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FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING HONORS TWO COMMUNITY LEADERS

Bennett Epstein and Richard Stat to be honored Thursday, June 17TH at the Wilmington JCC

The Delaware Jewish Community is encouraged to join in the celebration of the 69th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Delaware on Thursday, June 17th, 7:00 p.m. at the Wilmington JCC. "It's an opportunity for our community to come together to celebrate its leadership and recognize those special men and women who have given selflessly of their time and talent," said Dr. Barry Kayne, Federation President.

Dr. Bennett N. Epstein will receive the Irving S. Shapiro Community Builder Award. A native of New York City, Bennett moved to Wilmington, Delaware in 1946 after service as a Buck Private in Germany in the Spring of 1945. He completed a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering at Columbia and went on to Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry before returning to Wilmington permanently with his wife, Alice in 1956. Their sons, David, Steven, and Eric were all born in Wilmington.

Bennett worked at DuPont for over 40 years in Process and Product Development. His work centered around innovative modified nylons and culminated in the patent for supertough nylon. He has lectured on mechanical properties of plastics in the United States, England, Japan, and Israel.



Dr. Bennett N. Epstein

Bennett retired in 1990 as a Departmental Research Fellow, the highest category at that time. He was honored by his peers who awarded him the Pedersen medal and his election to the Lavoisier Academy.

His service to the Delaware Jewish Community began in 1948. He co-chaired the first annual campaign of Federation's Young Adult Division with Louis Finger, chaired two Federation Annual Campaigns and served two years as president of the Federation. For the past decade, he has been active in Fund Development for Hillel at the University of Delaware, a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Fedeation of Delaware.

In the broader community, Bennett has worked primarily in the area of civil rights. He was appointed by three governors to serve on the State Human Relations Commission, chaired the Housing Sub-Committee of the Commission when the Fair Housing Law was passed and served as treasurer of the Citizen's Alliance for Public Education;

For the past ten years, Bennett has worked on fund development for Sojourners' Place, a very effective homeless shelter in Wilmington, directed by Sister Jeanne Cashman.

Richard Stat will be recognized with the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award for his tireless efforts as Building Committee Chairperson of the Federation Community Capital Campaign. A native of Wilmington, Richard is an alumnus of the Wilmington Friends School.

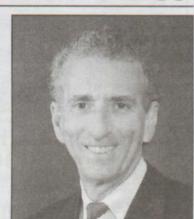
He is a graduate of MIT and the Wharton School Graduate Division of the University of Pennsylvania receiving his MBA with Distinction in Finance

Richard, the president of the Stat Organization-a firm principally engaged in real estate development, construction and management of office, retail and residential properties, also serves as Co-Chair of Federation's Facilities Management Board and as a board member of the Jewish Community Center. His community involvement currently includes service as President and Director of the Lorelton Foundation.

Through the years, he has distinguished himself as Director and Secretary of Neuron Therapeutics, Inc., Director of New Castle Insurance Company of Delaware, Board Co-Chair of National Conference for Community and Justice, Wilmington Friends School Planning and Building President, Committees, Director of Wilmington Rotary Club, and President of the Jewish Community Center.

Stat and his wife, Linda, are the parents of two sons, Michael and David.

Keynote speaker for the evening



Richard Stat

is Jonathan Loftus, an international advisor on Nazi prosecution. During the Carter and Reagan administrations, he served as prosecutor with the Justice Department's Nazi War Crimes Unit. The controversial attorney discovered confidential documents revealing that the Nazis he was assigned to prosecute were working for NATO intelligence. He resigned from the Department and exposed the scandal on TV's 60 Minutes.

A dessert reception will follow the evening's program. For additional information, please call Lauren Schultz at 302-427-2100 or log on to www.shalomdelaware. org.

DELAWARE JEWS REMEMBER PRIESTIDIENT RONALD REAGAN FEBRUARY 6, 1911 - JUNE 5, 2004



President and Nancy Reagan pay their respects to Americans killed in a bombing in Beirut.



President Reagan meets with Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik, Iceland.



President Reagan and then-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres hold a press conference at the White House in September 1986.

otos courtesy of J

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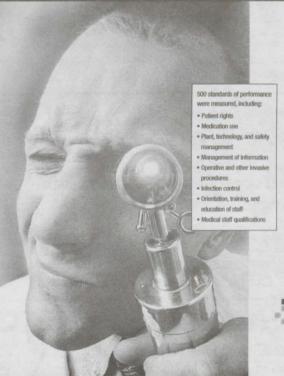
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EDITORIAL

A Legacy of Leadership

"You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children, the last best hope of man on earth or we will sentence them into a thousand years of darkness. If we at least let our children and our children's children say of us we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done."

Ronald Reagan, our nation's 40th president, passed from this earth last Saturday. The quote which appears above is attributable to the man known to friend and foe alike as "the great communicator." However, it is inspired by ancient Jewish

In Pirke Avot, it is written, "It is not up to you to finish the work, yet you are not free to avoid it."

Mr. Reagan's presidency appeared guided by this philosophy. He put a thaw in the Cold War with the former Soviet Union by initiating dialogue with then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. These negotiations paved the way for long suffering refuseniks like Vladimir Slepak and Natan Sharansky to begin new lives in the United States and Israel. His outspoken support of the free Soviet Jewry movement helped create a climate of change in the way these men and women were able to practice their faith. Mr. Reagan's intervention enabled an exodus of Soviet Jewish emigrés, many of whom made aliyah to Israel.'

The Jewish State and the Jewish people viewed Mr. Reagan as a friend and advo-

Perhaps the greatest tribute we can pay to the great statesman our nation mourns today is to rededicate ourselves to the ideals of community leadership that he embraced.

Come out to the Federation Annual Meeting on Thursday evening, 7 p.m. at the Wilmington JCC. Salute the efforts of the men and women of vision who so ably lead our community. Applaud their accomplishments and make a commitment to become more personally involved.

Do it for yourself. Do it for your children and grandchildren.

Do it for "The Gipper."

Shabbat shalom



An expression of gratitude

Throughout our lives we meet people that change our lives forever, that make our dreams come true, and that help us discover life. For me, the Jewish community of Delaware became a place where I met the most kind, understanding and warm people I have ever known. When I came to the United States in August of 1999 as an exchange student, I did not realize that, thanks to these people, my life would be changed forever.

