

The JEWISH VOICE

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"The Wedding"

by Suzanne Tornquist



Suzanne Tornquist is a Utah artist and lillustrator. Her images are published internationally by Ethno Graphics, a card greeting company located in Santa Barbara California.

Suzanne's style is about people, from every culture and all different parts of the world. Through her art she intends to show us how alike we all are. To order this print or others which depict the vibrancy of Jewish life, email Suzanne at tornquist@velocity.net

INSIDE THE VOICE

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PERSPECTIVES

Ilan Ramon: Shattered Dreams

by Dina Coopersmith

The death of Ilan Ramon shakes Israel to its core. The mind reels in disbelief as reports come in about the explosion of the Columbia space shuttle.

We in Israel have become accustomed to announcements of terror attacks. We have even attuned ourselves to hearing the nuances of seriousness in the voice of the radio announcer as he or she introduces the hourly news so that we can steel ourselves against receiving the inevitable tragic information. Particularly on Saturday night, after spending an entire

Shabbat disconnected from the outside world, the first moment of the post-Shabbat news is fraught with a special kind of tension.

But nothing prepared us for this.

It was just not possible.

After 16 days of almost constant news coverage about Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut, we all felt we knew him. He was family. He represented us all — our country, our people, our past and our future. He was our hero at a time when we sorely needed one.

The son of Holocaust survivors, he expressed all that was characteristic of the proud Israeli Jew. As

a pilot in the Israeli air force, he was a war hero who bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, as well as fighting in the Yom Kippur and Lebanon Wars.

Although not religious, Ilan felt compelled to keep some significant religious observances in space to fulfill his dream of uniting the Jewish people and representing our nation. He took a book of Psalms and a picture drawn by a 14-year-old Jewish boy who was killed in Auschwitz; he ate only kosher food and made Kiddush Friday night and recited Shema Yisrael as the shuttle flew over Jerusalem.

He said he wanted to "emphasize the unity of the people of Israel and the Jewish communities abroad." Among my friends, we spoke about him creating a Kiddush Hashem — sanctification of God's name. How could he be gone?

How could all our hopes and dreams disintegrate into the thin layer of atmosphere that protects the earth? We anxiously awaited his landing, to celebrate the triumph of our new national hero. The possibility of mishap was very far from our minds.

"It's much more dangerous to drive in a car in this country than to



Ilan Ramon

travel in space," Gadi said of his brother's attitude. "Not in our wildest dreams did we imagine that there would be any problem." Ilan's father said early Saturday morning, as he eagerly anticipated the imminent arrival of his son, "The only problem might be in the weather, and that might only delay the landing by a day or two."

The tragedy brought home to us once again the fragility of human endeavor. We are shocked when the frontiers of science and technology, in which we place our unflagging trust, reveal themselves to be so shaky and limited. Colonel Ramon took great delight in taking a "surprise" with him to space — a Torah scroll that survived the hell of the Holocaust. The scroll symbolized for him his dream of a unified people under God, with an indomitable spirit.

That Torah scroll exploded along with Ramon and his fellow astronauts at an altitude of 200,000 feet over a Texas town called Palestine (did I hear that correctly?). It was beyond comprehension.

Our hearts and prayers are with Ilan Ramon's parents and his wife, Rona, and their four children. Our nation mourns with you — the man, the father, the hopes, the vision, and the legacy. Unfortunately, it is in grief that we have fulfilled Ilan's dream of unity.

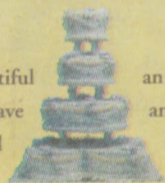
Ilan commented this past Thursday on what the world looked like to him in space. "The world looks marvelous from up here, so peaceful, so wonderful and so fragile." Now we can turn that comment eerily around and say to Ilan, "You looked so marvelous from down here, so peaceful, so wonderful...and so fragile."

This article can be viewed online at <http://www.aish.com>



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EDITORIAL

Waiting for War?

On Wednesday, I sat riveted to my computer screen watching U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell tell the United Nations that Iraq has snubbed its nose at its demands-outlined in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441—to permanently dismantle its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction or face severe consequences. Armed with satellite images of munitions bunkers allegedly loaded with chemical weapons and audiotapes of conversations between Iraqi military officers discussing how best to hide banned vehicles from U.N. inspectors, Powell tried to make the case for calling Hussein's bluff and taking military action to force him to disarm.

Was he convincing? The court of American public opinion is still in session. America's only ally among the five permanent members of the 15-member U.N. Security Council in its bid to take military action remains Great Britain. France, Russia and China remain convinced—at least for the moment—that weapons inspections should continue as long there is still hope for a diplomatic solution to this terse situation.

Across the Mediterranean, Israel—a nation that is no stranger to the devastation of war—makes ready for a strike from Saddam's Scud missiles. Schools have added "Preparation for Chemical Attack" to their school curriculum (see story on Page 18) and grocery stores are well-stocked with bottled water, canned foods and other emergency supplies.

They know that they will be on the frontlines if America goes to war with Iraq.

Did General Powell's address sway your stance on the merits of U.S. military action against Iraq? Please share your thoughts with Jewish Voices readers in a Letter to the Editor. Email submissions to lynn.edelman@shalomdel.org by Friday, February 14th for inclusion in the February 21st edition.

May G-d Bless America!

Lynn B. Edelman

Lynn B. Edelman

SHABBAT Candle Lighting

FEBRUARY 14TH – 5:19 PM

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Myths and Facts about Israel

MYTH:

"Israel uses checkpoints to deny Palestinians their rights and humiliate them."

FACT:

It is not unusual for nations to guard their borders and to establish checkpoints to prevent people from illegally entering their countries. The United States has checkpoints at its borders and airports and, as Americans saw on September 11, these are necessary but not foolproof security precautions.

In the case of Israel, the necessity for checkpoints has been created by the Palestinians. By pursuing a violent campaign of terror against Israel's citizens, they have forced Israel to set up barriers to make it as difficult as possible for terrorists to enter Israel or travel through the territories to carry out acts of violence. The checkpoints are an inconvenience to innocent Palestinians, but they do in fact prevent terror and save lives.

For example, on November 2, 2002, a van carrying boxes of jeans pulled up at a checkpoint. Soldiers checked the IDs of the men in the van and discovered one of the passengers was a wanted man. The van was unloaded and it was not until the soldiers opened the last box that they discovered an explosive belt that was being delivered to a suicide bomber. Two weeks later a taxi pulled up to the same checkpoint. Soldiers found two computers in the trunk that seemed unusually heavy. They opened the boxes and found two explosive belts. They also found a bag with a gun (Ha'aretz, November 28, 2002).

Commercial goods, food, medicine, ambulances, and medical crews continue to circulate freely, hampered only by continuing attacks. Palestinian workers going to jobs in Israel also may pass through the checkpoints with the proper identification; restrictions are only imposed when necessitated by the security situation.

Barriers are not set up to humiliate Palestinians, but to ensure the safety of Israeli citizens. Unfortunately, every time Israel has relaxed its policy and withdrawn checkpoints, Palestinian terrorists have taken advantage of the opportunity to launch new attacks on innocent Israelis.

Source: *Myths & Facts Online — A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict* by Mitchell G. Bard, <http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org>. This is presented as a public service by the Hasbara Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

PARSHA PLACE

Week of February 8

Terumah

Exodus-25:21-27:19

IF YOU BUILD IT, HE WILL COME

by Benjamin Cohen

We can derive an invaluable lesson from a peculiar verse in this week's Torah portion. "They shall make a sanctuary for Me — so that I may dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8).

We can derive an invaluable lesson from a peculiar verse in this week's Torah portion. "They shall make a sanctuary for Me — so that I may dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8). At first glance, one would think that there is a misprint in the Torah. It should read "...so that I may dwell among it," meaning that if the Jewish people build the sanctuary, then I will have a place to rest. If they build it, I will come! Why then, does Hashem say that he will dwell among them and not in it?

The Abarbanel, a philosopher and leader of Spanish Jewry at the time of the expulsion, clears up the misunderstanding by stating that Hashem is referring to the Jewish people themselves and not the Tabernacle. If they build the Tabernacle, then I will dwell among THEM!! If they participate in the construction of the sanctuary, then I will reward them by dwelling among each and every one of them.

The sanctuary is of a portable nature. The Torah is trying to teach us that no matter where we are — whether it be in the heart of Jerusalem or the frozen tundra of the North Pole — Hashem can and will be with us. We shouldn't be discouraged by our surroundings. As long as we immerse ourselves in the words of Torah, as long as we take time to participate in the construction of the sanctuary, Hashem will dwell among us. It is this attitude which will be the catalyst to our survival of the exile.

Benjamin Cohen, a native Atlantan and alumnus of Yeshiva Atlanta, is editor of Torah from Dixie.

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To find out more about how you can create a permanent legacy and the tax benefits provided by the planned giving options above, please contact Jennifer Young at the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Fund for the Future. 302 • 427 • 2100 ext. 19



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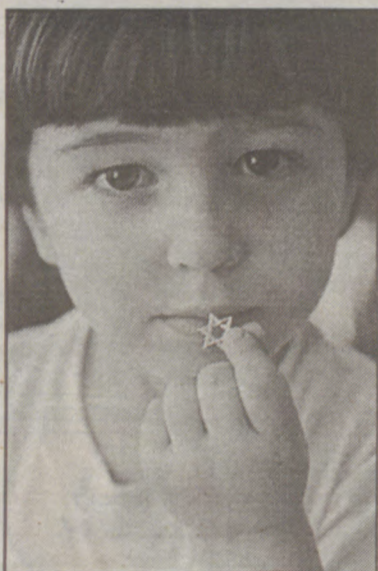
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Celebrate Arad This Spring

Arad, Delaware's Partnership 2000 community in Israel will celebrate its 40th anniversary this spring. You are cordially invited to join the festivities! The Delaware Jewish community is sponsoring a delegation to Israel from Sunday, March 23rd through Thursday, March 27th. You will have the opportunity to:

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 - *Visit the fabulous nature preserve at Ein Gedi
 - *Experience a torch-lighting ceremony at Tel Arad
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 - *Tour the projects and facilities funded by Delaware's commitment to Partnership 2000
 - *Enjoy the company of our brothers and sisters in Arad
- Let's share in the joy of this very special milestone. For additional information, please call Samuel H. Asher at 427-2100, ext. 14 or Sheila Krinsky, ext 15.

In a Year of Crisis... Federation Provides Hope



Every Day of Every Year your gift to the Jewish Federation of Delaware Annual Campaign delivers hope, dignity and comfort to millions of people-Jews and non-Jews,

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tual connections. Through trips to Israel and adult education and financial assistance to day schools, synagogues and community centers-Giving hope to a community of Ethiopian Jews who have endured so much for so long to join our family in Israel...a community that has so many more obstacles to overcome.

