

## DELAWARE JEWS HELP SECURE ISRAEL'S FUTURE

*Expanded Israel Emergency Campaign to address needs of Jews in crisis*

By Lynn Edelman, Editor

The network news reports roll footage of the dead and wounded-casualties of the eighteen-month reign of terror in the Mid-East. Behind the scenes are less dramatic, but equally compelling evidence of the terrible cost of war. Terrorist activity has hushed the rhythms of daily life. Playgrounds are empty. Children play indoors under the watchful eye of parents, many of whom have lost their jobs due to the dangerously depressed economy. Once bustling cafes and restaurants now do mainly take-out business. People fear lingering too long in public places. Countless hotels have shut their doors due to the loss of tourism-one of the nation's chief industries.

The Jews of the Diaspora cannot allow Israel's economy to fail. In an effort to address the needs of Israelis

in crisis United Jewish Communities, the association of Jewish Federations throughout North America, has announced an expanded National Israel Emergency Campaign. According to Toni Young, one of the six co-chairs of IsraelNOW and Forever, the emergency fundraising appeal for Israel enjoying great success in our Delaware Jewish community, "we must expand this initiative to ensure that Israel is secure and will always exist as a homeland for all Jews".

Lelaine Nemser, another IsraelNow co-chair, is confident that Delaware Jews will be responsive. "We have already realized our \$300,000 goal for this short-term, cash campaign thanks to the community's generosity," she said, adding that "this community has a long, proud history of support for the Jewish State."

She recalled that in 1948, during Israel's War for Independence,

Federation officers borrowed \$50,000 to help the fledgling nation fight its foes. During the Six-Day War in 1967 and The Yom Kippur War in 1973, JFD leadership rallied to Israel's aid.

This expanded Israel Emergency Campaign will help ensure that critically needed social services continue to be funded at a time when the Israeli government is concentrating its resources on the enormous costs of security. According to United Jewish Communities Board Chairman James S. Tisch, "The costs of long-term terror relief increase with each blast." He explained that "Thousands of Israeli Defense Force reservists are being called to duty, creating further hardship for their families. This is another place that our dollars certainly make a difference."

Toni Young added that campaign dollars will help Israel's government absorb the thousands of Argentinian

Jews who are now in the process of making Aliyah. These new olim-highly educated, professionals-will, according to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, "build up our nation". However, due to the crash of the Argentinian economy, they are leaving their homes with little more than the clothes on their backs and a few personal possessions. Some 5,000 emigres are expected to arrive in Israel by the end of 2002. It will take enormous resources to help fully absorb them into Israeli society.

"It is time for every Delawarean to be counted by contributing to this campaign," said Nemser. She and her husband Stuart, who also serves as IsraelNOW co-chair along with Stuart Young, Carol and Steven Rothschild, are offering a special incentive for contributing at the \$118 and over level. Their names will be entered into a special raffle for 3 day/2 night weekend stay at

the Nemser's beachfront condo in Rehoboth Beach.

Jewish Federation of Delaware President Elect Dr. Barry Kayne offers another premium for those who make a gift to this second-line campaign at the \$500 or over level. He will personally pay for two people to participate in an upcoming United Jewish Communities sponsored Mission to Israel. All who make a commitment at this level will be entered into a special raffle. Winners will be announced at the Israel Solidarity Rally and JFD Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth in Wilmington. Featured speaker will be United States Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

For additional information about the Israel Emergency Campaign, please call Todd Polikoff, at 302-427-2100, ext. 16.

## EUROPE'S JEWISH LEADERS SEEK STRATEGY

By Ruth E. Gruber, JTA

European Jewish leaders are searching for a common strategy to confront a mounting wave of anti-Semitism apparently linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Leaders from more than a score of countries held a strategy session in Brussels earlier this week about how to confront the anti-Semitic outbursts.

The meeting grouped leaders of the European Jewish Congress, the European Council of Jewish Communities, the World Jewish Congress and representatives of individual Jewish communities from across the continent.

One of its aims was to create a unified political voice for European Jewry and set up a standing policy committee to coordinate a response to the new spate of anti-Semitic violence.

Delegates said they planned to organize within the next few weeks a mass rally of European Jews in either Brussels — the headquarters of the European Union — or Strasbourg, the site of the European Parliament, to show that European governments must shake off their

indifference and not dismiss anti-Semitism in Europe as simply fallout from the Middle East.

European Union "governments cannot just shrug their shoulders and say it's all part of the Middle East problem," Avi Beker, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, told Reuters.

There has been a spate of anti-Semitic incidents in Europe since the onset of the Palestinian intifada in September 2000. These have ranged from verbal taunts and graffiti to attacks on synagogues and other Jewish buildings. Several Jews have been roughed up on the street.

The number of incidents has increased sharply since Israel launched its military incursions into the West Bank in late March. Figures provided by the European Jewish Congress counted some 300 anti-Jewish attacks in the last three weeks.

In Belgium alone, a synagogue in the town of Charleroi was sprayed with bullets over the weekend in an apparent drive-by shooting. Two other Belgian synagogues were recently firebombed, and suspected arsonists also targeted a Brussels building that housed a Jewish bookshop.

Police and other observers believe most of the incidents have been the acts of individual hooligans or angry, alienated youths, rather than part of an orchestrated campaign.

Most of the incidents have occurred in Western Europe, especially in France, but there have been several incidents in former Communist countries, including an attack earlier this month on a synagogue in Kiev, Ukraine.

"The Jewish communities are very concerned about the situation," Gabriel Taus, executive director of the European Council of Jewish Communities, told JTA. "If some people doubted the seriousness of it before, they don't doubt it now. There has been a drastic rise in incidents. Some people are openly wondering if the current situation can be compared to the 1930s."

Taus said the Brussels meeting had been planned for some time as part of an ongoing attempt to forge a united political voice for European Jewry.

"But it took on additional importance because of the current situation," he said. "All of Europe was represented." Several Israeli



**The Rav Chida Synagogue in Lyon was rammed in by two cars and set on fire March 30<sup>th</sup>, part of a series of intensified attacks against Jewish institutions in France in recent weeks.**

officials also took part.

In a related development, the European Union of Jewish Students issued a statement decrying the spate of anti-Semitic violence and urging European governments to move actively to stamp it out.

"We see before us to what extent there is a misuse of the Middle East conflict to create open displays of anti-Semitism," it said. "As a result, synagogues have been attacked, Molotov cocktails have been thrown at Jewish buildings and Jewish students on campuses have been targeted."

"The last days showed us that the exportation of the Middle East crisis to the European continent is a threat to our democracies and to our relations with other minorities and communities," the statement continued. "It is a barrier which blocks the pluralistic and multicultural Europe that we aspire to live in."

"We, representing Jewish youth across Europe, denounce those who want to transform the war between Israel and Palestine into a generalized 'Intifada' between Jews and Muslims on European grounds," it said.

### INSIDE THE VOICE

Capital Campaign Chailight.....	8	Events Calendar .....	19	Inside Delaware .....	7
Community Focus .....	14	Federation Focus .....	4	Jewish Arts & Culture.....	17
Editorial.....	3	Global Jewish News .....	16	Milestones .....	18



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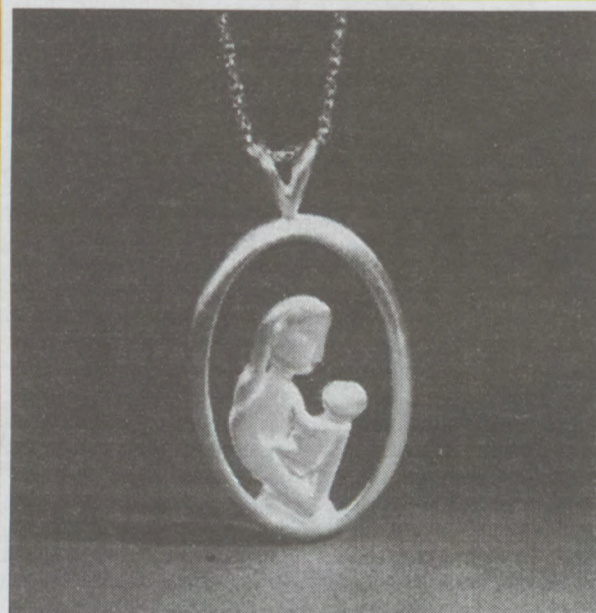
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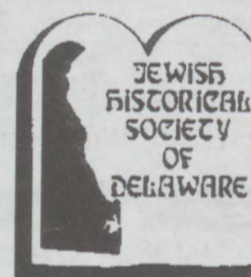
## YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL OPEN MEETING of the JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

### GUEST SPEAKER DR. VIVIAN KLAFF

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How the Study Was Designed  
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Dr. Vivian Klaff



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A Call For Leadership

Dear President Bush:

In 1949, one year after Israel declared its independence, its Chief Rabbi, Isaac Halevi Herzog, called on the White House and told President Truman: "God put you in your mother's womb so you would be the instrument to bring the rebirth of Israel after two thousand years."

In 2002, you have a similar mandate. You have a unique opportunity to be remembered as the President who was the guardian of Israel and saved her in this time of crisis. You have the opportunity to be remembered as the President who stood tall and resolute in the face of terrorism and did not fail the task of leading America, history's brightest beacon of democracy, in these troubled times.

