

# The JEWISH VOICE

Jewish Historical Society De  
505 Market Street  
Wilmington DE 19801

Vol. 32, No. 47 19 Cheshvan, 5760 October 29, 1999 20 Pages  
PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE, 100 WEST 10TH ST., SUITE 301, WILMINGTON, DE 19801-1628

## BUILDING A LEGACY OF HOPE IN ARGENTINA

By Nicolas Penchaszadeh, JTA

The AMIA Jewish community center, long the heart of Jewish life in Buenos Aires, now stands — rebuilt — as a reminder of one of the most horrendous tragedies this city has endured.

Five years ago, it was bombed and turned into rubble, killing 86 people and injuring hundreds.

Today, the 250-odd workers of AMIA are relocating their offices to their new building in the old location.

It has been less than two weeks since the new AMIA — a modern six-story building with the antiseptic feel of any new house — opened its doors. Most of the walls are still bare; some are still in need of a final coat of fresh paint. Boxes still crowd the rooms. Faces, old and new, wander in and out; the memories of other faces killed in the bombing are there as well.

Impromptu therapy sessions constantly take place in the hallways and offices.

"Coming back carries a double feeling," says Moshe Korin, director of cultural affairs at AMIA, which offers cultural events, education, worker training, rabbinical services, social assistance for the elderly and people with disabilities, a printing press, offices and a meeting place for different Jewish organizations. "On the one hand, it's the reminder of that horrible attack; on the other, it's the sentiment of survival, of maintaining our idiosyncrasies, our way of life."

The bombing was the second major anti-Semitic attack to occur in Buenos Aires in the 1990s. A 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy left 29 dead and more than 200 injured. Both bombings remain unsolved.

Reminders of the AMIA bombing begin two blocks away from the building.

There are 86 trees planted — one for every fatality — evenly spaced on a four-block-long strip. A little plaque stands on the side of each tree with a name and the date: 1994 — July 18 — 1999. They were placed there by the city government to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the bombing. Half a block away, on the intersection, there's a message atop the street sign dedicated to the victims.

These subtle reminders pale in comparison with the emotions evoked by the approach to the building itself.

The street has a speed bump just in front of the community center that forces traffic to slow. The pavement is painted black, with writings in white, demanding justice.

Somber black signs with hand-written names of the victims on the facade, on top of candles, stand as a memorial. There's a little door to the side that leads to a security room where a guard checks your identification as you go through a metal detector.

The building was designed with security as the main priority. As with every other Jewish institution in the city — synagogues, schools, social clubs — there's a barricade on the street in front of the building.

"It's like carrying the Star of David, only we are doing this voluntarily," Korin says.

Until the state can offer the necessary protection and assurances that limit the possibilities of another attack, community leaders say, the barricades will stay in place.

The heavy doors of the security room lead to an open plaza with a sculpture by Israeli artist Ya'acov Agam and a sign with the names of the victims and an inscription that



JTA PHOTO

evokes memories of the bombing.

Anita Wainstein runs the AMIA's Mark Turkov archives. It is her job to maintain materials to ensure that people remember.

Her new office overlooks the shaft where she escaped on July 18, 1994, when the old AMIA, built in 1945, was destroyed. She says she's not happy to return to the old site, but accepts it.

"There's a lot of work to be done, which keeps our minds occupied," Wainstein says. "There are a lot of new people eager to rebuild. If our neighbors, whose lives were also destroyed, were able to move on, so can we, but it's very hard."

The decision to move back to the original site was hard to make. One criterion was crucial: the resolve not to let the terrorists accomplish their main goal.

"The objective of those who bombed AMIA was not only to destroy the building and kill innocent people, Jews and non-Jews," says Korin, the cultural director. "It was to achieve a paralysis of the Jewish community and our activities."

Another deciding factor was the difficulty to find another suitable location. As soon as word spread that the AMIA was thinking of relocating to a specific site, neighbors would mobilize against them out of fear of another bombing.

Korin says neighbors have shown solidarity with AMIA, but not all Argentine Jews agree.

Tamara Scher, another survivor, says she has experienced some hostility on the street.

"Outside they look at us as if we were some strange creatures," Scher says. "I thought it was going to be easier."

The street has changed since AMIA last had its building here. There are more eateries than before. There is even an Arabic restaurant just a few yards away.

It is a new beginning for AMIA. There is more space to accommodate everyone, after years of being cramped in small, temporary areas. There is new hope and strength.

"But being here is traumatic, it's painful," Wainstein says. "We don't really know how to define it."

## NEWARK AREA HAS NEW CENTER FOR JEWISH PROGRAMMING

By Lynn Edelman, Editor

Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Community Center—two established North Wilmington communal organizations have expanded their horizons to meet the needs of Newark area individuals, couples and families. In early November, the two agencies will share space along Newark's Main Street, offering a wide variety of programs and service to an expanding and expansive Jewish community.

Lynda Bell, program director of the new JCC Without Walls initiative explains that "our audience lives in an area that encompasses Chester County, Pennsylvania, Middletown and Bear, Delaware and several Maryland communities just over the Delaware border." "All of these communities are located just 10-15 minutes from the new Newark facility," she added.

Bell, a past president of Newark's Temple Beth El, sees her role as a matchmaker—helping Jews meet other Jews and developing a sense of community. To this end, she is developing a couples group for men and women ages 25 to 35 and has already hired a facilitator for a Mommy and Me Program targeted at Jewish women and non-Jews who have a Jewish spouse. "This is intended to be a comfortable place for women to discuss such topics as Jewish parenting and holiday celebrations while their young children play together," said Bell.

An avowed "people person", Bell is enthusiastic about an upcoming program that celebrates Jewish Book Month. On Monday, November 18th at 7 p.m., author Marianne Green will discuss her new book, *Majoring in Success*, at a free career-planning workshop for parents and their

high school and college age children. To reserve your seats, call Bell at (302) 286-1401.

A Jewish Book Club is set to begin in January at Borders in Newark. One series will be offered in the mornings and another in the evenings to accommodate different schedules. Other offerings will include a Judaic Quilting Class and a Kosher Restaurant Gourmet Series, featuring dine-arounds at restaurants in Philadelphia and Baltimore.

"We want people to feel good about connecting with other Jews," said Bell, adding that she welcomes input from community members. Call (302) 286-1401 with programming ideas or suggestions.

Ivy Harlev, program director for the JCC Main Campus in North Wilmington is excited about Bell's plans and looks forward to working with the Jewish Family Service to

bring-quality programming to Newark area Jews.

Harlev wants to expand the JCC Satellite Children's Pre-School Center now being offered at Temple Beth El. "We now serve 30 children with a half day program, she said, adding that the JCC hopes to eventually be able to open up the program to include as many community children as possible.

Dory Zatuchni, executive director of Jewish Family Service has wanted to grow the agency beyond the parameters of North Wilmington for several years. She is especially excited that the location of the JFS Relationship Center offers easy access to Hillel students at the University of Delaware, faculty and their families. "We've planned a varied mix of programs to appeal to a diverse population," she said.

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## JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

# Making Jewish Learning Fun

By Julie Wiener, JTA

(Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles on **RETHINKING HEBREW SCHOOLS** which explores innovative ways to make after-school and Sunday school programming more dynamic and meaningful.)

On any given school day at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism on Manhattan's Upper West Side, students are scattered all over the building.

They are in the stairway, painting Expressionist-influenced murals on biblical themes. They are in the classroom, building temples out of

blocks, reading along with Hebrew books on tape or listening to the teacher tell a story.

They are in the library, reading Hebrew to each other or confidently rifling through reference books.

And they are having fun. Parents at this 85-family Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation say it can take up to half an hour to round up kids for their car pools at the end of the school day because the children don't want to leave.

One mother, Peggy Dugan, reports that her 8-year-old daughter, Erin, spent the whole summer asking when she could go back to Hebrew school.

Long derided as uninspired places that do little to interest children in Judaism, Hebrew schools around the country — which are attended by the majority of American children who receive a Jewish education — are struggling to re-envision themselves.

Influenced by the success of Jewish camps, many Hebrew schools are exploring how to be more fun and more hands-on. Some are revamping their entire structures, while others are enrich-

ing the curriculum with activities like retreats, problem-solving exercises and computer games.

"We're doing more hands-on things like building a sukkah rather than learning about a sukkah," said Rabbi Joel Hoffman, who directs a community-wide Hebrew school in St. Louis.

The new approach was one of the recommendations to come out of a major outside evaluation of the school.

"The children may learn fewer things, but they really learn it because they're more involved," said Hoffman.

That view was echoed by Rabbi Michele Sullum, education director of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism.

"The only way you can learn something is by doing it," she said, explaining why — frustrated that no one could read Hebrew — her school switched from a traditional classroom approach two years ago to an "experiential" model.

Now students learn prayer by praying each school day rather than memorizing a text. And they learn Hebrew by reading "Hebrish," an innovative approach in which students read English stories transliterated into Hebrew letters. The technique, which gradually introduces Hebrew vocabulary, makes children interested in deciphering Hebrew letters even before they have mastered the vocabulary, said Sullum.

In revamping the curriculum, Sullum was influenced by the Montessori approach to general education as well as her own fond memories of having been a "staff brat" at the Conservative move-

ment's Camp Ramah. By adapting the camp's songs, activities and highly social emphasis, the synagogue tries to infuse some of its spirit into Hebrew school.

Temple Emanu-El, a large Reform congregation in San Francisco, also is modeled after camp.

Each grade is named after one of the 12 tribes of Israel, and keeps its tribe name year after year. Children learn in small groups within their tribe and also get together for a variety of retreats and field trips.

"No lectures are allowed," said Emanu-El's rabbi-educator, Peretz Wolf-Prusan.

"It looks a lot like camp," he added. "When people come here to observe the school, there are circles of kids all over the place."

