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Albert Einstein Academy to Honor Irving and **Doris Morris**

Albert Einstein Academy, the Jewish Day School serving Delaware and the Brandywine Valley, will honor Doris and Irving Morris at its annual Gala Tribute Dinner/Dance to be held at Congregation Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth on Saturday, April 19, 1997. The Gala Tribute Committee, chaired by Henry Topel and Victor Battaglia, Sr., includes prominent elected officials, business leaders, attorneys, and many other individuals who have been active community leaders in Delaware, Philadelphia and New York, signifying the esteem in which the Morrises are held for their significant leadership in many arenas.

Both leaders in the community, Irving has served as President of Beth Shalom Congregation and the Jewish Federation of Delaware. He is also a lifetime member of the Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation Board of Trustees, and a member of the is a past President of the Jewish Community Center, the first recipient of the Harry Cohen Award for Service, and a recipient of the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Award for Service. When the community was evaluating its needs for a community center in North Wilmington, it was Doris who helped ensure that space was allotted in the new building for what was then a fledging Hebrew Day School. Her foresight and vision for the Jewish Community Center Family Campus and the leadership role she took in its construction created a wonderful space that now allows Albert Einstein Academy students to enjoy healthy recreational activities.

Founded in Wilmington in 1972, Albert Einstein Academy has nearly doubled its student body in the last five years. In response to this growth, the school has added to its professional staff, introduced innovative pro-Board of the Anti-Defamation League. Doris grams, and expanded its physical space.

Honoring the Morris commitment to and support of the Academy, the school has established the Morris Initiative for Educational Excellence to fund curriculum and program enhancement. Through the programs funded by the Morris Initiative, Albert Einstein Academy will continue to provide the community of the State of Delaware and the Brandywine Valley academic preparation in a Jewish context, en-

abling our children to become contributing members of society in the 21st century. For ticket information about the Academy's



Doris and Irving Morris

Gala Dinner/Dance contact Cheryl Jacobs, Gala Chair, at 764-2240.

Violence Escalates in the Middle East

Arabs Call for Boycott of Israel

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) - While criticizing Arab states for "ganging up on Israel," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu evoked memories of a period that many thought was safely in the Jewish state's past.

The Arab boycott of Israel, the Palestinian uprising - these were events of years ago, before the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat shook hands one sunny September afternoon on the White House lawn. But recently, these old specters were back

Arab League foreign ministers convened in Cairo and called for a resumption of the boycott. And Arab nations requested an emergency session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, where confrontations between Palestinian stone-throwers and Israeli troops entered their second week, it looked more and more like a resumption of the 1987-1993 intifada.

The Arabs' actions came in response to the start of construction March 18 on the new neighborhood of Har Homa in the eastern part of Jerusalem, Arab critics say. Two weeks after Israel began construction, the Jewish state appeared to stand alone, as it had years before, in a confrontation with the entire Arab world.

On March 31, after a two-day session in Cairo, the Arab League adopted a resolution calling on its 22 members to resume the Arab boycott of Israel. In recent years, several Arab states have eased the boycott, but in the eyes of the Arab foreign ministers, building apartments at Har Homa necessitated a reconsideration.

The resolution also called on Arab states to stop all normalization of ties with Israel, to close Israeli offices and missions in their countries and to suspend the multilateral talks that deal with regional issues such as water, the environment and security.

'Israel has known periods of Israel-bashing more than once and we've been able to overcome it," Prime Minister Netanyahu said. They are testing our steadfastness," he added, vowing that Israel would not bow to Arab pressure.

Whether the league's recommendations, which will be presented to each of the ministers' governments, will be implemented remains to be seen. The resolution was not expected to affect Israel's peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, though each may decide to reduce contacts with Israel.

But it may spur action by five Arab League members — Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Oman and Qatar — all of which established low-level economic ties with Israel in recognition of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The Persian Gulf states of Oman and Qatar have stated their intention to freeze relations with Israel, but whether they will take concrete steps remains uncertain - particularly because they had originally established commercial ties with Israel as a matter of economic self-interest.

In the wake of the Arab League meeting, Omar Abdul-Monem Rifai, Jordan's ambassador to Israel, seemed almost embarrassed as he appeared this week at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Strategic Studies Center. He said Jordan was the only Arab country that was maintaining the normalization process with Israel. "I hope the government of Israel appreciates that," he added. But even Jordan may have to bow to pressure from other Arab states if Israeli-Palestinian confrontations worsen.

Jordan's King Hussein met April 1 in Washington with President Clinton to seek ways to restore confidence on the Israeli-Palestinian track. But that task appeared more difficult than ever, as violence spread throughout the major Palestinian population centers of the West Bank.

On a daily basis, Palestinians showered Israeli troops with a hail of stones, eliciting images of the intifada. In the days after the start of construction at Har Homa, the initial Palestinian demonstrations were confined to the building site and were largely peaceful. But by the week of April 1, Israeli troops were battling Palestinian crowds in Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah.

Israeli-Palestinian relations plunged deeper into crisis when the violence escalated even further and the two sides traded angry accu-

In the Gaza Strip, two Palestinians blew themselves up in what the Israeli army said were suicide bombers targeting Jewish school buses. No Israelis were injured in the

Palestinian officials acknowledged that one of the men had detonated the explosives, but they charged that the other man was killed by a bomb or grenade thrown by Israeli soldiers.

In the first blast, a man with explosives strapped to his body blew himself up at the entrance to the Netzarim settlement. Settler leaders said a schoolbus preparing to leave Netzarim was running behind schedule and managed to escape the blast.

Shortly afterward, near the Kfar Darom settlement in Gaza, a Palestinian dressed in a police uniform was killed by an explosion on the main road. Seven passengers in a passing Palestinian taxi were wounded.

Hamas issued a statement in Gaza accusing Israel of ordering the blasts to create a rift in relations between the Islamic fundamentalist group and the Palestinian Authority. Israel rejected the claims, saying that both incidents involved suicide bombers.

The incidents took place less than two weeks after a suicide bomber, identified as a Hamas operative, detonated an explosion at a Tel Aviv cafe, killing three Israelis and wounding dozens of others, the first such attack in Israel in more than a year.

In Hebron, a Palestinian youth was shot dead after soldiers spotted several Arabs involved in a theft, the army said.

Clinton vowed on April 1 to do what he could to help salvage the peace process. "We've got to keep the lid on things over there," he said, adding, "It's not going to be

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BRIEFS

NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

Anti-Semitic Leaflet Stuffed in 200,000 Russian Mailboxes

MOSCOW, March 30 (JTA) - About 200,000 residents of the southern Russian region of Volgograd found anti-Semitic leaflets in their mailboxes near the end of March. The flier, which contained various anti-Semitic slogans, also made references to members of the Russian Cabinet and other top Russian officials who are Jewish. The leaflet claimed that Russia is an occupied country with no ethnic Russians in the federal gov-

'Only [Russian] patriots are the people. The rest are slaves," it said. One can tell who a "real Russian" is by relying on "racial signs," the handout also said. The leaflet called on local voters to support the editor of a local anti-Semitic newspaper in the upcoming elections for Volgograd's regional legislature.

The weekly newspaper Kolokol, or The Bell, is published in Volgograd, a city of 1 million located 900 miles south of Moscow. The paper has been a forum for anti-Semitic propaganda for five years.

The Volgograd Jewish community, which numbers 5,000, has expressed its deep concern over the publication, which is distributed free of charge in Volgograd's working-class neighborhoods.

The newspaper's editor, Stanislav Terentyev, recently faced in a local court charges of inciting national hatred.

As Deadline for Marzook Nears, Israel Faces a Difficult Dilemma

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA) - Will Benjamin Netanyahu order the extradition from the United States of Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzook? With an April 6 deadline fast approaching, the decision of how to deal with a prominent figure in the militant Islamic group could not come at a worse time for Israel. In the wake of construction of a new neighborhood in the eastern part of Jerusalem and a Hamas-inspired suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv cafe, talks have broken down with the Palestinian Authority, and street clashes with Palestinians are now in their second week.

Netanyahu, who is demanding that Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat crack down on Hamas militants and other terrorists, now faces a difficult choice. If he brings Marzook to stand trial in Israel, it would likely further inflame Palestinian passions. But if he passes on the opportunity to bring a Hamas leader to justice, he would look weak in the war on ter-

Marzook, a legal U.S. resident, was arrested in July 1995 as he tried to clear customs at New York's Kennedy Airport. The arrest came after he was placed on the U.S. "watch list" of probable terrorists. In order for extradition to take place, the Justice Department must act upon the extra-dition request and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright must approve it.

