



# JEWISH Voice

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## JFD celebrates 70 Years of community building

The Jewish Federation of Delaware celebrated an important milestone at its June 20th Annual Meeting at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center. Senators Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Thomas R. Carper and Wilmington Mayor James M. Baker were on hand to help JFD mark 70 years of service to Jews in Delaware, in Israel and around the world.



Senators Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Thomas R. Carper rushed in from a key vote in Washington to help mark the 70th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Guest speaker Michael Brooks, executive director of the Hillel at the University of Michigan, eloquently spoke on the theme of "Building Community"—one of Federation's most critical functions. Federation's first female president, Toni Young, received the Irving S. Shapiro Community Builder Award for her exemplary volunteer leadership of the Jewish Fund for the Future, the Delaware-New Jersey Partnership 2000 Cluster and the United Jewish Communities Israel Initiatives.

Another highlight of this milestone event was the dedication of the Community Capital Campaign Wall of



Beth Shapiro, (left) daughter of the late Irving Shapiro, one of our community's most respected and beloved leaders, tells Toni Young that "dad would have been proud" that she was selected for the Community Builder Award that bears his name.

Honor—an enduring tribute to those men and women of vision who have helped to strengthen the future foundation of Delaware's Jewish community through their generous gifts of \$10,000 or more to the Federation Community Capital Campaign. Designed by artists Fay Grajower and Bert Weiss, this beautiful glass sculpture pays tribute to local families and individuals who have made it possible for Federation to upgrade, renovate or build new facilities at all six of its beneficiary agencies—helping them to more effectively meet present and future needs.

See page 8 for more photo coverage.

Photos by Mike Samuels



This breathtakingly beautiful glass sculpture bears the names of the families and individuals who have made gifts of \$10,000 or more to the Federation Community Capital Campaign. This Wall of Honor can be found in the lobby of the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center on the grounds of the Weinberg Campus.

## Israel concerned about new Iranian leader

By Dan Baron, JTA

Few people in Israel expected a positive turnaround in Iran, but the election of hard-liner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president of the Islamic Republic has raised eyebrows among even the more pessimistic pundits.

Even before giving his first media conference, the fundamentalist mayor of Tehran made clear there would be no new tack toward Israel.

"I will strive to expand relations with everyone, with the exception of Israel," he told the Saudi newspaper Okaz on Sunday.

That was no surprise in itself, as political leaders in Iran must parrot the policies of the religious clerics.

But under the outgoing president, the reform-minded Mohammed Khatami, there had been an internal domestic tension that benefited Israel. Khatami even hinted that Tehran could soften its stance on the "Zionist enemy" in

the event of a satisfactory Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

Ahmadinejad is no moderate. A reserve officer in the Basij Militia, which suppresses any signs of Western modernity, he enjoyed a sweeping victory in the weekend election, leading Israeli experts to reassess the strength of the reform movement in Iran.

"The surprise in itself is a very troublesome 'mishap,' as Iran is Israel's primary strategic threat, and a situation in which the election of a certain president comes as a surprise to Israel and the West cannot be tolerated," wrote Alex Fishman, the defense correspondent for Yediot Achronot.

Fishman predicted increased Iranian efforts to sabotage the recent Israeli-Palestinian rapprochement, through Tehran's Shi'ite proxy in Lebanon, Hezbollah, and the terrorist cells Iran sponsors in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But that threat pales in comparison to Iran's nuclear program, which Israel believes will be capable of producing weapons within months. According to Meir Litvak, an Iran expert at Tel Aviv University, Ahmadinejad has no real control over the program, as it is entirely in the clerics' hands. "They will decide on the continued development of nuclear weapons," Litvak said.

But the president-elect is not expected even to exert rhetorical pressure to rein in the program. He has already declared the pursuit of nuclear capability — he claimed it was for peaceful purposes — a national prerogative. And he said Iran had "no significant need" for relations with the United States, a sure sign that he will not shy from a future fight to defend his country's nuclear ambitions.

Israel, which has long tried to keep relatively quiet in international efforts to prevent Iran getting the



An aerial photo shows the nuclear site at Bushehr in the Iranian desert, Feb. 28, 2004. Credit: Courtesy Digital Globe/BP Images/JTA

bomb, spoke out Sunday.

"Faced with the Iranian nuclear threat, the international community must, more than before, formulate a unified and stern policy toward

Iran," Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said Sunday. "We must ensure that modern Western countries do not become hostage to Iranian radicalism."

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# FEDERATION FOCUS

## It Ain't Over Till It's Over



**Samuel H. Asher**  
Executive Vice President

It was famed New York Yankees superstar Yogi Berra who said: "It ain't over till it's over." I'm reminded of this expression as we bask in the beautiful afterglow of our 70th annual meeting on June 20th.

For those of you who were not able to attend, this memorable evening was a time to recognize the stellar leadership of outgoing President Barry S. Kayne, to install Bob Pincus as Federation's 28th president and to honor Toni Young, the consummate volunteer as recipient of the 2005 Irving S. Shapiro Community Builder Award.

It was also an occasion to honor those men and women of vision who have helped insure the future of our Delaware Jewish Community through their generous support of the Federation Community Capital Campaign. These philanthropic individuals and families are immortalized in the new Wall of Honor that graces the lobby of the Weinberg Campus. Artist Fay Grajower was on hand to

unveil the magnificent tree of life glass sculpture that she created in conjunction with colleague Bert Weiss. The design for this beautiful Wall of Honor was inspired by the Talmudic statement:

*"As My Parents Planted for Me, So Do I Plant for My Children"*

It was an apropos theme for this enduring tribute to those who have empowered Federation to upgrade, renovate or build new facilities at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center, Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, Jewish Family Services, Albert Einstein Academy, the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home and the Kristol Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) at the University of Delaware-enabling these agencies to meet present and future needs.

It is no wonder that both Senator Joseph R. Biden and Senator Tom Carper rushed back from an important vote in Washington to add to the aura of this auspicious evening.

Wilmington Mayor James Baker also participated in the program, helping us to unveil the Wall of Honor.

And now for the explanation of my opening quote "It ain't over till it's over." At a recent meeting, the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Delaware approved "Plan 9" which states that Federation is committed to completing the major renovations for this project. In so doing, the Board authorized the appropriate borrowing to complete Phase II. The renovations for our Weinberg campus are moving forward. But, "it ain't over till it's over." It, the Community Capital Campaign, continues. We still must raise over \$1million more.

If you know of anyone who would like to help us realize this goal but has not yet been asked, please give me a call. The more people we have on board the "new horizons train" the faster we will move forward. The sooner we raise the additional funds needed, the less borrowing we will have to do.

## Endowment Book of Life – a Living Document and a Legacy

Over 100 community leaders attended the inaugural Endowment Book of Life event on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center. At the event, Lee Meyerhoff Hendler of the Meyerhoff Foundations, Baltimore, Maryland, and representatives of local families that have established endowments, shared their views on philanthropy. Dr. Barry Bakst, Elliot Margules, Connie Sugarman, and N. Norman Schutzman talked about their motivation to provide for the future of the Jewish community, here in Delaware, in Israel and around the world. The Endowment Book of Life is a promise made by our generation to the next that our Jewish community will be here for them, for their children and for future generations. The Book of Life, on display in the lobby of the Siegel JCC, contains signatures of community leaders from every economic segment and from every walk of life who are committed to our future success.

You can be included in the Endowment Book of Life by establishing an endowment now or by planning to leave a bequest to the Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment arm of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, through your will. Popular giving vehicles include: outright contribution of cash, securities, real estate or other property; bequest (will); gift of life insurance; charitable trust; gift of IRA or pension plan assets; or grants from your foundation. You can also establish Life Income Gifts – a gift that provide you, your spouse or other loved ones with income during their lifetime and sustains the Jewish community after you are gone. Life Income Gifts include charitable trusts (Charitable Remainder Trusts/CRUT/CRAT, Charitable Lead Trusts/CLT) and Charitable Gift Annuities/CGA.

The Talmud tells us "As my parents plant-



**Jennifer Young (Director, Jewish Fund for the Future) with the Endowment Book of Life. (Photo by Eric Crossan)**

ed for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me" (Talmud Taanit 23a). Your participation in The Endowment Book of Life leaves a legacy for future generations, exemplifying your Jewish values. For more information or to schedule a confidential planned giving consultation, contact Jennifer Young at the Federation (302) 427-2100 ext. 19 or visit our website [www.shalomdelaware.org](http://www.shalomdelaware.org).

