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New Initiatives: Community Brings New Approaches To Challenges

By DAN WEINTRAUB
Editor of *The Jewish Voice*

The "Live Jewish" Community Campaign, which is administered by The Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD), has provided much of the means for new initiatives which will help the Delaware Jewish community to employ innovative approaches to meeting the critical challenges we face. Nationally, the 1990 Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) Jewish Population Study revealed that many Jews are drifting away from the community and new approaches may be needed to reverse this trend. Locally, a consensus building process in recent years identified the key challenges to the local Jewish community as well as some innovative responses.

A few months ago the JFD Board announced new initiatives which include funding for teen Israel Experiences; intermarried families; an expanded Newark pre-school program; a community youth worker; as well as training and skills enhancement for Jewish educators in our synagogue schools, Gratz and Albert Einstein Academy.

According to Judy Wortman, Executive Vice-President of JFD, the Jewish Federation will subsidize approved Israel Summer Experiences for 10 to 15 Delaware high school students this summer. Such experiences may include studying, touring, special events, and programs sponsored by such organizations as BBYO, Camp Ramah, USY, NFTY, Masada, and Young Judea. "There are already a number of excellent programs from which a young person can choose," said Wortman. "It is our aim to help them participate in one of these meaningful experiences." This year, Wortman says that ten thousand dollars has been allocated for this purpose which will be divided among the young people. For applications call Judy Wortman at 478-6200.

Another new initiative is an outreach program to intermarried couples and their families staffed by Myrna Ryder, Director of Jewish Family Life Education at Jewish Family Service (JFS). The aforementioned 1990 National Jewish Population Study revealed that the rate of intermarriage is approximately 52%. According to Ryder "the fascinating problem of an open society is that every Jew, before we are done, will be a Jew by choice." She repeated the statement of Rabbi Harold Kushner that "the most important thing we

can do is to learn to see intermarriage as a doorway that leads into Judaism, not a doorway that leads out."

Ryder suggests that as a community "we need to provide user friendly information because at the present, both non-Jews and many Jews have a common lack of understanding about how you go about the process of joining the Jewish community and the Jewish people. We have to provide a multitude of venues" to welcome people into the Jewish community. To date Ryder has worked with a group of already intermarried couples at the Adult Institute of Jewish Studies; the new initiative will allow this group to continue. A community-wide committee chaired by Jack and Jean Blumenfeld will focus on this important concern. "I congratulate the Jewish Federation for its vision as it looks to the future of the Jewish community and provides opportunities for more people to experience the beauty and importance of our religion," said Ryder.

The Jewish Pre-School program in Newark is a new initiative; in this case funded by the Jewish Community of Delaware Endowment Fund. The pre-school is located at Temple Beth El in Newark and is coordinated by the Jewish Community Center (JCC). Artie Allen, Assistant Director of the JCC, called the Newark pre-school an "excellent program" which he says has benefited from the cooperative relations among the JCC, the JFD and "the people in Newark." Allen said that given the "recognized need to provide a program for kids in Newark, we appreciate that funding comes from Federation to provide such a program." Allen says that there are now twelve 3 year olds attending the half-day Newark pre-school. The pre-school meets three days a week. Additionally on Fridays there is a half-day program for 2 year olds. Allen says "we hope to add a program for 4 year olds."

Another new initiative which has been planned by JFD is in-service training and skills enhancement for Jewish educators. Such educators include teachers at the various Delaware synagogues as well as teachers at Albert Einstein Academy and Gratz Hebrew High School teachers. Arrangements have been made with the Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education in Philadelphia to provide the training. The 1990 Jewish Population Survey has been widely interpreted to suggest that Jewish education can provide a strong counterbalance to the drift away from Judaism. Conferences and workshops for Delaware's Jewish educators are expected to make this effort more effective.

Some of the funds raised in the "Live Jewish" Community Campaign have also gone to the Jewish Education Society of the North America or JESNA. After a recommendation by JFD, Gail Weinberg, Education Director of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth (AKSE) was funded by JESNA to attend a conference for principals last summer at Brandeis University. The program described the multi-faceted roles and responsibilities of a principal and gave us strategies to deal with the demands and challenges associated with these roles, said Gail Weinberg.

She also added "the institute provided a support network of principals across the country with whom I have been in close contact." There will be a follow-up meeting in February in West Palm Beach, according to Weinberg, who added "we are all looking forward to sharing our thoughts on common issues."

It is expected that a teen worker will be named shortly to staff a program to begin by the first of the year as a new initiative funded through the "Live Jewish" Community Campaign. The worker is to be surprised by the JCC but his or her responsibilities will extend into Delaware's synagogues and other organizations where teens participate. Rabbi Sanford Dresin, spiritual leader at AKSE, is part of an ad-hoc committee conducting an extensive interview process to fill the teen worker position. The committee also includes Judy Wortman; David Sorokin, Executive Director of JCC; Rabbi Laurence Malingier, Assistant Rabbi at Congregation Beth Emeth; Steve Bernhardt, JCC Personnel Chair; Jane Goldberg, JCC Youth Services Chair; and Artie

Allen among others. Rabbi Dresin told *The Jewish Voice* that "the importance of such a worker is self-evident." Dresin says he is looking for a teen worker "who is a competent professional with a strong, passionate commitment to Judaism which they will share with the community." The Rabbi explained that the ideal candidate will have a commitment to Jewish traditions, practices and ceremonies. Dresin also expressed his concern that the teen worker will support "Klal Yisrael, a respect for and ability to work with all movements" of Judaism, referring specifically to the Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative and Orthodox movements. According to Dresin the teen worker should be charged with a "concern for the creation of pleasurable experiences" for teens, but also "meaningful spiritual experiences. Teens need them as much as adults."

For more information on the "Live Jewish" Community Campaign, or the new initiatives it has made possible, call the JFD at (302) 478-6200.



TEL AVIV-General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and Israeli army chief Ehud Barak salute Dec. 5 at the beginning of Shalikashvili's two-day visit to Israel. Sources say Shalikashvili will discuss Israeli security arrangements under a future Israeli-Syrian peace agreement. CREDIT: RNS PHOTO/Reuters

U.S. Joint Chiefs Chair Says That Peacekeepers Talk Is Still Premature

By NAOMI SEGAL

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Gen. John Shalikashvili, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said this week that it is premature to discuss sending American troops to the Golan Heights to act as peacekeepers between Israel and Syria.

However, Shalikashvili said during his visit here that "the United States has always supported the peace process," and that when the time comes to speak about the specifics of any Israeli-Syrian peace settlement, "you can be sure that the United States will do so, as it has in the past."

Shalikashvili met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during his two-day visit to Israel. Rabin reiterated his position that Israel would need American troops on the Golan to ensure that any peace treaty with Syria would be respected, adding that the forces would not be sent there to protect Israel's borders.

The Polish-born general Shalikashvili also toured the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. He is the son of a man who

served in a unit from the Soviet republic of Georgia that was attached to Nazi forces fighting the Allies during World War II.

He told reporters that his past lent significance to his visit to Yad Vashem. Cognizant of this, he said, he hoped "that here in this place peace can be built."

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LIVE JEWISH
REMEMBER OUR PAST...INSURE OUR FUTURE
1995 JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE
60TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

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CATNAPPING-- An Israeli child and his kitten doze and dream together. The photo, by Sidney Hecker, is one of a number included in an exhibit, scheduled to open in Tel Aviv this fall and travel around Israel, sponsored by Concern for Helping Animals in Israel (CHAI), which is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Nina Natelson, CHAI's founding director, says a key purpose of the traveling exhibit is to promote the importance of instilling humane values in young children by teaching them compassion for animals and how to care for them. The organization is also introducing a new program to bring Jewish and Arab children together in a project to teach them respect for all forms of life.

Documents Show Swiss-Nazi Pact

GENEVA (JTA) — Shattering the myth of its own neutrality, the Swiss government has released documents revealing how the country reached a secret deal with Nazi Germany in 1938 that prevented thousands of Jews from fleeing Germany.

A secret pact was signed by Swiss diplomats and Nazi officials on Sept. 29, 1938, under which all German Jews would have a "J" marked on their passport to make it easy to identify them and prevent them from entering Switzerland.

Six weeks after the September agreement, the nationwide pogrom known as Kristallnacht took place in Germany, and by then one of the most vital escape routes for Jews had been shut off.



VATICAN CITY -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is welcomed by Pope John Paul II before a private audience at the Vatican Dec. 1. In a television interview on the eve of the meeting, Peres said that Jerusalem was open religiously but "closed" politically - a reference to the Arabs desire to make East Jerusalem the capital of a Palestinian state. CREDIT: RNS PHOTO/Reuters.

Jewish Feminism in the 90's: Two Decades Later Feminism Transforms Jewish Community

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

NEW YORK (JTA) — More than two decades after planting its first seeds, Jewish feminism has transformed Jewish life.

What began as the demand by women for access to positions of power in the organized American Jewish world has evolved into a movement that has permeated all aspects of Jewish communal and religious life.

Not only are women changing Jewish tradition by bringing their voices and experiences to it, but they are becoming deeply connected to their Jewishness, threading it through their lives in a more personal, intimate way than some felt was possible before the advent of feminism.

There has been more success in the religious realm than the communal, say Jewish feminists.

But veteran activists in Jewish organizations point to changes there, too, including the funding of causes more reflective of women's needs.

Those involved in the movement are pausing now to reflect on the accomplishments of Jewish women as Lilith, the flagship publication of Jewish feminism, celebrates its 18th anniversary.

The coming-of-age of the magazine means that the movement has been around long enough to have witnessed and influenced an entire generation of young Jews.

Jewish feminism was born out of the convergence of two 1960s trends: contemporary feminism and an emerging ethnic consciousness.

Many of contemporary feminism's founders — Betty Friedan, Letty Cottin Pogrebin, Phyllis Chesler and Bella Abzug — are Jewish. Gloria Steinem has a Jewish father.

The reason for such a high level of Jewish involvement is that "a sense of justice is mother's milk for us" as Jews, said Pogrebin, a founder of Ms. magazine, an author and activist in left-wing Jewish politics.

"When we woke up in the '60s and '70s to our own status as women, we were natural fighters, just like Jews in the civil rights movement," she said.

The founding mothers of feminism shaped a movement which at first had no explicit ethnic or religious component, and was based on their experiences as mostly white, middle-class women.

But in the late 1960s and early 1970s, as ethnic identity became part of the American vernacular, two important trends emerged that helped shape what became a more specifically Jewish feminism.

The ethnic consciousness taking root in the black community was also transforming Jewish women, making them aware of their own ethnic and religious heritage.

But Jewish women found that their perspectives as Jews were not welcomed in the women's movement and encountered explicit anti-Semitism.

Just as Jews of both genders have experienced alienation throughout history, Jewish feminists found themselves without a place that was truly their own: The Women's movement was not fully including them, and there was no place for them yet in

the Jewish community.

"The general women's movement tried to portray Jewish feminists as being very selfish, Jewish feminists were very beleaguered," said Aviva Cantor, author of the forthcoming book, "Jewish Women/Jewish Men: The Legacy of Patriarchy in Jewish Life," which is scheduled to be published next spring by Harper San Francisco.

And within the Jewish community, "anyone critical of policy was really lambasted. People felt they had to move slowly," she said.

Jewish activists of the day belonged to a broad amalgamation of Jewish groups, mostly student-led, which were loosely organized under the rubric The Movement.

Organized under the auspices of the North American Jewish Students Network, The Movement included people who affiliated with havurot, Zionist groups, even the Jewish Defense League.

Some of the women who joined for the causes became feminists in the process.

Jewish women wanted to stay within Judaism and work for change rather than leave to seek new spiritual homes in religions more inclusive of women's experience.

Ezrat Nashim (Women's Help) was born out of that quest.

The first feminist Jewish women's group began meeting on Manhattan's Upper West Side in 1971, and by the following year had developed an agenda: to fight for women's access to all areas of Jewish life.

In 1972 a dozen Ezrat Nashim members, including Arlene Agus, went to the annual convention of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly and presented a list of demands for women's equality in Jewish law.

"We were not warmly welcomed," recalled Agus. But it was the "first step in a process that 11 years later led to the ordination of Conservative women."

The first National Feminist Conference was held in February 1973 in a Manhattan hotel and the second a year later.

Jewish women were beginning to think about what place they wanted to seek for themselves in the Jewish world.

"We didn't want to change Judaism, but just get a bigger piece of it," said Agus. "The goal has changed. Equality now seems like a very small part of our aspirations."

Lilith magazine, designed to give an independent voice to Jewish women whose experiences received scant attention in other publications, came out of discussions held there.

Published out of tiny, book-filled offices in midtown Manhattan, the quarterly magazine serves as an advocate of Jewish women's perspectives, a resource center and a link among Jewish women.

The magazine is named after the first woman created by God, a woman, who, according to rabbinic sources, demanded equality with Adam.

Over the past 18 years, the magazine has devoted its pages to topics not often addressed in other Jewish publications: rituals reflecting

women's experiences; the insidiousness of the Jewish American Princess stereotype; the philanthropic power of Jewish women; and women's roles in Jewish organizations.

Lilith's tiny staff fields dozens of calls and letters each week from women who are looking for information about starting a Rosh Chodesh group or are trying to find a feminist seder to attend.

Lilith's founders had two goals, according to Executive Editor Susan Weidman Schneider: to provide a feminist voice for Jewish women who were feeling excluded by patriarchal Judaism, and to provide a Jewish voice in general women's circles.

The effort on both fronts, said Schneider, has been successful.

"Today we hear less and less urging to walk away from the patriarchal system, that 'Judaism killed the goddess,' and less scapegoating of Judaism" by feminists in spiritual circles, she said.

"Lilith is a real open door for unaffiliated Jewish women," said Schneider. Before the magazine existed, "each woman thought she was alone. Lilith helped eradicate some of the sense of isolation."

The first United Nations Conference on women, held in Mexico City in 1975, was a rude awakening for Jewish feminists.

The concept of equating Zionism with racism was introduced to the international community and easily passed as a resolution by the delegates to the conference. Later that year it was passed by the U.N.'s General Assembly.

The Mexico City experience "woke up a lot of non-identified Jews in the women's movement that a whole other piece of their identity politics was being Jewish," said Pogrebin.

In the years since then, a second generation of Jewish feminists has begun to mobilize.

These young Jewish women have grown up with an integrated identity of being both Jewish and feminist, rather than struggling to mesh the two.

They bring with them different experiences than the mothers of Jewish feminism and face different challenges.

Issues on their agenda include homophobia, interdating and intermarriage, according to Robin Beth Schaer, a founder of Sharsheret, a group of young Jewish feminists in New York.

"We often feel pushed aside (by other Jewish feminists) because older women don't understand the problems we've had with multiculturalism," said Schaer.

It is important that young Jewish feminists organize their own groups rather than participate in larger Jewish feminist gatherings, said Schaer.

"Before, we (went) to conferences or meetings organized by older women for younger women, and spent the whole time arguing with older women who kept telling us that things were out there for us," said Schaer.

She added, "Instead of communicating with each other, we ended up defending ourselves. We want to do this for ourselves."

BRIEFS

Jordan Names Ambassador To Israel As Embassies Open Soon

JERUSALEM (JTA) — With Israel and Jordan prepared to open embassies in each other's respective capitals on Dec. 10, Jordan has appointed Dr. Marwan Muashar as ambassador to Israel.

Muashar, who served as spokesman of the Jordanian delegation during earlier peace negotiations with Israel, has also headed Jordan's information office in Washington.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry was expected to name an ambassador to Jordan soon from the ranks of the Foreign Ministry.

The exchange of ambassadors was made possible by the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty that was signed Oct. 26.



AFULA, ISRAEL — The sister of Liat Gabai, the Israeli soldier who was axed to death by a Palestinian attacker Nov. 30, is comforted by friends during the funeral for the 19-year-old Dec. 1. The attacker, who was captured by passers by, belongs to the militant Hamas movement, which opposes the Israel-PLO peace deal. CREDIT: RNS PHOTO/Reuters.

Auschwitz Invites Guides To Learn At Yad Vashem

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Fifty Polish guides at the Auschwitz Museum have just completed a three-week course at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem that was designed to provide them with a background in Jewish history.

The guides at the Auschwitz museum, located on the grounds of the former Nazi concentration camp, studied Judaism, Jewish history, the Holocaust and facts about Israel. They were also provided with a tour of Israel during their stay.

The course was set up by Yad Vashem after it became known that the Auschwitz guides were unaware that most of the more than 1 million people who were killed in the death camp during World War II were Jews.