Canadian Intelligence Agency Tracking Hezbollah Operatives

TORONTO, March 31 (JTA) — Hezbollah has a network of operatives working in Canada, according to the Canadian Security Intelligence Agency. The agency maintained in a court document subsequently made public that the pro-Iranian fundamentalist movement based in Lebanon had established "an infrastructure" in Canada involving people who "receive and comply with direction from the Hezbollah leadership hierar-

The claim was made by the agency in a Federal Court document that provided evidence in a deportation case against Hani Abd Rahim al-Sayegh, who applied for refugee status in August, upon arriving in

A Saudi national, Sayegh was allegedly involved in the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, that killed 19 U.S. soldiers are seeking his extradition. He was arrested March 18 in Ottawa.

Army Allowed to Raze Bomber's Home

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA) - Israel's High Court of Justice has given the army permission to destroy the home of the suicide bomber who killed three Israelis earlier this month at a Tel Aviv cafe.

Dozens of others were wounded in the March 21 blast.

The court rejected a petition from the family of Mahmoud Abed Al-Kader Ghonimeit, a resident of the Tsurif village in the Hebron area. Family members had said the Israeli army order was collective punish-

Jewish Historians Roundly Reject Cultists' Appropriation of Masada

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

NEW YORK, April 1 (JTA) -Judaism didn't escape the theological stew that led members of the Heaven's Gate cult to kill themselves last week.

The 39 people found dead at a mansion outside San Diego were adherents to a philosophy based on a loose amalgamation of extreme millennialist Christianity and New Age attitudes, overlaid by science fiction.

Information that cult members had posted on the Internet cited the dramatic saga of the Jewish suicide at Masada in the first century as the model for their mass suicide.

It is an analogy soundly rejected by Jewish historians.

Another Jewish connection to the eerie story that has rocked the country was the claim of Heaven's Gate founder Marshall Herff Applewhite — who was not a Jew that he worked as the cantorial soloist at a Houston-area Reform temple. The congregation in question is Temple Emanu El, where, according to Rabbi Roy Walter, Applewhite did not work as a cantorial soloist, but may have sung in the choir at some point in the mid-

It is not unusual for Reform temples to employ non-Jews to sing worship liturgy as cantorial soloists or as members of a paid choir.

Meanwhile, the Masada connection made by Heaven's Gate mem bers to their own plans was a misappropriation of Jewish history, historians say, because the Jewish zealots who killed themselves in the year 73 on the top of the desert plateau did so under siege by Roman troops.

From a statement, Position Against Assisted Suicide, which was published on the Heaven's Gate Web site and reprinted in The New York Times, members wrote:

'We fully desire, expect and look forward to boarding a spacecraft from the Next Level very soon (in our physical bodies)

'It has always been our way to examine all possibilities, and be mentally prepared for whatever may come our way.

For example, consider what happened at Masada around 73 A.D. A devout Jewish sect, after

holding out against a siege by the Romans, to the best of their ability, and seeing that the murder, rape and torture of their community was inevitable, determined that it was permissible for them to evacuate their bodies by a more dignified, and less agonizing method.

According to Yael Zerubavel, director of the Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University and an expert on Masada, "Obviously this was really a paranoid state" that they were in.

"Masada can become a self-ful-filling prophecy," she said. "If you think everyone's after you, that you will be enslaved, then you may get to the point where you think you have no way of surviving.

Heaven's Gate mass suicide was antithetical to Judaism, which rejects suicide except when the threat of death at the hands of an enemy is imminent, said Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, a historian who serves as chancellor of the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary.

Under such conditions, selfinflicted death is considered martyrdom and a sanctification of

God's name.

The Jewish community's rejection of suicide is embodied in the principle that people who kill themselves should be buried outside the gates of a Jewish cemetery. In practice, though, Jewish law permits most suicides to be viewed as victims of mental illness so that they can be interred nor-

The basic approach is that "Judaism embraces life," Schorsch said. "Judaism is a this-worldly religion, and suicide flies in the face of

embracing life.

Although universally known as the site of a Jewish mass suicide, Masada was initially used as refuge by the very people from whom the Jews later tried to escape. King Herod, the Roman ruler of the region, built an enormous official palace on the rocky promontory in the year 40 B.C.E., when he took his family and fled Jerusalem to escape Mattathias Antigonus, who had been crowned king by the Parthians.

Herod built a fortress on the site as well, between 37 B.C.E. and 31

according Encyclopedia Judaica, and later used it for refuge from the Jewish people and from Cleopatra, the queen of Egypt.

After he died, a Roman garrison was stationed there from the years 6 C.E. to 66 C.E., when, at the outbreak of the Jewish war against the Romans, a Jewish zealot named Menachem captured it. After Menachem was murdered in Jerusalem by Jewish rivals, his nephew Eleazar ruled it until its fall

In the year 72, the Roman governor Flavius Silva marched against Masada, which was the last remaining zealot stronghold of 960 defenders, bringing thousands of troops as well as thousands of Jewish prisoners of war.

After a prolonged siege, the Romans breached the Jewish stronghold and, according to tradition, Eleazar persuaded his followers to kill themselves rather than fall into Roman hands. Two women and five children survived by hiding in a cave.

But the story of the Jews' final chapter, which is based largely on the writing of the historian Josephus - who himself was the only survivor of a Jewish mass suicide in the Galilee and later defected to the Roman side - is historically questionable, said Schorsch.

Nevertheless, it became a myth central to the national Jewish psyche only after the Holocaust, said Zerubavel, when Jews needed to reinvent their national self-image from a people led helplessly to Nazi slaughterhouses into a people ready to die in self-defense rather than be victimized by persecutors.

Indeed, it is atop Masada's summit that Israel's Armored Corps recruits swear their oath of alle-giance, that "Masada Shall Not Fall Again.'

But the iconization of suicide as heroic has come under fire in Israel in recent years, Zerubavel said.

Gaining popularity is the notion that Jewish survival in and of itself is a form of resistance, she said.

'If Jews committed suicide during the Holocaust, many more Jews would have died. By their sheer survival, this is a form of resistance. Sanctifying life is very much in the spirit of Judaism."

Tikkun Magazine Editor Admits Error in Letter-Writing Practice

SAN FRANCISCO (Jewish Bulletin of Northern California and JTA), March 26 - Tikkun magazine editor and publisher Michael Lerner is admitting the error of his ways after a disclosure that he pseudonymously wrote letters to his own magazine. 'It was a mistake and it won't be continued," Lerner said. The mistake, Lerner said, was not that he wrote the letters himself, but that he did not identify the putative senders' names as pseudonyms. However,

saying that he was merely taking positions that had been expressed to him by readers and formulating those opinions in letter form. think that happens all the time,"

The matter came to light in the March issue of Harper's magazine. Chris Lehmann, assistant editor at Tikkun from 1990 to 1992, wrote in a letter to the magazine that Lerner composed pseudonymous letters to Tikkun "that held great

In an interview last week, Lerner denied the charge that he concocted the letters to further his own agenda.

T've never fabricated anything, Lerner said. "I have taken what other people said to me and written it for them when they were unable or unwilling to do it for themselves. If you want to encourage critical debate, you sometimes have to allow for anonymity.

Uncalled For

The absolutely abhorrent notion, which many felt was implied by the statements made on March 31 by Agudath HaRabbonim, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America and Canada, that not all Jews are legitimate members of the Jewish people, is completely foreign to basic principles of Judaism. The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the Rabbinical Council of America, the United Synagogue of America, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Chabad-Lubavitch should be commended for having denounced any statements which do not wholeheartedly support an inclusion of Klal Yisrael as one people.

The Union of Orthodox Rabbis (not to be confused with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the larger Orthodox group of which Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth is a member), while stating that the adherents to the movements are Jews, said, "The Reform and Conservative are not Judaism at all." The statement cited sanctifying interfaith and homosexual marriages.

Many Jews were troubled that the Reform and Conservative movements themselves were described as not Judaism. The majority of affiliated Jews belong to the Reform or Conservative movements. Many of them took no solace in being described individually as Jews only to have their movements described as not Judaism. The synagogues of these streams are where these Jews congregate, celebrate, and worship. many Jews have theological disagreements, the statement of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis was neither the appropriate manner nor the appropriate message to resolve such sincere differences.

The Union of Orthodox Rabbis is a small, relatively weak group which many consider to be a right-wing fringe organization. It is not considered part of mainstream Orthodox Judaism. Furthermore, Rabbi Rafael Grossman, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, the nation's largest organization of Orthodox rabbis, said, 'Anything that can be interpreted as a disenfranchisement of Jews in any way is absolutely unjustified and uncalled for.'

Passover Kashrut Alert

Please be advised that an article by Rabbi Dresin on Passover, appearing in a flyer mailed to members of the Delaware Jewish Community by CaterKart Cuisines, advertising "Passover" foods should in no way be construed to mean that Rabbi Dresin or the Va'ad HaKashrut of Wilmington are certifying these foods as kosher. They are in fact not kosher for Passover nor

The following establishments are under the supervision of the Va'ad HaKashrut of Wilmington: Traditions Caterers (when food is prepared at JCC Kitchen or AKSE); JCC kitchen, Bagels & Donuts (only bagels and bread products); Kutz Home (and catering to Kutz); Steve Bonner - A la Cart Catering (when food is prepared at AKSE); Carvel of Bear and all Carvel products in Wilmington supermarkets with the Va'ad's mark; bakery at Shoprite on 202.

