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## Henry Winkler: A Smash Hit



Henry Winkler met with the Adas Kodesch youth group.



Carole and Barry Bakst, co-chairs of the Chai Dinner, welcomed Henry Winkler and over 200 community members.

### A Pre-Dinner Interview with the Chai Dinner's Special Speaker

By JORDAN SOPINSKY  
Editor of The Jewish Voice

Prior to giving his speech at the Chai Dinner, The Jewish Voice conducted a short interview with Henry Winkler. It is as follows:

**JV: What do you see as the biggest concern facing U.S. or world Jewry today?**

**HW:** That we lose our heads. That we take positions backing us into a corner, forgetting to build, to take care of fellow Jews or anyone else in the world.

**JV: Why be Jewish?**

**HW:** Because Chanukah lasts for eight days and Christmas is one day.

**JV: What does it mean to be a Jew?**

**HW:** Five thousand years, we have been

focused, tenacious, and thoughtful. Five thousand years, various individuals and groups have tried to eliminate us from the earth. Five thousand years, we can say we're still here. That should give us all a great sense of pride.

**JV: Has being Jewish affected your approach to your work?**

**HW:** No. Being a human being has. But I

have learned a lot of lessons in the home and temple that are in my soul.

**JV: Perhaps it has affected you in ways you don't always see?**

**HW:** Yes. I guess my answer is shifting from no to yes.

**JV: What gives you pleasure nowadays?**

**HW:** Outside of my family, fly fishing. I've been doing it for thirteen years with Stacey, my wife.

**JV: What should people think about when considering giving to the JFD Campaign?**

**HW:** Have you given as much as you can?

## Tapes: Nixon Targeted Jews in Anti-Democrat Campaign

By DANIEL KURTZMAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (JTA) — Reports that President Nixon wanted the Internal Revenue Service to audit wealthy Jewish contributors to the Democratic Party — imploring a top aide to "go after 'em like a son of a bitch" — have many Jews wincing.

According to recently released White House tapes, Nixon urged his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, to "please get me the names of the Jews. You know, the big Jewish contributors to the Democrats. Could we please investigate some of the c—ks—rs? That's all," the San Francisco Examiner reported.

Robert Strauss, treasurer of the Democratic National Committee in 1971, called Nixon's comments in taped conversations from September 1971 "sickening."

"As a Jewish, politically involved Democrat, this language coming out of the mouth of a president of the United States is more than I can really comprehend," Strauss told the Examiner.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said the tapes confirm that Nixon was "an anti-Semite," having "absorbed every ugly stereotype."

"This shows he was enveloped by it. It was

part of his being, his worldview," Foxman said, adding that he was "troubled at how long it took to find out the extent of this illness."

Foxman also expressed dismay that "there was no rebuke or challenge by any of his aides."

The ADL has honored every president since Dwight Eisenhower with its Democratic Legacy Award, with the exception of Nixon.

Foxman, upon learning of Nixon's taped remarks, said he was "delighted we never did."

The conversations between Nixon and his top advisers are contained in more than 200 hours of tapes recently made available to researchers.

In a Sept. 8, 1971, meeting, the Examiner said, Nixon apparently urged John Ehrlichman, his domestic policy chief, to investigate Jewish contributors to 1968 Democratic presidential candidate Hubert Humphrey and to former Maine Sen. Edmund Muskie, then the front-runner for the 1972 Democratic nomination.

"John, we have the power," Nixon said. "Are we using it to investigate contributors to Hubert Humphrey, contributors to Muskie — the Jews, you know, that are stealing in every

direction?"

"Are we going after their tax returns? You know what I mean? There's a lot of gold in them thar hills."

"I can only hope that we are, frankly, doing a little persecuting."

In another conversation several days later with Haldeman, Nixon said, "What about the rich Jews? The IRS is full of Jews, Bob."

Haldeman suggested finding an anti-Semitic IRS agent, "a zealot who dislikes those people," to audit prominent Jews.

"Go after 'em like a son of a bitch!" Nixon replied emphatically.

No Jewish contributors were mentioned by name at any point in the conversations, and the San Francisco Examiner story said it could not determine whether any Jewish contributors were audited as a result of Nixon's directives.

Singling out political enemies for IRS audits was one of the charges cited by the House Judiciary Committee in 1974 when it called for Nixon's impeachment.

The taped conversations are not the only examples of Nixon's anti-Semitism to surface in recent years.

In 1971, Nixon ordered an aide to compile a list of senior Jewish officials in the Bureau

of Labor Statistics whom he suspected of running a "Jewish cabal," conspiring to hurt him by reporting inflated monthly unemployment figures.

Haldeman, in diaries that were published posthumously, also reported several instances in which Nixon's hostility toward Jews became evident.

He wrote, for example, that Nixon sought to punish Jews for their lack of support by postponing delivery of U.S. jets to Israel after Jewish demonstrators disrupted a 1970 visit by French President Georges Pompidou.

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**PANIM EL PANIM**  
(Face to Face with JFD People)



# News from the Council of Jewish Federations' General Assembly



By **LESLIE NEWMAN**  
JFD President

Judy Wortman, Lelaine Nemser and I attended the General Assembly, the national meeting of the Council of Jewish Federations. It was held in Seattle, home of Starbucks coffee, wonderful salmon and supposedly magnificent mountain vistas. While I experienced the first two, the third was hear say, as the clouds never cleared to see the view. The General Assembly is the annual gathering of Federation lay leadership from the U.S. and Canada. Many national and international profes-

sional agency leaders attend as well.

Having celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, one day of the meeting was dedicated to examining what future federations will look like. Delegates selected either institutions on fund raising, Jewish continuity, Israel diaspora relations, leadership development, or the crisis in government support for social/human services affecting the Jewish community.

The three of us followed the "divide and conquer" motto. I attended the Jewish continuity track while Lelaine attended fund raising and Judy, Israel diaspora relations. The central issue raised in the continuity session was — how do we go forward while holding onto what we hold dear? Criteria were raised to judge the quality of continuity.

Do we have serious communities?  
Is Jewish learning taking place?  
Is there time and space to be Jews?  
Is there Hebrew literacy?

Is there practice of our heritage (social action, relations with Israel, etc.)?

Do we wrestle with the ideas of G-d?

Issues around Jewish continuity are closely tied with outreach to the unaffiliated and much of the GA was devoted to this topic. Outreach efforts are controversial in that devot-

ing resources to these efforts undercuts our ability to provide services to others, such as programs enforcing Jewish education to those modestly committed, and projects that some believe can stem the tide of intermarriage. Outreach calls into question a basic tenet of Judaism — asking "disobedient" Jews to come in. And finally, it is hard to assess the cost effectiveness of these efforts.

Intermarriage is not a Jewish phenomenon but an American one. It is present in many third generations as a result of geographic dispersal, economic opportunity and the high marriage/divorce rates. Coincidentally, the day of our meeting, USA Today carried a story stating that Catholic bishops were suggesting outreach through health clubs, pubs and personalized messages such as anniversary cards to change the tide in their community.

There are many reasons people are unaffiliated. However, intermarriage is statistically relevant. 80% of intermarrieds are unaffiliated as opposed to 30% of in-marrieds. What can be done? It is imperative that approaches be varied, collaborative and coordinated. Synagogues and Jewish agencies must work together. Experience has shown that the unaffiliated cannot be accessed through

traditional means. Articles in The Jewish Voice do not reach everyone. Using the world wide web and secular newspapers are possibilities. Efforts need to be made on a personal level as well. Invite a family for Seder, to a Chanukah party or to a Shabbat dinner. Success has also been achieved by reaching out to families with small children around socialization and education issues. For example, hold a session on how to get along with in-laws at holiday time. Programs can be planned for parent and child to make a challah, play dreidel, etc. The possibilities are endless. Some can be accomplished utilizing our greatest resource, the members of our active Jewish community.