The dark forces of evil that seek to destroy Israel are no less committed to the destruction of America. These forces detest the values of justice, decency and humanity that both nations share. This is not a fight over whether the Palestinian people should have a state. This is a fight over whether Israel will survive as a democracy and as a Jewish state. This is a fight between those who value freedom and human dignity and those who strap bombs to their children for the purpose of killing Israeli children. This is not a battle pitting Jew against Muslim. This is a war waged for the very soul of the human race.

On the Wall of Remembrance in the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., is a tile which reads: "We cannot change the past, but we can make the future."

Mr. President, the future that we make must refill the empty spaces left by those whose lives have been lost to the terrorists with an unwavering determination that terror must not and cannot prevail.

The path that we, as a free people must travel, and that you, as our President, must lead, will be difficult. Peace in the Middle East will not come easy for true peace is much more than the end of fighting. True peace is not the absence of war and hatred; it is the presence of justice. True peace will occur only when the enemies of Israel wish to see their children live more than they wish to see Israeli children die.

The enemies of Israel believe that time is now on their side and they can defeat this brave country by wearing her down. As President, your unequivocal condemnation of terrorism has been a much-needed source of strength and hope to the Israeli people. I pray that you never waiver in this position—not only for the sake of Israel but for America and all those who cherish freedom.

At the conclusion of the reading of each book of our Torah, Jews say this prayer: "Be strong. Be strong. Together may we strengthen each other."

Mr. President, all free peoples, in America, in Israel and elsewhere, support your fight against terrorism. You shall be our leader and we shall be your strength.

God bless America.

JOHN A. ELZUFON

President, Jewish Federation of Delaware

### Is History Repeating Itself?

It is interesting to read that the European Union is talking about economic sanctions against Israel if it does not end its "devastating incursion" to destroy "the infrastructure of terrorism" in the territories of the Palestinian Authority.

This brings to mind European reaction to the events of 1938 - 1939. In the years between the two world wars Czechoslovakia was the only democracy in Central Europe. It was a free country with a flourishing economy. With the rise of Hitler's Nazi regime in neighboring Germany the German population living in the Czech border regions (the so-called "Sudetenland") discovered that they were being "oppressed" by the cruel Czechs and they demonstrated and demanded their "freedom" to amalgamate into the Nazi German Fatherland.

An enraged "Herr Hitler", (as he was addressed respectfully by the panic-stricken governments of Europe) demanded that Czech persecution of the Sudeten Germans cease immediately and that the Sudeten lands be handed over to the German Reich or else he would go to war. In order to placate ("appease") the angry German "Führer" British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and French Premier Daladier hurriedly flew into Munich, Germany there to meet with "Herr Hitler" and his ally "Signor" Benito Mussolini, Il Duce of Fascist Italy. There the two Prime Ministers agreed to yield up to "Herr Hitler" all the Czech mountainous border lands (Sudetenland) and thus leave the Czech lands exposed and indefensible. "Herr Hitler" took care to incorporate Czech mineral resources and the great Czech Skoda armament works into the Sudetenland to be annexed into the Reich (Sept 1938).

Prime Minister Chamberlain flew home to London and there ecstatically waved a piece of paper which "Herr Hitler" had kindly signed promising that this would be "his last territorial claim in Europe". The newspaper editorials were jubilant: war was averted.

Now the jackals of Europe pounced. Not only did Germany receive the valuable Czech border lands but Hungary annexed considerable Slovak border lands and so did Poland.

Six months later in March 1939 a very frightened Czech President was summoned at very short notice to Berchtesgaden there to meet the "Führer". That night he arrived and was left for several hours in a waiting room to cool his heels. Admitted late at night into the "Führer's" presence he was bluntly informed that his land (what was left of it) even then was being occupied by the German Wehrmacht and Czechoslovakia no longer existed. The Czech lands were incorporated into the German Reich. So began the torment of the Czech people under the rule of the Nazi butcher Heydrich.

Six months later (Sept 1939) Nazi Germany invaded Poland and World War II began.

In 1945, with the defeat of Nazi Germany the Czechs regained their independence and the entire Sudeten German population was expelled and sent packing back to Germany. They became "refugees". In truth Europe was flooded with millions of displaced people, refugees who re-established themselves in new lands and made new lives for themselves. That was fifty-seven years ago.

In conclusion one recalls the aphorism that those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

Lionel Clingman, Wilmington

### An Open Letter To The Unaffiliated

Dear Friend:

You are cordially invited to attend a special Open House on May 19, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington's largest Jewish Congregation. We are a reform synagogue of approximately seven hundred families with a religious school that serves about three hundred youngsters. Beth Emeth welcomes interfaith couples and affords many opportunities for its members to serve the community.

Why am I asking you to attend this Open House? Let me explain. A congregant recently told me that he had asked a friend why he had never joined Beth Emeth, even though he seemed to enjoy attending services. The friend said, "No one ever asked me." Of course, if you are currently affiliated with a synagogue, please accept my apology for this letter. It is not my intention to woo you away from your current affiliation. On the other hand, if you are presently unaffiliated, we would be delighted to meet you.

At the Open House you can tour our facilities, meet our rabbi and cantor, learn about our school, visit the Judaica shop, chat with synagogue officers and congregants, and learn about the work of our committees and temple activities. Naturally, we plan to serve

some light refreshments while we get to know each other. In the meantime, visit our website at [www.bethemeth.com](http://www.bethemeth.com).

If May 19th is inconvenient, perhaps you might like to attend one of our services. You will find a warm welcome awaiting you. Our Shabbat Evening Service begins at 8:00 p.m. Please join us for any Friday evening that fits your schedule. After the service, we could become better acquainted at the *Oneg* held in the lobby of our social hall. I know you will find Beth Emeth a warm and inviting house of worship, learning, and assembly.

Congregation Beth Emeth is located at 300 West Lea Boulevard in North Wilmington. Please R.S.V.P. to Verna or Henry Schenker at (302) 478-6673 or Elinor Miller at (302) 654-8291 by May 6, 2002. We need to know how many to expect for our Open House; and if you plan to attend a service, we would like to be able to greet you and introduce ourselves. If you need help with babysitting services or directions, just let Verna know. I look forward to meeting you and your family.

Sincerely,

Esther M. Timmeney  
President, Congregation Beth Emeth

## EDITORIAL

### A Time To Be Counted

These are difficult times to be a Zionist. Anti-Israel sentiment is being expressed through violent acts of anti-Semitism. Arsonists have targeted synagogues in Toronto and Saskatchewan, Canada, a gang of youths in the Ukraine stoned three people during a vicious attack on a Kiev shul and Berlin Jews are being warned against wearing stars of David, kipot or other outward signs of Jewish expression.

The perpetrators of these despicable acts should be punished swiftly and severely. Government officials must go on record as having zero tolerance for acts of terrorism that compromise the safety and security of any of its citizens.

It is incumbent upon Jewish organizations to protest these acts of aggression. Those who study Jewish history know that anti-Semitic fever can spike to dangerous levels if not kept in check.

Our history also teaches us that if one Jew is at risk, than all Jews are threatened. We must band together and rally our forces on

behalf of our people. Activism is the only answer to anti-Semitic intimidation.

Delaware Jews filled two buses during last week's Solidarity Rally with Israel in Washington, D.C. 110,000 people from Wisconsin to Boston to Florida and countless communities in between made a public statement of support for their fellow Jews in crisis.

Yes, these are difficult times to be a Zionist but they also are exhilarating times. We have another chance to stand up and be counted on Sunday, May 19th when the Jewish Community of Delaware travels to Philadelphia's Fairmount Park for a major solidarity effort on behalf of our Israeli brothers and sisters.

Buses will roll on May 19th. We want to fill them with concerned Delawareans. Please call 302-427-2100, ext. 15 to reserve a seat.

B'Shalom,

Lynn B. Edelman, Editor

## The JEWISH VOICE

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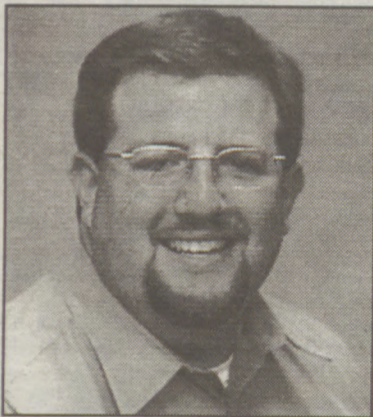
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# FEDERATION FOCUS

## Can You Afford NOT to Stand with Israel?



Todd Polikoff

As someone who is to be married in the near future I have spent some time thinking about my future family. My fiancé and I are planning to have children and bring them up in a Jewish home. Many of the decisions that we are making today have their roots in the questions that our children may ask us in the future. We want to be sure that we have the right answers.

This train of thought is the driving force behind my actions regarding the situation in Israel. What will I tell my children when they ask how I helped Israel in 2002? How will my answer affect their progression as a

Jew? People, my future children, who are not yet present on this earth, are influencing my decisions. That is why I have made a gift to the Israel Emergency Fund and supported Israel at every turn. We as a community must do the same.

It is important for our community to remember that we are not only helping Israel, we are setting an example. The lessons that our children learn at the JCC preschool, Gratz Hebrew High School and the Albert Einstein Academy instill a sense of pride in being Jewish. We must, as a community, make it a policy to bolster those teachings by sup-

porting Israel. There is no greater source of pride for our community than the state of Israel: The Jewish Homeland.

