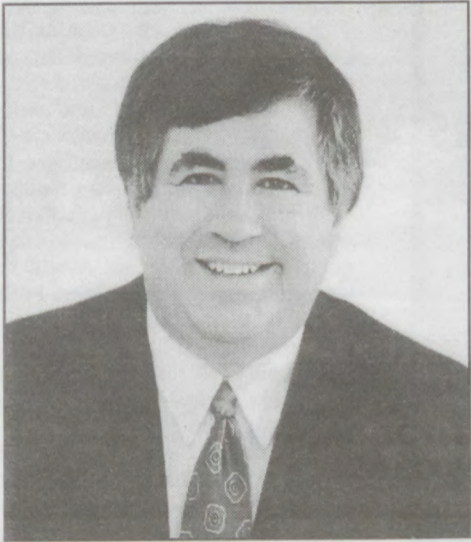


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Top Educator Leads Jewish Renaissance



By Julie Wiener
JTA

In a sign that the new Jewish buzzwords of "renaissance and renewal" are intrinsically linked to education, a top Jewish education professional has been tapped to oversee a national push to infuse Jewish life with more meaning.

One of four pillars that will set the agenda for the newly formed United Jewish Communities, the national fund-raising and social service organization, Renaissance and Renewal was formed to promote increased collaboration among federations, the religious movements, Jewish educators and

other Jewish organizations in strengthening Jewish identity and community.

The other pillars address fund raising, Israel and overseas needs and human services/social policy.

Although the Renaissance and Renewal pillar's exact focus is still unclear, the selection of Jonathan Woocher - who will also continue in his role at the Jewish Education Service of North America, a coordinating body for formal and informal Jewish education providers around North America - indicates that advocates for education will have a strong voice within it.

Woocher, who has worked closely with the federation world, was instrumental in creating the Renaissance and Renewal pillar, drafting a platform statement on the topic last year that described Renaissance as efforts to create "a far more vibrant, engaging, content-full Jewish life for large numbers of Jews here and around the globe than we ever could have imagined just a few decades ago."

In his statement, Woocher suggested that the UJC work with other organizations in launching bold initiatives to expand and redesign Jewish programming for teens, develop a national infrastructure for teacher training through technology and create a "multifaceted support system to assist day schools striving for excellence."

Barry Shrage, who also authored a UJC platform statement on Renaissance and Renewal, described Woocher as an "ideal choice" to head the new pillar.

Shrage, the president of Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies, said Woocher's remaining at JESNA means "he

can marry the best of both organizations together and get more power for the investment."

UJC officials said they selected Woocher, who was a professor of Jewish communal studies at Brandeis University before coming to JESNA in 1986, for his combination of experience, connections with various players in Jewish life, expertise and familiarity with the federation world.

It is unclear how long Woocher will hold the two large jobs.

UJC's president and chief executive officer, Stephen Solender, who for six months last year balanced his current job with his old post as executive vice president of the UJA-Federation of New York, said Woocher will head the pillar at least through the end of 2000.

"Whether he continues beyond that will be determined later," Solender said. JESNA's president, Joe Kanfer, and other board members contacted described the arrangement as a temporary loan their organization is making to the UJC to help get the Renaissance pillar off the ground.

"It's a temporary move," said Kanfer.

For his part, Woocher was somewhat cryptic about the future.

"At this point it is what it is," he said, adding repeatedly, "I have no intention of leaving JESNA."

Also unclear at this point is how the new pillar will work with JESNA and to what extent their efforts will overlap. With both housed in UJC's Manhattan headquarters and sharing an executive, the relationship will undoubtedly be close.

In what may be an early demonstration of

that relationship, discussion about implementing recommendations of a recently released JESNA task force report urging greater communal funding for Jewish day schools is expected to be the first time on the Renaissance and Renewal pillar's agenda.

However, UJC officials, Woocher and JESNA board members maintain that JESNA will remain an independent entity with its own board and programs. Beyond that, Woocher said it is too soon for him to comment further on the relationship between the two.

JESNA's Kanfer predicted that the pillar will be the "focal point for bringing national attention to key issues of renaissance for communities," while the actual work will continue to be done in agencies like JESNA, Hillel, the Jewish Community Centers Association and the religious movements, all of which are represented on the pillar.

Beryl Geber, the pillar's chair, agreed, saying that "there are certain overlaps, but JESNA has its own vision" and that the pillar "has a different focus and will lean heavily on its partners in order to ensure that work is getting done."

Geber said she was eager to begin the pillar's work.

With the hiring of Woocher, all four of UJC's pillars are now staffed and active, said Solender, who said he hoped the Renaissance and Renewal pillar will offer national leadership in making "the identification with our Jewish heritage and religious tradition very exciting and very meaningful to the largest number of Jews."

A Return Trip to Our Homeland

By Sara and Irv Hockstein

(Editor's Note: The Hockstein's return trip to Israel after nearly two decades reflects the ever-changing nature of our Jewish homeland. In this edition of *The Jewish Voice*, you will find several interesting articles focusing on camping, vacationing and touring.)

We were thrilled and excited about our third trip to Israel. On our last visit, we were fortunate enough to enter Israel the day after President Jimmy Carter's departure in 1979 and again in 1981 with our children. Now, the opportunity to visit again, just before the millennium (although not our millennium) presented itself.

When we were asked to keep notes about the changes we noticed after 19 years I wondered how much we would remember about experiences that long ago. This trip included some repeat experiences, visits to new sights and home hospitality.

The airport in Tel Aviv was our introduction to the westernization of Israel with modern immigration stations and baggage retrieval systems in a large modern terminal.

Our friend, Susan Spielberg, from Richmond, Va. was waiting to transport us to our hotel. The short ride was our introduction to the new highway systems we would experience throughout our trip.

That night we had dinner with our cousins, Gilbert and Myra Goldfine whom we hadn't seen in 19 years. Gil made aliyah from Brooklyn, N.Y. about 30 years ago and Myra from S. Africa.

Their home is the 4th floor of a 4 story apartment building with the elevator opening into a spacious modern apartment furnished with blackwood, steel and glass and very little upholstery, a wonderful background for their Southern Italian Pottery collection.

Just 16 days in Israel and no time to waste, so the next morning we were picked

up by the Spielbergs for our drive north to Zfat, our home base for the next week.

Just outside of Tel Aviv is Technology Row, the Silicon Valley of Israel. The landscape of large power plants and high tension wires stretching in all directions was quite different from what we remembered.

Tel Aviv has the characteristics of a modern, western city and Zfat is like another world, an Eastern European world. Most buildings appear to be 150-200 years old with modern infrastructure added to the outside.

Zfat is an orthodox Jewish Colony where Chabad culture is flourishing as is the hippie culture, young people in black leather and mini-skirts at outdoor cafes. Of course soldiers are all around. Most members of each group have cell phones attached to their heads at all times. The artist colony is still there but many were away for the winter.

Our first trip to The Island of Peace, Naharaim, between the Jordan and Yarmuk Rivers started at the Memorial Garden for the seven girls killed by a Jordanian soldier. This land, farmed by Israelis, is in Jordanian Territory. The ruins of the Yarmuk water reservoir and dam which operated first hydroelectric station and remains of railway

track for trains between Haifa and Damascus stand deserted. Bet Gabriel, a wonderfully designed cultural center situated on the Kinneret features exhibition halls, a 300 seat theater, lecture halls, shop and restaurant and was the perfect spot for lunch.

Later in the week we visited the archeological site at ancient Qatrin and the modern town of Qatrin which was just being developed when we last visited and currently looks like housing developments similar to some in Delaware. This town boasts a shopping center, the Golan Archeology Museum, The doll Museum, containing dioramas from biblical to current times. Then we went to the Golan Winery and a water bottling plant.

Our next stop was the Gamla Nature Preserve where we were able to see the ruins of the ancient town of Gamla known as *Masada of the Galilee*. We viewed the town from a hilltop as griffon vultures circled overhead.

The Spielberg's Sabra cousins, living on a moshav in Yavne'el were kind enough to invite us to a mini tour of the moshav and lunch at their home.

story continued on page 15

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Tel Aviv Stories

By Ian Simpson

"If you're going to be in Tel Aviv, you've got to eat at Yotvata."

But then again, I don't need to tell you that, we all know it. Everyone who's been to Israel has, at one point in their trip, come to Tel Aviv and eaten at Yotvata. They've sat on the beach, visited the Diaspora Museum, and walked up and down Dizengoff.

Soon it's off to Jerusalem or the Golan or the Negev - after a day in Tel Aviv most of us have seen

enough to last a life-time. Let's get out now to the "real Israel."

Well! I have a suggestion: Try asking a Tel Aviv Israeli where the real Israel is.

That's what I did. I lived in Jerusalem for a year, 5 years ago, and in that time spent a total of 4 weekends in Tel Aviv. I was sure I'd done it all - why go back to a place that reminds me of Los Angeles when I'm from Los Angeles? I wanted culture, history, Judaism. I wanted stones, stones and more

stones - the older the stone the better.