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For additional information about the 2003 Jewish Federation of Delaware Annual Campaign please call Todd Polikoff, Campaign Director, at 302-427-2100, ext. 16 or visit the JFD website at: <http://www.shalomdelaware.org>.

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For general information please check our Website at: www.shalomdelaware.org or call Amalia at the Jewish Federation at 302-427-2100 Ext. 30 to be placed on our e-mail information list.

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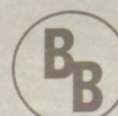
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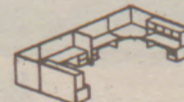
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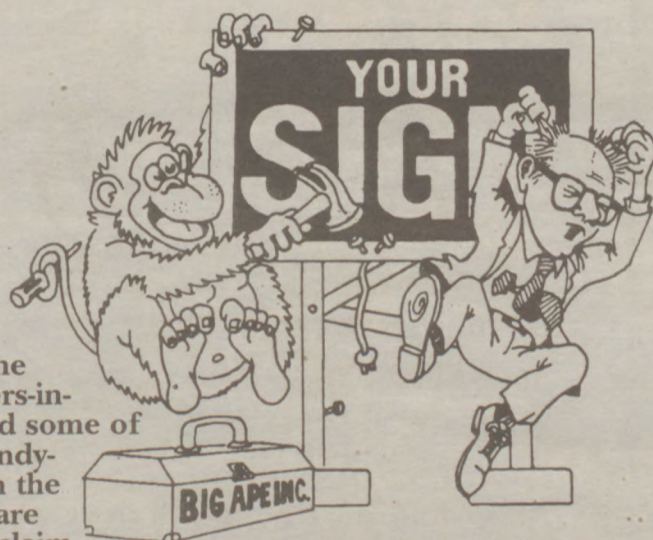
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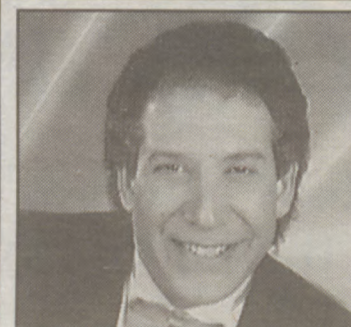
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| 21-23: | Hughes' Dream Harlem
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| 28-3/2: | Rabbit-Proof Fence
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INSIDE DELAWARE

Beth Shalom slates Scholar-in-Residence weekend



Rabbi Susan Grossman

By Marvin S. Cytron
Special to the Jewish Voice

Rabbi Susan Grossman, one of the first women ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary, will

serve as Congregation Beth Shalom's Scholar-In-Residence February 28th as part of the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation 2002-2003 program. Rabbi Grossman, who currently serves on the Committee for Jewish Law and Standards of the Conservative Jewish Movement, was honored as Woman of the Year, by *Jewish Woman* magazine.

An author of numerous articles on the role of women in Judaism, she is perhaps best known as one of the editors of the *Etz Hayim* Humash, working with Rabbi Harold Kushner and Rabbi Elliott Dorff. She is completing her Ph.D. in Ancient Judaism and currently serves as spiritual leader of Beth Shalom Congregation in Columbia Maryland. She resides in that community with her husband, David Boder and their son Yoni.

Rabbi Grossman has selected as her theme for the weekend "Celebrating Etz Hayim: The

New Conservative Humash". On Friday evening, February 28, Rabbi Grossman will speak on "A Humash By any Other Name? What Makes Etz Hayim Conservative?" She will discuss how this new Torah and commentary reflects Conservative Judaism's philosophy and beliefs for Jews living in the twenty-first Century. Her lecture will be presented at 8:15 p.m., preceded by a 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Eve service, and a congregational dinner at 6:45 p.m. Reservations are necessary for the dinner, (302 654 4462, cost is \$15.00 per person). Those not attending dinner are invited for dessert at 7:45 p.m. to meet Rabbi Grossman.

On Saturday morning, March 1, as part of the 9:30 a.m. Shabbat service, Rabbi Grossman will lead a group discussion "What Page Are We On? A Torah Text Study of the Week". An exploration of the various levels of the meaning in the

text, and its significance for our lives in the contemporary world.

Following kiddush and lunch, Rabbi Grossman will discuss "God Of Our Mothers: Reading Women In The Bible". The *Etz Hayim* Humash is the first Jewish Bible to integrate commentary on women in the main body of the Torah Commentary. The discussion will highlight some of the ways *Etz Hayim* touches on the readings from such figures as Eve, the Matriarchs and Miriam and the role and concerns of women today. There is no charge for the luncheon, however your reservations are requested by calling the synagogue office. The community is cordially invited to meet and learn with Rabbi Grossman during her visit to Wilmington.

In conjunction with this weekend, on Sunday, March 3, a concert "An Evening of Joyous Song" to benefit the Hazzan Andrew Salzer memorial fund will

be presented at the synagogue. The concert will feature Hazzan G. Michael Horwitz of Beth Shalom, along with choirs from the synagogue and Albert Einstein Academy. Special guests are Hazzan Arthur Katlin and Dr. Evette Katlin of Adath Israel Congregation, Lawrenceville, N.J. (see separate article on the *Jewish Arts and Culture* page for details)

The Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation was established in 1988 in memory of Rabbi Kraft who served as spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom for over 40 years. The Foundation furthers Rabbi Kraft's lifelong devotion to learning by funding educational programs to enrich the congregation and community. Beth Shalom is located at 18th Street and Baynard Boulevard, Wilmington. Please call the synagogue office, (302) 654-4462 for additional information.

AKSE Shabbaton Weekend features founder of Jewish outreach efforts



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Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth will host a COMMUNITY SHABBAT EXPERIENCE on February 21st

and 22nd, 2003. Noted Jewish outreach authority Rabbi Ephraim Z. Buchwald will serve as scholar-in-residence.

From the Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service at 5:30 p.m. (followed by a delicious traditional Shabbat Dinner, presentation by our dynamic Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Ephraim Z. Buchwald, and a festive Oneg Shabbat), the Shabbaton will continue through Saturday morning services, a deli & Cholent lunch with Rabbi Buchwald, and afternoon Torah study. The program will conclude with mincha, a festive shalosh seudah, and ma'ariv services. Children's programming and babysitting will be provided.

As founder and Director of the

National Jewish Outreach Program, Rabbi Buchwald is singularly the most positive, far-reaching influence for Jewish continuity and learning in North America today. Over the past fourteen years, Rabbi Buchwald has reached well over 400,000 Jews, engaging them in Jewish life and promoting Jewish unity. NJOP is the sponsor of Shabbat Across America and Canada and Read Hebrew America and Canada.

The program is open to the entire community. The charge for the Shabbat Dinner is only \$7 for adults and \$4 for children (ages 2-10).

Please make reservations by calling the synagogue office at 762-2705, by February 18th.

JFS services enhance living for older adults at Rodney Court

Beginning March 3, Jewish Family Service (JFS) will begin providing weekly on-site programs and services to seniors residing at the newly-renovated Rodney Court in downtown Wilmington.

The Ingerman Group, which completed the Rodney Court restoration to bring affordable senior housing the community, contracted to have JFS provide a full range of activities and programs similar to the ones JFS has been providing for residents of B'nai Brith House for ten years.

"We are so pleased to be extending our Services for Older Adults to the residents of Rodney Court," said Dory Zatuchni, executive director, JFS. "Our social workers, volunteers, and staff will bring a number of professional quality programs and activities that our experience has shown effectively promote and help sustain independent living."

Services to be offered include information and referral, assessments, personal affairs manage-

ment, and educational programs for residents and their caregivers. JFS's

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) will be on-site four hours each week for "walk-in" sessions with residents who want to share their concerns, supplemented by JFS caseworkers, volunteers, and chaplain who will be available on a regular basis.

Residents will have a say in which topics will be addressed in the series of 48 regularly scheduled educational activities planned for 2003. Popular workshops and seminars have addressed memory strategies, coping with stress, positive aging, journaling and scrapbooking, and non-denominational discussion of spirituality. Expert speakers will be asked to make presentations on other topics, from the arts to politics, based on residents' interests.

For more information about Services for Older Adults, please contact Elton G. Grunden at JFS, 302-478-9411.

AEA students achieve academic excellence

A review of recent results from the Educational Records Bureau's Comprehensive Testing Program III, administered to students in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades, demonstrates that Albert Einstein Academy students are high academic achievers.

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scores in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade levels. This corresponds with percentages in the above average 77-99 range.

In addition, 71% of the current fifth grade class and 64% of the current sixth grade class qualified for Talent Search 2003, a program sponsored by Johns Hopkins University's Institute for the Academic Achievement of Youth. The program identifies, assesses and recognizes the aca-

demic abilities of highly skilled students. Eligibility is limited to those students whose mathematics or verbal scores are at or above the 97th percentile.

"We are indeed proud of their accomplishments," said Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, Head of School. For additional information about the school, which serves students from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, call Rabbi Bernhardt at 302-478-5026.

The Kutz Home welcomes new D.O.N.

The staff, board members, residents, family members, and friends of the Kutz Home welcome Cathy Hawkinson, R.N., as the organization's Director of Nursing. She brings to the Home a strong nursing education and background, as well as excellent administrative skills and a compassionate and caring nature.

Hawkinson graduated from the Chestnut Hill School of Nursing in 1974. She has worked in the medical-surgical departments of Chestnut Hill Hospital and St. Francis Hospital. She has also had extensive long term care experience at Kentmere Nursing Center, Stonegates, and the Mary Campbell Center.

"Cathy enjoys the problem solving and decision-making aspects of nursing, as well as, the opportunity to improve the residents' quality of life," said Karen Friedman, Kutz Home executive director, adding that "Cathy looks forward to being instrumental in providing the high quality of care that is a tradition at the Kutz home."