Israel provides us with the greatest lesson of all for our Jewish children. It exemplifies the perseverance, creativity, imagination and will to live with honor and dignity that have become trademarks for our people. Israel shows our children that we have risen from the ashes to re-establish our homeland and defended it against all odds. There is no greater living example for our children to follow than the State of Israel.

So when your children ask what you did for the State of Israel in 2002, what will be your answer? Will you tell them that you were not able to help or will you tell them that you joined the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Jewish Community of Delaware in standing in solidarity with the Jewish Homeland? The cost of helping Israel is great, but can you afford to NOT stand up and be counted at this historic time?

Please make a pledge to the Israel Emergency Fund by calling 302-427-2100 ext. 16 or log on to [www.shalomdelaware.org](http://www.shalomdelaware.org).

## ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE

### Why Endowments Work



By Rachel Gross  
Director  
Financial  
Resource  
Development  
Abe and Sarah Cohen\*

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

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

fund that will generate annual gifts to continue the giving they are doing now.

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

#### 1. Endowments are Perpetual

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

Each year, in the future, family members such as children and grandchildren will be reminded of Abe and Sarah's involvement with the Jewish Federation of Delaware

and the value of making regular gifts to support worthy causes. What a wonderful legacy to leave behind!

#### 2. Endowments are Protected

Endowment funds at the Jewish Federation of Delaware are set aside in the Jewish Fund for the Future and kept separate from operating and capital fund accounts. Abe and Sarah have the assurance that their endowment fund will be secure. The written agreement will be on file and the terms will be carefully followed.

#### 3. Endowments are Personal

While it is possible, and sometimes desirable, to create an unnamed, unrestricted endowment fund, many people want their fund to bear a person's name. And they

want to tailor the purpose of their endowment to benefit a specific area of interest. They appreciate the flexibility and the opportunity to personalize their "artesian well."

The Jewish Federation of Delaware has developed policies for creating and managing endowment funds. I will be happy to show you a variety of ways you can use the vehicles of gift planning to make an endowment dream come true — whether now through a current gift, or later through your estate plan. Let me visit or correspond with you about this exciting area of philanthropy.

Please call me, at 427-2100 ext. 19 for more information or to



Rachel Gross

schedule an appointment.

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

## Delaware Rallies In Washington

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Delaware showed its solidarity with the people of Israel during a spirited rally on April 15th in the nation's capitol. More than 100,000 people participated in this historic event. The Delaware Jewish Community will have a second opportunity to rally for Israel on Sunday, May 19th in Philadelphia. To board the buses, call Sheila at the Jewish Federation of Delaware, (302) 427-2100, ext. 15.

Thank you for your participation in the Solidarity Rally. If we inadvertently omitted any attendees, we apologize and ask that you call the Federation office at 427-2100, extension 15.



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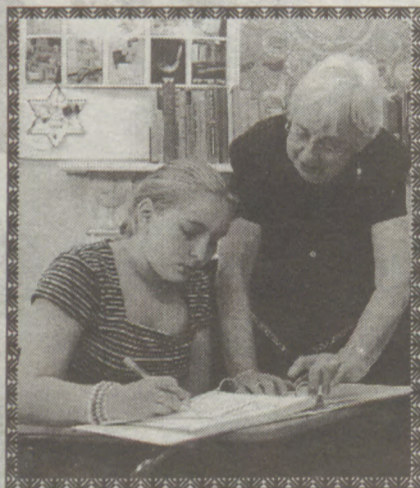
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## INSIDE DELAWARE

### Vivian Klaff To Speak At Jewish Historical Society Annual Meeting



Vivian Klaff

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD) will present an outstanding speaker at its annual meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth, 300 W. Lea Boulevard in Wilmington.

Vivian Klaff, a professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware, where he also is the

Director for the Center of Jewish Studies, will speak on the collection of data for the National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS). Professor Klaff is co-chair of the national research committee (NTAC) for the year 2000 study. In 1996, work began to follow up the 1990 NJPS. The 2000 study involves a national random survey of respondents in over 5000 households. The data collection has been completed, and the initial results will be made available this summer.

Dr. Klaff will address how the Jewish population has grown from 23 Jews in 1654 to the 5.5 million estimated Jews in the United States in 1990. How do the socio-demographic characteristics of the Jewish population change over time? What techniques were used to calculate the size and characteristics of the population? What are the problems in attempting to document a population by its religious characteristics? How do you

develop a research design to collect data for a national randomly selected sample of a population that represents only 2.5 percent of the total U.S. population? Dr. Klaff's talk and Powerpoint presentation will answer these questions.

Born in South Africa to parents who had emigrated from Lithuania, Dr. Klaff received his Bachelor's degree in Durban, majoring in Sociology and Economics. He and wife moved to Israel in 1966, where after living on a Kibbutz for a year, he worked in Jerusalem at the Israel Institute for Applied Social Research.

In 1970 he began graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin and graduated with a Ph.D in Sociology and Demography in 1974. In 1977 he joined the Department of Sociology at the University of Delaware. In 1981 he spent the year as a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem working on a series of projects related to world Jewish demography. In 1999 he assumed the position of Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Delaware. He is currently working on a project to examine the influence of the internet on Jewish

organizational structure, titled "Jews in Cyberspace: A contribution to the Social Networking Model of Jewish Community Organization." Many will recognize Professor Klaff from his Adult Institute courses on the assimilation of Jews.

Discussion and a question and answer session will follow. JHS will also honor one of our long-term board members, Frances "Mutzie" Bellak, for her many years of continued commitment and dedication to JHSD. Refreshments will be served and the event is open to the community at no charge.

### Shabbat Under The Stars

On Friday, June 14, 2002, at 5:45 P.M., Congregation Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth and the Young Jewish Adults of Delaware will be sponsoring the annual Shabbat under the Stars. This event, on the green at AKSE will begin with music, singing and dancing which will lead into a very special Shabbat service featuring the music of the charismatic Shlomo Carlebach led by AKSE's very own Cantor Joel. Afterwards there will be a delicious Shabbat dinner al fresco, traditional z'mirot and more dancing under the stars. Dress is casual and participants should bring blankets and/or folding chairs. The cost is \$10.00 for adults (\$8.00 if reserved by June 7) and \$5.00 for children ages 4-13 (\$4 if reserved by June 7). Children 3 and under are free. Deadline for reservations is Monday, June 10. To make your reservations,

please send your check to Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth, Washington Blvd. and Torah Way, Wilmington,

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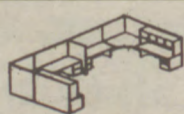
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# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHAILIGHT

## Gratz High School Needs to Expand Space

Story and Photos  
by Joel F. Glazier

Three times a week, up to 89 students report to the Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School. The Wilmington Campus of the Jewish Community High School is the largest of the 12 extension sites of Philadelphia's Gratz College. Principal Marlene Milunsky also points out, "Our Wilmington site houses the classes on all three days, while the other sites in Pennsylvania

all meet on Sunday at Gratz's main Mandel campus in Philadelphia." The popularity of the Wilmington classes presents some special physical problems, which will be addressed by the Jewish Federation's Capital Campaign.

Without real complaints, Delaware students ranging from 7th thru 12th grades, share the facilities of the Albert Einstein Academy—facilities designed for students in the 1st thru 6th grade. This shared site

also means the teen-agers sometimes have to crowd their growing bodies into small rooms and desks. "Our feet and arms have no place to expand, but our minds do in a whole range of classes," remarked one veteran 9th grade student. 10th grader, Marni Grossman shared with a laugh, "With new classroom space and larger student desks, there'll be less fighting over the good chairs."

From the success of The Capital Campaign, Gratz classes will be held on the 2nd floor of the soon to be renovated JCC building. Dedicated storage space will allow for Gratz student chairs and tables to be used in the evenings and Sundays, in the new larger classrooms. "It will be nice to have our own space—it should enhance our learning," added Ms. Grossman, who pointed out that as a pre-school student at JCC, she was on the 2nd floor of the JCC and looks forward to returning there for Gratz classes soon. "From age 3 to 18, I will associate my education with classrooms in the JCC."

Besides new classroom space and furniture, Delaware Gratz High School will receive dedicated office and resource space. Materials and equipment now must compete with the limited storage space in the filled classrooms of the Albert Einstein Academy. "We will have the capacity to have the technology and supplies ready for teachers each night once they are stored in the designated and exclusive areas for Gratz," commented Principal Milunsky.

### Growing Needs

"It's a great idea to have our own space," shared Gratz 10th grader Bryan Wexler. "The surroundings will be more interesting than Einstein's elementary classrooms and since Gratz is growing, it should have its own space." About 40 years ago, a group of Wilmington parents used to drive their children to Philadelphia to attend Gratz as part of their post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Jewish Education. Classes later were held in local synagogues but in

recent years the local Gratz program has been held in the Cohen Education Wing of the JCC, which also houses the Albert Einstein Academy.

Not only will the Capital Campaign enable additional classrooms to be part of an expanded JCC building, but a new library housing books and resources for Gratz students will become a reality. Milunsky added, "The Board of Gratz and I have been really really

to count on The Federation for support and encouragement."