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NOON THURSDAY

12

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- Voice Mail -

Beth Emeth Celebrates

To The Editor:

They arrived alone, as couples, families or groups of friends, many as early as five o'clock for a celebration that wasn't supposed to begin until 6:30. Everyone wanted a good seat for the show. It was March 8th at Temple Beth Emeth and it was a very special night for Rabbi Peter Grumbacher. The community was celebrating his twenty-fifth anniversary of service to Congregation Beth Emeth. By seven o'clock the crowd had swelled to about four hundred. Congregants, friends, professional associates, clergy, guests from New York, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Delaware—all enjoyed a social deli style dinner of roast beef or turkey in small and larger groups at tables, in classrooms, or in auditorium chairs.

By 7:15 caterer Pam Greenfield could feel very happy as she noted the last of her satisfied customers taking that final bite of cake and sip of coffee before heading for their seats. The next part of the evening proved to be as varied and entertaining as everyone hoped it would be. Student cantor Andrew Bernard, joined by fellow cantorial students-Jennifer Blum, soprano; Chanin Becker, alto; and Mark Stanton, bass-

accompanied on the piano by Jack Burnam, filled the chapel and auditorium with joyous music for the next hour. Their concert included songs about teaching, psalms, songs for Shabbat and festival songs of celebration. As music and emotions mingled, the audience was touched by haunting, delicate melodies one moment and stirred to foot tapping accompaniment the next. Their

encore of Debbie Friedman's "L'CHI LACH" received a standing ovation.

Next, members of Congregation Beth Emeth presented an original skit by Doris Fine which included revised lyrics to some of Rabbi Grumbacher's favorite Broadway musicals. The dialogue and songs poked gentle fun at many of the rabbi's personal tastes and habits. The talented cast included Mardian Berman, Fred DeVries, Alex Grumbacher, Mitzi Herrmann, Rabbi Larry Malinger, Dan Medwin, Amira Silber, Paul Timmeney, and Herb Wolfson, accompanied by Ned Gladfelter.

Following the skit a series of speakers roasted Rabbi Grumbacher ever so gently with stories of their associations with him. Yvette Rudnitzky humorously recounted the rabbi's sensitivity to gender issues. Sister Jean Cashman, Director of Sojourner's Place, spoke lightly about the jokes they shared and seriously about their mutual respect and values. Rabbis Larry Malinger and Sarah Messinger sang a comic duet.

Then they each recalled humorous stories of their associations with Rabbi Grumbacher and ended with expressions of admiration and praise for this remarkable teacher and friend. Cantor Yvonne Shore recalled the rabbi's influence upon her as a child, crediting him with the inspiration for her career. She also presented the rabbi with a special gift: a song of her own composition. Pastor David Mueller, of Concordia Lutheran Church, told amusing stories about Rabbi

Continued on page 14

AKSE Responds to Union of Orthodox Rabbis

I would like to make it perfectly clear to the entire Jewish community that Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Delaware's first synagogue, does in no way, shape, manner or form support the pronouncement of the Agudath Ha Rabbonim (Union of Orthodox Rabbis). AKSE is affiliated with Union Of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America which along with the Rabbinical Council of America, has clearly repudiated the Agudath Ha Rabbonim's divisive statements. AKSE is a Traditional Congregation which strives to be as inclusive as possible within the parameters of Halacha and Jewish tradition. Both Rabbi Gewirtz, our Rabbi Emeritus, and myself are, and have

been, active members and team players within the Rabbinical Association of Delaware in the Jewish community and the community at large. It should be noted that the RAD is a paradigm of cooperation among Delaware rabbis who represent all the major movements in Judaism. the Talmud in Pirke Avot, Chapter I, Mishna 1, teaches the following in the name of the sage Avtalyon: "Rabbis, be cautious with your words, for you may incur the penalty of exile and be banished to a place of heresy, the disciples who follow you there may drink and perish, and consequently desecrate the name of G-d.

Rabbi Sanford Dresin Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

cl

Voice Box

"If their way is Judaism, you might as well burn these books."

Rabbi Hersh Ginsberg, Director of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America and Canada, gesturing toward volumes of Talmud and Torah commentary in his home. On March 31 the group made a statement saying that the Reform and Conservative movements are not Judaism.

"To recklessly emphasize the issues that divide and thus seemingly delegitimatize large numbers of Jews harms the efforts of all who seek resolution to the difficult issues facing world Jewry.

From a statement issued by the Rabbinical Council of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America in response to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis' pronouncement.



Intermarriage Inc.: A Review

By RUTH and IRV KAUFFMAN

Special to The Jewish Voice

Wendy Shalits' informative short piece in the March, 1997 issue of Commentary is worth the price of the issue. She describes how the business spirit has seized upon the high rate of intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews in America. That rate shows no visible sign of abatement. Most frequently and increasingly, these marriages do not result in the conversion of the non-Jewish partner. Currently the rate of conversion is 13%, a marked decline from the 1970's when the rate was 28%. The divided religious identity of the intermarried household narrows even further the chance of any Jewish identity for the offspring of these marriages. It is within that context that these new purveyors of intermarriage advice and activities take on special importance to the Jewish community.

Intermarriage greeting cards, wedding invitations, newsletters, trips to Israel, imitation Ketubas and a host of "how to" books on interfaith marriages are only a few of the commercial wares available to interfaith couples. What was formerly a conversation within the family, and in many cases a difficult conversation which may have ended up with a consultation with the religious leaders of the couple's respective faiths, has gradually been replaced by interests of a more public and profit-oriented nature. Indirectly

Shalit's report is telling readers, many of whom who are already nervous about the current health of the American Jewish Community, that we are witnessing the gradual replacement of marital ceremonies and traditions central to the continuity of Jewish life. In their place, as many of us who have been present at these "new age" ceremonies can testify, we have gotten feel-good abstractions and surface symbolism.

Obviously, the creation of a wedding ceremony, or for that matter a married life that is fair to both partner's traditions and histories, is not easy. Usually history and tradition are the losers. In their support of this form of cultural amnesia, these entrepreneurs further the minimalism that currently besets contemporary American Judaism. Creative as these wedding ceremonies may be, Jewish they are not.

The most critical of these religion based decisions facing the intermarried couple is when religious and educational commitments need to be made for the children of the marriage. Shalit examines some of the children's books which are meant to clarify and offer assistance in these complex issues of religious commitment and practices.

cult conversation which may have ended up with a consultation with the religious leaders of the couple's respective faiths, has gradually been replaced by interests of a more public and profit-oriented nature. Indirectly

literature offers an even – handedness of view to the child – a contest between vanilla and chocolate. The portrayal of Judaism in these books is flimsy, skewed to universality and evades the singularity of the Jewish point of view. In some cases, she claims,



these books are clearly detrimental to the Jewish position, and an examination of this literature may offer some answers to the question of why there is such clear evidence that most children of mixed marriages choose to follow a non-Jewish path in their own lives.

The role model for these children already exists and is available for emulation. Shalit quotes an intermarried Jewish male who heads up the education committee in his Jewish community in California.

To be a Jew and a Christian you needn't

resolve the mysteries of the Holy Trinity or accept Jesus as your own personal saviour, or on the other hand accept some halakhic point of view; you only have to live your life in both communities. You may or may not have a bar/bat mitzvah, keep kosher or take communion; you even may or may not believe in God."

Choices and Challenges

By ADAM RUBEN

Special to The Jewish Voice For most people, college life equates to

a higher level of education, social enrichment, and the discovery that clean shirts do not magically appear in drawers on a weekly basis. But for some students, there is another factor involved: Judaism.

Like the shirts, Judaism does not automatically appear in one's college life. Readily accessible Sabbath services, Passover Seders, and Hebrew school need to be reestablished in order to exist. In college, no one will push students to maintain healthy Jewish lives. It is a personal goal that one must create and strive for

Judaism is poisoned by "idle Jews." Many people are Jewish for the sole reason that they were born into Jewish families, as if Judaism was something that could be inherited like green eyes or an extra thumb. In order to work, Judaism must be felt in the heart. Adult Jews (those above the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah) need to make a conscious decision to pursue Judaism at a pace which they set themselves.

The transition from high school to college provides a perfect opportunity for this. At college, teens can define (or redefine) their own sense of Jewishness. It forces a deliberate reckoning of one's own social values and an interpretation of these values into appropriate Jewish customs.

An active dewish life must be played defensively as well. Students unused to anti-Semitism often find themselves more aware of its existence on college campuses than they would like to be. Anti-Semitic students and student groups do exist, and frequently their targets are other students.

