

# The JEWISH VOICE

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## SHABBAT VOTING TO END: HOUSE BILL 400 GETS LEGISLATIVE NOD

By Mark Delmerico  
Special to the Jewish Voice

This week historic legislation passed both Houses of the General Assembly which will move Delaware's Primary Election away from Shabbat, making the voting day on Tuesday instead of Saturday. The first Primary Election under the new formula is 2006.

The legislation is a statement of respect for diverse religious traditions and a way to include all of Delaware's citizens in the voting process. Rabbi Peter Grumbacher, chairman of the Rabbinical Association of Delaware commented that "There is no reason to have an election on anyone's Holy Day." Rep Melanie George (D-Bear) a known and powerful supporter of the legislation concurs. "Voting is a fundamental right, she said, adding that "We've been disenfranchising an important part of our population. I can't convey how strongly I felt about this. We need a cognitive recognition of the Jewish population."

George provided some insight: on the legislative debate: "Some legislators felt that to get out supporters on Tuesday, the "campaign workers" had to take a day off. On a Saturday, you get volunteers."

House Bill 400, sponsored by Representative Bob Valihura (R-Edenridge) and Senator Patti Blevins (D-Elsmere) cleared the House 38-0 and the Senate 21-0. At end of the day, June 24th, the

Delaware General Assembly and Delaware's Jewish community had fashioned a clear and precise partnership on Shabbat voting. The legislation will soon be presented to Governor Ruth Ann Minner for her signature.

Dr Mark Wagman, Chair of the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Committee was an early proponent of moving Primary Day away from Shabbat, and worked countless hours in partnership with JCRC lobbyist Tom McGonigle, JCRC staff director Jack Zigon and a group of other dedicated volunteers from the Jewish and secular community to get the bill passed. "Cheryl Fruchtman, a past president of the Seaside Jewish Community Center was incredible over the last two years," said Wagman, adding "She came to Dover numerous times, often bringing others from the Rehoboth area." He reserved special praise for Elaine Manlove and State Elections Commissioner Frank Calio for their friendship and support.

Wagman, Senior Research Associate for DuPont, is no stranger to political maneuvering. "Prior to this experience in Dover, I lobbied Senators and Congressmen on Capital Hill several times, mainly regarding support for Israel," he said.

Samuel H. Asher, Federation Executive Vice President, outlined the three themes behind this legislative initiative. "First, Asher said, this allows access to the democratic

process for the Jewish community and allows us to fully participate." He continued "another theme is allowing us to volunteer as campaign workers or poll watchers on Tuesday. And the third theme is allowing us to do more on Shabbat."

Senator Cathy Cloutier (R-Heatherbrooke) was an early supporter of this legislation.

Cloutier put a bill forth herself as early as January 2003 calling for a Tuesday Primary Day, which did not go forward. She was delighted to have a hand in crafting the compromise legislation co-sponsored by Representative Valihura and Senator Patti Blevins which is now on its way to becoming law. "I am thrilled at the passage of HB 400, it is simply the right thing to do," Cloutier said, adding that Mark Wagman and his whole group of proponents was just incredible."

The "group" that Senator Cloutier referenced includes Matt Denn, former Legal Counsel to Governor Minner and candidate for Insurance Commissioner and State Treasurer Jack Markell. Markell expressed gratitude to the bi-partisan leadership of Representative Valihura and Senator Blevins for moving this important legislation forward and to Governor Minner for her expressed support. JCRC lobbyist Tom McGonigle went "far beyond the call of duty" in Markell's estimation to rally votes. "The passage of this bill was hard-fought," said Markell, adding that HB 400

demonstrates that the Jewish community can achieve success in pushing through legislation that impacts them if they are organized and proactive."

Other community organizations rallied to JCRC's side in support of HB 400. Common Cause Director John Flaherty, a Catholic from Wilmington, was a steadfast friend and ally. The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), the League of Women Voters and the American Civil Liberties Union also pledged their allegiance.

Senate co-sponsor Patti Blevins described the compromise bill that she co-sponsored with Representative Valihura as a "win-win situation." "By postponing the effective date to 2006, the Elections Department has time to prepare. This will lead to more participation, not only from people of the Jewish faith but a better overall election turnout."

The legislation, though drawing no significant outcry, did have some friendly critics among area Jews who hold leadership positions in the community.

"When we get involved with legislative matters we should focus on matters of major concern to the community," said one prominent community leader. "I think Bob Valihura, Cathy Cloutier, and Patti Blevins and other legislators have been very helpful and responsive to the community and our concerns over the years. "This (HB-400) is

an issue that does not have unanimous approval in the Jewish community."

Another Jewish community leader offered a similar sentiment. "We are a pluralistic community with a broad spectrum of levels of observance. How do we celebrate our traditions while remaining a part of the bigger world?"

Senate Majority Whip Harris McDowell, (D-Wilmington) an outspoken proponent of moving voting off of Shabbat, viewed the passage of the bill this way. "I think it is a relief that we finally got a compromise. Certainly this is something that is long overdue. It has been an embarrassment for all of us running for office that we not long ago had a Primary Election not only the Jewish Sabbath but on the Jewish High Holy Days as well. This compromise will prevent that from happening again. It is a very good thing."

Mark Wagman summed it all up very nicely: "I think one of the most valuable aspects of this experience is how it positions us for the future. We have developed relationships that could be invaluable in whatever we do in the future. In the past, we have been to Dover to oppose legislation, like prayer in the schools. Now the powers-that-be see that we are here to get things done."

Indeed, in 2004 the Jewish community showed up at Legislative Hall to get things done. And we did.

## CLINTON REFLECTS ON MIDDLE EAST

By Matthew E. Berger, JTA

When Bill Clinton calls himself a failed president, it's not because of the scandals, the legislative battles or even his personal life — it's because of the peace in the Middle East that he never achieved, despite long hours spent cajoling Israeli and Arab negotiators.

Writing in "My Life," his memoir that hit bookstores Tuesday, Clinton places the blame squarely on Yasser Arafat.

During Clinton's final days in

office, the Palestinian Authority president "thanked me for all my efforts and told me what a great man I was," Clinton writes. "Mr. Chairman," I replied, "I am not a great man. I am a failure, and you have made me one."

Readers who buy Clinton's autobiography looking for details of his relationship with intern Monica Lewinsky, as touted in the book's pre-publicity, also will get detailed insight into Clinton's search for peace between Israel and its neighbors.

Clinton's account of his presi-

dency is chronological rather than thematic; all in all, about 68 pages scattered through the 957-page book are devoted to the Middle East peace process.

The outlines are not new, but there are sharp details about his days spent at several retreats working with negotiators and about whom he believed to be compliant and who played hardball.

Clinton largely faults Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak for the breakdown of peace talks

Continued on Page 17



President Clinton meets with Israeli President Ehud Barak at Camp David, July 11, 2000. Credit: Ralph Alswang/White House

### INSIDE THE VOICE

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## EDITORIAL

### Celebrating life's Simchas

June is such a happy and exhausting month. Many of us rush home from work to attend the milestone events of our friends and loved ones. My family and I have spent the past few weeks celebrating a dizzying array of simchas—graduations, confirmations and my personal favorite, weddings! At all of these occasions, we celebrate life's possibilities.

Each precious child in the graduation procession has the potential for greatness! Among the members of the Class of 2004 may be the person who finds a cure for AIDS and other devastating diseases—heals the environment or stems the tide of violence that threatens our very existence on G-d's earth!

As a Jewish community, we take collective pride in the accomplishments of the talented young men and women who recently graduated from Albert Einstein Academy and Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School. We also salute the men and women who have continued their Jewish studies through the Melton Center for Jewish Education.

We applaud the parents of AEA students, many of whom made great financial sacrifices to give their children a solid Jewish and secular education. At this time we express our gratitude to Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, who has served with distinction for many years as Einstein's Head of School. We wish her well as

she begins her new career in Northern New Jersey.

Our heartfelt congratulations to Gratz and Melton grads who have demonstrated their on-going commitment to enhancing their understanding of Jewish values and traditions.

Albert Einstein Academy and Delaware Gratz are constituent agencies of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and are shining examples of the stellar programs and services supported through contributions to the Federation Annual Campaign.

By supporting these and other Jewish agencies, your help secure the very future of the Delaware Jewish community.

This year, The Jewish Voice ran numerous engagement and wedding announcements submitted by couples who met at Delaware Gratz, synagogue youth groups, Hillel activities or Jewish summer camps.

They are traveling along the road that leads to Chuppah and Jewish continuity. As a caring community, we all have a stake in keeping this road in good repair!

Shabbat Shalom,

*Lynn B. Edelman*

Lynn B. Edelman  
Editor

## The JEWISH VOICE

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Jenn Lande with Alice and Bennett Epstein

### An amazing Jewish community

Dear Delaware Jewish Community,

After only one year working in Delaware, I wanted to tell you how much I appreciate the Jewish community you have. I will miss many of the people here, as I go on to my new position at the University of North Carolina.

The level of support for Jewish causes in Delaware is amazing. I know that although the numbers of Jewish people are relatively small, it hasn't stopped this community from providing services that are usually only found in larger Jewish communities.

Working at the University of Delaware Hillel as the Epstein Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellow, I was fortunate to be part of an organization that enjoys your support. Todd Polikoff visited us several times, and I was able to help the Hillel staff identify students who should hear his story about scholarships available for Jewish communal service workers. By cleaning out her closet of yarn, Sue Samuels provided support for our *Stitch and Bitch* program, where students learned to crochet and knit, and donate the scarves and hats to shelters. When I took 8 students to Argentina for an Alternative Spring Break, several community members sent checks to help defray the cost.

