

The JEWISH VOICE

Jewish Historical Society De
505 Market Street
Wilmington DE 19801

Vol. 42, No. 15 3 Sivan, 5761 May 25, 2001 16 Pages
PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE, 100 WEST 10TH ST., SUITE 301, WILMINGTON, DE 19801-1628

Melton School To Open At JCC

By Marion Y. Hamermesh
Director
Delaware Melton School

For the past 15 years, in Jewish communities all over the United States as well as in Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia, 15,000 adults from all streams of Judaism and all walks of life have discovered and re-discovered the joys of studying and learning. They have gathered in a classroom or a library, at a JCC or a local synagogue in the evening or during the day and engaged in stimulating, thought provoking conversation about Jewish living and the texts which are the source material of our tradition. These adult learners - retirees ready to reflect on a life time of experience or making up for opportunities lost, young parents trying to keep up with their kids, religious school educators and community leaders re-charging their batteries, new Jews yearning to fill in the gaps in their experience

and born Jews who want to delve deeper into a tradition they've always taken for granted - have all been drawn to a Florence Melton Adult Mini-School in their community. They have all found a way to include a small amount of time in every week for the pursuit of Jewish literacy and self-knowledge.

And it's been worth it. The proof of their satisfaction with the school can be seen both in the demands for graduate course offerings that come from students whose appetites for learning have been whetted and by the continued growth of sites as they are pushed to make more and more sections of the classes available throughout the week.

Proof can be read in the words they write for their graduation booklet: "rewarding beyond my wildest expectations" (JD, MBA, father of two); "exhilarating... fulfilling... a pleasure" (Office manager, artist); "fascinating... a new sense of



Marion Hamermesh with Florence Melton, the School's founder.

The Mini-School curriculum encompasses the following courses:

First Year

The Purposes of Jewish Living. This course explores the meaning and purpose of life from a Jewish perspective. We present essential Jewish theological concepts as they unfold in the Bible, the Talmud and other sacred texts.

The Rhythms of Jewish Living

This course deals with the daily and cyclical Jewish experience. Students study the central ideas, beliefs and practices that define Jewish life.

Second Year (Completion of first year curriculum is a prerequisite for second year)

The Dramas of Jewish Living. This course looks at the dramatic developments, experiences and issues from different periods in Jewish history, as reflected in historical texts.

The Ethics of Jewish Living

This course addresses the relationship between Jewish life and ethical behavior. It presents a text-based approach to Jewish ethical foundations dealing with issues such as justice, life and death, sexuality and community.

comfort...Melton has inspired me to take up further study and reading" (BS, MA, community volunteer); "an incredible gift that I have given myself...when much of what I do is about giving to others" (BA, JD, I.M Wise, WUJS, Congregation board member)

And now, this School is coming to Delaware. Responding to feedback from its members and to the success of local congregational and community adult education programs, the board of the Jewish Community Center has identified adult education as one of several priorities for the Center for the near future. Consequently, they have decided to open a Florence Melton Adult Mini-School at the JCC this coming fall. The Melton School meets for 2 1/2 hours once a week for thirty weeks. After two years, students celebrate their graduation

and receive certificates of completion from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the School's sponsor.

As a two year, weekly program, the Melton School is meant to complement and support but not replace already existing programs. It is a unique opportunity for Jewish adults from all backgrounds to acquire Jewish literacy in an open, trans-denominational, intellectually stimulating learning environment. Connections between Jewish learning and Jewish living are revealed as students explore Jewish history, religion, ritual, language, ethics, philosophy, literature, theology and contemporary Jewish life in an informal setting which offers direct contact with primary sources, critical and reflective analysis and group interaction.

The orientation of the curriculum (see sidebar) has both theoretical and

practical implications. Its overall rubric for study is "learning for Jewish living," with the student's presumed life concerns serving as a point of reference for the subject matter. The lessons, presenting information in a descriptive rather than prescriptive manner and discussing the varied options offered by mainstream Judaism, are designed specifically to meet the educational needs of adults.

We are looking for sponsors, advisors, faculty, and students to participate in the Melton School. If you are ready for this journey, to open a book, your mind, your heart, please get in touch with us by phone at (302) 478-5660 ext. 207 or by e-mail at melton@jccdelaware.org. Join Florence Melton and thousands of adults around the world in the community of life long Jewish learners.

Mitchell report causes cracks in Israeli government

By David Landau

(JTA) -- The Mitchell Commission report on ongoing Israeli-Palestinian violence appears to be widening cracks in Israel's unity government, as well as in what has been the Israeli public's solid support for government policy.

The report calls for an immediate cease-fire followed by a cooling-off period and a series of confidence-building steps.

Among those steps is a call to halt all Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip,

including the "natural growth" of existing settlements.

Analysts parsed the words of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the leader of the Likud Party, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres -- leader of the Labor Party, which joined the unity government that Sharon formed following his election in February -- for signs of dissension.

The differences between the government's two principals are subtle, and could either be a question of nuance -- or could

represent more fundamental gaps.

Peres has said Israel will agree to a geographic settlement freeze -- that is, it will not expand settlements' boundaries -- but cannot freeze demographic growth within existing settlements.

Sharon, too, has insisted on the settlements' right to "natural growth," and pledged in comments on the Mitchell report Tuesday that Israel would not expropriate any more Palestinian land for the settlements. Some analysts, however, wondered if that meant

Israel might take land to blaze roads in the West Bank.

Opinion polls continue to reflect a high level of respect for Sharon. But at the same time, the polls indicate that most Israelis favor a halt to settlement construction -- and indeed a withdrawal from some settlements -- in exchange for a truce.

On Tuesday, Sharon called for a truce and a cooling-off period, after which the two sides could begin implementing the Mitchell Commission report.

"I propose to our neighbors to work together for an immediate cease-fire and hope the Palestinians will answer the call positively," Sharon told a news conference Tuesday.

Shortly after Sharon spoke, Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer issued a directive to cease firing on Palestinians, adding that Israeli troops should only open fire "when lives are endangered."



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COMMUNITY FOCUS

100-Square Community Quilt to Honor JCC's 100th Anniversary

**By Becky Rosen
Special to the Jewish Voice**

A creative quilt project is now underway to honor the Delaware JCC's 100th Anniversary — and to create a beautiful reminder of the interconnections of the "community" that the organization serves.

Each of the 100 squares will represent an organization or family that has a relationship with the JCC. This will certainly include the synagogues and all the Delaware Jewish organizations, as well as families whose lives have been touched by the JCC.

Families wishing to make a quilt square might consider representing themselves, adopting a specific aspect of the JCC in which they participate (Swim Team, Board of Directors, Recreational Services, etc.), or creating a square that reflects a Jewish holiday.

The quilt project is NOT a fundraiser it's just for fun! The only donations being sought are creative energy, time, and the materials necessary to make a 12 x 12 inch square. And those participating don't even have to be quilters to create a square. Techniques to create a square include fabric painting, appliqué, photo transfer, needlepoint, embroidery, beading, and of course traditional quilting. The possibilities are practically limitless.

Participants are encouraged to be creative, use lots of color, and imagine the quilt square on a blue background.

It's important that an organization or family take responsibility for making its individual quilt square. To facilitate making the quilt, a committee of "quilt consultants" has been assembled. Most committee members will be making a quilt square for their family or an organization to which they belong.

The committee is open to anyone who is interested, but members must be willing to take phone calls regarding the quilt project.