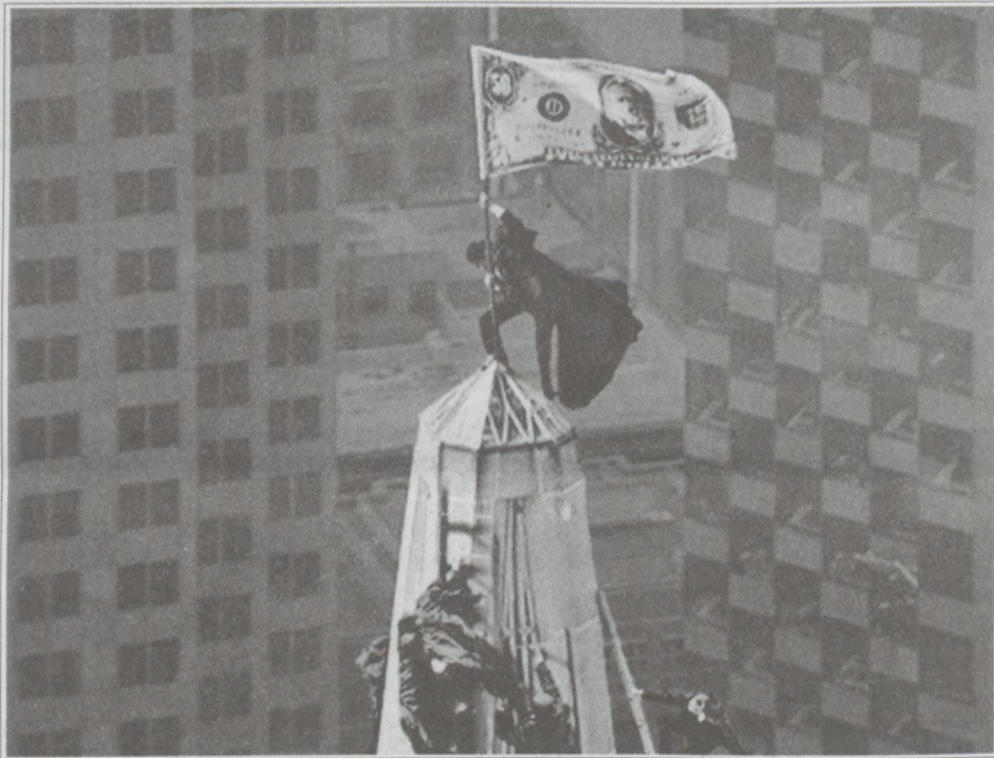
Other schools are keeping children in classrooms, but trying to make the learning more engaging.

For suburban Detroit Hebrew schools, that means bringing in technology. The community's federation is spending over \$700,000 to install computers in all of its congregational schools, train teachers how to use them and create a Web site designed to help children learn about Jewish life-cycle events.

Computers "can make synagogue learning a lot more fun and a lot more interesting," Robert Aronson, the federation's executive vice president said in March, when the project was announced.

Rachel Erlich, the media center director of Temple Israel, a Detroit-area school already using computers extensively, said, "Kids like the computer because it puts them in

Continued on page 5



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Gerry McShane has 25 years of experience in the financial services industry. He studied finance and accounting at Widener University and attended the Cannon Trust School. He has several years of experience in investment management services. He is a member of the Delaware Estate Planning Council and Wilmington Tax Group.



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EDITORIAL

# Furnishing Our Jewish Homes

Our homes reflect our tastes, styles and personalities but do they also reflect our Jewish heritage? The home is the very heart of Jewish family life. Many of our fondest memories of growing up Jewish involve Passover Seders at the dining room table and lighting the Menorah on Chanukah.

We can and should do more to kindle the light of our faith. Make every Shabbat a time for family celebration. Set the table with a "company" tablecloth and china before you leave for work on Friday. Pick up a challah on your way home and dress it with a woven cover. Pour some wine (Manischewitz or Mouton Cadet) into a Kiddush cup, light the candles and say the blessings. Play a Jewish tape or CD (Sam Glazer and Debbie Friedman are kid pleasers) to set the tone for a relaxing meal.

Decorate the walls with mementos of Jewish lifecycle events. Frame your *ketubah* and certificates marking namings, bar/bat mitzvahs and confirmations and display them proudly. Browse galleries and shops that feature the works of Jewish artists and start your own collection.

Create a home library of Jewish books. November is Jewish Book Month – the perfect time to buy a new book or share a favorite author with your family and friends.

Expand your collection of Judaica. Buy Shofars, Havdallah sets, dreidels and other ritual objects and don't let them collect dust. Celebrate their beauty by integrating them into your lives.

Share the joy of Judaism with others. Many of these Jewish ritual objects are on sale at area synagogue gift shops and at the JCC's Chanukah Choopla on Sunday, November 21st from noon-4 p.m.

## Twice Is Nice!

Delaware Governor Tom Carper announced at Wednesday's meeting of the World Trade Council of Delaware that a six-member business trade mission will visit Israel and the Middle East the week of November 1st to develop direct business relations between Delaware and Israeli businesses. This marks the second time in six months that a delegation of Diamond State business leaders traveled to the region. Governor Carper led 29 prominent business, educational, cultural and communal leaders on the initial mission last July. The governor termed the summer delegation "an overwhelming success" and sees this follow-up trip as a way to "keep the momentum going."

We wish the delegation well and hope that these ties that bind Delaware and the Jewish State will be mutually beneficial.



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**The JEWISH VOICE**

Published semimonthly, and monthly in July and August, by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

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Periodicals postage paid for The Jewish Voice (USPS-704160) at Wilmington, Delaware.  
Subscription price: \$18.00. Circulation: 3,200. Mailed to subscribers and contributors to the Jewish Federation of Delaware. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Jewish Voice, 100 W. 10th St., Wilmington, DE 19801. (302) 427-2100. The FAX number of The Jewish Voice is (302) 427-2438. E-Mail: jewishvoic@aol.com



**Parsha Place**

Week of October 30                      Vayera                      Genesis 18:1-22:24

**A Partner - Not A Dictator**  
**By Jeffrey Stiffman**

"God is so far from us. How can I question God?"

Abraham, our founder, our patriarch, provides a possible answer. In Genesis 18, we read that God has plans to destroy the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. God says, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?" and then tells Abraham about these plans (18:17). It would have been easy for Abraham to be silent. In his time, that was the way one reacted to what a Middle Eastern ruler planned to do. But he does not. In one of the greatest acts of chutzpah, he questions God's plans and criticizes God's justice: "Will You sweep away the innocent along with the guilty? ... Far be it from You to do such a thing, to bring death upon the innocent as well as the guilty Shall not the Judge of the earth deal justly?" (18:23,25)

One would also have expected God to act like a typical Middle Eastern ruler of ancient days, killing Abraham on the spot. But God does not, allowing instead the famous dialogue between God and Abraham to ensue, ending with agreement that God would not destroy the cities if ten righteous people should be found in them.

Thus, God agrees with Abraham's ethic: The Judge of all the earth must act justly. This is the God for me-not a dictator but a partner; not a tyrant but one who shares the laws of justice with us.

This is the God for me-one who dialogues with humanity. We can express our hurts and grievances. We can ask the ultimate questions, even though the ultimate answers might not be within our reach.

Abraham pushes the limits and paves the way for Moses, who questions God's desire to wipe out the people and create a new nation from his family. Abraham paves the way for the prophet Jeremiah, who asks why the wicked prosper and why those who deal treacherously live in comfort. Yes, he paves the way for Elie Wiesel who questioned God while in Auschwitz and still asks ultimate questions more than fifty years later. The dialogue between Abraham and God in parashat Vayera sets the pattern of partnership between us and God. We are partners with God in the ongoing process of creation and in tikkun olam-perfecting the world. Only a God who cares passionately about justice and righteousness would demand that we do justly, love mercy, and thereby walk humbly with our Divine Partner.

Jeffrey Stiffman, Ph.D., is the senior rabbi of Congregation Shaare Emeth, Creve Coeur, Missouri.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Arafat Is Not Isaiah Award Recipient

Recent news reports claim that United Jewish Communities (UJC) considered and then abandoned proposals to present its prestigious Isaiah Award to Yasser Arafat.

United Jewish Communities encourages free expression and open debate among its constituents and staff. This includes receiving a wide range of recommendations, about potential recipients of the Isaiah Award. In this context, it is not surprising that some within United Jewish Communities proposed honoring Chairman Arafat, a Nobel Prize winner. It is regrettable that inappropriate and unauthorized steps were taken to

present the award to him.

As soon as top leadership learned this information, steps were taken to stop the process.

At no time was the proposal brought to the attention of, or considered by senior lay or professional leadership of United Jewish Communities.

Steps have been taken to preclude any repetition of such an unfortunate incident.

**Sincerely,**  
**Stephen D. Solender**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**United Jewish Communities**

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e-mail: jewishvoic@aol.com

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## FEDERATION FOCUS

# An Evening Of Humor And History For Dinner Of Commitment Donors

Jewish Federation of Delaware President Barbara Schoenberg lauded the more than 50 men and women who participated in the October 17th Dinner of Commitment. "You have taken your role as Jewish leaders seriously and have inspired us all to join with you to

assure a vibrant Jewish community in the next millenium," she said to those assembled at the Delaware History Museum.

The setting was especially fitting to pay tribute to Dinner Co-Chairs Harry and Gladys Zutz, as event participants were treated to a spe-

cial preview of the museum's special exhibit "From Al's to Zutz: Celebrating a Century of Delaware's Jewish Business Tradition."

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin was the featured speaker for the Dinner. He entertained the group with vignettes from his book Jewish

Humor: What the Best Jokes Say About The Jews."

"His presentation conveyed warmth, humor and a passion for Judaism," said Rhonda Falk, JFD Campaign director.

Following Teluskin's presentation, Campaign Chair Scott Feinman spoke of Federation's "proud heritage." Feinman compared JFD to a "global company". "We have

Kayne, Cass Anolick, Caryl Marcus-Stape and Barbara Schoenberg. He applauded their hands-on efforts in embracing the 2000 Campaign theme of "YOU & I CAN CHANGE THE WORLD."

Friends and leaders new to the Dinner of Commitment level were acknowledged - Eileen Conner, Barry and Reiko Kayne and Don



(From left): Dinner co-chairs Harry and Gladys Zutz enjoy the exhibit with speaker Joseph Telushkin.



Irving Morris made the Motzi.