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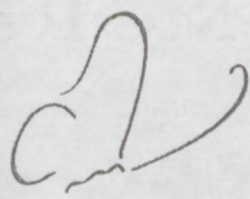
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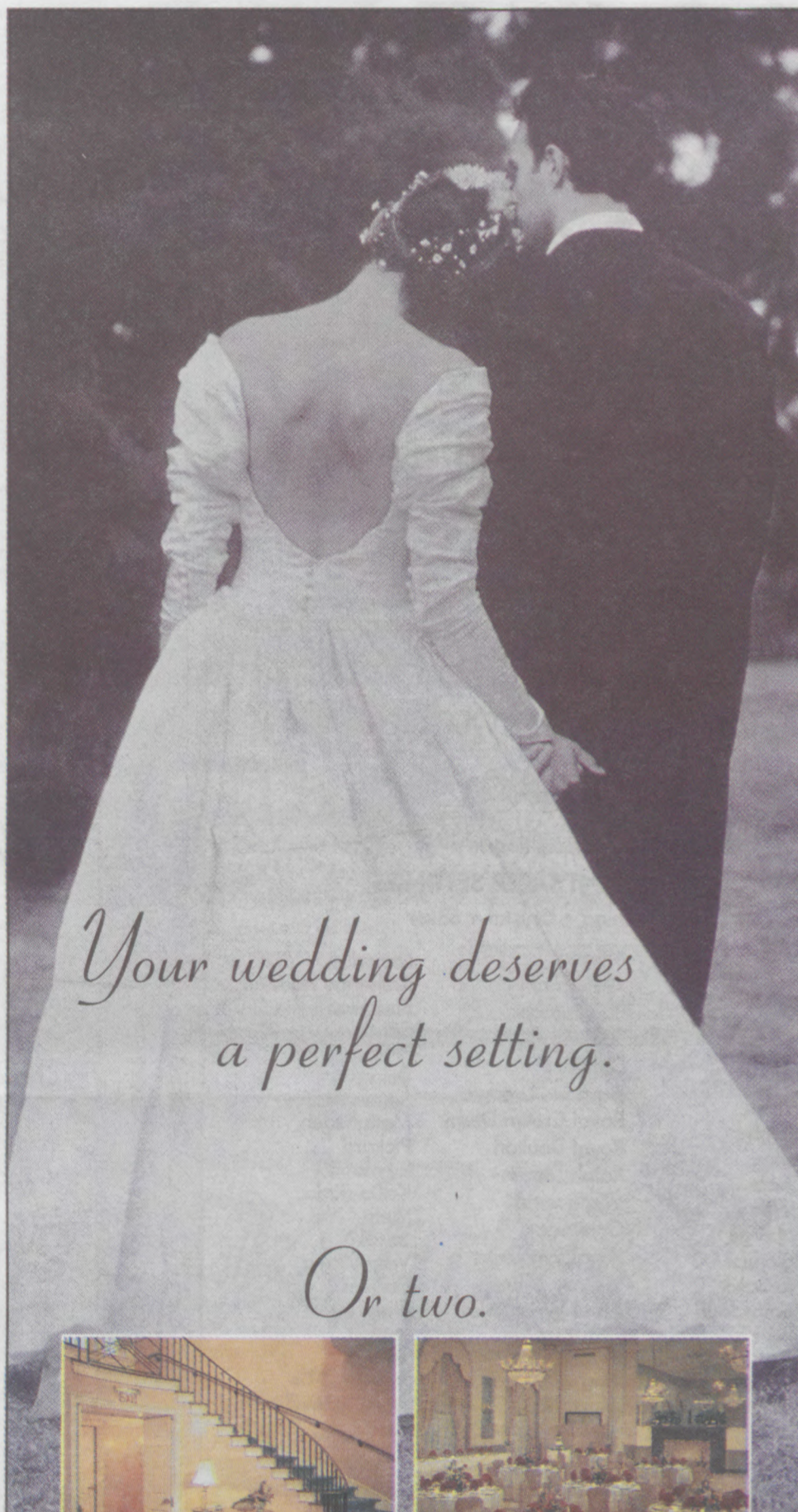
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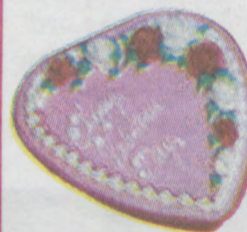


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WASHINGTON WATCH

Jews blast voucher spending in Bush budget

By Matthew E. Berger, JTA

The Bush administration may be consumed with international affairs, but Jewish groups examining the White House's proposed budget are more concerned with the president's domestic priorities.

Spending is higher in the White House budget for fiscal year 2004 released Monday, but most of that money is going to defense and homeland security.

Many of the Jewish community's domestic priorities either have not increased or have been trimmed.

In addition, the budget includes \$75 million for the Choice Incentive Fund, which would push states to create school voucher programs and would create a test program in Washington. Many Jewish organizations oppose vouchers, which provide government funds that students can use to attend parochial or private schools.

Also included in the \$2.23 trillion budget for fiscal year 2004 are:

- * \$480 million in economic aid for Israel and \$2.16 billion in military aid. Economic aid to Israel is being cut by \$120 million each year and should be phased out entirely by 2009, while military aid is rising by \$60 million a year.

- * \$575 million in economic aid and \$1.3 billion in military aid for Egypt, as well as \$250 million in economic aid and \$206 million in military aid for Jordan.

- * \$75 million for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which would be doled out through

the United States Agency for International Development. The United States will continue to support the U.N. Refugee and Works Administration, which assists Palestinian refugees.

- * \$50 million for the United Israel Appeal, which is used primarily to resettle Ethiopian immigrants in Israel. The figure represents a cut of \$10 million.

In any case, the House of Representatives and the Senate will have to pass their own plans, which will need to be reconciled with Bush's proposal. That means that the final spending numbers are far from certain — and that it could be months before a final budget is approved.

In fact, the budget for fiscal year 2003, which included an additional \$200 million in aid for Israel and \$50 million for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, has yet to clear Congress. That has left government agencies running on prorated portions of their 2002 budgets.

The voucher provisions of the 2004 budget are expected to be among the more controversial portions for Jewish groups, who have been concerned about federal money going to religious schools.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that vouchers don't violate the constitutional separation of church and state. But many Jewish groups continue to oppose them on policy grounds, arguing that vouchers divert attention and funds from the public schools.

"Our arguments against vouchers remain," said Michael Lieberman, Washington counsel for the Anti-Defamation League. "It's still bad public policy, and it's bad for religion."

Mark Pelavin, associate director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said the Washington pilot voucher program "is part of a larger federal decision to abdicate its federal responsibilities" by aiding private schools rather than fixing public ones.

In addition to the program in Washington, the Education Department budget includes \$226 million in tax credits for parents transferring their children out of failing public schools — which Jewish groups say essentially is a voucher — and \$220 million in grants for charter schools, a \$20 million increase from last year's budget proposal.

Lieberman said there is concern that Republicans will try to sell the voucher programs as part of the party's civil rights agenda — which has come under scrutiny since Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) made controversial comments on segregation late last year — arguing that it will help minority students attend better schools.

Many Jewish groups reject the civil rights argument. The Orthodox community, however, remains a staunch supporter of vouchers.

"We think that parental choice in education is a good thing for society at large and the Jewish community," said Rabbi David Zwiebel, executive

vice president for government and public affairs at Agudath Israel of America, a fervently Orthodox group.

In Milwaukee, where a pilot program has begun, Jewish students who otherwise couldn't afford it have used vouchers to pay for yeshiva.

This year's budget also would cut \$200 million in social service block grants — which are given to states to distribute at their discretion, according to local needs — and would cut \$496 million from welfare programs.

Diana Aviv, vice president for public policy at United Jewish Communities, said she is concerned about plans to change low-income housing from a federal spending item to a block grant for states to distribute, possibly hurting Jews who depend on such housing.

"There's always a concern that states won't want to keep it where it is and there will be less of a commitment on the federal government's part," Aviv said.

Aviv said she was anticipating a "massive conversation, if not changes" in the next year about the future of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, which account for more than 18 percent of the total budget. As lawmakers push for a prescription drug plan, the discussions will focus on controlling the programs' costs.

In foreign aid, the administration has requested a \$1.3 billion increase

for Millennium Challenge Accounts, an initiative the president unveiled last year.

The challenge accounts, which would supplement existing aid programs, aim to reward countries that are making progress in protecting political and human rights, improving citizens' quality of life — and using aid money efficiently.

"It's trying to find a way to be the most effective with the money," said Liz Schroyer, campaign manager of the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign, which includes the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. "People recognize that there aren't enough funds to do the work that is required in a post-Sept. 11 world."

No Middle Eastern country is expected to qualify for the aid immediately, but Jewish leaders say the initiative may make it easier for the total foreign aid bill — which includes money for Israel — to pass Congress each year.

By diversifying foreign aid recipients and giving additional money to countries that can show they are using it effectively, Israel's aid package won't have to be defended as vigorously, some supporters of Israel say.

"Increased foreign aid supports the idea that you don't have to make a choice between supporting Israel and supporting Africa," one Jewish leader said.



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GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

Croatian skier praises Nazis

By Vlasta Kovac, JTA

Pro-Nazi comments by a top Croatian skier have landed one of the country's leading athletes in hot water.

Last month, the Croatian newspaper Nacional published a quote made last year by Ivica Kostelic that when he begins a race he feels "like a German soldier on June 22, 1941," the day the German army attacked the Soviet Union.

The paper also quoted Kostelic, the No. 1 slalom skier in the world this year, as saying, "Under the Nazis, an individual could make a career, while in Communism both religion and ambition were forbidden. For Stalin, it was quite normal

to wake up and kill 50 of his generals, some of his friends among them." He continued: "Hitler killed only those among his generals who were after his head. I would do the same if I were a dictator."

These quotes were made a year ago, but the paper did not publish them at the time, believing they represented "the excess of a young person."

Other members of Kostelic's family have also aroused the country's ire. In fact, the quotes were published soon after Kostelic's father, Ante, criticized Croatia's current president, Stipe Mesic.

Kostelic's father called Mesic a "porcupine" and said he would

refuse to pay taxes.

And Ivica Kostelic's younger sister, Janica, who won four medals at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, is reported to have registered as a resident of Monte Carlo in order to evade paying taxes in Croatia.

Many European athletes move to Monte Carlo to lower their tax rates, but the Kostelics' talk about not paying taxes is causing consternation because Ante Kostelic has always said he is a great Croatian patriot.

The scandal has festered in the country's newspapers.

In a letter to the Croatian daily Vjesnik, a reader wrote that Ivica

Kostelic should see some documentaries about World War II to gain a better understanding of the era, when Croatia was ruled by a Nazi puppet state.

The leftist paper Feral Tribune recently featured Kostelic on its cover in a Nazi uniform.

The paper suggested that more in Croatia are upset by Ante Kostelic's refusal to pay taxes in Croatia than by his son's pro-Nazi statements.

On the other hand, Drazen Budisa, the leader of the Croatian Social Liberal Party and a former candidate for president of Croatia, said the Kostelic family has suffered a media lynching.

Outside the country, the Austrian news agency APA reported that Hypo Alpe Adria Bank, which has been sponsoring Ivica Kostelic, is demanding that he explain his statements. And one Austrian anti-fascist association demanded that the Austrian Sports Federation forbid Ivica Kostelic from running any more races in Austria.

For his part, Ivica Kostelic later apologized for his comments. Reading from a prepared statement, he said he and his family despise Nazism and that his statement regarding the June 1941 invasion was taken out of context and misinterpreted.

Local Jewish leaders in Russia ask for help

By Lev Krichevsky, JTA

Local Jewish leaders in a Russian region have appealed to national Jewish groups for support in their fight against what they say is a mounting wave of anti-Semitism.

