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Jewish Unity Dominates Annual Assembly

By CYNTHIA MANN

INDIANAPOLIS (JTA) — North America's Jewish federation world pulled out all the stops here this week to try to prevent the rifts over pluralism in Israel from widening into an unbridgeable divide.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor Party Leader Ehud Barak addressed the volatile Middle East political landscape in their remarks before the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations. And President Clinton was slated to speak to the gathering by satellite.

Of course, there were also countless workshops, seminars and discussions on Jewish education and identity, spirituality, lay-professional relations and fund raising.

But it is incontestable that the theme of preserving Jewish unity dominated the conference for the more than 4,400 delegates.

The weekend concert of Israeli singer Achinoam Nini, who is known as Noa, ended in a lament over divisiveness and a plea for tolerance and peace. Debbie Friedman's concert focused on healing and wholeness.

The Jewish fund-raising establishment has been stunned by the explosion of anger and anguish triggered in the last year among grassroots non-Orthodox Jews over legislation that would codify Orthodox control over conversions in Israel. The non governmental UJA Federation Campaign does not fund the Israeli government or further these codification efforts.

It was exactly a year ago, at last year's G.A. in Seattle, that CJF entered the fray. Delegates passed a resolution protesting the Orthodox-sponsored conversion legislation, departing from their typical unwillingness to enter the arena of Israeli religious affairs.

Since then, CJF and the United Jewish Appeal have directed enormous effort to try to assuage the anger of the Reform and Conservative movements, which represent some 85 percent of affiliated American Jews.

The fear was that these constituents would be encouraged to divert money from the campaign in protest. Such a protest would come at the expense of immigrants and other recipients of assistance. Such a protest would likely not affect the Israeli government.

At the same time, campaign officials have tried to ward off attacks by the Orthodox, who believe that the UJA/federation system should stay away from political and religious affairs.

Publicity has been intensified in recent months to get the word out about central campaign support for the three streams in Israel. Last year, the system funneled about \$17 million toward the streams — and other projects promoting tolerance and democracy — through the Jewish Agency for Israel via the United Israel Appeal.

The latest strategy has been a fund-raising initiative in which the CJF and UJA system has pledged to work with all three streams to try to raise \$10 million each for projects in Israel.

While originally designed for top donors, it now appears that this program of supplemental giving will be available at all levels to enable donors to earmark money to the reli-

gious streams. The gifts, officials stress, must be above the donors' regular contributions to the annual campaign.

But concerns ran beyond money. Thinkers, teachers, pundits and politicians preached that Jewish peoplehood must not be torn apart by the conflict over conversion legislation.

"My prayer is that you won't walk away," pleaded Donniel Hartman, the Orthodox director of education at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. "You have a lot of allies in Israel. Find them and join them."

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg

"Whether we win or lose" on the conversion legislation, "it shouldn't be the defining determination of whether we should have ties to Israel."

In a reference toward growing insularity, he said, "It is making us turn toward the shtetl rather than having a vision of [the Jews] as a bigger people."

On a panel made up of the three streams, Rabbi Jerome Epstein, executive vice president of the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, echoed the call of many when he said, "We must use our combined strength" to "force a consensus among the parties in Israel."

thropic arena.

"Jewish brothers and sisters are fighting while humanitarian needs are being held hostage," he said.

He also attacked the fund-raising establishment for using money to fund trips by Israeli Knesset members to learn about pluralistic American Jewry and not include meetings with Orthodox Jews.

CJF President Dr. Conrad Giles apologized for the exclusion, which occurred when eight Knesset members toured the country during the summer, and promised that it would not happen again as plans unfold to bring more Knesset members.

But, Giles said, his system could not and would not abandon the struggle. "This is our issue."

In spite of the obvious differences at the G.A., Ted Zachs of Vancouver, president of CJF of Canada, said he was leaving with "a reaffirmation that this is a positive time in Jewish history."

Amid his anguish over the divisions, he said, "the message I'm taking away is that there is room in Israel for all of Am Yisrael."

Rachel Stempel, a professional with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, and the G.A. gave her some answers to give concerned donors back home.

"I hear a lot of anger and frustration from laypeople," she said. "Donniel Hartman gave a good answer when he said not to walk away. It's going to take educating, and education is never fast."

For his part, Rabbi Irwin Kula, the charismatic president of CLAL, a training center for Jewish communal leaders, said the controversy should be understood and welcomed as an effort by Jews to grapple with who they are and with "redefining Judaism" at the end of the century.

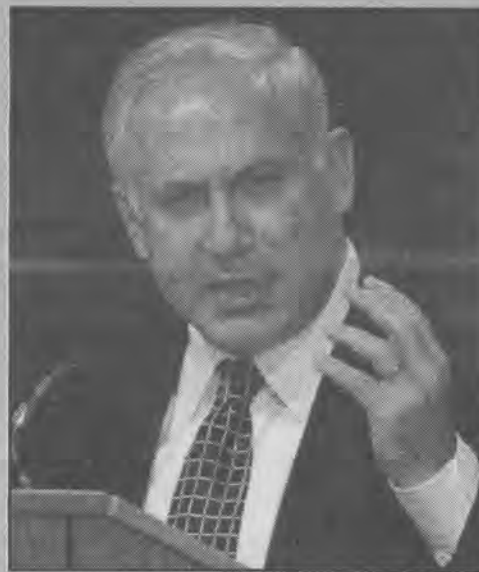
He said the "journey" into the future has "different roadmaps" for different Jews.

What is needed, he said, is "a covenantal commitment to go on the journey together" and "unconditional love" must be at the heart of it all.

Local delegates Leslie Newman, Barbara Schoenberg, Rick Geisenberger, Suzanne Grant, Judy Wortman, Bernie Greenberg and Marc Shandler agreed that this G.A. was remarkable. It brought all participants together for prayer, study, dialogue and celebration. They arrived home with renewed hope for unity of the Jewish People.

(Staff of The Jewish Voice contributed to this article.)

BIBI INDY CJF:
INDIANAPOLIS — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the Council of Jewish Federation's 1997 General Assembly in Indianapolis. The assembly drew its largest crowd ever, with more than 4,400 people reportedly in attendance.



passionately echoed the call. The conversion crisis should be "an invitation for involvement," he said, not a cause for alienation and despair.

Netanyahu and almost all the other speakers pinned enormous hopes on the special commission appointed by the prime minister and charged with finding a solution by the end of January, the latest deadline after a series of extensions.

The head of that commission, Israeli Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, was one of the keynote speakers here who underscored the high stakes.

"History will judge us all by how we respond to this challenge and responsibility," he said.

But at the same time, speakers warned that whether it failed or succeeded, the divisions between Israeli and Diaspora Jews and among the Jewish streams would continue and would require long-term attention.

"After this crisis, we will be different, whatever the outcome," said Alex Lubotsky, a Knesset member from The Third Way Party who has helped mediate the conversion conflict.

Said Hartman, "This is not a political struggle, it's an educational one and it will take a generation. If Israelis are not invested in Judaism, there will be no religious freedom."

In the meantime, said the president of the UJA, Richard Pearlstone, the Jewish people and the fund-raising campaign, which meets humanitarian needs, should not be held hostage to the outcome.

"The crisis is not about religion," he said. "The real problem is sinat hinam," he said, using the Hebrew term for baseless hatred among Jews.

And "it will not be resolved by policy or laws but by engagement" and dialogue.

At the same forum, Reform Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said he was not optimistic about the ability of the Israeli commission to reach a solution.

He said that while he would be satisfied with a short-term technical solution to the conversion impasse, Ne'eman had overreached the committee's original mandate by broadening its agenda to include a host of other complex religious matters.

Yoffie also said he was not open to continued delays. "Waiting indefinitely is an endorsement of the status quo," he said.

Rabbi Jacob Rubinstein, president of the Orthodox movement's Rabbinical Council of America, lamented what he described as the deep divisions and "reckless vitriol" prompted by the conflict.

"The momentum may drive us to a cataclysm," he said, adding, "These wounds will not heal easily, the scars remain."

His remarks came a day after his organization and other modern Orthodox groups published a full-page newspaper advertisement in USA Today calling for Jewish unity and support for the Ne'eman Committee.

