

U.S., Israeli flags fly over JCC



Since the beginning of the crisis in the Persian Gulf, both the American and Israeli flags have flown over the Jewish Community Center in Wilmington as a sign of support for both the American troops in the Persian Gulf and for Israel under Iraqi attack. According to JCC Executive Director David Sorkin, there has been "a renewed level of patriotic support for Israel," noted JCC Executive Director David Sorkin, "which is very exciting to see." (Photo: P. Berengut)

U.S. determined to seek peace but won't impose settlement

By DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — While President Bush says he is determined to move quickly to bring about a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Secretary of State James Baker has made it clear that the United States is not looking to impose a peace settlement.

Instead, Baker said that when he visits Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria this week, he wants to hear from the leaders of those countries how they view the next step in the peace process.

"We are not going with a specific plan," the secretary said in an appearance Sunday on the NBC-TV program "Meet the Press."

"We have said many times that we can be effective as a catalyst in encouraging peace in the Middle East, but only as effective as the desire of the parties to the conflict to want a solution. They've got to want a solution," he said.

The United States "cannot impose a peace" in the Middle East, "notwithstanding the excellent relationship we have with Israel, notwithstanding the enhanced, perhaps, stature and

standing we have with some of our Arab coalition partners," Baker said.

At a White House news conference Friday, Bush said he believes "the time is right" to seek a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, as a result of the success of the U.S.-led campaign against Iraq. But like Baker, he said that while the United States wants to "play a very useful" role, it does not plan to make any proposals, including and international peace conference.

"Whether it proves to be a peace conference or some bolder, new idea, time will tell," Bush said. "But we are beginning very serious consultations on this."

Baker said that "the worst thing we can do is arrive in the region and say this is the American plan for peace." Such a proposal would be "shot up like a Scud missile with a couple of Patriots," he said.

While repeatedly calling the Arab-Israel conflict an "intractable problem," Baker said that "we have got to find a way for the Arab states and Israel to make peace, and we have got to find a way for Israelis and Palestinians to

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U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, scheduled to make his first visit to Israel on March 11, has made said that the U.S. is not looking to impose a peace settlement.

With war's end, flights to Israel begin again

By HUGH ORGEL

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The cessation of the fighting in the Persian Gulf has brought an end to the suspension by foreign airlines of flights to Israel and other countries of the Middle East. That should reinvigorate the flagging tourism industry, which already is reporting a resurgence of inquiries about trips to the region.

International airlines that halted service to Israel before the start of the war because of high insurance rates are gradually winging their way back to Ben-Gurion Airport. The stalwart El Al and the American carrier Tower Air, which had been the sole carriers flying to Israel during the war, will no longer have an uncontested choice of runways.

Germany's Lufthansa on Friday became the first foreign carrier to resume its full daily scheduled service to Israel. Air France began flights again on Sunday.

Olympic Airlines, the last to pull out, had hoped to be the first back this week. The Greek carrier returned to Tel Aviv on Tuesday. For the time being, Olympic will fly twice weekly

from Athens, returning eventually to its former schedule of three flights a week.

Most of the some 18 other carriers that flew to Israel have said they will resume their flights here gradually, working their way up from abbreviated service to full schedules within a few days.

The last to return will be the American carriers, and one of them may not return there at all. Trans World Airlines, which had not expected to suspend flights to Israel even as war was looming, has now indicated it may not be able to resume operations to Israel. Its chief reason appears to be its own troubled finances.

TWA's local staff in Israel, who have not yet received their salaries for February, have been told they need not plan to return to work, as the Israeli office of the airline may not reopen at all.

The air carrier, which cut its first-class ticket prices by 60 percent and business-class tickets by 50 percent if purchased by March 15, has defaulted on a \$75 million bond payment, because it needs cash to continue operating,

The New York Times reported. However, a spokesman for TWA told the Times that the airline was "looking into the possibility of restoring service to Tel Aviv and other cities whose serve was suspended."

British Airways will resume service on March 14, providing six flights per week to Tel Aviv, just as before the war.

Pan American Airways, which has filed for bankruptcy, will probably be the last to return to Israel. Its senior vice president of corporate communications, Jeffrey Kreindler, told the Times that the carrier plans to resume flights to Israel in May.

Meanwhile, the time required for check-in was being somewhat reduced by some airlines. Lufthansa has stopped asking passengers to arrive at the airport two to three hours prior to their flights, but has returned to normal check-in time, 90 minutes before boarding, according to the Times. However, security precautions at airlines have not been reduced, the Times reported.

House panel backs \$650 million additional aid to Israel

By HOWARD ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The House Appropriations Committee has approved a Bush administration request for an additional \$650 million in U.S. aid to Israel, to compensate for its added defense costs in the months during and leading up to Operation Desert Storm.

The funds, which still require passage by the full House of Representatives and the Senate, would "help pick up some of those very significant elements of expenditure that Israel faced as we went forward with this war," Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-Calif.), a committee member, told a gathering of Simon Wiesenthal Center leaders here shortly before the vote.

The unanimous vote of approval Tuesday, on an amendment sponsored by Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), came three days after Secretary

of State James Baker and Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval held an unusual Saturday meeting to discuss the supplemental aid question.

Israel had formally submitted a request to Baker on Feb. 20 for \$1 billion in special aid to offset its added military spending since Aug. 2, when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Although the Bush administration had said it would view sympathetically any Israeli aid request related to the war, last fall's landmark budget agreement requires that any unforeseen, non-emergency spending be offset by cuts elsewhere in the federal budget.

Budget Director Richard Darman had told the Senate Appropriations Committee on Feb. 26 that the aid for Israel could not be justified as emergency spending.

But the administration retreated from that position over the weekend, and settled on the \$650 million figure in negotiations with Israel.

The aid is included in the second of two supplemental aid bills stemming from the Gulf crisis. One covers the Pentagon's direct war costs, while the other includes a potpourri of other war-related spending.

As part of the deal, Israel agreed to wait until early September to request an additional \$10 billion in U.S. guarantees for loans needed for immigrant resettlement, according to Jess Hordes, Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Israel received \$400 million worth of U.S. loan guarantees for that purpose on Feb. 20, after a nine-month delay.

Hordes said the administration has also

agreed not to block any move in Congress to keep U.S. Patriot missile batteries deployed in Israel permanently. A pro-Israel lobbyist said negotiations on that point would take place "in the near future."

The \$650 million figure marks a retreat from the \$910 million figure Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens floated during his Feb. 11 meeting here with Baker.

When the formal Israeli request for \$1 billion was later submitted, it was immediately criticized by pro-Israel lobbyists here as too much.

In a rare public statement late Tuesday, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee praised the administration's commitment, saying it "demonstrates an understanding of Israel's heightened security needs."

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Editorial

Brave new diplomacy

It is time to wage peace. The President has stated his desire to begin an effort to bring about peace between Israel and the Arab states. We support this effort. Success, however, requires that the Administration work closely with its one democratic ally in the region - Israel - an ally that once again displayed its loyalty when it mattered most.

A proven formula for negotiating peace exists. Camp David demonstrated that an American President committed to a peace process, who is willing to work with his Israeli counterpart, can find the basis for an agreement with an Arab partner prepared to normalize relations with the Jewish State. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has already stated his interest in moving forward and will consult with Secretary of State James Baker when he makes his first trip to Israel this week.

Thus, two of the three most important ingredients for progress are coming into place. The President is engaged and he is consulting with Israel. We have gotten this far before. The missing ingredient has always been an Arab partner.

The Gulf war proved, once again, the necessity that the primary focus be placed on the Arab states rather than the Palestinians. The Arab states must take confidence-building measures. Israel already took a huge step by refraining from attacking Iraq after the most severe provocation. Israel also has placed a two-track peace plan on the table that involves negotiations with both Arab states and the Palestinians. Now it's the Arabs' turn.

The Administration must demand that the Arab states stop their boycott. They must give up efforts to expel Israel from the UN. They must recognize Israel. And they must be prepared to make peace with Israel.

As Sadat discovered, Israel can be forthcoming when it has American support and is given reason to be confident in the intentions of its interlocutor. But Israel cannot be pressured to accept conditions that undermine its security.

One of the most important prerequisites for progress toward a Palestinian-Israeli agreement is the ostracism of the PLO. The PLO must be cut out of the peace process; only then will it no longer be in a position to intimidate Palestinians in the territories who seek peaceful coexistence with Israel.

Brave new diplomacy is required. Yitzhak Shamir and George Bush are capable of this challenge. Will an Arab leader rise to the occasion?

Near East Report

The Jewish Voice welcomes signed letters from its readers on subjects of interest to the Jewish Community. For verification purposes, include home address and phone number (day and evening). The more concise a letter is, the less likely it will need to be condensed. A name will be withheld upon request.

Send letters typed double spaced, to

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Letters to the Editor

WILM kept rabbi in touch

(The following letter was sent from Rabbi David Geffen in Jerusalem to WILM President Sally Hawkins.)

The phone rang Thursday evening, February 28 almost like clockwork. It was WILM calling and for the seventh time in the last forty-two days I had a chance to speak live about our fears and our frustrations during the missile attacks. During that Thursday call I also had a chance to speak about our hopes for the future. Only after the conversation ended did I fully realize how important your calls have been.

Clearly in this age of instant TV news globally, all of you living in the USA saw the effects of the missile attacks on Israel and at times you were even taken into our sealed rooms where we donned our gas masks. However, as much as you saw and heard in those reports, it was still difficult, except through speaking over the radio to the average citizen, to feel the isolation, the tension and anxiety which we experienced. In a sense, then, WILM became my channel to the world allowing me to express the deep feelings which I and others like me had.

From the start of the war when your call came in the wee hours of a Friday morning just after the first SCUD attack you never forgot us during the entire six weeks. Whenever I and my family really felt isolated, you seemed to know just when to call and gave me a chance to speak to your listeners, some of whom I know well and most of whom I do not know at all.

What did your calls do? Each one made me focus not only on my personal situation but on the bigger picture. They gave me a chance to ventilate, to speak my mind, to open up, to let your listeners know that we Israelis were holding our own. But your calls provided another opportunity for me. Frustrated by the missile attacks and not totally satisfied with the restraint of the Israeli government, I had a chance through your airwaves to stand on my

soapbox and tell those who would listen what John Q. Israeli felt about being violated by these attacks without being able to respond.

Well, my good friends at WILM, I would like to conclude our present hook-up with a few parting words. First, Israel is still the only democracy in The Middle East. We struggle to survive not as a mere spartan state but as a locale where human potential can be developed and spiritual truths can be enunciated.

Second, we hope that the world better understands that Israel has always wanted peace but its struggle for this goal has been frustrated by Arab states, leaders and extremists who prefer rockets to plows, destruction to friendship and harmony. Truly there are moderate Arabs but they are normally silent because they are afraid of the terrorists.

Third, Israelis do not have one single view because Israel is a democratic country in which people have the right to speak their mind. However, the goal of all Israelis, no matter what their political stripe, is to be at peace with their Arab neighbors. Only Egypt of all the Arab countries has chosen to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

Fourth hopefully the USA, in particular President Bush and Secretary of State Baker, will urge the Arab nations with which it has such creditability to come to terms with Israel since the Middle East and Persian Gulf can benefit from peaceful relationships between the nations of the region. Surely, not everything can happen immediately, but, WILM, just as you kept the line open to Israel during this crisis hopefully the American leadership will keep that line open too.

To my good friends at radio station WILM in the first city in the first state I say "Thanks" from the bottom of my heart. Hope to speak to you again one of these days when peace (shalom) for Israel and her neighbors is really on the horizon. All the best from Jerusalem.

Rabbi David Geffen

Honoring Isabella as saint is cruel

There are anniversaries we celebrate with happiness, and there are anniversaries we recall with solemnity.

Each year millions of Jews recall the tragedy of man's inhumanity to man through prayer services, candlelight vigils, and inspirational readings on Yom Hashoah — the day the Holocaust is remembered. We Jews believe, perhaps naively, that retelling the painful stories of history, about the destructiveness caused by irrational hatred of one people against another people, we may save ourselves and others from a repeat performance.

Now we learn that the people of Spain are planning a special anniversary celebration, a festive affair to honor — with the eventual goal of canonizing a member of the Spanish Royal family. Her name was Isabella. She ruled with

her husband Ferdinand in the latter decade of the 15th century.

No one can deny the vision of this monarchy. Queen Isabella opened a new world for Europe, as she was the benefactor of many explorers of the generation — including Christopher Columbus.

The opportunity and bounty that Columbus made available to Spain through the good graces of Isabella are well-known to all of us. This is the stuff of high school history classes.

But, that is only half of the lesson. Isabella's reign was bloody, merciless, cruel, and except perhaps for the Holocaust, unparalleled in its violence toward the Jewish people.

As the handmaid of the Church, Isabella reeked destruction on the Jewish people of

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Op - Ed

After the war – many questions

By MORRIS J. AMITAY

As the Gulf crisis unfolds, many disturbing questions have been raised, the answers to which will go a long way in shaping post-war U.S. policies.

If the Soviet Union has indeed been helpful to our country in the confrontation with Iraq

and if it deserves a preeminent role in shaping a comprehensive Middle East settlement – as Secretary of State James Baker has already conceded – why did they keep us in the dark regarding their abortive “peace plan”? Why did reported Allied communication intercepts in Iraq pick up Russian conversations? And what ever happened to that Soviet ship full of military spares caught red-handed (no pun

intended) in its way to Iraq after the war started?

Looking ahead — if Saddam Hussein survives in power due to Soviet machinations, who would resupply his lot T-72 tanks and MIG aircraft? And looking backward to pre-Kuwait invasion days, is it conceivable that the Soviet Union was unaware of Saddam Hussein's plans to invade? Or to put it another way, *what* did Gorbachev know, and *when* did he know it?

There have also been some questions about various U.S. actions during the crisis. Why is it that White House “sources” let it be known that President Bush was “livid” over what Israeli Prime Minister Shamir or more recently what Ambassador Zelman Shoval have said, but that the President has never been “livid” over King Hussein's pro-Iraq speech or for that matter, anything Yasir Arafat has ever said? Why is “lividity” reserved for Israelis? Why would an Israeli ambassador be called on the carpet at the State Department for expressing what was readily apparent — a U.S. run-around on the housing loan guarantees? And a related question *why* did it take ten months for these guarantees (which are off budget and do not cost the U.S. Government anything unless Israel defaults) to be finally approved?

Why is the United States playing up to Syria in the same way it did toward Iraq during its war with Iran? And a related question - how different is the Damascus regime's record in human rights, terrorism and anti-Americanism than that of Baghdad's?

And a puzzling question which might bear on post-war U.S. diplomacy - why is it that our Secretary of State has never set foot in Israel?

What will happen to the U.S. official intelligence estimates that Israel could handily defeat all the Arab armies combined, thereby justifying denial of the latest U.S. technology to Israel to defend itself?

And one final question - why should Israel's friends listen carefully to what columnist Anthony Lewis, Ramsey Clark and Jesse Jackson have to say about the Gulf crisis? The answer - if you disagree violently with this trio, you are definitely on the right track.

(Morris J. Amitay is a Washington attorney and former Executive Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.)

Most recent war against Jews brought all Jews closer together

By RABBI HERBERT A. YOSKOWITZ

All Jews share a common destiny. Iraq's war against Israel brought that lesson into sharper focus. While trying to destroy Israel, Saddam Hussein's Iraq inadvertently brought Jews closer together. On that January Sabbath after the outbreak of the military war, synagogue attendance around the world often quadrupled in number. Petty arguments, or even major ones, seemed to have ceased. All eyes and ears were turned for news about Israel as hearts were turned to God, seeking inspiration, insight and courage.

The coming together of our people in a time of potential or actual persecution is not a new phenomenon. Haman received authority from the king when “the king removed his ring from his hand and gave it to Haman...the oppressor of the Jews” (*Esther 3:10*). Commenting on the results of this event, Rabbi Abba bar Cahane indicates that “the transfer of the ring was more effective in uniting the Jews in religious repentance than the 48 prophets and seven prophetesses who were unable to turn Israel to better courses (Babylonian Talmud Megillah 14a).

When hatred is directed against Jews, it is not confined to the ethnically or religiously conscious groups among us who are more conspicuous by our separateness. Jews whose homes are devoid of all symbols of Jewishness or as likely to be attacked by the Pharos or Hamans of yesterday or by the Hitlers or Saddam Husseins of today as are Jews with *mezuzot* affixed to their doorposts. To our oppressors or would-be oppressors, we are inseparable — one people.

In difficult times, we ourselves become one people. Will the temporary unity of our people during a time of danger extend beyond the immediate threat now that military hostilities have ceased? Will the realization of our common destiny unite us now with resultant changes in our patterns of behavior? Will the events compel us to give to the Jewish Federation of

Delaware? Will the events inspire us to visit Israel now, this year during a military peace when Israel may be threatened politically and be in danger from a new world order?

We who dwell in the most precious diaspora in all of recorded history must understand the hardships of Israelis. Would we who, in the comfort of our homes, peered at the rubble created by SCUD missiles hitting Tel Aviv have traveled to the Persian Empire to be with Mordecai and Esther and other Jews 2500 years ago when their lives were threatened? Assuming that today's transportation was available more than three thousand years ago, would we have flown to Egypt to observe the first Passover with Jews as they were preparing to hastily march to the Red Sea and to freedom?

Jews and non-Jews who insisted on being in Israel during this 1991 war are an inspiration to us all. Elie Wiesel, the Jewish Nobel Prize laureate, and Zubin Mehta, a non-Jew who conducts the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, jeopardized their lives and limbs to be in Israel at a time of great peril. Many Israelis who live here in the United States of America including the “star” athlete of the Yeshiva University basketball team returned home to be with their families in our national home. Rational, intelligent people left the security of the United States to be in the war zone of Israel because they knew that when Israel is threatened, all Jews are in danger. Their actions reinforce a commitment on the part of many Americans to strongly identify with Israel, particularly in a time of extreme vulnerability.

During the military war which ended last Thursday on Purim, some Wilmington Jews who have sons and daughters in Israel noted how determined their grown children were to remain in Israel during this crisis. Israelis whose parent (s) live in Delaware and with whom I visited in Israel before the outbreak of military war expressed a determination to remain and

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Harassment of American Arabs ignorant, bigoted

By ROBERT BURTON COONIN

The Persian Gulf war has spawned a new twist on an old ugly phenomenon. Reports have recently surfaced of harassment of Americans of Arab descent by both private individuals and U.S. government law enforcement agencies. The Jewish Community Relations Committee of Delaware condemns both.

The objective of the current military hostilities as expressed by both the United Nations mandate and the president of the United States is to liberate a sovereign nation, Kuwait, from the naked aggression of the government of Iraq led by its despotic leader, Saddam Hussein. Joining the United States as allied partners in this endeavor are scores of other nations, including Arab nations and other non-Arab Muslim nations.

For Americans of Arab descent to be threatened and harassed is nothing more than ignorance and bigotry at its worst. It is unfortunate that some small segment of our society still chooses to judge others solely on the basis of the manner in which they worship, color of their skin or nation of their ancestral origin.

In many ways, recent “visits” of American citizens of Arab descent by the FBI and other police agencies and inquiries as to such individuals' acquaintances is even more repugnant. As a democratic nation made up of the children of immigrants, there is no room in this society for a government that suspects disloyalty merely because of the spelling of one's name or the speech of one's parents.

Let those who commit criminal acts be punished. Let those who give no reason to suspect disloyalty be left alone to enjoy the freedom this country provides. Let those who harass and intimidate without any justification, solely on the basis of race, color, religion or ancestry, be universally condemned.

(Robert Burton Coonin is Chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.)

The living will and the sanctity of life in Jewish law

By RABBI BERNARD ZLOTOWITZ

“There is a time to be born and a time to die” — Ecclesiastes.

Advances in medical technology now allow patients to be kept alive in a vegetative state when they can no longer function meaningfully. In response, a document known as a Living Will has evolved, allowing persons of sound mind to instruct their physicians to withhold life-sustaining procedures in the event that they become incompetent to express themselves on this point. In this way, a terminally-ill person may die in dignity and in peace.

Two types of wills are mentioned in the Talmud: the legal instrument, by which one disposes of property; and the ethical will — derived from Moses' exhortation to the children of Israel to walk in the ways of God — in which a father exhorts his children or teaches his students to live moral and ethical lives. From both legal and moral perspectives, these documents carry a great deal of weight. According to the Talmud, a will, whether written or oral, takes effect immediately upon a person's death. Every effort must be made to insure that the deceased's wishes are carried out faithfully.

Since Judaism places great stress on the sanctity of life, which takes precedence over almost all other values, is a Living Will valid according to Jewish law? The Torah teaches that no action may be taken to hasten death. “The soul is a guest in the body and, therefore,

must be treated with great respect,” we are enjoined in *Leviticus Rabbah*. “Since God originally gave the soul, only God can take it back,” we learn from Genesis and the *gemara Ta'anit*. Any intrusive act that hastens a person's death is regarded as tantamount to murder. Hence Jewish law forbids all forms of euthanasia.

However, when a person who is terminally ill refused medical treatment, one is not required to prolong life by extraordinary means. Moses Isserles (the Rama) states in his commentary on the *Schulchan Aruch*:

... “if there is anything that hinders the departure of the soul — as, for example, a knocking noise near the person's home because of chopping wood, or there is salt on his tongue, and these prevent the soul from departing — it is permissible to remove them because there is no act involved at all, only the removable hindrance.”

The Talmud and Commentaries, including the Rama himself, state that if a person is in the throes of death one should stop praying for his or her recovery or for release.

These commentaries refer to dying persons who have never expressed their own wishes. In these cases, the decision regarding continued treatment is left to the rabbi and the physician. But the overwhelming and preponderant view is to discontinue treatment and allow the person to die in peace.

Diplomacy in war's aftermath may bring surprising results

(Reprinted with permission from the News Journal)

There has been a persistent unreal quality to the images in the news for several days now. Celebrating Kuwaitis, huddling Iraqi prisoners, returning allied prisoners, triumphant American generals, smashed Iraqi convoys, humbled Iraqi generals. Perhaps it is because few of us expected to see these things so soon that they are barely believable.

The war ended with the U.S.-led allies occupying southern Iraq to the Euphrates, and openly threatening to go deeper, if Iraq is not quick about meeting allied cease-fire demands that amount to unconditional surrender.

In Iraq, one war is ending and another may be brewing. That shattered nation may not savor a peaceful breeze for months.

Here at home Americans are gearing up for wild celebrations to welcome the troops home. The biggest one, scheduled for New York City in mid-May, is to cost at least \$5 million.

In the end, Desert Storm became more of a roundup than a war. The diplomats who now must put peace together still face formidable odds, odds that seem as daunting as Saddam Hussein's legions did before they were exposed, like the Professor in the Wizard of Oz, to be more sound than fury.

The big difference is that allied diplomacy now functions from great strength. The whole equation of what was likely or possible a month ago is defunct. Chances are that agreements will be forthcoming that would not have been laid on the table a few weeks ago.

Foremost among them is the question of how and where to settle the Palestinians. And now is the time for King Hussein of Jordan to resuscitate his credibility as a peacemaker. The king, having dutifully doffed his crown to the other Hussein in order to appease his subjects, who are mostly Palestinians, should now make himself useful by declaring Jordan — or part of Jordan — the new Palestinian homeland.

Candle Lighting

MARCH

1ST — 5:35 PM

8TH — 5:42 PM

15TH — 5:49 PM

22ND — 5:57 PM

29TH — 6:04 PM

DELAWARE'S SYNAGOGUES

ADAS KODESCH SHEL EMETH

(Traditional)
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Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America
Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive
Wilmington
762-2705

Rabbi Nathan N. Schorr
Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Gewirtz
SERVICES

Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 8:45 a.m.
Sundays, holidays — 8 a.m.
Monday through Friday — 7:30 a.m.
Monday through Thursday — 5:45 p.m.

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Dover
734-5578

Rabbi Moshe Goldblum
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300 Lea Blvd.
Wilmington
764-2393

Rabbi Peter Grumbacher
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A Torah Study group is led by the
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United Synagogues of America
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Wilmington
654-4462

Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz
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B'nai B'rith Building
800 Society Blvd.
Claymont
798-6846

Friday — 8 p.m.
Saturday — 9 a.m.

TEMPLE BETH EL

(Reconstructionist)
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Federation of Reconstructionist
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301 Possum Park Road
Newark
366-8330

Rabbi David Kaplan
SERVICES

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A Torah study group meets
on Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Dvar Torah

Parshat Vayakhel-Pikudey March 9th

Journey of artistic expression

By PAMELA FELDMAN-HILL

Special to The Jewish Voice

No artist has ever engaged in a task as great as Bezalel's. In the Torah portions Vayakhel-Pikudey, he is called upon to create a tabernacle to house God's most holy gift, the Commandments. Bezalel was asked to envision and interpret God's explicit directions for building the Tabernacle—an awesome, and perhaps intimidating, task. To compound his struggle, he had to create his art under the scrutiny of the entire Jewish nation.

We can glean insight from Vayakhel-Pikudey into three issues in art, each of which touches us on a different level. On a spiritual level, we can read Bezalel's story as a paradigm for all creative endeavor. As Jews struggling with theological issues, we can clarify the discrepancies revolving around the use of figurative forms in ritual art. To address practical concerns, we can begin to understand the concept of *hiddur mitzvah*, glorification of a commandment.

The text includes painfully detailed descriptions of Bezalel's efforts (Exodus 36:8-38:23). Does this concern for details border on obsession, or is it a means of elevating the ordinary, of recognizing and cherishing the multitude of minute efforts which culminate in a masterpiece? Do we chronicle Bezalel's labor to show that he was capable of following orders, or to honor the artistic process itself?

Bezalel's efforts provide a useful model for the creative process. As an artist I know that an idea and a vision are merely first steps in any creative act, followed by intensive labor and attention to details. I am often encouraged by the maxim, "Genius is the infinite capacity for taking pains." It is in *loving* the creative journey itself and finding glory in even the most mundane aspect of the work that Bezalel, and any artist, finds a spark of divine inspiration. Just as God has lovingly created and imbued us with a touch of divine presence, so must the artist infuse a portion of his own spirit into each creative endeavor.

God provided Bezalel with skill, and yet this is the last and perhaps least important, attribute with which he is endowed. "And (God) hat filled him with the spirit of God, wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and all manner of workmanship." (Exodus 35:31). To reveal with integrity the innermost essence of one's soul, and to be willing to suffer its inspection by others, is an artist's most difficult task. It is wisdom, understanding, and knowledge even more than talent, which provide the artist with the courage necessary to expose unshared visions. These are the tools with which Bezalel, and every artist undertakes the frightening responsibility of creating art worthy of God's presence.

For the student of Jewish theology, a troubling aspect of Bezalel's creation is the inclusion of "cherubim." The text describes these cherubim—figurative forms of "angels" which are to decorate the ark (Ex. 25:18)—in great detail. In Vayakhel-Pikudey, Bezalel creates these gold angels with wings and faces (Ex. 37:7). This seems to be in direct contradiction of the Second Commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor any manner of likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down unto them, nor serve them, for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God..." (Ex. 20:3-5).