This attitude led to arguments you wouldn't believe. Have you ever met an Israeli who's remarked off-handedly that he or she hasn't been to Jerusalem in 5 years? I was astounded when I first heard that. Even worse were the ones who told me there's nothing in Jerusalem for them to do - some even hate that city! I was in shock. How could you not love Jerusalem?

Then I grew up a little. I left the

Jerusalem-student-abroad-for-a-year-of-wonderful-experiences life and graduated college. A few months later I was working for the Israeli Embassy in Washington, and everything changed. The student fantasy was replaced by real-life Israel, the politics, the religion, the issues, the promise and the promises. Frequent discussions with co-workers soon had me understanding that the Israel I had seen during that year in Jerusalem was not the Israel they were coming from. I was

TOLD to go to Tel Aviv.

I remember one conversation very clearly. It was the same discussion I'd had so many times, but this time there was one difference. I made the fateful remark, "I've seen Tel Aviv. I've eaten at Yotvata. What else is there?" The laughter and shock I got in return was enough to whet my appetite. It was instantly clear that there was more happening there than my tourist self had been witness to - I had to know what was going on in Tel Aviv. As I made more and more Tel Aviv friends through the embassy, the more stories I heard, the more I knew I'd have to check it out for myself.

I arrived here last year at the beginning of December. I sat on my balcony those first few nights, looked out at the city, and wondered about what I had just done. A friend on the phone asked me to describe exactly what I was looking at. "Tel Aviv is just a big city like all others, I could just as easily have gone to Chicago as Tel Aviv if I'd wanted a change in my life," I told him. There would be differences, I was sure, but I'd have to wait and figure out what they were. After a few weeks I knew I'd never feel the same way again.

That brings me to the here and now. I've been living here for over a year. I've worked in politics, in environmental awareness and (yes, it's true) as a starving waiter. I am now a citizen of Israel and a full time Masters student at Tel Aviv University (learning in Hebrew), teaching English to classrooms of Israelis on the side. I've been swept up by this amazing city that a fifth of this country calls home. Hebrew is the language of the street (English has been left for Ben-Yehuda), and life bubbles with a mixture of the unique day-to-day and freak once-in-a-lifetime events. I've been fortunate to witness most of them in the last year and the great thing is - they never stop coming.

Don't get me wrong, Jerusalem still moves me, talks to me, sings to me, but I think it's time to move on. Back home Tel Aviv is still thought of as just a place to spend time in while waiting for the airplane to leave: "We'll just grab a bite to eat, another souvenir, and then take a sherut to the airport." I think it's more than that, hopefully soon so will you.

Ian Simpson will share his Tel Aviv stories periodically with Jewish Voice readers. He welcomes comments or suggestions from readers at simpsoni@post.tau.ac.il.

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"I am proud to be part of this Jewish community and goal for 100% participation. Let's make it happen and have another "Small Wonder" in Delaware!"

-Joan Spiegelman,
Member JCRC and
Holocaust Education
Committee
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WORLD!

EDITORIAL

Haider Watch - Remain Vigilant, Retain Perspective

Jewish groups around the world are keeping a close eye on the new government of Austria. They are monitoring carefully the activities of the Freedom Party - a component of the new coalition headed by Jorg Haider, a vocal Nazi sympathizer.

Those Jews alive during the 1930's recall another charismatic politician's rise to power. Like Haider, Hitler ran on a platform of xenophobia and anti-Semitism. They worry that the stage is set for a reenactment of the darkest tragedy in world Jewish history.

We believe that the two scenarios are vastly different. During Hitler's reign, the world reacted slowly to acts of human atrocities. Within hours of Haider's election, America, Israel and the entire European community condemned his pro-Nazi sentiments and threatened sanctions against Austria if official government policies are poisoned by Haider's influence.

Israel reinforced its comments with tangible

actions - withdrawing its ambassador from Austria.

Recent news developments demonstrate that the new regime is paying careful attention to the warnings. Austria's president has demanded that the new government sign a document upholding moral values and seizing responsibility for the Holocaust. On Tuesday, the coalition announced its desire to enter swift negotiations with Holocaust survivors and Jewish groups to settle outstanding claims.

While some Jewish leaders like Sallai Meridor, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency executive, view this restitution bid as an attempt to "buy us out with offers of money," others see the statement as a reassurance to the world that history will not repeat itself.

What do you think? Share your sentiments with the Delaware Jewish community through a letter to the editor. E-Mail Lynn Edelman at jewishvoic@aol.com.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In the January 7th edition of the *Jewish Voice*, Connie Kreshtool wrote an article about the recent Biennial Assemblies of the UAHC (the umbrella organization of the Reform Jewish movement). In this article, Ms. Kreshtool reported that Reform scholar Rabbi Elyse Goldstein revealed that a "woman's (menstrual) blood defiled."

I want to explain the current Orthodox Jewish women's practice as interpreted by many Orthodox rabbis.

Rabbi Naftali Bar Ilan, of the *Central Committee for Taharath HaMishpacha in Israel*, in its official publication, *Happiness in Married Life*, writes (page 37):

"Today, the term 'impure' denotes 'forbidden to her husband' and 'pure' indicates 'permitted to her husband.' It is important to emphasize that the prohibitions of *Niddah* are independent, and not connected with the ritual defilement of the woman.

"Today, the *Niddah* does not have any of the implications connected to the entrance into *Bet HaMikdash*, and the woman behaves today in public as other women do."

Therefore in the A.K.S.E. Congregation Women's Tefillah Group, women read from the *Torah*, and on *Simchat Torah*, women

dance with the *Torah*. We have been practicing this Women's Ritual for at least 17 years.

Furthermore, Dr. Blu Greenberg, writing in the January issue of *Sh'ma*, on "Orthodox Feminism in the Next Century," points out: "Who would have imagined 30 years ago Orthodox women studying and teaching *Talmud* in places like *Drisha* or *Midreshet Lindenbaum*? Who would have believed that women would serve on Israeli religious councils, or as Congregational interns in Orthodox *shuls*? Who would have pictured a woman reading *Torah* at a women's *tefillah* group?"

"In only one generation, Orthodox women's roles have shifted from exclusively private to increasingly public, from the household and *mikvah* to houses of study and prayer and religious courts of law."

The modern Orthodox Jewish religious faith community is changing as its sons and daughters study in universities and study *Torah* on an advanced level. We follow the philosophy of Yeshiva University, *Torah U'madah*, *Torah* and knowledge.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Gewirtz
Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

Parsha Place

Week of February 19, 2000

Tetzaveh

Exodus 27:20-30:10

SPIRITUAL POWER OF LIGHT Jerome P. David

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

These words—inscribed on the wall of a cellar in Cologne, Germany, where Jews hid from the Nazis—speak to us of faith, even when it is troubled by doubt; of light, even when it is enveloped by darkness. Such is the external and enduring power of light, as demonstrated in this week's Torah portion, Tetzaveh. In this parashah the Israelites are instructed to bring clear oil of beaten olives for lighting the ner tamid or "eternal light." (Exodus 27:20) According to scholars (The Torah: A Modern Commentary, p. 618), a more accurate translation is "[for] kindling lamps regularly." Thus the lights of Tetzaveh were to burn continually, just as God's light and the light of Torah are always present.

One midrash on Exodus 27:20 (Exodus Rabbah 36:2) suggests that God, the Source of light, doesn't need light. Rather, the ner tamid is for the people so that "you can return light to Me as I give light to you." Furthermore, we learn that it is Aaron and his sons and not Moses who are instructed to set up these kindling lamps. Does it not seem ironic that the name of Moses is, in fact, missing from this entire portion in the Book of Exodus? Why are Aaron and the next generation of priests chosen to enact this ritual? One explanation offered by the Gaon of Vilna is that God knew that the day of Moses' death would be on 7 Adar, during the very time that Tetzaveh is read at worship services. Thus the portion may be anticipating the absence of Moses' physical presence while acknowledging his spiritual presence through the symbol of light. So it is today: If we are comforted by the flame of the *yahrzeit* or memorial candle, how much more so are we uplifted by the light of the ner tamid in our own synagogue!

Another very human dimension of this account is presented in a midrash on Exodus 28:1 (Exodus Rabbah 37:4). Rabbinic commentaries discuss Moses' growing dissatisfaction with relinquishing the priesthood to Aaron and entrusting him and his sons with the sacred duties. (Indeed, discontentment can be a weakness in all of us, depending on the issue with we are not content.) Moses needs to make peace with both the delegation of responsibility to others and his own mortality. Only by doing so will he come to realize that although the light of his own life will be extinguished, the greatest accomplishment in life is insuring that there is a future. In the end, Moses finds inner peace because he recognizes that he has enlightened and empowered others to carry on the torch of his life's work.

This portion challenges each of us to light the ner tamid in our own heart. (Liturgy Torah, 20) We must work to be more sensitive to the needs, feelings, and strivings of others while simultaneously doing the same for ourselves. Only then will we come closer to dispelling the darkness and doubt that exist in our world.

Jerome P. David is the rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Cherry Hill, NJ.

