

## KICK OFF 2002 WITH TWO COMMUNITY EVENTS

The 2002 Jewish Federation of Delaware Annual Campaign calendar kicks off with two important January events. Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Reserve these dates for ruach, enlightenment, entertainment and important opportunities to commit to campaign-funded humanitarian programs in Delaware, in Israel and elsewhere in the global Jewish community.

Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of the newly remastered film "Exodus" with an exclusive Delaware showing on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m. at the Baby Grand Theatre in downtown Wilmington. This special screening is part of a 150-city international tour and is an ideal opportunity to bring together entire families to view a powerful reminder of the significance of Israel to Jews in desperate need of a homeland. This compelling movie eloquently articulates the importance of Delaware's participation in ISRAELNOW AND FOREVER, a special one-time United Jewish Communities campaign outlined in the article below.

Before the show, William Millman, the helmsman of the famed ship that transported 4,530 Holocaust survivors to the promise of a new life in the land then known as Palestine, will address the audience. Tickets are \$15 per person and include a dessert reception during intermission. Seating is limited. Please call Amalia Snyderman at (302) 427-2100, ext. 30 to make your reservations. If advance sales are overwhelming, a second show may be added.

Millman will be the featured speaker at the Chai Event Brunch, which precedes the Exodus screening on January 20<sup>th</sup>. This annual event, chaired this year by Wendy and Buddy Berger and Dorothy and David Bobman, welcomes and honors households who contribute a minimum of \$2,036 and individuals who contribute \$1,018 and above to the 2002 Federation Annual Campaign.

Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> is SUPER SUNDAY-an all-day phone-a-thon on behalf of the 2002 Federation Annual Campaign. Volunteers will call on their friends and neighbors throughout the state of Delaware encouraging them to make a commitment to Jews in need in Delaware, in Israel and around the world. SUPER SUNDAY Co-Chairs Felisha Alderson, Barbara Blumberg and Lisa Weiner have devised a

menu specially designed to "Raise some \$Dough\$" towards the 2002 campaign goal of \$2 million. Volunteer Recruitment Co-Chairs Beth Galperin and Debbie Cohen invite prospective volunteers to place their "order" for 2 hour and 45 minute shifts beginning at 9:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. by filling out the coupon on Page 5 of this edition of the Jewish Voice.

As we go to press, Iris

Tocker, Sponsorship chair for this year's phone-a-thon, is busily contacting area businesses willing to donate cash and/or goods and services to "serve up" an impressive cash tally. If your business is interested in becoming a Super Sunday sponsor, please call Todd Polikoff, assistant director, Financial Resource Development, at (302) 427-2100, ext. 16 or email him at [todd.polikoff@shalomdel.org](mailto:todd.polikoff@shalomdel.org)

## DELAWARE JEWS WILL COMMIT TO ISRAEL'S FUTURE ISRAELNOW

By Lynn Edelman  
Editor

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Delaware recently agreed to join its sister Federations throughout North America in an ambitious solidarity initiative. ISRAELNOW AND FOREVER is a promise by Diaspora Jews to their Israeli brothers and sisters that we will stand by them during this time of crisis and work together to ensure the safety and security of our Jewish homeland.

The Delaware Jewish community has agreed to raise \$300,000 for this campaign which will help alleviate the emotional and physical suffering of Israelis who are reeling from the effects of fifteen months of violence. In the spirit of Operations Exodus and Solomon, ISRAELNOW AND FOREVER is a second-line campaign separate from the Federation Annual Campaign or Community Capital Campaign.

Delaware dollars will support the following three projects:

\*Purchasing an armored vehicle to transport school children and the elderly.

\*Funding the Israeli National

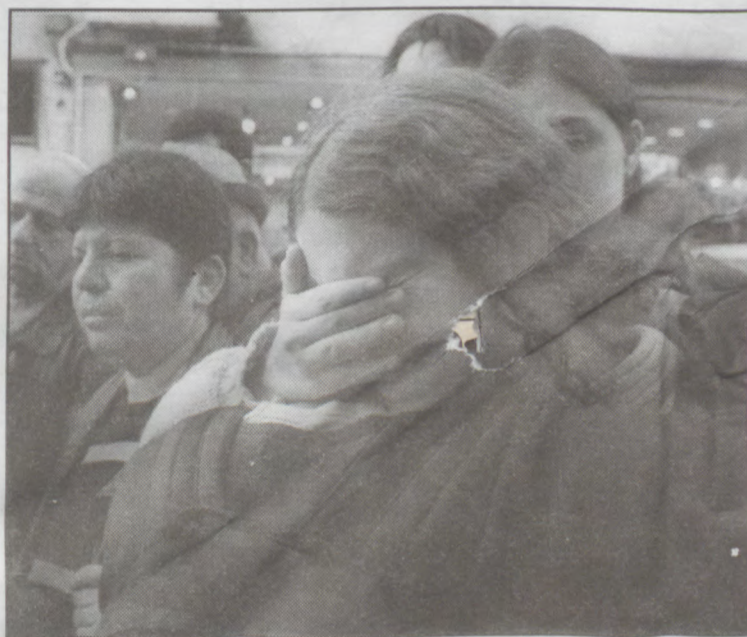
Trauma Victims Hotline-a lifeline of support for grieving families and friends.

\*Furnishing ambulances in Delaware's Partnership 2000 region of Arad/Tamar with two Emergency Care Units which help provide critical care in crisis situations.

Because the needs are so urgent and immediate, campaign pledges will be accepted now through March with a cash collection deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>. To help ensure the success of this important initiative, an anonymous donor has promised to match the first \$100,000 committed dollar for dollar. Stephen Rothschild has announced a challenge grant of \$25,000 if the campaign raises \$250,000 or more.

Rothschild and his wife, Carol are serving as co-chairpersons of ISRAELNOW AND FOREVER, along with Lelaine and Stuart Nemser and Toni and Stuart B. Young.

Pledges may be made by check, VISA or MasterCard. For additional information about the campaign or to receive a pledge card, please call Todd Polikoff, assistant director, Financial Resource Development, at (302) 427-2100, ext. 16.



Israelis are traumatized by the horrific violence during the past 15 months. Diaspora Jews must support them NOW and forever.

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## LEVY, SCHWARTZ & ASSOCIATES



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- 3 car garage
- Wooded 2 acre w/o lot
- Gourmet Granite Kitchen
- Spring Delivery



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- 4 Bedrooms
- 2 Full 1 Half Bath
- Gourmet Center Island Kitchen
- 2 Car Garage
- 1st Floor Study
- Hardwood Floors



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## FEDERATION UP FRONT



The Jewish Federation of Delaware kicked off the 2002 Annual Campaign at its December 16th Dinner of Commitment. L to R: John A. Elzufon, JFD President, guest speaker Mark Jonathan Harris, Academy Award winning writer and director and dinner co-chairs Ellen and Bob Meyer.



JFD Executive Vice President Judy Wortman presents a Tzedakah Box in tribute to the late Irving Shapiro for his contributions to the Delaware Jewish community. Accepting the award are wife, Charlotte and daughter Beth Shapiro. Photos by Morris Ariff.

More photos on page 4

## HARRIS JEWELERS

### SPECIAL NEW YEAR SAVINGS



**14kt. Gold Diamond Hearts  
on 14kt. Gold Chains**

1 Ct. T.W. set in 14kt. yellow gold  
\*Value \$1000.00 Our Price \$399.98

1/2 Ct. T.W. set in 14kt. yellow gold  
\*Value \$500.00 Our Price \$249.98

1 Ct. T.W. set in 14kt. white gold  
\*Value \$1000.00 Our Price \$399.98

1/4 Ct. T.W. set in 14kt. yellow gold  
\*Value \$375.00 Our Price \$149.98

1/2 Ct. T.W. set in 14kt white gold  
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1/4 Ct. T.W. set in 14kt. white gold  
\*Value \$375.00 Our Price \$149.98

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BEST JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR**

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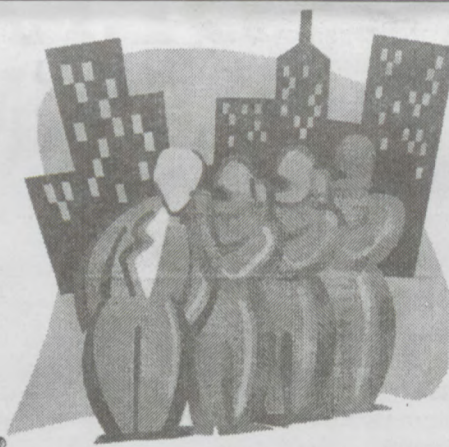


**MON.-FRI  
10 AM TO 9 PM  
SATURDAY  
10 AM TO 6 PM**

309 Branmar Plaza  
1812 Marsh Road  
Wilmington, DE 19810  
Phone: 475-3101

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Kirkwood Plaza  
Wilmington, DE 19808  
Phone: 999-9901

410 Eden Circle  
Eden Square Shopping Ctr.  
Bear, DE 19701  
Phone: 836-9745



## Singles Speak

If you are over 30  
If you have never been married or  
Are presently unmarried  
If you enjoy talking about yourself or  
Just enjoy listening to others  
If you are looking for something different to do  
If you don't want to travel too far from home  
If you want to stimulate your brain

Then do think of attending this first time meeting where  
you can speak about issues regarding being single in  
the 21st century.

