the premier to survive a knife-edge vote of no-confidence scheduled for Monday in the Knesset.

On the fact of it, Clinton's visit may have gone well for Netanyahu, who is now claiming two successes:

- Palestinian officials, with the entire world watching, annulled the clauses in their national covenant that called for Israel's destruction. This had long been Netanyahu's demand, and it represented one of his conditions for further progress in the peace process.

- Netanyahu made no new concessions to Clinton and succeeded in postponing the next redeployment in the West Bank, which was supposed to take place on December 18th.

By making no new concessions, Netanyahu can now urge hard-liners in his coalition to support him and not carry out their earlier threats to side with the Labor-led opposition in Monday's Knesset vote.

However, many Israeli observers are interpreting these successes as short-lived tactical triumphs. Taking a longer view, they say the Clinton visit has resulted in serious and lasting setbacks, both for Netanyahu and for Israel.

Granted, they add, members of the Palestine National Council and other Palestinian groups did indeed revoke their charter during a historic meeting Monday in the Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu has made a point of claiming credit for the move, saying it only came about as a result of his unflinching stance during months of frustrating negotiations.

But in legal substance, these observers point out, the step taken at the Gaza meeting was a duplication of the PNC's original act of annulling the charter in April 1996, a step that Netanyahu has repeatedly dismissed.

More significantly, the latest act of annulment is being seen in the Palestinian territories — and indeed around the world — as a giant step toward the very Palestinian independence that the Israeli leader so strongly opposes.

Clinton's presence at last Monday's vote, his quasi-state visit to the Gaza Strip and his statements aimed at recognizing Palestinian sensibilities as much as Israeli concerns — these were all seen as a huge success for Arafat and for the Palestinian cause that, in time, will dwarf Netanyahu's ostensible achievement in getting the charter re-annulled.

The Israeli media, describing Clinton's visit to Gaza as a milestone in the annals of Palestinian nationalism, made comparisons with momentous events in the history of Zionism — the First Zionist Congress and the Balfour Declaration among them.

And in terms of relations between leaders and governments, the president and his aides stopped even the attempt of concealing their profound differences with Netanyahu.

This was starkly apparent in Clinton's repeated assertion to the assembled Palestinian representatives in Gaza that their action on the charter would speak to the hearts of the people of Israel — rather than to

Continued on page 2

Vice President Al Gore hosts the annual White House Menorah Lighting Ceremony in Washington, D.C.



## U.S. Rep. Mike Castle comments on the United States' military strike on Iraq

"Based on the information I have at this time, I am supporting President Clinton's decision to order U.S. and Allied military strikes against Baghdad in response to Iraq's continued refusal to allow international arms officials to inspect weapons facilities for biological and chemical weapons as it promised to the United Nations and the international community last month.

It is clear that Saddam Hussein will not end his defiance of the United Nations and the international community. Therefore, I support the use of force against Iraq to eliminate its capability to produce weapons of mass destruction that threaten its neighbors and the world.

Iraq has consistently refused to live peacefully with its neighbors and in accordance with international law. No country should be allowed to continue unjustifiable threats to other nations. Our country must stand together and support our American forces who are placing their lives at risk during this important time."

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# Federation Welcomes Tamar Alexander

By LYNN EDELMAN  
Editor

The Jewish Federation of Delaware welcomes Tamar Alexander as Campaign Assistant. Alexander is a May, 1998 graduate



Tamar Alexander

of George Washington University where she earned a B.A. in Psychology. She will help Campaign Director Bernie Greenberg coordinate campaign programs and events.

This marks her first full-time position as a Jewish communal professional, however she is no stranger to the Delaware Valley Jewish community!

Hebrew was Alexander's first language, having lived the first decade of her life in Israel. She moved back to the Wynnwood, PA area when she was 11, attended Akiba Hebrew Academy and became active in Temple Beth Hillel-Beth el.

At GWU, Alexander spent a semester in Israel and became involved in campus Hillel activities. Each year, she returns to Israel to vacation with relatives in Tel Aviv.

Jewish involvement is a family affair for the Alexander family. Twin sister Esther is a lawyer whose New York firm is working on a historic settlement with the Swiss government on behalf of Holocaust survivors and their families.

Tamar Alexander describes herself as "thrilled to be working on behalf of her people." The officers and staff of the Jewish Federation are happy that she is here.

## Cohen continued from page 1

Cohen set aside \$58,077.10 for this purpose.

Harry Cohen and Milton Kutz each pledged \$25,000 to Federation in 1946-the most substantial campaign contributions that had ever been made. Two years later, he led his committee to raise a record \$27,000 for the Jewish National Fund. The JNF president at that time, Judge Morris Gothenburg of New York, traveled to Delaware to present the men with a deed for a 250-acre colony in Israel.

In 1953, a stroke sapped Harry Cohen's strength. His philanthropic spirit remained vigorous and, even today, continues to touch the lives of Jews in Delaware and Israel through the generosity of the Harry Cohen Foundation.

## Netanyahu continued from page 1

their government.

On the domestic level, too, Netanyahu's lurch to the right may prove a success of short-lived duration.

It may carry him through next Monday's Knesset vote, but rumblings among the more moderate elements in his coalition are already discernible.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who finds himself increasingly outflanked by the touch-talking Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, is saying he will "reconsider" the state of the government.

Mordechai's top generals and senior officials of the Shin Bet domestic security agency are known

to favor a softer line on the issue of prisoner release than that advocated by Netanyahu and Sharon.

The prisoner issue, more than any other item of dispute, has soured the atmosphere - and ignited the Palestinian streets - in the weeks since the Wye agreement was signed in late October.

Clinton, throughout his visit, pressed Netanyahu to retreat from his stance that no prisoners who have blood on their hands or are members of the militant Hamas movement would be freed.

The premier refused to relent, and he is now making much political capital out of that refusal.

But Mordechai, and the relatively moderate Third Way Party, another coalition partner, have yet to say how they feel about the virtual collapse of the implementation of the Wye accord.

Netanyahu's aides were hinting this week that the premier himself may call for early elections, a move that would spare him the possibility of suffering a humiliating defeat in the Knesset.

These hints were perhaps intended to whip shaky coalition members back into line so that the Likud leader can regroup and carry on.

But they could also mean that Netanyahu has come to believe, after a hard-headed assessment of the government's inherent weakness, that the end is near.

Either way, the prime minister is now clearly determined to head off any challenge against his leadership from the right-wing "national camp."

Whether he stays in office or seeks new elections, he will project himself as the leader who refused to give ground to the Palestinians,

despite intensive, almost public pressure from no less a figure than the president of the United States.

Where does all this leave the peace process?

Despite brave attempts by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to claim some progress during the president's three days in the region, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators are making no such pretense.

Despite the move to annul the charter, Israel's flatly refusing to carry out any further redeployments until the Palestinian Authority carries out further obligations - including the confiscation of weapons, the elimination of anti-Israel rhetoric from schoolbooks, ending incitement and retracting the threat to declare statehood unilaterally next May.

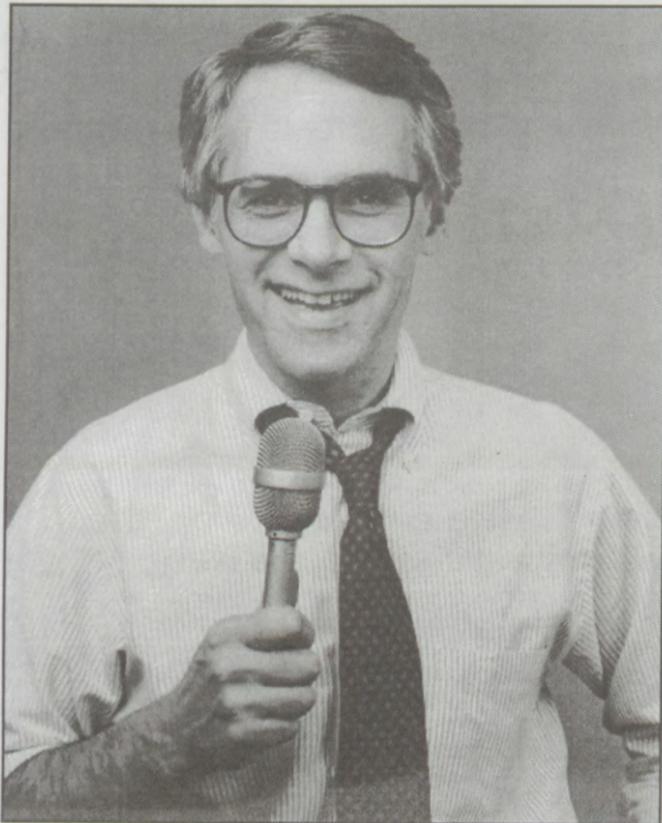
For their part, Palestinian officials are saying these demands reflect nothing more than Netanyahu's desire to survive the Knesset vote.

As Clinton flew home to face his own domestic battles, it appeared more likely that there would be renewed violent confrontations than any further progress in implementing the Wye accord in the weeks ahead.

And as far as the future of the Netanyahu government is concerned, there was a telling moment in Clinton's schedule before leaving the region Tuesday.

After the summit with Netanyahu and Arafat, Clinton and his family visited Bethlehem and Masada. From there they went to Ben-Gurion Airport, where the president held separate meetings on the tarmac with Netanyahu and another Israeli politician: opposition leader Ehud Barak of the Labor Party.