In addition to outreach/continuity, there was much discussion at the GA around religious pluralism. As previously reported in the Voice, the Council of Jewish Federations passed a resolution at this critical moment urging the Knesset and the government of Israel to abstain from amending legislation which would change the current situation regarding rec-

ognition of conversions, not to change any aspect of the Law of return, and to adhere to the Covenant (Article 7) between the Government and the Jewish agency, regarding consultation on legislation specifically affecting the functions of the Jewish Agency.

The Board of Directors of our Federation will address this issue at our December 12th meeting. I am pleased to report that Netanyahu in his satellite address upheld this concept. It was also affirmed by Perez and Sharansky when they addressed the delegates. This issue touches us all.

Finally, there was one negative event during the General Assembly. For the first time in its one hundred year history, there was a bomb scare during the opening plenary meeting. The building was evacuated and the evening's meetings were canceled. It was unfortunate as it put a damper on the warm and hospitable welcome from the Seattle Jewish and secular community. I also found it sad how calmly we all accepted the dismissal; we are becoming desensitized to violence or its threats.

The General Assembly is an opportunity to learn, to share and recharge. Learning and studying Judaism and Jewish belief was an integral part of each session. It is part of what binds us. Next year in Indianapolis. 1998 in Jerusalem to celebrate Israel's 50th year. Think about attending.



## DECEMBER SPECIALS from the RING-LEADERS

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## BRIEFS

The JEWISH VOICE

## NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

## Jews Sue Texaco

NEW YORK (JTA) — Employees of color are not the only minorities who say they face systematic discrimination at Texaco Inc.

Two Jewish scientists who worked at the oil company's research facility for new technologies in Beacon, N.Y., have filed a civil lawsuit against Texaco and three of their former supervisors. The scientists, who were both fired on the same day in January 1995, are alleging anti-Semitic discrimination and are seeking \$200 million in damages.

The two chemists — Israeli-born Mordechai Pasternak, 53, and Anatoly Kramer, 41, who immigrated to the United States from Kiev, Ukraine — say they were repeatedly proselytized and pressured to convert to Christianity by two of their supervisors. A third senior manager, a Palestinian, systematically harassed, derided and professionally punished them because they were Jews, the plaintiffs said in legal documents and in interviews.

News of their lawsuit comes as Texaco is dealing with fallout from the publication of secretly recorded conversations by senior company executives who were discussing black employees in a derogatory way. The 1994 tapes, which caused a national outcry, established that discrimination against African-Americans was part of the management culture of Texaco and prompted questions about widespread discrimination against blacks at other corporations as well.

In the wake of the scandal, Texaco last month settled a discrimination suit filed by six employees on behalf of 1,500 other minority workers at Texaco. The corporation agreed to pay more than \$140 million in cash and adopt diversity programs predicted to cost an additional \$35 million.

## Palestinians Kill Detainee

JERUSALEM, Dec. 4 (JTA) — A Palestinian detainee was fatally shot by a guard in a Palestinian jail where he had been held for almost two years without trial, Palestinian officials said.

The death of Rashid Fityani, 25, brings to 10 the number of Palestinian detainees killed by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's security forces since the 1994 start of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian police said Fityani was killed during an argument with a guard at a jail in the West Bank town of Jericho.



Tanya Chernech, pictured here with her three-year-old daughter Lana, was among 26 new immigrants to arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport from Kishinev, Moldova, in October. The Cherneches decided to go home to Israel after an introduction to the Jewish Agency for Israel's "Aliyah 2000" program, which offers potential *olim* employment opportunities in Israel, even before they arrive in the country. The Jewish Agency is the main overseas beneficiary of the UJA Federation Campaign administered locally by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

## "Shalom Friend" Wins 1996 National Jewish Book Award

Newmarket Press' acclaimed biography of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, "Shalom, Friend: The Life and Legacy of Yitzhak Rabin" by The Jerusalem Report Staff, edited by David Horowitz, has been awarded the 1996 National Jewish Book Award in the category of Jewish Non-fiction at its 47th annual ceremony, held this year at Hebrew Union College in New York City on December 3, 1996.

The oldest American awards program in the field of Jewish literature, the National Jewish Book Awards are presented annually by the Jewish Book Council to North American and Israeli authors to honor outstanding works in the areas of Fiction, Non-fiction and Children's literature, and, this year, in the additional categories of Autobiography/Memoir, Holocaust, Israel, Jewish-Christian Relations, Jewish History, Jewish Thought, Scholarship, Sephardic Studies, and Visual Arts.

"Shalom, Friend: The Life and Legacy of Yitzhak Rabin," published in May 1996, was written by a team of 15 writers of the award-winning *Jerusalem Report*, Israel's premier English-language publication, and edited by David Horowitz, the magazine's managing editor, with an introduction by editor-in-chief Hirsh Goodman.

The book spans Rabin's lifetime and spectacular political career, covering his assassination on November 4, 1995, the events that took place in the months afterward and the impact that they have had in Israel and around the world. Included are 48 photographs, maps, a chronology, source notes, bibliography, and index.

## New U.S. Foreign Policy Team Likely To Stay The Mideast Course

By MATTHEW DORF

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Clinton's reshuffling of his foreign policy team has prompted confidence that U.S. peacemaking in the Middle East will remain on course.

By tapping Madeleine Albright to move from the top post at the United Nations to secretary of state, Clinton has signaled a clear desire to maintain continuity in U.S. diplomacy.

The promotion of Samuel "Sandy" Berger, who is Jewish, to serve as national security adviser is further evidence of this direction.

"This signals that there will be continuity and that the Clinton administration will maintain the approach of fostering the peace process without imposing decisions on the parties," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

In other appointments announced Dec. 5, Clinton fulfilled a promise to name at least one Republican to the Cabinet by nominating retiring Sen. William Cohen of Maine to serve as secretary of defense.

Current National Security Adviser

Anthony Lake was nominated to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

In welcoming the appointments, some Jewish officials breathed a sigh of relief that Clinton passed over Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott for the NSC post.

Talbott, a friend of Clinton's from his college days, has been a source of controversy in the Jewish community for what many considered anti-Israel reporting for Time magazine.

Meanwhile, Cohen, the secretary of defense-designate who will replace William Perry, has Jewish roots. He has spoken in the past of casting off a Jewish star he wore as a young teen, when a Maine rabbi refused to perform a Bar Mitzvah unless he formally converted. Cohen's father is Jewish but his mother is not.

Several Jewish officials familiar with his situation said Cohen still bears the scar of a 13-year-old being denied his wish to have a Bar Mitzvah. Cohen no longer considers himself Jewish.

But that experience "has not impacted on his relations with the Jewish community or his support for Israel and Jewish causes," said

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Of all the new appointees, however, it is Albright who will work most closely with Israel at a critical time in the Middle East peace process.

The 59-year-old Albright, who twice fled her native Czechoslovakia, would become the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in a U.S. Cabinet. She will replace Warren Christopher.

The daughter of a Czech diplomat, Albright and her family went into exile in London after the 1938 German occupation of Czechoslovakia. They fled a second time, in 1948, after a pro-Moscow Communist coup d'etat and arrived in the United States when Albright was 11 years old.

Those who know Albright say these experiences served as the defining moments of her life that influenced her policies and diplomatic advocacy.