At the same time, Rubinstein lashed out in anger at the Reform and Conservative streams and the fund-raising establishment for waging the pluralism battle in the philan-

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Kids Page

TEMPLE BETH EL

Our **Hai class** raised money for the **Crop Walk** - a 5K and 10K walk for World Hunger held on Sunday, October 12. This activity is part of our Mitzvah Project. Each student is required to perform 13 mitzvot during the Dalet and Hai years. A Mitzvah is one hour of volunteer service for which no reward or payment is given. Some mitzvot need to be done for the Jewish community, and the rest may be performed in outside organizations or to help needy individuals in our neighborhoods. It makes us feel good to give of ourselves to help others.

BETH SHOLOM, DOVER

In September, our **Hey class** made Challah for the High Holidays. What a MESS we made, but what a good time. There were four of us under the direction of Mrs. Schwartz. We went from step one of measuring the ingredients to the final step of baking. At one point the flour got the best of us, and it looked like it snowed right there in the main sanctuary!! We had a great time kneading the bread until it was just right. What a great way of relieving the stress of learning our Haf Torah's! If I have to say so myself, what a fun but educational way of learning the tradition of challah making. I will make it with my mother each year as a way to start a new tradition in our family.

ADAS KODESH SHEL EMETH

In Ms. Freeman's **Aleph class** the class completed the entire aleph bet and are reading Adon Olam and V'ahavta. They also know all of their colors in Hebrew.

In the **Bet class**, Mrs. Cooper had the students make their own Shabbat candlestick holders as part of their unit on Shabbat. The entire class can now sing the prayers l'cha dodi and aleynu.

In Mrs. Karen Moss' **Gimel class**, the students are looking into the stories in Genesis in greater depth. At the conclusion of their Creation unit, the children talked about the nature of right and wrong and personal respon-

sibility, and then put Adam, Eve and the snake on trial to determine who was guilty.



Pictured L-R seated: Mira Finestrauss, Aviva Elzaton and Dori Cross. L-R standing: Jake Sherry, Alex Resch, Russell Rosenberg, Justin Mendelson, Scott Weinberg, Jordan Scherer and Sam David. (Not pictured: Ross Rudnitsky and teacher, Karen Moss).

Mrs. Sniderman's **Dalet class** is studying parshat hashavua (parsha of the week) as well as working on their individual prayer goals. The students have mastered many of the Friday evening prayers.

In **Heh history class** Mr. Rosenberg and the students are studying famous Jews in Spain such as Samuel ben Joseph, Hasdai ibn Shaprut, and Moshe ben Hanoch. In **Heh Jewish studies class**, Mr. Josephs has discussed the Israeli government as well as the Israeli army. Several skits have been created by the students about how it feels to be a new immigrant and/or a soldier in the Israeli army.

BETH SHALOM

Emily Rogosin, Rachel David, Lauren Honig, Brian Felzer & Philip Kesselman, students of the **Primary Class**, jumped into the school year with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. They are learning about Jewish customs and holidays, and getting their first taste of the Aleph Bet.

Our **Aleph Class** is getting ready for Consecration in December. We can hardly wait to get our Siddur Torah and a piece of honey cake.

Laura Ann Davis

In **Bet Class** we are learning cursive Hebrew letters. (It's nothing like the English language.)

Cyndi Caldwell, Eric Rosen, Robin Gevurtz

The **Dalet Class** is studying Haftorah with Cantor Naimark, genealogy with Judy Goldbaum, and Hebrew with our newest teacher Gabe Silberman.

Anna Klein

So far it's been an exciting year in the **Gimel Class** at Beth Shalom Religious School.

Stephanie Schreiber and Ilene Bloom (dalet) entered the essay contest for Beth Shalom's 75th anniversary celebration and came away with second place. Great Job!

Mrs. Dina Lipschultz, Gimel Class teacher, invited the entire Hebrew school over to her sukkah at her house for the seventh straight year. We enjoyed games, food, activities, and a story. What fun!

We all had a chance to blow Ben Karel's 2 1/2 foot shofar in class, and Ben and Mr. Byer blew shofar for the junior congregation.

Although it's only November, the class has done a tremendous amount of work and is doing great! Look for more information about Gimel Class at Beth Shalom in your next edition.

Matt Davis, Beth Caldwell (and the rest of the class)

In Hebrew School, the **Hai class** is currently doing a unit on the land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael). We are learning about the physical land, the people, and the government.

Marni Grossman

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

75th Anniversary Competition Winners

Website Winners: Margo Jaffee, David Klein, Brian Gold

Essay Winners: Jennifer Harris, Ilene Bloom, Stephanie Schreiber, Danielle Jaffee, Hannah Grossman

Art Contest Winners: Jillian Lipman, Brian Felzer, Anna Klein, Danielle Lipman, Ilene Bloom, Katie Levine, Marnie Grossman, Daniel LaRosa, Jeremy Harris.

ALBERT EINSTEIN ACADEMY

The **kindergarten** of the Albert Einstein Academy was visited by Brad Rogers, naturalist from the Brandywine Creek State Park, on November 11th. Mr. Rogers presented an exciting program on the Leni Lenape Native American.

The children gained a greater understanding of the Native American culture and past life style as a result of Mr. Rogers informative and exciting program. The program also gave them an introduction to the rich history of where they live.

If you are interested in sponsoring "The Kid's Page" please call Frances or Barbara at 427-2100 ext. 12 or 24, or send a donation to the Jewish Voice at 100 W. 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801 and indicate for "The Kid's Page". ALL of our children will benefit from your thoughtful gift.

JCC Chanukah Choopla Bazaar

The Jewish Community Center of Delaware will be holding its Annual Chanukah Choopla Gift and Craft Bazaar on Sunday, December 7, 1997 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Highlights of the event include a Chanukah Gift and Craft Bazaar, where area merchants and artists display and sell their goods, holiday-related games and activities for children, plus a wide variety of Kosher foods. Community leaders will serve as celebrity waiters for this year's event.

Choopla offers something for all ages, food, shopping and more. A full array of entertainment, as well as an adult casino, will also be featured. The event is free of charge and open to the entire community.

The Jewish Community Center is located on Garden of Eden Road, just off Route 202 (behind the Holiday Inn) in North Wilmington. For more information, call 478-5660.

Don't Let Just Anyone Monkey with Your Sign
CALL A TUPP PROFESSIONAL



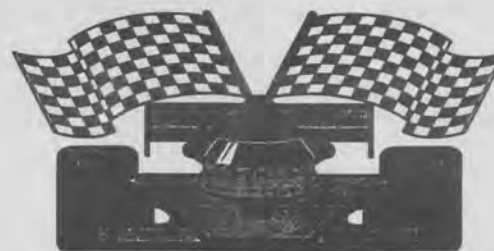
Half the brothers-in-law and some of the handymen in the Delaware Valley claim they can fix or maintain your sign. Don't you believe it. Every year for the past 58 years, we've had to fix the handy work of some jack-of-all-trades. It always ends up costing the owner more time and money than if he would have called us first.

Call 322-1600

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FUND DRIVE



Super Sunday
January 18, 1998

Super Sunday benefits the 1998 UJA Federation Campaign administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware

TO VOLUNTEER FOR SUPER SUNDAY
please call (302) 427-2100

A good time. A good cause.



BRIEFS

NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

Soviet Jewry Archival Project

Morris B. Abram, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, European Office, and a champion of human rights worldwide, will lead a seven-year, \$6 million project to document the international advocacy movement that arose on behalf of Soviet Jews in the 1960s, the University of Colorado at Boulder announced recently.

The International Soviet Jewry Archival Project will chronicle the repression of Jewish religious and cultural rights under the Soviet regime, Soviet refusal to permit Jewish emigration and the development of an international advocacy movement on their behalf.

Holocaust Registry Opens

By BILL GLADSTONE

TORONTO, Nov. 10 (JTA) – A Holocaust registry has opened its electronic doors.

The JewishGen Holocaust Global Registry, which was launched Sunday on the Internet, aims to provide a location for survivors around the world to list themselves and to search for friends and relatives who may still be alive.

Israel Program Names Participants

NEW YORK – Following months of screening and interviewing, 80 college students and recent college graduates representing 32 Jewish Federations throughout North America have been selected to spend a year in Israel as participants in *Project OTZMA*, an early leadership identification program supported in North America by the Council of Jewish Federations and participating Federations.

All OTZMA participants take part in an ongoing educational program in which they explore Jewish and Israeli history, tradition and society through lectures, discussions and field trips. In order to broaden participant contact with Israelis, each is paired with an Israeli adopted family for the education of the OTZMA year.