Scott A. Feinman, Annual Campaign Chair; Barbara H. Schoenberg, Federation President; Lelaine Nemser, Vice Chair of Training & Recruitment; Jonathan Miller, Keynote Speaker; Rhonda L. Falk, Campaign Director.

## Campaign Leadership Briefing

Jonathan Miller shared his passion for fortifying Jewish identity, assisting the vulnerable and rescuing imperiled Jewish individuals with Jewish Federation of Delaware Campaign leadership at a recent briefing session. Thirty representatives of the 2000 Annual Campaign, the Jewish Fund for the Future and the Capital Campaign took the time to learn more about the needs in our local community as well as overseas.

Miller's presentation, which acknowledged dramatically increased needs, spurred participants to action. Miller, who shared that speaking to others on behalf of tzedakah is a mitzvah, inspired

each individual to reach out to a minimum of five others on behalf of the 2000 Campaign. Many at the briefing session made their own increased pledge to the Campaign and more than \$100,000 was raised reflecting a 28% increase over gifts made in 1999 by those same individuals. In addition, reminded of the urgency of overseas needs, several made additional gifts towards the needs of thousands escaping oppression in Ethiopia, Yugoslavia and the Former Soviet Union as well as towards a Hunger Campaign in the F.S.U. within which monies will be used to feed 175,000 elderly.

Lelaine Nemser, Vice-Chair for

Training and Recruitment was pleased with the program saying, "We were all energized by Miller's commitment and style. He has long been recognized for his volunteer work on behalf of Toronto's UJA Campaign and it was refreshing to learn more about how their leaders communicate and work in partnership with one another on behalf of the Jewish community." She urged anyone interested in volunteering

on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Annual Campaign to personally contact Scott Feinman, Campaign Chair or speak with Rhonda Falk, Campaign Director at 427-2100, Ext. 16.

'operations' from the First State to the Former Soviet Union-from Ethiopia to Israel," he said adding that this 'company' boasted 1999 revenues of \$1,590,850. He asked participants to make their commitment to the annual campaign and to consider an additional allocation over and above their traditional gift to address urgent international needs on behalf of thousands escaping oppression in Ethiopia, Yugoslavia and the Former Soviet Union.

Feinman recognized Federation Campaign Cabinet members Toni Young, Lelaine Nemser, Barry

and Ethel Parsons. Ellen Koniver was recognized for chairing the Lion of Judah event held earlier in the season. New Lion of Judah members Andrea Feinman, Doris Heisler, Reiko Kayne and Sandye Turnauer also were recognized at the Dinner.

Many increased their pledges to the 2000 Annual Campaign. JFD Campaign leadership reports that more than \$470,000 has been raised to date.

(66% of the funds raised on behalf of the Annual Campaign are allocated for local needs; 33% are distributed for international needs.)

## Dramatic Presentation To Commemorate Kristallnacht

The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center of the Jewish Federation of Delaware is commemorating the 61st anniversary of Kristallnacht, The Night of Broken Glass, with a special dramatic presentation. This tragic event carried out by the Nazis on November 9-10, 1938, destroyed thousands of businesses, homes and synagogues in Germany and Austria and was the beginning of the Holocaust.

The Center is presenting the Possum Point Players of Georgetown, Delaware, in the one-act dramatization of Address Unknown by Kressman Taylor on Sunday, November 7, at 2:30 PM at the First Unitarian Church, 702 Halstead Road, Wilmington. The play dramatizes a series of letters

exchanged during the 1930's between a Jewish partner in California and his German partner newly reestablished in Munich. It shows how anti-Semitism and the racial laws unleashed by Hitler infected the German populace making Kristallnacht and the Holocaust possible.

Members of the theatre troupe will challenge the audience to think about racial issues, friendship and family, all within the historical context of the rise of Hitler.

The program is free and open to the public. Address Unknown is available for circulation in the Preston Collection at the New Castle County Library on Concord Pike adjacent to the First Unitarian Church, Wilmington.



## Making Jewish Learning Fun

Continued from page 2

the driver seat, it's interactive and it's different."

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, a Conservative synagogue in suburban Cleveland, is engaging students in a more old-fashioned way: through problem-solving projects.

The problems are designed to make Jewish concepts relevant to children's lives and interests.

Teachers are trained not to give children answers, but instead suggest where they might look — ref-

erence books, traditional texts, the Internet and even phone calls are all encouraged.

In one problem, seventh graders must advise a fictional rock star what to do when she learns that the toys she endorses are made from sweatshop labor. To find the answer, they must research what traditional Jewish texts have to say about labor, slaves and proper business practices.

In fourth grade, students have to help a child decide whether to attend her grandmother's 80th

birthday party or a friend's party. Another problem, now fifth-grader Jack Goldberg's favorite, involves viewing several Passover videos and then deciding together which would be the most appropriate for Christian students learning about Jewish traditions.

Goldberg, who often brings home the problems to discuss with his family, said problem solving is his favorite part of Hebrew school because "it's fun to discuss and talk about."

His mother, Meryl, agreed, noting that the problem solving has been a "springboard for family discussions."

"The kids enjoy the give and take as opposed to sitting and listening all day," she said.

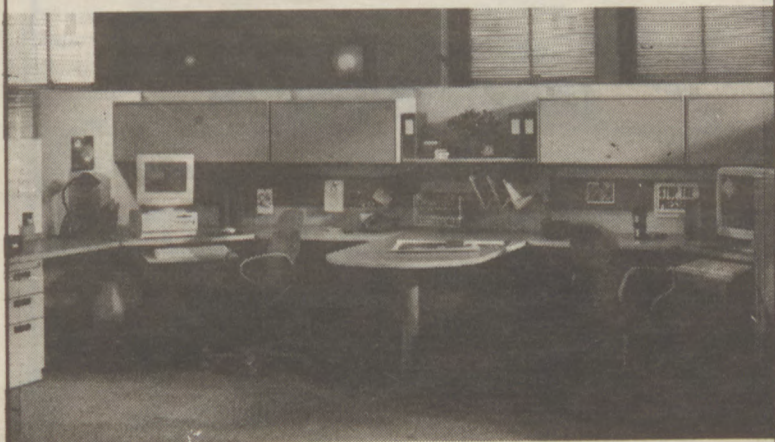
## Jewish Family Service Helps Parents Of Disabled Children Plan For The Future

Jewish Family Service invites parents of children with disabilities to attend an informational program on an important new piece of legislation designed to help them plan for the future. On Thursday, November 18, 7 p.m., JFS will host a meeting on the Delaware CarePlan Trust Act. This law, which provides new estate planning benefits for

these families, will be discussed by Jerry Hyman, Esq. and Steven Evans. Both Hyman and Evans helped found Delaware CarePlan. Hyman serves as director for the organization.

This program is free but seating is limited. Please make your reservation by calling JFS Executive Director Dory Zatuschni at 302-478-9411.

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# FEDERATION FOCUS

## Special Needs Prompt Second Line For Year 2000 Campaign

Local, national, and international Jewish communities have faced extraordinary challenges this past year. United Jewish Communities' overseas partners—the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee—are struggling to meet the needs of a very volatile world.

JAFI and JDC need our help to rescue and absorb the Jews from Quara, Ethiopia ... to provide the resources for Russian Jews escap-

ing rising anti-Semitism and a failed economy ... to rescue and support the refugees from the Balkans ... to continue to serve the most basic needs of the 175,000 elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union who have no one else to turn to.

This past spring and summer have seen a dramatic increase in aliyah from the former Soviet Union. Tens of thousands of the elderly Jews who remain are strug-

gling to afford food, medicine, and heating fuel. Refugees from the Balkan conflict have found safe haven in Israel, yet their emotional scars will take years to heal. And, now, at the same time, the Quara Jews are finally coming home ... and they need our help to start new lives.

These rescue and relief operations mandate increased financial support. The Jewish Agency needs \$21.7 million - \$8.5 million to support an unbudgeted-for increase in aliyah from Russia, \$2 million to help people recover from war and terror, \$11.2 million to bring Jews home after 2000 years; and \$10 million to JDC to help feed 175,000 elderly Jews who have put their lives in our hands. These numbers represent only a small portion of the monies already spent on this life-saving work. Yet they are important to ensure the work is done without interruption ... and with loving kindness.

Federations across North

America are being asked to do their fair share to raise these additional funds. Here in Delaware, we have implemented a second line campaign to help us achieve our goal of \$92,000-over and above our annual overseas allocations.

We know that Delaware Jews

will rally to this latest challenge. We are a community that cares about Jews in need. In partnership with our sister Federations throughout North America, we will bring relief and safety to thousands of Jews who have nowhere else to turn.

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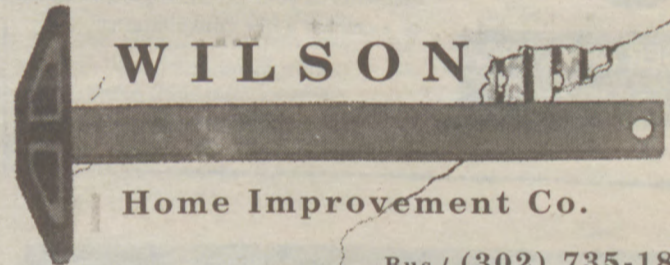
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LOCAL

# Jewish Family Service Helps Parents Of Disabled Children Plan For The Future

Jewish Family Service invites parents of children with disabilities to attend an informational program on an important new piece of legislation designed to help them plan for the future. On Thursday,

November 18, 7 p.m., JFS will host a meeting on the Delaware CarePlan Trust Act. This law, which provides new estate planning benefits for these families, will be discussed by Jerry Hyman, Esq.

and Steven Evans. Both Hyman and Evans helped found Delaware CarePlan. Hyman serves as direc-

tor for the organization.

This program is free but seating is limited. Please make your reser-

vation by calling JFS Executive Director Dory Zatushni at 302-478-9411.

## JCC Annual Chanukah Choopla

The Jewish Community Center of Delaware will hold its Annual Chanukah Choopla on Sunday, November 21 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Highlights of the event include a Chanukah Gift and Craft Bazaar, where area merchants and artists display and sell their goods, holiday-related games and activities for children, plus a wide variety of Kosher foods. Community leaders will serve as celebrity waiters for

this year's event.