This commandment has been used throughout history to enforce the notion that Judaism forbids the use of figurative forms in art. Consequently, it might seem odd that God would command Bezalel to protect the covering for this very commandment with a "graven image."

In fact, examples of figurative forms in Jewish art abound. The wall frescoes of the Dura Europus Synagogue, c. 250 C.E., contain the first known visual translation of Biblical episodes, and include representations of the patriarchs and Moses. With these figures is a naked rendering of Pharaoh's daughter! In the 4th century Hammath Synagogue near Tiberias, Greco-Roman nude athletes race across the synagogue floor to represent the zodiac.

What is the Second Commandment an injunction against? If one is to lean from historical evidence provided by art, we can assume that throughout much of Jewish history this commandment has been interpreted as an injunction against idol *worship*, and not against the use of figurative forms in art.

Why then the preponderance of the myth that figurative elements are not allowed in Jewish art? The two primary causes of proscriptions against using figurative forms in Jewish art are persecution and aesthetic pressures from surrounding cultures, both the direct result of external conflicts, rather than internal theological concerns.

A common response to persecution is a turning inward by the threatened community, with a more rigid observance of the laws, including those of Kashrut and dress, as well as those pertaining to ritual art. Aesthetic pressures, on the other hand, stem from the unique nature of the Jewish people as a dispersed nation.

Jewish art is often stylistically determined by the dominant forms of the land in which it is created. For example, due to the injunction against figurative art in Moslem tradition, Jewish works of art

Cohen Foundation makes 1990 allocations

January 19 marked the thirty-second anniversary of the death of Harry Cohen, one of the founders of the Wilmington Jewish community. During his lifetime he devoted his time, energy and finances to the betterment of the Jewish community locally and in Israel, and less than a month after his death it was disclosed that his will had established the Harry Cohen Foundation of one and a quarter million dollars.

This foundation has distributed over one million dollars to the Delaware Jewish community, since its inception in 1959. (This sum does not include the funds which have been distributed elsewhere.)

Cohen's daughter, Sadie Toumarkine, presented a check for \$14,247.84 — the foundation's 1989 distribution — to the Jewish Federation of Delaware at its February 7 board meeting.

At that meeting, Toumarkine reviewed the grants made to the Jewish community in Delaware since 1959. She said that to date the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home has received \$205,855.30, the Jewish Community Center has received \$278,932.50 and the Jewish Federation of Delaware has received \$309,980.42. Local synagogues received \$28,840.23. The local agencies and the synagogues have received to date a total of \$1,412,333.42 from the foundation.

Cohen's generosity also included bequests in his will to the Medical Center of Delaware, Toys for Tots, Neediest Family Fund, St. Francis Hospital, and the Jewish National Fund.

Born in Russia, he emigrated to the United States in the early 1900's. He worked simultaneously as a leather worker, coal stove blackener and barber until he saved enough money to buy a small grocery store at 13th and Wilson Streets.

The Adas Kodesch Center building at 515 French St. had been vacant for several years when, in 1932, Cohen enlisted Charles I. Belfint to join in a campaign to put the empty building to good use. Belfint played an active role in developing the committee, which, in 1934, opened a Y.M./Y.W.H.A. with Lou Simon as president and Isadore Solod as executive director.

Cohen was active in the early Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD).



Harry Cohen

He was treasurer for years, campaign chairman for two succeeding terms and the representative of the Jewish Federation of Delaware to the National Council of the United Palestine Appeal.

He was also a firm believer in communal Jewish education. On Jan. 21, 1940, he wrote to Milton Kutz, then JFD president, asking that a survey be taken of Jewish education in the City of Wilmington. This resulted in Cohen's establishment of the Associated Hebrew School in 1943. While he was critically ill in the 1950's, the Associated Hebrew School closed its doors.

In 1945 he offered \$50,000 toward a campaign for a new Y.M. and Y.W.H.A. building. The Wilmington Jewish population was shifting from downtown to the northern suburbs, and he felt a new location in north Wilmington would be more appropriate. The offer was not accepted, but he set up a building fund in his will which amounted to \$58,077.10 which, fortuitously, was close to his original offer in 1945.

On July 3, 1948, Judge Morris Rothenberg of New York, president of the Jewish National Fund, came to Wilmington to present the deed for a 250 acre colony in Israel named after Delaware. Cohen and his committee had raised \$27,000 for this project.

Because of the foundation he established, Harry Cohen continues, in essence, to raise money for worthwhile projects.

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Continued on 30

Cheney: Gulf war gave Israel military edge in Mideast

By DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israel's military superiority over its Arab neighbors has been increased greatly by the destruction of Iraq's offensive military capability, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney told a largely Jewish audience here Tuesday.

The United States remains committed, not only to Israel's security, but also to maintaining its qualitative military edge, Cheney told the national leadership assembly of the Conference of Presidents of the Major American Jewish Organizations.

It is "important to recognize that the threat to Israel has been substantially decreased by the successful outcome of the Persian Gulf war, Cheney said. "Israel's qualitative edge has accordingly increased substantially."

Cheney said that as a result of the gulf crisis, relations between Israel and the United States are "as close as they have ever been."

He explained that the relationship that previously existed and the experience of strategic cooperation had made it easier for Israel and the United States to work together and to move quickly to meet the threat posed to Israel by Iraqi Scud missiles.

But Cheney also pointed out that without the longstanding U.S. defense relationship with Saudi Arabia, the United States would not have been able to mount the large force in the gulf needed to drive Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait.

He noted that more than 25 percent of the military sales to Saudi Arabia had been to build bases and infrastructure which in the gulf war was used by the U.S. and other



U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney

coalition forces.

These bases "do not threaten Israel or any other country," he said.

In an obvious dig at the years of opposition to Saudi arms sales from the Conference of Presidents, Cheney said, "No one can say now, as some have over the years, that Saudi Arabia has no one it needs to defend" against.

His comment may have been an early attempt head off a fight over a \$14 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia that the Bush administration is expected to propose later this year.

Some 200 persons attended the daylong leadership assembly at George Washington University to express appreciation for the administration's leadership in the gulf crisis, pride in U.S. troops and solidarity with Israel, said Shoshana

Cardin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents.

The assembly, which had originally been scheduled to express support for the war, now successfully completed, came just a day before Secretary of State James Baker was to leave on a diplomatic mission to the Middle East. Baker, who will be making his first visit to Israel, is expected to propose a "two-track" approach as he seeks to find out how the Arab countries and Israel now want to move ahead in the peace process.

This approach was explained to the leadership assembly by Dennis Ross, the State Department's director of policy planning, who will accompany Baker.

One track would lead to the Arab states establishing peace with Israel and the other would lead to Israeli

reconciliation with the Palestinians, Ross said. Both efforts would be parallel.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy seemed to move toward this approach in a message he sent to the assembly, which was read by Albert Ben-Abu, his adviser on world Jewish affairs. Levy said the Arab countries must agree to open negotiations with Israel without preconditions. "Within this framework, the Palestinian issue will be addressed and, together with the residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, an appropriate resolution will be found."

Likewise, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a telephone call to the conference, said that Israel is ready to talk with any Arab country about peace without preconditions. "I believe that the events of the past six months have given even greater va-

lidity to our peace plan of May 1988," he added.

Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval said the Gulf war has shown the importance of territory as a buffer against hostile neighbors. But he added that if the Arab countries were willing to make peace, Israel might be more forthcoming on the Palestinian issue. Shoval left the conference to fly to Israel, where he will work on the preparations for the Baker visit.

Also addressing the assembly were Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Maine), House Speaker Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) and Robert Michel (R-Ill.), the House minority leader. Conspicuously absent was the Senate minority leader, Robert Dole (R-Kan.), who has often been critical of Israel.

Resolution sponsored in congress calls for Hussein war crimes trial

By DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Thirty members of the House of Representatives have cosponsored a resolution calling for an international court to prosecute Iraq's Saddam Hussein for violations of the Geneva Convention.

The resolution, introduced by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), also declared that "under no circumstances" should the anti-Hussein coalition "agree to an arrangement whereby Saddam Hussein would resign as president of Iraq in exchange for his not being prosecuted for war crimes."

"It is not acceptable for Saddam Hussein to remain as the ruler of Iraq," Engel said at a Capitol Hill news conference February 28.

"We must not forget the way Saddam treated the airmen who were captured during the first days of the war, how they were beaten and paraded in front of television cameras," Engel said.

He said Hussein also was guilty of other atrocities such as the Scud attacks against civilian population, environmental terrorism and the torture and murder of Kuwaitis. "Saddam Hussein must be held per-

sonally accountable for these acts with no special deals attached," Engel said.

U.S. military lawyers were believed to be in Kuwait City on February 28 collecting evidence of Iraqi atrocities. The United States at this point is not expected to press for a war-crimes trial, but would turn over the evidence it is gathering to Kuwait if that country seeks such a trial.

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Focus on Federation agencies

A COLUMN WRITTEN BY THE AGENCIES ABOUT THE AGENCIES

Delaware Gratz aims to develop a positive adult Jewish identity

Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, a division of Gratz College in Philadelphia, is a communally-supported program which accepts affiliated as well as non-affiliated Jewish teenagers of all Jewish orientations. Gratz philosophy respects individual backgrounds, differences and needs in the spirit of *K'lal Israel*.

Active involvement in Jewish life in the teen years is crucial to the development of positive adult Jewish identity, according to Delaware Gratz Principal Elaine Friedberg. Gratz provides a congenial social and educational setting in which Jewish teens can involve themselves for as little or as much time as they choose: from a one-day program to a fully credited academically-oriented program of

Judaica or Hebraica leading to a diploma and/or certificate. Enrollment in any program automatically affords a student access to the full array of informal activities and advisory services.

The range of courses and programs at Gratz, as well as the diversity and quality of its teaching staff, reflect the school's view that Jewish education can be both substantive and stimulating, creative and interesting. A caring, comfortable and respectful atmosphere takes into account each student's social, emotional and intellectual needs and abilities. Committed to providing the highest quality education for our teens, Gratz faculty consists of teachers and other specialists from a variety

of disciplines who have both talent and experience relating to adolescents, and who possess knowledge and credentials in the various areas of study.

Goals for students are:

1. To develop an enhanced sense of pride and identity as individuals and as Jews;
2. To understand the basic values and practices of Judaism in its diverse forms, and to incorporate them into their lives in some fashion;
3. To obtain familiarity with basic Judaic and Hebraic learning resources; and
4. To develop feelings of belonging, loyalty and responsibility to the Jewish community and to Israel.

Gratz students send package to Saudi

In late December, 1990, ninth graders in Mrs. Arlene Bowman's Jewish Life course expressed concern about the recent developments in the Middle East. Operation Desert Shield was to become Operation Desert Storm on January 15, 1991 — the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

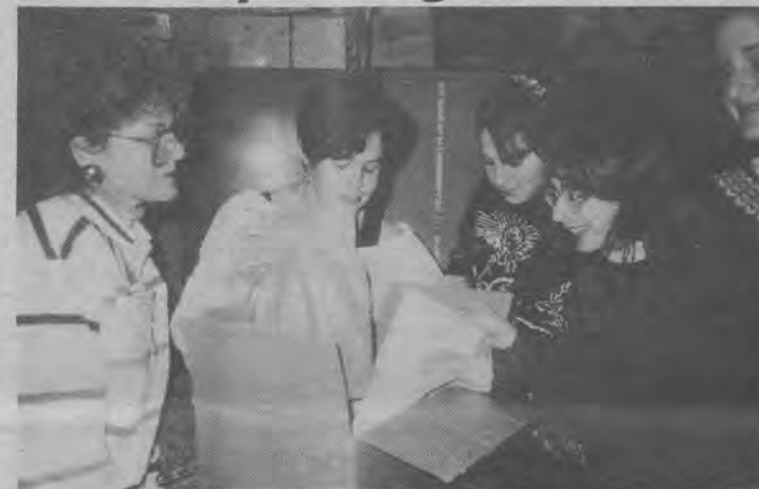
The students raised several questions such as: How can we contemplate going to war on the very day that we as a nation should be reflecting on resolving conflicts through non-violent peaceful means? And, What will happen to Israel as events unfold?

Such concerns were aired in class discussions as students openly shared their feelings of confusion, fear, anxiety and anger. Mrs. Bowman suggested channeling these feelings into a "Mitzvah." Thus, the inception of a Mitzvah Box and the collection of toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, razors, etc.), snacks, puzzles and written thoughts soon began.

For a very select group of service people in Saudi Arabia, support arrived in a special package. As noted in the following letter from Captain Michael D. Garner, the Mitzvah Box was not only appreciated but "made our situation much more bearable."

13 Jan.

Dear Mrs. Bowman & Students,
On behalf of all my soldiers, I



Arlene Bowman and some of her students fill the "Mitzvah Box" that was sent to Saudi Arabia.

would like to personally thank you for your very kind and generous package. The support that we have received from you back at home in America has most certainly made our situation much more bearable.

As the 15 Jan. deadline rapidly approaches, all of us here in Saudi Arabia pray for a peaceful solution; however, should we be called upon to force Hussein out of Kuwait, you may be assured that we are ready to make our Nation proud.

Again, thank you for your

thoughts and support.

Airborne
Michael D. Garner
Cpt. Command

Gratz teachers celebrate Purim



Some of the teachers at Delaware Gratz who dressed up to celebrate Purim also performed a 13 verse song about the school — sung to the tune of "A Wicked, Wicked Man."

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Delaware Gratz students talk about Israel, war

By CELIA GANS

Special to The Jewish Voice

On Thursday, February 28, the day after President George Bush announced the Allies' successful liberation of Kuwait, *The Jewish Voice* asked Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School students for their reflections on the war. "What has been accomplished from Israel's point of view, from the U.S.' point of view and from the global/U.N. point of view?" they were asked.

No matter what their orientation — from hawk to dove — students comments displayed a strong grasp of history, Middle East politics, and 21st century reality. It was the maturity of their answers which was (for this reporter) most unexpected. From one who supported the troops but participated in a peace demonstration, to those who felt that true success could only be achieved by the total removal (or death) of Saddam Hussein, students were well informed, critical and highly articulate about the war and its aftermath.

The students cited the willingness of the world community to confront, and vanquish, Saddam Hussein as highly significant. Unlike Hitler's unchallenged annexation of Eastern Europe, which ultimately led to World War II, observed the students, Hussein was confronted and defeated. His

threat to world stability was recognized, not denied. Does this mean the end of tyrants? the students were asked. No, most agreed, citing examples from the Bible to present day, but perhaps swift response by the global community — coupled with the technological superiority of today's super powers — will reduce a tyrant's power beyond his own borders.

High praise was given to the Israelis for their restraint after Scud attacks on their country. This restraint not only showed the importance Israel placed on the combined forces fighting Iraq, but dramatically presented to the world the real danger Israel faces in the Middle East, the students felt.

The subjects of censorship, technology and intelligence drew the most unstructured discussion among students. Many felt reassured by the technological strength and depth of intelligence shown by the U.S. military, but none expressed a discomfort with the now seemingly bloodless impersonality of war. Most were aware — and refreshingly cynical — about the relaxation in military censorship as the allied forces achieved more and more success. The censorship was necessary, all agreed, but they recognized U.S. television war coverage as both news and propa-

ganda.

One observant student spoke with feeling about footage showing surrendering Iraqi soldiers. They were children, he said, "they looked like 12 year olds." How could a leader conduct a war over the bodies of children?, he wondered.

"What's next?," students were asked. A delayed Israeli reaction — perhaps military — was possible, students agreed. An assessment by the international community of the ecological damage done by the Iraqis' igniting of oil wells and the polluting of the Gulf, said students. A continuing effort to replace Hussein's government, they said. A re-drawing of the political map of the Middle East, they said, and a re-examination of the U.S./King Hussein of Jordan relationship and of the Palestinian question.

Students also expressed concerns about the long term effects of Western troops in the Gulf region. From both a national and international point of view, they argued, the sooner U.S. troops were removed from the region the better. An Arab coalition peace-keeping force would be a better long range solution, they suggested.

This way, they concluded a "good" (that is "just") war with clear, achievable goals. The war brought nations



Some of the Gratz Hebrew High students from the High School III and IV class, representing a range of philosophies from hawkish to dovish, participated in a discussion with *The Jewish Voice* on the war in the Persian Gulf and how it affects Israel. (Photo: Celia Gans)

closer together, strengthened the United Nations, and earned Israel and its people greater understanding and respect, concluded responding Gratz students.

Respondents included High School students Shira Kamm and Pam Weisberg; High School II students Edina Buzgon, Shana Deitch, Joshua

Eisenberg, Joshua Handler, Jeffrey Kahn and Scott Snyder; High School III and IV students Jeremy Cohen, Mica Goldbaum, Ilana Harad, Natalie Heiman, Erica Levy, Elana Mamberg, Andrew Nathanson, Aaron Pell, Richard Roisman, Daniel Weinstein and Rachel Weisberg. Their teachers are Jack Vinokur and Shoshanna Harris.

Widener's JLSA activities show support for Israel

By CELIA GANS

Special to The Jewish Voice

The apple, says folk wisdom, never falls far from the tree. Which will explain why the letter Abbe Lynn Milstein, Widener University of Law student, addressed to Mitchell Bierman, 1990 President of the Jewish Law Student Association at Widener, asking what response the organization was going to make to show its support of Israel resulted in a fund raising effort by the JLSA for Scud victims in Ramat Gan.

Not simply a fund raising effort, but a campus-wide consciousness raising effort.

In response to Milstein's challenge, JLSA members made presentations to law school classes — including lectures and audio-visual aids to first, second and third year students — on the Jewish issues in the Gulf war. A memo to the community on the war, Israel and the JLSA fund raising effort was prepared and published. With help from a staff member of the Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia,

contact was made with an existing fund for missile victims. To date, \$650 has been collected from the law school community and channeled to Israel through Bank Leumi.

The law school community has shown broad support for Israel, say JLSA members, and praised Israel's restraint in the face of Iraqi attack. Their entire effort, they report, has more than fulfilled the three-year-old 70-member group's charter: to promote an on-campus awareness of Jewish issues.

Previous JLSA sponsored (or co-sponsored) events on Jewish issues included a panel discussion at the JCC on the 1st Amendment, moderated by JLSA faculty advisor and professor of commercial law John Wladis (co-sponsored by the JFD's Young Leadership of Delaware). In the fall of 1990, JLSA presented Glenn Mones, President of Likud USA on the Widener campus, and a year ago, Tom Martinez addressed a JCC audience on the Neo-Nazi movement in the United States.

In addition to its intellectual function, the JLSA provides both a social and religious resource for Widener's estimated 400-plus Jewish students. For Jewish students who cannot return home during holidays, it seeks local host families. It will celebrate its second annual home seder in March. And, thanks to JLSA actions, no law school classes will be held on *Yom Kippur* during the 1991-92 academic year.

Part of the National Jewish Law

Student Association Network, the Widener group has close ties to B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Federation of Delaware as well as the Young Jewish Adults of Delaware. 1990-91 JLSA officers include Mitchell Bierman, President; Robin Golish, Vice President, and Elise Seidman, Secretary-Treasurer. 1991-92 officers-elect, who assume their duties on April 2, include Golish as President; Marc Bluestein, Vice-President (Bluestein was one of a group of 12

U.S. law students attending a two-week NJLSA Network program in Israel from December 26, 1990 to January 9, 1991 introducing students to Israeli law), and Andrew Berman, Secretary-Treasurer.

JLSA meets every other Wednesday during the academic year in the Law School Building, Room 641, at 4 p.m. (meetings are open to both member and non-member Widener law school students). Twice a year

Continued on 8



JLSA students (clockwise from top left, Marc Bluestein, Mitchell Bierman, Abbe Milstein, Robin Golish and Elise Seidman) are helping to raise Jewish awareness on the Widener campus. (Photo: Celia Gans)



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21 nations call for condemnation of Syrian accusation

By TAMAR LEVY

GENEVA (JTA) — Twenty-one nations have called on the U.N. Human Rights Commission to issue a public condemnation of Syria's ritual blood libel accusation against Jews, made by a Syrian diplomat at a session of the commission here on Feb. 8.

A letter making the request was sent February 28 to Jan Martenson, the U.N. undersecretary-general for human rights. It has been signed so far by the United States and the 12 member states of the European Community, represented by Luxembourg, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

At the same time, Daniel Lack, representative of the World Jewish Congress, denounced Syria for "a hideous anti-Semitic canard, reviving the notorious medieval blood

libel." Lack observed that such statements would be the subject of criminal prosecution under the laws of many countries.

Earlier, David Littman, representing the World Union for Progressive Judaism, urged the commission to name a special representative to inquire "into the situation of the Jewish minority community in Syria, particularly the approximately 200 single Jewish girls and women who wish to leave their country of birth for the purposes of marrying abroad a person of their faith, but have been forcibly retained in Syria for years."

Lack and Littman both represent organizations which enjoy non-governmental status at the United Nations in Geneva. Both spoke in response to a Syrian attempt to contain the mounting outrage in and outside U.N. circles here over the blood libel.

An official letter was sent to Martenson on February 19 with the imprimatur of the permanent representative of Syria to the United Nations, but not his name. It claimed, among other things, that Syria respects Judaism and is a country known for its tolerance. But it evaded the libelous content of its statement three weeks ago accusing Jews of

ritual murder.

The statement was read by Nabila Shaalan, the second-ranking member of the Syrian delegation, at a session of the Human Rights Commission presided over by Martenson.

It strongly recommended that commission members read "a valuable book" called "The Matzah of Zion," by Syrian Defense Minister

Mustafa Tlas, which justified ritual murder charges brought against Jews in Damascus in 1840 for the death of a Catholic missionary. According to Shaalan's statement, the book "confirms the racist reality of Zionism" and proves that Jews have engaged in ritual murder.

Littman described the book as "ethnic pornography."

Thatcher comes out to honor retiring British chief rabbi

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON (JTA) — Britain's chief rabbi, Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, was extolled by one of his most ardent fans, former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, at a dinner last week honoring him on the occasion of his forthcoming retirement. It was Thatcher's first formal speaking engagement since she resigned in December.

No chief rabbi has had "so profound an effect on the life of this nation as Lord Jakobovits," Thatcher said. She revealed "one of this nation's worst-kept secrets — that he has had, through his thinking and writing, a deep effect on me as well."

The Conservative former prime minister and the Orthodox chief rabbi share deeply traditional viewpoints and longevity in office. Thatcher became prime minister in 1979 and

had the longest uninterrupted incumbency of any British prime minister in this century. Jakobovits will have completed 24 years as chief rabbi when he leaves office next September. Both he and Thatcher have been controversial figures at times.

The former prime minister observed that Jakobovits was "one of the few who, in every generation, speak out for enduring truths and traditional beliefs, who, first, may be criticized, mocked and even slandered, but who as the years go by, are ever more intently heard, admired and ultimately followed."

Thatcher also had laudatory words for Jakobovits' successor, the chief rabbi-designate, Dr. Jonathan Sacks.

The dinner was organized by the Jewish Educational Development Trust and the Chief Rabbinate Council, the national body which selects

chief rabbis. It raised \$1.15 million for Jakobovits' favorite cause, Jewish education.

Sacks admitted he had some qualms about the appropriateness of such a fund-raising event at this time of crisis in the Middle East. He said his doubts were resolved by talking recently with a friend in Jerusalem, where he studied in preparation for the Chief Rabbinate.

Contrasting the city's beauty and serenity with the hatred surrounding Israel, "I said to him 'what can we do in this situation? I feel, and you must feel, so powerless.'"

"And he said: 'What you should be doing is go back to Anglo Jewry and strengthen Jewish education. We know the only weapon against hatred is love. If Israel is to survive, it must be loved by its friends more than it is hated by its enemies.'"

Soviet immigration rebounds as Hungarian flights resume

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Immigration from the Soviet Union is increasing again, after slackening when the Persian Gulf war began six weeks ago.

Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz disclosed that 12,571 immigrants had arrived in Israel since the outbreak of war. "One of Saddam Hussein's goals was to create conditions that would hurt aliyah," but he failed, Dinitz told a Golda Meir Scholarship awards ceremony at the Hebrew University.

Malev, the Hungarian national airline, resumed flights to Tel Aviv on February 25. Malev carries large numbers of Soviet Jews in the absence of direct flights from Moscow.

He praised the quality of Soviet aliyah, stressing the large proportion of professionals and academicians among them. "This wave of aliyah, together with Israeli university graduates, will change the face of Israel in a few years," Dinitz predicted. "The country will become a world center of science, technology and culture," he said.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sounded a cautionary note. "There are voices in the Soviet Union calling for the cessation of aliyah," he told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on February 26.

Meanwhile, last week immigrants arriving at the airport received colorful Purim masks for their children in addition to gas masks for all.

Czechs arguing over return of Jewish historical treasures

PRAGUE (JTA) — Restitution of Jewish historical treasures confiscated by the former Communist regime has become a divisive issue in the Czechoslovak Parliament.

Two members argued heatedly recently in support of a government bill that would exclude religious institutions from the claimants.

Rotislav Senjuk contended that if the property restitution law included the Jewish religious community, valuable historical objects would be removed from the country. Another member, Klara Samkova, said "such a risk extends to the Jewish Museum, the Jewish religious community and the embassy of Israel."

But other members clearly rejected

their arguments. Prime Minister Marian Calfa believes the restitution of church property should be dealt with in a separate law.

The government bill also excludes claims by persons who acquired property during World War II as a consequence of racial persecution. Generally, they were Nazi collaborators rewarded with Jewish property.

The bill has to pass both houses of Parliament to become law. It is opposed by a substantial group of members who refuse to spend billions out of the strained budget to compensate for injustices committed by a different regime many years ago.

Senator says Soviet Jewry groups should focus on emigration laws

By HOWARD ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Soviet Jewry groups should place more emphasis on lobbying for new Soviet laws that guarantee free emigration and less on resolving individual refusnik cases, Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) said recently.

"Today the challenge is to be able to move beyond the gratification of the individual cases towards the institutionalization within the Soviet Union of laws and procedures that will guarantee, on an across-the-board basis, the opportunity for free emigration," Graham told the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, after receiving one of its biannual Henry M. (Scoop) Jackson leadership awards on February 19.

One of the complaints made by non-Jewish ethnic groups hoping to leave the Soviet Union in recent months, which include Armenians, Evangelical Christians and Ukrainian

Catholics, is that they had not reaped the benefits of President Mikhail Gorbachev's ad hoc emigration policies as much as Soviet Jews have.

By codifying those new liberal emigration policies, non-Jewish activists said there is a greater chance to create a "level playing field."

The Jackson award is named for the late Democratic senator from Washington state, who co-sponsored the 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment barring U.S. trade benefits to the Soviets until they permit a sustained high level of Soviet Jewish emigration.

The UCSJ praised Graham for helping to thwart attempts made last fall to grant the Soviets most-favored-nation trade status, which would have lowered U.S. duties on Soviet imported goods to the levels charged most other U.S. trading partners. Instead, President Bush awarded the Soviets a lesser benefit, namely U.S.

government food aid, in announcing Dec. 12 that he was issuing a Jackson-Vanik waiver through July.