Ethiopians Protest Israel Politics

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Several dozen Ethiopians staged a protest here this week against what they said were delays by Israeli authorities in bringing their relatives to Israel.

The protesters, who gathered outside the Foreign Ministry, complained that the staff at the Israeli Embassy in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa have ignored the emigration requests of thousands of their people. They said Israeli officials have created a negative image of members of their community, and that while the delays in processing the requests continue, many of their people are suffering from hunger and disease. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with representatives of the Ethiopian immigrants and later promised to look into their complaints.

Saudi Industrial Park?

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel Radio reported Tuesday that Saudi Arabian officials are interested in being involved in the establishment of an industrial park to be located near the Erez crossing that separates Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin reportedly met with an official from the Saudi Embassy in Washington during a conference held this week in Aspen, Colorado, for business leaders from Arab countries.

Beilin reportedly will discuss the proposal with Arafat in Oslo on Dec. 10, when Arafat, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will be in Norway to receive the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize.

The JEWISH VOICE

NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

Continuity Commission Urges Jews To Help Others Grow In Jewishness

By LARRY YUDELSON

NEW YORK (JTA) — American Jews are being urged to host their fellow Jews for Shabbat meals, organize study groups and form havurot.

These efforts at spreading Jewish identity and helping "other Jews grow in their Jewishness" are among the recommendations contained in a 36-page draft report of the North American Commission on Jewish Identity and Continuity.

The draft was presented at a meeting of the commission on Nov. 16 in Denver at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations.

The 88-member commission brought together leaders from all walks of Jewish life — federations and synagogues, seminaries and national Jewish organizations, rabbis and academics — to map out new directions as the American Jewish community shifts focus from rescu-

ing endangered Jews abroad to strengthening Jewish life at home.

The draft, reflecting a year's discussion of the commission and four constituent working groups, described Jewish identity as "the bedrock of Jewish continuity."

It said the community's goal "must be to make Jewish identity more central and meaningful for more Jews, not just for the sake of the community's future, but because of Judaism's life-enriching power."

A final version of the report is expected early next year.

Proposals range from the abstract, such as calls for greater cooperation between institutions, to the more concrete, such as suggestions that communities make a concerted effort to keep teens involved in Jewish life after their Bar- or Bat-Mitzvah celebrations.

As an amalgam of reports from the four separate working groups, the report contains some inconsistencies.

While one group was urging that the high school, college and young-family years be seen as the prime focus of new efforts, the working group on "reaching and involving Jews outside the intensely affiliated core" zeroed in on young people out of college and not yet married.

Which should be the priority?

"That's a real issue," said Jonathan Woocher, executive vice president of the Jewish Education Service of North America, who compiled the report. "It will be resolved not by a commission, but community by community, institution by institution. For any national commission to come out and say, 'here is the rank order of priorities' would be counterproductive."

One thing that commission members are clear about is that "we are not presenting a cure-all," in the words of Ronne Hess, a CJF board member from Birmingham, Ala.

Israel's Rising Exports To Land Of Rising Sun

By NECHEMIA MEYERS

Israel sells more goods and services to Japan than to any other country except the U.S.

Moreover, sales to the Land of the Rising Sun went up by 18% over the past year, in contrast to a 2.5% increase in European markets. And despite all the Toyotas, Mitsubishis, Hondas, Nissans, Mazdas and Subarus you see on local highways, Israeli purchases from Japan are actually declining, so that imports and exports virtually balance one another.

Diamonds still account for well over half of all Israeli sales to Japan, which is something of a drawback because net income from the stones—purchased elsewhere and only polished here—is not large. Therefore, Finance Ministry officials are pleased to note that other products account for most of the increase in exports to Tokyo.

Hi-tech goods are doing particularly well, which is quite an achievement considering that Japan is a leading power, perhaps the leading power, in this sphere. But as was

pointed out recently by Peter Tsukahira—who has worked both for NEC Corporation in Tokyo and for Israeli firms in Haifa—the two countries have different strengths and can gain by cooperation with one another. "Israeli hi-tech industry," Tsukahira says, "excels at producing practical, robust and relatively simple solutions for complex problems. High performance in small groups and quick decision-making are Israeli hallmarks on the battlefield and in the fiercely competitive international hi-tech marketplace."

"Japan's strength, however, lies in highly disciplined large groups. Whereas Israelis often lack patience, painstaking attention to detail is the pride of the Japanese. Also, Japanese decision making is famous for taking a long time. All involved managers must consider and put their stamp on a project before it is implemented. So in an era when technology is constantly shifting, it is difficult for large Japanese companies to act quickly enough to grab a vital market share at the beginning of

each technological 'generation.' Later on, however, they are well adapted for dominating more stable technologies and mature markets. So the strong points of Israeli and Japanese firms complement one another and collaboration between them has the potential to be a marriage 'made in hi-tech heaven.'"

Agricultural exports to Japan are also on the upswing says Uri Shalev, Export Manager of Tnuport, whose sales of fresh citrus to Tokyo have gone from \$1.5m. to \$12m. in the last three years.

Selling to the Japanese is more difficult than to other peoples, for they have special demands where quality is concerned. All citrus shipped to Japan must undergo special treatment in a cold room to ensure that it is free of pests, and then be checked by two Japanese inspectors stationed in Israel. Only afterwards is it sealed and sent on a three-week voyage to the Far East.

All this effort is worthwhile, says Shalev, who points out that the Japanese housewife pays three to five dollars for a single grapefruit, which presumably explains why pieces of fruit, rather than bouquets of flowers, are the preferred gift to bring when you go visiting in Tokyo or Osaka.

Increased trade with Japan—spurred on by the peace process and the declining clout of the Arab boycott—is encouraging to all Israelis, but has particularly influenced young people. Hundreds of Hebrew University students, for example, are now studying Japanese, one of the most popular subjects on campus.

This development should pave the way for relations with Japan not only in the commercial sphere, but in the cultural one as well.

(Nechemia Meyers writes for a number of Jewish newspapers from his home in Israel. He sends his articles to *The Jewish Voice* via E-Mail over Internet.)



RAMALLAH, West Bank - Israeli Brigadier General Gadi Zohar hands over signed documents to Palestinian finance chief Mohammed Zuhdi el-Nashashibi as the Palestinian Authority takes control of taxation in the West Bank Dec. 1. Taxation and health are the last of the five spheres which Israel agreed to hand over to the Palestinians. CREDIT: RNS PHOTO/Reuters.

EDITORIAL

Separation Of Church And State...

Does It Have A Prayer?

In 1962 a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, in effect, declared that legally organized school prayer was unconstitutional. Now, Newt Gingrich, the next Speaker of the House, is promising a vote before July 4 on a proposed school prayer constitutional amendment. President Bill Clinton has said of Republican school prayer proposals "I'll be glad to discuss it with them, ... I certainly wouldn't rule it out ...". Speaking to the General Assembly (GA) of the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF), Vice-President Al Gore, defended separation of church and state as "an American idea" but hinted strongly that Clinton would support moment-of-silence legislation. Although Gore focused on the importance of religious liberty and the separation of church and state, he "didn't go far enough" according to Diana Aviv, Washington Director of CJF.

In 1985 the U.S. Supreme Court declared an Alabama moment-of-silence law unconstitutional because of language indicating prayer was specifically intended. Today many states, including Delaware, have moment-of-silence legislation. As Governor of Arkansas, Clinton helped write legislation allowing silent meditation at the beginning of the school day. That many Jews are troubled, not only by mandatory prayer but also moment-of-silence legislation, was reflected in the delegates' actions at the recent GA. The CJF's Board of delegate's resolution endorsing the separation of church and state and opposing school prayer was amended at the GA to add that a moment of silence was equally unacceptable. The amendment, passed unanimously by CJF's 175 North American communities attending the conference, said that a moment of silence is "equally unacceptable." Critics of moment-of-silence legislation and moment of silent meditation legislation say that these are a back door approach to inserting religion into public schools.

Jews are not the only Americans opposing mandatory school prayer and related propos-

als. A broad coalition of religious groups are vowing to fight any efforts to amend the Constitution to allow prayer in public schools. "We are very much in favor of prayer and that's precisely why we're opposed to an amendment," said Brent Walker, General Counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The coalition includes representatives from the Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Methodist communities in addition to Reconstructionist, Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jewish groups.

There are some indications that the proposed Constitutional amendment will allow public school prayers to be led by "volunteers." According to Jerome Chanes, Co-Director of domestic concerns at the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) "so-called voluntary prayer that is organized by the school is a violation of the Establishment Clause" which prohibits government establishment of religion. Writing in *The Metro West Jewish News*, Marc D. Stern, Co-Director of the American Jewish Congress Commission on Law and Social Action, paints a scenario where in some schools "daily prayer will be led by followers of the racist White Identity Church or members of the Nation of Islam." Stern wonders, regarding the American electorate "If they don't want government to control their health care, why should they trust it with their souls?"

Presently public school students who do wish to pray can already do so voluntarily. Organized school prayer has a coercive effect on impressionable school children — who only want to fit in — even if such prayer is referred to as *voluntary*.

Constitutionally there are differences between moments of silence, moments of silent meditation, voluntary school prayer and mandatory school prayer; but from a public policy standpoint all such proposals are best left out of public schools.

Guest Editorial: The Face Of A Stranger

By Rabbi MARLA J. FELDMAN

Director of The JCRC

America is in a war for its survival, threatened by a foreign invasion force, an onslaught of hordes who would undermine the American way of life as they satiate their needs at the public trough, taking food out of the mouths of our children and denying jobs to real Americans. Such is the screeching rhetoric of fear and panic promoted by the most recent frenzy of immigrant-bashing.

Since our nation's birth, xenophobic hysteria has reared its ugly head periodically, providing us with convenient excuses for a failing economy, underemployment, poor education and a host of societal ills we would like to disclaim. In the eighteenth century, Benjamin Franklin was notorious in his irrational fear of German immigrants in his beloved Pennsylvania, calling for 'English-Only' legislation to restrict use of the German language in public documents. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, fear of Chinese, Italian, and Eastern European Jewish immigrants characterized the debate. Remember when our ancestors were turned away for fear they would become a burden on the American economy? When their faces were the faces of unwanted strangers?

This current wave of political scapegoating should concern the Jewish community. Anti-immigrant propaganda promotes fear of different cultures. It manipulates legitimate concerns for economic stability, personal safety and moral values in order to breed distrust within our communities. Such is the politics of division, and history shows that Jews usually do not fare well in such a climate.

Legislative initiatives like California's Proposition 187 and attempts to eliminate federal aid to refugees and other legal immigrants deflect public attention from the real problems

facing American society. They promise easy answers and quick-fixes to long-term problems. Borders hard to manage? Turn 'em all away! Employment attracting undesirables? Create a national registry of 'employables.' Hard to catch illegals? Require an identity card for 'real' Americans. Tired of footing the bill? Make doctors turn away their patients and teachers turn in their pupils! Let's amend the Constitution!

Illegal immigration does belong on the national agenda. A few states should not bare an unequal share of the financial burden of our federal immigration policies. But neither should they obtain an unequal benefit; immigrant-rich states did not complain when illegal aliens increased their tax-base, creating additional jobs and bringing expendable income into their local communities! When forming immigration policy, let us consider that most illegal immigrants are those who come to this country legally and over-extend their visas, rather than the media-hyped image of waves of unskilled laborers crashing through our borders. Let us keep in mind the public health necessity of encouraging immigrants to obtain medical care. Let us remember that educating the children of illegal aliens helps stem the tide of juvenile crime and prepares a new generation of tax-payers.

America is a nation of immigrants, made strong by their desire to succeed in the land of opportunity, freedom and democracy. Our own immigrant ancestors were given a chance to succeed here; now we owe that chance to others. Jewish tradition teaches: "G-d upholds the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and befriends the stranger [resident alien], providing him with food and clothing. You too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Deut. 10:18-19). Indeed, the face of the stranger can be found in our own family albums.

LETTERS

WHERE TO WRITE:

Letters To The Editor
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The Jewish Voice welcomes letters from its readers. For verification purposes, include home address and day time phone number. The more concise a letter, the more likely it will be chosen and the less likely it will need to be condensed.

Delaware's Markells E-Mail From Slovakia

To The Editor:

We'd like to share some of our impressions and experiences while living in Eastern Europe.

My husband Bill, who recently retired as chair of the accounting dept. at the U. of D. was granted a Fulbright award to teach and help the faculty with curriculum at the U. of Matej Bel in Banska Bystrica, (sort of rhymes with sister)Slovakia. Needless to say we couldn't spell it- much less pronounce it, but we hit the books, and soon learned that BB was in the center of Slovakia, a country that became a separate republic in a peaceful "velvet glove" revolution from Czechoslovakia, January 1 1993.

We are living in a small village- the older women who are most obvious wear babushkas, heavy stockings and boots, and layers of sweaters and coats. There is a trough in the middle of the street where people wash their clothes, and maybe get their water as well. We have a washing machine in our house-but it is very old- so one of these days I too, may be at the trough. We do feel as though we have gone

back to our roots, and this must resemble the shtetl from which our parents came. Except that there are no Jews here- no English is spoken either. Our apartment is the 2nd floor of an old house that has been renovated, is quite modern and clean.

People are very kind and courteous- get up in the bus to give us a seat- even when I have a tennis racquet in hand. We knew that the Slovaks were on the side of the Nazis during the war, and many Jews were sent directly to Auschwitz, so we were suspicious about them. But we have met many individuals Jews and non Jews who repeated stories about righteous gentiles who saved many families.

Now for the exciting news - there are Jews in Banska Bystrica. When we first arrived we were told by non Jewish faculty that with the communists in control for so many years that Jews simply did not identify themselves as such any more. (For those of you who followed our adventures in Botswana-you know that we were told there were only 3 Jews in Gabarone-but we advertised- and 35 Jews came to our home. That is not so easy to do here because of the language. However, in our 3rd week

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OPINION

A First-Timer's Visit To Israel



Alan Schoenberg on Ammunition Hill.

By ALAN SCHOENBERG

Special To The Jewish Voice

I had the opportunity to join "1994" MISSION 1000. I believe I had a good Jewish education and was reared in a Jewish home. I felt Jewish and even serve the Jewish community in a profession defined as Jewish. Besides the Jewish history and tradition learned in Associated Hebrew School which was located at 602 Washington Street, I was a history major in college. Therefore, I thought I was pretty knowledgeable about my heritage. However, nothing is more enlightening than a hands on education. As a consequence of this MISSION 1000, I have obtained new information, relearned old information, had some misconceptions dispelled and had other preconceptions confirmed.

The excitement of the Mission received a good start with our arrival at the departure area at Philadelphia International Airport. The crowd was jubilant as a band played Jewish,

Israeli and American music. Our arrival at Ovda Air Force Base was heralded by Israeli music on the airplane, with scenes of Israel on the movie screen.

From my window seat I could see the runways as we turned to land. What was conspicuously missing was the large number of buildings and aircraft. We would later learn of the special below ground system developed for the security of the facility. We were hosted by the Air Force at a reception, and we received a tour of the base. As a person who spent our twenty years in the US Army Reserve, I was impressed by their ability to maintain extraordinary security in an open democratic society.

We traveled from Ovda to Eilat. As we moved through the city I was surprised at the wide avenues and modern appointments. Arriving at the Princess Hotel, I couldn't believe the modern luxurious accommodations. You can imagine my further surprise when we were informed that the Egyptian border was only 300 yards down the road. My wife, Barbara, and I took advantage of this opportunity to walk into Egypt and back one morning. As we were returning, I presented my passport to the Egyptian border guard. He looked at my passport, looked at me, then asked, "American?" I responded yes. He then smiled, gave a thumbs up sign, and exclaimed, "Hooray for America".

Over the next several days, arising between 5:30 to 6:30 AM, we toured significant areas throughout Israel. Wherever we went the Israelis spoke glowingly of the peace process. We visited a family in Eilat who lost a son in hostilities in Lebanon. Surprisingly, they appeared to subdue their grief by the realization of the need to defend Israel. Their two other sons as well as the father had served in the military. Needless to say, they are grateful for the potential of living without war.

We had the great privilege of being addressed by the retired Director of the Dead Sea

Works, Shlomo Drori. He related to us how Israel developed a working relationship with the Jordanians by helping Jordan enhance its economy and lifestyle, with Israeli knowledge in developing the resources available in the Dead Sea. With great humor and knowledge, Mr. Drori described how Israel is building on an almost unlimited magnesium source from the Dead Sea. Magnesium, being a very durable yet lightweight metal is in great demand in the automobile and aircraft industries. Ironically, Volkswagen has great interest in being a major customer of Israel for magnesium. Other materials from the sea in which nothing can live have the potential of guaranteeing life for this region of the world.