Choopla offers something for all ages - food, shopping and more. A full array of family entertainment will also be featured. The event is free of charge and open to the entire community.

The Jewish Community Center is located on Garden of Eden Road, just off Route 202 (behind the Holiday Inn) in North Wilmington. For more information, call 478-5660.

## JCC Sponsors Photo And Essay Contest

JCC Association invites you to take your best shot - photo that is. The organization is sponsoring a continent-wide photography contest to showcase a day in the life of the JCC. This competition, open to multiple age categories, and professional as well as amateur photographers, encourages participants to submit photos that capture the essence of how JCC members are coming together to building Jewish community. We want people to show us why - as we like to say - "You Belong Here."

Those members who aren't shutterbugs, can compete in the JCC's essay contest. Members are urged to communicate the ways their JCC is building Jewish community.

Photography competition categories are amateur ages 12 and under, 13 to 18, 18 and over. Professional category is open to all ages. First place prize is \$500 in the professional category and in all three amateur age categories, second place is \$250 in all three amateur divisions and third place is

\$100 in all three amateur divisions. Additionally, winning entries in all categories will be displayed prominently at JCC Association's Biennial 2000 convention in Boston, May 7-10, 2000. All winning entries will receive an award certificate, be published in the JCC Association's Circle magazine and featured on JCC Association's web site ([www.jcca.org](http://www.jcca.org)).

The essay competition categories are ages 12 and under, 13 to 18, and 18 and over. Grand

prize of \$500 for each age category and publication of their winning essays in JCC Association's Circle and featured on JCC Association's web site. In addition, the grand prize winner in the 18 and over category will be flown to the Biennial 200 convention in Boston to read his or her essay.

All photo and essay entries must be submitted to the Delaware JCC by November 10, 1999. For more information, contact Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

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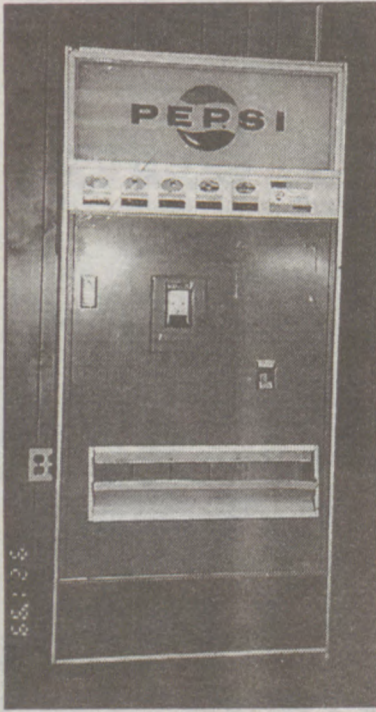
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**1 Pheasants Ridge North - Way Ridge** -- Gracious French country home is situated on a lot that feels like a *private* reserve. The well-designed floor plan offers many outstanding features such as an open formal foyer with a circular staircase, a back staircase, an octagonal eat-in area in the gourmet kitchen. The lower level has been totally finished. **Stunning!** **\$899,900**  
**2 Eastridge Court - Vallebrook** -- Lovely colonial on a nicely landscaped lot. This home features a *bright* kitchen that opens to a family room with a vaulted ceiling & a marble fireplace with gas logs. Sliding glass doors open to a large deck. **\$199,900**  
**26 Brandywine Falls - Brandywine Falls** -- Spacious & light executive townhome. From the private, elegant *courtyard* to the wonderful views this home offers every amenity available. This home also boasts a large, gourmet kitchen, built-ins throughout & 2 *fireplaces*; one is marble and one is stone. **\$560,000**  
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# LOCAL

## Beth Emeth Fall Sale Features "Vintage" Vending Machine



Congregation Beth Emeth's semi-annual "Used but Not Abused" sale will take place at the temple house, 300 West Lea Boulevard, on November 3rd and 4th. Among the more unusual items for sale is a functioning Pepsi-Cola machine that dispenses cans for 30¢. Sale hours are: Wednesday, November 3rd, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Thursday, November 4th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m..

Hours are once again extended on Wednesdays to accommodate shoppers who work or attend school during the day.

Proceeds from this long-established event benefit Sisterhood (Women of Reform Judaism) projects. Wide community interest has led to a cross-sectional group of shoppers from New Castle County and nearby Pennsylvania, over the course of its two decades' existence.

As usual, a wide variety of items will be shown, including: Men's, women's, and children's apparel,

much in UNUSED condition, shoes, boots, and sneakers, household/kitchen goods, small and large appliances - from can openers to vacuum cleaners, curtains, drapes, linens, rugs, indoor and

outdoor furniture, electronics (TV's, etc.), luggage, antiques and collectibles (including the soda-can vending machine), toys, games, kiddie cars, books, jewelry, furs, and other boutique items, pictures,

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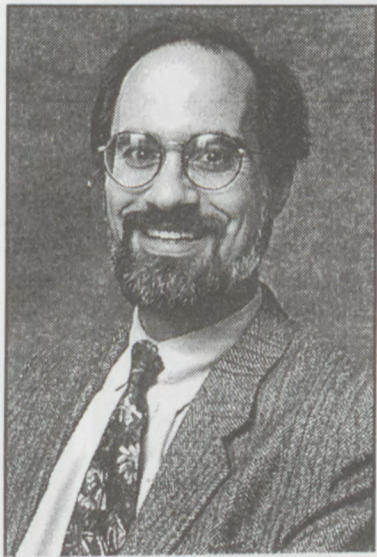
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LOCAL

# Seminary Professor To Speak In Wilmington



Dr. David Kraemer

Dr. David Kraemer, Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America will speak at Congregation Beth Shalom on Sunday evening, November 7, 1999. Professor Kraemer's lecture inaugurates the Winter-Spring programming of the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation. Professor Kraemer is the author of numerous books and articles including *The Mind of the Talmud*, *Reading the Rabbis: The Talmud as Literature*. His latest book, *The Meanings of Death in Rabbinic Judaism*, is soon to be published by Routledge. Professor Kraemer resides in New York City with his wife and two daughters.

Dr. Kraemer graduated Brandeis University and received his Ph.D., with highest honors, at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He also studied at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In addition to serving as Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics, he also teaches classes in Jewish Classics, History and Intellectual History at the Seminary.

His topic is "Does Halakah Have a Voice in Contemporary Judaism?". "This is the cutting edge issue for Jews who take their Judaism seriously," said Rabbi Daniel Satlow, Spiritual Leader of Congregation Beth Shalom and

former student of Professor Kraemer. "Professor Kraemer is not afraid to examine the core issues of Judaism in the 21st century," said Rabbi Satlow.

The Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation was established in 1988 in memory of Rabbi Kraft who served as Rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom from 1930-1987. The foundation is governed by an independent rotating board, and furthers Rabbi Kraft's lifelong devotion to learning by funding educational programs to enrich the congregation and com-

munity. "Rabbi Kraft was a man of righteousness, wisdom and love. He was a magnificent spiritual leader of Beth Shalom and the community and through this foundation Rabbi Kraft's influence continues to be felt by present and future generations," said Stuart B. Young, Chairman of the Foundation.

The lecture by Professor Kramer will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the synagogue, 1801 Baynard Boulevard. There is no charge for the lecture and the community is welcomed to is welcome. The

weekend of April 7-9, 2000, Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Rector and Professor of Philosophy, at the University of Judaism in California, will serve as Scholar in Residence at Beth Shalom. His weekend topic will be

"Conservative Judaism: Passing Down Our Tradition from Generation to Generation." For additional information please call the synagogue office (302) 654-4464.



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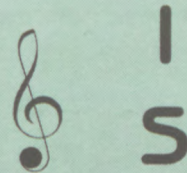
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Coming To Your Computer - Virtual Shabbat

I had a very interesting experience when I sat down to my computer and entered a new CD the other day. It is entitled VIRTUAL SHABBAT and is produced by the National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP), an agency devoted to bringing "lost" Jews back into the fold or as they call it the "J2k Problem". This attempt to reach unaffiliated Jews with a high tech outreach program right in their homes is very admirable, but I must be candid and say that in my book it gets a mixed review. Parts of the CD are wonderful but others fall a bit short of the mark. Basically the CD offers the opportunity to enter 3 rooms and explore Jewish items and ceremonies attached to those rooms — a kitchen, a dining room, and a synagogue. The idea is clever

and easy to follow but it is the information and the way it is presented which puzzles me. If NJOP is trying to reach totally unaffiliated Jews with little or no background, why are they introducing them initially only to very Orthodox practices and philosophy? The kosher kitchen described on the CD is an extremely observant one and the rituals presented in the synagogue area or as part of the Shabbat observances in the dining room are those of a very "frum" community. If you are trying to educate someone with no background why overwhelm him with minute observances which may tend to confuse him? Why not stick to the basics of a simple Shabbat dinner and Temple service and couch them in the most modern and meaningful

ways? I believe the intent of VIRTUAL SHABBAT is excellent and a good deal of its unique exploratory approach is very well presented but whether or not it will "grab" the average "lost" Jew is questionable to me..

There is one section of the CD, however, which I think is exceptional and that is the section which teaches you to read Hebrew. This is a truly exciting new method of presenting the Hebrew alphabet and making learning to read easy and fun. For this segment of the CD alone, it is worth the purchase! And the other three segments may take on new meaning once it star-

get audience has been captivated by the Hebrew portion and really-wants to learn more about our heritage. This interactive Learning to Read Hebrew crash course is Jewish high tech at its best and if

anyone does not know how to read, he or she should definitely buy the CD and begin. Incidentally, along with the CD comes a complete prayerbook, all of which is also taught in the Reading segment of the program. VIRTUAL SHABBAT by Alan

Oirich works on Windows or Macintosh and you must have a sound card, speakers and 1MB video Ram. It is available from NJOP. costs \$19.95 and can be ordered by calling 1-800-44-TORAH. Web site visitors can preview the CD-ROM at .

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Author Alleges Rabin Assassination Conspiracy

Reviewed by Ian Heiss  
Chronicle Special  
Correspondent

Yitzhak Rabin, it is written on the opening page of this book, was murdered on November 4, 1995.

