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Zionists of America, spon-

sored her trip here.

Because she represents growing movement toward female equality in Judaism, Leibovich has been asked to speak regularly at religious retreats for male Israeli soldiers.

to Leibovich as she explains her vision for the role of women in Jewish life.

"I tell them that Judaism has to change from within. Judaism means looking

for a bridge between old and new,

> " N o one is going to tell me, who has that I have the back of the synagogue

image of God, was not intended to read the Torah, to touch the

There's nothing that you can say to con-

During one of her talks, she related, a sol-

The mostly Orthodox soldiers usually listen in silence

she said.

a modern woman three degrees, to sit at that I, who was made the in

Torah and dance with it."

vince me. I am ready to respect you for thinking that way, but you have to respect me for wanting to break through and to accept that."

Continued on page 16

By LYNN EDELMAN

By LORI EPPSTEIN

Jewish Bulletin

of Northern California

In the community of Leibovich's congre-

gation, a suburb of Jerusalem called

Mevasseret Zion, 40 Orthodox synagogues

'Yet, in none of them can women be part

The Jerusalem resident visited San

Francisco last week as part of a U.S. fundraising tour. Her campaign will help build a

new synagogue and community center for

ARZA/World Union, North America, for-

merly known as the Association of Reform

cater to a population of only 20,000.

of the service," the rabbi said.

in the Holy Land.

her congregation.

rdained in the Reform movement

five years ago, Rabbi Maya

Leibovich is still the only Israeli-

born woman to lead a congregation

Editor

s a young person, Adina Mattes was a member of three different Jewish youth groups. Her commitment to Judaism followed in the footsteps of her parents. Mother, Dorothy Olin, serves as president of the Jewish Federation of Ocean County New Jersey's Women's Division. Mattes' late father, Michael Ruvel, was a former executive director of the Ocean County Federation. He also served as executive director of the Jewish Federation of Delaware before the family's move to New Jersey.

Mattes went "on hiatus" from her Jewish involvement during her college years and early adulthood. "Like many young people away from home for the first time, I rebelled against my parent's values," she explained.

Her rebellious phase ended with her marriage to Daniel Mattes in 1990. The newlyweds became involved in Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth in Wilmington where Mattes' parents were active members. When the couple moved to Cecil County, Maryland, they went shopping for a synagogue closer to home.

Some three and a half years ago, they joined Temple Beth El in Newark. Their younger daughter, Sarah attends a preschool program for three-year-olds at the synagogue run by the Jewish Community Center. Six-year-old Shana also is involved in JCC programs at Temple Beth El.

"The birth of our children was a pivotal event in our lives as Jews," said Mattes, who now serves on the Beth El Board of Directors. In March of 1998, Mattes assumed another leadership role in the Newark Jewish community. She serves as chairperson of the Greater Newark Jewish Community Network Committee - an outreach effort of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. The Committee is charged with identifying Jewish individuals and families and connecting them with programs and services that they might be interested in.

Mattes emphasizes that the Committee does not provide actual services but facili-

Continued on page 8

By FREDY ROM,

JTA

witzerland will soon have a president who plans to speak out aggressively about her country's role in World War

Recently elected by the Swiss Parliament to assume the country's presidency on Jan. 1, Ruth Dreifuss said she is "especially proud as a woman and of course also as a member of the Jewish community" to take on the post.

Dreifuss, a member of the left-of-center Social Democrats, will at that time replace Flavio Cotti in the largely ceremonial post, which rotates on an annual basis among the Swiss Cabinet's seven members.

The first Jew — and the first woman — to become president of the Alpine nation, Dreifuss, 58, will inherit a country that is attempting to cope with an anti-Semitic backlash after Jewish groups mount-

ed a campaign in recent years for Switzerland to acknowledge the financial ties that existed between its leading banks and Nazi Germany.

Jewish organizations have made accusations that the banks not only worked hand in hand with the German central bank to launder Nazi-looted gold, but also refused to make restitution to Holocaust survivors for unpaid dormant accounts dating back to the war. These allegations have stung Swiss sensibilities and continue to spark anti-Semitic incidents.

In an interview with JTA, Dreifuss made it clear that she would not back off from the

"My professional commitment is leftist, feminist and dedicated to human rights,"said

But, she added, the issue of the country's wartime actions would also be on her political agenda.

Dreifuss, who has served as interior minister, a portfolio she will retain after assuming the presidency, noted that she kept a low

profile on the issue in the past because she did not want to speak out as the "token Jew" in the government.

"But I am, and was always, proud of my Jewish roots," she said in the interview, adding that she will reopen dialogue with Jewish groups over Holocaust-era issues

"Because of my roots, I am more sensitive than others in the government to the whole problem," which was sparked by the years of unremitting charges about the

country's wartime actions.

Dreifuss was born in 1940 in an eastern Swiss canton, or state. As the Nazis approached the Swiss border, her family moved to Geneva — at the western edge of the country.

During the war, her father, Sidney, played a role in helping Jewish refugees who sought haven in Switzerland.

Dreifuss said in the interview that her father's actions played a role in shaping her determination to seek justice for Holocaust

Continued on page 16

By LYNN EDELMAN

Editor

ree time is a foreign concept to Ellen S. Meyer. During her time away from her busy Family Law practice, the Wilkes Barre, PA native serves on the American Civil Liberties Union Case Review Panel or volunteers as a Domestic Violence Project Attorney.

When she arrives home at the end of the

day, Meyer gets on the phone to make calls on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, which she serves as a board member. She also serves as chairperson of the Editorial Committee for the Jewish Voice, which is published by the Federation. Sometimes, she shifts gears and solicits funds on behalf of her alumnus-Brown University.

Meyer loves the active pace. She is energized by being around people and

enjoys making a difference in the lives of her clients, her family and the Jewish com-

Admitted to the Delaware and Penn-

sylvania Bar Associations in 1981, she quickly found her niche in Family Law with an emphasis on adoption. Meyer, whose husband, Robert is also an attorney, loves the emotional nature of her practice. She frequently has the opportunity to share in the joy of a couple who have overcome their struggles with infertility to become adoptive parents.

This day-to-day contact with families often makes Meyer homesick

for her own three children who are living independent and active lives. Jeremy, 29, is a labor lawyer in Chicago. Daughter, Allison, 24, works in script development in Los Angeles.

Meyer's middle son, 27 year-old Matthew, proves the old adage "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." A full-time teacher, he maintains a dizzying calendar of charitable activities. "I tell him to take time for himself and cut-back on

some of these projects," said Meyer. "Matthew says that he will scale back his

hours just as soon as I do," said Meyer.

Quid pro quo?

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China-Focus For Delaware Artist

Jewish Voice

By ZHANG WEI

Student, Xi'an Art School
China, the People's Republic of
China, the Middle Kingdom. By
whatever name you call it, a country which has and continues to fascinate Americans. Recognizing
this, Delaware artist and art educator Judith Schwab captured the
imagination, and importantly the

support, of a wide range of people

for what is now known as the

"Delaware/Xi'an Mural Project."

Using the concept of art as a vehicle to bridge national boundaries, and international barriers of culture and language, Judith Schwab involved young people in China and in Delaware in a collaborative artistic effort that would stand the test of time. A big order

by anyone's standards. Judith Schwab was introduced to her China partner, the Xi'an Art School, by the Delaware Chapter of People to People International which agreed to sponsor the project. The Chapter, the second largest in the United States, had already developed a relationship with this state-run secondary school located in China's ancient imperial capitol. Xi'an is known to much of the world for its rich cultural heritage, and Qin army of terra cotta warriors. Here in Delaware, Judith reached out to Archmere Academy, a college preparatory high school operated by the Norbertine Order of Catholic priests under the leadership of Father Timothy Mullen. Art educators Jody Lynn Hoffman and Terry Newitt, and their 23 advanced placement art students enthusiastically responded to Judith's invitation, painting one-half of the murals during May of 1998.

Intensely involved in all aspects of the project, Judith Schwab spent three weeks in China during September supervising completion of the murals at the Xi'an Art School. The result of this collaborative artistic effort is much more than two beautiful 20-foot long by four feet high murals. The project demonstrates what People to People International is all about the power of people, acting as individuals, to respond imaginatively to the world's need for peace, understanding, and friendship. In the words of Terry Newitt, "Art is so big it touches everything! I feel proud that in a small but significant way, People to People has enabled Archmere to do this. Meaningful art production teaches us about ourselves.

Chen Cong Zhou, President of the Xi'an Art School, spoke of the murals as "fully expressing the spiritual world of our Chinese and American students" and "the desire to work together and to learn from each other for the peace and prosperity of the world."

The Chinese and American students' different views of the world are reflected in the murals.



"EYES OPEN TO THE WORLD OUTSIDE" - One piece of the mural project which links Delaware and Xi'an in China."