A second Jackson award went to Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who told the UCSJ, "We have obviously had good news. We all have to be honest and say there have been more Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union this past year than we had thought we were going to see, many of us, in our lifetime."

Other UCSJ awards went to outgoing chairmen of the Congressional Call to Conscience for Soviet Jews, including former Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.); Sen. Alan Dixon (D-Ill.); and Reps. Peter Kostmayer (D-Pa.) and John Miller (R-Wash.). The group arranges congressional activity on behalf of Soviet Jews, such as speeches, letter-writing campaigns and insertions of material into the Congressional Record.

Toll-free Israel hotline helps students

In response to the heightened interest in Israel and the Middle East on campus since the outbreak of the Gulf War, the University Student Department of the American Zionist Youth Foundation (USD/AZYF-The Israel Action Center) has installed a toll-free "800" phone number: "1-

800-27-ISRAEL" (1-800-274-7723). The number makes all types of information about Israel easily accessible for university students across the United States.

Callers are connected directly to the USD/AZYF National Office in New York City. According to the

USD/AZYF staff, many students simply request information about the various academic and summer programs in Israel while other students report on the latest pro-Israel events being implemented on campus or request advice on planning pro-Israel events.

The "800" phone number is the first toll-free line set up by any national Jewish organization that works with students. "We are proud to serve pro-Israel students by making our materials, ideas and resources readily available," commented Eric Esses, National Director of USD/AZYF. "We'll be happy to answer questions about Israel and the Middle East, send program information to any university, or help develop techniques to counter anti-Israel speakers that come to campus."

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JLSA

Continued from 7

the organization attempts to attract new members by participating in a campus-wide Activities Day.

With the Delaware campus scheduled to become a Law Center in the fall of 1991, and an eventual 10

percent student population decrease over the next three years (as predicted by Widener Dean Anthony J. Santoro in the Widener University School of Law Case Notes (Vol. 6, No. 1, February, 1991, pg. 2), JLSA is expected to intensify its efforts on Activity Days. Its most recent — and highly successful — Activity Day effort included the distribution of bagels.

San Francisco, as sanctuary for war objectors, could foster anti-Semitism, according to ADL

By GARTH WOLKOFF

Northern California Jewish Bulletin
SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — The designation of San Francisco as a sanctuary for conscientious objectors has opened the way for the expression of anti-Semitism, accord-

ing to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The ADL's Pacific regional director, Richard Hirschhaut, blamed Mayor Art Agnos, Police Chief Willis Casey and the Board of Supervisors for fostering an environment that

could lead to anti-Semitic behavior. He cited as a contributing factor the dismantling of the Police Department's Intelligence Unit, which had come under fire for allegedly spying on political groups.

It was replaced by the new Hate

Crimes Unit, which cannot gather information on a hate group before a crime is committed.

Hirschhaut made his comments in connection with the release of ADL's 1990 annual report on hate crimes, which disclosed a 31 percent in-

crease of anti-Semitic incidents in the Bay Area over 1989.

The sanctuary paves the way for anti-Semitic and anti-Israel sentiments, he claimed, by giving tacit approval to all protesters, including those who express such beliefs. The ADL director added that he in no way advocates curtailing war protesters' freedom of speech.

Mayor Agnos, defending the sanctuary decision, observed that "anti-Semitism is an insidious element of many societies. It has nothing to do with our position on the sanctuary." The sanctuary resolution states that the city will not prosecute anyone with moral, religious or ethical objections to the Persian Gulf war.

"Israel didn't want this way any more than anyone else. This resolution does not suggest or imply anything about Israel or the Jewish community," the mayor declared.

Hirschhaut was clearly disturbed by the ADL's findings, however. For example, almost half of California's arson-related anti-Semitic incidents occurred in the Bay Area.

Arsonists and fire-bombers attacked five synagogues and one Jewish community center in the area last year, and seven other Jewish-operated buildings in other parts of the state. Anti-Semites struck 220 times in California, the second-highest in the nation after New York, according to the ADL.

The report cited Skinheads among others for the rise in anti-Semitism. Hirschhaut pointed to the growing acceptance of "outrageous behavior" among pop culture devotees as a factor that allows anti-Semitism to thrive in the Bay Area.

"We should pay close attention to the music of a (rap musical group) Public Enemy, Madonna and the fashion of the lyrics of hate," he said.

Allison Atlas home after 8 months of treatment

By TZVI DOLE

The Baltimore Jewish Times
BALTIMORE (JTA) — Allison Atlas, the 21-year-old leukemia patient whose need for a bone marrow transplant made news around the country, is finally living in her own room again in Bethesda, Md., after being discharged from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle on February 20.

Atlas "still very weak," said Simon Atlas, a cousin who, along with other relatives, welcomed home Allison, her sister and parents February 20. "She still has a long recovery period to go through. But they were thrilled and relieved to be home again after eight months in Seattle."

Atlas discovered she had myelodysplasia, a type of pre-leukemia, a year-and-a-half ago. Her family then

organized and launched the Friends of Allison campaign and mounted a \$3 million search for a bone marrow donor in which more than 50,000 people worldwide were tested for tissue compatibility. A donor screening was held last year at the Wilmington Jewish Community Center.

No tissue match was found for Atlas, but several other leukemia patients found compatible donors among the tens of thousands of names added to the National Marrow Donor Program's computerized registry through the Friends of Allison campaign.

Disappointed and concerned with Atlas' deteriorating condition, the family decided last fall to attempt a transplant using tissue taken from Atlas' mother, Arlene, despite it not

being a perfect match. The transplant was performed August 9 at the Hutchinson Center.

A month later, doctors discovered that Allison Atlas had developed Graft-Versus-Host (GVH) disease, a potentially fatal immunological reaction. The transplanted bone marrow had recognized a few elements within the host body as foreign and was attacking them in "self-defense."

Doctors at the center immediately began a steroid treatment, which has continued for several months with apparent success.

"When Allison left here, the doctors said in no uncertain terms that they saw no signs of leukemia or GVH," said Ann Beringer, a spokeswoman for the Hutchinson Center.

Holocaust denier Leuchter ordered to stand trial

By STEVE ROSENBERG

The Jewish Advocate
BOSTON (JTA) — Fred Leuchter, who manufactures gas chambers for states with capital punishment but claims the Nazis never used them to kill Jews, was ordered to trial May 9 to face charges of violating a Massachusetts statute that bans the practice of engineering without a license. Malden District Court Judge James Killian rejected a motion earlier this month for dismissal filed by Leuchter's attorney, Texas lawyer Kirk Lyon, whose other clients include the Ku Klux Klan and assorted white supremacists and neo-Nazis.

The dapper 47-year-old Leuchter came to court under heavy security guard. It was his fourth appearance and, as on the previous occasions, it turned into a confrontation between Holocaust deniers and outraged Holocaust survivors and their friends.

About 30 Leuchter fans sporting "free speech" armbands carried signs reading, "The Holocaust is Dead" and "The Jewish Satanization of America." They sang German nationalist songs, hurled taunts at the Holocaust survivors and scuffled with about a dozen members of the local Jewish Defense League. Three men were arrested when someone tried to

burn an Israeli flag.

Leonard Zakim, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said he was troubled by the circus atmosphere. He called the Leuchter supporters the "anti-Semitic Hall of Fame."

Although the charges against Leuchter, which carry a maximum three-month jail sentence and \$500 fine, have nothing to do with his revisionism, Zakim is convinced the trial will be a history lesson about the Holocaust for many people.

"The eventual verdict will be less important than the messages the case has brought to the surface," he said.

German-born anti-Nazi activist Beate Klarsfeld of Paris agreed, saying the issue is not simply whether Leuchter practiced engineering without a license. "The issue is to demolish his image as a so-called adviser to American prisons, and to show him as the man who is the denier of the Holocaust," said Klarsfeld, who helped track down Klaus Barbie and other Nazi war criminals.

"He has to understand that in denying the Holocaust he cannot remain unpunished," she said, adding she hoped to attend the trial in May. The Klarsfelds live in France.

Soviets sign agreement with Touro College

NEW YORK (JTA) — Ambassador Yuri Vorontsov, permanent Soviet representative to the United Nations, announced last week the signing of an agreement to open the Moscow branch of the Touro College International School of Business and Management.

The new Moscow branch of Touro represents the first undergraduate program of Western business practices and management in the Soviet Union that offers degrees recognized in both the Soviet Union and the United States.

The agreement marks the first joint effort by the Soviet authorities and an American college to prepare Soviet managers for a market-based economy. The classes will be taught in English.

Additionally, college-level courses in Hebrew and Jewish history will be officially available for the first time with the sanction of the Soviet government.

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Vigil in Congress for Soviet Jews

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

Special to The Jewish Voice
WASHINGTON — The Congressional Call to Conscience, a forum for members of Congress to speak out against human rights abuses against Jews in the Soviet Union, will have six co-chairpersons in the current 102nd Congress instead of four that have been the usual number in the Congresses since it was begun in 1976.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews that sponsors the vigil has named Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)

and Herbert Kohl (D-Wis.) and Reps. Gerry Sikorski (D-Minn.), Larry Smith (D-Fla.) and Christopher Smith (R-NJ) as the co-chairmen. A third senator is to be announced in the near future.

The vigil's leaders are responsible for weekly Congressional statements relating to free emigration for Soviet Jews and relating to specific refusniks and issues. "It reminds the Soviets that we are watching how they treat their citizens and that we care," Lautenberg said.

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Analysis --

Palestinians still backing Hussein but recognize need for 'new order'

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Influential Arab leaders in the administered territories are beginning to recognize the need for a "new Palestinian order" in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, within the context of the larger "new order" that is likely to emerge in the Middle East.

Some are quietly suggesting that the Palestinians scale back their aspirations for an independent state and be prepared to settle for some measure of autonomy over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Already there are signs of distancing between the local Palestinian leadership in the territories and the Palestine Liberation Organization leadership, which resides overseas. While the Palestinians in the territories may continue to accept Yasir Arafat as a symbolic "president of Palestine," his authority is increasingly being challenged.

But Saddam Hussein of Iraq will continue to be a factor. The Palestinian masses who hailed him as their savior will not easily admit they backed the wrong "hero." He was the first Arab leader to "shake them out of their defeatism," explained Zakaria

al-Qaq, an instructor at Bir Zeit University in Ramallah.

Palestinians do not readily admit mistakes. They simply rationalize that there was "no alternative." That was their excuse for failing to accept the 1947 U.N. partition plan, rejecting the 1978 Camp David accords and now casting support for Saddam Hussein.

However humiliating the defeat that awaits Hussein at the hands of the allied military coalition, he will be revered by the Palestinians. "The Western mind will say that Saddam committed suicide. But the Arab mind will say he died a martyr," Dr. Mehdi Abdul-Hadi, head of the Palestine Academic Center for International Affairs in East Jerusalem, told the *Jerusalem Post* last week.

There is some rational dissent from that viewpoint, notably from Elias Freij, the veteran mayor of Bethlehem, who spoke out against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait from the start.

But voices of reason are a rare commodity in Palestinian political discourse — at least in terms of Israeli thinking. Freij's influence does not extend much beyond his office in Manger Square. Because they backed

Hussein, the Palestinians have lost the support of world opinion. They have also lost an estimated \$1.4 billion a year in jobs and financial support from the Gulf states. And they may have lost whatever political gains were achieved in the intifada.

Yet Palestinian youths continued last week to demonstrate for Saddam Hussein in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinians are loathe to explain their motivations to Westerners. Perhaps it is unseemly to admit they are driven by pure hatred of Israel, of the West and of whomever else they perceive to be responsible for their continued plight.

Ghareb Hashashibi, an Arab mayor of Jerusalem under the British Mandate, once said apologetically: "I know I am taking the wrong step, but this is what the street dictates." Not much seems to have changed in over four decades. The street continues to

dictate the political behavior of the Palestinian leadership.

The young street leaders in the territories, born since 1967, know nothing but life under Israeli administration. Unlike their elders, they lack a perspective from which to regret their mistakes. In the name of Palestinian nationalism, radical street elements have spoken out against influential Palestinian leaders such as Faisal Husseini of East Jerusalem, who preaches non-violent resistance and has advocated a two-state solution.

The Palestinian "new order" will not emerge without a power struggle pitting the PLO abroad against the radical street elements in the territories.

Ali Yaish, editor of the East Jerusalem daily *A-Sha'ab*, predicted the PLO would have to adopt some Islamic fundamentalist slogans to re-

gain popularity.

Jonathan Kuttub, an East Jerusalem lawyer, thinks the Gulf war will produce a chain reaction of "progressive" Islamic-inspired social revolutions led, not by fanatical mullahs, but by Moslem leaders who have come to terms with the modern world.

An East Jerusalem Arab political scientist, speaking off the record, said this week that the Palestinians would have to adopt a new peace formula after the war. He believes it will have to be a compromise between the independent Palestinian state that Israel opposes and the Israeli version of Palestinian autonomy, which the Palestinians reject.

The political scientist said the Palestinians should accept the principle of local elections, which is part of the Camp David autonomy formula, but should make sure the elections are absolutely free of Israeli control.

Prospect of Baker visit triggers a host of competing peace plans

By DAVID LANDAU

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The upcoming visit here of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has prompted a new rupture in the government's ranks, following six weeks of unity in the face of a common foe, Saddam Hussein.

With Hussein defeated on the battlefield and the prospects that the Palestinian problem will be placed on the front burner, tempers waxed hot at Sunday's regular Cabinet meeting. The issue is the government's position on the peace process. The problem is that, at the moment, there is no one position.

Baker's first visit to Israel, which begins March 11, has prompted a flurry of peace proposals both within the ruling Likud coalition and the opposition Labor Party.

Foreign Minister David Levy, a one-time Likud hard-liner, has argued forcefully in recent weeks that Israel needs to undertake a bold initiative to seek peace with its Arab neighbors. He was due to fly to London on Monday for talks with the government there.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, on the other hand, believes Israel should stick with its May 1989 peace plan and wait for Israel's Arab neighbors to agree to recognize Israel and negotiate for peace.

Voices on the right are accusing Levy of readiness to cede the Golan Heights because of his declared willingness to talk to the Syrians without conditions.

At Sunday's Cabinet meeting, Shamir assured Levy that he need not worry about attacks against him so long as he stays within government policy guidelines.

The prime minister's assurance, addressed to "my dear David," prompted a sharp retort. "What do you mean, 'as long as I keep to government policy guidelines'?" Levy shot back.

On the right, pressure to counter most suggestions of sacrificing anything to the Palestinians came from Housing Minister Ariel Sharon of Likud, Science minister Yuval

Ne'eman of the Tehiya party and Minister-Without-Portfolio Rehavam Ze'evi of Moleket.

Sharon has urged the immediate unilateral annexation by Israel of the sections of the West Bank and Gaza Strip settled by Jews. Ze'evi supports voluntary "transfer" of Arabs out of the territories.

But these hard-line positions were countered by a somber warning from Interior Minister Arye Deri of Shas, who said peacemaking topped the Orthodox party's list of priorities.

Recalling that the previous government, a self-described "national unity" regime, fell in March 1990 precisely over its peace policy, he warned that no government has the "right to exist" if it does not strive for peace. Although Shamir has spoken of a unified peace policy, there has been no formal public rehearsal of that policy by Shamir himself.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens of Likud, who is close to the premier, said Sunday that the government is resolutely committed to its May 1989 four-point peace plan, which called for elections in the administered territories leading to negotiations for Palestinian self-rule.

On the left of Labor, there have been calls to the United States to offer Israel a formal defense treaty in return for its withdrawal from the territories. Variations on this theme

have been made by the Citizens Rights Movement, Shinui and Mapam.

Within Labor's Executive, a broad discussion began Sunday following a gamut of peace proposals announced in the last few days. There was even an open call for a Palestinian state within the confines of acceptable security conditions.

Moshe Shahal, a former minister of energy and contender for the party leadership, submitted a detailed peace plan to the party forum envisaging a Palestinian state as one possible option.

Other doves, among them Haim Ramon, chairman of the Knesset Labor Party faction, and Yossi Beilin, a close adviser to Labor leader Shimon Peres, also advocate positions that do not rule out Palestinian self-determination.

But Peres' own proposal did not go as far as that. He has called for revival of the "Jordanian option," in which a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team would choose a government for the West Bank.

Sources close to Peres say there has been a series of signals from Amman in recent days indicating that King Hussein, whose prestige has dropped precipitously because of his support for Saddam Hussein, would now like to re-enter the peace process, from which he effectively withdrew in July 1988.

Israeli tourism down 80%

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The slump in tourism is continuing with no relief in sight, although Israelis who decided to sit out the Persian Gulf war abroad are beginning to come home.

The figures released here for the first half of February are depressing for the tourist industry, which is a leading earner of foreign currency. Fewer than 6,000 visitors logged in at Ben-Gurion Airport between February 1 and 15, more than 80 percent less than for the same period last year. In January, 23,000 tourists came to Israel, a drop of 73 percent from January 1990.

Industry sources say there is no economic justification at this point for foreign airlines to resume service to Israel, which they suspended more than five weeks ago as war became imminent. But substantially more Israelis are arriving at the airport than are leaving at this time, an indication that the mass exodus of Israelis fleeing Scud missile attacks has been reversed.

Tourism officials hope the successful outcome of the war against Iraq will revive tourism here in time for the spring season.

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Israel's rising star spokesman

By **KAREN HELLER**

Special to *The Jewish Voice*

In a young nation long dominated by aging politicians, Israel's deputy foreign minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, only 41, has emerged on American television as his homeland's leading spokesman on the gulf war. He is a controversial figure, with a somewhat different image in Israel than he has in the States. But what fans and detractors equally concede is that his rise has been exceedingly swift — and it is by no means over.

"He's shown a tremendous amount of charisma and star potential," says Philadelphia lawyer Steven L. Friedman, a close friend of Netanyahu's since their days at Cheltenham High School. "It is my earnest hope, as it is others', that he will someday be seriously considered for prime minister."

When he was 32, and an elite paratrooper captain fighting along a road during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Netanyahu (pronounced Net-tan-YAH-hoo) received word that he had been named Israel's deputy minister in the Washington embassy. In Hebrew, the word *tzir* means both road and minister, "so he went from the Beirut *tzir* to the Washington *tzir* in three days," Netanyahu's long-time spokesman Eyal Arad once mused.

In 1984, Netanyahu was appointed Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, a post he held for four years before returning home to run for the Knesset, Israel's parliament, as a member of the reigning Likud party. Netanyahu was elected by a stunning margin, uncommon for newcomers, and has since been viewed as one of the leading "princes" of Likud's second generation.

His rise as television star has been meteoric. He was on *Nightline* Jan. 9 and 17; on *This Week With David Brinkley* Jan. 20; and has made so many CNN appearances that he could qualify for correspondent status. Adept and articulate on television, he has even been interviewed while wearing a gas mask. During the first three days of the gulf war, Netanyahu gave 50 television and radio interviews, according to the magazine *Jerusalem Report*.

(In Israel, however, he is not the leading war spokesman. That role is served by Brig. Gen. Nachman Shai, who now is perceived as "a national hero," observers say, for his candor and calming tone.)

Netanyahu's telegenic success is due, in no small part, to his great knowledge of America, flawless idiomatic English and sonorous voice, and a face born for television. Comparisons to the young Paul Newman have been common.

His ascendance in Israel, where his brother Jonathan became a national hero after being killed at Entebbe, has not been as unfettered. In 1988, Netanyahu made a strong showing among parliamentary candidates chosen by the Likud bloc, besting many veterans in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet, including Ariel Sharon and David Levy, who is now his superior. Since then, Netanyahu — universally known as "Bibi" — has come to be perceived as a glutton for media attention, "in the center of every photograph," as one Israeli journalist put it.

His myriad television appearances reportedly have upset foreign minister Levy, who speaks French, Arabic and Hebrew but not the new language of diplomacy, English. Recently, two news conferences Ne-



Benjamin Netanyahu, whose face is now familiar on news broadcasts, has what one American friend from childhood calls "star potential."

anyahu scheduled were abruptly canceled — according to Israeli newspapers — at Levy's request.

It is not the first time Netanyahu has been known to upset and upset one of the Likud's reigning powers. Two years ago, one of his mentors, Moshe Arens — now defense minister, but then Israel's foreign minister — attended an historic meeting in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and then-Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Netanyahu was overseas on business, but somehow managed to arrive at the last minute, much to Arens' visible surprise, according to observers.

"In America he is considered one of the central figures in the Israeli government, but in Israel he is not a key player," says Ori Nir, Washington correspondent for the leading Hebrew daily *Ha'aretz*. A conservative member of Likud, Netanyahu is militant about the Palestine Liberation Organization. "He is seen as a propaganda type who doesn't miss a chance to knock the PLO, even when it's off the subject. He sees the PLO as Israel's main enemy," Nir adds.

Three years ago, Netanyahu resigned from his U.N. post in protest of then-Secretary of State George Shultz's meeting with two Arab Americans linked to the PLO. At the time, he said the meeting endangered Israel's security and "raises a larger question of the value of American commitments to us when we have made huge concessions to obtain those guarantees." He added that the United States was laying the groundwork for PLO participation in Middle East talks and for "a PLO

state right in the heart of Israel, threatening our very security, our very future."

Netanyahu had planned to resign a few weeks later to run for a Likud seat in the Knesset but moved up the date "because of the critical developments," Shultz commented on Israeli radio that it was unreasonable to suggest he could not meet with American citizens.

Perhaps Netanyahu's most dramatic anti-PLO gesture occurred in February 1989, when Israeli elder statesman and former foreign minister Abba Eban accepted an invitation to a Netherlands peace conference that included senior PLO members as well as liberal Israelis. Outraged, Netanyahu ordered Israel's ambassador to the Hague to cancel an embassy dinner planned for Eban and leading Dutch officials. Netanyahu's spokesman confirmed the dinner was canceled because Eban had agreed to "sit with the PLO."

In Jerusalem, the decision rocked the foreign ministry. "It embarrassed our ambassador, Mr. Eban and the Dutch officials," a ministry source said at the time.

"I am not a diplomatic diplomat," Netanyahu once told the *Washington Post*.

While Netanyahu's political prowess has been called into question, even his ardent critics are impressed by his role as spokesman. "He's very good with Americans," said one member of the rival Labor party. "There's no question he has helped to increase Israel's status in the States."

And he has an uncanny ability to attract talent. In 1976, his brother

Jonathan Netanyahu died leading the successful rescue mission of 103 hostages on an Air France jet hijacked to Entebbe, Uganda. Three years later, Benjamin established the Jonathan Institute in his honor, and organized the Jerusalem Conference on International Terrorism in his memory.

Among those who accepted the 29-year-old Israeli's invitation to travel to Israel, for no honorarium, were AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland; columnist George Will; physicist Edward Teller; Jack Kemp, Republican congressman at the time, and George Bush, just one year before he was elected vice president. Then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin and future prime minister Shimon Peres also addressed the conference. Netanyahu's 1986 book *Terrorism: The West Can Win* was read and praised by Ronald Reagan.

The twice-divorced Netanyahu, father of one adolescent daughter, has spent much of his life in America. He first came here as a 13-year-old when his parents moved the family from Jerusalem to Cheltenham.

A respected Israeli scholar and one of the earliest historians of the Zionist movement, father Benzion Netanyahu was then editor-in-chief of the *Encyclopedia Judaica* and accepted a teaching position at Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning (now part of the Annenberg Research Institute). The elder Netanyahu now is a professor at Cornell, though he lives primarily in Israel.

Bibi, the middle of three sons, returned to Israel after high school graduation for a stint in the army.

His older brother Jonathan, known as "Yoni," was startlingly bright and handsome. He attended Harvard and became a member of the elite paratrooper unit during the Six-Day War. Today, he is regarded as a hero and martyr, with several monuments erected in his honor, including one in Philadelphia in front of the National Museum of American Jewish History at Fifth and Market Streets. Netanyahu's younger brother, Iddo, is a physician in Israel.

After serving five years in the Israeli army, in the same elite unit in which his brother served, Netanyahu returned to the United States to study business at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Shula Bahat, associate national director of the American Jewish Committee, met him while he was there, when she enlisted him to be one of her speakers on Israel. "He was then, as he is now, a very articulate spokesman," she recalls. "I remember being impressed at how capable he was at presenting the situation even though

his background wasn't in Middle Eastern studies."

Netanyahu stayed on to earn his MBA at M.I.T.'s Sloan School of Management; he then went to work at RIM, a leading furniture company in Jerusalem. He rose to head of sales before being tapped by then-Israeli ambassador Arens — whom Netanyahu first met while an M.I.T. student — to be his deputy minister in Washington.

His longtime friend Steven Friedman describes Netanyahu as "tremendously high-energy, very determined and very proud. In private he is relaxed, and a great student of history. He's a great fan of Churchill and Disraeli. He also loves to exercise. The problem is he never has the time," he says. "For those of us who know him well, nothing that Bibi has done or accomplished has surprised us, and nothing that happens will. I would not be surprised if he ends up prime minister. Bibi's a star in the making."

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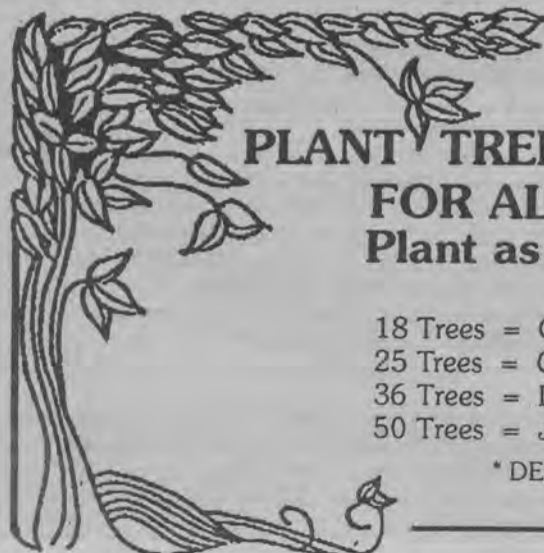
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The need to show support for Israel dominated this year's NJCRAC Plenum

By

DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

MIAMI (JTA) — The dictum that the Jewish community pulls together when Jews are attacked from the outside was played out in almost every event at the annual plenum of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council here Feb. 17 to 20.

A feeling of passionate support for Israel at this critical time, together with the new political realities in the Middle East, rallied delegates to unity on many issues about which there had been little agreement in the past.

For instance, a statement on the postwar period, adopted by the delegates February 19 after little debate, says it is clear that "the Palestine Liberation Organization cannot play a constructive role, directly or indirectly, in advancing the prospects for peace" in the Middle East.

"A year or two ago, we couldn't

have had this in the statement," said Martin Raffel, director of NJCRAC's Israel Task Force. "The general climate has pointed in certain directions now that create an environment of unity."

Historically, the annual NJCRAC plenum has been considered one of the few forums in American Jewish organizational life where an open airing of divergent opinions is possible.

But this year, some delegates felt that the strongly pro-Israel atmosphere of the plenum restricted the freedom of participants to speak openly if their views were not in concert with the majority position.