From the beginning of my classes at Gratz Hebrew High School I found enormous help and support. The doors of this community opened for me and welcomed me; behind these doors there were opportunities I never knew existed. Everywhere I turned, there were people offering help. Dianne Wolf, Marlene Milunsky, and Jerry Grossman helped me to start with Gratz. Olya Yampolsky was my constant support through a very hard transition into a foreign country. All of these people became my family who supported my every step.

Through participation in BBYO, Panim al Panim program, and attending classes at Gratz, I learned the most amazing things about Judaism that I never had an opportunity to study back in Ukraine. As my exchange year was coming to an end, I knew I wanted to stay in Delaware and to discover what it really meant to be Jewish and not be afraid to say that you are a Jew. This dream came true, thanks to the Jewish Federation of Delaware, which gave me an opportunity to attend University of Delaware, the opportunity of a lifetime. Four years at the University was the most amazing experience I could have and it would not have been possible without the help of the Federation. The opportunities that I had, places I visited and people I met during these years were only possible thanks to you. And today I am writing this letter to thank you from the bottom of heart for making my life better, for changing it, and for giving me this opportunity. Without you, it would not have been possible. I especially want to thank Judy Wortman, former JFD Executive Vice President, Rachel Gross, former Federation Endowments Director and Jennifer Young, current Endowment and Women's Philanthropy Director for their enormous help through these years and for letting me be a part of this community.

Of course my life would not be the same without the most wonderful family that opened the doors of their house for me. There are no words deep enough to describe my gratitude for everything the Cohen family did for me. Eileen and Howard Cohen and their children Emily, Nathan, Elizabeth and Jeremy are now my family. They gave me all the support, encouragement, care and understanding every time I needed it and without them I would not have been able to cope with the challenges I had.

As I was stepping on the stage to receive my diploma at the University of Delaware graduation ceremony, I was thanking God for bringing all these people into my life. I know that everything I am right now is thanks to them. Thank you for changing my life, thank you for giving me this chance, and thank you for accepting me. Thank you!

The gift of opportunity to pursue my undergraduate education has enabled me to advance my academic career. I have been awarded a fellowship at the University of Toronto to pursue my Master's in Central and Eastern European studies with the concentration in Eastern European Jewish History and Culture. Part of this academic experience will include a research assistantship position with Yakov Glickman, whose field of research is the Holocaust. This academic experience will equip me with skills and knowledge that I am committed to use to make a change in the lives of Jewish people in the world, just like you made a change in my life.

> Sincerely, Yana Avdeeva

Editor's Note: Yana Avdeeva received funding through the Joseph and Marion Greenbaum Scholarship Fund of the Jewish Fund for the Future (JFF). The Joseph and Marion Greenbaum Scholarship Fund was established in the early 1990s, by a bequest from Joseph Greenbaum. Joseph also established an unrestricted fund in loving memory of his parents. The fund, known as The Samuel and Sarah R. Greenbaum Fund, has made distributions towards the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Annual Campaign and projects at JFD's beneficiary agencies, through JFF's unrestricted grants process.

The Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment arm of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, has seventy endowment funds benefiting a diverse range of charities and educational institutions. In calendar year 2003 the Fund's assets went from \$9 million to over \$12 million and the Fund distributed grants totaling \$636,984, including \$32,382 in scholarship awards. For more information regarding establishing a fund or leaving a bequest to the Jewish Federation of Delaware, please contact Jennifer S. Young, Endowment & Women's Philanthropy Director, 302-427-2100 x19 or email jennifer.young@shalomdel.org. For scholarship guidelines and an application, please contact Gina Kozicki, 302-427-2100 x 20 or gina.kozicki@shalomdel.org."

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Save the Date!

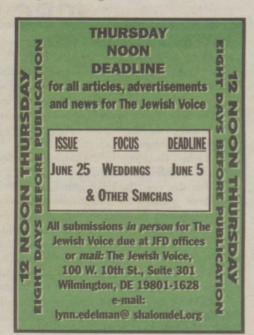
Jewish Federation of Delaware's Annual Meeting

> June 17, 2004 • 7:00 p.m. at the **Delaware JCC** 101 Garden of Eden Rd. Wilmington, DE

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FEDERATION FOCUS

Our young people want to go to Israel ... let's help get them there!



Samuel H. Asher Executive Vice President

A few weeks ago a parent in our community asked for my help in getting her college student son a placement on an upcoming trip to Israel. The registration deadline had long since past. Her last hope was for

me to call the director of the program and put in a good word.

I love a good challenge and I have an excellent track record in accomplishing seemingly impossible tasks like the time I got someone on a mission to Israel with only two days to spare, and without a passport. It took a few extra calls and some fast work by the staff of a United States Senator but the efforts paid off.

In comparison, this challenge seemed to be a cinch. I assumed that there were bound to be empty seats because people are concerned about *the matsav* and worry about their personal safety. Well, you know what they say happens when you assume something!

I called everyone I knew who could help but ran into a brick wall. I was ecstatic to learn that trips to Israel are running frequently and at full capacity. birthright Israel, a program which is partially funded by the Jewish Federation of Delaware, through our allocations process, closed its recent registration period 5 weeks early because over 15,000 18-25 year olds had registered for just 10,000 slots.

I recently learned from a colleague that his daughter is planning to go on the High School in Israel program this fall. I was surprised to hear that of the 4 summer departures, three were sold-out and the fourth was 95% filled.

Many of us feared that we were losing our market for Israel trips for young people and were thrilled to be proven wrong. There are as many kids that want to go to Israel as ever. We must help them to get there by expanding the program.

As you recall, birthright Israel provides a precious gift of an all-expense paid, educational trip to Israel for young adults ages 18 to 26 who have never before traveled to the Jewish State on an organized tour. Program founders believe that it is every Jewish person's birthright to visit Israel. Since its inception some five years ago, over 60,000 young adults have traveled to Israel for the first time on these trips, including 46,500 young people from North America.

Participants return home with a greater appreciation of their Jewishness and a stronger sense of connection to the Jewish people and their communities.

Initial funding for "birthright Israel" came from the state of Israel, some national leaders, and the Jewish Federations in North America. More recently, there have been more requests for trips than funding to send people to Israel. To help assure the program's continuity The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation has offered a special partnership grant. The grant stipulates that the Foundation will make a \$1 gift to our annual campaign for every \$2 that is contributed directly to the "birthright Israel" by members of our community. This is a great opportunity for our Federation as well as an opportunity to send more young people to Israel.