## Bielski named Jewish Agency head

By Dina Kraft, JTA

A beaming Zeev Bielski took the stage in front of the assembly of the Jewish Agency for Israel, vowing to be their emissary to the Jewish people as they elected him in a unanimous show of hands.

The job to which he was elected Tuesday will bring the charismatic and popular Bielski, 58, mayor of Ra'anana for the past 16 years, full-circle professionally.

As a young man in 1977, Bielski was sent as a Jewish Agency emissary to South Africa, where he was in charge of aliyah efforts.

Later he helped found the Israel Forum, which builds ties between Israeli and Diaspora Jewish communities.

As mayor of Ra'anana, an Israeli city with large immigrant populations from the former Soviet Union and Western countries, including the United States and South Africa, Bielski has had a hands-on role in aliyah.

"First of all, I see myself as a shaliach," Bielski said in an interview with JTA, using the Hebrew word for emissary. "My door will always be open to every Jew, wherever he is."

A former player in Israel's national basketball league who is known to stop and shoot hoops with local Ra'anana youth, Bielski is something of a darling of the Jewish professional world. He is known as an energetic, disciplined administrator who gets things done, and with a smile.

Somewhat of an anomaly in Israeli political life, he seems to be universally liked.

"Everyone loves Zeev," said Dov Barel, director general of the finance department of the World Zionist Organization, who grew up with Bielski in Jerusalem.

As chairman of the Jewish Agency, Bielski plans to focus on three major goals: to bring the remainder of the Falash Mura community from Ethiopia to Israel, to push "aliyah by choice" from Western countries and to help bridge the growing socioeconomic gap between rich and poor Israeli children.

Bielski said he is especially excited to begin work on the Jewish Agency's new Masa program, an initiative to bring some 20,000 Diaspora youth on long-term programs to Israel over the next five years.

"This is a project with a vision, and there is no doubt that it will change the Jewish world," he said.

Bielski's election followed a tense showdown last week at the World Zionist Organization. The unusually heated election was between Bielski, the prime minister's candidate, and former Cabinet minister Natan Sharansky, the World Likud candidate.

The Jewish Agency and the government are supposed to work hand in hand, and the prime minister in past years has selected a candidate approved by his party. This year, however, World Likud accused Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of undermining the democratic process by choosing Bielski without the party's consent.

Observers say the real issue was political: Bielski is a supporter of the government's plan to evacuate settlements in the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank this summer, while Sharansky is a vocal opponent of it.

Last Friday, Sharansky bowed out of the race after the Jewish Agency's Advise and Consent Committee said it would not change its decision to support Bielski.

Replacing Sallai Meridor as the Jewish Agency's chairman, Bielski will oversee a budget of some \$350 million and head an organization that is seen as key in unifying Jewish people worldwide by promoting and overseeing aliyah and Zionist education programs.

The Jewish Agency's chairman also chairs the World Zionist Organization, which has a small budget but represents Diaspora and Israeli political parties and comprises half of the Jewish Agency's board of trustees.



**Zeev Bielski, left, is congratulated by outgoing Jewish Agency chairman Sallai Meridor after being elected to head the group at the Jewish Agency's annual conference, Tuesday, June 28, 2005, in Jerusalem. The Ra'anana mayor was unanimously elected after he became the only candidate for the position. Credit: Brian Hendler/JTA**



*This newspaper does not take a summer vacation!*

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# EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

## Declaring our Freedom to care

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. - That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, - That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government..."

On Monday, July 4th, we American Jews join with our fellow country men and women in celebration of the rights and responsibilities secured by the Declaration of Independence. This is the very cornerstone of our national heritage-an eloquent statement of both individual freedom and collective responsibility for ensuring that government does not usurp those freedoms.

The language of this simple, yet profound treatise of intolerance in the face of tyranny profoundly resonates with us as Jews. We are a people accustomed to living in countries where despots oppress their citizens. We have paid the ultimate price of citizenship in nations where human rights are trampled to advance the political agenda or personal prejudice of national leaders.

Last year we celebrated the 350th anniversary of our ancestors' arrival in North America. We are the proud descendants of this brave group of 23 men and women who fled the Inquisition in Brazil for the promise of a safe haven in a new nation. Here they could contribute their skills and talents while making a better life for their families.

We are indeed fortunate to live in a nation that grants its Jewish citizens the right to

express their faith freely and openly. We are also blessed that this nation is the world's most steadfast supporter of our ancestral homeland-Israel.

Giving thanks for this precious gift of religious freedom on Independence Day is appropriate but insufficient. We who have survived a long legacy of tyranny marked by pogroms and a Holocaust must speak out against human rights abuses in every corner of the world.

Last week, more than 200 people traveled to New York for a day-long teach in on the ethnic-based violence in Sudan's Darfur province. Nearly 2 million black African farmers and their families are at risk in what has been described as the world's worst modern-day humanitarian crisis.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has mobilized the Jewish Coalition for Sudan Relief. Twenty-four American Jewish organizations have rallied to the cause, raising more than \$445,000 to date to support efforts to stem the tide of starvation, disease and death.

To find out how you can help, visit their website at [www.jdc.org](http://www.jdc.org).

May we all be inspired by the clarion call to action issued by Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Weisel:

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice but there must never be a time when we fail to protest!"

Shabbat Shalom and Happy Birthday America,

*Lynn B. Edelman*

Lynn B. Edelman, Editor



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## PARSHA PLACE

Week of July 2

Korach

Numbers 16:31 - 18:32

### REBELLION AMONG RELATIVES

By David Elcott

Turn it over and over, our tradition says, and all can be found in Torah, even principles of democracy hidden in the language of revolution. Korach, a relative of Moses and Aaron, leads a rebellion in the desert in which he and his cohorts are killed and their treason condemned by God. The desert is a fearful place and the Israelites are a frightened, inchoate mass of refugees. To demand the overthrow of Moses and Aaron as they attempt to bring the children of Israel from slavery to freedom would have undermined the liberation and thrown the covenanted people into anarchy. Korach's rebellion was an act of personal aggrandizement roundly condemned by the tradition. But his words, his critique of Moses, remain as verses in the Torah that we continue to read year after year.

Korach said to Moses and Aaron: "You have gone too far! This whole community is sacred (kadosh), all of them, and the Lord is in their midst. Why then do you raise yourselves above the congregation?" The words may be heresy for an embattled people in the desert, but ring truer at the latter part of the twentieth century. The rabbis tell us to judge a leader within the context of the age in which he or she lives. Moses succeeded in the desert, but would have failed in Eretz Yisrael. King David was a hero in founding a state, but could not insure its survival. The rabbis provided a remarkable structure for life in Diaspora, but cannot structure Jewish life in Israel. While Korach would have destroyed the Israelites in the desert, his words are a charge to the Jewish people today. The will of God can be located in the democratic decisions of the Jewish people if we actualize our potential for sacredness and allow God to reside in our midst.

David Elcott is a member of the faculty of CLAL, the Center for Learning and Leadership headquartered in New York City.

## This Week in Jewish History



**Celebrate 350**  
**Jewish Life in America**  
1654 - 2004

This Week in History" is an introduction to 350 years of American Jewish history, brought to you by the Jewish Women's Archive. More information about each of the events described below can be found on JWA's website at [http://www.jwa.org/this\\_week/week\\_14.html](http://www.jwa.org/this_week/week_14.html)

### JUNE 28, 1980

Yiddish superstar comedienne Molly Picon received the Creative Achievement Award of the Performing Arts Unit of B'nai B'rith on June 28, 1980.

### JUNE 30, 1922

On June 30, 1922, the Central Conference of American Rabbis resolved that "women cannot justly be denied the privilege of [rabbinical] ordination." The first American woman would not be ordained until 1972.

### JUNE 30, 1952

"Guiding Light," created by Irna Phillips, debuted on television on June 30, 1952. It is now the longest-running daily television program.

### JUNE 30, 1966

The National Organization for Women was founded on June 30, 1966, at a meeting in Betty Friedan's hotel room.

### JULY 1, 1958

Basketball star and WNBA coach Nancy Lieberman-Cline was born on July 1, 1958.

### JULY 1, 1993

Anne Lapidus Lerner was named Vice Chancellor for public affairs at the Jewish Theological Seminary on July 1, 1993, becoming the first woman to hold a Vice Chancellor post at the Seminary.

### JULY 1, 2000

Haviva Ner-David's book "Life on the Fringes", about her commitment to an evolving feminist Orthodoxy and her quest for rabbinic ordination, was published on July 1, 2000.