Archmere student John Wasniewski noted that "Tradition definitely has an important role in the Chinese students' lives. Our sections (of the murals) showed the individualism and theirs showed a strong sense of unity and tradition." Xi'an Art School student Ma Chao viewed the Archmere portions as having an "emphasis on sports, culture, education. People

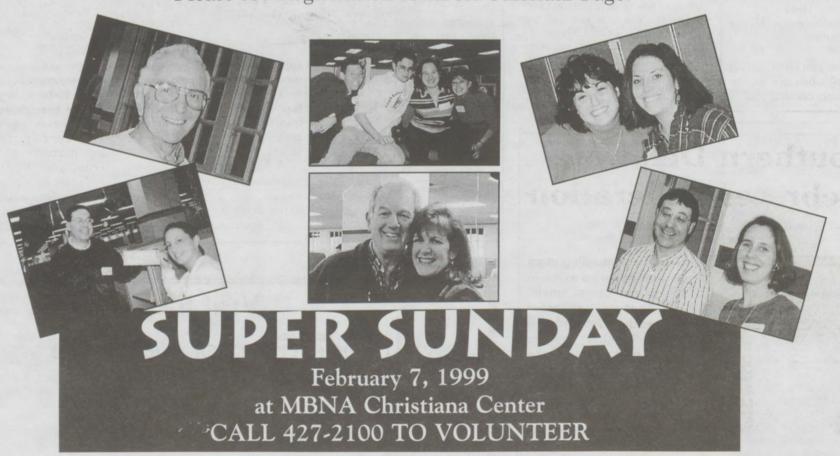
(in America) want to create life, not passively wait for it to happen. Americans seek a very colorful life." Student Yan Kon Min echoed those comments. "The art shows that America is made up of many cultures, a society open and modern. The art is colorful. This kind of expression is new to us."

"The mural project is not considered an end in itself, but rather a

beginning," says Kathleen M. Meyer, founder of the Delaware Chapter of People to People International. "The future looks promising for an exchange of performing arts groups from Archmere and the Xi'an Art School." Meyer noted that the Chapter has strong support from the Embassy of China. (Continued on page 8)

The Connection is Yours to Make!

Please see Registration form on Calendar Page.





JEWISH
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of DELAWARE

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FEDERATION FOCUS

Super Sunday '99 It Takes A Community To Make A Connection

By JFD Staff

To understand the logistics of putting together an event like Super Sunday, one must envision a dedicated group of volunteers devoting numerous hours over the course of months to such details as recruiting sponsors to pumping helium into balloons.

This mammoth community phone-a-thon, set for February 7, 1999 at MBNA Christiana Center, is the culmination of planning and organizing led by this year's cochairs Debbie Perch, Caryl Marcus-Stape and Jeff Stape, as well as an outstanding committee.

The 1999 co-chairs served in the same capacity last year, and

The Super Sunday Scoop

- February 7, 1999 at MBNA Christiana Center. Shifts start at 9:15 a.m. and continue through 6:00 p.m.
- Volunteers are needed throughout the day. There are non-phone jobs available!
- Please bring non-perishable food items on Super Sunday. These will be given to those in need here in Delaware.
- Do your part by answering the call when one of our volunteers contacts you!

they have put their experience to work in many ways. Although certain areas remain consistent, the co-chairs and committee are always looking for options to improve the day for all volunteers.

All funds generated on Super Sunday go toward the 1999 UJA Federation Campaign, which is administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware. The campaign benefits outstanding local agencies, and Jews in need throughout some 60 countries around the world.

"Debbie, Caryl and Jeff have done a tremendous job on behalf of our community, and we owe them a measure of gratitude," said Dr. Barry Kayne, 1999 Campaign Chair. "An event such as Super Sunday comes together only because of the work by the cochairs and the committee."

Members of the committee include: Mark Albom, Jonathan Epstein, Marla Eskin, Jerry Grossman, David Herscott, Larry Isakoff, Alice Kamen, Beth Moskow-Schnoll, Lelaine Nemser, Sheree Pesner, Pam-Sue Schwartz, Connie Sugarman and Doug White.

You can assist the Super Sunday Committee and do a mitzvah for the community by volunteering a few hours of your time on February 7th. Turn to the calendar page of this issue of the Jewish Voice, complete the form and mail it or fax it to the Jewish Federation of Delaware. You may also call Sue Shaffer at 302-427-2100, ext. 17 to register or get additional information on Super Sunday. Remember, volunteers and sponsors are always welcome – you make the connection and the difference!

Sam Glaser — The Lyrical Life

By JFD Staff

His fans range from the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach to Hollywood veteran Kirk Douglas. He's been called the Jewish Bruce Springsteen, as in the boss of contemporary Jewish music. And he's been told his music is so holy that even the Messiah will love his melodies.

He is Sam Glaser, and he is coming to Delaware for a special concert on Sunday night, February 6, 1999. The Jewish Federation of Delaware is sponsoring the concert as its annual Community Event, and the show is part of Glaser's One Hand, One Heart Unity Tour. It will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will be held at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth (AKSE), Washington Boulevard and Torah Way, Wilmington.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children 13 and under — with a special family rate of \$25 for as many as you have in your brood! Amy and Dr. Michael Leviton are serving as co-chairs of this event, and they encourage the community to take advantage of this pricing structure and enjoy a great family evening.

Glaser combines inspirational lyrics about Judaism with original rock and pop music. A known face

in the Los Angeles music scene, he appeals to all types of Jews from the assimilated to the devout, from the young to the old and from the famous to the little-known. Rabbis, Cantors, Jewish educators and countless fans have fallen in love with Glaser's music and message. They say Glaser, 35, touches the Jewish soul with his songs, motivating both children and adults to learn more about their heritage and imbuing them with a newfound enthusiasm about their religion.

Glaser has three CDs of Jewish music on the market: "Hineni," "A Day in the Life," "Across the River," as well as a Glaser songbook which features selections from all three CDs. He received board vocal and piano training at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Berklee College of Music in Boston and the UCLA Film Scoring Program. Glaser enriches his comprehensive Jewish knowledge with trips to Jerusalem where he spends one month each year learning by day and performing by night.

He has served as Music Coordinator of the University of Judaism's Continuing Education Program, as Executive Director of the Jewish Music Commission and as Musical Director for the Bureau



Sam Glaser

of Jewish Education's Yad b'Yad youth theater troupe. Glaser produces the annual American Jewish Song Festival and is active within CAJE (Central Agency for Jewish Education).

For tickets and information, please call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 302-427-2100. Tickets will be on sale at other community locations within the area starting this week.

"Israel Experiences" Grants Available

The Jewish Federation of Delaware announces the availability of grants for ISRAEL EXPERIENCES for high school students between 15 and 17 years of age. These grants are for structured summer programs in Israel that are sponsored by national or international Jewish youth organizations and are approved by the Federation.

The deadline for applying is February 15, 1999. Awards will be announced before Pesach.

For applications and information, call or write to Judy Wortman, Executive Vice President, Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 W. 10th Street,

Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801-1628.

The following are criteria for eligibility:

1. Applicants must still be in high school when they return from Israel

2. Preference will be given to applicants who have not participated in prior Israel programs.

3. Applicants must provide two letters of recommendation from teachers, rabbis, youth advisors, coaches, employers or supervisors.

4. Applicants must commit themselves to attending briefings before and after their Israel

5. Applicants must commit

themselves to community service when they return. Among the options available for volunteer work in local agencies, synagogues or organizations; involvement in the Federation Campaign; recruitment or peers for subsequent Israel Experiences; leadership roles in Jewish youth groups; public speaking to the community about Israel, etc.

6. Before any applicant will be considered, applicants' parents must contribute to the 1999 Campaign, thereby becoming members of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Funds for these grants have been made available through an allocation from the UJA/Federation Campaign.

Southern Delaware Celebrates Federation Shabbat



Ella Tsveyer

Hear the compelling story of growing up as a Jew in the former Soviet Union. Ella Tsveyer, an artist who made aliyah and now helps Russian émigrés begin new lives in the Jewish State, will keynote the January 22 Southern Delaware Federation Shabbat. Congregation Beth Sholom in Dover will host the event, designed as an opportunity for Jews throughout Delaware to worship and learn together as a community. For additional information, call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at 427-2100.

Visit the
Jewish Federation of Delaware website
at
www.shalomdel.org
your gateway to Delaware's
Jewish community

EDITORIAL

Plurality Or Monopoly?

Conservative and Reform Jews throughout the Diaspora have felt a "see-saw" of emotions regarding the recent developments in the ongoing battle for religious plurality in Israel. In November, they were uplifted by a landmark decision by the Israeli Supreme Court that required the government to appoint representatives of these two streams of Judaism to local religious councils. One month later, they tottered down as Orthodox groups won the first round in their campaign to undo the ruling through Knesset action.

The Knesset bill, recently approved by a narrow margin during the first of three readings, would require every member of a religious council to abide by the rulings of the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate. This provision could possibly be used to limit funding for Reform and Conservative synagogues.