In March, the Delaware Branch of the Jewish Community High School of Gratz college presented this and other information in its program "Choices and Challenges: Choosing a College Jewishly." The program was fully assembled and enacted by Gratz staff members including Arlene Bowman, Judy Goldbaum, and Elaine Friedberg. Divided into a Parent Group, a Sophomore and Junior Group, and a Senior Group, this program highlighted areas including Jewish identity, campus anti-Semitism, and avoiding cult activity.

The Senior Group, for example, read through model conversations in which a college student is unwittingly convinced, via an attractive spokesperson, to attend a cult meeting. Once he discovers the true nature of the meeting and leaves, it is too late, and the cult members soon begin waking him up in the early morning to drag him to more meetings.

Judaism is the object of a quest. Its acquisition must be vehemently sought, and its possession must be prudently defended. Otherwise it fails to progress past its categorical designation on college applications: optional.

(Adam Ruben is a student at Gratz Hebrew High School.)

"Unnecessary" Amendment on Religious Freedom Awaits Introduction

By DAN WEINTRAUB

JCRC Director

In late March, Congressman Ernest Istook (OK) unveiled a "religious freedom" constitutional amendment which he plans to introduce after Congress returns from recess April 7. According to Reva Price, Washington Representative of JCPA (formerly the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council), the amendment is similar to one Rep. Istook filed in the last Congress, and will read as follows: "To secure the people's right to acknowledge God: The right to pray or acknowledge religious belief, heritage or tradition on public property, including public schools, shall not be infringed. The government shall not compel joining in prayer, initiate or compose school prayers, discriminate against or deny on account of religion."

The Jewish Council on Public Affairs opposes the "Religious Equality Amendment" as a "sweeping and dangerous attempt to re-write the 'religion clauses' of the First Amendment." According to JCPA, a constitutional amendment is unnecessary. Religious discrimination contemplated by the amendment is already prohibited and voluntary expression in public places, also contemplated by the amendment, is already protected.

The broad-based Coalition to Preserve Religious Liberty, called the Istook amendment, "an assault on the religion clauses of the First Amendment. Despite its disclaimers, the Istook amendment would authorize state-sponsored religious practices, ranging from state-endorsed prayer in our public school classrooms to a legislative proclamation that the United States is a Christian nation to government-subsidized religion. This amendment would allow the



government to coerce, control and compromise religion.

Unwarranted government entanglement in matters of personal religious belief would be another effect of the amendment, according to JCPA. Also, the amendment would effectively authorize organized prayer in school-sponsored settings. Such activities can lead to coercion, harassment or isolation of religious minorities critics charge. What's more, truly voluntary prayer in public schools is already protected by the First Amendment and by many state and federal laws. Finally, amending the Constitution is a profoundly serious undertaking, which alters the fundamental law of the land. As such JCPA recommends only approaching the religion clauses of the Constitution with great caution.

According to Karen Senter, Assistant Executive Vice Chair of JCPA, there is yet no comparable Senate bill. Last year's similar effort was derailed in Congress because of disagreement about wording. Senter indicates that the Christian Coalition has announced plans to spend between one and two million dollars on advertising and a

grassroots campaign supporting the amend-

Why is this a matter of concern for JCRC? The Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD) serves as the representative voice of the organized Delaware Jewish community in addressing the mandate of the Jewish community relations field. That mandate is expressed in two, interrelated goals. The first goal is to safeguard the rights of Jews here, in Israel, and around the world. The second goal is that in order to accomplish the first goal, the JCRC works to protect, preserve, and promote a just American society including in Delaware, one that is democratic and pluralistic.

These goals are pursued in a non-partisan manner informed by Jewish values. History teaches us that Jewish security is inexorably linked to strength of democratic institutions. Thus, our community has a direct stake along with an ethical imperative - in assuring that America remains a country wedded to the Bill of Rights and committed to the rule of law, whose institutions continue to function as a public trust.

The efforts of the JCRC, especially in matters relating to democratic pluralism and social justice, reflects the profound Jewish commitment to "Tikkun Olam," the repair of the world. It expresses the conviction of the organized Jewish community that it must be active in the effort to build a just society.

Interested persons may wish to share their views on the "Religious Freedom" amendment with Senator Joseph Biden, Jr. (D), Senator William V. Roth, Jr. (R) and Congressman Michael N. Castle (R). For more information on the "Religious Freedom" amendment or the JCRC call 427-2100

Highlights of March JFD Board Meeting

*The D'Var Torah was given by Judy Wortman.

*Pat Tarbuton, representing Mutual of America, reviewed JFD's pension plan. The Board of Directors approved the plan as presented.

*Program spotlight: Connie Kreshtool, chair of the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, reviewed the groups activities. Michael Berenbaum gave a lecture in November; the Halina Wind Preston Library collection was transferred from the JCC to the New Castle County Library on Concord Pike; Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies will be held Monday, May 5, 1997 downtown. The group, which is composed of Jews and non-Jews, is seeking new membership and leadership from the Jewish community.

*The minutes from the meeting February approved

*John Elzufon, Chair of JCRC, reviewed the committee's educational activities including a wide range of speakers. Barbara Reitzes, State Issues Chair, presented a proposal to address issues such as welfare reform with our state legislators. After much discussion, this issue was tabled.

*Lelaine Nemser reported that the 1997 campaign is currently at \$1,160,000 including \$150,000 raised at Super Sunday in New Castle and Kent Counties. Board members are encouraged to submit names of those new to the community to the JFD office.

"Judy Wortman reported that the Endowment committee recommended a Greenbaum Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to Daniel Green to study in Israel. This was passed.

*Toni Young, chair of the Population Study Implementation Committee, reported that the Committee met with representative of the synagogues and agencies. They are meeting again in the end of March to bring back input from their groups.

*Leslie Newman congratulated Harriet Kalin on the birth of her grandchild, Al Green on celebrat-50th Wedding ing his Anniversary, Roger Levy on the engagement of his daughter, Judy Wortman on the engagement of her stepson and Suzanne Grant on the opening of her husband's new partnership. The Board was reminded of three upcoming events: the JCRC program Women in Green, YLAD program with Saul Wachs on Pesach

Next meeting April 17th at 7:30 in the JCC.





Holocaust Themes in 60's Television

Jewish Studies' Lecture Series at UD Continues

Jeffrey Shandler, a fellow of the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, will discuss "Aliens in the Wasteland: American Encounters with the Holocaust in '60s Science Fiction Television Series" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, in Kirkbride Lecture Hall on West Delaware Avenue in Newark. The free public

program is part the University of Delaware Center for Jewish Studies' Tuesday Evening Lecture

The media has provided most Americans with their primary encounter with the Holocaust. Films and television programs, in particular, have played a strategic role in defining the Holocaust as an

important moral paradigm in American public culture. This lecture will consider the distinctive ways that television has shaped American understandings of the Holocaust by examining episodes of two science fiction series of the 1960s - "The Twilight Zone" and the original "Star Trek" - which both offer highly imaginative retellings of the Holocaust in otherworldly settings.

According to Shandler, these programs demonstrate how television has facilitated an American conceptualization of the Holocaust as a morally galvanizing event of universal significance. They also provide compelling examples of how the medium makes use of key images and themes associated with the Holocaust to create fictional retellings of this chapter of history in ways that link its significance to the ethical concerns of contemporary American life.

Shandler is a scholar of modern Jewish culture. He holds a Ph.D. in Both will be held in Kirkbride Hall.

Yiddish studies from Columbia University and has been a staff member of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York. He has published articles and lectured on such topics as modern Yiddish literature, Jewish memory culture and Jewish self-portraiture in the American media.

He has worked as a curator at YIVO, the National Jewish Archive of Broadcasting at the Jewish Museum in New York and the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. His forthcoming book on presentations of the Holocaust on American television will be published by the Oxford University Press next year. His translations of Yiddish literature include Mani Leyb's children classic "Yingl-Tsingl-Khvat.

For additional information on this talk, contact the Frank and Yetta Chaiken Center for Jewish Studies at the University, telephone (302) 831-3324.

Other talks scheduled in the Tuesday Evening Series include Tressa Grauer on "Inventing Identity in Post-War Jewish-American Literature," on May 6; and Jay Halio on "Jewish American Literature," on May 13.

Holocaust Survivor to Speak at ORT High Tea

The Brandywine Chapter of Women's American ORT will hold its annual donor event Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m. at the Hotel Dupont in Wilmington. Holocaust survivor Bernie Spiegel will be the featured speaker at the High Tea.

was born Spiegel Czechoslovakia. At the age of 13 he was taken to a concentration camp where he remained for 18 months. Upon his release, he attended an ORT school in London, from 1946-1948. This year he documented his Holocaust experience with the Steven Spielberg Foundation.

A retired businessman, Spiegel resides in Elkins Park, PA with his wife, Marilyn. The couple have three children, Gwen Toyzer, Ken Spiegel, and ORT member, Annette Aerenson.

Seating is limited to 40, and will be available on a first come, first served basis. The cost is \$24 above donor. For reservations or further information, contact event chairperson Shara Bubes at 477-0596.

