

# The JEWISH VOICE

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## NJCRAC Plenum At A Time of Change

By DAN WEINTRAUB  
JCRC Director

The 1996 NJCRAC Plenary Session, which concluded February 14 in St. Louis, marked a turning point for the umbrella organization devoted to the Jewish public affairs agenda in America. A proposal to make NJCRAC a more effective resource for local Jewish Community Relations Committees garnered more attention than the prominent speakers and the addition of new public affairs issues.

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, or NJCRAC, represents a unique partnership of 117 local agencies (like Delaware's JCRC) and 13 national agencies (such as the ADL, UAHC and Hadassah). A strategic plan revealed at the plenum would change the name of the group from the unwieldy "NJCRAC," to something more memorable. The plan would also change NJCRAC's methods to determine consensus, add a Washington office and take additional steps to more effectively coordinate public affairs. Among such steps is a possible role in coordinating funding of Jewish public affairs projects nationally. Observers see the effect of the plan as helpful to local JCRC and Federation groups.

Among the prominent speakers at the Plenum were Ehud Barak, Foreign Minister of Israel. The former IDF general authoritatively articulated the case that the peace process does not diminish Israeli security. Reflecting on Israel's economic progress he noted "now we have not only McDonnell-Douglas, we also have McDonald's." Speaking by telephone,

former Ambassador Zalman Choval, of the Likud party, suggested that Israeli economic progress was the reason that many countries have now recognized Israel in answer to a question of whether such relations were a byproduct of the peace process.

Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala; Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt and House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt, spoke at separate sessions. Chicago Tribune columnist and author Clarence Page spoke about Race in America.

Ted Lapkin a community relations director of Palm Beach County, Florida suggested that in addition to such distinguished speakers representing a liberal perspective it was important for NJCRAC to again also feature conservative speakers as in the past. Lapkin noted that given the 1994 Congressional elections some consideration some substantive changes may be warranted in the focus of NJCRAC.

Babbitt's appearance came at a time that environmental issues got a place at the table along with such traditional concerns as Israel, Church-State issues, and immigrations. NJCRAC took a position in support of biological diversity, an issue that is also of concern to such unlikely bedfellows as Christian evangelicals. Environmental issues are also seen as an important way for the organized Jewish community to attract younger Jews and unaffiliated Jews who may be interested in environmental issues.

The NJCRAC Plenum was held concurrently with the Hillel Spitzer forum. Among those with Delaware connections in attendance were



Chicago Tribune columnist Clarence Page speaking at the recently concluded NJCRAC Plenum in St. Louis.

Rachel Saifer and Wendy Goldberg who both attend the University of Delaware. Delaware native Natalie Heiman, of the University of Chicago, co-chaired a session titled "Bringing the Campus and The Community Closer Together: Mentoring," and chaired a session titled "Orchestrating a Letter Writing Campaign."

Rabbi David Wortman of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington, who also serves as the JCRC Director in Philadelphia, spoke in a dis-

cussion group at the Plenum of the need to study traditional texts to understand the sources of Jewish approaches to social action. Rabbi Marla Feldman, Assistant Director of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit, sent her regards to "everyone in Delaware" where she was most recently the JCRC Director.

The 1997 plenum will be held in Washington, DC and John A. Elzufon, Chair of Delaware's JCRC, expects that a number of Delaware Jews will attend the gathering.

Republican hopeful Steve Forbes has been faced with his own questions about his informal adviser, Thomas Ellis, a former director of the Pioneer Fund, which is known for its anti-Semitism and white supremacy.

The revelations about extremists in the midst of political campaigns are neither new nor surprising, according to students of politics.

As long as there have been political campaigns, people with extremist views tend to flock to those campaigns during the election season, they say.

It was true in 1988, with revelations that President Bush had Nazi SS sympathizers in his inner circle, and it is true today, with the latest reports from this year's contest.

Continued on page 27

## Extremists On Candidates' Staff Cause Concern

WASHINGTON (JTA) — this week the New Hampshire primary vote was divided with Pat Buchanan receiving 27 percent of the vote; Senator Bob Dole close behind with 26 percent; and former Governor Lamm Alexander stood with 23 percent of the vote.

Four years ago, Pat Buchanan's campaign co-chairman stood next to a white supremacist, a Ku Klux Klan leader and a head of a militia group while a speaker branded opponents of gum control as "your enemies" who are "pumping all the Talmudic filth that they can vomit and defecate into your living room."

Larry Pratt, who last week took a leave of absence from the Buchanan presidential campaign, watched as the crowd burst into applause.

In more recent years, he returned to similar sessions, standing beside some of the most bigoted supporters of the right to bear arms. Only in recent days has Pratt distanced himself from such offensive views.

As Pratt's history comes to light, Buchanan has become the latest aspirant for the nation's highest office to have a top-level supporter involved with his campaign who has ties to extremist causes.

Buchanan, whose boost in the early race for the Republican bid for president has alarmed many Jews, it not alone in attracting extremists to this campaign.

But his adamant defense of his longtime

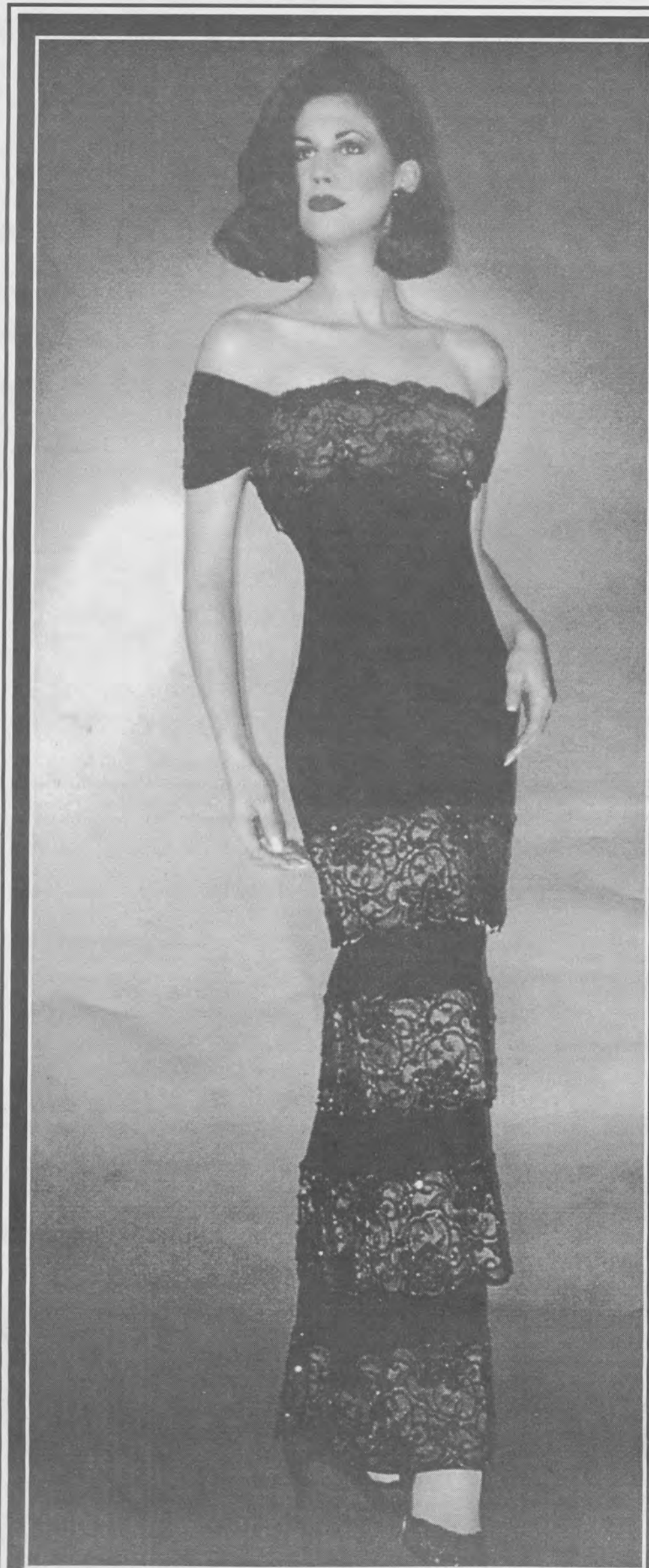
friend and adviser is raising troubling questions for many.



Pat Buchanan, shown here speaking to the Christian Coalition, narrowly won the New Hampshire Primary with 27 percent of the vote. RNS Photo/Reuters

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## BRIEFS

The JEWISH VOICE

## NEWS &amp; COMMENTARY

## Everything Coming Up Roses

JERUSALEM, (JTA) — Israeli flower exports have grown to new heights in the time leading up to Valentine's Day.

Growers here said that in the past 10 days, Israel exported 75 million flowers, with a profit of \$16 million.

The mostly red flowers were shipped in 23 jumbo jets to American and European markets. Roses and carnations are among the most popular blooms this time of year, said Ya'akov Siton, the head of Israel's flower council.



Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, left, poses with Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, before their meeting at the United Nations in New York Feb. 13. Barak said that easing sanctions against Iraq would provide resources that might help it obtain weapons. RNS Photo/Reuters.

## The First Bat Mitzvah Dies At The Age of 86

NEW YORK, (JTA) — Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, the mother of the Bat Mitzvah and the daughter of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most influential theologians, has died. Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, who was also a noted authority on Jewish music as well as a composer and lyricist, died this month of a heart attack at age 86 while in a Rockville, Md., hospital recovering from a broken hip. Those who knew her remembered her as a vibrant woman with a strong will and a deep commitment to Judaism the way her father, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, articulated it—as an evolving civilization.



PLO head Yasser Arafat leans over the table to accept the congratulations of members of the Legislative Council after being sworn in as Palestinian president February 12. RNS Photo/Reuters.

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## Israeli Elections Set For May 24

By NAOMI SEGAL

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's parliamentary leaders have reached an agreement to hold the country's national elections on May 29.

"I am happy to announce that a date has been announced which is acceptable to all the factions" in the Knesset, Raanan Cohen said Tuesday.

Cohen, the Knesset leader of the Labor-led governing coalition, made the statement after holding intensive meetings throughout the day with members of the different parliamentary factions.

Last week, Prime Minister Shimon Peres announced that he would move up Israel's elections to May or early June from the scheduled date in late October.

But in subsequent days, the various political parties were unable to agree on a specific date for the voting.

Likud and the religious parties had pushed for June 4, while the Labor Party had reportedly preferred May 14 or May 20 for the elections.

The Labor Party has faced mounting pressure to pin down a date in order to allow the Knesset enough time to take all the steps required for

elections to take place.

Part of the pressure came from Knesset Law Committee Chairman Dedi Zucker of the Meretz Party, who said the committee had to push through legislation that would dissolve the current Knesset prior to the elections — a step that required a new election date.

Cohen held closed-door talks Tuesday afternoon with Likud Knesset member Michael Eitan. An hour later, he convened a meeting of all the Knesset party leaders, which was soon followed by the announcement of the date.

After the announcement, Zucker said he hoped to conclude the process of dissolving the Knesset before the end of the week.

No specific date has yet been given for when the current Knesset — the 13th — would dissolve. But Labor officials said it would likely be in March.

In a related development, Likud breakaway David Levy formally declared Tuesday that he was forming a new political party that would compete in the upcoming Knesset elections.

He also announced that he would run for prime minister as head of the

new party.

Levy, 58, broke away from Likud last June in a dispute with Likud leader and longtime rival Benjamin Netanyahu over internal party election procedures.

He told reporters Tuesday that his new party, Geshet — Hebrew for "bridge" — could win as much as 20 percent of the vote for Knesset members.

Polls released last Friday reportedly indicated that Levy would win between 5 percent and 6 percent of the vote in the separate race against Peres and Netanyahu for the premiership.

Levy, who recently rebuffed overtures to join a Likud-Tsomet list that brings two right-wing parties under one parliamentary banner, is viewed as having the potential of siphoning votes away from Netanyahu by running separately on his new party's centrist platform.

the Moroccan-born Levy, who is popular with the country's Sephardi voters, is also seen as a potential kingmaker in Israel's system of coalition politics if Peres' current lead over Netanyahu in the polls begins to erode by election day.

## Israeli To Allow Syrians Tour The Museum Of Tolerance To Meet

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES, (JTA) — The Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance, which is accustomed to a wide range of international visitors, recorded a first last week when it hosted a group of six Syrian writers and artists.

The group included three writers, a journalist, a painter and a sculptor, most of them in their 30s. They were taken on a tour of the museum by Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the center's associate dean. Before leaving, two

members of the group recorded their impressions in Arabic in the visitors book.

One wrote, "A very fortunate visit, with a lot of information on these ugly crimes against humanity."

The second entry read: "A revealing and moving experience. I hope this will not happen to other people."

The Syrians were selected by the U.S. Information Service office in Damascus. Their itinerary was arranged by the International Visitors Council of Los Angeles.

## Brit Jews Intermarry More

By SIMON ROCKER

London Jewish Chronicle  
LONDON, Feb. 11 (JTA) — Nearly half of British Jewish men younger than 40 who are married or in steady relationships have a non-Jewish partner, according to a new survey of British Jewry. The report, conducted by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, also showed that one in three British Jews did not belong to a synagogue. And the survey indicated that British Jewish men intermarry more than women.

The survey was based on questionnaires answered by more than 2,000 people. Its authors maintain that because of the size of the sample and the methodology used, the survey provides the most representative picture yet obtained of Britain's Jewish community.

For British Jewish men of all ages, 38 percent who are married or in steady relationships have a non-Jewish partner, according to portions of the report that have been released. It will soon be released in full.

Among British Jewish men younger than 40, the intermarriage

rate rises to 44 percent.

For British Jewish women, the rate is estimated at between 20 percent and 25 percent.

In the United States, by comparison, the average intermarriage rate for Jewish men and women who have married during the past 10 years is 52 percent.

The gap in the intermarriage rate in Britain between the sexes has "clear implications," according to the report.

In the future, "either the rate in Jewish women will move towards that of men because of the unavailability of Jewish partners, or a higher proportion of Jewish women will remain unmarried," the survey said.

Figures on synagogue membership offer "no comfort" to the main Jewish religious bodies in Great Britain, the report also said.

Along with the finding that one in three British Jews do not belong to a synagogue, the survey found that more than 25 percent of the Jewish community had not attended synagogue during the previous year and that nearly half of the Jews younger than 35 were not members of a synagogue.

## EDITORIAL

## The '96 Presidential Race Is On...

Primary season is now in full swing. Before long we shall have a clearer picture of who will be the nominee of the Republican Party for President. Surely no one who watches television even occasionally can escape the fact that seeking the nomination is very serious business. It is certainly serious for the candidates and their supporters, for the Party which hopes to win the Prize and for the country.

But how seriously do the American people take the election? Voter turnout statistics show decreasing percentages of the electorate going to the polls. In the last presidential election very low numbers of 18 to 25 year olds voted. The numbers of Jewish voters in this age range were also very low which alarms those of us interested in the support of Israel and other Jewish issues.

For our immigrant grandparents and great grandparents becoming an American meant not only reaping the rewards of living in a free and open society but accepting the responsibilities of good citizenship. This meant involving themselves in the democratic process: voting, working for and supporting candidates and even running for office.

Major reasons for poor voter turnout are found to be voter registration difficulties, lack of faith in the electoral and legislative process and the absence of clear statements on issues.

Recent legislation has made voter registration more accessible to citizens and this promises to increase the voting lists significantly.

Our hats off to the Jewish Community Re-

lations Committee who have arranged for voter registration on Sunday, March 3, from 10 to 1 p.m. at Congregations Beth Emeth and Beth Shalom and from 10:30 to 1 p.m. at Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. New voters and those who have moved or changed their name must register in order to vote in the upcoming elections.

Many Americans show their distrust of and alienation from government and elected officials by staying home on election day. They believe that legislators are beholden to the wealthy and the special interests who finance election campaigns. They see in the present system of campaign financing that they the voters have reduced access to elected officials, that incumbents have an unfair advantage over challengers and that ethical standards in government are eroding.