Albright "watched her world fall apart and ever since, she has dedicated her life to spreading to the rest of the world the freedom and tolerance her family found here in

Continued on page 14

## Labor, Likud Gaps Narrow on Talking with Palestinians

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Six months after a bitter election contest, the Labor and Likud parties may not be all that far apart on how to approach the final-status talks with the Palestinians. The talks, slated to be completed by May 1999, will address the thorniest issues confronting the two sides, including the status of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, Palestinian statehood and Palestinian refugees.

Resumption of the final-status talks, which opened ceremonially several weeks before Israel's May elections, is expected after an agreement is reached on the redeployment of Israeli forces in Hebron.

Anticipating that a Hebron agreement is near, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet last Friday that they would soon begin discussing Israel's positions in the final-status negotiations. When that time comes, the Cabinet may well be discussing a series of proposals worked out jointly by representatives of the governing Likud and opposition labor.

Knesset member Yossi Beilin, who recently announced his own candidacy for the Labor leadership, and Likud Knesset faction Chairman Michael Eitan have been heading up talks with a view to mapping out areas of agreement between the two parties. Beilin said during a visit to Washington that he expected an agreement to be finalized in the next four to six weeks.

Political observers in Israel who believe that there is the possibility of forging common ground between the two major parties cite the imminent redeployment from most of Hebron as a watershed.

Beyond Hebron, they continue, the question then becomes one of how much West Bank land Israel should keep. This is the very same question that Labor itself has been grappling with ever since the 1967 Six-Day War. Therefore, according to this viewpoint, there has been a dramatic narrowing of the gap between the two parties on the core issue.

This perspective was recently given public support by Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who declared that the two parties could reach agreement over the West Bank with relative ease. On the issue of settlements, for example, there possibly could be room for accord between Israel's two main parties — given the Likud's new readiness to give up parts of the West Bank.

Beilin, aided by the team that secretly negotiated the original Israeli-Palestinian accords in Oslo, reached in 1995 an informal but detailed accord with the Palestine Liberation Organization's No. 2 man, Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazen, on a permanent-status agreement.

Israel was to withdraw from most of the West Bank, but annex areas close to the pre-1967 border that contain many of the settlements and most of the settlers. Settlements in more outlying areas would either be dismantled, relocated into the retained settlement blocs close to the border or remain under Palestinian rule. This informal agreement was concluded just days before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated last November, after which the

Continued on page 14

## NJCRAC Plenum in D.C.: Public Affairs Agenda

The NJCRAC 1997 Plenum will be held in nearby Washington, DC on February 15-19, 1997 centered at the Mayflower Hotel. This is your opportunity to learn and participate as the organized Jewish community debates and determines its positions on public affairs issues. Each year Jewish lay and professional leaders from all across the political, religious and ideological spectrum come together motivated by the search for peace, justice and a better world (*shalom, tzedakah and tikkun olam*).

For over half of a century, The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council has served as the multi-issue public affairs arm of the organized Jewish community. The NJCRAC works as the coordinating body for 117 local groups and 13 national agencies throughout the United States which together comprise the Jewish community relations field.

The Plenum is an exciting opportunity to learn from experts and other communities, to hear from policy makers and to advocate in our Nation's capital. Corresponding to President's Day Weekend, this will be a great time for your family members to schedule a tour of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum or to take in other Washington cultural sites. Discounts are available for registrations received prior to December 31, 1996. Write to NJCRAC 1997 Plenum; 443 Park Ave., South; New York, New York 10016-7322; or call (212) 684-6950, ext. 200; or e-mail NJCRAC@cjf.noli.com for more information.

EDITORIAL

# Your Gift Really Does Touch Lives

The Jewish Federation of Delaware charitable leadership is concerned about impressions left by recent reports in the News Journal concerning charity organizations with exceedingly high overhead costs. The United Way of Delaware cut overhead costs and can be applauded for streamlining its operations. The Jewish Federation of Delaware, like the United Way, can be proud of its record of providing maximal service at minimal cost. Locally, the Federation allocates funds to six agencies. They are Jewish Family Service, Albert Einstein Academy, Gratz, the Kutz Home, Hillel, and the Jewish Community Center. This is in addition to Jewish programs in Newark and lower Delaware, including the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware, and the Widner Jewish Law Student Association. About 35% of funds raised are allocated outside the community to national organizations, Israel, and to endangered Jewish communities in 58 countries around the world.

In order to ensure that more of your donated dollars fund needed services, Federation cut its budget by 10% this year. One full time position was eliminated and another has been

reduced to part-time. Such changes are dramatic for an organization like JFD which had a smaller staff than most similar organizations before this reduction. To further reduce costs, printing and marketing expenses were slashed. The work of an outside marketing consultant is now done by JFD staff.

Currently, 13% of the campaign is spent on fundraising costs and an additional 6% is used for community planning and research in addition to financial services that are needed by Federation and our local agencies. More than 80% is spent on programs that directly benefit our Jewish sisters and brothers. This represents a remarkable good buy for your charitable dollar.

The 1996 Campaign is drawing to a close. Allocations based on a projected campaign of \$1,540,000 were approved by the Board of Directors of the Federation. We still have several thousand to go. If we don't reach that mark, we will have to cut services. If we surpass it, we can make a difference in even more lives. If you haven't made a pledge, please do. If you have, we thank you for your support. Please make a commitment of dollars and of time. No gift touches more lives.

**THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE**  
for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE	FOCUS	DEADLINE
DEC. 27	Party Planning Guide	DEC. 19
JAN. 10	Camp Planning	JAN. 2
JAN. 24	Restaurant Guide	JAN. 16
FEB. 7	Health and Fitness	JAN. 30

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## VOICE BOX

"Don't put a period on the end of a negative sentence. Say, 'I'm sorry, I cannot think you now.'"  
-Henry Winkler, at the Jewish Federation of Delaware Chai Dinner on December 8 at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth.

"It's almost like a trick. I'm putting blood on my doorpost so when [God sends] the Angel of Death, it will pass over me."  
-Santa Monica artist Albert Winn, discussing a mezuzah filled with his AIDS-infected blood, affixed to a temporary door frame at the Judah L. Magnes Museum in San-Francisco.

"Jews must live in the outside world. But we are obliged to remember that we are Jews, that we have our own laws to observe and thus preserve our peoplehood."  
-18-year-old yeshiva student Mikhoel Gralyuk, at St. Petersburg's Great Choral Synagogue, where a new Torah was unveiled for Chanukah. In 1995, four Torah scrolls were stolen from the small synagogue.

"I created this guy I wanted to be. I wasn't that cool."  
-Henry Winkler, talking about The Fonz.

**1997 UJA  
FEDERATION CAMPAIGN**

**CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE**  
Jan. 24, 1997 ~ Federation Shabbat  
Feb. 8, 1997  
Community-Wide Event with singer Doug Cotler  
Feb. 9, 1997 ~ Super Sunday

★

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**LURIE'S WORLD**

L/97 Dec 7 '96

"Darn it... there goes our privacy."

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OPINION

# Lack of Mass Appeal of Reform and Conservative Movements in Israel Are Complex



By Rabbi DAVID A. WORTMAN  
Special to The Jewish Voice

If the premises outlined in David Eagle's op-ed on Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel (*Jewish Voice*, November 29) were true, then his conclusions would be logical and convincing. However, his arguments are replete with misunderstandings and misrepresentations of Israeli and world Jewish realities.

In my experience as someone who has been active in Reform and Conservative issues in Israel for nearly 30 years, the reasons for the lack of mass appeal of the Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel are far more complex than described by Eagle. First, it is true that many, if not most, Israelis do not understand what Reform or Conservative Judaism is all about. Their impressions largely derive from stereotypes exacerbated by Israelis living in the States or, worse yet, by some in the Orthodox or ultra-Orthodox community who frequently engage in vicious polemics against the non-Orthodox.