Are you concerned about the future of the Jewish community in Delaware? Marc Shandler wants to speak with you. Call him at 427-2100, Ext. 19.

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NEWS AND COMMENTARY

As Immigrants Begin to Lose Aid, Jewish Groups Try to Limit Damage

NEW YORK, April 1 (JTA) -Elizabetta Kostoveskaya is paralyzed from a stroke and suffering from Alzheimer's, homebound in a subsidized apartment run by the Council for Jewish Elderly in Chicago.

Since her emigration from Kiev in 1992, the 84-year-old has relied on government assistance, which she was entitled to for five years as a refugee.

But those five years were up in February, and new laws dictate that she be cut off from food stamps and a host of other benefits she depends on for survival.

Kostoveskaya is far from alone.

Legal immigrants who are not citizens, including an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 Jews, will begin this month to feel the anticipated but dreaded federally mandated cuts in benefits that are their life-

These cuts are the parts of last year's welfare reform that President Clinton himself singled out as harsh even as he signed it.

At the time, he pledged to correct the most onerous provisions, but many immigrants are certain to endure suffering and hardship before the president's or any other proposed corrections could take

As of April 1, non-citizen immi-

grants no longer are eligible to receive food stamps. On Aug. 1, they will begin to be cut off from Supplemental Security Income, an average of \$500 and \$600 monthly, which recipients spend mostly

Anticipation of these blows has triggered a rush of applications for citizenship. But some of the most frail and disabled will fall through the cracks because they are not be able to perform the most minimal naturalization requirements.

Ostensibly, a new budget plan could ameliorate the harsh impact of the law, but it would not be implemented until the fall, at the

Experts say the budget is likely to reflect some compromise between the roughly \$14.5 billion in changes the president has proposed and other plans now circulating on Capitol Hill.

Technically, congressional lead-

ership could decide to act sooner, by approving a supplemental appropriation in the current budget aimed at immigrant relief.

And some states have initiated some "fixes" to offset the loss of food stamps and SSI. But when such aid could be made available depends on each state's budget

Given all the uncertainty, immi-

Continued on page 15

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SPECIAL REPORT

Conversion Bill Moves Forward

By DAVID LANDAU

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) — A joint statement by the Council of Jewish Federations, United Jewish Appeal, United Israel Appeal and the Jewish Agency for Israel expressed disappointment that the Israeli Knesset passed, on first reading, a bill that, in the organizations' words, "does damage to our understanding of Jewish unity and thus delegitimizes a large segment of world Jewry."

The statement continued that, "while recognizing the sovereign right of the State of Israel to conduct its own government affairs, we are on record... as objecting to any legislation that would change the status quo with regard to religious status questions in Israel. We

Hours: 8:00 to 5:30

believe that this proposed legislation sends a message, intentional or not, that the variety of Jewish religious expressions of our people are not acceptable to the Government of Israel. This is a divisive message for the Jewish people."

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, reportedly said, "If Reform rabbis in Israel are not rabbis and their conversions there are not conversions, that means... we are secondclass Jews. This is absolutely unacceptable to American Jews."

Rabbi Ismar Schorch, chancellor of the Conservative Movement's Jewish Theological Seminary, called the conversion bill "a tragedy

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for Israel and a tragedy for Israel-Diaspora relations."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is accusing Reform and Conservative activists in Israel of "misrepresenting" the controversial new conversion bill to their communities in the United States. The Prime Minister said some of the misrepresentation seemed to be "willful."

Scores of Jewish organizations are urging the Prime Minister and the Knesset to "make every effort to equitably address these important issues of unity."

Israel has never recognized Reform and Conservative conversions carried out in Israel. However on Israeli Supreme Court decision many months ago suggested that recognition of such conversions could be appropriate but left the final decision to the Knesset. Opponents of the conversion bill saw in the Court's decision the state opportunity for greater state recognition of Reform and Conservative movements in Israel. Netanyahu said 99 percent of American Jews seemed to believe wrongly that the new legislation meant that Israel would refuse in the future to recognize Reform and Conservative conversions performed in the United States. Netanyahu said he would never allow such an erosion of the status quo. Israel, he stressed, had always recognized such conversions

The Prime Minister made the remarks to Jewish journalists April 1, just hours after the Knesset passed the measure in a 51-32 vote, with seven abstentions, in the first of three Knesset votes known as readings.

and would continue to do so.

Netanyahu said the initiative merely "formalizes" Israel's non-recognition of Reform and Conservative conversions carried out in Israel. Yet he indicated that the legislative process would be frozen if the two non-Orthodox denominations stopped the petitions they now have before the High Court of Justice seeking recognition of their conversions. Such a freeze would provide "an opportunity for creative solutions,"

In Israel, however, Reform and Conservative leaders said that while they welcomed efforts to strike a compromise, they would not cease litigation efforts. The Jewish Agency Committee on the Unity of the Jewish People, upon which all the groups striving to further enhance the Supreme Court's encouragement of acceptance of non-Orthodox conversions performed in Israel, are also hoping the bill is not passed.

Netanyahu said it had been the misguided efforts by these movements to use the court in the first place to change the religious "status quo" that had "forced" his governing coalition to back the Orthodox-inspired proposed legislation.

The Knesset now was moving to "formalize" that non-recognition because the non-Orthodox movements had tried, by litigation, to change the status quo.

"What I hoped would happen," he said, "was that someone would have the good sense to remove the litigations."

Netanyahu downplayed the significance of the controversy.

He said the fact that non-Orthodox rabbis were not recognized here obviously aggravated many people. But he said it was very far from "the issue of earthshattering proportions that people represent it to be."

The premier took sharp issue with what he called "fringe elements" in the Orthodox camp in the United States and the United Kingdom who spoke against all contact between their communities and non-Orthodox communities.

"I find such talks quite shocking and wholly unacceptable," he said.

Meanwhile, the premier praised the two non-Orthodox denominations as "indispensable parts of the Jewish world and of Judaism, vital" in 'keeping the fabric of Diaspora Jewry unified.

Referring to threats from some

quarters to cut off philanthropic funds to Israel or rechannel them, Netanyahu said that "these come from uninformed circles, or, worse, from informed circles who know the truth and still threaten."

The UJA/Federation campaign provides no resources to the government of Israel. Campaign funds resettle Jews from the former Soviet Union. Some campaign funds support Reform and Conservative movements' programs in Israel. No campaign funds support organizations working to delegitimize the Reform or Conservative movements.

(The Jewish Voice Staff contributed to this report.)

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SYNAGOGUE



Rabbi Grumbacher enjoying the entertainment. Photo courtesy of Barry Wexler.



Rabbi Grumbacher thanking the congregation. Photo courtesy of Barry Wexler.

Rabbi Grumbacher

continued from page 4

Grumbacher's childhood in New York and their personal and pro-

fessional relationship throughout many years, concluding with high praise for his friend. Teacher and close friend, Sue Paul issued Rabbi Grumbacher's report card. It was his third and showed steady improvement in effort and achievement.

Congregation Michael President Joseph offered a toast on behalf of the congregation. His praise for Rabbi Grumbacher beautifully expressed the universal love and gratitude of the community for his twentyfive years of outstanding leadership. Next, Rabbi Gerry Walter of Temple Sholom in Cincinnati, Ohio and Adjunct Professor of Practical Rabbinics at Hebrew Union College spoke about his friend-

ship with Rabbi Grumbacher and his remarkable career at Beth Emeth. Rabbi Walter announced that Rabbi Grumbacher would be awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Hebrew Union College in New York on March 18th

To mark the occasion, Rabbi Grumbacher received a beautiful portrait created by artist Barry



Esther Timmeney and Susan Cobin, co-chairpesons of the 25th Anniversary Celebration. Photo courtesy of Barry Wexler.

Wexler based on a photograph of Hebrew the rabbi blessing his daughter Elana, artfully composed of

letters constituting a pas-

sage from Torah. Most appropriately, the congregation further honored Rabbi Grumbacher by



Left to right: Mark Stanton, Chanin Becker, Jennifer Blum, Andrew Bernard. Photo courtesy of Barry Wexler.



CONGREGANT SKIT. Standing (left to right): Rabbi Malinger, Herb Wolfson, Mitzi Herrmann, Fred DeVries, Paul Timmeney, Alex Grumbacher, Mardian Berman. Seated on left Dan Medwin, on right Amira Silber. Photo courtesy of Barry Wexler.

establishing a perpetual scholarship fund in his name at Hebrew Union College for the training of rabbis for generations yet to come. As part of the celebration, generous donations produced several thousand dollars for this laudable

purpose.

Finally, Rabbi Grumbacher rose to express his thanks to everyone who had made the evening, and indeed his years at Beth Emeth, so wonderful. In addition to those who spoke and performed, he praised the chairpersons for the event Sue Cobin and Esther Timmeney and the members of their committee. Rabbi Grumbacher concluded with an expression of his special love and gratitude for his wife Suzy and children Elana, Alex and David. It was a celebration that will long be remembered by everyone who attended.