To restore confidence in the political process we must reform campaign finance and spending practices. We need to reduce special interest and PAC contributions, set overall spending limits, shut down loopholes like "soft money" and provide partial public resources for campaigns. The failure to adopt these reforms will continue to weaken our democracy and strengthen the cynicism that keeps citizens from the polls.

Only when the American people believe that they have a full and equal part in making decisions that shape their society will they take seriously their right to vote.



DES MOINES, IOWA -- Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole gives a thumbs up as he celebrates his win in the Iowa caucuses at a rally in Des Moines, February 12. RVS Photo/Reuters

The JEWISH VOICE

VOICE MAIL

## LATE BITS

The following summaries relate to late breaking stories and other items of interest. Much of these were not available at press time in a more substantial form. Other summaries reflect current developments. These late bits are adapted from what has been provided to The Jewish Voice from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA)

NEW HAMPSHIRE — Pat Buchanan narrowly earned a plurality of the New Hampshire vote with 27 percent; Senator Bob Dole earned 26 percent of the vote and former Governor Lamar Alexander gained 23 percent.

JERUSALEM — Israel's Labor Party wins a key parliamentary vote on Jerusalem, scrapping right-wing legislation that would have made any future change to the city's status almost impossible.

JERUSALEM — An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale — with an epicenter about 75 miles south of Eilat — shakes areas as far north as central Israel.

JERUSALEM — An alleged terrorist flying in a glider is killed in an explosion north of the southern Lebanon security zone.

WASHINGTON — Controversies surrounding campaign officials close to Pat Buchanan and Steve Forbes raise questions about the attraction of extremists to presidential candidates.

JERUSALEM — The debate surrounding the future of Israel's capital city is becoming the centerpiece of the election campaigns for the Knesset and premiership.

JERUSALEM — The Jewish Agency for Israel decides to revamp its programs for Jews in the former Soviet Union.

PYATIGORSK, Russia — The imminent departure of the last Jewish refugees from Chechnya is the latest episode in the dwindling Jewish population of the Caucasus.

WASHINGTON — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan continues to tour Muslim nation at odds with the United States.

JERUSALEM — The scandal surrounding the resignation of the editor of Israel's leading Hebrew daily is indicative of the country's highly volatile media market.

NEW YORK — An American Jewish Committee survey shows that U.S. Jewish support for the peace process increased after the Rabin assassination.

## Why Do Some Jews Remain in Ethiopia?

Dear Editor:

Your excellent summary of the issues underlying the recent demonstration by Ethiopian Jews contained one significant omission. Our community is extremely concerned about the situation of 3,400 of its members who for six years have been living in Addis Ababa under appalling conditions, awaiting permission to leave for Israel. Many have close relatives in Israel including soldiers serving in the Israeli defense forces. While previously challenged by an Israeli ministerial committee, their eligibility for emigration under Israel's Law of Return is now beyond question. In 1993, a committee of the Chief Rabbinate recognized them as a Jewish community. Recently, the National Religious Party issued an urgent appeal to Prime Minister Peres to bring them to Israel immediately since "they are without doubt part of Israel and live as Jews in all respects."

The Ethiopian Community in Israel cannot conceive of any legitimate reason why the secular, supposedly more liberal Labor and Meretz cabinet ministers, who control immigration and absorption, continue to deny that the members of this strictly Orthodox Jewish community qualify for Israeli citizenship under the Law of return. The governments recalcitrance on this issue and its devotion of the most meager resources to the emigration of those few Ethiopian Jews few Ethiopian Jews who qualify under its highly restrictive criteria is indefensible. It has caused great suffering in Addis Ababa and has led to great anger in the Ethiopian Community in Israel, explaining in part the unprecedented demonstration in Jerusalem.

Sincerely,  
Abraham Negussie  
The South Wing to Zion  
P.O. Box 23970  
Jerusalem, Israel

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for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice

DEADLINE	FOCUS	ISSUE
February 29	Purim Preview/Camp Planner	March 8
March 14	Passover Preview	March 22
April 2	Spring Fashion	April 12
April 18	Restaurant Guide	April 26

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## Rabbi's Roundtable – Considering Capital Punishment



Rabbi Grumbacher

By RACHEL E. SAIFER

Assistant Editor of *The Jewish Voice*

The recent surge of executions have put capital punishment on the minds and mouths of our community. When we sit in a conference room at work with colleagues, or at the dinner table with our families, questions and thoughts on this issue have been provoked and discussed. Opinions of the secular society are prominent in formulating our beliefs as individuals. *The Jewish Voice* has decided to offer you a different outlook. A panel of several area rabbis, in a written forum, provides some perspectives on "how a Jewish person can respond to capital punishment." Note, this forum does not reflect the full range of Delaware rabbinical views since circumstances prevented several rabbis from responding before our deadline.

Rabbi Grumbacher, Senior Rabbi of Congregation Beth Emeth, explained his own beliefs. "Early on in my rabbinate I opposed the death penalty based upon the belief that wealth and race will make the difference between a sentence of life imprisonment and execution," said Rabbi Grumbacher. "There is still little question in my mind that the system is not blind, nevertheless the heinous nature of crimes which have resulted in the death sentence make execution by the state an option I cannot oppose," he concluded.

Rabbi Wortman of Congregation Beth Sha-

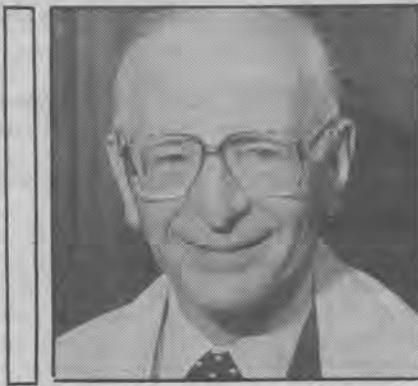
lom, told *The Jewish Voice* that "When Rabbi Tarfon suggested that a rabbinic court that handed down a sentence of capital punishment once in seven years should be considered a violent court, Rabbi Elazar ber Azaria responded, "No, once in seventy." (BT Makkot 7a). This simple exchange reflect a consistent attitude expressed by the rabbis in the Talmud toward capital punishment."

Rabbi Wortman explained, "Admittedly, the Torah calls for the death sentence for fifteen different offenses. However, the rabbis, as the redactors of the oral law, added thirteen necessary conditions before capital punishment could be meted out. This meant that it was virtually impossible to apply the death penalty."

Rabbi Wortman revealed that he has had "an equally strong personal experience that has impassioned my opposition to the death penalty. Aside from the classic arguments about it not being an effective deterrent, or that the costs are actually cheaper to keep someone in jail for fifty years than it is to execute someone, the most telling argument is the possibility of executing an innocent person wrongfully convicted of a capital crime." What's more, Rabbi Wortman, told *The Jewish Voice*, "I worked with such a person when I was the Director of the Jewish Chaplaincy Service for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A Jewish individual had been convicted



Rabbi Wortman



Rabbi Goldblum

of a double contract murder. He was given a death sentence." Wortman continued, "after several years in jail, including ten months in solitary confinement on death row, it was established that he had been wrongfully convicted. Instead of my officiating at his funeral, thankfully he and his family joined Judy and me for seder that year."

Concluding his remarks, Rabbi Wortman said, "The United States is the only industrialized western nation with capital punishment. It is for us to recognize what our tradition and the rest of the civilized world has learned. Capital punishment is wrong."

Another Delaware Rabbi provided yet another point of view. "In Judaism, the religious justification for the death penalty is found in the Torah, "life for life, eye for eye" (Ex. 21:23-24) said Rabbi Malinger, Assistant Rabbi at Congregation Beth Emeth. "In early biblical society capital punishment was instituted for crimes that later generations considered trivial. The problem was that the later generations could not simply repeal laws they felt were of divine origin." Rabbi Malinger says that "capital punishment was conceived as revenge, not as a means of deterrent. We have seen time and time again that the deterrent argument fails." Rabbi Malinger defined the topic by saying, "capital punishment is the penalty for intentional, pre-planned murder, both in the historical understanding within the Jewish com-

munity as well as the rest of society." He concluded, his thoughts by saying "as Reform Jews, we are not bound by halakhah, but informed by it. With this in mind, capital punishment is ethically wrong. Yet, is there another solution for the problem of murder in our society?" he asked.

Congregation Beth Shalom in Dover's Rabbi Goldblum also submitted a response when posed with the same dilemma. "Few will agree with me, but I am opposed to capital punishment," he began. "It is my belief that human beings do not have the adequate sensitivity, nor wisdom to determine who is to live and who is to die. There are too many mistakes made in the court process to place such a great responsibility upon any human being to make such determinations." Similar to the notions of Rabbi Malinger, Rabbi Goldblum points out, "the possibility of capital punishment does not serve as a deterrent nor does it save society very much money when one considers what expenses are involved in making constant appeals, usually done by prisoners facing a death sentence." He concludes with the thought that "one mistake should make all of America recognize what a tremendous obligation rests upon society's shoulders in the establishment of a system that will not take lives of innocent people."



Rabbi Malinger

## Pat Buchanan: An Anti-Semite Out of Control

By Rabbi AVI WEISS

Opinion Writer

(Note: Columnists' opinions are their own and they do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Jewish Voice* or the *Jewish Federation of Delaware*. This column was written before the New Hampshire primary.)

Pat Buchanan's bid for the Republican nomination is running high. On the heels of his strong showing in Iowa and his victories in the Louisiana caucus and Alaska straw poll, Buchanan is expected to come in close to the top in the New Hampshire primary as well. Forgotten is his record of anti-Semitism and racism. A record that should make it impossible for decent Americans to vote for him.

I have personally witnessed the anti-Semitism that Buchanan has engendered. Four years ago on the eve of the New Hampshire primary, four of us from the Coalition for Jewish Concerns-Amcha protested his appearance at the Manchester West High School. Thirty seconds into Buchanan's speech we rose holding our signs high. "Defending Nazis is unpatriotic," read one; "Don't vote for an anti-Semite," said another. "Pat = Duke without the sheet," read a third. Aside from calling out, "Pat we want you to see this," we said nothing.

Within seconds, all hell broke loose. Our signs were ripped. As I was carried out, several in the audience cried out, "We should have finished the Jews in the camps," "Go Back to Israel, you damn bastards," and "If you want me to take care of those Jews, I'll do it right now." Through all this Buchanan remained uncharacteristically silent.

Buchanan's lack of reaction that night is indicative of his tolerance of anti-Semitism. As his campaign surges forward it is important that Buchanan's record be examined, a record which indicates that he is in fact, one of the most dangerous anti-Semites in the US today. Even William Buckley, Buchanan's former mentor, wrote an essay in 1990 which concluded: "I find it impossible to defend Pat Buchanan against the charge" of anti-Semitism. Consider these facts:

"Buchanan is tough on criminals except when they're Nazis. In 1983 he criticized the US government for expressing regret for its protection of Klaus Barbie after W.W. II; in 1987 he spoke out against the pending deportation of Karl Linnas accused of atrocities in Estonia. He has written that 850,000 Jews could not have been killed by diesel exhaust fed into the gas chambers of Treblinka. In a 1985 White House meeting with Jewish leaders opposed to President Reagan's visit to Bitburg, Buchanan reminded them that they were "Americans first," as fellow staffer Ed Rollins later recounted to Reagan biographer Lou Cannon. Buchanan repeatedly scrawled the phrase, "succumbing to the pressure of the Jews" on his notepad during the meeting. In a March 17, 1990 column (NY Post) Buchanan referred to a "so-called Holocaust survivor syndrome" which he described as involving "group fantasies of martyrdom and heroics."

"Buchanan is virulently anti-Israel. He's called Capitol Hill Israeli-occupied territory. In one of his most infamous comments made just before the 1991 Gulf War, he insisted that

"there are only two groups that are beating the drums for war in the Middle East — the Israel Defense industry and its amen corner in the United States." In a particularly vicious comment, he wrote that the war would be fought by "kids with names like McAllister, Murphy, Gonzales and Leroy Brown." In other words, WASPS, Irish Catholics, Latinos and African Americans would all be dying in a war that only the Jews and Israel wanted. Here, Buchanan was accusing Jews of being responsible for the deaths of non-Jews — a quasi blood libel.

"Buchanan's bigotry extends towards African Americans. In a 1969 memo, he urged President Richard Nixon not to visit Coretta Scott King on the first anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination claiming that Dr. King "is one of the most divisive men in contemporary history." In January 1985 Buchanan said "apartheid is not the worst situation facing Africans today."

The most blatant anti-Semitic comment I heard directly from Buchanan occurred in March 1992 in Marietta, Georgia on the eve of the Republican Georgia primary. Buchanan was pounding away at his "America first" theme. I called out: "Anti-Semitism makes America last." Addressing me, Buchanan shot back, "This rally is of Americans, for Americans and for the good old USA, my friends."

Buchanan's clear implication that Jews and others who disagree with him are not real Americans inspired the usually cautious American Jewish Congress to come out with a scathing, unequivocal denunciation: "There has been much public speculation about Pat

Buchanan's true feeling about Jews. This time he's removed all doubt. Pat Buchanan is as genuine and authentic an anti-Semite as they come." The American Jewish Committee also added its voice, labeling Buchanan's statement as "plainly anti-Semitic" and having "no place in the political process or in civilized discourse."

During this campaign we have continued to follow Buchanan. In March 1995, several of our demonstrators interrupted him as he announced his candidacy for the 1996 presidential nomination. Buchanan's reaction, while slightly more guarded, was not much different than in the past. After the interruption he started back on his speech with a reference to the demonstrators. "My friends," he said, "now you know what we're fighting against in this country." He mentioned the protesters again when he spoke about a moratorium on legal immigration to the United States: "So like our little visitors this morning, the custodians of political correctness do not frighten me, and I will do what is needed to defend the border of the US even if it means putting the National Guard along our Southern frontier."

Buchanan's success in recent primaries reinforces our commitment to raise a voice of moral conscience wherever he goes. Our message is simple. No matter how appealing Buchanan's program for America, Americans should not be voting for a racist anti-Semite.

(Rabbi Avi Weiss is national president of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns-Amcha and senior rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, NY.)



# JCRC Task Force Breakfast Features Coutier

By HELENA BRODSKY

State Representative Phil Cloutier spoke recently at a Jewish Community Relations Committee Task Force breakfast. The event was well attended. The community support was great, and allowed for much discussion of both local and federal issues. The open format of the meeting also recognized debate and left room for counter opinions. Mr. Cloutier was asked specifically to discuss Federal budgeting issues as they relate to the State of Delaware and the school voucher bill.

Mr. Cloutier said that, budgetarily, the State is in good shape, although we are spending more money than is being brought in from taxes. Annually, we are raising an additional \$50-80 million. The State budget is approximately \$1.7 billion, \$700 million of which is from taxes.

The reason for this, he said, is that a cash reserve was built in the early 90's, as well as money received from the State of New York which is the result of favorable litigation. There is much competition for this money, most of it for the "Open Spaces"

program, which sets aside land from development.

Mr. Cloutier did speak briefly about welfare reform and the cost of it to the state. For Delaware, he said, "there will be over a \$30 million increase in Delaware." That's the additional cost to the State. However, there must be some changes to the system. We have to "stop throwing money in a rat hole without results," he stated. "If this doesn't work, I don't know what will."

Cloutier believes the School Voucher Bill will offer low income families the opportunity to provide non-public school education for children. These vouchers will be available to food stamps qualified school age children only. Recent census data shows that about 20,000 children are eligible, however only 15,775 qualify. This discrepancy means that the families of nearly 5,000 children who are eligible for food stamps have not, for whatever reason, applied for them.

Studies show that performance

## UJA Rabbinic Cabinet Includes Dresin and Wortman

NEW YORK — More than 75 rabbis representing every region of the country and every denomination traveled to Israel January 2 - 8, 1996, with the United Jewish Appeal Rabbinic Cabinet Jerusalem 3000 Mission, to celebrate the 3,000th birthday of Jerusalem as the eternal undivided capital of the Jewish people.

"There were several truly significant aspects of this mission," said UJA Rabbinic Cabinet National Chairman Rabbi Vernon H. Kurtz. "Naturally, it was important to all of us to pay our respects to Prime Minister Rabin at Mt. Herzl, but it was equally important to express our support to the new prime minister."