In a country where survival of the individual and business is so dependent on government action, I was surprised to hear while on a Mushav, a private farm cooperative, that the government should not be making rules that interfere with constructive business management. A Mushav is different from a Kibbutz in that a Kibbutz is a farm which, is owned by all of the owners. A Mushav is divided into plots of land owned by individuals who may share the resources to operate the farm. For example: a tractor may be shared by some of the farmers.

We also received separate briefings from Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres. The sense of both talks was the strong desire for peace. Although Rabin is a military man he puts forth the idea that peace cannot be imposed but must be the result of compromise. He did say that the one issue not open to compromise is that Jerusalem will forever be united. Although opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian State, it is the obligation of Israel to insure that Palestinian human and civil rights be assured. Israel and the world must not give in to extremists who use terrorism to destroy the peace process.

I did have the opportunity to speak to some people in Jerusalem who seemed to accept

the potential peace with the Arab countries surrounding Israel, even Syria and Lebanon, but balk at the validity of peace with the Palestinians.

While visiting a Kibbutz on the Golan Heights, I again was surprised how ready the kibbutzniks were to move from their homes if a true peace could be assured. Surprisingly, they did relate the safety they feel living on the Kibbutz. They have no hesitation at all allowing their children the freedom to go to the store or visit each other. Schooling is provided in a regional school of the Kibbutz.

I also discovered that the only outside authority mutually trusted by the major powers in the area is the United States. While our bus move upward on the Golan and we could see former gun emplacements, it occurred to me that a possible solution to the disputes over Golan sovereignty and Israeli security would be the placement of a United States Military Base on that part of the Golan. I was even more surprised when two days later a headline story appeared in the Jerusalem Post that the US Joint Chiefs of Staff developed a plan for the placement of a 5000 person Mechanized Brigade on the Golan.

This concept did not please some on our bus. One woman remarked "I don't want American soldiers dying for Israel" Considering that US forces have served a effective peace role in the Sinai for the past 16 years, I believe she missed the objective of the plan.

Back to Jerusalem and a visit to Yad Vashem really put me in touch with the potential threat to Jews and Judaism. Reviewing the history of anti Jewish activism in Europe, it became obvious that swift action must be taken whenever and wherever bigotry is found. The danger is even greater when a government takes action against a group. A holocaust survivor said to me, if a people have rights in their nation those people must never,

(Continued on page 25)

On JFD's 60th Anniversary, Planning And Fund Raising Remains Key



By TONI YOUNG

President of JFD

Sixty years ago in 1935, the Jews of Delaware united in a Jewish Federation. Their purpose was simple. By forming a united Jewish community, planning a collective future, and running one campaign, they could meet Jewish needs most efficiently. In my opinion, those reasons are as valid today as they were sixty years ago.

Before Federation was formed, the Bureau of Jewish Social Research visited Wilmington and suggested that the outstanding problem was the "absence of an effective, representative body which could speak for Wilmington Jewry." In its 1929 report, the Bureau described "serious factional differences which prevented community progress," and noted

that "differences between individuals and groups exist in all communities, but Wilmington is extreme. These group conflicts must be resolved; the personal note must be replaced by an objective attitude if Wilmington is to deal intelligently and effectively with its communal problems," the report suggested.

In 1929, there were approximately twenty Jewish organizations in Wilmington. According to the report, each institution carried on its own programs with no attempt to coordinate its activities with other groups. There was no effort to gather communal data before proceeding with individual projects. Fund raising was conducted by a handful of lay people who had a "maximum of devotion and love of mankind but a minimum of technical training." Fund raising costs were excessively high, and goals were not established equitably. There were no fewer than nineteen campaigns and fund raising balls annually. The same community minded individuals were involved in many causes.

In addition, national organizations sent representatives to Wilmington with little notice. According to a popular tale, one representative of a national organization got an early start and received large gifts. A week later a representative from another organization, which was far more important because it had a larger scope, arrived in Wilmington. He got no gifts because the first organization had taken all.

The Jewish Federation of Delaware was formed to serve as "a representative body empowered to speak for and represent the community, and to plan and deal intelligently and effectively with all local, regional, national and overseas problems." Another purpose of the new federation was to run a united Jewish campaign which would more efficiently and

less expensively raise money by pooling energies and eliminating numerous campaigns.

Dr. Joseph Barsky, a man admired by all the Jewish factions, became the first president of the new Federation. Ben Codor was hired as the first executive director, a post he held with distinction until his untimely death in 1952. The first united Jewish campaign run in 1935 under the chairmanship of David Snellenburg raised just over \$27,000 from 635 people. Ben Codor described the "spirit of optimism," and the favorable reaction of numerous individuals to the concept of a united Jewish Community. As was customary in the 1930s, the vast majority of the funds stayed in Wilmington. The YMHA (today's JCC) the Jewish Welfare Society, (today's JFS) and the Bichor Cholem, (today's Kutz Home), received the majority of funds while twenty national and overseas causes received far less. In the late 1930's as the tragic situation in Europe became known, the balance between local and overseas needs shifted dramatically. Because Jewish communities in Delaware and throughout the United States had central planning and fund raising structures called federations, they were able to respond to the darkest decade in Jewish history in unprecedented amounts.

I believe that we need the JFD, our central planning mechanism, today more than ever to respond to our changing environment. The future of Judaism in America is threatened, the level of Jewish education in America is poor, the centrality of Israel to the Jewish people is not understood universally. The JFD board brings representatives of agencies, synagogues, and overseas needs together so we can develop plans to meet the urgent needs facing us. Through the JFD we can manage our resources and streamline our operations

in order to focus attention and dollars on high priority areas. As the JFD vision states, we "bring Jewish people together into a community coalition, grounded in Jewish teachings and heritage, to strengthen the State of Israel, the global Jewish family and local organizations in order to further the survival of the Jewish people." If we do not work together, we will return to the pre-Federation days when people with a "maximum of devotion and love of mankind" competed with each other and failed to meet communal needs.

Today ten local agencies, Albert Einstein Academy, Gratz Hebrew High School Hillel at the University of Delaware, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Federation, Jewish Historical Society, the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, the Newark community, and the Southern Delaware Community, plus the United Jewish Appeal, the Joint Distribution Committee, and numerous national agencies receive funds from the annual JFD campaign. Imagine being asked to attend twenty fund raising events or to help solicit in two dozen campaigns! Clearly, using communal resources to raise funds in one central campaign is the most efficient, cost effective way to raise the bulk of our funds.

Perhaps 1935 sounds like a long time ago, or perhaps it sounds like it was just yesterday. The Jewish people has survived for thousands of years because each generation builds upon the foundation of the preceding generation to ensure the survival of the Jewish people. When you consider your gift to the 1995 campaign, remember that through your contribution you honor those who came before us and assist those who will come after us. We are the bridge between the past and the future of the Jewish people.

Who Is Yossi Abramowitz — And Why Is He Coming To Delaware?

By DAN WEINTRAUB
Editor of The Jewish Voice

Yosef ("Yossi") Abramowitz is a forward-thinking writer-lecturer, teacher and activist who has been featured in *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post Magazine* and on *Saturday Night Live*. He has been called "the most influential Jewish student leader of the past decade." Currently he is a consultant to national UJA and the Jewish Television Network. He also serves as assistant director for the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values runs seminars in Washington, D.C. on public policy issues such as homelessness, war and peace, and Judaism. He was recently an associate editor at *Moment* magazine and once negotiated with the KGB on behalf of Jewish students in what was then the Soviet Union. Yossi will be the speaker on Friday, January 6, 1995 at 8 p.m. for the Federation Shabbat At Congregation Beth Emeth. He will also lead a study session at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth (AKSE) Congregation on Saturday, January 7, 1995 at 4 p.m.



Yosef I. Abramowitz

Speaking by telephone to *The Jewish Voice*, Yossi worries that "in a society where Beavis and Buttthead

hold sway with so many people, we have to cope with a vacuum of morals. Jews are not immune."

The former student leader has a keen interest in the future of Jewish youth and young adults. He says they want to know "where do they fit in?" Abramowitz says younger Jews "want to find ways to express their emerging Jewish identities in a positive way." He believes they do not always have opportunities and positive role models to do this. Yossi says that since "In Judaism, no mundane

act is devoid of holiness - sleeping, eating, doing homework," and that younger Jews can be made to feel that they are "involved with a sense of something special." He advocates that the Jewish community should "appeal to their values through social action" noting how younger Jews recycle, wear buttons and pins, sign petitions and otherwise demonstrate their concern for the world.

Abramowitz is concerned that, although younger Jews are socially conscious, "few do it as Jews; few draw upon Jewish values to inspire them." He says the Jewish community should seek to tap young Jews' desire to make a difference and inspire them in Jewishly taking a great step forward.

Abramowitz is also concerned over the tendency of Jews generally to separate out in their lives their "Jewish selves and their regular selves." He says this is a Protestant concept based on bringing one's spirit just to Church. Yossi laments that we compartmentalize our thoughts, practices and values. He adds that the Jewish community needs to relate to its kids, not just at Temple, but also during the week.

Yossi says among the keys to promoting Jewish continuity are sending youths to Israel, adult Jewish edu-

cation, and participating in a UJA Shabbat. "No amount of programming is going to do it unless people bring it back to their homes," said Yossi. He stresses the importance to kids of seeing their parents take Judaism seriously." He says the first step is for Jewish adults to educate ourselves.

"The needs of the Jewish community are very diverse and increasing," says Yossi. "Do you believe in miracles?" he asks. To contributors to UJA-Federation campaigns he says, "Let me tell you the story of what your contributions have done to change the course of history over the last number of years. I believe in miracles built by people, organized through God. God is apparent through history in our collective actions."

Asked his reaction to the phrase "Live Jewish," which anchors the community campaign administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD), Abramowitz says, "I like the slogan. The way I interpret it is to mean that during the campaign you pay your dues and after that is when you begin to live Jewishly."

For those who come to the Federation Shabbat at Beth Emeth on January 6, Yossi promises "a *chutzpadick* and enlightened articulation of why people should live Jewishly as we approach a new century." He says the study session on Saturday, January 7 at AKSE offers "an opportunity for people to test out their own ideas and values against my interpretation of tradition." He

also says the study session will feature a lively, open format.

He credits Delaware for the cooperation amongst its Synagogues and Federation. "I am very impressed with the level of the cooperation for this Shabbat program. Many *shuls* are closing their doors" for the evening so that their congregants may attend the Federation Shabbat. He believes many communities around North America would do well to borrow this idea from Delaware.

Yossi lives outside Washington, D.C. with his wife Rabbi Susan Silverman who is the congregational rabbi for Temple Or Chadash in Germantown, MD. They have one daughter, Aliza.

Scout Award To Silverman

A 60 year service award was presented to Isadore N. Silverman at the annual awards banquet of the Del-Mar-Va Council, Boy Scouts of America in November.

Mr. Silverman is probably best known for his many years as Scoutmaster of Troop 28 at the YMHA (now the JCC). Some of his other posts have been chairman of the troop committee, commissioner, and chairman of the Jewish committee on Scouting for Wilmington.

He was awarded the Silver Beaver in 1989, which is the highest recognition of volunteer service in the Boy Scout organization.



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Kraft Award Presented To Seth Bloom

Seth Bloom was recently awarded the Louis J. Kraft for Young Professional Workers in Jewish Commu-

nal Service from the Jewish Communal Service Association. The award includes a \$1500 grant to

defray the cost of participation in a superior Jewish educational program of the recipients choice. The award was established in 1972 to honor the many contributions Louis Kraft made to the field of Jewish communal service during his 60 years of service. Seth Bloom was Assistant Director of the Jewish Federation of Delaware 1989 - 1993. He currently is a Development Officer with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and resides in Wilmington.



Seth Bloom

Frank And Yetta Chaiken Center Opens

philosophy, Hebrew, sociology and political science.

The Frank and Yetta Chaiken Center for Jewish Studies has opened at the University of Delaware.

Located at 231 South College Ave. on the Newark campus, the center provides a home for the University's Jewish Studies Program and a place for students and faculty to meet, work and socialize.

Frank L. and Yetta Chaiken of Wilmington have established an endowment for the purpose of advancing and perpetuating Jewish studies at the University of Delaware. The new center is one of the benefits of this endowment, which also will help expand courses, develop seminars and bring guest lecturers to the campus.

The Jewish Studies Program was established at the University in 1990. Sara Horowitz directs the program, and its multidisciplinary curriculum includes courses in literature, history,



Frank and Yetta Chaiken at the new University of Delaware Center for Jewish Studies which is named for them.



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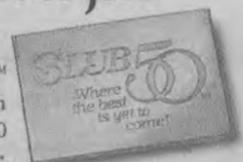
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A Night To Remember

By PRISCILLA W. SIEGEL
Special To the Jewish Voice

If you're a nostalgia buff or yearn for what was good about the "good old days" or just plain enjoy a community get-together with Jewish food, music and dancing, then "A Night to Remember" is for you. On January 14, beginning at 7:30 p.m., Adas Kodesch in Wilmington will welcome the whole Jewish community, free of charge, to an evening of old fashioned food (catered by the Kutz Home), get up and dance music by the Goldene Medina Klezmer Band, a Havdallah service, and much more.

The event is part of a year-long celebration of the 60th anniversary of the United Jewish Campaign of Delaware. To evoke the atmosphere of Wilmington's "Lower East Side" (Second Street), stalls reminiscent of push carts will be set up from which guests will be served the treats of yesteryear: pickles from a barrel, soft pretzels, genuine seltzer, fruits, vegetables, all topped off with rogelach and glasses of tea.

Julian Pressler of the Delaware Jewish Historical Society will exhibit photographs from Jewish Delaware's past, and old-timers can help Pressler identify pictures that are still unknown.

Anyone wanting to add to the atmosphere of nostalgia is encouraged

to rummage through their attics and come in old-fashioned attire.

Six Jewish agencies will be highlighted during the evening, when guests can hear from agency representatives about how their campaign dollars are utilized at the local level: the Kutz Home, the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, Albert Einstein, Gratz, and Hillel.

The committee co-chaired by Joan Wachstein and Barbara Yalisove has been hard at work on this "Night to Remember". Wachstein, reflecting the enthusiasm of her committee, says the event was designed to "remember the past, ensure our future, and share the beginnings of our community with the community of today."

For further information about this gala evening, call the Jewish Federation at 478-6200.



In honor of Jewish Book Month, the Brandywine Chapter of Women's American ORT held its third annual storytime at the Concord Pike Library on November 9. About 30 children and parents enjoyed stories of Jewish content, songs and dance. Children's librarian Rebecca Fisher prepared a display of Jewish books that the library owns as well as a handout for parents listing those books. Women's American ORT is an organization that supports a worldwide network of school and educates more than 252,000 students. For more information call Annette Aerenson at 764-1844.



Albert Einstein Academy Parents help at J. C. C. Hanukah Hooplah (L to R) Connie Sugarman, Michelle Wasserman and Marc Caplan.

Beth Shalom Sends Two To The Women's Biennial

Two Beth Shalom Sisterhood delegates attended the Women's League Biennial Convention, November 13-17 at the Concord Hotel. Sharon Rosen, President of Sisterhood, and Sylvia Berlin, National Cabinet to Torah Fund attended along with 1,500 other women from the United States, Canada, Mexico, England and Israel. The theme for this year's biennial was "walk in the path of understanding". During the conference aim was to seek ways to enhance their Sisterhoods and strengthen Conservative Judaism for themselves, their children and their children's children.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary. A plenum featured Ambassador Colette Avital, Consul General of Israel in New York and R. Najat Arafit Khelil, a Palestinian who is president of the Arab Women's Council. Rabbi Azriel C. Fellner presented carefully selected segments from motion pictures and television illustrating points on Jewish stereotyping.

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Commentary: Am Yisrael Chai - The People Of Israel Live

By RABBI
LEONARD B. GEWIRTZ
Rabbi Emeritus of AKSE

This article proposes to examine the problem of Jewish Survival by confronting the great Jewish communities in our history and deriving basic principles for Jewish survival and Jewish identity - *Am Yisrael Chai*.