> Paul Timmeney Wilmington

April 13 is Beth **Emeth** Mitzvah Day

On Sunday, April 13, two hundred and fifty members of Congregation Beth Emeth will join together to work on service projects across the community. They will paint, entertain, cook, visit, clean up, collect and deliver. On this Mitzvah Day they are volunteering in over twenty community agencies to help the homeless, the elderly, and others who need assistance in meeting their daily needs.

Religious school students will participate by donating their outgrown clothing and used books and preschool youngsters will participate by decorating Passover bas-

Governor Tom Carper will join volunteers at the Kick-off Breakfast at the Temple at 9:00 AM. Connie Kreshtool and Bonnie and Bryan Silbermann are Co-Chairpersons of this event. For more information call 654-4663.



Continued from page 7

grants and their advocates are taking nothing for granted. They are up in arms and trying to stave off the worst.

The Union of Councils of Soviet and the American Association of Jews from the Former Soviet Union are planning a big protest April 14 on Capitol Hill. They are hoping to bring thousands of immigrants from across the country to demonstrate their fears and concerns.

"All the immigrants are very grateful to the United States" for providing them a home, but "we're very worried about the situation in the welfare bill depriving them of social benefits," said Leonid Stonov.

Stonov, the president of the American Association, left Moscow with his family in 1990, 11 years after he applied to emigrate and was labeled a refusenik.

Stonov, a biologist in Moscow, and his wife are U.S. citizens. But his 93-year-old mother does not know English and he does not believe that she would be able to take the citizenship test. She has already received notice that her SSI benefits will be terminated in August, her son said.

He also worries about the loss of benefits to other "old people," most of whom are "veterans of the Second World War or are victims of the Nazis' or Stalin's concentration camps.

For its part, the Council of Jewish Federations has scheduled a leadership mission April 16 to lobby the administration and Congress to remedy the harsh measures.

"This is a national tragedy in the making," said Pamela Seubert, director of government programs for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Those who supported welfare reform never envisioned that we would break the social contract with those who played by the rules," she said.

"When we discuss welfare-towork, we're not talking the elderly and disabled," she said.

'As a feature of welfare reform," this makes no sense, she

Vast numbers of Jews entered the United States as refugees, especially from the former Soviet

Refugees are not affected by the new law, and remain eligible for five years for SSI, food stamps and a host of other benefits. But after

five years, they lose the benefits unless they become citizens or meet other exemptions, such as proof of work for 40 annual quar-

Such immigrant cutoffs are illogical on their face, said Gary Rubin, public policy director of the New York Association for New Americans.

"These are people who came here in their later years and had no opportunity to build up pensions and other benefits" for their old

"Nobody expects this popula-tion to be self-supporting," he said. And if these people lose their benefits, it will be "impossible" for the Jewish community or anyone

else to pick up the slack. The organized Jewish community is therefore concentrating its efforts on trying to soften the blows of the budget ax at the federal and state level, said Diana Aviv, director of the CJF office in Washington.

Monetarily, she said, "the communities can't make up the difference. This is one of the severest shudders the community has suffered in decades.

The CJF, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and other immigrant advocacy organizations are also

pushing hard to get as many people naturalized as possible.

But they say backlogs caused by frantic immigrants means gaps of many months between the application for citizenship and naturalization, and these are months when benefits will be suspended.

Aviv said the CJF has applied for a \$2.5 million grant to the Open Society Institute established by philanthropist George Soros to help local federations naturalize immigrants, adding to the pot already targeted by some federations for this purpose.

HIAS also has "ratcheted up its efforts" with new yearlong regional programs to train hundreds of people so they can return to their communities and naturalize peo-

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ple, said Mark Seal, the group's associate executive vice president.

Beyond those whose refugee exemption is set to expire, these initiatives are targeting legal immigrants who have been here for years but suddenly are poised to lose their benefits unless they natu-

For those too frail or disabled to take the citizenship test, the Immigration and Naturalization Service issued a ruling a few weeks ago spelling out certain waivers.

Seubert and Seal both said the waivers help by allowing some people, depending on individual circumstances, to bypass certain portions of the test or take it in their native language.

NACHES



Pennock-Bronte

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Pennock, of Kennett Township, announce the

engagement of their daughter, Stacy Gwendolyn, to Stephen Michael Bronte. Mr. Bronte is the son of Mr. Les Bronte and Mrs. Isabel Bronte of Beverly Hills,

The bride-to-be graduated from the Tatnall School and Boston University. She received a Master of Fine Arts degree in Film Production from UCLA. She is the Director of Development with DeeGee Entertainment in Los Angeles. Her father is a cardiologist and practices with Cardiology Consultants, P.A. in Wilmington. Her mother is an interior designer.

The groom-to-be owns a custom framing company and is its designer. He is currently a student at Santa Monica College, and will be attending Pratt Institute of Art in the Fall. He graduated from Beverly Hills High School. His father and mother are in the import business and his father is vice-mayor of Beverly Hills.

An early summer wedding is planned at the home of the bride's parents.

Freeman-Bosworth

Lauren D. Freeman, daughter of Steve and Sheila Freeman of Miami, Florida, and granddaughter of Isadore N. Silverman of Wilmington has become engaged to Brian P. Bosworth, son of Dr. Jay and Judi Bosworth of Great Neck, New York. Both are graduates of Princeton University. Lauren and Brian are currently students at Columbia University (in law and medicine, respectively).

Bleich-**Panitz** Birth

Deena (nee Panitz) and Mark Bleich of Gaithersburg, MD announce the birth of their daughter, Ilana Judy, on March 9, 1997.

Grandparents are Sylvia and Bernard Panitz of Wilmington, DE and Rita and Walter Bleich of Olney, MD.

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Arts · Entertainment · Books

Words & Music:

Worming on to Your Bookshelves

By STEVE COHEN

The Jewish Voice Entertainment Reporter

A brief lull in the theater season gives me a chance to comment on several books of interest. Each one of them is exceptional and has added relevance for Jewish readers.

The Five Books of Miriam by Judith Frankel is a version of the Torah as it might have been written by women, instead of by Moses. Frankel is editor of the Jewish Publication Society and obviously has assimilated the biblical texts and commentaries that JPS publishes and filtered them through her knowledge of female Jewish figures.

Because it draws on obscure sources and elaborates on legends that are unknown to most Jews of today, her book is not easy reading. It requires concentration, but it rewards that extra effort. After a thorough contemplation of *The Five Books of Miriam* you'll come away with renewed admiration for the depth and complexity of the Jewish religion and respect for the exploration that Frankel has done into the feminine roots of Judaism.

Her text expands Judaism and gives us inspiring new fables to add to the familiar ones we remember

What's on TV?

On Sunday, April 20 at 3:00 p.m., "Passover: Traditions of Freedom" explore the traditions and ethnic celebrations of Passover from around the world. Even though Passover is observed in a similar manner throughout the world, family customs and regional differences bring a unique cultural experience to each celebration. This one-hour special includes shots from Israel and the United States intertwined with ancient customs and individual family stories connected with the history and tradition of Passover. Other topics examined include the making of Passover matzah, the history of the first harvest of green vegetables. the importance of wine in Jewish tradition and liturgy, and the desert origins of Passover celebrations. Passover: Traditions of Freedom airs Sunday, April 20 at 3:00 p.m.

On Sunday, April 20 at 4:00 p.m. Shari's Passover Surprise will feature Shari Lewis, Emmy Awardwinning creator of the popular series Lamb Chop's Play-along. She returns to primetime with a new family special celebrating Passover. Jewish traditions, Passover, the history of Exodus, and the reason for the seder are explored with songs, warmth, and fun throughout the program. Dom DeLuise, Robert Guillaume, and Alan Thicke guest star. Shari's Passover Surprise airs Sunday, April 20 at 4:00 p.m.

from the Torah.

Deborah, Golda and Me by Letty Cottin Pogrebin makes great companion reading for The Five Books of Miriam. It eschews legend and gives us a down-to-earth first-person look at what it's like to be Jewish and female in America now. Pogrebin is a leader of the feminist movement who never abandoned her Jewish upbringing. In act, she criticized the women's movement and specific individuals when they refused to confront modern anti-Semitism.

Since Pogrebin has such a quick mind and good Jewish education, this is much more than a memoir. It is a testament of modern Jewish feminism and a guide to how to challenge the establishment and blaze new trails to broader the Jewish lives of men and women. The book's intimate tales of Pogrebin's family give good examples of how to forge richer experiences in our own homes. Pogrebin's book is five years old and is worth searching for

Sister Brother by Brenda Wineapple is the biography of Gertrude and Leo Stein. It details the interwoven lives of the writer and her older brother, who was a great collector of art. After Leo wrote a parody of his sister's writing in 1937, the two siblings became estranged. Gertrude wrote: "It destroyed him for me and it destroyed me for him."