This is one fact all can agree on. After that, according to Barry Chamish's book, there is little consistency in the testimony of persons and recollections of events surrounding the assassination. This is to be expected.

But why would physical evidence also be at variance? Why would Yigal Amir be able to inflict powder burns on Rabin's clothing when film of the event shows Amir at a distance from Rabin when he fired his shots? According to ballistic experts these powder burns could only have occurred if the gun was pressed against Rabin's body.

Further, Chamish claims the same film shows Rabin unhurt after the shots were fired, no evidence of recoil from the shots could have done irreparable damage to his body.

The same film shows a back door of the Rabin limousine being slammed before Rabin entered, or was helped, by varying accounts, into the limousine.

The death certificate states that Rabin was shot in the chest and that his spine was shattered. Only later did the doctors change their version to Rabin being shot only in the back with no spinal damage.

The accounts of the assassination, according to Chamish, vary widely. Some heard one shot, two shots, five shots. Rabin was seen by many as not being hit after his encounter with Amir. This includes several police officers and citizens who say he walked briskly towards his car. Yet by the time he got to the hospital, he was unconscious from loss of blood and suffering gaping wounds.

The driver, one of the best in Israel, could not find the direct route to the hospital and did not radio ahead. When Rabin arrived, the medical staff was not prepared to minister to him.

In his book, Chamish has brought enough data and personal testimony about the assassination to create a question in the reader's mind as to the verity of the official version of the circumstances of Rabin's death.

There are successful assassinations where the murderers never get caught, but the possible conspiracy to murder Rabin shouldn't be one of them.

The author shows strong connections between Amir and the anti-peace organization called EYAL. This is significant because this front organization was created by Israel's General Security Services (Shabak) and run by Shabak agent Avishai Raviv.

While he doesn't make a case for the root of the conspiracy to murder Rabin, Chamish clearly shows the links that Amir has to Raviv. And both the proximity of Shabak agents at the time of the assassination and the unexplained lapses in security, are also major failures to protect the Prime Minister.

All of them together could be an

overwhelming argument for conspiracy.

Previously, Britain's other major Jewish newspaper, Manchester's The Jewish Telegraph published a similarly respectful review and added an editorial column written by editor Paul Harris which demanded a reinvestigation of the Rabin murder, noting, "Chamish is a writer of renown who has stumbled upon something which will have repercussions in Israel and the Middle East for a long time to come."

Both of Britain's major Jewish newspapers have now endorsed

the conclusion that the Israeli government is not remotely telling the truth about the Rabin assassination.

As have numerous other prestigious publications:

"Chamish's version is the only possible explanation." - Uri Geller, London Times. "Chamish examines the evidence carefully...His book is strangely convincing." - Alex Auswaks, Jerusalem Post

"One must read Chamish's book critically but with the possibility of acquiring a new perspective on the Rabin assassination." - Prof. Uri Millstein, Makor Rishon

"A fast-paced, well written account, perfect for anyone seeking insight into Israeli society." - Charles A. Coulombe, Fate Magazine

"The questions raised demand a reinvestigation of the Rabin assassination from the ground up." - Asher Zuckerman, Kol Hashavuah

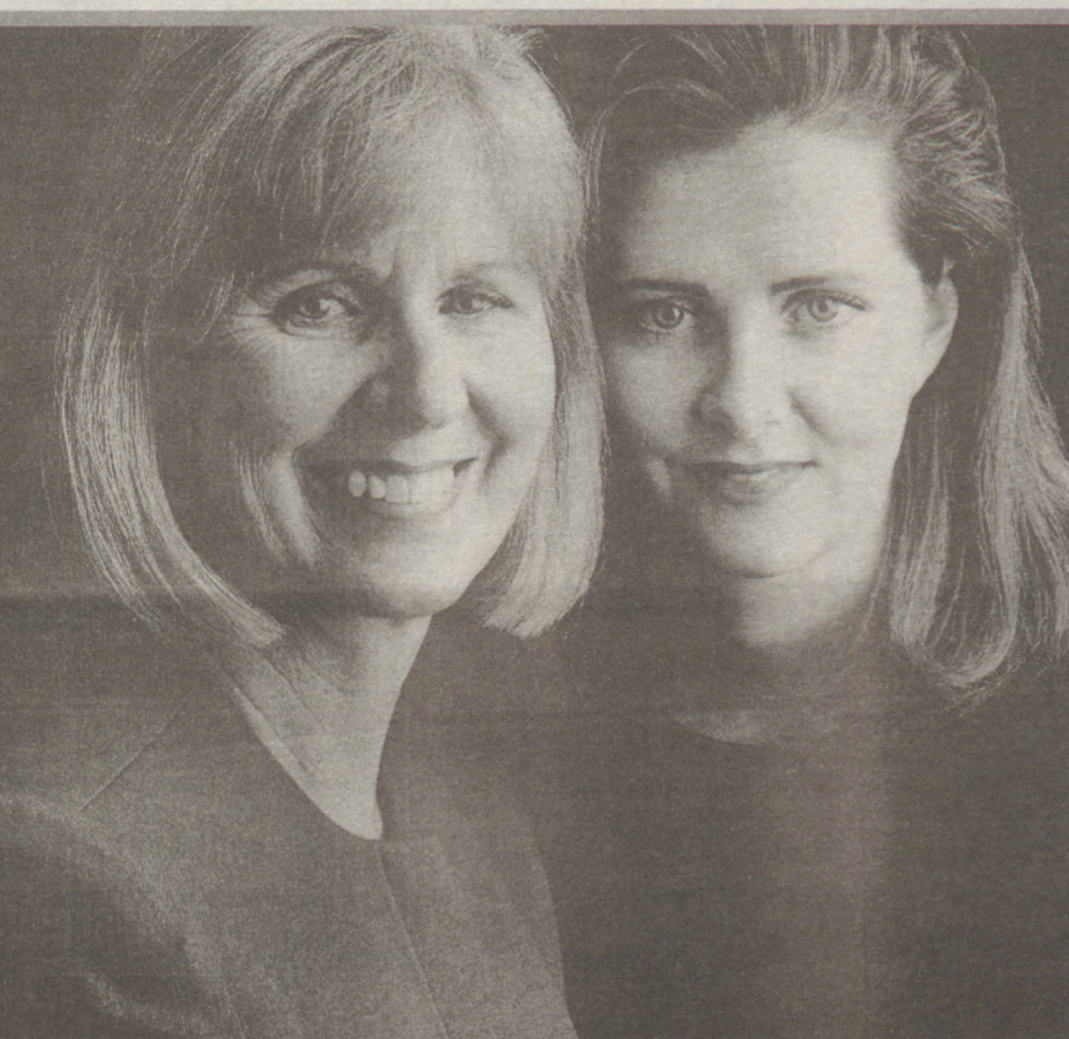
The fourth anniversary of Rabin's murder is approaching. This year, you may report the official version of the commemoration as usual, but know that it is deliberately wrong and that you will eventually be overtaken by events. The evidence is in the hands of hun-

dreds of thousands of Israelis who are saying the official story just doesn't add up. They are demanding the truth and not reporting this fundamental fact, is the ultimate insult to Rabin's memory.

Who Murdered Yitzhak Rabin? is available in English from The Jerusalem Post Book Club or the Zionist Book Club. Call 02 6712284. In North America call 1 877 RABINYY.

(Editor's Note: The review, written by Ian Heiss, first appeared in the Jewish Chronicle, Britain's largest and most influential Jewish publication.)

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Seated: Reiko and Barry Kayne, Campaign Director Rhonda Falk; Standing: Stuart and Suzanne Grant, Jack Markell.

Photos By  
Morris Ariff



### *Campaign 2000*

## *Dinner of Commitment*



# MYRIAM'S WELL

## Thoughts On Jewish Healing

By Myriam Klotz

Recently many Delawareans walked in the AIDSWalk, to raise money for scientific research and for organizations which provide assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers. I've been thinking a lot about the name for this fundraiser, the AIDSWALK. I am thinking about how, for each of us, life itself is a walk, a journey. We must continue to put one foot in front of the other, rain or shine, walking our paths in their varied ways as we live out our lives. For those of us who are blessed with good mental, emotional and physical health, walking the walk of our lives is perhaps a joyous passage. At times, walking our life's path can be difficult. Painful, perhaps, as we wrestle with debilitating illness or trauma.

Last year I had the privilege of working as HIV/AIDS Chaplaincy Coordinator for the Jewish Family and Children's Service in Philadelphia. During that time I met many people whose life path was shaped and carved into a twisting, winding, steeply graded thoroughfare by the HIV virus. Some of the people whom I worked with were not able to walk very far, if at all. It was as if they were stopped on the side of the highway, much like the biblical Jacob, who stopped in the night to rest in the midst of his own journey and was greeted by a dark figure with whom he wrestled throughout the darkness. As dawn approached, it became clear that Jacob was going to prevail over the strange man (some rabbinic commentators say that this mysterious figure was in fact an angel sent by God). The man drew his sword and wounded



Rabbi Myriam Klotz

Jacob in the thigh, and yet Jacob would not let him go until the man blessed him. So he did, by giving Jacob a new name: "Your name shall not be Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with beings divine and human and have prevailed." (Genesis 35:29).

I have met many people living with HIV who seem to have prevailed in their wrestlings. The straightforward direction of their life walk has given way to a different, unpredicted journey, but I have witnessed them wrestle blessings from their experience, and in so doing, be a source of blessing for others.

I think of Elise\*, a woman in her late 40's living with AIDS. Elise fills her days doing yoga, studying dance, working at a museum, learning Spanish, engaging in Jewish studies, leading historical tours around the city, and making artwork. Elise has touched me not only because of her beauty, her

courage, and the creativity with which she crafts her days. She has shown me about how to not squander. She has said to me that a gift of the AIDS virus for her has been the learning to not waste anything - time, resources, experiences. She is as a result careful, and thoughtful, and sensitive to others, lest a moment be wasted in which a kindness could be expressed, a gesture acknowledged. Never has a visit passed between us that I have not received a (recycled paper) thank-you note or a brief phone call from Elise expressing her gratitude and friendship for our time together. From Elise I have learned about the art of gracious, careful attention to the details of one's life when one is not taking it for granted.