Secondly, the non-Orthodox movements have done a terrible job of marketing. Sometimes, this has been a conscious decision in order to legitimately maintain a good relationship with their more mainstream and tolerant Orthodox brothers and sisters. Occasionally, it was a deliberate policy of one movement or another to remain in "low profile," for political reasons. For instance, a prominent Reform rabbi and leader in Israel was asked to be on the Mapai party Knesset list back in the 60's. The movement decided that that was too visible and asked him not to do it.

Thirdly, the government provides land for Orthodox synagogues. It has been a great battle for Reform or Conservative congregations to find locations for prayer. Where they

have been established, they have been very successful. Contrary to Eagle's contention, the surprise in most of them is not the percentage of Americans who have made *aliya* (who, by the way, are no less Israeli than any other Israeli from somewhere else), but the increasing percentages of non-Americans.

The core of Eagle's article, however, dealt with the acceptability of non-Orthodox streams in Israel and the need to maintain an Orthodox monopoly in government policy. In these areas also Eagle displays a surprising lack of insight into the Israeli realpolitik.

The comparison of the results for the religious parties with Meretz is specious. An accurate analysis of the election results would show that the majority of the increased votes for the religious parties came from two sources: those Likud members who wanted to strengthen the Orthodox bloc in the new coalition; and, those who voted for the first time because their rabbi told them it was authorized if they voted for the correct party. The former is indicated by exit polls and the significant drop in Likud seats in the Knesset. The latter reflects an unfortunate reality that in the ultra-Orthodox communities there has been an aversion to participate in matters of state, including voting.

As for Meretz, it has never been a party "championed" by Reform and Conservative Jews in Israel. Meretz was a combination of three previous parties. It first ran in the 1992 elections. It is to the left of the Labor party.

While it has adopted pro-pluralism policies as part of its platform, its loss of seats in the '96 election was due almost entirely to its very strong pro-peace process stance. At a time when Israelis were questioning the pace of the peace process, it makes sense that such a party would lose seats (as did Labor).

Before turning to the final substantive argument of David Eagle, a response is necessary to the idea he puts forward in calling an American Jewish perspective a "narrow world view." The American Jewish community is 40 percent larger than the Israeli Jewish population. An Israeli's Jewishness is no more and no less authentic or legitimate than a Jew in Houston, Chicago or Wilmington. While the fact of living in Israel enhances one's ability to maintain a Jewish identity, it does not affect its relative quality.

The argument that anything American is, ipso facto, deficient is getting to be a tired argument. Would Eagle suggest that because the Lubavitch Rebbe z"l refused to go to Israel that Chabad has no place in Israel? It is time that we are proud of the developments made in all of the lands where Jews have dwelt. This includes Orthodoxy - which has not remained static, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionism. It also includes Zionism itself, the great thinkers of Jewish history.

The final argument expressed by David Eagle is that official recognition would "create enormous practical and philosophical dilemmas." There is already a response in the school

system. The Tali schools, while not officially connected to the Conservative movement, are, in effect, Schechter schools. None of the dilemmas posted by Eagle could not be worked out in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than vilification — including personal status issues. There are numerous examples of the beginnings of such cooperation. Thus far it has not extended to the government.

In the final analysis, Israelis — contrary to Eagle — are thirsty for a way to continue to express their Jewishness in authentic modern ways. As Reform and Conservative are more successful in adapting to an Israeli environment and in spreading the word, we will see a sizable non-Orthodox religious community in Israel in the coming years. This is well worth fighting for.

**Important Caveat:** None of the arguments I have proposed in this response should be interpreted by the reader as an excuse not to support Israel financially in ever greater sums. In fact, the money that is donated through the Federation underwrites services through the Jewish Agency for Israel, which has no formal government ties. Moreover, it funds programs that (if we cut back our giving) the government would close down rather than fund from its limited resources. Finally, the Agency provides over \$1.5 million to Reform and Conservative institutions in Israel.

(Rabbi Wortman is the spiritual leader of Conservative Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington.)

## The Rabbi Writes:

# Listen and Respect

By Rabbi DAVID KAPLAN

The Haftarah portion for December 14 is from I Kings. Just prior to the haftarah section, in chapter 3, we read about a dream that King Solomon has. In it God tells him that God will grant a request of Solomon. Solomon says, "Grant, then, Your servant an understanding mind to judge Your people, to distinguish between good and bad..." God is pleased with Solomon's request and thus it is granted. Soon after, two women come to him, each claiming to be the mother of the same child. In order to find out which is the true mother, Solomon orders the baby split in two, giving each woman half of the baby. The real mother pleads with him not to kill the child, but to

give it to the other woman. Thus, the Torah informs us about King Solomon's legendary wisdom.

Sometime ago I heard a story which reminded me of the above Solomon story. Elijah the prophet is said to wander the earth, often appearing to various righteous people. So it happened to one particular gentleman. Elijah said to him, "Because of the exemplary life that you have lived, because you have worked so diligently for your fellow human beings and the world, you are allowed one special request."

Without hesitation the man replied, "I know it is a bit of chutzpah on my part, but could G-d send the Meshiach?" Elijah was not surprised,



for this request had often been made, and often granted. Elijah replied, "Because of your dedication to life, it shall be as you have asked."

The next day a fax was received by every segment of Judaism. The message read, "The Meshiach is coming soon!" and was signed, Elijah the prophet. Some people reacted with amusement to what they assumed was a joke. Others expressed great annoyance. Slowly, however, people began to realize that this was not a prank, but the real thing.

There were all sorts of committee meetings. There was a committee to welcome Elijah and the Meshiach and a committee to find the appropriate meeting time and place. There was a group working on proper protocol, a group checking on correct liturgy, and a group working on the menu, just to name a few. Great excitement filled the air. The time had come at last.

As time proceeded, however, there arose dissension in each group. There was less agreement and more bickering. Everywhere the fighting increased, each person demanding that he or she knew the correct procedure and the proper methods. No one listened to anyone else and each meeting became a shouting match.

Continued on page 11

## Touch Points

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# Dr. Lisa Aiken Featured at Lion of Judah Dinner Speaks About a Different Kind of Jewish Power

Over twenty "Lion of Judah" women gathered on December 4 to hear Dr. Lisa Aiken, prominent psychologist and author of *Why Me God?* and *Beyond Bashert: A Jewish Guide to a Better Marriage*. Dr. Aiken spoke about "the Power of the Jewish Woman" using Sara, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah as examples.



Lisa Aiken



Connie Sugarman, Co-chair

UJA/Federation Campaign. The Lion of Judah category was established nationally in 1980. The Lion of Judah pin is awarded to women who in any single campaign year contribute personal pledges to the annual campaign of at least \$5,000. Other Lion of Judah levels include \$10,000, \$18,000, \$25,000 and \$50,000. Currently there are over 25 Women in Delaware. Anyone interested in learning more about Lion of Judah should call Lelaine Nemser, Campaign Director at JFD



Leslie Goldenberg, Co-chair

427-2100.

The UJA/Federation Campaign is administered locally by the Jewish Federation of Delaware. Your contribution to the UJA/Federation Campaign helps provide needed services in Delaware and beyond, at home, in Israel and 58 countries. No gift touches more lives.

Leslie Goldenberg and Connie Sugarman co-chaired the Lion of Judah Event for the 1997

Women in Delaware. Anyone interested in learning more about Lion of Judah should call Lelaine Nemser, Campaign Director at JFD

## Dr. Michael Berenbaum Delivers Holocaust Lecture



Left: Dr. Michael Berenbaum, Director of the Research Institute of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, delivered the Halina Wind Preston Memorial Lecture, a JFD program, on Sunday, November 24 at UD's Arshat Hall.