Prime Minister Peres spoke to the rabbis of the importance of religious leadership. He said: "I appreciate the role rabbis play in their community. And I believe my own commitment to Israel and to the Jewish people comes from the same place yours does. It comes from the heart of Jewish tradition."

levels are higher in later grade levels than in the lower grade. The gradu-



Delaware area rabbis who participated in the special UJA Rabbinic Cabinet Jerusalem 3000 Mission to Israel in January 1996 include, from left, Rabbi Doniel Z. Kramer, originally from Philadelphia, Director of the Rabbinic Cabinet, Rabbi Raphael and Mrs. Jeannette Miller of Hazelton, PA, Rabbi Leonard Lifshen of Erie, PA, Rabbi Vernon H. Kurtz, Chairman of the Rabbinic Cabinet, Rabbi David Wortman of Wilmington and Philadelphia and Rabbi Sanford Dresin of Wilmington.

ation rate in Delaware is currently 68%. By offering parents the option to place their children in non-public schools, perhaps this can keep them in school, he believes.

According to Cloutier, the voucher system will reduce class size in public schools and create competition. Families who exercise "option to voucher" will still be counted in home district counts. The maximum amount of the voucher will be \$2,500 per child per school year. This will cover the cost of tuition, transportation, books and supplies and is equivalent to public school support. These monies will be paid directly to the non-public schools. The balance of the state funds, \$2,000, will be paid to the home district according to the existing unit count formula; therefore, the State cost remains the same as the local district cost is reduced. Annual audits of all participating non-public schools will be required.

Jon Foreman, a JCRC member, as well as a member of the State Issues Task Force felt that "The meeting was an important step toward building relationships with our local representatives." Phil Cloutier's speech has much significance. More and more responsibility is being

placed on the states by the Federal government. Local governments now need to build even closer ties and to know where they stand in the overall structure. "The event was extremely successful, and we are thankful to Mr. Cloutier" added Jon Foreman.

## Mezuzah Fair

The mezuzah, one of the most important symbols in a Jewish home, is now considered by many to be a work of art. The Mezuzah Fair will feature a variety of vendors who will have their mezuzot on display and available for purchase.

While the mezuzah can be as ornate or as simple as the owner would like, there are more stringent laws for the parchment inside. A "sopher" or scribe will provide insight into some of the laws of the mezuzah. Demonstrations will also featured throughout the afternoon. In addition, you can bring your own mezuzot to have them checked to be sure they are kosher.

The program on Sunday February 25 from 1 to 3p.m. at the JCC is free of charge and open to the entire community. For more information, call Ella Zukoff or Mona Allen at (302) 478-5660.

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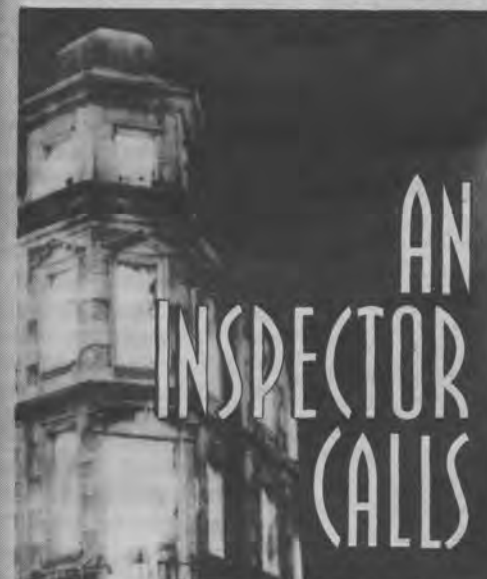
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## Myrna Ryder of JFS To Speak About Responsibility

On Sunday, March 17, 1996, the A.K.S.E. Men's Club will feature the Jewish Family Service's Myrna Ryder. Myrna Ryder, M.Ed., C.F.L.E., is the Director of Family Life Education at Jewish Family Service of Delaware (JFS). She will speak on the topic of "The Jew's Responsibility to the Community"

According to Robert S. Weiner, President of the A.K.S.E. Men's

Club, Ryder is well known in the Delaware Jewish community and regularly speaks on topics which affect every aspect of Jewish family life.

Ryder has a Master of Education degree, focusing on counseling and personnel services. The National Council of Family Relations has certified her as a Family Life Educator. She has been a presenter and facilitator of family life education programs providing parenting classes, seminars and support groups, bereavement support groups, stress management programs and other life cycle issues.

director for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, teacher and counselor of adolescents in the public school system, cable television newscaster

and camera person, as well as Director of a JCC Day Camp. She has also been a performer in the musical group, Shir Ami. She is a member of Hadassah, the National Council

of Jewish Women and Nursing Mothers, Inc.

The A.K.S.E. Men's Club Monthly Sunday Brunch is open to the public. Brunch is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

and the program is from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$3.00 for brunch. Reservations for non-members are suggested and can be made by contacting the A.K.S.E. office at 302-762-2705.

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## Delaware Students Attend Spitzer Forum On Public Policy

By RACHEL E. SAIFER  
Assistant Editor  
of The Jewish Voice

Richard Joel, the President and International Director of Hillel, began the 1996 Hillel Spitzer Forum on public policy with a fitting story. Two people were walking along the beach, they watched as waves crashed on to the shore washing up hundreds of starfish with each gush. One of the men bent down and tossed a starfish back into the water with every few steps. The other man

stared at his friend as if he were crazy, he then asked his friend "What are you doing? There are thousands of them!" It was obvious to the man that there was nothing that just his friend could do that would make a dent in the myriad of washed up starfish. The man then bent down and threw another starfish in the water, looked at his friend, and said, "it made a difference for that one." Richard Joel told the story to a room of two hundred Jewish college students from seventy-five different uni-

versities all over the nation, and the message could not have been more clear. Each one of us is responsible for our future and each decision we make.

The Spitzer Forum gives Jewish student leaders a place to learn about political activism and community service in a Jewish context. It is also a wonderful opportunity to meet college students from around the country, exchange program ideas and have fun.

This year's conference was held

in conjunction with the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) Plenum, in St. Louis. By combining the two conferences it allows both groups unique opportunities. The Spitzer Forum delegates, we were fortunate to be able to hear speakers such as Ehud Barak, Israel's Foreign Minister, Richard Gephardt House Minority leader, Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services and Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior.

The goal of the conference is for students to leave with the vision, concrete plans and necessary skills to implement effective programs on campus and in the community. Students at the conference participated

in workshops and discussions, learned about voter registration, developed lobbying skills, practiced conflict resolution and strengthening bonds between diverse communities, began a letter writing campaign and performed community service projects around St. Louis.

"I was so proud to be sitting in a discussion on Israel programming for campuses and to hear the University of Delaware's tribute to Yitzhak Rabin sighted as an example of excellence" said Wendy Goldberg the other University of Delaware Spitzer Forum delegate. "It was a unique chance to meet students like me from all over and be able to share ideas and experiences" said Wendy.

The three day long conference was one students will never forget. Thanks to its sponsor and name sakes, Jack and Charlotte Spitzer, Jewish college students can return to their campuses enriched with this new and exciting knowledge and skills for the future. Also a special thank you to local Hillel's and Jewish Federations, without whose sponsorship this experience would not have been possible. One person can make the difference. It is now up to us to help lead the Jewish community.

### UJA's "Young" March Washington Conference Features Friedman

NEW YORK — Debbie Friedman, one of the most prolific and popular Jewish composers in America today, will be in concert at the United Jewish Appeal's Young Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., Sunday evening, March 17, 1996.

For more information on Washington 10 and the Capital to Capital: Journey to Jerusalem, please call The Jewish Federation of Delaware at (302) 427-2100 or the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet, (212) 818-9100.

### Hadassah Wine Tasting

The Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah will host a Wine Tasting Social at the home of Irene and Gary Abern on Saturday Evening, March 2, 1996 at 7:30 P.M. In addition to the Wine Tasting, there will also be a list available for additional wines that are not included in the tasting.

All of the wines being tasted or on the list will be available for sale. The wines included will be superior kosher wines from around the world which will be Kosher for Passover in addition to wines that can be used year around.

Jim Silver of Kreston Liquor Mart will present the program on "How to Taste Wine Effectively" in addition to conducting the tasting. Besides being a wine expert, Jim is also a former caterer, hotelier, restaurateur and trained chef.

The cost of the evening is \$10.00 per person and the proceeds will be used to benefit the Youth Aliyah Project. Refreshments will be served.

Call Denise Sherak at 610-558-2615 for reservations, to order wine if unable to attend or for additional information. Reservations and orders need to be received by February 26, 1996.

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## Albert Einstein Students Surf The Net

By **RACHEL E. SAIFER**

*Assistant Editor of The Jewish Voice*

"There..." said Ilana Romirowsky, with a couple of clicks of a mouse, and a smile, "it's in Israel". The sixth grade students of the Albert Einstein Academy were proud to show off their new communication skills. Each week students in all grades at the Albert Einstein Academy receive specialized computer instruction in their new computer room. Recently, the students had the opportunity to combine practicing their Hebrew language skills, knowledge of Israel and computer expertise. The students in the upper grades, now have access to the Internet. The students are now able to communicate over the computer with their Israeli counter parts in a school in the northern part of Israel, in Kfar Vradem. Rebecca Nepris, a sixth grader at the Albert Einstein Academy, meticulously typed her message into the computer. "Shalom, how are you? I re-

ally like writing to you" read her message on the screen in Hebrew. Ilana Romirowsky, demonstrated how to send a message to her 'pen pal' Tidhar. "It's interesting to hear about what the Israeli kids like to do, and what life is like there" said Ilana Romirowsky.

With the help of Rami Goren, the computer coordinator, Ellen Doran, a parent volunteer and the rest of the computer team at the school, the students have only just begun to explore this wonderful opportunity. After an informal survey of the students at the Albert Einstein Academy, Rami Goren found that almost 99% have access to computer. "The future of this program will be exciting," said Goren. In the not so distant future students will be able to talk to their friends in Kfar Vradem without a delay, get help with homework over the Internet, and continue to have fun while learning what they need to know to succeed.

## JCC Is Broadway Bound

The Jewish Community Center is hosting a trip to New York on Wednesday, March 13, 1996. There are two different Broadway Musicals being offered during this trip, "Victor/Victoria" and "The Phantom of the Opera".

"Victor/Victoria" - Julie Andrews recreates the role she played in Blake Edward's 1982 film. Directed by Mr. Blake; music by Henry Mancini; lyrics by Leslie Bricusse.

"The Phantom of the Opera" - The Tony Award-winning musical adapted from Gaston Leroux's novel, set in Paris in the 1880's.

After the show, we will stop at Zabars. The cost for "Victor/Victoria" is \$98.00 for members and

\$108.00 for non-members. The cost for "Phantom of the Opera" is \$89.00 for members and \$99.00 for non-members. All costs include round-trip transportation. The bus will depart from the JCC at 8:00 a.m. and will return at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Paid reservations are now being accepted at the JCC Front Desk. For additional information on Cultural Caravan trips, contact Amalia Snyderman or Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660. The JCC is a beneficiary of the 1996 UJA/Federation Campaign which is administered here by the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD).

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## AIDS Educator To Speak

Scott Fried, an AIDS educator from New York, will speak to Wilmington area high school students on Sunday, February 25 at 2:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center's Youth Lounge.

Fried has spoken at summer camps, youth group conventions, high schools, universities, churches and synagogues, as well as, many other organizations around the country. His candid lectures and workshops deal with AIDS and the many issues and myths surrounding it. His focus is on love and self-respect relative to growing up in an age of AIDS.

All high school students are encouraged to attend this very important and informative session. There is no charge for this program. For more information, call Naomi Sobel or Etai Belinky at (302) 478-5660.

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## Passover Preview

Issue Date: March 22

Deadline: March 14

### GASTROINTESTINAL HEALTH TOPICS

## COLON CANCER

*A Potentially Preventable and Curable Disease If Caught Early*

by Joel Chodos, M.D.



Colon and rectal cancer is the second most common fatal form of cancer in the U.S. It is only surpassed in numbers by lung cancer. This is a sad statistic, but colon cancer if diagnosed early enough is very curable with surgery. What's more is that we are aware that most colon cancers develop slowly over months to years and most begin as small benign removable growths, known as adenomatous polyps. Only a small percentage of colon polyps ever turn into cancer, but almost all colon cancers began as colon polyps according to medical research done over the last twenty years or so. Colon polyps can be found with examination of the bowel with either X-rays (barium enema) or a flexible scope exam of the large bowel known as colonoscopy. Most polyps, depending in size, shape and location, can be removed at the time of colonoscopy as an outpatient under light sedation without surgery or any external incisions. Removing those polyps eliminates the risk of that polyp going on to become a cancer in the future.

The incidence of colon cancer increases with age and with most cases starts above age 50. The exact cause of why people develop colon polyps or colon cancer is unfortunately not known. Studies of large populations, however, has shown that there are certain habits and factors that seem to be associated with a high incidence of colon cancer. Those are: a high fat diet, low fiber intake and a family history of colon cancer. This is not to say that eating fiber and a low fat diet will prevent colon cancer, but it may help. Those that have a close family member (parent, brother, sister) with colon cancer are at increased

risk and may especially benefit from having their colon checked above the age of 50 or even younger in some cases.

Colon cancer unfortunately does not cause many symptoms until it is advanced. Blood mixed with the stool, anemia and a persistent change in bowel habits can be seen with colon cancer, but those same symptoms can also be due to many other causes, including many not so serious illnesses unrelated to cancer.

If you have the above symptoms you should not jump to conclusions, but should see your doctor or a gastroenterologist and discuss those symptoms to find out what the most appropriate course of action is right for you.

If you have no gastrointestinal symptoms and are over the age of 50, it is reasonable to have certain exams such as a check for hidden blood in the stool that can easily be done in your doctor's office and consideration should be given to a brief exam of the lower bowel done in the office known as a sigmoidoscopy, which takes about 10-15 minutes. Such an exam may detect a polyp or growth at an early stage before symptoms develop. Those with a family history of colon cancer would be especially important to check and stand a higher chance of having colon polyps and have a higher risk of developing colon cancer sometime in their lifetime as they grow older.

Many persons are fearful of discussing or thinking about colon cancer. This is unfortunate because the disease, if caught early, is curable and, in some cases of individuals with colon polyps that are removed, the disease may even be preventable.

DR. JOEL CHODOS is a board certified gastroenterologist (medical specialist of the stomach and intestines) who did his medical training at Columbia University, Mount Sinai Hospital, and Montefiore Hospital, New York. He is in private practice at 410 Foulk Rd., Wilm., and on the staff at The Medical Center of Delaware, and the St. Francis Hospital. He was chosen as one of the "Top Docs" in Delaware Today.