NJCRAC's executive vice chair, Lawrence Rubin, warned in his opening address that "it would be unfortunate if it were perceived that, out of some misguided notion of like-mindedness, the field appeared to

exclude from its deliberative process energetic and independent-minded individuals and organizations."

According to Albert Vorspan, senior vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and its director of social action, some individuals with dissenting views were "afraid to even talk" at the sessions where debate over policy issues took place. "We can't allow rallying around the flag to become our only agenda," he said.

Some participants, however, felt that critical points of view on some issues, particularly those relating to Israeli policy, should not be aired on the plenum floor, but discussed privately with Israeli leaders.

It has been "fashionable and easy to criticize Israel for the last couple of years" said William Rapfogel, executive director of the Institute for Public Affairs of the Union of Orthodox

Jewish Congregations of America. "The Jewish community right now cannot afford to make a mistake," he said. "There are some in the (Bush) administration who will seize on any split in the Jewish community."

Israeli diplomats were among those who would like to see less criticism of Israeli policy aired at the NJCRAC plenum. Several diplomats were on the floor of every NJCRAC session where debate about Israeli policy took place, talking with delegates and NJCRAC officials about the issues in question.

Mordechai Yedid, deputy consul general at the Israeli Consulate in New York, was seen grabbing the arm of Maynard Wishner, NJCRAC treasurer and co-chair of its Israel Task Force, as he walked by in the corridor.

He urged Wishner not to bring up the sensitive subject of "transfer" at the next plenum session. "Transfer"

refers to the proposal of the Moledet party, which has just joined the Israeli coalition government, to expel Arabs from the administered territories as part of a peace settlement.

Some delegates wondered if the Israelis were working too hard to influence the shape of the debate that was about to take place.

"I see nothing wrong with the Israelis expressing their views," said Thomas Smerling, executive director of Project Nishma, a dovish organization that tries to educate people about Israeli security and the peace process. "But if they're going to be intimately involved with the debate with American Jewish organizations," he continued, "it would be hypocritical for them to say that we shouldn't speak out."

As it turned out, the subject of "transfer," which most American Jews find abhorrent, was raised by a delegate during the policy debate. The issue was referred to the Israel Task Force for consideration without being discussed by delegates.

The reason given was that new issues are prohibited from being raised for the first time on the plenum floor; they must be submitted to NJCRAC before the plenum begins.

The outrage felt by many delegates over the inclusion of Moledet in the Israeli government, and the fact that delegates were not able to take a public position on the notion of "transfer" during the plenum, became a bonus for Project Nishma's Smerling, who was collecting signatures for a letter on the subject to Knesset member Binyamin Begin. The letter, which praised Begin's "principled stand" opposing the inclusion of Moledet in the government, served as a way for many delegates to express themselves on the issue. In the end, it was signed by more than 100 American Jewish leaders, including all eight past chairs of NJCRAC attending the plenum.

For the past several years, Israel has been the focus of debate at the plenum, and this year, that was the case more than ever.

While delegates said that it was natural for Israel to be the focus during the current crisis, some community leaders felt that domestic issues were shunted to the back burner and did not receive the attention they deserve.

Only seven of 30 items on the agenda for discussions during Joint Program Planning sessions were related to the Middle East. But domestic issues, including intergroup tensions, energy policy and anti-Semitism, were relegated to the very last hour of discussion.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) criticized this preoccupation with Israel in a speech to the delegates Sunday night. "Sadly, there is only one issue that the members of Congress think is important to Jews — Israel," he said, adding that "on issues of civil rights and civil liberties, you are not doing your job."

While several delegates called Metzenbaum's remarks "an overstatement," one argued, that "many non-Jews work in domestic affairs," but "only the Jews are for Israel."

NJCRAC Chair Arden Shenker devoted his entire address Monday to issues of foreign policy. "The sore needs on our domestic agenda" are "for another day, if not for another plenum," he said.

Four represented Delaware at Miami meetings

Four members of the local community represented Delaware's Jewish Community Relations Committee at the 1991 National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council annual Plenum in Miami on February 17 through 20. Representing our community at the Plenum were JCRC members, Judy Arenson, Jack Blumenfeld and Robert Coonin and Lelaine Nemser, JCRC Staff Director. The annual four day conference was held this year at the Omni International Hotel in Miami.

NJCRAC is the national umbrella organization for Jewish community

relations committees from around the country as well as Jewish organizations involved in community relations endeavors nationally. The annual Plenum held each year in February is an opportunity for representatives from around the country to participate in workshops, meetings with counterparts from other communities and to receive major policy addresses from national and international leaders on Mid-East affairs, international relations, energy policy, civil liberties, and a whole host of human needs issues.

The 500 delegates who attended

this year's Plenum were addressed by and had an opportunity to question notables such as Zalman Shoval, Israel Ambassador to the United States; Dr. William Burns, United States Department of State; Dr. Donna E. Shalala, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Richard M. Joel, International Director, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations; Senator Howard M. Metzenbaum (OH); Robert K. Lifton, President, American Jewish Congress; Daniel W. Lewis, former United States Ambassador to Israel; Representative Dante Fascell, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Com-

mittee; Tom Dine, Executive Director, AIPAC; and Vice President Dan Quayle.

In addition to receiving addresses from major figures in international affairs and domestic issues, three lengthy sessions at the Plenum were devoted to reaching a consensus on creation of the annual Joint Program Plan or domestic and foreign issues to be used by Community Relations Committees during the upcoming year. Preliminary proposals are circulated throughout the constituent agencies prior to the Plenum for

Continued on 13

Reflections on the plenum

By **ROBERT COONIN**

I have just returned from my first National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council annual Plenum. I know that much of what occurred there I will carry with me throughout the balance of the year, as much for the substance of what was presented and debated as for the volume of written materials that I brought back with me.

In many ways the Plenum exceeded my expectations. To bring representatives from 100 communities and two dozen national organizations together for four days of productive dialog is, in and of itself, a monumental endeavor. To keep them busy from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. every night is a marvelous accomplishment. The constantly changing tempo played a large part in the swift passage of time.

Major addresses by State Department officials, the Israel Ambassador to the United States, noted legal scholars on civil liberties and the Vice President of the United States were interspersed with two and three hour workshops.

There seems to be a bit of egalitarianism demanded by the Plenum planners. For one doesn't merely "address" a workshop or a major gathering. One makes a presentation and then is called upon to defend his or her views. For no matter who the speaker is, whether an environmental engineer discussing energy policy, a CRC Chairman from New York, or the vice President of the United States, after a presentation is made, the speaker must stand for questions from the audience. That principle held fast from the first session on the first day through the last session on the last day.

Yet, to many, the Plenum is thought of not for its workshops and meetings, but for the program planning sessions. There, all 500 representatives meet to discuss, debate, and, more appropriately, argue over such issues as U. S. aid to Israel, reproductive rights, civil liberties, aid for the homeless and the failures of public education.

If, as our self deprecating humor suggests, the first thing three Jews do when they get together is create three congregations and four organizations, what happens when 500 Jews meet to discuss societies' ills? An amazing metamorphosis occurs!

Notwithstanding our vast different viewpoints on how to obtain certain objectives, the objectives themselves were rarely in doubt. The right of Israel to safe secure borders; the right of immediate free emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel; the right to quality child care for all pre-school age children of working mothers; the obligation of the United States Government to financially support Israel in both its national defense and human needs, as it serves as this Country's forward most military partner in the most strategic area of the world.

While our workshops dealt with how to learn to agree and to disagree with other ethnic groups (coalition partners as our community relations jargon

calls them), in our Program Plan Sessions where we all congregated daily to debate our propositions, we had little problem in disagreeing in an agreeable way. But for the language in use, I suggest the proceedings bore remarkable resemblance to a day at the Israel Knesset.

The arguments, the "respectful" verbal slaps at other groups with whom we disagreed, the one-manship, all occurring in an atmosphere of unified purpose, to reaffirm our commitment that so long as there is interference with human rights, privacy rights and oppression in the world, it is the obligation of the members of the Jewish community to commit themselves to finding the means and the methods of correcting these wrongs. Long after I forget the faces of the people I met or the sometimes boring speeches some delegates gave over seemingly unimportant technical matters, I will remember that in Miami in 1991, American Jewry reaffirmed those values to which we should all aspire to.

Yet a nagging sore spot lingered throughout the sessions. Senator Howard Metzenbaum, a long-time champion of civil rights and advocate of the Jewish communities' commitment to social justice early in the Plenum berated the entire assembly for what he perceived as a shift of the Jewish community from civil rights activists to civil rights advocate. Too often, he told our assembled group, action had been replaced with words and too often still, those words had become softer and softer.

If what Metzenbaum had to say was true, the irony is that the beautiful setting in which we congregated to debate such lofty ideals all too correctly illustrated his point. While we deliberated on worthy issues in our high rise glass tower above the three story shopping mall with its ten movie theatres and two story carousel, we were completely oblivious to the outside environment in which we were situated.

Our hotel sat in the Overtown area of Miami, an area in which riots occurred several years ago as black residents vented their frustrations over what they perceive as the failure of the emerging Hispanic establishment to pay attention to their needs, to help them escape their underclass status.

While we applauded Vice President Quayle for saying all the "right" things about Israel, we were oblivious to the fact that outside our hotel Americans exercising their First Amendment rights to free speech were protesting U. S. involvement in the Persian Gulf War. Perhaps we Jews have come so far in America that we have learned to forget from whence we came, and how hard it was to get here.

Perhaps it's time to turn off the air conditioning, open the windows and breathe some fresh air, with all the smells of humanity that the winds carry. And perhaps in coming down out of those glass towers, perhaps, just perhaps, we might lose some of our fear of those who live outside the glass tower, holding tones in their hands.

Four represent Delaware

Continued from 12

comment and review and issues derived from those comments are presented on the floor for debate. The position adopted by the 500 delegates on these variety of issues forms the basis for the program plan for the following year.

Jack Blumenfeld, who attended his fourth Plenum this year, stated, "It was exciting to hear the views of many of the brightest people on issues of deep concern to the Jewish community and to have a voice in the setting of goals and priorities for the coming year."

To many, the program plan sessions form the culmination of the 4-day Plenum. Judy Arenson, who attended her first Plenum this year said, "the unanimity and diversity of opinion by the approximately 500 delegates to the Plenum reinforced my confidence in the continuing vitality of our Jewish American leadership."

While the four delegates from Wilmington were together during the Program Plan sessions and the major addresses, during the workshop periods, they each attended meetings concerning different subjects. "The number of workshops available to participate in is exceeded only by the number of issues pressing in our society today. We had an opportunity to discuss issues ranging from environmental issues and building a sound energy policy to the ramifications of urban policy. Several sessions dealt with the changing demographics of human relations coalitions." **Continued on 13**

Soviets hope initiative on Iraq will buy them a seat at peace table

Behind the headlines

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Soviet Union, which has long sought to be part of the process of finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, believes its diplomatic effort to convince Saddam Hussein to pull out of Kuwait is its ticket for admission.

The Soviet Union continues to be part of the anti-Iraq coalition despite its opposition to the use of force, Viacheslav Matousov, the Soviet Embassy's Middle East expert, told a group of reporters here last week.

Matousov said the Soviets opposed the war against Iraq, which began Jan. 17, because they feared it would ignite a larger Arab-Israeli war. He said the Soviets now fear that if the right political solution is not reached at the end of the Persian Gulf war, it could exacerbate the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Matousov, who was chief of Palestinian and Lebanese affairs in the international department of the Communist Party Central Committee from 1975 to 1989, was responding to questions at a luncheon meeting of the Overseas Writers Club, an organization of diplomatic correspondents.

He insisted that the Soviet Union has to be part of any Middle East peace, because as a neighbor of countries in that region, it is affected by what happens there. "We are part of this process. We can't avoid this responsibility of ours," Matousov said. He observed that even Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir now believes the Soviet Union should be

involved in a peace settlement.

While the United States has sought to keep the Soviet Union out of the Middle East since the end of World War II, Secretary of State James Baker recently indicated this attitude may be changing. Up to now, the Soviets have played "a negative role" in the Middle East, Baker said on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley" on February 24.

"Ever since the 3rd of August, when they stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States — at least with respect to the Gulf crisis — they have played a positive role," the secretary said. By playing a positive role, the Soviets can "contribute significantly to the resolution" of some of the problems in the Middle East, he said.

Baker and President Bush have refused to condemn Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev publicly for his initiative last week to end the fighting, which some see as an attempt to play up the Soviets as a friend of the Arabs. While privately peeved, the Bush administration has sought to bolster Gorbachev's shaky government and to keep the Soviets in the anti-Iraq coalition.

That is also one explanation given for the statement issued by Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh after a Jan. 29 meeting in Washington, in which

they said that after the Gulf war there would be "mutual U.S.-Soviet efforts to promote Arab-Israeli peace and regional stability."

but Matousov made clear on February 25 that the Soviet Union still believes the way to this is an international peace conference, to include the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Israel is adamantly opposed to such a conference. The Bush administration has said it prefers direct negotiations but if those fail, it could support such a conference at "an appropriate time."

The administration has fought all efforts to link such a conference with the Persian Gulf crisis, while the Soviets have supported Saddam Hussein's efforts to make such a conference a condition for his withdrawal from Kuwait.

Matousov stressed that the Soviet Union is flexible about a conference and does not demand it. But Moscow believes it is necessary, because any agreements reached between Israel and the Arabs, including the Palestinians, will require guarantees.

"Who gives the guarantees if not the international community?" the Soviet official asked.

Matousov stressed that an international conference would provide the framework for Israel to engage in bilateral negotiations with its Arab

neighbors. This appears to be a move toward the U.S. position, which has been that if such a conference were held, it could not dictate or veto agreements that are to be reached through direct negotiations.

Matousov suggested that an international conference could be a "fine opportunity to restore full diplomatic relations" between the Soviet Union and Israel. He observed that relations have been gradually improving and that consulates were opened in Moscow and Tel Aviv in January.

Although the Soviets were the leading arms supplier to Iraq, Matousov said Moscow now wants not only to stop the "arms supply to this very hot region of the world," but also to reduce existing arms, especially weapons of mass destruction.

But Matousov rejected the suggestion that Moscow would break relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization and its leader, Yasir Arafat, because of their support for Saddam Hussein. He said countries such as Yemen and Jordan have supported Hussein, and there is no question of breaking relations with them.

Matousov said the Soviet Union, like the United States, opposes Jewish settlement in the West Bank, which "we consider Palestinian soil."

But he rejected Arab criticism of the Soviet government for allowing so many Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel. "Anyone who wants to leave the Soviet Union can decide where he is going," he said.

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Court hearing Klinghoffer suit to consider whether PLO is state

By ALIZA MARCUS

NEW YORK (JTA) — The 1988 declaration of statehood by the Palestine Liberation Organization is one of the main points of contention in a civil suit filed here that calls on the PLO to pay damages for the brutal murder of an elderly Jewish man by Palestinian terrorists five-and-a-half years ago.

Relatives of Leon Klinghoffer, the 69-year-old wheelchair-bound man shot and thrown into the Mediterranean during the October 1985 hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship, are trying to sue the PLO for an unspecified amount of money. But the PLO maintains it cannot be sued, citing a 1976 U.S. law that makes sovereign states immune from such lawsuits. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit will have to decide whether the PLO's 2-year-old

self-declared state of "Palestine" is indeed a sovereign nation.

A lower court already ruled that the PLO should be denied immunity, but the PLO, represented by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, has appealed.

In a friend-of-the-court brief, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith called the PLO a terrorist organization and said such groups do not deserve the legal protections offered to foreign governments. "The PLO does not have the fundamental legal attributes of a state, including a defined territory, a functioning government that controls a territory, or a permanent population," said the ADL brief, which was filed February 27.

It said the PLO could not claim immunity based on its status at the United Nations, because it has ob-

server status and is not recognized as a member state.

Steven Freeman, director of the ADL's legal affairs department, said the case had wide-ranging implications for future prosecution of the PLO or any organization accused of terrorist activities. "It would be significant if this established a precedent that the PLO can be sued here for violations of law in which Americans are victimized," said Freeman.

The Achille Lauro was hijacked while in Egyptian waters en route from Alexandria to Port Said. Four Palestinian terrorists, who panicked when their cache of weapons was discovered, changed their original plans to disembark in Israel and instead hijacked the ship. After ordering the ship toward Syria — where they eventually were not allowed to dock — one of the gunmen shot

Klinghoffer in the head and then had the body and wheelchair dumped into the sea.

Klinghoffer's wife, Marilyn, who was traveling with him, was unharmed. She died months later of cancer.

The original operation was reportedly organized by a faction of the PLO, the Palestine Liberation Front, headed by Mohammed (Abul) Abbas, at the time aligned with Yasir Arafat. The four hijackers, who finally turned over the ship at Port Said, in ex-

change for safe passage, were being taken to Tunisia aboard an Egyptian plane when U.S. fighter jets diverted the plane to a base in Italy.

Attempts to have the four extradited to the United States failed, and they were sentenced in 1986 by an Italian court to what were criticized by many as light sentences. The hijacker found guilty of murdering Klinghoffer received 30 years, and others were sentenced to terms ranging from life to six months.

March 31 deadline for Holocaust victims to reclaim property

March 31 is the deadline for victims of Nazi confiscations, or their heirs, to reclaim property in East Germany.

Restitution claims include property expropriated, placed under state administration, or subjected to forced sale, confiscation, or other seizures by the Nazis from January 30, 1933 through May 8, 1945. Among the many property claims that can be made include automobiles, art, real estate, bank accounts, business assets, and mortgages.

Claimants are urged to file quickly, since the German Finance Ministry in Bonn already has a backlog of claims. The address of the property, identification of the owner, and of the person making the claim are the essential requirements. If possible, the claim should be written out in German, although English is acceptable, and posted by registered mail.

Many of the claimants are the heirs of the original victims. If an heir does claim, the chain of inheritance must be proved. However, proof of own-

ership and heirship can be gathered after the claim is filed and the property frozen. This requires birth and death certificates, as well as the will of the original owner, which must be filed in German.

"As a Holocaust survivor and a recipient of German restitution, I would hope that those eligible for restitution for properties in East Germany would avail themselves of the opportunity," said Ernest W. Michel, consultant to UJA-Federation and a former executive vice president.

After filing, the claimant will receive a form letter from the Justice Ministry recording that the claim has been filed. If a claim is filed late, the property may be sold, and the claimant obliged to accept a cash settlement.

For assistance to filing claims, call the United Restitution Organization, a legal aid service, at (212) 921-3860, or the referral service of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York at (212) 382-6625.

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The theme of this year's Jewish Music Season, which extends from Shabbat Shira to Yom Ha'atzmaut (from January 26 to April 8, 1991), is "The World of Jewish Music." This poster, published by the Jewish Music Council (sponsored by the JCC Association), incorporates the Hebrew letters in the word "Shira" (song) in the figure of a traditional hazzan (cantor), along with silhouettes of other diverse Jewish faces and musical instruments.

WOMEN in

BUSINESS



Activism on the agenda for Jewish feminists of the 90s

By RUTH ROVNER

Special to The Jewish Voice

When Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger was still a social worker, she worked for 15 months in rural Oklahoma as the director of child welfare services.

"It was a good place for a New York Jewish woman to learn a lot," recalled Messinger, who was one of the only two Jewish women in the entire county. She learned to work with men who had never worked with a woman — or known anyone Jewish — and with rural women.

And she learned something else — something which paved the way for her election to public office in New York City. "I learned that government was essential to making the kinds of changes I cared about," she told a Philadelphia audience recently. "It was that experience — and who I am as a woman and a Jew — that moved me to elective office ten years ago."

Messinger, who urged other women to seek elective office, was one of the guest speakers at a symposium on Jewish women and feminism held at the National Museum of American Jewish History on September 16.

Titled "Speaking into the Silences," the event was co-sponsored by the Museum, The Jewish Publication Society and the Anti-Defamation League, in cooperation with B'nai B'rith Women. It was designed to supplement the Museum's current photo exhibition, "The Invisible Thread: Portraits of Contemporary Jewish American Women."

The day-long symposium drew over 100 women of all ages and varied backgrounds to hear a program that featured three panel discussions; a premiere of a film, "Half the King-



Ruth Messinger, answers a question during the panel discussion. Other participants are (left to right) Miriam Gafni, moderator Colleen Alexander and Donna Nevel. (Photo: Tammy McGinley)

dom," about seven Jewish women; and a diverse group of speakers who explored a range of issues — religious, communal, political — as they discussed how feminism has changed the lives of Jewish women — and what changes must still be made.

"It's in our tradition as Jews and as women to want to make social change and expand opportunities for ourselves and others, and one place to do that is in government," said Messinger, who came to Philadelphia to be a panelist in the session titled "Jewish Women's Activism in the 1990's: New Directions."

"We need more women in office with Jewish and feminist sensibilities," said Messinger, who took office as borough president January 1 — having won 84 percent of the vote — after having served on the New York City Council. "Studies all show that women are consistently more progressive on a huge number of issues," she said.

"Because of how we're socialized and the roles we play, we have a special sensibility. It's visible and

evident when women are in government. And I'd say the same is true about being Jewish."

Donna Nevel, another panelist, also saw a special role for Jewish women in effecting social change. "Jewish women have often been in the forefront of change," said Nevel, who is education consultant for "Blacks and Jews: The Struggle for Justice," and exhibit to be presented at New York's Jewish Museum in 1992.

She suggested that Jewish women make new alliances with women of different perspectives. "What will strengthen us is our appreciation of each other's differences," she said.

"We must recognize the validity of one another's choices or we risk losing the connection of potential allies," said Nevel. She cited, for example, the need for closer ties between Jewish women's organizations and feminist groups. "Often they don't have any contact with each other, yet many values and concerns held by the two groups are similar," she noted.

Encouraging women to form bonds with others of very different backgrounds, she cited her own involvement in a group called NEW (Non-traditional Employment of Women) where she met women in the trades and blue collar jobs, most of them non-white.

"These women were concerned with survival, race and class. And I was able to talk about Jewish history and oppression," she said.

"I've come to realize that who we talk to and share with really influences our behavior," said Nevel, a founding member of Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, a group organized last May, "because we need to fight for these issues and do it collectively as Jews."

The issues, she said, "are broader than we think. Jewish women's issues go beyond narrow definitions. We are both Jews and women with agendas defined by our Jewishness and our womanhood."

The agenda of activism includes the broad issues — but also those within the Jewish community, said attorney Miriam Gafni, the third speaker on the panel, who urged Jewish women to use the clout they've earned as fund-raisers to become decision-makers in their synagogues and on boards of Jewish organizations.

"In many congregations, women now sit on boards because they are such sensational fund-raisers," said Gafni, a former president of the Germantown Jewish Centre.

"My challenge to you as Jewish women is this: Regardless of the board, what do you bring to the table? If you can raise the money, you should be deciding the issues, too."

"Are we concerned enough about

the rate of promotion of women in Jewish organizations? Are we concerned about day care policies? Are we sitting on the personnel committee? And the budget committee?" asked Gafni, who chaired the planning committee for last year's conference on "The Empowerment of Jewish Women."

"You sit on committees and on boards, and you can make those decisions," said Gafni, who serves on the board of Gratz College and on committees of the Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel and on the Board of Trustees of the Federation of Jewish Agencies.

"One thing I've learned is that being a moral voice doesn't automatically get you into trouble, especially if you have facts and can be persuasive about how the issue affects the community as a whole," said Gafni.

She also urged more activism in the political arena. Jewish women, she said, should be running for office and active in political campaigns, especially since the issues are vital to them.

"Philadelphia's financial crisis is a Jewish women's issue," she said, "because without a budget, women and children in need will not get financial support. These are Jewish women's issues — human, nurturing issues — and we've got to pay attention to who gets into office. We've got to spend our money, time and energy to get candidates in office who share our values."

"We have the power to change the face of the city and the state on issues we care about. But only if Jewish women become more actively involved in politics. The future is ours — if you'll join in."

NANCY F. BLUMBERG, CPA, CFP SIMON, MASTER & SIDLOW, P.A.



Nancy F. Blumberg, CPA, CFP, with over 20 years of personal and corporate tax experience is the expert's expert; as Director of Taxation at Simon, Master & Sidlow, P.A., she is responsible for individual and corporate tax planning and consultation, technical review of tax returns prepared by her firm, and personal financial planning. "What makes my work continually interesting and rewarding is discovering how I can best serve my clients' needs," says Blumberg. "We are a full-service accounting firm."

"Many individuals come to me before a marriage, the birth of a child, a divorce, or impending retirement because this means a change in their whole outlook on income investments and taxes. I can suggest appropriate investment allocations, analyze insurance needs, structure a retirement plan, establish trusts for their children's education, plan tax strategies and develop an estate plan."

Her other strong interest, says Blumberg, is in working with small family-owned businesses. "Our service to these companies and their owners goes way beyond tax preparation. We encourage 'succession planning' — structuring a corporation so that it can be passed on to the next generation of 'family proprietors.' We make sure that each family member's personal financial goals are consistent with the company's ability to grow and


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As secretary of Wilmington Women in Business, Blumberg enjoys counselling young women in the accounting field. She also serves as chairman of the Wilmington Tax Institute. Her memberships include: Estate Planning Council, American Society of Women Accountants, the Delaware Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Blumberg holds a B.S. in Accounting from Queens College, an M.S. in Taxation from Widener University and is a Certified Financial Planner. She began her career in accounting as an Internal Revenue Service Agent with the Department of the Treasury.



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Rose S. Cohen, co-owner of the C.L. Story Printing Co., together with her husband, Benjamin F., has been the firm's social and wedding invitation consultant for over 38 years.

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DEBORAH S. KLIMAN, Ed.D. LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST



In her private practice, says psychologist Dr. Deborah S. Kliman, her focus is on the process of change rather than on any crisis caused by change. "My training as a structural family therapist, my ten years of private practice, my 15 years experience with Delaware Guidance Services for Children and Youth and my years as a private and public school teacher, enable me to help children and adults going through life cycle changes define their problems and work towards solutions."

For young children, says Dr. Kliman, the definition process often begins with standardized psycho-educational testing. "In private practice, I do my own testing. It's valuable to understand first hand that a child's problem is or is not caused by a learning disability or attention deficit. It makes dealing with a child's teacher, school counselor and school system much easier."

Also, comments Dr. Kliman, it gives children a chance to "open up," to speak directly with her on a private one-on-one basis. "From pre-school teaching in the mid-60's to more recent University of Delaware classes, I've been told I'm 'good with kids.' I think they recognize that I care about each of them as individuals."

In family therapy, Dr. Kliman usually

asks that the entire family — parents and children — come for the initial visit. "We need to understand that, although only one family member may be having a problem, we're all part of the solution." It has been encouraging in recent years, says Dr. Kliman, "to see an increasing willingness on the part of fathers to participate."

In addition to her work with children, Dr. Kliman sees many women in her private practice. Their problems, she says, frequently relate to self-identity and self-esteem, and their need to be "perfect women," perfect in the workplace, perfect at child rearing and perfect at marriage.