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RABBI, YOUR TESTS HAVE ALL COME BACK, AND I'M GLAD TO REPORT THAT FOR A MAN OF YOUR AGE, YOU'RE IN EXCELLENT HEALTH.

TENKS, DOCTEH! AS ANXIOUS AS I AM TO MEET THE CREATOR-BLESSED BE HE - I DIDN'T WANT IT SHOULD BE NEXT WEEK.

BUT, RABBI, YOU MUST STOP SMOKING. I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES!

AND A HUNDRED TIMES I'M TELLING YOU IT'S NOT EASY! DO YOU THINK I CAN QUIT BOOM JUST LIKE THAT? I GOT TUCKER LOTS OF STRESS.

THINK OF YOUR BODY AS A TEMPLE, RABBI!

THAT'S WHERE ALL THE STRESS IS.

A SUPER SHABBAT WEEKEND

Siegel Made Shabbat Weekend Special

By Lynn Edelman

Danny Siegel, The "crown prince of tzedakah" took Delaware by storm last weekend. From the time he arrived in Wilmington on Friday morning until the final minutes of his motivational morning training sessions on Super Sunday - this talented poet, author and lecturer inspired the Delaware Jewish community to make a difference in the lives of others.

Jewish Federation of Delaware Campaign Director Rhonda Falk whisked Siegel to his first stop at Albert Einstein Academy. There, he challenged students at Delaware's only Jewish day school to become

Mitzvah heroes. Later that evening, he shared Shabbat dinner with Jewish communal leaders and inspired more than 400 people in attendance at Congregation Beth Emeth. His pulpit presentation touched on ways to integrate Jewish values into our everyday lives.

On Saturday, Siegel was welcomed with open arms by the congregants of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. After late afternoon Mincha services, Siegel enjoyed a Se'udah Sh'lishit meal and a spirited conversation with congregants-many of whom were also in attendance the prior evening.

The old adage "there's no rest for the weary" was proven true

when Siegel showed up for the early shift at Super Sunday, the annual phone-a-thon sponsored by JFD on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal campaign. He psyched the 117 volunteers to success - inspiring them to raise more than \$280,000 for Jews in Delaware, in Israel and around the world. Scott Feinman, Annual Campaign chairman, marveled at the "ruach" created by the volunteers. "It was great to see teenagers and college kids working side by side with adults to make the day so special," he commented.

Thanks to the phenomenal efforts of Super Sunday Chair Debbie Cohen, her hard-working committee and to the professional

expertise of Sue Shaffer, Super Sunday staff coordinator, Super Sunday 2000 raised more than

\$30,000 over last year's tally. You and I Can Change the World!



Father and son team, Barry and Ari Kayne celebrate their success.



Governor Tom Carper schmoozes with Super Sunday Chair Debbie Cohen and Danny Siegel.



JFD Campaign Director Rhonda Falk gives pointers to Ben Warheit, one of Super Sunday's teen volunteers.



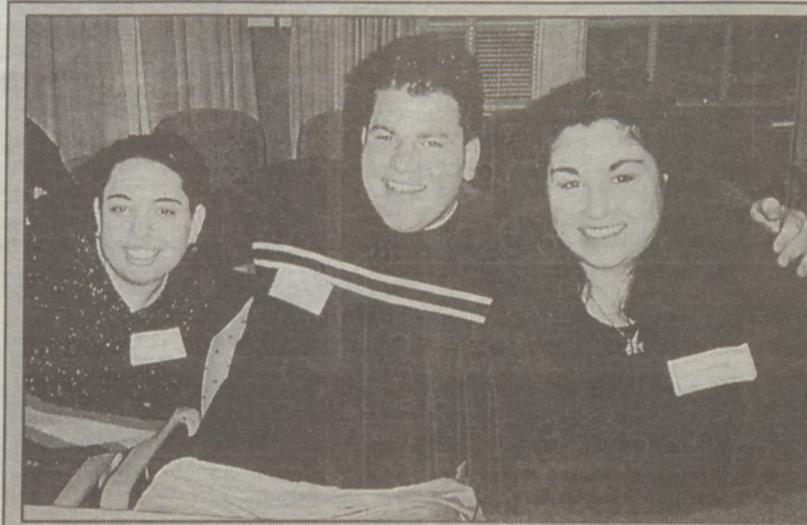
The Young Adults of Delaware made their mark during the crucial late afternoon shift.

Dover Delivers!

Seven members of Dover's Jewish community made Super Sunday 2000 a success. Led by Steven Schwartz at his Dover offices, these committed volunteers collected more than \$7,000 in their morning on the phones for the Lower Delaware Federation/UJA Campaign.

The Jewish Federation of Delaware says *Todah Rabah* to Schwartz's Super Team:

- Stan Wolin
- Barbara and Frank Sparks
- Frank Zaback
- Irv Levitt
- Larry Klepner



University of Delaware Hillel Director Renee Shatz (right), psyches college students Leah Brody and Adam Turetsky in the Super Sunday Training Room. Read about Adam's adventures in Israel and Prague in the March 3rd *Jewish Voice*.

Mitzvah Heroes At AEA

By Bonnie Falchuk

Mitzvah Heroes come in all ages: after listening to Danny Siegel on Friday, Feb. 4, at least sixty students at the Albert Einstein Academy know that it is effort and caring, and not age, that matters.

How can primary school kids become Mitzvah Heroes? It can be as simple as saving the hotel toiletries rattling around in Mom or Dad's suitcase after a business trip. Or rescuing the now-unused old cell phone from the junk drawer. These items, and many more, can make a difference to people in need.

Donations need to be collected and brought to where they can do the most good.

It's already happening! On

Tuesday, Feb. 8, a group of students including several Einstein alumni went to Israel for a trip. In their suitcases, 15 of them had bags of toothbrushes and toothpaste collected in a few days by Albert Einstein students. The toothbrushes and toothpaste will be used at a free dental clinic in Jerusalem.

"The kids responded so beautifully to him," says Head of School Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt of Danny Siegel and his message. Their response has already made a difference in Jerusalem and will no doubt have an effect here in Wilmington, too. These Mitzvah Heroes are realizing early on that helping is possible for anyone who cares.



Albert Einstein Academy students are aspiring Mitzvah Heroes.

THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE ON SUPER SUNDAY!

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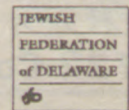
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Jewish Federation of Delaware

For more information about the UJA Annual Campaign, call 427-2100

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COMMUNITY FOCUS



CHUPPAH MAKERS – From left, Amy Blum, Osnat David, Melissa Hinspeter (formerly Melissa Charney), Lorri Finkel, and Nancy Brock.

CHUPPAH MAKERS AT ALBERT EINSTEIN ACADEMY

The students and staff of Albert Einstein Academy surprised teacher Melissa Charney with a chuppah (wedding canopy) that

was custom made by her students. The children decorated fabric squares with special messages for the bride to be. The designs were then sewn together to complete the chuppah.

Albert Einstein Academy is the

Jewish Day School in the Brandywine Valley serving students from pre-kindergarten through 6th grade in New Castle County, Delaware and in Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania. The school is

accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and is a constituent of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Tour the school during an upcoming Open House, scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

For additional information, call Ellen Bernhardt, Head of School, at 478-5026.

JFS SEEKS BOARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations to the Board of Jewish Family Service are now being accepted. The nominating committee, chaired by Laney Gordon, has the goal of identifying involved members of the community as well as those who are interested in developing leadership positions within the community. The requirements for nomination to the Board include: leadership experience, affiliations with communal organizations and a keen interest in supporting JFS.

Additional committee members are Scott Feinman, Marcy Aerenson, Carla Jaffey and Barbara Conrad.

Names may be submitted to Jewish Family Service by calling 478-9411 or contacting any member of the Nominating Committee.

TEMPLE BETH EL HOSTS BASKETFEST

Temple Beth El's Sisterhood hosts its first annual Basketfest on March 5th, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Over 50 baskets, filled with goodies donated by synagogue members will be raffled off. Each basket is valued at a minimum of \$25 and a maximum exceeding \$100. Baskets reflect a variety of themes including "A Bakers Dozen", "The Well Supplied Desk" and "Pokemon".

Raffle tickets are \$9 for a roll of 20 in advance of the event and \$10 at the door. Additional tickets will be sold throughout the afternoon. Refreshments will be served. The event is open to all community adults. For additional information, please call the Temple Beth El office at 366-8330. Beth El is located on Possum Park Road in Newark.

Continued on page 7

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Continued from page 6

MAKING THE WORKPLACE MORE SPIRITUAL

Rabbi Myriam Klotz, staff rabbi for the Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service of Delaware, will be the keynote speaker for the March 8th program of the Jewish Communal Professionals Association of the Delaware Valley. The program begins at 8:45 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Delaware, 101 Garden of Eden Road, North Wilmington.

Rabbi Klotz speaks nationally on the topic of Jewish healing and spirituality. She is the author of

"Myriam's Well: Thoughts on Jewish Healing"-a monthly feature of the Jewish Voice. She is a member of Shabbat Unplugged!, an ensemble providing creative musical Shabbat experiences.