In the closing years of the 20th century, we have two great Jewish communities: U.S. Diaspora with about 5,500,000 Jewish population (*Hadoar*, Nov. 4, 1994), and Israel with a Jewish population of 5,000,000. Some Israeli demographers are saying that by 2050, or later, the Jewish community in the U.S. will decline to 2,000,000 Jews, and the Jewish community in Israel will increase to 7,000,000 Jews (Yosi Bailin, Rabin's advisor) through *Aliyat P'nim*, through birthrate. Many Israeli families have between 4 to 8 children per family.

Before we analyze some of the social forces that are bringing about the decline in American Jewish population, we want to cite other Diaspora's which thrived and produced great Jewish culture. They did not slip into cultural decline, intermarriage, loss of vitality and identity.

In the Diaspora community in Babylonia, 200-500 C.E., the *Amora-im* wrote the *Talmud Bauli* in *Aramaio*, a language new to them and enriched by them. This language served the community's colloquial needs, while it retained the knowl-

edge of Hebrew as a sacred, scholarly language to study the Hebrew Bible and *Mishnah*. The Israel community of that time also studied the Bible and *Mishnah*, and like the Babylonian *Amora-im*, they too authored a *Talmud*, a commentary on the *Mishnah*, the *Talmud Yerushalmi*. The *Halachah* of the *Talmud Bauli* was more intellectual than the *Yerushalmi* and ten times as large. Here we see the Diaspora community as superior to the *Yerushalmi*-Israel community, and spirituality superior in its monotheism to its non-Jewish neighbors in Parthia (Persia). This community in Parthia, because of its rich religious and intellectual culture, felt no need to assimilate.

Another large Diaspora community developed in Poland and Russia in the 11th century which was productive until it was destroyed in the 20th century by Hitler. This community developed a new colloquial language, *Yiddish*, which produced a whole literature for the people. In the late 19th and early 20th century, great authors like Mendele, Shalom Aleichem and Val Peretz with their literary ability demonstrated that *Yiddish* is a literary language in Western Civilization. The Bible was translated into *Yiddish* for the Jewish masses, *Amoha*. And a special *Yiddish* work was written for religious women to ready every *Shabbat*, the *Tzena Urena*. These *Yiddish* speaking Jews retained Hebrew as a *lingua sanota* for study and worship.

From this Diaspora community came forth a deep, religious and pious movement - *Hassidism*, which still thrives today in Israel and in pockets of America. This was a great spiritual community, which has never sought to assimilate.

Simultaneously, another Diaspora community in Spain created another Jewish language for the Jewish people, Ladino. Following the people after the Expulsion, Ladin spread to Italy, Turkey and Greece. This people wanted to live as a people, live as a people with its own language. They retained their Hebrew as *Leshon-haKodesh*, *Lingua Sanota*, and then created another colloquial language for conversation.

The Jews in the Arabic speaking countries spoke a similar colloquial language. The Jewish people developed their own colloquial languages in their Diaspora's: *Aramaic*, *Yiddish*, *ladino* and *Arvic*.

Chayim Nachman Bialik (1873-1934) our poet-laureate, understood the *élan vital* of the Jewish people, when he said: "Any Jewish Community which permits its language to be uprooted and forgotten, that community ends in extinction."

The *Talmud* had said it 1500 years ago: "The people of Judea were careful about the survival of their Hebrew Language, and their Torah Knowledge lived with them."

"The people of the Gallil were not careful about the survival of the Hebrew language, their Torah Knowledge did not endure (Eruvin 53a).

If a Jewish community forgets its language, that forgetfulness is indicative of its declining will to live as a people. It is indicative of the decline of its *élan vital* as a people, and even

its will to learn Torah.

II

Now let us return to our American Jewish Diaspora, to that segment of its population in the throes of an identify crisis, and examine the social and cultural factors that brought about that crisis.

The American Diaspora immigrated mostly from Eastern Europe who brought with it the language of *Amoha* - the folk masses, *Yiddish*. This people had *Yiddish* theater, and a varied *Yiddish* press. The largest *Yiddish* newspaper was the *Socialist Forward*, read by the members of the two large trade unions, (I.L.G.W.U.) International Ladies Garment Workers Union and (A.C.W. of A.) Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. They promoted a peaceful democratic socialism as preached by Norman Thomas. These unions promoted the *Yiddish* newspaper, *Yiddish Theater*, and evening classes for American citizenship.

The second largest *Yiddish* newspaper was the Orthodox-Zionist *Morning Journal*; the third newspaper, *The Day*, was a Zionist national newspaper; and the *Freiheit* (Freedom), a Communist newspaper. In three generations, the *Yiddish* newspapers passed away with their *Yiddish* speaking immigrants, except for the *Forward*, which has today a large English section. Bialik's prediction came to pass. The American born Jewish children loved American freedom, sought to rise upon the ladder of success. They attended the public schools, high schools and universities. English became the language of the children of immigrants. They read the American newspapers

and American literature, swallowed the English media, and these Jewish-American children saw little difference between themselves and their fellow Americans. They slept in college dormitories and fraternized with their non-Jewish friends. Boys and girls fell in love. Jewish children were happy that the American "melting-pot" preached no anti-Semitism and in America everybody was equal.

A small percentage of the Jewish population in this Diaspora retained their difference in their Orthodox religion, in their separate Day School System, in their *Yashiva* College-University. Smaller Orthodox colleges grew up. The Conservative movement developed a chain of Ramah summer camps, Solomon Schechter Day Schools, and retained the classic Hebrew language in their liturgy, and Torah study. Over the years many reform congregations have added Torah reading, more Hebrew to their services and camping programs for young people. The Reform group represents 50% of the American Diaspora; the Conservative group, 40%; and the Orthodox group, 10%. But these affiliated Jews are only 50% of the Diaspora while 50% remain unaffiliated.

Beholding these social cultural factors on the campus, the death of *Yiddish*, the relegation of Hebrew to a liturgical language, minimal observance of the Sabbath and Festivals, virtual disappearance of dietary laws, the abandonment of Jewish neighborhoods to live in "gentile" suburbs — all of these activities have been giving a "message" to our children that we want to leave behind our *Yiddishkeit*. They read our unspoken messages.

It is no wonder that we have 52% of our young people intermarrying; that only 25% of the children of intermarriages are raised as Jews; 45% of children of intermarriages are raised in other religions; 30% are raised without any religion, (source - National Population Survey by C.J.F.; in *Hadoar*, Sept. 23, 94).

The whole *life-style* of the modern Jew leads to cultural assimilation and population decline. Another study by the North American Jewish Data Bank of the City University of N.Y. Graduate Center shows that since 1900 Jews, unlike most other religious groups, have become less religiously involved with each successive generation. Although most Jews still describe themselves as Jews, their identification is nominal rather than based on classic religious behavior.

The National Opinion Research Center at U. of Chicago revealed that the median number of sex partners from the age of 18 according to religion were as follows: No religion - 5; mainline Protestant - 4.4; Conservative Protestant - 3; Catholic - 3; Jewish - 6; other religion - 3 (N.Y. Times Oct. 9, 1994). The Jews are the most liberal in their sexual morality.

All these social studies on Jewish behavior explain the forces that impinge upon the *Yiddishkeit* of Jews, on how the majority culture undermines the minority culture; why these forces cause the diminution of Jewish population; and why the figure of 2,000,000 Jews in the American Diaspora by the middle of the 21st century is a fair estimate.

III

But I believe all is not lost provided - Jewish people who believe in survival follow a plan in their lives to avoid the realization of the sad prognosis of decline to 2,000,000 Ameri-

(Continued on page 11)

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NJCRAC To Hold A Plenum In Washington

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) will hold its annual Plenum in Washington, D.C. from February 4-8, 1995. Confirmed speakers include Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister of Israel, and Benjamin Netanyahu, Chairman of the Likud Party in Israel. In addition to general sessions on public policy issues,

Am Yisrael Chai

(Continued from page 10)

can Jews. What shall they do? At the outset survivalists must decide to live a survivalist life-style. They and their families must decide for themselves and believe *Am Yisrael Chai*, "the people Israel will live," and then live with that belief.

The religious survivalists have a discipline to follow. It is the classic Torah discipline.

The non-religious survivalists may seek-out the Zionist-nationalist life-style. They have the language, Hebrew or *Yiddish*, the music, literature, art, and traditional festivals observed in a national cultural manner. (Even for secularists, the holy day is not Sunday or Friday). Survivalists celebrate the *Shabbat* with candles and *Kiddush* in a family setting. The non-religious survivalists also celebrate the *Shabbat*-without religion.

The survivalists send their children to a Day School, to a Hebrew Talmud Torah with a Zionist philosophy. The family at home supports the child with Jewish observance.

The Yiddish survivalists will seek out the school and camp which expresses the *Yiddishist* philosophy.

These families visit Israel periodically to reinforce survivalist "Am Yisrael" feeling.

The survivalist family will choose to have an *additional* child to increase Jewish population and compensate for the *Kedoshim* who were murdered in the *Sho-ah* (Holocaust). This constitutes living for *Kiddush Hashem*, sanctification of the (G-d's) name.

To achieve *Kiddush Hashem* a family needs to be part of *Am Hasefer*, "People of the Book." A survivalist home will have a bookcase filled with Jewish books.

The Jewish survivalist realizes that our people possess a vast literature of history, Bible Commentary, and philosophy. As thinking people, we share the doubts, skepticism, and disbelief of our day. We can find answers to our questions in the great literature of our people and need not remain floundering amid the half-truths and agnosticism of our age. We can find the answers to our questions in the serious works of our great modern thinkers e.g., Martin Buber, Farnz Rosensweig, Rav Kook, A.D. Gordon, and Rev Joseph B. Soloveitchik. We need not remain confused in our smug cynicism, disbelief, and phobia about Torah and Judaism.

My rebbe used to say, "In Amerika, the street (de Gass) is *treifa*" and we need an antidote to counteract its assimilationist "toxin." The survivalist Jewish home must be a "lesser sanctuary" to protect the Jewish soul against those "toxins." Parents and children must support each other in the great *mitzvah* of Jewish survival with the home, the Synagogue, the day school, the Talmud Torah, the J.C.C., and the *Kihilla* dwelling together to make possible - "Am Yisrael Chai."

the Plenum will include the opportunity to meet with representatives on Capitol Hill, dialogue with numerous legislators and elected officials, attend briefings by experts "inside the beltway" and visit the Holocaust Museum.

Delegates from Delaware will vote on issues of concern to the Jewish community. The resolutions adopted will become part of the NJCRAC Program Plan which sets the policy agenda for the American Jewish community. NJCRAC is the umbrella organization representing 13 national Jewish agencies and 117 Jewish Community Relations Councils, including the Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Registration materials are available from Rabbi Marla Feldman, JCRC Director. One day registration is available. Please call 478-6200 for more information.

New Senior Water Class

The Jewish Community Center will offer a new senior water exercise class on Monday mornings from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

This "no-impact" class will incorporate muscular strength and endurance, flexibility and weight control. It has been specially designed for seniors and persons with little range of motion. The cost is \$15.00 for 10 sessions and classes will begin on January 8, 1995. For additional information or to register, please call the JCC Fitness Center Control Desk at (302) 478-5660. The JCC is a beneficiary of the 1995 "Live Jewish" Community Campaign which is administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD).

NACHES

Pierce-Flippen

Annette Rose Flippen, daughter of Dorothy and Richard Flippen of Wilmington was married October 9, to Charles Jeffrey Pierce, son of Ms. Karen Mannix of Land O'Lakes, Florida and Mr. C. Gilbert Pierce of Tampa, Florida. The bride, a graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School and the University of Pennsylvania, is a doctoral student at Columbia University. The bridegroom, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, is an accounts manager with Vanstar. The couple is living in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.



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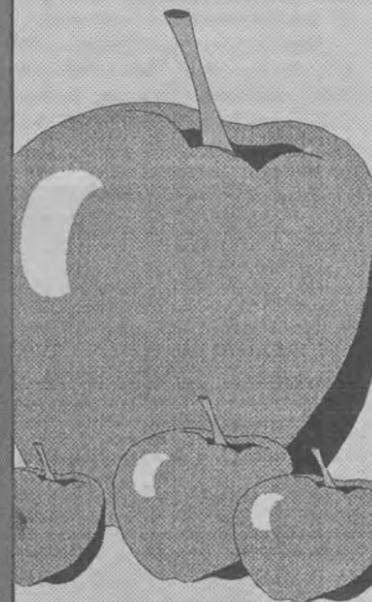
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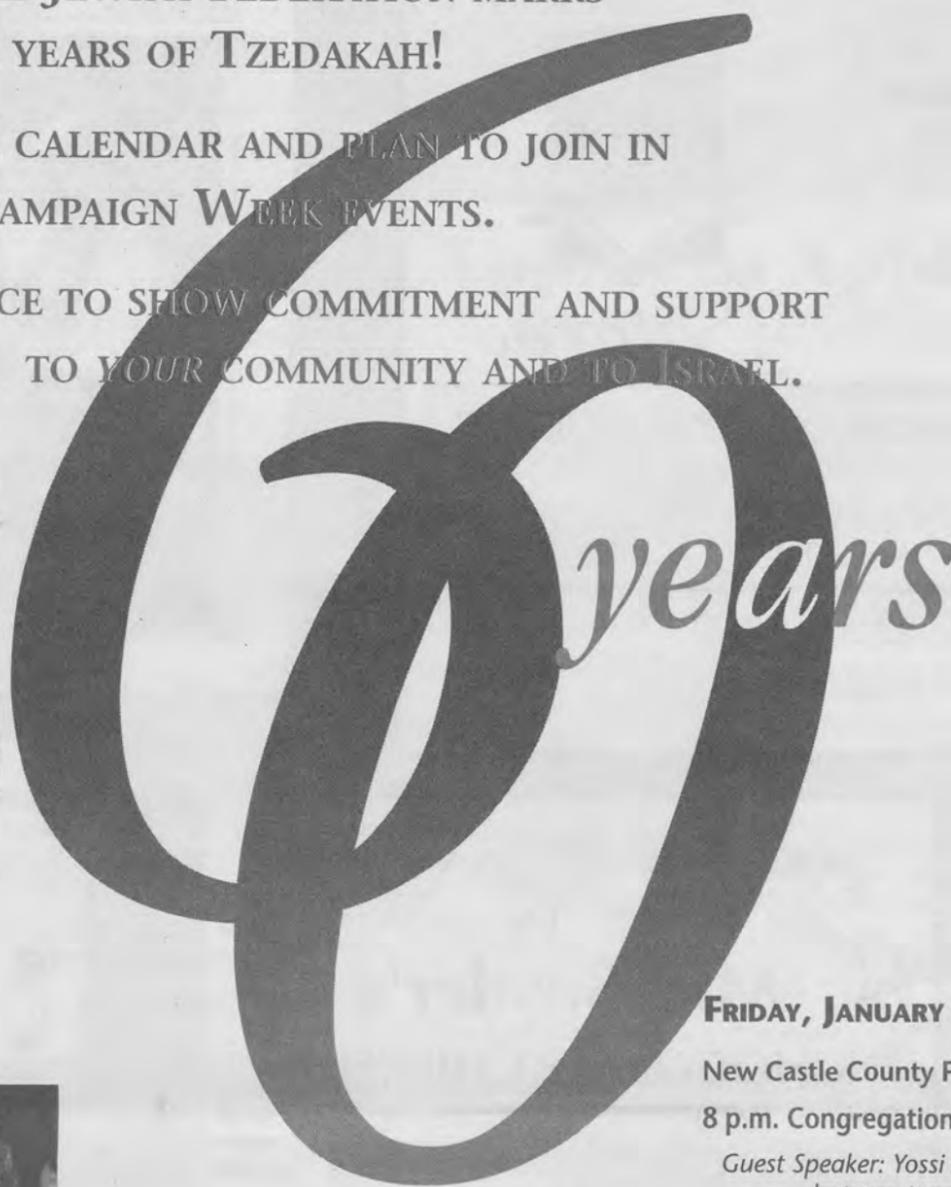
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60 years

Although efforts began as early as 1931, uniting the Wilmington Jewish Community and some 25 organizations was not an easy task. The Federation was established in 1935 when the first united campaign was held.



60 years

Federation began support of Gratz Hebrew High School in 1965, with 38 students admitted the first year. There are now 86 full and part-time students.



60 years

The Milton and Hattie Kutz Home was established in 1959. Today its 82 beds are filled, with future plans calling for 90 beds and 24 private rooms.

60 years

Albert Einstein Academy was founded in 1969. Over the years it moved from its early home in the B'nai Brith Building to Beth Emeth to its present wing in the JCC in 1976.