## It will be the Chailight of the year!



Bob Alper

Bonus! Attend the Chai Dinner and you may see part of the Pyle, Wyeth, Wyeth & Wyeth exhibit at no additional cost.

Join the community at the 1999 Chai Dinner as stand-up comic Rabbi Robert Alper provides his uniquely Jewish brand of comedy and entertainment!

Saturday, January 9, 1999 \* 6:45 p.m.  
Delaware Museum of Art

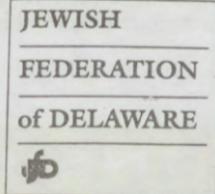
The Chai Dinner honors families who make a minimum household gift of \$1,800 to the 1999 UJA Federation Campaign, as well as single individuals who contribute a minimum of \$900.

New this year ~ Couples under 30 may attend by making a \$900 minimum contribution.



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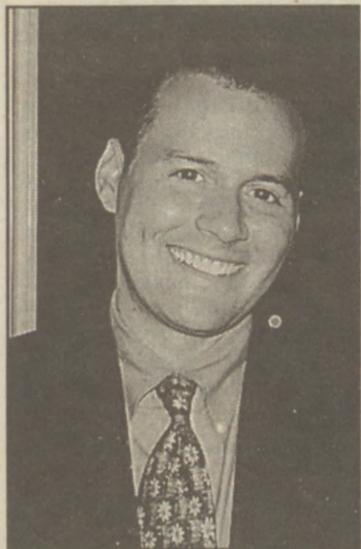
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# FEDERATION FOCUS

## Former Clinton Aide To Keynote Federation Shabbat



Jay F. Footlik

By LYNN EDELMAN  
Editor

Jay K. Footlik, former Special Assistant to President Clinton, will help make the annual Federation Shabbat a memorable event for the entire Delaware Jewish community. Footlik, who served as the chief liaison for the White House to the American Jewish Community, will be the featured speaker during Friday, January 29th services slated for 8 p.m. at Temple Beth El in Newark and will address congregants and guests of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth in Wilmington on Saturday, January 30th at 4 p.m.

Federation Campaign Chairman Dr. Barry Kayne invites affiliated and non-affiliated Jews to participate in this "Shabbat of unity, learning and *K'lal Yisrael*." This unique campaign event allows Jews from Reconstructionist, Reform, Conservative and

Traditional congregations to worship together as a community. Each year, a different synagogue hosts the event.

The Jewish Federation of Delaware administers the 1999 United Jewish Appeal Federation Campaign. Campaign proceeds

support Jews locally, in Israel and in 60 countries around the world.

For additional information about Federation Shabbat call 427-2100.

## A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Bimah

By LYNN EDELMAN  
Editor

Bob Alper, America's only professional stand-up comedian who is also a practicing clergyman, recalls a 1989 appearance at the Kutz Home for a luncheon honoring agency volunteers. "I was just getting to the punchline when, from the back of the room, I hear a cry from a group of quintessential hecklers." "We need to go to the bathroom," said the residents - completely breaking up the crowd.

Alper not only puts up with this type of audience interference, he encourages it. Episodes like these provide fresh material for his gentle (not to be confused with Gentile) observational humor. The "Rebbe from Rhode Island" who served congregations in both Buffalo and suburban Philadelphia, prides himself on being a "clean comedian" whose material is "appropriate for all audiences."

You don't have to be Jewish to understand Alper's jokes. "I provide flash cards for the 'judaically challenged,' he explained.

Alper began his comedy career in 1986 when he entered the "Jewish Comic of the Year" contest at a Philadelphia comedy club.

He drew largely from his experience on the *bimah* to formulate his *shtick*. The crowd applauded his act and he was hooked.

Despite a full calendar of personal appearances, Alper still serves as

spiritual leader of a small congregation in Vermont. He feels that his dual roles of clergyman and comedian complement one another.

"Humor is both health producing and spiritually uplifting," said Alper, adding that "When I give a sermon, I hope that I move and inspire people - when I make them laugh, I know that I do."

Check out Alper's act on Saturday, January 9, at the Delaware Museum of Art. He will perform for members of the Federation Chai Division - families who make a minimum household gift of \$1,800 to the 1999 UJA campaign or individuals who contribute a minimum of \$900.

For additional information about Chai or to make reservations for the 1999 Chai Dinner, please call Bernie Greenberg, Federation campaign director at 427-2100, ext. 16.

## Southern Delaware Federation Shabbat

Ella Tsveyer will tell her fascinating story about life in the former Soviet Union during January 22 Shabbat services at Congregation Beth Sholom in Dover. Tsveyer, who celebrated her Judaism openly despite threats from the KGB, made aliyah. She works with Ruth Dayan, wife of Moshe Dayan to

promote the work of Russian artists who have emigrated to Israel and donates 10% of her income to help absorb newcomers.

Jewish Federation of Delaware Campaign Chairman Dr. Barry Kayne invites affiliated and non-affiliated Jews to participate in this

"Shabbat of unity, learning and *K'lal Yisrael*." This unique cam

paigned event encourages Jews from Southern Delaware, to worship together as a community.

For additional information call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 427-2100.

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# EDITORIAL

## The American Way?

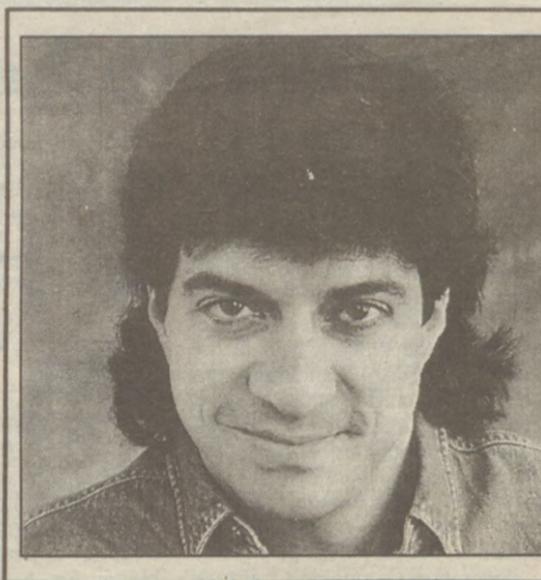
As this editorial is being composed, bombs have been dropped on Iraq. President Clinton has made good on his threats to destroy military and security targets in retaliation for Saddam Hussein's defiance of U.N. weapons inspectors. Operation Desert Fox is officially underway with extra aircraft and troops en route to the Gulf - shoring up the 24,100 service men and women already in the region. American personnel and warships, augmented by British aircraft are preparing to make the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of international security.

These military strikes come in the wake of the President's recent visit to the Mid-East where he met separately with Yasser Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu. His controversial visit - the first time a U.S. president set foot on Palestinian ruled soil - was an attempt to hold both leaders accountable for the promises they made at the Wye Plantation. American intervention is viewed as essential in promoting peace between nations.

Why should an American president, beleaguered by a scandal that could compromise his tenure, spearhead efforts to tackle such ambitious international goals. Why should American troops be placed at risk to help make these goals realities?

The answer lies in the Talmud. "He who has saved a single life is as if he has saved a world." Jewish law dictates that we are responsible for one another. As American Jews, we can take pride in living in a land where foreign policy is guided by a higher authority.

May G-d watch over our American troops and bring them safely home to their families. In 1999, may all the nations of the world enjoy the blessings of peace and security.



**SAM GLASER SINGS FOR US!**  
In keeping with the JFD tradition of bringing outstanding Jewish music to Delaware (i.e. Doug Cotler, Debbie Friedman), the Federation welcomes Sam Glaser for the annual Community Event on Saturday night, February 6, 1999 at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Glaser is a Los Angeles-based singer, songwriter of contemporary Jewish music, and *Moment* magazine named him one of the top 10 Jewish musicians. Call JFD at 427-2100 and ask to be put on hold - you will hear a Sam sampler! Tickets for the concert will go on sale in January.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Letter To The Editor:

I read the article from Mick Weinstein (Nov. 20 *Jewish Voice*) with great interest. I have known Mick through his parents' affiliations with the Jewish community for many years. I was extremely happy that he has found his path in Judaism. However, the picture he paints of Jerusalem and of harmony in Jerusalem is not one that I concur with. The intolerance of the Orthodox community in Israel for anyone who wishes to participate in Jewish life according to their interpretation of the law is devastating. To watch allegedly faithful people spit, throw dung and rocks on others of their faith in front of the temple wall-to support the letter of what they believe their G-d requires, is disturbing. It is clearly divisive and undermines Israel.

It is sad that my view of Israel - and I have been there many times - is quite different from Mick's. I hope that he does not get visited upon him the type of discrimination that abounds in the State of Israel. That is the hate and intolerance that allegedly faithful Jews bestow on their fellow Jews. I have great doubts that the Israel we love will survive another 50 years if such intolerance is not washed from the fabric of the country. We should have learned from the lessons of the past - divided we all suffer and fall before our enemies.

It is my hope that all fragments of our faith will understand that Israel is fragile and that Judaism, though strong, must accommodate many viewpoints. No one can say that I alone know how to worship in the Jewish faith. I know many individuals who have been to Israel and have been turned away from their faith by awful confrontations with religious zealots.

All laws are open to interpretation, especially when the specific words may have been orally communicated for centuries. Thus, no one group can claim their interpretation is the LAW divined in the Torah and the rich literature surrounding the Torah.

I hope that each of us has a chance to visit Israel and obtain their own impressions of the land and people. I also hope that the Jewish State becomes tolerant of all the movements within our faith and of all faiths in Israel.