The Hillel Board of Directors was always welcoming, and let me know that all of you consider the college population to be an important link to the future of the Jewish people. It was after meeting Susan Detwiler and Ian Cooper, and attending a Jewish arts retreat, that I reconsidered my choice of profession; I am seriously considering a future in Jewish work, possibly rabbinic school.

And, of course, Alice and Bennett Epstein played an exceptionally important part in my even having this opportunity. Their generosity inspired many others to also support the JCSC program and therefore the opportunity I had to touch students' lives.

Some of the supporters of the Epstein JCSC Fund have heard this story, but it really is a classic example of how the JCSC Fellow can make a difference in someone's life.

When I sat in on Hebrew classes, I met many students who were not otherwise involved in Jewish life. One is a transfer student majoring in voice performance, and who wants to be a cantor. We talked about an isolated anti-Semitic incident on campus she had encountered, and how she had felt very alone. After talking a few times, I put her together with Susan. They had a few coffee dates and now she will help lead Reform High Holiday services in the Fall. She met one of our graduating seniors, and got involved in our Torah Dedication as our cantorial soloist.

A lot of people point to numbers of programs when they ask how a Hillel is doing. But I really appreciate that this community realizes that programs are empty without the people who can connect with the students. Thank you for funding this position, as well as Susan's and Ian's. There are some great students at UD, and you help make Jewish life happen for them.

Bless you all for making Jewish life happen in Delaware.

Jennifer Lande  
(former) Epstein Jewish Campus  
Service Corps Fellow

To the Editor:

Because of the building project at the Jewish Community Center and other considerations, the Institute for Adult Jewish Studies will not be in session in 2004. We hope to reconvene the committee in the spring of 2005 to evaluate the program and decide whether the Institute will again hold classes in the future.

We appreciate all those who inquired and hope that the adult education programs of the synagogues and the JCC will meet the needs of our community.

Arnold Harris, **Chair**,  
Institute for Adult Jewish Studies

Peter H. Grumbacher, **Rabbi**  
**Vice Chair**

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# FEDERATION FOCUS

## Thank you and goodbye



**Samuel H. Asher, (right) Federation Executive Vice President bids goodbye to Campaign Director Todd Polikoff.**

This is my last article for the Jewish Voice. Effective July 2, 2004, I am resigning from my position as campaign director for the Jewish Federation of Delaware. I have

accepted the Campaign Director position with the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas.

I am sure many people are wondering, "Why Las Vegas?"

The answer to this question lies in the uniqueness of that community. The city of Las Vegas and Clark County Nevada are the fastest growing communities in the United States. Over 6,000 people move to Clark County every month. That is the equivalent of the Jewish population of North Wilmington doubling every month. Of these 6,000 new residents, 600 are Jewish. While a growing community is certainly a positive, a community growing at this rate brings about a host of challenges. The infrastructures of the Jewish community that we know in Delaware (agencies and synagogues) are either non-existent or playing catch-up in Las Vegas. What is going on in Las Vegas is not a whole new ball game; it is an entirely different sport.

The opportunities that Las Vegas provides a Jewish communal professional, namely a campaign professional, are endless. While

there are 80,000 Jews, the community only raises \$2 million for the annual campaign with just over 2,000 donors. The low campaign total is again due to the lack of infrastructure and staff. Unlike Jewish communities in the north east, the Las Vegas Jewish community is only 30 years old. You don't have to be an economist or even a campaign director to realize that there is huge potential for growth.

It is this potential and opportunity that is moving my family (our first child is due August 20, 2004) across country to a place much warmer than Delaware. This move was not anticipated and I was not planning on leaving Delaware so abruptly. This community has been wonderful to me and my wife. From day one we were made to feel welcome and as though we were long time residents. I truly enjoyed having the opportunity to interact with so many members of this community and I am sorry that I did not get to meet everyone. I consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity to serve as Campaign Director in Delaware.

There are many highlights about my time in Delaware, but none are as special as the people that I worked with every day. The staff of the Jewish Federation of Delaware are among the most committed, selfless and dedicated professionals that I have worked with in my eight years of Jewish communal service. There is not a time in the past three years when they have not stepped up to a challenge, completed a task or gone the extra mile.

Every staff member in the federation office deserves credit for our community's accomplishments. It is truly a team that raises money for the community, puts together allocations, makes sure that our community stays in touch with Israel, plans for our future and ensures that every Jew is responsible for one another.

It is my hope that when I go to Las Vegas I find members of that community who have the same Jewish *Neshomah* and desire as those in Delaware. I thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do for the Jewish community of Delaware.

## Endowment Update



**Jennifer Young  
Endowment and Women's  
Philanthropy Director, JFD**

### Women's Philanthropy to Welcome Newcomers

Are you "newish and Jewish?" The Women's Philanthropy committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware plans to welcome newcomers to the Delaware Jewish community at a community-wide *Bagels and...* brunch on September 12 at the Wilmington JCC. Women in our community are invited to become involved with the Federation through the Women's Philanthropy initiative. Whether your interests lie in educational programs, fund-raising or outreach, Women's Philanthropy can enhance your awareness and understanding of your Jewish community and Jewish heritage...and offers you the chance to meet new people with similar interests. The Women's Philanthropy initiative is your connection to the wealth of active organizations in our Jewish community. If you know of a newcomer to the community, or are interested in joining the committee, please call Jennifer Young at the Jewish Federation of Delaware 302-427-2100.

### 7 students to receive Greenbaum Scholarship funding

The Jewish Fund for the Future is pleased to announce that 7 recent graduates of Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School will be awarded \$2,500 over 4 years of college

through the Joseph and Marion Greenbaum Scholarship Fund. The 2004 Gratz graduates receiving college scholarships are: Marni Grossman, Nathaniel Jaffe, Saul Jaffe, Jennifer Kaplan, Brian Rosen, Beryl Schragger, and Ben Zussman.

Since 1985, the Jewish Fund for the Future has provided for the needs of the Jewish community in Delaware and abroad. As the Jewish Federation of Delaware's endowment and planned giving arm, the Jewish Fund for the Future (JFF) manages over \$14 million in assets. Last year, grants totaled over \$600,000 and benefited local JFD beneficiaries, national and international programs, and college students pursuing Judaic studies and study in Israel. JFF also provides grants to vital programs in our Partnership 2000 region of Arad/Tamar and has provided seed money to programs in Delaware. The Joseph and Marion Greenbaum Scholarship Fund is a restricted fund, established in the early 1990s by a bequest from Joseph Greenbaum. The Jewish Federation of Delaware also has unrestricted funds that benefit the Annual Campaign and projects at JFD's beneficiary agencies, through JFF's unrestricted grants process.

The Jewish Fund for the Future offers a variety of planned giving programs tailored to each donor's philanthropic goals; donors chose what vehicle works best for them and the program, agency or synagogue they want to benefit. Gifts can be made during a donor's lifetime or by bequest. For more information regarding establishing a fund or leaving a bequest to the Jewish Federation of Delaware, please contact Jennifer Young, Endowment & Women's Philanthropy Director, 302-427-2100 x19 or email [jennifer.young@shalomdel.org](mailto:jennifer.young@shalomdel.org). For scholarship guidelines and an application, please visit [www.shalomdelaware.org](http://www.shalomdelaware.org).

### L'Chaim Circle

This new donor circle recognizes men and women who have consistently contributed to the Federation annual campaign for 25 years or more. Our database records do not go back 25 years, so we need your help to compile a list of members for this recognition society. The unique program honors people who are a vital part of the Jewish tradition of *tzedakah*.

### L'Chaim Circle return card

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Thank you for your consistent support! Please mail back this card soon, so your name will be printed in our Fall donor listing. If you have already sent in the card, you do not need to send it in again. We will only print names of individuals that give us permission to print their name.

### Fall Mission to Israel Dates Announced

The NJ/DE Partnership 2000 cluster is planning a Mission to Israel October 30-November 8, 2004 for more information, please contact Jennifer Young at the Jewish Federation of Delaware 302-427-2100 x19.

### HALINA WIND PRESTON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND DELAWARE TEACHER'S CENTER co-sponsors

#### Annual trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

**For:** Teachers of grades 5-12  
(6 clock hours towards re-certification; PIP credit)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 10, 2004  
**Departure:** 7:00a.m. from Jewish Community Center  
101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington DE  
7:25 a.m. from Interstate 95 Delaware rest stop  
Southbound bus parking  
**Instructor:** Dr. Margaret Crouch, Holocaust Educator  
**Cost:** \$20.

Dr. Margaret Crouch, a Holocaust scholar, will provide historical background during the trip to Washington. Her presentation will be augmented by several videos. At the museum, you will receive a special guided tour for educators as well as an orientation to various educational resources. The bus will return to Wilmington at approximately 5:30 p.m. Snacks will be provided on the bus; lunch at the Museum cafeteria is on your own.

To secure your seat on the bus, please mail a check for \$20.00 payable to the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801. Please indicate your pick-up location. The fee is non-refundable after July 19, 2004.

For more information please call (302) 427-2100 ext. 30.