One evening I visited with Elise in her apartment, as she wanted to put up a mezuzah a dear friend had brought her from Israel. A mezuzah, Jewishly speaking, is a transitional object. It is adhered to the doorpost of one's house, and is meant to be touched as one enters or exits. As we pass through different endings and beginnings on our life's walk, as we stretch through the liminal moments between public and private life, between inside and outside, the mezuzah is meant to remind us of the eternal and

unchanging echoes which resonate amidst these itinerant aspects of our human journeys. The scroll inside the mezuzah cover holds on it the verses from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 which comprise the Sh'mah, beginning: "Listen, Israel - God is our God, and God is one." I walk

through my life, and at times of change on the journey, I pause to remember that I am not alone - there is Eternity through which, within which, I intimately pass.

After we hung Elise's mezuzah and offered the blessings, she gave

Continued on page 18

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## A MATTER OF OPINION

# Religion Has No Place In Public Schools

By E. E. Jaffe

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following commentary represents the individual opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or viewpoints of the Jewish Voice Editorial Committee, publisher or staff.

Time and again, I read letters to editors in various publications concerning the desirability of introducing religion into public schools either in the form of the Ten Commandments or prayer, or both. More recently, the issue of teaching creationism vs. evolution became a subject of discussion. The constitution of the United States, the basic set of rules that governs this country, states explicitly in amendment 1 that Congress "shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion". Although a variety of interpretations of this clause have been rendered, the overwhelming opinions are that religion has no place in public institutions. If religious teaching was allowed, which religious slant would be taught or otherwise promoted in the guise of setting students straight?

Although Christians are the majority in this country, many Americans follow totally different religious convictions or have no religious convictions at all. Currently, Christians or any other religious groups are not allowed to offer officially sanctioned prayers

in public schools. This stricture must be maintained.

This country was built on a foundation of pluralism and free exercise of religion in private affairs or houses of worship. This nation has been spectacularly successful under existing rules. Either American born or immigrants of minority religions who found a home in the USA have practiced their religion without interference and with full freedom of expression. They have made an important contribution to this country.

A good example are Jewish minorities. Under the prevailing rules, Jews who constitute about 2.5% of the US population have received 32% of all science Nobel prizes since the inception of the award in 1899. To a considerable degree this is the result of the freedom of individual spirit minorities enjoy in this country.

Should Jewish kids be forced to assimilate some Christian doctrines? Clearly not. The opposite would similarly be wrong whether the other religions were Jewish, Moslem, Buddhist or Hindu.

As far as creationism is concerned, it is simply another manifestation of religious belief. There are of course many who regard the concept of God, and consequently of religion, as an exceedingly simple explanation of everything.

This is simply intellectually contemptible and an admission of

ignorance. Advocating creationism demonstrates a lack of understanding of scientific developments in general, and scientific methodologies and theories in particular.

Darwinian evolution is based on scientific principles and careful examination and evaluation of a great variety of fossils. Some evolutionary changes have taken place over the centuries, others in a matter of years. The former are difficult to easily demonstrate because the search of evidence is complicated and interpretations are contentious. The latter, on the other hand, should be apparent to anyone. Nearly everyone has heard or read about the need to develop new antibiotics because bacteria mutate or evolve into new forms which resist existing antibiotics. This is an unequivocally confirmed example of evolution occurring over a period of several years. The bacteria evolve into modified forms by adaptation to survive, just as higher forms have evolved over the millennia. The pharmaceutical industry is constantly searching for new antibiotics to overcome the evolved resistance. Many medical practitioners are in despair as some patients die from once treatable infections. Fortunately, new more potent antibiotics are discovered by variety of scientists, particularly those in the USA.

The so-called cocktail combination of drugs against AIDS intro-

duced a few years ago is saving many lives. However, there is "demonstrated resistance slowly increasing" according to an expert in this field, Dr. R. J. Pomerantz, Director of the Center of Human Virology of Jefferson Medical College. He also states "that a short five years ago such resistance was zero." The study supporting this conclusion appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Another study in California has shown that resistance to available drug combinations has increased ten fold in some patients. This rapid evolution of low forms of life must be apparent to all. The evidence of evolution in higher forms of life is more difficult to obtain and interpret, but it is no less true. Stephen Jay Gould, a biologist, science historian and an expert in the field of evolution has abstracted passages from pre-Darwinian writings that seemed to recognize the truth of evolution, to say nothing of Darwin's studies published some 140 years ago in the "Origins of Species."

If that was not enough evidence, directed evolution is a relatively recent development in biotechnology and is the most important development since the advent of genetic engineering 25 years ago. Directed evolution involves subjecting naturally occurring compounds, like proteins or enzymes, to rapid evolutionary

processes by imposition of external influences. By changing or mutating genes that produce proteins with anticancer properties, scientists evolve superior versions of such proteins in a matter of weeks rather than eons. After about 10 years of work American major pharmaceutical companies have already recorded commercial successes in anti-tumor drugs and improved vaccines.

Despite this overwhelming evidence in favor of evolution and the acceptance of this truth by all industrial countries of the world, the religious zealots in this country still insist that creationism be taught in some American schools, in some cases with the exclusion of evolutionary science. After Kansas created a furor by dropping Darwin's theory as a required part of the school curriculum, Kentucky has recently quietly deleted the word "evolution" from the high school teaching guidelines.

Creationism is a faulty and unsubstantiated theory that should not be taught to students. It may be an appropriate subject for a class on religion or history of religion but it is counterproductive in gaining a real understanding of how various species, including man, have evolved over the millennia. Only evolution deals with reality and must be taught with resolution and vigor to the younger generation.

## NOVEMBER IS JEWISH BOOK MONTH

# Toni Young To Speak at University of Delaware

By Vivian Klaff

As we move into the 21st century, Jews in America are more mobile, both physically and economically; are more integrated into the American mosaic and find it more difficult to identify with their past. The history of Jewish immigration to America has been one of great success, yet the Jewish community continually struggles with what scholars have called an unrecanted striving between a desire for the personal fulfillment provided by group identity and a simultaneous desire for integration into the American mainstream. Much of this early struggle has been captured on films such as Hester Street and in books such as Irving Howe's World of Our Fathers.

Books are an integral part of the culture of Jewish families and libraries are replete with books on Judaism, Jewish history, culture and almost every aspect of Jewish life. The best record of the history of an American Jewish community for many has traditionally been the history of their own community, which celebrates the community that they know and love.

November is recognized in the Jewish world as Jewish Book Month and this year we are fortunate to have a book published by a local author which documents the story of our local Wilmington com-

munity. Toni Young's book *Becoming American, Remaining Jewish* beautifully links the history of Wilmington's Jews between 1879 and 1924 to many of the concerns that face the community.

There have many fine books written about local communities such as New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia. While Wilmington's Jewish community never grew to the size or status of these communities, by 1918 it was nationally recognized as an example of the way Jews in America could maintain their heritage while working effectively with the broader community.

This in-depth study of the Jews of Wilmington success in those years in preserving Jewish values and becoming American provides insights for others who are interested in exploring questions of identity and community today.

On November 22, Young will help the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Delaware to celebrate Jewish Book Month by talking about her book. This is an opportunity to honor one of the current leaders of the Jewish community in Delaware who has successfully managed to reconcile her Jewish identity and her integration into American society, and to be active and effective in both worlds. The talk will be at 7:00 pm in

Room 104, Gore Hall on the Newark campus. Following the program, participants are invited to a reception honoring the author at the Chaiken Center, the home of the Center for Jewish Studies on campus, at 231 South College Avenue. She will also be available

## New Center

Continued from page 1.

Zatuchni looked at the success of the Wilmington programs and replicated many of the most popular. Thus, the Newark Center will offer parenting and mediation services; family and individual counseling and the life-enhancing programs offered by the Kimmel Spiller Jewish Healing Center.

New programs in Newark will include yoga and meditation as well as a number of initiatives to the gay community.

Zatuchni believes that the Relationship Center is a fitting name for the facility's holistic approach to Jewish life. "To be a whole and happy person, you must learn to develop positive relationships with yourself, your friends, your family and your G-d," Zatuchni explained. She invites the

community to call JFS at (302) 478-9411 with programming comments or suggestions. A full

calendar of Relationship Center workshops and programs appear below.

For additional information, please contact the Center by phone at 831-3324, by e-mail at

cjs@udel.edu, or by visiting the Center's website at <http://www.udel.edu/jsp/events.html>

(Vivian Klaff is the director of the Jewish Studies Program at the University.)

community to call JFS at (302) 478-9411 with programming comments or suggestions. A full

calendar of Relationship Center workshops and programs appear below.

Located at 280 East Main Street, the Center offers easy access to University of Delaware students and faculty. Programs scheduled for the Fall and Winter session include:

### Yoga and Meditation for Wellness and Healing

Torat HaGuf (Torah of the Body):

Tuesday Mornings 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

October 19, 26 November 9, 23, 30, December 7

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### Spiritual Support Group for Caregivers

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# ISRAEL FOCUS

## Cuban Jews Mostly Glad To Be In Israel

By Avi Machlis, JTA

As the dramatic story of the immigration of 400 Cubans to Israel was broadcast across the world last week, the new Israelis put the spotlight to good use and publicly aired their grievances after many months of silence.

But even the three drab, seven-story buildings where they live in the Jewish Agency for Israel absorption center in Ashkelon could not keep the immigrants from bursting with excitement. And when a government delegation led by Absorption Minister Yuli Tamir paid a visit to this southern coastal town last week, Grisel Hernandez insisted on making a statement.

"I am very satisfied in Israel," said the 30-year-old former English teacher in impressive Hebrew. "Every day when I wake up in bed I say thank you."

The combination of grumbling and joy accurately reflects the complex situation these immigrants feel here today.

Many are angry at how they have been treated in the months since their arrival, yet most of the immigrants interviewed by JTA say they are happy to be in the country, and none said they wanted to leave.