So far, we have raised an extra \$30,000 for birthright Israel. This program brings an infusion of \$109 million to the Israeli economy. It helps provide an extra 193,000 workdays for Israelis in a desperately struggling economy. If you are interested in supporting "birthright Israel" directly, please contact me at the Federation office (302-427-2400). Together, we can help give our young people the "birthright" they so richly deserve.

Why Endowments Work



Jennifer Young Endowment and Women's Philanthropy Director, JFD

Abe and Sarah Cohen* have been giving to the Jewish Federation of Delaware for years. We consider them partners with us in fulfilling our great mission. In fact, we've grown downright dependent on their annual generosity. Consequently, when they are gone, the absence of their giving will be felt.

Abe and Sarah know this and are doing something to make sure their giving never runs dry. They are taking steps, through their Will, to create the Abe and Sarah Cohen Endowment Fund. A portion of their estate will be set aside for a special fund that will generate annual gifts to continue the giving they are doing now.

Endowments work well for people like Abe and Sarah ... here are three reasons why:

1. Endowments are Perpetual

Like an artesian well, endowment funds keep giving and giving and giving. They allow people like Abe and Sarah to "lock in" their giving. Buildings may crumble and people will come and go, but endowments last.

Each year, in the future, family members such as children and grandchildren will be reminded of Abe and Sarah's involvement with the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the value of making regular gifts to support worthy causes. What a wonderful legacy to leave behind!

2. Endowments are Protected

Endowment funds at the Jewish Federation

of Delaware are set aside in the Jewish Fund

for the Future and kept separate from operating and capital fund accounts. Abe and Sarah have the assurance that their endowment fund will be secure. The written agreement will be on file and the terms will be carefully followed.

3. Endowments are Personal

While it is possible, and sometimes desirable, to create an unnamed, unrestricted endowment fund, many people want their fund to bear a person's name. And they want to tailor the purpose of their endowment to benefit a specific area of interest. They appreciate the flexibility and the opportunity to person-

alize their "artesian well."

The Jewish Federation of Delaware has developed policies for creating and managing endowment funds. We are able to show you a variety of ways you can use the vehicles of gift planning to make an endowment dream come true — whether now through a current gift, or later through your estate plan. Please contact Jennifer Young, Endowment & Women's Philanthropy Director, at 427-2100 ext. 19 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

(*Note: Abe and Sarah Cohen are fictitious names.)

JCRC Update

HB 400, the bill which would move the September primary election from a Saturday to a Tuesday to avoid conflict with the Jewish Sabbath was released from committee on May 12 and passed the House of Representatives overwhelmingly on June 1st. The legislation, sponsored by Representative Bob Valihura, Senator Patty Blevins and 18 co-sponsors, received 39 votes in favor, one abstention and one absence.

The bill now moves to the Senate. A committee hearing was scheduled for June 9. The bill language may be viewed at http://www.legis.state.de.us/billtracking. HB 400 provides for the following:

(1) Delays the move to the second Tuesday in September until 2006, providing plenty of time to implement the change.

(2) For this year, the bill requires the polls to be kept open until 9 pm, providing about a one hour window for Sabbath observers to vote. This is an interim accommodation.

(3) Beginning in 2006, the primary will be moved to the second Tuesday in September. The schools will remain open, if they provide appropriate accommodations for the election.

(4) As a tool to encourage cooperation, the Department of Election for each county will have the authority to close any polling place (non-government facilities excluded) that does not provide adequate facilities for the election. An amendment requires election officials to make reasonable efforts to resolve access issues before closing a polling place.

Call Jack Zigon, JCRC Director, at 302-427-2100, ext. 30 for updated information about this important piece of legislation.

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MATTER OF OPINION

Saudi Arabia: Rethinking its Soul

By Dr. Muqtedar Khan

I have just returned from Saudi Arabia, where I attended an international conference on terrorism (April 20-22) at the Imam Muhammad University in Riyadh the global headquarters of Wahabism. Crown Prince Abdullah himself inaugurated the conference to underscore its importance.

Imam Muhammad University is the factory where Wahabism is produced and serviced in Saudi Arabia. A large number of the Saudi clerics are educated and trained here. Nearly twenty thousand students study the core teachings of Abdul Wahhab, the founder of the Saudi Salafi movement, which is sometimes derogatorily and often popularly referred to as

In my previous in visits in 1992, 1997 and 2000, I had found the Saudis to be proud of what they had become. They had covered a distance of nearly seven centuries on the back of oil in less than thirty years. They were arrogant, confident

and sure of themselves and their place in the Muslim world and on the global stage.

But today they are confused, unsure, hesitant, apologetic and willing to accommodate. Some are belligerent even bellicose. But most people that I encountered, students, political elite, scholars, businessmen, professionals and cab drivers, are perplexed by terrorism within Saudi Arabia and by Saudis.

For a society, which was so remarkably

free from a culture of self-criticism, I found the Saudi Arabia of today, more willing to listen; and that is the best news I have.

The conference itself revealed the extent and depth of rethinking taking place within Saudi Arabia. I was extremely critical of Wahabism as well as Saudi policies in closed-door sessions and found the Saudi scholars and the various ministers who were in attendance, open and willing to listen, sometimes they were in agreement, sometimes they were baffled, never offended. Some even encouraged me to speak more.

There were of course the usual number of sycophants and apologists, but even they seemed apprehensive and willing to question their own beliefs. Several American and British scholars criticized the lack of critical thinking and openness in Saudi education and we were all pleasantly surprised when they responded by asking for help in introducing critical

thinking in their pedagogy.

I ran into a member of the Majlis-e-Shura (the Saudi pretense for a parliament) at a TV studio where I recorded a onehour interview on Islamic democracy, and he berated me for not being more critical than I was. I listened to him lambast the university and Wahhabi clerics for being the source of the problem behind terrorism in Saudi Arabia. "All they teach," he said, "is to hate those who are different." "We are a country that is economically in the twentieth century and intellectually in the fourteenth century." I advised him to speak to his country and King as he spoke to me, as often as possible and as loudly as possible.

The House of Saud has long relied on the Wahhabi movement for domestic control and legitimacy and on the US for international security. But after September 11, these two allies of Saudi Arabia are being perceived as antagonistic. The House of Saud could not have both as allies any-

It is now becoming apparent that the House of Saud has chosen America over

The conference was well attended. The Kingdom is finally taking things seriously. It is determined to maintain its relations with the US and is actively seeking to reform Wahabism and reconstitute the domestic basis of its rule.