## DELAWARE SPOTLIGHT

# Community celebrates at JFD's 69th Annual Meeting

Rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of the members of the Delaware Jewish community who gathered last Thursday for Federation's 69th Annual Meeting. It was a time to recognize long-term supporters, community builders and volunteer and professional leadership. The Wilmington JCC played host to this joyous community in-gathering. Annual Meeting guests had an opportunity to view the progress of the Garden of Eden Road Campus renovations and expansions, made possible by the Federation Community Capital Campaign. All were invited to sign their name to the beam, which will be set in the Early Childhood Wing of the "New" JCC when construction is complete.

*Photos by Mike Samuels*



John Loftus, keynote speaker of the evening mesmerized the audience.



Prior to the Annual Meeting program, long-term donors to the Jewish Federation of Delaware were treated to an invitation-only dinner reception. Sharing a laugh are Martin Mand, a Federation past president and Dr. Barry S. Kayne, current JFD president.



Bernie Siegel, the first recipient of the Community Builder Award, embraces Beth Shapiro, daughter of the award's namesake.



Richard Stat, Building Committee Chairperson of the Federation Community Capital Campaign, is the first person to sign the beam. Richard was honored with the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award during the Annual Meeting program.



It was a glorious evening for the Epstein family. Dr. Bennett Epstein received the Irving S. Shapiro Community Builder Award for his legendary service to the Delaware Jewish and secular community. Sharing in this simcha are Bennett's wife, Alice and son, David.



It's a hug-fest for Bernie Siegel and Leslie Newman, like Bernie a past president of JFD. Leslie succeeded Bernie as president of the Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation.



Jewish Family Service volunteers and staff enjoy providing their input to Ellen Mercurio, landscape architect for the renovation project. Pictured from left are: Lynn Brown; Lisa Driban; JFS Executive Director Dory Zatuchni; Patti Zolnick; Mercurio and Elaine Schmerling.



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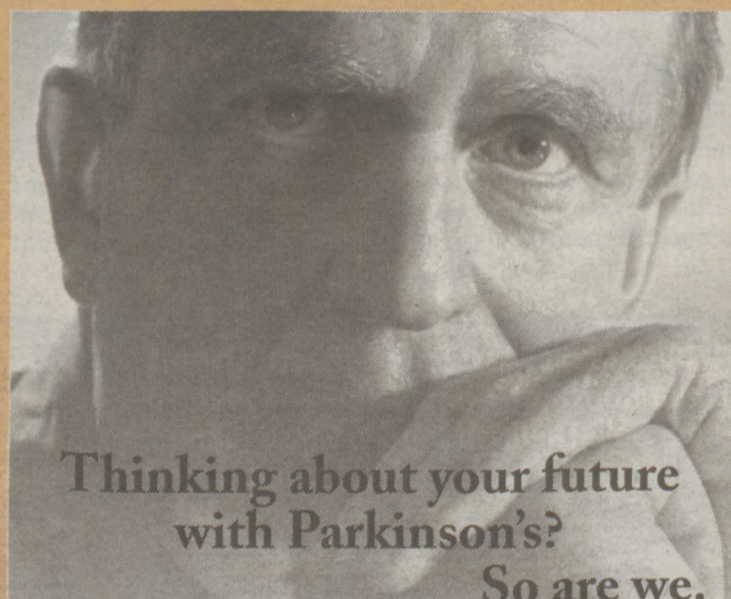
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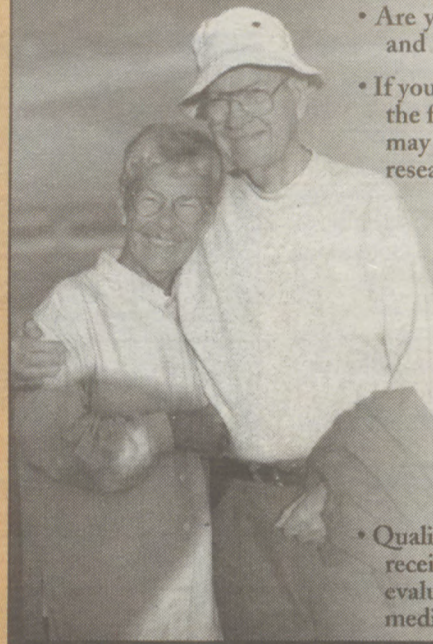
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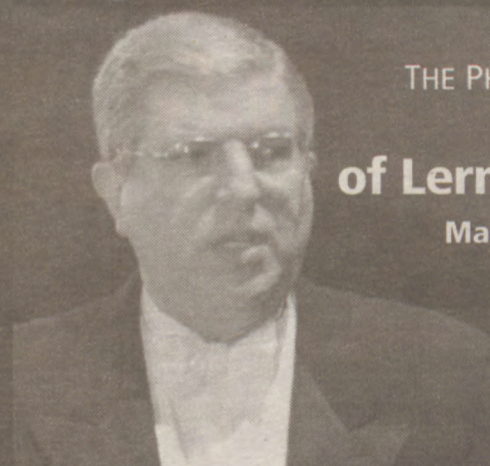


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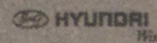
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## INSIDE DELAWARE

### Delaware Philanthropist endows his passions while saving lives



**Norman (Sonny) Schutzman**

**By Lynn B. Edelman, Editor**

Delaware native Norman (Sonny) Schutzman is a passionate man who puts his heart and soul into causes he believes in. In 1948, he saw newsreels of a small band of brave Jews fighting to establish a homeland in the desert oasis known then as Palestine. He was touched by their courage and tenacity and decided to cast his lot with theirs. The young World War II Army Veteran left the management of his newly opened bowling alley to others and fought side by side with 3,000 Jews from around the world in Israel's War of Independence.

He returned to Wilmington one year later

determined to rally financial and moral support for the fledgling Jewish State from family and friends in the Delaware Jewish community. He assumed leadership of the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Young Adult Division, hosting a fundraising dinner that raised \$11,000 for the Federation Annual Campaign—more than five times the tally of the prior year's event. His drive and commitment attracted national acclaim and the attention of Helen Tomases who soon became his wife.

Marriage and fatherhood fueled Sonny's commitment to community service. Through the years, he served as president of the Jewish Community Center, of his synagogue, Congregation Beth Shalom and as a board member of the JFD.

The couple's thirst for Jewish learning was quenched by their participation in the Jewish Great Books programs, the Yiddish Book Center and the Academy of Life-Long Learning—a program of the University of Delaware.

When the couple learned about the Melton School, an internationally renowned two-year intensive course of study developed by educators at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Sonny knew that he had to help bring this unique program to Delaware. He met with community leaders—both lay and professional—and made this goal a reality. The members of the school's inaugural graduating class paid tribute to their benefactor—establishing the Norman

Schutzman Fund for Melton at the Jewish Community Center of Delaware. This Fund helps provide the school with the necessary resources to run this first-rate adult education program now and in the future.

This philanthropic gesture delighted Sonny—a man who has devoted enormous energy over the past 14 years to building the Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment arm of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. He is a firm believer that endowments enable individuals and families to perpetuate their charitable interests and leave a legacy for future generations. He and his wife have planned their estate so that each of their three children will receive 25% of their assets. The remaining 25% will support the many Jewish organizations that have benefited from the couples' generosity throughout their lifetimes. "I could never understand how an individual could devote significant time, talent and resources to an organization or program during his life and not want to help ensure its continued viability after he passed on," said Sonny who enjoys exploring innovative ways of expanding his endowments.

He is excited by a new program that has the potential to save thousands of lives while earning money for charitable organizations and institutions. The program, known as LifeSignsAmerica places cardiac defibrillators in chain stores, colleges and high schools at no charge to the organization. David Wright, whose company, The Leading Edge,

administers the program, will coordinate employee training in the correct use of these life-saving devices and will pay the organization \$1500 for each defibrillator that they install. The funding source is the income from the sale of 17 ads that are displayed on a revolving screen at the store check-out counter or school cafeteria. An additional ad is available to the organization to promote a charitable concern or interest.

Wright offered to pay Sonny a referral fee for each chain or school that he referred to him. "I told Dave that I would prefer that he send the fee directly to my Federation Endowment Fund," said Sonny. Wright was so impressed by Sonny's philanthropic spirit that he agreed to his terms and promised to give Sonny's favorite charity \$500 a year for five years for each defibrillator placed through his referral.

"This is truly a win-win situation," said Sonny, explaining that defibrillators have been demonstrated to save the lives of heart attack victims if these devices are used within the first five minutes. "And, the money that individuals can earn for their synagogue, church or favorite charity by making referrals to this unique program, has the potential to further impact the lives of others," he added.

"My philosophy of life is very simple. I believe that each of us is placed on this earth to make the world a better place to live," said Sonny. He invites readers to learn more about LifeSignsAmerica by calling him at 302-478-0200.

### Local couple embark on Humanitarian Mission to Cuba

**By Phyllis Feingold  
Special to the Jewish Voice**

Part Two

In the last edition of the Jewish Voice, Phyllis shared her impressions of Jewish life in Cuba. Phyllis and her husband, Jim, traveled there as part of a solidarity mission sponsored by the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Philadelphia. The couple's adventures continue in this week's edition.

#### Memorable Memorials

We were fascinated by the grave of Saul Yelin, a secular Jew who founded the Cuban Film Institute after the revolution. A huge striped triangular stone is affixed over the top right side of the engraved rectangular stone. This architectural addition honors the Jewish custom of leaving a stone on the gravestone as a reminder of a visit paid by a loved one.