Although they embraced the media spotlight, they are still unsure how the recent publicity surrounding the story will affect the chances of their relatives, among some 1,300 Jews left in Cuba, to emigrate.

An official close to the situation, however, said the latest group of about 15 people, down from original estimates of 20, had already departed Cuba and was expected in Israel on Wednesday, indicating that the publicity has had no negative effect on the exodus.

Typically, between 15 and 20 Cubans arrive in Israel each month, the official said.

Only last week did Israeli military censors open the subject to the media. As details emerged, it became clear that the Jewish Agency had assisted in the emigration of some 400 Jews since 1995. The Jewish Agency had entered an agreement with Fidel Castro to keep the operation quiet in return for an obstacle-free operation.

Although the Cuban immigration was not widely known, one thing is certain, says Hernandez: Castro "knew about the entire thing," she says, wondering why the mission was shrouded in secrecy. "Nothing happens in Cuba that Fidel does not know. And in Cuba, professionals, doctors and teachers cannot leave without permission from Fidel Castro or his buddies."

Immigrants here say it is much more difficult for professionals to secure an exit visa from the country, and Israeli officials say the majority of the immigrants who have arrived are blue-collar workers.

In addition, among the Jewish immigrants are many non-Jews who are eligible for Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return, which grants even grandchildren of a Jew the right to aliyah. In a tiny



New immigrants at an Israeli absorption center.

Jewish community like Cuba, say immigrants, intermarriage is inevitable.

"I am not Jewish, but I feel like a Jew," says Alfredo Sotolongo, 41, wearing a red cap, gold earring and bracelets, a fat cigar wedged between his fingers. "During the last 8 years, we were very active in the synagogue."

Sotolongo came to Israel with Violeta Perez Nieto, his second wife, and four stepchildren. His stepson Ewduin Perez, 24, is also not technically Jewish. But when Jews began reviving community life in the early 1990s after Castro became more tolerant of open religious practice, the family started going to synagogue.

Perez's grandfather was Jacobo Perez Meshulam, who immigrated from Turkey to Cuba and was a founder of the local synagogue.

"We lived with him, and during my childhood I always remembered seeing the Jews swaying at prayer," says Perez, recalling the small group of Jews who remained devout even when the regime was less tolerant.

A few years ago, a group of youngsters began organizing activities.

"I began going to Friday night services, Shabbat morning services, and every Sunday I participated in Hebrew classes," says Perez.

Perez mentions the name of Jose Miller, a community leader who apparently was close with Castro, as having been one factor in Castro's decision to let the Jews go. But he, and most other immigrants interviewed, say they found out they could leave via rumors that spread through the community like wildfire.

As the word spread, Perez, who was working in a cigar factory, made his decision, and headed for the Canadian Embassy to submit his paperwork.

Canada, which maintains relations with Cuba, helped facilitate the emigration since there are no diplomatic ties between Israel and Cuba.

Perez does not hide his motives, and does not profess any Zionist ideology, yet he says he is willing to

work hard, serve in the army and start again in Israel if given the chance.

"I came because life was hard in Cuba," he says. "We felt like dogs in Cuba, but here I feel like the same dog with a different collar."

## Woman Commands The Israel Philharmonic Baton

By Tom Tugend, JTA

When Gisele Ben-Dor made her conducting debut with the Israel Philharmonic in 1983, she was nine months pregnant.

Her concluding piece was Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring," which, in view of her particular condition, was renamed by the orchestra as "The Rite of the Offspring."

"All during the performance he didn't move, but as soon as it was over, he did a mambo," recalls Ben-Dor. The musically attuned fetus was born two weeks later as the first of her three children, and named Roy.

These days, Ben-Dor leads a bicoastal existence as musical director and conductor of the Santa Barbara Symphony in California and musical director of the Boston Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra.

Also penciled into her upcoming schedule are engagements for orchestral and opera performances in Geneva, Helsinki, Mexico City, Italy and across the United States.

The conductor was born in 1956 in Uruguay, the daughter of two Polish immigrants named Buka.

Her family loved music, with a grandmother who knew every opera by heart and a mother "who sang like an angel," recalls Ben-Dor.

She remembers herself as an "obsessed kid," who at 3 started nudging her parents to let her use the family piano.

At 12, she took up conducting "out of the blue," and two years later was hired, at a salary, to conduct her school orchestra and chorus.

Three years later, at 15, while

For most of the immigrants, the biggest problem is that they have been granted immigrant rights similar to those received by immigrants from Western countries.

But unlike their Western counterparts, Cuban immigrants were not allowed to bring any money or property out of Cuba. Their snappy dress in designer clothing is misleading; two suitcases of clothing were all they were allowed to take out. The rest of their property was nationalized.

The immigrants argue they should therefore be eligible for the same absorption package granted to immigrants from impoverished countries like Ethiopia. Most importantly, they want to receive the same amount of assistance for buying an apartment.

Israel's Absorption Ministry says the average Cuban family will receive up to \$30,000 for a mortgage, while the average Ethiopian family is granted as much as \$75,000.

The Jewish Agency has allowed the Cubans to stay at their absorption centers longer than the usual six-month period, knowing that

their status must first be ironed out.

"I am still optimistic," says Perez, echoing the sentiments of many immigrants at the absorption center, some who were upset at the Israeli media for making it sound like many were on the verge of leaving the country.

"Israel is our country and we love this country," says Alexe Colon, 23, a fiery redheaded young man who left his law studies in Havana to come to Israel.

Last week, as the publicity began to dissipate, Cuba appeared to be dispelling rumors that Jews would be kept from leaving. Alejandro Gonzalez, Cuba's foreign minister, said Cuba had never blocked the exit of any Jews nor had they encouraged them to leave.

Reports of a secret deal to allow Cuban Jews to leave were "cheap sensationalism," he said. "We will not stop" them from emigrating, "nor have we obliged them to do so," he said.

(JTA staff writer Julia Goldman in New York contributed to this report.)

accompanying her family on a tourist trip to Israel, she met her future husband, Eli.

"Our respective grandmothers were friends," she recalls, "and on our first date we went to the opera. "Neither the date nor the opera was that good," she says.

Eli Ben-Dor is an engineer, who built up his own high-tech company and sold it recently to Texas Instruments.

Her parents moved permanently to Israel months before the 1973 Yom Kippur War, and settled in a small apartment in Ramat Gan.

Their daughter studied at the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem and in 1980 enrolled at Yale's School of Conducting.

Shortly after her graduation from Yale in 1982, her budding talent was recognized by Leonard Bernstein, who adopted her as one of his last proteges and sharpened her skills with the Tanglewood Young Artists Orchestra.

Her initial positions were with orchestras in Louisville, Ky., and Houston, and she first came to national attention when she conducted the Houston Symphony at President Bush's inauguration early in 1989.

She made the musical limelight again in 1994, when in the best Hollywood tradition, she stepped in at the last minute for the ailing Kurt Masur to conduct the New York Philharmonic without a rehearsal, score or baton. Of course, she was a smash.

Twice a year, she returns to Israel, where her parents still live, to conduct the Israel Philharmonic.

She has a wry comment on the occasionally boisterous behavior of the instrumentalists, and quotes violinist Pinchas Zukerman to the

effect that "Sometimes I regret that I understand" Hebrew.

These days, though, she adds, "I'm learning Russian." She can add that accomplishment to her six other languages. At her home in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., the conversation is in Hebrew and the oldest son is slated to join the Israeli army next year.

Ben-Dor is only one of three women conductors leading prominent orchestras, and audiences and critics often comment on her gender.

Conducting is so demanding - "I need emotional strength in every hair," she says - that she cannot afford to worry what others think of her as a woman.

"If I worried about (the audience's perception), I would become self-conscious," she says. "I have conducted since I was 12 years old. Being a woman conductor may not be normal to the outside world, but it's normal to me. I must say that since I came to the United States, I have been given every opportunity, and I hope I deserve it."

Ben-Dor is rapidly gaining a reputation as the premier interpreter of the works of Latin American composers.

Leading her orchestra, she recently recorded, for the first time, the ballet score from "La Coronela" by Mexico's Silvestre Revueltas. Due out in the next few months is the world premiere recording of the "Amerindia" symphony by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos.

"Maestra Ben-Dor," noted the Los Angeles Times, "is just the conductor we have been looking for to make a really persuasive case for Latin composers."



# MILESTONES

## One of Israel's Founding Fathers Dies at 90

JTA, Jerusalem-Rabbi Yosef Burg, one of the founders of Israel's nationalist religious movement died October 15 at the age of 90.

At his funeral, President Ezer Weizman eulogized him as a friend and national leader.

Prior to the funeral, Burg lay in state at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, where he served as international chairman for many years.

Burg, a founder of the National Religious Party who was known for his efforts to bridge the gap between religious and secular Jews, served in the Cabinets of successive Israeli governments for 38 years.

Born in Dresden, Germany, Burg was active in religious Zionist activities while attending university in Leipzig. After he earned his doctorate and was ordained as a rabbi, he escaped Germany a few months before war broke out in 1939.

Soon after Burg came to Palestine, he launched a lifetime of service to the Jewish state.

Burg was first elected to the Knesset in 1949. During his long career there, he served as deputy speaker of the Knesset, and headed several ministries, including Health, Social Welfare, the Interior and Religious Affairs.

He passed on his yen for politics to his son, Avraham, a member of the Labor Party who is the current speaker of the Knesset.

The elder Burg supported the Camp David peace accord between Israel and Egypt, and opposed the war in Lebanon.



Rabbi Yosef Burg

"Politics is not a choice between good and evil," he once told the Jerusalem Post. "In politics, you have to decide between evil and less evil, and that can be a cruel choice."

After the 1967 Six-Day War, when Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights, the younger wing of his party grew more radical, and Burg's influence waned.

In a statement, the Orthodox Union commended Burg for "his gifts for diplomacy and bridge-building among the many groups that comprise the Jewish people."

The O.U. statement also noted his "charismatic personality, the depth of his thought and creativity."

## In Memoriam

### Jacob Fox

Jacob Fox, 75, of Exton, PA, (formerly of Wilmington), died on October 21. He was a special education teacher at Mt. Pleasant High School. Mr. Fox is survived by two sons, Kenneth and Leo; a sister, Shirley Fox and four grandchildren.