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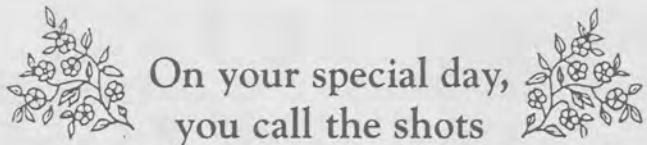
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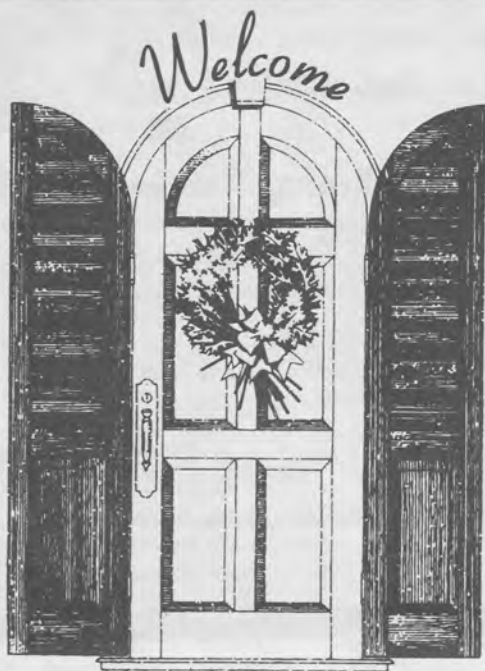


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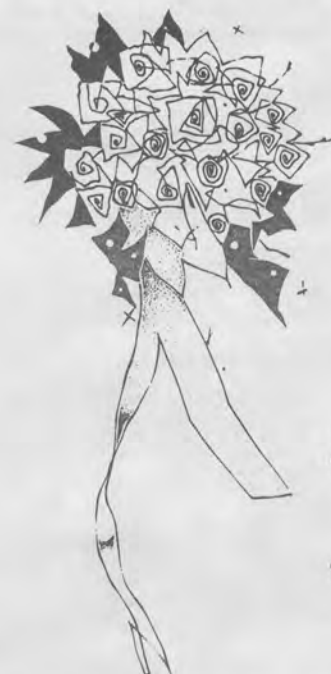
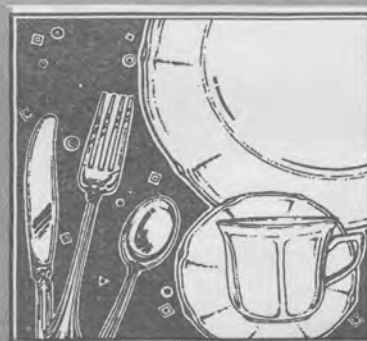
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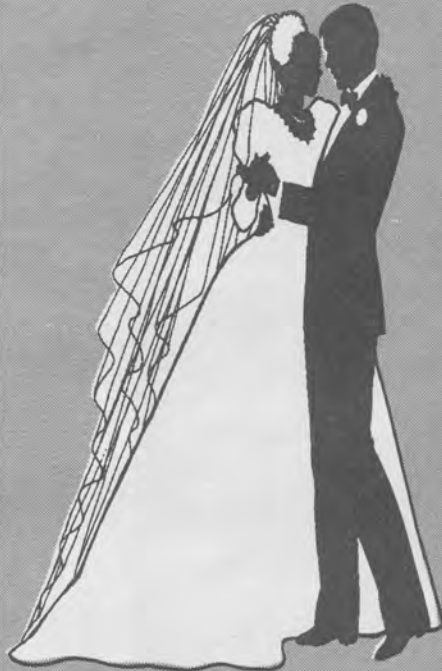
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## PANIM EL PANIM

(Face to Face with JVD People)



### What's New At Hillel-UDEL Ruach And Activism Attract New "Hillel Builders"

The University of Delaware's Hillel Student Center is a busy place. With 300 students officially signed up as "Hillel Builders" - the new jargon for pro-active student members - there's lots of work to do. Hillel serves many purposes on campus. The spacious facility at 47 West Delaware is where anything from watching "Friends" on a Thursday night, to High Holiday Services may take place.

"What we do between the very light and heavy stuff is where the real work is," says Hillel's director Rabbi Abraham Rosenblum, who hosts Rap or Jam with The Rabbi every Tuesday night. "Most students are only just beginning to factor religion into their lifestyles. We say, hey, this isn't a Shul, Synagogue, or Temple. Whatever "Jewish" is to you, let's go for it!"

Indeed, Jewish is many things to many different Jewish students, and Hillel's aim is to serve them all.

"Let's look at it this way," continued Rosenblum, "If we don't try to serve all Jewish students on campus then we cannot claim to be concerned with Jewish Continuity."

In fact, Hillel's programming activities have even extended to other campuses. Widener Law School's Jewish Law Student Association's Purim Party is co-sponsored by Hillel as part of an effort to create a network for graduate students studying in Delaware.

Social events are important too. Hay Rides and Semi-Formals, Comedy Evenings and Coffee House nights are all part of the fun. And while the twice a month Shabbat services and dinners are an important spiritual affirmation of one's beliefs, "Hillel Builders" consider "Shabbat" to be a critical "Welcoming" program for new faces. There is no charge for dinner. Hillel's Student Board voted to cover the cost of the food from their programming budget.

In the aftermath of the Rabin assassination, Hillel joined forces with the campus DIPAC group in creating a memorial service honoring the late Prime Minister. As a follow up they held an Israel Issues Forum in the Student Center that focused on dealing with the geo-political and social fallout that the assassination brought on. Two of Hillel's senior students, Wendy Goldberg of Wilmington, and Rachel Saifer of Philadelphia, who recently attended the Hillel-Spitzer Public Affairs Forum in St. Louis, came back with the news that Hillel UDEL was one of two universities in the country that was recognized for the content and presentation of its Rabin Memorial program.

A quick look at the Hillel Highlights Calendar shows a Holocaust Museum trip, DIPAC/HILLEL Voter Registration Training, an upcoming fundraising telethon, a major Purim bash called "Planet Hillelwood", a benefit concert featuring Hillel's "Rockin' Rabbi" to be held in April, Jewish Awareness Month (April), and Israel Memorial Day/Independence Day and Holocaust Remembrance Day programs.

In response to requests from many students for a Kosher Meal Plan, the

University has begun to test market such a plan in all four main dining areas. Kashrut supervision is under the authority of the Va'ad HaKashrut of Wilmington, coordinated through Hillel and assisted by Chabad House.

In addition, Hillel's Passover Seders, and Chabad House's Seders, as well as the meal plan during the rest of the eight day holiday, will be subsidized in part through the new Kosher Meal Plan. Both organizations expect large turnouts for the mid-week Seders which take place right after Spring Break.

Rabbi Rosenblum admits that more programming is needed that will impact Jewish students within the various academic departments, as well as Jewish faculty members.

"But hey, I just got here!" he says with a laugh. "In fact we hope that our "Rockin' Rabbi" concert will help us raise serious money towards hiring a programming assistant for next year. The \$12,500 needed would be matched by a Fellowship Grant from Hillel National."

The phone is ringing in the office. Jacquie Spicer, Hillel's long time secretary is writing down the name of a student who wants to sign up for the trip to The Holocaust Museum. Student/Kitchen Manager Amanda Rosenberg just came back with provisions for preparing Shabbat Dinner. Four other members have volunteered to help out. In the meantime, a mailing just went out to the other 1300 Jewish students not yet affiliated with Hillel or any other Jewish group on campus. The bright orange sheet of paper is folded in half with the Hillel Highlights calendar on the inside and a note to non-affiliated students from the Student Board President, freshman Evan Podolak, and the Director. It's heading quotes a lyric from The Grateful Dead: "You can find the light in the strangest of places, if you look at it right." You will find Hillel to be a good place for these strangest of times.

### Albert Einstein Academy's Family Oriented Trip To Israel

Albert Einstein Academy is proud and excited to announce that its family oriented trip to Israel from the Delaware Jewish Community is a reality. Scheduled to take place from June 26 to July 7, 1996, the tour has been designed especially to meet the needs of families, including children, parents and grandparents.

The Albert Einstein tour will be led by the school's principal, Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt. Rabbi Bernhardt expressed the collective hopes of the Academy and its board that this will become an annual event. "There is no better way to instill love and one's connection to Judaism than to visit Israel. The saying, 'Next Year In Jerusalem' need no longer be just a dream. The fact that this trip has been designed for the FAMILY, simply expands the mission of Albert Einstein Academy to educate the entire family, not just the child."

Rabbi Bernhardt further explained, "The tour will include visits to all of



Students at Albert Einstein Academy are studying a unit on diversity. The sixth graders taught at lesson on diversity to the second graders. Suetlora Kogan (6th grade) reads the book "Elmer" by David McKee to Suzanne Meister (2nd grade). It's the true story of an elephant that is different and unique. Suzanne is holding up Elmer, the patchwork elephant.



Lucy Cohen of Albert Einstein Academy and JCC Senior Stella Wiseman participate in the Tu B'Shuat Seder conducted by Rabbi Larry Malinger of Temple Beth Emeth.

The New JCC Kenpo Karate program is part of the National American Kenpo Karate program. Kenpo Karate is a whole modernization of old oriental forms of self-defense created to be effective in today's world. The JCC is currently offering children's programming and will be expanding in the near future to include an adult karate program. For more information, call Scott Katz, Recreational Services Director, at (302) 478-5660.

the major attractions, like The Western Wall & Massada, as well as unique adventures such as an archeological dig in Jerusalem and a kayaking trip down the Jordan River." Rabbi Bernhardt noted that this will be an especially exciting time to be in Jerusalem because of the numerous celebrations and exhibits surrounding the 3000th anniversary of the city.

The Israel Family Trip tour includes round-trip transportation from Wilmington, all accommodations, and sightseeing in a deluxe air-conditioned private motorcoach. The English speaking, government-licensed guide will accompany the families throughout their stay in Israel.

There is still enough room for families that are interested in joining the group. To receive a brochure on this trip or for more information call the Albert Einstein Academy office at 478-5026.

### L'dor Va'dor: Gratz Students Visit Kutz Home

By ADAM RUBEN

Gratz Student

A teenager watches drowsy trees sputter by through a car window. An elderly woman stares across a room at wall tiles for hours. The people are there, inside those bodies. Somewhere.

Thought is a curious tool; it must not be allowed to retire to a cerebral cubicle and work within its confines. Occasionally people, quietly pensive, reach the point at which introspection becomes alienation. It may never be apparent that the deep, esoteric secrets of the soul are common to all humanity. Thus the soul is shut inside, like an infant in a glass jar, and can do little but thrive inwardly. Henry Van Dyke wrote that "Self is the only prison that can ever bind the soul." Therefore, the liberation of the soul can only occur through contact with others.

Students at Gratz Hebrew High School are experiencing this firsthand. One Sunday a month, we spend a few hours at the Kutz Home, sharing lunch, games, and stories with people with whom we have a lot more in common than we may ever realize. Service Learning Projects coordinator Arlene Bowman and Classroom Facilitator Kevin Weiss were responsible for originating this program and getting its participants to critically analyze their experiences, so that we may learn even more from them.

Outwardly, the two generations resemble each other very little. It is slightly awkward for us to be there, an awkwardness most likely felt even more heavily on their side. Walking through the paper-lined halls is like floating through an empty subway

tunnel. The easiest thing to do is to sit and observe. But the world never progressed by doing the easiest thing. This program provides the initiative necessary to tap directly into another person's soul, a process made more meaningful not only in spite of the "generation gap," but because of it.

The air inside the building itself seemed to be constructed of different atoms, and everything had a plastic, sterile feel. The experience can be quite intimidating to anyone who has lived inside a bubble of familiarity. The ceilings, the bulletin boards, even the food is just a bit separated from what our senses would expect. One student even mistook his k'nish for a Nerf ball. But after the superficial differences set in, the stratum of lacquer separating us from physiological ease melted, and it almost seemed as though the souls were channeling directly between each other.

Or, to be more specific, we played Bingo. At least, that's how it must have appeared to an outsider. Come to think of it, we ourselves were these outsiders, since we never realized how profoundly it was affecting us. We thought we were just playing Bingo. We may not realize it for years, or maybe even ever, but it will still be evident in our behavior. Students and residents alike still enter the cafeteria as though it was the OK Corral, tight-lipped and distant, but we all leave laughing and open, inebriated on life. And, at least for a little while, our innermost reflections erupt through their cell walls and roam free, giving us more to think about during meditative moments than how contemplative we are being.

### Toby Fluck's Polish Memories

An art exhibit featuring the work of artist, Toby Fluck at the Jewish Community Center is not just paintings ... it is memories of her childhood in a small Polish shtetl. She began putting childhood memories down on canvas, since she and her mother had no photographs or momentos of their prewar family life. The result of this artistic journey, which lasted over twenty-five years, is an autobiographical text entitled, "Memories of My Life in a Polish Village".

The book, written by a child's perspective, chronicles the peasant life in Czernica, a small village in Eastern Poland. The realistic, richly detailed paintings are accompanied by descriptions of her family, neighbors and values by which they lived. And then, as that world came to an end, the cheerful and vivid colors end, as he tells of life in hiding during the Holocaust, the paintings become gray and grim.

The artist's words, combined with her art, tell a story with emotional impact. Although, not all the book's ninety-four oils, charcoals and watercolors are on exhibit, the pieces included in the JCC display tell the story quite well, straightforward and very simple. People of all ages, especially teenagers, would benefit from this exhibit, as it shows a Jewish community that once was.

Fluck, now residing in New York City, is the only Jewish survivor of Czernica. By recreating her feelings and memories, she is keeping her community alive.

A personal interview of the artist with some of her other paintings are included in the documentary, "Image Before My Eyes". This film depicts the full spectrum of Jewish life in Poland before World War II, when Poland's Jewry comprised about one-tenth of the population. This film will be shown as part of the JCC Film Course: "The Jewish World of Eastern Europe Before the Holocaust" on March 14 and March 21.

The art exhibit, "Paint by Memories", will feature prints that are signed by the artist. Autographed books will also be available for sale, as are the prints. The exhibit will be on display in the JCC Art Gallery through the beginning of April. The gallery is open Sunday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, call Ella Zukoff or Mona Allen at (302) 478-5660.

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**PANIM EL PANIM**

(Face to Face with JFD People)



**NACHES**

**Panim El Panim Institute**

By **ETAI BELINKY**  
Community Teen Coordinator

There are few things in this world that are as important as living in a democratic country. Our system of government is unlike others in the sense that it gives its citizens the opportunity to help in the selection process of our public officials and influence and shape the results of public policy. In many nations on this earth, people have no rights and the government does what it wants no matter who they hurt in the process.

It is sad to think that in this day and age people do not take advantage of the opportunities given to them by our government. Voting in elections is one of our most basic rights, yet fewer than 70% of eligible Americans are even registered to vote and less than half voted in the 1990 congressional elections. Could it be possible that people today have no complaints about government operations or they feel that they can't change what occurs in our government?

Panim El Panim (Washington Institute of Jewish Leadership and Values) teaches students that we make a difference by writing letters and making telephone calls to our congressman about issues like foreign aid to Israel. These responses are documented and viewed prior to voting on a bill.

Our government is run by human-beings whose salaries are paid by our tax dollars and by law are required to listen to what we have to say. Panim El Panim teaches people to get involved! Sixty-seven teens from New Jersey and Allentown spent an entire morning with their congressional representatives asking them questions on issues such as education, welfare reform and gun control. The teens left the Panim El Panim Institute with a sense of increased responsibility.

Nine years ago, I had the good fortune of being part of one of the first groups that participated in the Panim El Panim Institute. Now I find myself back at the same program where I was once a student, now serving as a program facilitator. Over the years Panim El Panim has flourished and has touched the lives of Jewish teens all over the country. The Institute focuses on issues such as social justice and equal opportunity, Jews in the political process, Black/Jewish student dialogue and the importance of community service.

All the Institute classes were instructed by leaders in the field. The teens had an opportunity to converse with leaders such as Hyman Book Binder, Emeritus Washington Representative for the Jewish Community. The four days (January 14-January 17) spent at the Institute helped the teens acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be good Americans and good Jews.

On Monday, January 15, the Jewish teens joined African-American teens from the Washington area, in a very moving Martin Luther King Jr. Ceremony held on Capital Hill. A choir from a local church filled the stone halls of the Cannon Office Building with visions of peace and justice. One of the Jewish teens from the Trenton area read Yitzhak Rabin's Nobel Peace Prize speech and another student read Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream"

speech. It was an experience that we will not soon forget.

Once the ceremony was over, we traveled to a deteriorated neighborhood in Washington, where we helped shovel four street blocks filled with snow and ice, that the city had not yet cleared. All of this snow and ice prevented people from having heat delivered to their homes for nine days. We used picks and shovels that were given to us by the United States Army, to assist in clearing the roads, so the oil that was so desperately needed could safely be delivered. We walked into a community where neighbors were strangers and bullets sprayed across back yards, keeping the residents indoors. In just a few hours, we could see a new community arising. Neighbors came outside with their own shovels to help remove the snow and offered us hot chocolate to keep warm. Some residents even brought out medical kits to bandage a couple of "shoveling" blisters. By the time we were done, this neighborhood did not look like it did when we first arrived, but rather it looked like a friendly area where people enjoyed helping one another. None of us in the group thought that such a minor act of *Gimilut Hasidim* would have such a major effect on a community.