The completed quilt will go on display at the JCC beginning the weekend of October 12th, 13th, and 14th when the JCC officially celebrates the day in 1901 when Rosa Topkis invited friends into her home for the "parlor meeting" that led to the creation of the original JCC. So that the quilt can eventually be shared with the "community," it has been designed with 10-square sections that can be borrowed and displayed at other locations at a later time.

A Resource Book will accompany the quilt and will provide a legend to locate all the quilt squares. Additionally, each square will have its own page in the Resource Book to describe its location, the significance of its design, and those individuals who worked on it.

If you are interested in this community project, contact the JCC (478-5660), Becky Rosen (652-4472), or Lisa Driban (239-5246). Inquiring organizations and families will receive a complete packet of information that includes an "Intent to Enter" form, a Specifications sheet, a guide to providing Resource Book information, a list of prospective participants, and a committee list.

JCRC FOCUS

Israel/Mid-East News

**Report by Sue Shaffer
JCRC Director**

We mourn

The shooting of 19 year-old Sergeant, Danny Derai, a son of Arad, our P2K sister community. Danny had just left his outpost guarding Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem when he was shot and killed by a Palestinian sniper. He was walking the 200 yards to his regiment's camp when a shot rang out. As Danny was trying to dodge the bullets, a bullet punctured his flak jacket and pierced his heart. He was buried the

next day in the military cemetery in Arad, attended by thousands of people.

Action: If you would care to send a message of condolence to Danny's family in Arad, please send an appropriate e-mail message to the Delaware Federation c/o mail to: sue.shaffer@shalom.del.org and we will forward it to Arad.

We also mourn the tragic murder, an apparent bludgeoning of two Israeli teenage boys, one from College Park, Maryland. The bodies of Yossi Ishran

and Kobi Mandel were found in a cave about half a mile from the West Bank settlement of Tekoa. Kobi's family had immigrated to Israel in 1996, coming from Maryland where Kobi's father, a rabbi, had been Director of the University of Maryland Hillel. Charles R. Bronfman, Chairman of the Board of United Jewish Communities, stated that "We must continue to raise our voices to loudly deplore the cowardly use of violence, and to state in the strongest way possible our outrage that innocent citizens of Israel

continue to be targeted."
We express concern
For the families of the kidnapped and missing Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. These families are trying to get one million people around the world to sign an Internet petition to help free their sons.
Action: If you would like to 'sign' this petition, go to <http://www.mia.org.il/petition/> Thank you.
We encourage The President to keep his campaign promise
(Continued on page 4)



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Bear, DE 19701
Phone: 836-9745

New Hope for People with Macular Degeneration

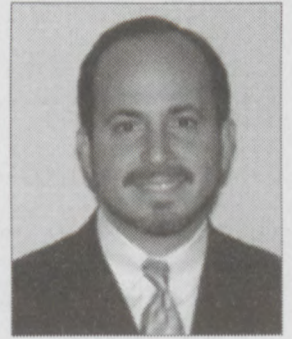
- Why early diagnosis is important
- New treatment may lessen vision loss associated with macular degeneration


Dr. Harry Lebowitz of Delaware Ophthalmology Consultants is among the first in Delaware to offer Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) to patients with macular degeneration, the leading cause of central vision loss in adults over 50 years of age in the United States.

"This new approach in macular degeneration may give new hope to patients whose condition previously would have progressed to blindness"

— Dr. Lebowitz

Harry A. Lebowitz, M.D. is a past chairman of the department of ophthalmology for the Christiana Care Health System and Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Temple University School of Medicine. His areas of expertise include diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the retina and vitreous, especially diabetes and macular degeneration, as well as no needle/no stitch cataract surgery.





Delaware Ophthalmology Consultants

Concord Plaza - Naaman's Building
3501 Silverstone Rd • Wilmington, DE
302-479-3937 (EYES)

Limestone Medical Center-Suite 217
1941 Limestone Rd • Wilmington, DE
302-633-6200

EDITORIAL

A Return To Sinai

SHAVUOT dawns. It is a time to celebrate G-d's gift of Torah to the Jewish people. These five books are revered as a tree of life—the very anchor of our Judeo-Christian culture.

Throughout the history of our people, Jews have seized Shavuot as an opportunity to spend the night in synagogue studying and debating the meaning of these precious parables of wisdom.

Most emerge from these spirited Torahthons tired, yet inspired. Often, we are amazed by the eternal truth of the life lessons gleaned from these ancient texts.

By reading the stories of our patriarchs and

patriarchs, we feel spiritually connected to the land and people of Israel. This Fall, you can make a physical connection! Return to the land where the Torah was revealed as a participant on the Jewish Federation of Delaware's upcoming Mission to Israel. Reiko and Barry Kayne will chair this eight-day odyssey to the land of milk and honey, October 20-28.

Walk in the footsteps of Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Sara, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. Return to Sinai and experience first-hand this special place which then and now, Jews call home.

Call JFD at 427-2100 for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM CONSUL GENERAL GIORA BECHER

During the past month, a barrage of Palestinian mortar fire on Netzer Hazani wounded five teenagers at a youth club, a Netanya man was murdered in a terrorist drive-by shooting near Wadi Ara, and a Romanian laborer (mistaken for a Jew) was stabbed by a Palestinian man as the two traveled in the same taxi. And recently, terrorist bombs were detonated in Sha'arei Tikva and near an Israeli school bus in Samaria, mortar shells were fired into Kfar Darom, and two additional explosive devices were discovered in Netanya – not to mention the approximately 20 shooting incidents occurring every single day.

The current situation is clearly untenable and cannot continue.

Regrettably, the Palestinian Authority still refuses to comply with its obligation – undertaken in signed agreements with Israel – to prevent terrorist activity against Israel, despite Yasser Arafat's repeated promises to take decisive action to this effect.

This reality has left Israel with no other choice, but to take such preventative steps on its own, in keeping with its foremost responsibility under international law, to guarantee the safety of its citizens. At the same time, Israel has taken every reasonable precaution to ensure that these counter-terrorist operations are limited in scope and duration, in order not to further escalate an already dangerous situation or to harm civilians uninvolved in the terrorism.

The State of Israel will not negotiate under fire, and has explicitly clarified that there must be a complete and sustained cessation of all forms of Palestinian terrorism and violence before negotiations can resume.

The Government of Israel and the Prime Minister, personally, are fully committed to peace and stability and have, accordingly, refrained from rejecting the Egyptian-Jordanian initiative outright, this despite the fact that the proposal does not give weight to the Jordanians this week, to wit, Israel will not consent to any diplomatic concessions within the framework of discussions whose

explicit purpose is to end the violence and terror.

Israel values all efforts being invested in order to bring an end to the crisis, but will not compromise its position that negotiations and political settlements cannot be considered until calm has been restored.

At the same time, Israel continues to draw a clear distinction between the civilian population in the areas under Palestinian Authority responsibility, and those individuals who are engaged in terrorism. Israel has taken substantive measures to ease living conditions for the civilian public, regardless of the ongoing violence instigated by members of the Palestinian Authority security apparatus and of the Palestinian terrorist organizations.

To this end, 15,000 work permits have already been issued to Palestinians seeking employment in Israel. Roads have been opened throughout Judea, Samaria and Gaza, as have international crossings to Egypt and Jordan, and controls on the export and import of merchandise have also been relaxed.