When they feel they have failed, women often become sad and lacking in energy. "I encourage physical exercise — particularly for depression," says Dr. Kliman. A jogger and swimmer herself, she strongly believes that a sound body is an important part of mental health.

Dr. Kliman is president of the Delaware Psychological Association's Private Practice Division and past-president of Delaware Psychologists, Inc. She is a current board member of the Fairville Early Learning Center and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Delaware, and a consulting psychologist for CHILD, Inc. Dr. Kliman is licensed in Delaware and Pennsylvania.

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In her practice, 1991 is "The Year of the Contact Lenses," says Dr. Michele B. Medwin of her Family Optometry practice. "I'm excited about the new concepts in good vision offered by today's contact lenses, particularly disposables and softperm lenses."

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A member of the American Optometric Association's License and Regulation Committee, Dr. Medwin has visited many of our

50 states as an advisor on proposed changes in states' regulation of her fellow professionals. She is also chairperson of the organization's VISION USA-Delaware, a state-by-state program to meet the eye care needs of the working poor.

The mother of two young children and a consultant to the Nemours Health Clinic, Medwin often speaks on eye care, eye safety, children's vision and eye strain. "School lectures are often linked to health education curriculum; for my Nemours senior citizens, I discuss the vision problems associated with aging, disease and medications. Business audiences are more concerned with computer-related problems."

Medwin offers four possible solutions to computer-related vision problems, which may include eye strain, headaches and an inability to do work properly. One, change the distance between your eyes and the screen; two, change the lighting in your working environment; three, change the type of glasses you use for computer work, and four, take frequent "eye breaks" — look away from the computer screen on a regular basis.

Dr. Medwin, who holds a BS from Cornell University and an optometric degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, is licensed to practice in both Pennsylvania and Delaware.

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GENE L. DANNEMAN GNOMON COPY



Strange-but-true: Gene Danneman (with two "n's" in the middle and two on the end) married Jay Danneman (with two "n's" in the middle but only one on the end) and became the owner of a copy business! Danneman's Gnomon Copy offers four self-service Xerox 5018 copiers (5 cents a copy), plus employee-operated Xerox 1075 and Kodak 150 copiers for multiple copies, collated and stapled projects (50-copy maximum for machine staples; 200 sheets for hand staples) and red, blue and brown color work.

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Despite Gnomon's Newark location, with its daily walk-in traffic of almost 100 people a day, Danneman claims the majority of her clients are businesses, including those from Pennsylvania and Maryland; "Elkton and Landenberg are both within 5 minutes, and the sales tax savings on 400 copies of a collated, bound multi-colored copy job can be significant."

How did Gene Danneman, six-year veteran of the Jewish Federation Board, active in local and regional Hadassah, the League of Women Voters and Temple Beth-El, and 1987-90 President of Newark Day Nursery become a business owner? Opportunity knocked, admits Danneman, "when the location and the franchise became available at the same time, I became an entrepreneur."

Her number one assistant? Gingly the Copy Dog, a 1-1/2 year old oversized chocolate toy poodle, who loves to come to work, loves Gnomon's employees and loves Gnomon clients.



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"My job is to meet my clients' needs," says Karen Moss. "I start out by listening carefully so that I can help my client focus on the issues and clarify his or her needs. Then together we define and prioritize goals, and develop a publicity campaign to achieve them. The end result may involve writing a single press release or implementing an ambitious PR program."

"I like to gain an understanding of my client, because I want each piece I write to convey the appropriate information as well as impart the proper tone."

Her recent metamorphosis into a public relations consultant was a natural transition, since she has been doing PR work for over a decade.

Karen is perhaps best known for her seven years as editor of *The Jewish Voice*. During her tenure, *The Voice* received a prestigious award from the International Association of Business Communicators. She has also edited an international scholarly art journal and written advertising copy for the Franklin Mint. She created the quarterly newsletter for the Ministry of Caring in Wilmington and served as editor for over a year. She also compiled, wrote and edited their volunteer manual. Most recently, she has provided consultation and public relations services to the Jewish Community Center for a number of pro-

grams, including developing and implementing a publicity campaign for the Children's Center.

Karen has served on public relations committees for the United Way and the International Association of Business Communicators. She is currently a member of the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Marketing Committee. This committee, in the first year since its inception, has already generated award-winning PR materials including the newsletter "JFD & U."

In addition to her professional work, Karen has served in numerous community positions. A Vice President at Congregation Beth Shalom, she also served on her synagogue's Rabbi Search Committee and the most recent Israel Bonds Tribute Committee. She was part of the early stages of planning for Emmanuel Dining Room, has served as a Nursing Mothers Counselor and read for the blind for many years. She is actively involved with the schools her two children attend: JCC Preschool and the Albert Einstein Academy, and she chairs Beth Shalom's Shabbat Playschool. On Sunday, March 10, she will be the moderator at "A Day For The Jewish Woman."

How does she feel about her new venture? "Great! I'm bringing all my skills to bear to meet my customers' needs. They're pleased with the product, and I'm having a ball!"

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A former Special Education teacher, Tarnow, her husband and children (ages 7 and 3) were transferred to Delaware three years ago from New York. "I wanted a business I could run from my own home, which required a low capital investment," says Tarnow, "and offered endless opportunities to be creative. INFLATION CREATIONS is my perfect job."

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Israeli women protest their status in politics

By CARL ALPERT

HAIFA—While much is frequently made of the fact that a woman, Golda Meir, served as prime minister of Israel, the simple truth is that the role of women in Israel's public and political life is actually on the decline.

At present women comprise only 6.6 percent of the members of the Knesset, the lowest since the crea-

tion of the state, and on the local government level the situation is not much better. Aside from Golda Meir, only three women in all of Israel's history have held cabinet posts: Shulamit Aloni, Shoshana Arbelli-Almoslino and Geula Cohen.

The Israel Women's Network, which serves as a political action group and lobby, declares that "the

stark figures point to the deteriorating status of women in Israel," and they plan to do something about it.

The Network, and the Section for Women's Studies at Haifa University, together with the participation of almost a dozen women's organizations, played host not long ago to a roomful of determined women who sounded a battle cry: "The men don't take us seriously? They will! They will!"

Speaker after speaker, some from the academic world and some on the outskirts of politics and struggling to get in, voiced their indignation, and declared that the time had come for more than words.

"It is not just out of our desire to be represented that we are waging this fight," declared Yehudit Heubner, who defied the establishment in Jerusalem and gained a seat on the City Council there on an all-woman ticket. "It is because of our belief in the essential value of what women can contribute — especially in the fields of social welfare, education, family, health." But not there alone, another woman noted. There are many areas where women are much more sensitive and careful than men, she said, in finance, for example, and women should serve in key positions

on all finance committees.

The trouble is that most political parties put a "token woman" on their lists, and then fill all the other positions with men. Chana Herzog, of the Tel Aviv University sociology department, bemoaned the fact that women in Israel are not sufficiently competitive, aggressive, ambitious, serious or persistent.

We women have power which we have never used, another voice declared, noting that more than 60 percent of the staffs in health, education and banking are women. If they were to call a strike to enforce their demands for greater representation in political life, and if women were to suspend all their volunteer work, the full weight of their influence would be felt at once, the women asserted. I made mental note of the fact that no one mentioned the Lysistrata weapon of protest.

Here was a room full of talented, well-educated, articulate women analyzing their problem logically and with clarity, but also with growing indignation. Yael Rom, an unsuccessful candidate for mayor of Haifa and a leading figure in this movement: "I am a woman, but I am also a citizen of Israel and pay my taxes, but I am not yet represented in the

councils of administration." Reference was made to the Norwegian Plan, recently adopted, whereby political parties in that country have agreed that henceforth women will make up at least 40 percent of their lists of candidates.

There was tremendous potential leadership material in the room, but how many of them were prepared to enter the rough and tumble of political life? When Rom complained to a political party leader about the paucity of women in the party councils, his reply was: "Show me the line of women waiting to come in."

Several times the suggestion was made that perhaps it would be effective if women were to set up their own party and field their own candidates. A public opinion poll conducted by the Skarim Research and Surveys indicated that 18 percent of the women and 15 percent of the men were prepared to vote for an all-woman party, not affiliated with any of the existing parties. Approximately the same percentage affirmed their willingness to refrain from supporting any party which did not afford adequate representation to women. Yet on the whole the participants in this symposium seemed to have little faith in an all-woman party.

The center of discussion moved from the rostrum to the floor, and dozens of women rose to express their views with varying degrees of anger and bitterness. It was at this point that, as the only male in the room, I carefully tiptoed my way out, unnoticed.

(Carl Alpert writes occasionally for The Jewish Voice from Haifa.)

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Jews take over two buildings in Moslem Quarter

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The brutal murder last week of a yeshiva student in the Old City of Jerusalem is credited with inspiring a group of Orthodox Jews to take possession of two buildings in the Moslem Quarter of the city. The move could inflame ethnic tensions in Jerusalem, where similar attempts in the past by Jews to occupy non-Jewish sections of the Old City have triggered angry protests from Arab residents.

Last Thursday night, less than 12 hours after the killing of Elchanan Attali, a number of Jewish families and fellow students at the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva settled into two empty buildings on Haggai Street, where Attali's body was found. The buildings were purchased by the Ateret Cohanim Society, reportedly

at a high price from Arab owners. Negotiations over the two properties began 10 years ago, and Jews moved into the buildings in 1982. But they were vacated on orders of then Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who bowed to pressure from Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek.

Ateret Cohanim refrained from taking possession of the property all this time to avoid causing undue tensions during the intifada, said Yossi Baumol, executive director of Ateret Cohanim yeshiva. Now, however, the purchase process has been completed, and authorities have given their consent to the move.

However, a Palestinian resident of the Old City, Sa'ad Tart, said the property belongs to his family and that he is seeking a court order to evict the students. The case was to be

debated Thursday in Magistrates Court, Israel Radio reported.

The yeshiva students have unfurled Israeli flags from the building where Attali's body was found. The yeshiva said it would dedicate the new buildings to Attali, who was 25.

Jewish settlement in non-Jewish quarters of the Old City continues, despite objections from Kollek, who has long tried to maintain equilibrium and respect among the city's many ethnic and religious groups.

Last year, just before Easter, students from Ateret Cohanim moved into St. John's Hospice in the Christian Quarter, drawing fire from Christians and diplomats in many countries. The Greek Orthodox Church, which said it owns that property, is contesting that move in a case still before the courts.

Ateret Cohanim is one of three yeshivot that received funds from Israel's Housing Ministry to buy property. The funds were approved by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, who owns a home in the Moslem Quarter.

The group strongly defends the right of Jews to live in all parts of Jerusalem and disagrees strongly with the notion that Jews should respect the integrity of non-Jewish neighborhoods.

"Asking the Jewish people to give up eastern Jerusalem in tantamount to asking the mayor of New York to hand over Brooklyn to Saddam Hussein," said Baumol.

Attali's murder marks a return to the violence that prevailed during the three years of the intifada before the Persian Gulf war began. Israelis have depicted it as a desperate attempt by Palestinian activists to rekindle the uprising in the wake of Iraq's defeat.

"Elchanan's Palestinian murderer would have loved to sink his knife into President George Bush's back," said Baumol. "But the only available representative of Western civilization was a quiet, peace-loving scholar." No one has been arrested in the killing, but police believe it was the work of several assailants. Attali's throat was cut, and there were 13

stab wounds on his body.

Security sources said they expected a further escalation of protests, which could climax during next week's visit of Secretary of State James Baker. Police are deploying large forces in Jerusalem, and the army is maintaining a relatively high state of alert in the administered territories.

For the time being, there is no plan to lift the nighttime curfew that has been in effect since the beginning of the war.

The security situation in the territories was reviewed last Friday, and the decision was made to continue the high state of alert. But it was also decided to continue gradually allowing more and more Palestinian workers to return to jobs in Israel, particularly those in construction and agriculture, which are heavily dependent on manual labor.

However, the authorities are permitting only those who have obtained work permits from the government's employment service to cross the so-called Green Line separating the territories from Israel proper.

Because of this requirement, only 10,000 Palestinians were allowed into Israel on Sunday, a far cry from the 118,000 who worked in Israel proper before the Gulf war.

France pressing for resolution of Israel-Palestinian conflict

By EDWIN EYTAN

PARIS (JTA) — France is determined to press the United States and other members of the victorious anti-Iraq coalition to move without delay to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

The French want the United Nations to take the lead on the Security Council level, rather than to rely on Washington to work out a solution with the various interested parties. That position was made clear in statements by French leaders on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visits to Israel and the Arab members of the coalition, Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

President Bush says he is determined to move quickly toward an Arab-Israeli peace settlement, though he will not impose one. But Bush has not addressed the subject with the

urgency and vehemence of French President Francois Mitterrand, nor has he asserted it is a U.N. obligation to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian dispute as forcefully as it dealt with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"It will be the task of the United Nations, which authorized war (in the Persian Gulf), now to seek peace," the French president said Sunday night.

"The community of nations will not tolerate that different issues be treated differently. There cannot be two different scales of measurement," he said. "Israel must have safe and recognized borders and also the means to ensure its defense; the Palestinians must have the right to a national identity, a homeland and a state," he added.

French Defense Minister Pierre

Joxe was even more explicit. "The most urgent task which France now has to meet, the most sacred one as well, is to obtain the same political and diplomatic determination (from the U.N. Security Council) in the application of international law to the Palestinians, Israel and Lebanon, as has been done when Kuwait was concerned," Joxe said. Prime Minister Michel Rocard stressed the French position at a meeting of nearly an hour Monday with the Israeli ambassador, Ovadia Soffer.

Rocard said France would not try to impose any settlement on Israel but believes nevertheless that the time is now ripe for new initiatives. "Israel should be the party launching new peace moves," instead of trying to respond to foreign initiatives, Rocard told the Israeli envoy.

CBS' Simon tells of ordeal

By RUTH ROTHENBERG

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON (JTA) — CBS News correspondent Bob Simon was worried that his Jewishness might cost him his life during the six weeks he and three colleagues were prisoners of the Iraqis while the Persian Gulf war raged. "I thought my number was up when they started accusing me of being a member of Mossad," the Israeli intelligence service, said Simon, who is normally based in Tel Aviv.

He said his captors "kept shouting 'Yehudi, Yehudi' at me."

"I was more worried about my Jewishness than my Tel Aviv posting," the American newsman told reporters at the Humana Wellington Hospital in northwest London, where he was admitted for medical check-ups and treatment.

Simon and three members of his television crew were captured by an Iraqi patrol on the Saudi-Kuwaiti border four days after the Gulf war started on Jan. 17. They were released on March 2.

Simon said that after their capture, the four men were taken to the southern Iraqi city of Basra, where they were brutally beaten, and then to an army prison camp for eight days, where discipline was severe but some kindness was shown.

Afterward they were put into solitary confinement and interrogated for 24 days.

Simon also described his ordeal Sunday night on the CBS television show *60 Minutes*. "An army guy, a captain — he had two stars, which is a captain in the Iraqi army — he grabbed me by the face, forced my mouth open and said, 'Yehudi, Yehudi,' which means Jewish, and then spit at me and slapped me. This sixth instinct that every anti-Semite has ever had — 'Jew, dirty Jew.' I didn't think he would shoot me. I could have killed him. I would have killed him if I could have. I would have killed him and I would have had no more remorse than I had every morning when I got up and killed a cockroach in my room."

Simon, who lives in Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv, and has visited every Arab country neighboring Israel, said he and his crew had no passports when they were captured, only Saudi press cards and an International Red Cross card.

He said he did not respond to the shouting and insults of his Iraqi interrogators and they did not seem to expect an answer. "Their techniques were crude and simple. They asked me my name, my wife's and daughter's name, and said that if I wanted to see them again, I should talk. But they seemed confused about their aims and how to achieve them," Simon said.

His French Catholic wife, Francoise, said she was shocked at her husband's appearance when she met

his convoy at a Jordanian border post Saturday night.

Dr. Stuart Sanders, who examined the reporter and his crew, said the four men were dirty, disheveled, tired and disoriented when they got off their plane in London. But apart from some bruises, there is remarkably little wrong with them, the physician said.

Tourist's killer gets life term

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A 23-year-old Palestinian from the West Bank was sentenced Tuesday to life imprisonment for the murder of Marnie Kimmelman, a teen-age Canadian tourist who died as a result of a bomb explosion on the Tel Aviv beach last July 27.

Yasser Higazi, from Mazra'at c-Sharkiya village, told the court he was "very proud" of the sentence.

Higazi, described as an activist of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, was one of eight West Bank Palestinians arraigned for planting the bomb that killed Kimmelman and wounded 20 people.

The 17-year-old student from Toronto suburb of Willowdale was one of 80 young Canadians on a six-week tour of Israel sponsored by the Canadian Zionist Federation.




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E.C. confirms boycott of PLO, calls for alternative leaders

By YOSSE LEMPKOWICZ
BRUSSELS (JTA) — The leadership of the European Community has confirmed in a formal statement that the E.C. is boycotting contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization, because of Yasir Arafat's support for Iraq during the Persian Gulf crisis.

But the statement by Foreign Minister Jacques Poos of Luxembourg, the current chairman of the E.C. Council of Ministers, underscores that the decision does not undercut the standing of the PLO itself or Palestinian rights. It calls on the Palestinian people to choose new representatives.

"In view of Mr. Arafat's numerous messages of support for the aggressor, Saddam Hussein, the foreign ministers of the 12 (E.C. member

states) agreed, at their meeting on Feb. 4, 1991, in Brussels," that under "the present circumstances not to plan any high-level contact between the E.C. presidency and the PLO," the statement says.

The PLO representative in Brussels, Chawki Armali, was informed of the decision on Feb. 17, the statement says, but told it "in no way calls into question the role of the PLO or the rights of the Palestinian people."

"The Palestinian people will choose its own representatives, whom we shall respect and whom all the concerned parties shall respect," the statement says.

The E.C. decision drew sharp reactions from the PLO leadership. In Tunis, at the group's headquarters, Bassam Abu Sharif, one of Arafat's closest advisers, criticized

Poos for "allowing himself to designate the representatives of the Palestinian people."

Armali, the PLO representative here, called the decision not to meet Arafat an "error" and stressed it could be blamed on an "outburst of temper" by Poos.

The E.C. move is one more indication that the PLO leadership, especially Arafat, has lost its standing because of its pro-Iraq stance. Leaders of both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, formerly primary financiers of the PLO, have announced in no uncertain terms that they have cut the cord to the PLO.

The freezing of official contacts with the PLO was hinted at on Feb. 4 by the foreign minister of Portugal, Joa de Deus Pinheiro. Later in the month, the PLO was excluded from

a list of Middle East parties that would be seen by the so-called E.C. "troika," made up of the current, next and immediate past chairmen of the Council of Ministers.

Poos said the troika would hold a series of meetings with Middle East parties regarding the postwar period in the region. The troika, currently made up of the foreign ministers of Luxembourg, Italy and Holland, had canceled scheduled meetings that were to be held with their counterparts from Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Libya and Syria because of developments in the Gulf war.

David Levy, Israel's foreign minister, had been scheduled to meet with the E.C. chiefs last Monday. No new dates have been set for the meetings.

At a meeting last week of the European Parliament, the E.C.'s

legislative body, which meets in Strasbourg, France, the group's political director called a recent letter from Levy to Poos "encouraging for the future with regard to the Palestinian question."

In the letter, Levy called for an end to the state of belligerency between Israel and the Arab states, "in order to make progress and prepare the ground for global peace negotiations." He called for direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors and parallel discussions over a solution to the Palestinian problem.

The 12 E.C. foreign ministers were due to meet again here Monday and were expected to continue their talks on postwar prospects for Middle East peace, as well as the subject of financial aid to Israel and the Palestinians.

Politician angers Canadian Jews, charges Israel 'gasses' Arabs

By S. ADAM KORBIN

The Jewish Western Bulletin

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (JTA) — A member of the Canadian Parliament who would become foreign minister if his left-of-center New Democratic Party should win the next election takes an extreme anti-Israel position that has raised the ire and fears of Canadian Jews.

Svend Robinson, whose constituency borders Vancouver, has charged that Israel has "gassed" Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank. Robinson used the term "gassing" to describe Israel's use of tear gas to quell rioting.

The remark, which Robinson made at a meeting of his constituency of Burnaby-Kingsway late in January, was called "extremely offensive" by Simon Kahn, public affairs director of the Ottawa-based Canada-Israel Committee. His use of that particular word "displays regrettable insensitivity," Kahn said in a statement released to *The Jewish Western Bulletin*.

"The term 'gassing' draws a parallel — whether consciously or otherwise — to the gassing of Jews at the hands of Nazis during the Holocaust," he observed.

Robinson is his party's external affairs critic, meaning that in the event the New Democratic Party came to power, he would be secretary of state for external affairs, the office now held by Joe Clark of the governing Progressive Conservative Party. The opposition NDP is currently running a strong second in the Progressive Conservatives in opinion polls.

At the January meeting, attended by 200 people, mostly his supporters, Robinson blamed Israel for the plight of the Palestinian people since the 1967 war. "The reality is that there has been a profound injustice for decades for Palestinians on the occupied West Bank and Gaza," he said.

Robinson also chastised Israel for

flouting U.N. resolutions. "There has been, for 23 years, contempt for international law, U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338," he said.

Robinson accused Israel of employing terror against Palestinians. In that connection, he referred to the 1982 massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in West Beirut by Lebanese Christian Phalangists, who were allied with Israel at the time.

Kahn accused Robinson of being unfairly selective in apportioning exclusive blame to Israel for the circumstances of Palestinians. "It is the Arab nations, with the sole exception of Egypt, who have consistently maintained their refusal to recognize Israel and negotiate peace

with her," he said. He reminded Robinson that U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 call for Arab recognition of Israel and their formal renunciation of the state of war.

Late last year, Robinson initiated a mission to Iraq with two members of Parliament, Lloyd Axworthy and Bob Corbett, to negotiate the release of Canadian hostages.

He told the *Toronto Globe and Mail* before leaving that he intended to link Israel with a resolution of the Persian Gulf crisis, which Iraq's Saddam Hussein has been seeking all along.

Several local Jews who attended Robinson's constituency meeting said they were too intimidated by his supporters to raise questions.

One half of Italian priests favor Vatican ties with Israel

ROME (JTA) — A shade over half of the 302 priests polled in Italy, seat of the Roman Catholic Church, believe the Vatican should extend diplomatic recognition to Israel. But 67 percent of them would link recognition to a solution of the Palestinian problem, according to the survey conducted recently by the SWG agency of Trieste, published in the weekly *Panorama*.

While over 84 percent of the priests denied that anti-Semitism exists in their parishes, more than half said it exists in varying degrees in Italy as a whole.

Many of the priests and parishioners quoted by *Panorama* expressed sympathy for Israel. But remarks of others were tinged with anti-Israel or anti-Semitic bias. "When Israel is mixed up in things, there's always trouble," said Luisa Cravino, an elderly woman in Turin.

Carla Ghisio thought Saddam Hussein had a right to launch Scud

missiles at Israel. "How else could he defend himself? Israel scares me because it is armed like America, a lot more than Iraq," she said.

The Rev. Francesco Patti in Milan said anti-Semitism is non-existent in that northern Italian metropolis. "If I really must speak the truth, there is, rather, an opportunistic pro-Semitism, because the Jews count, they have in their hands the levers of finance," the cleric said.

Although nearly 50 percent of those polled think Israel's treatment of the Palestinians is the most likely cause of anti-Semitism, 19.2 percent cited the Jews' "wealth and power." Only 1.3 percent said "the killing of Christ."

The Rev. Piero Denna explained, "Maybe there are prejudices, but not of a religious character. Italians are too indifferent to problems of religion to nourish fanaticism of that type."

Chernobyl children still arriving

By ANDREW GOLDSMITH

NEW YORK (JTA) — Despite continued Scud missile attacks, a fourth group of Jewish children who were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation during the Chernobyl nuclear accident are preparing to journey to Israel for medical treatment.

The children will join some 340 children already receiving treatment being provided by the Chabad Lubavitch organization. The latest group will probably number around 100 children. "We literally don't know how many children will be coming the last minute," said Jay Litvin, spokesman for the project titled "Children of Chernobyl."

Chabad representatives from Israel have been in the Soviet Union for the past two months helping to process visas and passports for the

next group, who are preparing to depart. The children will live and go to school in the village of Kfar Chabad, and receive medical treatment in a clinic created especially for them.

Emergency medical visas allow the children to leave quickly but without their parents. The parents plan to join their children after completing the normal visa process, but the bureaucratic procedures can take anywhere from eight months to two years.

"The danger of missiles is uncertain," said one Chernobyl parent, "but the horrifying consequences of radiation is inevitable."

The children in the program are receiving treatment under the supervision of Dr. Ze'ev Weshler, head of radiology at Hadassah-Hebrew Uni-

versity Medical Center in Ein Kerem and of Chabad's medical team.

Virtually no medical treatment has been made available to the children in Byelorussia since the 1986 disaster. The area continues to be contaminated by dangerous levels of radiation and has been declared an "ecological disaster zone."

How do the children feel about the nightly threat of missiles falling? In an interview with the children following a Shabbat Scud attack on Tel Aviv, a 10-year-old Chernobyl child was asked if he wished he had stayed in Russia. "No," he replied. "Here we are millions of Jews, together, facing one enemy. There, in the Soviet Union, we are a few Jews, alone, living among millions of enemies."

Faiths pray for peace

ROME (JTA) — Jews, Moslems and Christians joined in prayer recently for peace in the Middle East. About 400 people attending a February 20 ecumenical service here organized by a Catholic group heard readings from the Torah, the New Testament and the Koran.

Rabbi Alberto Abramo Piattelli of Rome, who shared the pulpit with a priest and an imam, recited the 86th Psalm in Hebrew.

The worshippers meditated in silence, and at the end of the service, each was given an olive branch, the universal symbol of peace.

Japan makes gesture to Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Japan has sent a message of sympathy to Israeli victims of Iraqi missile attacks and has promised to improve its relations with Israel once the war in the Persian Gulf has ended. The message was delivered here February 24 by Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, who was on a brief official visit, a rare occurrence given the cool relations between the two countries.

The visit comes at a time when officials here feel slighted by Tokyo's failure to include Israel on a list of countries affected by the war to which it plans to offer substantial financial aid. The Japanese official explained

the aid was for developing countries and that Israel is regarded as a developed country and therefore not entitled to it.

Foreign Minister David Levy told his guest that Israel expects an end to Japanese compliance, on both the governmental and private levels, with the Arab economic boycott against Israel.

In part because of Japan's heavy dependence on Arab oil, Tokyo has been reluctant to challenge the Arab boycott. As a result, several leading Japanese corporations, including major car manufacturers, refuse to sell their products to Israel.

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Safeguarding religious liberty is Jewish priority

By HOWARD ROSENBERG
WASHINGTON (JTA) — Safeguarding religious liberty has once again moved to the fore as a major domestic priority of American Jewish groups this year. In both the legislative and judicial arenas, Jewish groups are working to achieve the maximum degree of religious freedom without breaching the constitutional separation of church and state.