On Jan. 19, windows were broken at the Jewish Community Center in Ulyanovsk, 430 miles east of Moscow. Police arrested three individuals, believed to be members of a local skinhead gang, for their involvement in the attack.

No injuries were reported in the incident and the Jewish facility suffered minimal damage.

But local Jewish leaders fear the community has become particularly vulnerable as a result of its attempts to attract public attention to earlier cases of anti-Semitism in Ulyanovsk, which is home to several thousand Jews.

Last spring, a Jewish youth leader, Alexander Golynsky, was severely beaten by a group of extremist youths. He received serious injuries and immigrated to Israel upon recovery.

A few days after the beating, the Ulyanovsk JCC was vandalized. The

words "Kikes to Israel" were painted on the fence surrounding the building.

Igor Dabakarov, a community leader, says the recent attack may have been a response to a case now being brought against a former newspaper editor whose newspaper had published anti-Semitic articles.

"Of course, we cannot tell for sure but that's the way many people here see it," Dabakarov, chairman of the Shalom Society for Jewish Culture and Education, told JTA in a telephone interview from Ulyanovsk.

Earlier this month, a local court held preliminary hearings in the trial of the former editor, but the case was postponed so the investigation could gather additional evidence.

This week, the Jewish community called on Russian Jewish organizations to send a rabbi and a lawyer to the region to help the community defend its point when the case reopens in court.

The case was brought against Sergei Seryubin, who is charged with inciting ethnic tensions in the articles he wrote last year in

Pravoslavnyi Simbirsk, a local newspaper connected to the Russian Orthodox Church, Russia's largest religious sect.

One of the articles accused Jews of plotting to dominate the world and said Judaism teaches its followers to kill Christians. In the article, Berel Lazar, one of Russia's two chief rabbis, was called "a Satanist."

A board of experts assigned by prosecutors confirmed that the articles contained inflammatory material. But Seryubin said in a television interview that he had committed no crime and that he had defended his own faith in a "theological dispute" with Judaism.

"They have their religion, and we have ours," he told TVS television.

The case — a rare instance in Russia of authorities prosecuting people for hate speech — was opened after the Jewish community complained to officials last year.

There was a slight increase in the number of cases relating to anti-Semitism opened in Russia last year after new legislation on extremism was enacted, said Alexander Brod,

director of the Moscow Bureau on Human Rights, affiliated with the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union.

But law enforcement agencies have shown little interest in bringing such cases to court, Brod said.

Jewish leaders in Ulyanovsk say the Seryubin case — even after it reopens — could drag on.

Alexander Axelrod, director of the Moscow office of the Anti-Defamation League, said that judging by similar cases in other Russian cities, court hearings could last for months, or even years.

"This case can end in a fine, a probation sentence maximum," Axelrod said. "From what we saw in some other instances, it could be dropped altogether if the court decides the editor had no intention of inciting hate."

In Ulyanovsk, the local Russian Orthodox diocese tried to distance itself from anti-Semitic articles and sent a letter of apology to the Jewish community. The newspaper's sponsors, which include the local diocese and the

regional administration, fired Seryubin from his editor's position shortly after the Jewish community complained.

The newspaper continues to be published, but the Jewish community said that it has not published any anti-Semitic material since Seryubin was fired.

Dabakarov said the Jewish community experienced a backlash after it helped bring charges against the editor.

A group of Orthodox Christians and nationalists picketed the court this month, some shouting anti-Semitic slogans.

And a local priest, Alexei Skala, warned in televised remarks that anti-Jewish violence in Ulyanovsk is possible should the editor be convicted.

"The situation is becoming very serious," Dabakarov said. "We need some qualified legal support in this case, otherwise the defense will be successful in trying to convince the court and the public that this is the case of the Jewish community and law enforcement organs against the Orthodox Christianity."

E.U. may check Palestinian terror funding

By Jonathan Fisk, JTA

The European Union has taken an important step toward investigating whether its donations to the Palestinian Authority are being used to fund terrorism.

On Jan. 30, Francois Zimeray, a French member of the European Parliament, announced he had gathered enough signatures for the body to debate whether to form a commission of inquiry.

Zimeray succeeded in convincing 170 Parliament members to put an inquiry on the agenda. However, a majority of the 626-person Parliament is necessary to actually form such a commission.

Still, the petition marks a significant step for backers of an inquiry, who want the European Union to investigate Israeli allegations that the Palestinian Authority is using donor funds to finance terrorism.

Since the Oslo accords of the mid-1990s, the European Union has provided about \$1.4 billion in various forms of aid to the Palestinian Authority. Since the intifada began more than two years

ago, the European Union has been providing about \$10 million a month in special assistance to help the Palestinian Authority meet its budgetary obligations.

Israeli officials have been especially adamant about the issue since an invasion of the West Bank last spring uncovered documentation that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Ararat had authorized payments to known terrorists.

Even if the E.U. money doesn't go directly for terrorism, Israeli officials have argued, it frees up other funds that Arafat can funnel to terrorists on the payroll of the P.A. security services or in the various militias of Arafat's Fatah movement.

"It is the Parliament's job to supervise the executive," David Sumberg, a member of the European Parliament from England, told Chris Patten, the E.U.'s commissioner for external relations. "If we cannot inquire on how the money is spent, we might just as well close our shop up."

Patten has resisted the request,

saying last fall that the European Union needs an investigation like it needs "a hole in the head."

Though the inquiry demand is couched in the language of good government, Patten sees it as a veiled attack on the E.U.'s policy of supporting the Palestinian Authority, which Patten considers the only credible negotiating partner for Israel. In addition, supporting the Palestinian Authority allows the European Union to exercise influence in Mideast affairs.

"Do you want to uncover the wrongdoings of me and my staff or to make it impossible for the European Commission, the E.U.'s executive arm, to support the Palestinian Authority? Patten asked last November. "If the Parliament decides that the E.U. should not assist the Palestinians, it should say so and the commission would comply."

Calls for an inquiry began last summer after Thomas Dawson, an official with the International Monetary Fund, indicated that the IMF doesn't monitor foreign assis-

tance the European Union provides.

"The IMF simply provides the E.U. with information about broad developments related to its budget," Dawson told The Wall Street Journal last June. "It does not monitor or control every item in the budget."

The petition was begun by Ilka Schroeder, a German member from the Green Party. But Schroeder wanted to keep a low profile, so most of the lobbying was done by Zimeray and Charles Tannock, a British conservative.

Zimeray and Tannock are known as friends of Israel, leading opponents to argue that the petition masked a pro-Israel agenda.

The petition's success seemed in doubt until the last minute, but Zimeray ultimately managed to secure more than the 157 signatures necessary to put the item on Parliament's agenda.

"Every single one is the result of much lobbying within the corridors of the European Parliament," he said.

The signatures include many Germans, British and Italians, but practically no socialists or Greens. Zimeray is one of the only members of the European Socialist group to sign.

Left-wing groups were reluctant to take a stand that might be construed as support for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, whose policy of military retaliation for Palestinian terrorism is harshly criticized throughout Europe.

In addition, Parliament sources say Patten himself called deputies to discourage them from signing the petition, leading several members to retract their signatures.

Some who signed are considered friends of Israel, while others saw the proper oversight of E.U. money as a simple question of good governance.

In addition, some apparently saw the petition as a way to strengthen the Parliament while weakening the European Commission — though others refused to sign for precisely that reason.

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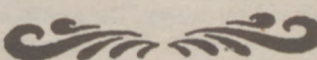


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ISRAEL PERSPECTIVES

So you've never been to an Israeli wedding? Try this!

by Yoceved Pack

"Ket zad merakdim lifnei hakallah!"—how we dance before the bride! These are the words you'll hear at every Israeli wedding. The Torah says it is a mitzvah to entertain the chatan (groom) and the kallah (bride).

At a Jewish wedding, the main imperative is not to ensure that the guests have a good time, but that the guests shower the chatan and kallah with simchah, or joy.

Don't fret; the guests thoroughly enjoy themselves, too. I've witnessed time and again—at my own wedding as well—that those who attend weddings in Israel rave about the experience.

Israeli weddings have a flavor all their own.

I was married in Jerusalem 13 years ago. My father (my mother had passed away several years prior) made his first pilgrimage to Israel for my wedding. He was marrying off his precious, only daughter to a man he was to meet for the first time at the airport. He was parachuting into a personal simchah that he had no part in planning, and he knew few of the guests. Not a very comfortable situation to be placed in.

On arriving, my father commented that all he had to do with this affair was sign the checks. I offered comfort by reminding him that even

including the travel costs, this wedding was less expensive than its American counterpart would have been.

My simchah was somewhat typical.

Since shuls do not have facilities large enough for weddings, a wedding hall or a hall in a hotel is rented for the occasion. Invitations are simple, consisting of the card and the envelope it's mailed in. (I always get confused with all those envelopes I receive with American invitations.)

Rarely will an RSVP card be included. The host gives the caterer an estimate of how many people are expected. So don't be surprised if you receive an invitation a week before the wedding.

An average wedding draws about 300 guests. There's always a nice smattering of baby strollers and children who begged their parents to bring them along. It is not unusual to find some guests who were not formally invited, but graciously received.

Often before the chuppah begins, there is a small array of hors d'oeuvres and soda to tease the guests. Meanwhile, the kallah sits on her throne—a chair draped in white and decorated with flowers—as all the women come over to congratulate her and the family.

At the same time, the chatan is in a separate area with the men, preparing the tennaim (engagement contract) and receiving his own congratulations.

Askenazi couples traditionally do not see each other for a week before the wedding. (They do speak on the phone.)

Next comes my favorite part of the evening.

The kallah is sitting on her throne with all the women surrounding her. The band starts playing a sentimental Jewish wedding march and then the chatan appears, followed by the two fathers and all the male guests.

The chatan is led to the kallah and, as their eyes meet for the first time in a week, he places the veil over her face and then is escorted out to take his place under the chuppah.

Minutes later, the kallah is escorted by the two mothers and the female guests, to the chuppah where she encircles the chatan seven times before taking her place beside him. The guests gather around the couple as if they're all part of the family. And I guess they are.

The officiating rabbi then proceeds with the ceremony. Another respected rabbi or guest reads the ketubah (marriage contract) and dif-

ferent people are honored with the recitation of each of the Shevah Brachot (seven blessings). A glass is broken as a reminder of the destruction of the ancient Holy Temple.

No speeches are made; they would be superfluous, as the mood is already charged with emotion.

At the conclusion of an Ashkenazi chuppah, the couple is led amidst singing and dancing into a private room, while the guests move to the main hall for refreshments. Sephardi newlyweds return to the hall with the guests and commence with a round of dancing before the meal begins.

Tables have been spread with an array of salads: eggplant, carrot, cucumber, potato, coleslaw, plus olives and tehina (always!). Liquid refreshments include soft drinks, seltzer and an occasional bottle of liqueur or wine.