Again, Israel will continue to make efforts toward facilitating normalcy for the civilian population, while taking over-riding security concerns into consideration, while simultaneously waging an uncompromising struggle against the perpetrators of terrorism – which represents the greatest threat to regional peace and stability. The State of Israel will not be held hostage by the barrel of a gun and will enter into negotiations with the Palestinians only when terrorist actions against Israelis comes to a total halt.

The State of Israel attaches supreme importance to the search for peace and stability in the Middle East, and will persist in its efforts to achieve these objectives for the benefit of all the peoples in the area.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to cooperating closely with you toward the above goals.

(Giora Becher serves as Consul General of Israel for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the U.S.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I read with dismay another very liberal piece in the April 13 Jewish Voice, E.E. Jaffe's "President Bush's Tax Bill and the Country's Urgent Needs". Never mind that the piece reads like a Democratic propaganda sheet, filled with opinions that represent only one side of the issue. Responding to Jaffe's comments is not the intent here. Rather, as is almost always the case, there is no piece which offers another opposite, more conservative perspective in The Jewish Voice. For sure, there is another opinion to be offered: millions of Conservatives and Moderates (including countless economists) welcome the plan that Bush has suggested as tax relief.

As a member of Delaware's Jewish community for 25 years, I have been most disappointed that The Jewish Voice offers its readership an almost exclusively liberal perspective to issues that affect Jews. I understand that the majority of Jews vote Democratic (a very misguided and uninformed vote, in my opinion), but as far as I know, Judaism does not profess to take a political stand on issues. Quite clearly, the majority of Jews in Israel have swung to the right after the ineffective leadership of Mr. Barak. Why then must the Jewish Voice provide only a single perspective to the Jewish population of Delaware?

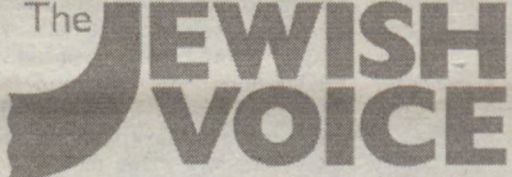
Some of my liberal Jewish friends explain this by stating that liberals stand for equal rights, helping the poor and minorities, and standing behind the "disenfranchised" in America. I could not disagree more; in my opinion, liberals are often enablers, encouraging the less fortunate to remain dependent upon government handouts, and discouraging upward mobility. Most political conserva-

tives I know are kindly, dedicated people who go out of their way to do volunteer work, give to charities and help encourage equality among all Americans. The goals are generally the same, but the routes to achieving them are different. Unfortunately, most of the pieces appearing in the Jewish Voice consider the liberal/conservative dichotomy to be good vs. evil, giving vs. greedy, selfless vs. selfish.

A newspaper which informs the Jewish population of Delaware should not be so one-sided in its presentation of issues. After all, you are the ONLY local Jewish paper available, and it is imperative that you present both sides of the issues fairly and accurately. You clearly are not providing this service at present to the Jewish population of Delaware.

Sincerely,
Laurence S. Kalkstein
Newark, DE

Editor's Note: The Jewish Voice is the newspaper of record for the Jewish community of Delaware. To this end, we strive to create a publication that respects the diverse voices of its readership. Matter of Opinion pieces express the individual viewpoint of the author and do not necessarily reflect the sentiments of our editor, editorial board or publisher's representative, Judy Wortman, executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. We invite all readers, regardless of political affiliation, to submit their perspectives on news making issues and developments or to rebut an article or oped piece that has appeared in this publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.



Published semimonthly, and monthly in July and August, by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

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Member of the American Jewish Press Association and Jewish Telegraphic Agency.
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Periodicals postage paid for The Jewish Voice (USPS-704160) at Wilmington, Delaware.
 Subscription price: \$18.00. Circulation: 3,200. Mailed to subscribers and contributors to the Jewish Federation of Delaware. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Jewish Voice, 100 W. 10th St., Wilmington, DE 19801. (302) 427-2100. The FAX number of The Jewish Voice is (302) 427-2438. E-Mail: lynn.edelman@shalomdel.org



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for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice

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12 NOON THURSDAY EIGHT DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION

Dry Bones



FEDERATION FOCUS

Federation 101

By John Elzufon

As Federation President, the two questions I am asked most are: (1) just what does the JFD do (besides raise money) and (2) what happens to the money I send to Federation? Here are my answers.

"Just what does Federation do?"

The Jewish Federation of Delaware is the planning, fundraising and community relations organization for Delaware's Jewish community. Everyone is generally familiar with the annual campaign fundraising aspects of Federation as, at one time or another, all or virtually all families are contacted for contributions to the annual Federation campaign. How these monies are allocated is discussed later.

As the planning arm of Delaware's Jewish community, the Federation oversees the functioning of its agencies (Albert Einstein Academy, Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, Hillel at the University of Delaware, Milton & Hattie Kutz Home) and develops plans to enable these agencies to meet future service needs. To assist in this effort, the JFD undertook a detailed study of Delaware's Jewish population. The study and subsequent needs assessment were commissioned to determine the characteristics of Delaware's Jewish Community and its service needs. Based on that information, the Federation is working with its constituent agencies to expand its operations in the Newark/Hockessin/Bear area. Outreach programs by the Jewish Community Center and Jewish Family Service have already begun in Newark.

In addition, Federation has undertaken a thorough review of the capital needs of the community. This assessment is critical as the infrastructure of the Federation property on the Garden of Eden Road is 30 years old and the off-campus facilities also require some modifications.

The Jewish Federation of

Delaware is also part of United Jewish Communities—a national network of Jewish Federations throughout North America. Allow me to share with you two examples of the benefits derived from our membership in UJC:

22% of the Jewish population of this country are elderly—twice the national average! Clearly, if we are going to "honor your father and your mother" then we have an obligation to see that all elderly Jews, whether in this country or elsewhere, do not go to bed hungry and are able to live their lives in dignity. Domestically, agencies providing services to the elderly are finding it more and more difficult to deal with the Federal government and insurance companies cutbacks. Each individual federation, acting on behalf of its own elderly, will not have nearly the impact as a coordinated effort on a national basis. As a national organization, UJC can mount this coordinated effort. Furthermore in recognition of the need to share resources and minimize duplication, UJC recently convened a meeting of all of the various agencies—both Jewish and non-Jewish—who serve the elderly. 189 separately acting federations could not possibly take advantage of this economy of scale.

Those who were involved in the efforts to free Soviet Jewry recognize the power of a national coordinated effort. Council of Jewish Federations, the forerunner of United Jewish Communities, demonstrated the strength of numbers—enabling many thousands of refuseniks to begin new lives in countries of freedom.

The problem with describing non-fundraising Federation activities is that JFD does so much that this entire article could be devoted to just that issue. However, and without meaning to ascribe a lesser role to its other functions, Federation also publishes this newspaper, educates our elected officials on issues important to Israel and the Jewish Community and responds to editori-

als and press unfairly depicting Israel and/or the Jewish community (the Jewish Community Relations Committee), educates the community at large about the Holocaust and recruits and develops volunteer leadership.

Fundraising efforts are not limited to the annual campaign. To provide for future community growth the Jewish Fund for the Future (JFF) works with donors and their advisors to match their goals, interests, and planned giving needs with those of the community.

"What happens to the money that I send to Federation?"

The short answer to this question is that approximately 2/3 of the money stays in Delaware and 1/3 is sent overseas.

Those monies that stay in Delaware are allocated among the six federation constituent agencies (Albert Einstein Academy, Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, Hillel at the University of Delaware, Milton & Hattie Kutz Home) and fund Federation activities described earlier.