It is extremely important for us to remember what we learned and to reinforce it throughout our entire lives. Panim El Panim stressed the point that being a successful Jew in today's society is not owning your own home or traveling to the Caribbean every year on vacation, but rather getting involved with politics and our communities, learning what politicians have to say about issues relating to Israel, and Jewish people around the world. The Jewish people are 2.5% of the voting population and a very important 4% of the electoral votes, so if we cast our vote ... our voices will be heard! Our society needs us to be involved if there is going to be positive change. Even at *simchas*, such as a Jewish wedding, we step on a glass representing the destruction of the Temple and the faults that are in our society. We should be involved in committing acts of *Tikkun Olam* to help repair the world we live in and not close our eyes to the pain and suffering around us. In March, Gratz Hebrew High School will be attending the Panim El Panim Institute, and I urge anyone who can attend to do so — it is an experience not to be missed.

(*Etai Belinky serves as the Community Teen Coordinator a position created as a new initiative made possible in 1995 by the UJA/Federation campaign which is administered locally by the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD)*)



**Middle States Accreditation Team visits Albert Einstein Academy. Left to right: Jonathan Neipres, Christine Abram, Michael Melamed, Dr. Sam Blumberg, Ruth Assal, Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt.**

**Documentary Goes From Brooklyn To Israel**

"Black to the Promised Land", a feature length documentary film, follows a group of eleven Black American teenagers from their school in Brooklyn, New York to a kibbutz at the foot of the Golan Heights in Israel.

Promoters say, "The film succeeds in challenging many myths and stereotypes often fostered by media in representing both the Black and Israeli communities."

The film will be shown on Sunday,

March 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center. The admission cost is \$1.00 for teens and \$2.00 for adults. This film was rescheduled due to the Blizzard of 1996. For more information, call Etai Belinky or Mona Allen at (302) 478-5660.



**Helfand - Trencher**

Joan and Arnold Helfand announce the engagement of their daughter, Bonnie Jaye, to Gary Joseph Trencher, the son of Shirley and Enoch Trencher of Union, New Jersey.

Bonnie is a graduate of Brandywine High School and is the Receptionist for the Jewish Federation of Delaware. She is a fourth-generation Delawarean (Wilmingtonian) and is actively involved in the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware. Her grandparents are Mildred Colton Marshall and the late Samuel Colton, and Sarah "Sally" Helfand and the late Albert Helfand.

Gary is a graduate of the New Jersey Institute of Technology and works for The Travelers Group.

Both Bonnie and Gary were active in the Young Jewish Adults of Delaware group where they met on a canoe trip.

Bonnie and Gary will be married on Saturday (night), November 2, 1996 at Congregation Beth Emeth.

Your naches announcements will be published without charge as space allows. Photos are welcome along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send announcements and photos to: The Jewish Voice, P.O. Box 2193, Wilmington, DE 19899-2193.

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## SYNAGOGUE LIFE

## Monte Carlo Night At Beth Shalom

Saturday evening March 9th has been announced as Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom's MONTE CARLO night. This annual event is an extension of the celebration of Purim which for many communities includes an evening of fun and games. This year's event will include Bingo as well as casino games and door prizes. The cost for the evening is \$18.00 per person for tickets purchased before noon Friday, March 8th, and \$20.00 per person for tickets purchased at the door. The ticket includes admission, \$10.00 in chips, hot and cold Hors D'oeuvre's, full open bar all evening

and chances for door prizes. Monte Carlo night will be held at the synagogue, 1801 Baynard Blvd. from 8:00 P.M. until 12:00 A.M. "Last year's event was very successful, we had planned The Purim- Monte Carlo night as a fund raiser and it turned out to be a Fun Raiser as well" said Burt Shanker, Executive Director of Beth Shalom. "We anticipate that Monte Carlo night will be a fun filled evening and members of the community are invited to join us" said Mr. Shanker. Tickets can be obtained by calling Beth Shalom's office (302) 654 4462.

## Cellist To Perform At AKSE

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation will present its Annual Concert — the thirteenth — on Saturday evening, March 23, 1996 at 8 p.m. The artist this year, a young cellist, is Alban Gerhardt.

Through the years, AKSE has hosted musicians such as Jerome Lowenthal, Jeffrey Kahane, Stephanie Chase, and Sergio Luca.

Alban Gerhardt won the 1994 Young Concert Artists International Auditions and was awarded the Paul A. Fish Memorial Prize which sponsored, in part, his New York recital in the Young Concert Artists Series on February 4, 1996 with pianist Rina Dokshinsky. He was honored with the 1995 Aaron and Irene Diamond Soloist Prize of Young Concert Artists and made his New York orchestral debut with the New York Chamber Symphony, conducted by Gerhard Schwarz at the 92 Street Y. On May 15, 1996 he will give a recital in the Young Concert Artists Series at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Born in Berlin, Mr. Gerhardt began to study the piano at the age of seven and the cello at the age of nine.

At 26, he has been compared to Leonard Rose, Zara Nelsove and Rostropovich by critics.

Mr. Gerhardt's engagements in the United States this season include concerto appearances with the Cincinnati Chamber orchestra, Orchestra New England, the Seattle Youth Symphony, and the Mankato Symphony in Minnesota.

Upcoming appearances outside the U.S. include tours with the Budapest Philharmonic and the Israeli Sinfonietta, performances as soloist with orchestras in Vienna, Madrid, and Luxembourg.

In 1991, Mr. Gerhardt made his debut as soloist with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Concert tickets are available at the AKSE office - (302) 762-2705 - at \$18. A meet-the-artist reception for all will follow the concert.

**March 14 Deadline for Passover Preview Issue. Call Irv or Tillie to advertise at (302) 427-2100 ext. 12**



Alban Gerhardt, cellist

## Immigration Bill Is A Threat To Legals

*"You shall remember the stranger for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt."*

By DAN WEINTRAUB

JCRC Director

Immigration legislation moving through the United States Senate could have a detrimental impact on legal immigrants in this country. Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY) has sponsored "the Immigration Reform Act of 1995," (SB1394) which is now or will shortly be before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The points of greatest concern to our community are that the bill fails to distinguish between legal and illegal immigrants, the bill prevents families from reuniting, the bill would delay for ten years most federal benefits which immigrants (including naturalized citizens) could receive, and that an amendment may be offered to set a cap on refugee admissions.

The Split The Bill Amendment, offered by Senators Abraham, Spector, Kennedy and Simon would defer consideration of overhauling laws pertaining to legal immigration so that the remaining provisions of the Simpson Bill would only pertain to illegal immigrants.

Please call your Senators and urge them to oppose SB 1394 and to support The Split The Bill Amendment.

## Candle Lighting

FEBRUARY  
23RD — 5:28 PM  
MARCH  
1ST — 5:35 PM  
8TH — 5:42 PM  
15TH — 5:50 PM

## Doug Cotler To the Bima In Newark

When singer/songwriter Doug Cotler steps onto the bima at Temple Beth El on Saturday, February 24 he'll feel right at home. Cotler has been a cantor since he was 13 years old. "My dad was a cantor and he taught me the profession; in fact, I was already subbing for him when I was only 10 years old."

According to promoters "Cotler's love of and familiarity with Jewish music, along with his warm expressive voice, has earned him a nationwide reputation as a top composer and performer of popular Jewish music. His often-requested emotional song, "Standing on the Shoulders," refers to the impact Cotler's father had on his life."

Services led by Cotler will begin at 10:00 am followed by lunch and a concert for adults and students in grades three - Confirmation. Younger children in pre-school and kindergarten through second will have their own concert from 1:30 - 2:30 pm. This program is co-sponsored by Temple Beth El and the Jewish Federation of De. There is no charge for the service and concerts. Please call Temple Beth El at 366-8330 to make reservations

## Tenth Annual Purim Celebration and Dinner

Chabad-Lubavitch's "Family Purim Shindig" will be held Tuesday, March 5 in the J.C.C. Auditorium 5:45 p.m. Dinner will be preceded by a "last call" Megillah reading at 5:00 SHARP. The event will include dinner, a children's masquerade contest, live music, singing, dancing and prizes. Avremi of New York's Piamenta Band, a musician, will perform.

"Last year's attendance of over 220 was a tremendous success," said Rabbi Chuni Vogel. "Purim is the time when we can create joyous Jewish memories that last a lifetime!"

Only pre-paid reservations are guaranteed and should be mailed to Chabad at 1306 Grinnell Rd., Wilmington, 19803. The cost is \$14 a person (children under 12, \$7.50).

Services will be on Tuesday morning. Chabad will also hold a downtown Megillah reading at the law offices of Elzufon & Austin, Chemical Bank Building, 12th and Market at 12:30 p.m.

Monday evening March 4 at 7:00 p.m., Chabad at U.D. and Hillel will co-sponsor a Purim celebration —

## Jewish Women As Religious Pioneers

Dr. Reena Sigman Friedman, guest speaker, will be discussing "Historical Perspectives on Jewish Women as Religious Pioneers" on Friday, March 1st at 8:00 PM. Reena is a member of the faculty of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where she teaches Modern Jewish History. She is the author of These Are Our Children: Jewish Orphanages in the United States, 1880-1925, as well as numerous articles. She has several entries in the forth-

coming Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia. She is currently at work on a history of the Reconstructionist movement.

Dr. Friedman is also a Contributing Editor of Lilith, the Jewish feminist magazine. She writes and lectures widely on topics relating to Jewish history, Jewish women and the contemporary Jewish community. She is the sister of our own local Michael Sigman.

## Purim Carnival At Temple Beth El

Temple Beth El Sisterhood's Purim Carnival will be on Sunday, March 3rd. The entire community is invited for games, prizes, sand art, and crafts for the children as well as Judaica items including Passover gift ideas, lunch, and of course, hamantashen. The carnival begins at 11:00 am. Call 366-8330 for more information about this celebration for both the young and old.



## Hadassah Shabbat At AKSE

Come celebrate Shabbat with the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah at its annual Hadassah Shabbat on Friday Evening, March 1, 1996 at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth.

A traditional Shabbat Chicken Dinner, catered by O'Fisheh Caterers, of Baltimore will begin at 6:00 P.M. This will be followed by a Shabbat Service beginning at 8:00 P.M. This service will be conducted by

## Country Western Dance, Barbeque And Beer

Temple Beth El's Country Dance, Barbecue and Beer will be held on March 23, 1996, 7 - 11 p.m. The evening includes kosher food prepared by the Beth El Sisterhood. The menu includes barbecue chicken sandwiches, coleslaw, beans, cornbread and more. Country line dancing instructions will be provided. Country western dress is encouraged, but not mandatory.

Call Temple Beth El to reserve tickets at 366-8330. Tickets: \$15 per person.

Hadassah Members. After the service there will be Oneg Shabbat. The price of the dinner will be \$13.00 per adult and \$8.00 per child age 10 and under.

For reservations and information, please call Sharon Berry at 475-0650. Reservations must be made by February 20. No payment will be accepted at the door.

## Purim's Paradox

By Rabbi BERNARD S. RASKAS

Imagine a Jewish woman who has intermarried becoming a Jewish heroine. Her uncle even tells her at the beginning of the adventure not to reveal her identity. Then imagine naming a book in the Bible after her. The name of God is not mentioned in the Book (Scroll) of Esther, not even in connection with the salvation of Jews. Then how is it that this book was included in the Hebrew canon?

Purim, marking an episode when Jews were saved from genocide by a risky stratagem, is celebrated with raucous noise in the synagogue, masquerades, plays, hamantaschen and carnivals. Would anyone seriously consider naming a piece of pastry "Hitler-tasch"?

Purim is a paradox. On second thought, perhaps it contains a series of deeper meaning and metaphors for Judaism in particular and life in general.

The issue of intermarriage takes on greater impact when we realize that the present rate of intermarriage in the United States is approximately 52%. While sociologists, rabbis, and

Continued on Page 27

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ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • BOOKS

What's On TV?



Thursday, February 29  
10 p.m. WHYY TV 12  
THE UNITED STATES OF POETRY

This five-part kaleidoscopic series reflects the fusion of poetry and filmmaking and is dedicated to making language a foremost consideration in the lives of Americans. Featured in THE UNITED STATES OF POETRY, premiering Thursday, February 29 at 10 p.m. on TV 12 are: Nobel Prize winners Derek Walcott, the late Joseph Brodsky and Czeslaw Milosz. The production team of THE UNITED STATES OF POETRY traveled by bus for 12 weeks across 13,000 miles, collaborating with a group of poets as diverse as the United States itself.

"The Land and the People," part one of THE UNITED STATES OF POETRY, visits people and poets throughout America, from Montana to Hawaii, with portraits of Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winner Rita Dove and 88-year-old James Still. Part two, "A Day in the Life," celebrates poetry where people live, work and play, with Nobel Prize-winning poets Derek Walcott and Czeslaw Milosz. "The American Dream" features meditations from cult-rocker/poet Leonard Cohen, and beat poets Amiri Baraka, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and Wanda Coleman. "Love and Sex" focuses on how we speak of love, with Lypsynka, MTV's Maggie Estep, as well as Lou Reed, Allen Ginsburg and Joseph Brodsky

Saturday, March 2  
8 p.m. WHYY TV 12  
MARVIN HAMLISCH AND

THE PITTSBURGH POPS

Academy and Tony Award-winning composer Marvin Hamlisch brings his signature style to MARVIN HAMLISCH AND THE PITTSBURGH POPS, a dynamic special featuring the Pittsburgh Symphony and acclaimed guest artists Marilyn Horne, John Tesh, Pete Fountain, Nell Carter, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme. The program, premiering Saturday, March 2 at 8 p.m. on TV 12, also highlights American Jazz as Hamlisch travels to New Orleans to invite some famous musicians to perform at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh. Clarinetist Pete Fountain plays *Clarinet Marmalade* and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band plays the New Orleans anthem *When the Saints Go Marching In*. Nell Carter sings a medley from *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

Thursday, March 14  
8 p.m. WHYY TV 12  
WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

Based on the book of the same name by Rabbi Harold Kushner, this program provides critical guidelines for coping when crisis strikes. WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE airs Thursday, March 14 at 8 p.m. on TV 12.

"An Inspector Calls" At Playhouse

WILMINGTON, DEL — An Inspector Calls, The Royal National Theatre's highly-acclaimed staging of J.B. Priestley's spectacular thriller, will come to The Playhouse Theatre on March 15th, for a limited engagement. It closes on March 23rd.

Winner of 14 major New York theatre awards, including four 1994 Tony Awards, the National Tour of An Inspector Calls is produced by Noel Pearson, The Shubert Organization and Capital Cities/ABC, with Joseph Harris, the same producing team that presented the acclaimed production on Broadway.

Performances of An Inspector Calls are Friday, March 15th through Saturday, March 23rd. Evening performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m.; a special Sunday evening performance on

March 17th at 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday Matinee performances at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$24-\$42. For more information, call the Box Office at (302) 656-4401. For special group rates, call (302) 594-3166.

Music Review: Leeman Listens to Glaser

By Cantor DAVID LEEMAN

Artistry requires vision. Sam Glaser points the way with his new album, "A Day in the Life." He plays the Jewish daily experience, study and prayer, in a rainbow of today's musical language.

The instrumentation varies with rare studio precision: ripping sax solos, balanced classical string ensemble warmth, isolated a cappella voices in harmonic splendor, ringing acoustic guitar, ancient cantorial modes juxtaposed to synthesized sounds — a stunning blend.

Glaser owns our ancient Hebrew prayers. He flouts any attempt at translation by pounding you with intensely personal English expression springing from the text.

For example in his composition "Oseh shalom bimromav, Hu yaaseh shalomaleyenu" which one may accurately translate "May He who makes peace in the distant heavens, bring peace to us..." Glaser sings with poignant sincerity the lyrics "Like never before we need You here right now!" — stirring colorful life to the prayer. Remember the Talmud's wise saying: "What comes from the heart enters the heart."