In an interview with JTA Correspondent Avi Machlis, Rabbi Ehud Bandel, president of Israel's Masorti (Conservative) movement, vows not to "give these people the satisfaction and

pleasure of bypassing the authority of the Supreme Court." Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Council, feels that the proposed legislation will "bring Israel back into a dark era in which the Rabbinate will expand and the rule of law will be diminished."

As we go to press, The UJA Federation of North America of which JFD is a member, have issued a statement of opposition to any action that undermines the Supreme Court ruling. In the spirit of *klal Yisrael*, the organization urges Israeli leadership and the members of the Knesset to oppose the bill, which is scheduled for a second reading next week.

The Jewish Voice would like to know how our readers feel about this controversial and often divisive issue. Please write to: Lynn Edelman, editor, Jewish Voice, 100 West 10th Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801 or E-mail us at Jewishvoic@aol.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Israeli Response To Diaspora Jewish Concerns

I thank Mr. Jacobs for his response to my article (December 18 Jewish Voice). I did indeed paint a romanticized picture of religious life here in Jerusalem, which is far from a blissful capital of religious tolerance and understanding. My intention was simply to accent the ubiquity of Jewish content in Israel, as opposed to the marginalized nature of American Judaism.

I just came from the food market where the checkout women were casually discussing their sons' Bar Mitzvahs; upon my departure, we wished each other *Shabbat Shalom*. These are the everyday incidents I so appreciate here, where living a full Jewish life can be a part of the very fabric of the larger society.

I agree, however, with Mr. Jacobs on nearly every point he makes. The recent behavior of a certain sector of the Orthodox "community" toward Reform and Conservative worshippers and representatives is a source of great pain for me, my wife, Hila and just about everyone we know. It is very important to recognize, however, two points:

a. We are talking about a small (albeit loud and even violent) minority of individuals who participate in such acts of hatred.

b. The Orthodox "community" in Israel is actually an extremely heterogeneous social group. That which we hold in common-commitment to what I prefer to call "Classical

Judaism" – indeed unites the disparate communities, but with regard to many fundamental questions – the appropriate relationship to *State* and *People* Israel, for example – our differences are great.

No, there is no justifiable place for such behavior here or anywhere. In my opinion, the powers-that-be in the Israel government and rabbinate would do well to pursue in a more sincere manner the challenge of non-Orthodox accommodation. The problem is that no precedent exists here for such matters, since Israeli society has developed into two large groups: the Secular and the Religious. The Secular, despite their growing frustration with the reviled "religious coercion" in matters of marriage, divorce and Shabbat closures, do not in large numbers identify with non-Orthodox religious movements like those Americans are familiar with. Therefore, they are often not sympathetic to the type of demands presented by Mr. Jacobs.

So, we have a lot of work to do here in this (still) young nation. Did America in 1826 not have its share of sociological problems, and how far did it develop in the next fifty, hundred, hundred and fifty years? Two thousand years of exile and non-Jewish rule forged problems like these, about which our great-grandparents could not even dream. I simply feel fortunate to be among those building the house, and not among those adding constructive criticism from afar.

May we have the patience, understanding and wisdom to build a State of Israel that represents internal peace for its inhabitants (the more important Peace Process) and a source of inspiration for the Diaspora.

Sincerely, Mick Weinstein

The Parsha Place

Week of January 10 Vaeira Exodus Chapter 6 - Verses 2-9 The Talmud States: "I shall take you to Me for a people." This is the first verse whichmentions Israel's destiny. It even precedes the announcement of a national land. Israel belongs to G-d even when it has no land. Moreover, this verse reflects the specific character of "the people of G-d, a people directed, inspired and governed by G-d in every aspect. As the prophet Jeremiah (7:22) states: "For on the day that I brought you out of the land of Egypt, I commanded them, saying "Listen to My voice, and I will be your G-d and you will be my people."

Source: The Call of the Torah by Rabbi Elie Munk.



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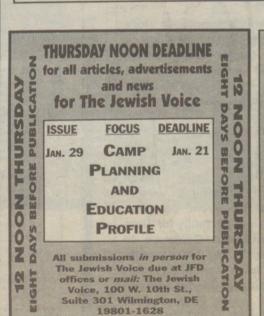
Voice Box

"I want history to say: They were grownups. They did things fairly."

Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on the Senate impeachment hearings

"It is my understanding that at no time did the United States work with anyone at UNSCOM to collect information for the purpose of undermining the Iraqi regime."

James P. Rubin, spokesman U.S. State Dept. on reports that U.N. weapons inspectors helped Washington eavesdrop on Iraqi military communications



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SHABBAT Candle Lighting JANUARY 8TH — 5:37 PM 15TH — 5:45 PM 22ND — 5:53 PM 29TH — 6:01 PM

LOCAL



Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School students (front row, left) Aileen Haiman and Anna Yampolsky receive U.S. Savings Bonds for their winning essays. Congratulating the winners are: (from left) Marlene Milunsky, Gratz Principal; Ed Kauffman, Service Commander, JWV, Dept. of Delaware; Cy Donner, JWV Adjutant General; Sam Wenzer, Commander of the JWV Feinman Post and Harry Lubin, Commander, Department of Delaware JWV.

Delaware Gratz Students Are Winners!

Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School students Aileen Heiman and Anya Yampolsky received \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds for their winning essays in a contest sponsored by the Delaware Jewish War Veterans. The students wrote on the theme of "What Being Jewish in America Means to Me."

Heiman spoke of being Jewish as "a reward in and of itself." She explained that "As a Jewish teenager in America, I feel that I have been given a gift. I am a citizen of a country that believes strongly in freedom, and I am part of a religion that is rich in tradition and faith. Being a Jewish American, I am left with tough choices, but the freedom to make them is mine."

Yampolsky, born in Russia 15 years ago, deeply appreciates the freedom that America offers. She wrote in her essay that "When my family lived in Russia, we had no religious freedom – there was no religion. If you wanted to have a religion, you had to be a communist. Now that we are in America, we can be any religion that we want. There's a big difference between religious freedom and religious persecution."

Gratz Hebrew High School stimulates Jewish identity and commitment through classes two nights each week and Sundays. For additional information about Gratz programs, call Marlene Milunsky, principal, at (302) 478-8100.

NCJW Family Fun Day



NCJW Family Fun Day Chairpersons (from left) Marci Arenson, Stacy Chidakel and Robin Saran displays the canvas bags created during last week's event.

See Story on Page 8

Jewish Music, Dance And Song In Newark

By PAULA SHULAK

Temple Beth El's cultural arts program is off and running once again this year. Since the high holidays, the klezmer band (A Thread of Blue) and Temple choir have appeared in several productions including the November Gala. This program paid tribute to the work of American Jewish authors and composers. Over 200 people enjoyed the artistry of soloists Jennifer Zinn and Leanne Acero accompanied by a quartet from the klezmer group, as they presented a number of Broadway tunes written by such famous composers as Sondheim, Berlin, Gershwin and more. Neil Simon and David Margules were represented in scenes from two plays performed by this reporter, Irv Engleson and Florence Clark. Rabbi David Kaplan joined the choir in singing "Under the Boardwalk." It was a memorable evening. In December, both groups performed at the synagogue's New Member Shabbat service and again at the Dover Air Force Base Holiday Program, a community musicale. Beth El was the only

Jewish group represented at the event. In celebration of the first night of Chanukah they presented five numbers including Mah Tovu, Listen (an interpretation of the Shema), Light a Candle by Debbie Friedman, Shalom (from Milk and Honey) and T'filat HaDerech. The performance was very well received. Michael Zinn, Director of both the choir and klezmer group has arranged most of this music for choral singing.

The newest arts group at Temple Beth El is an Israeli Folk Dance Group which will be presenting a first of its own soon. On March 13 and 14, 1999 there will be an Israeli Dance Weekend led by expert teacher and dancer, Chaim Cohen who will be traveling from New York where he leads several performing groups. He recently taught at the Karmiel Dance Festival in Israel. This weekend is co-sponsored by the Newark Jewish Community Network Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and is open to the entire community.

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SUPER SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7, 1999

1999 UJA Federation Campaign

MAKE THE CONNECTION

We are seeking energetic and committed individuals to connect with the Delaware Jewish community on Super Sunday. Just fill out this registration form, and mail it, fax it or e-mail it to us and you will be...connected to our community through this great event!

PLEASE JOIN US. The calls and contributions you make through SUPER SUNDAY enhance the quality of life in our community in the year ahead. SUPER SUNDAY is a day-long FUN-a-thon in which enthusiastic volunteers will contact their friends and neoghbors to ask them to contribute to the 1999 UJA Federation Campaign.