High on the agenda of Jewish groups ranging from the liberal American Jewish Congress to the strictly Orthodox Agudath Israel of America is seeking passage of a bill called the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The bill is an attempt to circumvent a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last spring that, in effect, permitted states to enact laws infringing on certain religious liberties without having to prove a "compelling state interest."

The case in question involved an Oregon statute barring use of the hallucinogenic drug peyote, which American Indians use for sacramental purposes. The high court ruled that the state's need to regulate controlled substances, in effect, overrode the Indians' right to engage in this particular religious ritual. Jewish groups fear the ruling could be used by states as a precedent to prohibit such ritual practices as the drinking of Kiddush wine by minors or the kosher slaughter of certain animals.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act would, in effect, require states once again to prove a "compelling interest" before infringing on religious liberties.

Jewish groups are also pursuing related legislation in the state level.

One of their concerns is that state courts might use the Supreme Court precedent to deny exemptions from zoning laws routinely given to synagogues.

Some Jewish groups are also lobbying on behalf of a bill soon to be introduced in Congress called the Public Disclosure of Religious Dietary Certification Act.

The bill, crafted by Agudath Israel and backed by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, would create a registry at the Food and Drug Administration for kosher certification symbols and would allow lawsuits to be filed against distributors of food falsely labeled as kosher.

But one of the top certification agencies, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, has withheld support for the moment, citing concerns about language in the bill that could conflict with state laws already on the books.

And AJCongress has been hesitant to support the bill because of concern that it will put the government in the position of having to deal with issues of religious certification. It would regard that as a violation of the First Amendment's ban on government endorsement of religion.

The tension between allowing free exercise of religion and prohibiting government endorsement of it is expected to be played out in the courts again this year, and Jewish groups already have their eyes on a number of cases.

The Supreme Court has no such

cases on its docket at the moment, but it is considering a petition, *Lee vs. Weisman*, that challenges a 1990 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that ruled as unconstitutional a rabbi's prayer at a public high school graduation ceremony in Providence, R.I.

The case was originally brought by the family of Deborah Weisman, one of the graduating students, who maintained that the inclusion of a prayer in the ceremony violated the separation of church and state barred by the First Amendment. The family was backed by AJCongress, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case.

Last week, the Bush administration filed a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of the school board in Providence, which is appealing the ruling.

Its brief argued that unlike organized prayer in public schools, which has been banned since 1962, graduation prayers occur once a year and take place in the presence of "families as a whole," which it said serve as "a natural bulwark against any coercion," the *Washington Post* reported.

In any event, if the case is accepted, it would not be heard earlier than the fall.

Another case dealing with the degree of religion allowed in the public schools is one challenging the creation by New York state of a special school district in Monroe County to provide remedial education only for children of Stamar Hasidim living in a cohesive commu-

nity there.

In an earlier case, the New York State Court of Appeals held that while the school district could not be required to provide remedial instruction away from the public schools, which the Satmars do not attend, such instruction would not be unconstitutional.

When the school district did not respond by providing such services, the state legislature created a special school district. The challenge to the new state law is being heard by the New York State Supreme Court, which in New York is the state's lowest court.

Also being tested in the courts is the issue of government aid to parochial schools, which is opposed by secular Jewish groups, but not Orthodox ones. Court cases are pending in federal district courts in Kentucky, Louisiana and Missouri.

These states provide funds to private religious schools that run "shared time" programs. Under such programs, public school students spend part of the regular school hours in

publicly funded religious education in a private school, or when public funds are used at private schools to teach remedial education.

At the federal level, debate is expected to continue on the idea of government-funded vouchers that would assist parents who opt to send their children to private schools.

Although budget constraints in Washington will likely prevent any new major federal spending, President Bush's proposed 1992 budget contains \$330 million for voucher programs. Bush also proposed that Congress allow states to use as much as \$225 million in block grants for that use.

More likely is that Congress will approve a small "pilot program" allowing the use of vouchers, said Marc Stern, co-director of the AJCongress Commission on Law and Social Action.

The subject of prayer in the public schools could also arise again. At the opening of the 102nd Congress last month, proposed constitutional amendments allowing voluntary prayer in the public schools were introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives. But observers say the proposed amendments are unlikely to go anywhere.

Behind the headlines

KKK in decline, ADL says

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN
NEW YORK (JTA) — The Ku Klux Klan has been in decline for a decade and there is little prospect of the hooded order once again becoming a significant force, according to a recent report issued by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

There are about 4,000 members of the different competing factions which together are known as the KKK. During the 1980s, the ADL estimated that Klan membership ranged from a high of 11,500 in 1981 to 4,500 in 1987-88.

Several factors caused the decline including the implication of Klan members in violent crimes across the country, highly-publicized criminal and civil trials indicting Klansmen, the passage of hate-crimes legislation and anti-paramilitary training statutes in several states. The Klan was also weakened internally with the departure of its most effective

leaders: David Duke, Robert Shelton and Bill Wilkinson.

Duke went on to found the National Association for the Advancement of White People, which is "essentially a Klan without robes," according to Irwin Suall, director of ADL's Fact Finding Department.

Shelton's sect, United Klans of America, was dealt a fatal blow in 1987 when a \$7 million judgment was levied against it. The United Klans was deemed responsible for a murder committed by its agents. Wilkinson left the Klan when he was exposed as an informant for the FBI in 1985.

Their departure gave way to a period of intense factionalism for the Klan, according to the ADL report.

Another important factor was the climate of the 1980s in which the KKK floundered, unable to mobilize widespread support during what were perceived to be "good times."

Anti-Semitism was more of a fac-

tor than ever for the Klan, which is obsessed with the "Jewish question."

"Christian Identity, a pseudo-religious doctrine which holds that Aryans are the true Israel and today's Jews are the spawn of Satan, is a widely held belief throughout today's KKK," the report stated.

Some Klan leaders are trying to convince their followers to pattern propaganda on the Duke model, that is, to use code language for their racist ideology, and to avoid being implicated in violent crimes which could lead to the kind of suits which bankrupted the Metzgers, the Fallbrook, Calif., father and son team that heads the White Aryan Resistance.

"These new tactics will enable them to gain some additional strength," according to Suall, but "the Klan is doomed to remain a fringe organization. It's the Klan's first cousin, David Dukism, which has potential for becoming a significant force in the country."

1400 without charges now in Israeli prison camps

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Some 1,400 Palestinians are currently imprisoned without formal charges or trial, the Israel Defense Force's top legal officer disclosed upon his retirement last month.

Brig. Gen. Amnon Strashnov, the outgoing IDF judge advocate general, told a television interviewer that 75,000 residents of the administered territories had been arrested since the intifada began more than three years. He would not say how many are presently in military prisons. But he did disclose that of the total ar-

rests, 45,000 suspects were put on trial and 14,000 placed under administrative detention, a measure retained from the British Mandate's Emergency Regulations.

It permits the military authorities to hold a suspect in custody for up to six months at a time without bringing charges or disclosing what if any evidence exists against the prisoner.

The most prominent recent detainee is Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, a lecturer at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank who was arrested January 29 for allegedly spying for Iraq.

Strashnov, who is leaving military service, said he welcomed the defeat of a controversial proposal by right-wing Knesset members to pardon soldiers convicted of using excessive force against Palestinian civilians in the early days of the intifada.

He admitted he had been pressured by Knesset members and Cabinet ministers to speak out on the subject while it was under consideration, but as the officer administering military justice, he could not.

Strashnov will be replaced by his aide, Col. Han Schiff.



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Chabad Purim events involved many



At left, Jill Schwartz and "Megillah Gorilla" distributed Shalach Manot packages at the Chabad table in the Student Center at the University of Delaware. Below, Malcolm Kurin interviews costumed children at the annual community Purim dinner sponsored by Chabad. The dinner attracted over 180 people this year.



California democrats adopt resolution urging direct negotiations for peace

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — In the first political grassroots signal on the Middle East since the end of the fighting in the Persian Gulf, delegates to the California State Democratic Party convention in Oakland overwhelmingly endorsed direct negotiations among the region's conflicting players as the best chance for peace in the Middle East.

In a resolution introduced Sunday by some 400 delegates belonging to Democrats for Israel, the convention called on the U.S. government "to work toward direct, party-to-party bilateral talks to achieve a peaceful solution to Arab-Arab, Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli conflicts."

An opposing resolution, backed by Arab-American groups and their supporters, was handily defeated. It called for an international peace conference under U.N. auspices and

for "national self-determination" for all peoples of the region, a clear allusion to the Palestinians.

Noting the growing influence of California as the most politically potent state in the country, pro-Israel forces hailed passage of the resolution as a harbinger of the likely national Democratic platform on the Middle East.

But one official pointed out that the resolution calls on Israel to make a good-faith attempt at peace. "Inherent in this resolution is the sense that Israel must seriously sit down with its Arab neighbors and do something about the Palestinian problem," said David Nagler, executive director of the Jewish Public Affairs Committee, the political arm of all Jewish federations in California.

"The convention felt that there is now an opportunity for a lasting

peace in the Middle East and that all the parties will have to give up something," Nagler said.

Pro-Palestinian groups played a strong and skillful role at last year's party convention. But their impact seemed more muted this year, in the wake of the Gulf war, said Richard Hirschhaut, Central Pacific regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"We didn't see the same level of organization and slick literature at last year," said Hirschhaut, who, like Nagler, played an active role at the convention.

Hirschhaut also praised the effective work of AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and especially of the Democrats for Israel. The group has become an increasingly sophisticated force in Democratic Party politics since its establishment three years ago.

White House hopes Jordan's king will remain in power

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

Special to The Jewish Voice

WASHINGTON — For all his condemnations of the United States and his support for Iraq's aggression, Jordan's King Hussein will remain on his throne in Amman when the Persian Gulf War ends if the White House has its way.

President Bush's news secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, has indicated that the Administration has no intention of seeing the monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom dethroned but instead is looking forward to improving relations with him when hostilities with Iraq cease.

Asked last what the U.S. relationship with Jordan is in view of the bitterness and anger being expressed in that country over the U.S.-led coalition's military action to eject Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait, Fitzwater replied, "It's essentially the same as it has been. We're disappointed with the relationship that currently exists. We understand the pressure that King Hussein is under. We're disturbed by some of the things he's had to say about the United States and we look forward to improving relations with him when the war is over."

While a long-time friend of the

President, Bush turned him away without assistance when the king visited him after Iraq's conquest. Since then the U.S. has put a halt to military and economic aid to Jordan, announcing that the assistance, amounting to \$75 million this fiscal year, is "under review."

Like the Bush Administration, the Shamir Government and its Labor Party opposition prefer that King Hussein continue to head Jordan's government rather than have rule in that neighboring country go to Palestinian elements there associated with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Arens: Western leaders miscalculated Saddam Hussein

By CHARLES HOFFMAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel Defense Minister Moshe Arens said recently that western democracies acted more foolishly toward Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein than they did 50 years ago toward Hitler.

"While the nations of the west were foolish to appease Hitler," Arens said "they were not so foolish to provide him with arms, as they did with Saddam Hussein." Arens spoke at the closing session of the Jewish Agency board of governors, which convened here earlier this month.

"If I ask myself why the Western nations were so foolish in the case of Saddam Hussein, the only answer is that they did not feel that he posed a threat to them. Only Israel appeared to be threatened by Iraq. But it turned out that he posed a threat to the entire world."

Arens said that "my impression is that when this is all over, Saddam Hussein won't be president of Iraq."

Referring to what may happen after the war, Arens said, "if countries like France and the U.S. continue to sell advanced arms to the Arabs, for commercial reasons, then peace and stability will remain far away."

He said Israel must deal with the Palestinian problem, because "it won't disappear. In the Gaza District alone are 600,000 Arabs living in intolerable physical conditions, which have been aggravated by the war. I

am not optimistic, however, that it will be easy to reach an agreement with the representatives of the Arabs (in the territories) who danced and shouted on the rooftops when missiles fall on Tel Aviv."

The Israel Defense Force spokesman, Brigadier General Nachman Shai, told the board of governors that over \$200 million worth of damage has been caused by the 36 Scud missiles that have fallen on Israel during the war. Two people have died as a result of direct injuries from an attack, 12 other deaths were caused

indirectly, and 241 people were injured.

Shai said that Israel is better off than Iran was during its war with Iraq, because Iranian citizens had no advance warning of missile attacks. Israelis have between four and five minutes to take cover. He said that 130 missiles hit Iran, resulting in 1,000 deaths.

Shai has become a popular figure during the war due to the calm, straightforward manner in which he gives instructions on radio and television during missile alerts. (See Jewish Voice February 22.)

U.S. labor praises Israel

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

Special to The Jewish Voice

WASHINGTON — The AFL-CIO Executive Council, meeting in Bal Harbour, Fla., has praised Israel as "a beacon of democracy" and reaffirmed its "bonds of solidarity" with Histadrut, Israel's labor organization. The Council of the 14-million member U.S. labor body on Feb. 21 issued the following statement that was made available here:

The AFL-CIO has long recognized Israel as a beacon of democracy in a region otherwise characterized by an absence of representative democratic institutions, including trade unions.

The Israeli labor movement, Histadrut, has distinguished itself — not only by the standards of the Middle

East but by any standard of free trade unionism — as a workers' institution that has advanced the interests of its members while simultaneously building the social and economic foundations of the nation.

The AFL-CIO expresses its admiration for Israel's courage and restraint in the face of unprovoked Iraqi attacks on its civilian population and threats to employ weapons of mass destruction that invoke memories of the Holocaust.

In these trying and dangerous times, we reaffirm our bonds of solidarity with Histadrut and our support as it confronts the task of assisting victims of the war and repairing the damage inflicted by Saddam Hussein.

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I remember Baghdad

By DR. ALON BEN-MEIR

I still remember the day when the word came from the underground Zionist movement in Baghdad that pogroms against the Jews were in the making. At the age of 8, I was too young to understand the rapidly deteriorating situation. Little did I know that only a week later a mob of several hundred Arabs with handguns and knives would converge on our neighborhood to kill, loot and rape. I wondered what would have happened to my family had we not received the warning on time. But we were ready.

The events of those years, 1941 to 1946, did not, however, really reflect the millennium-old relationship of "live and let live" between Arabs and Jews in Babylon, the ancient Iraq. Indeed, Jewish cultural achievement had reached its zenith under the Islamic rule throughout Mesopotamia.

Jews were deported to Babylon in three different waves. The first and the second deportation of Jews took place in 737 BCE and 721 BCE at the hands of the Assyrians, who served the northern and Trans-Jordanian regions of the kingdom of Israel and made it into an Assyrian province.

The third deportation occurred in the year 586 BCE by a powerful king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. Although the Jews were very quick to adapt to the new imperial fabric, they successfully retained their cultural and religious identity almost intact.

Nearly 125,000 Jews lived in Iraq during World War II. The richly diverse Jewish community was composed of professionals, teachers, writers and many small businessmen. Menial work was generally avoided, leaving the Arabs to attend to those jobs, albeit with some resentment.

High positions in government were usually reserved for very few Jews, and the admission of Jewish students to universities was very limited. Many young Jews, however, were free to travel abroad to obtain higher education and return to serve their community.

The Jewish community was self-contained, very well organized and cohesive. It provided a variety of services including religious, educational, health and welfare, and was always able and willing to discharge its responsibilities toward its members.

As an upper-middle-class family, we lived comfortably in a Jewish neighborhood called Bahar Alley, which consisted of a complex of narrow alleys and very large side-by-side houses.

Going every Saturday morning to the synagogue was an event in itself. We dressed in our best clothing and walked leisurely to our synagogue, which was several hundred years old. It was built to project the spiritual and cultural riches of the Jewish community. I remember well how beautiful and imposing that synagogue was and how deeply it filled us with a sense of belonging.

As a teen-ager in the late 1940s, however, I never really felt at home. There was a paradox in my life: although I attended the best private school (Alliance Israelite Francaise), and knew that somehow I would attain the higher education of my choice, the atmosphere was altogether stifling.

Historically, Iraqi Jewish-Arab relations began to deteriorate in the early 1920s. Despite some improvements in subsequent years, tension

between the two sides was never fully mitigated.

by the late 1930s, discrimination against Jewish groups and individuals was becoming the order of the day. Although there were few wanton killings or indiscriminate incarcerations, verbal abuse and at times physical harassment of Jews was tolerated by the authorities and accepted with resignation by its victims. I felt like most of my contemporaries, despised and scorned simply for having a Jewish name.

After Iraq attained independence in 1932, the condition of the Jewish community increasingly deteriorated. Iraqi independence gave rise to Arab nationalism, which was expressed, among other ways, in the mistreatment of minorities, especially Jews, Christian Assyrians and Kurds in the North.

This increased oppression coincided with the rise of Nazism in Germany and fascism in Italy, from which the Iraqis took great encouragement in their persecution of Jews, especially in the late '30s. Nazi propaganda in Iraq was given free reign. Control of civilian governments by the military began in Baghdad soon after the death of King Faisal in 1933 and went on, with few interruptions, throughout the 1940s and '50s.

Then in 1958, the Iraqi kingdom was overthrown and the royal family slaughtered, bringing the Ba'ath party, later headed by Saddam Hussein, to the center of Iraqi politics.

Each of these military coups brought not just danger but havoc to live and limb as well as to the property of the Jews in Iraq, especially those in Baghdad. A few were hanged for the trumped-up accusation of treason and spying.

Such were the circumstances when in May 1941, the revolutionary government of Rashid Ali-Il Kilani took power for one month. At the end of its reign, a pogrom of unprecedented proportion in Iraq took place against the Jews while the police stood by watching and even assisting in the murder, rape, arson and looting.

The Arab mob that approached our neighborhood, though, was not aware that we were prepared and had "armed" ourselves with rocks and empty bottles. I remember my older brother Abraham saying, "as usual, they took us for granted — Jews won't fight back."

The screaming of the Arab mob still echoes in my ears as the barrage of rocks began to rain on their heads. Caught in the middle of the alley, the rioters could neither proceed forward nor retreat. Indeed that was the precise strategy — to let them first advance and then begin the barrage of rocks. Only the advent of scores of police and the sounds of rifle shots put an end to the "battle." Surprisingly, the police dispatched to Bahar Alley came to protect the neighborhood and restore order.

When the Jews of Iraq were finally allowed to leave in 1950-'52, they left en masse, leaving behind not only real assets but a millennium-old culture rich in rituals and remembrances.

How could a community so deeply entrenched uproot itself almost overnight without even looking back? The answer would be better understood if put in a historical perspective. The Jews inhabited Mesopotamia 1,000 years before Islam came into being. They contributed to

Babylon's civilization and cultural riches more than any other group throughout history. For millennia, Babylon was a home to the Jews. Though the Jews maintained a very close relationship with their brothers in Eretz Yisroel, Babylon was their motherland. They have always viewed the twin river country as the cradle of their Talmudic civilization.

Yet the Jews began leaving Iraq in 1950 with very little trepidation. Indeed, even after 2,500 years of continued existence, they were considered as strangers and unwelcome guests living off the bounty of what was perceived as wholly Moslem. It was that profound disillusionment surpassed only by their despair that made them leave.

Ironically, the first Scud missile targeted against Israel landed in one of the Tel Aviv suburbs predominantly populated by Iraqi Jews. "We will no longer be Saddam Hussein's scapegoat," said one Iraqi Jew who resides in the same area. "We are back home now and we can fight back." After a pause he said, "When the Arabs begin to treat us as equals and accept Israel's right to exist, then the basis for peaceful coexistence will be laid. I am still hopeful." (Dr. Ben-Meir is an Iraqi-born political analyst who has written several books on the Middle East.)

Delegates

Continued from 13

tions and the increasing influence of Asian American groups in formulating American policy," according to JCRC Chairman Coonin.

Dear Rachel

Help! I feel like I am living in a war zone! Every night in our house is like a ground war, with me yelling and my kids yelling back, crying and screaming and I don't know what else until the homework gets done, usually well past bedtime. We have tried a structured time after school (eliminating afterschool activities and play). We have tried after supper. Our TV is off. We tried rewards, incentives and punishment. What the kids are learning from all this fighting is to hate homework, to hate their teachers and to hate me for oppressing them and forcing them to do it all. I want to sue for peace in my house while there is still something standing there.

Shell Shocked Mom

Dear Mom,

I have yet to meet a child who likes to do homework. If the amount of work is reasonable and age appropriate, though, kids and parents can get through it without too many battle scars.

You are running into the same problem that the Israelis are having in the Persian Gulf, namely, whose problem is it? You have put yourself right in the center of a battle that isn't yours. It is your children's responsibility to get their homework done, and the consequences of doing it poorly are theirs alone. THEY get embarrassed in class if they aren't prepared. THEY have to explain the problem to the teacher. THEY get lower grades or detention from the school, who is the other partner in this coalition. Your job is logistical support. You provide a quiet, lighted place to work. You provide dinner and help them deal with their frustration when the assignments are difficult. You are the morale officer, not the drill sergeant.

If you have trouble extricating yourself from this boondoggle, consider hiring a "homework tutor" on an interim basis. This emotionally neutral adult or teenager can guide your children through the mechanics of getting the work done until they can handle it themselves. Peace may be cheap at the price.

Rachel

Send letters to "Rachel, c/o Jewish Voice, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810". Names and details will be altered in published letters to protect your privacy.

According to Lelaine Nemser "the primary value of the Plenum is the opportunity to interact and learn from the other community relations advocates as well as to focus our energies on the myriad of urgent tasks facing our communities in the coming years."

While the Plenum delegates re-

turned to their homes on Wednesday evening, February 20, the work begun at the Plenum was hardly over, according to Coonin. "The Plenum is a beginning point not an ending point. The issues addressed at the Plenum will be followed up throughout the year through a continuing interaction between communities."



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Roots & Branches

The Central Archives for history of Jewish people

By MIRIAM WEINER

Special to The Jewish Voice

If your "roots" are spread throughout the world like mine, you would probably agree it is not feasible to travel to each country for the purpose of researching your family history. Instead, you can make one stop — at the Givat Ram campus of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and there you can spend as much time as you like poring over the extensive record collection of the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People housed in the Sprinzak building.

The Central Archives was established in 1969 and since that time, it has collected records of hundreds of Jewish communities, organizations and institutions along with private papers of outstanding personalities, from all over the world.

Holdings include a genealogical collection of hundreds of family trees, over 5,000 pictures and photographs, press cuttings, hundreds of

lists of documents and files concerning Jews held in other archives.

In the 1950s, a project to microfilm records and files in various state and municipal archives in Poland was undertaken and despite many obstacles, microfilms of important and valuable sources were brought to Jerusalem where they now are available to researchers at the Central Archives.

According to Aryeh Segall, director of the Central Archives, "the operation was resumed in the early 1980's more systematically with the full cooperation of the Polish archival authorities, who are taking a great interest in the enterprise and contributing towards its success."

The records are arranged geographically and for those with Polish roots, the 1988 Central Archives' publication "Guide to the Sources for the History of the Jews in Poland in the Central Archives" will be of great help.

Archive holdings are identified by

record group. For example, if your family came from one of the following countries, it is likely you could find valuable source material amongst the community archives microfilmed at the Central Archives. In some cases, the material dates from the 16th century.

Argentina, Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Israel, Lithuania, Morocco, Poland, Romania, USSR (scant), Yugoslavia.

If your family came from Romania, the Central Archives is the place to begin your research for it holds an extensive collection of materials from Romania, organized by individual communities.

Bacau: a list of craftsman from 1884 and the Pinkas of the Chevra Kadisha and other communal lists.

Braila: list of contributors (1888-1910); and a list of voters for the community elections (1900-1928).

Bucharest: report of the chevra kadisha (1920-1921); pinkasim from the Jewish school, pinkas of the

Sephardi chevra kadisha (1821-1922); pinkas of the synagogue of the Tailor's Society, with a list of seat purchasers (1835; 1858-1920); file on the state of the Jewish cemetery (1861-1942); and register book of births, marriages, deaths (1860-1863).

Iasy (Jassy): list of voters and protocols (1861-1866); Pinkas of the Mishnayot Society including names of members (1856-1926); other membership lists.

If your family came from Germany, there is a town-by-town registration of Jewish births, deaths and marriages dating from 1800. The Central Archives also collects Yizkor books and communal histories.

The archivist at the Central Archives is Hadassah Assouline who indicates they do not have sufficient staff to handle extensive mail inquiries. However, if you keep your questions brief and to the point, you will receive a response. While the staff is unable to conduct extensive research on your behalf, they can advise you

as to specific holdings which you can then research it yourself the next time you are in Jerusalem.

Address inquiries to: Hadassah Assouline, The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Hebrew University (Givat Ram Campus), Sprinzak Building, POB 1149, Jerusalem 91010 Israel (telephone: 635 716).

In his foreword to the above-mentioned guide, Segall states, "the over four million microfilmed pages today held by the Archives serve many scholars from the four corners of the world. The project itself is far from completed and the quantity of microfilmed material is steadily increasing."

(Miriam Weiner is a columnist and lecturer specializing in Jewish genealogy and Holocaust research. For information on how to research your family history, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Weiner at 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094.)

Students linked up through historic satellite teleconference

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish student leaders are often confronted with some unique challenges in their campus communities, one of which is the need to support and defend Israel in an environment which can be decidedly hostile.

In order to enable Jewish campus leaders to learn more about Israel's position, and to allow them to discuss strategies for dealing with the perception of Israel on their campuses, a first-time satellite teleconference for students was conducted February 25 connecting them to Israeli and American political and communal leaders.

The teleconference featured question and answer sessions between the students, who called in to the Washington television studio, and Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to the United States; Rep. Lawrence Smith (D-Fla.); Kenneth Jacobson, director of the Anti-Defamation League's international affairs division; and Mark Talisman, director of the Washington Action Office of the Council of Jewish Federations.

The on-air session was hosted by Richard Joel, international director of B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, who fielded questions from students all over the country, including Baltimore, Denver, Phoenix, New York, Boston and Cincinnati, among others.

Most of the students' questions were sophisticated, addressing issues like Syria's role in the impending reactivation of the Middle East peace process and the implications of Gen.

Rehavam Ze'evi's participation in Israel's government.

But a few of the student's questions were misinformed, emphasizing the point which prompted the teleconference, namely the need to disseminate clear and accurate information about Israel on college campuses.

"There is a rather simplistic view of Israel on many campuses," according to Mari Blecher, assistant director of the Anti-Defamation League's New York regional office, who handles campus issues there. "The attitude is that Israel is the clear oppressor and others are the clear victims. There is such ignorance, no historical background or knowledge of what is really going on in the Middle East. And these are the next generation of leaders!" said Blecher, who attended the teleconference.

The event was sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations and the Anti-Defamation League's Campus Affairs/Higher Education Department with the support of the Council of Jewish Federations.

The students, from approximately 50 different colleges, gathered at 27 federation and campus locations which hooked into the satellite.

After the teleconference segments, students and organizational professionals in each location worked out some strategies for coping with the problems of the Jewish campus community.

Fewer students participated in the teleconference than some professionals would have liked.