"The OTZMA program represents a true partnership and model for Israel-Diaspora relations," says Caryn Rosen Adelman of Chicago, CJF's North American Chair of OTZMA. "This unique program allows for Jewish youth (ages 20-24) to 'take a year on' and work to enhance the quality of Jewish life in Israel while at the same time experiencing their own personal growth."

President of ORT Named Ambassador

David B. Hermelin, a past President of both American ORT and the World ORT Union, and who is presently President Emeritus of World ORT, was confirmed by the Senate as the next U.S. Ambassador to Norway on Thursday, November 6.

Jewish Federation Announces Israel Grants

The Jewish Federation of Delaware announces the availability of grants for ISRAEL EXPERIENCES for high school students between 15 and 17 years of age. These grants are for structured summer programs in Israel that are sponsored by national or international Jewish youth organizations and are approved by the Federation.

The deadline for applying is February 16, 1998. Awards will be announced before Pesach.

For applications and information, call or write to Judy Wortman, Executive Vice President, Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 W. 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801-1628.

The following are criteria for eligibility:

1. Applicants must still be in high school when they return from Israel.
2. Preference will be given to applicants who have not participated in prior Israel programs.
3. Applicants must provide two letters of recommendation from teachers, rabbis, youth advisors, coaches, employers or supervisors.
4. Applicants must commit themselves to attending briefings before and after their Israel Experience.
5. Applicants must commit themselves to community service when they return. Among the options available are volunteer work in local agencies, synagogues or organizations; involvement in the Federation Campaign; recruitment of peers for subsequent Israel Experiences; leadership roles in Jewish youth groups; public speaking to the community about Israel, etc.
6. Before any applicant will be considered, applicants' parents must contribute to the 1998 Campaign, thereby becoming members of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

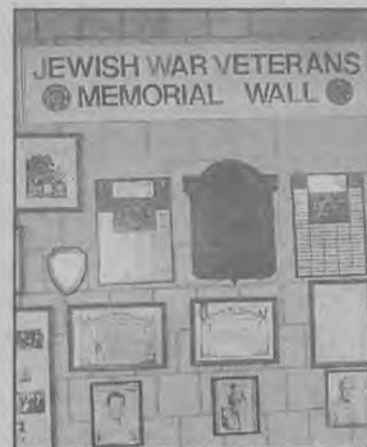
Funds for these grants have been made available through an allocation from the UJA/Federation Campaign.

Jewish War Veterans Numbers Dwindle Across Nation and In Delaware

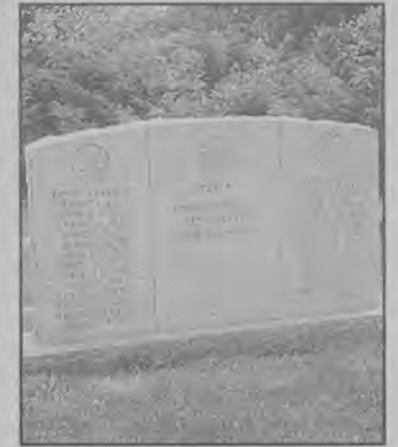
By Faye Harris
Editor of The Jewish Voice

Bob Barnett of the Jewish War Veterans spoke recently with *The Jewish Voice* to express his concerns about the danger of his group "fading into the sunset."

The JWV – in existence nationally for over 100 years and active in Delaware for over 50 years – is in real danger of "fading quietly into the sunset." The average age of our present members is probably low to mid 70's. We are losing our people – former business, professional and community leaders – by natural attrition, burn-out (after all, they have paid their dues in many, many ways over the years), etc. Yet – there are compelling reasons – both Jewish and Delawarean – why such an organization as ours should continue to exist and thrive. It is clear that it will take an infusion of new, younger, active people



JWV Memorial Wall at JCC



JWV marker gravesite.

to make this happen.

Posters were recently placed in a few locations, synagogues, JCC, etc. These did produce some interest. We know that there are many

more prospects out there that we have not reached and that we want to attract.

For more information about JWV, contact Bob Barnett at 475-1832.

New Guidelines On Czechs Teaching Religion

By RANDI DRUZIN

PRAGUE (JTA) – In the wake of a teacher's anti-Semitic lecture, Czech state schools will be receiving new guidelines on teaching religion.

Earlier this month, 25 seniors at Prague's Na Prazacce High School sent a letter to Czech Chief Rabbi Karol Sidon asserting that their teacher, Vera Vesecka, said Jewish suffering, including the Holocaust, was a "just result of the role Jews played in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ."

The students charged that Vesecka, 70, who was lecturing on Christian ethics, said the only way Jews can have a "fully meaningful existence" is to convert to Christianity.

Tomas Kraus, executive director

of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, said one "can hear similar sentiments expressed during mass at churches in towns outside Prague."

But Kraus said he was "surprised a person with these views was permitted to teach. It is not the fault of the teacher, but of the [education] system."

Vesecka, a Seventh-Day Adventist who has been giving lectures in Prague schools on religion since 1990, called the students' letter "a lie."

"I love Jews," she said. "I do not want to harm anyone."

She said that in her 45-minute lecture she named Jesus as the only example of a perfect person and read a description of Jesus'

trial to the class.

The passage has "the multitude" crying for Jesus to be crucified, but Vesecka said that does not mean Jews were responsible for Jesus' death.

She was quoted in a Czech newspaper, however, as saying that "if Jews want to be saved, they must accept that [Jesus] is the messiah."

The Czech chief rabbi described Vesecka's comments as "a typical example of medieval anti-Semitism."

After a Nov. 13 meeting between Sidon and Education Minister Jiri Grusa, the ministry announced that it would develop a "decree redefining conditions of religious lessons at state schools."

Israel and Vatican Sign Accord

By NAOMI SEGAL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 10 (JTA) – Israel and the Vatican have signed an accord formally recognizing the legal status of Roman Catholic Church institutions in Israel.

The accord, which requires the Knesset's approval, would give the church judicial standing similar to foreign non-profit organizations and corporations. It would also enable the church to handle internal issues independently.

Foreign Minister David Levy, who initialed the accord for Israel, said the agreement would strengthen already good relations between Israel and the Holy See.

The papal representative in Israel, Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, said the agreement "marks a further important step in the process of normalizing relations between the Holy See and the State of Israel."

Officials said the two sides had

been working on the agreement since Israel and the Vatican forged diplomatic ties in 1994.

Rabbi David Rosen, head of the Anti-Defamation League in Israel and co-liaison to the Vatican, called the agreement "a significant achievement for the Catholic Church in Israel, and a significant achievement for Israel."

Rosen added that the accord would help relations between the church and world Jewry as well.

Gala To Launch 50th

NEW YORK – State of Israel Bonds will inaugurate its year-long commemoration of Israel's 50th anniversary with a gala celebration in the United States on Saturday evening, November 22 beginning at 6:30 p.m. It was in November of

1947 that the UN voted in favor of partitioning the Land of Israel into Jewish and Arab states, a historic resolution resulting in Israel's declaration of independence six months later.

The gala will be highlighted by

the presence of Ambassador Abba Eban, one of the major personalities associated with the founding of the state. Eban, renowned as one of Israel's most prominent and eloquent statesmen, served as Israel's first ambassador to the UN.

EDITORIAL

Unity is Part of Community

A flourishing community has the beauty of a quilt woven with care. Pieces of history mark the interweaving to personalize the community, as it learns to appreciate its patchwork of differences and celebrate its tapestry of commitment.

An example of unity quilting was witnessed by the diverse representation of the Jewish community at the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Beth Shalom. This event highlighted the concerted effort of Jewish Delaware to come together in celebration and still appreciate our differences.

Kudos should not be taken lightly, for the task at hand was one of *simcha* (celebration) and history. The event crossed lines of separation as all of our synagogues were represented by congregants and rabbis.

The event was a full weekend of all that can be good in our Jewish world such as davening, studying, singing, eating together and celebrating those who are committed to service to others.

It is through this quilt of unity that we are

then able to give to our children a legacy of responsibility, service to the community.

It is a tribute to our community that together we have found ways to share and celebrate our separatedness rather than to isolate. On other occasions such as Federation Shabbat each year, Beth Emeth's 90th anniversary, and celebrations at AKSE and Temple Beth El, Delaware's Jews have come together, sewn as one. The quilt of Delaware's Jewish community weaves together not only synagogues but also Jewish agencies, the common tzedaka enterprise of the UJA Federation Campaign and perhaps most importantly, individuals and families.