60 years

The Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA), formed in 1901, became the Jewish Community Center in 1954. Today the JCC serves 5700 people.



60 years

Hillel, organized in 1948, dedicated its new building on the University of Delaware campus in 1993.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

New Castle County Federation Shabbat
8 p.m. Congregation Beth Emeth

Guest Speaker: Yossi Abromowitz, writer, lecturer, teacher, activist

"Why Be Jewish? New Answers for a New Era"

Chairs: Dayle & Michael Joseph

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Special Study Session
4 p.m. Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth
Congregation

Yossi Abromowitz

"Why Be Jewish? Questions and Answers"

Chairs: Dayle & Michael Joseph

No charge



Julius Lester

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

"Around the World with YLC"

7:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Shalom
Sponsored by Young Leadership Cabinet
For adults 20 & 30 something

Featuring drinks and desserts from around the world with Jim Silver, wine & beer consultant, Kreston Liquors & Randy Ploener, graduate, Culinary Institute of America.

Entertainment by Jerry "Crabmeat" Thompson

Chairs: Pam Sue Schwartz, Elizabeth Turk
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Chai Society Brunch

11 a.m. - Hotel duPont, Gold Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Julius Lester, award-winning author and professor

"My Journey to Judaism"

Chairs: Laney & Richard Gordon

For donors contributing \$1800 or more to the 1995 Community Campaign

Couvert \$ 25 per person



60 years

Jewish Family Service, begun in 1899 as The Hebrew Charity Association, is the oldest Federation organization.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

"A NIGHT TO REMEMBER"

Commemorating our 60th Campaign and the beginnings of the Delaware Jewish Community

7:30 p.m. Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

See what life was like 60 years ago. Sing and dance to music from the 30's to the 90's! Revisit 2nd St. Wilmington with old fashioned pushcarts and pickle barrels.

Entertainment: Goldene Medina Klezmer Band

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Lion of Judah Brunch

12 Noon - Brantwyn

Speaker: Betty Kane, National Vice Chairman, UJA

Chairs: Ellen Koniver, Phyllis Aeronson, Clara Hollander, Arlene Simon

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9 a.m. - 3 p.m. & 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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SOUTHERN DELAWARE SUPER SUNDAY

10-Noon

Chair: Bob Crystal

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At most of these events you will have the opportunity to make your commitment to the 1995 Campaign.

For more information about these events, or to volunteer your services, contact the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 478-6200.

Attendance at each event is limited. Reservations will be processed on a first-come first-serve basis.

Early reservations are suggested.

Please complete and return this form with a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive your tickets.

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A Night to Remember

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Book Review:
LIFECYCLES

By YVETTE RUDNITSKY

Special To The Jewish Voice

Congratulations to Rabbi Debra Orienting for conceiving, editing and bringing forth a wonderful book; **LIFECYCLE: Jewish Women on Life Passages and Personal Milestones**. It is a book full of creativity and challenges to heart and mind. It is a resource for readers to use in exploring the cycles of Jewish and human life. It is a warm and nourishing collection. As Rabbi Orienting proclaims, "this book provides a still rare forum for the perspective of Jewish women and an opportunity to hear directly their needs, rituals, prayers and dreams." This book is also a partial corrective to the fact that while we have heard a great deal about women in the Rabbinate we have heard relatively little from them.

Life Cycle includes 18 women Rabbis: 5 Reconstructionists, 5 Reform, 7 Conservative and one with private ordination along with leaders in the Orthodox Movement. Here they speak openly, thoughtfully, and often with deep passion about events ongoing and transitional that infuse their lives.

Lifecycle events, our markers in time from birth to death, have been challenged by Jewish feminists in 4 basic ways to become more inclusive. These are: 1. Include women in the observances of passages that formerly spoke only to and of men - e.g. Bas Mitzvah. 2. By supplementing or altering traditional rituals related to lifecycles - e.g. alternative marriage contracts or divorce rituals. 3. By valuing as sacred and sometimes ritualizing the events of

women's biological cycle - e.g. menarche, menses, childbirth, miscarriage, menopause. 4. By secularizing non-biological passages and milestones not contemplated by the tradition - e.g. ceremonies celebrating elder wisdom or healing from sexual abuse.

Wherever you dip into this book you will hear a female voice articulating (and on two occasions a male voice) their need to concretize through ritual, prayer or blessing some powerful life event. Rituals are potent ways to bind individuals to community and allow community/tribe to read itself into the passages of each member. Rituals are structures providing safety and a measure of predictability around times and events of loss, transition or insecurity. All rituals are acts of creation coming into existence because of need and disappearing when no longer valuable or meaningful. The women and their creative rituals in Lifecycles are standing firmly within the Jewish tradition that has always allowed for the generating of the new ritual, liturgical and midrashic material.

Come read, come learn about new ways of enhancing Jewish ritual and a Jewish way of being. As Rabbi Orienting reminds us, "when women's concerns are omitted, or excluded our understanding of Judaism is skewed and incomplete."

(Yvette Rudnitsky is a Delaware resident who participates in a Jewish Feminist group sponsored by the Jewish Family Service of Delaware).

A Ranking Of The Top 100 Jews Of All Time

A Book Review



Reviewed By MARVIN CYTRON

Special To The Jewish Voice

THE JEWISH 100 A RANKING OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL JEWS OF ALL TIME

MICHAEL SHAPIRO, CITADEL PRESS, 378pp., \$22.95

How many of us are intrigued by lists? Witness the popularity of the top 25 ranked college football teams every fall, the top selling books in the Sunday newspaper book review, the top (and worst) performing stocks in the financial pages and the popularity a few years ago, of the various "lists" of books.

New Yorker Michael Shapiro, a composer and historian, has selected the 100 most influential Jews from the biblical to the modern era and ranks them in order of importance and contribution to world history. He has selected Jewish women and men from the fields of religion, science, music, commerce, sports, lit-

erature, the arts, and entertainment. The Jewish 100 incorporates the "expected" influential Jews from Moses (#1), Einstein (#3), Abraham (#5), Ben Gurion (#23) Golda Meir (#45), Louis Brandeis (#68) and Jonas Salk (#77), to Henrietta Szold (93), as a "who's who" in Jewish History. A brief biographical sketch accompanies each listing and the author's rationale for his ranking. Einstein's ranking of #3 is not exclusively for ushering in our science driven world but also his warning to future scientists not to lose their souls in cold logical quest but to serve the interests of humanity.

Shapiro's book is not intended as a "Jewish" History of the top 100 but those Jewish men and women who have had significant impact on our civilization. Consequently, the author provides a broad diversity of personalities including Jesus of Nazareth (#2), Saul of Tarsus (St. Paul) (#6), Leon Trotsky (#35), Betty Friedan (#56) and Boris Pasternak (87). As with a listing of this type there is always the "I didn't know she/he was Jewish" personalities i.e. Felix Proust, as well as "not really Jewish" personalities i.e. Felix Mendelssohn.

Commerce, Law, Music and Entertainment are well represented with well known as well as not so well known personalities. The biographical sketches, which are augmented with illustrations, contain interesting and sometimes little known facts about the individual. Sarah Bernhard's mother and aunt were Parisian prostitutes, and Sarah's mother brought her teenage daughter back

from school to join the family profession. Contributors to social and labor reform range from Samuel Gompers to Emma Goldman. Sports "influentials" are highlighted with the recognition of Daniel Mendoza, a British Jew of Portuguese origin who held the British boxing championship from 1789 until 1795. Jewish boxers of the first half of this century are also included in this biographical sketch. Included in the sports personalities is Brooklyn and later, (sob!) Los Angeles Dodger Sandy Koufax (#98), no doubt due to the author's love of baseball as a youth, particularly his beloved Dodgers. The number 100 listing is the only "team" incorporated in the Jewish 100, although the Prophets are grouped together. This two man team is Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, creators of, for those of us growing up in the 40's, a superhero that who "would help the downtrodden, stand tall for justice and defeat the bad guys".

Although one may not necessarily agree with all of the selections of the Jewish 100, particularly some of the more radical or inflammatory personalities, one comes away from this book with a broader perspective and deeper appreciation of the contribution that Jews have made to our civilization. This is a very readable, informative and entertaining book, one that would be an ideal source or textbook for a post bar/bat mitzvah or adult education class. (Marvin Cytron is a member of Congregation Beth Shalom and recent retiree from the Dupont Merck Pharmaceutical Company)

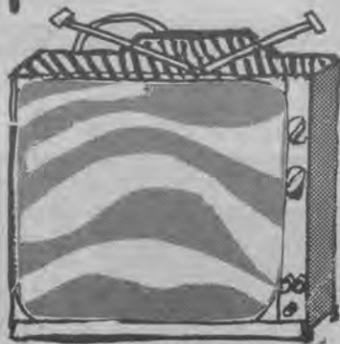
What's On TV?

Monday, December 12, 10 p.m.
WHYY TV 12

GREAT PERFORMANCES:
LEONARD BERNSTEIN: THE GIFT OF MUSIC

This 90-minute special, narrated by Lauren Bacall, takes a look at the musical genius of Leonard Bernstein and incorporates film clips of Bernstein at work, including several on-site performances of Beethoven, Brahms and Mahler.

Highlights of "Leonard Bernstein: The Gift of Music" include: the dashing 28-year-old Bernstein at the 1947 Prague spring Festival and a 1955 appearance with his wife, actress Felicia Montealegre, on CBS' "Person to Person." "Leonard Bernstein: The Gift of Music" airs Monday, December 12 at 10 p.m. on TV12.



THE INTERNET SHOW — DRIVER'S EDUCATION FOR THE INFORMATION SUPER-HIGHWAY

Tuesday, December 13, 10:55 p.m.
WHYY TV 12

THE INTERNET SHOW is education for both beginners and those familiar with the Internet. Hosts John R. Levine, co-author of *Internet for Dummies*, and Gina Smith, syndicated columnist and former editor of *Electronic Entertainment* magazine, introduce viewers to the Internet and its origination.

The one-hour program strips away the technobabble associated with computer topics. This show may be of interest to those readers of *The Jewish Voice* who are interested in providing articles or press releases via E-Mail.

Words & Music:

Too Late To See These Shows...

By STEVE COHEN

Three Broadway-type shows were playing in our area when I wrote this, and one of them will be here until late December. All are entertaining — The Who's Tommy, Porgy & Bess, and Fiddler on the Roof—but two of them, clearly, have more lasting appeal.

Porgy & Bess is normally known as a "Negro opera," portraying the life of poor blacks in South Carolina. But George Gershwin's close friend, the pianist Oscar Levant, used to call Porgy & Bess "the great Jewish opera." He was trying to get a laugh, but he was serious.

The music of Porgy is the plaintive wail of Jews who were fleeing persecution in Europe at the time this show was written, just as much as it is the cry of oppressed Blacks. When Porgy plans to leave Carolina and head north, and he sings "There's a Boat That's Leavin' Soon for New York," the listener can't help but hear the Jewish refugees from 1935 Europe singing that song.

Gershwin studied the music of rural Blacks in an attempt to make Porgy & Bess authentic. He couldn't escape his own roots, however, and the music that was his own heritage

is reflected in his score. Musicologists have found Jewish cadences in songs like "Bess, You Is My Woman Now," "My Man's Gone Now" and "Summertime."

It's fitting, therefore, that the production of Porgy & Bess that's now touring the nation, is produced by a Jew and conducted by a Jew. Richard Cordova is a New Yorker of Sephardic background. His credits include conducting shows, opera and leading the orchestra for Michael Feinstein.

Because Gershwin's score for Porgy is episodic, it needs sturdy leadership to hold it together. Cordova conducted with strong outlines and with firm tempi that swept the drama along. Cordova also allowed well-placed ritards for the singers to expand on important phrases. The complicated choral passages were obviously well-prepared and effective.

No matter how we label this composition, it remains as an important and moving piece of music. How tragic that the composer died two years after he wrote it, at the age of 37.

Gershwin called his drama an opera, and Pete Townshend called his

Tommy a "rock opera." I call both of them great shows in the Broadway tradition. The Who's Tommy, as the current Broadway production is titled, is fine theater and deserves all the Tony Awards it garnered. The high tech effects, the quick pace, the dancing and the pure energy make this an exciting show. It's worth a trip to Manhattan to see the original production at the St. James Theatre. The Who's Tommy was playing at Philadelphia's Forrest Theatre for a short time, in a scaled-down version that provides lots of fun. Since at press time it will have moved on and since one of the main ingredients of the show's success is the array of special effects, however, it's worth making the longer trip and seeing the production in New York.

Fiddler on the Roof, by Bock, Harnick and Jerome Robbins, is touring now in a 30th-anniversary production starring Theodore Bikel. It has closed an engagement at the Merriam in Philadelphia, but I expect we'll be seeing this production again. There are no gimmicks in this incarnation; it is a straight-forward recreation of the original version with a

(Continued on page 25)

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SYNAGOGUE LIFE

The Rabbi Writes - Remembering May 1945

By Rabbi HERBERT E. DROOZ
Rabbi Emeritus of
Congregation Beth Emeth

I can remember with a special joy writing in May of 1945 of a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of my congregation, Beth Emeth. It was midst of a thundering crescendo of world events whose dates, I wrote, "our great, great grandchildren will have to memorize". Yes, the monster and his jackal are gone, whole nations are disgorge, a whole generation ago, from their bellies... We have tasted the horrors of robot bombs, eleven-ton blockbusters and jellied gasoline. Yes, Congregation Beth Emeth, was born in the year of the Russo-Japanese War, with the early Roosevelt in the White House. Jews were fleeing to America by the hundreds of thousands from Czarist persecution. The end of the first decade brought the desolation of world war. The next ten years from 1915 to 1925 brought the incredible medley of war and peace, the Balfour Declaration, the League of Nations, President Harding and the beginning of the Great Bull Market. Our third decade brought a wild boom and a wilder crash, and in the echoes of that crash could be heard a courageous voice of hope and faith in humanity in the White House pitted against the *Sig Heil* of frenzied Storm-Troopers in Berlin. Much of the past two decades have been lived in a war against depression and half in a war against war.

We have learned much in these forty years of the science of destruction. One-fourth of the Jews of the world have been murdered in the space of five years - the greatest percentage of loss suffered by any people in modern times. A German doctor can speak personally of administering poison to 21,000 innocent people. Yes, we have learned

much about the science of things, but little of the science of human relations in these modern times. To much of mankind, this century has been a desert generation. Let us not, however, be totally overwhelmed by the events we have been witness to. Millions of little folk like us have seen all that is noble and heroic and also all that is weak and shameful in the world we live in.

The synagogue and the church can be among the chief regenerative forces in the world. They can touch and transform individuals as no other agency can. And as they touch and transform individuals, they can also touch and transform the whole community. In the Book of Exodus, Chapter 23, Book of Leviticus, Chapter 25, and the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 15 - all deliver laws of liberty for the cast-down of society. The older amongst us know a bit of the collapse of moral values we knew in the 20's - right up to the doors of the White House. We might remember the flapper, the stock market slight-of-hand; cynicism with "I want to get mine, and I don't care how," and "So what?" as the smartest words of its wisdom?

Will the business men pour gold into the safe-deposit boxes of any demagogue who promises to put labor back in its place? Will the clergy of church and synagogue smugly know what side their bread is buttered on? We must remain alert in the decades-to-come, keep exercising our spiritual muscles! We have seen the price we have to pay for permitting our moral sense to go slack in China, Berlin, Ethiopia and Madrid. To "make a deal," rather than "build the ideal," has too often been our aim. And we have learned that such dereliction of moral duty has to be paid off - and paid off in the blood and sacrifice of all that is dearest to

us. "God doesn't pay every Saturday night, but He pays."

Chanukah Observed At Beth Shalom

On Friday, December 2, Beth Shalom Congregation held their annual Chanukah Dinner with nearly one hundred people attending. Cantor Swerling led the congregation in Chanukah songs. Children decorated Chanukah cookies and families enjoyed socializing prior to services.

Temple Beth El's Men's Club Breakfast In Newark

On December 18th at 9:30 a.m. the Men's Club Breakfast meeting will feature Daniel Weintraub, Editor of the Jewish Voice. He will speak on the role of the Jewish Community newspaper, examining the mission of the newspaper and its fulfillment in the Delaware area.

Bagels and lox breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 11:30 a.m. Call 366-8330.

Storyteller Shabbaton In January

A Shabbaton will take place at Temple Beth El on January 13th and 14th. Gerald Fierst, storyteller will teach and entertain during services on Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon.

Gerald is also a writer and teacher with a BA from Yale University and Certification as a Performing Artist from Columbia University.