1999 UJA Federation Campaign administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware

TO VOLUNTEER FOR SUPER SUNDAY, PLEASE SEND THIS REGISTRATION TO

Jewish Federation Of Delaware

or fax us at: (302) 427-2438
or call us at: (302) 427-2100
or e-mail us at: delawarejfd@jon.cjfny.org

Name: _____ Home Phone Number () ______

Address: ____ Work Phone Number () _____

Please connect with at least one calling shift: (These times include a training session)

- 9:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
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Election '99:

Who's Who In The Race For Israeli Prime Minister AMNON LIPKIN-SHAHAK IS POPULAR ENIGMA

By AVI MACHLIS

Lipkin-Shahak has watched his popularity soar in public opinion polls as he prepares to launch his candidacy for prime minister.

But even as the former army chief of staff was officially discharged from his duties, Israelis were still trying to figure out just who he is.

Hoping to learn his plans, a pack of journalists pounced on Shahak outside the gates of an army base after he formally retired from 36 years of service.

Shahak remained ambiguous, saying he would wait until an election date is set before formally announcing his candidacy as part of a newly formed centrist party.

"I think many people in the State of Israel are waiting for something different," he was cautiously. They want hope, and if I can help bring these things, I will.

Despite his reticence about his plans, Shahak, 54, has already found himself under fire from both the left and right.

The Labor Party has accused him of splitting the left-wing vote by refusing to join Labor's ranks, a move they say will only benefit Minister Prime Benjamin Netanyahu in the upcoming elec-

The Likud Party has accused him of breaking Israeli military law by engaging in politics before officially leaving the army.

Polls say Shahak could get about 20 percent of the vote in a first round of elections against Netanyahu and Labor leader Ehud Barak, and that he would beat Netanyahu by 48 percent to 33 percent if the two competed in a second-round runoff.

Born in 1944 in Tel Aviv, Shahak graduated from a military preparatory school in Haifa before joining the army in 1962.

He was awarded the prestigious medal of valor twice, first in 1968 for his handling of a raid on a Palestinian guerrilla base in Jordan. His second decoration was for a daring undercover operation in Beirut in 1973, when he led one of two commando teams. The second team was led by Barak.

Shahak rose through the army ranks to become the head of military intelligence, deputy chief of staff and, eventually, chief of staff

Some critics say Shahak failed to address important challenges confronting the military during his tenure as chief of staff.

The only major Israeli operation during that tenure was Operation Grapes of Wrath, a 16-day blitz in April 1996 on Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon. The operation included a devastating military failure: the accidental shelling of a U.N. base that killed some 100 Lebanese refugees who had taken shelter there.

Shahak's last years in uniform will probably be best remembered for his role in negotiating the Oslo peace accords between Israel and the Palestinians.

After Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed the Declaration of Principles that launched the Oslo process in September 1993, then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appointed Shahak — then deputy chief of staff — to head the team negotiating the first Israeli withdrawls from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

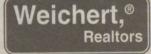
Netanyahu, who was then the leader of the opposition, criticized the move, saying generals should not conduct political negotiations.

Just the same, a look at Shahak the negotiator — who was highly respected both by his colleagues and the Palestinians - provides a useful glimpse into his political

In "The Process," a recently published book by former Israeli negotiator Uri Savir about the Oslo process, there are several behindthe-scenes incidents involving Shahak.

On March 20, 1994, Shahak and a small group of Israeli delegates were dispatched to Tunis to try to break the stalemate in peace talks after the Hebron massacre, in which Dr. Baruch Goldstein, an Israeli extremist, killed 31 Muslims worshipping at Hebron's Tomb of

(Continued on page 7)



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Election '99

(Continued from page 6) the Patriarchs.

An uncompromising Yasser Arafat insisted that Israel remove all Jewish settlers from Hebron.

Shahak took Arafat aside to the kitchen and lounge of the PLO guesthouse. When they returned, Arafat had softened.

"After talking with General Shahak, I have decided that we will return to the talks," the book describes Arafat as saying. "Prime Minister Rabin is also under pressure, and I trust him to make the right decision about the settlers.'

Two factors are generally thought to be drawing Shahak to the political arena: * the 1995 assassination of his mentor, Rabin; and * several clashes with Netanyahu, who as prime minister reportedly tried to silence Shahak from providing military assessments related to the peace process.

Israeli newspapers, struggling to paint a picture of Shahak, have described him as a calm, selfassured man with a quiet charm and charismatic smile

He is also described as an extremely cynical man who lacks the personal ambition of either Netanyahu or Barak.

Shahak is married to his second wife, Tali, a journalist, and has five children. He has a bachelor's degree in history.

White Israelis try to form an opinion Shahak, some analysts say there is only one clear conclusion to be drawn from the remarkable

popularity of a man who has yet to declare his political intentions.

Israelis, the analysts say, are drawn to Shahak because they are fed up with the political system and all of the current candidates.

Dan Meridor Must Overcome **Puppet Image**

By AVI MACHLIS

The biggest challenge facing Dan Meridor may be a television

A veteran politician and Likud member, the soft-spoken Meridor announced that he is forming his own centrist party to run against Minster Benjamin Netanyahu in the upcoming elec-

Although he is well educated and highly respected, Meridor will have to convince Israelis that he is not the puppet portrayed on the popular weekly television show that satirized politicians.

"Hartzufim," depicts Meridor as the ultimate wimp, incapable of standing up for himself or making decisions.

True or not, the image has been hard for him to shake off

'He is more resolute and made of harder stuff than was presented on the show," says Gideon Samet, a columnist for the Israeli daily Ha'aretz and a friend of Meridor's.

"Dan Meridor is honest, intelligent and personable, with deep roots in the Israeli political system,' says Samet. "My problem with him is that his record has shown so far that he is far more right of center than he would like the public to

Shayke Ben-Porat, a veteran journalist and author of a recent book, "Talks With Dan Meridor," disagrees. He says Meridor has moderated his previous political stance and accepted the Oslo peace process

Ben-Porat also says Meridor's puppet likeness is not completely mistaken. "He does have some difficulty making decisions, but that is because he is very intelligent and always tries to understand the other side of an argument," Ben-

Porat says. Meridor, 51, was born into a family steeped in Likud ideology. His father, Eliyahu, was an activist and Knesset member from the Herut Party, Likud's precursor.

graduate of Hebrew University's Law School, Meridor was appointed Cabinet secretary in 1982 by then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin. His wife, Leora, is one of Israel's leading econo-

He won his first Knesset seat in 1984. Four years later, he became justice minister-presiding during the time of the Palestinian uprising or intifada.

In 1991, after a wave of Palestinian knifings in Israel, Meridor rejected public appeals to seal off the West Bank and Gaza

His relatively soft line con-

tributed to his dovish image, but also cost him some support within the Likud Party

In 1992, Meridor lost internal elections for the party leadership to Netanyahu, in what analysts say was the beginning of the rivalry between the two.

Meridor, one of the Likud, "princes" who was being groomed to take over the leadership by the party's old guard, was angry that Netanyahu, who spent several years abroad, leapfrogged over the veteran players.

(Continued on page 15)

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Delaware Artist-

(Continued from page 2)

Ambassador Li Zhaoxing hosted a luncheon on November 18 in recognition of the mural project. Among the 55 guests were 28 art students and faculty from Archmere Academy, and U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden, an Archmere graduate, and strong supporter of the mural project. Senator Biden called the murals "the new face of China."

"We welcome and encourage people from the community to join us in our on-going artistic programs involving China," says PTP-Delaware President Floyd Ho. For more information, contact Floyd Ho at (302) 655-6206 or e-mail to: floydho@aol.com.

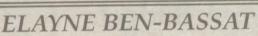


Artist Judith Schwab and a Chinese student.

NCJW Events Benefits Battered Women's Shelter

On Sunday, January 3rd, over 100 energetic grandparents, parents and children gathered at the JCC for a community service oriented "Family Fun Day." Sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women, Wilmington Section, the program's goal was to provide and decorate carry bags for individuals at Martha's Carriage House, a local shelter for abused women and their children. The bags, donated by First USA, will be used to transport the personal possessions of the shelter residents as they leave the facility to begin new lives. Wilmington Section will also provide craft materials to enable children at the shelter to personalize their bags. In addition to decorating the bags, participants enjoyed a dairy brunch and stories and songs performed by children's folksinger Jackie LaGuardia. The

National Council of Jewish Women is the oldest national Jewish women's volunteer organization in America. This program was implemented to further Wilmington Section's commitment to serve the needs of women, children and families in both the Jewish and general communities and its special interest in domestic violence.



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Adina Mattes

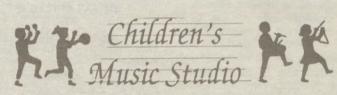
continued from page 1

tates partnerships. "We help Jewish agencies connect with one another and develop programs that meet the needs of the community's growing Jewish population.

Mattes is a true "wandering Jew" shuttling frequently between her Maryland home, Newark and Wilmington, where she works parttime with her husband in the family's business - Brite Lite Supply. She is happy that her life's journey has transported her back to her Jewish roots.