Jim and I also were impressed by the sight of a memorial commemorating Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who were found guilty of spying against the United States. The Cuban people believed that they were innocent of the crimes.

Ironically, although the Beatles were not allowed to perform in Cuba, the government commissioned a statue of the late John Lennon, which is prominently displayed in a public park. The reason? He was revered by the Cuban people as a revolutionary.

#### A Double Standard for Tourists and Residents

When the wealthy Cubans fled their country after Fidel Castro came into power, their property was taken over by a servant who often took in relatives to fill the rooms. Thus, one home might house multiple families. The poor quality of paint and lack of money for renovations has caused the decline of many of these stately mansions.

All real estate belongs collectively to

"The People". If you are a Cuban and wish to move, you must swap a house with another family. Homes can only be sold to the Cuban government.

Rice and beans are the mainstay of the Cuban diet, with dark chicken parts and meat a rarity. A wide selection of foods is served to tourists at State-owned restaurants or at the more intimate "paladores"—privately run cafes whose managers pay a percentage of their profits to the government.

Cubans must obtain licenses from the government to purchase cars. Most Cubans tool around in American models that date back to the 1950s. They depend on travelers coming from the States to bring them new parts when needed. This can be problematic as direct trade between the United States and Cuba is strictly forbidden due to the embargo.

With wealth comes a few privileges. A famous musician or athlete can obtain a special license and purchase whatever he or she can afford. I noticed a Mercedes 400 series car that was privately owned as evidenced by its yellow registration plate.

#### Love Americans,

#### Hate American Politics

We were embraced by these proud, highly educated people who are very familiar with the politics that define our two nations. Public education is compulsory in Cuba. Its people enjoy a literacy rate of more than 96%! They read "Granma", the daily newspaper named after the ship that brought Castro and his revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba during the late 1950s, from cover to cover. Headlines and accompanying pictures of Iraqi prisoners being humiliated by their American captors elicited strong public outrage.

Cubans blame many of their financial woes on President Bush for maintaining the



**The Feingolds were fascinated by the grave of Saul Yelin, a secular Jew who founded the Cuban Film Institute after the Revolution.**

trade embargo. The average working man or woman earns just \$10 per month. Utilities, food and clothing costs are subsidized by the government. They have learned how to add to their income by appealing to the tourist trade. The sale of American baseball cards is a lucrative business. Private art dealers sell little paintings for cash. Larger pieces must show a government tax stamp before they leave Cuba.

While we were visiting, the Bush administration tightened travel restrictions to Cuba for American family members from one visit every six months to once every three years. The U.S. government also drastically reduced the amount of money that

Cuban-Americans can send to their relatives back home.

In response to the ruling, Castro ordered all tourist "dollar stores" closed so that he could raise the prices of merchandise by 30%. He also bused in more than 1,000,000 people to participate in a rally at the American Interests Building (formerly the American Embassy) to protest these changes.

As our chartered Continental Air plane landed in Miami, we became teary-eyed. This special trip was emotionally-charged and highly memorable. It was my pleasure to share my story with Jewish Voice readers.



# GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

## Israel backs tough line on Iran

By Ron Kampeas, JTA

These days, it's unusual to get the United States and Britain to agree with France and Germany on any Middle East-related U.N. resolution.

When Israel also is on board, it's downright extraordinary.

Israeli officials are elated at the tough language in a resolution passed last week by the board of the U.N. nuclear watchdog rebuking Iran for not cooperating with nuclear inspectors. Last Friday's International Atomic Energy Agency resolution "deploring" Iranian stonewalling of IAEA inspectors has far-reaching implications for containment of a radical Islamic regime that successive Israeli administrations have called the greatest threat to the Jewish state.

The resolution, drafted by Britain, France and Germany, expresses special concern about Iran's refusal to end its uranium-enrichment activities, a condition for European assistance to Iran in developing a peaceful nuclear program.

Josh Block, a spokesman for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, said the resolution was welcome but that more was needed.

"They're playing a game of hide and seek and they want to draw this out diplomatically as long as possible," Block said.

Adding to U.S. and European frustration was confirmation this year that Iran tried to buy black-market magnets necessary for the centrifugal process that enriches uranium.

The single area of disagreement between the United States and the European nations was over a deadline for Iranian compliance. The Europeans kept mention of a deadline out of the resolution, but Mohammed ElBaradei, the IAEA's director-general, suggested that Iran does not have an endless amount of time to come clean.

"I have been asking, as the board also has been asking, Iran to become proactive, to become transparent and to be fully cooperative, and I hope I'll see that mode of cooperation in

the next few months," ElBaradei said Monday after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. "I think the international community is urgently seeking assurance from the agency that Iran's program is exclusively for a peaceful purpose."

The IAEA board is set to meet again in September, and U.S. officials have suggested that it could decide on further action if Iran doesn't give way.

The resolution was a success for the Bush administration, which has been urging greater scrutiny of Iran. A number of congressional initiatives also are under way.

Getting on board the same wealthy Western European states that Iran hopes will sustain its faltering economy means that the Islamic republic is spending time fighting diplomatic battles that divert its attention from backing terrorist operations against Israel.

Not that Ariel Sharon's government wants to make a lot of noise about the IAEA resolution — a high Israeli profile in any rebuke of Iran could galvanize Arab support for a regime that most Arab leaders revile — but much of Israel's defensive activity is taken with Iran in mind.

Israel is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to expand its Arrow missile defense program to cover the entire country by the end of the decade, primarily because of Iranian missiles that are capable of delivering non-conventional materials to the Jewish state.

Israel long has taken such long-term threats into account in dealing with Iran. In recent years, however, Iran's influence has seeped into even the day-to-day threats Israel faces.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have looked to Iran for greater support now that their traditional sources of funding in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere have dried up because of tough scrutiny of terrorist financing and an increased willingness, after Sept. 11, to avoid groups the U.S. government deems as terrorists.

Israeli intelligence believes

Hezbollah, a Lebanese terrorist militia that gets strong Iranian support, now is behind up to 80 percent of terrorist activities against Israel, and is particularly active in recruiting Israeli Arab citizens — a development Israeli officials consider especially troubling.

Of course, not all the impetus for the tough language has to do with the threat Iran poses to Israel.

Bush administration officials increasingly are frustrated with the support Iran has given to Shi'ite Muslim insurgents in U.S.-occupied Iraq, and working for a nuclear-free Middle East long has been part of European strategy.

Still, it's significant that Iran's nuclear potential is seen as posing a greater threat than Israel's, and that this realization is penetrating even international forums, which traditionally are bastions of moral equivalence.

Hans Blix, the former top U.N. arms inspector, suggested that Israel's reported nuclear arsenal could prove to be an important element in the effort to get the Iranians to back down.

"Looking at the rationales and incentives at work, it must be assumed that Tehran is aware not only that Israel has nuclear weapons and that a sovereign Iraq would inherit the know-how to make them, but also that Iranian enrichment, even if it were to remain consistent with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, would further exacerbate the situation," Blix said Monday at a Carnegie Endowment conference



Former top U.N. arms inspector, Hans Blix, right, and Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mohammed El Baradei of Egypt confer during a meeting with the U.N. Security Council, March 7, 2003.

Credit: UN Photo by Eskinder Debebe

he attended with ElBaradei, his old friend.

For the moment, Iran is hardly acting conciliatory.

Learning of the draft resolution last week, Iranian President Mohammed Khatami warned that "if Europe has no commitment toward Iran, then Iran will not have a commitment toward Europe."

Iran appeared to back up the threat Monday when it seized three British naval vessels and eight crewmen who were in the area to help train Iraqi police.

Given the toughness of the IAEA resolution, such grandstanding is unlikely to have much impact. The United States is maintaining its pressure, as President Bush heads to

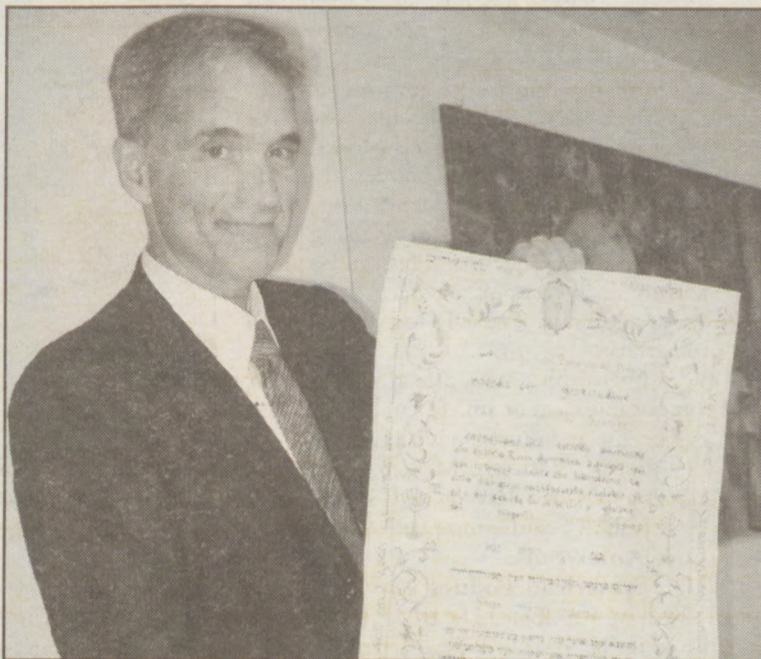
NATO meetings in Europe this weekend where he is likely to make containment of Iran a priority, backed by a letter signed by 66 senators and 208 members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

John Bolton, the U.S. undersecretary of state for arms control, is testifying on Capitol Hill on Wednesday about the Iranian nuclear capability and its implications for terrorism.