Next year Delaware Gratz will increase its course offerings and for the first time will offer an "Exploration of Judaism Using Art Forms."

All course offerings must be approved from the Gratz College catalogue. Students choose to come to Gratz after previous religious school attendance. Current Gratz students are members from Adas

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Gratz Principal Marlene Milunsky explains building blueprints for Gratz classroom additions to students Bryan Wexler, parent Dr. Barry Wexler and student Marni Grossman.

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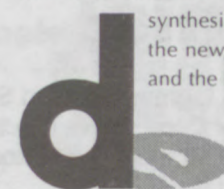
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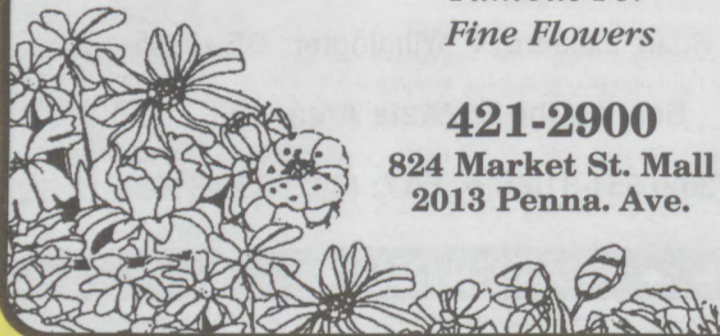
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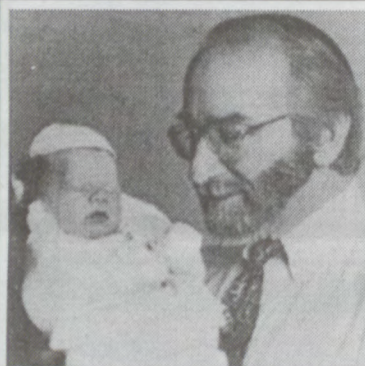
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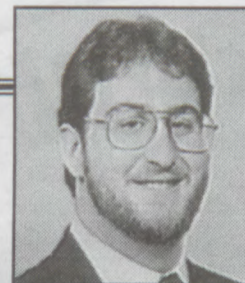
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## INSIDE DELAWARE

### Silverman Scholarships Are Awarded

Scott Kaplan, Jessica Moss, Alan Plotzker, Alyson Sherman and Aaron Weingartner have been named as the recipients of the Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Awards for 2002. These annual stipends assist young people who are participating in a summer program of Jewish study or enrichment, while recognizing their

achievements.

Scott, the son of Rabbi David and Terri Kaplan, is in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at McKean High School. He will attend Camp Harlam in Pennsylvania.

Jessica, the daughter of Arthur and Karen Moss, is a senior at Brandywine High School. She will attend the National Havurah Committee Institute

in New Hampshire.

Alan, the son of Richard and Irene Plotzker, is a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Charter School of Wilmington. He will attend Habonim Camp.

Alyson, the daughter of Michael and Elaine Sherman, is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Hanby Middle School. She will attend Camp Harlam.

Aaron, the son of Jeff and Wendi

Weingartner, is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Engle Middle School. He will attend the NJ YMHA's Cedar Lake Camp.

The Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund was established in 1989, on the occasion of the Silvermans' 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, by their children and friends. The award honors the couple's many years of dedication to the

Wilmington community, especially to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and to the Boy Scouts of America.

Applications for next year's awards may be obtained at the office of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive. The scholarship program is open to all Jewish youth in Delaware.

### Swimming With Melton

By Marion Hamermesh  
Director, Melton School

Rabbi Akiba's parable of the fish unwilling to take the fox's advice to escape the fisherman's nets by coming up onto dry land teaches us that, just as fish will surely die without water, the Jewish people will

surely perish without Torah. And so, on September 12, 2001, a difficult morning on which merely getting out of bed was an effort- 20 Melton students roused from their slumbers and traveled to the JCC. Together, they learned to swim in the waters of Torah.

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School opened in Delaware on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Since then, more than 30 adults affiliated with six local congregations (Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Beth Emeth, Chabad, Beth Shalom in Wilmington, Beth Shalom in Dover and Keshet Israel in West Chester, PA) have studied together for two hours each week at the Delaware JCC in Wilmington. Using Jewish texts from all ages-Biblical, Rabbinic, mediaeval and modern-they have studied symbols and rituals and life-cycle events in the course called *Rhythms of Jewish Living*. In *Purposes of Jewish Living*, students have been concerned with

such themes as creation, revelation, miracles and sin. Next year, Melton program participants will study the history of our people in *Dramas of Jewish Living* and will confront right and wrong in *Ethics of Jewish Living* before graduating from the Melton School in May, 2003.

"...Mini-school graduates come away with not merely a greater love of Jewish learning, but also an enhanced and more confident mastery of the skills of Jewish learning. They report a much richer appreciation of their functioning in Jewish life and derive a greater sense of meaning and purpose in rituals, prayers, ceremonies and communal activities," according to Professor

Steven M. Cohen, a sociologist who recently directed a comprehensive survey of the Mini-School's impact on communities.

It's your turn. Come swim with Melton. Registration has begun for the first year classes which will begin again on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The School meets at the JCC on Wednesday mornings from 9:15 until 11:30 or on Thursday evenings from 7:15 until 9:30. Choose the time that best suits your schedule.

Please contact me at 478-5660, ext. 201 if you are interested in attending Melton next Fall or if you might be interested in joining the school's faculty.


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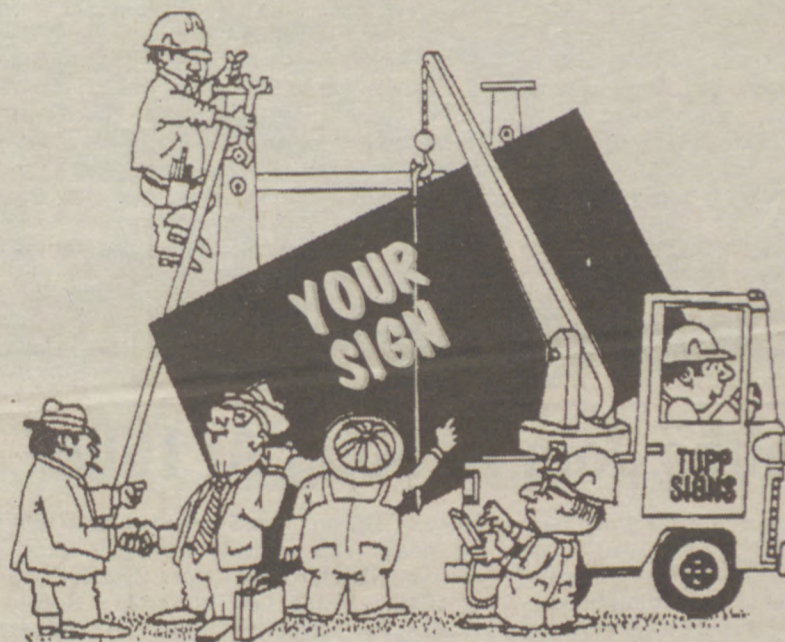
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## COMMUNITY FOCUS

### Celebrate Israel's Birthday With Café Tamar

On Sunday evening, May 19, the AKSE Choral and Dance Groups will present a new and exciting program entitled "Sing Out For Peace!" celebrating Israel's 54th birthday! This year, the Choral Group welcomes Cantor Joel Kessler to Café Tamar. Cantor Joel will present several solos during the program. Also, making his debut at Café Tamar will be 9 year old, Evan Finkelstein singing a solo with the Choral Group. Other soloists in the program are Sam Romirowsky, Sharon Berry, Helen Winslow, Cindy Goldstein, David Zussman, and Beth Lattin. The Choral Group will be accompanied by Sara Berman and the Tamar Musicians. Narrator for the program this year will be Ursula Barton.

Two dance groups will be performing in the program this year. Harokdim, a group of teenage dancers and Lanetzach Tz'irim, an

adult dance group both of whom performed in New York City at the annual Israel Dance Festival on March 17 by special invitation. This is the second time for both groups at the Festival! The Adult dancers recently performed at the Grand Opera House for "Raices," a program of Latin-American dances. They were also featured at the Candlelite Dinner for the JCC Senior Center on April 17 and later in the month, for the State of Delaware in Middletown, DE.

Café Tamar will be held in the AKSE Social hall at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 13. Don't be left out! Café Tamar is always a sellout! Tickets are available from the performers and at the Synagogue office, 762-2705.

Celebrate Israel's Independence Day at Café Tamar!



### Albert Einstein Academy Honors Kimmels at Gala

Marcia and Morton Kimmel will receive the Community Builder Award for their outstanding commitment to AEA and the community at the 2002 Albert Einstein Academy Annual Gala Tribute Event, "Celebrating our Children," on Saturday, May 18, 2002.

Founders of the Kimmel-Spiller Charitable Foundation, Marcia and Mort have entrusted themselves and their children to improving health care and addressing the educational and cultural needs of children and adults in our community. The Foundation honors the memories of their loved ones, Judy, Paul, Harvey and David Spiller, whose lives tragically ended in 1987.