About this time in the Ashkenazi wedding, the chatan and kallah decide to vacate their privacy and join the festivities. As they enter the hall, the bands start up in full, klezmer swing. The chatan is pulled into the men's circle and the kallah into hers, and the fun begins.

There are circles and circles of dancing guests, with the couple of honor in the middle. Now the chatan and kallah are perched high on chairs, waving to each other.

When the exuberant dancers tire, they are seated for the meal. First, platters of potatoes (heavy on the grease), rice and cooked carrots or green beans appear. Then a choice of roast chicken, fried schnitzel (a chicken version of breaded veal) or perhaps sliced beef.

When people have almost finished eating, the dancing resumes. (Those who are really hungry stay to finish their meals because before they return, the waiter will have made off with their plates.)

Actually, the music has been serenading the guests throughout the meal, with the volume so loud that it's almost impossible to communicate with the person sitting beside you.

By around 10:30 p.m., the band signals that the time has come to bentch (say grace) and recite the Shevah Brachot again. Israelis tend to be early risers; many of the guests have already left by this time. After grace there's a little more dancing for the stragglers.

That's pretty much how it was at my wedding. And although my father arrived in a rather apprehensive mood, he left beaming with enthusiasm.

Actually, the best word to describe such a wedding is haimish (friendly and homespun). What's not to like?

Scary new addition to Israeli school curriculum

By Helen Schary Motro

Normally, my daughter's friend Hilla says, her 11th-grade social relations class at Herzliya's Yovel High School focuses on familiar adolescent topics: interpersonal problems, difficulties with exams, the dangers of drinking and driving.

But this winter her class spends its time poring over a hastily distributed text from the Education Ministry, starkly titled "The Threat."

Almost a century after soldiers' lungs were burned out by mustard gas in World War I, Hilla and her classmates can tick off the characteristics of nonconventional warfare: possibilities of advance preparation, widespread damage to living organisms, long-term harm to the environment, severe psychological ramifications.

As I drive the girls, I hear Hilla, 17, talking to my daughter in the back seat. "Today the soldiers came to our class and showed us how to inject ourselves with atropine in case of a gas attack," she says.

"How do you know when to do it?" my daughter asks.

"I guess when they tell you to on the radio," Hilla says.

"You mean you have to give yourself an injection?" My daughter is aghast.

"Well, I guess my mom or dad could give it to me and my little brother," Hilla answers. "And I told my mother to buy talc. That's what they said we should spread on our skin to soak up chemicals so they don't get absorbed."

Later, Hilla's mother and I exchange macabre jokes: "I have some perfumed powder with a furry puff I once got as a gift. Do you think that will be good enough to ward off

poison chemicals?"

For Israeli students, chemical and biological weapons are not theoretical subjects like trigonometry or physics: They know the horrors spelled out in "The Threat" may spill over into their own lives.

Instead of buckling down for the second semester, Israeli schools must focus on a wild card variable: what to do if war breaks out with Iraq and Israel becomes the target of a non-conventional attack?

The situation in the school system mirrors that of Israeli society at large: confusion, conflicting opinions and assessments alternating between assurances and dire warnings.

Education Minister Limor Livnat has declared that the school system is preparing for all eventualities, but she conceded that not all schools have access to bomb shelters, and in case of war may close down or operate on shifts as they did during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Zevulun Orlev, chairman of the Knesset's Education Committee, put it more strongly: "There isn't a single school that is ready" for an attack, he said, raising fears that shelters at some schools might become "death traps."

School security is uncentralized, with each municipality or school administration having responsibility. Acknowledging the gaps in preparedness, the Ministry of Education plans to move studies into protected locations such as community centers if necessary.

Soldiers are visiting 3,000 schools nationwide this month to familiarize pupils with emergency preparedness. Though the population at large has a collective memory of the Gulf War, these children were

either toddlers or not yet born in 1991.

One of their strongest anxieties is what will become of their pets. Why can't dogs wear gas masks, too, they want to know.

Every educational institution in Israel has received a booklet published in November 2002 by the Education Ministry. The booklet outlines preparations for emergency situations, from forming teams for 10 classrooms to procedures for entering shelters.

Emergency situations are listed as war with one or all neighboring countries, missile attacks by Iraq, Iran or Syria, short-range missile attacks, gunfire in or around school — and such natural disasters like earthquake or fire.

In addition, schools have received CDs with recommended activities in a state of emergency, either in school shelters during an attack or in other places if schools have been closed. These include games and group activities that can be performed in a shelter, and how students can discuss current events to occupy their time.

There is a separate section detailing activities that will help youngsters express their feelings and apprehensions in time of crisis, as well as a list of games and artwork for small groups.

The Education Ministry plans a conference for the country's psychological counseling staff on how to prepare students for global events.

Near Yovel, the American International School in Israel is preparing in its own way. The 500 students at this K-12 private school include children of diplomats and foreign businessmen living in Israel.

About 10 percent of the students are Israeli.

War preparedness is top priority at the American School. Parents were invited to hear a briefing from the superintendent on dismissal procedures, security updates and projections of how studies might be conducted in case of war.

Most of the non-Israeli students may leave the country if war breaks out, so the American School is emphasizing distance learning. Through an electronic educational system called Blackboard, students can get assignments, hand them in and get them back corrected, all via the Internet.

To familiarize themselves, students have been receiving routine assignments using Blackboard. Younger students' parents also are expected to learn the system.

The American School's approach was born of experience: It closed temporarily during the 1991 Gulf War, in response to the mass exodus of its student body.

This time things will be different, the school's superintendent, Robert Sills, vows. He is adamant that the school will stay open to serve the significant number of students expected to weather the storm in Israel.

The American School is equipped with bomb shelters for students and staff, and loudspeakers periodically announce emergency drills.

"Do you feel nervous during the drills?" I ask my daughter.

"No," she answers, "they're just boring."

She and her friends have become as nonchalant about bomb shelter practice as they were about fire drills in simpler days.

In the nearby public schools, though, her friends don't have bomb drills.

"I'm not even sure where the shelters are," Hilla says. "Anyway, most people in my class say that if war comes they will go to relatives in Jerusalem, or down to the Negev, or even to Europe."

I recall that as a member of the parent's association during the Gulf War, I volunteered one morning to help tape up the windows of the Herzliya public high school my older daughter was attending. The tape was supposed to protect against gas leaking in.

It was a ludicrous task: Most of the windows didn't close properly, and many lacked glass panes. Taping up the gaping holes was an exercise in futility.

For students in Israel this winter, tentativeness is again the name of the game. The school play? The hockey marathon? The French midterm? Everybody plans for them as if nothing is out of the ordinary. But who knows how the world will be when the sophomore dance rolls around?

For years after the Gulf War, families had rolls and rolls of unused masking tape they had nervously purchased during the hostilities. This time, in addition to tape, maybe they will have stocks of talc to help absorb chemicals on the skin their teenagers learned about in school.

Much as they joke about it, the students hope that the seals on the talc containers stay intact.

Helen Schary Motro, an American attorney and writer living in Israel, teaches at the Tel Aviv University Law School. E-Mail: motrom@post.tau.ac.il

JEWISH ARTS AND CULTURE

Wilmington native, Marsha Siman, honored in Maryland

By Joel Glazier

Marsha Stein Sirman, was born in the Displaced Persons Camp at Bergen Belsen after the Second World War. With her parents, Marsha Stein lived in Wilmington for most of her childhood years, attending Wilmington Public Schools and Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Hebrew School. "Most of my parents' family were murdered by The Nazis but my mother survived years in the camps. She often told me that in her hometown, Ozerkov, Poland she had brothers who were cantors."

Marsha and husband Laurence Sirman have spent their adult years as public school teachers, living in Seaford, Delaware. Their daughter now works as an archivist at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. Marsha has been a German language teacher at Seaford High School.

"There has not been any significant Jewish population in western Sussex County, but we had been active members at the shul in Salisbury, Maryland and more recently at

Berlin Maryland's Temple Bat Yam" said Sirman.

It has not been a traditional way that Marsha has been active. For several years, she has been a volunteer cantor at the 160 member Bat Yam. Sirman's Yiddish and variously arranged Hebrew songs have highlighted Friday evening services at the growing congregation, now celebrating its 13th year. "Thank you for your beautiful music and friendship," Bat Yam Rabbi Morton Kaplan told the 150 people who attended Shabbat services on an icy cold January evening. The service honored Marsha Sirman for her years of singing. The crowd included members, friends, colleagues, her school principal, her state Representative (Tina Fallon) and a cousin who came to the service from Montreal, Canada.

"The Nazis took away my mother's family but they could not take away her love of music," a tearful Sirman told the congregation. "My mother's talent for song helped her survive The Holocaust. Her singing is a memory I have never forgotten." Sirman had two

of her high school students accompany her in singing of *B'ni*, by Craig Taubman and a tune, *Nigun*, a not yet published piece by Hanna Tiferet. The composer gave permission to Sirman to perform the new piece.

Bat Yam President Hal Glick shared that Sirman often discovers, purchases and arranges new tunes for services. "We never

knew what to expect but we are never disappointed." Sirman travels 40 miles each way to attend Bat Yam. "I had to overcome a period of over 10 years during which I never sang to others," Sirman told the congregation before ending the service honoring her with a rendition of "*L'Chi Lach*" a song by acclaimed contemporary Jewish musician Debbie Friedman.



Marsha Stein Sirman was honored at Temple Bat Yam in Berlin, Maryland. Sirman has been a volunteer cantor and credited her mother's love of music for her own skills.

"An evening of Joyous Song" at Beth Shalom

By Marvin S. Cytron

Sunday evening, March 2, 2003, the second annual Hazzan Andrew Salzer Cantors' Concert will be presented at Congregation Beth Shalom, 1801 Baynard Boulevard. The concert is in memory of Hazzan Andrew Salzer, who served as the synagogue's "*Sweet Singer of Israel*" for over 25 years. During his years with Beth Shalom "Andy", who was the first permanent cantor of the synagogue, showed the congregation the way to make services more spiritual and meaningful through music and did so with a generous and giving spirit.

The concert will feature Beth Shalom's Cantor, Hazzan G. Michael Horwitz, along with the Beth Shalom Adult Choir, the combined Youth Choirs of Beth Shalom & the Albert Einstein Academy and special guest artists Hazzan Arthur Katlin and his wife, Dr. Evette Katlin. Long time Beth Shalom pianist, organist and choir director, Robert "Bob" Wallace will serve as accompanist.

"An Evening of Joyous Song" will present a potpourri of music and song from the synagogue liturgy, Jewish heritage, Israeli melodies, popular selections and Broadway light opera pieces. Hazzan Horwitz has described this concert as "one that will appeal to the entire family with an uplifting and energetic selection of music."