Yours truly,  
Robert Jacobs

### Letter To The Editor:

Congratulations for your page on "Jews In America's Military" by Murray Kaye and Marilyn Cooper (December 4 edition of the *Jewish Voice*.) This very fine and authoritative piece serves to remind us, and particularly our young people, of our Jewish military history in all wars and especially of the patriots and heroes - living and dead, from our community.

We especially noted the reference to the distinguished military service of Rabbi Sanford L. Dresin of Temple Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth who served for many years in the United States Chaplain Corps, often in combat areas. In this regard, we should also recall the military service during World War II of our beloved Rabbi Joseph L. Kraft of Beth Shalom, who left his pulpit to serve as a Military Chaplain in combat areas of the E.T.O. Rabbi Kraft, of blessed memory, returned to Beth Shalom at the end of the war. There, he continued to serve his congregation with love and dedication until his retirement and subsequent death in March, 1988. Like Rabbi Dresin, he was a great American patriot and hero.

Yours truly,  
Cy Donner  
Adjutant General  
Jewish War Veterans  
Department of Delaware

### The Parsha Place

Week of Dec 21 Vayeishev Genesis 44:18-47:27

The Talmud States: "The brothers had always considered themselves absolutely right in their treatment of Joseph. They had a whole series of legal motives, and were convinced of the righteousness of their deeds. But, when the hour of truth came, twenty-two years later, they needed only to hear Joseph say "I am Joseph!" and they were speechless. This simple rebuke tore away the veil and made the brothers realize the shallowness of their excuses. Their whole defense suddenly crumbled. All the good reasons which we use to exonerate ourselves cannot withstand the blinding light of truth. "What will it be like then on the day of supreme judgment, when G-d will ask us to account for our deeds!"

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

### Voice Box

"Fight the enemies of God, enemies of the nation, enemies of humanity,"

Saddam Hussein in response to attacks by U.S. and British aircraft

...

"Defeat impeachment and settle on a more appropriate means of punishing the President, without - at the same time - punishing the body-politic."

Joint Statement by American Jewish Congress President Jack Rosen and Norman Redlich, Chair of the AJ Congress Commission on Law and Social Action to the U.S. House of Representatives

## The JEWISH VOICE

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## SHABBAT Candle Lighting

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JANUARY

1ST — 4:30 PM

8TH — 4:37 PM

15TH — 4:44 PM

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

LOCAL

# University of Delaware Student Has A Sainly Relation

**From the University of Delaware**

When Leah Stein, a senior at the University of Delaware, says her great-great-aunt is a saint she's speaking literally, even though Leah, herself, is Jewish. Her great-great-aunt is the Carmelite nun, sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, who, before her conversion to Catholicism, was raised Jewish and was known as Edith Stein.

Pope John Paul II's canonization of this woman, who died in the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz, has raised controversy among Jews and Catholics alike.

"Within my family, this is something that every one of my relatives feels differently about," says Stein, who was one of the 97 relatives who attended the October canonization ceremony at the Vatican.

"Those of use who are Jewish feel very differently from the branch of the family that lives in Colombia, South America, and is Catholic. Among those of us who are Jewish, there also are differences. My grandfather, for example, grew up in the same house as Edith Stein and remembers the pain she caused her family. My father's generation grew up knowing how their parents felt, and then there's my generation that grew up much further removed from it all and in a world that is generally less religious than it used to be."

Personally, Stein said, "I feel that when she converted to Catholicism she made her choice. That's where she felt comfortable. Sainthood and miracles are not something I believe in, but if she can have an impact on the lives of Catholics and help make a difference in their lives, then—while it's not something I understand—I can support it."

Much of the debate surrounding



Leah Stein. (Photo by Jack Buxbaum)

Edith Stein's sainthood, comes from the question of whether she died a martyr for the Catholic Church or died because she was Jewish.

"As Jews, we don't understand how she could have died a martyr for her religion," Stein says. "My family also lost so many other relatives in the Holocaust that it's hard to understand why all this attention would be paid to Edith Stein. My grandparents from Nazi Germany,

and all of this has brought up a lot of pain within the family, remembering the ones who died."

Growing up, celebrating Shabbat dinners every Friday night, Stein says she never knew that much about her great-great-aunt.

"I only knew as much about her as I did about my other relatives of that generation," she said, although when I was growing up, priests and nuns came to our home (in Silver Spring, Md.) for dinner to

learn more about how Jewish people live. Then, when all this started happening, within the last two years, I've learned a lot."

Stein traveled to Italy for the canonization with her grandmother, Ilse Stein, whose husband grew up with Edith Stein. There, they joined the rest of Leah's immediate family and other relatives from the U.S., Israel, Switzerland, Germany and Colombia.

The canonization itself took about two hours, Stein said, and family members sat on a platform behind the pope, outside of St. Peter's Cathedral. Jewish and Catholic family members were surrounded by nuns, friars, monks and Vatican officials. The platform overlooks Vatican Square, which was packed with thousands of people for the special occasion.

"No one can believe I was that close to the pope," Stein says, although she has photos to prove it. "I was struck by how frail he is, how people had to help him up and down."

The ceremony was presented in Latin, Italian, German and English, and Stein said she understood very little of what was said.

"The atmosphere was very holy, and even if you couldn't understand it all, you knew that it was very moving. My German relatives were crying during the sermon, which was in German," she says. Stein's mother clutched a rosary for a friend.

One of those to receive communion during the ceremony was Teresa Benedicta McCarthy of Brockton, Mass. In 1987, when she was 2 years old, McCarthy, who had been named for Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, swallowed an overdose of Tylenol. Her liver stopped functioning and her family and friends prayed to her deceased

namesake for healing. The next day, McCarthy was fine. The event, which was declared a miracle, is what enabled Stein to meet the qualifications to become a saint.

Seeing McCarthy, now 14, receive communion was very moving, Stein said.

Some family members also had a papal audience and the entire family sat near the pope again at a special concert held in Edith Stein's honor.

The McCarthy family joined the Steins for a dinner that evening held by the Archdiocese of Cologne. Throughout the event, both families were filmed for a documentary being made by an independent filmmaker.

"There was my whole family - all of Edith Stein's descendants—and the entire McCarthy family - the family of the little girl responsible for her becoming a saint. It was amazing. It was a great mixture of religions and beliefs, but we all got along, even though we all had very individual views of why we were attending the ceremony and what we wanted to get out of it."

"The whole trip was an incredible family reunion, but instead of trying to figure out how we were related to each other, we all kept asking each other how we were related to Edith Stein."

Being related to a saint hasn't really changed her life in any way, Stein says. "I think about her. I think about how so many people in life never really find their place and Edith did, in spite of the pain it caused her family."

As a family and community service major, Stein has, herself, done many good works. She says sometimes friends tease her about want-

Continued on page 8

# Lions Of Judah Have Roaring Good Time



(L to R) Lion of Judah Dinner Chair and host Connie Sugarman welcomed guest speaker Sandra Cahn and JFD President Barbara Schoenberg to the Sugarman home for the 98-99 event.



Eileen Conner and Suzanne Grant proudly display their new Lion of Judah pins. They are joined by Ellen Levin and Carla Markell (not pictured) as new Lions for the 1999 UJA Federation Campaign.

# AJC Urges House Members To Consider The Public's View

By **STEVEN STEINER**  
AJC Director of  
Communications  
The American Jewish Congress

on Wednesday called on the House of Representatives "to defeat impeachment and to settle on a more appropriate means of pun-

ishing the President, without at the same time punishing the American body politic."

AJ Congress President Jack Rosen and Norman Redlich, Chair of the AJ Congress Commission on Law and Social Action, contrasted the impeachment proceedings against President Clinton with the 1974 events in which President Nixon resigned. They declared that there is again a "constitutional crisis," but that this time the move to impeach is proceeding "without the prerequisite public support indispensable for an action that is so draconian and has such fateful consequences for the country."

In a statement, Rosen and Redlich emphasized that "We do not defend President Clinton's behavior; surely, integrity and morality is incumbent upon all who hold office at the highest levels of government. We believe, therefore, that appropriate means of censure and rebuke are in order to make the President accountable for his admittedly wrongful behavior."

They added that "Under our system of government, the President is crucial to the effective and successful conduct of the business of this country and of its people. Any effort, therefore, to remove an incumbent from office must be bipartisan; must be backed by substantial majorities of the population; based on processes that are fair in the eyes of all observers; and be the product of a firm consensus

that what the President did undermined government and thereby made him unfit for office."

The AJC leaders "called upon each and every member of the House of Representatives to bear in mind there must be an overriding concern for the public good: impeachment cannot be justified except as an expression of the will

of the people as a whole. Absent this support, government is undermined; the welfare of the Republic suffers; the American people are divided in a manner that will take years to heal; and at a time when American leadership is more vital than ever on an international basis, our country becomes an object of derision throughout the world."

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# NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

## Draft Reprieve For Orthodox Struck Down By Israel Court

By NAOMI SEGAL  
JTA

JERUSALEM - An Israeli court decision striking down the current system of granting army deferrals to yeshiva students could exacerbate the religious-secular divide here and put further strain on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's already-tottering coalition.

Israel's High Court of Justice ruled last week that a Defense Ministry deferral program which currently has approximately 30,000 yeshiva students is illegal. It gave the Knesset a year to pass a new law on the matter.

Ruling on petitions by two legislators from the secularist Meretz Party and the Israeli University Students Association, which sought to put a ceiling on the number of deferrals granted, the 11-justice panel said that if the Knesset failed to pass legislation in the next 12 months, the arrangement would be null and void.