Center: Dr. Margaret Crouch, Joel Glazier and Karen Wallace paneled a teacher's workshop on how to teach about the Holocaust, which ran after the lecture.

Right: The award winning documentary, "One Survivor Remembers," was shown. Barbara Katz, the niece of Ms. Klein, the subject of the film, provided comments pertaining to the film. Photos by Joel Glazier.



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# Doug Cotler To Perform At Community Event on February 8, 1997



### The 1997 UJA/Federation Campaign Community Event ☆ Family Concert

Saturday, February 8, 1997  
7:30 p.m.  
at Congregation Beth Emeth

A concert by the Grammy Award winner  
and Jewish folksinger  
**Doug Cotler**

*If you liked Debbie Friedman, come hear Doug!*

Event Chairpersons: Ruth Weinstein and Barbara Yalisove

Tickets:  
Adults - \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door  
Kids (age 12 and under) - \$5

All are welcome at this concert by this Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter and cantor. His Jewish-themed pop music is for the whole family to enjoy!

For tickets or more information call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at (302) 427-2100.



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## Albert Einstein Academy Appoints Coordinator of Jewish Studies Department

The Albert Einstein Academy, the only Jewish Day School in Delaware, has appointed a Coordinator of the Jewish Department. Mrs. Michal Cherrin has been teaching Jewish Studies at the Albert Einstein Academy for six years. Mrs. Cherrin received her BA and MA in Education from the University of Haifa in Israel. She has additional training in special education.

Mrs. Cherrin served as a teacher in Israel and as the educational coordinator of a school in Israel for children with special needs.



Mrs. Michal Cherrin

She moved to the United States twenty years ago and, in addition to her teaching, she worked as a teacher and as a counselor/therapist at the Deveraux School with autistic children. She has taught in various schools in the New York area before coming to Einstein.

The Albert Einstein Academy has students from grades Kindergarten through sixth grade and is a constituent of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. For information about the school, please call (302) 478-5026.

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12/20 — 4:22 PM

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1/3 — 4:31 pm

## Tzedakah at Jewish Family Service

The lament of this season is that Chanukah has fallen into the abyss of commercialism. Not according to Larry Drexler, president of Jewish Family Service. The Jewish community has redefined Chanukah as a time for giving.

Beth Emeth Senior Temple Youth (BESTY), aided by advisors Robin Eng and Ethel Parson, an enthusiastic and dedicated group of teenagers, regularly demonstrate their concern for humanity through their social action programs. For the past two years, their beneficiaries have been the elderly constituents of Jewish Family Service. From friendly visiting to the delivery of Purim baskets filled with hamentoshen, the recipients have been delighted with BESTY's generosity. This year, four BESTYs, Michelle Jonas, Beth Sivakoff, Elliot Parsons and Robin Pollack spent hours baking pumpkin pies which were gratefully devoured by the elderly.

The children of Albert Einstein Academy, through their student council, collected seven days worth of food for several Emigre families this year. Their campaign was as active and as it was awe inspiring.

Complementing the children's levels of tzedakah, members of Jewish

Family Service frequent the Delaware State Hospital monthly, providing conversation and essentials for Jewish patients. Annually, they prepare and serve the Christmas meal at Emmanuel Dining Hall, under the stewardship of Jerry Heisler Jr., Sue

Goorland, Burt Green, Jane Cutler, and Ruth Balick.

Jewish Family Service is currently developing a comprehensive volunteer program. Please contact the office if interested (478-9411) in sharing this experience.

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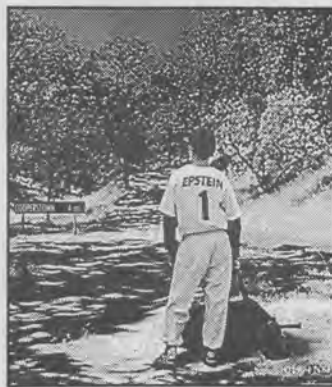
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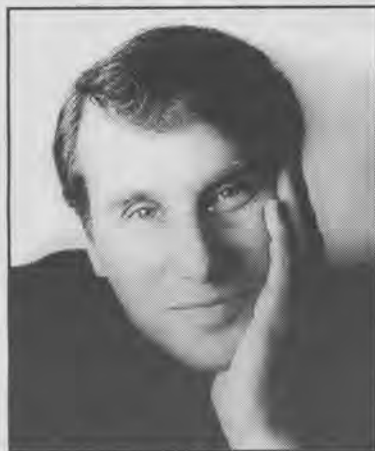
**If You Liked Debbie Friedman,  
Come Hear Doug Cotler**

By **DAN WEINTRAUB**

*Special to The Jewish Voice*

Who is Doug Cotler and why is he performing in Delaware on February 8, 1997? Doug Cotler is a Grammy Award-winning composer, a singer, songwriter and musician. His interpretations of Jewish liturgy and his original Jewish themed songs have helped him develop a leading reputation in contemporary Jewish music. This folk-rock performer is coming to Delaware on February 8 for the Community Wide Event, a family concert associated with the 1997 UJA-Federation Campaign. The event is open to the entire community and it will be held at Congregation Beth Emeth beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Cotler performance is a thank you to those who have already made a commitment to 1997 UJA-Federation Campaign and an incentive for those who may wish to do so.

Cotler recorded a half dozen Jewish folk-rock albums in his native California where he also serves as a cantor at Kol Tikvah in Woodland Hills. His "Listen" recording contained the popular song "Standing on the Shoulders" which sets to music a message of thanks to previous generations of Jews. This year's Community Event is in perfect harmony with the family theme of "Standing on the Shoulders" since



**Performing in Wilmington on February 8, 1997 at Congregation Beth Emeth for the 1997 UJA/Federation Campaign Community-wide Event, Doug Cotler**

the planning committee will be made up of teams of family members such as the co-chairs Ruth Weinstein and Barbara Yalisove who are sisters. Cotler's other recordings include "It's So Amazing!," "Whispers In The Wind," "Echoes" and a "A Rose In December."

In an interview with the Cleveland Jewish News, Cotler explained that he writes "Jewish music that is liturgically oriented. The songs are sung in English but they are about Hebrew prayers."

Adults and teens are drawn to his thoughtful Jewish folk rock. Some of Cotler's songs are particularly appealing to children. Doug said that "in songs like 'Cowboy Purim' and 'Surfing Passover,' I draw children into my songs with a familiar American theme and hook them with a Jewish concept...I show them it's okay and fun to be an American Jew. It's hip."

Cotler enjoys taking this Jewish music to live audiences. "The response has been so rewarding," he told the Cleveland Jewish News. "People are enthralled to hear Hebrew prayer and poetry to the kind of music they can relate to, whether it's bluegrass, country or pop. I also use four instruments at each performance: guitar, mandolin, harmonica, and voice."

Tickets for the Community Event - Family Concert at Congregation Beth Emeth will be available from The Jewish Federation of Delaware at a cost of \$10 in advance for adults or \$12 at the door. Tickets for children will be \$5 each. A limited quantity of Cotler's recordings will be sold at the event. For tickets, information or to volunteer call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at (302) 427-2100. The 1997 UJA/Federation Campaign is administered locally by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

**"The World of Shtetl"**

Cantor Norman P. Swerling re-creates an entire culture; a civilization which is gone, but not forgotten. "The World of the Shtetl" features a unique blend of music and theatre and will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center.