The Psalmist writes: "Esa einai el heharim..." — "I lift my eyes unto the mountains..." This composition takes chillingly innocent children's voices to the foot of those mountains. The psalmist continues "Me'ayin yavo ezri?" — "from where comes my help?" One could imagine Glaser pointing above their heads saying: "Look up children, sing loudly and clearly. Your help comes from Hashem, Maker of heaven and earth." The image and message thunders the power of children's prayer.

"The Learning Machine" spins a contagious driving dance rhythm. Glaser enthusiastically begs us to stretch the horizon of our Jewish minds and love it too.

When the Torah states: "Umol et levavecha" it meant reveal your heart to new light. Tear off unwanted layers. Let in a good life.

So when you buy this album and tear open the package, tear open your heart and listen.

(Cantor Leeman is cantor at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Synagogue)

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Boys, Girls, Ballet

WILMINGTON, DEL — Members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware will attend a special production of *Romeo & Juliet*, performed by the Russian Ballet Theater of Delaware (RBT), February 29th at 6:00 p.m. at The Playhouse Theatre in Wilmington. The members, who range from middle-to-high school age, represent nine Boys & Girls Club sites throughout Delaware.

The Russian Ballet Theater of Delaware is a non-profit arts organization providing entertainment and educational outreach programs in the tri-state area. For more information on specific RBT outreach opportunities, call Mimi Link at (410) 398-4837.

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OTHER VOICES

Genealogy Book Published on Local Cemeteries

By MARVIN CYTRON
Acting Editor The Jewish Voice
Julian Preisler local archivist and genealogist has recently published a research and historical book on the Jewish cemeteries of the Delmarva Peninsula.

rately and contains a brief introduction to the history of the cemetery and in some instances photographs of the cemetery. The names of the burials are indexed alphabetically and include death and birth date.

Words & Music: Sheba, Stomp And More

By STEVE COHEN
In a nondescript theater on Manhattan's Upper East Side there's a new musical that recollects the golden age of Broadway. It's SHEBA, presented by the Jewish Repertory Theater.

In 1990, the alley Theatre in Houston created the premiere production of this musical based on the Robert Louis Stevenson book. Bricusse is known for his collaborations with Anthony Newley and, most recently, with Henry Mancini for the Broadway production of VICTOR/VICTORIA.

Harvard's Dr. Cornel West at UD on Feb. 29; Intellectual Has Lectured With Pogrebin and Lerner

"To establish a new framework, we need to begin with a frank acknowledgment of the basic humanness and American-ness of each of us. There is no escape from our interracial interdependence," Cornel West writes in his best-selling book, "Race Matters."

which was reviewed in The Jewish Voice. He has been called "a bracing antidote to Louis Farrakhan's hate-mongering" and has been praised for delivering a message that "in these post-O.J. times seems to attain the impossible: to transcend race without skirting our current racial divisions."

degree from Harvard, graduating magna cum laude in three years time. He received his master's and doctoral degrees from Princeton and served as the director of the Afro-American studies program there beginning in 1988 until joining Harvard in 1994.

Dr. Cornel West Says America Has Far From Open Dialogue On Race

By BARRY LANK
No. California Jewish Bulletin
From the back of the synagogue, a baby let out a squawk right in the middle of author Cornel West's humorous and impassioned speech.



Dr. Cornel West

ditions infuse the tragic and the comic, facing their painful experiences with a sense of humor, he said. Both blacks and Jews, he added, place high value on historical teachings; similarly, both groups have made enormous contributions to the arts.

When a black man drops into a sea of white people, West noted, one can see the ripples even among the most well-intentioned. At the same time, whites too often see blacks as a homogenous group, ignoring their broad range of opinions and concerns.



COWabonga. Israel celebrates Jerusalem 3000 with souvenir stamps.

## FEATURE

## Translation

## The Physicist Richard Feynman

From the Hebrew Monthly, Lamishpaha 31, 1 January 1996

Translated by  
DOV SEIDEL

Member of The Jewish Voice  
Editorial Committee

Thirty years ago, in December, 1965, in Stockholm, the Nobel Prize in physics was given to three scientists: one was Japanese, Shinichiro Tomonaga - the two others were American Jews - Julian Schwinger and Richard Feynman. Feynman won the prize for his work in the area of quantum electrodynamics. We won't be able to explain here this complex subject, but we will be able to tell about his life Feynman is considered one of the great physicists of the 20th century.

He was born in Manhattan 1918 to Jewish parents from eastern Europe, but most of the years of his youth were spent in Far Rockaway, a suburb of New York. In high school, Feynman excelled in mathematics and physics. He was, however, a lesser student in the rest of his courses. When he finished high school, he was accepted at MIT.

In 1939, Feynman finished his Bachelor's degree studies, and wanted to continue at Princeton. The head of the Physics Department at MIT, Professor Slater, wrote to the department at Princeton about Feynman: "He is the best student we have ever had. He is a diamond in the rough."

The head of the department at Princeton wrote, in reply, to MIT: "Is Feynman a Jew? We don't have a definite rule against Jews, but we have to be strict that there will be only a few Jews in the department, otherwise it is very difficult to find work for them afterwards..." Professor Slater replied: "Feynman is, of course, a Jew, but he has an exceptionally pleasant personality. I am sure that you will like him."

Professor Morse, from the Physics Department at MIT added: "His features and his behavior don't divulge the fact that he is a Jew, and I don't think that his Jewishness will form a serious handicap." It is difficult to believe today that Princeton related to Jews this way, in 1939, when at Princeton itself was a Jew who earned great honor - Albert Einstein.

Antisemitism was existing in American universities, and even in 1946 (after the Shoah!) the head of the Chemistry Department at Harvard instructed the Admission Committee: "When we receive (applications) from students to the Department, skip those with names that end with 'berg' or 'stein'. Feynman was ultimately accepted at Princeton. Before he went to study at Princeton, he became engaged to Arlene Greenbaum, a young Jewish woman who lived in Long Island, not far from his parents home in Far Rockaway. He was very much in love with her. He met her when they both were very young, and he began to participate in synagogue activities in order to be in her company.

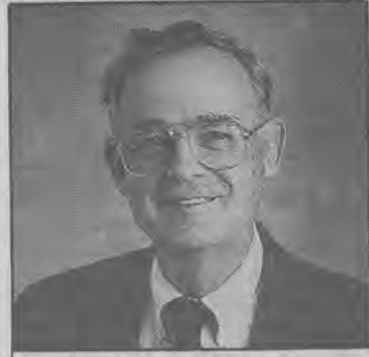
During the time that Feynman studied at Princeton, Arlene became

ill. At first, the doctors thought that she had cancer, and only later it was discovered that she was ill with tuberculosis. Tuberculosis was, at that time an incurable illness, and Feynman's family tried to influence him not to marry Arlene. His mother wrote to him: "If you marry her, your health will be in danger, no, your life will be in danger, and your career will also be in danger. People fear tuberculosis, and won't be able to approach anyone whose wife is ill with tuberculosis. If you marry her, your father and I won't help you financially, never, and under any condition!" Feynman was not ready to concede on the question of marriage with Arlene, and a short time after he received his Ph.D. from Princeton, they married in Staten Island without their families. Immediately after the marriage, Feynman took Arlene to her new residence, a sanitarium in New Jersey for those ill with tuberculosis.

During all the period in which Arlene was in a sanitarium (beginning in New Jersey, and then in New Mexico), Feynman visited her at least once a week, wrote her love letters, and showed her great devotion. Arlene died in 1945, and for many years, Feynman could not forget her, and his love for her. He didn't believe at first, that he would be able to love a second time, but in 1960, fifteen years after Arlene's death, he married an English woman, whom he met in Europe. They had a son and a daughter.

Feynman taught at Cornell University, which is in the northern part of the state of New York, and at Caltech, which is in California. He participated in the secret development of the American atomic bomb, first in Princeton, and then in Los Alamos. Feynman's unique quality was his curiosity, and its special form - the way he looked at physical phenomena. He sought an explanation to every phenomena, and with his brilliant intellect, he came to a deep understanding of the laws of nature. Feynman tried to explain the principles of physics to people who didn't specialize in this profession. He gave lectures and wrote books on quantum electrodynamics aimed at readers who were not professional physicists.

When Feynman was 60, a rare kind of malignant tumor was found in his abdomen. Surgery was performed, but the growth returned, and the surgery was repeated. Several years later, a rare form of bone marrow cancer was found in him. The doctors were surprised that two kinds of cancer, so rare and different from each other, developed in one person, and it is possible that the cause was radiation, which Feynman absorbed during the time of his work on the atomic bomb, 40 years earlier. Feynman's life was coming to an end, but there remained other important discoveries for him to make: in 1986, after the spaceship "Challenger" exploded in the air, with seven astronauts inside, a Presidential Committee was appointed to find the causes for the disaster. Feynman was one of the members of the committee. He knew that his days were numbered, and hesitated, when asked to participate in the investi-



Dov Seidel

gation, but finally agreed. It was Feynman who discovered the defect that caused the explosion of the Challenger. When the investigation was complete, Feynman joined the members of the Presidential Commission for a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House, and afterward, returned to his home, ill, thin, and very weak. Richard Feynman passed away in February 1988 at the age of 69.

### Jewish Educators At Elat Chayyim

ACCORD, N.Y. — There will be more than 50 outstanding Jewish teachers and writers leading courses at Elat Chayyim during the season beginning in March of this year.

Led by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, author of "From Age-Ing To Sage-Ing," the group includes such notables as poet Marge Piercy, Rabbi Marcia Prager, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, author of "Down To Earth Judaism," Rabbi Arthur Green, author of "Seek My Face, Speak My Name" and Roger Kamenetz, author of "The Jew In The Lotus."

Course titles include "Entering The Gates of Jewish Spirituality," "Kabbalah: Ancient Wisdom for Today," "Jewish Soul Music: Sephardic Melodies and Modes," "Prayer, Communication and Breath," "A Davenology Laboratory: The Art & Science of Prayer" and "A Hebrew Immersion Ulpan."

The season opens on March 29th with a Spring Jewish Singles Retreat, which proved to be so popular last year, followed by a Pesach Retreat on April 3rd through 7th led by Rabbi Joanna Katz and Jeff Roth, founders of Elat Chayyim, and Rabbi Michael Lerner, publisher of *TIKKUN* magazine.

A complete catalog of courses and events may be obtained by calling Elat Chayyim at 1-800-398-2630.

### Research With Palestinian and German Scientists

JERUSALEM — Two research grants involving The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Palestinian and German scientists were approved this week by the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, or DFG).

Three million German marks will be invested in these projects — one in life sciences and the other in environmental science. These are the first such trilateral research grants allocated by the DFG, which stated that its purpose is not only to further scientific inquiry in the areas chosen but also to contribute towards the encouraging the development of a lasting peace among the parties involved.

## MORE NEWS

### Farrakhan Compares Plight of Iraqi People To Holocaust

By DANIEL KURTZMAN  
WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Louis Farrakhan 1996 world tour continues to showcase the Nation of Islam leader's uncanny ability to infuriate and baffle his critics.

As Farrakhan punctuates his travels with references to the United States as the "Great Satan," federal law enforcement officials continue to investigate whether he violated any laws in his visits to Iraq, Iran and Libya, where economic sanctions apply.

Farrakhan met last week with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, and then likened the plight of the Iraqi people to the horrors Jews endured in Nazi death camps.

After visiting a hospital, Farrakhan called U.S. economic sanctions against Iraq a "crime against humanity" that is leading to the "mass murder of the Iraqi people."

"Visiting the hospital," Farrakhan was quoted as saying, "would be, or could be, compared to visiting one of the [Nazi] death camps."

The black nationalist Muslim has crisscrossed Africa and the Middle East during the past month on what he described as a "world friendship" tour to show solidarity with Muslims.

His meetings with various foreign leaders — which reads like a Who's Who list of international terrorism sponsors — has been sharply condemned by U.S. officials, as well as Jewish groups.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns castigated Farrakhan last week for "cavorting with dictators," denouncing his recent remarks as "shameful."

The Anti-Defamation League in a recent statement said Farrakhan's embrace of America's avowed enemies "shoots a torpedo into the notion that Louis Farrakhan is pur-

suating a course of moderation."

Earlier in the week, an Iranian newspaper quoted Farrakhan as saying, "You can quote me: God will destroy America at the hands of Muslims," then adding, "We do not seek the fall of the U.S. government but are looking for ways to moderate the unjust policies of the American government."

His stopovers have included Sudan as well as Libya, where leader Muammar Gadhafi pledged \$1 billion to Farrakhan to finance political activities in the United States.

He also held meetings in Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey and Syria, where he met for three hours with Syrian President Hafez Assad just 10 days before Israeli-Syrian peace talks were set to resume at the Wye Plantation in Maryland.

Farrakhan's exploits have been challenged on a number of legal fronts.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control sent Farrakhan a letter asking whether he illegally spent money in restricted nations or accepted money for political purposes from countries under U.S. economic sanctions.

In addition, the Justice Department sent Farrakhan a letter informing him that he must register as a foreign agent for Libya if he engages in activities to influence U.S. policies or politics on that country's behalf.

Meanwhile, his most outspoken critic in Congress, Rep Peter King (R-N.Y.), has been calling for congressional hearings into his activities abroad and has said Farrakhan would be subpoenaed if necessary.

"Louis Farrakhan has been paying courtesy calls to the most murderous regimes on the face of the

Continued on Page 27

# K

## THE KUTZ HOME

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from our  
Residents, Staff, and Board members

For more information about the Kutz Home, please call Shelia Mensch at (302) 764-7000.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Entries for the Calendar of Events are due on the Thursday deadline, published in *The Jewish Voice*. Copy should be typed and double spaced. Entries are preferred on 3 1/2" floppy disk or via E-mail. Please include day, date, time, place, brief description, and contact person.**

## FEBRUARY

Saturday 24

**Square Dance & Southwestern Vegetarian Dinner** at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth; 7 p.m. (Dancing starts at 8 p.m.); \$12.50 per person (Dance only: \$7.50 per person). For reservations, call: Leona Weissman 477-1254 or Mitzi Echt, 478-4964.

**Open Center Night** - (Grades 7 and 8) Spend a night at the JCC watching a movie shown from the pool deck, playing basketball, volleyball or just hanging out. The cost is \$5.00 per person. 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Etai Belinky at (302) 478-5660.

Sunday 25

**Mezuzah Fair** - Vendors will have

mezuzot on display and available for purchase at the JCC. A "sopher" or scribe will provide insight into some of the laws of the mezuzah. Demonstrations will also occur throughout the day. Free of charge and open to the entire community. 1:00 p.m. For more information, call Ella Zukoff or Mona Allen at (302) 478-5660.

**AIDS Education Seminar** - Scott Fried will speak to Wilmington area high school students about the issues and myths surrounding AIDS at the JCC. Free of charge and open to the entire community. 2:00 p.m. For more information, call Etai Belinky or Naomi Sobel at (302) 478-5660.

Wednesday 28

**JCC Candlelight Dinner and Program** - The Wilmington International Photography Exhibition, sponsored by the Delaware Camera Club, will be presented after dinner. A \$5.00 dinner donation is required, advance reservations are required. 5:00 p.m. For more information, call Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

## MARCH

Sunday 10

**Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Sisterhood Speaker/Brunch: 11-1;** Bert Green, Realtor will discuss real estate development in the Wilmington area; \$5 per person. Please reserve

by March 4th. Call Andrea Finestrauss, 764-0318.

## APRIL 1996

Sunday 28

**The Jerusalem 3000 Committee** of the Jewish Federation of Delaware will present the Jerusalem 3000 Extravaganza in Wilmington, DE: an all day celebration for all ages with music, entertainment, games, vendors, food and educational opportunities. The event will be held at the JCC of Wilmington. The extravaganza will last all day. There is no charge for the event. For more information, call (302) 427-2100.

## MAY 1996

Sunday 19

**The Jewish Community Relations Council** of Greater Philadelphia and the Young Leadership Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia will cosponsor an Israel Independence Day Celebration: The theme is Jerusalem 3000. This event includes a parade; a bazaar with Israeli food, merchandise and information; local entertainment; interactive educational activities for children, participatory Israeli dancing, and ceremonies with dignitaries. The event will take place at the Judge Lewis Quadrangle, Independence Mall in

Philadelphia from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. There is no charge for this event which is open to the community. For more information, call Shira Kosoy Moses at (215) 922-7222.