The Saudi society is composed of two types of elite; the conservative and religious elite and the liberal political and economic elite. For decades the latter had focused on retaining political power and milking the oil cow. In exchange for freedom to become rich, the ruling elite allowed the religious elite the

freedom to preach. Without a cultural of internal criticism, without an engaging alternate elite, without the emergence of self-critical and reflective voices within the religious establishment, the specter of Wahabism has grown and now is out of the hands of those who nurtured it.

Wahhabi ideas are now so deeply embedded that neither the ruling elite, who had abdicated their normative responsibilities until now, and the religious elite who are afraid of what they have created, can rein it in. Any attempts at sudden reforms may upset the delicate balance within the society and empower those who have decided to use terrorism to replace both types of elite.

Saudi Arabia needs to push both social and political reforms without undermining domestic and regional stability. It must fast track its social reform and maintain a steady progress towards political reform. The promise of municipal elections must be kept and the momentum towards more representative and accountable governance must be sustained.

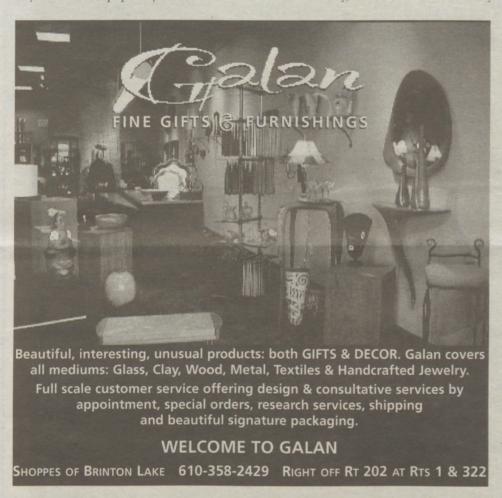
It is time that Saudi Arabia stopped looking backwards for guidance and started looking forwards. Those who drive by looking in the rearview mirror only are destined to crash.

Terrorism by extreme Wahhabis, for whom the clerics and the royal family are not sufficiently Islamic, is once again forging a new social contract between the religious and the ruling elite. This time the House of Saud and the House of Abdul Wahhab will not come together to establish Wahhabism, but to dismantle Wahhabism and replace it with a self-critical, open, more moderate, and softer form of Salafi traditions.

But before that can happen the moderates within the religious establishment must prevail over the extremists and be prepared to make significant compromises - maybe even deviations - in the Wahhabi doctrine and in Wahhabi institutions. The extremists will then be isolated and can be fought both in the realm of doctrine as well as in the battlefield.

The staging of the terrorism conference at the Imam Muhammad University and the seriousness of the dialogue, its high degree of openness and criticism, have definitely raised expectations. Let us hope that Saudi Arabia can make the transition without trauma.

Dr. Mugtedar Khan is the Director of International Studies at Adrian College. He earned his Ph.D. in International Relations, Political Philosophy, and Islamic Political Thought, from Georgetown University in May 2000. He is presently a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution and a Fellow of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding.





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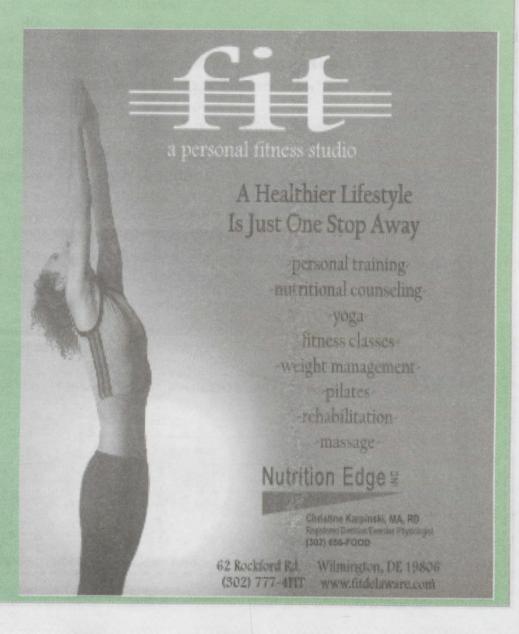
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INSIDE DELAWARE

Judicial Independence and the Free Press

An Award-winning Essay by Cailah E. Garfinkel

Our founding fathers dared to imagine a country whose fundamental beliefs ensured basic human and civil rights to all its citizens and their future generations. This vision eventually transformed into the document, which laid the foundation for our country: The United States Constitution. The founding fathers put together a document that remains unmatched even today. It ensured that our government's power would not be vested in any one person or branch of government, but be equally divided into three separate branches - Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary. The three branches of government were given their own particular set of duties and responsibilities. This created a system of checks and balances. This ensures that no one branch can control all functions of government. The founders wanted to guarantee that each branch was sufficiently detached from one another; such that they may act independently, immune from that conduct of the other branches. Therefore, the

founding fathers also wanted our Constitution to give all Americans rights and a voice. It is clear, therefore, that Independent Judiciary and Freedom of the Press are important to the United States of America.

An Independent Judiciary is the final judge of what is and what is not constitution. It is the guardian of our constitutional freedoms. The importance of such a concept is that it does not give an advantage. An Independent Judiciary is a considerably large part of checks and balances; it is a necessary integral. An Independent Judiciary and checks and balances both portray the equality between all persons. In addition, an Independent Judiciary is just as it says in its name, it's Independent. The judges don't act as if they are above the law or politics. For that reason, they listen to their "boss" The Constitution, not voters or lobbyists.

If the foundation of our country is the United States Constitution, then the cornerstone is the First Amendment right to Freedom of the Press. If there is one amendment, that is literally first among

equals, then it is truly the First Amendment. The First Amendment guarantees our right to express themselves in a wide array of avenues such as: newspapers, speeches, demonstrations, books, billboards, movies, and computers. This leads to the sharing of conflicting sides of a story. What is most important about this amendment is its ability to break through the sugar coated version and show the real face of reality.

We the people of the United States know that the beliefs that were bestowed upon us remain alive in the American spirit that pulses through our great nation. We delve and look forward to being a part of the twenty-first century. Our historical experience offers valuable lessons to the rapidly globalizing society.