Reservations are \$3 for JCPA members, \$5 for non-members. Students and retirees may attend for free. Cut-off date is March 1. Please make checks payable to JCPA and forward to Rhonda Falk, Campaign Director at the Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801-1628.

For additional information, please call Falk or Sue Shaffer at the JFD offices, 427-2100.



The Arad String Ensemble, young people from Delaware's Partnership 2000 community in the Arad-Tamar region of Israel, will perform on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wilmington Music School, 4101 Washington Street. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. To order your tickets, please contact the Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801, (302) 427-2100.

Super Phonathons Set For February 22, 23, 24

Volunteers are needed for several mini-phonathons to be held at the Jewish Federation, 100 West 10th Street on February 22, 23 and 24th beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Continuing the excellent Super Sunday effort, callers will be having conversations with Jewish friends and neighbors on behalf of the 2000 Annual Campaign. Eight volunteers are needed for each evening.

To sign up, please contact Rhonda Falk, Campaign Director at 427-2100, Ext. 16.

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Chabad Celebrates Jewish Women



Lieba Schwartz

Chabad of Delaware announces its 13th annual Celebration for Jewish Women, featuring national lecturer and writer Lieba Schwartz. She will present 'More Than The Eye Can See' during a luncheon on Sunday, March 5, 12:30 p.m. at the JCC Auditorium. The community is invited to attend.

Lieba Schwartz, who became blind in her 50's, once was a spiritual leader of a Christian church. Her disability triggered a series of events that led her to return to her Jewish roots.

Initiated in 1988, Delaware's

Celebration for Jewish Women has brought together single and married women of all ages and backgrounds and is timed to coincide with the International Week of the Jewish Woman sponsored by the Chabad movement. This year, more than 280,000 women are expected to participate in a week-long series of events and programs in over 400 cities worldwide.

"The program has earned a reputation of bringing the finest speakers and authors to our Delaware community including

Sheina Konigsburg of "Holy Days" fame, Tova Mordechai, Shimona Zukernik, Rivkah Slonim and Devorah Alevsky," said Oryah Vogel, event coordinator, adding that "Lieba Schwartz's story is an experience not to be missed."

Program moderator is Ruth

Goodman.

The cost of the program is \$20 prepaid (mailed to Chabad of DE, 1811 Silverside Rd., 19180) and \$22 at the door. For reservation please call Oryah Vogel at 478-4400 or the Chabad office at 529-9900 by February 28.

SYNAGOGUE LIFE

BETH EMETH PLANS NEW MEMBER PARTY

Congregation Beth Emeth is hosting a Get Acquainted Party for new and prospective synagogue members. The event will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 19th, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m at the home

of David and Claudia Tuttleman. The Tuttlemans reside at 8 Red Oak Road in Wilmington, just a few blocks west of the Delaware Art Museum across from Rockford Park.

The party will feature finger food and beverages. It is the ideal oppor-

tunity to learn about this Reform congregation from members of the clergy.

Community members interested in the synagogue and those who have joined Beth Emeth in 1999 or 2000, should call Adele Kessel at 478-0776. Reservations are accepted through March 12th. Please call today.

BETH SHALOM HOSTS HAMANTASHEN SALE

Congregation Beth Shalom's volunteer bakers will accept orders for hamantashen now through March 1st. These Purim treats are available in apple, cherry, raspberry, apricot, poppy and prune flavors at \$12 per dozen, \$23 for two dozen and \$30 for three dozen. Checks should be made payable to the Beth Shalom P.T.A. For additional information, call the office at (302) 654-4462.

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Trim destinations for this summer include Club Get-A-Way in Connecticut (3 nights), New York City (2 nights), Niagara

Falls/Toronto (3 nights), West Virginia (3 nights), Ocean City, MD (2 nights), and a special 6 night trip to Disney World. The trips will include theme parks, sporting events, canoeing, white water rafting, wall climbing, museums, national parks and much more. In addition to the trips, Sabra campers will get involved in community service to teach good citizenship and Jewish values. "The goal is to strike a balance between fun and responsibility," says Robyn Schwartz, Community Teen Services Director. Sabra campers will also

have some say in what they do and they will help choose activities they want to participate in. What's more, Sabra camp is open to non-members through a special offer," adds Schwartz.

So, if you teens are looking for fun activities, opportunities to make new friends and hang-out with old friends plus a touch of travel — then Sabra Camp is the place for them this summer. For more information or to receive a Sabra Camp Brochure, please call Robyn Schwartz at (302) 478-5660.

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outdoor amphitheater; air-conditioned class rooms; shade pavilions; numerous hiking trails and archery ranges.

Watch your mail for the 2000 Camp JCC Brochure or please call Ivy Harlev, Executive Camp Director, at (302) 478-5660 for more information.



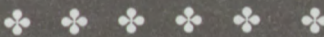
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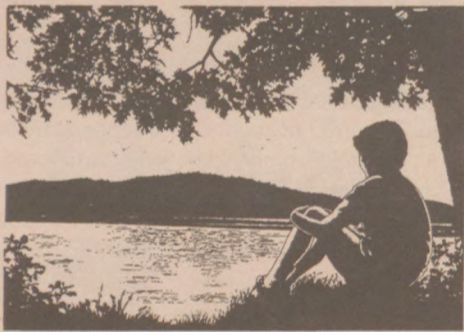
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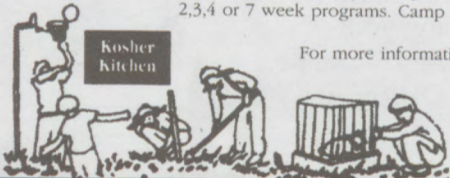


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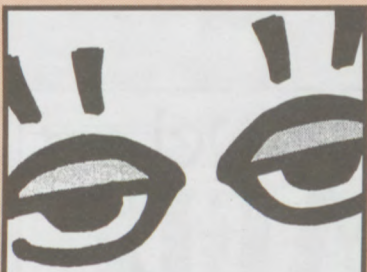
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✧ The Jewish Community Center provides a warm Jewish environment, a sense of family and belonging, and enriching Judaic experiences. Children are nurtured and thrive in the Jewish pre-school, after-school and school vacation care programs and summer camp.

Thanks to your support of the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Annual Campaign, these programs and resources will continue to nurture, educate and heal many in our Jewish community.

Our community's needs are many. Please consider increasing and/or endowing your gift.

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Jewish Fund For The Future - A Strong 1999 & Stronger 2000

The year 1999 was one of growth and change for the Jewish Fund for the Future. In January, Rachel Gross joined us as the Fund's Director, in June, Miriam Edell began her tenure as Chairperson of the Fund and in September, Gina Kozicki began as our new Administrative Assistant. During the last twelve months the Investment and Finance Committee has worked with our professional investment advisors to choose an investment strategy for the Fund which will allow us to grow over time while continuing to make a difference in the community today. We welcomed new board members and new fund participants and we published our first edition of the Endowment newsletter, Generations.

During the past calendar year, from January 1, 1999, through December 31, 1999, the managed assets of the Jewish Fund for the Future grew by 21.5%. Growth for the fourth quarter of 1999 was

15.3%. Moreover, all of our beneficiary agencies - Jewish Family Service, the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, Albert Einstein Academy, the Jewish Community Center, Gratz Hebrew High School, and the University of Delaware Hillel - and the Kutz Home Auxiliary - have placed all or a portion of their assets with the Fund, making the Jewish Fund for the Future a true Jewish community fund. Currently, the Jewish Fund for the Future has over \$8.2 million in managed assets plus additional assets including life insurance, Israel Bonds and real estate, for a total of over \$12 million dollars in total assets.

Money from philanthropic and designated/restricted funds totaling over \$267,000 was disbursed to local, national and international Jewish causes, including Federation, our local synagogues and agencies. An additional \$66,000 was disbursed to local and national causes in the general community including social service, education-

al, cultural, health and artistic concerns.

The Jewish Fund for the Future thanks every participant in the Fund for his or her commitment to Jewish life in Delaware, in Israel and around the world, both today and in the future. However, this is only the beginning. During the year 2000 our goal is to increase the number of actual funds which make up the Jewish Fund for the Future. Each and every member of the Delaware Jewish community can help us reach this goal. Think about your community activities. What organizations and causes are important to you? What do you want to see accomplished in the future? How do you want to be remembered?

Did your child learn about the Jewish holidays at the JCC pre-school? Did you receive counseling during a difficult period in life at Jewish Family Service? Were your elders compassionately cared for at the Kutz Home? Is your daughter fluent in Hebrew because of the

education she received at Albert Einstein Academy? Does your teenager continue his Jewish education at Gratz? Did you meet your sweetheart at the JCC? Does your college student enjoy Hillel activities on campus? Think about the many ways you have been touched by and you have touched our Jewish community.

Support our community endowment and streamline your own giving today by establishing a philanthropic fund. Memorialize a loved one with a designated fund in his or her honor. Remember the important programs, agencies and organizations that you have supported for many years by including those organizations or interests in your estate planning.