The weekend will begin with Shabbat dinner on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. followed by services in which Gerald will participate. Saturday morning, beginning at 10:00 a.m., his storytelling will be interwoven with the liturgy. Children in grades kindergarten through third grade will have their own storytime from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

This weekend is sponsored by Temple Beth El and the Jewish Federation of DE and is open to the entire community. Reservations need to be made for the Friday night dinner. Please call the office for more information (366-8330).



Singles Dance

Jewish singles 35 and above are invited to a dance at Keneseth Israel, Old York Rd. and Township Line Rd., Elkins Park, PA. on Sunday, December 11, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments, and a D.J. cost \$12. Jackets preferred for gentlemen.

Co-sponsored by K.I. Singles, A Step Above, and Temple Siani Singles 39+. For more information call (215) 643-4725 or (215) 552-8980.



The Delaware Kidney Fund was established by Harry and Diane Levin, Co-Founders of Happy Harry's. Harry, a double transplant recipient, and Diane believed that something good should come out of something bad. The Delaware Kidney Fund has helped hundreds of Delawareans afflicted with kidney disease. The pri-

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mary source of funding comes from the Happy Harry Open. Although Mr. Levin passed away in 1987, his dream of helping others with the disease is kept alive through his wife Diane, and the Delaware Kidney Fund. Mrs. Levin feels that the funds raised help to assist patients to live their lives with dignity and better medical care. She encourages consideration of transplantation as the greatest gift one can make... The Gift of Life. For information contact Kate Riley at 302-454-3390.

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- Linath Hazadek Society
- Lipinsky, William
- Lipson, Sam
- Lipstein, Charles
- Lipstein, Louis
- Lisakoff, Samuel
- Lovinger, Rudolph
- Lundy, Mrs. M.
- Lurge, Mrs. Esther
- Maisel, Joseph
- Malofsky, Mrs. M.
- Mann, A.
- Margolin, Samuel
- Margoline, Meyer D.
- Margoline, S.
- Margulis, Louis
- Markel, Adolph
- Markowitz, Benj. J.
- Markowitz, Morris
- Markowitz, Samuel
- Marrantz, M.
- Mayerberg, Dr. E. R.
- M. B. Sisters of B'nai Sholem
- Meltz, I.
- Mencher, Dr. Arthur
- Mendelsohn, Morton
- Menorah Club
- Meyerowitz, Irving
- Miller, Ben
- Miller, Howard
- Miller, Karl
- Miller, Nathan
- Mittleman & Bernstein
- Moses, Harry
- Moskowitz, M.
- Muderick, Ben
- Naman, Joseph
- Nathans, David
- Nathans, Samuel
- Nathans, Sydney
- Newman, Louis
- Nord, Alfred
- Nord, Henry
- Novack, Philip
- Novick, Michael
- Omega Alpha Tau Sorority
- Onlick, James
- Ostro, Jacob
- Ostro, Joseph
- Paris, Abraham
- Paul, A. J.
- Paul, Rubin
- Peck, Morris
- Pep Boys
- Perry, Morris
- Phi Alpha Theta Sorority
- Pilnick, M.
- Pizor, Harry
- Platt, Isadore
- Platt, Jos.
- Ploener, Abraham
- Ploener, David
- Ploener, Harry
- Podolsky, Gidel
- Poland, M. D.
- Polotsky, I.
- Polotsky, Sol
- Pottack, Jos.
- Price, Edward
- Price, S. R.
- Protigal, Jacob
- Raivy, Albert
- Raphaelson, Lewis
- Rapkin, Frank
- Rapkin, Lewis
- Rappaport, I.
- Reissman, Charles
- Reissman, Gus
- Reitzes, Isadore
- Reiver, Hyman
- Rich Bros.
- Ritter, J.
- Rofel, Gertrude
- Rogers, Charles
- Rosbrow, John
- Rosbrow, Nathan
- Rose, A.
- Rose, Dr. Henry
- Rosen, I.
- Rosenbaum, Daniel
- Rosenbaum, James
- Rosenbaum, M.
- Rosenberg, Philip
- Rosenblatt, Louis
- Rosenblatt, J.
- Rosenbloom, Harry
- Rosenblum, Max
- Roseman, B.
- Rosenman, Joel
- Rosevitch, I.
- Rossman, Mrs. B.
- Roth, Lena and John
- Rothberg, Mr. M. I.
- Rothschild, Alvin
- Rothschild, Mrs. E.
- Rothschild, Julius
- Rothman, Charles
- Rothstein, L.
- Rubenstein, Harry
- Rubenstein, Morris
- Rubin, Max
- Rubin & Schulman
- Rubinstein, Barney
- Rudnick, Dr. B. F.
- Rudnick, Fred
- Sachs, Samuel
- Sackler, Jacob
- Sacks, Benj.
- Sacks, Louis
- Sacks, R. H.
- Salsberg, Harry
- Salsbury, Morton
- Saltzman, A. J.
- Saltsman, Robert H.
- Salus, Morris
- Samuel, Jacob
- Samuels, Mrs. Philip
- Sandl, Max
- Sapowith, Harry
- Sapp, David
- Sapsin, Levy
- Sayers, Mrs. Abe
- Sayers, Paul
- Sayers, William H.
- Schagrin, Charles W.
- Schagrin, Dr. Sidney
- Schendleman, Max
- Scher, Mrs. Ethel Z.
- Schevitz, Mitchell
- Schevits, Paul
- Schinfield, H.
- Schlanger, Dr. Edw. K.
- Schlanger, Nathan
- Schoenberg, Chas
- Schoenberg, Morris
- Schorr, Sigmund
- Schreiber, Louis
- Schulson, Rabbi S.
- Schultz, T.
- Schutzman, I.
- Schwartz, Harry
- Schwartz, Nathan
- Segal, Julius
- Seidel, A.
- Seidel, Albert
- Seltzer, Samuel
- Shames, Harry
- Shames, Dr. Samuel
- Shapiro, Dr. A. A.
- Shapiro, Frank
- Shapiro, Dr. J. A.
- Shapiro, Jacob
- Shapiro, Max
- Shar, Mrs. D
- Sherbekow, Max
- Sherby, Louis
- Sherman, Benj.
- Shlein, Morris
- Shtofman, George
- Shtofman, Morris
- Shulman, Jack
- Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity
- Sigma Phi Fraternity
- Sigma Phi Sigma Sorority
- Sigma Tau Phi Fraternity
- Silberman, Benj.
- Silker, David
- Silver, Abe
- Silver, Adolph
- Silver, Jos.
- Silverman, B. J.
- Silverman, Isadore
- Simon, Albert L.
- Simon, Mrs. J.
- Simon, J. Louis
- Simon, Morris
- Simon, Philip
- Simon, Wm.
- Sklar, Bernard
- Sklar, Mrs. R.
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PANIM EL PANIM

(Face to Face with JFD People)



Kutz Residents Cast Ballots

Due to efforts of residents, staff, volunteers and the Board of Elections, 21 Kutz Home residents voted in the general elections on November 8th.

The Home's staff recruited resident Faustino (Sonny) Aguilar and volunteer June Kleban to discuss with residents the upcoming elections and their desire to work. Once a list of potential voters was assembled, arrangements were made with the Board of Elections to send in a representative to register the Kutz Home population. Thirty residents and three staff members were registered on September 2nd at the Kutz activities room.

In October, signs were posted throughout the Home, listing the candidates for the major offices. Candidates were called and they left leaflets for residents and staff.

On November 2nd David Ennis, running unopposed for the 6th Representative District, spoke to a large group of residents about the area's past and future. He showed slides and answered questions.

On November 8th five residents traveled in the Home's accessible van to Mt. Pleasant Elementary School on Duncan Road to cast their ballots, with the help of staff and family members. In the afternoon a group of twelve would-be voters were transported in the MBNA van assisted by

4 MBNA employees. It was a pleasant trip with the group reminiscing about elections over the decades. Four residents went to the polls with family members.

One of the residents, with a very wry sense of humor treated election officials to their biggest laugh of the day when he announced he was voting for Herbert Hoover.



Faustino Aguilar voting for the first time in a United States election.



Chanukah Luncheon For Seniors

On December 10th, after the Senior Citizen's Shabbat Service at Congregation Beth Emeth, a special luncheon will be served to Senior Citizens. Violin and flute duets by Stephen and Caryn Burstein; and a Sing-a-long will be the entertainment. The luncheon, chaired by Verna Schenker of Congregation Beth Emeth, is sponsored by the Beth Emeth Sisterhood and Jewish Family Service (JFS). There is no charge. All Senior Citizens are invited to attend.

For reservations, please call Jewish Family Service at 478-9411. The Jewish Family Service is a beneficiary of the 1995 "Live Jewish" Community Campaign, which is administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.



LIVE JEWISH

REMEMBER OUR PAST...INSURE OUR FUTURE

1995 JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE
60TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

Anna Moskowitz & MBNA volunteer leaving the polls at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School.

Handicapped Adult Program

Jewish Family Service continues to meet with a small group of parents of handicapped adult children to explore the possibility of developing services within our Jewish community. In order to begin planning, either or both, residential and outpatient services, it is essential to determine the actual need that exists

within our population. We need to hear from handicapped adults and/or their parents, so we can compile numbers, and to invite you to participate in the planning meeting of the group. Please call the Jewish Family Service office at 478-9411 for more information. The Jewish Family Service is a beneficiary of the 1995 "Live Jewish" Community Campaign, which is administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD).

Creative Jewish Camping

Habonim Dror Camp Moshava



Bel Air, Maryland

Rachel Glaser
Baltimore Area
(410) 654-5629

Arlene Cohen
Columbia, MD area
(410) 490-1855

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Joanne Goldstein
1-800-454-2205



- Boys and Girls grades 4-10
- For 1st time campers in 4th, 5th & 6th grades, special option available for first two weeks of either session
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- Specialists from Israel
- Israeli culture
- Arts and Crafts
- Nature Study
- Sports - basketball, baseball, etc.
- Swimming - 2 pools
- Boating on lake
- Campfires
- Judaic program
- Daily Hebrew instruction taught informally
- Hebrew singing and dancing
- Scouting program - Tzofit
- Overnights and outings
- Kashrut observed
- Creative Sabbath services
- Non competitive
- 11th grade Israeli program

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1995 Campaign Event

The Young Leadership Cabinet
of the Jewish Federation of Delaware

presents

Around the World with YLC

Featuring an Array of
International Drinks and Desserts

Spend an entertaining evening ...

- Discovering new beers
- Sampling different wines
- Winning door prizes
- Pleasing your palate with pastries
- Sipping flavorful coffee or tea



Thursday, January 12, 1995
7:30 P.M.

Congregation Beth Shalom
18th & Baynard Blvd., Wilmington

\$10 in advance; \$12 at the door

WITH GUESTS:

- Jim Silver
Consultant, Kreston's Liquors

- Randy Ploener
Graduate, Culinary Institute of America

Entertainment provided by Jerry "Crabmeat" Thompson

Reservations are requested.

Please call Bonnie Helfand (JFD-day) at (302) 478-6200 or Michael Schwartz at (302) 798-8501 or Rhonda Foreman at (302) 479-5247.



PANIM EL PANIM

(Face to Face with JFD People)



JCRC Combats The Radical Right

The Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Delaware is poised to begin addressing the growing influence of the radical right. Following the recent elections, it is clear that the JCRC will be very busy countering efforts of religious extremists, nationally and in our own state, who would eviscerate the Bill of Rights in order to establish a fundamentalist Christian theocracy in America. We

will be coordinating grass-roots efforts to oppose school prayer and other breaches of the wall of separation between church and state.

The recent political campaigns exposed a strong national undercurrent of xenophobic attitudes in our community. History teaches that a climate which rewards inflamed rhetoric and promotes the politics of fear and division is a fertile ground for anti-Semitism, bigotry and scape-

goating. The JCRC will be vigilant in monitoring the xenophobic and mean-spirited agenda of religious and political extremists. We will continue to be advocates for the most vulnerable in society and work to preserve the rights and freedoms which have made America great. The JCRC will work in coalition with other people of good will in our community who share our ethical mandate to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with G-d."

We need your help! For more information about these or other JCRC activities, please contact John Elzufon, Chair, or Rabbi Marla Feldman, Director, at 478-6200. The JCRC is a beneficiary of the 1995 "Live Jewish" Community Campaign which is administered by The Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD).

JCRC Remains Active This Fall

The Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Delaware has been working actively on behalf of the Jewish Community during the Autumn months.

In the international arena, we have continued our advocacy on behalf of Israel and World Jewry. The JCRC coordinated a briefing on the Middle East Peace Process by Israeli Consul General Eviatar Manor for the reporters and editorial staff of the *News Journal*. In the wake of the tragic bombing of the Jewish community's central offices in Argentina and London, the JCRC hosted a meeting on security issues for local Jewish leaders, with presentations by local law enforcement agencies and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

In the political arena, the JCRC worked with Hadassah to provide a well-attended Candidate's Forum prior to the elections. In the wake of the recent elections, the JCRC will continue to monitor and address issues of concern to the Jewish community, particular in areas of separation of church and state. Confronting the forces of the radical right will be a continuing challenge for the JCRC in the upcoming years.

The JCRC's Task Force on Public Education has been busy preparing to address issues of religion in public schools. It is our philosophy that many violations of the Constitutional separation of church and state can be prevented with education and sensitivity. Therefore, a continuing program to discuss what is legal and

appropriate in our religiously diverse public schools is being created for principals. Once again, the JCRC will be joining the "Schools-1995" Coalition to monitor and educate the community about school board elections throughout the state. During the course of the academic year, the JCRC will be studying the New Directions curriculum currently under consideration by the Department of Public Instruction. Through these and other projects, the Task Force on Public Education hopes to improve public education in our state and empower parents and other members of the community become more involved in this critical aspect of American communal life.

In November, members of the JCRC joined students at the University of Delaware Hillel for a Shabbat dinner and program on community relations issues on campus. This is part of the JCRC's ongoing efforts to reach out to the university community. Issues involving inter-ethnic relations and anti-Semitism on campus continue to be concerns of our local college students. Additional JCRC programs are being planned for U.D. students for the spring semester.

For more information about these or other JCRC activities, please contact John Elzufon, Chair, or Rabbi Marla Feldman, Director, at 478-6200. The JCRC is a beneficiary of the 1995 "Live Jewish" Community Campaign which is administered by The Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD).



Were you involved in the first United Jewish Campaign run by JFD from November 17 to November 27, 1935?

If you were, please submit your name on this coupon at the Community Campaign Event, January 14, 1995 at AKSE and register in our free prize drawing.

Auxiliary Remembers "Forget Me Not"

The Auxiliary of The Milton and Hattie Kutz Home held their 26th Annual Forget-Me-Not Ball on November 19th at the Brandywine Country Club. Over 185 people attended the Gala whose purpose is to raise funds for "extras" for the Home and its residents that are not normally provided for in a non-profit nursing home's budget. As guests dined they were entertained by the sounds of Dane Anthony and his band who came all the way from Atlantic City. The centerpieces of fresh fruit and flowers were donated to the residents of the Home to enjoy. The lucky raffle winner of the ribbed stack rings and gold bracelet from Indulgence Jewelers was Doris Kane of Kennett Square, Pa. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a check to the Auxiliary by Dr. Moe Hochman of The Women's Imaging Center of Delaware, L.P. The Auxiliary is grateful for their continued support. The Kutz Gala Committee Members would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions and support, and look forward to seeing everyone next year at the Forget-Me-Not Ball.



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Pictured from left - Ellen Levin, Kutz Auxiliary President; Joy Honig, Kutz Gala Chairman; and Dr. Moe Hochman at the "Forget-Me-Not" Ball of the Kutz Auxiliary.

Hanukah Latke Dinner

On November 30, families from Albert Einstein Academy celebrated Hanukah at its annual Latke dinner. Nearly 200 people enjoyed a catered dinner from Zaydie's, while the children made a Happy Hanukah banner under the guidance of Einstein's art teacher, Bruce Zabel. After dinner everyone enjoyed a musical program in which each grade sang Hanukah songs, led by Alex Botwinek, Einstein's music teacher. Everyone had a wonderful time and is anxiously awaiting next year's celebration.

Albert Einstein Academy is a Hebrew elementary school, providing both Jewish and secular studies for kindergarten through sixth grades. For more information about Einstein, contact Ellen Bernhardt at (302) 478-5026.