We salute the current lay and professional leadership of Beth Shalom and the entire Jewish community for having the wisdom to celebrate the past and the vision to create a vibrant future.

Like a quilt, a community can be a family heirloom that provides warmth and nurtures future generations.

VOICE BOX

"I want to state at the outset as emphatically as I can: No one, nobody, can deprive a Jew of his Jewishness. The membership in our faith and people is not the exclusive domain of anyone."

-Benjamin Netanyahu at the General Assembly

"I will never support and the Labor Party will never support any legislation that threatens to divide the Jewish people."

-Ehud Barak addressing the General Assembly



HILLARY UKRAINE JEWS: LVIV, UKRAINE -- First lady Hillary Clinton shows a present given to her by the Jewish community of Lviv Nov. 17. Mrs. Clinton arrived in Ukraine for a three-day visit as part of her eight-day, five-nation tour of the former Soviet Union. (Reuters)

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE

for all articles, advertisements and news
for The Jewish Voice

12 NOON THURSDAY
EIGHT DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION

ISSUE	FOCUS	DEADLINE
DEC. 5	CHANUKAH GIFT GUIDE	Nov. 26
DEC. 19	CHANUKAH GREETINGS	DEC. 11

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Lurie's NewsCartoon



His New Israel

(News Item: Premier Netanyahu is being bitterly criticized by the Conservative & Reform Jewish movements in the U.S. as well as by all center and left parties in Israel, for his decision to recognize major religious rituals performed by Orthodox Rabbis only.)



UJA FEDERATION CAMPAIGN

Event Calendar

December 11, 1997 **Lion of Judah Dinner** - with writer Vivien Ohrbach-Smith.

January 18, 1998 **Super Sunday** - at MBNA in Stanton-Ogletown. To volunteer call JFD at 427-2100.

January 30-31, 1998 **Federation Shabbat** and Study Session, with Israeli educator on Holocaust issues, Rachel Korazim, at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth.

March 29, 1998 **Israel 50 - Community Event** at the JCC, details to be announced.

No gift touches more lives.

OPINION

Remembrances

By GARRY G. GREENSTEIN

A Jew now living in New Castle County who is not old enough to remember World War II probably assumes that life in Wilmington from 1941 to 1945 was similar to life from 1951 to 1955, only without television and some other technological changes that had occurred in the ten year passage of time. However, everyday life during World War II was far different from anything before or anything that came after, in fact so different that it is difficult to comprehend today, or even sometimes to remember.

There were almost 700 Wilmington Jews in the Armed Services, and although most were men, there were a few women. This meant that practically every one of Wilmington's Jewish men between the age of 18 and 35 was away serving in either the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Merchant Marine. Many men over 35 were also either on active duty with the military or engaged in some kind of war work. Of those between 18 and 21 who were not on active duty, most were in some kind of training for military service. Men went from high school into the military service; practically no Jewish young men were in college. In short, most of Wilmington's Jewish men were absent from Wilmington, and many of them were engaged in extremely dangerous activities, the duration of which was unknown.

For the most part, the wives and children of servicemen continued to live in Wilmington, and the husbands or fathers lived in England or Australia or were on a warship, or were making bombing runs over Japan, or were stationed in some remote area of the United States. Life for the men

was very dangerous. Twenty-seven of Wilmington's Jewish men were killed in the war. Dozens were wounded. Several became prisoners of war. The families lived with the daily fear of receiving a telegram that a husband, father or son was killed or wounded or missing in action.

From the attack on Pearl Harbor until sometime late in 1942, a period of about a year, the possibility existed that the Nazis would win the war. In early 1942 German U-boats came perilously near controlling the major sea lanes of the Atlantic. Such control would have changed the course of the war; the eventual outcome would probably have been an Allied defeat. The Japanese took Singapore and all of southeast Asia. Most of China was already occupied by Japan. The Philippines fell to Japan, and the American Army at Corregidor surrendered to Japan. America was supplying the U.S.S.R. with desperately needed war material, but in July 1942, in one convoy to the ice free port off Murmansk, of the 33 ships in the convoy, 22 were sunk.

During the war years every day brought news of land battles, victories, defeats, sinking of American ships, bombings of Japan or Germany, invasions of islands, casualty lists, or gain or loss of Allied territory. We knew that something terrible was happening to European Jewry, but we did not know what. We did not find out about the Holocaust until after V-E Day. Israel did not exist.

For civilians in Wilmington, there was virtually no gasoline for shopping or pleasure driving. One seldom rode in an automobile. About the only people who used a car were those who needed it for work. In most families where there were young children, the father was in Europe or the South Pacific, or stationed in some remote military base in the United States. Meat was rationed and scarce, as was butter. Many children had never seen their fathers. Jewish organizations functioned for the most part without any men under the age of 40. Sugar was rationed, candy was almost unattainable. Long distance telephone calls within the continental United States were very rare because the military needed all the long distance telephone lines. Telephone calls from overseas did not exist. Mail from loved ones in the military were censored, and if they were overseas, their actual location was seldom revealed. A large percentage of doctors were in the service, and it was hard to get medical attention if you were sick. Not all medicines were available.

Sanctuary of Memories - The Watchmaker's Daughter

(Excerpted from remarks by David Lee Preston on the 75th anniversary of Congregation Beth Shalom, Wilmington, Delaware, Nov. 8, 1997)

Special to The Jewish Voice

I'm honored to have been asked to speak this Shabbat morning, in this Main Sanctuary that has seen so many passages in my family's life.

My Bar Mitzvah, my confirmation, they were here. Cantor Salzer, insisting on perfection, taught me to chant the Torah portion for my Bar Mitzvah, and, later, the special High Holiday cantillation to read the Torah on Yom Kippur — which I did here in the Main Sanctuary, and have continued to do annually for most of the last 25 years, wherever I've lived. Invariably, in fact, folks will come up to me afterward, admiration in their eyes, and ask me where I attended Yeshiva. I just shrug and say: "Why, I went to Cantor Salzer's Yeshiva in Wilmington, Delaware." My sister, Shari, having studied at the same Yeshiva, became a Bat Mitzvah here in the Main Sanctuary, went on to the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and today is a cantor and Jewish educator in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

It was 15 years ago, in December 1982, here in the Main Sanctuary, that Rabbi Kraft eulogized my mother, Halina Wjnd Preston, who lay in a casket at the foot of these stairs; having survived the longest odds of the 20th century, hiding from the Nazis for 14 months in the sewers beneath the city of Lwow, the survivor did not survive a bypass operation, when they told us the risk was 2 percent. Here she was, having taught in this building for three decades, first in the religious school, then Wilmington Gratz; having spoken eloquently of her survival to schools and churches and synagogues, from her earliest years in this city, the early '50s, a time when no one else was speaking about it. Indeed, no one wanted to hear about it. It wasn't fashionable. They hadn't yet come up with a handy name for it. Most of her life in this country she fought the apathy of her own people. It's difficult even to remember those days, now that every Jewish community in America has its own Holocaust center, and enormous Holocaust museums have sprouted in Los Angeles, New York and on the mall in Washington.

Her closest friends didn't know her story.

But she made sure to tell it to the children, downstairs in Mr. Byer's Junior Congregation, always breaking down in telling the tale, but without embarrassment. For that was her audience of preference, they were her willing listeners, the children, who would grow someday to remember the inspiring story of a girl growing up surrounded by clocks in the shop of her saintly Chasidic watchmaker father, a young woman sent by her parents from their little mountain town, disguised as a Christian, betrayed by a Polish landlady in the big city, escaping the SS, and finally finding refuge among her own people in the sewer main, filthy as it was, the sewer main — this was her Main Sanctuary. For Webster's defines sanctuary first and foremost as a holy place, a place set aside for worship, such as the part of a synagogue around the altar, the holy of holies in the Jewish Temple. And, secondly, as "a place of refuge or protection." Saved by three Polish Catholic sewer workers, who risked their lives and their families' lives, my mother and nine other Jews lived 14 months without sunlight. They knew the rats so well they gave them names. Rats as big as cats. A woman in the group gave birth, but had to suffocate the baby or else its cries would have betrayed their hiding place. For a Jew in Europe to remain alive in 1943 and 1944, in one young woman's case, meant living in the darkness and filth of a sewer for 14 months, clinging to the faith of an address: 3060 Broadway, New York City, the address of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, to which she had been accepted into the teachers' institute in 1939, just before war broke out. Her brother Leon was already there, having left in 1938 with a precious student visa to study to become a Conservative rabbi. If she could survive, she could be reunited with her brother. Yes, she told the Junior Congregation, she was that little girl in the watchmaker's shop. She was that young woman. And she was reunited with her brother. Soon she, too, would study at the Seminary, and would tour the synagogues of the Conservative movement in 1949 and '50, from Albany to Pittsburgh, from Boston to Detroit, telling her story on behalf of Torah Fund. It was, in fact, at a synagogue in Camden, that the sisterhood president asked if she would like to meet a cousin who was also a survivor, an engineer then living in Boston. His name was George Preston. Before long they would settle in Wilmington, where my father was offered a job with the Du Pont Co.