Make an appointment with Rachel A. Gross, Esq., the Director of our Endowment Fund, to discuss the ways in which you can enhance and ensure Jewish community life in Delaware - forever. Call her at 302-427-2100 x 19.

Jewish Federation of Delaware Goes To Washington, D.C.

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Diana Aviv - Senior Associate Vice President for Public Policy, Washington Action Office of United Jewish Communities. Ms. Aviv is in charge of overseeing the daily operations of the Washington Action Office which focuses on federal legislation, public policy and regulations concerning health and human service areas which have an impact on the work of local Jewish Federations.

Shoshana Bryen - Director of Special Projects for the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA). JINSA's goal is to educate the American Jewish community about vital issues in American security policy, both for their relevance to our safety here at home and for the security of Israel.

➔ Lunch on Capitol Hill

➔ Valuable insights from **David Petts**, a partner in the firm of Bennett Petts & Blumenthal. Tap into Petts' expertise in political polling and consulting.

➔ Anticipated Meetings with **Senator Biden, Senator Roth, Representative Castle**.

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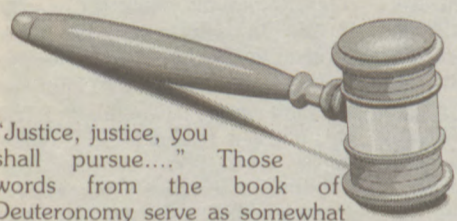
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Mission participants will have an opportunity to make a voluntary gift to the 2000 Annual Campaign.

JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

Judges Guided By Jewish Law



By Eric Fingerhut

"Justice, justice, you shall pursue..." Those words from the book of Deuteronomy serve as somewhat of a motto for Jews involved in the legal profession. These were the sentiments expressed by a panel of federal judges and the U.S. solicitor general during the annual meeting of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists' in Washington.

All said, in varying ways, that the Jewish view of justice, as set forth in the Torah and other Jewish sources, has guided their outlook on the law and how it should be interpreted and implemented.

Solicitor General Seth Waxman, whose job it is to argue the federal government's position on cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, said that in having a "Department of Justice" not a "ministry of laws" like other countries, the United States demonstrates that it understands the concept of justice as outlined in Judaism. "No one pursues laws. ... Justice is the ideal we are commanded to pursue," he said.

That concept of justice is outlined in a midrash Waxman cited. It says that the world could not exist if God ruled only by strict laws; otherwise, the first transgression would bring about the end of the world. But if God only ruled by compassion, there would be too much evil in the world. Combine the two, and one gets what Waxman called the "essence of

Judaism" – the marriage of strict law and compassion.

That same ideal is set forth in Hillel's famous words: "Do not do unto others that which you would not have them do unto you – That is the whole Torah, the rest is commentary." Waxman said that while that phrase is a "distillation of Judaism," it also is "an expression of justice in its loftiest form."

That is why, Waxman said, the solicitor general's office credo has always been not to achieve "victory" in a case, but to achieve justice, and that "the government wins its point whenever justice is done in its courts."

The judges who followed Waxman on the panel, "Judging and Judaism: The Influence of a Judge's Jewish Background and Jewish Values on the Adjudicative Process," all seemed to agree implicitly or explicitly with Waxman's view of justice through a Jewish filter.

Judge Avern Cohn, a member of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan since 1979, said that he believed many Jewish judges, particularly those judges from his generation and older (Cohn graduated from law school in 1949), share certain qualities.

Those characteristics include a commitment to social justice, a sensitivity to civil liberties, compassion for the poor and less fortunate, a skepticism of the permanence of precedent and "a knowledge that the concepts of liberty, equality and due process are not static but fluid, and change with time and new conditions."

Cohn also wondered why some Jewish judges take a different point of view from what he considers the traditional Jewish approach, just as Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has a legal view different from most other African-American judges. Neither Cohn or anyone else on the panel had an answer to that question, although Cohn did mention that many of the newer Jewish judges come from a different background than his and previous generations. Nowadays, many Jews grow up in the suburbs, while older Jews came from a background where they had to "struggle for security," he said.

Norma Shapiro, a U.S. District Court judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania since 1978, said that in addition to teaching one to bring mercy and compassion to the law, Judaism also teaches some other important attributes for sitting on the bench. Those include the "importance of being humble, not arrogant" and the "importance of moderation," since, Shapiro explained, the Jewish positions on many social and medical issues "aren't all black and white" but often a careful balance.

Shapiro also said that she felt an obligation to represent the Jewish community and to try to "be a judge that Jewish people feel would honor the religion." She does not keep court in session late on a Friday and will never schedule anything on Shabbat or Jewish holidays. "You have an obligation to show respect for your religion. If you don't, who else will?"

Judge Alvin Hellerstein, appointed in 1998 to be a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, said his decisions come from "many threads" that weave through him, some arising from his Orthodox Judaism, some from other places. But those threads are "not easily unwound," he said.

"Judaism has nothing to do with what kind of judge I am and everything to do with the judge I am," Hellerstein said, illustrating how he could never pinpoint exactly what led him to his judicial views. But he discussed three cases in which he seemed to do what Waxman said was the essence of Judaism – mix compassion with strict law, or pursue tzedek (justice) in a world of mishpatim (laws).

Forty-six people attended last Sunday's meeting, which also featured a panel discussion on civil rights in Israel and an update on recent developments in Holocaust survivor litigation. The IAJLJ American section, which represents the American Jewish legal community and defends Jewish interests and human rights in the United States and abroad, also elected Jerome J. Shestack of Philadelphia as its next president, replacing Washington lawyer Neal Sher.

Eric Fingerhut writes for Washington Jewish Week

A Return Trip to Our Homeland

continued from front page

We saw the original family home and farm, the schoolhouse where Yitzhak attended kindergarten and the stone above ground bunker where his father returned fire of Arabs shooting from the surrounding hills before 1948. Yitzhak, a farmer and his wife, a retired history teacher, live in a large modern house with grapefruits, oranges and dates growing in the yard.

Our tour included climbing to the Citadel in Zfat to see the tower and ruins as well as a beautiful view of the area. We walked through town where due to the unexpected warm weather people were enjoying al fresco dining.

We were introduced to a retired, American woman, from Chicago now living in Zfat who is responsible for organizing and maintaining the only free English circulating library in the upper Galilee as well as a Stamp Club for the local children. This venture is a totally volunteer effort funded by contributions. People wanting to learn English have 10,000 books and 75 periodicals available to them at no charge through the efforts of one woman.

Shabbat in Zfat is very peaceful as nothing is open from 2:00 p.m. Friday to after dark Saturday.

Haifa, a bustling international city, was a change of pace from Zfat. The Mane Katz Museum displays the works of Meir Lazar, perhaps the last Jewish painter of Montparnasse. We also visited the Japanese Museum, the Maritime museum and the Gardens of the Bahai Temple.

Our first day in Jerusalem was a familiar and at the same time a new experience. A walk down Ben Yehuda to Yaffa Street led us directly to the old city and The Tower Of David where we were able to see the Dale Chihuly exhibit. I thought we'd been fortunate to have had his work in Wilmington in the spring but this exhibit is indescribable. Even Chihuly said it was his best installation.

We spent one day with a guide. While he was finding us at our hotel lobby his car was being towed for allegedly illegal parking (another western feature). So, we all took a taxi to the municipal lot where he paid ransom for his car while assuring the cashier that they'd be hearing from him.

Unfortunately, we were unable to visit the recently excavated tunnels under the wall because we hadn't made reservations three weeks ahead. The City of David, and Warren's Shaft, an archeological dig of the

original city provided a new experience rich in history. Other excavations we had not seen on previous trips were the Cardo, now a shopping center in an ancient setting; the Herodian Quarter and the Burnt House.

At Yad Vashem we opted to see the Children's Memorial and the Valley of the Communities, the sections we hadn't seen before.

The Children's Memorial, a monument to the 2.5 million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust appears as an infinite number of candles in a darkened hall. As you enter you hear the recitation of children's names in Yiddish, Hebrew and English and standing in the dark one can only imagine the confusion, fear and disorientation of the children in a strange place, separated from their families.

The Valley of the Communities, a massive 2.5 acre monument, is dug from bedrock and is said to be seen from above as the outline of Europe. A maze where the walls have names of the 5 thousand Jewish communities which were destroyed by the Nazis and the few that survived is a place to contemplate our losses.

The new Supreme Court building dedicated in 1992 combines modern architecture with symbols of law and justice. The straight lines are paths to law and truth and the circles and curves represent justice. You can see a panorama of Jerusalem from a vast window at the top of the staircase in the entrance where the old and new are represented by a wall of Jerusalem stone on the right and a plain painted wall on the left.

We had dinner with orthodox cousins in Tecoa, a West Bank community with 200 families living in single family homes or caravans (mobile homes). A short walk to the end of town and you are at the edge of a cliff, overlooking a wadi and another settlement on the next hill. We drove through several checkpoints, realizing that we were with pioneers and homesteaders similar to our old wild west.