**Time: January 4, 2002 (really) • 8-9 PM**

**Place: Chadds Ford**

**RSVP: 610-358-9315 for further information**

**Sponsor: RUTH MORELLI, PH.D. ABPP**



## EDITORIAL

## Keeping The Gates Open

This edition of *The Jewish Voice*, our very last edition of 2001, has a deliberate focus on Federation Annual Campaign activities, events and new initiatives. Our cover stories invite you to become involved in the 2002 campaign by enjoying an exclusive Delaware screening of the epic film "Exodus" or by enjoining your friends and neighbors to support Federation Super Sunday-the all-day phone-a-thon that supports Jews in Delaware, in Israel and in 59 other countries around the world where our people are in desperate need of our help.

This year, Israel's needs are particularly pressing. Our third cover story talks about a brand-new campaign initiative begun by United Jewish Communities in response to Israel's current security crisis. The government of Israel, now in the midst of an economic recession, has been forced to divert resources away from social service programs to maintain vigilance against a steady stream of terrorist attacks.

Israel needs the financial support of

Diaspora Jews to ensure the safety of its current citizens and its new olim (see our Photo of the Week) who continue to flee their oppressed homelands to begin new lives in the Jewish State. Delaware has committed \$300,000 to this new initiative-appropriately called ISRAELNOW AND FOREVER. This one-time, stand-alone campaign provides funds for three projects which are outlined in the cover article.

Please, make your pledge now and pay it by June 30th. And please remember, this pledge is separate from your Federation Annual Campaign gift.

Yes, we realize that these are economically challenging times for many Americans. Yet Americans have had a recent bitter taste of the terrorist threat that Israelis deal with every day of their lives. Our historic solidarity with the people of Israel has intensified and so must our financial support.

May we all be blessed with health, happiness and shalom in 2002!

## Israel's Newest Olim



Ruti Romero and her son Uri view pictures of themselves leaving Argentina in an Israeli newspaper after arriving in Israel Dec. 25. The Romeros are part of a group of 63 Argentine immigrants that will make their home in Israel after leaving their country as it faces financial and political chaos. Credit: Brian Hendler/JTA

## The JEWISH VOICE

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## A Refuge For All Jews

With the plight of Argentina's people uppermost in all our minds and hearts, the Jewish Agency is doing everything it can to help our fellow Jews there.

Yesterday 63 olim from Argentina - the first group to arrive since the outbreak of the riots - landed in Israel. The immigrants, mostly families with young children, went directly to Jewish Agency absorption centers in Ra'anana, Beersheba and Kiryat Yam.

Today 40 teenagers from Argentina - participants in the Jewish Agency's residential two-year high school program, Na'aleh Zohar - will arrive in Israel. They will join 100 other high school students from Argentina already enrolled in this program. In addition, 26 adults will arrive on that flight to participate in a pilot tour of Israel.

On December 23rd, the Jewish Agency and the Government of Israel agreed to launch a program to facilitate the immigration of Jews from Argentina, which includes a special package of absorption benefits to immigrants for the year 2002. The Government will award each family approximately \$20,000 in additional assistance for the acquisition of an apartment (two thirds as a loan and one third as a grant). The Jewish

Agency will award an initial absorption allocation of \$2,500 per family. These benefits are in addition to existing decisions and follow upon decisions taken by of the joint Government - Jewish Agency Coordinating Commission of June and October.

In Argentina, Jewish Agency offices will be kept open until 11:00 PM, and on Sundays as well, while the immigration procedure will be speeded up and streamlined. In the next few days, our staff in Argentina will be reaching out to every Jew who wishes information about Israel.

The Jewish education system, once the crown jewel of South American Jewish Zionist education, has been hard hit by the general economic crisis in Argentina. This has led to several school closures and consolidations, as well as to the unemployment of Jewish studies and Hebrew teachers. The Jewish Agency has developed a comprehensive program to strengthen the existing infrastructure and provide formal and informal educational services to Argentina's Jewish community.

Sincerely yours,  
Jariv M. Sultan

Director, Marketing & Public Affairs

## PARSHA PLACE

VAYECHI

GENESIS: 47:28-50:26

Week of December 29

## A FATHER'S BLESSING

by Yoel Feiler

Torah from Dixie

Before Jacob's death in this week's Torah portion, he decides to give a blessing to each of his children. He also gives a special blessing to Joseph's two sons, Menashe and Ephraim. Strangely, in the middle of the passage describing that blessing, the Torah says, "Jacob blessed Joseph saying..." (Genesis 48:15), and then continues to discuss Menashe and Ephraim's blessing. We are therefore left to ponder what was the blessing given to Joseph to which the Torah refers?

Rabbi Samuel Baruch Schulman, a contemporary rabbi in Israel, explains that by blessing Joseph's sons, Jacob was also blessing Joseph, for it is truly a blessing to a father when his children are blessed to be good and righteous.

A further question arises regarding the blessing that Jacob gave Joseph's sons. Jacob tells them, "Through you shall the Jewish people bless saying, 'May Hashem make you like Ephraim and Menashe'" (ibid. 48:20). Indeed, throughout the generations this has been the blessing given to every Jewish boy, conferred by many every Friday night on their sons. Why is so much emphasis placed upon Ephraim and Menashe when so little is known about them? It would seemingly make more sense to say, "May Hashem make you like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob", parallel to the blessing given to girls, "May Hashem make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah." Just like we bless our daughters to be like the Matriarchs, why don't we bless our sons to be like the Patriarchs?

Ephraim and Menashe grew up in the lap of Egyptian royalty. Their father, Joseph, was second in command of the greatest empire at that time. Their lives were drowned in Egyptian culture, making it very easy for them to assimilate. It is for this reason, explains Rabbi Yehudah Leib Ginzberg, the late rabbi of Denver, Colorado, that we bless our children to be like Ephraim and Menashe. Although they were raised in the foreign, hostile environment of Egypt, they did not assimilate. They remained true to their faith, even in a society filled with so many temptations. Jacob knew that in the future, his children, the Jewish people, would be spread around the world, often in difficult surroundings. Therefore, Jacob prayed that regardless of their situation, Jewish children should remain loyal to the Torah, just as Ephraim and Menashe did in Egypt.

Yoel Feiler, a graduate of Yeshiva Atlanta, is a student at Yeshiva University in New York.

THURSDAY  
NOON  
DEADLINE

for all articles,  
advertisements and news  
for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE	FOCUS	DEADLINE
JAN. 11	CELEBRATING	JAN. 3
WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS		

All submissions in person  
for The Jewish Voice  
due at JFD offices  
or mail:  
The Jewish Voice  
100 W. 10th St., Suite 301  
Wilmington, DE 19801-1628  
e-mail: lynne.edelman@shalomdel.org

## Dry Bones

THE MUSLIM  
FUNDAMENTALISTS:

AMERICA  
IS TO  
BLAME!

THE ARAB  
STATES:

ISRAEL  
IS TO  
BLAME!

THE PAKISTANIS:

NEW DEHLI  
IS TO  
BLAME!

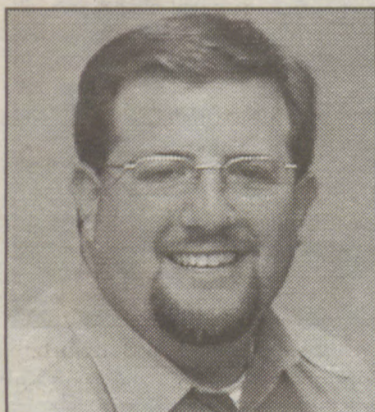
IN OTHER WORDS  
WHAT THEY FEAR  
IS:

AMERICAN  
KOSHER  
DEHLI!