Here in the Main Sanctuary, my mother's voice could always be heard above the crowd, because she not only understood the prayers but lived them. She, who truly had walked through the valley of the shadow of death, feared no evil. For G-d had indeed prepared a table before her in the presence of her enemies. And now, she would dwell in the house of the L-rd forever. Now, the teacher was silenced, the speaker speechless. As she lay here in her casket, she was only 61. So many classes left untaught, so many people who would never hear her eloquent testimony.

It was here, a decade after that sad day, that Rondee Goldfein and I were married in March 1992. Even though we both had been living in Philadelphia for several years, we wouldn't have had it any other way than to be married here, in the Main Sanctuary, where her parents also had been married.

On Yom Kippur of 1992, Rondee and I went to my grandfather's house, which my mother had left 50 years earlier. There, in the tiny town of Turka, a town with no more

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Continued on page 11



Faye J. Harris Named New Editor of Jewish Voice

By DAN WEINTRAUB

Publisher's Representative

On November 10, 1997, Faye J. Harris was welcomed as the new editor of *The Jewish Voice*, Delaware's Jewish community newspaper published by the Jewish Federation of Delaware. Faye is a writer with experience in public relations, marketing and advertising.

Judy Wortman, Executive Vice-President of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, said, "We are pleased to have Faye take over the reins of

The Jewish Voice. She brings creativity, energy and she has already become a fine addition to our team."

Faye says that prior to accepting the position as editor of *The Jewish Voice*, her "career has spanned being a restaurateur, a caterer, a gallery owner, to working in public relations and marketing." Her previous writing experience includes writing poetry (she is in the process of finding a publisher), radio spots, television commercials, brochure designs, and short

stories that have been used by feminist leaders for seminar discussions.

As an advertising manager, Faye says she "conceived and implemented a marketing idea to a Shop Rite franchise to promote grocery stores." She also "implemented a media program to enhance the image of Shop Rite and to increase its foot traffic by using complete co-sponsorship. This grew a very profitable profit center."

Faye is a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland where she



Faye J. Harris

earned a Bachelor's degree in psychology. She has lived in Delaware for the last three years. Faye was born in Philadelphia, PA.

Faye, who is a travel enthusiast, told *The Jewish Voice* that as "a child, my family lived in Germany for a few years, where I became bilingual and the family translator." She adds that "The first time I saw Dachau I was 7 years old, and I can remember feeling electrifyingly awash knowing that the beauty of the landscape was fed by the blood of our people. Thirty years later I went back to Germany searching for the familiar, but it was very Americanized."

Faye adds that she "spent several weeks in mystical Jewish Prague, soaking in all of the years and years of the *Alte Nue Schulle*, and the oldest central European ghetto, where one can almost feel the vibrations of *davening* from 900 AD."

Faye has also traveled to Australia and, of course, Israel. "Since my trip to Israel when I was 16, I have often thought of wanting to make aliyah. My daughters have plans to go there very soon."

Faye has three children, Micah 21, Shifra 18, Mirra 14 and granddaughter, Isabell. The new editor of *The Jewish Voice* is also the daughter of Arnold and Charlotte Harris, who have both been active in the Jewish Community. Faye credits her parents with instilling in her siblings and herself "the beauty and sharing of Jewish tradition."

Faye regards *The Jewish Voice* as a vehicle to promote K'lal Y'Israel (community). She believes that as editor of *The Jewish Voice*, "I have a major commitment to ensure that the paper is a tool of the entire community as well as the Federation. To this end I am coordinating a cadre of liaisons from all the synagogues and Federation agencies to make sure that all facets of Jewish life in Delaware are represented in our paper. I am very interested in opening community dialogue to facilitate information and entertainment."

Faye sees the goals and methods of *The Jewish Voice* as distinct from a general circulation daily newspaper. "The difference between a commercial newspaper and ours, is the ability to transmit *Yiddishkeit*, without having to bow to demands of secular business," says Faye. "We have the chance to create a knowing Jewish community that emanates creativity, caring and giving, and educational give and take, as well as emotional discussions."

As if to emphasize that vision, Faye reiterates, "It is of utmost importance that *The Jewish Voice* reflect Jewish community. I am looking for volunteer reporters of all ages who can help see that we meet this goal."

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NACHES

Museum Hires Archivist

Sara Sirman of Seaford, DE has been hired by the National Holocaust Museum as an Archivist.

Glazier Birth

Brad and Michell Glazier proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Jenna Allison Glazier, born October 3, weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. and 21 inches in length. The grandparents are Mallchie and Morris Glazier of Wilmington and

Jean and Marty Rosen of Wynnewood, PA.

Menschik Birth

Erica Nemser and Elliot Menschik proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Ilana, on October 26. The grandparents are Judy and Joseph Menschik of New York. The great grandparents are Margaret and Zoli Markstein, also of New York. Maternal grandparents are Lilaine and Stuart Nemser of Wilmington, DE.

OBITUARIES

WACHSTEIN

Nov. 15, 1997, FANNIE (nee Mazis), wife of the late Harry W.; mother of Roselyn Judith (Malcolm) Blumberg and the late Dr. Mortimer B. Wachstein, sister of Sarah Shulman and Israel Mazis; also survived by 7 grandchildren

and 2 great grandchildren. Relatives and friends invited to Funeral Services Mon., 11 a.m. precisely, GOLDSTEIN'S ROSENBERG'S RAPHAEL SACKS, 6410 N. Broad St. Int. Har Jehuda Cem. Shiva will be observed at the Blumberg residence.

ARTS • BOOKS • ENTERTAINMENT

One Woman's Opinion:
Liz Lerman's Dance

By PAULA SHULAK
The Jewish Voice
Cultural Arts Critic

Several weeks ago I wrote in my column about a fantastic dancer and community facilitator named Liz Lerman. When I wrote that article it was only based on a telephone interview which Liz was gracious enough to grant. But now after having seen her in person and experienced a day in her presence, I can assure you that I am even more fascinated by and impressed with not only her philosophy, but more important, her ability to convey and instill that philosophy in anyone she meets.

My opportunity to learn from Liz Lerman came when I attended the Delaware State Arts Council Arts Summit in October. Liz was the keynote speaker. She followed Governor Carper and Congressman Castle, who spent about a half hour talking about their efforts to promote the arts. But in just 3 minutes Liz summed up the power of the arts far better than they did when she effortlessly showed how both men had unwittingly used choreography and dramatic gestures to emphasize the points they were making in their speeches. She even created a dance which expressed the basic message of their talks by using the very gestures they had just employed! It was an eye opener to all and emphasized very eloquently the point of the conference and the importance of the arts in everyone's life. Then Liz went on to explain the many functions within the artistic world including healing, teaching, spirituality, aesthetics, political statement etc. but lamented the fact that the arts have recently been separated into these individual fragments. Our task now as artists and audience is to reunite

these various elements, which have been separated into their own little boxes, into a reintegrated whole. She reiterated the theme which she had originally expressed to me that people are looking for a way to participate in their own healing and religion and, therefore, becoming more spiritual and individual-centered. She firmly believes that the arts can affect and be part of every aspect of our lives. Unfortunately, in our society today, we take a lot of time and effort to separate ourselves into distinctive slots, but then the rest of the time we try to make connections to get ourselves back together again as a whole. It is perhaps the greatest paradox of modern life. In the workshop following her keynote talk, Liz put her words into practice by showing us, through participatory movement (set to music), how we could trust a partner and work together towards a common end. It was an exhilarating experience and made it easy for me to see how she could translate this message to her Synagogue 2000 program which I described in my previous column. How wonderful it would be to experience her philosophy in a prayerful setting instead of Clayton Hall!