The whole family was extremely warm and gracious and were thrilled that we were willing to visit the west bank. Apparently we were the first American cousins to do so, some refusing for safety concerns and others for political reasons.

Since our last visit Israel appears westernized, more affluent and burdened by traffic we hadn't experienced there in the past. Signs appear in Hebrew (naturally), English and now Russian. Fast food is available in cities as well as in small towns, mostly kosher, but not exclusively. It is odd to see McDonald's with a sign indicating that it is certified kosher. Cell phone use is so per-

vasive that there is a law prohibiting the use while driving.

It's amazing that after being away for 19 years we still felt like we belonged there. Almost anybody on the street looks like he/she could be family. 19 years is too long to wait. If you haven't been, go now. It feels safe and

right.

(In our March 3rd Jewish Voice, we will spotlight the experiences of several first-time visitors to the Jewish State. See Israel through the eyes of young people – 8th graders through college – who will share their fascinating stories.)

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Monty Hall: Let's Make A Difference

By Naomi Pfefferman

Monty Hall is guiding a visitor past the fine artwork in the foyer of his Spanish-style Beverly Hills home, where you don't see a single memento from the game show that made him a TV icon.

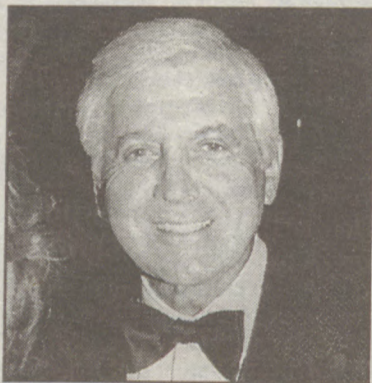
People mostly remember Hall from "Let's Make a Deal," the landmark show that ran intermittently from 1963 to 1991, featuring prize-hungry contestants in chicken costumes or bunny suits vying to see what was behind doors number one, two or three. Audience members traded knickknacks for refrigerators, and strangers still chase Hall down the street, yelling that they have a bobby pin in a purse, a hard-boiled egg in a pocket.

While "Deal" made the emcee a household name, his life's passion is less known to the general public — so much so that he wanted to call his autobiography, "There's More to My Life." What many don't realize about Hall is that he has raised almost a billion dollars for dozens of charities, at least half of them Jewish, from Israel Bonds to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center to the Israel Children's Centers.

Today, three hospital wings bear his name, and so do two city streets, in Cathedral City, CA, and in his native Winnipeg, Canada. Even at age 78, Hall makes more than 100 appearances a year around the world, speaking and performing gratis at benefit shows, and enlisting the help of his celebrity friends.

"If you left it up to Monty, I wouldn't have a dime," Don Rickles teased on an A & E Biography of Hall. "I'd just be on a bus, doing everything for free."

Recently, between events for the



Monty Hall

Venice Family Clinic and Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Hall appeared with friends Carl Reiner, Shelley Berman, Hal Kanter and Sherwood Schwartz in a panel discussion about Jews and TV comedy. The panel is a highlight of the national King David Society weekend, an event for major donors to the United Jewish Appeal Federation Campaign of United Jewish Communities, organized by the UJC and the Los Angeles Jewish Federation.

Although he's proud of the show, don't tell Hall that "Let's Make a Deal" will be his epitaph. "You put that on my tombstone," he has quipped, "and I'll kill you."

Hall's charitable roots go back two generations, to his Ukrainian maternal grandfather, David Rosenwasser. When the greenhorn stepped off the train at Winnipeg, Canada, in 1901, he was greeted by "a big voice ringing off the platform in Yiddish, — 'Are there any Jews here?'" Hall says. "This man took my grandfather home, where he proceeded to give him a hot meal

and a hot bath, his first in months. The next morning he got my grandfather a rooming house, a \$5 loan from the Jewish free loan society, bought him a pushcart, taught him the money system and showed him where the farmers brought in produce from the provinces. And my grandfather was in business."

Rosenwasser, in turn, ultimately became president of his Orthodox synagogue and brought over as many Jews from his shtetl as possible.

Then there was Hall's extraordinary mother, Rose Halparin, who tirelessly volunteered for Hadassah and other Jewish groups, though she often worked two jobs for a family that barely scraped by. At times, Hall recalls, there was only porridge for supper; in winter, the boy loaded his bicycle with heavy parcels to make deliveries for his father's butcher shop, traveling to the far reaches of Winnipeg in temperatures that often reached 25 degrees below zero. He kept warm and whiled away the freezing hours by pretending he was an emcee.

Only a near-miracle allowed the bright teenager to complete college after he graduated high school at the age of 14. While scrubbing the concrete steps at his menial job one day, Hall caught the eye of a young businessman who made him a surprising offer.

The businessman would pay for Hall's college education, as long as the student kept an "A" average and promised to help someone else someday, among other conditions.

An exuberant Hall went on to complete his bachelor's degree at the University of Manitoba, where he served as student body president

and planned to go on to medical school. When he was twice denied admission due to a Jewish quota system, he helped lead a protest that eliminated the anti-Semitic policy. By then, however, he was no longer interested in medicine. Hall was earning \$40 a week at a local radio station — twice as much as his father — and was determined to make it in show business.

All the while, he was also determined to follow in his mother's philanthropic footsteps. He began in earnest in 1947, when he joined the United Jewish Appeal, United Way and Variety Clubs International, a children's charity. "I used to take a can of film, a tap dancer and an accordion player and go out to all the towns around Toronto to raise money for the Variety Clubs," says Hall, who is now the group's international chairman. "It was the time of the blue laws, when everything was closed on Sunday, and I used to rent a movie theater on a Sunday night where we'd always get a crowd and fill the room for the free entertainment. Halfway through the movie, the tap dancer would dance, I'd make a speech and we'd pass around a pail to collect the money."

Hall was initially less successful in show business, he recalls. Early on, a radio station owner insisted that the then-Monty Halparin change his last name to something "short and Anglicized." Hall complied and continued to work in radio and TV in Toronto, until he found himself out of a job for a year in the mid-1950s. Hoping to find work, he moved to New York for six months, leaving his wife and children behind while he took a modest hotel room. But, he soon discovered that no one was

interested in an unknown Canadian emcee. In desperation, he began sending the disinterested TV executives "A Memo From Monty," an amusing weekly newsletter about his life, but was forced to stop out of "sheer exhaustion." A week later, the seemingly impossible happened.

As an NBC secretary was about to take her umpteenth message from Hall, executive Steve Krantz got on the line wanting to know what had happened to the "Memo From Monty."

"You mean you actually read it?" Hall shouted into the telephone.

"I love it. Let's have lunch," replied Krantz, who thereafter hired Hall to take over "The Sky's the Limit."

But the emcee had not yet arrived. The day after he moved his family down to New York, "The Sky's the Limit" was canceled.

Hall persevered, and in 1963 he hit the big time with "Let's Make a Deal," which he co-created with partner Stefan Hatots. On the wildly popular show, he worked without cue cards, ad-libbing his way through deals and unruly contestants. "They just jumped up and hugged me and kissed me," he recalls. "But sometimes, they jumped up wearing a big box, which hit me under the nose, or with pins sticking out of their costumes. Once, someone knocked me down and I tore the cartilage in my knee. Another time, a woman from Nebraska slung me over her shoulders like a sack of wheat. I was just dangling there."

What troubled Hall more, though, were the scathing reviews from critics who dismissed him as just another mindless game show host. "It hurt," he admits. Few seemed to recognize that "Deal" was the first game show to feature contestants who were African-American, Latino, Asian and elderly.

During a recent interview, the famous game show host conceded that he does not tend to watch game shows. In fact, he's concerned about the spate of shows that have come out in the aftermath of the hugely successful "Who Wants to be a Millionaire." High money stakes, after all, led to the "Quiz Show" scandal of the 1950s.

Also, "Millionaire" offers multiple choice questions and allows contestants to call for advice. "I don't think people should make a million that easily," says Hall, who is the spokesman for an Internet version of "Deal," www.BuyBidWin.com, which has promised to raise money for some of his favorite charities.

But these days, Hall and his wife of 52 years, Marilyn, focus mainly on family and philanthropy. The couple have three grown children, Richard, Sharon and the Broadway actress Joanna Gleason, and four grandchildren.

Why is Hall still compelled to fill his date book with charity events? "In my family, it was never a question," he explains. "You give back to the community."

(Naomi Pfefferman is the Entertainment Editor for the *Jewish Journal of Los Angeles*.)

Reflections On S.Y. Agnon

By Susan Dworin

Recently, I was at the National Arts Club in New York, reading from my novel. After the program, an erudite-looking lady asked me which writers I most admired. I mentioned Margaret Atwood, Graham Greene and E.L. Doctorow and, of course, the great S.Y. Agnon. The last name seemed to baffle my questioner; in fact the whole audience seemed to have no idea at all who Agnon was. Then, from the back of the room, a solitary student ventured: "Isn't he the Israeli writer? The little old man with the black kippah?"