## FEDERATION FOCUS

### We do not want to raise \$2 Million In 2002



Todd Polikoff

**By Todd Polikoff**  
Assistant Director  
Financial Resource  
Development

A group of Yeshiva students went to the Rabbi and asked for more books for the library. When the Rabbi asked why, the students said that they had three goals. They wanted to expand the subject matter of the library, increase the amount of time that books could be loaned out, and to draw more students to the library.

The Rabbi looked at the three students and immediately denied their request. He told them that

expanding the subject matter of the library, increasing the amount of time books could be loaned out, and drawing more students to the library is what they were actually requesting. More books were what would help them accomplish those goals. The students re-arranged their request and eventually received more books.

The Rabbi's philosophy holds true with the Jewish Federation of Delaware's 2002 Annual Campaign goal. Every year the Jewish Federation of Delaware announces a dollar figure that it would like to the annual campaign to raise. Like

the Yeshiva students, the money is not the actual goal. The money is what we need to achieve our goals.

This year, instead of telling the community how much money we would like to raise, we want to tell the community what we would like to accomplish. Our goals for the 2002 Annual Campaign are to assess and address the needs of our community throughout Delaware, Israel and around the world; provide more educational and leadership opportunities and ensure that we will fill the new community capital campaign projects in

Wilmington and Newark with amazing people and amazing programs. In order to accomplish these goals our community will need to raise over \$2 million in the 2002 campaign.

I hope that everyone in the Jewish Community of Delaware will help accomplish these goals that will truly benefit all of us. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Annual Campaign at (302) 427-2100 ext. 16 or [www.shalomdelaware.org](http://www.shalomdelaware.org).

## JCRC Update

**By: Sue Shaffer**  
JCRC Director  
**ON THE LOCAL FRONT:**

Alan Schoenberg reports that he has been taking care of the situation at the Machzikey Hadas Cemetery in Minquadale, where vandalism has been reported. Following up on reports that stones have been found to be toppled over, Schoenberg states that he has had Cecil Vault in to repair any damaged headstones and that Congregation Machzikey Hadas has been paying for the repairs. Schoenberg also says that the caretaker saw a young girl, age 12, topple over some headstones; she was taken to Family Court, prosecuted and made to pay \$150 to cover the cost of repairs. New Castle County police are aware of the situation and observe activities at the cemetery as best they can.

On the national front-JCPA (Jewish Council for Public Affairs), our JCRC umbrella agency writes:

A wonderful leader and activist in the Houston Jewish community is in need of your help. His oldest son, 10, is the final stages of Adrenoleukodystrophy, a terrible disease that will, within in a very short term, result in his death. More information on this disease can be found at [www.stopald.org](http://www.stopald.org).

His middle son, 7, has been diagnosed with the genetic markers for the disease. This means that if a bone marrow donor cannot be found, this child will eventually be a victim of the disease, as well. The family, with support from the Houston Jewish community, is making an all out effort to have as many people tested as possible to find a bone marrow match. The website has locations for upcoming bone marrow testing in New York and Florida. I would really appreciate your help in circulating this email to as many people as you can. Obviously the greater the volume of people that agree to be tested, the greater the chances of identifying a potential donor. The national bone marrow organization had an exhibit at the United Jewish Communities' recent General Assembly and this individual's middle son was the subject of one of the pieces of literature circulated at the GA.

#### ISRAEL UPDATE:

JCRC/JFD staff recently participated in a teleconference, sponsored by UJC and JCPA. Guest speaker was Jonathan Livny, who has served as legal advisor for the Knesset, presiding judge of the military court in Judea and Samaria, attorney general of the

West Bank, and as chief military prosecutor with the Judge Advocate's Office. Livny discussed the reality of living with terror in Jerusalem. Livny stated that Jerusalem is no longer a city of Peace, but rather the mood today is one of despair, fear and loneliness.

Despair: "We suddenly realize that peace is not around the corner."

Fear: "Many in Jerusalem fear for their lives, and Israeli children know far too much about death and the pain of losing friends." Stating that children from the age of 5 or 6 has a cellular phone to constantly inform their parents of their whereabouts and that they are ok. "You never get used to living a life of terror."

Loneliness: "Jerusalem is now a lonely city...kids groups from Israel don't travel to Jerusalem anymore... Jews from around the world don't come to Jerusalem anymore... big hotels are dark... major restaurants are closing... Ben Yehudah Street is empty..." Livny said that a friend of his recently told him that "you can't come only in the good times," so remember the slogan "We Are One" and let Israel know that world Jewry supports Eretz Yisrael!

## Dinner of Commitment Kicks Off 2002 JFD Annual Campaign



From left: David Hefter, a new JFD board member and his wife, Susan chat with Charlotte Shapiro, Reiko and Barry Kayne at the dinner. Barry Kayne is the president-elect of Federation.



Martin Mand, JFD past president paid tribute to Irving Shapiro, a long-time personal friend, at the dinner which was held at Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington.

## ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE

### Out With The Old - In With The New



Rachel Gross



**By Rachel Gross, Esq.**  
Endowment  
Director

While the celebration of the New Year on January 1st is not a Jewish holiday, in the world in which most of us live it is a day that we mark in some fashion. For some people it may mean a party, for others it may simply be the time to switch to a new calendar. In either case, most of us note the passage of another year and the beginning of a new one.

We make resolutions for the new year. We vow to exercise more, eat less and be nicer to neighbors. We may pledge to be a better spouse or child, to criticize less and to volunteer

more. We consider the projects that we did not get to last year and promise to get to them during the coming year.

While the momentum of the new year is still with us, consider examining estate and financial plans. Have you been putting off completing a Will? Have circumstances changed since you drafted your Will? Consider the following life cycle events that may impact your estate planning: marriages, births, divorce, and deaths. Consider whether you have acquired or disposed of assets, purchased or sold real estate and whether assets have increased (or decreased) in value.

Do you have grown children who no longer require your financial assistance? Have the needs of any named beneficiaries changed? Have the cir-

cumstances of or your relationships with people named as guardians, trustees or executors changed?

Lastly, have you made provisions for charitable gifts in your estate plan? Consider including a gift to the Jewish Fund for the Future, the Jewish Federation of Delaware, a Jewish community agency or your synagogue in your Will. Talk to those organizations and let them know that you have remembered them in your Will. If you would like your gift to be used for a specific purpose or program speak with the staff of the organization so you can work together to ensure that your intention will be carried out as you wish.

For more information about including charitable gifts in your estate plan, please call Rachel A. Gross at 302-427-2100 ext. 19.



JFD past President Toni Young, a co-chair of IsraelNOW and Forever, encouraged dinner guests to pledge their support to this new initiative.



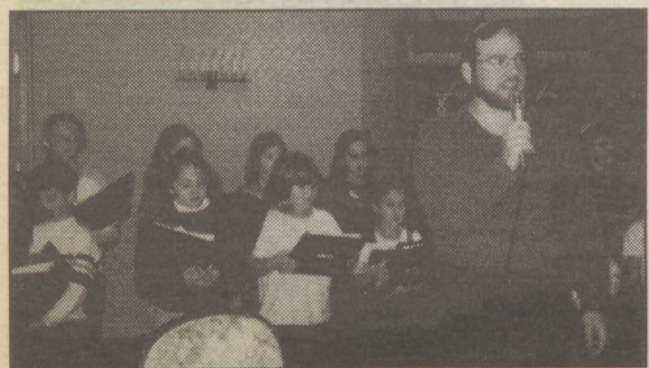
# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## Beth Shalom Installs Hazzan Horwitz

Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington will formally welcome Hazzan Michael Horwitz and his wife, Heidi with a "Weekend of Song", January 25 through January 27th, 2002. The culmination of the weekend on Sunday will be the formal installation of Hazzan Horwitz on Sunday, January 27th by Cantor Emil Berkovits of Beth El Synagogue in Omaha, NE. Beth Shalom Spiritual Leader Rabbi Daniel Satlow will speak during the ceremonies which also will feature musical performances from a combined choir of Beth Shalom congregants and students from Albert Einstein Academy.

Cantor Berkovits, a native of Czechoslovakia, will lead part of the January 26th Saturday morning services at the synagogue beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The weekend kicks off on Friday, January 25th, with a 6:30 p.m. family Shabbat dinner at the synagogue followed by 8:00 p.m. services and an Oneg Shabbat. Reservations are necessary for the family dinner and can be made by calling the synagogue office at (302) 654-4462.



