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Celebrating Jewish Women



A million moms march on Washington

By Marion Yager Hamermesh

At the end of a long, hot, dusty day a woman carrying a stroller and a two year old boy descended the escalator of a Washington, D.C. subway station while her six year old daughter held her hand. A small group formed as first one then another then more women and a few teens joined her on the platform to talk about the events of the day. The boy, being two, wiggled out of his mother's arms and set off to wander. Gradually and imperceptibly, the group formed a protective circle; a subtle shift of weight here, a small step to the left there, a gentle nudge on his shoulder and he was free to roam and run with limits but without peril. It was a small moment on a big day.

Of the reported 750,000 people gathered in Washington at the Million Moms March, 85 had traveled from Wilmington on two buses sponsored by the Wilmington Section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) and the Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Emeth (WRJ). Some of the riders went directly to the march site and attended the interfaith service which kicked off the day's activities. Others gathered with fellow NCJW members from around the country and marched to the Mall as a group.

We stood in the sun shoulder to shoulder with people from all over the country surrounded by survivors wearing tee shirts and carrying signs with the pictures and names of loved ones they had lost. We listened as speaker after speaker recounted the havoc inflicted on them and their families and communities by random acts of senseless gun violence. We sat in the shade and listened to luminaries from Marian Wright Edelman and Sarah and James Brady to President and Mrs. Clinton and to celebrities from Raffi to Rosie O'Donnell as they inspired us to continue our pursuit of common sense gun regulation in this country. We nodded agreement as Susan Sarandon implored us to build and understand our communities and look at who is endangered by guns on a daily basis and do what we can as mothers to protect all of our children. And we were motivated by Ryan Martin, a Yale medical student, paralyzed by gun shot when he was twelve, who told us to make sure we know whether the homes where our children are playing are gun-safe. He promised he would include this discussion with his patients as a matter



Ann Rosen's hot pink sign, proclaiming Delaware Mothers aversion to gun violence, brought attention to the first state while brilliantly enabling us to stay together as a group.

of public health.

And we sat a little taller as Rabbi Eric Yoffie, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, preached to all the marchers about our "solemn religious obligation" to control guns telling us that our "society has turned weapons into idols, and the worship of idols must be recognized for what it is - blasphemy. And the only appropriate religious response to blasphemy is sustained moral outrage." (His full remarks are available at: <http://uahc.org/yoffie/mmm.html>)

The momentum built by this march must continue. Echoing many speakers sentiments, Anna Quindlen (who will be speaking at the Playhouse on May 24th) told us that we "deserve elected officials and laws as good as we are." Bumper stickers were handed out which bragged about the voting power of the assembled group. We were told to find out the voting record and attitudes of our candidates and go to the polls and make our voices heard. Implicit in this injunction was the demand that we eviscerate the power the NRA and its money hold in the halls of our legislatures.

Rabbi Yoffie spoke powerfully on this issue. He said, "We are ready for a knock-down, drag-out, no-holds-barred battle against the NRA, which is the real criminals' lobby in this country, and which is drenched in the blood of murdered children."

Whether you made it to Washington, or just wish you had, you can still get involved. Educate yourself and vote wherever you have the opportunity. Respond to the letter-writing campaign which will be set up in the lobby of the JCC and at Beth Emeth; write to your legislators and let them know that their constituents have a voice as loud as the NRA. Ask the parents of your children's friends if their home is a safe place to play. Stay tuned for information and join us at a local rally scheduled for next fall.

Come and join the growing circle of concerned citizens who are protecting all of our children as fiercely and naturally as our small community protected that one child on the subway platform in Washington.



Wilmingtonian profiled in new book celebrating Jewish mothers

By Lynn Edelman, Editor

Delawareans will open the pages of the exquisitely photographed new book *Jewish Mothers* - the subject of a photo exhibit which opened earlier this month at the B'nai B'rith Klutznick Museum in Washington, D.C.-and find a familiar face. Delaware Family Court Judge Aida Wasserstein is one of 50 American Jewish mothers who share their stories with readers. Wasserstein's professional and personal life is guided by the values of her Hispanic-Jewish upbringing.

"Both cultures emphasize the strong influence that parents have on shaping their child's life," said Wasserstein, who explained that her childhood in the small yet active Jewish community of Cuba, influenced her decision to enter family law.

Wasserstein attended a Jewish day school in Cuba, where she studied half a day in Yiddish and half in Spanish. She and her brother spent many hours in synagogue with her father, happily playing with the fringes of his tallis.

Despite the trauma of her mother's death when Wasserstein was 11, she felt safe and secure in the love of a large extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents.

During Wasserstein's bat mitzvah year, her life changed dramatically. Both sides of her family had fled oppressive anti-Semitic regimes in Russia and Poland, and had serious concerns about the ramifications of Castro's rise to power. They made the difficult decision to send her, alone, to America.

Wasserstein recalls being "terrified" when she arrived in Philadelphia. "I was 13 years old, unable to speak English in a new country where Hispanic Jews were a distinct minority," she said.

However, with the assistance of Jewish Family Service and the support of her Cuban family she not only survived - but thrived - in the United States. By the time that she was reunited with her father at the age of 18, Wasserstein was a Bryn Mawr College student who had already set her sights on a career in law.

Although initially displeased by his daughter's decision to pursue a scholarly rather than business career, (neither parent had completed elementary school), he was proud to see her graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and, later, to be sworn in as a Family Court Judge.

Judaism's emphasis on education has influenced many of Wasserstein's courtroom decisions. "If I am deciding on a case involving neglect, I evaluate not only if the child is fed and clothed, but also if that child is encouraged to do well in school," she said, emphasizing that "Without an education, kids do not stand a chance."

She has imbued in her own two daughters a love for Judaism and a thirst for education. The family regularly attends Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, where both girls were Bat Mitzvahed. Their private school education was supplemented by studies at Gratz Hebrew High School.

Wasserstein is grateful for achieving a personal relationship with G-d. "I have always appreciated Judaism's emphasis on becoming partners with G-d in making the world a better place and have tried to make myself an instrument of G-d's will," she said.

As an esteemed Family Court Judge who chaired the State Human Rights Commission and received the 1995 Humanities Award from the National Coalition of Christians and Jews, many would say, "she succeeded."

Jewish Mothers features interviews by Paula Ethel Wolfson, photographs by Lloyd Wolf and a foreword by Anne Roiphe is published by Chronicle Press. It sells for \$29.95 and is available at area bookstores or on-line at <http://www.amazon.com>



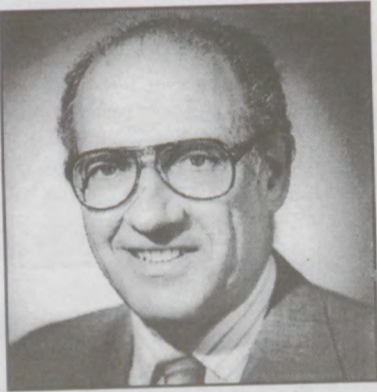
Judge Wasserstein and daughters.

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Memorial Fund Honors Champion Of Chemical Weapons Ban



Dr. Leo ZefTel

By Lynn Edelman

Dr. Leo ZefTel devoted much of his life to working towards the goal of world peace by thwarting the threat of chemical warfare. He died last fall, but his proud legacy endures- 130 nations signed the Chemical Weapons Convention- a treaty that ZefTel helped craft. It was ratified by the United States in early 1997 and is now in effect.

The Chemical and Biological Arms Institute in Washington, D.C., a non-profit research organization that promotes the goals of arms control and non-proliferation, wants to honor the memory of the man who shared its values. It is establishing a special fund in his honor and will sponsor a seminar series featuring nationally and internationally acclaimed speakers. The Institute has initiated solicitation of funds to sup-

port this series on an annual basis. Dr. Bennett Epstein and Bernard Siegel, long-time friends and Jewish communal colleagues of ZefTel have been asked by the Institute to coordinate this fundraising effort.

All three men served as president of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and as chairman of the JFD Annual Campaign. Siegel and ZefTel led Federation's critical Audit Committee while Epstein and ZefTel served with distinction as president of Congregation Beth Emeth.

ZefTel, a man with more than 40 years of experience in the chemical industry, served as Senior Consultant to the organization. He was revered by organizational colleagues as the foremost expert on Chemical Weapons Convention industry inspections.