John F. Kennedy once said, "We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is afraid of its people."



Dover Youth Wins Bench and Bar Essay Contest: President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely, Chris Carl of WILM, Nitika Gupta of the Charter School of Wilmington, Cailah Garfinkel of the Campus Community High School in Dover, daughter of William and Mary Garfinkel, Dorothy Osterhout of Sussex Tech High School, Justice Randy J. Holland and Justice Myron T. Steele at the awards presentation in the Supreme Court Courtroom in Dover.

Photo: Delaware State News/Doug Curran

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Dr. Margaret Crouch, a Holocaust scholar, will provide historical background during the trip to Washington. Her presentation will be augmented by several videos. At the museum, you will receive a special guided tour for educators as well as an orientation to various educational resources. The bus will return to Wilmington at approximately 5:30 p.m. Snacks will be provided on the bus; lunch at the Museum cafeteria is on your own.

To secure your seat on the bus, please mail a check for \$20.00 payable to the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801. Please indicate your pick-up location. The fee is non-refundable after July 19, 2004.

For more information please call (302) 427-2100 ext. 30.

JCC slates annual meeting and picnic

The community is invited to the 70th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Community Center of Delaware. The event will be held on Sunday, June 27, 2004 at the Jewish Family Campus located at 101 Garden of Eden Road in North Wilmington. There will be games and activities offered for children and families from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Annual

Meeting will be held from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., followed by a free barbecue dinner starting at 5:00 p.m. who will be presented with the Barbara Weiner Next Generation Leadership Award; Bernard & Ruth

The award recipients for this year's Annual Meeting will include Richard A. Levine, who will presented with the President's Award; Connie Sugarman, who will be presented by the Harry Cohen Leadership Award; Steven Biener,

who will be presented with the Barbara Weiner Next Generation Leadership Award; Bernard & Ruth Siegel, who will be presented with the Community Leadership Award and Molly Ganz, who will receive the special Staff Recognition Award.

For more information, please call the JCC at (302) 478-5660.



Participants in the JCC Annual Meeting will have the opportunity to preview plans for the "New and Improved JCC Fitness Center."

NEWARK NEWS

The Jewish Community Center Newark is gearing up for a summer of fun. There's a program for every age and interest. For further information about any of the offerings listed below, please contact Lynda Bell, Program Coordinator at 302–368–9173. The JCC Newark is located at 318 South College Avenue.

THE ART OF SCRAP BOOKING

Get your mementoes in order. Learn how to organize photos and creative meaningful albums. Ann Wolfer, Creative Memories Consultant will facilitate the class, which meets Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m., June 22 through July 13th. Bring a set of 8 to 10 pictures to the first

class. All supplies will be provided. Cost for JCC members is \$25 and \$35 for non-members. Class size is limited to 12 students, age 15 and older. Call today to reserve your seat.

WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCHES

Have lunch with friends old and new on Wednesdays throughout the summer. Meet at Bennigan's on Ogletown Road, June 23rd, 12:30 p.m. Advance reservations are needed

TOUR THE NEW CONSTITUTION CENTER IN PHILADELPHIA

Board a bus from the Newark JCC for a July 22nd trip to the Constitution Center in Philadelphia and surrounding

historic sites. This all-day excursion also includes a tour on the amphibious vessel, the Duck. Cost for members is \$50 and \$60 for non-members. Lunch is not included. Reservations must be made by July 1st.

SUMMER IS FLEA MARKET SEASON

The entire community is invited to browse or sell items at one of three flea markets scheduled during the summer at the JCC Newark. Dates are Sunday, June 27, Sunday, July 25 and Sunday, August 22nd from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dealers are wanted for outdoor spaces. The cost is \$17 per

space or \$45 for three months and \$5 to rent a table. In the event of rain, the market will be cancelled.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Reagan remembered as friend of Jews

By Matthew E. Berger, JTA

Some Jewish officials said they had a certain perception of Ronald Reagan when they walked into the White House during the 1980s: that the 40th president of the United States was aloof and unfamiliar with the complexities of the issues of the day.

But when they walked out of meetings with Reagan, those perceptions often had changed.

"He was far brighter than he was given credit for," said Shoshana Cardin, former chairwoman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "He was far more knowledgeable."

Even Jewish leaders who didn't always agree with Reagan on political issues are remembering Reagan, who died Saturday at age 93 in California, as a man deeply committed to the issues the Jewish community focused on during the 1980s.

But beyond that, many remembered Reagan as a man who was open and interested in listening to the Jewish community.

"There was respect shown; there was no hostility," said Hyman Bookbinder, the longtime Washington representative for the American Jewish Committee. "With Reagan, you has disagreements but you didn't get angry with him."

Reagan's familiarity with Jewish concerns began in Hollywood, where as an actor he worked closely with many Jews, said Marshall Breger, the Jewish liaison in the Reagan White House.

Even before first running for office in the mid-1960s, he resigned from the Lakeside Country Club in Los Angeles because it refused to admit Jews. Shortly after becoming governor of California, he spoke out in support of Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War and headlined a pro-Israel rally at Los Angeles' Hollywood Bowl.

"He had this tremendous ability to take people as they were, and he had a complete lack of social prejudice," Breger said. "It was evident when you heard him, spoke to him, came into contact with him."

The interests of the Reagan administration and American Jews intersected throughout much of Reagan's time in the White House.

As Reagan worked to end the Communist threat in the Soviet bloc, American Jews sought to give Jews there the right to practice their religion freely and emigrate if they so chose.

Reagan was able to use the Soviet Jewry issue as an entryway into negotiations with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

It framed the discussion when Gorbachev first came to Washington, a day after 250,000 people rallied there for Soviet Jews. And Reagan showed a strong personal commitment to the Soviet Jewry issue, whether he was dealing with Jewish officials or the Soviets.

When Theodore Mann returned from his first visit to the Soviet Union as head of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry in 1981, the first call he received in his law office was from Reagan.

"He wanted to know all about the trip," Mann recalled. "We talked about the refusenik community, which he was very familiar with."

Cardin recalled that in 1987, when attending a White House ceremony marking the arrival in the United States of refusenik Vladimir Slepak, she began to see Reagan in a way she had not seen other presidents, especially Republicans.

"I realized we had in the White House probably the warmest, most attentive individual to individual needs," Cardin said. "This man cared."