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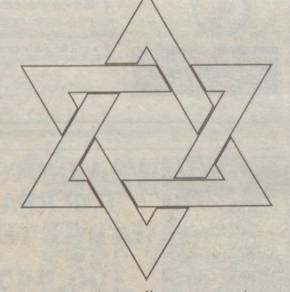
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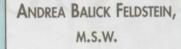
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be our ultimate downfall. Even if we aren't anonymous-sharing email with family, friends and col-leagues - the idea of electronic rather than verbal exchange of ideas, thoughts and feelings, limits us in our communication. We are "talking" to a screen. We are insulating ourselves more and more. We are in danger of being individual islands, our computers are bottles and e-mail is the message inside. It might be instant but we stand on the sandy shores of "Computerland" waiting for the word to float across the waves.

It is said that you cannot be a Jew on a desert island. As the title of the book about the shtetl informs us, "life is with people." Are we continuing the tradition of interacting with our People or are we isolating ourselves? We are definitely finding our religious and philosophical "corners" and drawing the line in the sand (sorry for mixing metaphors), but even when we do that at least we are acknowledging differences. It beats apathy.

This is the season when our community gets together with events tied to k'lal Yisrael. Jewish Federation Shabbat and the community event are scheduled to do what we used to do naturally: escape from our isolation and rec-

fact, have mail. Tom Hanks and this method of communication will ognize our obligations to each hopes, dreams and promises can other. Now more than ever we have to move from our P.C.s - our to the C.P.s - COMMUNAL programs. We'll never eliminate our differences but we have to celebrate our similarities; our common

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Election '99

(Continued from page 7)

After the 1996 elections, Netanyahu appointed Meridor to head the powerful Finance Ministry. Their rivalry quickly resurfaced.

In June 1997, he resigned as finance minister after a bitter power struggle following a debate over foreign exchange policy that Meridor believed was politically motivated to squeeze him out of the government.

Since then, say political analysts, Meridor has been impatiently waiting to unleash his feelings about the prime minister.

There is not one ounce of credibility left" in Netanyahu's leadership, Meridor said recently. "The ministers do not believe the prime minister, nor do Knesset members,

his enemies or friends, if he has

Netanyahu quickly responded by branding Meridor a "Leftist" driven only by personal ambition.

But for Meridor, leaving Likud was not easy.

"He was born into right-wing ideology," says Samet of Ha'aretz. "For him to leave Likud was an extremely difficult step to take, but it seems to show how lousy the situation within Likud has become.'

In the coming weeks, Israelis will be watching closely to see if Meridor is more than the puppeteers make him out to be

"What you can definitely say about Meridor is that he is much more intelligent than his puppet,' says Ofer Knispel, a political satirist who writes for the "Hartzufim"



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Begin Quits Likud And Aims Right

By NAOMI SEGAL

JTA

Ze'ev "Benny" Begin, a former member of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet has announced plans to quit the Likud Party and spearhead a right-wing challenge to the premier.

Begin, who resigned as science minister in 1997 when Netanyahu agreed to turn over most of Hebron to Palestinian self-rule, could weaken the premier in the May 17 elections by splitting the right-wing vote.

In announcing his candidacy, Begin said that the national camp needed a candidate who would protect its interests.

A geologist by training, Begin, 55, has represented the Likud in the Knesset since entering politics a decade ago.

The son of Likud founder Menachem Begin used his news conference to attack Netanyahu and his continuation of the Oslo peace process.

Begin said his candidacy is the only alternative today to a way that would most certainly lead to the establishment of a PLO-and -Hamas state, which will bring neither peace nor security.

Begin, whose father forged Israel's 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, a move that included Israel's return to the Sinai, warned that going down "Wye River" would only lead to ceding more land to "those hoodlums" — a reference to the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

Right-wing reaction to Begin's announced candidacy was mixed.

Some leaders of the settler movement welcomed Begin's move. Others, including National Religious Party leader Yitzahk Levy, said it could split the right wing and play into the interests of the left.

With at least five people so far expected to try to unseat Netanyahu in the upcoming elections, it appears unlikely that any candidate will gain 50 percent in the first round of voting.

Begin was the second former member of Netanyahu's Cabinet to announce his candidacy. He joins former Finance Minister Dan Meridor, who is running as a "centrist" candidate.

Last month's decision to dissolve Parliament and advance the date for elections came after far-right coalition members, angered by the government's land-for-security deal with the Palestinians, joined forces with opposition legislators who were frustrated with the freeze in

Other contenders in the race for prime minister are opposition leader Ehud Barak and Uzi Landau, the hawkish chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee who recently announced that he would challenge Netanyahu for the Likud leader-

Netanyahu is trying to rally the Likud rank and file around him by giving a fiery speech before the Likud Central Committee that was meant to appeal to hawkish sensi-

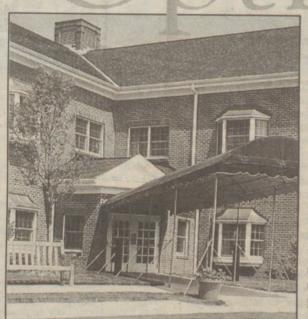
He said the "real task is not the election," but what will come after, when Israel will have to negotiate with the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese.

"It will not be easy," Netanyahu said, adding that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is "talking about a Palestinian state along the lines of 1967, perhaps even a Palestinian state along the borders of 1947, with partition lines and the right of return to areas within the Green Line.

To counter the talk about those who were defecting from the Likud to run against him, Netanyahu singled out those assembled on the stage beside him, including Foreign

(Continued on page 16)

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Election '99

(Continued from page 15)

Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Mordechai, who is rumored to be considering a defection, has not confirmed that he will remain with-

Barak Woos The Arab Vote

By GIL SEDAN JTA

Ehud Barak's recent visit to Arab communities in northern Israel has made two facts clear early in the election campaign: The Labor Party leader absolutely needs the Arab vote to win the premiership, and he has little hope of securing support among fervently Orthodox Jews.

But Barak's Christmas tour of Arab Christian communities last month may already have been too late. For once, there are strong voices within the Israeli Arab community calling for an Arab candidate for prime minister.

"Surely, we cannot win," said Hadash Knesset member Azmi Beshara, "but we should make it quite obvious to the Zionist parties that we are not their captives. If they want our support, they will need to prove that they are worth

The scenario is simple: Any Arab candidate would probably get fewer votes than the leaders of the Likud and Labor parties and any other Jewish candidates in the

However, assuming that no candidate wins more than 50 percent of the vote, forcing a runoff election, the Arab candidate would have a sufficient number of votes to try to bargain with the leading candidates and trade his or her support for more social spending for Israeli Arabs.

The list is long: larger municipal and educational budgets, more jobs, more housing, support for the indigent Bedouin population in the Negev - all of that before a word is uttered regarding the negotiations with the Palestinians.

Barak would like to avoid that scenario by gaining the support of the 18 percent of the Israeli electorate who are Arab in the first round of elections. In the 1996 elections, 95 percent of Arab voters cast their ballots for Shimon Peres, but the Labor premier still earned 14,000 votes fewer than Netanyahu overall.

Barak knows that other candidates, including Netanyahu, will also be campaigning for the Arab vote, but the former Israel Defense Force chief of staff is determined to prove to the Arabs that he is their best choice.

Apart from the race for premier, the Labor Party itself may have cause for concern as Israeli Arab leaders ponder creating a single list of candidates for the Knesset.

Knesset members like Beshara and Abdel Wahab Darawshe, of the Arab Democratic Party, have called for a unified Arab list that potentially could become the third largest party in the Knesset.

Currently, there are 10 Arabs serving in the Knesset with four parties. In addition to the Arab Democratic Party, there are two Zionist parties - Labor and Meretz - and a joint Jewish-Arab list, Hadash.

Previous efforts to establish a single Arab party never took hold because the Arabs were too divided among themselves to form a unified party.

While this inability was mainly based on personality differences, it was also ideological. Hadash, for example, has insisted on preserving its multiethnic nature. "How can we join forces with Muslim fundamentalists?" asked Jewish Knesset member Tamar Gozansky of Hadash.

Beshara believes he has the answer: A joint election list, in which each party preserves its own character.

The Arab electoral scene becomes even more complicated if one takes into account the baits offered by the ruling Likud Party and the fervently Orthodox Shas Party, which runs the powerful Interior Ministry, the government office overseeing the allocation of budgets to local communities.

Both Likud and Shas have demonstrated in the past that they can muster enough Arab support to win one or two Knesset seats.

Thus, it is likely that the divisions of the past will recur.

"The danger exists," admitted Beshara, "but there are greater prospects this time that we shall demonstrate unity.

Rabbi Maya

continued from page 1

dier with a kippah stood up and said, "I have to tell you, Rabbi Leibovich, that I agree with every word you say."

"That doesn't happen every day," the rabbi said lightheartedly.

Not everyone has been so openminded about a woman rabbi and her progressive brand of Judaism.