The message from the West is clear, Powell said Monday.

"With respect to Iran, they have been put on notice once again rather firmly and strongly in this new resolution that the international community is expecting them to answer its questions and to respond fully," he said.

## Happy birthday, Rome synagogue



David Kertzer displays the hand-lettered scroll June 17, 2004, presented to him in honor of his father, who helped conduct the first Shabbat service in Rome's great synagogue after liberation in 1944. Credit: Ruth Ellen Gruber/JTA

By Ruth Ellen Gruber, JTA

Rabbi Vittorio Della Rocca was only 11 years old at the time, but he will never forget a historic Shabbat at Rome's Great Synagogue 60 years ago this month.

It was June 9, 1944 — just five days after Allied troops had liberated

the city from the Nazis.

And on that first Friday night of freedom, an American Jewish chaplain led 4,000 Jews in the Shehecheyanu prayer.

"It was an incredible scene of joy and euphoria," Della Rocca says. "There was a black spot, though, as

everyone among us started counting to see if they could find all their loved ones."

The Rome temple was the first large synagogue to be liberated in Europe.

The American chaplain was Lt. Morris Kertzer, a young rabbi from Iowa City, Iowa. Attached to the U.S. Fifth Army, he had landed with thousands of other U.S. troops at Anzio and witnessed the Allied liberation of Rome on June 4.

Kertzer died two decades ago.

But this month, almost 60 years to the day after that historic Shabbat service, the Rome Jewish community presented a hand-lettered scroll of appreciation to Kertzer's son, David.

A professor at Brown University, David Kertzer has gained renown in recent years for his books on Italian Jewish history.

They include "The Popes Against the Jews: The Vatican's Role in the Rise of Anti-Semitism" and "The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara," which recounts the story of the abduction by the church and forced conversion of a young Jewish boy in Bologna in 1858.

"For my father and for all Jewish American soldiers, to participate in the liberation of Europe was an

Continued on page 19



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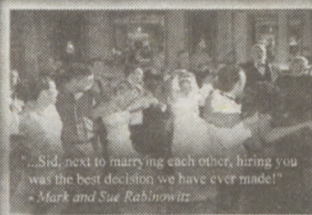
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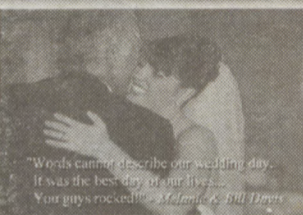
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# MATTER OF OPINION

## Eyeless in Gaza: Israeli Disengagement and Arab Engagement

By Shmuel Bar

There is a long list of candidates for who will be the major players in Gaza after Israel implements its plan for disengagement from Gaza and part of the West Bank. Israel's planned withdrawal has been the subject of heated discussion among Palestinians and between them and various Arab countries. The debate is less over the yet unclear timetable and modalities for the Israeli "disengagement" than it is over the question of "who will be engaging?" The candidates are many: the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat, for whom the prospect that the Israeli withdrawal will potentially leave chaos behind is seen as an opportunity to escape from his two-and-a-half-year confinement in Ramallah; the PA security strongmen — foremost, but not exclusively — Mohammad Dahlan; Hamas, and by proxy the external leadership of the organization and their state patrons — Syria and Iran; the Egyptians, who are being earmarked for the mission of saving the Palestinians from themselves; the British, critical of the American lead in Iraq, seem anxious to take the lead in the security aspect of the Palestinian issue; and the Jordanians, waiting in the wings for a model of Egyptian involvement in Gaza, are meanwhile preparing a parallel involvement in the West Bank in conjunction with the British. The Israeli cabinet decision on disengagement and the Egyptian initiative to revamp the Gaza security services put Arafat and the Hamas fundamentalists in the same camp. Neither party has an interest in a Pax Britannica-Egyptianica in Gaza, which, were it to succeed, would only highlight the inconsequence

of Arafat and the weakness of Hamas.

The meeting of the Palestinian National Security Council and the Central Committee of Fatah on June 6th was meant to bolster Arafat's leadership and to reject the Egyptian demands. In fact, a number of senior Palestinian figures met beforehand in order to coordinate their call to Arafat to accept the Egyptian proposal to unify the security apparatuses and delegate authority to Dahlan to enforce security in Gaza after an Israeli withdrawal. This meeting was attended, among others, by Sari Nusseibeh, ostracized by Arafat for his joint peace initiative with Ami Ayalon, former head of the Shin Bet, the Israel Security Agency.

Faced with opposition from the old guard of Fatah and the "young guard" of the security apparatuses, Arafat turned to the Tanzim and al-Aqsa Brigades militant groups for support. Cadres of the al-Aqsa Brigades in Gaza threatened to secede from Fatah due to delays in getting paid. Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei announced that the central committee of Fatah had formed a committee to look into the al-Aqsa complaints.

This "rebellion" was, however, not without political overtones. On June 12th the spokesman of al-Aqsa Brigades in Jenin, Zakaria al-Zubeidi, announced that the Brigades had refused to allow a delegation of Jordanian defense and security officers, accompanied by British officials, to visit Jenin on the grounds that "the visit was not coordinated with Arafat". An official Jordanian spokesman denied that any Jordanian delegation had been forced out of Jenin. The Palestinian anxiety concerning Jordan's intentions was also reflected in Arafat's protest to Amman (June 9th) about the reported par-

ticipation of Jordanian officers in Israeli Army patrols on the West Bank. Jordan denied this report as well.

The more immediate threat to Arafat, though, is the Egyptian intervention in Gaza. The direct goal of the Egyptian proposal was clear: to empower Dahlan to control all the PA and Fatah forces in Gaza. Formally, the Egyptians proposed that this be done in the context of the US demand for unification of the PA's 14 odd security apparatuses into no more than three. In practice, the Egyptians indicated that they would be satisfied by the de facto nomination of Dahlan as "super-controller" of all the forces.

Egypt, however, has no interest in supporting a crackdown on Hamas by the PA security forces. Therefore, the idea of a truce between Israelis and Palestinians following an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip is high on the Egyptian agenda. The Egyptian proposal was put to Hamas, which did not reject it out of hand. The Egyptians also suggested that any such truce should also be monitored by a team of international and Egyptian inspectors for violations from both sides. The Egyptians presented their proposal to Arafat as having additional fringe benefits: its acceptance would be in agreement with the American demands and may possibly pave the way for Arafat's own freedom.

Arafat, however, seems to have little enthusiasm for any plan which would involve his leaving Ramallah and moving to Gaza. Senior Palestinians commented that to do so would put him in a position of accountability for the success or failure of the PA taking over Gaza after the Israeli withdrawal. It would also place him in the unenviable position of either

supporting the Egyptian security plan vis-à-vis Hamas, and igniting intra-Palestinian conflict, or placing obstacles before the Egyptians and harming his relations with Cairo.

Since the Israeli plan was authorized, Hamas spokesmen (outside of Gaza) seem uncoordinated and undecided. The absence of a coherent and authoritative leadership has changed the conventional wisdom that the Israeli withdrawal will strengthen Hamas. The weakness of the organization is manifest in the fact that it has not been able to carry out its promised strategic revenge for the killing of its two leaders and the Israeli actions in Gaza. Its remaining leaders are hiding and their command and control has been virtually neutralized by fear that any contact will be intercepted by Israel and used to carry out further targeted killings.

The absence of a leadership is evident as well in the responses of the organization to the proposed Israeli withdrawal. On one hand, Hamas political bureau member, Mussa Abu Marzouk urged Egypt not to rush into a deeper involvement in Gaza since Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's disengagement initiative is "deceiving". The "rotational" leader of Hamas in Gaza, Mahmoud al-Zahar rejected any "security steps" before total Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian sovereignty, stressing that as long as Israel maintains control over the airspace and sea borders, the "occupation" remains.

On the other hand, the Hamas

representative in Lebanon, Osama Hamden, was less decisive. He expressed his expectation (al-Bawaba, June 8) that Egypt would now offer an updated proposal in the light of the updated Israeli plan, particularly in the light of the withdrawal timetable, which only begins in March 2005. Hamden complained that Israel is trying to make the withdrawal seem like "some sort of a guarantee for Israel's security and not as a response to the Palestinian people's struggle".

Along with the increased involvement of Egypt and Jordan, the transfer of authority in Hamas from Gaza to the external leadership has precipitated involvement of additional players: the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and in Egypt both see in support of Hamas an element of prestige within their own constituencies. Iran has also increased its involvement in the organization both through the Hamas leadership in Syria and through its informal proxies within the organization.

As the Israeli preparations for withdrawal from Gaza proceed, the PA and Fatah will find itself between two equally hazardous alternatives: a policy of non-cooperation would most likely lead to chaos and loss of important assets in Gaza; cooperation, on the other hand would weaken the PA and re-introduce the role of Arab patronage over the Palestinians.