The justices said the issue had created a growing sense of inequality in Israeli society.

The deferrals, which date from the status-quo agreement that

helped to usher in the founding of the State of Israel, has become a lightning rod in recent years.

In a bid to head off the petitions, Netanyahu established a panel in May headed by a retired Supreme Court judge that would examine the issue and try to come up with a solution acceptable to all parties.

But the prime minister abandoned the idea after members of the haredi, or fervently Orthodox, Agudat Yisrael Party threatened to bring down the government if the panel were formed.

Commenting on Wednesday's ruling, Netanyahu pledged that legislation agreeable to all Israelis, ranging from the secular to the haredim, would be passed within the one-year deadline.

"This must be done to prevent a rift in the people. It won't be easy, but it can be done," the prime minister said.

Knesset member Avraham Ravitz of the United Torah Judaism bloc, who has been involved in an effort to resolve the issue, also welcomed the ruling.

"I think that the Knesset will discuss the matter, and that [legislators] will be receptive to each other.

We are aware of what everyone's red lines are and are trying very hard not to cross them," he said.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, who drew the ire of some Orthodox lawmakers earlier this year when he authored a bill that would limit the number of deferrals, said there had already been contacts with haredi representatives on the issue.

Israel's chief rabbis also welcomed the ruling, as did President Ezer Weizman, who has spoken out in the past against the deferrals.

But in reactions that signaled the tough battle that may lie ahead, some Haredi rabbis warned that

they would not agree to a decision to draft any yeshiva students and would direct them either to go to jail or to leave Israel, rather than serve in the army.

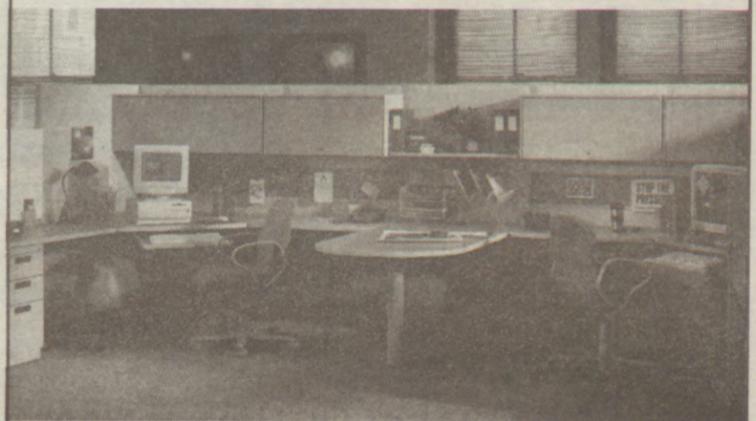
Knesset member Rabbi Avraham Leizeron of UTJ called the ruling an "inquisition" and said yeshiva

students would overcome the latest attempt by the State of Israel to draft the students.

In their petition, Chaim Oron and Amnon Rubinstein of Meretz had argued that the arrangement implemented 50 years ago by

Continued on page 17

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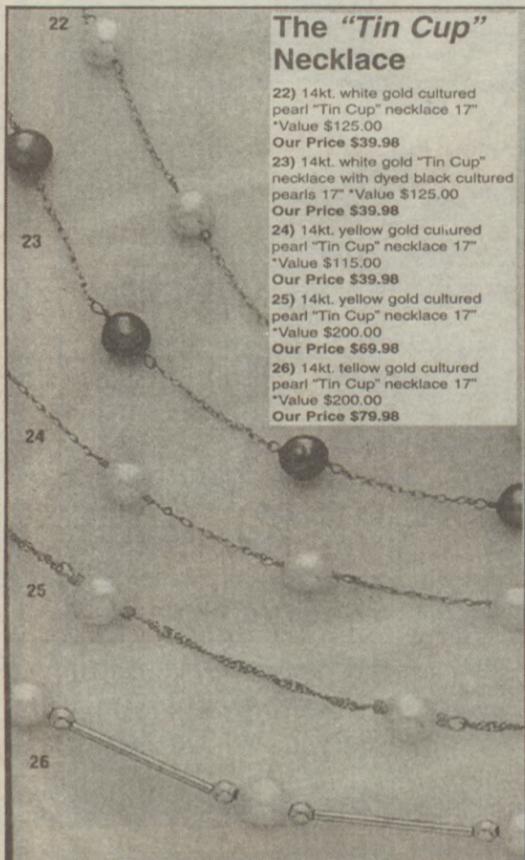


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# Castle Urges Censure And Financial Penalty For President Clinton

**From the Office of Delaware Congressman Michael N. Castle**

*Editor's Note: As we go to press, the House of Representatives has delayed its vote on charges of impeachment against President Clinton due to the military action against Iraq. Our congressman, Mike Castle wanted Jewish Voice readers to know where he stands on this issue.*

It is my strong personal belief, substantiated by many conversations with my constituents and other members of the House, that Americans are deeply divided on whether the President should be impeached and removed from office. However, the majority of Americans believe that the President has been involved in unethical and immoral behavior that may be criminal and that he should be punished accordingly, but not removed from office.

Few, if any believe that the President will be removed from office by the Senate if he is impeached in the House. Most justifiably believe that the country will not be well served if the cloud of impeachment continues to hang over us. Does anyone truly believe that any meaningful work will be

done in Washington if an impeachment trial begins in the Senate and the fate of the President is unresolved months from now?

A strong resolution of censure should be drafted stating precisely the charges against the President, as well as a statement that civil and criminal liability will remain after he leaves office. The resolution must be combined with an agreement by the President to pay financial restitution of no less than two million dollars in part for the costs incurred as the result of his wrongful actions, to be paid personally by him over a period of five years.

Under this solution, the work of the Judiciary Committee would remain valid. In addition to the resolution of censure and a financial penalty, the President would always bear the mark of the

Committee's vote of impeachment.

Obviously there are those who believe so strongly that impeachment is necessary and who view alternatives as a means to provide an escape for those members of both parties who, like me, do not think the choices of impeaching the President or letting him go with no rebuke are the best solutions. That is not a valid reason for refusing to seek a solution that is in the

best interests of our country.

Our leadership must become actively involved if we are to find a solution that provides justice and is best for the nation. Procedural battles on the House Floor are not the best way to resolve an issue of this magnitude. I will vote my conscience if the only choice is the Articles of Impeachment, but I will forever wonder if we missed a better opportunity.



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## U.O.D. Student

**Continued from page 5**

ing to be the next Jewish saint.

While at UD, she has worked with infants and toddlers in a day-care setting, helped write the state's Grandparents Raising Grandchildren handbook, helped coordinate the annual Delaware Kid's Conference, conducted a

needs assessment for low-income families and worked in the Early Head Start Program.

Next semester, she will have completed her academic requirements and will take part in the internship the major requires. She also plans to start applying to graduate schools.

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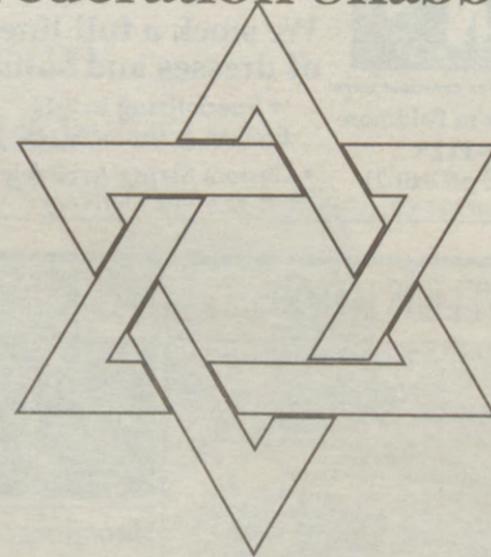
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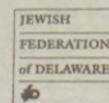
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Friday, January 29 8:00 p.m. Services and Oneg Shabbat  
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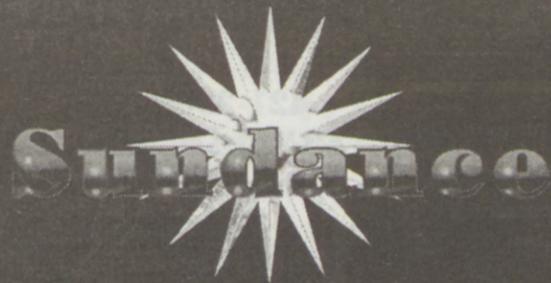
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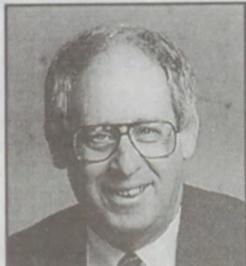
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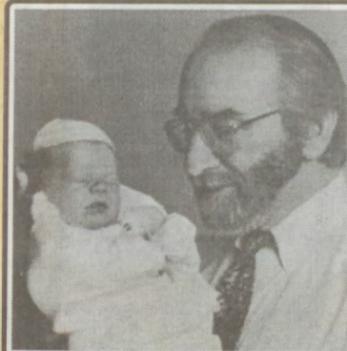


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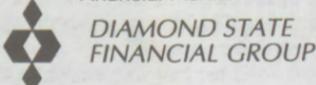
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## IN OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

### Jewish Spirituality The Focus of Chabad Program

Internationally known author and lecturer Rabbi Dr. J. Immanuel Schochet will speak on December 29, 7:30 p.m. at the JCC. Dr. Schochet will address "Away in a Danger - Why Jews Look Elsewhere for Spirituality."