## SHABBAT Candle Lighting

JULY 8TH - 8:15 PM

JULY 15TH - 8:12 PM

JULY 22ND - 8:07 PM

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## Save the Date

LIVE GENEROUSLY MITZVAH DAY

Sunday, October 9, 2005



## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

### Responding to bias – fight or flight?

By Andrea Levin

The stunning power of headlines, photographs, daily newspaper reports and television footage to skew public sentiment has deeply shaken those concerned about Israel's fate. In all too many media outlets, jaw-dropping disregard of existential threats and lack of awareness of Israel's restraint in the face of terrorist bloodletting have prompted near-panicked efforts in some quarters to win public understanding.

The great debate underway is how best to counter media shortcomings and reach citizens of the world and government policymakers with a full, accurate picture of the Jewish state.

Numerous efforts seek to present the good face of Israel to audiences – the normal face beyond the conflict. Look, say proponents of this approach, at how much Israel gives to mankind: medical advances, agricultural invention, high-tech brilliance. Look at the value added to world culture and comfort by the resourceful Israelis. All that has to be done, according to this thinking, is to change the paradigm; to separate Israel from its tainted association with the endless conflict involving the Arabs by injecting stories about Israeli innovation and good works into the news stream.

Such efforts may, indeed, engender positive feelings in some news consumers.

Likewise, publicizing (as other endeavors have) the fact that Israel's Arab citizens, including Arab women, participate in its democracy can add in a constructive way to appreciation of the country's commitment to pluralism and tolerance.

But there are profound strategic flaws in any efforts to advance public understanding of Israel's circumstances that do not tackle and defeat false and damaging information about the Jewish state.

The notion that telling the world how clever and beneficent Israel is will garner public affection founders on the grim evidence of Jewish history. The Jews of Germany won 37% of the Nobel prizes for science and literature awarded to German citizens between 1905 and 1936, even though they were only 1% of the population. Needless to say, their accomplishments won few hearts or minds.

In late 19th and early 20th century Vienna, a time and place renowned for dazzling achievement in music, Jews were central. Composers Gustave Mahler and Arnold Schonberg were Jewish, as were many of Vienna's other composers, librettists, musicians, performers, patrons and audiences in a population where Jews were less than 10% of the population. But Austrians welcomed the Nazis, and soon constituted 40% of those engaged in Hitler's exterminations.

The lesson then and today is that denigration and defamation are likely to nullify any

positive images of Jewish generosity, creativity and good works if the epithets and misinformation are left unchallenged.

When Chris Hedges, for instance, wrote in Harper's in the fall of 2001 that Israeli soldiers in Gaza "entice [Palestinian] children like mice into a trap and murder them for sport," the incendiary, baseless charge became a feature of anti-Israel comment. National Public Radio's Fresh Air promptly enlisted Hedges for an interview in which he spread the smear across the air waves.

Consider: would those who read or heard Hedges recite his false charges of child murder be persuaded to like the Jewish State on the basis of learning that it leads in nanotechnology?

When basic facts such as the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 242 are misrepresented to claim that Israel is required to cede the entire West Bank and Gaza, and is therefore violating core principles for settling the conflict, what are news consumers to think but that Israel is obstructing peace? When the terms of the so-called "road map" are continually misrepresented to cast Israel as a violator and the Palestinians as the aggrieved, what is the cumulative effect on readers?

When Hamas and Islamic Jihad are depicted as seeking an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza – reasonable goals in the minds of many – rather than working to

extinguish Israel, Israeli measures in self-defense appear excessive.

All these are cases in which serious errors and distortions must be and have been extensively challenged. The end result has been to correct errors and halt their repetition in key media; or, where no correction has been forthcoming, to widely expose and debunk the misinformation.

Yes, there are lessons to be learned from the world of public relations, but they come from such instructive examples as the "war room" of former president Bill Clinton's election campaign. There, media coverage was monitored intensively, and every news account deemed incorrect, distorted or incomplete was swiftly challenged. The strategy worked so successfully that it was later applied to promoting president Clinton's policy initiatives.

No less an effort is necessary in defending the facts about Israel. Just as all that is required for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing, so too distortions and lies about Israel triumph when they go unchallenged. Those who argue that there is an easier way, a shortcut to making Israel's case, are simply ducking the essential task.

Andrea Levin is Executive Director of CAMERA, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America. For additional information visit the organization on the web at [www.camera.org](http://www.camera.org).

### Still the People of the Book

By Nechemia Meyers

While Israelis are no less addicted to television and internet than people elsewhere, they remain, to a surprising extent, the people of the book. This is reflected in the fact that almost half the population visited one of the 50 open air book fairs held here in mid-June within the framework of Hebrew Book Week.

During this annual event, now in its 44th year, 150 publishers sold tens of thousands of books at an average discount of 20%. Authors were also on hand to give readings and autograph their works, while street shows enlivened the proceedings.

Though book sales peak during the fairs, they are extraordinarily high for the year as a whole, an estimated 11 million books being sold in this tiny country with many citizens who never have nor never will read a Hebrew book. Yet despite this handicap, per capita sales in Israel are on a par with the world's

highest book consumers, Scandinavia and Iceland.

A total of some 5,000 Hebrew-language books were published here last year, 89% of which were written in the Holy Tongue and the others translated from other tongues. The latter include all the best sellers from other countries, so that "The Da Vinci Code" was on the best seller lists here for almost as long as it was in North America.

Israel is not the only country where attempts have been made in recent decades to revive an ancient language or one that was in decline. The Irish attempted the same thing, with dismal results. For while Irishmen are extraordinarily gifted writers, they express themselves in English rather than Gaelic.

No such dilemma confronts the hundreds of authors writing in Hebrew. They can successfully turn out detective stories and novels about historical figures, as well as discussions of the Kabbalah and teenage trash in a

language that was not in daily use until the eve of the 20th century. The father of modern political Zionism, Theodore Herzl, didn't think this would be possible and in his utopian novel about a future Jewish state, "Altneuland," Hebrew is not the language of its inhabitants.

Hebrew-language authors not only have their faithful following at home, but also are successful in translation. Any reasonably sized bookstore in the United States or Western Europe is bound to have books by A.B. Yehoshua, David Grossman, Meir Shalev and, above all, Amos Oz.

To the surprise of many, his painfully introspective new book on growing up in Jerusalem during the turbulent 40s and 50s – "A Tale of Love and Darkness" – has sold extremely well around the world.

There are Israelis, myself among them, who also read "A Tale of Love and Darkness" in translation. That is a sign of intellectual

laziness, but there is no reason to make the extra effort required to read it in Hebrew when the English translation appears soon after the Hebrew original; that I leave to my children.

The same situation exists in regard to Israel's one million Russian immigrants, who have their own bookstores in every Israeli town and city. But again, their progeny will also read Oz in the original.

#### An Exception to the Rule

Among the books you are unlikely to find in Hebrew are scholarly studies written by Israelis about Israel. If a professor, for example, does an analysis of local government or irrigation methods here, his audience is primarily overseas, where there are thousands of men and women concerned with the subject in question. The few dozen Israelis who are interested will buy the book in English.

#### JCRC UPDATE –

### Reservations accepted for August trip to Holocaust Museum

The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware will sponsor its annual trip to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington on Thursday, August 4th. The program is designed for educators and clergy to assist them in teaching about the Holocaust and its consequences for our own society today.

A bus will pick up participants at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center at 7:30am, and will make a second pickup at the Delaware I-95 southbound rest stop (bus area) at 7:55am. Accompanying the group will be Dr. Margaret Crouch, a Holocaust scholar, who will provide historical background, augmented by several videos. Participants will meet with staff of the Education Department of the Museum. Snacks will be provided, and lunch is avail-

able in the Museum cafeteria. Cost for the day is \$30, and checks should be made out to the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee.

You may be interested in knowing that the Holocaust Education Committee is utilizing a grant from New Castle County to produce a professional DVD on Delaware survivors and liberators, and substantially increasing the holdings of the Resource Center at the Brandywine Hundred branch of the library on Foulk Road, as well as developing Delaware appropriate curricula.