*Dr. Shmuel Bar is a senior research fellow at The Institute for Policy & Strategy, The Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya*

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# JEWISH ARTS AND CULTURE

## New book portrays Arafat's penchant for violence

Reviewed by  
Richard D. Wilkins

Special to The Jewish Voice

*Arafat's War: The Man and His Battle for Israeli Conquest*; Efraim Karsh; Grove Press; 2003; 296 pages; \$25(hc)

This is a story that has all the elements of Grand Opera, though without any need to exaggerate for effect. Notwithstanding some elements of Opera Buffa, it is very much an unmitigated tragedy—Not only for Israelis, but for Palestinians as well. Arafat is portrayed here as the anti-hero, a thoroughly despicable, totally dishonest, utterly corrupt, despot. His most defining lifelong characteristic, though, has been violence. In tight predicaments, whether responding to Israeli demands for adherence to signed agreements, facing intense international scrutiny, or internal Palestinian unrest, it is that to which he has invariably turned. And, indeed, for him, writes King's College, University of London Professor, Efraim Karsh, "violence pays". "Arafat's deliberate use of violence, instead of resulting in censure or global outrage, [repeatedly has] reconfirmed his international stature". Filling out his portrait of this deeply-flawed leader, Karsh explores some possible psycholog-

ical bases for such propensity to violence. Not that that could be discerned from this pathological liar's authorized "mythical construct" bio. Born and raised in Egypt, with a thick Egyptian Arabic accent, Yasser Arafat - not his birth name - supposedly the quintessential Palestinian, never even lived for any extended time in Palestine till he arrived in July 1994 as head of the nascent Palestinian Authority. But no matter where he has gone - Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories - disaster and destruction have soon followed.

But this is a story much bigger than one man. It is about a lifelong struggle not to establish a state so much as to destroy one. After providing a brief background on the Arab-Israel conflict, and tracing the trajectory of Arafat's rise to PLO leadership, amidst inter-Arab political machinations, and his turn to terrorism, Karsh picks up the story with the 1993 Oslo Accord between Israel and the PLO. For Western ears, Arafat hailed it as the "peace of the brave"; to Arab audiences, he unambiguously called for continued "armed struggle", treating Oslo as a "Trojan Horse", part and parcel of the PLO's "phased strategy" for the destruction of Israel. It was an agreement he

never intended to abide by and one which, from Day 1, he actively set out to undermine. That despite a convergence of circumstances, offering "a unique opportunity" for success: "the [Palestinian] territories overwhelmingly disposed to a settlement, the Israeli public fatigued by decades of fighting and yearning for normalcy, the radical Arab regimes at one of their lowest ebbs following the collapse of their communist backers, and the international community eager to extend generous political and financial support to the nascent Palestinian entity".

What, then, went wrong? Key to Oslo was Palestinian commitment to "a peaceful resolution of the conflict" and promise "that all outstanding issues ... be resolved through negotiations". The P.A. was to eschew incitement. It was to amend the Palestine National Covenant with its explicit call for the destruction of Israel. It was to work toward a better life for the Palestinian people. The P.A. has delivered on none of those pledges. It has treated violence as negotiations by other means. It has failed to disarm terror groups and surreptitiously worked with them. Its controlled media has promoted hatred of Jews "unparalleled in

scope and intensity since Nazi Germany". It has feigned at but failed to amend its Covenant. It has imposed an oppressive and corrupt police state on its unfortunate subjects.

But if Palestinian leaders can be condemned for willful violation of the Oslo Accords, Israeli leaders were hardly less culpable - for looking the other way and, worse, for embarking on a totally unthought out process, glued together by willful self-deception as to Palestinian intentions. "What is really important for a peace process", stated Shimon Peres, "is the creation of a partner, not a plan". Echoed Rabin, "Among the Palestinians, Arafat's PLO is our only partner". The only figure with sufficient stature to sell the agreement to a justly skeptical Israeli public, Rabin was essentially suckered into a deal by Peres and Yossi Beilin. Unwilling subsequently to face up to their grievous errors of judgment, bordering on, perhaps crossing into, political criminal negligence, Rabin plowed ahead, alternating warnings of dire consequences for Palestinian violations with signing new agreements with them. Once, Beilin had categorically assured skeptics that "after ... the first year or two ... there can be no excuses" for the

Palestinians not fighting terrorism. But for the Israeli "peace camp", there were and still are.

Both sides' deepest flaws were fully on display at Camp David in July 2000. Barak arrived with far-reaching concessions; Arafat came prepared to accept nothing less than his full demands. Despite subsequent revisionist apologetics, responsibility for failure was Arafat's alone. "I will accept no Israeli sovereign presence in Jerusalem", he stated, nor "waive the refugees' right of return". Concessions he would have accepted, but not at the price of declaring an "end of conflict". And so began the countdown to war. Palestinian threats had been heard even before the summit. The violence that broke out on Rosh HaShana Eve was premeditated, well telegraphed and well prepared.

The full story of Arafat's War remains to be written, since it has not yet ended. But this book, with its wealth of fascinating, insightful detail, damning evidence and devastating quotes, fully portrays the context in which it erupted, how it has proceeded, and who bears the blame. Efraim Karsh has written an essential work for anyone wishing to truly understand this still unfolding tragedy.

## Clinton reflects on Middle East (Continued from page 1)

between Israel and Syria. Though Barak was the driving force behind the summit with Syria in Shepherdstown, W. Va., in January 2000, he didn't have the will to make concessions, Clinton writes.

Barak wanted to draw out the negotiations so he would appear to be a tough negotiator, Clinton writes. But as a relatively new politician, Barak didn't understand that peace with Syria would reap greater political rewards with Israeli voters than if he hung tough, he says.

"Barak had not been in politics long, and I thought he had gotten some very bad advice," Clinton writes. "If Barak had made real peace with Syria, it would lift his standing in Israel and across the world, and increase the chances of success with the Palestinians. If he failed, a few days of good poll numbers would vanish in the wind. As hard as I tried, I couldn't change Barak's mind."

But Clinton saves his harshest criticism for Arafat. As Clinton's second term was expiring in the fall of 2000, he recalls questioning Arafat about his desire to make peace following the failed Camp David summit and the outbreak of the intifada.

Clinton was considering investing his energy pressing North Korea to end its missile production programs, but only if Arafat indicated that even a final push wouldn't bring peace with Israel.

"He pleaded with me to stay,"

Clinton says of Arafat, "saying that we had to finish the peace and that if we didn't do it before I left office, it would be at least five years before we'd be this close to peace again."

Yet before long Arafat's maneuvering got in the way: After agreement had been reached that the Muslim and Christian quarters of Jerusalem's Old City would come under Palestinian sovereignty and the Jewish and Armenian quarters under Israeli rule, Arafat demanded a few blocks of the Armenian Quarter.

"I couldn't believe he was talking to me about this," Clinton writes.

Clinton suggests that Arafat may not have been at his full mental capacity in the final months of negotiations, saying he seemed "confused, not wholly in command of the facts."

Then again, he writes, Arafat may simply have been unable to "make the final jump from revolutionary to statesman."

The book abounds in revealing anecdotes. For example, Clinton was in awe of Barak's toughness when the Israeli prime minister returned to negotiating immediately after nearly choking to death on a peanut during the Camp David summit.

Clinton describes the day that Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin came to Washington to sign the Oslo accords in September 1993.

Clinton forbade Arafat to wear a revolver on his hip, and had to convince Rabin to shake hands with Arafat.

One account shows how high political drama can at times merge with farce. Clinton and his national security staff coordinated a way to ensure that Arafat would not try to kiss Rabin, something Rabin insisted he wouldn't allow.

"National Security Adviser Tony Lake described the procedure and we practiced it. I played Arafat and he played me, showing me what to do," Clinton writes. "When I shook his hand and moved in for the kiss, he put his left hand on my right arm where it was bent at the elbow and squeezed; it stopped me cold. Then we reversed roles and I did it to him."

"We practiced it a couple of more times until I felt sure Rabin's cheek would remain untouched," he writes. "We all laughed about it, but I knew avoiding the kiss was deadly serious for Rabin."

Clinton speaks at length of his affinity for Rabin, and writes glowingly of the late Israeli leader's work and personality. Clinton describes the night of Rabin's assassination in November 1995: After learning Rabin had been shot, Clinton hit golf balls on the White House lawn while awaiting news of his condition.

The book includes a photo of Clinton, head in hands, hearing the news of Rabin's death from Lake.

"By the time he was killed, I

had come to love him as I had rarely loved another man," Clinton writes. "In the back of my mind, I suppose I always knew he had put his life at risk, but I couldn't imagine him gone, and I didn't know what I would or could do in the Middle East without him."

Clinton — who received 80 percent of the Jewish vote in 1992 and 78 percent four years later — praises the American Jewish community for its role in support of his peace efforts.

"The American-Jewish community had been very good to me," he writes, explaining his decision to unveil the details of his peace plan at an Israel Policy Forum dinner in early 2001, when he had barely two weeks left in office. "Regardless of what happened, I thought I owed it to them to explain my proposal."

Under Clinton's plan, a Palestinian state would have been established in all of the Gaza Strip and nearly all of the West Bank, with an exchange of territory to compensate for settlement blocs annexed by Israel. Clinton also proposed that Palestinian refugees have an unlimited right to move to the new Palestinian state, but not to Israel.

Clinton reflects angrily on Arafat's statement, nearly a year after Clinton left office, that he finally accepted the parameters of Clinton's plan.

"Apparently, Arafat had thought the time to decide, five minutes to

midnight, had finally come," Clinton writes. "His watch had been broken a long time."

Some of Clinton's explanations about whom he did and didn't pardon in his last days in office also will have interest for Jewish readers. Clinton explains his decision not to pardon Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. Navy intelligence officer convicted of spying for Israel.