I particularly was fascinated by

the detailed description of what it was like to grow up as well-to-do, cultured American Jews in the 1880's and 1980's. This is an area that hasn't sufficiently been covered.

A Talent For Trouble by Jan Herman is the biography of Hollywood's most acclaimed director, William Wyler. He was less colorful than a Chaplin or a Welles and it's hard to sustain the excitement that's promised on the book jacket: "his stormy affairs with some of the top stars of filmdom."

Instead, what makes the book valuable is its chronicle of Wyler's film career. His pictures won 38 Academy Awards, twice as many any other director's Intentionally, he directed many different genres: the classics (Wuthering Heights), spectacle (Ben Hur), sophisticated comedy (Roman Holiday), musicals (Funny Girl) and dark drama (The Heiress). And then there was the unique summation of Wyler's generation, the American men who went away, fought World War II and came home. The Best Years of Our Lives.

Wyler was a Jewish immigrant, born in Alsace. He was nonpracticing to a troubling extent but his Jewish background motivated two of his greatest achievements. He was an early advocate for the USA going to war against Nazi Germany and made that great anti-Nazi propaganda film, Mrs. Miniver.

After the war Wuler was one of the leaders of resistance to witch-hunting. Along with fellow Jews Ira Gershwin, Edward G. Robinson, Danny Kaye and Lauren Bacall and a large number of non-Jews, Wyler organized the Committee for the First Amendment. The normally self-effacing director made a national radio broadcast in which he said:

Any investigation into the political beliefs of individuals is contrary to the basic principles of our democracy. Fear will result in self-censorship. Self-censorship will paralyze the screen.

Jan Herman, a theater writer based in Los Angeles, has done an impressive work of journalism with Wyler's life.

The Box by Jeff Kisseloff is a valuable oral history of the formative years of television. We knew, of course, that early industry leaders like David Sarnoff and William Paley were Jewish. What we didn't know is the virulence of anti-Semitism directed against them. Kisselhoff recounts this attack by the Zenith Corporation's Eugene McDonald:

[Sarnoff is] a monopolistic predator who played scheming Russian tricks to enforce RCA's illegal clutch in the industry.

A Jewish TV executive, Ted Bergmann, tells Kisselhoff how blue-chip advertisers Proctor & Gamble, Lever Brothers and Colgate refused to hire Jews and

didn't want to deal with Jews. Early TV entertainers, of course, were predominantly Jewish, and in these pages we get to hear great behind-the-scenes yarns about Sid Caesar, Milton Berle, Carl Reiner, Jerry Lewis, and many more.

Paley got his start as co-owner of WCAU in Philadelphia and Sarnoff founded RCA in Camden, so the book has many stories centered in the Delaware Valley. There also are vivid vignettes of what local television was like in the early days in Philadelphia, told by local people.

Of special merit is the chapter devoted to the anti-Communist blacklist years. We usually hear about the Hollywood aspects of it; this is what went on in broadcasting. The wrenching first-person stories are more academic than any other history of that period that I've read.

One observation personalizes the axiom sic transit gloria. I once had the privilege of visiting Robert Sarnoff, the man who was president of NBC after the retirement of his father, who was founder of RCA and NBC. In his executive office at Radio City, I was introduced to him by Manie Sacks, a Philadelphian who became head of RCA Victor. The author of this book tried to track down Sarnoff in the early 1990's. A young NBC employee asked: "How do you spell Sarnoff?" Wow, imagine how old that makes me feel!

Book Review Unfinished People

Eastern European Jews Encounter America By Ruth Gay, 309p, W.W. Norton, \$27.50

By MARVIN CYTRON

Special to The Jewish Voice
Between 1880 and the outbreak
of the First World War, nearly three
million European Jews were part of
the great migration of Europeans
to America. Ruth Gay, the child of
two young Jewish immigrants,
grew up in the Bronx in a society
of immigrants trying to bridge their
lives between their "old" and
"new" worlds. Not satisfied with
the popular depiction of the life of
these immigrants she adds her recollections of this dynamic period of
Jewish life in America.

These Jewish immigrants were far different than their co-religionists that preceded them to America; often uneducated, with limited skills they came from dirt floor homes in poor villages and with few possessions. The author provides an informal history of this migration along with the day to day life of work and play. A world of Yiddish newspapers, Yiddish theater, kosher restaurants, and Synagogues all part of a life from their "shtetls" in Eastern Europe and this new world of diverse cultures and backgrounds, secular

public schools, community politics, factories, unions and yes, even vacations (often to the Catskills).

With chapters titled, "Chairs," "Awnings," "Hats," "Papers" and 'Work" she vividly described their lifestyle; scrubbed linoleum floors (often covered with newspaper until just before the Sabbath), living in the back of the family owned corner candy store, Sunday pilgrimages to Coney Island, eco-nomic trials of the Great Depression, the unheard proposition that a Jewish girl should go to college. They also struggled with the dichotomy of traditions and their new life in America, Ms. Gay relates in "Hats" her family's attendance at New York's Temple Emanuel on a Saturday morning: "Our little group entered, took seats in the quiet under populated sanctuary... Suddenly one of the Temple officials came down the aisle and spoke to them 'You," he said, addressing them collectively. Here we take off our hats in the sanctuary.' They were dumbfounded. They remonstrated. They cited Talmudic Law. They cited custom. They always wore their hats, not only in synagoque, but on the street, at work and of course, at home. The official was unmoved... With aching hearts they were about to bare their heads when suddenly their tormentor pointed to one member of the group who had a beard 'All right. This one,' he said magnanimously, 'he can wear his bat'

For many readers the chapter



"Food" will bring back memories and longing for dishes that for many a reader is only a memory. Homemade blintzes, heart warming lokshen, fresh pletzel and no Sabbath afternoon was complete without a glazzele tea and homemade mandlebrot. Ms. Gay claims today's fashionable Italian biscotti is not nearly as satisfying as the mandlebrot of her childhood and to prove her point she provides a recipe. Remember cream cheese at the corner grocery sold from twopound blocks put up in wooden boxes, with beautifully doweled corners, where the cover slid magically in groves across the top?" Ms. Gay remembers well and provides the reader with an intimate, funny, sometimes poignant, and colorful description of this remarkable period in the history of Jews in America. Whether you are a first generation born American Jew, as is this reviewer, or your great, great grand whatever came to America way back when and whether you grew up in Bronx. Boston's West End, Easton or Goodfellow Avenue in St. Louis, Philadelphia's Strawberry Mansion or Chicago's "old" West side, this book, as my bubbeh would say, is a real mechaieh. So... read and

(Marvin Cytron is a former member of the Editorial Committee of The Jewish Voice, has served as interim editor of this publication and periodically contributes book reviews and feature articles.)



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DOUBLE COUPONS

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.

A.K.S.E. Men's Brunch - On Sunday, April 13, 1997, at 9:30 a.m., the A.K.S.E. Men's Club will feature Tom Gordon, New Castle County Executive, to speak on the topic of "Reinventing County Government and Reforming the Land Use Decision Making Process.

The A.K.S.E. Men's Club monthly Sunday Brunch is open to the public. Brunch is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. and the program is from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$3.00 for an all-you-can-eat deluxe Sunday brunch. Reservations for nonmembers are suggested and can be made by contacting the A.K.S.E. office at (302) 762-

Cafe Tamar - May 11 in the AKSE Social Hall. Program entitled "From Dream to Reality" will celebrate the 49th year of Israel's independence and 100 years of Zionism. Program begins at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$4 for children under 12 and are available

through the synagogue office, 762-2705. Refreshments will be served.

Divorced Men's Support Group - Newark. 7:30 Sunday night. 9 Casho Mill Rd. Call JFS. 478-9411 for reservations. Join a group of men as we discuss issues confronting divorced men.

Kutz Home Auxliary Annual Donor Luncheon - Dr. Arthur Fost is the featured speaker at the Kutz Home Auxiliary's annual Donor Luncheon on Wednesday, April 16th at the Brandywine Country Club. As a pediatrician, allergist and medical officer, Dr. Fost has spent time as a volunteer relief worker in Third World countries periodically over the last twenty years. Anyone interested in receiving an invitation to the Luncheon is encouraged to call the Kutz Home at 764-7000 or Miriam Edell, Auxiliary President, at 656-2165. The giving categories for this Luncheon are Diamond (\$150), Gold (\$75), Donor (\$45), and Guest (\$50).

Minyans - Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth (Traditional), Washington Boulevard and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE, 762-2705, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m. exc. Fri., Sunday-8 p.m. Chabad (Orthodox), 1306 Grinnell Road, Wilmington, DE, 478-4400, Sunday, 9:00 a.m., 208 Cheltenham Drive, Newark, DE, 455-1800, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Congregation Beth Emeth (Reform), 300 West Boulevard, Wilmington, DE 764-2393, Monday 19802. through Friday, 7:55 a.m.