Usually, the army talks end in heated debate. And last year, an arsonist set fire to the synagogue's kindergarten.

Among Israeli women, she gets two responses; either they enthusiastically support her or they say: "A rabbi? What do you mean a rabbi? Women are not rabbis," she said.

Leibovich is the first rabbi for a synagogue that began as a small lay-led group seeking a more egalitarian style of worship. The group began to meet in homes for Friday night services. But as it grew, the members realized they needed a spiritual leader and teacher.

The two female founders of the group, émigrés from South Africa and the United States, contacted Hebrew Union College seeking a rabbinical student to lead them. The school's administrators recommended Leibovich, who was at the time studying toward ordination.

"It was a match made in heaven," Leibovich recalled.

"We grow into 27 families very soon and it becomes very problematic to be praying toward the refrigerator or the toaster oven," she said with a heavy Israeli accent.

The group gained use of a school during off-hours and, with its new found space, decided to advertise for its first High Holy Days service.

"We have 100 people for the first High Holiday service, which gives us a big push and shows people that there is potential.'

Today, Leibovich's congregation has its own building and has grown to 140 household members. All must pay dues, an anomaly for a population accustomed to the government subsidizing Orthodox synagogue, she said.

Leibovich's synagogue is not the only Reform congregation in Israel. There are 19 others, but only five of them, including the Mevasseret Zion congregation, have facilities.

Two more Israeli women are preparing for a Reform ordination at HUC in Jerusalem, and the Masorti-Conservative movement has also ordained Israeli-born

In addition to her congregational work, Leibovich travels regularly to the former Soviet Union to teach Jews there about their spiritual tradition, which languished during the years of Communist rule.

The rabbi recently authored a special siddur that was published in Russian to be used by both émigrés in her congregation and her followers in the former Soviet Union.

Leibovich, a mother of four. described herself as a passionate school teacher before she first approached administrators of HUC's small Israeli program. Surprised by her request for admission, the administrators agreed to take her on a one-year trial basis.

Leibovich thrived in the program. She was simply making up for lost time, she now says. Her parents, both Holocaust survivors from Czechoslovakia, turned their backs on their Orthodox after the war. backgrounds Consequently, young Leibovich grew up without religious observance in her Tel Aviv area home.

"I was brought up like a tree without roots. I didn't have a grandmother, grandfather, aunts, uncles, nothing. There was a unmentioned past," which included her spiritual heritage.

Yet, even as a young girl, Leibovich craved a spiritual connection. She visited religious friends for Shabbat candle lightings and holidays. She once slipped away secretly in order to attend Yom Kippur services.

In college, she dated an Orthodox man, thinking she could

forge a Jewish connection through marriage. The relationship didn't last but, when she later married another man, who was not Orthodox, she began a lifelong practice of observing Shabbat and keeping kashrut.

Still, her hunger for Jewish learning languished - until the day, years later that an American woman rabbi moved to Israel. "It was big news. In all the headlines,' Leibovich recalled. Coincidentally, Leibovich's husband was interviewing the same day for a new job in Jerusalem. He called her after the interview and suggested moving the family to Jerusalem so Leibovich could enroll in rabbinical

Her father died a year before Leibovich began her rabbinic studies. He had secretly returned to his faith in his later years - his family found a siddur and other religious paraphernalia stashed among his

Today, Leibovich said, she likes to think he would have been proud of her work in returning Judaism to Jews who have lost their way.

Ruth Dreifuss

continued from page 1

victims.

Sources in the Swiss government said Dreifuss has always maintained an excellent private relationship with the World Jewish Congress — the group that initiated the charges against the Swiss banks.

One source described her close relationship with the WJC's secretary-general, Israel Singer.

They have spent hours of heated but interesting conversations together," the source said.

Her religion has never been an issue, even at those times when the government was reporting an increase in the anti-Semitic backlash to the WJC's and other groups' allegations.

Despite this, Swiss Jewish groups preferred to keep a low profile in their reaction to her being named to the presidency.

"Every Swiss Jew is proud" that she was elected, a senior member of the Swiss Jewish community said - but only on condition of anonymity.

Neither the Federation of Jewish Communities in Switzerland, the community's umbrella group, nor any other Swiss Jewish organization published a letter of congratulations to Dreifuss, fearing that such a move could provoke counter-statements from anti-Semites in the country.

Dreifuss raised some eyebrows when she was among the few Swiss politicians to welcome the decision in August by two leading Swiss banks to pay a \$1.25 billion settlement of Holocaust-era claims.

Despite that settlement, she now insists that the country must continue to deal honestly with its past.

"It would be a catastrophe if this would mean we would consider our work over," she said.

MILESTONES

Memoriam Franklin S. Berkover

1998 at the age of 87. A co- Berkover was an active member of

Franklin S. Berkover of founder, president and chairman of Wilmington died December 30, Delmar Photo Services, Mr.

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by his wife, Frances Budner Berkover and is survived by a son, Michael H., a daughter, Linda S. Walke and five grandchildren. The

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NACHES

Beth Ann Kalman

Cear-Kalman Nuptials

Beth Ann Cear, daughter of Stanley and Sandy Cear of Wilmington, DE and David Tovin Kalman, son of Malcolm and Willa Kalman of Richmond, VA were married during 1998. The bride is a graduate of the University of Delaware and earned her MBA at

George Washington University. She is employed by DuPont. The groom is a graduate of Virginia

Commonwealth University and is self-employed in a commercial real estate. The couple resides in Richmond, VA.

Weinberg-Simon Wed

Alyssa Ann Weinberg and Joel David Simon were married on Sunday, July 12, 1998 at Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington, Delaware. Rabbi Peter Grumbacher officiated at the noontime service. A reception followed the ceremony at the DuPont Country Club.

Alyssa is the daughter of Phil and Sheila Weinberg of Wilmington and granddaughter of Mrs. Faye Feldman, B'nai B'rith House and Mr. Edward Weinberg of Florida. Alyssa graduated from Concord High School and the University of Delaware. She received a Bachelors degree in Elementary and Special Education. She completed her Masters in Reading from Bloomsburg University, in Bloomsburg, PA. Alyssa is a certified Reading Specialist. She is employed at Sussex Technical High School, Georgetown, Delaware as a Special Education Teacher. She also is the Assistant Junior Varsity Cheerleading Coach as well as a teacher at the Groves Night School.

Joel is the son of Ed and Pat Simon of Wilmington and the grandson of Mrs. Marie J. Goldstein, Wilmington. Joel graduated from Concord High School and Gratz Hebrew High, in Wilmington. He received his Bachelors degree from Penn State University and his Masters in



Alyssa and Joel Simon

School Counseling from Wilmington College. He is a Social Studies teacher at Sussex Technical High School, Georgetown, Delaware and serves as the Junior Varsity coach for Girls Softball. He is the announcer for the Sussex Tech Ravens football team. In addition, Joel is employed at the Groves Night School as a counselor.

Alyssa and Joel will be moving to Lewes, Delaware in January from their Georgetown home.

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Book Review Israel From A Women's Perspective

By PAULA SHULAK

As I closed the cover on this fascinating book written by an Israeli in Hebrew but beautifully translated into English prose, I breathed a sigh. How magnificent, how sad, how uplifting, how provocative – there are so many words to describe my feelings as I turned the last page.

Savyon Liebrecht is the child of Holocaust survivors but also a true citizen of Israel. In the words of Grace Paley who wrote a foreword to the book, these stories are told "by a woman who knows she is living in a country occupied by two nations, she knows she is a citizen, a speaker in a country, Israel, where one nation, the Israeli, looks down on or looks coldly upon the other nation, the Palestinian, and the other language, Arabic. And then she tells everyday stories about what those cultural and political facts are doing to the characters and ordinary lives of both groups of people - the way in which both are deformed: one by pride, one by despair.

This is a very easy book to read, one which you can pick up at bedtime each night and finish a short story before drifting off to sleep. The problem lies in whether or not you will be able to stop thinking about what you have read in order to drift off. The author presents complex situations in the simplest of terms

For example, she dwells in several stories on the problem of Holocaust victims who are an embarrassment to their friends and family. In Israel of all places! Then there are the tales of dysfunctional families where the woman is a third class citizen (worse than second) or of intermarriage between Arab and Jew or Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews (which is just as foreign a co-mingling)

The introduction states that "Liebrecht's stories reflect her deep yearning for reconciliation between people placed on opposing sides of conflicts." And conflict galore is what is found in the stories. Usually the problem is at least partially resolved by the end but not always. Sometimes you are left with a haunting question in your mind – What will happen now?

As a woman the author is sensitive, as a writer she is like the sabra cactus (although she was born in Europe) hard hitting but soft on the inside. She has a true Israeli flavor and unlike other translations from the Hebrew which I have read, the text is not an inner beauty, its bewitching stories woven in masterly fashion. You never know quite where Liebrecht is going and sometimes even after you have gotten there, you are not sure you have arrived at the end. However, the journey is always pleasurable!