According to Epstein, who worked with ZefTel at the DuPont Company, "Leo distinguished himself by his vision of a world free of chemical weaponry and by his formidable negotiating skills." Indeed, his involvement in chemical arms control began in 1987, when ZefTel represented DuPont at meetings of the Chemical Manufacturing Association Chemical Weapons Work Group. In short time, the Group served as consultants for the United States diplomats who were working on developing the Convention. ZefTel represented the entire chemical industry during frequent trips to

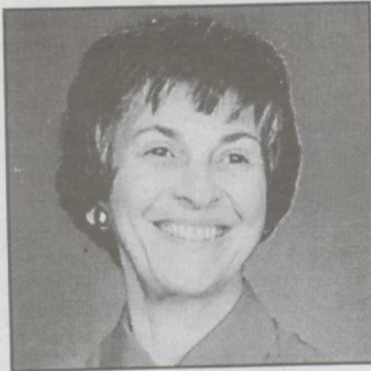
Geneva where he negotiated with diplomats from all over the world to make this Convention a reality.

Here in the U.S., ZefTel took diplomats on tours of DuPont's Chambers Works plant to help them

understand how a chemical plant functioned. These tours were invaluable in developing routines for plant inspections which set the standard for monitoring chemical companies throughout the world.

ZefTel is survived by his wife, Sybil- who was instrumental to this writer in developing background materials for this story- his children, Mona, Peter and Julie and six grandchildren.

Rona Finkelstein Endows Gratz



Rona Finkelstein

Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School-the Jewish Community High School of Gratz College-has received a special 35th anniversary gift. Rona Finkelstein has created an Endowment Fund to sustain and promote the future growth of Delaware's only Jewish Community High School.

Mrs. Finkelstein had long felt the desire to find just the right vehicle to provide significant and enduring support to Delaware Gratz. She decided

upon an Endowment Fund, as its growth will assure the future of both formal and informal Jewish education for Delaware's Jewish teens.

Mrs. Finkelstein and her late husband Nisson, steadfastly supported Jewish education through their Jewish home life, their synagogue and the Jewish Voice. She has studied Mishna for 17 years in a weekly discussion group guided by Nisson Finkelstein and a rotation of local rabbis serving as guides. She has been coordinator of the Jewish Great Books Discussion Group since its founding in 1986. Mrs. Finkelstein is completing research on a book she is writing on the genealogy of her mother's side of her family.

Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, a constituent of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, is currently serving 94 Jewish teenagers from seventh through twelfth grades-a critical stage for forming Jewish identity. Studies have shown that formal secondary level Jewish education is one of the key factors in determining future involvement in Jewish commu-

nal life. Fourteen seniors will graduate on June 1 during 7:30 p.m. ceremonies at the Jewish Community Center in North Wilmington.

Since its founding, Delaware Gratz has provided education and social programming designed to foster pride in Judaism and to celebrate the diversity of Jewish expression.

Delaware Gratz strives to provide top quality Jewish educational and social experiences for its teenagers in an atmosphere where different viewpoints are respected and affirmed.

Mrs. Finkelstein's foresight and planning will be instrumental in assisting Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School in achieving these goals. "Her convictions and generosity are a perfect fit for our motivation to plan for the future," said Marlene Milunsky, school principal.

Delaware Gratz classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Sunday mornings at the school's Wilmington Campus at the Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road. For further information, please call 478-8100.

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FEDERATION FOCUS

Meet And Greet Israel's New U.S. Ambassador



His Excellency David Ivry

Delaware Governor Thomas R. Carper invites the community to attend the World Trade Week and Governor's Outstanding Exporter Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, May 24, 12 Noon at the Wilmington Country Club, Rte. 52, Greenville.

The event features a keynote address by His Excellency David Ivry, the new Ambassador of Israel to the United States.

Ambassador Ivry assumed this

important post in January. Until his appointment, he served as Israel's National Security Advisor and as Head of the National Security Council.

He also has served the Jewish State as Principal Assistant Minister of Defense for Strategic Affairs and as Director-General of the Ministry of Defense.

His distinguished military career has included service as Major General and Commander of the

Israel Air Force. Under his command, Ambassador Ivry orchestrated the destruction of the Syrian surface-to-air missile batteries in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and of the Osirak nuclear reactor in Iraq.

Reservations for the luncheon are \$35 per person. Checks may be made payable to the Delaware Economic Development Office, International Trade Section,

Carvel State Building, 10th Floor, 820 French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. To make your reservations, please call Anna White at 577-8464.

The Wilmington Country Club is located on Route 52 in Greenville, Delaware, approximately one mile north of the Greenville shopping area and south of Winterthur.

JCRC Update - School Prayer

By Matthew P. Denn, Esq.
Co-Chair, Jewish Community Relations Committee

There has been a substantial amount of press coverage in recent weeks regarding "school prayer" bills being considered in the state legislature.

The first school prayer bill was introduced in the State House of Representatives several months ago, and passed unanimously without any debate. This bill would have allowed for "non-sectarian, student initiated prayer" at school activities. By the time the bill had made its way to the State Senate, it was opposed by teachers, school administrators, a wide array of religious organizations, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The State Senate Education Committee declined to pass the House of Representatives bill out of committee. Instead, a coalition of State Senators, led by Senator David Sokola but including both Republican and Democratic Senators representing all three

counties in Delaware, drafted an alternative school prayer bill. The bill, Senate Bill 229, was designed to remind teachers and administrators of the many religious activities that were already allowed by law in public schools, such as religious club meetings before and after school and a moment of silence before the start of the school day. All of the groups that had opposed the House of Representatives bill supported Senate Bill 229, and it passed through the State Senate unanimously.

Senate Bill 229 was approved by the House of Representatives last week, but not before the House had amended the bill to take out one provision that was important to many of Senate Bill 229's supporters. Senate Bill 229 had emphasized that no prayers should take place before "captive audiences" of students, meaning gatherings such as classrooms or school assemblies where students were required to attend. The House of Representatives removed this lan-

guage, and replaced it with language stating that students could not be "compelled" to participate in prayer activities. If the bill is passed with this language, it will likely be challenged in court by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The teachers, administrators, religious leaders, and civil liberties leaders who voiced their objections to the original school prayer bill that passed the House of Representatives achieved a substantial victory in convincing the State Senate to pass Senate Bill 229 as an alternative to the house bill. Senator Sokola deserves special credit for listening to the viewpoints of the many groups who were interested in the school prayer issue, and crafting a bill that everyone could live with. Over the next six weeks, the Senate will likely consider passage of Senate Bill 229 as it was amended by the House of Representatives. If you have any questions regarding Senate Bill 229, please contact the JCRC at 421-2700, ext. 17.

Federation Mission To Israel!

It's a once in a lifetime opportunity - A dream vacation to some - A spiritual awakening for others. A call to adventure that must be answered. Or a community experience that can become the foundation for the rest of your life.

Take off for Israel on November 5th and return on the 13th empowered by the capacity to more thoroughly understand local, continental and global Jewish needs. Participants will spend time in the

northern most section of Israel; in Jerusalem; and meet "family" who live in Arad and Tamar, our Partnership 2000 Region.

Anticipated costs are \$1818 per person/double occupancy plus extra expenses for tips and a bus to and from the airport; Final Mission costs may change and are subject to final confirmation of airline and hotel costs. During the Mission, all participants will be asked to contribute to Jewish social services at

home, Israel and world-wide by making their gift to the 2001 Jewish Federation of Delaware/UJC Annual Campaign. A voluntary minimum Annual Campaign gift of \$500 is encouraged for each participant.

Due to the extraordinary enthusiasm for last year's community-wide Mission, individuals with interest in participating in this year's endeavor are asked to phone Rhonda Falk, Campaign Director, 427-2100, Ext. 16.



The Jewish Federation of Delaware cordially invites you to attend the

66th Annual Meeting honoring Outgoing President Barbara Schoenberg and welcoming Incoming President John Elzufon, Esq.

Installation of Officers and New Board Members and Special Tribute to Judy Stiebel

Wednesday, June 21, 2000 at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Washington Blvd. and Torah Way

Dinner - 6:00 p.m. Annual Meeting 7:30 p.m. Dessert Reception Immediately Following

\$10 covert for dinner
(There is no covert to attend only the Annual Meeting and Dessert Reception)

Please RSVP by June 16, 2000 to The Jewish Federation of Delaware, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 301 Wilmington, DE 19801 Phone (302) 427-2100 Fax (302) 427-2438



ENDOWING THE FUTURE

Candlelight



By Rachel A. Gross, Esq.
Endowment Director

Nearly 100 special friends of a charity gathered to hear the executive director report on organizational advances and share her vision for the future.