Congregation Beth Shalom (Conservative), 1801 Baynard Boulevard, Wilmington, DE, 654-4462, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m., Sunday, 9:15 a.m.

Mitzvah Day - Mark your calendars now for Beth Emeth's first ever Mitzvah Day on Sunday, April 13, 1997. Planned as a day of reaching out to those in need in the Wilmington area, Mitzvah Day will feature a range of diverse community projects suitable for all ages. Family participation is encouraged.

Volunteers are needed. Call Connie Kreshtool at 654-4663 or Bonnie and Bryan Silbermann at 239-9448 for more information.

Passover Celebration Celebrate Passover with Elli and Ali as they sing traditional songs of the holiday and tell the story of Pesach at Borders in North Wilmington, Route 202, on April 27 at 2 p.m. Call 477-0361 for more informa-

Passover Cooking Demonstration -The Brandywine Chapter of Women's American ORT is sponsoring an evening of Passover cooking demonstrations and recipe sharing on Wednesday, April 9, at 7 p.m. in the JCC Library Lounge. Susan Warner of Catercart Cuisines will demonstrate the preparation of several dishes which will be available for sampling that evening. In addition, favorite Passover recipes of ORT members will be distributed. The program is open to the community at no charge, but space is limited. Please RSVP to Wendi Weingartner at 475-4416.

Reform Judaism Classes -"A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?" is the title and theme for a free three-session class, for adults who would like to explore Reform Judaism's relevance in today's world. Students are invited

to learn about Reform Judaism's perspectives on topics of spirituality, values and community. Classes will be offered on Sunday afternoons, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., April 6, 13 and 20. All sessions will take place at Congregation Beth Emeth, located at 300 W. Lea Boulevard in Wilmington. Classes are designed for beginners. Call Lee Burstein at 764-1776 for more information.

Relationship Line -"L'haber," sponsored by JFS, will help you meet someone and turn a date into a productive relationship. Call 478-

S.Y. Agnon Lecture - Ann Jaffee will share her insights into the personal life and works of the Nobel Prize winning author S.Y. Agnon. Jaffe, an admirer of Agnon, will examine a few of this reknown Jewish writer's short stories at Borders in North Wilmington, Route 202, on April 30 at 7 p.m. Call 477-0361 for more information.

Teen Gym Night - The Teen Services Department at the JCC is currently offering free Teen Gym Nights for 7th through 12th graders. The first Saturday of the month is reserved for all Junior High students to use the facilities from 8:00-10:30 p.m. and the second Saturday of the month is reserved for all Senior High stu-

Teens can play half/full court basketball, soccer, hockey and volleyball. In addition, the teens can enjoy use of our state-of-the-art Fitness Center. The basic principles of exercise and fitness are taught on new strength training and aerobic conditioning machines. Teens have the opportunity to develop their overall fitness level. For more information about Teen Gym Nights, please call Etai Belinky, Community Teen Coordinator, at (302) 478-5660.

Torah Classes in Wilmington - Mondays: 8 p.m. - Talmud. Tuesday: 12:30 at 1 Rodney Square - Skaden Arps: Talmud. Wednesdays: Behind The Lines, The weekly Torah portion, 8:30 p.m. Call Rabbi Vogel at Chabad in Wilmington at 478-4400 for more information.

Torah Study in Newark -Mon.-7-8:30: Secrets of Existence; 8:30-9:30: Talmud

Tues.-7:00: Rambam's Mishnah Torah; 8:00: Intro to Jewish Mysticism. Individual classes available. Call Rabbi Sneiderman at Chabad, 455-1800.

Trip to National Museum of American Jewish History on May 4 - 11 a.m.: Bus leaves Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, 12 p.m.: Full course banquet luncheon at Kosher Chinese Singapore Vegetarian Restaurant, 1:30-3 p.m.: Bus will transport everyone to the Museum for a complete tour, including the current exhibition "Daughter of Zion," featuring Henrietta Szold (founder of Hadassah) and American Jewish Womanhood, 3 p.m.: Bus leaves for Wilmington, expected to arrive at Adas Kodesch around 4 p.m. All for \$18 (provided we fill the bus). Price includes round trip transportation, lunch, tax and tip. For more information and reservations, contact Sharon Sternberg, 478-4851. All reservations must be made no later than April 4th.

Women's Seder -Sunday, April 27 members of the Judaism and Feminism group that is sponsored by Jewish Family Service of Delaware will celebrate their fifth annual Women's Seder. It will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Marion Hamermesh. The community is invited to attend, but because of limited seating, reservations are necessary and should be made by April 18 by calling Yvette Rudnitzky, 762-6371. The cost of \$10 includes a copy of the hagaddah written and compiled by the Judaism and Feminism group for the first Women's Seder in 1993. For those who have the hagaddah, the cost is \$7

Yom Hashoah Observance -The Rabbinic Association of

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OBITUARIES

SYLVIA ABLEMAN

Sylvia Ableman, 87, of 111 Executive Center Drive, West Palm Fla., Beach, Fla., formerly of Wilmington, died March 24 at home. Mrs. Ableman had been an auditor with the Internal Revenue Service, Wilmington, for 22 years before retiring in 1972. She was a former member of Congregation Beth Shalom, B'nai B'rith Women, Order of Golden Chain, and the American Medical Center of Denver. Her husband, Jacob

ISRAEL BONDS

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1-800-752-5671 "Jack" died in 1982.

Survivors include son, Herbert M. Ableman of North Palm Beach; daughter, Lois A. Frankel of Webster Farms, Brandywine Hundred, Del.; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

DOROTHY MERITZ

Dorothy Meritz, 86, of 704 River Road, Wilmington, formerly of Deerfield Beach, Fla., died arch 21 at the Kutz Home for the Aged.

Mrs. Meritz was a homemaker and member of the Deborah Heart & Lung Foundation, Hadassah and Order of Golden Chain. Her husband, Herman M. Meritz, died in

Survivors include son, Leonard of Wilmington; daughters, Rachelle Lipman of Wilmington, and Roberta S. Reich of Charleston, S.C.; brother, Joseph Abrams of Philadelphia; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

LEO SCHICK

Leo Schick, peacefully on March 27, Beth Israel Hospital, NYC. Beloved husband of Nora. Beloved father of Carol Rothschild and Nina Appel and father-in-law of Steven Rothschild and Alfred Appel, Jr. Loving grandfather of Karen and Gene Oshman, Richard Appel and Mona Simpson, Jeffrey and Peter Rothschild. Great-grandfather of Stephen, Katherine and Gabriel. In lieu of flowers, contributions to American Society for Technion, 810 Seventh Ave., 24th Floor, N.Y., N.Y. 10019

Schwartz Unveiling

The unveiling for Nathan Schwartz will be held at the Mazhzikey Hadas Cemetery at 1:00 p.m., April 13, 1997.

For additional information contact Allen Schwartz at 234-9235.

CAILENIDA

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Delaware Holocaust Memorial Observance will be held at Temple Beth El at 7:30 p.m. May 6, 1997. The format for the remembrance will take a different form this year. Rather than a service, most of the evening will consist of remembering particular individuals from the Shoah and their creative talents. In remembering the number Six Million, we often forget the individuals who were affected by the Holocaust. The observance this year will include some of the legacy left to us by those who, in spite of the hardships imposed upon them by the Nazis, continued to leave a heritage for future generations. We will honor their memories focusing on their achievements and their lives. In the words of Henry R. Huttenbach, "Judaism is a celebration of life; even as one

mourns the dead, the glory of life is reaffirmed." The evening will also include lighting memorial candles, El Mole Rachamim, and the Kaddish. The entire community is invited to attend.

Volleyball - Young Jewish Adults of Delaware (YJAD's) co-ed, noncompetitive volleyball league continues every Wednesday night from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the

Volunteering for Seniors -CareVan of Ingleside Homes, Inc. will present training sessions for volunteers interested in helping this mobile outreach and referral service which links at-risk seniors with services they need. The sessions will be held from 4 to 6 p.m., on successive Thursdays, April 10th, 17th and 24th at Ingleside Assisted Living, 2210 Swiss Lane in

Ardentown. To sign up, call the CareVan at (302) 475-4560.

Yom Hashoah Interfaith Holocaust Service - On Monday, May 5, from noon to one p.m. at the City County Building in Council Chambers, George Preston, a Holocaust survivor of the Auschwitz, Birkenau & Buchenwald camps, will address the topic of "The Industry of Death Surviving the Holocaust" as part of the annual Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Day of Remembrance Interfaith Service sponsored by a variety of local religious and interfaith organizations and organized by the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. For more information call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at (302) 427-2100.

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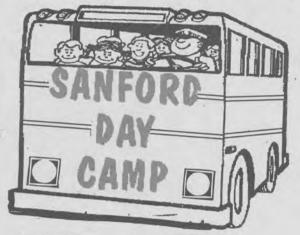
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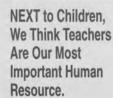
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