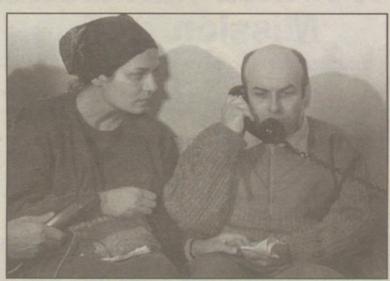
Despite being a conservative Republican, Reagan still had a way of making a positive impression on a Jewish constituency that was mostly liberal and Democratic — even if they disagreed with him on domestic issues like abortion, taxes and social programs.

"There was no one who was better at working a crowd, and no one who was better at selling an idea, and that's why I think in hindsight the tensions faded," said Mark Pelavin, who was a legislative assistant at the American Jewish Congress in the Reagan years and is now associate director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Reagan's support allowed Jews to feel more comfortable backing and voting for Republicans, and it led to the growth of a Republican Jewish constituency.

"President Reagan is directly responsible for the founding of the Republican Jewish Coalition and was the leading figure in starting the movement within the Jewish community for greater support for Republican candidates," said Matthew Brooks, the group's executive director. "He set the tone, he set the direction and he really led the Republican Party to where it is now in terms of its commitment to reaching out to the Jewish community."

But there also were occasions of disagreement between Reagan and the Jews.



Natan Sharansky, seated with his wife Avital shortly after his arrival at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport in 1986, calls President Reagan to thank him for helping to arrange Sharansky's release from the Soviet Union.

Credit: Nati Harnik/Israeli National Photo Collection

Reagan's decision to visit the Bitburg military cemetery in Germany in 1985, despite the fact that it contained graves of SS soldiers who had committed war-crime massacres, led to protests and a month of back-room negotiations between administration officials and Jewish leaders.

In the end, Reagan added a trip to Bergen-Belsen to appease American Jews, but many remained upset about the episode.

Reagan also upset many Jews when he pushed through the sale of powerful spy planes to Saudi Arabia.

But many Jews appreciated Reagan for his support for Soviet Jewry.

"I think it was easy to compartmentalize," said David Harris, a Soviet Jewry advocate who now is executive director of the American Jewish Committee. "Bitburg was Bitburg. It was very troubling, but this was a president who from the get-go had demonstrated his commitment to our issues."

In his 1980 debate with the incumbent President Carter, Reagan asked viewers, "Are you better off than you were four years ago?" After Reagan's death this week, Jewish officials said they saw a Jewish world that was better when Reagan left office in 1989 than when he took office.

"The decade began on very troubling and sour notes," Harris said. "The decade ended with much more optimism. I cannot attribute all of it to Ronald Reagan, but he certainly deserves his share of the credit."

(JTA Washington Bureau Chief Ron Kampeas contributed to this report.)

Attacks in France intensifying

By Philip Carmel, JTA

Some Jewish officials are worried that anti-Semites are ratcheting up violence against Jews in France, and that French courts are tacitly giving them a pass with light sentences.

In the latest significant attack, community officials said an assailant tried to murder a yeshiva student, who was stabbed last week as he prepared for Shabbat at one of Europe's top talmudic academies.

Yisrael Yiftah, 17, was heading toward a local grocery store across from the Mekor Yisrael Yeshiva in Epinay-sur-Seine, a suburb north of Paris, last Friday when a large man described as of North African origin sprang upon him with a knife.

The man screamed "God is

great" in Arabic and plunged the knife into Yiftah's chest.

Police believe the same man carried out additional knife attacks that night against non-Jewish targets, but Jewish groups are in no doubt as to the anti-Semitic nature of the initial incident.

"The yeshiva's in a closed alleyway," Sammy Ghozlan, president of the National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism, told JTA. "If you enter there with a knife in a bag, you're only going there for one purpose."

The attack represented a new level of anti-Semitic assault, the first with a deadly weapon, community leaders say. It comes amid an alarming increase in the intensity of anti-Jewish attacks in recent

In the past month, rabbis in Marseille and in the Parisian suburb of Creteil were attacked, and a rabbi's son was severely beaten near his home in Paris over Shavuot.

Government statistics show a steep rise in anti-Semitic incidents since the beginning of 2004. The

67 incidents reported for the first quarter of the year contrast sharply with the 34 incidents for the last quarter of 2003.

The figures also show that attacks against Jews make up the vast majority of racist crime, despite the fact that the Jewish community is one of France's smallest minority groups.

Paradoxically, the sharp rise has come at a time when Jewish groups acknowledge that the government has shown real willingness to tackle the problem of anti-Semitism.

The attacks have left Jewish community members wringing their hands.

"The government has taken all sorts of measures to deal with this, and our synagogues are like fortresses," Ghozlan said. "They've even put on extra buses from railway stations so people don't walk around at night. What more can we do?"

Ghozlan has sharp words for the courts, which, he says, hasn't been tough enough with offenders. "People have been arrested, but it's not going to do any good if sentencing is not exemplary," he said.

Similar views are being expressed in France's large Jewish communal organizations.

In a forceful statement following last week's knife attack, the CRIF umbrella organization of French Jews said that "a new level had been breached" in anti-Semitic attacks in France, aided "by recent court decisions that give the feeling that one can attack Jews with total impunity."

Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin seemed to agree, telling French radio that the legislation was in place, "but it needs to be applied."

Events this week seemed to bear him out: When a group of youths pleaded guilty this week to the Shavuot attack on the rabbi's son, it became clear that one member had been involved in another attack on a Jewish youth earlier this year.

His penalty? The court instructed the youth to write a project on anti-Semitism.

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GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

A Jewish Humanitarian Mission to Cuba

By Phyllis Feingold Special to the Jewish Voice

We all have places to visit on our "wish list". However, we never dreamed that we'd have the opportunity to visit the "forbidden" island of Cuba in our lifetime. Needless to say, when the ad appeared in The Jewish Voice for a Humanitarian Mission sponsored by the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Philadelphia, my husband, Jim and I signed up immediately! We would travel under a special religious license issued by the United States Department of the Treasury to Jewish Solidarity of Miami, Florida. All participants were required to obtain 10-15 lbs of religious items, medical samples, toiletries and toys as a prerequisite.