Swerling studied Theatre Arts at Boston College and Tufts University. He has appeared in numerous repertoire, off-Broadway, radio, and television productions. He is also a graduate of Hebrew Union College/

Jewish Institute of Religion. Swerling has served as cantor and educator in many synagogues and as the Dean of Arts for the National Federation of Temple Youth's Summer Academy.

The cost for the event is \$6.00 for members and \$8.00 for non-members. Tickets are now available at the JCC. For more information, please contact Staci Levin, Cultural Arts Coordinator, at (302) 478-5660.

**"Sweet Revenge"**

It looked like any other party. The usual gathering of people in a room chatting and clinking glasses. But this party was different. There was a secret lurking, a mystery waiting to be solved, right in the next room.

On Saturday, November 16th, twenty teens in 7th and 8th grades transformed themselves into characters from the thrilling murder mystery, "Sweet Revenge." The night was spent tasting samples of chocolate brought by the members of the Chocolate Connoisseurs Club and trying to find out who poisoned the

chocolate truffles and murdered Armande DeCoca.

"Everyone had a great time, but I'm afraid that we will all think twice before sinking our teeth into a delicious piece of chocolate again," said Etai Belinky, Community Teen Services Coordinator.

The next program is a Movie Marathon Overnight to be held on Saturday, December 14th at the Jewish Community Center. Please contact Etai Belinky at (302) 478-5660 for more information.

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## Wilm. AZA Victorious

By JONATHAN KAUFMAN

It was a cool autumn day and the sky was overcast. The ground was soft and in some places, down right muddy. Rain loomed over the two side-by-side fields. It was just right for football, Wilmington style.

The culmination of two months of practice for 17 Wilmington AZA members took place October 20. After a two hour bus ride up to Allentown, the team was ready for some action. The air crackled with anticipation and the spirit of competition. After a chat about rules, it was time for battle, flag football was underway.

Football Tournies consist of a single elimination seven-on-seven tournament of eight teams from the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO), which is held annually in Allentown, PA. Chapters from Wilmington, Allentown, King of Prussia, Harrisburg, and West Chester all sent representatives to compete.

Wilmington was able to send two teams. Wilmington 1 was captained by David Glazier (Boss) and Jeff Wallis (Debo). Doug Nicholson (Meth), Adam Robin (Prime Time), Blake Lawrence (Flash), Mike Stiebel (Snapple), Jonathan Kaufmann (Ogre) and Adam Cooper (Slash), completed the start-studded team.

Wilmington 2 was a much more emotional team with younger players, yet still managed to make the semi-finals. Players Josh Schoenberg, Jason Deitcher,

Abrahm Barth, Dan Robin, Josh Beringut, Dan Oren, Mike Newman and Brad Cutler all cheered faithfully for Wilmington 1 after their elimination.

After two exhausting 40 minute games, Wilmington 1 was in the finals. Titan vs. Titan, the two largest chapters fought for supremacy in a see-saw game. After a spectacular reception in the pouring rain from David Glazier, Adam Robin set Wilmington up for the go ahead touch-down with just 11 seconds left on the clock. It was fourth down. After superb blocking from his offensive line, David Glazier was able to dive into the end zone. The clock read 8 seconds, the scoreboard, 32 to 30. After two nail-biting hail-Moses (otherwise known as hail-Mary) attempts by Allentown, it was over. Wilmington was victorious for the eighth time in as many years.

The weary, injured, mud-covered team boarded the bus and left for home, tired but victorious once again.

Wilmington AZA is part of an international fraternity. Events range from sports competition to community service. As part of BBYO, Jewish teens experience kinship with Jews around the world. Meetings are held at the Jewish Community Center at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. For more information, please call Etai Belinky, Community Teen Services Coordinator, at (302) 478-5660.

## Record-Breaking Attendance At Night Club

Fifty-three children in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades attended the November Club Night which was held on Saturday, November 16th at the Jewish Community Center. "We had the largest crowd ever for a Club Night program," said Rachel Levy, JCC Youth & Family Program Coordinator. "There were kids from summer camp, children from Kidsplace and a bunch of new kids as well. We had a terrific time playing volleyball and enjoying pizza," she added.

Club Nights were designed to provide children in grades 3 through 6 with an opportunity to socialize and participate in a variety of activities each month. Upcoming Club Nights will include a New Year's Party on January 4th and a special overnight on February 1st.

Transportation from Temple Beth El to the JCC and back are provided for Club Night programs free of charge. The JCC van arrives at Temple Beth El at approximately 6:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Rachel Levy or Scott Bowers at (302) 478-5660.

## JDC Lends Hand in Rwanda and Tanzania

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) recently dispatched a medical team to Kigoma, Tanzania to work with the new influx of refugees there. The team is led by Dr. Rick Hodes, an American doctor, who is working with an Ethiopian physician and nurse.

During the crisis in 1994, Dr. Hodes led the first JDC medical team to Goma, Zaire, to assist dying refugees.

JDC is also providing funds for the purchase of emergency medical supplies to help deal with the crisis. In addition, JDC is sending a second medical team led by Dr. Arthur Fost of Verona, New Jersey, to Rwanda to help care for the flood of recently returned refugees from Zaire. The project is being carried out in partnership with the International Rescue Committee.

This effort is a continuation of a program initiated in 1994 by a coalition of major Jewish organizations that came together to ensure a united humanitarian response to the disaster taking place in Rwanda. Coalition funding enabled JDC to send two medical teams to the area, purchase medical supplies, build sanitation facilities for a refugee camp, construct and operate an orphanage in Rwanda, as well as train workers caring for traumatized Rwandan children. Joining JDC in that effort was the African-American Institute, the oldest multi-ethnic, multi-racial private voluntary organization in the U.S. specializing in creating mutual understanding between the United States and Africa.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is a beneficiary agency of the UJA Federation Campaign, administered locally by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

## Meshiach

Continued from page 5

And then it happened; everyone was faxed another message on the same morning: "When you are one, then the Meshiach will come! Once again, you have tried to cut the baby in half. Maybe next time." And it was signed, Elijah, the prophet.

Perhaps this story is but a fantasy

or illusion, but would it not be said if the Meshiach were ready to come, and because we could not get along, we again had to wait. Perhaps as we learn to listen to each other more, as we learn to respect each other and each other's ways, we can bring Meshiach. Perhaps, and if not, for sure, it cannot hurt.

(Rabbi Kaplan is the Spiritual leader of Reconstructionist Temple Beth El.)

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# Sapperstein Speaks on Social Action

By LAWRENCE ORNSTON  
Special to *The Jewish Voice*

In an impassioned address on December 3, supporting the need for and establishing the direction of greater Jewish social activism, Rabbi David Saperstein held his audience of some 150 persons at Congregation Beth Shalom captive with his charismatic presentation. The guest speaker at the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Memorial Lecture, David Saperstein, a Rabbi and attorney, is codirector and counsel of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, in Washington, D.C., and an adjunct Professor in Comparative Jewish American Law at Georgetown University Law Center.

Calling his Religious Action Center a type of lobby for the reform movement, he described it as a focus for flourishing social justice activities. These include seminars for Social Action leaders, training on putting forth agendas on Social Action issues, responding to the religious right in America on issues such as school prayer, and involvement in religious pluralism questions in Israel.

After briefly describing his Center's activities, Rabbi Saperstein launched into his main topic, the Roots of Jewish Social Justice. Operating on the assumption that we live in a God-oriented world, he outlined the resulting underpinnings of our society,

including the need for decent wages, food and housing, charity for those less fortunate, and a universal justice. "When justice is done", he said, "truth prevails, and peace is present".