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Toni Young To Speak At NCJW Blumberg Remembrance

Toni Young will speak at the first Julia B. Blumberg Remembrance of the Wilmington Section, National Council of Jewish Women. Her subject will be "Jewish History in Delaware", at the December 14th meeting, at 7:30pm, Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 West Lea Boulevard. Ms. Young, current president of the JFD, is recognized throughout the community as highly knowledgeable in Delaware events. This meeting will be the first of what is planned as an annual occurrence in remem-

brance of Julia B. Blumberg.

Ms. Blumberg was a key leader for many decades in sustaining charitable organizations in both the Jewish and general communities. During her long career of public service, her highest priority was education; the program on the 14th exemplifies this commitment.

Please make reservations through Barbara Katz, 652-5823, or Mary DeVries, (610)388-6135. This program is open to the public.



Delaware's Art Green, on Mission 1,000, shown at Brit Shean in Israel.

Delawareans On Mission 1000 Reflect On Israel

Delawareans led by Toni Young, President of the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD); Ellen Koniver, Mission Chair; and Judy Wortman, Executive Vice-President of JFD; participated with others from the tri-state area in the recent "1994" MISSION 1000 to Israel. Several also traveled on an extension of the trip into Jordan. After returning to Delaware a few participants shared some insights into their experiences on the mission.

Mrs. Leah Kraft and her daughter both participated in the mission. Mrs. Kraft told *The Jewish Voice* that she "thought it was a very well planned trip." She added that she has "been suggesting to people who are contemplating a trip to Israel that they should wait for the next mission."

Ambassador To Speak December 11 At AKSE

Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Men's Club welcomes all to a special joint community breakfast with all Delaware congregations in conjunction with the State of Israel Bonds on Sunday, December 11, 1994 at 9:30 a.m. featuring special guest Ambassador Moshe Melamed, who is Israel's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Melamed went from Bulgaria to Israel in 1948, to Israel's Defense Forces, to the Foreign Ministry to Jerusalem and Foreign Service in

Geneva, many Caribbean Republics, the European Parliament and now he is at the U.N.

Reservations are required, so call 302/762-2705 (A.K.S.E. Office). Cost is \$5.00 per person.

The topics will be the latest developments in the Middle East Peace Process. New investment opportunities through State of Israel Bonds will be presented by Larry Katz, Israel Bonds Area Director in Delaware, who will be present for Bond purchases and reinvestments.

Congregation Beth Emeth Youth Help Others Enjoy The Holiday

On Sunday, December 4, 1994, youth group members in fourth through twelfth grade at Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 West Lea Boulevard in Wilmington, made special care packages for many in the community. With special help from Alan Levin at Happy Harry's administrative offices, these special gifts included many toiletries. In addition, the youth members also put candy and a special note in these care packages. These gifts were delivered to various social and nursing agencies throughout the city.

Rabbi Laurence Malinger, Assistant Rabbi and Director of Education, explains that the children celebrate Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, often by exchanging gifts with

one another. This year, they wanted to do something different.

The holiday symbolizes many things, but most important the concept of charity. Our tradition tells us that during the Maccabean war all Jews, both children and adults, contributed charity toward the cause of defeating the oppressor. There are many forms of oppression still in existence in our world today. There are people afflicted by sickness, hunger, ignorance, and prejudice. Today, like our ancestors, Congregation Beth Emeth young people have put aside gifts of charity in order that they may help bring an end to oppression. We hope that our gifts will make the holiday season a little brighter for many people.



Cindy Goldstein

Kraft explained that "it was full of thrilling things never to be forgotten; experiences one does not usually get on this kind of a trip. Everything had something more to it."

Kraft singled out a talk by Shlomo Drori, a spokesperson for the Dead Sea Works. She says he "sounded prophetic" in speaking about a future for Israel in peace and prosperity. "She told the eloquent Drori that he "sound like the prophets of old." He replied that "the differences is that I have seen many of my prophecies fulfilled."

Drori said that the key ingredients for a lasting peace are for all parties to enjoy economic prosperity, political prosperity and achievement of national pride.

Delaware's Art Green told *The Jewish Voice* that "my only complaint was the jet lag on the way home." Green described a prior trip he made to Israel three days prior to the Six-Day War. At that earlier time he could only look down into Old Jerusalem from behind barbed wire. His return trip impressed him with the "fantastic things (Israel has) accomplished under difficult circumstances since gaining independence." He noted Israeli achievement in environmentalism, setting up settlements and the recent economic successes, among other accomplishments. Green praised the well-educated guides who had knowledge of everything from History, to the Bible, to politics.

He remarked about how international Israel is; recalling seeing the Arab quarter and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Green said that in Jordan he was quite impressed with Amman. He is gladdened that Israel will not "have to worry about their long, long border" shared with Jordan. "Jordanians have not been inculcated with the same hatred (toward Jews) as Syrians and Egyptians have" asserted Green. Green said that enthusiasts of archeology from all over the world would like to go to Petra.

Barbara Schoenberg told *The Jewish Voice* that this mission was a her second trip to Israel. In the 24 years since her first trip she noticed "remarkable changes in the amount of development, infrastructure, roads, cities" what she found to be most touching, she said was that Jews do everything in Israel from running the Government to sweeping the streets. In Israel Jew do everything from "the most menial task to the most technical task" says Schoenberg.

As Israel works towards a peaceful future Barbara notes "there are fears of what the future will bring but

AKSE Spaghetti Dinner Features Goldstein And Quartet

Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth's A.K.S.E. Family Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, January 15 at 6 p.m. will feature a menu of all you can eat spaghetti, meatballs, vegetarian and meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, cookies, coffee, tea and soft drinks. The food will be prepared by Chef Jacques.* The two entertainment acts will be soloist Cindy Goldstein, vocalist and Bob Weiner with the Rittenhouse Square Barber-shop Comedy Quartet. The charge is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. For ticket information contact: A.K.S.E. Office 762-2705.

A synagogue spokesperson says that Cindy Goldstein, is excited about

the opportunity to share with the congregation some of her favorite current Broadway hits. Bob Weiner returns with his new quartet, the current Atlantic Division Champs, Rittenhouse Square.

The Rittenhouse Square barber-shop quartet was formed in August 1993. In May they won the 1994 Atlantic Division Competition.

Bob Weiner is the newcomer to the group, bringing his bass voice from Wilmington, Delaware. Bob is a member of the Chorus of the Brandywine, the Lancaster Red Rose Chorus and most recently has sung with the Razzmatazz Quartet, the 1991 Appalachian division quartet champions.

For more information on A.K.S.E. Men's Club Family Spaghetti Dinner and concert call Bob Weiner at (302) 658-8700.

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(Continued on page 24)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries for the Calendar of Events are due on the Copy Deadline, published in each edition of *The Jewish Voice*. Copy should be typed and double spaced. Please include day and date, time, place, brief description and contact person.

DECEMBER

Saturday _____ 10

Joint Chanukkah Party with YLC; 8:00 p.m.-??; Music by D.J. Chuck, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. \$10 in advance, \$14 at the door. Call Dave at (609) 678-8029 [h] or (302) 992-0400 [w] for info.

Sunday _____ 11

Children's Film Series (Animated Book of Esther, The Giving Tree, Lights, Passover at Bubbe's). J.C.C. 3:00 p.m. \$2 for film. Part of the JCC Cultural Arts Program.

AKSE Men's Club Brunch, 9:30 a.m. Special Joint Community Breakfast with all Delaware Congregations - Ambassador Moshe Melamed, Israel's Permanent Representative to

the United Nations. Topic: Israel Bonds. Reservations required. Contact A.K.S.E. office: 302-762-2705 (\$5.00/person).

Tuesday _____ 13

Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the JCC. Call Bonnie at 478-6200 to confirm attendance.

Wednesday _____ 14

NCJW's Julia B. Blumberg Remembrance Day. Speaker: Toni Young, Jewish History in Delaware. Open to the community.

Sunday _____ 18

Temple Beth El Men's Club Breakfast Meeting: Dan Weintraub, Editor of *The Jewish Voice*, will discuss "The Role of The Jewish Community Newspaper." 9:30 a.m. \$5.00 charge. Open to all. Call 366-8330.

Beth Emeth Brotherhood Breakfast Programs, 9 a.m. at Beth Emeth. Speaker: Ella Zukoff, Membership Director, *Jewish Community Center*. Topic: "How the Jewish Community Center Can Enrich Your Jewish Life." The cost for breakfast is \$3.00 per person.

Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC), Board Development Program with Barry Ungar, past-president of the Philadelphia JCRC. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the JCC. Call Rabbi Marla Feldman at 478-6200 for more information.

Tuesday _____ 20

Dinner and Movie at the Chestnut Hill Cinema Cafe. YJAD will dine and watch a movie at Newark's only combination movie theater restaurant. Call Kim Benjamin at (302) 798-5899 [h] for reservations and further details.

Sunday _____ 22

Women's American ORT Brandywine Chapter at Large General Meeting 7:30 p.m. at the home of Cindy Weiner. For more information call 478-3174.

Sunday _____ 25

National Museum of American Jewish History "Being Jewish at

Christmas", noon to 4 p.m. A day's worth of entertainment that has become a Museum tradition. Music by Sally Mitlas and the Sally Mitlas Ensemble, a unique group that specializes in Jewish and American music, and storytelling by Bernice Sherman, Philadelphia's "Alphabet Lady," who tells tales for children of all ages. \$2 per person (children 6 and under admitted free). Call NMAJH at (215) 923-5978.

JANUARY 1995

Sunday _____ 8

Beth Emeth Brotherhood Breakfast Programs, 9 a.m. at Beth Emeth. Speaker: Dr. Andrew Weinstein, M.D., Christiana Medical Center. Topic: "Allergies, Asthma and the Family". The cost for breakfast is \$3.00 per person.

Sunday _____ 15

Film "The White Rose" J.C.C. 3:00 p.m. \$2 for film. Part of the J.C.C. Cultural Arts Festival.

A.K.S.E. Family Spaghetti Dinner and Concert featuring Cindy Goldstein vocalist, and Bob Weiner and the Rittenhouse Square Barbershop Quartet. \$8.00 per adult, \$4.00 per child (12 & under). For ticket information, contact A.K.S.E. office, 302-762-2705. Snow Date: Sunday, February 5, 1995.

Tuesday _____ 17

Restaurant Sampler at Ruby Tuesday's. YJAD will be dining at one of Delaware's newest night spots, Ruby Tuesday's in the Concord Mall. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Call Marty Rosenthal at (302) 324-0269 [h] for details.

Saturday _____ 21

Philadelphia Bar Trip. Drinks and Dancing in Philadelphia. YJAD will meet at the Delaware's J.C.C. at 6:30 p.m. and carpool up from there. Call Michele at (302) 892-4255[w] for further details.

Friday _____ 27

Synagogue Drop-In. Join us for dinner and services. Call Merrily Wolf at (302) 477-1302 for directions and details.

Sunday _____ 29

A.K.S.E. Men's Club Breakfast and Speaker, Social Hall, A.K.S.E. Brunch at 9:30 a.m. Open to all congregants. State Representative Dave Ennis. Topic: Community Revitalization.

Monday _____ 30

Chavurah Discussion Group. Call Merrily Wolf for directions and precise day and time at (302) 477-1302.

Ongoing

"Mosaic: Jewish Life in Florida" at The National Museum of American Jewish History. From the Sephardic merchants who settled in Pensacola in 1763, to the Russian immigrants arriving today, Jews have a diverse and fascinating history in Florida. This new exhibition — comprising over 500 items — has been assembled from the scrapbooks and attics of Florida's living Jews and documents Jewish settlement and acculturation in the Sunshine State. Through December 31 at The NMAJH in Philadelphia. Call (215) 923-5984.



Petra

Mission 1000

(Continued from page 23)

there is also hope. "Schoenberg says that Israelis are thrilled with the peace process with the Jordanians. She believes that Israel can help change the lifestyles of the Jordanian people. she says there will be a recognition among the Jordanian people that such a change comes from the Israelis. She believes Israel is remarkably willing to help the Jordanians with technology and in solving water problems.

According to Schoenberg there has been a great increase in travel to Jordan in recent weeks. She spoke of how much of the Old Testament took place on the Jordanian side; noting Moses got the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai and was buried there. Schoenberg says many Israelis are dying to go to Petra. She says of Israelis that there "is no question they have to have peace; they are tired." A trip to a military cemetery Herzl is buried along with so many fallen Israelis was "heartbreaking."

As the peace process continues, Schoenberg assesses Jordan as very stable. On the Golan Heights she found Israelis to be very willing to give up the land and relocate if they can have some assurances that they can have a lasting peace.

Schoenberg says "it was a wonderful trip." For more information about Israel missions call JFD at 478-6200.



The Jewish Voice recently purchased a windows-compatible PC in an effort to modernize operations. Press release and news articles can now be submitted via e-mail or on 3 1/2" floppy disks. Most windows, DOS and Macintosh software can be accepted but call 478-6200 for technical instructions. E-mail is preferred and the address is 7056105@mcimail.com over internet. The Jewish Voice is a beneficiary of the "Live Jewish" Community Campaign, which is administered by JFD.

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60TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 8:00 PM

Federation Shabbat at Congregation
Beth Emeth
Speaker: Yossi Abramowitz
Chairs: Dayle & Michael Joseph

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 4:00 PM

Study Session at ADAS Kodesch Shel
Emeth Congregation
Speaker: Yossi Abramowitz
Chairs: Dayle & Michael Joseph

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 11:00 PM

Chai Brunch at Hotel DuPont
Speaker: Julius Lester
Chairs: Laney & Richard Gordon

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 12 NOON

Lion of Judah Luncheon at Brantwyn
Speaker: Betty Kane
Chairs: Ellen Koniver, Phyllis Aerenson,
Clara Hollander, Arlene Simon

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 7:30 PM

Around the World with YLC at
Congregation Beth Shalom
Entertainment: Jerry "Crabmeat"
Thompson, Jim Silver, Randy Ploener
Chairs: Pam Sue Schwartz & Elizabeth Turk

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 7:30 PM

Community Event: "Night To Remember?"
Entertainment: Goldene Medina
Klezmer Band
Chairs: Joan Wachstein & Barbara Yallsove

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, ALL DAY

Super Sunday at Patterson-Schwartz
Real Estate
Chair: Jon Foreman

Lower Delaware Super Sunday at

B. Gary Scott Real Estate, Dover
Chair: Bob Crystal

1995 COMMUNITY Campaign
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Synagogue Council Is Dissolving

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

NEW YORK (JTA) — After nearly 70 years as a joint effort of the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform movements, the Synagogue Council of America has collapsed.

But another organization — minus the Orthodox and including the Reconstructionists — is quickly forming to take its place.

RUSSIAN BALLET

Most of the dancers in Russian Ballet Theater of Delaware were born in the former Soviet Union and trained in the finest ballet schools in the world. Thanks to a generous grant from MBNA they have been in residence in our community since last April and gave spectacular performances at the Playhouse on December 2 and 3.

"Principal dancers Valery Gontcharov, Irena Boitsova and Pavel Kimbalov danced the leads in "Bolero." The fated love triangle unfolded to the repetitive urgent music of Ravel culminating in a dramatic murder. Clad in black and red, the corps de ballet stole the show with their precision and style.

The most applause came to Leslie Browne who appeared in the movie "The Turning Point" with Mikhail Baryshnikov, and Daniel Baudendistel of the Joffrey Ballet who performed "Light Rain." Ms. Browne's extension, speed and flexibility riveted the audience.

Russian Ballet Theater will be at Three Little Bakers from January 19-22, 1995 doing "Nutcracker Highlights." Tickets can be obtained from the Three Little Baker's Box Office at (302) 388-1616.

In February the group will return to the Playhouse to do excerpts from "Sleeping Beauty" and "Round of Angels," a Joffey piece performed by Valerie Madonia and Daniel Baudendistel of the Joffrey Ballet.

In May at the Playhouse, Daniel Baudendistel has created a special

First-Timer

(Continued from page 5)

never give up one of those rights regardless of what pretext the government professes for the betterment or safety of the people.

While standing atop Masada and rehearsing the story of the Zealots and the Romans, I suddenly realized the parallel with the recent events near Waco Texas. In both cases a group of religious extremists secluded themselves and government bureaucrats couldn't leave them alone. In both cases the government authorities conducted an unwarranted attack, with the result that the extremists became martyrs by committing suicide. Our guide stated, in describing the situation on Masada, that both sides were wrong.