Most people I talk to have a sense of how these agencies function. So, given space limitations, this article will focus on the usually less understood overseas allocation.

None of the overseas programs that the Jewish Federation of Delaware supports are political in nature. First of all, as a tax-exempt organization, we are prohibited from taking positions on political issues. Secondly, it simply would make no sense to do that. The political views of the Jewish population of Delaware (and the country as a whole) span from the far right to the far left. To adopt a position in favor of one political stance or another would alienate a group of Jews, which makes no sense to an organization which seeks to raise funds from the entire Delaware Jewish community. To be sure, each of us have his/her own opinion, but as an organization, we are and must be apolitical.

This also applies to the government of Israel. No money that is sent overseas goes to support any political party in Israel. Furthermore, none of the money that goes overseas is allocated for the Israeli government. Our overseas dollars support humanitarian and social service programs which sustain Israel's people regardless of political or religious affiliation. Again, perhaps some examples will be instructive.

Some of the money goes to our partnership efforts with the Israeli communities of Arad and Tamar. These funds support a conservatory program for talented young musicians, a thriving date farm and an absorption center for new immigrants.

Other funding that goes overseas does not go directly to the community in Arad, but is co-mingled with other federations' money for use in national overseas programs. For example, since Operation Solomon, 80,000 Ethiopian Jews have been relocated to Israel. Israel is the only country in the world that has had to deal with a mass immigration of an African community. The cultural differences between the Ethiopian community and Israeli-Jewish community are extreme. A concerted, long-term effort is essential for Ethiopian Jews to bridge the gap and fully acclimate.

Furthermore, there are 26,000 Ethiopian Jews who wish to immigrate to Israel and who have been accepted by the government. At the present rate of \$400.00 per month, it will take five years for them to transition into Israel and it will take years after that to be integrated into Israeli society. Only a national correlated effort can accomplish this.

The exodus continues for thousands of Russian Jews who must be integrated into a new society and a new land. It is worth remembering that since Russian Jews began coming to Israel, Israel's émigré population has swelled to 1.5 million in a country of only 5 million people! To put things in perspective, the chal-

lenges that Israel faces in absorbing Jews from the former Soviet Union would be the equivalent of the United States having to absorb the entire population of France. Dollars allocated for overseas use help Israeli social agencies deal with the problems of integration of both the Russian and Ethiopian Jews into Israeli society. The Israeli government simply does not have the capability of doing it on its own. This was the case before the security situation in Israel deteriorated. It is even more so now.

Not all overseas monies go to Israel. There are over a million Jews in the former Soviet Union who, due to age, infirmity or other personal reasons, will never leave their homeland. Many of these elderly Jews live in desperate poverty. They receive a pension that is only \$20.00 per month of which \$15.00 is usually allocated to rent. Thus, without another source of income, these men and women would be forced to survive on only \$5.00 a month.

Part of the overseas allocation goes to an organization called the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The JDC arranges for food and medicine to be delivered to these elderly shut-in Jews. JDC dollars help pay for someone to clean and maintain their small apartments so that these largely housebound elderly Jews can uphold their sense of dignity and self-worth.

In conclusion, I will ask and answer a question of my own. **Is the \$1.7 million dollars that we raise annually enough for a community our size?** The answer to that is a resounding no. To maintain our commitment to Jews in need here at home and overseas requires at least a \$2 million annual campaign. Those of us active in Federation have been striving for years to reach this goal. This figure is more than a mere number. This is the minimum amount of what is needed to provide social and educational programs for Jews of all ages in Delaware, and Israel, and abroad.

Israel/Mid-East News (continued from page 2)

To relocate the American Embassy to Jerusalem. May 31st is the deadline for President Bush's decision to make good on this campaign promise. This decision comes up every 6 months. The President can either give the order or defer it by 6 more months.

Action: Please call the White House at (202) 456-1111 or (202) 456-1414 and voice your opinion about this issue. It is important that as many calls as possible reach the White House before May 31st.

We share messages of condemnation on the Syrian President's anti-Semitic remarks

Representatives from major national and international Jewish groups are outraged by Assad's remarks during the recent Papal visit to Syria:

JCPA (Jewish Council on Public Affairs) Chair, Leonard Cole said: "Assad's hateful comments revive the slanderous accusation of Jewish responsibility for the death of Jesus."

ADL (The Anti-Defamation

League) labeled the President of Syria's remarks "poisonous accusations" against Jews, and "outrageous and a new low even for the tyrannical Syrian regime." ADL called upon the international community and religious leaders around the world to "not remain silent in the face of such anti-Jewish incitement."

B'nai B'rith International leaders called for "a prompt rebuttal of the Syrian incitement by the Vatican," stating that "only such action can make clear—especially in the Middle East—the Church's utter dismissal of these provocations."

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the nation's largest mainstream Orthodox Jewish organization, also expressed "outrage" over Assad's remarks, stating "The vicious accusations proclaiming that Jews are responsible for the death of Jesus and for the attempt to kill Mohammed completely undermine the spirit of reconciliation in which this

visit by Pope John Paul II was made. President Assad's repugnant remarks are more than just rhetoric, they unfortunately foment hatred of Israel and the Jewish people and destroy any hopes for peacemaking or for the harmony and reconciliation that the Pope described."

We relay a statement made by the Israel Foreign Ministry Spokesman

"We hope that His Holiness will find the appropriate opportunity, while he is still in Syria, to express his renunciation of this hateful slander. It is hardly necessary to add that these words on the part of the Syrian president do not contribute to the message of trust, mutual esteem and good will that the Pope is hoping his visit will bring to the region."

We convey a message from Msgr. Stern of Catholic Near East Welfare Association

When Pope John Paul II arrived in Syria on May 5, there was a Welcome

Ceremony for him at the Damascus International Airport. Although the highly political and anti-Semitic remarks of the Syrian president have received wide-spread attention, and the Pope has been strongly criticized for his "silence," according to a recent report, the Pope did speak on that occasion. Apparently, it is the media that has kept silent. The Pope's counterpoint to Assad's words included the following:

"We all know that real peace can only be achieved if there is a new attitude of understanding and respect between the peoples of the region, between the followers of the three Abrahamic religions. Step by step, with vision and courage, the political and religious leaders of the region must create the conditions for the development that their peoples have a right to, after so much suffering. Among these conditions, it is important that there be an evolution in the way peoples of the region see one another, and that every

level of society the principles of peaceful coexistence be taught and promoted. In this sense, my pilgrimage is also an ardent prayer of hope: hope that among the peoples of the region fear will turn to trust; and contempt to mutual esteem; that force will give way to dialogue; and that a genuine desire to serve the common good will prevail."

And we share words from a recent teleconference with Mayor Ehud Olmert, Mayor of Jerusalem — "We are trying to reduce violence in Israel and to convince the Palestinians that violence is not in their best interests."

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ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE

Where There's A Will, There's A Way



(Part 3 of 3)
By: **Jordon Rosen, CPA**

In the previous two articles we discussed how a direct bequest of assets to a charitable organization such as stocks, bonds and real estate benefit both the donor and donee. We also looked at bequests of insurance policies and split-interest trusts.

But let's not forget that the largest asset for many individuals is their employer retirement plan or IRA. These funds have the potential to cause both a federal income tax and estate tax problem. Unless these assets have been transferred to a Roth IRA, the value of the plan assets not only become part of your taxable

estate, but will also be subject to income tax when distributed to your beneficiaries (eating up as much as 70% of the value!). With estate tax rates as high as 55% and income tax rates as high as 39.6%, it may make sense to name a charitable organization as the beneficiary of all or part of your retirement plan or IRA.