Both the Talmud and Halachic law mandate this need for social justice, and institutions both Jewish and secular have been created and have grown to serve society in this regard. Saperstein described the development of social thinking, from the rational world view of God in the 18th century, to the age of reason, which used ethics as a basis for logic and the definition of good and evil, to the existential philosophy of the 20th century. The concept of social justice found a sympathetic ear in America, allowing Jews to implement their desires in a society that welcomed these ideas.

Rabbi Saperstein responded to his own question of why Social Justice should be in the forefront of Jewish culture. He argued that it is right to be God's partners in the implementation of justice and peace. "The work of social justice is holy work," he said, reiterating that Jews should be a light to and of the nations.

In describing his great delight that action for social justice was greater today than ever before, even in the 60's, Saperstein quoted a broad survey of Jews conducted to help ascertain the main avenue through

which one's Jewish identity is expressed. The results were illuminating, he stated. 17% of those surveyed responded that their Jewish identity was expressed primarily through ritual, 17% through the support of Israel, and over 50% through the commitment to and involvement in social justice. Jews will not be "safe" unless all others are "safe", said Saperstein, and so our concentration on social justice for all people is entirely appropriate.

Saperstein also raised some current societal concerns, including the impact on innocent children of recent welfare legislation, and the effect of more stringent controls on immigrants, citing the Talmudic precept in the latter case of treating the stranger in our midst as if he or she were one of us.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Saperstein opened the floor to questions, but he dealt only briefly with specific issues like abortion, and the apparently growing conservatism of Jewish political thought. In the former, he described his own views (emphasis on abstention before marriage, as well as extensive education in contraception, with the potential mother's decision on abortion taking precedence only as a last resort) rather than any prevailing halachic interpretations. In the latter, he felt

that Jewish political thought has not become more conservative, only that conservative Jews have become more assertive.

Rabbi Saperstein autographed his book "Tough Choices - Jewish Perspectives on Social Justice" at the end of the program.

## Bob Weiner, New Castle County Councilman

By JORDAN SOPINSKY  
Editor of *The Jewish Voice*

Robert S. Weiner, an attorney with Roeberg, Moore and Associates, was elected to the New Castle County Council last November 5. Now covering the second district, which encompasses Brandywine Hundred minus the area between Concord Pike and the Brandywine River, Weiner was the committee chairman of the Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred since 1985. A native of West Chester, Pennsylvania, he is the president of the men's club at Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth and a member of a barbershop quartet.

A self-described anti-irresponsible development proponent, Weiner has channeled himself and the ideas and ideals he had while a long-haired Vietnam war protester at the University of Delaware into a catalyst for community involvement with development. The author of articles concerning land use issues and state legislation which have appeared in pub-



Bob Weiner

lications in Delaware, he has dedicated numerous hours to educating the community on the importance of balancing responsible development and preservation of our natural resources.

He, his wife Karin, and their children, Ellen and Rachel, reside in Wilmington.

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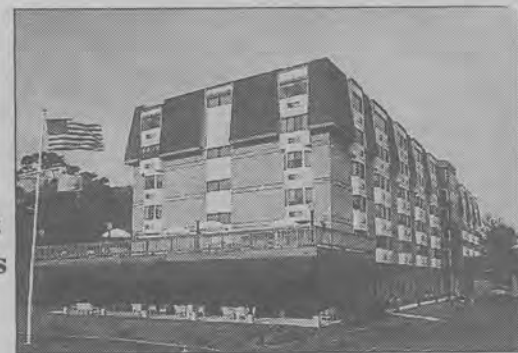
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**Wednesdays:** Behind The Lines, The weekly Torah portion, 8:30 p.m. at Chabad in Wilmington.

**Deli and Bingo Night**

AKSE Sisterhood and Men's Club are sponsoring a Deli & Bingo Night on Tuesday, December 24 at 6 p.m. For reservations please call the Synagogue office at 762-2705. The deadline for reservations is Friday, December 20. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 through 12. Children 4 and under are free.

**Foreman Birth**



Rhonda and Jonathon Foreman proudly announce the birth of their first son, Ian Jacob (Issachar Yussel) on December 4, 1996 at 4:24 p.m. at Christiana Hospital. Weighing in at eight pounds, six ounces, Ian's grandparents are Selma Foreman and Shirley and Sheldon Lasher.



**Isaacson Birth/Naming**

Donald and Julie Isaacson of Newark, DE are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Jill Moriah, on April 25, 1996. The baby is named in living memory of her maternal grandmother, Maxim F. Young, of Willingboro, N.J. Her Hebrew name, Rena Hadara, is in living memory of her paternal great grandfathers, I. Richard Lenzner of Florida, and Harry Isaacson of Trenton, NJ. The naming occurred on September 6, 1996 at Adath Emanu-El, Willingboro, NJ, by Rabbi Richard Levine. Jill's grandparents are Laura Young of Willingboro, NJ and Martin and Beryl Isaacson of Wilmington, DE.

**Topper-Avenarius**

Julie Ann Topper and Willem Michael Daan Avenarius, both of Newark, were married June 9th at the Christiana Hilton Inn. A reception followed the ceremony. Julie is a staff accountant at Artisan's Bank in Wilmington and is the daughter of Bonnie Ross of Glen Cove, New

York, and William Topper of Aston, Pennsylvania. Willem is the owner of Avenarius Construction Company in Newark and is the son of Derk and Rosemary

Avenarius of Bear, DE. The bride received a bachelor's degree from Wilmington College. The groom is a graduate of Caravel Academy. The couple lives in Newark.

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## Foreign Policy

Continued from page 3

America," Clinton said last week in the Oval Office ceremony announcing her appointment.

Said Ira Forman, who worked under Albright in the early 1990s at the Center for National Policy: "Madeleine's worldview was shaped very much by the totalitarianism challenges of the 20th century."

Forman, who now serves as the executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council, hailed Albright as "a very sharp individual with as sharp political skills as anyone I've seen in foreign policy."

Forman's praise was echoed by

several Israeli and Jewish officials who have worked with her.

David Peleg, Israel's acting ambassador to the United Nations, said, "Ambassador Albright combines great professionalism and understanding of the international scene with great sympathy and friendship with Israel and clear support for the peace process."

He said Albright's support for Israel was "especially clear" during "more difficult times." He singled out the death of refugees by Israeli missiles at a U.N. base in Lebanon in May, which prompted Security Council debate but no official con-

## Labor, Likud

Continued from page 3

plan was effectively shelved. It remains, however, the only agreed basis for a permanent settlement. It is predicated, however, on two conditions that would presumably be difficult for many in the Likud to swallow:

•It calls for full Palestinian state-

demnation of Israel.

He also said she helped temper U.N. reaction in September to Israel's opening of a new entrance to a Jerusalem tunnel and the violence it triggered between Israelis and Palestinians.

Albright has concentrated her career on Eastern and Central Europe and has little direct experience with the Middle East. Outside of the United Nations, where she implemented rather than formulated policy, she has had no direct contact with the Middle East peace process.

But her supporters point out that as a senior foreign policy adviser to the Mondale and Dukakis presidential campaigns, Albright crafted a pro-Israel campaign platform.

"Her support for democracy is very strong," Forman said. "This very much colors her view of the Middle East and Israel as its only democracy."

In addition, he said, she "knows the basics of the conflict and the history of the region."

hood in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The Likud is committed, at least for now, to oppose Palestinian statehood. Nevertheless, some observers point to Netanyahu's recent comparisons of Andorra and Puerto Rico to the potential makeup of a future Palestinian entity. This, they say, proves that he is pragmatic enough to accept that the permanent-status talks must satisfy in some measure the Palestinians' demand for sovereignty while assuring Israel's security.