The author of 30 books and numerous scholarly articles, he is recognized as an authority on Jewish Mysticism, Chassidism and Philosophy. He also is considered

to be an expert on missionaries and cults. Dr. Schochet has lectured on all five continents and is a frequent guest on TV and radio.

An ordained rabbi, Dr. Schochet earned several degrees in religion and holds a Ph.D. in philosophy. He is the spiritual leader of Beth Joseph in Toronto and served for the past 25 years as Professor of Philosophy at Humber College and Visiting Professor at Bio-Ethics at

University of Toronto and of Jewish Philosophy and Mysticism at Maimonides College.

"Rabbi Schochet's talks in the past have always been a tremendous hit," said Rabbi Chuni Vogel, director of Chabad in Wilmington, adding that "We are fortunate to have him here once again."

For additional information, please call Rabbi Vogel at 478-4400.

### Career Program For High School Students At Beth Emeth

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Emeth is sponsoring a Career Program for High Schools on Sunday afternoon, January 10, 1999 at Congregation Beth Emeth. The program is designed to help high school students begin the process of making plans for the future. It is free of charge and open to all high school students.

The keynote speaker, Jan Weiss, Director, Services for Adolescents, Jewish Family Services of Delaware, will address this topic in a speech titled, "Is it okay if I don't know what I want to be when I grow up?" Career talks will introduce students to a variety of professions and the education and

training needed for each.

Each student will be able to select two different careers to learn about from local professionals. Careers represented include engineering, medicine, computer technology, writing, public relations/advertising, psychology, education, science, business, chiropractic medicine, law, occupational/physical/speech therapy and marine biology.

The program will begin 1:30 p.m. with pizza and registration. Advanced registration is encouraged. Please call Michele Sands, 478-6391, by January 4 to register and obtain additional information.



The 1999 Chai Dinner will be held on January 9th at the Delaware Art Museum, and this event could not take place without the work done by the Dinner Committee pictured here. The dinner co-chairs are Wendy and Buddy Berger, Shara and Ken Bubes and Andrea and Scott Feinman. JFD would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all committee members and their spouses for helping to make this event the Chailight of the year! Please RSVP for the dinner to the Federation office at 427-2100. Seated (L to R): Wendy Berger, Shara Bubes, Carole Bakst, Annette Aerenon. Standing (L to R): Barbara Blumberg, Susan Kreshtool, Andrea Feinman, Francesca Rudin. Not pictured: Dorothy Bobman, Jane Goldberg, Amy Leviton.

### Albert Einstein Academy Students Post Superior Standardized Test Scores

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# THE RABBI WRITES

## The Weakest Link Breaks The Chain

By Rabbi  
**MOSHE V. GOLDBLUM**

Throughout the history of the Jewish People, there has been both a centrifugal and a centripetal force that have completed with one another in a very vigorous fashion. Whether it was Senachrib or Nebuchadnezzar, emperors, or Assyria or Babylon or whether it was Alexander the Great or Antiochus IV, there were constant efforts to force the Jews to abandon their own ethnicity and join the cultures and religions of others living close by. Authentic Jewish leadership on the other hand endeavored to convince the people to maintain their close relationship with genuine Jewish life and to draw nearer to the core of Jewish learning.

Antiochus IV, like all other emperors of the ancient world, wanted to rule over the ancient world, wanted to rule over homogeneous empire. It was simpler, more efficient, and he could not understand why the Jewish people would not cooperate. Hanukkah is an instance when the centripetal efforts of the Pietists were stronger than the centrifugal efforts of the Hellenists. This civil war has been going on between the various religious social and political factions within the Jewish people to this

very day.

The drastic measures of the crusades and the ruthless policies of the Inquisition were primarily motivated to make the Jews become identified with the vast Christian community. We cannot understand the problems faced by the State of Israel unless we are aware that the Arabs are totally frustrated by the fact that Jews have moved into that part of the world which they consider to be completely Arab and Moslem. When the number of Jews were still small, the Arabs deemed themselves capable of absorbing these Jews and of forcing them to become completely identified with the population of the Middle East. However, wave after wave of immigration caused them to realize that the Jewish population of Israel was growing quickly, and the possibility of absorbing these heterogeneous "newcomers" was disappearing very quickly.

The early Zionists were worried as to whether a Jewish state would ultimately become just another country that was part of the Turkish empire or whether this new state would become something unique that was essentially modern and yet Jewish. Most of us are not worried about this possibility anymore, but we cannot deny

that the historical pressures are still being leveled against the Jewish population in Israel. We must all endeavor to help them so that no Arab pressure will cause them to permit the surrounding influences to change the purpose and the future of the State of Israel.

All of us are victims of these two

social pressures whether we are aware of them or not. When we decide that our children are not in need of a good and positive Jewish education, we are giving in to the forces that desire to carry us away from the core of Jewishness. When we make it possible for our children to develop a very strong atti-

tude and motivation to live beautiful Jewish lives, we are strengthening the core by our desire to move closer to the center of Jewish life. Hanukkah asks of us to increase the Jewish light within our families, day by day, and to ultimately enjoy and appreciate the full design of Judaism in our personal lives.



President and Mrs. Clinton comfort Leah Rabin, widow of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin during their recent visit to Israel. (Photo by RNS)

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# American Students Help Boost Jewish Life in Belarus

By LIV KRICHEVSKY  
JTA

An American effort to revive Jewish life in Belarus has received a big boost – despite the grave economic problems and the uncertain future of the Jewish community in the former Soviet republic.

More than 300 local Jews and dignitaries, including 20 American guests, participated in the recent dedication of a Torah scroll to a Jewish youth center in Minsk. The ceremony, the first of its kind in Belarus since the Holocaust, took place in the Lauder Lech Lecha Youth Center.

The center, housed in a Minsk synagogue, serves as the base of activities for the New York-based Yeshiva and University Students for the Spiritual Revival of Soviet Jewry, which works to develop Jewish identity among youth in the former Soviet Union – particularly in Belarus and Ukraine, where it has mobilized youth groups, orga-

nized camps and developed educational programs promoting aliyah to Israel and the spiritual awakening of Jewish youth.

The 20 Americans at the ceremony were concluding a weeklong mission throughout Lithuania and Belarus. The mission, organized by YUSSR and led by Rabbi Shnayer Leiman, visited cities once home to large numbers of Jews.

The Jewish community of Minsk currently numbers about 20,000, one-fifth of Belarus' 100,000 Jews.

The Torah, donated by Young Israel of Century City, Calif., enabled some Jewish teenagers to celebrate their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs using a Torah – the first such ceremony since the destruction of the Minsk Jewish community in the Holocaust.

For 13-year-old Sergei Frolov, the ceremony was the most unforgettable event in his young life.

"I wanted so much to be a Bar Mitzvah and I was so excited as I read my parshah," he said using the Hebrew word for a Torah portion. "I'm very proud that everything turned out well."

Frolov was one of four teen-

agers – three boys and one girl – that had their ceremonies with the newly dedicated scroll.

Neither they nor their parents had ever seen a Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony.

Since it opened in 1997, the

Lech Lecha center has provided YUSSR with a home to organize its activities on behalf of Belarus' Jews, including Friday night programs, a Sunday school and holiday activities. American volunteers staff many of the projects.



Keeping the light of Judaism alive in Moscow. (Photo by JTA)

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## RELIGIOUS TRENDS

## Sweeping Changes In Reform Platform Sparks Debate

By  
DEBRA NUSBAUM COHEN  
JTA

A proposed new document that endorses studying Torah, keeping the Sabbath and other ritual practices has touched off a passionate debate among Reform rabbis and congregants about just how focused on traditional Jewish observance their movement should be.

The document, a draft for a new platform that is titled "Ten Principles for Reform Judaism," urges observance of mitzvot, or commandments, and devotion to Hebrew and Israel. This stands in stark contrast to decades of practice in the Reform movement that placed a higher priority on ethical practice than on ritual observance.

The debate highlights the divide between those who consider themselves "classical Reform" Jews and those who are more traditional in their religious practices.

The platform was originally slated to come up for a vote by Reform rabbis at their annual convention next May in Pittsburgh. That is the same city where, in 1885, the movement adopted its first platform, which discarded all of Judaism's rules about keeping kosher and customs of dress as "altogether foreign to our mental and spiritual state."

However, the controversy that the proposed new platform has ignited makes it unlikely that the issue will be resolved before the May convention gets underway.

The proposed platform was discussed extensively recently in Memphis, where the 250-member national board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations was meeting. Rabbi Eric Yoffie, the congregational body's president, urged further discussion throughout the movement in an effort to reach some sort of consensus.

Meanwhile, the executive committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform movement's rabbinical association, decided last week to form a task force with representatives of the UAHC and Hebrew Union College, the Reform seminary, to further study and redraft the proposed platform.

People in the Reform movement are at this point about evenly split, say those who have been most involved in the debate.

Those who keep kosher and observe other mitzvot say this is the direction in which the Reform movement is heading. Nevertheless, many who believe that authentic Reform Judaism is based on ethics, not commandments, say they worry that there will be no room in the denomination left for them.

Reform Judaism is a movement in transition between an era in which organ music and operatic solos were the norm during worship services — while wearing yarmulkas and prayer shawls was universally eschewed — and one increasingly described as "warm Reform," in which congregants join in folk-style Jewish singing and many elect to cover their heads and wrap themselves in tallitot during prayer.