When we begin participation in our employer's plan or set up an IRA account we are asked to name a beneficiary who would receive any remaining funds in the account at our death. We then give little or no further thought to the subject.

At age 59 - or at retirement most individuals begin taking distributions from their retirement accounts. By law, required minimum distributions generally must begin no later than the April 1 of the year following the

year you turn 70 - (you can put off these distributions from your employer's qualified plan if you work beyond 70). Under prior regulations a designated beneficiary had to be named prior to this April 1 deadline. Many individuals, for example, would name their spouse as beneficiary and begin taking distributions over their computed joint life expectancy. Their children or grandchildren would be the contingent beneficiaries after the second death. Naming a charitable organization as one of the beneficiaries of the account, however, caused a problem in that a charitable organization does not have a life expectancy. At the account holder's death, the IRA or employer pension account would generally have to be distributed over a relatively short period of time, causing all non-charitable beneficiar-

ies to incur large unexpected income tax liabilities upfront, rather than being able to spread the distributions over a longer period.

Newly published regulations now make it easier for individuals to name both an individual and a charity as beneficiaries of their qualified plan asset account without being subject to potentially short payout periods after their death. These new regulations are effective in 2002 but can be applied in 2001, providing significant opportunity for many individuals to revisit their choice of beneficiaries.

Naming an organization such as Jewish Federation of Delaware or one of its agencies as a beneficiary of your IRA or employer qualified plan would cause the value of the bequest to avoid both estate taxes

and income taxes. Qualified Roth IRA accounts would only avoid the estate tax since they already would be exempt from income tax.

There are a variety of planned charitable giving techniques to choose from which can fulfill your philanthropic desires while providing significant tax and financial benefits to you and the charity. Rachel A. Gross, Esq., Endowment Director at the Jewish Fund for the Future, can explain any of these gift giving opportunities available to you. Please call her at (302) 427-2100 ext. 19.

The author, Jordon Rosen, is a principal at the Wilmington CPA firm of Belfint, Lyons & Shuman, P.A., specializing in income and estate planning. He is also a board member of the Wilmington JCC.

Modern Messages from Megillat Ruth

by **Rachel A. Gross, Esq.**
Endowment Director

Megillat Ruth, the Book of Ruth, which is read on the holiday of Shavuot, demonstrates some of the *mitzvot* specific to the harvest. These same *mitzvot* result in the doing or giving of *tzedakah*.

In the story, our heroine, Ruth, takes from the "gleanings" of the field to help feed herself and her mother-in-law Naomi, both widows. In the recounting of Ruth's work in the field

we learn that a farmer is commanded not to harvest all of his crops but must leave the corners of the fields unharvested. The corners were left so that the poor could harvest the remaining grain for themselves. In addition to the corners, the farmer is also instructed that any grain that falls from the cart onto which the harvest is being gathered must also be left for the poor and needy.

The farmer worried about rain and wind, insects, drought and cold

and engaged in backbreaking labor throughout the season to ensure that his entire crop would be healthy. Even when his work went well and he was rewarded with beautiful and bountiful crops, he was commanded that these crops did not belong solely to him.

We no longer live in an agrarian based society and most of us are not farmers. What do each of us "harvest" throughout the year? What is our responsibility to others? How will we

meet these responsibilities? How can we ensure that we leave enough for the poor, the widow, and the needy? One way is by giving *tzedakah* each year, throughout the year. Another way we can provide for those who have less than we do is by making an endowment gift which will continue to give to those in need - forever.

Who knows how your *tzedakah* will be rewarded? Naomi went to glean in a field owned by Boaz. Boaz saw Ruth working in his fields. Boaz

was so impressed by her work ethic and her devotion to her mother-in-law, that he eventually married her. Ruth, a Jew-by-choice (she was a Moabite woman who converted to Judaism when she married Naomi's son, her first husband), was the great grandmother of King David.

Call Rachel A. Gross, our endowment director, at 427-2100 ext. 19 for a confidential no-obligation consultation about planned giving and our community.

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ISRAEL FOCUS

Back To The Holy Temple On Shavuot

By Nechemia Meyers

People go to Neot Kedumim, an innovative educational center near Ben-Gurion Airport, to learn about the connection between the Bible on the one hand, and the flora and fauna of Israel on the other. But Tuesday, being Shavuot, they will enjoy a special treat: an opportunity to re-enact the colorful ceremony that took place on Shavuot at the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

They will be invited to dress up in white robes and to offer a selection of first fruits (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olive oil and date honey) to a member of their party playing the role of the High

Priest in the Temple. Christian guests frequently participate in this re-enactment as well, even though their own parallel holiday, Pentecost, is not a harvest festival but a commemoration of the coming of the Holy Ghost to Jesus' disciples 50 days after Jesus died.

Neot Kedumim, which hosted 150,000 visitors per year before the Intifada decimated tourism, has its origins in the work of Dr. Ephraim and Hannah Hareveni, who, in the 20s, created a Museum of Biblical and Talmudic Botany at the Hebrew University on Jerusalem's Mount Scopus. Later, when Mount Scopus was cut off from the rest of Israel in 1948, their son Nogah began looking for another venue, one where there would not only be biblical plants but also a full-scale biblical landscape.

Thanks to his unflagging persistence and the support of influential personalities - among them David Ben-Gurion, Knesset Speaker Kaddish Luz and former President Yitzhak Navon - a 625-acre area was set aside for the project by the Israel Land Authority in 1965. However, the area was rocky and utterly barren so that tons of soil had to be brought in and row upon row of terraces built before it was possible to plant trees and shrubs, of which there are some 250,000 today. Wandering through all this greenery are sheep, goats, cows and, of late, deer.

An unexpected bonus came some years ago with the discovery of a number of fascinating archaeological sites at Neot Kedumim. Finds include both a 4th century Byzantine church and a Second Temple Jewish village. The latter was clearly inhab-

ited during the period of the Bar Kochba revolt against the Romans in the second century CE, for found at the site were both Bar Kochba coins and a series of underground tunnels presumably prepared for use by the villagers should they be forced to hide from attacking Roman soldiers.

While visitors can take self-guided tours if they so desire, Neot Kedumim also offers structured educational programs devoted to such subjects as Ecology in the Bible, Daily Life in Biblical Times, Water Problems in the Land of the Bible and Israel's Prophets - Voices of Their Environment. Such programs are available in English, Russian, French, German, Italian and Spanish. But due to the recent paucity of tourists, the language most commonly heard today is Hebrew.

There are many groups of schoolchildren, albeit fewer than last year because the latest Intifada has made many parents fearful of sending their offspring on outings, no matter how educational. Also worthy of mention are the many black-garbed yeshiva students who come for a visit. Their studies have introduced them to the names of plants and trees mentioned in the Bible and Talmud, but only at Neot Kedumim do they learn what the flora actually looks like and how it grows.

Neot Kedumim Director Helen Frenkley, an immigrant from the

U.S., is enthusiastic about the role it plays in showing the strong links between Judaism and the ecology of Israel. She is worried, however, about its future. "The \$3.5m. per year required to run this place," Frenkley notes, "has hitherto come in roughly equal parts from the Israel Government and from entrance fees. Now the Government is cutting back on its allocations to cultural bodies and income from visitors is way down. So ensuring the future of this fine institution has become a nerve-racking task."