The Katlins have performed together and individually throughout this country and Israel. They currently reside in New Jersey with their two children, Shara Lauren, age 9, and Aaron Michael, age 5. Arthur is a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) with a Diploma of Hazzan and Masters of both Sacred Music and Jewish Education. Since 1991 he has been Cantor of Adath Israel Congregation in Lawrenceville NJ and is past Chairperson of the New Jersey Cantors Concert Ensemble and continues to function as an active member and respected conductor of the ensemble. Evette has always had a great passion for Jewish, Cantorial and secular music. She has served congregations as guest cantor for over 20 years, and has taught Hebrew and prayer in numerous religious schools. A creative and talented poet, lyricist and composer, she co-wrote and recorded eight original popular songs and is currently composing a Shabbat Evening Service. She holds graduate degrees in Nursing, Psychology, and Social Work and received her Ph.D. in Health Studies from Temple University. She maintains an active professional career as a psychotherapist and addictions specialist.

Hazzan Horwitz has served as Cantor of Congregation Beth Shalom since 2000. He is a graduate of Indiana University and the

H.L. Miller Cantorial School of JTS and prior to his move to Wilmington he served as Associate Cantor at Beth El Synagogue, Omaha, Nebraska. In addition to cantor of Beth Shalom, he teaches at the Albert Einstein Academy and has been instrumental in planning and participating in a number of concerts in the community, including a much acclaimed concert this past fall with his fellow "Three Wilmington Cantors" at the Adult Education /JCC program.

This concert culminates an important weekend at Beth Shalom that includes a Scholar in Residence program with Rabbi Susan Grossman, sponsored by the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation. As part of the weekend a Torah Mantle (cover), donated by the Salzer Family, will be dedicated in memory of Cantor Salzer.

The 7:00 p.m. concert will be followed by a reception. Tickets are \$10.00 (advance purchase), at the door \$12.00, Students \$5.00. There are various levels of sponsorship that include two tickets and acknowledgement in the concert program. Proceeds of the concert will benefit the Andrew Salzer Memorial Fund. The fund, created in 2000, was established to enhance the love and appreciation of music, sponsor concerts and bring musical artists to the community. Please call the synagogue office at (302) 654-4462 for tickets and sponsorship information.



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AROUND OUR JEWISH WORLD

Revival of Jewish Life in Warsaw

By Priscilla W. Siegel

Special to the Jewish Voice

Should Jews live in Poland—in fact do they belong in Europe at all? These were questions I overheard heatedly debated during a recent Shabbat dinner in the communal dining room of the Lauder Foundation in Warsaw. According to the argument, one European country after another is enacting anti-Jewish legislation—one is outlawing ritual animal slaughter, another ritual circumcision. "Jews are not wanted here," declared the visitor, and instantly visions of the thirties flashed into my mind.

We've been in Warsaw since September 11, 2002 (my husband is on a teaching Fulbright). We had, in previous visits to Poland, experienced anti-Semitic graffiti here and there, so I was anxious to see if things have changed and how Jewish life and community were developing. At an American embassy orientation in Warsaw, we heard from the cultural attaché, who is Jewish, that the current anti-Semitic picture in Poland is not as severe as is portrayed abroad. This sentiment was reiterated at subsequent orientation lectures in Crakow despite the fact that the Polish public listens in large numbers to the virulently anti-Semitic radio station, "Radio Maryja". We continue to hear conflicting stories and, thus, remain skeptical that Poland has shed itself of its anti-Semitism.

Our first excursions, after settling in Warsaw, were revisits to the Jewish sites—the ghetto, the monuments, the Umschlag Platz (the place from which the Jews were transported mostly to Treblinka), and we were relieved to see that the remembered graffiti was gone. At the restored Nozyk Synagogue, Saturday services attract approximately 80 men and women in the contrast to the dozen or so we counted in the past. And thanks to the support of the Lauder Foundation, the synagogue now has a regular part-time rabbi. Rabbi Michael Schudrick commutes each month from New York, bringing with him kosher food supplies, Chanukah candles, or whatever the Jewish communi-

ty needs.

I was especially interested to find out about the success of the programs supported by the Lauder Foundation which supports over 40 educational and community initiatives in 13 countries. In striking contrast to the pessimism of the Shabbat visitor who questioned whether Jews belong in Europe, the Lauder Foundation is decidedly optimistic. "The Jews of Central and Eastern Europe, oppressed for more than fifty years, are at last reemerging, providing tremendous hope for the future. It is our goal to nurture these new communities, especially the Jewish children, by providing them with opportunities through Jewish education to develop into proud and informed Jewish adults." This positive position is expressed in the Foundation's mission statement.

Coincidentally, the director of the Warsaw Lauder Foundation, Rabbi Joe Kanofsky, has strong Delaware connections. While Joe was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and raised in Tacoma, Washington, his parents, David Kanofsky and Sallie Paul are native Wilmingtonians. David Kanofsky "grew up" in Beth Shalom and Sallie in Beth Emeth. Joe's grandfather and great grandfather ran a hardware store (Square Hardware) in Kennett Square. After completing a Ph.D. in literature from Boston University (his thesis advisor was Elie Wiesel), Joe attended Rabbinical College in Morristown, New Jersey. His decision to enter the rabbinate was inspired, in part, by his conversations with the late Rabbi Jacob Kraft who officiated at his grandmother's funeral.

Joe, his wife Sharona, who is Judaica consultant with the Warsaw Lauder Foundation, and their four little boys (the last born in December 2002) are comfortably established in a spacious apartment close to the synagogue. Each Saturday after services the couple hosts an impressive multi-course lunch for about 25 people. Joe, black beard, black hat, black robe, striding from synagogue to home with twenty-five people in



Rabbi Joseph A. Kanofsky, Director, Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, Poland

tow strikes a poignantly reminiscent note of a Warsaw that is no more.

Programs supported by the Warsaw Lauder Foundation include summer and winter camps attended by about 130 people, aged from four to early eighties, from all over Poland. "Jews in Poland are very isolated and these camps," says Joe "provide support and examples of community where people learn, sing, eat together." The Foundation also supports a large Hebrew teaching program that reaches about 150 students who participate in person and through correspondence. The Warsaw office also coordinates Shabbat programs with speakers and including meals for the Jewish community.

In response to my questions about anti-Semitism and the future of a viable Jewish community in Poland, Joe said, "I don't spend my time worrying about anti-Semitic incidents—we are trying to make sure there are Semitic incidents...the Jews of Poland are

a wounded community—they were hardest hit by the Holocaust and then by communism. I encourage people who come to us, from secular to orthodox, to explore more deeply their Jewish identities and try to help individuals learn and grow as Jews so they can make informed decisions."

Also supported by the Lauder Foundation is the Jewish Genealogical Project which is engaged in helping survivors find pre-war documents from their past and also helping Poles with Jewish backgrounds learn more about family histories. Yale Reisner, a native Philadelphian, who directs the Genealogical Project at the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, notes that about 80-100 individuals from Poland and abroad visit the Warsaw office each month seeking genealogical information, plus countless e-mail and fax requests.

Confirming Joe Kanofsky's observations, Reisner observed that since the end of communism in Poland, many Poles have been emboldened to investigate their Jewish roots. "We help these people locate documentation about themselves, their family trees, towns, addresses, burial places, family occupations," he said, adding that "We have been instrumental in effecting a number of reunions, especially between individuals who were separated under communism utilizing archives which have been opened for the first time in 50 years." Reisner believes that there the following three myths must be dispelled: 1. There are no Jews in Poland; 2. All records were destroyed; and 3. The shtetlach were wiped off the face of the earth." The project is located at Tlomackie 3/5, Warsaw and the staff can be contacted by e-mail (laudergen@jewish.org.pl).

The Lauder Foundation also helped to establish Hebrew Day Schools in Central and Eastern Europe. In Warsaw, the Lauder Morasha School is located in a recently renovated building that had been a Jewish old age home.

Built in 1928 by Wawelberga, a Jewish philanthropist, the five-story building now accommodates 250 children from kindergarten through middle school and is dedicated to "building on a legacy of Jewish education, tradition and culture." We toured the building with the school director, Helise Lieberman, a Brandeis University graduate, and the kindergarten program director, Ania Szyca, and talked about the school over coffee and school-made hamantaschen.

Helise, enthusiastic and vivacious, speaks proudly about the growth of the school and its program. "The school started in 1989 with six kindergarten children in a private home." Now the school in its new facility is at top capacity, has a waiting list, and a high school in another facility is projected. Interestingly, the school is about 30-40% non-Jewish and a number of the teachers are also non-Jewish. Supported largely by the Lauder Foundation, the school also receives local financial support. Tuition is 650 Polish zlotys per month (about \$170). It is fully accredited with a curriculum that includes all of the standard subjects along with Jewish history, ethics, Hebrew, music and folk dancing. Why do non-Jews send their children to the school? While the answers may be different for each family, Helise views the situation positively—it's a great opportunity to educate a public largely ignorant of Jewish culture.

This story by no means describes all of the Jewish activities in Warsaw. There is, for example, the Yiddish theatre, the Jewish publication, "Midrasz," a reformed Jewish movement, Jewish studies at the University, and a Jewish Museum (designed by Frank Gehry) is on the drawing board. So, is there a future for Jews in Poland? Can Poland become more than a cemetery for Polish Jewry? Based on my limited experiences here, I would say that a future for Jewish life here cannot be discounted.



(Left) Helise Lieberman, director, Lauder Morasha School; Ania Szyca, head of the school's kindergarten program.

AROUND OUR JEWISH WORLD

West of Israel lies Gibraltar and Morocco

By Joel F. Glazier

Most news reports accurately locate Israel, "The Jewish State", as in the Eastern Mediterranean. Often, the Western Mediterranean is overlooked but Jewish travelers may find pleasant surroundings in the lands at the tips of Europe and Africa.

Eating Glatt Kosher in Gibraltar

The strategic peninsula jutting south from Spain has been held by the British since the 1700's. Some of today's Jewish families in Gibraltar can trace their roots back to that era. After walking from the airport (whose runway crosses the main street into town) in the shadow of The Rock, spotting three children on bikes wearing *kippot* made me take notice. After walking the entire downtown area I no longer looked twice at the number of large doorway *mezuzot* or many *kippah*-clad men in town.

The only Jewish sounding names on businesses were Cohen and Levy so the local synagogues probably had little problem with those designated *aliyot*. Five synagogues are marked on the city tour map and two establishments, "Uncle Sam's Delicatessen" and "Leanse Restaurant" offer Glatt Kosher meals. The Finnish born Jewish chef at Leanse shared, "We are very busy with take out prepared meals for Friday night and Shabbat." Uncle Sam (third generation Gibraltar) is always glad when "restful Shabbat comes." The classy Leanse prepared excellent salt beef with no trace of fat. Sam prepared a unique eggplant heavy delectable Vietnam Salad.