Five minutes into her talk the lights went out.

She urged the audience to be calm. "I'm sure the electricity will be restored shortly. Please be patient."

A minute passed. People began

to fidget. And then, from the audience, a woman said, "I have a candle here in my purse and some matches."

A moment later, a flame appeared and the darkness rushed away. A sense of calm returned. Soon after, the electricity was restored and light once again flooded the room.

Interestingly, the speaker had just mentioned the importance of endowments. Now, with her microphone working again, she resumed her presentation. But not with the planned script. She was wise enough

to seize the moment and draw on their mutual experience of the darkness and the candle.

"Endowments," she said, "are like candles. They provide light in the darkness of an uncertain future. They permit us to look ahead and plan with confidence. They shine rays of hope."

She talked about the perpetual flames of endowment funds and how they provide financial light for future generations. "You can create your own endowment and light a candle of hope. Future generations will benefit from your foresight."

The foregoing account is adapted from a true story. And though some of the details have been changed, it is entirely accurate to say that our endowments here at the Jewish Fund for the Future do help us plan prudently for the future. They are indeed candles aglow with promise.

One of the finest things you can do with part of your charitable giving is to light an endowment candle. You can do it now with cash or securities, or later through your will or a trust remainder. The paperwork is minimal compared to the satisfaction you will receive.



Rachel A. Gross, Esq.

To obtain information about our endowment program, please call Rachel A. Gross, Esq., our Endowment Director at 302-427-2100 ext. 19.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chabad Center Needs Community Support

As many of you are aware, we are planning a new and expanded Chabad Jewish Enrichment Center to be located on Silverside Road. Prior to our purchase of this property, Conectiv clearly indicated that it would agree to lease land adjacent to the Center for parking spaces similar to arrangements with other religious institutions. This would go a long way towards reassuring our neighbors that this project would not create unwelcome traffic or noise.

I urge you to appeal to Conectiv to honor its commitment so that we can move this important project forward. Many of you have already voiced your support of our dream to expand our service to the community. The proposed building would increase our ability to be a resource to the entire Jewish community regardless of affiliation.

Be it davening, Torah study, children and adult education, Yomtov celebrations, library and publications, Jewish life in Delaware will be enhanced.

You can make a difference. Please write a letter to Howard E. Cosgrove, Conectiv, 800 King Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 or email to howard.cosgrove@connectiv.com to express support for the Chabad Jewish Enrichment Center. Please let Mr. Cosgrove know that you are a Conectiv customer who expects the utility to honor its promise to make this land available.

I am confident that, with a strong letter-writing campaign, our dream will become a reality.

**B'Shalom,
Rabbi Chuni Vogel
Director, Chabad Center**

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EDITORIAL

Jewish Women Lead The Way

The matriarchs of our Jewish tradition – Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah would be proud of their forebears who are featured so prominently in this week's edition of our *Jewish Voice*. Each Shabbat eve, for 5760 years, Jewish mothers have blessed their daughters in the names of these nurturers, leaders and activists. They, quite literally, gave birth to a civilization which has survived – indeed, has thrived – despite countless attempts at annihilation.

A Jewish mother's love is strong and self-sacrificing. Eighty-five area women gave up their own Mother's Day celebrations to march on Washington last Sunday in support of gun control legislation. They joined hundreds of thousands of women from all across the United States to stop the devastation caused by senseless acts of gun violence. As a follow-up to their demonstration, these modern-day matriarchs will organize a letter-writing campaign to legislators to be set up in the lobbies of the JCC and Congregation Beth Emeth. They plan follow-up activities next week. Look for details on page 15.

Jewish women are also revered for their commitment to education. In our other cover story, Delaware Family Court Judge

Aida Wasserstein, credits the influence of her late mother with her courageous decision to become the first person in her entire family to graduate from college and complete law school. This committed, compassionate Jewish mother strives to imbue these core values of education and *tzedakah*-justice to her own two daughters.

L'dor V'dor – From generation to generation. This concept of Jewish continuity has sustained and strengthened our people throughout our proud history. Local philanthropist Rona Finkelstein, a steadfast supporter of Jewish education, recently created an Endowment Fund to help secure the future of Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, the state's only Jewish community high school. May she set a shining example for other women to follow.

In the words of the Proverbs, there are many traits that characterize a woman of valor. Chief among them are these "...She gives generously to the poor, her hands are stretched out to the needy – Her mouth is full of wisdom, her tongue with kindly teaching."

This edition celebrates the many Jewish women who embody these traits. Their value is "far among rubies."

PARSHA PLACE

Week of May 20

BEHAR

Leviticus 25:1-26.2

BY RABBI CHAIM SCHERTZ

The Talmud offers two interpretations that describe the chronology of G-d's revelation of His Torah to the Jewish nation.

Rabbi Akiva maintains that the Torah in its entirety was revealed to Moshe at Sinai. G-d explained to Moshe (Moses) not only the general principles of each mitzvah, but every minute detail of its explication. The laws of the Torah were then repeated to Moshe in the sanctuary and, in the book of Devarim, repeated once more to the people at the plains of Moav.

Rabbi Yishmael, on the other hand, maintains that only the general laws of the Torah were told to Moshe at Sinai; their details were first described to him in the sanctuary before being repeated at the plains of Moav.

The structure of the book of Vayikra is used to resolve this debate. The contents of its last two parshios, Behar and Bechukosai, do not address the Levitical code, the dominant theme in the rest of the book.

Moreover, the text clearly states that the laws until Behar were given to Moshe in the Sanctuary. Behar begins with the law given at Sinai and Bechukosai concludes with a declaration that all of these laws were given to Moshe at Sinai. Does this declaration include all the laws in the book of Vayikra or just the laws in Behar and Bechukosai?

To answer this question, Rashi quotes the Toras Kohanim which delivers the position of Rabbi Akiva: All laws—general principles and details—were given to Moshe at Sinai.

This is demonstrated by the first mitzvah listed in Parshas Behar, the laws of Shemittah, the Sabbatical year, which is specifically linked to Sinai. If only the general principle of this law was given at Sinai, its mention would be redundant, for this mitzvah was already presented in Parshas Mishpatim.

The only point to ascribing this law to Sinai would be to point out the inclusion of details omitted in its first presentation.

To strengthen this argument, Rashi makes another point. The law of the Sabbatical year is not repeated in the book of Devarim. This omission gives it unique status.

Shemittah becomes the example par excellence of a commandment clearly enunciated in the Torah where both general principle and detail are openly ascribed to Sinai.

One could argue, of course, that, on the contrary, this omission makes Shemittah the exception rather than the rule. Indeed, the Ramban does just that.

But Rashi treats this mitzvah as the standard bearer for all others.

Thus, the final verse of Vayikra is a declaration that applies to the whole book and not just the last two parshios. Rabbi Schertz is spiritual leader of Congregation Keshet Israel in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**THURSDAY
NOON**

DEADLINE

for all articles,
advertisements and news
for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE	FOCUS	DEADLINE
JUNE 2	GRADUATION, CONFIRMATION, SHAVOUT	MAY 25

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Candle Lighting

MAY

26TH – 8:01 PM

JUNE

2ND – 8:07 PM



Visit the
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website at

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your gateway to Delaware's Jewish community

INSIDE DELAWARE

JWV Memorial For Veterans Interred In Lombardy And Beth Emeth Cemeteries

Every year in honor of Memorial Day, the Jewish War Veterans place markers and flags on gravesites at the above cemeteries. Because records are not available, there have been ongoing difficulties in locating and identifying the sites. Volunteers have relied largely on

the memories of those who place the flags. Despite their best efforts, 50 years have passed and the JWV worries that some individuals are unintentionally missed.

The Jewish War Veterans are asking that families and friends help them to locate the gravesites

of their loved ones so that due respect can be paid. The JWV wishes to honor the memory of all its fallen comrades whether their deaths were service-connected or not.

If interested, please be at either Lombardy or Beth Emeth

Cemetery on May 22 (rain date - May 24) at 1:00 p.m. Committee members will be placing flags at each cemetery at that time.

The JWV Annual Memorial Service will be conducted at the Lombardy Cemetery, during the afternoon of May 28. The commu-

nity is invited.