### Arthur M. Tollin

Arthur M. Tollin, 79, of Dover, DE, died October 23. A native of Philadelphia, PA, he graduated from Temple University with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry. He was a production manager at Playtex for 24 years, retiring in 1985.

Mr. Tollin was a past president and long-term member of Congregation Beth Sholom in Dover. He was active in many community organizations including the American Legion Walter L. Fox Post #2 in Dover, the United Way and the Small Business Advisory Council. As a volunteer for the Science Alliance, he shared his knowledge of science and physics with elementary students.

Mr. Tollin is survived by his wife of 54 years, Julia F. Tollin; two sons, Mark J. Tollin of Fairfax, VA and Fred D. Tollin of Frederica, DE; two grandsons, Steven and Craig, both of Fairfax, VA.

The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to Congregation Beth Sholom.

### Gerald Blum

Gerald Blum, 71, died October 15, 1999. He was President of "Take A Break" food service company. He was a Board member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and past president of AKSE Men's Club. He was instrumental in establishing the National Coffee Service Association, was on the Board of Directors of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce and of the Delaware Better Business Bureau, a member of Oriental Lodge #27, AF & AM, the Nur Temple Shrine. Mr. Blum was honored by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, in 1984 he was awarded Delaware Small Business Person of the Year, and the United States Senate Productivity Award by Senator William V. Roth, Jr., active supporter of local groups and charities affecting a broad scope of the populace i.e., Little Sisters of the Poor, Emmanuel Kitchen, etc., anything that comes under the category of "needy" not "greedy."

He is survived by his wife Elsie (Jinx) Blum; three sons, Harry, Alan, and Ronald; and seven grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions to either Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation or the charity of your choice.

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Coming Through In A Pinch

By Paula Shulak

It is a Director's nightmare! You have rehearsed for several months, survived a technical rehearsal schedule that is a killer and opening night arrives with everyone's hopes high. And then you find that the star of the show is ill and cannot make the opening. What to do? In the case of the Wilmington Drama League's current production ARSENIC AND OLD LACE, the answer was relatively easy. Ask Ruby Stanley to go onstage with only an hour's notice! The result was a performance of which both she and WDL can be proud. Ruby is a trooper and book in hand, she managed to create a creditable Aunt Abby Brewster in the classic comedy, even though she had never had one moment of rehearsal. The old adage that the show must go on was never more true.

Director Ed Nolan (who incidentally also designed the magnificent set for his play) did not choose an easy show for his first foray into directing a full length play. ARSENIC AND OLD LACE may be a classic but it is also long and wordy and has a plethora of characters to mold and form into a tight team. And the teamwork was evident as the cast worked together to get through this very difficult opening night. In particular, the performance of Art Sennett as a Peter Lorre like character was a joy to behold. His timing, facial expressions and general demeanor were very funny and he complemented the maniacal characterization provided by veteran Ted Harting as the insane Johnathan Brewster very well. This is, of course, the story of two maiden ladies who enjoy putting their male house guests out of their lonely misery by offering them a sip of elderberry wine,

laced with arsenic and cyanide. Aunt Abby and Aunt Martha are sweet, kind and gentle according to all who know them including the police. Their nephew Mortimer tries to protect them but in the end we find that he is the one who needs protecting while both his aunts are safely committed to Happydale sanatorium along with Mortimer's sometime brother who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt. If all this sounds a little confusing, it is and that is why ARSENIC is not an easy first play.

Jean Beattie who appears as Aunt Martha, provided a good interpretation of that rather wifty lady, although she was unfortunately not able to interact with Dottie Watkins, the ailing star, and I am sure that their interplay would have added a great deal to the overall performance. Many of the rest of the cast were adequate in their roles, including Jim Walsh as

Teddy and David Reyne as Mortimer. Other cast members, however, need to work on their energy levels and delineate their characters more. This is, in reality, a farce and needs a bit more exaggeration to succeed. One of the best aspects of the production was the excellent makeup created by the team of Tanya Lazar, Karen Jesse, Jack Jackson and Shari Phelan. Was there ever a more real looking Boris Karloff than Ted Harting or as memorable a Teddy Roosevelt look alike as Jim Walsh? Kudos to the makeup artists and to set decorators Ed Nolan, Roxanna Hurst and Barbara Sevier for their excellent work. ARSENIC AND OLD LACE will be presented at WDL through November 6. Here's hoping Dottie Watkins recovers and is able to complete the run, but thanks to Ruby Stanley for standing in so well

## Myriam's Well

Continued from page 15

me a brief tour of her living space. Each painting on the wall, I discovered, was placed with great care, and had a personal meaning. It had been acquired intentionally because a loved one had created it, or given it as a gift. Above her bed hangs an artfully framed handwritten note. It is, I learned, a love note from her husband, who died several years ago from the virus. I wiped away tears from my eyes as Elise told me, without much fanfare, that if she died tomorrow, it would be all right. She had tasted a love in her life which was so complete, so whole and beautiful, with her husband, that she no longer feared anything from life, or death.

A verse from Psalms says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may acquire a heart of wisdom." Of course we hope and pray that for each of us our walk through life be free of suffering.

That the number of our days is long. But if it is our fate to tread a path living with AIDS, or another illness or trauma for which there is no cure (and that could be any of us, at any sudden time), and which potentially limits the number of our days, Elise demonstrates that it is possible to wrestle much blessing and wisdom from the days and nights we walk through our lives.

\*A pseudonym.  
(Rabbi Myriam Klotz staffs The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service. The Center provides pastoral care support, Spiritual Support Groups, a resource library, monthly Jewish Healing Services, and educational programming throughout the area. Programming at The Relationship Center will begin in Newark during November. For more information about the KSJHC contact Rabbi Klotz at (302) 478-9411.

### Corrections & Addenoums

Pictures on the front cover of the Oct. 15 Jewish Voice were taken by Morris Ariff. Eileen Koniver, chair of the Lion of Judah division was inadvertently left out of the caption describing guests at the reception for the "From Al's to Zutz" exhibit. We regret the error.

## Schoenberg Memorial Chapels



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# 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.

## NOVEMBER

**Sunday 7**  
**At the JCC**, 12:30-3:00 p.m. Program for high school students and parents on choosing a college. Free to students, \$5 for parents. Includes lunch. Sponsored by University of Delaware Hillel and seven other organizations. Call 453-0479 for details.

**Friday 12**  
**Join members of** Congregation Beth Shalom for an adult weekend retreat at Makom Shalom on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Special guest is Rabbi Siegel, author of "Who Are The Prophets and What Do They Say To Us?" Call Norman Schutzman, (302) 478-0200 for additional information.

**Sunday 14**  
**Temple Beth El** in Newark offers one-stop shopping for all your Chanukah needs. Come to the synagogue's holiday bazaar and stock up on gifts, decorations and wrapping paper. Games, crafts and fun for the children. Latkes for lunch. Come one, come all, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the synagogue, 301 Possum Park Road, Newark. Call 366-8330 for more information.

**Tuesday 16**  
**Gratz Faculty Staff Development**, 7-9 p.m., no student classes.

**Thursday 18**  
**Gratz Open House** for parents, 7-9 p.m. Parents join students in their classes. Call 478-8100 for details.

**Sunday 21**  
**Gratz Open House** for parents, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Parents join students in their classes. Call 478-8100 for details.

**Tuesday 23**  
**Gratz Open House** for parents, 7-9 p.m. Parents join students in their classes. Call 478-8100 for details.

## ONGOING

**MONTEFIORE MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY** announces new rules relating to restoration of membership benefits which lapsed due to divorce. Under these rules divorced spouses of Montefiore members can become members for a reduced fee. Written requests for this type of membership must be sent to Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society, P.O. Box 7186, Wilmington, Delaware 19803-0186 before the latest of either March 1, 2000, or the end of the third month following date of divorce.

**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.

**VOLLEYBALL ANYONE?** Young Jewish Singles of Delaware sponsors a weekly volleyball game and dinner outing for adults in their 20s and 30s. Non competitive play every Wednesday at 6p.m., dinner at 8p.m. Call Phil at 652-6688 for more information.

## 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.

## OSI SEARCHING FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

who lived in Kupishok, Lithuania or surrounding towns during July, August or September of 1941. Their testimony is needed in connection with a pending criminal case against an alleged war criminal. For additional information, please call Stephen Paskey or Susan Adams at the Office of Special Investigations, (202) 616-2501. Collect calls will be accepted.

## Albert Einstein Academy Teacher Honored By Jewish National Fund



Mrs. Amy Blum, a Jewish Studies teacher at the Albert Einstein Academy, and her husband, Rabbi Barry Blum, Rabbi of Ner Tamid Synagogue in Broomall, Pennsylvania was honored by the Jewish National Fund. Both Rabbi and Amy Blum have been active in synagogue life and Jewish Day School Camp Ramah, United Synagogue Youth, and Israel causes for many years. Their children, Ira, age 11, and Shoshana, age 8, were in attendance at the brunch in their honor. The guest speaker was Colonel (Res.) Moshe El'ad, NJF Emissary. Mrs. Blue has taught Hebrew, Bible, Jewish History, Holidays, Israel and Torah reading at the Albert Einstein Academy for the past four years.

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**Do a little Chanukah shopping...**  
Gifts, Judaic items, artwork, toys and special one-of-a-kind merchandise will be on display and available for purchase at our gift and craft bazaar.

**Take a chance with our Choopla raffle...**  
Buy a raffle ticket or two and you could win some great prizes, goods, services and fitness! All proceeds from the raffle will benefit JCC programs.

**Just for the kids...**  
Age-appropriate games and activities will be offered throughout the day. Jump on the moon bounce, try your hand at the high striker game, have your face painted or perform your favorite song at our Karaoke booth!

**A challenging day for teens...**  
Come out and participate in our special teen tournaments including ping-pong, fooseball, pop-a-shot basketball and try out our NEW air hockey table in the Teen Lounge.

**Membership savings...**  
We will be offering \$100 off all new memberships and if you join the JCC at Choopla, you can take a chance on "Balloons for Bucks" for extra savings!