This is a fascinating book published by The Feminist Press of the City University of New York as part of the Helen Rose Scheuer Jewish Women's Series. It is well worth your time.

ARTS & CULTURE

Wondrous And Strange Things Are Happening

By PAULA SHULAK

The Delaware Art Museum is a real jewel in the crown of our state. Recently, the museum outdid itself as it opened a new exhibit called WONDROUS STRANGE. We are quite blessed that since August we have had NICHOLAS and ALEXANDRIA in our midst; now we are further honored by this first-ever combined showing of four giants in the art world – Howard Pyle, N.C. Wyeth, Andrew Wyeth and Jamie Wyeth.

The title WONDROUS STRANGE was coined by Andrew's wife, Betsy, and is taken from a Shakespearean quote in Hamlet. Horatio says, "Oh day and night but this is wondrous strange!" to which Hamlet answers, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy." Many of us are familiar with these words but when applied to the unique art now being shown at DAM they take on surprising new meaning. The exhibition will be on display from now until February 21, 1999 and the crowds will probably be tremendous so it would be well to make your plans now.

The more than 100 works on display include "the eerie, the uncanny, the other-worldly and the unexpected," to quote the museum's press release." They show how Pyle's and the Wyeths' work is rooted in the imagination." They also show more clearly than ever before the strong and obvious connection that links these four to each other. Howard Pyle, the great illustrator, is Wilmington's claim to fame in the art world. In fact it was the acquisition of his paintings that spurred the beginnings of the Delaware Art Museum (then known as the Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts) and our city still has the finest collection of his work in existence. From Pyle sprang the Wyeth tradition, when N.C. Wyeth became his pupil. Then from father to son to son the muse was passed. It is most interesting to note that the generations almost skipped a beat; you can see in the exhibit how inspired Andrew is by Pule while Jamie takes most of his inspiration from his grandfather N.C. In what the curators at DAM have called a synthesis gallery, for the first time ever the paintings of these four hang side by side and even a novice can note the similarities - the use of bold, vibrant color; inclusion of the sea and other natural outdoor elements; a sense of motion where the figures in the paintings seem to move toward the viewer; the use of hands as subject matter; the appearance of abstractions and androgynous figures; the painting of shadows; and of course, the reliance on the mysterious and strange. As Steve Bruni, the DAM Executive Director put it, "It is so exciting to put all four of these painters in a room together and to make the connections.

And Jamie himself echoed these sentiments during a press conference just prior to the gala opening when he said, "We had a wonderful time going through the Pyle paintings in the store room. The Delaware Art Museum has had a pivotal influence on my father and me. The form of representational painting we all do should be provocative and push the viewer farther, but not just to the storytelling aspects. There is an element in our work that just makes you go that little bit beyond. What makes N.C.'s work special is the curious way he has of taking something from the text (of the story he was illustrating) and mixing it with something from his own life. For me too, my work is illustrating the highly personal aspects of life – my vocabulary is paint."

Visitors to the Museum may take a self-guided tour using an audio tape or groups may make arrangements in advance for a docent tour which affords the opportunity to ask questions and include more or different paintings from those described on the audio guide. A number of ancillary

A Movie Review -

The Prophet Formerly Known As Prince

MARION Y. HAMERMESH

Prince of Egypt is Hollywood's most recent addition of the commentary of the Book of Exodus. In its telling of the story of the life of Moses, Dreamworks Studio fleshes out the sparse Biblical narrative with details drawn from classical Midrash as well as from the imaginations of the film's writers and the expertise of the scholars who advised them.

It is a beautiful movie. A must see. Animation has come a long way since the days of Snow White and is no longer for children only. The characters are voiced by renowned Hollywood stars. The music works. And so does the story. There are a few scenes which didn't quite match what I remembered. But after further thought I realized that Dreamworks had made good storytelling choices which did not really conflict with anything in the Bible.

My enjoyment of the movie was enhanced by having studied the relevant chapters of Exodus before seeing it and I recommend that everyone do the same. At the very least you will have the pleasure of knowing when the studio gets it "straight" and when they diverge from the original. More importantly, having your own experience of the Book to hold up along-side the one Dreamworks presents will dilute the power of the screen image to overwhelm your own relationship with our sacred story.

It was a bit weird to be seeing a movie about Moses and our liberation from Egypt in the middle of the winter festival season when my mind was full of candlelight and dreidls. Going home to a Shabbat dinner or latkes and apple sauce rather than matzah and asparagus only reinforced that feeling. Until, that is, we recited Kiddush. ...zeicher litsiat Mitsrayim. ...a remembrance of the going forth from Egypt. Every week as we sanctify the Sabbath we are reminded that we who were once slaves in Egypt now dedicate one day each week to rest. Our liberation story belongs in any season.

programs have also been arranged during the months of January and February which include lectures, films and two dramatic presentations. Of great interest is the latest original production of First Stage entitled LARGER THAN LIFE: INSIDE THE MIND OF N.C. WYETH which will be presented at the Museum on February 5, 6, 10, 19, 20 and 21. For more info on this production or the exhibit itself, call 571-9590. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for students. Children under 6 are free

Psalmist's Prayers Inspire And Comfort

By ABIGAIL PICKUS Staff Writer, JUF News

CHICAGO – Debbie Pearlman has awakened in the middle of the night, a fully written psalm bursting in her head and demanding to be transcribed on paper.

The Wilmette resident has been writing down her prayers for five years now. Her collection has grown so large that she recently released an expanded version of her first book, filled with 160 psalms, "Flames to Heaven: New Psalms for Healing & Prayer."

The most revered psalmist is, of course, King David, who is said to have awakened at midnight to the delicate music the north wind played upon his harp. He then would rise, study Torah, and write down his tehillim, his songs of praise.

While Pearlman does not claim to be David, she does identify with the language, music, and cadence of his tehillim. And she feels that her modern-day psalms, on everything from celebrating simchas to dealing with death and illness, are divinely inspired.

"So many of the things I've written have come to me as a whole piece. I feel it's not just me who's doing the writing. I think I was called to do it," she said.

Her psalms have comforted so many people that area rabbis have given out hundreds of Pearlman's book over the last few years to people going through physical, emotional, and psychological challenges. Some read from her psalms in front of the ark before taking out the Torah on Shabbat.

Pearlman is the psalmist in residence at her synagogue, Beth Emet The Free Synagogue in Evanston, Ill. In this role, she composes psalms for special events, for baby namings, and for members who are Ill. Such psalms dealing with illness and loss seem to especially resonate with readers.

"So many people experience illness and mental unhappiness, which is why what I say rings true for other people facing illness or loss," said Pearlman, who knows firsthand about debilitating illness. A cancer survivor, she is hooked to oxygen and uses a cane to walk.

Two psalms in "Flames to Heaven" were written for a friend, a young mother who was diagnosed with breast cancer and who died soon after.

"When I was diagnosed with cancer, people told me, you'll survive. But this woman really knew in her heart of hearts that she would die," said Pearlman. This sad knowledge permeates the psalm that Pearlman penned.

"Still my terror with clear notes, Righteous One/ Quiet me with a silken melody/ That by accepting Your judgment/ I might turn to sing with You," she writes.

In Psalm 160, A Song of Praise, Pearlman shows the power of faith to strengthen and comfort those who face life's traumas: Hallelujah!

I will praise You with all my soul, My very being, my inside of me, The core of all that You make holy.

Hallelujah!
I will sing You the spirit's song
Poured into me by Your hand,
Tuned by my chances and challenges.

Hallelujah! I will bless You with common words Turned to fire by Your listening, Flames to heaven.

Hallelujah! I will call You in my longing For completeness, for shelter Beneath Your embracing arms.

Hallelujah!
I will turn to You in faithfulness,
Drying my tears
On the surety of Your care.

Hallelujah!
I will praise You with all my soul,
Breath and being, time and future,
Aligned to You in holiness.

"Flames To Heaven" (Independent Publishers Group; \$14) is available at select Borders and Barnes and Noble bookstores. Or call (800) 888-4741. Check out her Web site: www.healingpsalm.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JANUARY

Friday .

Tot Shabbat at Congregation Beth Shalom, all are welcome. Saturday 9

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Synagogue invites children ages 3 to 7 to a special Kids' Tefillot service beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Enjoy Jewish songs, stories, marching with the Torah and much more. Sunday

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Men's Club and Adult Education Committee hosts brunch at 9:30 a.m. Chazzan Daniel Leeman will give an introduction to biblical cantillation. Call 762-2705.

Congregation Beth Emeth's Sisterhood has planned a career program for area high school students. This program, featuring speakers from a wide variety of fields, begins at 1:30 p.m. at the synagogue. Call764-2393 for more information.