During negotiations toward the 1998 Wye accord, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded Pollard's release as a condition for moving forward in the peace process. But Clinton says CIA Director George Tenet said he would resign if Clinton commuted Pollard's sentence.

"For all the sympathy Pollard generated in Israel, he was a hard case to push in America; he had sold our country's secrets for money, not conviction, and for years had not shown any remorse," Clinton writes.

Clinton says he decided in his final days as president to pardon Marc Rich, a contributor to several Israeli and American Jewish causes, because tax evasion charges against him were now seen as civil offenses — and because Rich had paid more than four times the amount in fines that he had evaded in taxes. Clinton says that Barak, for his part, asked him three times to pardon Rich.

The Rich pardon proved among Clinton's most controversial.



# MILESTONES

## In Memoriam

### ABENSOHN

Seymour S. Abensohn, of Bethesda, MD died on June 13th. Seaside Jewish Community President Jeffrey Hawtof said "Seymour has been a member of Seaside for a long time and he and his wife, Lillian have been so supportive to our cause."

He is survived by a large, close family which also includes: two sons, and a daughter with his late wife Sheila, Steven Abensohn, Dr. Mark Abensohn, his children Sandy and Ethan and Dr. Meryl Abensohn and her husband and daughter, John T. Kraska and Karyn Kraska. He is also survived by his adopted daughter with his late wife Selma, Pam Halperin, her husband Michael and children, Candice and Melanie; Lillian's son and daughter, Mitchell Kaplan, his wife Annie and sons, Ariel and Ezekiel, and Pamela Brown, her husband Rick and sons, Benjamin and Theodore and is also survived by his sister Florence Blackman. Funeral services were held on June 15th at B'nai Israel Congregation, Rockville, MD with interment in King David Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Center For Israel Studies at American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016; and Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, 6101 Montrose Rd., Rockville, MD 20852.

(This notice appeared in The Washington Post on 6/15/2004.)

### COHEN

Sadie Feinberg Cohen, 101, of The Dorset, died June 15th. A native Wilmingtonian, she spent time as a registered nurse at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Philadelphia before returning to Delaware and becoming Chief Executive Officer of Peter Feinberg Furniture. She is survived by her husband, Ben; her brother, Morris Feinberg of CA; her nephew, Dr. Richard Feinberg; and her niece, Sandy Kates.

Graveside services were held on June 17th in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Heartland Hospice, 261 Chapman Road, Suite 100, Newark, DE 19702 or to Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 West Lea Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802.

### KRAMEN

Frances Platt Kramen, 90, died June 16th. She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Arlene and Marvin Berman and Judith and Leonard Seltzer; her brother and sister-in-law, Dr. David and Ethel Platt; her sister, Freda Evans; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on June 18th in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

Contributions in her memory may be directed to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

### LEE

Hildagard Goldberg Lee, 75, died June 9th in San Antonio, TX. Born in Philadelphia, she was raised in Wilmington. She was employed by The Style Shop where she developed a reputation for fashion savvy. She was proud of her roles as military wife and mother.

Mrs. Lee is mourned by her husband of 53 years, Sgt. Major Richard G. Lee, (U.S. Army, Retired); son, Lloyd Douglas Lee; daughter, Karen Lee Overbeck; grandchildren, Austin Lee Overbeck, Morgan Paige Overbeck, and Tyler Ford Overbeck; brother, Morton Harry Goldberg and his wife, Elaine; and numerous friends. She was predeceased by her parents and her sisters, Mildred Dubin and Sylvia Weinberg.

Funeral services were held in San Antonio, TX. Contributions in her memory would be appreciated to the Ellis Island Foundation.

### VENEZKY

Richard Venezky, a recognized authority on literacy, spelling and educational technology for some three decades, died June 11. He helped to pioneer the use of computers as an educational tool. He was revered by his students and professional colleagues at the University of Delaware where he served as Unidel Professor of Educational Studies, professor of Computer and Information Sciences and professor of Linguistics.

Dr. Venezky recently received a multi-million dollar grant for a five-year study on adult literacy. In May, 2004, the Richard Venezky Award was founded to honor creative work in the field of literacy.

Prior to joining the faculty of the University of Delaware, he served as chair of Computer Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

He has served as the National Research Director for the United States Secretary of Education's Initiative for Reading and Writing; director of computing for the Dictionary of Old English at the University of Toronto, and co-director for Research and Development for the National Center on Adult Literacy. Dr. Venezky was the Benton Visiting Scholar in Education at the University of Chicago, a scholar in residence at the U.S. Department of Education, and a senior researcher at the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France. He also served as a consultant to the Office of Educational Research and Improvement in Washington, D.C.

Throughout his distinguished career he received numerous honors and awards. In 1996, he was inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame and

in 1999, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Society for the Scientific Study of Education.

His educational background, which included undergraduate and graduate degrees in Linguistics from Cornell University and a PhD in Linguistics from Stanford University, prepared him for his avocation as an author of numerous books and journal articles.

He is survived by his wife, The Honorable Karen Venezky, his son, Elie; his daughter, Dina, her husband and son. He also is survived by his mother, Isabelle, sister Diane Puklin and Carol Levenson and many nieces and nephews, grand nieces and grand nephews.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, June 13th at Temple Beth El.

The family would appreciate contributions in his memory to the

Richard Venezky Award, c/o Ludwig Mosberg, PhD, School of Education, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716 or to The Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801.

### ZOLIN

Byron I. Zolin, of Lexington, MA, died June 1st after a brief illness. Born in 1921 in Wisconsin, he moved to Wilmington in 1952 to work for the metallurgy and chemical divisions of the DuPont Company. After his retirement, he traveled around the world before settling in Boston to be near his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Lillian; his daughter, Stacy Bell of Belmont, MA; and his son, Jonathon Zolin of Tallahassee, FL.

Contributions in his memory would be appreciated to the University of Wisconsin Badger Fund, 1440 Monroe Street, Madison, WI 53711.

## NACHAS NOOK

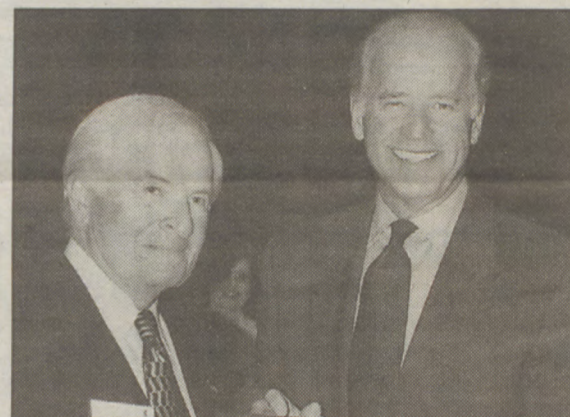
### Morris named Small Business Person of the Year

Albert R. Morris, president of A.R. Morris Jewelers, has been named Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Council of America. This is the first time that a Delawarean has won this coveted national award.

Morris was selected for his civic, business and charitable leadership and for his commitment to the City of Wilmington. The award was presented in Washington, D.C. Senators Joseph Biden and Tom Carper were at the ceremony to congratulate him.

A.R. Morris founded the jewelry store on 802 North Market Street, Wilmington in 1960. He opened a second location in Powder Mill Square in Greenville in 2003.

Albert R. Morris (left) with Senator Joseph R. Biden



Lisa Sandell and Liel Leibovitz

### Sandell and Leibovitz to wed

Lisa Ann Sandell, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Lionel and Nancy Sandell, will marry Liel Leibovitz, son of Mrs. Iris Mindlin and Mr. Rony Leibovitz of Tel Aviv, Israel. The wedding is planned for August at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington. Rabbi Doctor Gerald M. Meister will officiate.

Lisa graduated from Concord High School in 1995, and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999, graduating magna cum laude. She is currently an associate editor of hardcover books at Scholastic, Inc.

Liel completed his B.A. in Cinema Studies at the University of Tel Aviv in 1999. He continued his education at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, earning his Master of Science degree in 2002. He is working towards his Ph.D. in Communications at Columbia while employed as staff writer for The Jewish Week in New York. He is also a frequent contributor to the Jerusalem Report magazine.

Lisa and Liel live in New York City.



Dr. Daniel Friedman and Stevie Schiff

## Schoenberg Memorial Chapels



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### It's an engagement ...

Cheryl and Ken Kamm announce the engagement of their daughter, Stevie Schiff, to Dr. Daniel Friedman. Stevie is also the daughter of the late Harvey Schiff and late step-mother Sally Schiff. Her grandparents are Irwin and Lillian Pearl of Wilmington. Daniel is the son of Evelyn and Herbert Friedman of Skokie, Illinois.

Ms. Schiff is a graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School, University of Delaware and received a Master's Degree in Tourism Administration from George Washington University. She is Conference & Event Manager for Hillel International in Washington, DC.

Dr. Friedman is a graduate of the University of Illinois-Chicago and earned both a Masters and PhD in electrical engineering at the University of Maryland. He works at Hughes Network Systems in satellite communication in Germantown, MD.

A September 6, 2004 wedding is planned.



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR STUDY IN JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, AND JUDAIC STUDIES

The Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, provides scholarship funding to high school students, undergraduate and graduate students. Guidelines vary, but scholarships are primarily available for Jewish students from Delaware or studying in Delaware or Israel for the following purposes:

Greenbaum Scholarship- to attend an accredited college or university program in Israel; to pursue Jewish studies at an accredited North American college or university.