Through the Foundation, the Kimmels have supported various agencies and organizations including Albert Einstein Academy, The Kutz Home, the 'climbing wall' at the Jewish Community Center, the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center of Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Federation of Delaware. The Kimmels commitment to tzedakah extends beyond the Jewish community to such charitable organizations as the American Cancer Society, The American Heart Association, The Kimmel Cancer Center, The Opportunity Center and numerous others.

The Gala, which begins at 9 pm sharp, will be held at the Home of Albert Einstein Academy, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington, Delaware, according to Gala Committee Co-chairs Sophie Longwill, Cindi Metz and Ruth Rosenberg. This year's Tribute



Marcia and Morton Kimmel

Co-chairs are Rona and Jerry Brenner and Reiko and Barry Kayne. Honorary Co-chairs for the event are Father Oscar H. Frundt and The Honorable Joseph and Jill Biden.

"This is Albert Einstein Academy's premiere event," Rosenberg said. "We are pleased to honor Marcia and Mort Kimmel for their dedication to the community and for their continued support of such worthwhile causes." The Gala features elaborate hors d'oeuvres and desserts with an evening of dancing to the music of Lavender. Covert is \$62.50 per person and cocktail attire is suggested. For more information or tickets, contact Debbie Nachlis, Director of Development at AEA at 302-478-5026 ext. 25.



### Two Faiths Join In Song At Hillel

Koleinuk, a Jewish a cappella group from Princeton and VISION, a Christian a cappella group from the University of Delaware, will perform together in concert this Sunday, April 28th, noon at Hillel at the University of Delaware, 47 West Delaware Avenue in

Newark. The program is free and brunch will be served. This solidarity concert is sponsored by KESHER, The Reform Jewish Club of Hillel. Marna Lew is Keshet's Social Chair. For additional information, please call 837-2829.



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# GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

## Anti-Semitism Shakes Canadian Jews

By Bill Gladstone, JTA

Residents of a condominium in a Jewish neighborhood here stepped out of their doors one morning this week to discover that vandals had painted big black swastikas in the hallway overnight.

Tuesday's incident was the latest in a series of anti-Semitic acts in Toronto and across Canada in recent weeks. Roughly half of Canada's 350,000-strong Jewish population lives in Toronto, with sizable communities also in Montreal, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa and Halifax.

Arsonists have struck historic synagogues in Toronto and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to holy books and property. Vandals have defaced numerous other Jewish buildings, including the Toronto headquarters of Reena, a Jewish charity for the disabled.

In Calgary, pro-Palestinian demonstrators chanted the Arabic slogan for "Death to the Jews," which constitutes illegal incitement under Canada's anti-hate laws. A rabbi also has received death threats by telephone.

Community officials also are deeply perturbed by several menacing encounters between pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian demonstrators.

At a pro-Palestinian rally in Toronto last weekend, a Jewish doctor was assaulted and suffered a broken shoulder. The next day, a Holocaust survivor was pelted with an egg at a pro-Israel rally in Mississauga, Ontario. Police arrested Palestinian-Canadians at both events.

Ed Morgan, chair of the Ontario region of the Canadian Jewish Congress, appealed for "cool heads to prevail" in both communities after these incidents.

Morgan reportedly has reached an understanding with local Palestinian officials to try to keep protests away from synagogues, mosques and community centers.

The congress has tallied 17 inci-

dents of anti-Semitic violence and harassment since mid-March, while B'nai Brith Canada has counted 35.

Paradoxically, even as Jewish officials say the majority of Canadians support Israel and the Jewish people, they admit to feeling isolated and stung by the "resounding silence" of government and church leaders in response to the growing number of domestic anti-Jewish attacks.

They also are disturbed that Canadian church leaders have failed to condemn terror attacks against Israel.

Last week, in a bold gesture of protest, the congress suspended its involvement in the Canadian Christian-Jewish Conference, an organization promoting interfaith dialogue in which it had been active for decades.

Congress decided on the move after the Anglican Church released a policy statement that named the Israeli "occupation" as the root cause of the violence in the region, congress president Keith Landy said.

The silence of church leaders here is "very, very disappointing," said Frank Dimant, B'nai Brith Canada's national executive vice president, who has called on Prime Minister Jean Chretien to speak out against the attacks on Jewish property and institutions.

"I'm almost inclined to believe that old biases and prejudices are coming to the surface again, and clouding the vision of what is transpiring in the Middle East," Dimant said.

By contrast, Landy and others have been applauding what they see as a welcome shift in Canada's foreign policy toward the Middle East. Canada recently altered its voting pattern of previous years by abstaining from or voting against a slew of vicious anti-Israel resolutions at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Shimon Fogel, national executive director of the Canada-Israel Committee, expressed satisfaction at a "constructive improvement in the

language" used by Canada with regard to Israel.

"Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham and senior officials have made a concerted effort to emphasize Canada's rejection of a 'moral equivalence' between premeditated Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israelis, and legitimate steps taken by Israel to protect its citizens," he said.

As in other Jewish communities, the level of pro-Israel activism here has intensified in response to the current crisis. About 150 Jewish organizations in Toronto are cooperating under an umbrella organization called the Israel Now Consortium, established under the auspices of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Israeli Consulate.

With the notable exception of B'nai Brith Canada, most of the Jewish denominations and mainstream Jewish organizations in Toronto have joined the consortium.

Canadians have organized numerous pro-Israel rallies and marches. Thousands took part in large rallies in Toronto and Montreal on April 17 to mark Israel's Independence Day. There was "a sea of blue and white flags up Bathurst Street," Rabbi Moshe Shulman of Toronto observed proudly.

On Sunday, thousands of Torontonians are expected to travel to Ottawa, a five-hour trip, to participate in a Solidarity Rally outside Parliament Hill.

The community is sending 70 full buses and has even chartered a plane to the Ottawa event, which is being seen as a Canadian counterpart to the April 15 mass rally in Washington. More participants are expected by bus and car from Montreal, a 90-minute drive away.

The pervasive use of e-mail and the Internet seem to have brought a new level of intensity and immediacy to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Several grass-roots e-mail circles have sprung up in Toronto with the aim of defending Israel's public image and countering anti-Israel propaganda.

"There's a much greater urgency, and people are feeling that they must do something," said a retired teacher, who admits that she often stays up in front of the computer until 3 a.m. to coordinate responses to anti-Israel attacks in the media.

In part, the heightened level of activism may be a reaction to the increasing size and visibility of the Muslim community. As opposed to the situation just several years ago, there seems to be no shortage today of local spokespersons at public forums attempting to justify Palestinian terrorism.

Canada accepts roughly 200,000 new immigrants and refugees each year, with many settling in the greater Toronto area. Once a bastion of British immigrants, Toronto has become extremely cosmopolitan, as more than 40 percent of its 2.5 million residents are non-white.

Middle Eastern politics not only is filtering into Canadian daily life, it also seems to be affecting Canadian politics.

The national political parties hold an array of attitudes toward Israel: The right-wing Alliance Party is the most supportive, while the left-leaning National Democratic Party and Bloc Quebecois are the most antagonistic.

NDP foreign affairs critic Svend Robinson, who has condemned Israel as a "terrorist state," generated headlines two weeks ago by rushing to Ramallah hoping to embrace Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian cause.

Robinson was turned back by Israeli soldiers, but his mission caused a major political flap back home. Bob Rae, the former NDP premier of Ontario, penned a stunning rebuttal to Robinson in an April 16 article headed "Parting Company with the NDP," in which he announced he was leaving the party.

Federal NDP leader Alexa McDonough has struggled to be more "even-handed" about the Middle East, but even she has said that Israel engages in "state terrorism."

However, she has distanced herself from statements that seem to promote hatred of Jews.

On April 18, she demoted Robinson, announcing that she would become the party's Middle East critic, leaving Robinson as foreign affairs critic for everywhere else but the Middle East.

Jewish Congress president Keith Landy described it as "a half-measure that does not go far enough to restore the credibility" of the party.

And Robinson was unrepentant.

"I will, of course, continue to condemn the appalling brutality and violence of the Israeli government in their military aggression in the occupied territories, including their massacre in Jenin," he told a televised press conference that morning.

Throughout all this, it's not clear whether the majority of Canadians have greater sympathy for Israel or the Palestinians.

B'nai Brith Canada released a poll April 16 that indicated that 80 percent of Canadians agreed that "there is no basic difference between a suicide attack on the World Trade Center in New York and a suicide bombing of a restaurant or teenage hangout in Israel."

The exact figures were 84 percent in English-speaking areas of Canada and 66 percent in French-speaking areas.

The B'nai Brith survey also showed that 74 percent of Canadians agree that Arafat is a terrorist.

However, an Ipsos-Reid poll released by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on April 17 did not seem to justify B'nai Brith's optimism: It showed that 7 percent of Canadians support Israel, 6 percent support the Palestinians and 79 percent take neither side.

As Montreal-area Parliament member Irwin Cotler suggested to a CBC interviewer: As the rhetoric intensifies, many Canadians seem to be running to a safe middle ground where they will be sure to offend no one.

## Religious Streams Win Zionist Elections

By Rachel Pomerance, JTA

The three major religious streams have emerged as the clear victors in the American Zionist elections to the World Zionist Congress — with the Reform movement once again leading the pack.

Although participation declined by nearly 20,000 from the last elections in 1997, close to 90,000 Jews cast their ballots.