The JWV will participate in the annual Memorial Day observances at the Delaware Memorial Twin Bridges, May 30 at 10:00 a.m. Veterans and friends are invited. Following the ceremonies, attendees will meet for lunch.

Medical Reporter Keynotes Kutz Home Donor Luncheon

"Medical advancements can extend life but cannot enhance its quality," said Anita Brikman, medical reporter for WPVI TV, Channel 6, to participants in the May 11 Donor Luncheon sponsored by the Auxiliary of the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home. Brikman emphasized that while genetics "play a huge role in how we age," health screenings, nutrition, exercise and preventative medicine are also important factors.

She shared news of medical research in the field of Alzheimer's Disease, including estrogen and vitamin therapies, which may slow the progression of the disease and help sufferers enjoy a higher quality of life.

Brikman saluted the Kutz Home staff, volunteers and donors for creating an "optimum environment" for the elderly that stresses voluntarism and social interaction. "Your efforts help keep residents healthy and vital," she said.



Participating in the 2000 program were (seated, from left) Ilene Diamond, Donor Luncheon co-chair and Anita Brikman. Standing, from left are Ilean Grayson, Luncheon co-chair, Luncheon Committee members Julie Sandler and Susan Kreshtool and Joy Honig, president, Kutz Home Auxiliary.

JFS Helps To Prevent Family Violence

Jewish Family Service of Delaware and Prevent Child Abuse Delaware will present Cloe Madanes, director of the Family Therapy Center of Maryland, on Friday, June 16, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the MBNA Bowman Conference Center. Madanes will speak on the topic of "Strategic Therapy in Addressing Family Violence." The cost is \$115 per person before June 1, 2000 and \$130 per person after June 1. To register, call JFS at 478-9411.

CELEBRATE OUR JEWISH AGED

The community is invited to the Annual Meeting of the Kutz Home Auxiliary, Thursday, June 1, 10:30 a.m. Please call 764-7000 if you are able to attend.

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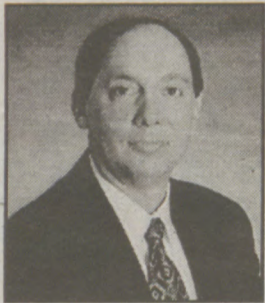
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Thank you to all of you who came (at such short notice) to support the public meeting with our neighbors regarding the Chabad Jewish Enrichment Center. It was a great success due in good part to the overwhelming numbers.

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INSIDE DELAWARE

The Three Mezzos: Women's Voices Ring At Beth Shalom

By Cantor Judith Naimark

For the past two decades, it seems as if the singing world has been ruled by tenors. They sing in stadiums to thousands of adoring fans; their CD's and videos top the charts.

The cantorial world, too, has been ruled by tenors for at least 150 years. But since the first woman was invested as cantor in 1975, another voice has arisen to rival the tenor for expressiveness and dramatic power — The mezzo-soprano.

"Mezzo" is Italian for "middle." The mezzo-soprano range is almost as high as soprano, but operates most comfortably when keeping in mid-range. Mezzos are often interchangeable with contral-

tos. Even before women were allowed to officiate as prayer leaders, such lower-voiced women as Basheva and Shayndele were performing cantorial music outside the synagogue.

In Opera and Musical Theater, the mezzo-soprano rarely gets the guy. She is usually a mother, a maid, a gypsy or a witch. Sometimes, she even plays a young man. Only when the heroine of the piece is a "woman of experience," such as Carmen or Delilah, is the mezzo-soprano center-stage.

All the glories of this vocal range will be celebrated in Congregation Beth Shalom's 5760 Cantor's Concert, "The Three Mezzos" on June 4, 2000 at 7 PM. Joining Beth Shalom's Cantor

Judith Naimark that evening will be Cantor Naomi Hirsch of Adath Emanu-El, Mt. Laurel, NJ and Cantor Oreen Zeitlin, of Temple Israel, Lawrence, NY.

The program will include liturgical music from throughout the year, plus Jewish songs in Ladino, Yiddish and English. In addition to music of Jewish interest, the trio will offer favorites from musical theater and opera, especially the French Opera repertoire, where the full voluptuousness of the mezzo-soprano voice was appreciated.

The performers have known each other since their student days at the School of Sacred Music of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, in New York City. All three were seasoned per-

formers when they entered cantorial school and have continued to perform across the country and around the world. Cantor Zeitlin was the first woman to sing as soloist in Israel in Ernest Bloch's "Avodat Hakodesh." Her 1992 performances of Darius Milhaud's "Service Sacre" marked the revival of a major work by one of this century's most important Jewish composers. The New York City performance was conducted by maestro Paul Nadler of the Metropolitan Opera, and narrated by Martin Bookspan, of the "Live From Lincoln Center" broadcasts. Cantor Hirsch has sung with the Boston Lyric Opera and has given important concerts of Jewish Liturgical music throughout the world. Last year, Cantor Hirsch

toured Southern Germany, where she gave a series of concerts in former synagogue buildings. Her artistry is featured on the CD "Patterns of Jewish Life," on the Wergo label.

I have soloed with the Zamir Chorale of New York, with whom I toured Israel in 1975. I was also featured in a 1998 July 4th concert, "Red, White and Blues" at Safra Square in Jerusalem and have performed in opera in New York City. I am a member of the Executive Council of the Cantors Assembly.

Admission to "The Three Mezzos" is \$15, or \$10 for students and seniors. You may reserve seats in advance by calling Congregation Beth Shalom at 654-4462

Community Honors Leah Z. Kraft



Leah Z. Kraft and Rabbi Daniel Satlow

By Marvin Cytron
Special to the Jewish Voice

On a recent Sunday afternoon, more than 300 members of Delaware's Jewish community gathered to pay tribute to Leah Z. Kraft. In tribute to her life-long devotion to Jewish education, a scholarship has been named in her honor at the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. The scholarship will benefit students with family ties to Wilmington's Congregation Beth Shalom. The tribute luncheon at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth was hosted by David and Marilyn Levinson who also chaired the steering committee for

the event.

Guest speaker was Dr. Anne Lapidus Lerner, Chair of the Department of Jewish Literature and Director of Jewish Women's Studies Program at the Seminary. On behalf of the Seminary, Rabbi Daniel Satlow, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom presented the Shin Award to Mrs. Kraft. The Shin Award according to Rabbi Satlow is presented to those individuals who "embody the teachings of the Torah, a recognition that Mrs. Kraft richly deserves."

Mrs. Kraft was presented with a collection of letters from past students, congregants, family and friends from around the world. Personal greetings and recollec-

tions from grandchildren added to the afternoon's joyful celebration.

Mrs. Kraft was deeply moved by the accolades. She spoke of her love of the seminary, the fact that she and the late Rabbi Jacob Kraft were married at the seminary and "the seminary tied the knot pretty tight."

In his closing remarks Rabbi Satlow, a recipient of scholarship funding while a student at the seminary, thanked the community for the establishment of this scholarship fund. "It is funds such as these that will nurture and help future rabbi's, Jewish educators, and other professionals in this country, in Israel and in Jewish communities throughout the world," he added.

United Jewish Communities: Year One Lays Groundwork For The Future

By Stephen D. Solender,
President and CEO,
United Jewish Communities

Pick up the business section of the newspaper, and you'll likely see reports of corporate mergers of one kind or another. Less common, but equally complex, are those in the non-profit world.

When United Jewish Communities was created a year ago by joining United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations and United Israel Appeal, there were high expectations of the new organization by North American federation officials, lay leaders and donors, skeptical about how deftly the new entity would marry the missions of each group while becoming a vital new national and global force. A year later, UJC is meeting those expectations as a lean, enterprising and service-oriented organization - embracing the objectives of its founding organizations, fortifying and serving the North American Jewish federation system, and fostering Jewish community and continuity at home, in Israel, and throughout the world. The process hasn't been easy. It's been marked by serious debate and

disagreement. That's to be expected in any venture this huge. And it's also essential if UJC is to be truly representative of the concerns of North American Jewry.

But underlying the debate has been our bedrock - a shared community vision that has allowed UJC to begin fulfilling its mission. Our momentum is measurable as our new national organization and the North American Jewish federation system advance on numerous organizational and programmatic fronts. One of UJC's overriding goals is to strengthen and enable each of our owner federations to become as effective as they can be, locally and globally.