**Only a few seats remain on the bus so make your reservation as soon as possible!**

Should you have any questions, please call Sam Horowitz at the Federation office 427-2100, ext 30 or via email [Samuel.horowitz@shalomdel.org](mailto:Samuel.horowitz@shalomdel.org)

### Myths and Facts

**MYTH:** "Palestinians living under 'occupation' have the lowest standard of living in the Middle East."  
**FACT:** When Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, officials took measures to improve the conditions that Palestinians had lived under during Jordan's 19-year occupation of the West Bank, and Egypt's occupation of Gaza. Universities were opened, Israeli agricultural innovations were shared, modern conveniences were introduced, and health care was significantly upgraded. More than 100,000 Palestinians were employed in Israel, and were paid the same wages as Israeli workers, which stimulated economic growth.

The rise in violence during the 1990s, and then the war instigated by Palestinian terrorists beginning in 2000, has taken a heavy toll on the Palestinian economy. To protect its citizens from suicide bombers and other terrorists, Israel was forced to take measures that had a deleterious impact on the economy in the Palestinian Authority. The most serious step was to limit the number of Palestinian workers entering Israel to reduce the risk of terrorists pretending to be workers slipping into the country. This raised the level of unemployment, which, in turn, had a negative spillover effect on the rest of the Palestinian economy.

Despite the collapse of the PA economy from the last five years of war, Palestinian Arabs are still better off than many of their neighbors. The most recent Human Development Report from the United Nations ranks the PA 102nd in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income out of the 177 countries and territories in the world, placing it in the "medium human development" category along with most of the other Middle Eastern states (only the Gulf sheikdoms are ranked "high"). The PA is ranked just 12 places below Jordan and one behind Iran; it is rated ahead of Syria (#105), Algeria (#108), Egypt (#120), and Morocco (#125) ("Human Development Report 2004," United Nations Development Programme, 2005).

Few Palestinians would trade places with Arabs in neighboring countries. Well, perhaps, with one exception. They might aspire to the standard of living in the country ranked 22nd by the UN – Israel.

Source: Myths & Facts Online – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Mitchell G. Bard, <http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org>.



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## INSIDE DELAWARE

### A new Torah for Chabad Center

On Sunday June 12, erev Shavuot, Chabad celebrated the completion of the new Torah commissioned to commemorate 18 years of community service and outreach. 150 members of the community took part in the writing of the final letters and joyously danced and paraded the new Torah carried under a Chupah to live music. The procession and dancing began at 1811 Silverside Rd, the future site of the Chabad Jewish Enrichment Center, continued on Silverside Rd and then onto Grinnell Rd. where the other Torahs came out to greet it. Verses and Parshas are still available for sponsorship and dedication as partaking in the writing of a Torah scroll is the last of all the Mitzvot and a special opportunity. For additional information about Chabad, please call Rabbi Chuni Vogel at (302) 529-9900.



### Seaside dedicates rescued Holocaust Torah

Photos and Story by Joel Glazier

"This day has been nine years in the making," declared Jeff Hawtof, President of Seaside Jewish Community in Rehoboth Beach. "Now we are complete after improvising with borrowed Torahs, rotating prayer leaders and various

siddurim, we have the cornerstone of Judaism, a Torah Scroll." Over 100 members celebrated the dedication of the 89 year old scroll that had been restored by Rabbi Menachem Youlus and his Save A Torah, Inc. organization.

With a resounding blast of the Shofar, Worship Committee Chair,

Beth Cohen led the crowd in prayer and song beneath a Chupah on the grounds of Seaside's Holland Glade Road building. Rabbi Youlus scribed six remaining letters in the Torah on behalf of the members of Seaside. "It is G-d's Will that Seaside receive this Torah and the memory of the Jews of the Russian

village of Lutsk will continue," the Rabbi added. "I've been impressed with Seaside's sense of devotion and closeness and am happy that after 60 years once again the words from this scroll will be chanted."

Seaside Jewish Community was formed nine years ago after

Jewish residents and visitors to the Delaware Beach communities met for a community Seder. Now in their own building, the community has reached 180 members ("Ten times Chai"). "The Torah dedication day was an amazing day in our history and we have now entered a new era," added Hawtof.



President Jeff Hawtof and son David listen to Rabbi Menachem Youlus explain the mitzvah of writing a Torah.



President Jeff Hawtof carries restored Torah as past Presidents Lynne Chichi and Cheryl Fruchtmann hold up the Chupah.



Like a wedding of two entities, a Torah with a Community, Seaside Jewish Community members danced and carried the Torah beneath a chupah into its new home inside the Seaside Jewish Community sanctuary.



Worship Committee Chair Beth Cohen utilizes the piercing sound of The Shofar to begin the rededication ceremony of a Torah Scroll, which was recovered from its burial in Russia to the sands of Rehoboth.

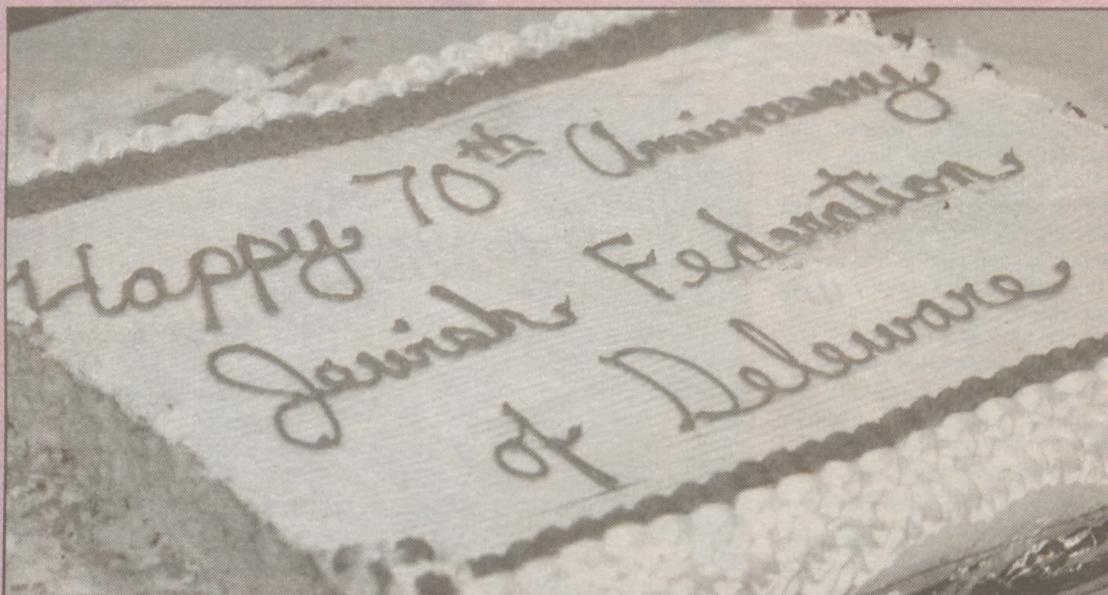


# A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Photos by Mike Samuels



Alice and Bennett Epstein, active volunteer leaders of the Kristol Center for Jewish Life at the University of Delaware (Hillel), share a moment with Hillel Executive Director Susan Detwiler. Bennett is a past recipient of the Irving S. Shapiro Community Builder Award.



It can't be a true Jewish community celebration without a nice slice of cake!



It was an emotional evening for outgoing Federation President Barry S. Kayne who enjoys a congratulatory hug from Rabbi Michael Beals of Congregation Beth Shalom.



Senator Joe Biden rushed in from Washington to congratulate Toni Young for her high honor and to praise Barry Kayne as he steps down from a successful 3-year term as Federation president.



Senator Tom Carper had high praise for the volunteer leadership exhibited by Delaware's Jewish citizens.



Beth Shapiro (left) daughter of Irving Shapiro, in whose memory the Community Builder Award is named, warmly embraces Bernie Siegel, first recipient of Federation's highest honor and Toni Young, 2005 award winner.



Federation Executive Vice President Samuel H. Asher and incoming JFD President Bob Pincus present outgoing President Barry S. Kayne with a "chai" designed painting. This symbolizes Barry's commitment to enhancing the quality of Jewish life in Delaware, in Israel and around the world.



Senator Biden enters into spirited conversation with Buddy Aerenson.



Newark area philanthropists Mary and Milton Wolf pose for a picture at the Community Capital Campaign Wall of Honor.



Sheila Krinsky, Federation's office manager, and Gina Kozicki, Endowment assistant (not pictured) were honored for five years of service to JFD. Sheila and Senator Tom Carper are paying rapt attention to guest speaker Michael Brooks' presentation on "Building Community".