The real treat, however, was Friday night services at the historic Line Wall Synagogue, Nefusot Yehuda. The 1724 glistening Sephardic shul beams with white alabaster ceilings, bright chandeliers and well dressed chanting men (and women upstairs) welcoming Shabbat. Visitors are welcomed to this walled in synagogue and unlike other shuls in Europe, no security cameras or personnel were obvious.

After services a quick consultation among the members assured visitors would be hosted for home Shabbat meals. As congregants walked the deserted evening streets, one wondered if this was a town in Israel. Jewish people leaving shuls were the only visible inhabitants. However the

traditional British and seasonal window decorations reminded one of its location in this last European English colony, which nevertheless has a Jewish population of 600.

The family I shared Shabbat meal with was an established, confident, successful and observant Gibraltar Jewish family. In that sense their family members were typical of Jewish citizens among Gibraltar's 30,000 residents. They were multilingual (English, Spanish, French and Hebrew) and extended family often included relatives from Europe, Morocco and the nearby African Spanish territory of Ceuta.

Shabbat Dinner may have included chicken, but other offerings included salads, fish, vegetables, knish like tuna puffs, home made truffles, wines, whiskey and cake. One 20 year old, home from his Swiss college studies told me how fifteen people for Shabbat dinner is routine, but "the seder is often twice as big, twice as loud and the neighborhood police officer enjoys his duty that night as he is always summoned to ask us to quiet down after 1:00 AM. He loves the seder snacks we give him."

In Gibraltar's history, Jews have found a home since before the Spanish Inquisition and in more recent history, the colony has had a Jewish mayor and Chief Minister. The Jewish people I met seemed content, unpretentious and secure in their home. The looming Rock and its Barbary Apes are there too, just as secure and stable.

Mincha in Morocco

Northwest Africa greets the meeting of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean off the shores of the Kingdom of Morocco. Morocco had been a home to a Jewish population from the first century. Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, over 200,000 Moroccan Jews have left their ancient homeland and settled in Israel. About 2,000 Jews live in Morocco today.

Visiting Tangier was pleasant. A check of newsstands in the city revealed no obvious newspaper stories about Israel, Palestinians, Arafat, etc. This was a nice change from the daily doses of hostile stories in European papers on the northern side of The Mediterranean. In

Tangiers one could even buy Snickers and Twix candy bars with Hebrew writing on the wrappers.

On the crowded Blvd. Pasteur, a classy main thoroughfare, a large mansion of a building at #27 had the Hebrew words for "Shaar Raphael" visible above the doorway. "Shalom" was all I was able to muster to the cheery, bearded Rabbi Tordjman who greeted me above the curving marble stairway. As he did not speak English, and I could not converse in Hebrew, Arabic or French, we were able to communicate in Spanish. One of his five children came down to be my English interpreter.

This Sephardic synagogue was opened in 1967 after a Mr. Raphael died childless and left instructions for his home to be turned into a synagogue. Rabbi Tordjman, born, educated and trained in Morocco has been its rabbi for 18 years. "We recently stopped our daily morning minyan due to trouble getting 10 men. We have evening minyan and Shabbat services," he explained.

Tangiers had been an international city. Traces of Portuguese, Italian, French and Spanish architecture still exist around the old city's Casbah. A closed kosher butcher shop is evident and today about 80 Jews live in Tangiers.

"Do you have trouble getting kosher food and does your city have a daily minyan?", asked the rabbi's 16 year old son. They had to travel to Casablanca for kosher meat. His mother prepares all meals by hand and none of his questions and comments revealed any sense of tension or worry about living as observant Jews in Morocco, an Arab country which is 99% Muslim.

Mincha that Sunday evening had a larger crowd, fifteen, as one congregant's *shloshim* period ended. A small feast of home made macaroons, cookies, and cakes along with fresh dates, raisins (from Iraq) and real tangerines (aka clementines) was shared.

Two synagogues operate in Tangier and only two families have school aged children, who attend the American and Spanish Schools. While I was curious and even hesitant about Jewish life in an Arab country, the Jews of Tangier seem happy to live in this bustling city. A social club



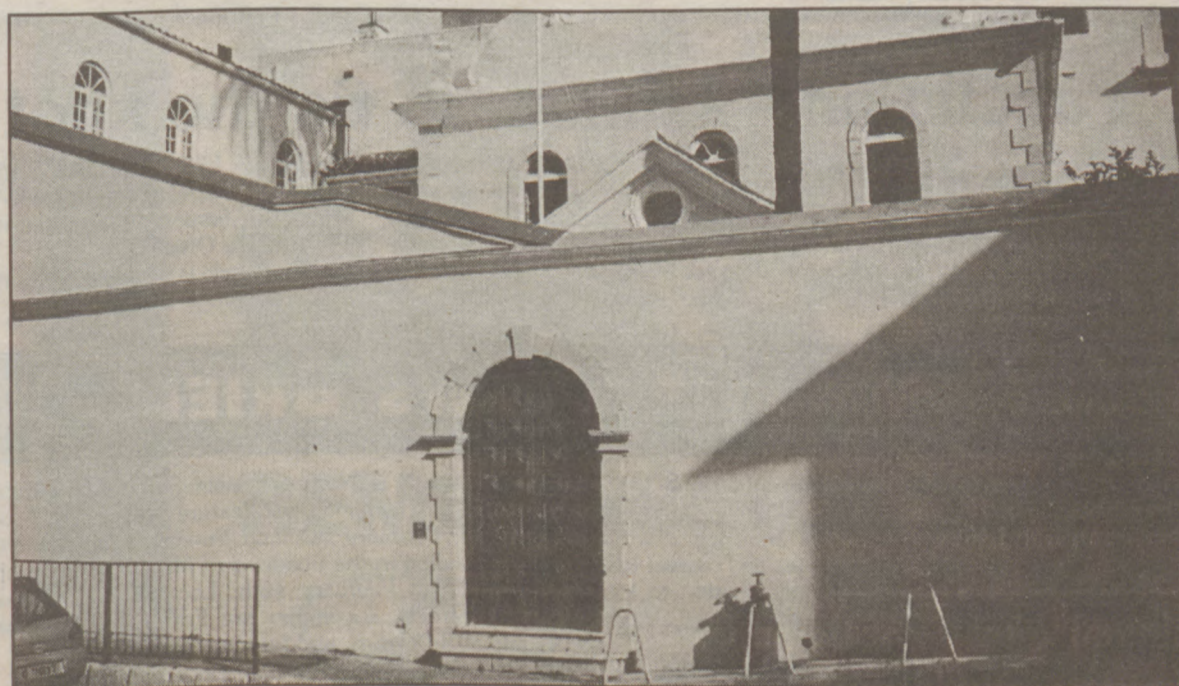
Rabbi Tordjman leads a tour of Morocco's Shaar Raphael synagogue.

hosts daily card games for Jewish residents and many of them have relatives in Israel or family members studying abroad.

The old city has several closed old synagogues and the new one I attended is bright and very visible. Occasionally there are police guards out front in the evening when the Blvd. Pasteur crowds up with strollers.

An easy ferry ride connects the

Iberian Peninsula to Morocco. In 1492 many Jews of Spain fled south to escape the Inquisition and were welcomed by the Moslem rulers. In 1948, many Jews of Morocco flew east to Israel. The tiny Jewish communities of Tangier and Gibraltar remain active. Visitors can find a diverse set of personalities, names and appearances in these Sephardic communities along with a very welcoming atmosphere.



Nefosot Yehuda - Gibraltar's Sephardic shul



Glatt eating in Gibraltar

MILESTONES

In Memoriam

BERKOWITZ

Sam W. Berkowitz, age 86, known to family and friends as Willie, died January 21, 2003. He was a lifelong resident of Cleveland, Ohio, where he was a carpenter for 50 years. A World War II veteran, Mr. Berkowitz was commander of his Jewish War Veterans post for 20 years, as well as an officer in the County and State Departments of JWV. In 1987, he was honored by the Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County as "Outstanding Veteran of the Year" for his volunteer activities at the VA hospital and for his fundraising efforts. He was a board member of Warrensville Center Synagogue, a league bowler until his mid-70s, and "the leader" of the Willie Fan Club, formed in his honor more than 43 years ago.

Mr. Berkowitz is survived by his wife of 61 years, Leona, and his children, Phyllis (Ken) Bravo and Murray (the late Beva) Berkowitz of Cleveland, and Michele (Howard) Sands of Wilmington. He was "Papa Willie" to nine grandchildren, including Andrea (Dennis) Ackley, Michael Sands, and Deborah (Evan) Costas, and to five great-grandchildren.

BLECKMAN

Mildred R. Bleckman passed away on January 24th. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Mrs. Bleckman lived in Florida for a decade prior to moving to Wilmington.

She was predeceased by her husband, Hyman and two brothers, and is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Arna and David Silbergeld of Pennsylvania and Paula and David Kamison of Wilmington and Lynn Franklin, also of Wilmington; her brother, Abe Caplan of Florida; her grandson, Ian Franklin and step-grandsons, Jacob and Joseph Silbergeld.

Services and interment were held in Pittsburgh. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to Women's American Ort, c/o Eisner, 6612 Ridgeway Street, 1st Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15217 or to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19803.

FREEDMAN

David L. Freedman, 75, died January 23rd in Carmel, CA after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was a Wilmington native and a product of Delaware's public schools. At P.S. duPont High School, he was an all-state football champ.

Mr. Freedman was a graduate of the CHIC School of Design. His training led to a successful career in designing women's coats and suits in New York City. He began this career working for his uncle, Max Zutz, who owned his own custom tailor shop on Delaware Avenue in Wilmington.

He is survived by his wife, Judith; his daughter and son-in-law, Jacqueline and Joseph Bershad of Philadelphia; a brother, James Dillet Freeman of Kansas City, MO; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held on January 26 at the Joseph Levine and Son Memorial Chapel in Broomall, PA.

SEIDEL

Thomas Seidel, 74, of Claymont died on February 4th. Known for the past 46 years as the "Fuller Brush Man", Mr. Seidel was a passionate supporter of Israel and had visited there on 14 separate occasions.

He served as president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, an organization that helps build the Jewish homeland. Locally, his Jewish communal involvement included active membership in both Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth and Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington.

His family and friends recall his courageous battles with ankylitis, a debilitating and painful form of arthritis and other ailments that never failed to sap his spirit.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Ruth; his brother and sister-in-law, Sam and Florence Seidel and his sister-in-law, Elsa Levine; his sons, Edward of Tampa, FL, Daniel of Seattle, WA, Morry of River Edge, NJ and Robert of Brooklyn, NY. Mr. Seidel will also be remembered with love by his seven grandchildren, Joshua, Rosalie, Noah and Eli of Seattle, WA and Maya, Ron and

Merav, all born in Israel and currently living in NJ; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held on February 6th at Schoenberg Memorial Chapel with interment in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. The family would appreciate that contributions in his memory be made to the Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

TANNENBAUM

Dr. Paul M. Tannenbaum, 60, of Chalfont, died January 29th. He was an active member of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington.