With the input of our owners, UJC is adopting a new business plan - one accentuating federation needs. As primary items, for example, professional and lay leader development and education programs are being implemented to establish a conduit for future leadership, and UJC is harnessing technology to enhance internal and external communications and federation outreach to constituents. Our budget is being refined as well. In June, our Board of Trustees will review a proposed \$41.7 million

budget for the new fiscal year - pared down from the \$46.1 million pre-partnership budget. In the fiscal year beginning in 2001, we expect that number to dip below \$40 million. All the while, the UJA Federation Annual Campaign continues to grow, enabling UJC and the federation system to live up to the ideal of tikkun olam by addressing domestic and overseas community needs. The 1999 Campaign topped out at \$881.5 million - a four percent increase from a year earlier - indicating our donors' faith in us as the dominant fund-raising arm for American Jewry.

Regarding UJC spending for overseas rescue, resettlement and renewal projects: Our Overseas Needs and Assessments Distribution Committee will soon make spending recommendations for the fiscal year beginning in 2001. They will reflect the deep concern of North American Jews for relief in the former Soviet Union, to meet financial demands in Israel due to increases in those making aliyah, and to assist with Jewish community building projects throughout the world.

Progress is also underway in
Continued on page 12

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AROUND OUR JEWISH WORLD

Many Survivor Claims Rejected

By Tom Tugend, JTA

Three out of every four insurance policy claims submitted by Holocaust survivors or heirs of victims are being rejected by European insurers.

The 75 percent rejection rate is particularly startling since these claims, submitted through an international commission, are considered the strongest ones and were to be processed on a fast-track basis, requiring only minimum proof.

The figures are based on internal documents of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, headed by former U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, according to a front-page article in the May 9 edition of the Los Angeles Times.

So far, the five European insurers participating in the commission have agreed to settle only 124 of 909 claims submitted, according to the report.

Some 393 claims have been rejected, and the rest have been pending for more than three months.

Deborah Senn, Washington state's insurance commissioner and a leading voice among state insurance officials, was quoted by the Los Angeles Times as saying, "I am very seriously concerned about how the companies have participated in this process. The compa-

nies are turning down claims even when they are well documented. If three out of four claims are being rejected in the fast track, how are the larger group of survivors and their heirs going to see some justice?"

The five participating companies are Allianz of Germany, Assicurazioni Generali of Italy, AXA Group of France, and Switzerland's Winterthur and Zurich. These companies wrote about 35 percent of European life, homeowner and dowry policies between 1930 and 1945.

Allianz spokesman Andrew Frank confirmed the low number of approved claims, according to the Times, and said that rejected claimants "should theoretically be taken care of" by a separate humanitarian fund established by the insurers and to be administered by the same international commission.

But so far, there are no guidelines for how much money will be paid into the fund and who will qualify for payments.

Geoffrey Fitchew, the commission's vice president, expressed concern at the slow pace of the "fast-track" process and told the Times that some insurance companies are not adhering to the established criteria and basing rejections on incomplete records.

Fitchew said some companies may have classified policies that

were confiscated by the Nazis from their Jewish owners as already paid.

The European insurers have also stalled in making public the names of all policyholders during the Holocaust era. Allianz, for example, has so far provided only 15,000 out of a possible 1.5 million names.

How To File A Restitution Claim

Following are telephone numbers and Web sites for information about how to file Holocaust-related claims.

INSURANCE CLAIMS

The International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims has set up a process to handle insurance claims of Holocaust victims, survivors, and their heirs and beneficiaries.

For claim forms and more information, call toll-free in the United States, (800) 957-3203.

Information is also available on the Internet at <http://www.icheic.org>.

PAYMENTS FROM GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

The Claims Conference has negotiated compensation payments for Holocaust victims from Germany and Austria. There are several programs, with varying eligibility requirements and applica-

Bobby Brown, the Israeli government's representative on the commission, said in a court deposition this week that without full policyholder lists, "many survivors and their heirs will have no knowledge as to whether their relatives purchased any insurance, whether they are eligible to make a claim or against what company such a claim

should be made."

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, said he plans to raise the issue of rejected claims at the commission's next meeting in June in London.

"I have found my experience on the international commission as dispiriting," he said. "It has been a struggle every step of the way."

tion deadlines.

For further information in the United States, call (212) 696-4944 and ask for the Department of Services. In Israel, call (972-3) 517-9247; in Germany, (49-69) 970-701-21; in Austria, (43-1) 533-1622.

Detailed information about these programs is also available at <http://www.claimscon.org>.

GERMAN SLAVE LABOR PAYMENTS

A process for making claims has not yet been created. The Claims Conference promises that the "application form will be short, simple and non-bureaucratic," but says the application process will not begin before the fall.

NEW YORK STATE HOLOCAUST CLAIMS PROCESSING OFFICE

The office helps people seeking to recover assets deposited in

European banks, monies never paid in connection with insurance policies issued by European insurance companies and art that was lost or looted.

For information, call (800) 695-3318 in the United States. Information is also available on the Internet at <http://www.claims.state.ny.us>.

SWISS FUND

In August 1998, Switzerland's leading banks agreed to pay \$1.25 billion to settle Holocaust-era claims. A U.S. court still has to approve a distribution plan. Once that happens, information about how to file a claim will be made available in a worldwide ad campaign.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Potential claimants can also obtain information by contacting the Jewish Federation of Delaware, (302) 427-2100, ext. 17.

The Jewish Internet

By Mark Mietkiewicz

The World Wide Web offers one of the largest Jewish youth movements in the universe and it's as close as your keyboard. There's a wealth of information, camaraderie and fun for young people on the Web. Today, I am going to look at some great sites that are geared at Jewish Teenagers. (Next time, Jewish sites for younger kids.)

A good place to start is JVibe (<http://www.jvibe.com>). JVibe has an amazing range in its content:

- There's an interview with Jerusalem-born, Long Island-raised actress Natalie Portman on playing roles ranging from Anne Frank to Star Wars' Queen Amidala;
- poetry about Yom HaShoah titled "Death of the Innocent"
- an advice columnist named "Tell Aviv";
- and a Jewish Sports IQ Quiz.

Sample question: Which Jewish basketball player appeared in the first 12 NBA all-star games, and was recently chosen by the NBA as one of the 50 greatest players of all time? (Dolph Schayes)

Two other on-line magazines are Virtual Jerusalem's Teens (<http://www.virtualjerusalem.com/VJTeens/index.htm>) which has an article on interdating and intermarriage, along with its own advice column and a brain teasers section. The best articles in Teen-to-Teen are by young people telling the stories of lives (<http://www.ttt.org.il/index.shtml>). There's Yehuda who is finishing his combat engineering course in the Israel Defense Force, Mike who writes about living on a

West Bank settlement and Chava who explains what it's like to live a Jewish life in northern Montana where the nearest Jewish community is 300 miles away. There's also a photo studio section, tips on creative writing and a joke page:

Question: What do you call an 18 story condo in Tel Aviv?
Answer: A Chai rise.

If you are a teen or in your 20's and are considering spending some time in Israel, then you should definitely check out the Birthright Israel Website (<http://www.israel-experience.org/>). This is a clearinghouse for information about hundreds of Israeli programs geared toward young people. Search for the perfect program by using the site's database and compare notes with other travelers who have been there, done that. There is also information about the subsidies available to participants in these programs.

Although JewishYouth.com isn't strictly a site just for teenagers, it will be handy for anyone, from teens to adults, who creates programming for Jewish kids (<http://www.jewishyouth.com>). This site is a great resource center for anyone who works with Jewish youth such as volunteers on Shabbat, camp staff, teachers or Jewish youth organizations. There are tips for organizing programs, sparking discussions about ethical issues and ideas for holiday-related activities. There's even a link to a job-board for people working with Jewish youth.

If you are still looking for more Jewish Youth sites, take a look at

Mishmash's Jewish Youth Directory (<http://mishmash.virtualalave.net/kids.html>). You'll find links to dozens of Jewish summer camps, university campus organizations and billboard areas for alumni of Jewish youth organizations.

I want to conclude by returning to JVibe.com and what I found to be a witty way to introduce a Jewish tradition to young people by using an icon of popular culture:

"The Homer Calendar." (<http://www.jvibe.com/homer/>) We are currently in the period of Sefirat Ha'Omer when we count the forty nine days between Passover and Shavuot. Keeping track of the daily count can be confusing but if H'Omer Simpson can do it, so can you. There are articles about the reasons for counting the Omer, appropriate charts and illustrations of Homer next to the blessing and that day's recitation - all halachical-

ly correct.