Monday 27

**Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth** in Wilmington, Delaware, the annual celebration of Israel - Cafe Tamar will take place. Cafe Tamar features performances of Israeli dancing and music at Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth in Wilmington. The event takes place in the evening with the charge to be and further details to be announced. For more information, call (302) 762-2705.

## Ongoing

**JCC Art Gallery Exhibit** - Continues through April 1996. "Memories of My Life in a Polish Village" by Toby Fluck. Gallery hours are Sunday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, call Ella Zukoff or Mona Allen at (302) 478-5660.

**Exhibition: "THE ASSOCIATED: A 75th Anniversary Retrospective,"** tracing the growth and development of Baltimore's Jewish community federation and its agencies. Historic photos, artifacts, and memorabilia. From January 21 through June 2, 1996 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays,

Thursdays and Sundays from noon to 4:00 p.m. at The Jewish Historical Society of Maryland, 15 Lloyd Street, Baltimore. Admission fee is \$2 for adults; free of charge for Society members and children age 12 and under. The sponsors of this event are The Jewish Historical Society of Maryland and the Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore.

**Young Jewish Adults of Delaware's (YJAD's)** co-ed, non-competitive volleyball league continues every Wednesday night from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. It will move inside to the J.C.C. gym as of September 6, 1995.

**Handbook Available On Internship Opportunities In Israel.** Have you ever considered working in Israel as an intern or volunteer? A book, entitled *Volunteer and Internship Possibilities In Israel*, can make that dream a reality. Published by the Joint Authority for Jewish-Zionist Education, this handbook is perfect for students, young professionals and potential *olim* interested in exploring employment opportunities in Israel.

To order *Volunteer and Internship Possibilities In Israel* send \$10 for each book to: USD/AZYF, 110 E. 59th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10022 or call: (212) 339-6941 or 1 (800) 27-ISRAEL.

## Israeli Government Responds To Need Of Its Jews From Ethiopia

### Some Fortunate Consequences Of An Unfortunate Riot

By HOWARD LENHOFF

Professor Howard Lenhoff, University of California, and a former President of the American Association for Ethiopian Jews

Recently, the newly formed Ministerial Committee on Immigration and Absorption, headed by Prime Minister Shimon Peres, made a number of important decisions to respond to the protests of the Israeli Ethiopian Jewish community. The Committee recommended that the government:

- Add seven million to the budget of the education program for Ethiopian Jews.

- End segregation in all the schools, including the Jewish Agency's Youth Aliyah Schools.

- Reform financial aid plans for Ethiopian university students.

- Allocate support for preschoolers of parents who have moved from the isolated trailer home ("caravan") sites to more populated towns.

- Allocate a special budget to identify students with learning difficulties.

- Establish immediately five Ethiopian Jewish synagogues in cities with large Ethiopian populations. Ethiopian rabbis and Cohanim (religious leaders known as Kessim) are to be included on local religious councils.

- Add Ethiopians to professional teams formulating health plans for Ethiopian Jews.

Unfortunately, it took a riot of black Jews vs. the Israeli government to bring attention to the thoughtless and insensitive policies of government and Jewish Agency bureaucrats, and to effect serious

and long needed changes to assist the new Ethiopian Jewish immigrants to integrate into Israeli society.

The charges of the Ethiopians were substantial and had the support not only of the Israeli man in the street, but of a caucus of over 70 members of the Knesset. Working virtually alone to develop this caucus and to sensitize officials and the press in Israel to the needed changes was Rabbi Micha Odenheimer, a journalist who currently runs the Israeli Association for Ethiopian Jews. It was also Rabbi Odenheimer who prepared a well-documented report and video about the near-disastrous mishandling of the education of the recent Ethiopian Jewish immigrant children, and the terrible consequences those failings would have for the Ethiopian Jews, Israeli society, and the face that Israel shows the world.

The Ministerial Committee has made a great start. We will need to watch and see.

## Russian Version of Talmud Released

By LEV KRICHEVSKY

MOSCOW (JTA) — The first volume of the Babylonian Talmud to be translated into Russian has been released here.

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, an Israeli known for translations of the Talmud into modern Hebrew, English and French, presented the Russian-language edition at a ceremony last week at the office of the mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov.

The Babylonian Talmud — which

Continued on page 27



**RACHEL'S TOMB CONTROVERSY: BETHLEHEM, WEST BANK** — A religious Jew reads from a prayers book as he leans against a security wall outside Rachel's Tomb February 12 as an Israeli soldier, right, and a policeman patrol the area. Palestinians protested about construction nearby which cuts through the center of the road in front of Rachel's Tomb, a popular Jewish religious site, saying the construction will strangle the Palestinian's tourist trade making traffic into Bethlehem very congested.

## Artie Allen Introduces Difficult News From Alabama

Alabama Rabbi Tells Congregation She Has AIDS

By LARRY BROOK  
The Southern Shofar

*(The story that follows has truly hit my home town. As the Assistant Director of the Wilmington JCC, my Jewish roots come from Agudath Israel Synagogue in Montgomery, Alabama. My father Mitchell is a member of the Synagogue board and my mother Sharon is the Sunday School principal. Our Jewish community is close-knit and has always risen to the challenge during times of crisis. Although the news to follow has still left many in shock, this small Jewish community serves as a model for the nation pertaining*

*to such matters of our modern era* Artie Allen, JCC Assistant Director.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — "A rabbi always challenges his or her community."

Reflecting on a life-changing week, Rabbi Cynthia Culpeper noted with irony, "I just gave them a big challenge."

The rabbi of Montgomery's Agudath Israel Synagogue stunned the community at a special "State of the Synagogue" meeting Jan. 7 by telling her congregation that she has Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

A year ago, she served as Agudath Israel's student rabbi, then became their full-time rabbi in August.

She intends to finish the year at

the 200-family congregation, then move back to her hometown of San Francisco this summer.

"To say that Montgomery was in a state of shock would be an understatement," said Nathan Friedlander, a vice president of Agudath Israel who had attended Culpeper's ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary last May.

The congregants were not alone in being shocked. Culpeper said testing positive "came as a total shock to me."

Now that she has told her congregation, "I have no intention of being quiet about it."

A graduate of San Francisco State University's nursing school, she worked at San Francisco General Hospital before entering rabbinical school. When on semester breaks, she continued with her passion for nursing.

In January 1994, she received an "occupational exposure" at the hos-

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# Alabama

Continued from page 24

pital. She was tested immediately, and then six months later was re-tested according to usual procedures. The second test was negative, so she "totally put the incident out of my mind and never thought about it again."

Shortly before the High Holidays this year, she went to have a sore throat checked, figuring she would need to make sure her voice would be in working order for the holidays. Rather than having strep, as she

thought, she had thrush. "Healthy adults do not get thrush," she said.

A barrage of questions followed, along with a recommendation that she be tested for HIV. This surprised her, because she has none of the risk factors for getting HIV, except for that occupational exposure.

The day after Rosh Hashanah, she learned she had tested positive.

Within two weeks, she went from knowing she was HIV-positive to being diagnosed with AIDS. A person is classified as having AIDS when the T-cell count goes below 200. Further testing showed her T-cell count as 3.

"That was the first time I laughed. I couldn't believe it when I heard it on the telephone," she recalled.

Her case is a bit unusual, she said, because of the rapid development of AIDS. However, she is "very — thank God — asymptomatic."

Upper respiratory infections have made their usual winter run through Montgomery this year. "Everybody around me is sick and I'm doing just fine."

For three months, she lived with the knowledge but did not tell the congregation until she could sort out the best way to do it. She confided in a few out-of-town friends, but until the Jan. 7 announcement she had told only two people face-to-face.

The only person in Montgomery she had told earlier was Mike Murphree of the Montgomery AIDS Outreach, who fielded questions after her talk.

During those months, she devoted a great deal of energy to being quiet about it while being there for her congregants.

"I'm glad I can now focus my energies to other areas, including education of all kinds," she said. Reflecting on the months of keeping it inside, she added, "There are a lot of people who can't talk about this, and I don't know how they do it."

She never intended to keep silent about having AIDS, but she wanted to tell her congregation first "before it spread like wildfire." She added that "the congregation is my family, and they deserve to hear it first."

Because she found out during the High Holidays, she told the congregation "you can well imagine how intense Yom Kippur was for me this year, my first as a rabbi at that. Its unending primary liturgical message of how our lives are in the balance took on a whole new meaning for me."

She wondered what the reaction would be to her announcement. About 150 congregants attended the 1:30 p.m. meeting. "I got 150 hugs afterward."

Those who attended called it one of the most overwhelming emotional moments they have ever experienced.

Col. Bob Taffet, president of Agudath Israel, said "the most important thing is the congregation is with our rabbi 100 percent whatever it takes, we are here to support her."

Jerald Labovitz, who also serves on the national board of United Synagogue, vowed "Montgomery will be looked to as setting the standard for dealing with AIDS and its surrounding difficulties."

Since the Jan. 7 meeting, phones have been ringing off the hook. Within a day, word had spread across the state.

Taffet said Montgomery-area ministers have been calling him all week, asking if they could include the rabbi in their prayers.

Education will be an important component in dealing with Culpeper's announcement. She said she "didn't want to just drop a bombshell on my people and then say, 'okay, deal with this'." Taffet agreed, saying "education is key, and we might as well start with our own."

Recently, Culpeper attended an AIDS education seminar and through the connections she made, the Atlanta Jewish Family Services AIDS Outreach held an educational program at Agudath Israel on Jan. 21. Over 110 individuals from the three local congregations attended the program, which was coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Montgomery. Educating the children will be a

priority, because much to Culpeper's surprise there were many children at her announcement. Because she was conveying a "very adult message" she was concerned that the children would not understand the implications of what was said.

After the talk, while the adults were hugging her, the children wrapped themselves around her legs.

"I'm sure that dinner conversations have been interesting all week long," she reflected.

She was not present at the Jan. 21 session, due to a previously-planned rabbinic trip to Israel. That would help congregants be more open, she feels. "People can ask these experts their questions without my being there, without being concerned about my feelings."

On Dec. 1, she was reminded that education is necessary. In honor of World AIDS Day she wore a red ribbon and many attending the United Synagogue Youth sub-regional convention at Agudath Israel that weekend asked what the ribbon was for.

The Shabbat evening following her announcement, all 85 congregants in attendance wore red ribbons.

Culpeper said she had lived in only two places before accepting her position in Montgomery — New York and San Francisco, both of which have vast resources for AIDS and high public awareness. "Here I am now in Alabama, diagnosed with AIDS, but here at the University of Alabama at Birmingham is one of the top facilities in the U.S."

**"I'm sure that dinner conversations have been interesting all week long"**

Dr. Michael Saag has been treating her, and his support has been "really special to me." Saag and Malcolm Marler, director of the AIDS education and ministry project at the 1917 Clinic at UAB, "have been my support group through all of this since the end of October, when no one in my community knew."

When visiting with Saag, they would talk about everything "from T-cells to Torah portions" and the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of Saag's son.

When she leaves for San Francisco, "I'm not going to miss all the blood draws, but I'm going to miss their support."

While at the 1917 Clinic, Culpeper read books by Mary Fisher, who has been a vocal "pilgrim" in AIDS awareness. Fisher's speech at the 1992 Republican national convention was widely seen as the highlight of the convention.

Fisher was an inspiration to Culpeper, and Fisher looked over Culpeper's speech and made suggestions.

Culpeper plans to be vocal and active in talking about AIDS. There are a handful of other rabbis who have HIV or AIDS, but her announcement may be the first time a pulpit rabbi has openly told a congregation about contracting AIDS.

"There are a lot of people who can't speak about their situations," she said, and she plans to be their voice also.

"This is Torah. Torah is teaching, and that teaching is best shown by how we choose to live publicly, not by the silence we may maintain privately."

For many congregants, this is the first time they have really had to deal

with AIDS and had a face to put with the epidemic. Culpeper explained, "This is not thousands of people across the country, this is your rabbi who has it."

She admits it would have been possible to simply say she is ill and have everyone assume it was cancer. That is why she came forward.

"There used to be a time, not to long ago either, that people could not even say the word cancer. People feared it, and even viewed it as contagious."

While that has changed for cancer patients, "people in general will still turn their heads the other way whenever AIDS is brought up in conversation and react with prejudice, or fear, or ignorance, or apathy," she said in her Jan. 7 remarks.

AIDS is a Jewish problem, she said. She quoted Rabbi Edelheit's article in "Tikkun" which asked, "Did we ask how many Jews needed to be discriminated against in the South in the '50s and '60s for civil rights to be a Jewish problem?"

She told her congregants she got AIDS "while caring for those in need. I still care within the context of being a rabbi, but I recognize now more than ever that I am just as much on the receiving end of caring as I am on the giving side of it."

"I believe God cares, too, unconditionally," she added, "regardless of race, creed, color, religion, sexual orientation or practice, and I know that God calls upon us to care unconditionally as well."

Several of her friends advised her not to go public, saying she would risk nothing by being silent but risk a lot by going public. "As much as I value their friendships and advice, I knew that for me, with never a moment's doubt, this was the right thing to do, because not only is this disease condition a part of who I am now, talking about it is also a part of my Jewish value system."

Upon returning from a visit to San Francisco on Dec. 29, she knew she would not have to be silent much longer. She told Taffet she would be resigning for personal reasons, beginning "an incredibly difficult" week for her.

She realizes that not telling him the personal reasons made it a difficult week for Taffet. "I put him through hell," she admitted. Then on Jan. 7, snow shut down northern Alabama and spread as far as Montgomery. "I was thinking, 'of all things, today'." But the meeting went on as scheduled. Afterward, she invited congregants to her home, and about 70 came by.

When she first arrived in Montgomery last summer, Culpeper tried to shy away from publicity, insisting that she did not want to be known solely as the state's first female Conservative pulpit rabbi, or as the rabbi who grew up Catholic. Likewise, she does not want to be known as "the AIDS rabbi" either.

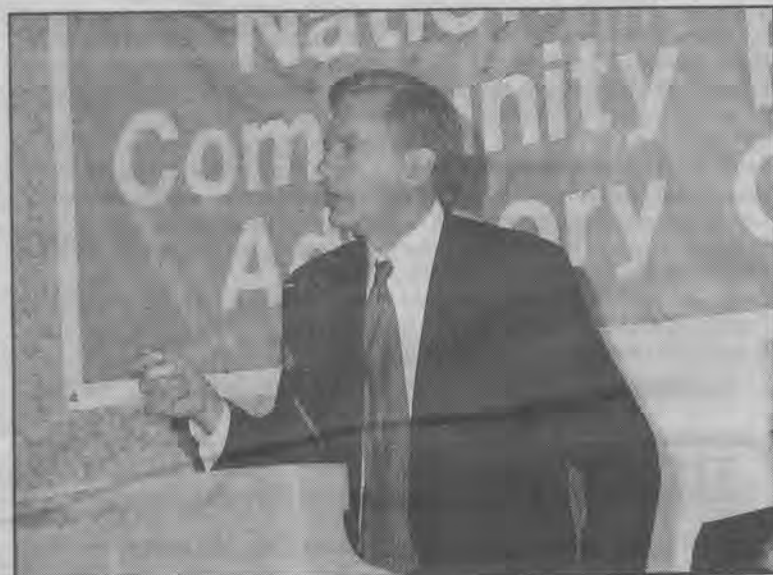
"I hope that in my remaining months (in Montgomery) that I will be able to continue to teach all kinds of Torah, not just AIDS awareness, and I hope they will allow me to do that, that they'll allow me to still be their rabbi, their teacher."

She has every intention of completing her appointment to Agudath Israel, she said, "and my first priority is to them."

"But I don't know what is going to happen in the next couple of months, and beyond that point I don't know what's going to happen either." She added, "for those of you familiar with the AIDS quilt, I have no intention

Continued on Page 26

## NJCRAC St. Louis Plenum Photos



Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt spoke to the growing Jewish concern for the environment.



Mayor Freeman Bosley of St. Louis welcomes NJCRAC delegates to the city.