Meeting Liz was such a wonderful experience that I decided to speak more with Sue Salkin, a member of the Dover Jewish community, who was partially responsible for bringing Liz here for the Summit. And fortunately, this interview brought to light a service which the Arts Council under Sue's direction is bringing to our community. It is an opportunity which I believe Jewish community groups should know about and hopefully take advantage of. Sue is the Community Development Coordinator for the Arts Council and for 5 years has been working to make artistic endeavors more

accessible to non-traditional groups in Delaware. In other words, she attempts to bring the arts to where the people are instead of trying to attract audiences to the traditional art venues. How does this translate into an opportunity for the Jewish community? Well, on 3 occasions already, Sue has worked with the JCC and Jewish Family Service to organize programs which integrate an artist into the ongoing efforts offered by those agencies. To be specific, in 1993, the JCC sponsored a theatrical performance of "In the Garden" which was a retelling of the story of Adam and Eve with an ecological slant. In 1995, the same agency presented an art exhibit and lecture series about the Holocaust which was funded by the Arts Council. Also in 1995, Jewish Family Service presented an evening of Russian klezmer music and crafts to the residents of B'nai Brith House in an effort to develop understanding

between older residents and 25 new Russian Jewish families who had recently come to our community. The opportunity is still available for other agencies, organizations or synagogues to receive support via the activities Sue runs such as the Special Ventures, DETours and Celebration of Cultures programs. Sue describes her role as "working with community groups whose purpose is not strictly within the arts, but who can easily incorporate the arts into their basic work as another means of fulfilling

their mission." She is enthusiastic and open to any suggestions from Delaware groups who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Sue came to her position following 5 years as the Director of the Delaware Music School whose purpose is to bring music education, enrichment, and outreach to Kent and Sussex Counties. Now she works with the entire state as a resource person for emerging arts groups and in making the connec-

Continued on page 11

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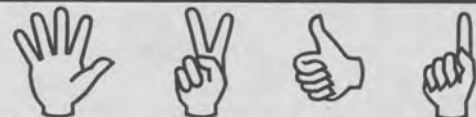
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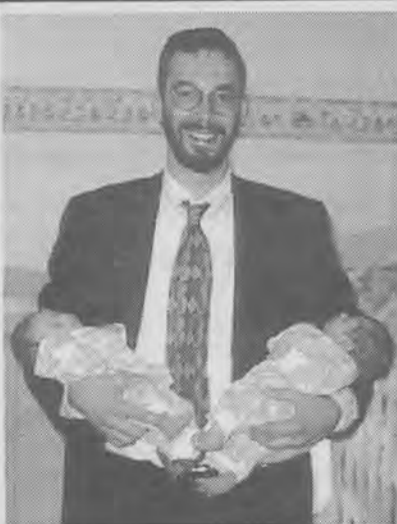
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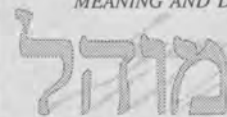
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SYNAGOGUE LIFE

Beth Shalom 75th Anniversary Welcomed Many

By REGGIE SUTTON
Special to The Jewish Voice

Beth Shalom Conservative congregation's children, youth and parents sang and danced their way into the synagogue's 76th year, honoring past years of growth, struggle, change and triumph.

Spearheaded by a 75th Anniversary Committee, led by Norman

and Helen Schutzman, Beth Shalom, welcomed back all its Bar-Mitzvahs and earlier congregants at a Saturday, November 8th, Reception and Ball at the Delaware Art Museum, honoring Mr. Bernard Seigel, and also welcomed returnees attending a special Saturday 8th reception and luncheon at the synagogue. Photos and dis-

plays of memorabilia were in abundance.

All events were well attended, enjoyable, and inspirational and contributed an extra-ordinary sum for the congregation's long term goals and debt-retirement. Young mothers, children, teens, adults, seniors - all report they had a great time at the Sunday youth-celebration, their "Frolica Judaica." The afternoon provided three elements: music and entertainment, prizes and awards for earlier contests, and celebratory cake and candles! Rabbi David Wortman, Cantor Judith Naimark, President Rhoda Dombchik, School Principal Arlene Davis all attended, along with 140 other celebrants.

Entertainment began with the "Bagels & Latkes" group, with a devastating parody of thirties-style Jewish radio... Gary Seidman's group extended the levity with magic tricks, vanishing doves, a

straight-jacketed escape, scary fire-eating, a folk-singing chanteuse and dance and joy for all ages.

Contest-cash, certificates and honors were won by participants, ages 5 thru 16 yrs., for Art, Essays and Cyber-tech conceptuals for a synagogue 'site,' positioning Beth-

Shalom on the world wide web for contemporary inquirers.

A great afternoon for the young in heart! If you looked and listened closely ... the shouts and steps of 75 earlier Beth Shalom generations of young people were all there, too.

Watchmakers

Continued from page 5

Jews, I stood at the top of the hill at the Jewish cemetery, where in the spring of 1942 the Nazis shot naked Jews into a mass grave - and I switched on a tape recorder. The voice of my sister Shari, singing the Kol Nidrei prayer and El Malei Rachamim, filled the countryside.

I did not chant the Yom Kippur Torah portion that year, for there was no place in Turka to do so. The Turka synagogue had long since been turned into a wood-working shop by the Ukrainians who inherited the region after the Jews were murdered and the Poles had moved west. I had seen this before. In Rovno, my father's city farther northeast, his synagogue had become the city's archives. But

one can find a Main Sanctuary anywhere - even in a sewer. It's not the buildings, but the words, the melodies, the memories, the lessons we carry from one generation to the next, that remain our true refuge and protection, our Main Sanctuary.

(David Lee Preston, a staff writer at The Philadelphia Inquirer since 1982, is completing a book about his mother and would appreciate hearing from anyone with memories of her. He can be reached at (609) 779-3865, or at 19 E. Cedar Ave., Merchantville, NJ 08109-2501, or by e-mail at: dpreston@phillynews.com

His 1992 wedding at Beth Shalom is described in the current bestseller "The Color of Water" by James McBride.)

JDC and El Al Help Rwandan Youth

NEW YORK - Underscoring its commitment to helping refugees in need, El Al Israel Airlines has joined more than 50,000 Israeli children, the government of Israel and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in a mission to help Rwandan youth.

In a national fundraising campaign, children from more than 400 schools in Israel united to raise \$50,000 which was used to purchase school supplies and uniforms for their counterparts in Rwanda. JAC is a beneficiary of the UJA Federation Campaign.


Shulak

Continued from page 7

tions cited above with non traditional groups. I know she would welcome any interested Jewish organizations who wish to expand their horizons. She has managed to combine her love of the arts (which was originally just as a spectator and "ballet mother") with her administrative experience and social work background to become one of the movers and shakers on Delaware's arts scene. Give her a call at 678-1175 if you are stimulated by what I have said in this column. And next time Liz Lerman is in town, try not to miss her inspiring and unique angle on both the arts and Judaism!

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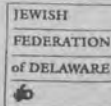


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PANIM EL PANIM

(Face to Face with JFD People)



Voucher Debate: A Summary

By **CONNIE KRESHTOOL**
Member JCRC Public Education Task Force

At the February, 1997, meeting of the National Jewish Community Relations Council (NJCRC) (now the Jewish Council for Public Affairs) a special session was held to present the arguments for and against government funding of vouchers for private schools.

For many years the Jewish Community Relations establishment believed that the primary role of government is to strengthen public education and that government funding finding its way into parochial schools is a violation of the separation of the Church-State principle.

The search for ways to improve the quality of education and the achievement level of children in public schools, especially children of minority and low-income families, has led to pilot programs of choice, charter schools, for-profit schools, and school vouchers among others.

In the light of what is happening in educational circles across the country Jewish communities are reexamining their position on school vouchers. The special NJCRC session brought into the debate two speakers with impressive service in the Department of Justice, extensive legal experience and exemplary leadership in the Jewish community.

The first speaker, Mr. Robert Rifkind, President of the American Jewish Committee, opened his presentation stating that he believes that rather than improving the quality of public education that the "school voucher proposal will not improve public education in the United States, but would rather do very grave damage, perhaps irreparable damage, and that it is in

fact advanced by people who... support vouchers as part of their commitment to the privatization of America's public institutions."