"Yes, the one who won the Nobel Prize," I answered.

"Oh, sure, I've heard of him," murmured the student. "But I never actually read anything he wrote." This exchange gave me the pause of a lifetime. In one instant, I had learned how a great writer, a mere 30 years after his death, can slip into a vague and insubstantial half-life: the name known, the work buried.

The key, as Cynthia Ozick pointed out in her great novella "Envy," is in the translation. Shmuel Yosef Agnon (1888-1970) is the acknowledged master of modern Hebrew fiction and his works are taught to

Israelis in their schools as we are taught Mark Twain, but they have been only rarely translated into English. And even when translated, Agnon's layered, nuanced work, with its many references to religious texts and European literature, often comes across as obscure and hard to fathom.

My own exposure had been to a couple of novels — "The Bridal Canopy," about the adventures of a chasid seeking a husband for his daughter; "Shirah," about the tortured romance between a professor and a nurse; and several short stories. Everyone agreed that Agnon wrote about Jewish destiny. But to tell you the truth, I thought he wrote mostly about love.

When I began recording great Jewish books, one of the first titles I selected was Agnon's finest love story: Prof. Walter Lever's translation of "Betrothed," about a young man very much like Agnon himself. Published in English by Schocken Books in 1966, the same year that Agnon shared the Nobel Prize for Literature with Jewish-German poet Nellie Sachs, "Betrothed" tells the story of a botanist named Jacob Rechnitz — an expert on seaweed, no less — who leaves Vienna for Palestine in 1909. There he becomes a teacher, welcomed into

the simple homes of the Jewish community, wooed by the spirited daughters of the First Aliyah.

Agnon wrote, "Jaffa was his greatest love, for she lay at the lips of the sea..." And down to the sea goes Rechnitz, fishing for seaweed, walking with women, imagining that here onto these crisp sands emerged the earliest ancestors of man.

"There's one big trouble," said Prof. Avaraham Holtz, a renowned Agnon expert. "The trouble is that it is a Greek sea. Look at how Agnon writes about it. Glitter. Turbulence. The sea represents the attraction of paganism. Agnon is asking: Will the Jews be able to survive in their own land, endlessly tempted by the Greek sea?"

When two visitors from Vienna arrive in Jaffa, Rechnitz's world turns chaotic. Here comes the consul, a stuffy, anxiety-ridden European, and his beautiful daughter Susan. Susan is yet another voice in Agnon's tale. The one that speaks German. The voice that knows Freud.

"She's gonna kill him," muttered our recording engineer. He was a non-Jewish Italian-American, but that did not prevent him from identifying with Rechnitz and his troublesome passion. "This Susan is

gonna drag him back to the Old World, like the Mafia pulling Michael Corleone back in."

Our actor gave us the intense voice of the Greek sea and the bored voice of European exhaustion and the fresh, forthright voice of the Jews at home in their own land. And as the story poured forth in sound, we three toilers in the studio — director, actor, engineer — all thought: "I am just like Jacob Rechnitz. I am this little person trying to make his everyday existence meaningful despite seemingly historic challenges and moral temptations. I am just like Agnon. He is just like me. And he is not obscure. He is as plain as my own little life."

On the eve of his 30th *yahrzeit*, Agnon had reached out and seized us with his story. We read him aloud, like prayers. And when we were all finished, we understood better than ever before who we were. We knew that this was a writer one dares not forget.

Susan Dworin is the co-author of "The Nazi Officer's Wife" and managing director of Jewish Contemporary Classics, Inc., which recently released "Betrothed," the first Agnon work to be recorded in any language. This article first appeared in the *Jewish Standard of New Jersey*.

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THOUGHTS ON JEWISH HEALING

Myriam's Well

"Kidneys, Ketubahs, and Broken Tablets"

By Rabbi Myriam Klotz

Recently I was sitting over tea with a wedding couple, discussing details of their upcoming event. "Ron" and "Marcia" had decided to work with an artist to prepare a customized Ketubah, or sacred marriage contract. One of the benefits of opting for this kind of Ketubah is that the artist can pictorially represent images which hold personal, important meaning for the couple in the artwork which surrounds the written body of text. After reviewing other details of the ceremony, I asked Marcia and Ron what they had suggested to the artist for their document, one which they will return to for many years when times are good, and not so good, in order to recall their sacred commitments to one another. Marcia looked at



Rabbi Myriam Klotz

Ron, then at me, smiled, and said, "We're having her paint kidneys on the Ketubah!"

Kidneys. Well. Conjuring up the most professional rabbinic look of acceptance and understanding I could, I looked at Marcia probingly, and replied, "Kidneys? Please tell me about that choice." Yet before Marcia's first sentence was completed, I understood how appropriate an inclusion on this sanctified text was the image of kidney organs.

"I grew up with a congenital kidney problem," Marcia explained. "When Ron and I met, I was on dialysis twice weekly, and had been for a long time." "I had been waiting for an organ transplant, but the doctors could never tell me when that would be. It was really awful to be waiting, always, no matter what I was doing, for the phone call which would tell me to come to the hospital within hours for the operation."

During this time, Marcia's relationship with Ron blossomed, even against the canvas of twice-weekly dialysis, and the anxiety of The Call. Then one night, Marcia said, she received the call. There was a kid-

ney organ waiting for her, but she had to get to the hospital immediately.

Thankfully, Marcia made it to the hospital and through the difficult recovery process.

Suddenly Ron leaned over the table and interjected. "But, see the point for me is that I was always healthy and had never known anyone who was sick that I needed to help care for. So that when Marcia had her operation, and after, I found I could not do enough for her. I discovered how much I loved Marcia, and that I wanted to be with her for the rest of my life."

The two exchanged a glance which spoke eternity. Marcia added, "For me, I realized I could be loved. That Ron would be there for me, like no one else I had ever known except my parents. I also knew that I loved him with all of my heart."

My conversation with Marcia and Ron veered eventually into other wedding details but the memory of this dialogue has lingered profoundly. Of course, kidneys will be included on this ketubah. For they symbolize a time in Marcia and Ron's life as a couple that was life-changing and irrevocably sacred.

Both Marcia and Ron embraced this situation as a call to rich blessing

in their lives. Each was able to open to a new perception and embodiment of what it means to love, even through suffering, even, perhaps, unto death, with all of the profound appreciation for life which such awareness engenders.

In the Torah we find Moses descending Mount Sinai holding the tablets of the Ten Commandments. As he realizes that the Israelites have not kept faith in their waiting for his return with sacred teachings, but rather have turned their attention to the false god of the golden calf, Moses is furious. He is utterly disappointed and enraged at his people. In a burst of anger, he throws the tablets to the ground where they shatter into many broken pieces. He then ascends the mountain again, and when he returns, he holds afresh two whole tablets. This time, the people have remained faithful, and Moses was willing to return and to try again (not to mention the Divine Creator who issued this second set of communication through the prophet). Now armed with their whole tablets, which are placed in the Holy Ark, the people continue their journey through the desert.

What, however, happened to those broken tablets? Midrash, or rabbinic legend, has it that these

broken pieces were placed into the Holy Ark right alongside the whole tablets, and remained there permanently.

Contemporary rabbis like Harold Kushner and Naomi Levy understand this Midrash to teach that the broken places in our lives are holy, just as are the whole places. The dimensions of ourselves where fissure has occurred due to illness; to a loss of control or a flare of temper; to the forgetting of our integrity; to the simple fact of our human fragility in flesh and mind—all of these places which have broken and perhaps hold rough or tender edges, are not seamless nor whole still, these places too are yet holy, are yet to be held in a wholeness which we carry in our daily walks to become better, more human, perhaps more holy.

Kidneys on the Ketubah? You bet—Marcia and Ron's Ketubah becomes a holy ark bearing witness to the brokenness and the wholeness of a couple's life together, and of the power of loving compassion, trust, and empathy to emerge from the fissure itself. They take this ark with them on their own walk through deserts, valleys, mountains and, I hope, to lands of lush grasses and much fulfillment.



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JULIA TAYLOR SHAPIRO MAKES HER DEBUT

Jennifer (nee Leeds) and Craig Shapiro of Boca Raton, Florida, announce the birth of their daughter, Julia Taylor on January 31, 2000. Jennifer, a graduate of the Tatnall School, is the daughter of former Wilmingtonians Mimi and Leonard Leeds. Julia's paternal grandmother is Arlene Green of Stonybrook, New York.

LEVITT NAMED DIRECTOR OF JEWISH STUDIES

Dr. Laura Levitt, daughter of Phyllis Levitt of Dover, has been appointed Director of Jewish Studies at Temple University. Levitt, who joined the Temple University faculty in 1992, plans to expand the Jewish Studies program by offering curriculum courses to pre-professional students in areas such as pre-med, pre-law and

business.

"As I see it, Jewish Studies offers these students - and especially those coming from unaffiliated or marginally affiliated backgrounds - a different intellectual take on Jewish cultural, religious and communal life," she said.