Albert Einstein Academy Choir members with Cantor Horwitz.

## JFS Helps Individuals Cope With Job Loss

Jewish Family Service has launched a new seminar series which provides support to those who are in the process of transitioning out of jobs or retiring from the work force. The series will focus on adjusting to change in a positive way and will provide approaches and skills necessary to reassess, rebuild and renew a life plan.

"Delaware's economy has given way to higher unemployment, and our community's aging population is increasing our rate of retirement. JFS has developed this seminar series to help those facing some of life's more stressful transitions," said Dory Zatuchni, executive director, JFS.

This six-part program will begin Wednesday morning,

January 16th, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at JFS, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington. The fee for the series is \$40. Registration is required. Please call Jewish Family Service at 478-9411.

## Albert Einstein Academy Choir Performs At Kutz

The student choir of the Albert Einstein Academy traveled to the Kutz Home this Chanukah to sing holiday songs to residents. The choir, under the direction of Cantor Michael Horwitz of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington, performed in English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino. The AEA choir is comprised of students in grades first through fifth.

Both Albert Einstein Academy and the Kutz Home are constituents of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and are supported by the Federation Annual Campaign. For additional information about upcoming Choir performances, please call Ellen Bernhardt, head of school, at 302-478-5026.

## AKSE Brunch Explores Connection Between Spiritual and Physical Health

The community is invited to the second in a series of

brunches in Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth's New York Scholars Lecture Series. Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Schwartz will speak on "The Connection Between Religion, Prayer and Health" on Sunday morning, January 20. Dr. Schwartz, who serves as assistant rabbi at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in New York City, will discuss recent psychological studies that show the important role that prayer plays for the patient, his/her family and friends and the doctor.



Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Schwartz

Breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the speaker taking the microphone promptly at 10:00 a.m. The cost for the entire program is \$4 per person.

This series is being sponsored by AKSE Adult Education, in conjunction with AKSE Men's Club and Sisterhood. The lectures are part of the Men's Club Breakfast series funded by a grant from the AKSE Torah Scroll Endowment Fund.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Help us raise some \$Dough\$ on Super Sunday for  
The Jewish Federation of Delaware 2002 Annual Campaign**

### RECIPE FOR A GREAT JEWISH FEDERATION

1-Albert Einstein Academy, 1-Delaware Gratz Hebrew High, 1-Hillel at the University of Delaware, 1-Jewish Community Center, 1-Jewish Family Center, 1-Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, 59 Countries around the world where Jews are in need, 1-State of Israel, 1-Large helping of Learning, Caring and Social Justice.

Mix all ingredients together with Tzedakah and enjoy for Generations.

## Help us reach \$2 million in 2002 January 27, 2002

Please join our Super Sunday committee - Felisha Alderson, Barbara Blumberg, Debbie Cohen, Beth Galperin, Iris Tocker and Lisa Weiner to make calls and contribute.

Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801

Attn: Amalia Snyderman

Phone: 302-427-2100 Ext. 30, Fax: 302-427-2438

E-mail: [amalia.snyderman@shalomdel.org](mailto:amalia.snyderman@shalomdel.org)

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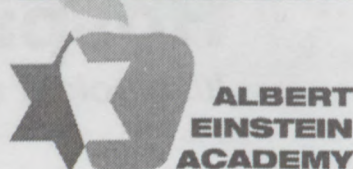
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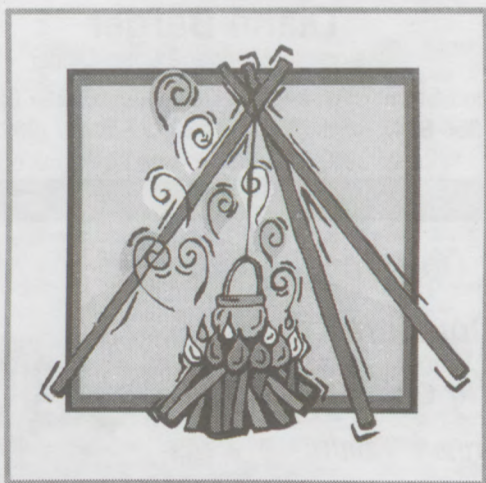
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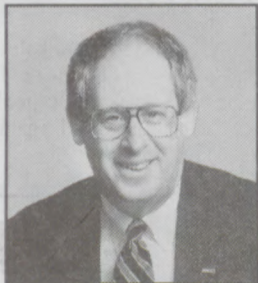
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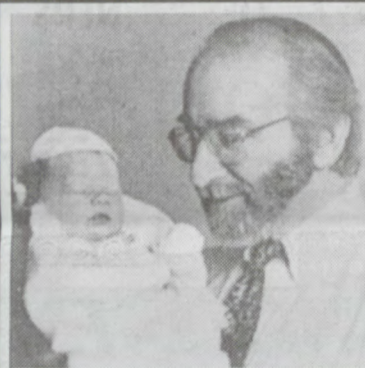
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# MATTER OF OPINION

## Could Israel Follow Argentina?

By Nechemia Meyers

The outcome of the current debate over next year's national budget will help determine whether Jerusalem follows Buenos Aires along the path of financial irresponsibility. Israel, without question, is in far better economic shape than Argentina, but a bloated, inflationary budget would serve to reduce the difference between the two countries.

It won't be easy to avoid such a document, because there are innumerable groups that forecast disaster if their particular needs are not met. For example, dozens of handicapped people, sitting in their wheelchairs, have been besieging the Jerusalem offices of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. They demand a doubling of their present monthly allocation of \$420, which they claim, not without justification, is completely inadequate.

Also inadequate, say social welfare bodies, are the funds the draft budget allocates to helping youthful drug addicts, abused women, children at risk, large families, pensioners, etc. More is required, they declare, but the government wants to give less in 2002 than it did in 2001.

The advocates of increased spending on welfare have at least one factor that works to their advantage in the struggle over next year's budget: heartbreaking social problems are readily brought to the public's attention via TV screens. But less photogenic issues are hardly on the agenda. Most people don't know, and perhaps don't care, that the scheduled slash of 40% in funds for the Archaeology Authority will force it to

fire some 100 employees and close many digs, or that a parallel cut in the budget of the Society for the Protection of Nature will substantially reduce the number of its educational programs.

This list goes on and on, with the Defense Forces suffering the largest single cut, an estimated \$250 million. How this can be done in the present security situation is anybody's guess.

New initiatives are also slated to fall by the wayside. One of them is the Negev law, designed to speed up the development of Israel's sparsely settled southland. It was to have provided tax cuts to residents of the area as well as grants to firms investing there. These measures will apparently have to wait.

Many Knesset members say that the cuts, or at least some of them, could be avoided by "soaking the rich." That might be justified as regards to increasing the inheritance tax or introducing a capital gains tax. However, raising marginal tax rates on salaries would probably be counterproductive. At the moment, those earning between \$4,300 and \$8,000 a month are taxed at 60% (50% for income tax and 10% for Israel's social security and for compulsory health insurance). This contrasts with the situation in the United States, where the top marginal income tax level is 36% (and in extreme situations, 40%). Higher tax levels here would reduce the incentive to work and encourage professional people to emigrate.

At the same time it is hard to ignore the social consequences of a penny-pinching budget. They were highlighted in a little news item that recently appeared in the

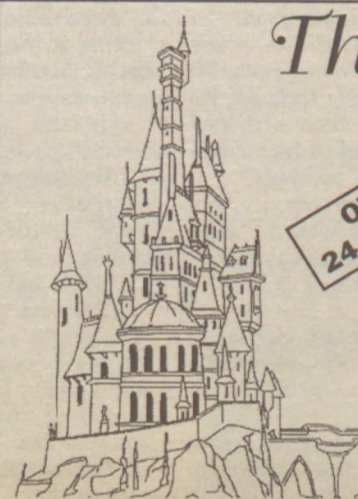
press. It read: "Two homeless men were found dead yesterday. One was discovered in a Rishon Letzion public park and apparently froze to death. The other was stumbled upon in south Tel Aviv. The Tel Aviv

municipality is trying to establish a new shelter for the homeless, where they could obtain medical and psychological help. But the project has been held up by funding problems."