Representative Richard Gephardt expressed frustration with the de-emphasis of compromise in Washington.

# OBITUARIES

## BLANCHE J. GRAFF

Blanche J. Graff, 84, of Forwood Manor, Brandywine Hundred, died February 17, in Bryn Mawr (Pa.) Hospital.

Mrs. Graff attended Temple University. She was a former member of Temple Beth El, Bradford, Pa., and was president of Temple Sisterhood, a member of B'nai B'rith United Jewish Appeal, National Council of Jewish Women, Bradford Hospital Auxiliary, Civic Forum, and Literary Guild. She was active in selling bonds for Israel and was a Red Cross volunteer during World War II. Her husband, Joseph I., died in 1992.

She is survived by her son, Dr. Harold A. of Villanova, Pa.; daughter, Norma Carson of Havertown, Pa.; five grandchildren; two step grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and three step great-grandchildren.

Contributions can be made to B'nai B'rith or United Jewish Appeal.

## PHILIP MICHELMAN

Philip Michelman, 66, of 5 Paladin Drive, Paladin Club Condominiums, near Fox Point, a retired salesman for Whittaker Corp. and Morton International, died February 17 of complications from diabetes in Riverside Hospital. Contributions may be sent to the American Diabetes Association, Congregation Beth Emeth or other charity. Philip was the husband of Claire Michelman; the

father of Jeffrey E. of Atlantic Beach, FL and Mark L. of Springfield, IL; brother of Shirley Resnick of N. Miami Beach, FL.

## LILLIAN PRESSLER

Lillian Pressler, 90, of Claymont, died February 19, of heart failure in Christiana Hospital.

Mrs. Pressler had been a saleswoman at various area dress stores. She was a member of Machzikey Hadas Congregation and its Sisterhood. Her husband, Irvin, died in 1955.

She is survived by her son, Martin of Philadelphia; brother, William Lessin of Claymont; and two grandchildren.

Contributions can be made to Machzikey Hadas Congregation, Claymont.

## KATHERINE WALLEES

Katherine Walles, 79, of The Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, died February 6 of complications from a stroke at home.

Mrs. Walles, a homemaker, was a member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and Pioneer Women.

Survivors include her husband, Isaac; her son, Jacob of Washington; her daughter, Elaine Parker of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.; her brothers, Leon Berman of Rochester, N.Y., and David Berman of Israel; two granddaughters.

Contributions can be sent to The Kutz Home, Wilmington 19809.

# Islam and Russia Are Topics At Arsht Lectures

Seminars dealing with world issues will be held monthly on the University of Delaware's Wilmington campus, sponsored by the UD Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) outreach program.

The lectures, free and open to the public, are scheduled from 7-8:30 p.m. in Room 105 of Arsht Hall, 2700 Pennsylvania Ave. All will be presented by University of Delaware faculty.

Lectures include on Wednesday, April 3, when Mark Miller, UD pro-

fessor of political science and international relations, will speak on "Islam, Terrorism and Western Democracy."

The series includes on Wednesday, May 1, with "Russia: What Can the U.S. Do? What Should the U.S. Do?" presented by James Oliver, professor of political science and international relations, and David Shearer, associate professor of history, both at the University.

For more information, contact the MALS Program at (302) 831-6075.

## Extremist

Continued from page 1

"Politics attracts passionate people and some of the passionate people are extremists," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

"They feel they can get legitimacy by attaching themselves to mainstream candidates," he said.

Campaigns are "where the action is in American politics," said Jason Isaacson, director of the Washington office of the American Jewish Committee. "There is no very effective filter against extremist involvement in campaign personnel."

The true test of candidates is how they react when extremists are uncovered in their campaign hierarchy, Foxman and others argued.

"You can't really expect candidates to weed out in advance people who have extremist attitudes or have graced the platforms of extremists," Foxman said, adding that the only way to judge candidates is what they do "once the person's history is

brought to their attention."

When asked whether Pat Buchanan has met that test, Foxman replied, "No, no, no."

Buchanan, who has been bolstered in his quest for the presidential bid by strong showings in last week's Iowa caucus and this week's New Hampshire primary, has adamantly defended Pratt.

As the head of the Gun Owners of America, Pratt has attended numerous rallies with the most virulent anti-Semites and racists of today.

Kenneth Stern, the AJCommittee's specialist on anti-Semitism and hate groups, said Pratt's presence in an important Republican campaign poses a graver

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# Alabama

Continued from page 25

of being one of its squares."

One thing is certain, according to her congregants. "She will make a difference," said Bruchis.

Once again, Agudath Israel will have to search for a new rabbi, but Taffet dismissed the subject. "Right now we're not concerned about that."

He considers Culpeper "as strong a person as I've ever come across in my experience, and probably as brave a person," including his experiences in the military.

As an example, the morning of her announcement, she let Taffet tell an emergency board meeting that she was ill, without giving any details.

In the couple hours between the meeting and her announcement, congregants who were there during Sunday School were abuzz and concerned.

An hour before her announcement was the first session in Agudath Israel's new Israeli dancing group, another passion of hers. Many who otherwise would have been in the mood to dance felt awkward with the uncertain atmosphere. Nevertheless, Culpeper went around the room convincing everyone to put the upcoming meeting out of their minds for a while.

"Everything will be explained then," she assured. "But now, let's dance."

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## Talmud

Continued from Page 24

contains 63 sections, or tractates, and which was written in Aramaic and ancient Hebrew when it was compiled some 1,700 years ago — has never before been available to Russian Jews in their native language.

During the atheist Soviet era, when Communist authorities suppressed all expressions of religious activity, Russian Jews had little access to the Talmud, copies of which were sometimes in the country's few functioning synagogues or were smuggled in by foreigners.

The Russian Talmud is being published under the auspices of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

"I see my attempt to be in Russia today as a big chance, a big effort

and a big gamble," Steinsaltz said in an interview. "Many have asked me why to go to Russia, where any chances to revive Jewish spiritual continuity are so weak."

Russia's Jews number an estimated 600,000, but Steinsaltz fears that a high rate of assimilation is threatening the community with extinction.

But the risks of assimilation, he added, are not only to be found among Russian Jewry.

"Where Russian Jewry is now, European Jewry will be in 15 years, American Jewry in 30 years, and even possibly, Israeli Jewry in 50 years," he said.

"Any attempt to do something in the former Soviet Union is an attempt to see if there is any way of changing the situation elsewhere. If there is any possibility, it means that Jews as a people have hope," he said.

## Purim's Paradox

Continued from page 23

statisticians are having a field day and Jewish families are having a heartache, Purim may provide us with a sense of perspective. Our age is hardly the first to deal with the issue. Moses and each of Jacob's children intermarried. All through history the challenge has been present.

No one, however, seems to be considering the positive side. While not condoning the practice, one may find that it is part of life when cultures coexist in relative acceptance, if not harmony. The Jewish gene pool and talents are enriched. Judaism is challenged to a greater vision and a more active program to retain adherents. Who knows when the process will save Jews? After all, Raoul Wallenberg's brother-in-law was Jewish.

Though the name of God is found elsewhere throughout the *Tanach* (Hebrew Bible), it does not appear in the *megillah*/Book of Esther. This issue has puzzled theologians and scholars over the centuries. Some argue that it was not the custom to mention God at the time the *megillah* was written. Others contend that since Purim was celebrated with such boisterousness in the synagogue, it would not be seemly to use the Divine name. There are also those who feel the book of Esther is historical fiction.

In contemporary thinking about God, there is the problem of referring to a transcendent being taking the construct of a monarch. How can the finite mind understand the infinite? How can one conceive the inconceivable? All reference to God must be metaphor. But which one?

The Book of Esther provides us with a possible solution: Don't even try to use metaphor. Maimonides even hints at this possibility when he refuses to name the attributes of God in a positive manner. Is it not time to turn to the Book of Esther and simply refer to God without a name? While traditional terms might be employed for many reasons, why not refer to God as "The Nameless One"? Surely, this would help us in thoughts and feelings to "express" the ineffable.

another paradox is the title *megilat estahyr* (Book of Esther). Esther was her Persian name — her Hebrew name was Hadassah. One would think the latter would be the proper term for the Hebrew Bible. Yet the great Jewish women's organization, Hadassah, which has done so much for Israel and Judaism everywhere, chose the appropriate Hebrew name, perhaps because the

organization was founded on Purim. Its founder, Henrietta Szold, was one of the great Jewish scholars of the era.

To be sure, a neglected heroine of the book is Vashti. Vashti prefigures feminism. What enormous courage it took to refuse King Ahashuerus' royal command to appear (some would say nude) before a drunken brawl. She pays for her conviction by being executed. Move over Betty Freidan, Gloria Steinem, and Letty Pogrebrin — Vashti is the heroine of the feminist movement, its true martyr.

On Purim, one is permitted by tradition to drink to the point not knowing the difference between *baruch mordecai* (blessed be Mordecai) and *arur haman* (cursed be Haman). The rabbis were hardly advocating alcoholism. Instead, they were metaphorically saying that hatred should dissolve into humor, defamation into deference, cruelty into compassion, and fury into forgiveness.

Purim is a holy day infused with Jewish values. There are the customs of *shalach manot* (gift sending), taking at least two portions of ready-to-eat foods to friends, and *Matanot laevyonim* (gifts to the needy), for contributing at least two gifts to the homeless and hungry. There is a Purim *seudah* (feast), at which family and friends gather to eat a festive meal and remember Jewish survival.

Purim is a time to celebrate Jewish survival and creativity. There are *Purim Torah*, in which learning and scholarship are burlesqued, and *Purimspielen*, the plays and masquerades to challenge the creative. There are carnivals where children cavort and enjoy their Jewishness.

One can attend the synagogue and here the whole *megilah* chanted. One can worship and recite *al hanissim* ("for the miracles") and seriously consider how Jews have survived anti-Semitism. One can also listen to the *megilah* and *jeer*, rattling *graggers*, to make noise when Haman's name is mentioned.

Purim is a paradox, but so is life. Purim is a holiday that includes all of the values and all of the Jewish people. Perhaps that is why the *Midrash* tells us that all the holidays will vanish in Messianic times, but Purim alone will endure. After all, it is fun and filled with Jewish values.

(Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas is Rabbi Emeritus of the Temple of Aaron, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Religious Studies at Macalester College. He is author of the trilogy, *Heart of Wisdom*.)

## Extremist Staff

Continued from Page 26

threat than many realize, especially because of his access to members of Congress.

Pratt's involvement in the politics of gun control "bridges the gap between the far right, anti-Semites, racists and members of Congress," said Stern, whose book, "A Force Upon the Plain: The American Militia Movement and the Politics of Hate," was recently published.

"It's astonishing to me that a guy who has gone to meetings with really stone-cold Nazis and white supremacists is a welcome lobbyist on Capitol Hill."

Pratt started Gun Owners in 1975, convinced that the National Rifle Association was not active enough in opposing gun control in Washington.

Allegations about Pratt began to resurface last week after the Center for Public Integrity released a report on presidential campaigns and their advisers.

The center reported that Pratt is widely credited with "introducing the concept of militias to the right-wing underground."

In an effort to stem the tide of criticism, Pratt called a news conference, telling reporters, "I loathe the Aryan Nation and other racist groups with every fiber of my being."

As part of his defense, Pratt released a statement touting support from the Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, described by the ADL as a "right-wing, fringe group" based in Wisconsin.

Pratt told Ted Koppel on the television show "Nightline" that the head of the group, Aaron Zelman, considers him a "righteous gentile."

Despite media scrutiny and calls from other campaigns to dump Pratt outright, Buchanan has refused to oust Pratt from the campaign.

"I think it was a mistake to go to those meetings," Buchanan said Sunday on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley," referring to Pratt's participation in the right-wing rallies.

"But, look, I'm not going to cut this man loose when he's asked me to stand by him while he explains what he did right and what he did wrong."

Buchanan said, "The dogs are on him" because he is "a devout Christian who happens to be very strong in favor of gun ownership, and he's

## Farrakhan

Continued from page 23

earth," King said in a statement. "Any American citizen who consorts with the sworn enemies of the United States and seeks their financial backing must be held fully accountable for their actions."

But Congress remains reluctant to call Farrakhan to testify, fearful of becoming entangled in what would likely be a racially divisive hearing, according to congressional sources.

Farrakhan, in his defense, reportedly told Tehran University students, "I am a free black and do not allow anyone to tell me where to go and where not to go, who to meet or not to meet."

Nation of Islam officials would not comment on Farrakhan's foreign trip.

An assistant to Farrakhan, however, said the Nation of Islam leader is likely to address the issue during his annual Saviour's Day speech Feb 25 in Chicago.

standing with Pat Buchanan."

Buchanan has also compared Pratt's plight to that of Christina Jeffrey, the House historian dismissed by Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) after revelations that she criticized a Holocaust education curriculum for not giving adequate time to the Nazi point of view.

She has since been exonerated by, among others, Foxman, who was one of her staunchest critics.

"She was smeared, she was destroyed and Newt cut her loose and dropped her over the side," Buchanan said on the ABC program.

Buchanan has also evoked the Million Man March to defend Pratt, saying that not everyone who attended the Louis Farrakhan-led rally shares Farrakhan's views.

As Buchanan continues to head off criticism about Pratt, revelations about other questionable advisers in his candidacy continue to surface.

The latest embarrassment for the Buchanan campaign came last week, when the Jewish Communications Network, an on-line news service, reported that the Buchanan World Wide Web Internet site included an article blaming the death of former White House deputy counsel Vincent Foster on the Mossad.

the story alleged that Foster, whose death the police have ruled a suicide, sold to Israel's spy agency U.S. nuclear codes, for which the Mossad paid \$2.73 million, deposited in a secret Swiss bank account.

The article also accuses first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton of spying for the Mossad.

The campaign removed the article from the site after the disclosure.

In the Forbes campaign, meanwhile, Ellis, an informal adviser and good friend to the presidential aspirant has raised his own set of questions.

The group which he headed, the Pioneer Fund, was initially headed by a Nazi sympathizer who once told

Congress that fourth-fifths of Jewish immigrants were feeble-minded.

More recently, the fund gave a grant to a white supremacist professor who wrote that Jews have an evolutionary boost from "intermittent persecution, which the more intelligent may have been able to foresee and escape," as reported by Bob Herbert in a column in *The New York Times*.

Forbes has apparently not made any public statements about his connection with Ellis, and has yet to reply to a letter on the matter from the ADL's Foxman.

## Words & Music

Continued from Page 22

Pack asks older listeners to be tolerant of the new arrangements and to keep in mind that every change was approved by lyric-writer Stephen Sondheim and by the Bernstein family. "It's dedicated to my friend and musical hero," he says.

STOMP is an entertainment based on the sounds of everyday life. Recently at the Merriam Theatre and also still running off-Broadway, STOMP is as mesmerizing as a musical, though not a single traditional instrument is heard. The eleven-person cast of dancers/acrobats is superb; especially diminutive Hillel Meltzer as the comic of the group.

Those of us who enjoyed *THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER* recently at the Playhouse in Wilmington found a lot of new elements when the show came to the Merriam in Philadelphia last week. The review has been restaged by Scott Ellis, with flashy dancing, striking scenery, and a new cast headed by Colm Wilkinson. It's two solid hours of entertainment, and makes us yearn to see the individual Webber shows, like *SUNSET BOULEVARD* and *PHANTOM*, again.

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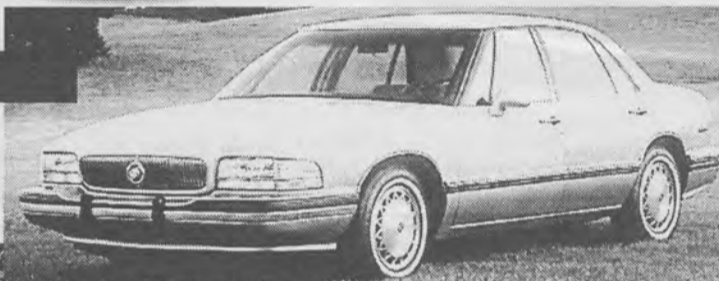
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