A Biblical Meal

Even Neot Kedumim's buffet meals are strictly biblical. Only foods that were available in this part of the world 2000 years ago are served, which means, for example, that there are no tomatoes, potatoes or

corn on the menu. Moreover, every item on the serving table has an appropriate quotation in front of it. The following are typical:

"Salad - "Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened ox where there is hatred." Proverbs 15:17

"Pittot - "To bring forth bread from the earth." Psalms 104:14

"Olive oil - "A land of olive oil." Deuteronomy 8:8

"Yoghurt flavored with date honey - "A land flowing with milk and honey." Exodus 3:8.

For more information about Neot Hakikar, please write to P.O. Box 1007, Lod, 71110, Israel. The institution's e-mail address is gen_info@neot-kedumim.org.il. Its web site is www.neot-kedumim.org.il.



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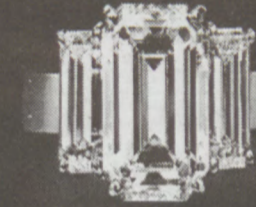
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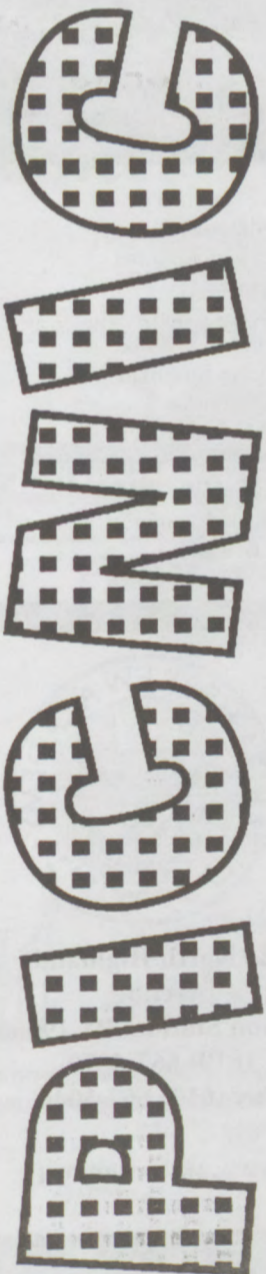
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Stefanie Makar and Kareen Preble have been selected as the recipients of the Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship awards for 2001. Given annually, these stipends assist young people participating in a summer program of Jewish study or enrichment.

Stefanie, daughter of Ron Makar and Mollie Epstein Makar, is in the 11th grade at Concord High School. She will participate in the Ramah Seminar in Israel and Poland. Kareen, an 8th grader at Hanby Middle School, will attend the YMHA Summer Camp in New Jersey. Her parents are Michal and John Preble.

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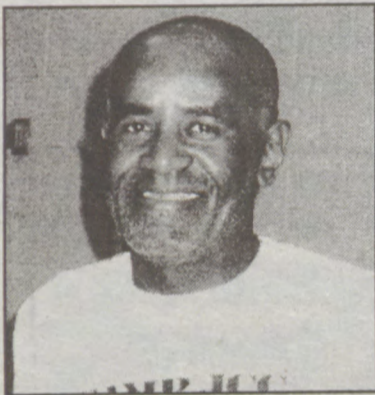
OUR WEDDING AND SIMCHA ISSUE JUNE 15

DEAD-LINE JUNE 7



COMMUNITY FOCUS

JCC Hoops Campers Learn From All-Star Coach



Coach Jim Realer

By Joel F. Glazier

Among the offerings at Camp JCC's Maccabi Camp Program is Realer Basketball. Campers entering grades 2-6 this summer have an opportunity to work on basketball fundamentals with returning counselor/coach, Jim Realer, who is happy to be back at Camp JCC for

his sixth summer. However, this year, Coach Realer is coming off his coaching of the successful Delaware Blue Hens All Star Boy's Basketball Team. Being named the All-Star Coach was a highlight of his 28 years of school basketball coaching.

Coming from working with some of the best high school boy basketball players in the state to younger players is an easy transition, commented Realer who also teaches at Dickinson High School. "Teaching is my life, and that is exactly what I do with all kids who have an interest in basketball. The younger kids at camp are actually more attentive, have more energy and the two weeks I work with JCC campers energizes me," Coach Realer added.

The two week Maccabi Camp program is a great vehicle for beginners who are hungry to learn the game of basketball, pointed out Coach Realer, who is a native of

Darby, PA. He has worked with Philadelphia Jewish League legends like Hal Blittman and Harry Litwak. "I also enjoy the repeat campers with whom I have apparently made an impression." The Maccabi Camp Program offers several intensive sports mini-camps within the regular camp day. "I always wish for another week after the two-week basketball program is over, but the kids have a chance to do other special camps," Realer shared.

Realer spent 15 years working at Wilmington Parks and Recreation summer basketball camps. After a couple of summers off, he needed to be re-energized and is glad he is now associated with Wilmington's Camp JCC. "Everything at JCC is great—the kids, the attitudes, the personalities, as well as the staff. Besides it is fun and a nice place to work," Realer added.

"I have recommended this camp to many other friends." (High praise

from a man who has played with the legendary Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain.) Now, after five years, I often run into former campers when I travel to area schools coaching my own Dickinson High boys.

Realer Basketball is held during

weeks 5 and 6 of Camp JCC's Summer program. More information is available about Camp JCC and its Maccabi Camp Program by calling 477-5660 or by visiting their website at <http://www.jccdelaware.org>.

Lights, Camera, Action

Be a part of the Delaware JCC's 100th Anniversary Yearbook. Have your photo taken by professional photographer Elisa Komins Morris and select which photo will be included in the yearbook which will be distributed at the JCC's 100th Anniversary Weekend in October.

Photo shoot dates are Friday, June 8, Sunday, June 10, Friday,

June 22 and Sunday, June 24. Times are 1:00 to 5:45 p.m. on Fridays or 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. To schedule an appointment for a Friday shoot, call Robyn Greenberg at (302) 478-5660, ext 228. Sunday shoots can be scheduled by calling Annette Aerenson at (302) 764-1844. All photos will be taken at the JCC.

Volunteers Enjoy Creative Way To Help

Jewish Family Service needs volunteers for its Mitzvah Basket program. Join friends and neighbors for a creative few hours decorating baskets created for special community events.

Mitzvah Baskets is a fundraising program that benefits Jewish Family

Service and the community it serves. These decorative baskets may be used as table centerpieces or to adorn the bimah during bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings, engagement parties and other simchas.

These baskets provide more than visual appeal. They represent the

spirit of tzedakah as every rental helps those in need throughout the community, said Sima Robbins of JFS.

The baskets are generally decorated during daytime hours. To participate in this program, please call Morissa Sher, volunteer coordinator, at (302) 478-9411, ext. 16.