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## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

# Palestinian Finds Home In Israeli Hospital

By Rachel Pomerance  
JTA

Every week, some of Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish's neighbors beg him to carry them across the Gaza border to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

Abuelaish scrutinizes all requests, examining how desperate the patients' conditions are, whether they come recommended and whether they'll be able to afford treatment — let alone receive a permit from Israel to cross the border.

He doesn't want to be embarrassed, Abuelaish says, by making a reservation for someone who can't follow through. An average medical check-up costs \$75, he noted — though the Palestinian Authority ultimately is responsible for the payment.

The first Palestinian doctor on staff at Soroka University Hospital, Abuelaish, 46, wears his badge with pride, and uses his post to do what he can to foster peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Peace is achieved one person at a time," Abuelaish said, and Soroka has given him the chance to develop friendships through humanitarian work.

For the three years before the Palestinian intifada broke out in Sept. 2000, Abuelaish was an unofficial peace envoy for the region, hosting 40 or 50 Israelis in his Gaza home and the homes of friends one weekend every month.

The weekends consisted of tours of the Jabaliya refugee camp and Gaza City, and culminated in long

dinner where Israelis and Palestinians would inevitably shout and fight.

What began with arguments almost always ended with the exchange of telephone numbers and the forging of friendships, Abuelaish says.

After 15 months of violence, however, things are different.

Believe me, everything has been destroyed. No one speaks of cooperation. Everyone is thinking of themselves," he says.

In addition, the Israeli government no longer allows Israelis to enter Palestinian-ruled areas because their safety can't be guaranteed.

Abuelaish was raised in the Jabaliya camp. He still lives there today, in a single house with 30 members of his family, including his mother, his five brothers and their families. His three sisters live in Gaza with their husbands' families.

After completing medical school in Egypt, Abuelaish went to Saudi Arabia for further studies in obstetrics and gynecology.

He then began at Soroka as a volunteer consultant with Palestinian patients, and was hired on a work-study fellowship in Ob/Gyn in 1993.

Abuelaish was in New York recently to speak at a symposium Soroka sponsored, on coping with terrorism in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Abuelaish hopes to win a fellowship to study fetal and maternal health in the United States, return-

ing to the Middle East with additional skills.

Already, he works and teaches informally on weekends in Palestinian schools and clinics.

During the first several weeks of the intifada, Abuelaish was unable to reach his job. Later, he asked Palestinian friends if he should return to Soroka.

Most are proud of his work, he said, and encouraged him to continue.

When he returned to Soroka he received a warm homecoming, and one Israeli colleague told Abuelaish he would give his life to protect him from danger.

Asked if Israeli patients ever hesitate to be treated by a Palestinian doctor, Abuelaish smiles broadly.

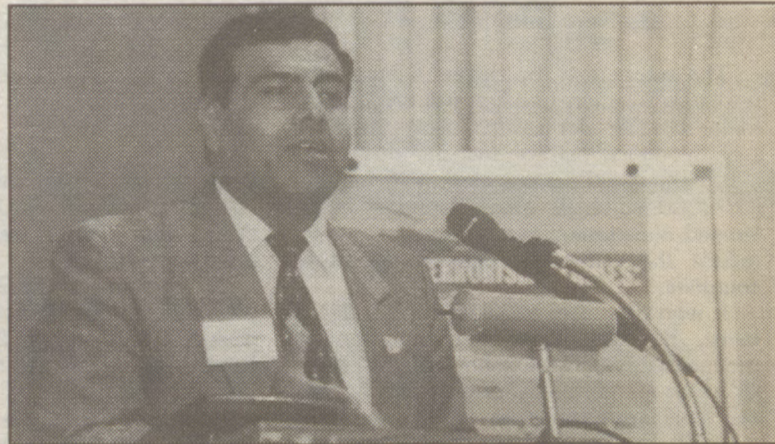
Never," he says. He also makes no distinction between patients.

Any patient for me is like one of my relatives. She is my mother, my sister," he said, talking of his duty to give each newborn the same hope for health and peace.

Abuelaish is fiercely loyal to Soroka. As a Palestinian representing the hospital, he feels an added responsibility to earn each patient's trust by showing that he is friendly and receptive.

The hospital has returned that trust to him.

When Abuelaish's sister-in-law was diagnosed with a potentially fatal condition after a Caesarian section performed in Gaza, Abuelaish called Soroka.



The first Palestinian doctor on staff at Soroka University Hospital in the Negev, Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish speaks at recent symposium in New York on coping with terrorism. Photo courtesy Soroka Medical Center of the Negev.

Within ten minutes, a reservation was made for her.

When he arrived at the check-point, the guards wanted to know why Abuelaish was late: An ambulance was already waiting.

Abuelaish already has decided who is the next patient he'll help across the border — a young Palestinian girl with a constant tingling in her fingers.

The girl's father took her to Egypt for treatment. When no one there could help, he had someone try to cut a nerve in the girl's wrist, hoping to block the sensation from reaching her fingers.

Abuelaish winces at the thought of the child's scar.

She's a beautiful girl," he says.

Abuelaish is dismayed at the way relations between Israelis and Palestinians have deteriorated after peace once seemed so close. Each side needs to stop focusing on its pain and suffering and stop blaming the other, he said, concentrating instead on saving lives and making peace.

I want to close and open my eyes and be where we were a year ago, liking each other and speaking with each other," he says. I hope that time will return, and we have to learn from this" period.

And what of his own role in the peace process.

I am not a politician," Abuelaish says, just a doctor trying to fill the gap."

## Russians Embrace New Leader

By Lev Gorodetsky

The Russian Jewish Congress has a new leader — but whether he is the right man to invigorate the embattled organization is unclear.

Yevgeny Satanovsky, a businessman with a doctorate in Middle East politics, was elected president of the Russian Jewish Congress earlier this month, replacing Leonid Nevzlin, who recently was made a member of the upper house of Russia's Parliament.

Satanovsky, 42, faces a tough task in trying to re-energize the RJC.

The group has lost its status as the driving force behind the Russian Jewish renaissance, according to most Russian watchers. In part it's because of a Kremlin-backed campaign that drove the RJC's founder, Vladimir Goussinsky, into exile earlier this year; in part it's due to the fact that a competing group, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, has deeper pockets, more energy and stronger Kremlin ties.

Nevzlin, Goussinsky's successor, served for less than a year as RJC president before resigning. For many Jewish activists, including some RJC officials, the latest reshuffle came as a disappointing surprise.

"Nevzlin is quitting at a time of crisis. The RJC is at an impasse in some respects," said Vladimir Shapiro, a leading Jewish sociologist and a member of the group's governing council.

Some RJC officials say Nevzlin

began to turn the organization around financially, but the annual budget approved earlier this month was \$4.7 million, 30 percent lower than 2000.

Critics say the RJC has lost focus — by contrast, the federation, which is closely associated with the Lubavitch movement, has the ear of the Kremlin and a finger on the pulse of Russian Jewry.

Nevzlin was elected to replace Goussinsky because he was seen as a person who could improve relations between the RJC and the Kremlin. Ties had suffered as the Kremlin pursued embezzlement charges against Goussinsky, a media mogul who had been harshly critical of Russia's war in Chechnya.

But neither Satanovsky's personality nor his views are considered moderate. He is energetic, outspoken and even occasionally intemperate — which might explain the mixed reaction to his appointment among Jewish activists.

"Satanovsky, with his personal dislike of some Lubavitch leaders, will bring about, I am afraid, a total war between the RJC and the federation," said Mikhail Turovsky, a Jewish studies professor in Moscow.

The two groups have often locked horns during the past year in an internecine turf battle.

Satanovsky says he does not want to exacerbate the conflict between the RJC and the federation, but that Jewish groups should try to stay away from those in

power — the opposite of the federation's strategy.

Some insiders worry that Satanovsky's views will cause problems. "His views on the Middle East problem, for example, are too right-extremist, which may damage RJC's relations with some public bodies in Russia, in Israel and with U.S. Jewry," said one RJC official who wished to remain anonymous.

But the representative of one U.S.-based group, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, welcomed the development.

"It is an excellent choice. No one is more dedicated to the rebuilding of Jewish life than Yevgeny Satanovsky," said the head of the JDC's Moscow office, Joel Golovensky. "He is truly a Renaissance man. He excels in business, in academia and in philanthropy."

Satanovsky says his goals are threefold — to rebuild the finances of the RJC, integrate the Russian Jewish community into world Jewry and become active in Israel.

Even his detractors would admit he has several factors in his favor.