Dr. Levitt is the author of *Jews and Feminism: The Ambivalent Search for Home and co-editor of Judaism Since Gender.*

SORKIN-TOPPER ENGAGED

Arlene and David Sorkin of West Bloomfield, Michigan (formerly of Wilmington) are thrilled to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristi Melissa, to Randy Barrett Topper, son of Nancy and Harry Topper of Farmington Hills, Michigan. Kristi and Randy are graduating seniors in Wayne State University's performing arts program and plan to pursue profession-

al acting careers. Kristi, a 1995 graduate of Concord High School, currently works as a costumer in Wayne State's theatre department. Randy is program director at the JCC Day Camps and teaches Sunday school. An August wedding is planned with a reception at the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit. Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz will officiate.



Kristi Melissa Sorkin &
Randy Barrett Topper

IN MEMORIAM

BARSKY

Evelyn Barsky, a life-long resident of Wilmington, died in late January at the Kutz Home. She is survived by a close friend, Phyllis Chunofsky, a brother, Leonard who lives in Florida, three nephews and a niece. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

TEMPLE

Dr. Stanley Temple, 69, of Beacon Hill, died February 10. A chemist for DuPont Company for more than 33 years, Dr. Temple was an active member of Congregation Beth Emeth and its

Brotherhood, Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society and the Jewish Community Center and a number of professional organizations. He was proud of the two Presidential Sports Awards he received from Presidents Reagan and Bush in Stair Climbing.

Dr. Temple is survived by his wife, Roe Temple; his daughters, Ellen Jennifer Temple of New Castle, Amy Sara Temple of Towers of Valley Run; stepsons, Jack of Lower Chichester and Gary of Wilmington; and a sister, Selma Rothenberg of Wheaton, MD.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society.

SCHWARTZ

Max Schwartz, 84, of Chalfonte, died February 8. He was the owner of H. Schwartz and Sons Steel Pipe Company. Mr. Schwartz was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom and was a 32 Degree Mason. He served with distinction as a U.S. Army engineer in the Pacific Theatre of Operations during World War II. He is survived by his wife, Judith; children, Michael Schwartz and Barbara Levine of Wilmington; and grandchildren, Ross, Alex and Dara. The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th and Baynard Boulevard, Wilmington, DE 19802.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

Join Jewish Young Leaders – 3,000 young Jewish leaders, ages 25 to 45, will participate in Washington 12 – a national conference set in our nation's capital. Participants in this UJC National Young Leadership event will meet with top-level legislators, heads of state and other movers and shakers in the global Jewish community. From March 19-21, thousands of Jews will advocate on behalf of key humanitarian concerns and celebrate the Jewish festival of Purim. To join them, call Rhonda Falk, campaign director, Jewish Federation of Delaware at 427-2100, ext. 16.

Enrich Your Marriage – Jewish Marriage Experience of Delaware Valley has scheduled a marriage enrichment seminar for the weekend of March 4th and 5th. Celebrate Your Marriage will be held at a hotel in the Northeast Philadelphia area and will be led by three lay couples and a rabbinic couple. For additional information, call Bart and Ellie Davis at (215) 969-8342.

ONGOING

WORKSHOPS: Jewish Family Service of Delaware serving all denominations has ongoing workshops for individuals interested in women's issues, healing services, support groups for caregivers of children with special needs, family court mandated divorce workshop, cancer support groups, widow's support group, and a men's support group. To learn about these programs, call JFS at 478-9411.

ISRAEL AND JEWISH STUDIES

The WUJS Institute offers scholarships of \$200 during the year 2000 to all young adults in the Delaware/NJ Partnership 2000 Region. The scholarship brings the cost of the seven-month Institute to \$2000 and includes Hebrew Ulpan, Jewish-Israel Studies, camping trips, seminars and a wide range of social and cultural activities over seven months. Also included in the cost are accommodations, one cooked meal a day and employment assistance. For additional information, call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 427-2100.

THE KIMMEL-SPILLER Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service offers Jewish healing services on the second Monday of every month from 7-8 p.m. Led by Rabbi Myriam Klotz, the service will include prayer, songs, meditation and reflection. For additional information, please call Rabbi Klotz at 302-478-9411.

America-Israel Chamber Hosts February Program

Jay Bryson, an international economist with First Union Bank, will speak during a February 24th breakfast program at the Union League in Philadelphia. The program, "Global Economy 2000 – Implications for International Business" is hosted by the America-Israel Chamber of Commerce. For additional information, please call (215) 790-3722.

JACS Plans Retreat

JACS, a national organization for Jewish alcoholics, chemically dependent persons and significant others, will host its 43rd Jewish Retreat Weekend, March 31-April 2 at the Best Western Paramount Hotel in Parkville, NY. The program features spiritual sharing, Shabbat services, meditation, workshops, fellowship, informal meetings with Rabbis and fine kosher dining. The JACS Teen Network Retreat will run parallel to the adult event. The cost is \$225 per person for a double room, \$195 per person for a triple room and \$325 per person for a single room. All retreat participants must be current members of JACS, at a cost of \$30 per person.

JACS is a Jewish Connections program of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services. For additional information, please call Dori Zatuschni, executive director of Jewish Family Service at (302) 478-9411.

JFS Has Info On Holocaust Restitution

Anyone seeking an update of information regarding Compensation and Restitution for Holocaust Survivors should call Jewish Family Service at (302) 478-9411.

Who Is The New Jewish Voter?

In less than a year Americans will elect a new president. Is the Jewish vote still primarily a Democratic one? Has a new social landscape brought about a new Jewish voter? Find out for yourself at a March 12th program at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. Dr. Murray Friedman, director of Temple University's Myer and Rosaline Feinstein Center for American Jewish History and Democratic activist David L. Hyman will keynote the event which begins at 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person. For additional information, please call (215) 923-3811.

JCC Hosts Purim Fun

The Jewish Community Center of Delaware will hold their 4th Annual Purim Masquerade Ball on Saturday, March 18 from 8 p.m. to midnight. This year's event is co-chaired by Robin and Bruce Saran and Iris and Allan Tocker and will feature dancing, music and entertainment and light libations.

Prizes for best costumes will be awarded in the following categories: Most "Purimly" Correct, Best Group, Best Pair, Most Creative and Best Era.

Advance sale tickets are \$28 per person and may be purchased at the JCC Front Desk by March 3, 2000. Tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the Ball for \$32 per person. For more information, please call Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

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Healing from divorce will meet for four consecutive Wednesdays, February 23, March 1, 8, 15 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Newark Relationship Center, Jewish Family Service, 288 E. Main Street. Call (302) 478-9411 for more information or to register.

FACILITATOR is Rabbi Myriam Klotz who staffs The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service and serves as Spiritual Director on the faculty at The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Yoga and Meditation: The Torah of the Body

The class will teach body movements, breath awareness and techniques, and meditations to increase wellness and relaxation of body and soul. We will draw upon the wisdom of yogic traditions and Jewish teachings in this class. No prior yoga experience necessary.

Yoga and Meditation meets Tuesdays: March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18 from 10-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$40 for the series or \$10 for each individual class. It is facilitated by Rabbi Myriam Klotz, Certified Yoga Teacher. Classes meet at the Newark Relationship Center, Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center, Jewish Family Service, 288 East Main Street, Newark, DE 19702. Call (302) 478-9411 to register.

Camp JCC Hosts Carnival

Camp JCC invites the community to a free carnival on Sunday, March 12, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road in North Wilmington. It's fun for the entire family with moon bounce, face painting, camp songs, carnival games, arts projects, refreshments and a free camp raffle.

For more information, please call Ivy Harlev at (302) 478-5660.

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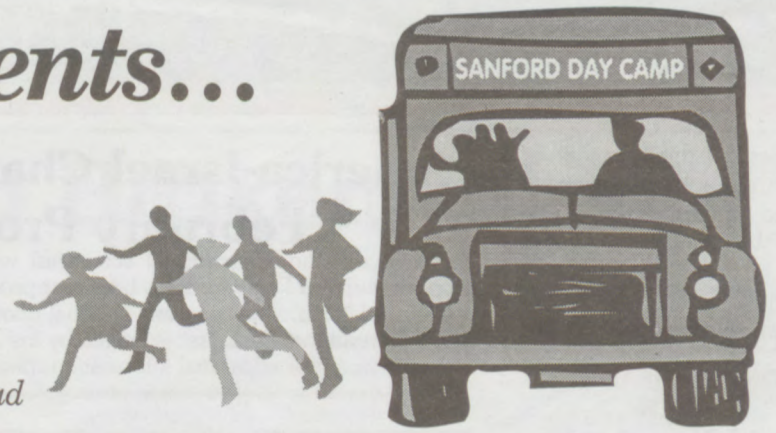
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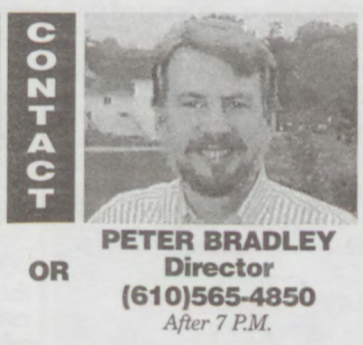
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