•The annexation of the settlement bloc was to be set off, in the Beilin-Abbas agreement, by Israel's ceding some of its sovereign soil alongside the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians. Here, too, some observers say that the Likud of today is much more pragmatic than in the past — and much more pragmatic than some of its current coalition partners. A land-for-land deal enabling Israel to hold

onto the major settlements could yet find supporters among Netanyahu's camp. If there is indeed ease in forging a consensus on talks with the Palestinians, what keeps Labor and Likud apart, according to Katsav, is the Golan Heights.

Other politicians and political observers, however, maintain that there is much flexibility in Netanyahu's ostensibly hard-line position on the Golan. They cite a recent flurry of diplomatic messages from Jerusalem to Damascus, all to the effect that the Netanyahu government is ready to resume the long-stalled talks with Syria — though not necessarily from the position at which the previous Labor government broke them off in March. Labor, according to the Syrians — and according to the Likud — was ready to trade all the Golan for a full peace with Damascus.

The Likud is not ready to do so.

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## OBITUARIES

### ISADORE REITZES

Isadore Reitzes, 87, of 100 Hilltop Road, Hilltop Manor, Holly Oak, died Sunday, December 8 of congestive heart failure in Wilmington Hospital.

Mr. Reitzes had been a chemist at Allied Kidd Co., and a pharmaceutical sales representative for Lemmon Co. He was co-founder of the Boys Club of Wilmington and Kutz Home for the Aged, Arden. He once received an award from the Jewish Federation of Delaware for fund-raising. He captained the University of Delaware football and baseball teams during his junior and seniors years.

After college he reported to the Cleveland Indians and was sent to Elmira, N.Y. where an arm injury stole his chance for the big league.

Survivors include his wife, Rose Zinman Reitzes; sons, Marc of Weldin Woods, Brandywine Hundred, and Robert of Chappaqua, N.Y.; brother, Samuel, and sister, Lillian Blank, both of Miami Beach, Fla.; six grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to Hadassah or Beth Shalom.

### LILLIAN WOOLF SOLTZBERG

Lillian Woolf Soltzberg, 89, of 6525 Lancaster Pike, Hockessin, died Tuesday, December 3, at St. Francis Hospital, Wilmington.

Mrs. Soltzberg was a salesperson at the Wilmington Hospital gift shop for five years. She retired in 1986. She was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth and its sisterhood, and a former member of the Delaware State Parent-Teacher Association. Her husband, Solomon, died in 1985.

Survivors include, son, Leonard J. of Needham, Mass.; daughter, Dina Jean Soltzberg of Las Vegas, Nev.; two grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to Congregation Beth Emeth.



It's Henry Winkler with JFD staff members (l to r) Lelaine Nemser, Jordan Sopinsky, Morissa Sher, Judy Wortman, Dan Weintraub and Judy Stiebel.

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# CHANUKAH 5757

## Chanukah, My Father and I

By LARRY GORDON

Special to The Jewish Voice

My father, Nison Gordon, lit six candles on his last Chanukah seven years ago. I've been struggling lately to make sense of that and can't stop wondering why it happened.

As one who believes that every event, from the most minute to the greatest, is chock full of meaning, I have no choice but to search and scour every angle of that event which leaves me saying Kaddish in the middle of Chanukah. I'm not at ease chalking up my father's passing on Chanukah as just one of those inconsequential and coincidental things that happens and is beyond us. Perhaps these occurrences are not beyond us; maybe we just let them be that way.

In the last few weeks I've been privy to some remarkable Chanukah insights that have led me to a better understanding of how mourning struck me on the sixth day of Chanukah, seven years ago. As explained by Rabbi Akiva Tatz of Jerusalem, Chanukah is an unusu-

ally special time on the Jewish calendar. Chanukah, he explains, was the last time that G-d displayed an open miracle for the Jewish people — the burning of the Menorah in the Holy Temple for eight days despite the one day's supply of oil discovered at the time. Prior to that first Chanukah, the Jewish experience was woven with even greater miracles; the miraculous burning of the Menorah, however, was the last open miracle demonstrated for the world until the coming of Moshiach.

Rabbi Tatz draws a parallel between Chanukah and a young husband and wife who must part for an extended period of time. Their last time together remains ever present and special and must sustain them until the day they are reunited. The last special day together for the husband and wife represents the last time that the Jewish people were together in an open and obvious way with G-d before departing on a most prolonged and painful separation whose ending, we pray, is rapidly drawing near.

As I listened to Rabbi Tatz' analy-

sis the other day, this illustration finally began to clarify for me the mystery of that Chanukah, the very last and most memorable, precious time that I saw my father alive. When I think back to all the times we were together throughout the years — month after month, week after week, day after day — I am suddenly struck with the realization that those last few days, and the last few moments we spoke on the phone the night before his passing, are what I've been holding onto all this time. It is those moments that are frozen in time and ever present in my mind — not my childhood, my wedding or my bar mitzvah day — only those last few moments.

I don't believe that my father had any idea that on that sixth night of Chanukah the candle he was holding would be the last candle he would light. I know that he didn't feel well and was concerned, but I also know that his very powerful faith in the eternity of the Jewish soul and the radiance of the Chanukah fire, over which he recited a blessing, assigned whatever fears he held within. I of-

ten wonder what he was thinking as he stood over and watched that sixth night's flame flicker and burn. It would eventually become extinguished just about the same time that his soul separated from his body and entered a world that I'm certain opened his eyes and brought him immense and heretofore unknown knowledge, understanding and joy.

His absence has left me with a profound emptiness. It's been so long, but the wound is still so fresh. I yearn to exchange a few words with him, to talk or just say nothing, or just to have him somehow near me. I can't help it. That's what I want. I'm only human.

It's written, that prior to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, the Menorah and the other utensils used in the Temple service were hidden in caves in the Jerusalem hills, carved out for this purpose by King Solomon, when he learned of the prophecy of the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash. The commentator known as the Sfias Emes says that even though the Menorah is hidden

deep within those hills, some 2,000 years later the wicks of the Menorah are still ablaze with a miraculous flame that will burn until the advent of Moshiach.

It's an awe-inspiring idea that makes me feel that if the Menorah is burning in those hills, then it may be possible that somewhere a heart on some level is still beating in a man that is lighting a sixth candle on a Chanukah night as his face breaks into a smile at hearing the chanting of words that, at first, wrench the heart and only later begin to soothe and comfort. "Yisgadal v'yiskdash shemei rabbah..."

(Larry Gordon is a writer living on Long Island.)

## A Post-Hanukkah Pondering:

By JOEL F. GLAZIER

As our eight day Festival of Light comes to a close, the U. S. Postal Service's Hanukkah Stamp sticks on. With apologies to David Letterman and his top 10 lists of insignificances, we offer the Top 8 Reasons Why You Should Use the Hanukkah Stamp. (And does Letterman offer any acrostics with his list?):

8. How interesting it is that this is the first holiday stamp issued in the USA which mentions a Jewish Holiday. It is not quite the miracle of 164 BCE but it's not bad for 1996 CE.

7. Amazingly, this is the first time there has been a joint issue between Israel and the U.S.—and this cooperative project involved no military secrets.

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2. After Hanukkah, imagine your Gentile friends' increased sensitivity that the years of using Madonna & Child stamps on their cards to you may not have been "kosher."

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(Joel Glazier, teacher and occasional contributor to The Jewish Voice, in addition to being a casual philatelist, is also an avid mail-user of the old fashioned way.)

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5. Unbelievably, the cost is only 32 cents, which can deliver a card across the street or all the way to the community of the self-proclaimed "Frozen Chosen" in Fairbanks, Alaska. A real seasonal bargain!

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