Long active in the Jewish community, Satanovsky knows the world of Russian Jewry from the inside — unlike Goussinsky and Nevzlin, who made huge fortunes during the regime of former President Boris Yeltsin and only later decided to become active in the Jewish community.

Satanovsky, who is married with two teen-aged children, became a Jewish activist in 1983



Yevgeny Satanovsky

after reading underground lectures on Jewish history.

"Jewish activities became part and parcel of my life. Jews and Israel are in fact the only things that really interest me," he told JTA.

He claims that the late Lubavitch rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, blessed his business

ideas and gave him a one-dollar bill to invest in steel engineering. Armed with these two things, he said, he managed to make millions of dollars.

Much of his firm's profits go to Jewish projects, he says. One project was a Jewish university in Moscow, another an institute for Israel and Middle East studies.

The situation in Israel also has become part of Satanovsky's life. He believes Israel should take a harder line toward the Palestinians. In fact, like many Russian Jews, he believes Israel should be prepared to launch an onslaught similar to the one Russia has carried out against Muslim separatists in Chechnya.

But Satanovsky says he will be cautious in expressing such views in his new position.

After the election, Satanovsky announced he is quitting business to work full-time at the RJC.

"One can disagree with some of his personal attitudes and aptitudes, but one thing is clear: He is a bright guy," said Tanya Levkova, an economist and Jewish activist in Moscow. "What is still more important, he is committed and motivated. And it is not going to be boring now in the RJC."



**SUPER SUNDAY**

**January 27th**

**Answer The Call**



# JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

## Israelis Escape From Bitter Reality

By Jessica Steinberg, JTA

Just as Yasser Arafat was announcing his intention to stop all Palestinian attacks on Israel this week, many Israelis were out buying lottery tickets.

Faced with the ongoing violence of the 15-month-old Palestinian intifada, Israelis are looking for an escape from reality.

The matzav, or situation, as Israelis refer to the violence, has taken its toll.

Just the same, Israelis appear remarkably resilient in their ability to function and look beyond a seemingly untenable situation. They use a combination of humor and chutzpah to deal with the disturbances of life.

The lottery has become one popular diversion.

Israelis have spent more than \$45 million for lottery tickets in the last few weeks, seeking to win a \$12 million jackpot courtesy of

Mifal Hapayis, the state-run lottery.

On Tuesday, 12 lucky winners shared the prize, receiving about \$1 million each.

Every hour, when Israelis check radio updates to hear if there have been any new Palestinian suicide bombings, they hear a catchy jingle urging them to spend a few hard-earned shekels on a lottery ticket.

"I've really never seen anything like this," said Motti Leshem, who sells lottery tickets, along with newspapers and office supplies, out of a narrow corner shop.

"Everyone is coming in to buy lottery tickets. I guess they want an escape from reality."

The lottery is but one example. Israelis will seek out most any diversion that will offer them respite from the matzav.

Malls, for instance, may be off-limits to wary American tourists visiting Israel, but they're packed with Israelis.

Over the Chanukah holiday, Israelis filled theaters, malls and shopping centers to entertain their children during the eight-day school break.

Thousands of Israelis spent \$8.75 a ticket to see the recently released "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," being shown in English and in Hebrew at local theaters.

The book on which the movie is based is the top-selling paperback at Steimatzky's, an Israeli bookstore chain.

"They're all snatching it up, adults and children," said Yehudit, a cashier at a Steimatzky's in Jerusalem. "It's pure escapism."

It isn't hard to understand why Israelis are looking for activities to divert their attention from the news.

If each hourly news broadcast doesn't begin with an attack, it opens with news of the 2002 budget, which government ministers are

slashing in an effort to deal with the faltering economy.

Some Israelis have taken to museum-going to escape their woes.

James Snyder, director of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, described it as a matter of seeking "culture in complex times."

A third of the museum's visitors used to be tourists, with the remaining two-thirds Israelis, half of those from Jerusalem. But the ongoing violence has taken a bite out of the tourist business.

As a result, museum officials were not expecting any big numbers in July, when they opened an exhibit of treasures from China.

They were pleasantly surprised to have 3,000 people at the opening. It was a similar story when the Chanukah Festival opened last week, as crowds of parents and children flocked into the museum.

"They're coming because it

makes them feel good," Snyder said. "In a crazy way, we're kind of expected to help them sustain a sense of robustness and vitality."

Israelis seeking an escape have been driving down to the Dead Sea in increasing numbers, according to hotel managers in the region.

"Israelis are getting lots of deals these days," said Daniel Shalev, a manager at the Grand Nirvana Resort.

There are currently 15 hotels on the Dead Sea, providing a total of some 4,000 rooms in need of occupants.

Most of the hotels are offering three-night deals and two-for-one spa treatment packages in an effort to entice Israeli visitors.

"Israelis aren't afraid to drive down here, and they know they can get rest and relaxation," said Gabi Beck, manager at the newly built Royal Hotel. "That's what everyone needs these days."

## Survivor To Carry Olympic Torch

By Sharon Samber

Martin Weiss was seven when the first torch run took place at a modern Olympic Games under Hitler's watchful eye. Now, 56 years after his liberation from a concentration camp, Weiss will carry the Olympic torch in front of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum past cheering family members and friends.

The torch is on its way from Atlanta, through 46 states, to Salt Lake City, host of the 2002 Games. There are 11,500 torchbearers who are helping to bring the torch to the Games in February.

The Salt Lake Organizing Committee and relay sponsors chose the runners out of 210,000 nominations sent from around the country.

The Holocaust Museum's survivor affairs department asked the Olympic committee if a survivor could be a torchbearer. Museum officials then held a lottery, and Weiss won.

The experience is "very humbling" for the survivor, who says he is overwhelmed by the idea.

"It's a statement about America," Weiss said. "It's wonderful that a thing like this can happen."

In 1936 he heard about the Games from his father, who would go to town and bring back the day's news, and from his sister, who was the only girl from his rural village in Czechoslovakia who was away at college.

Eight years later, his father and sister were killed by the Nazis.

One of nine children, Weiss' life changed in 1939 when Hungarian troops occupied his village and began discriminating against Jews. Soon afterward, two of his brothers were sent to forced labor camps, and in 1944 his family was sent to the Munkacs Ghetto in Hungary.

From there, they were deported to Auschwitz, where nearly all of his family was sent to the gas chambers.

Weiss and his father were sent to Mauthausen. Weiss was liberated from there in 1945.

The next year, he emigrated to the United States and now lives near Washington.

Weiss, who will turn 73 in January, regularly walks on a treadmill and is planning to run the few blocks with the torch on Friday.

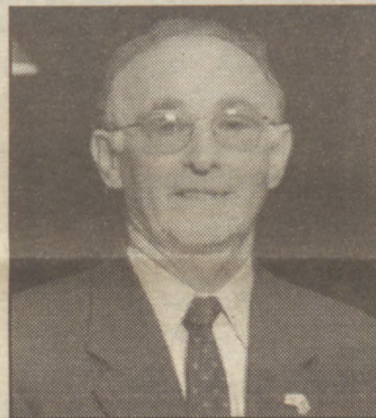
While running, his thoughts will be on the future and not on the past, he said. Weiss said he will be thinking about how the "new takes over for the old," and about progress in modern society.

"I have faith in the young people in America," he said.

Weiss' outlook contrasts vividly with the outlook for Jews in Germany in 1936.

The International Olympic Committee awarded the 1936 Games to Germany in 1932, a year before Hitler came to power. Hitler used the Games as a way to showcase the Nazis to the world.

He even took down anti-Semitic



Martin Weiss

signs and displays around Germany to curry international favor and make Berlin look tolerant and welcoming. Some anti-Semitic publications temporarily ceased.

Hitler created the torch run, with torches taken from the site of the ancient Greek Olympic Games.

After the Games were over, anti-Semitic activity resumed. Hardly a

month after the Games ended, Sachsenhausen, a concentration camp that later housed Jews, opened near Berlin.

The Holocaust Museum sent an exhibit on the 1936 Olympics — or the "Nazi Olympics" — to Salt Lake City, the site of the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Many believe that had Western countries, particularly the United States, boycotted the 1936 Games, Hitler's rise would have been slowed and international resistance to Nazism could have been stronger.

Some have applied similar logic to China, arguing that the Olympics should not be held there until the country improves its human rights record.

Asked about the decision to hold the 2008 Olympics in China, Weiss said the country would probably do better by her citizens because of the scrutiny involved in hosting the Olympics.