The only elected body of Diaspora Jews that determine policies and programs of Diaspora Jewry, the 650-seat World Zionist Congress convenes every four to five years in Jerusalem.

In a labyrinth of policymaking, groups team up there to set the policy of the World Zionist Organization, which makes up half of the decision-making power of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

That means influence over the agency's \$350 million budget, which is involved in immigration and absorption and runs religious, political and educational programs throughout the world.

Of the total 145 delegates elected

by Americans, comprising 29 percent of the 500 elected seats, ARZA/World Union, the Zionist arm of the Reform and Reconstructionist movements, won 61 seats.

That number equals the combined number won by the Conservative arm's MERCAZ USA, at 32 delegates, and the Religious Zionist Movement, supported by the Orthodox, which took 29.

The Reform movement swept the electorate with even greater numbers — 70 delegates — in the last election in 1997.

But the most significant change this time around is the greater weight of the Orthodox movement, nearly doubling its representation from 16 seats five years ago.

While the Conservative stream eked out second place this time, they lost six delegates from the last election.

The last elections drew more attention than usual because they came amid fighting over the status of Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel.

The 1997 victory for the Reform

and Conservative movements led to increased visibility and political clout in Israel as well as increased Jewish Agency allocations for non-Orthodox institutions in Israel and the Diaspora.

This time around, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks and the suicide bombings in Israel, religious pluralism was not on the front burner for many people.

Still, the movements spent a lot of time, money and energy galvanizing their constituencies.

"These elections affirmed the importance of Reform Judaism in the American Jewish community," said Philip Meltzer, president of ARZA/World Union.

At the same time, he said that this year's elections were more about support for the State of Israel than about religious divisions.

"All of us, wherever we stood politically, and whatever our religious beliefs might be, we were unified in support of the State of Israel."

He also said he thought the current situation dampened voter participation.

"When there are no issues that

divide, a certain number of people just didn't participate. I look forward to the time when peace will come to Israel and the social issues and the future character of the state will become the primary concerns."

Despite the renewed sense of unity, pluralism remained an important vehicle for voter mobilization.

The Religious Zionists of America made a major push after the Reform movement gained more control of Jewish Agency committees after the last election.

"We decided it was time to take it back," said Eric Weisberg, assistant director of the group.

Weisberg, whose group's slate includes its sister organization, AMIT, said they are "excited to have such a strong representation at the upcoming Congress."

For the Conservatives, "we did as good as we could," said Rabbi Robert Golub, executive director of MERCAZ, a group which he said spent more on campaigning this time around than it did in 1997, but says was outspent by both the Orthodox and Reform movements.

Despite the decreased number of votes, down from nearly 108,000 in the last election, officials at the American Zionist Movement, which organizes and oversees the elections, noted that almost 80 percent of registrants voted, up from 72 percent of registrants in 1997.

"We had a lot of problems with this election," AZM president Moshe Kagan said, citing people's preoccupation with the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 and trouble with the postal system.

But he said he was ultimately impressed with the showing.

And unlike most Jewish organizations, which don't elect their leadership, the Zionist elections remain a bulwark of democracy, he said.

This election also marked the first time people could register and vote by the Internet as well as regular mail, and more than 27 percent of the people cast their vote on line.

Two new groups also made the cut — the environmentalist Green Zionist Alliance, which won one seat, and the extreme right-wing Henuh party, which took three.



# JEWISH LIFESTYLES

## Sephardic Film, *Adio Kerida* Screened at Wilmington JCC

by Joel Glazier

Dover Rabbi, Michael Goldberg, commented to Ruth Behar, film maker, "You have provided a rare combination of intellectual material with artistic excellence," after viewing the 90 minute film *Adio Kerida*. Author, anthropologist and recent award winning film maker, Ruth Behar, presented her film about her own search for memory in her native Cuba. The audience agreed with Rabbi Goldberg's characterization of the fascinating film that combined a deep lesson about Jewish continuity along with an in-depth look at the past and current Jewish community of Cuba.

A proud product of both Ashkenazic and Sephardic grandparents, Ruth Behar has made several trips to her homeland Cuba, from where her family fled after Fidel Castro took power. "About

one thousand Jews remain today in Cuba, and I wanted to see them in action before they disappear," commented Ms. Behar. "However, they are not a sad group of castaways or a forgotten remnant even though at one time there may have been up to 30,000 Jews in Cuba."

The film includes intimate interviews with Jews in Havana as well as some now living in New York and Miami. "I'm Jewish because I'm Cuban," Behar boasts in her film, explaining many of Cuba's Jews arrived there fleeing persecution in Europe in the 1930's. The film points out that several Latin American countries admitted Jews readily due to racist feelings. "In Cuba many white Cubans feared an increasing population of Afro-Cubans and European Jews, Sephardic or Ashkenazic were 'white enough' to be welcomed."

### Lessons for all

Not only did the filming teach Ruth Behar lessons about her own family but her frequent visits to Cuba connected her deeply to the Jews who grew up with her family. We learn that her parents and others took their house keys with them on their exile. Cuban exiles in Miami established two shuls of their own there and the Jewish cemeteries in Cuba are still maintained as are two of Cuba's Sephardic shuls. In the film we get to know both exiles and current members of Havana's Jewish Community. One young man, after the death of his father, undertook his own self study of Judaism and today is a Torah reader in Havana.

Jewish groups often visit Havana in organized missions. It is learned that so many Jewish groups now visit and bring food items and so

many medicines that full time volunteers are needed in the Jewish Community of Havana to distribute it all, even to needy non-Jews. Concentrating on her own family's history, it is learned that many Jews of Cuba arrived from Turkey and 9 Torahs were brought with them in the 1920's. Those scrolls remain in Cuba today.

On her several trips to Cuba, Ruth Behar visits the family who has lived in her family's former apartment. The original bedroom furniture is still in use and after 40 years, the apartment seems familiar as not much has changed in her old neighborhood. The current residents welcome Behar into their home and she also visits the former family helper who helped raise her when she was a little girl.

Along with her parents and brother, Mori, (now a jazz musician in

Philadelphia), the Behars are filmed on a return visit to Queens, New York where they lived from 1962-68 after leaving Cuba. "Shalom" is the greeting they get there in Queens, as a Jewish family from the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan are the apartment's occupants in 2002.

"This was a lovely, knowledgeable audience here in Wilmington. It was wonderful to have Latinos and Jewish members communicating, learning and connecting together here," commented Behar after a long question/answer session following the film. *Adio Kerida* ("Good-bye My Loved") has been screened at Latino and Jewish film festivals around the United States and a Spanish language version of the film was shown in Havana. The program here was sponsored by the JCC, Nuestras Raices and The Delaware Humanities Forum.

## One Man's Story Of Survival During World War II

Translation By E. E. Jaffe

Three years ago I found and established a connection with a cousin of mine who lives in Kaliningrad, Russia. I had not seen him for 63 years. Yakov Sukhovolski's mother and mine were sisters. Among his immediate family members, Yakov is the only one to survive the Holocaust, having lost his parents and both his brother and sister. His heartbreaking survival story is both heroic and tragic. Recently, Yakov and 23 other Holocaust survivors who reside in Kaliningrad published a book in Russian about their individual experiences during World War II.

Below is a translation of my cousin's contribution to the book. **THERE WAS NO DEFENSE, NO RELEASE, NO COVER, NO RESCUE**

BY YAKOV SUKHOVOLSKI

This is the second excerpt from the book, available exclusively to Jewish Voice readers.

**The Germans continued the deceit up until the very last moment.**

A representative of the Gebitskommissar appeared and stated that nothing untoward would happen, only that a part of the population of the ghetto would be shipped to work in another town. After the presentation, the Germans started a wild and brutal selection - individuals were separated from their families for "dispatch to other towns". They were lined up to our left, forced to their knees and ordered to lower their heads and not look to either side. They were then beaten viciously with rifle butts, sticks and bricks taken from the cemetery fence. They bled profusely, and at that moment we realized what fate awaited them. We, who stood to the right, also sustained a violent beating, though not as severe as the others.

During the selection process, heartbreaking scenes unfolded as some who stood on the right gave up their "privilege", having decided not to part with their loved ones; they voluntarily moved over to the left side, preferring to die rather than remain alone in inconsolable

grief. That is what happened to our family's friends: Joseph Mirlin and his daughter, Dore Gittelson and her parents, Rose Kraut and her daughter Lisa, and others.

After the selection was complete, those still kneeling were ordered to rise. The Germans marched them in groups to the Barok forest, one kilometer from town. Those of us on the right were returned to the ghetto.

In the forest the Germans had already prepared deep, long pits. During the agonizing trip from town to the forest many attempted to escape, but the convoy of German troops kept the beaten and bloodied prisoners in line.

In the forest, before the execution, they were humiliated and forced to undress, as the murderers kept the nicer garments for themselves. Young girls were forced to dance naked around the pits, and after sufficient mocking were then forced into the pits. They were ordered to lay with their faces down, touching the earth, and then the murderers opened fire. The wounded and the very young children were buried alive. Witnesses, who lived not far from the execution site, have stated that the earth over the lightly covered graves was seen moving for a long time and blood oozed from all around. The horror of what happened that day is beyond words. The epilogue to this bloody Friday was the execution of the entire population of a second nearby ghetto, where more than 500 adults lived. Approximately 2500 people were killed that day.