MAKING A NEW NETWORK OF FRIENDS

Jim and I prepared for our exotic adventure by asking countless questions. Ruth Morley of the JCC put us in touch with a young woman named Laurie, who had returned from a

similar mission last winter. She cautioned us against taking too much clothing, so as to leave as much room as possible to "address the humanitarian needs of the people". Laurie also passed on the name of a professor who had befriended her and her husband and escorted them around Havana. We learned that he couldn't make a living as a professor and had to supplement his income by working as a tour guide.

The professor put us in touch with his friend, "Dr. Bob" who had recently returned from a Medical Mission to Cuba. He pleaded with us to take an additional amount of medications to Hospital Pediatrico



us to take an additional Jim Feingold (left) delivering medications to Dr. Silvia amount of medications Leon of the Children's Hospital.

(Children's Hospital). We enlisted the support of our cousin, a podiatrist, and our personal physician, dentist and dermatologist. All were extremely generous in providing the necessary medical supplies.

We felt that we were caught up in a sea of humility and eagerly waited for our adventure to begin.

A MENSCH OF A TOUR ORGANIZER

Pierre Wessel of World Passage Ltd. was our tour organizer. His many previous trips to this island nation made him a "maven" on matters ranging from the political correctness of an American visiting Cuba to the proper amount to tip service providers. His personal contacts on the island and his picks for the best licensed tour guides, would help to make this a truly memorable experience.

A RICH LEGACY OF JEWISH LIFE

We arrived at Cuba's Jose Marti Airport on May 6th. During my encounters with Cuban authorities, I learned that smiles and knowledge of Spanish phrases go a long way. The security guards asked why I carried all the little sample bottles of medicine. "Para los ninos," I answered. (For the children). I also waved the navy badge with Magen David (Star of David) that read Jewish Solidarity Cuban Mission. "You are okay," he replied. While we waited in the air-conditioned comfort of our tour bus for the rest of our group to pass through customs, we enjoyed seeing the old taxis, the 50s era cars and the revolutionary signs surrounding the airport.

Our first stop was El Patronato, an Ashkenazi Conservative synagogue that once was Orthodox. Vice President Adele Dworin gave us some background on the synagogue and on Jewish life in Cuba. In addition to her work with the shul, Adele looked after the library and the pharmacy that served the Jewish people and their Christian neighbors.

Adele told us that El Patronato was closed for decades when the Cuban government outlawed religious practices and membership sharply declined. It reopened several years ago and is abuzz with Jewish life.

We attended Erev Shabbat services on Friday evening and enjoyed a traditional Shabbat dinner in their social hall. The service was informal and was led by visiting Yeshiva students. Cuba must import rabbis from Mexico and South America to perform b'nai mitzvot and conversions

Jim and I beamed with pride as little Moshe and his friends ascended the bimah to light the Sabbath candles. We learned that he, his mother and sister, had converted to Judaism. After the service we rewarded the children with crayons and school supplies.

I was surprised that the service contained more Hebrew prayers than Spanish ones. I was even more surprised by my ability to join in. My Hebrew school teacher, Mr. Byer, would have been proud of me. All those days of reciting paragraphs in class finally paid off.

At the Orthodox synagogue, Adath Israel, we gave our donations and listened to a historian speak on the history of the immigration of the Jews from Europe to Cuba that dated

Continued on page 14



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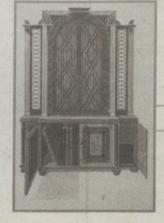


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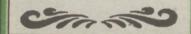


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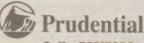
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MILESTONES

In Memoriam

BERKOWITZ

Elijah Jacob Berkowitz, 21, died June 6th. He attended Upland Country Day School, the Tatnall School, Swift River Academy and Roger Williams University. His parents, Dr. Irving and Candace Berkowitz, describe him as "a young man with an exuberant love for life and the people he knew."

He will be deeply missed by his brothers and sisters, Valerie, Rachel, Kaila and Avi.

Funeral services were held on

June 10 at the Chandler Funeral Home in Hockessin. Interment was in Union Hill Cemetery in Kennett Square, PA.

The family would appreciate donations in Elijah's memory to the Helen F. Graham Fund, 4701 Ogletown-Stanton Road, Newark, DE 19713 or to the Hazeldon Scholarship Fund, Patient Aid, PO Box 11, BC2 Center City, MN 55012.

NAHARI

Helen Patrterson Nahari died June 11th. The widow of Gideon Nahari, she is survived by her daughter, Tammy Coughlin of Wilmington and her sister, Mary Gilbert of Harrogate, TN.

Funeral services were held on June 2nd at the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel with interment in Dalton, Georgia.

The family would appreciate contributions in her memory to Temple Beth El, 501 Valley Drive, Dalton, GA 30720.

ROSENBERG

Sophie K. Rosenberg, 95, of The Dorset, died June 2nd. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Hans Rosenberg.

Graveside services were held on June 4th in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. Contributions in her memory may be directed to Hadassah, c/o Eva Weissman, 9 Devon Court, Wilmington, DE 19810.

SCHNITZER

Charles Schnitzer, 88 of Wilmington, died May 30th of an accidental fall while visiting family in Israel. He is survived by two sons, Aaron and Nachum; three sisters, Rose, Selma and Claire; 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Burial was in Israel.

Memorial contributions are appreciated to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Washington Street Extension and Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802 or to Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th Street and Baynard Blvd., Wilmington, DE 1980

NACHAS NOOK

Mamberg receives two key awards



Briana Mamberg

Briana Mamberg, daughter of Vivian and Elias Mamberg of

Wilmington, is the recipient of two awards for service to the community. On March 22nd, Briana, a senior at Brandywine High School, received a \$1000 college scholarship for her selection as the 2004 William V. Roth Citizenship Award. The award, established to honor the late Senator for his many years of service to the State of Delaware and to the nation, recognizes a New Castle County High School student who demonstrates outstanding citizenship characteristics including volunteerism, community involvement and high academic performance.

Briana was one of 1, 308 students across the nation to receive a scholarship from the Best Buy

Children's Foundation. Foundation honors those young men and women who excel in academics, participate in extracurricular activities and will enter an accredited United States university, college or technical school. At Brandywine High School, she serves as secretary of the Spanish Honors Society, editor of the school yearbook and is an active member of the Leader Corps. Briana will graduate from Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School on May 20th. She volunteers with fellow Gratz students at the Mary Campbell Center in Wilmington.

Briana will attend the University of Delaware in the fall.