"I'm all for it," he said. "Open a window and they have to change."

## Jews Denied Medal Of Honor



By Matthew E. Berger, JTA

Mitchel Libman has spent years soaking up information about how his childhood friend died in the Korean War, and he has come to two conclusions.

First, what Leonard Kravitz did in the war deserves the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Second, the only reason Kravitz was denied the medal was because

he was Jewish.

"There's nothing else it could possibly have been," said Libman, 70, a Korean War veteran himself. "I have searched my mind for years now."

Only 13 Jews are among the 3,400 men and one woman who have received the Medal of Honor, the military's highest award for bravery.

More than 500 Jewish men received the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross and Air Force Cross, the second level award, according to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington.

But that may change.

Last week, Congress passed a bill requiring Pentagon officials to review the cases of Jewish servicemen who received other rewards for bravery to see if they are eligible for the Medal of Honor.

The bill, tacked onto the Defense Department's yearly appropriations

legislation, was originally named the "Leonard Kravitz Jewish War Veterans Act."

Leonard Kravitz, the uncle and namesake of rock musician Lenny Kravitz, is one of three Jewish servicemen expected to be reviewed by the Pentagon as soon as the president signs the appropriations measure into law.

Libman has been searching for information about Kravitz ever since he returned from service and learned his childhood friend had died.

But it was not until he began using the Internet that he got in touch with the right people and the information he needed.

According to eyewitness accounts submitted with Kravitz's application for the Medal of Honor, Kravitz saved the lives of members of his platoon when they were attacked by Chinese soldiers in March 1951.

After obtaining the unit's machine gun, he began firing on the Chinese

as his peers retreated, protecting them with his gunfire. He ignored calls to leave with them, and attacked Chinese soldiers who attempted to cut off the retreating Americans.

When his platoon returned to the site a day later, he lay there dead, with dead Chinese soldiers surrounding him and only six bullets remaining in the gun.

His comrades believed his actions allowed many of them to escape unharmful.

"He only had about six rounds of ammo left and he was still crouched over the gun," Richard Remery wrote in his eyewitness testimony in 1951.

"If Kravitz hadn't stayed to cover us, we would have been wiped out, I think."

Although Kravitz was nominated for the Medal of Honor, the award was downgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross.

Libman said he never thought

that it could have been because of bias, until a friend of Kravitz told him, "They don't give the Medal of Honor to Jews."

"When I went through all the Medal of Honor winners, I saw people who had done things similar to what Lenny had done, and a lot of people who hadn't done what Lenny had done," Libman said.

Kravitz's case was reviewed last year, but denied the Medal of Honor. Pentagon officials refused to say what aspect of the requirements Kravitz had not fulfilled, Libman said.

A Pentagon official was unavailable for comment.

Pamela Feltus, curator of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, said that although the percentage of Jews in military service is usually slightly higher than the proportion of Jews in the national population, only 13 servicemen have received the high honor.



# JEWISH ARTS AND CULTURE

## Book Celebrates Man's Jewish Journey

By Martin Roffman, Ph.D.

There are many ways to participate in a life transforming experience. As a nation, we have all changed considerably since September 11. A copy of "Today I am a Boy" arrived at my desk early on September 11, just after the attack when I was attempting to return to Philadelphia from Wilmington via the regional rail system. Unfortunately, at noon, neither the regional rail nor AMTRAK were running trains, and the intercity bus was mysteriously unavailable as well. Faced with an inability to travel anywhere, a kind soul offered a ride to Philly which I gladly accepted and under those circumstances, began reading and enjoying the bar mitzvah saga of a 66 year old man documented in David Hays' new book published by Touchstone Books, Simon & Shuster, New York, 2001, \$13.00.

In "Today I am a Boy", Hays skillfully describes an autobiographical life-transforming event instigated by a chance meeting with his

local rabbi in West Hartford, CT. While they casually speak about a number of issues at a local eatery, one thing leads to another and soon, Hays finds himself enrolled in an afternoon Hebrew School setting with a classroom full of 12 year olds preparing for their bar/bat mitzvah celebrations. Over the course of a full year, Hays integrates into the class as a student, befriends each of his fellow students, and learns not only how to read Hebrew and chant relevant parts of the service, but also explores concepts of Jewish religious identity, practice, and belief. He delightfully examines his personal transformation in humorous and interesting ways, and stresses an inner need to participate fully as a student, not an adult teacher's assistant. Hays alludes to several underlying reasons for being open to the suggestion to become a bar mitzvah student including a promise made to his dying mother as well as a change in life's direction at time of retirement. However, by the end of

the book, he both enjoyed and was enriched by experiencing adolescence as an adult.

Several themes weave throughout this tale. In addition to the main objective of training for a meaningful Jewish life-cycle event, Hays exhibits flashbacks to his own childhood and the professional people that impacted his past. His career as a Broadway theatrical designer is described along with the ghostly flashbacks of friends' voices with whom he worked. The voices of these acquaintances are brought into the actual bar mitzvah experience in a very pleasant and innovative way. He further conveys to the reader the sheer enjoyment that followed joining a klezmer band at the synagogue (a Klez Act) and performing on several occasions. Finally, there are mixtures of religious themes woven into the story connected with Christianity that accurately portray the groping toward understanding he experienced and how he came to terms with his own Jewish roots. The con-

clusions are not always 100% kosher but his style is definitely entertaining.

If you never celebrated bar or bat mitzvah as a youth, this book makes an intriguing case for considering the possibilities of doing so. Hays' book could be used from a mentoring perspective for anyone in a similar circumstance. He carefully documents how he had absolutely no background for reading Hebrew and no singing voice worth inflicting on the congregation. He overcame these obstacles through the dedicated efforts and deep patience of his rabbi/teacher whom he highly praises throughout the book. In addition, the classmates provide a convenient benchmark against which to gauge his progress. This is an important point for potential bar mitzvah candidates; studying on your own is not the easiest way to reach this objective. Rather, the presence of a class of like minded individuals can stimulate competitive as well as cooperative modes to achieve more easily than doing so

alone. In fact, Hays describes his interactions with each of the students in terms that allow the reader to really visualize them without difficulty. This is part of the charm of the book because Hays doesn't place himself above the students but actively integrates with the class and participates in their growth.

I found the presentation light and entertaining, and came to understand the overwhelmingly positive impact of such a transforming experience. In fact, it motivated me enough to begin teaching a torah reading class at my local synagogue. Whether or not you contemplate adult bar or bat mitzvah, read this book. It's a soothing way to reduce tension when listening to evening news that sometimes becomes too heavy an activity. And who knows how far it may carry you?

Martin Roffman commutes to Wilmington daily from Elkins Park, PA where he is an active member of the Jewish community.

## Painter Who Survived Holocaust Has Homecoming Exhibit In Vilnius

By Adam B. Ellick, JTA

VILNIUS, Lithuania, Dec. 20 (JTA) — Samuel Bak never planned to return home.

His last images of his native Vilna — the Yiddish name of Vilnius — come from 1944, when the Lithuanian capital was covered in ruins and incinerated debris.

Bak's father and grandparents, like 94 percent of Lithuanian Jews, were killed in the Holocaust.

Then 11 years old and already famous among Vilna Jews as a child arts prodigy, Bak escaped with his mother to neighboring Poland before ending up in a displaced persons camp in Landsberg, Germany.

In 1948 they immigrated to Israel.

The renowned artist followed a career path that took him to

Rome, Paris, New York and Boston, where he lives today with his family.

His paintings — which carry an inescapable theme of destruction — have appeared at the National German Museum, New York City's Jewish Museum and London's Barbican Center.

In October Bak published his first book, "Painted in Words: A Memoir," which documents the wartime horrors he lived through.

"I saw the Germans arrive, and I saw a world disappear in minutes like the two towers of the World Trade Center," Bak says. "But my world was transformed much more brutally than the world that we are living in today. We were a Jewish community of 70,000, and on liberation day we were 200." Until recently, Bak, now 68, had

never considered revisiting the horrors of his previous life. But that changed a few years ago, when Bak got word that his childhood artworks had survived nearly six decades of Nazi and Soviet rule.

This spring, Bak overcame what he called "a lot of emotional upheavals" and returned to his birthplace to prepare for a retrospective of his works at the State Art Museum and Gaon Jewish State Museum.

Funded by the Lithuanian ministry of culture and Boston's Pucker Gallery, the four-month exhibition, "Returning Home," runs until Jan. 30.