After these murders the ghetto itself seemed to die. The returning prisoners from the football field cried for their relatives, friends and neighbors who were driven to their graves that day. More than half a century has passed, but the experience of that day has not faded from my memory.

The situation in the ghetto worsened daily. The constant humiliation, robbery, beatings, arrests, killings, and group actions provoked a protest among the youths; it started a movement to organize a resistance. The appearance in the area of partisans com-

bined with the memory of the July massacres led to the suggestion by some young people that we should attempt an escape to the forest as soon as possible. My father, our community's leader, opposed this idea, and he attempted to discourage us from fleeing to join the resistance. He thought the fighting youths ought to take a stand in the ghetto, and withdraw to the forest only after a battle. Such a decision seemed obvious to him; in his mind it was necessary to fulfill this obligation to the ghetto, without leaving the old, the women and the children by themselves. He counseled us to fight to the inevitable ruin, according to Samson's maxim: "I will perish together with the Philistines", and those who survive should withdraw and continue a fight of vengeance. But he also felt strongly that such a battle should only be waged when it became absolutely clear that the ghetto population was facing imminent liquidation and had nothing else to lose. Still, he gave us money to buy weapons.

Several different groups within the ghetto acquired weapons and prepared to oppose the enemy. My older brother Yerukhem and I became members of one such group. As we contemplated an uprising, we did not appreciate the mortal danger in which we might be placing the ghetto population. The issue of such an uprising was hotly debated within our community as many considered it an irresponsible act, which put lives at risk. There was still hope that the remnants of our community would survive the war, and since the German's intent to physically destroy each and every Jew was not yet fully apparent to us, we concluded that to resist the enemy and provoke a massive retaliation was not yet appropriate. Even in Warsaw and Vilnius where resistance was better organized than anywhere else, armed insurrection was postponed until the actual German execution of the "final solution".

The decision whether or not to revolt placed an enormous burden on Jewish community leaders. To illustrate this, I cite the example of

the Warsaw ghetto, the largest in Europe. A quote from the brochure "Achtung Juden" states: "At the first news about transporting Jews, the leadership of the ghetto's Antifascist Block gathered representatives of all functioning political and social groups and proposed to organize resistance, attack the ghetto gates and break through the German lines. No! Said the majority. The people will survive (Friedman - delegate of the Right). Active resistance will give the Germans a reason to destroy everybody (Shipper - Small Bourgeois Zionists)". These community leaders would not extinguish the last spark of hope even as total extermination at the hands of the Germans loomed ever closer. Essentially, the only unity in preparation for resistance was among small desperate youth groups not burdened by concerns of large families.

On December 22, 1942, when I together with my older brother Yerukhem and a group of armed youths, without the knowledge of our parents, secretly left the ghetto late in the evening, we committed a fateful error\* and put our family and the entire ghetto in mortal danger.

Our disappearance promptly came to the attention of the authorities, and fearing consequences for our relatives, friends and the whole community, we felt compelled to return to the ghetto, and did so within two weeks.

On the evening of February 23, 1943 my father did not return from town to the ghetto, and the next morning three Gestapo men came to our home and arrested my mother, my sister Riva, my brother and me. When they led us early in the morning to the gates of the ghetto, all prisoners watched anxiously and with pained expressions said good-bye, fearing consequences for the whole community.

On the way to the Gestapo on Senkevich Street, on the opposite side of the church, I made a desperate move. I knocked the gun out of one soldier's hands, and ran into the yard of the house we were passing. Yerukhem also tore himself away, but a soldier shot him. Riva



Yakov Sukhovolski

ran into the yard of a neighboring house. Mother remained in place. The soldier who momentarily dropped his gun chased me, but could not keep up and he began shooting at me. I ran through the town in the direction of the Berezvech Lake and then along its banks to the Barok forest. Here I waited till nightfall and then quietly slipped back into the ghetto. My aunt and uncle, Marusia and Moishe Chawes, knowing that I would be hunted, hid me in the apartment of our friend Khana Knel.

Although wounded, my brother ran toward the ghetto fence, climbed over it and soon was under the care of a doctor - our uncle Moishe. In secret, he underwent surgery, and he then hid in the Gindin's house on Dubrov Street. Riva ran back to the ghetto. A friend of ours arranged to hide her outside the ghetto with a local Pole, a good acquaintance of my father. I never saw my father, mother, Yerukhem or Riva again.

\* Attention Jews  
\* Unapproved departure from the ghetto threatened close family members and others with execution



# MILESTONES

## In Memoriam

### BERKOWITZ

Jean Berkowitz, wife of the late Rubin Berkowitz, died April 19th. She was the beloved mother of Sheldon, Michael and Lewis; mother-in-law to Rhona, Kathy and Marti; and devoted grandmother of six. Graveside services were held at Mt. Sharon Cemetery in Springfield, PA. Contributions in her memory may be made to The Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

### FRANKEL

Nathaniel Frankel, 90, formerly of Coral Springs, Florida, died April 19th. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Sylvia; daughters, Sheila and her husband, Jack Davidson, Faith and her husband, Michael Goldman; brother, Louis; four grandchildren, Laurence and Steven Davidson, Leigh Balber, Amy Goldman and two great-grandchildren, Stacey and Phoebe Davidson. Graveside services were held in Beth Emeth Memorial Park. Contributions in his memory may be made to The Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

### JOSEPH

Arthur W. Joseph, 78 of Wilmington, died April 20th. He

was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Central High School and the University of Pennsylvania. A distinguished veteran of World War II, Mr. Joseph served in the Army Corps of Engineers in the Pacific and in Japan.

A resident of Southern New Jersey for more than 40 years, he served as the owner of McGraw-Joseph Mortgage Company of Audubon, NJ and also served as a real estate appraiser. He was formerly a member of Temple Emanuel in Cherry Hill.

He and his wife of 53 years, Judith, moved to Wilmington in July 2000. The couple joined Congregation Beth Emeth. Mr. Joseph became active in the Equity Masonic Lodge #591 of Philadelphia.

Mourners include his wife; children, Rabbi Samuel K. Joseph and his wife, Dori, Michael B. Joseph and his wife, Dayle, Patricia A. Levitt and her husband, Cary; grandchildren, Rachel and Bethami Joseph, Adam and Daniel Joseph, and Jamie, Andrew and Kimberly Levitt.

A memorial service was held on April 22nd at Congregation Beth Emeth.

The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to the following organizations:

Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 West Lea Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802, Temple Emanuel, 1101 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003, Delaware Hospice, Suite 100, Clayton Bldg., 3515 Silverside Road, Wilmington, DE 19810, Deborah Heart and Lung Center, c/o Mary Weinstein, 8602 Society Drive, Claymont, DE 19703.

### KRAMER

Lillian Kramer, 82, of 7204

Society Drive, Claymont, died April 17th. The widow of Ralph Kramer, she is survived by daughters, Ellen Pell and Nancy Kramer; brother, Manny Lipton; and two grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on Friday, April 19 in Tennessee. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to the American Heart Association, 1096 Old Churchman's Road, Newark, DE 19713.

### WILSON

Helen Wilson, 82, died April

10th. She was a bookkeeper in her late husband's business, Harry S. Wilson Insurance Agency and enthusiastically enjoyed playing bridge. Mrs. Wilson is survived by her son, Lawrence A.; daughter, Suzanne Kagan; brothers, Howard and Melvin Berg; sister, Florence Austin; four grandchildren and a great grandson. Graveside services were held on April 12th at the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. Please make memorial contributions to The Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

## NACHAS NOOK

### Mazel Tov New Arrivals



#### Abigail Esther Salzberg

Abigail Esther Salzberg, first child of David and Bonnie Helfand Salzberg, a former staff member of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, now living in Vienna, VA, was born on Thursday, April 11, 2002 at 12:55pm. She weighed 7lbs 7oz, was 21" long, and has a full head of black hair. Grandparents are Arnold and Joan

Colton Helfand, of Wilmington; and Carol and Allan Salzberg of Boise, Idaho. Keri J. Helfand, of Wilmington is her maternal Aunt. Great-grandparents are Ted and Mildred Colton Marshall of Boca Raton, FL and the late Samuel Colton; and Sally Helfand, of Claymont. Abigail is named in loving memory of her late great-grandfathers, Albert Helfand and Emanuel Salzberg.

#### Ethan Ross Simon

Pat and Ed Simon and Sheila and Phil Weinberg are proud to announce the birth of their grandson, Ethan Ross Simon. Ethan, the son of Alyssa and Joel Simon of Lewes, Delaware was born on February 20th in Beebe Hospital, weighing in at 7 lbs., 5 oz. Ethan is named in memory of his paternal great-grandmother, Rose Simon. Welcoming him are great-grandmothers, Fay Feldman of the B'nai B'rith House and Marie Goldstein of Shipley Manor. Godparents are

Aunt Carrie and Uncle Marc Bachman of Manhattan, New York.

#### Joshua Bank

Michael and Diane Bank of Fair Lawn, New Jersey announce the birth of their son, Joshua Ilan. Joshua was born on December 15, 2001, weighing 9 lbs. 10 ozs. Proud grandparents are Bernard Bank and the late Rebecca Bank of Wilmington and Larry and Reni Schustermann of Dumont, NJ.