Mr. Rifkind said he could not predict with certainty whether the Supreme Court would hold vouchers for religious school education to be in violation of the Constitution and the First Amendment. However he made the point that "Justice Black described the core of the Establishment Clause as embodying the principle that the government was stripped of all power to tax to support, or otherwise to assist, any or all religion." Mr. Rifkind believes that "the use of government issued vouchers at parochial schools falls well within the core."

More importantly, according to Mr. Rifkind, vouchers are bad policy. He argues that "for any given level of educational funding, vouchers will end up reducing government spending in the public schools." As he sees it many families who now send their children to private school at their own expense will continue to do so with the government's help thus reducing the money available for public schools.

Mr. Rifkind predicted that vouchers would encourage the growth of private schools not necessarily all of good quality and then with large amounts of tax dollars involved there would be calls for government investigation and regulation to make certain they were adequate.

He then turned his attention to the issue of the need to "ensure adequate funding of Jewish education" and stated that "vouchers will not solve our problems." He said that the proposal to issue a voucher to any parent to send their child to private school will not help the

very poor who would be unable to make up the difference between the voucher amount and the private school tuition. Thus, according to Mr. Rifkind, these children would remain in the under-funded public school system while tax money is being used to send the more well-off student to private school.

If the programs are limited to low-income families, he concluded that the tax money would go in disproportionately large amounts to Catholic and Muslim parochial schools since Jews have, on average, larger incomes. Mr. Rifkind admitted that some poor Jews would benefit from the voucher program but asserted that the Jewish community as a whole would see its tax dollars supporting non-Jewish parochial schools. He believes that the Jewish community is strong enough and affluent enough not to have to depend on the State to ensure a Jewish education for all children who desire it.

"I think it's a grave failure of Jewish public morale to say that here, at the end of the Twentieth Century, in this free and prosperous country, we've got to turn to the state like mendicants to see to Jewish continuity." Mr. Rifkind believes that the inevitable insistence on public accountability by private schools receiving government funds will seriously impact questions of teacher qualifications and make-up of student body.

He closed by stating that "religion generally in America has blossomed because the state has had nothing to do with it. Resort to state support will not stimulate Jewish life and continuity; quite the reverse."

The second speaker, Mr. Nathan Lewin, Vice-President of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, stated that he believes that "it is not only constitutional but a simple matter of equity that parents of children who attend parochial schools...ought to be able to ask the state for financial aid for...secular studies" required by law.

Mr. Lewin then took issue with Mr. Rifkind's position that the "concept of vouchers and aid to secular programs of non-public schools are clearly prohibited by the establishment Clause of the First Amendment." He pointed out that contributions to synagogues and other religious institutions are income-tax deductible which Mr. Lewin asserts is in effect financial assistance to a religious institution.

Mr. Lewin asked the question, "Why has the Jewish community in the United States taken a position so strongly opposed to school voucher programs?" He believes that the time when the public school system was important for the "Americanization" of the Jewish immigrant has past. He said that "the Jewish community in the United States has outgrown the public schools, that it is no longer essential for Jews in the United States to send their children to public schools in order to become part of American culture and American society. In fact, what the public school education has achieved in the last several decades has been counterproductive. The high assimilation rate in the

United States, which is the greatest danger to the future of the Jewish community, comes from the fact that there is a lack of Jewish education."

Mr. Lewin pointed out that the Jewish community has accepted the principle of separate Jewish education when Federations began to fund Jewish day schools. He believes that competition can improve public education and private schools offer that competition.

He also took issue with the idea that the Jewish community is wealthy enough to take care of the educational needs of Jews around the United States. He asserted that "Jewish schools, yeshivas, are in dire straits, more dire straits than they have been in many years." He said that "a voucher system that would provide \$1500 to \$2000 per student to parents who send their children to religious schools would pay for a large part of these secular programs, thus enabling these programs to rise to a level far above what they are today."

Mr. Lewin said that "a choice system that allows parents the independence and freedom to choose where to send their children to school would be a kind of program that is not only good for America but also fair for Jewish parents in the United States. "It would likely improve the public schools." He reiterated that "any

rational understanding of the First Amendment's separation of church and state would understand that no harm is done, and no constitutional principle compromised, by a program that allows parents to choose where to spend government funds earmarked for their children's education."

He concluded that while Jews for years have advocated for freedom from government-imposed religion it is now time for... "the American Jewish community to stand up and say: 'We want freedom for religion. We want the opportunity to continue with Jewish identity in the United States, to guarantee Jewish survival in the United States, to make sure that our children can attend the schools of their choice that will give them a strong Jewish identity and make them proud to be Jews in the future.'"

(This summary is part of an ongoing voucher policy informational series presented by the Public Education Task Force of the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. The full text of Mr. Rifkind and Mr. Lewin's presentation is available in the JCC Lobby or by calling Dan Weintraub, JCRC Director at 427-2100, ext. 17.)

Feminism Study Group

Feminism in Judaism Study Group meets the last Tuesday of every month from 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. at 702 W. Matson Run Parkway in Brandywine Hills. For further information please contact Yvette Rudnitzky at 302-762-6371.

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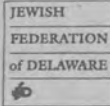
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PANIM EL PANIM
(Face to Face with JFD People)



The Sacred Mitzvah of Fundraising Laura Levitt Speaks As Part of JCC Author Series

(Editor's note: This interview is the last part continued from the previous edition.)

JV: Barry, you are the 1998 UJA Co-Chair, there is so much you have set out to accomplish. What do you need to reach your goal?

BK: The needs list of every campaign chairperson begins with dedicated volunteers who are sensitive and aware of the needs of our Jewish community as well as the needs of others throughout the world. The volunteers drive the campaign. They must solicit with understanding and passion. They must also be generous and acknowledge with appreciation those who are solicited.

The second need, is for the volunteers to have as many face to face meetings as time constraints may allow. These face to face,

heart to heart, meetings provide the volunteer and donor with time to share their Jewish commitments. This helps in building a sense of community.

The third need is for volunteers to complete solicitations by agreed upon deadlines. If any volunteer needs assistance in making contact, he/she should contact the division chairperson or professional staff at the Federation.

JV: Barry, what are the most vital components of the campaign?

BK: We need to expand the basis of the community to involve the entire Jewish community. We all need to consider increased levels of giving. Just as our grandparents and parents invested in us so must we invest in the next generation, to meet the needs of our Jews throughout Delaware including the

growing Hockessin and Newark communities.

JV: Barry, what inspires your commitment?

BK: My grandparents and parents were caring Jews, who set an example for their children and grandchildren. They did not debate the peace process or the laws of conversion, what mattered was giving to her community for today and for its future. It was not about the politics, it was about people. When we say *no gift touches more lives*, we are really talking about those people for whom the UJA Federation Campaign makes a difference. Please give with your heart to the needs of the Jewish community now and forever.

To volunteer for or contribute to the UJA Federation Campaign call 302-427-2100.

By Faye Harris
Editor of The Jewish Voice

Laura Levitt, author of "Jews and Feminism" presented her book at the JCC on Wednesday, November 12, 1997. Her book explores the legacy of immigration and longing for home. "We have tried to hold onto things by using the word "permanent," and this marks the ambivalence which is at the heart of immigration."

She goes on to discuss how we are shaped by our traditions, and as feminists our traditions can haunt us but the answer is not just to get rid of it. "We can't reject our legacy, but we can express disap-