Planned Parenthood honors local couple

Joan and Joe Rosenthal received the 2004 Margaret Sanger Volunteer Award on May 11. The award was established in 1995 to honor individuals who have demonstrated through leadership and generosity of time, energy and spirit, a commitment to further the mission of Planned Parenthood in our community.

Joan and Joe are both steadfast supporters of the organization. Joan has served on the board of directors for many years and planned the first four annual dinners. Joe was pro bono local counsel when Planned Parenthood sued last year in Federal Court to stop implementation of a 24-hour waiting period law for abortions.

Jewish Humanitarian mission

Continued from page 11

back more than 500 years. We learned that when Hitler took power, Jews fled the Nazis and ended up in Cuba due to strict US immigration quotas. These Jews sold their wares door to door and offered customers a payment plan. They left the more strenuous work, such as farming, to others.

In 1959, there were approximately 15,000 Jews in Cuba. During Fidel Castro's revolution,

90% of the Jewish population fled to the United States as the government took over private businesses and forbid all religious practice. Today, some 1500-2000 Jews make Cuba their home. Most live in

Later that day, we visited The Cemetery of the United Hebrew Congregation. There, we got to see the Monument of the Martyrs who died during the Holocaust. Etched in stone were Spanish words about soap made from the

bodies of those Jews who per-

We were fascinated by the grave of Saul Yelin. It was designed in a way that placed stone on top of stone so that he will always be remembered in the way of our tradition.

We learned that in Cuba, Jews never experienced anti-Semitism. We were always welcomed.

Editor's Note: The Feingold's journey continues in the June 25th edition of *The Jewish Voice*.

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FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR STUDY IN JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, AND JUDAIC STUDIES

The Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, provides scholarship funding to high school students, undergraduate and graduate students. Guidelines vary, but scholarships are primarily available for Jewish students from Delaware or studying in Delaware or Israel for the following purposes:

Greenbaum Scholarship- to attend an accredited college or university program in Israel; to pursue Jewish studies at an accredited North American college or university.

Other scholarships are available for students completing 80 credits of study at Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School or graduates of a High School level Jewish day school, such as Akiba Hebrew Academy. The Jerusalem Study Fund also supports students studying in Jerusalem (application deadlines vary).

Greenbaum Scholarship deadlines are August 1st for the Fall/Winter semester (or session) and December 1st for the Spring/ Summer semester (or session).

For more information and to request scholarship guidelines and an application please email gina.kozic-ki@shalomdel.org or call Gina at the Jewish Federation of Delaware (302) 427-2100 x 20

DOVER RABBI TO SPEAK AT SEASIDE

Rabbi Judah Fish, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Sholom in Dover will discuss the Jewish Calendar on Thursday, June 24, 7:30 p.m. at the Seaside Jewish Community Center. The event is free and open to the entire community. Seaside is based at the Ocean Wave Lodge on Holland Glade Road, just behind the Mikasa Outlet.

LIVING WITH TERROR: SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

June 28th & 29th,IN WASHING-TON, D.C.

The University of Haifa in Israel and the University of Pennsylvania have joined forces to co-sponsor a two day conference on the impact of terror on society and modern day living. These two institutions have partnered with 15 national health care professional societies to host the first conference of its kind in the United States. The public is invited to participate in this milestone event at The National Press Club, 529 14TH Street, NW – 13th Floor, Washington, DC.

Topics will include: Media and Terror; Racial Profiling in Terror Prevention; Mental Health, Terrorism, and Primary Care; and others. Keynote speakers will include Monica Gabrielle, widow of a 9/11 victim; James Stone, Deputy Administrator of SAMHSA; Marc Sageman, Author; and others. A special keynote dinner on the evening of June 28 will feature Kenneth Feinberg, Special Master of the Federal September 11th Victim Compensation Fund.

For additional information or to make a reservation, please call Jacqueline Smith at (202) 669-7300, jacquelinerose55@hotmail.com.

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- * Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University
- * Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey, (D-NY)
- * Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
- * Rabbi David Saperstein, Director and Counsel, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
- * Marie Wilson, Executive Director of the Ms. Foundation and Author of Closing the Leadership Gap: Why Women Can and Must Help Run the World

The International Lion of Judah Conference is October 17-19, 2004 in Washington DC - Conference registration is \$525 before Sept.3 and \$575 thereafter. Registration includes meals and all programming. The hotel room rate is \$179 per

room, per night single or double occupancy. Contact Jennifer Young, Endowment & Women's Philanthropy Director at jennifer.young@shalomdel.org for an invitation. Minimum gift: \$5,000 to the Jewish Federation of Delaware Annual Campaign.

ISRAEL'S GESHER THE-ATER RETURNS TO LIN-COLN CENTER, JULY 20-25

The Gesher Theater, Israel's leading bi-lingual acting company, will mark the Centennial of Nobel Laureate Issac Bashevis Singers' birth with performances of "The Slave" and "Shosha," July 20–25, at the John Jay College Theater, 899 10th Avenue, between 58th and 59th Streets, as part of the Lincoln Center Festival

Based on the works by I.B. Singer, "The Slave" is set in 17th century Poland and portrays a Jewish Yeshiva graduate who survives a brutal pogrom only to be sold into slav-

ery where he falls in love with his master's daughter. It will be performed in Russian with simultaneous English translations on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 20–21. On Thursday, July 22, "The Slave" will be performed in Hebrew with simultaneous English translations.

"Shosha," another Singer tale, is set in Warsaw on the eve of the Holocaust. It chronicles a young writer's love for his naive childhood friend, Shosha. It will be performed in Russian with simultaneous English translations on Friday and Saturday, July 23 and 24th. On Sunday, July 25th, "Shosha" will be performed in Hebrew with simultaneous translations.

Tickets for both "The Slave" and "Shosha" cost \$60 and can be bought online at www.lincolncenter.org/programs/festival, at the Lincoln Center box office (212) –721-6500. For further information, contact Ronn Torossian at 212-999-5585.



MILESTONE MET! Congratulations to the Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School Class of 2004. They are (first row, from left): Briana Mamberg, Anna Klein, Ilana Jaffey, Ilene Bloom, Marni Grossman, Stefanie Gordon, Lara Goldstein, Jennifer Kaplan. (Second row, from left): Beryl Schragger, Alan Plotzker, Nathaniel Jaffe, Saul Jaffe, Brian Rosen, Ben Zussman. Proud principal is Marlene Milunsky

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ext Issues Weddings and Other Simchas June 25th Deadline June 17th