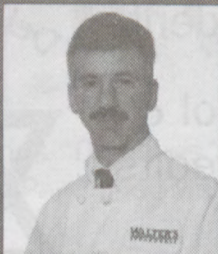


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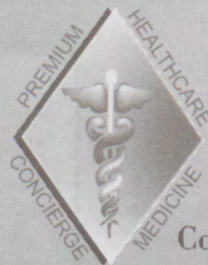
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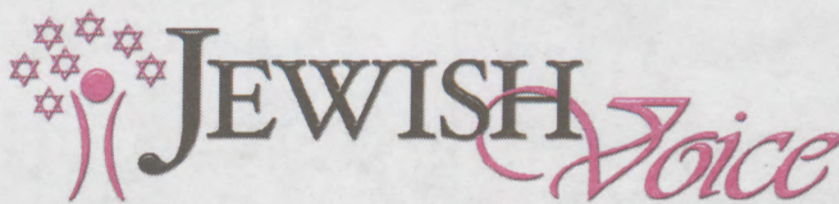
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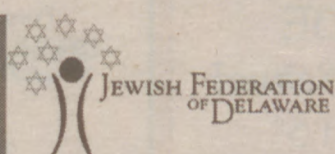
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# PERSPECTIVES

## BODACIOUS BOOKS FOR THE BEACH

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman  
Courtesy of The Reporter Group

Summer is a time for activity: playing baseball or tennis, walking along the beach or on a nature trail, working in gardens or on lawns, cleaning cars or garages, or, in my case, finding a nice shady spot, opening a comfortable lawn chair and settling down for a good read. Here are some of my favorites!

**"The White Rose"**  
by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Once in a great while, a book inspires such delight that I wish I could thank its author in person. What sets these works off from ordinary novels is the author's ability to describe a sensation or feeling in a way that is so vivid it takes your breath away. In the opening scene of her very sexy and provocative "The White Rose" (Miramax Books), Jean Hanff Korelitz describes the innermost thoughts of a character, Marian, while she is making love. Korelitz captures the wonderment Marian experiences when she realizes "she is inhabiting the moment of

her greatest happiness... Right now, right now: in her life, in this bed, with Oliver and the roses and the noise and the dusk of a Manhattan day in October. And she sees, as if she were falling from her own open window, her life flash not back from the end nor forward from the beginning but both of these at once, the ends racing for the middle, for this moment at the heart of her life, so that in the instant before she smacks to the last of consciousness, this is what she will see: herself and him, inside, in motion, in love, and then she will know that her life was actually a good life, with sweetness and pounding and car horns and the smell of him, Oliver, who looks at her in that very instant and says what he says, which is: 'I love you.'"

"The White Rose," the plot of which is loosely based on Strauss' opera "Der Rosenkavalier," centers on the rather convoluted connections between Marian, a married 48-year-old historian who has recently had great success with her popular history of an 18th century adventuress; 26-year-old

Oliver, her lover, who is also the son of her oldest friend; and Sophie, a graduate student in her department, who is engaged to be married to an older man, who just happens to be Marian's cousin. While it would be easy for Korelitz to just skewer her characters' love lives and make fun of their many foibles, her novel manages to be not only witty and clever, but surprisingly full of feeling. She makes you understand these people and sympathize with their many conflicting desires.

While I found the plot machinations delightful, ridiculous and intriguing all at the same time, it was Korelitz's descriptions of her characters' thoughts and emotions that really captured my attention. Marian knows how lucky she is to have found success in her calling as a historian: "Scholars know or ought to know that they are privileged to lead their lives with their books in their groves of like-minded people. It was a privilege to devote the principal portion of one's waking thoughts to the evolution of starfish, or the fate of an artist, dead these long centuries,

or the brief tenure of one particular Ottoman emperor. Anyone who does not feel privileged ought not to be doing it, Marian thought. Anyone incapable of appreciating the rare jolts of delight that can come from finding something out something wild and obscure, buried in history or chipped from the unknown ought to be in another line of work."

Oliver, on the other hand, finds satisfaction from his work as a

florist. He doesn't just like flowers: He adores them. For him they are "the food not only of love, but of life." He realizes this is an odd occupation for someone in his position, that he has strayed off "the officially sanctioned career designations law, business, medicine that account for the overwhelming majority of his peers." After all, "the children of well-to-do Jewish families do not seem to join

See *BODACIOUS BOOKS*, page 17



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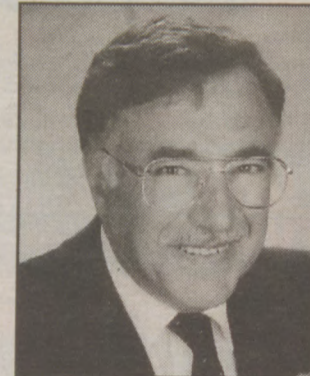


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By Ellen Meyer  
Special to the Jewish Voice

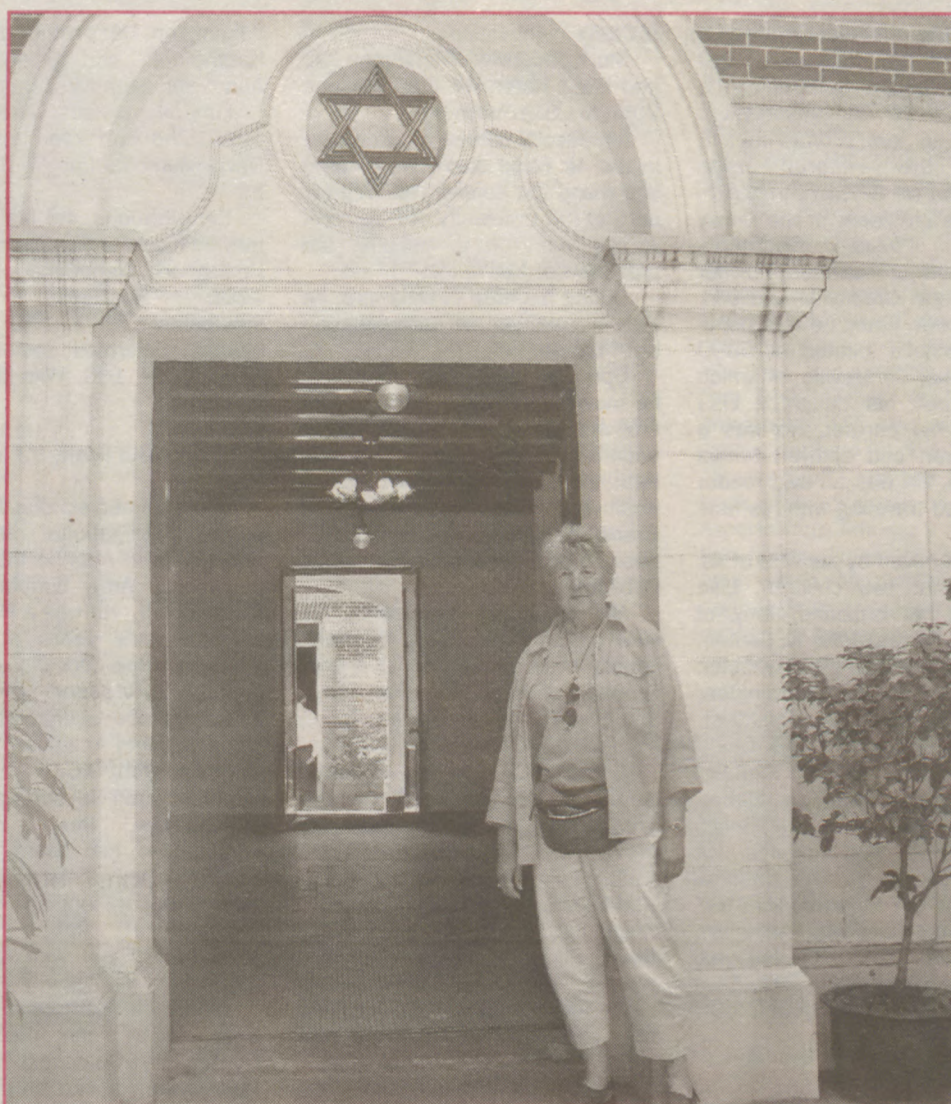
We didn't think it would be a problem getting to Ohel Moshe Synagogue. Our guide had written the address on Chang Yang Road in Chinese for us to give to the cab driver. We were all set to go. However, according to our hotel doorman, the cab driver insisted we had the wrong address. To us, it didn't seem as if he wanted to take us there. After a few minutes listening to him yelling at us in Chinese, we just found another cab driver, who knew exactly where to go and took us there in less time than we were told it would take.