pointment with our legacy." Ms. Levitt shared her recollec-

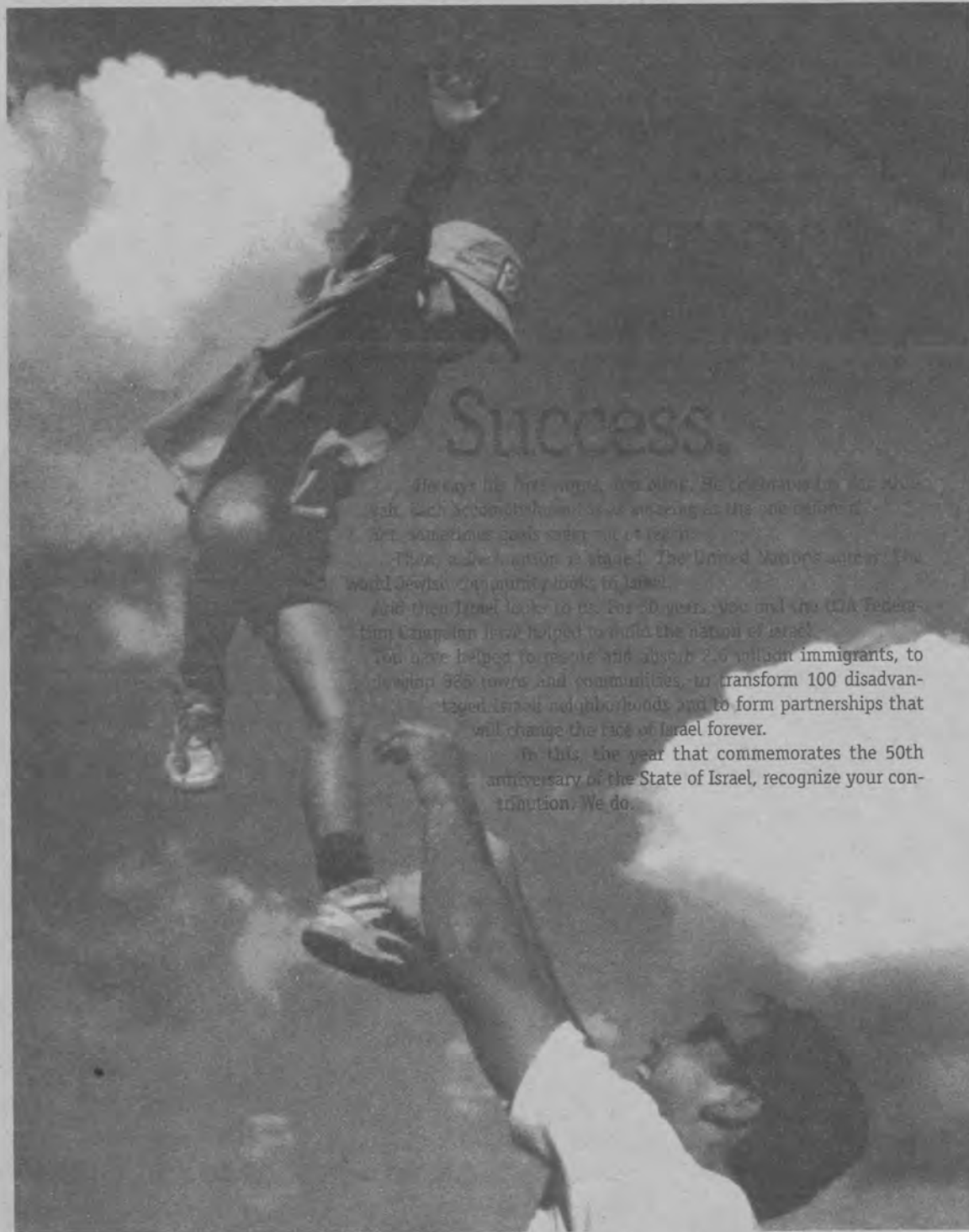
tions of her *Bat Mitzvah*. The year that she was a *Bat Mitzvah*, her ceremony could only be on a Friday night. One year later, girls were having full ceremonies on

Saturday morning. The morning after her *Bat Mitzvah*, she went to the *real* service and had to hear a man recite from the Torah that which she had studied so hard to accomplish.

"There is not one answer for Jewish feminists." To this end, Ms. Levitt has literally created a publishing space for their books, so that feminist Jewish people of the books can write personally and engage with other Jewish scholars.

Ms. Levitt is currently teaching at Temple University and writing books to encourage this dialogue. Laura Levitt is the daughter of Irv and Phyllis Levitt of Delaware.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

NOVEMBER

Friday 21

Family Service - 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 21 at Beth Shalom.

Jewish Renewal Weekend at Elat Chayyim - The Delaware Jewish Community Renewal Weekend at Elat Chayyim will be November 21 - 23 (Fri-Sun.). This is a weekend of davening, learning, experiencing, sharing, growing, and community. The food is

gourmet vegetarian. The setting is in the Catskill Mountains. Elat Chayyim is into the sixth year of running Jewish spiritual programs. The cost for the weekend (including housing, six meals and programming) is \$125.00 per person. To make a reservation, send a check for \$25.00 to Temple Beth El by Nov. 15. This weekend is co-sponsored by Temple Beth El and the Jewish Federation of DE. If you have any questions, please call Rabbi Kaplan at 366-8330.

Shabbaton, Shabbat Dinner and Service, 5:30 For more information call Hillel, 453-0479, Hillel is located at 47 W. Delaware Ave.

Saturday 22

Shabbaton Semi Formal, 9-1 at the Mirage. For more information call Hillel, 453-0479, Hillel is located at 47 W. Delaware Ave.

Sunday 23

Hanukkah Shopping at The Tax Free Outlet Stores in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. YJAD will leave at 9 a.m. and return by about 7:00 p.m. For a day of shopping and schmoozing. Sunday, November 23 at 9 a.m. RSVP by November 18th at 652-6688. YJAD will meet at the Wilmington J.C.C. Cost: \$3.00 to \$10.00 for trans-

portation. To R.S.V.P. or to be put on the YJAD mailing list, call Phil(302) 652-6688. If lost morning of event call (302) 563-5700.

Young Jewish Singles of Delaware 20's and 30's, Hanukkah Shopping at the tax free outlet stores in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. YJAD will leave at 9 a.m. sharp and return by about 7:00 p.m. For a fun day of shopping and schmoozing. RSVP by November 18th. Meet at the Wilmington J.C.C. in Northern Delaware on 202, minutes from PA. Cost: \$3.00 to \$10.00 for

transportation. To R.S.V.P. or to be put on our groups mailing list, call Phil (302) 652-6688. If lost morning of event call (302) 563-5700.

Delaware Defensive Driving Course, Congregation Beth Shalom, 11 a.m. to approximately 2:30 p.m. Call Caroline Schwartz, 674-3186.

Amy Kronish - A History of Israeli Cinema, 10 a.m. Admission \$3. Beth Shalom.

Bagel Brunch, Noon. For more information call Hillel, 453-0479, Hillel is located at 47 W. Delaware Ave.

The Nutcracker

by Robert LaFosse New York City Ballet

Magic for the Whole Family



Friday
December 26 7P.M.

Saturday
December 27 2&5:30P.M.

Sunday
December 28 2P.M.

The Grand Opera House
1-800-37-GRAND for tickets

Russian Ballet Theater

Children's Rehearsal Mistress Anna Marie Leo

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All Occasions


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French Service - Buffets - Viennese Tables
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Jewish T.V. Network
"Orly is a real marriage broker..."

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"Orly's clients are the cream de la cream..."

AM Philadelphia Show
"Orly's clients are simply top of the line..."

Cleveland Tonight Show
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Orange County News Channel
"Orly is champagne wishes..."

AM Northwest Show, Oregon
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Good Evening Seattle Show
"Orly is an investment in your future..."

The Dimi Petty Show, Canada
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Orange County Register
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The Heritage Weekly
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Los Angeles Times
"Orly matches the rich and successful..."

Dallas Morning Newspaper
"Orly made countless introductions..."

Beverly Hills Today
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"Orly, a matchmaker with a sixth sense..."

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Chanukah Choopla

**Sunday, December 7
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

at the
**Jewish Community Center
101 Garden of Eden Road
North Wilmington**

**No Admission Charge!
Open to the Public!**

CELEBRATE CHANUKAH WITH THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY...



Nosh on some of your favorites at Richie's Deli...
Featuring latkes, knishes, steak sandwiches, subs, falafel and more. Food will be served all-day-long by our notable Celebrity Volunteers.



Do a little Chanukah shopping...
Gifts, Judaic items, artwork, toys and special one-of-a-kind merchandise will be on display and available for purchase at our gift and craft bazaar.



NEW for adults...
Check out our Casino! Try your luck at one of our Black Jack or Poker Tables, Roulette or Big Six Wheels or Slot Machines. The casino will be open from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.



Just for the kids...
Age-appropriate holiday games and activities will be offered throughout the day. Jump on the moon or try your hand at our Pop-A-Shot or Quarterback Challenge booths.

Fine Arts Showcase

**Saturday, December 6
8:00 - 10:00 p.m.**

at the
**Jewish Community Center
101 Garden of Eden Road
North Wilmington**

**No Admission Charge!
Advance reservations required.**

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENING... For Adults Only

Patrons of the Fine Arts Showcase will be able to preview and purchase items from the array of artisans, while enjoying music, wine and snacks.

The Showcase will feature a variety of new area crafters and vendors.

For more information or to make reservations, please call the Jewish Community Center at (302) 478-5660.