Other scholarships are available for students completing 80 credits of study at Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School or graduates of a High School level Jewish day school, such as Akiba Hebrew Academy. The Jerusalem Study Fund also supports students studying in Jerusalem (application deadlines vary).

Greenbaum Scholarship deadlines are August 1st for the Fall/Winter semester (or session) and December 1st for the Spring/ Summer semester (or session).

For more information and to request scholarship guidelines and an application please email [gina.kozicki@shalomdel.org](mailto:gina.kozicki@shalomdel.org) or call Gina at the Jewish Federation of Delaware (302) 427-2100 x 20

### ISRAEL'S GESHER THEATER RETURNS TO LINCOLN CENTER, JULY 20-25

The Gesh Theater, Israel's leading bi-lingual acting company, will mark the Centennial of Nobel Laureate Issac Bashevis Singers' birth with performances of "The Slave" and "Shosha," July 20-25, at the John Jay College Theater, 899 10th Avenue, between 58th and 59th Streets, as part of the Lincoln Center Festival.

As one of the only bi-lingual theaters in the world, Gesh's mission was to establish a cultural resource for native Israelis and Russian immigrants who settled in Israel. Founded in 1991 by Russian émigré Yevgeny Arye, the Israeli-based company is one of the few—and finest—bilingual theater companies in the world and combines the principles of traditional Russian theater with an innovative acting style. *The Times* of London has called the Gesh, "One of the greatest and most important

troupes in the world."

Based on the works by I.B. Singer, "The Slave" is set in 17th century Poland and portrays a Jewish Yeshiva graduate who survives a brutal pogrom only to be sold into slavery where he falls in love with his master's daughter. It will be performed in Russian with simultaneous English translations on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 20-21. On Thursday, July 22, "The Slave" will be performed in Hebrew with simultaneous English translations.

"Shosha," another Singer tale, is set in Warsaw on the eve of the Holocaust. It chronicles a young writer's love for his naive childhood friend, Shosha. It will be performed in Russian with simultaneous English translations on Friday and Saturday, July 23 and 24th. On Sunday, July 25th, "Shosha" will be performed in Hebrew with simultaneous translations.

Tickets for both "The Slave" and "Shosha" cost \$60 and can be bought online at [www.lincolncenter.org/programs/festival](http://www.lincolncenter.org/programs/festival), at the Lincoln Center box office 212-721-6500.

For further information, contact Ronn Torossian at 212-999-5585.

### WASHINGTON IS THE PLACE TO BE FOR SAVVY, INTELLIGENT PHILANTHROPIC JEWISH WOMEN!

Join with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, Former Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs Gerda Klein, Academy Award Winner, Founder, The Gerda and Kurt Klein Foundation, Ann F. Lewis, Former White House Communications Director, Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University,

Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey, (D-NY), Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Rabbi David Saperstein, Director and Counsel, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Marie Wilson, Executive Director of the Ms. Foundation and Author of *Closing the Leadership Gap: Why Women Can and Must Help Run the World*.

The International Lion of Judah Conference is October 17-19, 2004 in Washington DC - Conference registration is \$525 before Sept. 3 and \$575 thereafter. Registration includes meals and all programming. The hotel room rate is \$179 per room, per night single or double occupancy. Contact Jennifer Young, Endowment & Women's Philanthropy Director at [jennifer.young@shalomdel.org](mailto:jennifer.young@shalomdel.org) for an invitation. Minimum gift: \$5,000 to the Jewish Federation of Delaware Annual Campaign.

## Newark News Notes

### Outdoor Flea Markets

Sundays, June 27, July 25 and August 22

8:00 am-2:30 pm

Come out and get some great bargains!

### Phillies Game

Wednesday, July 7

Leave Newark JCC - 4:30 Leave Wilm. JCC - 5:20

Watch the Phillies take on the NY Mets at the Citizen's Bank Center!

\$30.00/M, \$35.00/NM

Dinner also available for an additional \$10.00.

### Jewelry Making Workshop

Thursday, July 15 • 9:15-10:45 a.m.

You'll learn some simple techniques for making a beautiful bracelet and you get take it home!

\$40.00/M, \$45.00/NM

### Yahtzee Tournament

Sunday, July 25 • 2:00 p.m.

See how good you can do at rolling those dices at our first-ever Yahtzee Tournament!

\$10.00/Person

Register by July 19th.

For further information call Lynda Bell, Newark JCC, 286-1401

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## Seaside News Notes

### Friday Shabbat Service and Dinner

Spend Shabbat at the beach. Join the Seaside Jewish Community for Shabbat services on Friday night on July 2nd at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome for the service, to be led by a guest cantor, and for a pre-service dinner. Dinner will be served at 6pm. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Please call Cindi Silverblatt in advance at (302) 227-1107. Cindi and her husband, Stanley do all the planning, cooking and setup for these dinners so make your reservations early!

### Outreach for our Elderly!

Seaside members visit female residents at Harbor Health Care and Lewes Convalescent Center. These elderly women really enjoy the visits and the little gifts volunteers bring to them. More volunteers are needed! It's the perfect mitzvah project for summer beach-goers! If you are interested, or have any questions, please call 227-1056 or 226-2370.

### Fireworks on the Fourth!

Main Street will host its annual Fireworks Party at the Atlantic Sands Hotel on Sunday night July 4th. Seaside member Fay Jacobes heads Rehoboth Beach Main Street, the organization that puts on this celebration each summer.

There will be dinner, beverages, a DJ, celebrity bartenders, and lots and lots of fun. Party goers enjoy exclusive rooftop viewing for the fireworks. The party starts at 7pm & the cost is \$50 per person... It's fun and goes to support the fireworks... Tickets are already going FAST!!! If you would like to participate, send a check for \$50 per person made out to Rehoboth Beach Main Street and the names, address and phone # of the guests to: RBMS Fireworks Party, PO Box 50, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

## Happy Birthday, Rome Synagogue

Continued from page 9

extraordinary experience," Kertzer said.

"My father's experiences here had a big impact on me, and it's not really a coincidence that I chose the field of study that I did," he said.

During World War II, deportations of Italian Jews began only after the Nazis occupied Italy in September 1943.

Many Jews in Rome found refuge in the homes of Christian friends or in Catholic institutions, but methodical round-ups and searches led to the deportation of more than 2,000 Roman Jews to Auschwitz. About 8,000 Italian Jews in all were deported.

The Rome community's award, presented by the city's chief rabbi, Riccardo Di Segni, and the president of the Jewish community, Leone Paserman, came during an international conference June 16-17 that was held to honor the synagogue's 100th anniversary.

"During their 10 months of occupation, the Nazis had sealed the synagogue but didn't desecrate it," Paserman said. "On that first Friday night after the liberation, Jews from all over the city emerged from hiding

and made their way to the temple.

"It's important to remember that the war was still going on elsewhere, and there would still be 11 months before peace was declared," he said.

Rabbi Kertzer himself wrote vividly about his experiences in Rome in a book of memoirs published in 1947.

Accompanied by another Jewish chaplain, Aaron Paperman, he entered Rome in "a jeep sandwiched between a tank and a truck" as part of an impromptu military parade, cheered on by a millions Italians. The two rabbis immediately sought out the local Jewish community.

"We were probably the first tourists since 1939 to ask, 'Dov' e' la sinagoga, per favore?'" Kertzer wrote.

"The following Friday, on the ninth day of June, the first large synagogue in liberated Europe opened its doors," he wrote.

"Four thousand men, women, and children streamed into the high-domed house of worship. Vast though the temple is, every inch of space was occupied," he wrote.

In his brief, English-language sermon, Kertzer told the Jews of Rome that the Allied soldiers shared their burdens and stressed the sense of

unity that bound Jews worldwide.

"We Americans, from all walks of life, wearing the uniform of America, have flocked to the house of God. And we saw Jewish soldiers from England and Canada, Jewish soldiers wearing the insignia of Eretz Yisroel proudly enter your beautiful synagogue to join in prayer," he told them.

Kertzer did not conduct the service alone — he shared the bimah with Israel Zolli, the elderly and controversial chief rabbi of Rome, and at least two other rabbis.

Zolli, however, is almost never mentioned by Italian Jews, and his role in the liberation celebration was not brought up when Kertzer was honored.

The reason is painful, embarrassing and bitterly ironic.

After the liberation, Jewish community leaders accused Zolli of having abandoned his post and his congregation during the Nazi occupation and fired him as chief rabbi. The Allies reinstated him, but the conflict split the community.

In February 1945, just six months after the joyful liberation Shabbat, Zolli effectively ended the dispute by announcing his conversion to Roman Catholicism.



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## JULY

1: American Graffiti- Outside!  
2: Independence Day- Outside!  
9- 11: I'm Not Scared (Italy)  
rated R, 110 minutes  
16- 18: Monsieur Ibrahim (France)  
rated R, 94 minutes  
23- 25: Seducing Doctor Lewis (France)  
rated G, 108 minutes

Theatre N at Nemours is located in the Nemours Building, which is bordered by 10th, 11th, Orange, and Tatnall Streets in Downtown Wilmington. Discounted parking is available at the City Center Parking Garage at 11th and Tatnall Streets, across the street from the Theatre N entrance.

The theatre owner and co-sponsor, the Buccini/Pollin Group, renovated the theatre last year. Theatre N seats 221 people and features a 35-mm projector, a perforated movie screen, and state-of-the-art Dolby surround sound system. Theatre N is the only movie theatre in New Castle County showing independent films.

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