I was visiting Ohel Moshe Synagogue with Joan Blair, a member of our tour group who lives in Wayland, Massachusetts and is president of Temple Shir Tikva. As neither of our husbands was interested in seeing any aspect of the Shanghai Jewish community; we were glad to have each other as companions.

Ohel Moshe is a modest building in an impoverished part of Shanghai. It was originally founded by Russian Jews in 1907. The structure we visited was built in 1927. It was the shul of the 20,000 Ashkenazi Jews who emigrated from Hitler's Europe in the 1930s and who, with the original Ashkenazi and Sephardim, formed a Shanghai Jewish community that at its height in the late 1930s and the 1940s numbered 30,000 people.

There had been two other synagogues in Shanghai at one time: Ohel Rachel, founded in 1920, and Beth Aharon, founded in 1927, but both had been demolished – Beth Aharon as recently as 1985.

When you first enter Ohel Moshe, you view a video about the exodus of European Jews



to Shanghai during the Nazi era. Then there are two floors of modest rooms with photos from the history of the synagogue on the walls. On the top floor is an apartment from the 1930s where the caretaker lived. The sanctuary is very modest and bare, no longer containing any Jewish artifacts. Across a small patio is a building housing a small art exhibit, with works either of Jewish content or by Jewish artists or both. The cost of the entire tour is 50 yuan (about \$6).

At one time there was a Jewish School, a Jewish hospital, a Jewish newspaper, a Jewish social club and a Jewish boy scout troop.

The Sassoon and Kadoorie families were wealthy and prominent leaders of the Jewish community and contributed a great deal to the city of Shanghai. The Peace Hotel on the Bund was formerly owned by the Sassoons, and what is now the Shanghai Children's Palace was built by the Kadoories as Marble Hall, an imposing classical structure. Both families were Sephardic in origin.

Centuries before the European Jews' arrival in Shanghai, there had been a Jewish community in Kaifeng. It became totally assimilated with the Chinese community. Today there are Chinese inhabitants of Kaifeng who claim Jewish ancestry although there is no longer a Kaifeng Jewish community.

So, too, the Shanghai community is no more. When the Communists took over China in 1949, the Shanghai Jews fled to Israel, the United States, Canada and Australia.

When I visited the Shanghai synagogue, I also learned that there was a viable Jewish community in Beijing, with regularly held Friday night services. Unfortunately, we had already been to Beijing.

## Bodacious books

Continued from page 15

the police department, become aerobics instructors, drive trucks, or run travel agencies. They are not housekeepers, office managers, landscape designers, or franchise owners." However, like Marian, he realizes how lucky he is to be able to make a living from his passion. Sophie finds her life less satisfying. Although she enjoys a close relationship with her father and finds inspiration in her research on the group known as the White Rose young Germans who publicly opposed Hitler's policies in Nazi Germany and died for their cause she feels unsettled. She is marrying mostly to please her father; she does not love her fiancé and has accepted that passion will play no part in her life. Her work leaves her weary and it is only by celebrating the Sabbath that she is able to continue: "Immersed as she is in one of the great desolations of the century, Sophie found that in order to function she must store up her grief or risk being overwhelmed by it, unable to function as a scholar, and probably as a human being. The Friday night rituals are her chance to discharge the grief accumulated during the week. They are her offering to the past, in honor of the suffering." Sophie accepts the parameters of her life, that is until one day Oliver arrives with flowers ordered by her fiancé.

Korelitz manages to satisfactorily bring all her characters together in a way that is moving, sad and hopeful all at the same time. Her ending left me smiling with tears in my eyes. If this were an opera rather than a novel, I would have leapt to my feet at the end crying, "Brava!"

**"Prince of Fire" by Daniel Silva**

Every year it gets harder to find different adjectives to describe the latest arrival in Daniel Silva's Gabriel Allon spy series. Of course, fans (myself included) need only be told that a new work has appeared for us to rush to the store or library to find a copy. However, lovers of thrillers who have not yet been fortunate to read Silva are in for a treat

with his latest work, "Prince of Fire" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). After a horrendous suicide attack on the Israeli diplomatic mission in Rome, Gabriel, an art restorer and sometimes spy for the state of Israel, discovers that his cover has been blown. Agents searching for the terrorists involved in the attack find a dossier containing his life history, including photographs of his current life in Italy. He has no choice but to return to Israel and rejoin the "Office," as the Israeli spy service is known, to learn who has uncovered his secrets and to discover where this new terrorist group will attack next. However, what at first seems a fairly straightforward operation soon turns into a very dangerous game of cat and mouse.

Silva is a master at providing clear, sharp descriptions of people and places. With a few lines of prose, he manages to sketch revealing portraits of even very minor characters. For example, the owner for a restaurant and bar in Cairo is captured in a single sentence: She is the kind of "woman who moves from villa to villa and party to party, who stays permanently tanned and permanently thin and cannot be bothered with a husband or children." Gabriel notes how she moves "from table to table, alcove to alcove, as a butterfly floats from one flower to the next... For men, she is the object of cautious desire; for the women, admiration." In addition to providing exciting plots and page-turning action, Silva also explores serious issues from modern Jewish history. In past works, he has focused on the Vatican's relationship to Nazi Germany, the refusal of Swiss banks to restore art and funds to Holocaust victims, and the role of the U.S. in saving Nazis from punishment after World War II. "Prince of Fire" takes on a different topic: the fiery relationship between the state of Israel and the Palestinian refugees who long for the homes and villages they left behind. While searching for the leader responsible for the latest attack, Gabriel

uncover yet another chapter in a cycle of retribution that began over 50 years earlier.

Fans of Silva's work won't be disappointed in "Prince of Fire"; they might, however, warn their families that any matters of importance should be discussed before they reach the middle of the book, since they may become very cranky if interrupted while reading the second half. New readers may quickly find themselves as addicted. Unfortunately, Silva said in a recent interview that he is thinking of taking a break from writing about Gabriel. That would be a real loss to those who like nothing better than losing themselves in a good thriller.

**"The Mourning Sexton" by Michael Baron**

Is it possible for a person to achieve redemption? Can people really change, or are they doomed to repeat the errors of their past? These questions form the subtext for the new legal thriller "The Mourning Sexton" by Michael Baron (Doubleday). Attorney David Hirsch was a legal high flyer until he crashed and burned, losing both job and family, and spending seven years in jail. Allowed to work only while under the supervision of another attorney, instead of high profile cases, he now spends his time in bank-

ruptcy court. That is until Abe Shifrin approaches him after morning services at the synagogue where Hirsch serves as gabbai.

Shifrin, whose daughter, Judith, died in a car crash, wants him to file a personal injury lawsuit against the companies that made the car and its tires. Hirsch hopes to turn the case over to another lawyer but, since the filing deadline is the next day, he begins work on the lawsuit himself. While looking at the evidence and talking to experts, he discovers that something is not right, that the case may be far more complex than he thought: What police assumed was an accident may have instead been a murder. However, why would anyone want to kill Judith? Could it have something to do with the man she worked for, the very powerful Judge Brendan R. McCormick? Unlike legal thrillers whose main action takes place in a court room, "The Mourning Sexton" is more of a legal puzzle, filled with complex details about a series of lawsuits. However, readers willing to persevere will be rewarded for their effort. While not exactly a page turner, Baron's first novel is an interesting, absorbing and ultimately moving work.

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#### ALTMAN

Ira B. Altman, 74, of Margate, NJ passed away on June 22nd at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point, NJ.

He was born and raised in this shore community with which he had a life-long love affair. Although he spent many years living and working in Philadelphia, he was happy to return home.

Mr. Altman is survived by his wife, Judith; his daughter and son-in-law, Curtis and Nancy Hayes of Richmond, VA; his son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Fran Altman of Wilmington, DE; and four grandchildren, Allison, Becky, Amanda and Ben.

A graveside service was held on Sunday, June 26th at the Beth Kehillah Cemetery, 6687 Black Horse Pike, Egg Harbor Township, NJ.

Memorial contributions would be appreciated to either the American Heart Association, 1501 Casho Mills Road, Suite 1, Newark, DE 19711 or to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 209, Wilmington, DE 19801.