Any person who does not feel careful scrutiny of restrictive government laws, rules and regulations is essential should visit the Children's Memorial. At the entrance is a sculpture of a young boy named Uziel who died in the Holocaust and whose likeness was commissioned by his parents to memorialize their son and as a warning about the Holocaust. If you just picture your child's likeness there as you walk in you will definitely think twice before taking freedom and security for granted and blindly placing unbridled confidence in government.

The recent events in the former Yugoslavia reiterate the warning of

The Synagogue Council's mandate since its founding in 1926 has been to serve as a forum for interdenominational communication and as a representative of American Jewry in dialogue with other faith communities.

The organization has died a slow death due to lack of funding. It is officially closing its doors this month.

Some officials say the Council's demise stems from the fact that so many Jewish groups are involved in interreligious work.

work for the company to music of the Pointer Sisters. Russian Ballet Theater's classical dancers will be dancing to Bruce Springsteen's "Fire" and "Slow Hand" sung by the famed Pointer Sisters.

Tickets for the Playhouse shows can be purchased in a discounted subscription series or as single tickets by calling the Playhouse Box Office at (302) 656-4401.

WORDS & MUSIC :

(Continued from page 18)

fine cast and nice-sized orchestra.

This is a superb show with flesh-and-blood characters and real emotions that deserves its popularity. There've been many good Tevyes with varying strengths: Zero Mostel, who had the most energy, Luther Adler with his background as a dramatic actor from Yiddish theater, Jan Peerce who had the best voice and a family background that was similar to Tevye's. Also Topol, attractive in the movie and in the last stage revival. Bikel is as good as any of them, and perhaps has the best combination of qualities.

Himself a refugee from Austria, rather than from Russia, Bikel knows about persecution from first-hand experience. In this country, Bikel has been active in many causes, from civil rights for blacks to Jewish activism. His memoirs have just been published by HarperCollins, entitled Theo.

the potential for another holocaust. The lack of commitment on the part of the international community to act more forcefully and decisively is an international disgrace. It is uncomfortably similar to the conditions that lead to World War II and permitted the Holocaust.

The visit to the Military Cemetery on Mt. Herzl was at least just as stirring. To see the young lives snuffed out by wars forced upon Israel will let you understand why peace is so strongly desired and security a necessity. Who knows what these young people could have contributed to life? Maybe a great health researcher, an artist, a humanitarian could have been among them.

The future of Israel is personified in the children. We visited a school that provided a structured education for children who are recent émigrés to Israel as well as those children needing special academic assistants. We also visited a senior center where elder émigrés were learning Hebrew. These retirees are absorbed by the Joint Distribution Committee and provided with services as part of the policy that Jews will always have an address in Israel.

On the last evening of the Mission, 618 participants left for Ben Gurion Airport for the return to the United States, while 32 of us returned to the Hyatt Hotel in Jerusalem. The next morning these adven-

(Continued on page 27)

The new, as-yet unnamed organization will include the Reconstructionist movement. It is not likely to include the Orthodox movement's organizations, but may include individual Orthodox rabbis and congregations.

According to Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, executive vice president of the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot, the movement applied twice for membership to the Synagogue Council, and was twice vetoed by its Orthodox members.

Year End Charitable Giving Has Its Awards In April

By JORDON ROSEN, CPA

Special to The Jewish Voice

With December 31 just around the corner, there isn't a better time to think about year-end tax planning. This article explains several ways to make year-end contributions, and the impact on your taxes. We will also look at several new rules enacted as part of the 1993 Tax Act that may impact those contributions. For 1994 the tax rates remain at 15, 28, 31, 36 and 39.6 percent; with the maximum rate on long-term capital gains also remaining at 28%. Except for the two highest brackets, the levels to which the tax brackets extend have been indexed for inflation. Itemized deductions are reduced as adjusted gross income exceeds \$111,800 for all filers (except married filing separately, which is \$55,900). The reduction is generally equal to 3% of adjusted gross income above the threshold amount.

CHARITABLE GIVING 101: If you can itemize deductions, make all planned charitable gifts by December 31. Consider prepaying some of your 1995 contributions in 1994 if you expect to be in a higher tax bracket this year or if you don't think you will be able to itemize deductions next year. Except for certain types of contributions (discussed later), you can deduct charitable gifts up to 50% of your adjusted gross income each year; with a 5 year carry over for any excess.

DON'T TOSS IT! Instead of throw-

ing away old shirts, dresses, baby furniture, books and other household goods-consider contributing them to charity. Most nonprofit organizations publish a "wish list" and welcome donations of computers, printers, typewriters, tables, chairs, etc. In most cases, the deduction will end up being a percentage of the original cost. If noncash contributions exceed \$500, Form 8283 needs to be completed and attached to your return.

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-- Peace activist Camelia Sadat, daughter of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, traveled to Israel recently on El Al, Israel's national airline.

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OBITUARIES

GLORIA GARBER

On November 18, 1994, Gloria Garber, age 73, of 3601 Society Drive, Claymont, died. She was the wife of Joseph Garber, Mother of Judy Yaakovian of Twin Oaks and is also survived by 2 grandchildren.

The family suggests contributions to Delaware Hospice.

LENA GROSS

On November 18, 1994, Lena Gross died. She was the widow of Edward Gross; mother of Margaret Sanders of Encino, CA and the late Louis Gross. She is also survived by 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests contributions to charity.

HERMAN MYER MERITZ

Herman Myer Meritz, 87, of Deerfield Beach, Fla., formerly of Wilmington, died November 29 of complications from diabetes.

Mr. Meritz owned Victory Sales, a Wilmington home furnishing store, for 17 years. He retired to Florida in 1977.

He was a former member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth congregation and Brandywine Lodge 33, AF&AM, and member of Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy Meritz; a son, Leonard of Wilmington; two daughters, Rachelle Lipman of Heather Green Commons, Wilmington, and Roberta S. Reich of Charleston, S.C.; a sister, Betty Jacobs of Claymont, Del.; six grandsons and seven great-

grandchildren.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Wilmington or the Diabetes Association.

HARRY PODOLNICK

PODOLNICK — On November 29, Harry Podolnick, age 90, formerly of Philadelphia, PA and Wilmington, DE died. He was the beloved husband of the late Matilda; loving father of Barbara (Dr. Barry) Kramer, and the late Dr. Edward Podolnick. He was the father-in-law of Diana Podolnick and the fond grandfather of Dr. Jennifer (Dr. Patrick) Rowley, Amy and Deborah Podolnick, Dr. Michael, Brian, and Jason Kramer. Cherished brother of Ada (David) Goldstein, and Golda (Sam) Steiman. He was the adored uncle of many nieces and nephews. Contributions may be made to the Dr. Edward Podolnick Memorial Fund, Friends of Hillel at Stony Brook State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY, 11794-5335.

Charitable

(Continued from page 25)

TO SELL OR NOT TO SELL: A unique planning idea comes on the heels of a provision in the 1993 Tax Act that exempts contributions of appreciated long-term capital gain property (i.e. stocks and bonds) from being a preference when computing the alternative minimum tax. This

means that it is easier to contribute, for example, appreciated stock to a charitable organization; than say, cash. From a tax standpoint, you may also be better off. For example, assume you owned a share of stock that cost you \$10 and is now worth \$100. If you first sold the share (intending to give the proceeds to charity), you would first have to pay tax (federal and state) on the gain; leaving you with somewhere around \$68 available as a contribution. If instead you contribute the share directly to the charity, you would get a full fair market value deduction (\$100) on your tax return, and not have to recognize any capital gain on the appreciation. Furthermore, the charity can sell the stock and pay no tax; leaving it with the use of the entire \$100. A win-win situation.

The annual limit on deductions of appreciated property is 30% of adjusted gross income, with a 5-year carry over for any excess.

Also, the provision allowing a full fair market value deduction for appreciated securities to private foundations expires December 31, 1994; after which, unless the law is reinstated, the deduction will be limited to cost.

NEW RULES: The '93 Act imposed two new rules. First, contributions of \$250 or more must be substantiated by a written acknowledgment from the donee organization. The canceled check alone will no longer be sufficient evidence of the contribution. The acknowledgment must be received no later than the time the return is filed, and should contain a statement as to whether any goods or services were received in exchange for the contribution, with a good-faith value of such goods or services. In general, separate checks are consid-

ered separate contributions and do not have to be aggregated for purposes of the \$250 rule.

The second change requires organizations that solicit funds in excess of \$75 (i.e. for a fundraising event) to tell patrons that only the amount of their contribution in excess of the fair market value of the goods or services provided is deductible for federal income tax purposes. Although the rule prohibiting a full deduction in such circumstances has always been around, many individuals were taking a full deduction for the entire amount contributed, and many organizations were not informing patrons of the deductible amounts. The law imposes stiff penalties for organizations that fail to comply with these new rules.

Finally, other unique planning techniques involve the contribution of life insurance policies or establishing a charitable remainder trust where the donor continues to enjoy the income from the donated property during the term of the trust; with the principal going to charity at its termination. Such vehicles can provide individuals with generous income and estate tax savings while fulfilling one's philanthropic goals. (Jordon Rosen, CPA is a partner and director of taxation at the Wilmington accounting firm of Barbacane, Thornton & Company. Mr. Rosen specializes in tax planning for individuals, businesses, estates and trusts. He currently serves as a trustee of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund.)

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Mrs. Harold Kruger

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First Timers

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turous souls took the bus to the Israeli - Jordan border. We cleared passport control, changed buses and entered the Hashomite Kingdom of Jordan.

Despite many anxieties by some members of our group, we found Jordan to be hospitable. Our guide was very friendly and expressed as strong a desire for peace as did the Israelis. We found Amman, Jordan's Capital, to be a modern city with ancient trappings. There are many modern hotels and buildings. English is prevalent on signage as is Arabic. English is taught as a second language in all Jordanian schools. We journeyed to Mt. Nebo where Moses saw the promised land that he could not enter and upon which he died. The view of Israel from Mt. Nebo is the view that Israelis have been strongly desirous to have.

In the town of Madaba, we visited St. George Greek Orthodox Church, which has a detailed mosaic map from the 4th Century of the Common Era on the floor giving much historical information about the Middle East. Looking at this map puts the region in an historical perspective.

One day while part of our party was entering the dining room of the Marriott Hotel in Amman, they were approached by a Jordanian, he asked "Are you with the Jews from America." When they responded "Yes", he then said "We want to welcome you here and let you know we're glad to see you."

The Jordanians expressed hope in their social and economic future because of peace with Israel. As Israelis visit Jordan they will have opportunities to study the history and archaeological resources of the area. Both peoples should enjoy prosper-

ity, as well as serenity with introduction of peace to the region.

Two of the great finds in Jordan are Petra and Jerash. Petra is a community of the ancient Nabataean peoples placed in a natural fortification. For years young Israelis would sneak across then border to visit Petra as a sign of their manhood. The trip was perilous and many were killed by desert bands. Petra is only 15 miles from the border. Now the journey is less perilous. However reaching Petra is still an adventure. A mile long passage through a very narrow gorge can be traversed only by walking on foot, on horseback or by narrow sulky like carriage. As you emerge from the stone walls you see the pillared facade of the "Treasury". This structure, literally carved out of the mountain, served in a scene in the movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade". As I entered the opening before the structure I expected to see the serene solitude portrayed in the movie. Suddenly there they were in the courtyard tables displaying the various items for sale by the locals as well as camels to be ridden for photographs and other enterprises, to include a cafe placed in one of the many shelters that had served as homes to the Nabateans. In ancient times this city served as a center for commerce being strategically placed at the junction of trade routes that linked China, India and southern Arabia with Egypt, Greece and Rome.

Jerash, a city of Greco-Roman origin is remarkably preserved from the stone theaters to the pillar lined main road called the Cardo. It is an invaluable resource in seeking information of the period.

As we returned to Israel crossing the Allenby Bridge, we again became aware how the reality of peace is still uncertain. At the border are Israel bunkers facing Jordan bunkers each with machine guns facing each other.

It was difficult to reconcile the friendly cooperative atmosphere of each country toward the other with these tools of war at the ready. The prospects look good that these facilities can be removed, and a freer flow across the border will occur.

Over all, I believe the prospects of peace are good as long as reasonable people can compromise reasonably. Despite some early anxiety, we felt comfortable visiting Jordan and the Jordanians made us feel welcome. I picked up a copy of the Jordan Post which expressed support for the peace process and in which King Hussein strongly opposed terrorism and said he would fight to prevent Jordan from being a launching pad for such activities.

Peace and civility can grow. However, ironically apathy is really the enemy of peace. Israel has learned that preparedness for war, willingness to fight for rights, and a strong will for peace can be productive. History has proven that looking the other way and ignoring the danger signs will lead to the very dire consequences we fear.

I was disappointed while sitting at dinner in Jaffa before leaving for the airport. While another member of our group and I exchanged stories of actual events in the United States demonstrating the dangers of arbitrary government action and abuses, a third woman reacted in a horrified manner asking where did these things happen. When we told her "In the United States." She replied "Well, there's nothing we can do about it."

After all we've seen during the MISSION, all the history that had been reviewed, all the lessons that should have been learned, some were not able to translate the lessons into practice, understand social events as they effect us, and most of all realize that our fate is ultimately in our own hands unless we allow others to dictate it.

We must take a stand, we must let our government leaders know our feelings, and we must think about the consequences of our actions or inaction. We can be righteous. We can be just. We can be fair. We can be charitable. But we must always be vigilant. We must not only be aware of the obvious dangers but we must look for the subtle threats.

Israel is working through the peace process carefully. They will be generous to accept a meaningful peace. They will also be cautious to insure a just peace. Security concerns are obvious at the border crossings. Courteous but thorough security checks are made. At Ben Gurion Airport one of our group left his luggage unattended. Immediately a plainclothes security officer took steps to account for the owner of the suitcases. They will never let their guard down thereby insuring the peace.

I truly believe that this visit to Israel and Jordan was exciting, and well worthy of anyone's time. As Jews, and as human beings, we can learn much about ourselves, our culture, the human condition, and our world

history from Israel. Even if you have the academic experience of the birth of civilization, when you visit Israel and the surrounding area you become part of that history. You feel the history. You know you can contribute to history.

Everyone in our group left Israel

with a new perspective on being Jewish. The positive feelings were obvious. The opinions of the peace process were encouraging. This trip was exciting, entertaining, educational, and emotional, and hopefully many learned from the experience and will know how to use the information.

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Markells Write

(Continued from page 4)

here- we learned that here was a British Council office- so we ran to it- and were greeted by a very attractive young woman, named Miriam who told us that she spoke Hebrew as well as English, German, Russian and Slovak. After "fencing" a bit we asked if she was Jewish- she replied "half" and that her mother was the director of the British Council.

This contact changed our lives here. Alicia (the mother) told us that there was a remnant of about 40 Jews in BB who admitted they were Jewish. They became interested in forming a community, after they repaired the Jewish cemetery they then decided to rehabilitate what used to be the Rabbi's house for a meeting place- They have not had the dedication as yet, but last week we presented a mezuzah that Barry sent us and an old woman got up to explain what the Mezuzah was for. We have not fund anyone in town ho observes Shabbat- and we have had several Shabbat dinners at our home so they have an idea. We went to Budapest last week and bought a Chanukah Menorah- and are planning a large Chanukah party.

The older people in the community who have survived the Holocaust find it hard to believe that the younger people are interested in learning more about their Judaism. But we have noticed that some have attended the Jewish meetings. One interesting spotlight at one meeting there was a very heated discussion and when we asked what it was about

our translator told us- that one member of the community wanted to join the Jewish community- but he never was involved o supported them before, although he did not deny he was Jewish. They finally agreed to allow him to join but while this discussion was going on they were serving ham and cheese sandwiches. After 40 years of Russian domination, they really have no idea of Kashruth, Shabbat, holidays. However, it is obvious that they are expressing more interest. They planned a weekend trip to Krakow to see the Jewish section and Auschwitz- and although we had been once before we joined them just to have an opportunity to speak with and get to know them. There was also a concert with Israeli Americans as part of a university religious seminar and some of the Jews at! tended.

We have been to services in Budapest and Vienna- and while it was almost impossible for us to follow- just to see Jews interested in and free to pray made us feel that Hitler did not win completely.

There are about 2000 Jews in Bratislave and 700 in Kocise the 2nd largest city. We did see deteriorating synagogues and what used to be Jewish neighborhoods- and one gets such a sense of the tragic history of the Jews of Europe- it is overwhelming.

We are so fortunate to live in the US, and should treasure every freedom that we have- we take it so for granted.

Do hope that you get this on E-Mail - L'hitraot and shalom.

Leni and Bill Markell

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