The transition has been under way for a long time. Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president emeritus of the UAHC, said in an interview that there has been tension over these issues since the 1930s. Never before, however, has anyone made a move to make the more traditionalist orientation an official part of Reform policy.

And now that Rabbi Richard Levy, president of the CCAR, has attempted to do so, the outcry is enormous. Levy began circulating a first draft of his "Ten Principles" statement last March at the Reform rabbis' annual conference, where it prompted a stir.

But rabbis in every movement tend to be more observant and more traditionalist in orientation than most of their lay people. Therefore, it wasn't until the proposed platform reached the 300,000 households in which there are Reform congregants — through the cover story in the Winter 1998 issue of Reform Judaism magazine — that the rumpus began in earnest.

In the version published in the magazine, Levy used Hebrew terminology and focused his 10 principles on concepts like kedushah, or holiness; mitzvot, or commandments; and a sense of being commanded by the Torah.

*(Editor's note: These principles are outlined in a separate text box.)*

For those Reform Jews who regard the key to their movement as rooted in ethical choices rather

than commanded obligations, these guidelines have been difficult to embrace.

The impact was exacerbated, some say, by the magazine's cover, which shows the bearded Levy in a pose of prayerful contemplation, wearing a yarmulke and wrapped in the traditional prayer shawl as he reverentially kisses the fringes, or tzitzit, on the end.

Together, the platform and the picture caused some wonder what was happening to their movement and whether they could remain Reform Jews. It is clear that some in the movement equate observance of traditional practices with Orthodox Judaism — and view the traditionalist camp as moving in that direction.

"I could not even finish reading this in the magazine because it was so repulsive," said Laurie Livingston, a member at Peninsula Temple Beth El in San Mateo, Calif. She maintains that, if the platform is adopted as policy by the movement, "my children and I will join swelling ranks of the unaffiliated."

"I have gone to great lengths to give my kids a strong Jewish education and Jewish identity. They love going to temple," she wrote. But the proposed platform "is too regressive and orthodox for me."

In an article in the same issue of the magazine, Rabbi Robert Seltzer, a professor of Jewish history at Hunter College in New York, warned that Levy's platform is "turning Reform Judaism into

Conservative Judaism Lite."

At the same time, those who are more inclined to be observant feel the proposed platform gives them a voice in a movement in which they currently feel marginalized.

Mark Levy of Santa Monica, Calif., has been wearing a kippah and tallit, and keeping kosher both at home and while eating out, for about 25 years. As a result, he has been asked many times by others in the movement why he is Reform rather than Conservative or Orthodox.

When he was president of his congregation, his wearing a kippah and tallit while he sat on the bimah during services prompted such fury that it was taken up for discussion by the board of directors.

Levy, who is no relation to the

rabbi who drafted the platform, believes that adopting the platform "would be valuable for the movement, as long as it doesn't say, 'You must' do anything."

"Even if these things never get adopted, there are people talking about it, and we're hearing people's voices that we never heard before," he said.

Rabbi Richard Levy, who started the whole process, is pleased by the debate. "I hoped this effort would produce serious discussion of what God and Torah and mitzvot mean to us," he said in an interview from his Los Angeles offices. "Wherever we go from here, I know there is a commitment to continuing the discussion and moving beyond it to action."

## 10 PRINCIPLES FOR REFORM JUDAISM

Following are the 10 principles for Reform Judaism included in Rabbi Richard Levy's proposed platform:

1. Created by the Holy One, We Are Seekers After God.
2. Having Stood at Sinai, We Respond to the Call of Mitzvot Amid Modernity.
3. We Were Redeemed From Egypt to Help Repair the World.
4. We Are Committed to Shabbat, Which Elevates Our Work and Frees Us From It.
5. We Are Committed to Learning and Seasonal Celebration.
6. We Are Open to Expanding the Mitzvot of Reform Jewish Practice.
7. We Are Members of a Holy People, From Whom We Learn, Whom We Can Teach.
8. Members of a Holy People, We Are Rooted in a Holy Land.
9. Members of a Holy People, We Are Heirs to a Holy Tongue.
10. We Are Committed to the Equality of All the People of God.

To Die Without Suffering:  
Israel's First Euthanasia

*(Editor's note: As we go to press, Jack Kevorkian faces murder charges for his role in the "assisted suicide" which was publicized in a highly controversial episode of "60 Minutes." While Dr. Kevorkian was making headlines, Israel was quietly dealing with its own euthanasia issues. Our thanks to Hadassah for bringing this story to the attention of the JEWISH VOICE.)*

By WENDY ELLIMAN

JERUSALEM — On October 4, a 49-year-old fighter pilot named Itai Arad died in the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. His family gathered around his bed. Arad's life could not be saved: a degenerative and incurable muscle disease ravaged his body.

However, his early death was more than an inevitable tragedy. It was the first officially authorized euthanasia ever performed in Israel. As such, it marks a medical-ethical watershed in a land whose faith holds the saving of human life as one of its key imperatives.

Itai Arad's death was the culmination of a long battle that he and his family fought in Israel's law courts for his right to die without suffering. That battle began when he was diagnosed with the fatal

motor-neuron disease whose medical name is amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, but is better known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease.

In January 1996, he seemed to have won: Tel Aviv District Court Judge Moshe Talgam made the unprecedented ruling that it was legally permissible to meet Arad's request to disconnect him from his ventilator when the time came. In August 1998, however, when Arad asked the staff of the Kfar Saba hospital to carry out his request, they refused.

"In Western society, disconnecting a ventilator is seen as no more than passive euthanasia," says Prof. Charles Sprung, who heads the General Intensive Care Unit at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem. Sprung founded and currently chairs Hadassah's Institute of Medicine, Ethics and Law, and co-chairs the working group of the European Society of Intensive Care Medical Ethics.

"In the Western ethical system, active euthanasia is performing a life-ending procedure, such as injecting a fatal drug. The Jewish approach, however, is molded by halacha or Jewish law, and views things differently.

"In Jewish law, passive euthanasia is withholding treatment — for example, not attaching a patient to a ventilator in the first place. But once a patient is on a ventilator, disconnecting him (that is, withdrawing treatment) is judged as active euthanasia, since it's an action that results in the patient's death. Jewish law thus makes a crucial distinction between withholding and withdrawing treatment that's not found in the Western approach."

When the Kfar Saba hospital staff refused Arad, he and his family turned to Prof. Avinoam Reches, a senior neurologist at Hadassah and an active member of Hadassah's Institute of Medicine, Ethics & Law.

"There's been a major change in the perspective of doctors toward their patients in the last few years," says Reches. "Until very recently, death was considered a medical failure and a doctor's primary goal was to prevent death. Today, however, some of our 'successes' have come to be recognized instead as failures — 'successes' such as mechanical ventilation that keeps severely disabled patients alive for years.

"Think of a patient with ALS,

such as Arad, who can't move, but whose senses and mind are intact. If he feels a fly settle on the end of his nose, he can't brush it off. What quality of life is that? To me, quality of life is as important as its duration. If such a patient is mentally and psychologically whole and persistently expresses a wish to end his life, I believe he should be allowed to die."

Reches heard Arad and his family sympathetically, making only one stipulation: that he be authorized to help Arad die by Hadassah's Ethics Committee for the Treatment of Terminally Ill patients. The decision was bounced over to the Committee, who in turn passed it on again — back to Judge Talgam at the Tel Aviv District Court, asking Talgam to reaffirm his decision of two and a half years earlier. He did so on October 1.

In short order, the Hadassah Committee gave Reches its authorization, informed senior members of Israel's health-care community (including the Director-general and deputy director-general of Israel's Ministry of Health) — and Reches

Continued on page 17

FEATURE

# NCSY Kids Stay More Jewish

By **DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN**  
JTA

As a debate rages on about the most effective type of Jewish education – formal or informal – a new study provides evidence that participation in an Orthodox teen youth group spurs people to lead more Jewishly committed lives, even if they do not come from observant homes.

The study of alumni of the National Council of Synagogue Youth, a program of the Orthodox Union, found marked differences between their Jewish behavior and Jews of the same age group, as measured in the 1990 National Jewish Population Study.

The prestigious Lilly Endowment funded the \$377,000 NCSY study. It follows on the heels of a study released last month that showed that alumni of another Jewish youth movement, Young Judaea, lead more Jewishly active lives.

In NCSY's early years, which began in 1959, about 60 percent of participants came from non-Orthodox homes and attended public or non-Jewish private schools. The balance were yeshiva kids from Orthodox homes.

Today that proportion has flipped. Just 40 percent of NCSY participants attend non-Jewish schools, while the majority are educated in yeshivas or Jewish day schools.

NCSY, with an annual budget of \$10 million, runs Jewish culture clubs in 87 public schools around the country. Almost all of the teens who participate in these clubs are otherwise uninvolved in Jewish life, said Rabbi Pinchas Stolper, nation-

al director of the youth movement.

Other NCSY programs range from weekend-long Shabbatons to a weekly sports night in three Midwestern Jewish community centers, which each attracts between 70 and 100 kids.

The NCSY approach has always been this, said Stolper: The youth movement itself "is rigid in its observance of commandments and it is liberal with young people. It puts no pressure, gives them no guilt trips and doesn't demand that they do anything outside the organization. "We let them find their own level," he said.

The study of 1,070 alumni shows that such an approach works to inspire kids to lead more active – and even more strictly Orthodox – Jewish lives.

About three-quarters of respondents now consider themselves Orthodox, with "a significant shift to more strict observance since high school," the study says.