Where else could you find a cartoon of Bart Simpson writing lines on the chalkboard "I WILL REMEMBER TO COUNT THE OMER."

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Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@home.com.

Year One Lays Groundwork

Continued from page 11

other areas. The National Jewish Population Survey 2000, which will provide a comprehensive social and demographic portrait of the American Jewish population and will be the definitive source of data on the Jewish community during the first decade of the 21st century, is ready to be launched. Field work will begin in June.

The Trust for Jewish Philanthropy, UJC's new foundation, is currently being incorporated and it is expected to be officially inaugurated at the UJC General Assembly in Chicago this fall. The Trust will develop philanthropic partnerships and strategic investments to benefit the Jewish people and all humanity. This is a pivotal period in the history of world

Jewry. Jews are in positions of influence and affluence. We have the ability to respond to any Jew in need. And we continue to recognize and accept our responsibility to help save the world.

As UJC continues to evolve and to respond to the needs of its owners, supporters and beneficiaries, it cannot possibly miss fulfilling the promise of a year ago.

Time To Feature Festive Foods

in our next issue - June 2
(Deadline: May 26)



for Graduations, Confirmations, and Shavuot

AROUND OUR JEWISH WORLD

Israelis Face Ghosts of 1972 Olympics

By Jeremy Jones, JTA

The Palestinians are reportedly considering a Muslim and Arab boycott of this summer's Olympic Games here because of a memorial to the Israelis killed in the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre.

The claim in the Palestinian publication Al Hayat al-Jadida of a boycott over the memorial, which was dedicated in October, was subsequently denied by the Palestinians' representative in Australia.

But the publicity given the

February report — which came as Australian Prime Minister John Howard and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat met in the Gaza Strip last week — threw the spotlight on Israel's security concerns as preparations for the Games begin.

Members of the Israeli Olympic Committee visited Sydney last week to discuss security arrangements for Israeli athletes.

The Games are scheduled to begin Sept. 15.

The Palestinian representative in Australia Ali Kazak, claimed there are no plans at this stage for a boycott, but that the Palestinians are demanding the memorial be removed.

Kazak said that if the memorial remains, there should also be memorials to the Olympians he claimed the Israelis had murdered in Lebanon and elsewhere.

He could not specify who he was talking about and when this had taken place.

Howard reportedly expressed his support for the memorial while in Gaza.

A senior official in the Israeli delegation was quoted in the Australian media as saying, "We will have to take measures. We need to make sure that Munich '72 will not happen again."

Eleven Israelis and five terrorists died in 1972 after Palestinian terrorists kidnapped Israeli athletes in Munich's Olympic village.

Israel is one of four countries

that reportedly wants its own security staff to carry guns at the Sydney Olympics.

Carrying the weapons is "like taking a physician to an event — you hope you never need to use him but it is reassuring to know that he is there," the Israeli official was quoted as saying.

Australian law forbids weapons to be brought into the country — and Australia insists that local security agencies will handle security at the Games.

A MATTER OF OPINION

Pope John Paul II And The Jews

By E. E. Jaffe

Special to the Jewish Voice

When this writer was a child, few things puzzled and discomfited him more than the Christian trappings he encountered on a couple of visits to the local Catholic church in a small town in Poland, now Lithuania. Although at the time he was only 10 years old, his Jewish consciousness was sufficiently developed to realize the existence of a huge gap in beliefs and customs between Jews and Polish gentiles, who religiously attended the only church and tallest and most imposing building in town. Six decades have passed and the perceived differences are still vivid in the writer's mind as well as the belligerence and the anti-Semitism displayed by the Poles who were the predominant population in town.

When Karol Joseph Wojtyla, who was born and educated in Poland, became pope in 1978, it was assumed that he is of the same ilk as the people we encountered in the small Polish town. This assumption was not justified. In gaining an understanding of his background from reliable sources, it was learned that in the town of Wadowice in southern Poland where he lived as a youth, and was addressed by his friends as Lolek, he treated Jewish kids from the very beginning as friends. Though he loved literature and mountain climbing he also loved to play soccer. When they played the game it was customary for Catholics to play against Jewish kids. But if there were only six Jewish kids on one side, Lolek

always opted for adding five Catholics to the Jewish side. He did not apparently differentiate, at least for this purpose, between Jews and Catholics, an unusual behavior for a Polish kid. This attitude was recently described in Rome by Lolek's old time Jewish friend Jerzy Kluger. He was Lolek's friend then and is Pope John Paul II's friend now.

According to Rabbi James Rudin, an America Jewish Committee official, the "Pope has made a greater contribution to Catholic-Jewish relations than any other pope in history, straightening out 2000 years of twisted history by force of his personality, his beliefs and simply because who he is."

He was born in May 18, 1920 in the town of Wadowice, a small town populated by 6000 Catholics and about 1500 Jews, located at the foothills of the Carpathian mountains, about 30 miles west of the university city of Krakow. Warsaw, which became the capital of Poland after it gained independence as a result of the Versailles Treaty, had relatively little influence on Wadowice. Although it was a peaceful town, anti-Semitism was an accepted, in fact, fashionable sentiment as elsewhere in Poland in the 1930's. The future pope, however, was always instructed by his priest and particularly his father about the virtues of universal love.

He was a student at the Jagellonian University in Krakow when the first German bombs fell on the city at the start of WW II. After the Germans occupied the city they closed down the Cathedral

and shut down the university. One in four of his classmates were Jewish and therefore he saw the elimination of Jews first-hand. Most of his Jewish friends did not survive the war. He called the Holocaust the "apocalypse" of our time, and stated that the tragedy of WW II affected his choice of a vocation.

He progressed in the church and in the 60's he attended the Vatican Council as Bishop Wojtyla and urged the church to stand firmly for human rights, not just for Catholics but for all people. He was actually the author of the Vatican II pronouncement about the exoneration of Jews from the official church canon of collective responsibility in Christ's death. Up till Vatican II the church taught and advanced the notion that the Jews killed Jesus. Again, according to Rabbi Rudin, as a consequence of Vatican II and the current pope "there has been more positive progress in Catholic-Jewish relations in the last 35 years than there was in the first two millennia of the church".

Although the then Cardinal Wojtyla was a favorite of Pope Paul VI, his immediate predecessor, his election in 1978 as the new pope was a surprise to most people at the Vatican. After his election his nice and friendly demeanor, according to close observers, changed into a majestic presence.

His efforts and pronouncements about reconciliation with the Jews had produced salutary effects among Catholics, particularly in the USA, but in his native country the Catholics have not responded as

favorably, notwithstanding his visit to Poland in general and to Auschwitz in particular in 1979. He was the first pope ever to go to a Nazi death camp. Because in Poland anti-Semitism was painstakingly inculcated by the church, the appeal by the pope was not fully effective with the average Catholic Pole. Presumably, much more time is needed to change people's minds because, after all, the Roman Catholics believe that the pope is infallible in matters of faith and morals.

Many Jews are upset by the elevation of Edith Stein by the pope to sainthood even though she was Jewish before her conversion to Catholicism and her death in Auschwitz. Others have voiced misgivings about the pope's expressed desire to canonize Pope Paul XII, who was thought by close observers to be morally culpable for some of the Nazi terror during the war. In light of new evidence compiled in a recent book, the process of canonization appears to have been postponed. On the other hand, the pope has brought about recognition of the Jewish State in 1994, and now made an excellent impression on his recent visit to Israel. His prayer before the Wailing Wall and the deposition of a written request, following an ancient Jewish tradition, in a crack in the wall was both refreshing and touching. The visit to Yad Vashem and the reference to the Holocaust as the Shoah by the pope conveyed a true feeling of friendship toward the Jewish people which probably stems, at least in

part, from his early friendly association with Jews. Thus, his personal initiative has broken a path and set an example for others to follow which was unimaginable prior to his ascension to the papacy. In 1987 during a visit to a synagogue he referred to Jews as his flock's "elder brothers" and apologized for the Catholic believer's sins toward their numerous victims over the centuries. These expressions are astonishing from the perspective of a Jew like the writer who lived in Poland for 11 years and experienced Polish anti-Semitism first-hand.