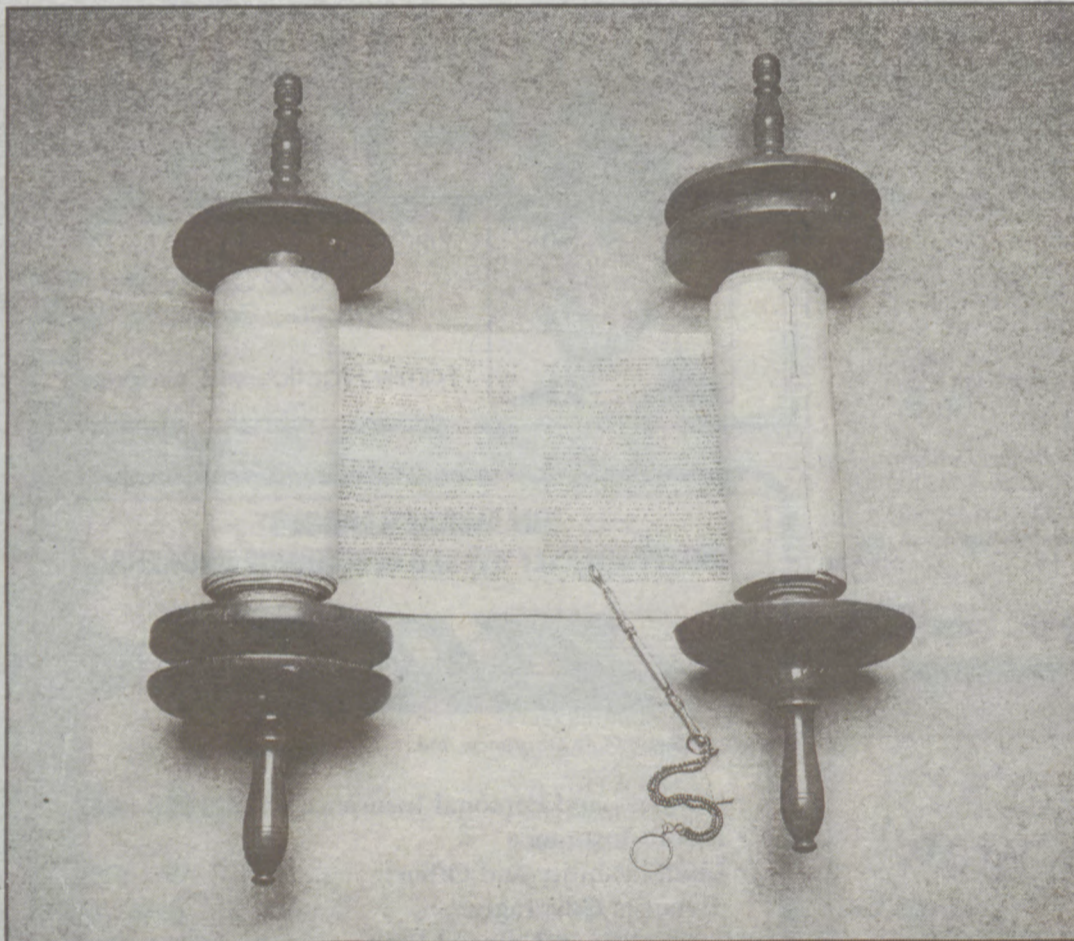
Einstein Students Honor Jewish Vets

Students at Albert Einstein Academy recently joined the greater Wilmington community in honoring United States Jewish War Veterans. In preparation for Memorial Day, the students participated in a graveside ceremony which included a flag salute to the many Jewish men and women who served their nation during wartime.

"Albert Einstein Academy embraces ceremonies like these as

opportunities to enhance the education of our students," said Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, Head of School.

The school, a constituent of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, serves students from pre-kindergarten through 6th grade in New Castle County, Delaware and in Chester and Delaware Counties in Pennsylvania. For more information about school programs, call 478-5026.



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JEWISH LIFESTYLES

Israeli Artist on Display at DCCA

by Paula Shulak

The Delaware Center for Contemporary Art currently has on display a lovely exhibit of lamps designed by Ayala Serfaty, an Israeli artist, whose fame is international. The Draper Showcase contains just a few of her many nature inspired creations but they are enough to give us a glimpse of her unique talent and to make us want to see more. A sabra who studied at Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy of Art as well as London's Middlesex Polytechnic, Serfaty began her career in the early 1990's. She began in the theater making props and sets, but when in 1992 she received a commission from an advertising agency to design a "crazy armchair", she was on her way to fame and fortune. Her muse is natural shapes and objects and the lamps on display at DCCA clearly show her skill in mimicking

plant forms, sea creatures, flowers and even insects in her designs. She uses crushed Indian silk and overlays it on steel structures to create the most whimsical yet practical works of art. She is a champion of organic design and has been described by critics as one who is "into the best and most intriguing territory and she is at full flow."

Serfaty received her initial inspiration for her designs when she was pregnant and she and her husband vacationed in Sinai and visited the Red Sea. While snorkeling, she was inspired by the sea life and visions of her lamps broke into her consciousness. She emerged, borrowed crayons from a friend's child and sketched the first designs for her Aqua Creations, of which the DCCA exhibits are an example. The pieces are simple yet luxurious and are but a sample of her tremendous creativity. She is now working on other types of furnish-

ings using felt and suede for richness and she has also invented a new type of hammock which hangs from the wall to the floor and swings laterally the way you would rock a baby. Unfortunately we can see only her lamps at DCCA but Ayala Serfaty is a name that you can look for in the future. If you go to Eilat, for instance, be sure to visit the Red Sea Star underwater restaurant where she has transformed a cold rectangular space into a warm haven which compliments the natural view of coral reef and fish. Or, while in San Francisco's Hotel Nikko, enjoy her lobby design. Every one of her pieces is handmade to order and is thus a unique work of art. She says she has been inspired by Henri Matisse and there are elements of his style in her art. Matisse is purported to have said that a good painting should be like a comfortable armchair. And Ayala Serfaty

carries that one step further by asking why a comfortable armchair should not be like a good painting?

The DCCA exhibit runs from now until July 1. For more info on

hours and fees, call 656-6466. The Delaware Center for Contemporary Art is in its new location on Madison St. at the Riverfront in Wilmington.

Beth Shalom's Cantor Says Farewell With Musical Weekend

After five years of service to Congregation Beth Shalom, Cantor Judith Naimark is moving on. The entire Wilmington community is invited to attend as she bids farewell in a special musical weekend.

Shabbat Yachad: The Sequel will be the theme of Beth Shalom's service on Saturday morning, June 2, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. The Beth Shalom Choir will join Cantor Naimark that morning in vibrant new musical settings of prayers commissioned by Cantors

Assembly. More than fifty congregations across North America first joined in presenting these pieces earlier this year on Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Song. This second installment will feature three new pieces along with the "hits" from Beth Shalom's earlier program.

Beth Shalom's monthly Rabbi's Tish will follow the service. A light lunch will be served as Rabbi Daniel Satlow leads discussion on a topic of interest. The Rabbi's Tish is free and open to the public.

Colleagues from the Delaware Valley Region will join Cantor Naimark for her gala farewell concert, "L'hitraot, Wilmington" the next evening, Sunday June 3, 2001 at 7 p.m. The program will feature Hebrew and Yiddish songs, along with favorites from Broadway and Opera. General admission is \$15, with a \$10 charge for students and seniors. Residents of seniors facilities such as the Kutz Home and Forwood Manor are invited to attend free of charge.

Summer Studies At Delaware Gratz

By David Margules

Delaware Gratz will offer an intensive one week program in August that teaches critical academic skills to high school students in the context of Jewish values.

Critical Reading, Thinking and Writing Skills Intensive, will be offered August 20-August 24, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will be taught by Susan Coorin Kogan.

Kogan adapted the curriculum from a Gratz College course *Ethical Debates and Dilemmas* which looks at modern social issues from the perspective of traditional Jewish teachings. Topics will include race relations, civil liberties, the environment and religious freedom.