#### FENTON

Laurence Fenton, of Wilmington, died June 1st in Riverside Extended Care at the age of 70. Mr. Fenton attended undergraduate school, earned his bachelor's degree and law degree from

the University of Virginia. He was a member of the Delaware Bar Association and a member of the Washington, DC Bar Association. He practiced law in Washington, DC for the Federal Trade Commission for 5 years. In 1967, he became president of the family business, Finkel's Women's Clothing, with 2 locations, Powder Mill Square in Greenville and 911 Orange Street. Later, he was president of Finkel's located at 5800 Kennett Pike, Centreville, at which time he took his daughter, Lisa Bucci, as his partner. He was a Navy veteran and enjoyed tennis and bridge. He was an avid reader and enjoyed traveling with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Gloria; two children, Lisa Bucci and her husband, Tony, of Glen Mills, PA and John W. Fenton, MD of New Orleans, LA; one sister, Elaine F. Sherman of Wilmington; and two beloved grandchildren, Lauren and Michael.

Contributions in his memory may be made to The Simon Wiesenthal Center, 1399 South Roxbury Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90035-4792; or to The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, 2107 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22011-3042; or to the National Stroke Association, 9707 East Easter Lane, Centennial, CO 80112-3747.

#### JACOBY

Mark Jacoby of Wilmington, DE and Boca Raton, FL died on June 20th, his 81st birthday.

Mr. Jacoby served as an officer in the Air Force during both World War II and the Korean War. A graduate of the University of Delaware, Jacoby went on to become the president of Keil's, Inc.

During his time in Delaware, he was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth.

Upon his retirement in 1986, he moved to Florida and took several writing courses. He ultimately became the author of two books: Path to Arequipa, which received positive reviews in Vanity Fair and Breaking the Bonds of Blindness, soon to be published by Brundage Publishing.

Mr. Jacoby is survived by his wife of 54 years, Alice Susanne Jacoby of Boca Raton, FL; a son, Stephen of New York City; and a daughter, Leslie of Chicago, IL.

Services were held in Florida.

Contributions in his memory would be appreciated to the American Cancer Society, 92 Reads Way, #205, New Castle, DE 19720.

#### KIMMELMAN

Ralph Kimmelman of Philadelphia died June 21st. He was the husband of Sylvia Berkowitz Kimmelman; father of Nina and her husband, Dr. Alan Kirschner of

Wilmington, DE; brother of Bernard Kimmelman and grandfather of Aaron and Seth Kirschner.

Funeral services were held on June 22nd with interment in King David Memorial Park in Bensalem, PA.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Golden Slipper Health and Rehabilitation Center, 7800 Bustleton Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19152; or to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 2 Mill Road, Suite 106, Wilmington, DE 19806.

#### KRAFT

Rabbi Saul Kraft, 92, died June 25th.

An esteemed scholar, he served as a congregational rabbi for a short time in Atlantic City, NJ and as a U.S. Army chaplain during World War II. He was a Hillel director for many years at Queens College in New York City and was a visiting professor of Jewish Studies at the George Washington University and American University in Washington, D.C.

Rabbi Kraft is survived by his sister-in-law, Leah Kraft of Wilmington; his niece, Deborah Cohen; nephews, Avram Kraft and Morty Aronson; longtime friend and colleague, Rabbi Morris Dembowitz; as well as many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held on June 27th in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road near his late brother, Rabbi Jacob Kraft.

The family would appreciate contributions to either the Kraft Education Fund, Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th and Baynard Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802; or to Mercy Hospice, 1500 Lansdowne Avenue, Darby, PA 19023.

#### MORRIS

Rhoda Morris, 75, died tragically in a June 12th fire at their home in Lauderhill, Florida. She will be

profoundly missed by her husband of 55 years, David.

Her family and friends describe her as an eternal optimist who was full of life. She taught grade school for thirty years before her retirement in 1996. She herself was committed to life-long learning and was an accomplished writer, artist and organizer.

In addition to her husband, David, she is survived by her two children, Kalman and Karen; her grandchildren, Tamara, Sonja and Marika; her great grandchild, Fiona; as well as a yet unborn grandchild expected to enter the world later this month. Mrs. Morris also will be missed by her sister, Lillian Goldberg and a wide circle of loving friends.

She was buried on June 19th at the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road in the Montefiore Section.

#### SHUIRMAN

Dale A. Shuirmann, husband of Patricia S. Shuirmann of Atlanta, GA, died June 5th. He was a former resident of Dover, DE. Mr. Shuirmann was the former director of Motor Fuel Tax for both the State of Delaware and the State of Georgia.

He served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

In addition to his wife, survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Ryan and Danielle Shuirmann, of Raleigh, NC; his mother-in-law, Sylvia E. Wilder; sisters-in-law, Denise (Jeff) Schwartz and Carol (Jeff) Anderson; nieces, Stacey and Melissa Schwartz and nephews, Brian (Chiara) Anderseon and Paul (Melanie) Anderson and Austin and Alex Anderson. Services were held on June 8th at Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Contributions in his memory would be appreciated to Temple Beth Or, 5315 Creedman Road, Raleigh, NC.

## REFLECTIONS

### The smell of cucumbers

By Teddy Weinberger

It takes something mighty big in order to get Americans to uproot themselves from their native land and immigrate to a foreign country with a different language and culture. For a small number of Jews from America that something big is the positive attraction of living in a Jewish state with a Jewish-majority culture (thankfully, negative reasons such as economic distress and anti-Semitism are not factors in aliyah from the U.S.). But along with the benefit of living in the only country in the world where, for example, Rosh Hashanah is a national holiday, there are fringe benefits. One of these is the smell of cucumbers.

I should point out that there is a difference between smelling a cucumber and the smell of cucumbers. Cucumbers are of course readily available in the States in a number of different varieties, and if you go ahead and put your nose right up to a cut cucumber you will be able to detect a certain smell that you have come to associate with said vegetable. This is what is known as smelling a cucumber. Most Americans don't often go around smelling their cucumbers, but occasionally curiosity gets the best of some people and they cannot resist trying to olfactorily identify just what it is they are eating.

It wasn't until I moved to Israel

that I learned that cucumbers on their own accord will voluntarily give off a fresh cucumber smell as soon as they are cut or peeled (though most Israelis skip the peeling). The process works like this: you take a cucumber and a peeler and you start peeling. After a few strokes, something marvelous happens, because without intending to you have provoked the cucumber into releasing its fragrance. The first few times this occurs, you will be prone to look around you for the origins of this wonderful smell. And then you realize: the cucumber in your hands has come vibrantly to life.

In an interview in the Jan.-February 2004 Harvard Magazine, noted biblical scholar James Kugel spoke about why he was making aliyah (he had been at Harvard for more than two decades). The article also quoted from Kugel's On Being a Jew, where Kugel said "in my experience it is the Zionists who return to America and only the tomato lovers who stay." Though Kugel's salad ingredient of choice is the tomato rather than the cucumber, he too recognizes the Jewish importance of excellent produce in the Holy Land.

It is true that no one makes aliyah because of fragrant cucumbers or delicious tomatoes, but Kugel is saying that unless a person enjoys the basic ingredients of life in Israel, the ever-present pull of life in America becomes harder and harder to

refuse. You would think that after 10 years in Israel, and certainly after 20, people would be immune from America's attractiveness. But reverse migration happens all the time, especially with people who made aliyah shortly after college. In fact, the longer you live in Israel the easier it is to take the trappings of the Jewish State for granted, and the harder it is to imagine what it means to live as a Jew in a culture dominated by another religion. This is where Israel's extraordinary produce comes into play. The extraordinary fruits and vegetables help make life in Israel pleasurable in a very tangible way. Accumulate enough of these tangible Israeli pleasures and this country might start really and truly to feel like home.

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# COMING EVENTS

## JULY BRUNCH TO HONOR DOVER MAN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

The community is invited to attend a special Sunday Brunch on July 10th at 11:30 a.m. at Congregation Beth Shalom in Dover. The event will honor congregant Mal Gelfo on the occasion of his 90th birthday. The cost is \$25 for adults, children under the age of 5 will be admitted free of charge. All food will be donated and ticket proceeds will help finance renovations to the synagogue, located at 340 North Queen Street. For additional information or to make reservations, please call 302-734-5578.

## SUMMER ISRAELI DANCE SESSIONS ANNOUNCED

The open Israeli dancing sessions are continuing in Wilmington, twice-monthly at both the Bernard and Ruth Seigel JCC and at the Arden Gild Hall. The sessions are led by Sharon Kleban and Howard Wachtel. Beginners are urged to attend the first hour; as during the second hour progressively harder dances are taught and/or danced.

Summer sessions at the JCC are: July 17 and August 7. They run from 3-5 p.m. and cost \$3 per session for JCC members, students and Albert Einstein Academy families; \$5 for others.