No wonder the Israeli Government gave the pope a grand send-off from the Lud airport in an Israeli 747 Boeing plane inscribed with the word "Jerusalem". The writer watched the spectacular send-off live on CNN with all the fanfare and red carpeting, with the President of Israel on the pope's left and the Prime Minister on the right. They supported the pope in saying good bye to a long procession of Israeli Government officials and Catholic clergy. All listened attentively to the live sounds of the Hatikva and showed true respect for Jewish sovereignty. The pope left Jordan and Israel to nearly universal praise as a real peacemaker. One has to be thankful and inspired by this religious leader of a billion Catholics who set an outstanding example for others to follow.

Editor's Note: E.E. Jaffe is a retired engineer who makes his home in Wilmington. He is a frequent contributor to the Jewish Voice.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Hello City Theater!

By Paula Shulak

There is a vibrant theater company making a real name for itself in Wilmington. City Theater Company, which will move to the Baby Grand next season, has produced HELLO AGAIN by relative newcomer Michael John La Chiusa and it is excellent. Billed as an Adult Musical Fantasy, this show is based on the theme that the seduced becomes the seducer. It is

a round robin of tastefully staged sexual encounters where one of the partners goes on to meet another in the next scene with an intriguing twist in timing. Scene 1 takes place in 1900 between a soldier and a prostitute, Scene 2 in 1940 between a WWII soldier and a nurse, Scene 3 in 1960 between a nurse and a college boy etc. until finally the last scene played in the 1990's shows a Senator and the

same prostitute we saw in the beginning. You get the idea. It is reminiscent of CONTACT, the Susan Stroman show I recently saw, because it obviously underscores the need for human beings to reach out and touch others both physically and mentally.

The cast of this show is uniformly superb. I was quite concerned that the nature of the show and the fact that the Broadway

production included nudity would make it a little too risqué for Wilmington audiences, but Director Michael Gray has used sensitivity and discretion in his production and it clearly comes out a real winner. The music is hauntingly difficult, however, this did not deter Music Director Gary Smith from honing his singers into magnificent soloists. Particularly outstanding in the talented cast were Hannah

Tsapatoris the Whore, Deirdre Finnegan as the Nurse, Edward Emmi as the Husband, Michael Indeglio as the Young Thing, Patrick Hunt as the Writer and Liz Hutchison as the Actress. One scene in particular stands out in which Hunt and Hutchison romp through a 1920's style silent film. It is hilarious. HELLO AGAIN plays through May 27. Call 654-4468 for tickets.

MILESTONES

In Memoriam

EPSTEIN

Irene Epstein, nee Feldman, died May 10. She was the wife of Joseph Epstein; mother of Russell Epstein and the late Ruth Epstein; sister of Jeannette Bauernfreund; and grandmother of Tobi and Adam Epstein. Services were held May 11th at Congregation Ohev Shalom in Wallingford, PA followed by interment at Brookhaven Cemetery. The family requests that contributions in Mrs. Epstein's memory be made to the American Cancer Society.

HARRIS

Reba Harris, nee Chudoff, of Chestnut Hill, PA died May 9. She was the wife of the late Max; mother to Arnold and Charlotte Harris of Wilmington and Adele and Leonard Sobel of Philadelphia; sister to Aaron Chudoff; grandmother to Jerri, Richard, Marie and Jeffrey Harris, Faye Harris-Zimmerman and Larry Zimmerman, Paula, Craig, Lynne,

Neil, Bonnie, Jonathan and Warren Sobel; great grandmother to Melissa, Joel, Jaclyn, Jessie and Jared Sobel, Jennifer, Jamie, Allison, Serafina and Jacob Harris, Micah, Shifra and Mirra Nerenberg. The family requests that contributions in Mrs. Harris's memory be made to Beth Shalom Congregation, 8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

HEISLER

Albert Heisler, a life-long resident of Wilmington and an active member of Delaware's Jewish community, died May 13 of complications following heart surgery. Born in 1924 to the late Morris and Sadie Heisler, he was a graduate of P.S. duPont High School and the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation, Mr. Heisler entered the family business, Delaware Barrel Company. Under his leadership as President, the company went national and became a public corporation. Mr. Heisler then became Chairman of the Board. When the company merged with Container Corporation of America, he became Division General Manager.

Mr. Heisler retired in 1969 and became active as a general partner in Reybold Homes, which later became the Reybold Group.

Mr. Heisler believed in *tzedakah* and was a generous supporter of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and Congregation Beth Emeth. He was a member of the Brandywine Country Club and Boca Pointe Country Club of Boca Raton, Florida.

He is survived by Doris Heisler, his wife of 51 years; daughters Susan Heisler Hanks of Oak Ridge, NC and Henrietta Heisler Lanzillo of Lancaster, PA; four grandchildren, Shelly Hanks and Daniel Frank Hanks of Oak Ridge, NC and Joseph Heisler Lanzillo and Albert Heisler Lanzillo of Lancaster, PA; one brother, Jerome S. Heisler, Sr. of Wilmington, DE

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions in his memory be made to the American Heart

Association, the Jewish Federation of Delaware, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

KEIL

Alicia Bea Keil, formerly of Wilmington, died May 9 in Philadelphia. She had been a realtor with Prudential, Fox & Roach and was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom. Ms. Keil is survived by her sisters, F. Sheilah Keil and Harriet E. Remsen; her brother-in-law, Alfred Remsen and a niece, Allison L. Remsen. In lieu of flowers, the family request contributions to either Congregation Beth Shalom, 1801 North Baynard Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802 or to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

KURSH

Irving Kursh, 78, died May 7. He retired as president of Bell Supply Company after 59 years. He was a past treasurer of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and was a member of the synagogue's Men's Club.

Mr. Kursh was a member of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, Lafayette Lodge AF & AM and the Nur Temple Shrine and belonged to the Brandywine Country Club and to Fountains Country Club in

Lakeworth, Florida.

He is survived by his wife, Louise; son, Samuel and his wife, Elisabeth Harphan; son, H. David and his wife, Debra; son, Raymond and his wife, Jane; son, Wayne and his wife, Barbara Brown and son, Steven and his wife, Nan; daughter Faith Bacha and her husband, Mark; sister Helen Heuman and brother-in-law, Peter Heuman and nine grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the Eleanor Bell-Kursh Library, c/o Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802.

PIZOR

Esther S. Pizor, 91, died April 15, 2000 at the Kutz Home. Mrs. Pizor, the daughter of Louis and Sarah Slonsky, was left a proud legacy of Jewish communal service. Mr. Slonsky was one of the founders of the congregation that is now Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Sarah Slonsky was the founder of Bichor Cholem, Wilmington's first home for the Jewish Aged. A religious woman, Mrs. Pizor, helped numerous Wilmington area boys prepare for their Bar Mitzvot. She was a long-time congregant of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington where

she served as congregation librarian as a Sisterhood past president.

She also was a certified brailist, having spent many hours typing books for the blind on her Braille typewriter.

She is the widow of Harry J. Pizor and is survived by a son, Gordon; daughter-in-law, Faith; and two grandchildren, Andrew of Wilmington and Julie of London, England.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions in her memory be sent to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809 or to a favorite charity.

SILVER

Daniel E. Silver, died May 11. He was the husband of Esther of Philadelphia, PA; father of Marsha Evantash and Dr. Scott Silver; father-in-law of Dr. Alan Evantash and Cathy Silver; grandfather of Stephanie and Gregory Evantash, Michael Silver and his wife, Leslie and Jonathan Silver and his wife, Wendy. Graveside services were held May 14 at Shalom Memorial Park. The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to Rodeph Shalom Congregation, 615 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123.



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SIMCHAS

Robinson And Weiner Are Wed

Susan Rebecca Robinson, daughter of Helene Gummerman and Dr. Norman Robinson, and Andrew Harris Weiner, son of Lou and Selma Weiner, were married October 24, 1999 at the Brantwyn Mansion in Wilmington. Rabbi Linda Potemkin officiated at the ceremony.

The bride is a graduate of Akiba Hebrew Academy and the University of Pennsylvania. She received a master's in Speech/Language Pathology from George Washington University and currently is working towards an MBA from Temple University. She is a Clinical Supervisor at MossRehab Hospital in Philadelphia.

The groom received a bachelor's of Business Administration in Hospitality Management from James Madison University. He is a customer service representative for Entertainment Publications in King of Prussia.