Susan will use the basic course as a jumping-off point to focus on reading and writing skills, said

Marlene Milunsky, Delaware Gratz principal. She added that "Susan is a talented teacher with lots of experience, and we are going to keep the class very small to ensure that every student gets a lot of attention."

Course fee is \$325. Successful participants will receive three JCHS credits. For additional information, call Delaware Gratz at 478-8100.

Join AKSE in New York City

Join members of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth's Men's Club for a two day family trip to New York City, Wednesday, June 27th through Thursday, June 28th.

Highlights include a walking tour of the famed Lower East

Side, visits to the New York Jewish Museum and the new Chagall exhibit, a guided tour of Boro Park, visits to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and dinner at a New York kosher landmark-Dougies BBQ and Grill.

\$125 per adult and \$50 per child includes overnight accommodations, transportation and admissions.

To sign-up, contact Bob Weiner at rsweiner@roeberg.com.

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IN MEMORIAM

Cissie Golden - A Woman Of Valor

Cissie Raphaelson Golden, 81, died at her home in Wilmington on May 6. Mrs. Golden was a lifelong fundraiser, organizer and a volunteer for various medical, educational, and Jewish organizations in the Wilmington community and beyond.

Born in Chestertown, Maryland and raised in Doylestown and Norristown, PA, she worked in the fashion industry as a buyer until her 1943 marriage to Dr. Abraham A. Golden, a Wilmington physician. Dr. Golden passed away in 1997. Upon her arrival in Wilmington,

Mrs. Golden devoted herself to numerous Jewish communal causes. For the past 57 years, she served as chapter and group president of the Wilmington chapter of Hadassah and chaired numerous committees. She and her granddaughter traveled to Los Angeles last year to represent Hadassah as delegates.

An ardent Zionist, Mrs. Golden made 19 trips to Israel during her lifetime.

She was present at the 1959 groundbreaking for the River Road site of the Milton and Hattie Kutz

Home, and subsequently served as president of the Kutz Auxiliary and chair of the Gala, the Donor Luncheon and other fundraising events. Recently, the Kutz Home honored Mrs. Golden for her forty-plus years of service.

Her volunteer work in the Jewish community also included service to Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, from which her two granddaughters were graduated and the Delaware Jewish Community Center.

Mrs. Golden was also deeply committed to the Wilmington med-

ical community. At Riverside Hospital, she was one of the organizers of the Junior Board and established the hospital's first volunteer program. She continued this "labor of love" until recently in her role as Manager of Volunteer Services with Christiana Care, Riverside Campus-one of the few directors in this nation who worked without compensation.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, George and Sharon Golden of Riverdale, NY; her daughter and son-in-law, Bettina and Henry Heiman of

Wilmington and her granddaughters, Natalie G. Roisman of Washington, D.C. and Aileen D. Heiman of Wilmington.

Funeral services were held at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth with interment at the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. The family requests that contributions in her memory be sent to Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah, 2408 Driftwood Drive, Wilmington, DE 19810 or to any of the many causes to which Mrs. Golden devoted her time and energy.

EPSTEIN

Joseph Epstein, died May 1. He was the husband of the late Irene (Feldman) Epstein and father of Russell Epstein and his wife, Benita; and was pre-deceased by a daughter, Ruthe Epstein.

He is survived by his beloved grandchildren, Tobi and Adam.

Interment was at Brookhaven Cemetery.

LEVIN

Henry Ollen Levin, 80, passed away on Tuesday, April 17 at the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home surrounded by his family. Mr. Levin

was a Wilmington native and was a 1938 graduate of Wilmington.

Drafted into the army during World War II, he was sent to Ordnance School for welding and mechanical training-skills he would put to good use after he left the armed forces and graduated from the Barronian School of Watch Repair.

He worked for Chrysler Corporation where he was based in Newark and serviced their other plants across the country. He retired from the company as a supervisor in quality control after

29 years of service.

Mr. Levin loved doing repairs, traveling in his RV and square dancing. Most of all though, he loved being with his family which includes: Selma Raivy Levin, his

wife of 57 years; sons, Jay and Joel and their wives, Myrna and Susan; a daughter, Debra Dickerson; five granddaughters, Melissa, Elizabeth and Kathryn Levin and Rebecca and Rachael Dickerson; and Cecilia

and Harvey Salkovitz, his sister-in-law and brother-in-law.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Delaware Hospice, Deborah or another charity of your choice.

NACHAS NOOK

Millman Named Valedictorian

Andrea Michelle Millman, daughter of Susan and Gregg Millman of Wilmington, Delaware, and granddaughter of Ida and Morris Weider of Farmington Hills, Michigan and Dorothy and Russell McKinney of Miami, Florida is Valedictorian of the Concord High School class of 2001. Andrea has been honored as a National Merit Scholar and was chosen to attend

the Governor School for Excellence. She received the Brown University Award for Top English student, the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Math and Science Award, and the National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Award in Writing. Andrea is a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish National Honor Society

and is an Advanced Placement Scholar.

Selected as one of the ten Academic All-Stars by the Wilmington News Journal, Andrea is a member of Drama Board, and is Color Guard captain.

A congregant of Beth Shalom in Wilmington, she will attend the University of Pennsylvania this fall.

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A New Son of Israel Is Born

Rachel and Michael Abrams of Wilmington announce the birth of their son, Jacob Louis Abrams on May 14, 2001. Maternal grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. Allan Levy of Wilmington. Paternal grandparents are Diane and Kenneth Abrams of Fair Lawn, NJ. Kvellung great-grandparents are Beatrice Abrams of Weston, Mass. Tillie and Irv Epstein of Wilmington and Hyman and Charlotte Siegel of Harrisburg, PA.

Delaware Ophthalmology Pioneers New Treatment

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD), is a debilitating disease of the retina. Recently, an exciting and innovative technique known as Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) offers hope to

patients with the most severe form of AMD.

The less severe, dry form of AMD occurs in nine out of ten affected individuals, while fortunately the more destructive wet form occurs in only one out of ten. In the dry form of AMD, vision loss is associated with progressive atrophy of the retinal layers. It is thought to be caused by accumulation of toxins from photosynthesis, and new possibilities for prevention and slowing continue to emerge. In the more serious, wet form of AMD, leakage or bleeding occurs in the part of the retina used for fine vision. This disorder is associated with abnormal vessel growth in the macular area of the retina.

Through implementation of PDT, a surgeon may arrest the leakage of wet AMD using a photosensitive dye which is then simulated with a non-thermal laser. When a patient is eligible for this treatment, a light-activated dye is administered intravenously and absorbed by the damaged blood vessels. Exactly 15 minutes after the infusion begins, the affected area on the

retina is exposed to laser light that activates the drug, chemically altering it into a complex that stops the leaking without damaging the patient's retina. The brief procedure can be carried out in the surgeon's office. Depending upon follow-up diagnostics, it may need to be repeated several times. Patients will need to avoid sun exposure for several days following the procedure.

This treatment is now available through Delaware Ophthalmology Consultants (DOC). Dr. Harry Lebowitz is one of Delaware's first doctors to offer this exciting modality. He is pleased to report positive results in those cases which have been treated at DOC, although he cautions, "Macular Degeneration is still a debilitating and frustrating disease, but, Medicare and a number of other major insurance companies are reimbursing for PDT, which previously was, an out-of-pocket expense for most patients.

For additional information, call Dr. Harry Lebowitz at 302-479-3937 (EYES).

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- Laura Penneysdaughter of Robert and Nancy Penneys
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