While Hillel's Joel estimated that "several hundred" students were

watching around the country, attendance was limited especially in New York, where about 15 students from only four or five colleges, out of the city's dozens, attended.

With the cost of the teleconference running around \$6,000 some of the Jewish communal professionals questioned the wisdom of using the funds in a way that reached such a

limited number of students. Hillel's Joel pointed out that the teleconference had been organized in two weeks, leaving little time for publicity.

He characterized the effort as successful because it enabled politicians who would not be able to travel to 50 different campuses to address a nationwide Jewish student audi-

ence, and because it brought together a widely scattered community of Jews.

"It's empowering for the students to realize that they are part of a network around the country," Joel said, "and it helped give them perspective to direct the future on their campuses."

Jewish Canadian reservist excluded from Saudi service

By GARY POGROW

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (JTA) — The case of a Jewish naval reservist who charged discrimination for being denied a posting to the Persian Gulf because of his religion has forced the Canadian navy to acknowledge that it excludes Jews from duties overseas that require contacts with Arabs.

Lt. Andrew Liebmann, who applied for the position of executive assistant to the commodore of Canadian naval forces in the Gulf, has filed a "redress of grievances," the formal process of complaint within the Canadian Armed Forces. "If that doesn't work, I will go to court through the Charter of Rights," said Liebmann, who lives in Vancouver.

He said he was told by Lt. Commander Dave Gardem at Navy Headquarters in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that his application for the post announced vacant had been accepted but that "I was not going because I am Jewish."

Capt. John Blakeley of the Office of National Defense agreed that Liebmann's application had been favorably processed. "At first glance, his application seemed to satisfy all the necessary qualifications, so that Maritime Command forwarded it to National Defense headquarters in Ottawa," Blakeley said.

"While the application was here in Ottawa, some concern was raised by authorities about whether the fact that Liebmann's religious faith — Judaism — would create problems to his personal safety and impede his ability to fulfill the job, which called for meetings with Arab Moslem dignitaries from the host nations.

"The concern was based on the

policy regarding peacekeeping operations."

Blakeley acknowledged that Canadian forces participating in U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Middle East, such as on the Golan Heights, exclude soldiers who are Jewish.

"We are not looking at whether somebody is going to be discriminated against in our free country of Canada," Blakeley said, "but whether in fact they will be put into more personal danger than they need be, or whether they might jeopardize the

operation by being incapable of carrying out the peacekeeping mandate," he explained.

In any event, the position was erroneously listed as vacant because of a misunderstanding, the Armed Forces Office said.

But Liebmann is not satisfied with the replies. "I don't suspect that it's racism, but it is discrimination," he said. "I think the person who made the decision doesn't realize that you don't have to be racist to be guilty of discrimination."

Trash collection in Israel is measure of crisis

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A steep decline in garbage collections since the start of the Persian Gulf war could be a clue to how many people have fled the Greater Tel Aviv area to escape Iraqi missile attacks.

Branded "deserters" by Mayor Shlomo Lahat, their exact numbers may never be known. But according to Yosef Givol, head of the sanitation department, the amount of garbage collected fell by 30 to 35 percent after Jan. 16.

Normally, sanitation workers pick

up 1,000 tons of trash a day, according to figures published in the Tel Aviv weekly *Hamakom*. But Givol said the decline does not necessarily reflect the number of people who left the city, because much of the domestic waste is created by commuters who live elsewhere.

Their numbers dropped significantly because much business and commercial activity ceased in the early days of the emergency and only gradually have begun to pick up.

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Arab leaders who backed Hussein will go down with him, says Saudi

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Arab leaders who sided with Iraq will go under with Saddam Hussein, according to Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States.

Taking off his diplomatic gloves, Prince Bandar ibn Sultan described Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat as a "clown," King Hussein of Jordan as a "goner" and Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh as "an illiterate man." Signaling a radical change in Saudi Arabia's longtime policy of building an Arab consensus, the diplomat said that all of Saddam Hussein's supporters would share in his defeat or be stripped of all influence in the Middle East.

The one exception, Bandar said in a luncheon interview with the Washington bureau of the *Los Angeles Times*, was the Palestinian people. They, though not their leaders, would be forgiven, because "they are not against me," the prince said.

He excused their support of Iraq by saying, "they are just frustrated, and they want anything to happen that could move something." He added that he was convinced the Palestinians are "sobering up."

Bandar also announced that his government will shortly publish details of its aid program to other Arab nations, revealing that pro-Iraqi leaders received, and apparently embezzled, millions of dollars before the outbreak of the Persian Gulf war.

The Saudi ambassador has played a key role in strategy meetings of the U.S.-led coalition since Iraq invaded Kuwait. He is well connected with the Saudi power structure as son of the defense minister, brother of the overall Saudi military commander and brother-in-law of the foreign minister.

He ridiculed in equal measure Arab leaders who failed to join the fight against Hussein and those American analysts who have predicted that Saddam Hussein will emerge as a hero whether he wins or loses the war. "Arabists in the United States sell the Arabs short," the prince said. "They think either we don't have any brains or they think of us in a romantic sense — white robes, white horses."

Reserving some of his bitterest scorn for King Hussein, Bandar predicted the end of the Jordanian monarch as a serious Arab leader. "He earned our disrespect, and he

earned Saddam Hussein's contempt," Bandar said. "He was our friend for 40 years, and he wold us out, just like this."

"He cheered Saddam Hussein for five months," the prince said. "In fact, (King) Hussein was more eloquent than Saddam in expressing his cause. And when the chips were down and we were hammering Saddam like hell, Hussein of Jordan said, 'But I'm neutral.'"

Despite what pundits predict, Saddam Hussein will not inherit the mantle of Arab hero worn by Gamal Abdel Nasser, the former Egyptian president, who led his country into disastrous wars with Israel in 1956 and 1967, according to Bandar. Though defeated, Nasser retained his country's infrastructure and institutions, he said, while Hussein "has nothing, he doesn't even have a house to go back to."

Bandar described most of Iraq's supporters in the Arab world as impoverished nations with rich and corrupt leaders. In publishing an account of its foreign aid program, the Saudi government will show the citizens of the recipient countries that they were made poor in part by their leaders, the Saudi envoy said.

Purim garb is war inspired

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Persian Gulf war is influencing how Israeli youngsters dressed for Purim festivities last week.

Favorites among the kids included the camouflage outfits worn by American soldiers operating Patriot anti-missile batteries. But according to one toy shop, the most popular item was a child-size Israel Defense Force uniform, which comes with a pair of glasses and a name tag reading "Nachman Shai, Army Spokesman."

Shai, the official IDF spokesman whose face appears on television

everytime a Scud missile alert sounds, has had more media exposure in recent weeks than most superstars. His reassuring tones have earned him the sobriquet "National Valium."

Purim costumes are priced between \$20 and \$25. Some vendors were offering 20 percent off for the traditional disguises — Esther, Mordechai, Haman — which were not selling as well as the modern war-inspired dress.

Soviet olim are an exception to this, however. For their children, dressing up as the heroes, heroines or villains of the Megillah is a novelty, because most of them never cele-

brated Purim in their lives.

Israeli manufacturers, by tacit agreement, refrained from producing what they are sure would have been the runaway best-seller this Purim: a Saddam Hussein mask. The modern-day Haman would have outsold the original, said one customer. "But I decided against making money on this war. Making a Saddam costume would be like making a Hitler costume," he said.

That hasn't stopped baker from turning out "Saddamtashen," which look and taste exactly like Hamantashen.

Missiles fizzle, Stern fiddles

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The only casualty of a lone Scud missile fired into Israel on February 23 was Mozart's Third Violin Concerto. It was being performed by American virtuoso Isaac Stern when an air raid alert interrupted a concert of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta.

Stern, who was winding up an unscheduled concert tour of Israel which he undertook as a gesture of solidarity with the Jewish state, left the stage briefly with the entire IPO company to get their gas masks. But he returned alone a few moments later without a mask and took up fiddle and bow to give a solo rendition of a Bach Adagio not on the program while the alert continued. His performance captured the hearts of his listeners, who wore gas masks throughout the piece.

The concert was one of the first given since the Gulf war began. The orchestra, which began concertizing again last week under the baton of Mehta, has still not returned to its home base at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium.

The audience at the Jerusalem Theater, which included Defense Minister Moshe Arens, had donned their masks on instructions from the theater manager when the alert sounded. The concertgoers breathed a collective sigh of relief when Arens, who had left briefly to speak to his office by telephone, returned calmly to his seat.

Members of the audience, protected by their masks, listened raptly to one of the world's greatest violinists, who had sought out a concert here at this time out of feelings of kinship with Israel.

Stern ended the concert with an encore piece by Fritz Kreisler and was then rushed to Ben-Gurion Airport for his flight home to New York.

Scuds may have survived

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli military sources believe an unspecified number of mobile Iraqi Scud missile launchers may have survived the Persian Gulf war unscathed.

According to the sources, all 30 stationary launchers were wiped out by American and allied bombers before they could fire a single missile. But Iraq also had 20 to 30 mobile launchers before the war started on Jan. 17, some in the south and some in western Iraq, from where they were used against Israel.

Only 6 percent of the 110,000 allied sorties flown during the war were aimed at the mobile launchers in western Iraq, the sources said.

The 39 Scuds that hit Israel carried conventional high-explosive warheads. The Israeli military sources could not say for certain whether Iraq has or had the capability to fit chemical warheads to its missiles.

With respect to the Iraqi air force,

the sources estimate that about 150 reinforced hangars were destroyed by allied bombing during the first week of combat, apparently with their planes inside. That is why the Iraqis transferred most of their front-line combat aircraft to Iran, the Israelis say. They included Soviet-built Sukhoi-24 bombers and MIG-29 fighters, as well as French-made Mirage 1 fighter-bombers.

The Israeli sources believe the initial transfer was not coordinated with the Iranians. They do not believe Iran will return the planes to Iraq but will rather keep them as partial payment of Iraq's war debt to Iran.

The Israeli sources singled out British and Canadian air force pilots for praise. They also mentioned American night-fighting capacity and said the aerial successes meant the ground war had been won before it began.

Public support for government still high but down in Israel

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Public support for the Israeli government's policy of restraint in the Persian Gulf war dropped 20 percentage points in a month but is still extraordinarily high, according to a poll conducted here for the American Jewish Committee. The approval rating was 74 percent, down from 94 percent after Jan. 18, when Israel became the target of Iraqi missile attacks in the first week of the war.

The fact that four out of five Israelis continue to favor restraint after more than 30 Scud missiles have been launched at Israel shows a high degree of political sophistication and absence of public hysteria, according to Louis Guttman of the Institute of Applied Social Research in Jerusalem, which did the polling.

The survey also showed that 44 percent of Israelis approved the conduct of American Jews in the crisis.

Ron Kronish, head of AJCommittee's Israel office, said that was "remarkable," considering media reports that say resentment against U.S. Jews is rampant in Israel because so many of them have canceled planned visits since the war was impending.

Those results were challenged by David Clayman, who heads the Israel office of the American Jewish Con-

gress. Clayman said he had serious reservations about the poll's accuracy. "Based on my conversations with Israelis and various experts, the general feeling is one of resentment because expectations have not been met," Clayman said.

Meanwhile, Labor Knesset member Avrum Burg said the truly remarkable finding of the poll was that 46 percent of Israelis either don't care or are disappointed with the behavior of American Jews. Burg lashed out at U.S. Jewry last week for staying away from Israel.

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Announcements/Events

Naches

Frim

Sheri and Gerald Frim of Los Angeles, formerly of Wilmington, announce the birth of a daughter, Eliana Esther, on January 31.

Lipstein/Berg

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lipstein of Wilmington announce the engagement of their daughter, Freddi, to Scott Berg of Washington, D.C. Scott is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Berg of St. Louis, Missouri. An April 28 wedding in Washington, D.C., is planned.

Chabad planning Passover events

With the advent of the Passover holiday, Chabad-Lubavitch of Delaware has announced that it will again sponsor its "Model Mitzah Factory" at the Jewish Community Center. The bakery offers a hands-on learning experience on the entire baking process from choosing the flour and water to the finished oven-crisp Matzah.

"Whether it's rolling, mixing, kneading or baking, everybody gets a piece of the action," according to Rabbi Chuni Vogel, Director of Chabad-Lubavitch. "A hands on and fun way is the most effective means to transmit our Jewish heritage to our kids," he noted.

The factory will operate in the JCC auditorium the week of March 17 and will be open to the public (children and adults) on Sunday, March 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. Other times have been reserved for schools and groups. Hand-baked Shmurah Matzah (which are round) Kosher for Passover will also be available for sale at the factory.

Chabad will also make available sets of Shmurah Matzah especially for the Seder plate. All orders for hand-baked Shmurah Matzah must be made as soon as possible as supply is limited.

Jewish women to discuss 'Choices & Conflicts'

To how many choices do we commit ourselves in the course of our lives? The number is astronomical but there are only a few that alter the course of our lives.

Five Delaware women will discuss their formative and shaping choices as women and as Jews as part of a panel discussion entitled "The Jewish Woman Today - Choices and Conflicts" at Temple Beth El in Newark on March 13, at 7:30 p.m. The co-sponsors of the program are the Beth El Sisterhood, the Newark Chapter of Hadassah and the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Elaine (Lenni) Markell will be the panel moderator. Markell, one of the co-presidents of the Newark Chapter of Hadassah, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and is a Medical Social Work Consultant for the Division of Public Health. In addition, she and her partner, Frankie Klaff, operate their own business called Associated Counselors in Newark.

The five panelists, all Delaware women, come from all walks of life. Carol Balick is an artist and owner of the Artisans III Gallery in Wilmington. The President of the Wilming-

ton Chapter of Hadassah, Faith Brown, is a teacher of Hebrew language and culture to both children and adults. Ann Ludden Moses, a resident of Newark, is a foster parent to at-risk children or children of racially-mixed background. Also a resident of Newark, Lynn Snyder-Mackler is a physical therapist and a professor at the University of Delaware. Lelaine Nemser of Wilmington is a convert to Judaism and is Director of Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

The women will discuss the choices

that they have made in their lives and what impact the decisions have made on themselves and their families. As Jewish women, they will address the issue of what, if any, influence religion has made not only on their life-decisions but on their everyday lives. There will be a panel presentation as well as time for discussion with and questions from the audience. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Ann Herman at Temple Beth El (366-8330) or Lelaine Nemser at the Jewish Federation office (478-6200).

Carper to speak at Einstein Academy gala

Tom Carper, U.S. Representative from Delaware (D) will speak on the Persian Gulf Crisis at Albert Einstein Academy's second annual Gala Dinner-Dance. As a Congressman and as a member of the Air Force Reserve, Carper has a unique perspective on the current events in the Middle East.

The Gala will be held at the Delaware Art Museum on Saturday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. A donation of \$200 per couple or \$100 per person provides cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing to a 16 piece orchestra, "The Generations."

The Gala is held each year to support Albert Einstein Academy, Delaware's only Jewish Day school. For reservations, call Vivian Marnberg at 475-5171. Black tie is optional.



As in previous years, special Kosher for Passover food is being made available through Chabad for all Jewish inmates incarcerated in the state of Delaware. "It's hard enough having to celebrate the holiday commemorating freedom behind bars. At least we are able to do this and bring some holiday spirit to them," Vogel said.

To encourage children to help and be involved with all aspects of the Holiday, the "Matzah Ball Contest" will be held again this year.

For more information regarding the "Matzah Factory," to place your orders for hand-baked Matzahs or for a "Matzah Ball" contest form, call the Chabad office at 478-4400.

Kuni-Leml at Beth Sholom in Dover

"Kuni-Leml," a musical comedy in the style of "Fiddler on the Roof," will be presented on Saturday, March 16, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 17, at 7 p.m. This is the first production for the Congregation Beth Sholom Players.

The presentation will be directed by Paula Lehrer; John Preston will be the Musical Director. The cast and crew are members of the synagogue.

"Kuni-Leml" is the story of a religious Jewish man who wants his daughter to stay within her religion and marry a Jewish man chosen by

her father. The daughter prefers to marry for love.

Tickets are available at the syna-

gogue at a cost of \$5 each. For information or tickets, call the synagogue office at 734-5578.

Opera House at Gratz College

Beginning the week of March 11, Gratz College will open its doors to members of the community who are contemplating taking Gratz programs or courses, or who just want to sample the Gratz College of the 1990's. The Open House will be held at the Ann Newman Building, Old York Road and Melrose Avenue, Melrose Park, on the Mandell Education Campus for two weeks from Monday, March 11 through Friday, March 22, with more than 20 courses offered from

9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The course selection varies from history, to literature, to rabbinics and music. There is something interesting and exciting for everyone.

The Open House is free, but attendees must register for the classes they wish to attend since space is limited. For more information about the Open House, including class listings, please call Gratz College at 635-7300.

Jewish women veterans sought

For a major exhibition and oral history project, the Judah Magnes Museum in Berkeley, California, and the Jewish War Veterans National Archives and Museum in Washington, D.C., are seeking to identify and document the experiences of Jewish women who served in the American military during World War II.

Twenty such women from throughout the country, representing all branches of the military, will be selected for in-depth interviews, under the direction of Elaine Dorfman of the oral history department of the Magnes Museum. Their experiences will be utilized in preparation of the museums' exhibition "Jewish Women in the American Military During World War II."

Included in the exhibition will be memorabilia — photographs, dia-

ries, memoirs, letters, wings, medals, uniforms, etc. — of Jewish women in America's armed services of the World War II era.

The Magnes and Jewish War Veterans museums are calling for persons having such materials, or wishing to nominate themselves or other Jewish women veterans for interview, to contact the project immediately. Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of women in the western United States may be sent to Elaine Dorfman, "Jewish Women in the American Military", c/o Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, CA 94705 (or by phone to Dorfman at 415/935-6625); eastern states contacts should be sent to Leslie Freudenthal, Jewish War Veterans National Archives and Museum, 1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 (phone 202/462-3192).

Dialogue on parents' stress

Relieving the stress of parenting was the focus on Thursday, February 21, at the program co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center and Jewish Family Service. Myrna Ryder, Director of Family Life Education for Jewish Family Service, assisted by Beth Rausch, JCC social worker, led parents on an exploration of the situations and concerns which produce stress as well as ways to manage them differently. The parents found that they were able to share a great deal of information and experience, according to Ryder. Those who attended were enthusiastic about wanting to meet again to continue the interchange of ideas, information and support, she said.

We invite you to join us as the dialogue continues on Thursday, March 21 at either 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center. This event is co-sponsored by the JCC and Jewish Family Service.

"The JCC is very positive about the prospect of offering a parents' group for the parents of our children and the community at large," states Moises Paz, Assistant Executive Director of the Center.

For information, contact Beth Rausch at 478-5660 or Myrna Ryder at 478-9411.

JNF planting trees to honor military

According to the Jewish National Fund, trees planted in honor of U.S. Armed Forces members serving in Operation Desert Storm may be planted in the American Independence Park near Jerusalem. If the name of the serviceman or woman is indicated, a certificate will be sent to family. Trees planted without a specific name will be sent to families of troops at random. Undesignated certificates will be sent to Washington, D.C., for distribution.

Individual trees to provide a living memorial for a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion may be purchased for \$7 each. To order a tree or for more information, call the JNF at 301-486-3317.

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The JCC Salutes R.S.V.P. Volunteers



Pictured (Left to Right): Thelma Bucholtz, Ida Seidenstat, Eve Schwartz, Ruth Bucholtz, Sally Lazar and Ann Metzker (Not pictured: Ethel Denenberg, Alma Handelman, Anne Abromov, Lena Gross, Sue Rosen and Esther Kopolvic)

RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 1991. It is a federal program, sponsored by ACTION, which makes volunteering easy and rewarding for anyone 60 years young, who wants to participate in important volunteer action.

RSVP has helped seniors in New Castle County since 1973. Today, isco-sponsored and co-funded by the State of Delaware, Department of Community Affairs.

Each month, over 1,040 RSVP members in New Castle County are active volunteers at over 135 different sites - schools, hospitals, museums, non-profit organizations/agencies and a variety of government offices. These individuals contribute over 230,000 hours of service each year to the community.

RSVP members have served the Jewish Community Center for many years, providing vital work at the Senior Center. They set the tables for Senior Center lunches, assist in the kitchen and serve meals to handicapped individuals as well as helping out with important knitting projects. The "JCC Knitters" are part of a group of about 40 seniors who last year made 1,876 beautiful afghans, baby clothes, hats, mittens, etc.

The items were distributed to needy people through 17 different community groups, including shelters, the Veterans Administration Hospital, the State Hospital and many others. The "JCC Knitters" include Minna Belfor, Fay Block, Ethel Denenberg, Freda Felngold, Eva Feldman, Mildred Fertig, Alma Handelman, Theresa Hanig, Sally Helfand, Sally Lazar, Bessie Lewis, Ann Metzker, Eve Schwartz and Stella Weisman.

Currently, the RSVP office in New Castle County has information about more than 500 different volunteer opportunities from over 200 different non-profits and that's just the tip of the iceberg! RSVP develops volunteer opportunities that match the interests, time availability, skills and special needs of the seniors with the needs of the community.

RSVP members receive many benefits including personal liability and accident insurance, help with transportation, special recognition and documentation of service. There are no dues, no fees, no income requirements and no meetings! You don't volunteer FOR RSVP, but THROUGH RSVP, for the agency or organization of your choice.

For details, please contact RSVP at (302) 577-6420.

Trip to Brooklyn Art Museum

Some of the best things to see in New York are in Brooklyn! Discover one of America's largest art museums...the Brooklyn Museum, as we travel to New York on Wednesday, April 10. Our trip will include a trip to the art museum to view the renowned Monet & Alfred Bierstadt Collection. The tour will follow a forty-five minute docent lecture. Lunch will be on your own at the lovely Brooklyn Museum Cafeteria. We will depart from the JCC at 8:30 a.m. The cost for the lecture, tour and transportation is \$ 39.00 per person. Payment and registration can be made at the JCC Front Desk no later than April 1. Please contact Lynn Greenfield at the JCC for more information.

Trip to Ellis Island Planned

Now opened after a \$ 156 million renovation, tour the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, Immigrant Wall of Honor, "America's Gate" and the Ellis Island Galleries, containing artifacts and photographs of the people of America.

The trip is scheduled for Monday, May 6. The bus will depart from at 8:00 a.m. with snacks served en route. You may bring your lunch or purchase food at the Food Court on Ellis Island.

The cost, including transportation and ferry fees, snack and hand-outs is only \$ 30.00 per person. Payment and reservations are now being accepted at the JCC Front Desk. The deadline for registration is April 10.

Baseball Camp with Bruce Carlyle

Bruce Carlyle, President of "GRAND SLAM U.S.A." will be heading up our Baseball Camp (July 8 - July 19) this summer at Camp JCC.

He serves as the Baseball Coach for the University of Delaware and has been described as "one of the first offensive college coaches in the nation". 140 of his players batted over the magic .300 and four players went to the NCAA Division I and received American honors. He is the author of "Swing the Bat - A Guide to Aggressive Line Drive Hitting".

Bruce plans to use professional pitching machines this summer and is bringing a full line-up of experienced coaches with him.

The first week will focus on intensive coaching and skill development and the second week will include actual baseball games accented by trips to minor and major league baseball games.



JCC Sports Camp is also offering three other camps including Tennis (June 24 - July 5); Soccer (July 22 - August 2) and Outdoor Adventure (August 5 - August 16). The camps are for children in grades 4-6 and run for two weeks, which allows complete flexibility for campers who want to attend sessions of regular camp as well. Watch for upcoming issues of "The Voice" for information on the other professionals heading up our Sports Camp programs.

Candlelight Dinner and Program

The JCC Senior Center will be holding a Candlelight Dinner and Program at the JCC on Thursday, March 21, 1991. The Senior Center will open at 5:00 p.m. and a delicious dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. A special presentation entitled, "The Music of the Jewish People" - its dramatic moments, its tragedies, its religious faith, its joys and sorrow. The music of the past and the music that is alive and growing today, will be told by Sarah Goldstein, assisted by the JCC Choral Group.

Sarah Goldstein, Director of the JCC Choral Group, is a retired music teacher from the Wilmington area Public School system. She is the former President of the Delaware State Music Education Association, Director of the Newark Recorder Ensemble and Chairman of Cultural Affairs for Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth.



Reservations are required for the dinner portion of the evening and a holiday donation is requested. The musical presentation is open to the entire community, free of charge. For more information, please call Ray Freshman, Senior Center Coordinator at the Center.

Annual Craft Market and Swap Shop Planned

The Family Campus Committee announced that the first Annual Craft Market and Swap Shop will be held on Sunday, April 28 on the grounds of the Campus.

The hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with plenty of refreshments available throughout the day. Mary Adams, Chairperson for the event commented, "The purpose of the Craft Market and Swap Shop is to raise money to purchase chairs

for the Jewish Family Campus Outdoor Swimming Pool." The chairs are \$ 100.00 each.

If you would like to be a vendor, please contact Eileen Wallach at the JCC to obtain a registration form. The cost is nominal (\$ 15.00 per parking space) and there are no commissions or extras, you keep everything you make.

The raindate is scheduled for Sunday, May 5.

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Dorothy Melwager

Dorothy Melwager, 76, of 24 Hilltop Drive, Cherry Hill, N.J., formerly of Wilmington, died February 23 of heart failure at Atlantic City Medical Center, where she had been a patient for several weeks.

Mrs. Melwager had been a home-

maker.

Her husband, Max, died in 1980. She is survived by two daughters, Paula Wolf and Barbara Brand, both of Cherry Hill; three brothers, Bill Frank, Charlie Frank and Hy Frank, all of Philadelphia, a twin sister, Ann Solowitz of Philadelphia, and four grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Operation Exodus, in care of Jewish Federation of Delaware, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington 19803.

Anna Leviton

Anna Leviton, 96, of 312 Shipley Road, Chateau Orleans Apartments, Brandywine Hundred, died February 25, in St. Francis Hospital, where she was a patient.

Mrs. Leviton, a homemaker, was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom, Hadassah and Misrachi Women.

Her first husband, Morris Kruger, died in the 1930s. Her second husband, Samuel Leviton, died in 1964. She is survived by two daughters, Yetta Cohen of Wilmington and Lenora Eckell of Upper Darby, Pa.; a brother, Morris Heilig of Kinston, N.C.; a sister, Ethel Goodman of Snow Hill, Md.; seven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah or Atlantic Regional Epilepsy Center, Philadelphia.

Yetta Kruger Cohen

Yetta Kruger Cohen, 79, of Wilmington, formerly of Easton, Md., died March 2 of heart failure at St. Francis Hospital, where she was a patient.

Mrs. Cohen taught at Oak Grove and Mary C.I. Williams elementary schools in Wilmington. She moved

to Easton in 1937, and back to Wilmington last year.

She was a graduate of Wilmington High School and a 1931 graduate of the University of Delaware.

She was a member of Mizrachi, where she received the Mother of Israel award, and Hadassah, both in Wilmington. She was active in the Soroptomist Club, Women's Club and Homemakers Club, all of Easton. She was a founder of Temple B'nai Israel, Easton, and was past president of its Sisterhood.