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Vilna Ghetto, the exhibit features more than 100 paintings

by Bak from 1944 to 2001, as well as newly discovered works from his childhood in the ghetto.

"The commemoration of this sad date is the answer of the modern Lithuanian society to the world: We know our history, we want to be fair and — we want to continue the dialogue among civilizations," Lithuania's culture minister, Roma Dovydeniene, says of the exhibit.

Bak marvels at the change in his fortunes since he was a boy who escaped death.

"To think this boy survived and returned to his native town in Vilnius with a major exhibition that is celebrated by the authorities is — what can I say? — it's a miraculous experience," Bak says.

His early works, including a sketchbook and a portfolio of

more than 65 drawings and watercolors, long were thought lost.

They were discovered in the mid-1990s in the collection of the National Museum of Lithuania by curators at the Gaon Jewish State Museum, a prewar institution reestablished in 1989.

The national museum has since transferred these and many other works to the Jewish museum.

Bak believes these works were hidden by a Vilna poet who survived the war and accumulated Jewish artworks immediately after the Russians liberated Lithuania from the Nazis in 1944.

Bak's childhood works are displayed at the newly restored Tolerance Center, one of three venues operated by the Gaon museum. The renovated building,

Continued on page 15

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## In Memoriam

### ADLER

Edith Adler, a life-long resident of Wilmington until her 1998 move to Rockville, MD, died December 11. She was predeceased by her husband, Irving and is survived by her son, David and her three grandchildren. Graveside services were held on Dec. 13 in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802.

### GOLDMAN

Ida C. Goldman died December 16, just one week shy of her 90th birthday. A Wilmington native, she was a Kutz Home volunteer, a member of Hadassah and an active member of Beth Shalom and its Sisterhood. She assisted her late husband, David in operating Delmarva Cut-Rate & Dave's Cigar Bar at 4th and King Streets for many years. As a young woman, she served as secretary for the Wilmington Park Commission. Survivors include her daughter, Beth; her son, Dr. Allan

Goldman; her grandchildren, Aaron B. and Mikaela and her brother, Albert S. Fineman. Interment was December 18 at the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. Contributions in her memory are suggested to a charity of the donor's choice.

### ZOMMICK

Lee Zommick, of Cypress, CA, died Monday, Dec. 10, 2001. A native of Wilmington, Mrs. Zommick moved to California in 1944. Survivors are children, Kenneth

(Bobbi) and Ronald (Ruth), grandchildren Melinda, Jordon (Jackie), Jason, Sara and David Zommick, and great grandchildren Jenna, Joshua and Jacob. Also survived by sister Anne Porter of Simi Valley, CA and brother Lewis Stat and sister Rosalie Ableman, both of Wilmington.

Lee Zommick was predeceased by husband Louis Zommick, parents Jacob and Sara Statnekoo and brother Harry Stat. Funeral services were held in Costa Mesa, CA.

## A New Son Of Israel Is Born



Natalie and Jordan Sopinsky of Philadelphia, proudly announce the birth of their son, Israel Chaim on November 25th at 3:30 a.m. "Sruli" entered the world weighing 7 lbs., 11 oz. His grandparents, Danna and Roger Levy of Wilmington, and Lucille and Philip Sopinsky of Elkins Park, PA, are kvelling.



# 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.

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE HELPS HEARTS HEAL

Healing Hearts: An Educational Program for Co-Parenting (mandated by Family Court) will be offered at JFS' Wilmington office at 101 Garden of Eden Road on January 2 and January 9 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Healing Hearts for Children will be offered during the same dates and times. For additional information, please call 478-9411.

Healing Hearts: An Educational Program for Co-Parenting (mandated by Family Court) will meet on January 16 and January 23 from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. Offered at JFS's Relationship Center in Newark. For additional information, please call 286-1402.

## STRENGTHEN YOUR SPIRITUALITY

JFS is starting a spiritual support group. Join Dory Zatuchni, JFS executive director on Tuesday, January 8 at 1:00 P.M. at JFS's Wilmington Office.

## MAKE YOUR SPECIAL EVENT EXTRA SPECIAL

Don't forget to rent JFS Mitzvah

Baskets to enhance tables and bimahs while celebrating your simchas! Call Lisa Driban, Volunteer Coordinator at JFS 478-9411

## BE A MENSCH, VOLUNTEER

More than 300 individuals have participated in our community's volunteer network. If you have but a moment for a call to an elderly person, or an hour for homework help, or 15 minutes to run an errand, or can prepare a challah for someone in the hospital. Please join this extraordinary group of caring individuals. Call Lisa Driban at JFS 478-9411

## KATZ JCC HOSTS ART AUCTION

The Betty and Milton Katz Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill, NJ will host an auction of fine art on Saturday, January 12, 2002. Preview the works between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Then bid on your favorites. The JCC is located at 1301 Springdale Road. Cost is \$10 per person and includes light refreshments plus an entry into a door prize drawing.

## JOIN SINGLES MINGLES

2002 will be a busy one for members of Singles Mingles, Jewish singles ages 40 and older. On Sunday, January 6th, the group will meet at the home of Miriam Weiner at 3 p.m., watch the movie LEFT LUGGAGE—a story about the trials and tribulations of an Orthodox Jewish family living in Antwerp—

then order pizzas for dinner. To join the fun, call Weiner at 478-6897.

On Saturday, January 19th, the group will go to the Hibachi Restaurant on Concord Pike for a 5:30 p.m. dinner. Call Esther Schatz at 478-1492 by January 16th to make reservations.

## GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR JEWISH STUDY

The Anna E. Finger-Ruth F. Gordon Memorial Trust will accept requests for cash grants of up to \$1,000 for the promotion of the study of Judaism and Jewish culture. The Trust was established in 1968 by Louis J. Finger and Abraham J. Gordon in memory of Mrs. Finger's mother and sister and Mr. Gordon's wife. The Trust will provide funding for programs or for the participation of individuals in

programs relating to the study of Judaism or Jewish culture. These pursuits may include Hebrew language, Bible, Jewish literature, religious customs and ceremonies, theology and Holocaust studies.

Current trustees of the Trust are Richard A. Levine, Robert Jacobs and Steven D. Goldberg. Financial need will be considered while evaluating grant requests. Preference will be given to programs or individuals affiliated with Congregation Beth Shalom. Recipients of individual grants or scholarships will be expected to share their experiences as part of an event open to the community.

The Trustees anticipate making grants totaling \$2500 for 2002 on or before April 1st. Grant applications should be directed in writing

prior to February 28 to:

Richard A. Levine, Secretary, Board of Advisers, Anna E. Finger and Ruth Gordon Memorial Trust c/o Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, P.O. Box 391, Wilmington, DE 19899-0391.

## HAVE A BALL AT BETH SHALOM

Congregation Beth Shalom invites the entire community to celebrate Tu B'Shevat at the second annual Tu B'Shevat Ball on Saturday, January 5 at 7:30 PM. Dance the hours away to the wonderful sound of Lavender while feasting on sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and delicious desserts. Enjoy entertainment with a Tu B'Shevat slant. Please call the Beth Shalom office at 654-4462 for information and reservations.

## Painter Who Survived Holocaust

Continued from page 14

a prewar Yiddish theater left in ruins after the fall of Communism – in 1991, was unveiled in conjunction with the opening of the Bak exhibition.

His modern works are displayed in eight rooms at the State Art Museum.

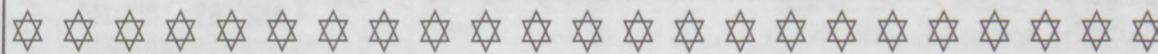
"That fact that the authorities

were willing to sponsor this is a sign – that something is moving in the right direction, to deal with this horrendous – past," Bak said during a recent visit to Vilnius.

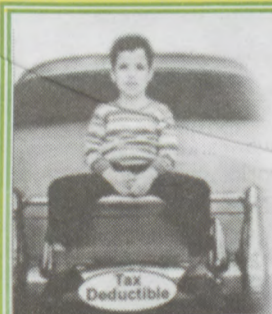
Before the war, Vilna was the Yiddish cultural capital of the world. The city was dotted with Jewish theaters, libraries, schools

and more than 100 synagogues.

"If I had to choose the Metropolitan Museum in New York or an exhibition in Vilnius, I still think I would have chosen Vilnius because here I can show my paintings to my grandparents," said Bak, who donated 37 of his works to the Gaon museum.



## Our Classified Yellow Page



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