The overwhelming majority of high-school-aged participants continued their formal Jewish education during and after their college years.

While the fact that 94 percent of the NCSY alumni who were Yeshiva students in high school continued their Jewish education may not be surprising, the fact that 80 percent of the public school students is impressive to Stolper.

"It means they did things beyond going to Hillel events" on their college campuses, Stolper said. "They went to Yeshiva University or Touro College," two Orthodox institutions, he said, or studied full time in a yeshiva in the United States or Israel.

Just 2 percent of NCSY alumni

have married non-Jews, compared with a 52 percent intermarriage rate among the most recently married Jews surveyed in the National Jewish Population Study.

Similarly, the Young Judaea study released in October showed Alumni of that Zionist movement had only a 5 percent intermarriage rate.

The study also found that 92 percent of respondents said they were affiliated with a synagogue, compared to 38 percent of respondents to the National Jewish Population Study who identified as Jewish. Nearly three-quarters of the male NCSY alumni, and almost

half of female alumnae, attend synagogue services at least once a week, according to the new study, compared with a tiny fraction (9 percent of men and 6 percent of women) of randomly selected American Jews in the population study.

Participation in an NCSY program also seems to lead to greater fertility. While the birthrate among American Jews is 1.9 children per couple, NCSY study respondents had given birth to an average of 2.3 children. And since the mean age of respondents was 26, with several potential childbearing years ahead of them, the fertility rate is

expected to grow even higher.

"I was really surprised to see what a large percentage of alumni ended up more observant than their parents, in a world where today the opposite is generally the case," said Nathalie Friedman, a retired senior research scholar at Columbia University who conducted the NCSY study.

The findings of the new study show that participation in a Youth movement like NCSY "is a big step toward Jewish continuity," Friedman said, adding that "Youth groups like these can do a lot for those kids who can't attend day schools or Yeshivas."

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Charlie Brown Stops At Playhouse En-Route To Broadway

By **PAULA SHULAK**

Charlie Brown stopped in Wilmington recently on his way to Broadway. If you like frothy, good-hearted fun that doesn't tax your mind, you might want to follow him when YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN opens in New York.

This show is a veritable carbon copy of the famous comic strip in every way. It consists of a series of vignettes, akin to reading several days' worth of newspapers all at one time. There is little to connect the strips except the characterizations provided by this energetic and talented cast.

In my opinion, the vehicle is quite weak, but the overall performances are good.

In particular, I found B.D. Wong (of M. Butterfly fame) an endearing

Linus who of course carried his blanket everywhere while philosophizing on life. Kristin Chenoweth and Ilana Levine as Sally and Lucy were very strong in their roles with Lucy displaying a tremendously powerful singing voice that rocked the theater at times (especially as she sang counterpoint to the classical Beethoven being "played" by the inimitable Schroeder on his toy piano). The one real disappointment in the case was Anthony Rapp's interpretation of Charlie himself; this is the weak link. Neither his voice nor his acting ability was anything to write home about.

The most impressive performance of the evening was undoubtedly given by Roger Bart as Snoopy, Charlie's canine companion. Here was Snoopy flying in his

biplane after the Red Baron; there was Snoopy lolling on top of his dog house and commenting on the world around him; and, here again, was Snoopy in a show-stopping number about his favorite time of day, Supper-time. Roger Bart has captured Snoopy's personality and puts much energy and joy into his performance.

Technically the show is amazingly simple but incredibly effective. My guess is that it will be a crowd pleaser when it opens on Broadway and joins Beauty and the Beast and The Lion King as a place to take children to see a show. However, CHARLIE BROWN is not in that blockbuster category at all. It's a pleasant evening if you want to be lightly entertained, but it is certainly not great theater.

### Draft Reprieve

Continued from page 7

Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, to exempt "a few thousand" yeshiva students from military service had evolved into a rubber stamp, exploited by tens of thousands of yeshiva students.

The two Knesset members demanded that a ceiling be set on the number of deferrals issued yearly and that those individuals be closely monitored to ensure they continue their studies and do not go to work.

In 1954, the year the status-quo

agreement was signed, some 400 yeshiva students were granted deferrals. Today, roughly 2,800 students receive them each year.

Oron said he soon planned to introduce into the Knesset a law, based on the petition, that says there must be a ceiling on deferrals and that the deferrals must be closely monitored.

According to the army, only 55 percent of 18-year-olds in Israel are currently drafted. Of the remaining 45 percent, some 21 percent are Israeli Arabs, who do not serve, and 8 percent are yeshiva students.

### To Die Without Suffering

Continued from page 16

took the news back to the Arad family.

Itai Arad's consent to the euthanasia procedure was recorded on videotape. On October 3, Reches injected massive amounts of anesthetic into his patient, and disconnected his ventilator. Twenty-four hours later, Itai Arad was pronounced dead, and his suffering was over.

For Israel, however, this perilous

journey into the ethically unknown has only just begun. With today's medical possibilities and limitations, the Jewish imperative to preserve human life, if only for a few more seconds, is no longer a clear or reliable guide. Today, physicians, judges, philosophers, clergymen and bureaucrats, as well as those struck down like Itai Arad, are all grappling to shape a new medical ethic to guide us safely through the new reality of our times.



First Lady Hillary Clinton visits with staff and patients at Israel's Hadassah Hospital.

## MILESTONES

### Memoriam Morris Cohen

The Delaware Jewish community mourns the loss of Morris Cohen who died December 12 at the Kutz Home for the Aged, at the age of 92. Mr. Cohen was memorialized last Tuesday at Congregation Beth Shalom where he was an active member for many years. His Jewish communal involvement included membership in the Harry Fineman Post of the Jewish War Veterans B'nai B'rith Lodge 470. A World War II Army veteran, Mr. Cohen was recently honored by the Veterans Administration Hospital in Wilmington for contributing 1,000 hours of volunteer service. Helen Goldberg of the

Jewish Welfare Board recalls that "Morris would make sure that every patient - Jew or Gentile - would receive a card and a handkerchief on their birthday." "Often," she added, "these were the only gifts that they would receive."

Contributions in memory of Mr. Cohen may be made to Kutz Home for the Aged, 704 River Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19809 or Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th Street and Baynard Boulevard, Wilmington, Delaware 19802.

He is survived by Sadie Cohen, his wife of 68 years.

## NACHES

### Alex Ethan Felzer Born

Dr. and Mrs. Stuart S. Felzer (nee Barbara Mittin) and big brother Brian Philip joyfully announce the birth of their son and brother, Alex Ethan (Adir Eitan), born November 15, 1998.

Sharing the joy are Stanley and Nettie Mittin and Lionel and Doris Felzer.

Alex Ethan is named in loving memory of his maternal aunt, Adele Mittin Abrams and his paternal great-grandmother, Esther Felzer.



**REMINDER**

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## Political Pilgrimages To Israel

By MITCHELL G. BARD

Mitchell G. Bard is a foreign policy analyst in Maryland and author of *Forgotten Victims: The Abandonment of Americans in Hitler's Camps* (HarperCollins/Westview).

It doesn't take a genius to figure out why Texas Governor George W. Bush went to Israel, but what about his counterparts Mike Leavitt from Montana and Marc Racicot from Utah? They joined Bush and Massachusetts Governor Paul Celucci on a mission that certainly was about politics, but was really more about the way the special relationship between the United States and Israel is changing - and for the better.

For Israel's first 50 years, the relationship with the United States has been based primarily in Washington on a government to government basis. In the last several years, however, the friendship has extended far beyond bureaucrats, diplomats, soldiers, members of Congress and presidents to governors and state officials in commerce, tourism, education and culture. Today, 22 states have agreements of their own with Israel for promoting bilateral relations with Israel. Every state in the nation benefits from trade, military contracts, and grants from bi-national foundations for science, agriculture, and business innovation.

Obviously, Gov. Bush is preparing for a run for the Presidency and wants to show Jewish voters he is knowledgeable about Israel and has a concern for its future. He, of course, has the baggage of the Bush name, which is associated with the most anti-Israel President in history. And, even with the best of intentions and policy statements, he is virtually guaranteed to win no more than 30 percent of the Jewish vote against any of the Democratic front runners for the 2000 election. Still, it can make a

big difference if he gets 30 percent or 15 percent.

Regardless of his long-term political ambitions, Bush's trip to Israel can help his state. Consider that Texas exports to Israel last year exceeded \$600 million and nearly \$3 billion since 1991. In 1997 alone, Texas companies benefited from nearly \$50 million in military contracts with Israel. In the last 10 years, Texas institutions have shared roughly \$10 million in grants for joint research in science and agriculture.

In addition, perhaps the oldest state-to-state relationship is the Texas-Israel Exchange (TIE) which was created in 1984 to promote mutually beneficial agriculture projects. In 1994, another agreement was negotiated to create the TIE Fund to support joint agricultural research and development, and foster the expansion of trade. The Texas Legislature enacted legislation providing up to \$250,000 for the TIE Fund and Israel agreed to contribute an equal amount. That friends has nothing to do with politics.

And what about Montana and Utah, states with Jewish populations of 800 and 4,400, respectively? Well, consider that Israel ranks as Texas' 25th leading trade partner, Montana's 21st, and Utah's 26th. Exports from Montana to Israel increased 112 percent last year and the increase from Utah was 30 percent.