Her husband, Harry N., died in 1979. Surviving are a son, Howard of Wilmington; two daughters, Marjorie Goldstein of Harrisburg, Pa., and Ruth Sadoff of Middletown; a sister, Lenora Eckell of Upper Darby, Pa., and eight grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Temple B'nai Israel, Easton, Md.

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Announcements/Events

B'nai B'rith celebrates 93rd year continuing tradition of benevolence

What's the best way to celebrate a 93rd anniversary? If you're B'nai B'rith Lodge #470 of Wilmington you do it by continuing your long tradition of service to the community. The Lodge, chartered on March 21st, 1898, still follows the B'nai B'rith creed of "Harmony, Benevolence and Brotherly Love."

Always a key sponsor of the Hillel program at the University of Delaware, the Lodge has contributed \$25,000 toward the establishment of a new Hillel Student Center. The Center will be housed in a recently purchased property at 47 W. Delaware Avenue in Newark.

The Lodge also sponsors an Aleph Zadek Aleph chapter (AZA), an organization for Jewish boys from 9th to 12th grade. AZA along with its female counterpart, B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG), comprise the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO). Last month, a request by BBYO for help with a special programming project was answered by the Lodge with \$1000.

Members of the Lodge volunteer each year on Christmas day to relieve Christian workers at the St. Francis Hospital. This enables them to spend their holiday with their families.

Eleven years ago B'nai B'rith House in Claymont opened after



B'nai B'rith Lodge #470 President Jacob D. Levine (left) presents a check for \$25,000 to Frank Chaikin, chairman of the campaign to raise funds for the recently purchased Hillel Student Center in Newark.

many years of planning. Today 260 senior citizens of moderate income live in 208 modern apartments with subsidized, affordable rents. They also enjoy the recreational areas and varied activities provided.

As Jacob D. Levine, Lodge president, is proud to point out, the residents aren't the only ones served at B'nai B'rith House. Space is pro-

vided to Machzikey Hadas Congregation to meet and hold services. Several other groups also regularly use the facilities, which are available to non-profit organizations.

For further information concerning B'nai B'rith, contact Levine c/o B'nai B'rith House, 8000 Society Drive, Claymont, DE 19703.

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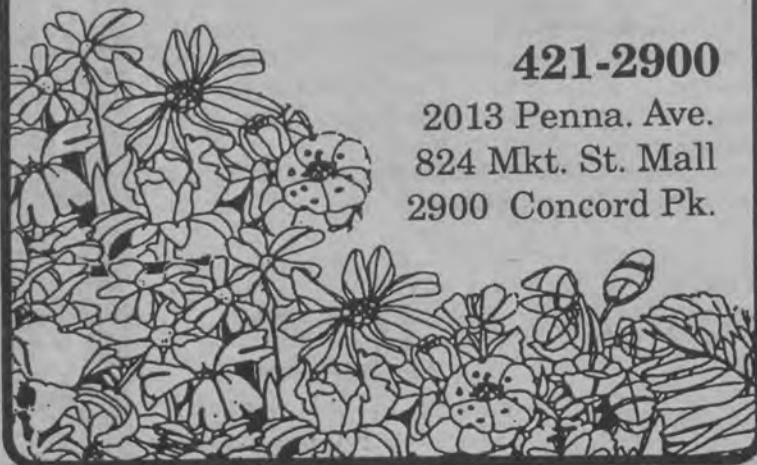
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Cultural Calendar

Film Review

LOCAL

The intricate drawings and porcelain works of Irina Zaytceva will be exhibited in the Delaware State Arts Council's Gallery I in the Carvel State Office Building during March. A recent immigrant from the Soviet Union, Zaytceva creates porcelain pieces that are the equal of those by European artisans. Her works display an incredible attention to detail and often combine small plants and creatures from nature coated in delicate colors. While the artist will be exhibiting only her one of a kind figurines and boxes, she also creates fine porcelain jewelry. Complementing the porcelain pieces in the exhibition will be Zaytceva's finely detailed pencil drawings which appear as the finest etchings. A graduate of the Moscow University of Polygraphic Arts, Zaytceva, her husband and son left Moscow in 1988. Since that time she has exhibited in Switzerland and won first prize in porcelain sculpture at an International Art Exhibition in Toronto. In 1989 the family settled in Newark.

PHILADELPHIA

The 1990-1991 Jewish Film Festival at the Gershman YMHA at Broad and Pine Streets in Philadelphia, will offer the following schedule for the remainder of its season: "Reunion" on March 9 and 10 and "The Rose Garden" on April 20 and 21. Tickets for Saturday evenings are \$12.50 for the opening and \$7.50 for all others; \$5.50 for Sunday matinees.

"Going Home: How American Jews invent the Old World," an exhibition that explores the ties American Jews maintain with their Eastern European origins, opened at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia on February 10 and will remain on display through July 16. More than 120 photographs, posters, books and souvenirs, as well as home movies and treasured family heirlooms, reveal the continuing fascination that ties American Jews to their families' roots in the "old country."

A special show of "Ceremonial Fibers" will be held at the Gershman YMHA from April 17 through May 22. Artists will be represented from a variety of cultures and traditions, including Jewish, African and Asian.

"The Heritage of Jewish Vienna" is scheduled for May 29 through July 14 at the Gershman YMHA. This is a photographic exhibition of documents the history of Vienna's vibrant Jewish community.

NEW YORK

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum will present "One Third of a Nation," the photographs of Arnold Eagle, began January 4 and will run through June 28, 1991. The photos, taken in the mid-1930s under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), capture the essence of immigrant families and their struggles to survive in what were often deplorable (yet common) tenement conditions. This exhibit will run in addition to the museum's current show, "Out of the Ashes: The Triangle Factory Fire of 1911."

New York artist Jeffrey Schrier uses the tools and techniques of high technology to create images from his personal and cultural history in "Ancient Walls in the Century of Electronic Light," an exhibition of Laser Montage Prints and Sculpture at the Yeshiva University Museum in New York. Schrier juxtaposes images from ancient and modern Jewish history to create montages that incorporate fabric, computer generated graphics, metallic paint and other materials while combining historical and religious icons with photographs of family members and images from his dreams. The exhibit will run through March 1991.

"The Sephardic Journey: 1492-1992," an exhibit which chronicles the history and lives of Jewish communities throughout the world whose members are descendants of Spanish and Portuguese Jews, will be on display at the Yeshiva University Museum through November 1992. The exhibit will include more than a thousand religious and cultural objects, photographs, paintings and costumes, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from Spain during the Inquisition.

More than 50 original posters illustrating Jewish history will make up a new exhibit at Yeshiva University Museum beginning on March 5. The exhibit, "Witnesses to History: The Jewish Poster 1770-1985," displays major themes such as the changing status of Jews in Europe, the anti-religious sentiment of Stalinist Russia, and the support of the American Jewish community for Israel.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The role of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) in accomplishing social reform in America will be highlighted in a new exhibit at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History. "From Parlor to Politics: Women and Reform in America, 1890-1925," features NCJW's efforts in the area of social welfare. The exhibit will continue indefinitely.

"American Patriots: Jewish Soldiers and Operation Desert Shield," an expanding exhibit with weekly updates as more photos and information are received, and "Major General Julius Klein," an exhibit on the life and career of the two star general who served as public relations officer to General MacArthur, opened at the Jewish War Veterans National Memorial Museum on February 11.

Anyos Muchos y Buenos, meaning "Many Good Years and More" in the Judeo/Spanish of the Jews of Turkey, is the title of a photographic exhibition which opened February 14 at the B'nai B'rith Klutznick Museum. This show, by American photographer and filmmaker Laurence Salzman, tells the story of the present-day Sephardic Turkish Jewish community, primarily concentrated in Istanbul.

For more information on these events, contact the sponsoring organizations.

German student's essay stirs ashes of Holocaust in 'The Nasty Girl'

By ROBERT A. COHN

Special to The Jewish Voice

Back in 1980, Anja Elizabeth Rosmus, a 20-year-old German Catholic woman from the town of Passau, won a West German national prize for her essay on privacy and public freedom in European politics and history. Her initial success inspired her to pursue more controversial subjects for future essays, including the role of her townspeople during the Holocaust and the fate of the community's Jews. For stirring up the ashes of the Holocaust, Rosmus became the object of scorn, abuse and physical attacks. The story of her mistreatment became a national scandal.

And now, the brilliant Berlin-born film director Michael Verhoeven has brought the story of Rosmus to the screen in *The Nasty Girl*, which retells the event in fictionalized form with a stunning performance by Lena Stolze as Sonja Rosenberger, the free-spirited young German Catholic woman whose probing research into the dark history of her hometown (called Pflizing in the film) transforms her from a pampered student into a national pariah.

Sonja is a favorite student at the Catholic parochial school in Pflizing, where her father, a Teutonic disciplinarian, teaches his version of German history from a strongly right-wing perspective. Her pregnant mother is asked to stop teaching so as not to stir "improper questions"

among her students. The nuns are revealed to supply advance answers for tests to children of parents who generously donate to the school.

With the encouragement of one of her teachers, Sonja gains prowess and national recognition for her essays until she is blocked in her efforts to research the exact role of her town during the 1933-45 period of the Nazi regime. The "official" town history indicates that the community bravely resisted the Nazis, and that the only collaborator was the late Mayor Zumbotel. Church leaders were described as resolutely opposing the Nazis.

After being rebuffed by librarians and newspaper archivists, Sonja resourcefully is able to lay her hands on important materials, which document the complicity of numerous "respectable" town leaders in anti-Semitic and other collaborationist activities. The favored student soon becomes known as *Das Schreckliche Madchen*, literally "The Nasty Girl," but more accurately as a "young female troublemaker."

Lena Stolze is superb in the title role. Her authentic innocence of the horrors of her parents' generation and her adventuresome approach to life lead her into marriage to her much older high school teacher,

Martin (Robert Giggenbach), and into the thicket of her fateful essay.

Monika Baumgartner and Michael Gahr, as Sonja's solid, middle class German Catholic parents, and Hans-Richard Muller as Juckenack, a newspaper editor proven to have supported the Nazis during the war, deliver convincing performances.

The fresh-faced, optimistic Sonja, who represents the hopes for a new Germany cleansed of the sins of its past, confronts the stone wall erected by her townspeople and countrymen to block out the past — a wall that continues to stand even after the Berlin Wall has come down.

Michael Verhoeven's film tribute to the courage of Anja Elizabeth Rosmus captures the spirit which led her to press forward with her essay, which later became a best-selling book on her town's role in the darkest period in modern history. *The Nasty Girl* is a compelling and important film which deserves a large audience.

(*The Nasty Girl* is unrated, but would probably be classified as PG-13 due to some suggestive scenes and the subject matter. It runs 92 minutes.)

(Robert A. Cohn is Editor-in-Chief of the St. Louis Jewish Light. This review is reprinted with permission)

Isabella

Continued from 2

Spain. She perpetuated blood-libel, forced families underground or burned them at the stake. She decimated an artistic, productive, educated, and extremely valuable community of her citizenry because they would not accept Christ.

How many Jews were lost through hanging and torching? How many were tortured, their flesh ripped from their bones? How many did you slaughter, Isabella? And, how many were lost as Jews simply because they forgot? They were the children Morranos, the ones who began to believe their own cover story.

So, while Spaniards dance in the streets waiving brightly colored flags and eating special sweets, Jews will be marking the 500th anniversary of Isabella's reign too — as another day of mourning and prayer.

It is more than unseemly, it is cruel, that the people of Spain hope to honor Isabella as a Saint. Half of a lesson is no lesson at all.

Alfred Schwartz
National Commander
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Travel:

By RUTH ROVNER

Special to The Jewish Voice

Inside Weiss' deli, the aroma of fresh corned beef blends with the sharp tang of sour pickles. The counterman is also serving up hefty portions of salami, pastrami and potato knishes, but the house specialty is definitely corned beef on rye.

In fact, although the street sign at the corner reads East Lombard, another sign directly under it says Corned Beef Row. And the nickname of this street in East Baltimore is quite appropriate, especially with several delis within one short block — all offering corned beef specials.

But Baltimore has much more to offer the Jewish traveler than the novelty of Corned Beef Row. This port city, which is just an hour away from the nation's capital, is well known for its Inner Harbor and outstanding National Aquarium. But its Jewish sightseeing attractions are also noteworthy.

They range from a Holocaust memorial at the corner of Gay, Lombard and Water Streets downtown to a street in the Park Heights section of the city with so many synagogues it's been nicknamed "Rue des Shuls." Further north in the Pikesville suburb, Shapiro's supermarket stocks only kosher items.

But the top attraction for Jewish travelers is right downtown, not far from the Inner Harbor — and just two blocks from Corned Beef Row. It's the Jewish Heritage Center on Lloyd Street, and its presence gives evidence that the city's Jews — who number about 93,000 — take pride in their history and Jewish identity.

Situated in a small park, the center consists of a modern museum, flanked on both sides by historic synagogues. "The synagogue you're sitting in looks just as it did in 1845," says Moses Cohen, as we take our seats inside the sanctuary of the Lloyd Street Synagogue.

Cohen is the tour guide on the afternoon I visit the Jewish Heritage Center. After we gather outside the museum, he leads our group up the street to the handsome Greek Revival building on the corner. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this is the third oldest synagogue in the United States, after Touro in Rhode Island and Beth Elohim in Charleston.

With Cohen leading the way, we enter the simple, dignified sanctuary. While we sit and admire the meticulous restoration, he points out specific details like the original crystal chandelier, the central bimah, and the Star of David in the stained glass window.

"This was the first stained glass window in America to represent the Star of David," says Cohen, a past president of the Jewish Historical Society of Maryland which maintains the Heritage Center. He tells us another first: it was here that Rabbi Abraham Rice led services as the first ordained rabbi to serve an American congregation.

However illustrious the early history of this synagogue, it fell on hard times years later. By the the descendants of the early German Jews had moved beyond East Baltimore and their former synagogue was slated for demolition so a parking lot could be built.

But with the help of concerned citizens, a fund-raising campaign was launched, and the Jewish Historical Society purchased and restored the synagogue.

Baltimore—Harbor city with a Jewish identity



The sanctuary of the B'nai Israel synagogue, built in 1876, is Baltimore's oldest synagogue building in continuous use. (Photo: Ruth Rovner)

"So we're very proud of this building," says Cohen, who's been leading tours here for 18 years. He guides us downstairs, where we peer into an old matzah oven that's set into the stone walls, see the small house of study with its original brick floors, and take a look at the original mikveh.

Outside again, we walk up Lloyd Street the short distance to B'nai Israel synagogue, a red brick building with striking and ornate Moorish-Gothic design. Built in 1876, this is Baltimore's oldest synagogue building in continuous use. It, too, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Inside, we climb an old-fashioned staircase to the second floor sanctuary.

"It's beautiful!" exclaim several in our group as we enter a sanctuary flooded with light from 41 windows. It's a room full of graceful columns and arches, with a gleaming chandelier and a delicate gold-and-white design.

The restoration of this synagogue by the Jewish Historical Society is another evidence of the determination of Baltimore's Jews to preserve their past. It was a joint effort of the Orthodox congregation, the Historical Society, and the Association of Jewish Charities. City and state funds also helped to restore a synagogue badly in need of repair.

The leaking, rotting roof was repaired. The solid brass fixtures were polished. The handmade ark from Austria was regilded with gold paint. The huge chandelier was taken apart piece by piece to be repaired.

"This was an old, deteriorating synagogue, with the ceiling almost falling down," says Cohen. "And look how we restored it."

In fact, the Jewish Historical Society restored it so impressively that it won the 1985 American Society of Interior Designers Award for Historic Preservation and the 1986 State of Maryland Preservation Project Award.

Restored B'nai Israel is now the only functioning synagogue remaining in downtown Baltimore. Because it's so close to the Inner Harbor and the major hotels in that area, says Cohen, tourists who are observant Jews now have a convenient — and beautiful — place to attend services while they're out of town. Afterwards, they join in the kiddush, sipping red wine and eating pickled herring, a longtime tradition with the congregants.

Finally, we tour the museum that is the core of the Jewish Heritage Center. The permanent exhibit, titled "And So They Came: The Experience of Jewish Settlement in Maryland, 1656-1929" presents a comprehensive look at the life of Maryland's Jews. More than 200 items, many of them donated by Baltimore Jews, bring their history to life.

It begins with the first record of a Jew in Maryland: Dr. Jacob Lumbrozo, a doctor in southern Maryland in the days before Baltimore was even founded. Later, in 1773, Benjamin Levy, who owned a general merchandise store, was the first Jewish resident of Baltimore.

The exhibit covers immigration, early German-Jewish families, Jewish businesses, religious institutions and more. And it does so with many concrete objects that make history come alive. On display, for example, is the long blue wool skirt and white cotton jacket worn by Rebecca Harris Siegal during her passage from Russia to Germany to Baltimore Harbor in 1901. It turns out that Ellis Island was not the only port of entry for Jewish immigrants: many others landed at Baltimore Harbor.

The record of their life in Baltimore is documented in varied displays. We see, for example, the faces of 13 workers in Moses Issac Berman's vest making shop, who stare out shyly in a rare photo taken in 1893.

And we look at photographs of

peddlers and merchants, signs from Hender's Ice Cream Store, bar mitzvah and wedding invitations and ritual objects from the homes of the early Jewish settlers who lived in East Baltimore.

Now their descendants live elsewhere and worship in modern synagogues in Park Heights and beyond. But the eventful history of Baltimore's early Jews is vividly preserved in his modern museum. It is just one more

evidence that this harbor city has a strong and proud Jewish identity.

—The Jewish Heritage Center at 15 Lloyd Street (phone 301-732-6400) is open Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and on Mondays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Guided tours are given Monday and Thursday, 1 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is \$1.00.



The historic Lloyd Street Synagogue contains the first stained glass Star of David window to be installed in a synagogue in the United States. (Photo: Ruth Rovner)

Dvar Torah

Continued from 4

created in Islamic countries are more likely to incorporate exclusively decorative and non-figurative forms.

Jewish artists in a country such as Persia in the early 19th century had two motivations to eliminate figurative elements from their work. The first was a zealous clergy and isolated Jewish community reacting to Shiite Moslem domination and persecution, and the second was the surrounding Islamic culture with its exclusively decorative iconography.

The third and most practical issue brought to mind as Bezalel brings beauty to the Tabernacle is the notion of *hiddur mitzvah*, the glorification or adornment of a commandment. In *shirat hayam* (Song of the Sea, Ex. 15:2), Moses sings of glorifying God. This passage has been interpreted by the Talmudic sages as encouraging Jews to bring additional beauty to the observance of *mitzvot* and traditions, such as selecting a fresh and beautiful *lulav* and *etrog* on Sukkot, or enhancing a Jewish wedding with an artistic *ketubah* and *chupah* (marriage contract and canopy).

Just as Bezalel glorified the Tabernacle with cherubim and fine linen, there are countless ways for us to add adornment and beauty to our own lives, from hand-crafted *mezuzot* and *menorot* to decorative paper cuts and wall hangings. Moses understood the importance of utilizing and encouraging exceptional talent within his community. So too, our observances can have the added *mitzvah* of supporting local Jewish artists and craftspeople.

In discussing the notion of *hiddur mitzvah*, our rabbis also addressed the monetary reality of artistic creation. According to one discussion (Talmud Bavli, Baba Kamma 9b), a third of the expense allocated for a Jewish celebration should be spent on *hiddur mitzvah*. "R. Zera therefore said: For [performing a commandment in] an exemplary manner one should go up to a third of [the ordinary expense involved in] the observance thereof."

But as we learn in Vayakhel-Pikudey, it is sometimes preferable to limit our efforts: "So the people were restrained from bringing, for the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much [Ex. 36:6-7]. In today's age of \$20,000 weddings and *b'nei mitzvah* celebrations, we should follow Bezalel's example, and stop when the gold and silver cease to add integrity to the beauty of our ceremonies.

At the close of Vayakhel-Pikudey and the Book of Exodus, the Tabernacle is completed, "and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle" (Ex. 40:34). The Tabernacle represents *hiddur mitzvah* in its most literal sense—as a protective adornment surrounding the Commandments given at Sinai. The completion of this work marks the final stage of the Exodus and spiritual journey of the Jewish people, just as the final strokes on a canvas or the last mark on a *ketubah* completes an aesthetic journey. It is within this visual glorification that the spirit of God accompanies us as we travel.

(Pamela S. Feldman-Hill is an artist in Gahanna, Ohio, whose works deal primarily with Jewish themes. She presents slide lectures and classes across the country on themes related to Jewish art history, and creates original *ketubot* under the name of Pearl Editions.)

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U.S. to seek peace, won't impose settlement

begin a dialogue." He said he will be exploring "a two-track approach" on these issues, on "what might be possible in the aftermath of this very significant development in the region."

Baker said he had a "gut feeling" that both the Israelis and the Arab countries want to find a solution. But he added, "That doesn't mean it's going to happen."

The secretary said Israel, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait owe it to the United States to make the effort because of the elimination of Saddam Hussein as a threat.

"We have done everybody in the region a great favor, including Israel," he said. "The biggest threat to their security has been eliminated."

Baker repeated that the United States is "appreciative" if Israel's restraint in respond-

ing to the Scud missile attacks on the Jewish state, he said he hoped Israel would not launch such a military response now, as some expect it to do.

The coalition forces have "seriously eroded, if not eliminated, any threat" from Iraq and will continue to make sure that the threat from weapons of mass destruction are eliminated, he said.

As for the Palestine Liberation Organization, Baker and other administration officials ruled out a role in the peace process for that organization and its leader, Yasir Arafat, because of its support of Saddam Hussein. "I think that he was seriously and substantially hurt," Baker said of Arafat.

"The PLO made a colossally bad decision" in supporting Hussein, Brent Scowcroft, the president's national security adviser, said

Sunday in an appearance on the ABC-TV program "this Week With David Brinkley."

Scowcroft said Baker will be discussing with the Saudis their support for an alternative Palestinian leadership to the PLO, Saudi Arabia, which, like Kuwait, was a major financial backer of the PLO, has already indicated it will look for some other Palestinian group to back.

But Saudi Arabia has also let it be known that it will no longer help Jordan, which sided with Iraq.

The Bush administration, however, continues to show a measure of sympathy for King Hussein, despite U.S. anger at his backing of Iraq. "We understand his situation," Baker said, referring to the large number of Palestinians in Jordan.

"We have no lasting pique with Jordan," Bush said Friday. he said the United States has

had "very pleasant relationships with Jordan," which turned into a "certain sense of disappointment" at Jordan's position during the Gulf crisis.

Bush said a rapprochement will take time. "I can't say how much, but clearly we do not want to see a destabilized Jordan. I have no personal animosity toward his majesty, the king."

Administration officials say Jordan is still essential to the peace process. "Jordan stands ready to do its share," because it believes there is now a "window of opportunity," Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday on the CBS-TV program "Face the Nation." But he said Jordan must first be assured of the well-being of the Palestinians.

While King Hussein has called for forgiveness from the Arab world, Hassan stressed, "We haven't done anything wrong." He said Jordan expressed sympathy for the destruction in Kuwait and Iraq and even for the damage to Israel by Iraqi Scud missiles.

Living will

Continued from 3

All the more so when a person expressly leaves instructions to let nature take its course. Here a Living Will is the best guide. As noted above, the Talmud emphasizes that every effort should be made to carry out the wishes of a deceased person. Although the Talmud was addressing the question of inheritance, the principle may be extended to medical treatment. Hence, the wishes of an individual who rejects the artificial prolongation of life should be honored.

However, since the Talmud mandates that we must abide by state law — "the law of the land is supreme" — I would suggest that a written Living Will be drafted in consultation with an attorney. Furthermore, since the sanctity of life is such a supreme value in Judaism, at least three persons — a member of the family, a physician and a rabbi — should be involved in the final decision-making process.

(Rabbi Bernard Zlotowitz is director of the Greater New York Federation of Reform Synagogues.)

Jews closer

Continued from 3

to continue their normal routines as much as the military war would allow. They, too, are an inspiration.

Many Americans visited Israel in a show of solidarity immediately preceding and during the active hostilities. These travelers both as individuals and as groups reacted with absolute commitment to acts of absolute evil. They gave of themselves to be part of the vibrant Jewish way of life and to maintain that vibrancy. The realization that Israel is indispensable to our collective and individual survival.

The anxieties generated by the 1991 war against the Jews should inspire us to preserve the unity of the Jewish people and to defend and to visit Israel. At this time when the new world alignment may attempt to dictate Israel's future, it is more important than ever to show our loyalty and solid support to our Jewish homeland. We should give no victory, posthumous or otherwise, to yesterday's, today's or tomorrow's representations of absolute evil.

(Rabbi Herbert A. Yoskowitz is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington.)

\$650 million

Continued from 1

The statement also praised "Secretary Baker's leadership and bipartisan support in the Congress."

Morton Mandel, a top Jewish Democratic fund-raiser, said from Cleveland that he was pleased with the \$650 million figure. "I was afraid that it would be five," he said, meaning \$500 million.

Hordes said the \$650 million "goes some way to meet Israel's needs, (but) it does not fully address the scope of Israel's problems."

Rep. Lewis said that during back-door dealings among lawmakers over the extra aid for Israel, pro-Israel lawmakers who voted against the declaration of war against Iraq tried to "bail themselves out" by taking the position, "I'm going to give them more money than the other guys."

"Israel is served best if her challenges and her problems are brought to the floor in a fashion that does not reflect partisan confrontation," said Lewis, who chairs the House Republican Conference. "There are some people, a relatively few, who are trying to make something out of this that it is not," he

said.

Lewis, who is considered fairly supportive of Israel, denied afterward that he was referring to Democrats, but a top Republican Jewish strategist here said that some key pro-Israel Jewish Democrats in the House "now have a guilty conscience" for their anti-war vote.

The strategist said the lawmakers, including Reps. Lawrence Smith (D-Fla.), Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Henry Waxman (D-Calif), "are receiving a tremendous amount of pressure from the Jewish community" and "feel abandoned."

A non-partisan Jewish official here agreed with the strategist that some of those lawmakers "feel burned."

But Mandel denounced Lewis' charge as "not responsible." Those lawmakers "are getting a bad rap. They were not against (the war). They said, 'Let's vie (the sanctions against Iraq) more time.'"

Similarly, Morris Amitay, treasurer of the Washington Political Action Committee, the second-largest pro-Israel PAC, said, "If they're supporting more aid for Israel, I'm all for it. That's wonderful."

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The March 1991 Community Calendar (printed in the 2/22/91 Jewish Voice) incorrectly identified the dates for the first and second seder of Passover. Friday, March 29, is the first seder and Saturday, March 30 (first day of Passover) is the second seder. The Jewish Federation of Delaware regrets this error.

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Even with the dark cloud over Israel since January 15, more than 22,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in the Jewish homeland anxious to begin their new lives in freedom. Their needs are basic - housing, clothing, food, education, and most importantly *you*.

At a time when the strain on Israel's capacity to serve human needs has never been greater, and at home with a recession that is hurting the most those than can afford it the least, we must ask you. . .

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