## FOLK DANCING ALL SUMMER LONG!

Arden Folk Gild dances continue the last Wednesday of the month, from 7:30 - 9:30 on July 27 and August 31. These are \$3.50 per session for Arden Club members, \$4 for non-members.

For more information, call (302) 475-3708.

## JFS OFFERS A FULL SUMMER OF PROGRAMMING

*Awakening Your Inner Spirit: A Weekly Workshop for Women*

This workshop - offered through JFS' Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center - is geared toward helping busy women discover, explore and expand their inner strength and talents through healthy, creative outlets.

To register, call (302) 478-9411. All sessions are held at the JFS offices, 101 Garden of Eden Road,

in Wilmington.

Fees are \$10.00 per session or \$35.00 for the entire four-part series.

Tuesday, July 5, 1:00-2:30 • Creative Journaling: NOT Your Basic Diary\*; Forget everything you thought you knew about journaling—get ready to roll up your creative sleeves and dive into the pool of possibilities! Are you a list-maker? A doodler? A daydreamer? A venter? A poet or songwriter? None of the above? Discover your own personal style and "write your life!"

Tuesday, July 12, 1:00-2:30 • Music & Movement; Awaken your spirit using natural rhythms and music. This unique session incorporates use of percussive instruments and relaxation exercises to connect with and develop inner harmony. Please wear walking shoes and comfortable clothing!

Tuesday, July 19, 1:00-2:30 • Creative Expressions: Everyone's an Artist\*; This session is an extension of the July 5 session, incorporating an artistic component and exercising the creative spirit. Participants will create a piece to represent their continuing spiritual journey!

Tuesday, July 26, 1:00-2:30 • Yoga; This program includes a 90-minute session of FLOW YOGA, with instructor Shirley Rigby. Please wear comfortable clothing!

## GRATZ OFFERS TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO GO TO BROADWAY

This summer ... Join members of the Delaware Gratz Auxiliary on their Wednesday, August 24th bus trip to New York City to see a matinee performance of the critically acclaimed "Jewtopia" at the Westside Theatre. Cost: \$75.00 includes theater, bus, and tip. Leave Wilmington from Brandywine Town Center @8:30 AM, return approximately 8:30 PM. Your check is your reservation. Make payable to DELAWARE GRATZ AUXILIARY, send to: Annette Chason, 400 Whitby Dr. Wilmington DE 19803.

For details, please call Annette at 479-0848.

This winter ... See The Odd Couple with the talented team of Nathan Lane and Michael Broderick. Join the waiting list for this Sunday, December 14th sold-out show or board the bus for a day in New York at a cost of just \$35 per seat. The bus will leave the Brandywine Town Center. For more information about this trip, please call Annette Chason at 479-0848, or email her at mannie5@aol.com.

## DELAWARE GRATZ GOES TO WASHINGTON

Travel to Washington, D.C. on Sunday, October 30th and see a performance of Shear Madness at the famed Kennedy Center. Just \$57.50 per person includes a guided tour of the Kennedy Center, a ticket to this award-winning, comedic interactive murder mystery, bus transportation and a tip. Lunch at the Kennedy Center cafeteria and dinner are on your own. Performance time is 3:30 p.m. Bus leaves the Brandywine Town Center at 9:00 a.m. and will return

at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Please make your check payable to Delaware Gratz Auxiliary and mail to Annette Chason, 400 Whitby Drive, Wilmington, DE 19803. For additional information, please call 479-0848 or email her at mannie5@aol.com

## JEWISH HISTORY MUSEUM SPONSORS FREE JULY PROGRAM

Learn how to care for, preserve and safeguard your family heirlooms and collectibles during a July 26th, 1 p.m. free program at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. Don Williams, a senior conservator at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and writer Louisa Jagger, authors of the new book "Saving Stuff", will talk about their book. Following their presentation, experts from America's oldest auction house, Freeman's in Philadelphia, will be available to provide appraisals of fine jewelry, furniture, decorative items, books and manuscripts. Conservators from Phila-

delphia's Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts will also be on hand to discuss how to preserve books, photographs, letters and other family heirlooms. For additional information, please call the Museum at 215-923-3811. The Museum is located at Independence Mall East, 55 North 5th Street in the same building as Congregation Mikveh Israel, one of America's oldest Sephardic synagogues.

## SURVIVORS SOUGHT FOR NATIONAL REGISTRY

The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, the umbrella organization for survivors in North America, is asking survivors and their descendants to please contact them by e-mail so that they can be added to the Ben and Vladka Meed registry at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and to the organization's email list. The organization promises not to sell any lists or to spam people. Contact AmGathTogether@aol.com.



## Reservations accepted for August trip to Holocaust Museum

The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware will sponsor its annual trip to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington on Thursday, August 4th. The program is designed for educators and clergy to assist them in teaching about the Holocaust and its consequences for our own society today.

A bus will pick up participants at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center at 7:30am, and will make a second pickup at the Delaware I-95 south-bound rest stop (bus area) at 7:55am. Accompanying the group will be Dr. Margaret Crouch, a Holocaust scholar, who will provide historical background, augmented by several videos. Participants will meet with staff of the Education Department of the Museum. Snacks will be provided, and lunch is available in the

Museum cafeteria. Cost for the day is \$30, and checks should be made out to the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee.

You may be interested in knowing that the Holocaust Education Committee is utilizing a grant from New Castle County to produce a professional DVD on Delaware survivors and liberators, and substantially increasing the holdings of the Resource Center at the Brandywine Hundred branch of the library on Foulk Road, as well as developing Delaware appropriate curricula.

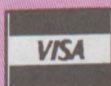
**Only a few seats remain on the bus so make your reservation as soon as possible!**

Should you have any questions, please call Sam Horowitz at the Federation office 427-2100, ext 30 or via email Samuel.horowitz@shalomdel.org

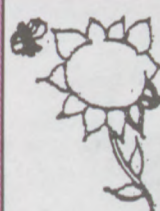
**On July 15th Adas Kodesch is having a picnic to commemorate the founding date of the synagogue 120 years ago. Entertainment starts at 6:15 p.m., Services at 7:00 p.m.; Picnic Dinner on the AKSE grounds at 8:00 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Adults: \$7.00; Children under 10 years of age \$4.00. RSVP to 302-762-2705.**

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based on financial need. No tuition forms are required as the grant is available to every new, first time student for the coming enrollment year.

The intent of this grant is to encourage first time students to be exposed to a wonderful AEA education. AEA has a long history of academic excel-

lence in a small, preparatory environment. Class sizes are limited to no more than fifteen students per teacher with a special emphasis on developing each child's own unique potential, both scholastically and spiritually.

### NEW HEAD of SCHOOL

The families, faculty and staff are thrilled that this grant coincides with the arrival of their new Head of School, Dr. Jack L. Sparks. Dr. Sparks is a graduate of Boston University and comes armed with a 25-year career in elementary education and Judaic studies.

### NEW CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

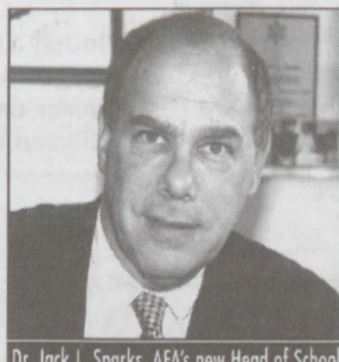
In addition to the new Head of School, Dr. Sparks, is the renovation of the campus facilities which were made possible through improvements made by the Community Capital Campaign

of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

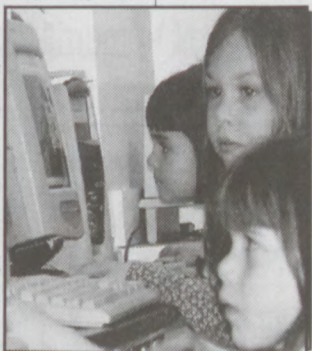
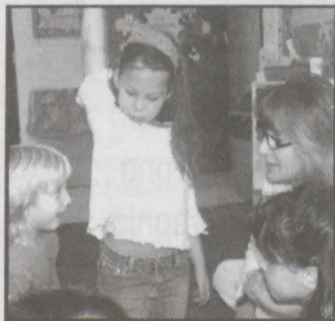
Come the Fall, students will enjoy new classrooms, multi-purpose room, expanded library and a new playground area.

To apply for enrollment and to take advantage of this literally "once in a lifetime offer", please call the Admissions Dept. at the Academy, 478-5026

x30. Applicants will be contacted for an informal admissions interview.



Dr. Jack L. Sparks, AEA's new Head of School



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