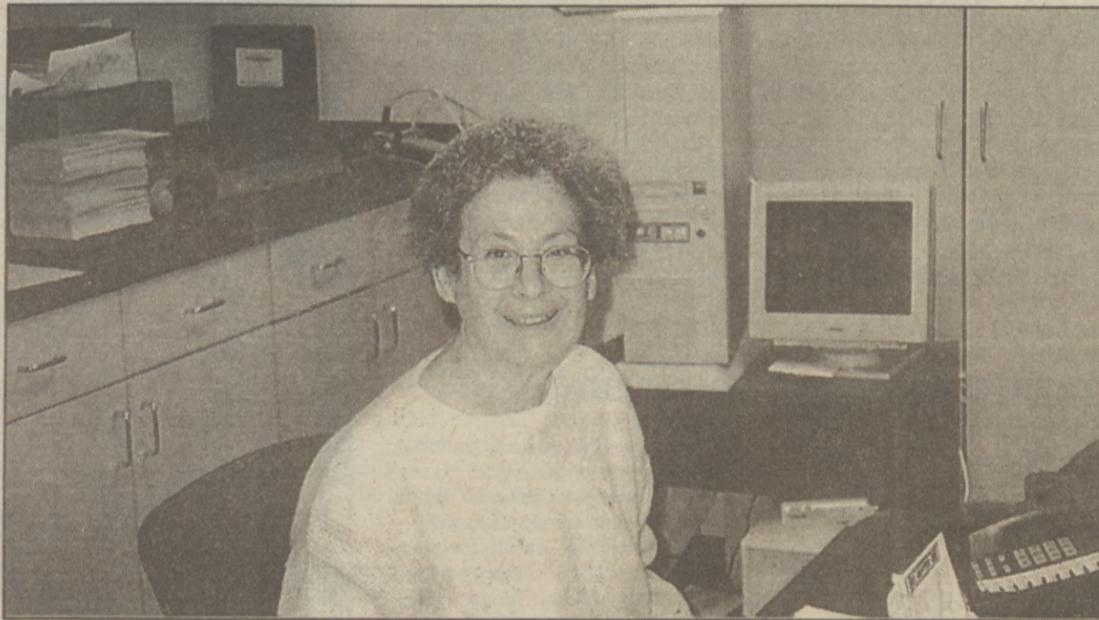
Numbers don't tell the whole story. People to people relationships are created not only by trade, but by the interaction of scientists and researchers through the binational foundation grant programs. Utah has Sister City agreements between Ogden and Dimona, and Provo and Yavne. The Jewish Federation has also created ties through its Partnership 2000 project between Salt Lake City and Kiryat Malachi-Hof Ashkelon.

This was the first trip to Israel for Montana Governor Racicot, who considered it a "formative and fascinating experience," according to his spokesman. The kid from a small town in Montana certainly never dreamed of having brandy and cigars with the Prime Minister of Israel. Not only that, when the group helicoptered to the top of Masada, Racicot actually bumped into a constituent.

I don't want to leave out Massachusetts, which has one of the most active relationships of any state with Israel, which is its 20th leading trade partner. Since 1991, the State has exported more than \$1.1 billion worth of goods to Israel, \$183 million in 1997 alone. Massachusetts is also one of the top recipients of grants for joint research projects. In 1987, Gov. Michael Dukakis created the Massachusetts-Israel Exchange (MIX) to foster cooperation and enhance trade and joint ventures between the two states and his successors have continued to build on what he created.

While we continue to read about tensions between President Clinton and Prime Minister Netanyahu, it is important not to mistake their personal relationship for the U.S.-Israel relationship. If you really want to be at the cutting edge of bilateral ties, work with officials at

the state and local level, because that is where the advances in the U.S.-Israel alliance are taking place today. Regardless of what goes on between Washington and Jerusalem, the bonds between our two peoples continue to grow stronger every day because Americans benefit from cooperation, what I call Shared Value Initiatives. The latest trip by the four Republican governors is one more brick in the wall of friendship.



**VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** The Jewish Federation of Delaware thanks Gloria Nadel for all of her volunteer work throughout the year. Gloria answers the telephone, prepares mailings and helps in any way she can to make life easier in the office. Thank you for everything, Gloria - and have a nice day!

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## DECEMBER

**Friday 18**  
**Congregation Beth Shalom**, Family Service, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday 24**

**AKSE sponsors deli dinner & bingo night.** The community is invited to attend a deli dinner and bingo night on December 24, 1998 at 6 p.m. in the social hall of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Prizes will be given to bingo winners. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5-12. Reservations are needed by December 21. Please call the synagogue office 762-2705.

**Friday 25**

**Family Pancake Breakfast** at JCC, 10:00 a.m.

## JANUARY

**Friday 8**

**Tot Shabbat** at Congregation Beth Shalom, all are welcome.

**Saturday 9**

**Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Synagogue** invites children ages 3 to 7 to a special Kids' Tefillot service beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month.

**Jewish Federation of Delaware** hosts its Chai Division Dinner at the Delaware Museum of Art, 6:45 p.m.

**Sunday 10**

**Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Men's Club and Adult Education Committee** hosts brunch at 9:30 a.m. Chazzan Daniel Leeman will give an introduction to biblical cantillation. Call 762-2705.

## ONGOING

**JCC Members Get Aerobics Free.** Beginning January 1st, the JCC Fitness Center will offer free land and water aerobics classes for all JCC members. Free classes will include Cardio Combo Plus, Aerobics, step and Step/Interval Training, Cardio Sculpt and five Water Aerobics programs. Non-members may participate in these classes, if space is available, at a non-member rate. For more information, contact Scott Katz, at 478-5660.

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

**Congregation Beth Shalom's 1998 Christmas**

**Volunteer Project.** Volunteers from the community are invited to join members of Congregation Beth Shalom in their annual Christmas Volunteer Project. This community service project, part of Beth Shalom's year-round community outreach programming, places volunteers in various non-profit agencies on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Last year over 80 volunteers helped to serve meals, answer telephones, visit with patients, and otherwise help out at area hospitals, dining halls, nursing homes and other care facilities.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Congregation Beth Shalom at 654-4462, and someone will contact you about your specific work assignments. Children are welcome to assist in some of the assignments.

**Young Jewish Singles Holds Weekly Volleyball.**

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

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

**Summer Scholarship Available.**

The Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its tenth annual Scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or Israel. Applications may be picked up at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth office, Washington St. Ext. and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802, and should be returned by March 15, 1999.

**The Judah L. Magnes**

**Museum** presents the Sixth Annual International Jewish Video Competition. The 1999 competition welcomes all entries on Jewish themes from every level and category of production including audio and interactive media. Cash awards and nationwide screenings. Deadline for entries, April 15, 1999. For entry form and more information, send SASE to: Video Competition, Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, CA 94705. e-mail: jewsvideo@aol.com. Contact: Bill Chayes or Elisabeth Friedman, Tel: (510) 549-6952; Fax (510) 849-3673.

**Strollercise Classes**

**Offer-ed.** Enjoy a stroll in the great outdoors with your child and get fit at the same time. MotherWell/Baby Well Instruc-

tor, Dee Henderson, will teach you exercise techniques using your stroller and the availability of our outdoor environment. Classes are held on Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon and on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. and run for 8 weeks. The cost is \$60.00 for members and \$90.00 for non-members. Call

Suzanne Rodriguez, Fitness Center Coordinator, at (302) 478-5660 for info.

**Teen Hour at the JCC**

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

Trainer, at (302) 478-5660.

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

## Jewish Story Contest Seeks Entrants Win \$500

Jewish Chicken Soup for the Soul is looking for true Jewish stories to touch the hearts of all people, Jewish and non-Jewish. The book, part of the famous Chicken Soup for The Soul™ series, is expected to sell a million copies! Stories should be from 200 to

1200 words. The winner will receive \$500 and will be notified by April 30, 1999. ALL stories which are included in the final book (coming out summer, 1999 - co-edited by Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins, Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen, published by

Health Communications, Inc.) will receive \$300, winner or not.

Stories should be mailed to Jewish Chicken Soup For The Soul, 212 Stuart Road East, Princeton, NJ 08540-1946, or e-mail to elkins@tigger.jvnc.net by January 10, 1999.

## Youth Now Can Tour Israel For College Credit

A new program from the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization lets young people earn college credits while exploring the land of Israel. Due to debut in July 1999, BBYO's Academic Tour to Israel was developed in partnership with Tel Aviv University.

This month of study is open to first-year college students, and high school graduates with a B average and minimum combined SAT score of 1200. It combines lectures, work-

shops, and seminars with guided tours of the Jewish state. After hours, students can enjoy mountain biking, rappelling, and other summer fun.

"We want to make sure that travel to Israel touches a student personally - and also gives him or her a deeper knowledge of Jewish heritage," says BBYO International Director Sam Fisher. "This program does both."

The Academic Tour covers a broad range of topics. High-

lights include Jewish history, Israeli culture, an intensive seminar on Jerusalem, the Arab-Israeli peace process, and Israel's natural environment. Upon completing the program, young people will receive six college credits, along with an official transcript from Tel Aviv University. The cost of the tour is \$4,465.

BBYO will inaugurate two other new Israel experiences next summer.

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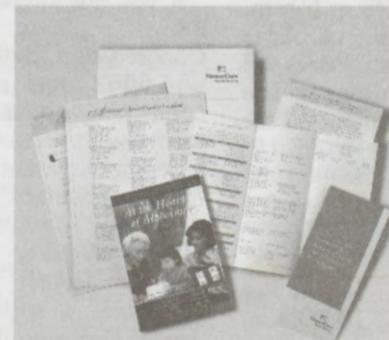
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