Dr. Tannenbaum was a research

physicist at the DuPont Company for 29 years. He received his PhD in physics from Courant Institute of New York University.

He is survived by his wife, Felicia; son, Stephen; and daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Jeffrey Turner.

Funeral services were held February 2nd at Congregation Beth Shalom with interment in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road.

Contributions in his memory would be appreciated to the Brian L. Dombchik Memorial Fund, c/o Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th Street and Baynard Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802.

TEDER

Myra Teder, 58, died January 22nd. She was a member of Temple Beth Emeth and Deborah Hospital Heart and Lung Foundation. Survivors include her sons, Jeremy and Todd; her daughter, Whitney, of Wilmington; a brother, Philip Cherrin of West Chester, PA; and one grandson.

Funeral services were held on Sunday January 26th with interment at the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Road. Contributions in her memory would be appreciated to the American Diabetes Association, 100 West 10th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.

NACHAS NOOK

Kimmel and Penner are wed

Marcia and Morton Richard Kimmel of Greenville, Delaware, proudly announce the marriage of their daughter, Michelle Wendy Kimmel to Douglas Mark Penner. Douglas is the son of Joan Penner and the late Arthur Penner.

The ceremony and reception took place on November 9th at the Ritz Carlton in Philadelphia, PA. Rabbi Michael Stern officiated.

Karen Paige Kimmel, sister of the bride, served as maid of honor. Kimberly Schwartzman Kimmel, sister of the bride, served as matron of honor. Betsy Penner, sister-in-law of the bride was the bridesmaid. Austin Gardner Penner, nephew of the groom, was the ring bearer and Sabrina Blaire Kimmel, niece of the bride, was the flower girl.

Andrew Kyle Penner and Jeffrey Glenn Penner, brothers of the groom, served as the best men. Larry Kimmel Spiller and Wayne Douglas Kimmel, brothers of the bride, served as groomsmen.

Participating in the ceremony in spirit were grandparents Sylvia and Bert Kimmel, David Weber, Benjamin and Regina Fox, Rose and Louis Penner.

The couple honeymooned in St. Thomas and currently reside in Princeton, New Jersey.



Douglas and Michelle Penner

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Panella and Ashman to tie the knot

Ruth and Sam Panella of Arden proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Ethna Lucy Panella to Stephen Harold Ashman, son of Carole and Jerry Ashman of Wilmington.

Miss Panella is a graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School and the University of Delaware.

She is a Registered Nurse working for Hospice.

Mr. Ashman, a graduate of

Concord High School and Wilmington College works for ING Direct as a Senior Manager in their Philadelphia Office.

The couple is planning an April, 2003 wedding.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Girl's Inc., a Delaware non-profit organization based in the Community Service Building, 100 West 10th Street in Wilmington, has launched a winter coat and blanket drive. Hats, gloves and scarves in all sizes will also be welcomed for distribution to local shelters. To contribute, please call Sandy at 575-1041.

Sid Miller and his orchestra will perform at the Hotel DuPont on Friday, February 14th for the Gala Ball benefiting the American Cancer Society.

Theatre N at Nemours, Wilmington's only independent film cinema, will feature "8 Women" on Saturday, February 8th and Sunday, February 9th and "Standing in the Shadows of Motown," February 14th through February 16th. Located at 11th and Tatnall Streets, showtimes are Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Box office opens one hour prior to showtime.

Call 302-658-6070 for more information or visit their website at www.theatren.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY SLATES MARCH PROGRAM

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware will present the second in its free series of programs on "Delaware Jews and the Land of Israel" on Tuesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center in Wilmington. Norman (Sonny) Schutzman, a volunteer in Israel's 1948 War of Independence and Ted Mattes who serves annually in the Volunteers for Israel program, will share their perspectives. Participants in the program will gain a better understanding of the strength of the ties between the First State and the Jewish State.

Refreshments will be served. For additional information, please call Diane Sklut at 302-475-4229.

DOVER SYNAGOGUE HAS BUSY MARCH CALENDAR

The community is invited to attend the following programs sponsored by Congregation Beth Shalom of Dover:

Art Auction-Saturday night, March 1st, 2003. Tickets are \$5.00 payable at the door.

Family Shabbat Services/Shabbat Across America-Friday night, March 7th, 6:00 p.m.

Play and Reception- Sunday, March 16th, at 2:00 p.m., see On Golden Pond at the Schwartz Center. Tickets are \$35.00 each which includes a reception with Jack Klugman. Call the synagogue for tickets, 1-302-734-5578.

AKSE SISTERHOOD SQUARE DANCE

Join in a fun evening of square dancing and dessert on Sunday, March 2, 2003 at 7:00 PM. The cost is only \$7.00 per person. To RSVP by February 23, just send your check to the synagogue office labeled Square Dance: AKSE, Washington Blvd & Torah Way, Wilmington, Delaware 19802. For more information call Judi Rosenberg at 478-8336. Come say Howdy, partner!

NEWS FROM NEWARK JCC

Chess Lessons and Chess Club-For ages 8 through 12. Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m., now through March 4th. Cost for members is \$40 and non-members, \$55. Call Lynda Bell at 302-368-9173.

New York Theatre Trip-See the new Billy Joel musical, "Moving Out", on Sunday, April 6th. Bus leaves from the Newark

JCC at 8:30 a.m. Show begins at 3:00 p.m. with time to enjoy dinner before departing the Big Apple at 8:30 p.m. Cost for JCC members is \$145.00, \$165.00 for non-members. Spend the day in New York without the show for just \$35 per person. Tickets are limited so call today, 368-9173.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL SLATE MARCH MEETING

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Volunteers for Israel, Alumni Group, will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Klein Branch of the Jewish Community Centers on Red Lion Road and Jamison Avenue, Philadelphia. Guest speaker will be Steve Masters, who will represent the viewpoints of the Progressive Zionist Alliance. For additional information, call 215-473-6527.

EXPLORE POTOK'S WORKS

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University in Philadelphia will sponsor a free lecture on "Chaim Potok's Views on Cultural Confrontation", Tuesday, February 11-9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Dr. Rena Potok, a University of Pennsylvania English Department faculty member, will present the program in the Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room, 302, Hagerty Library on the University Campus, 33rd and Market Streets. For further information, please call Kathy Carl, 215-895-6388.

JFS REACHES OUT TO SEPARATING & DIVORCING PARENTS

Jewish Family Service of Delaware offers Separating and Divorcing Parent Education courses certified by Family Court. "Healing Hearts," parent seminar and children/teen seminars are held at the Jewish Community Center in Wilmington, the first 2 Wednesdays of each month from 6:45-9:45pm. The fee for the 6 hours course is \$100, free for the children of participating parents. (Scholarships are available.) For more information, please call Karen Townsend, ACSW at 302-286-1402.

VISIT STATUE OF LIBERTY WITH JEWISH WAR VETERANS

The Jewish War Veterans of Delaware invites the community to participate in its bus trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in New York on Sunday, April 6th.

The bus will leave at 8:00 a.m. from the rear of the B'nai B'rith Building on Society Hill Drive in Claymont. The cost is \$28.75 for adults, \$26.75 for seniors and \$22.75 for children ages 4 through 12 and includes bus transportation, admission to the Statue of Liberty, box lunches and sodas. Reservations will be binding with a check forwarded to:

Jewish War Veterans, 3209 Heather Court, Wilmington, DE 19809.

MARCH HAPPENINGS AT ALBERT EINSTEIN ACADEMY

March-7th - Israeli Dancing; 15th - Gala, 7:30 pm; 18th - Purim Celebration

Megillah reading - 8:00 am
Carnival - 1:00 pm

For more information call 302-478-5026; www.aecademy.org

APPLY FOR USA MACCABI BASKETBALL TEAMS

Applications for the USA basketball teams which will represent the United States at the 10th Pan American Maccabi Games in Santiago, Chile next winter are now being accepted. There will be three men's teams and a women's open team (any age). The men's teams are Juniors (born in 1987, '88 or '89); Youth (born in 1984, '85, '86); and Open (any age).

The Pan Am Maccabi Games will take place from December 24, 2003 through January 5, 2004 and a training camp will be held in Boca Raton, Florida beginning Saturday night, December 20, 2003. The commitment to take part in this event is two full weeks. The teams will be selected by tapes and recommendations, however, if enough applications are received tryouts in Los Angeles and Philadelphia may be held.

Please direct questions and interest to Brian Schiff at 215-952-5362 during the day, 215-285-5936 in the evening, or e-mail him at bschiff@comcastsportsnet.com <<mailto:bschiff@comcastsportsnet.com>>. To apply online go to the Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel website at www.maccabiusa.com <<http://www.maccabiusa.com>> or contact their office at 215-561-6900.

GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR JEWISH STUDIES

The Anna E. Finger-Ruth F.

Gordon Memorial Trust is accepting requests for cash grants of up to \$1000 for the promotion of the study of Judaism and Jewish culture. The Trust will provide funding for programs relating to the study of Judaism or Jewish culture including, but not limited to, Hebrew language, Bible, Jewish literature, religious customs and ceremonies, theology and Holocaust studies. Financial need will be considered and special consideration will be given to programs or individuals affiliated with Congregation Beth Shalom. Recipients of grants or scholarships will be expected to share their experience during a scheduled community event. The Trust was established in 1968 by Louis J. Finger and Abraham J. Gordon in memory of Mr. Finger's mother and sister and Mr. Gordon's wife. Trustees anticipate making grants totaling \$2500 for the 2003 calendar year. Please apply before March 31st to Richard A. Levine, Secretary, Board of Advisers, Anna E. Finger and Ruth Gordon Memorial Trust, c/o Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, PO Box 391, Wilmington, DE 19899-0391.

CHESS ANYONE?

The next scheduled meeting of the Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth Chess Club is Monday, February 17, 7

p.m. at the synagogue on Washington Blvd. and Torah Way in Wilmington. Cantor Joel Kessler is chessmaster of the club which is open to people of all ages and all levels of experience. For additional information, please call 762-2705.

SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its 14th annual Scholarship to a deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or in Israel. Applications may be picked up at the AKSE office and should be returned by March 2, 2003. The Fund was established in 1989 to honor the Silverman's 55th wedding anniversary by their four daughters and many friends.

SEASIDE SHABBAT EXPLORES THE MEANING OF LOVE

Rabbi Joshua Martin Siegel will lead Shabbat services on February 15th at 10 a.m. at the Seaside Jewish Community Center, 1707 Highway One in Dewey Beach. His topic is "Matters of the Heart and the Meaning of Love." Kiddush will follow. For further information about upcoming Seaside programs, please call 302-226-8977.

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