They were classmates at the JCC pre-school, Beth Shalom Hebrew School and the JCC Day Camp in Wilmington.

Mary Whitman and Marcy Robinson were bridesmaids. Cindy Weiner and Rhett Palmere were the best couple. Jeffrey and Bruce Weiner, brothers of the groom, served as ushers.

After a honeymoon in Costa Rica, the couple resides in Drexel Hill, PA.

Dombchik

Teacher Of The Year

Jeffrey N. Dombchik, son of Dr. Steven A. and Rhoda Dombchik of Wilmington, has been named Teacher of the Year at Christiana High School. Dombchik has served as director of the school's Marching Band, Jazz Band and Concert Band for the past five years and conducts the Pit Orchestra during student musical productions. He also teaches instrumental and band music. Dombchik received ten letters of recommendation for this honor and was selected by a committee of Christiana High School teachers, parents and students. He lives in Ballymeade with wife, Dawn, who he married in July, 1999.

Sneiderman Participates In Brandeis Leadership Seminar

Rabbi Eliezer Sneiderman, director of Chabad House on the University of Delaware campus, is one of 16 individuals across the country selected for the Informal Jewish Education Seminar at Brandeis University. This fully-subsidized seminar meets three times for four days each throughout a 13 month period. Designed for Jewish professionals who work with young people, the program exposes participants to new program ideas and develops creativity.

Lipschultz Family Announces A New Addition

Grandmama Molly and Grandpapa Bill Lipschultz of Delray Beach, Florida (formerly of Wilmington), announce the birth of their second grandchild.

Lana Blossom Kolchinsky was born on March 15, 2000 to Jan and Allen Kolchinsky of Delran, New Jersey.

Paternal bubba is Fran Kolchinsky of Philadelphia. Lana is named in memory of his paternal grandfather, Leonard Kolchinsky.

A New Addition To The Vogel Family

Rabbi Chuni Vogel, director of the Chabad Center in North Wilmington and his wife, Oryah Vogel welcome their new son, Menachem Mendel.

Menachem, named in memory of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, was born May 7, 2000, 2 Iyar, 5760-weighing in at an impressive 9lb. 1 oz.

He was greeted warmly by his brothers and sisters; Levi, Areleh, Dovi, Avremele, Chavi, Shalom and Esti; proud grandparents and two kvelling great-grandmothers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

HEAR THE THREE MEZZOS

The Three Mezzos, a trio of three cantors featuring Congregation Beth Shalom's Cantor Judy Naimark, will perform in concert on Sunday, June 4, 7:00 p.m. at Beth Shalom. For more details, please call the synagogue office at 654-4462.

NEW LOOK, NEW FEATURES, NEW NAME FOR JEWISH SINGLES SITE

JewishMatch, <http://www.jewishmatch.com/>, formerly known as JewishPersonals, the leading destination web site for Jewish singles to meet and develop rewarding relationships, has announced the re-launch of their site.

JewishMatch now offers instant access to; JewishMatchEvents, a comprehensive events calendar; JewishMatchDigest, an online magazine with relevant and newsworthy content; and additional features on JewishMatchPersonals. New email, search, profile, and photo features have been added to the personals services. Soon, JewishMatch will bring Social Coaching services online. These services will help individuals in the Jewish community cope with social issues like anxiety and romance skill development.

Rachel Furman, is one of its best success stories. She says: "I love the internet. It saved me. Three years ago I learned to use the internet in order to find a husband. Everyone thought I was

brave. But let me tell you, I met some of the nicest people this way. Some people say the world is shrinking. But I say the world is expanding-at least my world did. And by the way, I am engaged to the most wonderful man-and we met via JewishMatchPersonals."

SINGLES MINGLES

Community men and women age 40 and older can meet new people and attend social events at Singles Mingles. The group invites participation in its next planning meeting, Sunday, June 4, 4 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington. For more information, call Miriam Weiner, at 478-6897, after 5p.m.

FREE TAY-SACHS AND CANAVAN DISEASE SCREENINGS

If you are Jewish and planning a family, you owe it to yourself and the next generation to be screened for Tay-Sachs and Caravan Disease. Free screenings will be able during the month of May by appointment at: Christiana Hospital, 733-8614, Medical Arts Pavilion, Wilmington Hospital, 428-2958.

SUPPORTING THE BEREAVED

Jewish Family Service offers an ongoing Bereavement Support Group, every other Tuesday at their North Wilmington offices. Participants are encouraged to share their stories and detail what has and has not helped them to cope with their personal grieving process. For further information, please call JFS at 478-9411.

GROW THROUGH PERSONAL TRANSITIONS

The Relationship Center, 288 East Main Street, Newark offers four Thursday sessions on understanding the effects of life's transitions and learning from these

experiences. The cost of the program is \$40. For additional information, please call (302) 478-9411.

TIRED OF BEING SINGLE?

Join YJAD, the Young Jewish Adults of Delaware for interesting programs and events throughout the year. This is the place for young professionals in their 20s and 30s to meet new friends and have fun. Meet for volleyball each Wednesday at the JCC. Participate in trips throughout the Delaware Valley. For information or to receive the group's monthly *Schmoozeletter*, contact Judy Gendler at (302) 325-1836.

SPECIALITY SUMMER CAMPS AT JCC

This summer, Camp JCC in Wilmington will offer a wide range of specialty camps including a new Science and Space Camp.

The Maccabi Camp program offers everything from traditional baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, gymnastics, rollerblading and golf activities to the more adventurous Wet and Wild, Horseback Riding and Adventure Camp.

Sharon Kaplan will return this summer to run the Fine Arts Camp. Young artists are introduced, in two two-week sessions, to a variety of mediums. Campers may also participate in free swims.

Computer camp returns for its second summer at Tech-Connections. The program offers campers state-of-the-art high-tech equipment.

New this year are one-week Science and Space Camp programs for children entering kindergarten through third grade.

All specialty camps can be combined with traditional camp programs to give campers a variety of experiences.

For more information about all of Camp JCC's offerings or to request a brochure, please call Ivy Harlev at (302) 478-5660.

THE KIMMEL-SPILLER

Jewish Healing Center of Jewish Family Service offers Jewish healing services on the second Monday of every month from

7-8 p.m. Led by Rabbi Myriam Klotz, the service will include prayer, songs, meditation and reflection. For additional information, please call Rabbi Klotz at 302-478-9411.

NEW ART EXHIBIT IN JCC LOBBY

The JCC presents the work of artist Rebecca Shore in the JCC Lobby Gallery now through June

9th. "Art from the Heart - of Jerusalem" fuses 3,500 years of Jewish tradition with contemporary, colorful images. The artist, a native New Yorker who now lives in Jerusalem's Old City, specializes in Jewish children's artwork.

All of the pieces on display are framed and available for sale. For further information, please call Ella Zukoff at (302) 478-5660.

The Million Mom March Marches On

The Delaware women who participated in the Million Mom March plan an organizational meeting at the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, Room 28 on Thursday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m. The church is located on Rte. 202 in Sharpley. Please join us as we prepare a plan of action to contact our state legislators! It is urgent that we sustain the momentum of the March ... we made the point ... now we have to stand up and drive it home.

To achieve our goals we must set up an organizational arm of volunteers. On June 7th we begin our journey with the Delaware state legislators to push for the passage of Senate Bill #172. This legislation limits the

ability of criminals to obtain handguns by requiring that criminal background checks be completed in any handgun purchase. The current law requires such checks only in purchases from licensed dealers.

This is only the beginning of what we are certain will be a long haul. We are not going to stand by idly while our children die!

Join us ... we do not want to lose the momentum. We look forward to seeing you! Please RSVP by calling the number listed below.

Faye Harris, Faith Queman, June Easley
DE Million Mom March Coordinators
302-426-0248

Youth & Family Program Coordinator

FT position at JCC in Wilmington, DE. Responsibilities to include oversight and coordination of after school program, holiday and family programs, enrichment classes, and summer day camp. Competitive salary. FREE JCC MEMBERSHIP, AND BENEFITS INCLUDED. Call Ivy Harlev @ (302) 478-5660, or e-mail resume and cover letter to <iharlev@jcca.org>

Early Childhood Services Assistant Director

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Submit letter of intent, resume & references to: Educational/Program Director Search, Congregation Ohev Shalom, 2 Chester Rd., Wallingford, PA 19806
Email: congohev@icdc.com
FAX: 610-874-1466

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Part-Time

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