Joshua Bank

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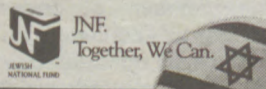


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## Pennock and Netzer To Wed

Alison Judith Pennock and Giora Netzer, M.D., both of Philadelphia, are engaged to be married. The bride is the daughter of Fredda and Paul Pennock of Kennett Township. She is a graduate of the Tatnall School in Greenville and received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Science degree in Education from Simmons College in Boston. She currently is employed by Amerispan and is pursuing a Master's degree in Business Administration from LaSalle University.

Dr. Netzer, the son of Aahron and Shula Netzer of Dallas, Texas, is a graduate of J.J. Pearce High School in Dallas. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Art History from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY. He graduated from Temple University School of Medicine and is a med-



Alison Pennock  
and Giora Netzer

ical resident at The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

The couple plan to marry in August, 2002.

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### CORRECTION TO BLUMBERG OBITUARY

Reba Blumberg, 97, of Wilmington, who died April 1st, is survived by a brother, David E. Goldman of Wilmington and a sister, Anna Cherry of Philadelphia. These names, regrettably, were omitted from the obituary on the April 6th edition of *The Jewish Voice*.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries for the Calendar of Events are due on the Thursday deadline published in *The Jewish Voice*. Please provide entries in the same format as seen on this page. *The Jewish Voice* fax number is 427-2438.

## PROMISES AT AKIBA

On Sunday, April 28, Akiba Hebrew Academy is staging a film event at their "A Sunday Cinema" program and will show the Academy Award nominated film *PROMISES*. This program takes place at 3 PM at Akiba located at 223 N. Highland Ave. in Merion Station. This film gives viewers a chance to see what living in Jerusalem is like for children on both sides of the terrible conflict which now rages in the Holy Land. The documentary follows the journey of filmmakers B.Z. Goldberg and Justine Shapiro over the course of 4 years as they are welcomed into the lives of 7 Palestinian and Israeli families. Through the eyes of children we see the dramatic and emotional effect of life as it is now being lived in the battle torn city of Jerusalem. Tickets for the event are \$10 or \$5 for students. Call 610-667-4070 for more info.

## THE AKSE CHESS CLUB IS BACK!

Calling all Chess enthusiasts of all ages and all levels of expertise. The AKSE Chess Club will hold its next meeting on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Washington Blvd. and Torah Way in Wilmington. For more information, please call Cantor Joel at (302) 762-2705 or 762-4023.

## AND SPEAKING OF CHESS...

The Delaware JCC will host the First Annual Northern Delaware Elementary School Chess Championships to be held on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Elementary school chess players of all abilities are encouraged to participate. Rounds will start at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. with a time limit of "game/30". Awards will be given at the conclusion of the event. The cost is \$4 per student if registration is received by May 10<sup>th</sup>, \$6 per student after May 10<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to receive a registration form, call Randy Rosenthal at (302) 478-5660 or email Randy at [rosenthal@jccdelaware.org](mailto:rosenthal@jccdelaware.org).

## JCC SENIORS GO TO CAPE COD

The Senior Center of the Delaware JCC is planning a four-

day, five-night trip to Cape Cod this Fall. Leave from the JCC on September 30<sup>th</sup> and return on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Itinerary includes visits to the Outer Cape, Provincetown, the John F. Kennedy Museum, Hyannis, Chatham and Sandwich and Martha's Vineyard. The cost of \$399 per person (double occupancy) includes breakfasts and dinners. For more information or to register, please call Anne Samples or Orly Wallach at 302-478-5660, ext. 210.

## SINGLES TO MINGLE IN MAY

SINGLES MINGLES, a social group for Jewish singles ages 40 and older, will have their next planning meeting on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 West Lea Blvd., Wilmington. The group wants your input on such suggested activities as a seven course Saturday evening dinner at Casablanca. The evening will include performances by a male and female belly dancer. Also on tap is an afternoon visit to the New Jersey Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey. For more information about the group, please call Miriam Weiner at 478-6897.

## JFS SUPPORT GROUP: "HEALING HEARTS"

Jewish Family Service sponsors this Co-Parenting Group for Separated or Divorced Parents and Children. Two, three-hour sessions focus on skills that better enable separated or divorced parents to co-parent their children, and to help their children understand and manage the change. This course is certified by Family Court. There is a \$100 fee. Scholarship assistance is available. Sessions can be taken in Wilmington or Newark from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

At JFS Main, 101 Garden of Eden Road, the course will meet on Wednesday May 1 and May 8. At the JFS Relationship Center in Newark, the program will meet Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

To register, please call 478-9411.

## HOFFMAN SPEAKS AT KUTZ HOME LUNCHEON

David E. Hoffman, journalist and author, will speak at the annual Donor Luncheon sponsored by The Kutz Home Auxiliary on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. at the Brandywine Country Club. Hoffman currently serves as Foreign Editor for the

Washington Post. To register, please call Susan Sandler at (302) 655-9343.

## ORT PRESENTS SHARE YOUR WARES

Women's American ORT will present Share-Your-Wares 2002 on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Delaware Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington. Proceeds from this event will assist with the technical and vocational education of over 262,000 children and young adults here in the United States and abroad. For more information, please call 610-388-8515.

## BE A MACCABI

The JCC of Delaware's delegation is looking for a few fun people. If you are between the ages of 13 and 16 (by August 1<sup>st</sup>) and enjoy basketball, volleyball, tennis, swimming, golf, bowling and other sports and would like to meet other teens, the JCC Maccabi Games are for you! These Olympic style sporting events draw teens from across the country and around the world. If you are interested, please call Randy Rosenthal (302) 478-5660, ext. 231, [rosenthal@jccdelaware.org](mailto:rosenthal@jccdelaware.org) or Donna Schwartz, (302) 478-5660, ext. 228, [dschwartz@jccdelaware.org](mailto:dschwartz@jccdelaware.org).

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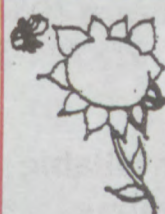
Berwyn, PA Conservative synagogue, Congregation Or Shalom seeks a dynamic P/T (20-30 hours) Ed Director to begin July 2002. The 130-student religious school (K-7) meets Sunday AM, Tuesday/PM. Candidate must have proven leadership skills to engage students, mentor staff and provide vision to growing Chester County religious school. Responsibilities include hiring and managing teaching staff (8-10, directing Jr. Cong and Family Ed plus build a warm sense of community among teachers, students and parents. Ed Director reports to the Education Committee Chair and works closely with Rabbi. Experience in curriculum development, staff supervision, training and budgeting, as well as demonstrated interpersonal communication and administrative skills is needed. Must have strong Judaic educational background. Submit resume and references to [ellen.weber@erols.com](mailto:ellen.weber@erols.com) or by fax to 610-889-2299. Phone calls welcomed at 610-644-9086.

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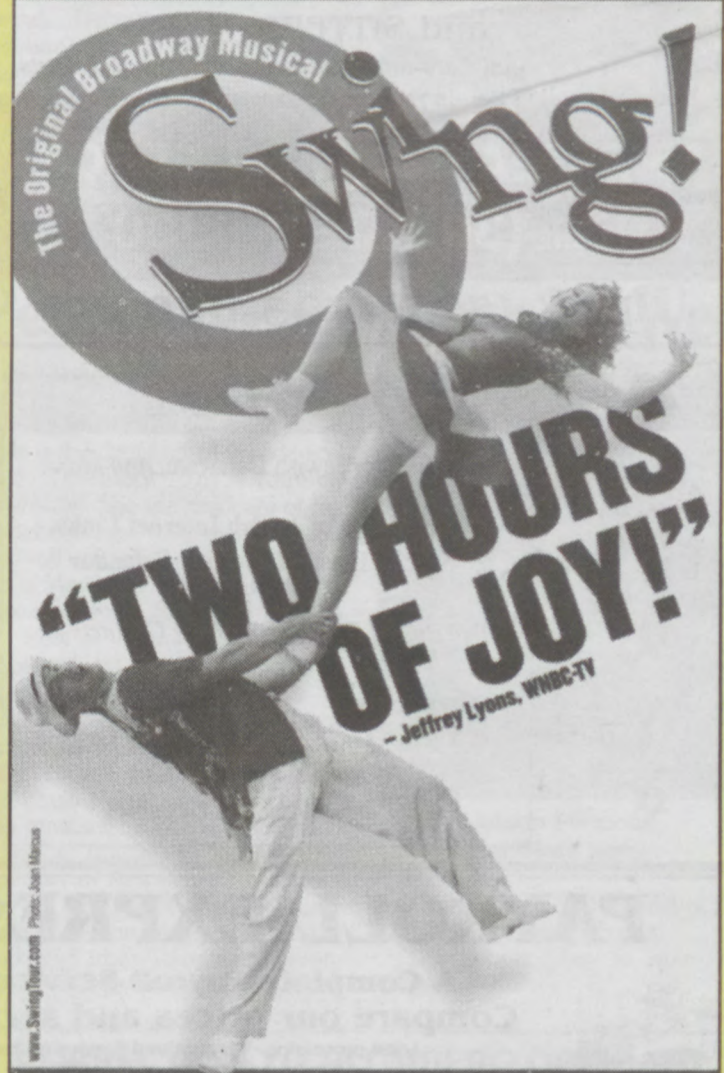
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