The National Museum of Jewish History opens an exhibition of the original drawings of syndicated political cartoonist Noah Bee. Bee whose career spanned more than 30 years, was known for his commentary on Jewish events around the world. The museum is located on Independence Mall East in Philadelphia. Call (215) 923-5978 for more information.

Ellen Rendle, local author and Curator of Photographs at the Historical Society of Delaware will discuss her new book, "The Ghosts of Market Street: Merchants of Yesteryear" and the expected renaissance of Wilmington's main shopping district. Free event, 7 p.m., Barnes and Noble, Concord Mall.

Congregation Beth Shalom Family Service, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 16
Learner's Service at Adas
Kodesch Shel Emeth, 10-11:30
a.m.

Congregation Beth Shalom invites community to join in Israeli Folk Dancing. For more information, please call 654-4462.

Wednesday 20

Common Cause of Delaware and the Agenda for Delaware Women sponsor a lobby workshop for non-profit professionals, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the General Assembly, House of Representatives, 2nd Floor Hearing Room, Legislative Hall, Dover. For more information, call 656-8966.

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA, opens a month-long exhibit, "Women of Flowers." Enjoy displays of botanical illustrations produced by 18th, 19th and 20th century artists. For more information, call (610) 388-1000, ext. 442.

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Men's Club Annual Event – fashion show, music, dance and dinner. Reservations required. Call 7622705

Tu B'Shevat Family Program 10 a.m.-Noon at the National Museum of American Jewish History, 55 North 5th St. Philadelphia. Games, gallery hunts, performance by the Segal Puppet Theatre and more. Call (215) 923-5978 for more information.

Pro Boxer Damon (The Jewish Bomber) Feldman takes on Pro Wrestler Billy Austin at The Big Kahuna in Wilmington, 6 p.m. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Jewish Federation of Delaware. For more information, call (610) 658-1207.

Congregation Beth Shalom, Tu B'Shevat Festival, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Food, crafts and games for kids. Entertainment by N'Ranena. Admission fee.Call 654-4462 for information and reservations.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHT
Ambassadors of Israel,
Jordan and Egypt, the Chief
Representative of the PLO and PNA
and the Director of Israeli Affairs of
the U.S. Dept. of State will participate in a "Forum on Middle East
Peace & Economic Opportunities,"
Wednesday, February 17, 11:30
a.m. at the Hotel DuPont,
Wilmington. For further information, call the Delaware Chapter of
People to People International at
764-8952.

Sam Glaser, singer and composer of contemporary Jewish music will be in Delaware Friday, February 5 and Saturday, February 6. Temple Beth El in Newark will host Glaser for a special Friday night Shabbat dinner at 6:30 followed by creative services at 8 p.m. On Saturday morning, Glaser leads services at 10 and will entertain at a children's concert from 1-2 p.m. Reservations are required. Please call 366-8330.

On Saturday evening, 7:30 p.m., Glaser travels to Wilmington's Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth for The 1999 Federation Community Event. Bring the entire family at a special rate of \$25 for parents and kids. Call 427-2100 for reservations.

ONGOING

JCC Members Get Aerobics Free. Start the New Year right with free land and water aerobics classes for all JCC members. Free classes will include Cardio Combo Plus, Aerobics, step and Step/Interval Training, Cardio Sculpt and five Water Aerobics programs. Nonmembers may participate in these classes, if space is available, at a nonmember rate. For more information, contact Scott Katz, at 478-5660.

The Mental Health Association of Delaware provides support groups for people experiencing depression, anxiety or who have lost a loved one. for more information, call 656-8308.

Jewish Interactive Studies offers free Internet classes on Jewish holidays, bible themes and more. For more information, visit the JIS website at www.jewishstudies.org.

Seven Family Fun Days are scheduled from January through mid-April at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square. Enjoy children's theatre, piano performances and sing-a-longs plus hands-on craft activities. For dates and times, call (610) 388-1000, ext. 100.

Applications are now being accepted for athletes interested in

becoming a part of the United States Junior Maccabi boys basketball team. The team will participate in the 9th Pan American Maccabi Games, July 3-20, 1999 in Mexico City. Players should have varsity high school level ability and be born in 1982-1984. Call Brian Schiff, head coach, at (215) 742-5558 for more information. Application deadline is February 1st.

Mah Jongg at the Senior Center. Learn to play mah jongg on Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m. at the JCC Senior Center. First timers and advanced players are welcome. The cost is \$2.50 for the class. Please call Wendi Weingartner at (302) 478-5660 for more information or to register.

Young Jewish Singles Holds

Weekly Volleyball. Young Jewish singles of Delaware, a social group for Jewish singles in their 20's and 30's, sponsors a weekly volleyball and dinner sampler every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Wilmington, Delaware J.C.C. The volleyball game begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m.

For more information, to be put on the group's mailing list, or for the location of the dinners, call: Phil Gross (302) 652-6688 or the Jewish Community Center (302) 478-5660.

Summer Scholarship Available. The Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its tenth annual Scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or Israel. Applications may be picked up at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth office, Washington St. Ext. and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802, and should be returned by March 15, 1999.

Teen Hour at the JCC Fitness Center. Teens, ages 14-16, are welcome to join our Certified Personal Trainers at the JCC. For more information, contact Jay O'Neill, Head Trainer, at (302) 478-5660

Meet the Physical Therapist. Bob Catalano from Rehabilitation Consultants will be available every Wednesday at noon in the JCC Fitness Center. For more information, call Suzanne Rodriguez, Fitness Center Coordinator at (302) 478-5660.

Three Organizations Join Forces For Fundraiser

By BETTINA G. HEIMAN Special to the Jewish Voice

Three local Jewish organizations have joined forces with the Heisman Fine Arts Gallery, Inc. to present a benefit art show and auction on Saturday, January 30, 1999 at Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 Lea Boulevard in Wilmington. The three organizations working on this benefit are: Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah, and Women's American ORT. The event will begin at 7 p.m. with a preview to be followed by

the auction beginning at 8 p.m. The event will feature live music, hors d'oeuvres and desserts and art work in a wide variety of styles and price ranges.

There is no obligation to buy anything at the auction. The majority of the art will have opening bids ranging from \$60 to \$150. A Collector's Corner will also be featured and may include works by artists such as Delacroix, Neiman, McKnight, Tarkay and Gorman. We expect to have some limited edition prints from the Barnes Foundation as well as animation cells, oils, prints, craft art.

The Heisman Gallery has designed auction rules that are easy to follow and will prevent anyone from accidentally bidding with an innocent gesture. There will also be a number of special door prizes awarded.

Funds raised by this event will benefit the sponsors' educational program as well as medical research programs. The admission price of \$12 (\$15 at the door) includes complimentary refreshments throughout the auction. Tickets and/or further information can be obtained by calling Tina Heiman at 302-475-3636.

Fairman Fellowship Applications Available

WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 25TH

Executives of nonprofit organizations in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley are invited to apply for the Fairman Fellowship, which is being funded through the Endsley P. Fairman Fund at the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF). The fund honors the memory of Mr. Fairman, who served as Executive Secretary of the Longwood, Welfare and Marmot Foundations and was intensely interested in the area's nonprofit

The Fairman Fellowship Program seeks to expand and improve the level of management in non-profit institutions by offering executives the opportunity to acquire concrete business skills and a broad, strategic view of general management in the nonprofit sector. The Fairman Fellow selected in 1999 will receive tuition, room, board and travel expenses to attend "Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management," an intensive, six-day program offered by

the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program in Cambridge, Mass.

The Delaware Community Foundation will offer a workshop about the Fairman Fellowship for interested nonprofit executives on January 25 at 8:30 a.m. Application forms will be available at the Foundation in January and must be submitted by February 15. For further information, please contact the DCF at 302-571-8004.

Beth Shalom Congregants Do A Mitzvah

By MARVIN CYTRON

Special to the Jewish Voice

Members of Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom recently collected 26 cases of medical and first aid supplies for shipment to survivors of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras. Burt Shanker, former executive director of the synagogue, identified the need for these items. Carol Einhorn, Community Outreach chairperson organized a special committee. Committee member Dr. Mark Sobel contacted fellow physicians and area pharmaceutical and health supply compani collect supplies. At the suggestion of congregant Mark Delmerico, Beth Shalom coordinated its efforts with Central America Outreach Inc. (CAMO). CAMO, a non-denominational Christian organization headquartered in Hockessin, provides medical supplies and equipment to impoverished regions throughout Central America. The agency is grateful for the support of professionals who volunteer their time and services to clinics and hospitals throughout the region.

"Although the hurricane has long since passed it continues to have an impact on the lives and livelihoods of the people of Central America," said Einhorn, adding that "We hope that our efforts can provide a small measure of assistance in helping them recover from this tragedy."



Beth Shalom congregants (back row, from left) Steve Dombchik, Carol Einhorn, Burt Shanker, Marc Delmerico and foreground, Claudia Kesselman, load up their van with supplies for victims of Hurricane Mitch.



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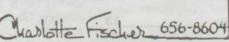
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