



JEWISH VOICE

*****AUTO***5-DIGIT 19801
JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY DE
505 N MARKET ST
WILMINGTON DE 19801-3004

Vol. 46, No. 13 7 Adar II 5765 March 18, 2005 20 Pages
PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE, 100 WEST 10TH ST., SUITE 301, WILMINGTON, DE 19801-1628

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Design a T-Shirt for Yom Ha'atzmaut!



What is Yom Ha'atzmaut?

It is Israel Independence Day. This year we are celebrating the state's 57th anniversary. The entire Jewish Community of Delaware is invited to the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration Sunday, May 15 at Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia for the largest Jewish community event of the year!! We will meet as a community at 10:30am at the JCC to take buses to Philadelphia.

For more information about the Yom Ha'atzmaut event, contact Ivy Harlev (478-5660 or ivyharlev@siegeljcc.org)



Contest Rules:

1. Design should represent Israel and the Delaware Jewish Community.
2. All entries must include original art.
3. Design needs to be one-sided.
4. Multiple entries welcome.
5. Designs due to the JCC by: April 7, 2005

Why are we designing T-Shirts?

Everyone from Delaware will wear the same shirt with the selected design, as we celebrate together in Philadelphia.

For more information about the contest, contact Julie Schwartz (478-5660 or julieschwartz@siegeljcc.org)

Please draw your design on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper and return with this form to the

Bernard & Ruth Siegel JCC

101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

Artist's Name: _____ Birth date: _____
 Parent/Guardian Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Hadassah Medical Organization Nominated For Nobel Peace Prize

Wilmington Hadassah Past Presidents Dina Lipschultz and Cheryl Kamm have informed the Jewish voice that The Hadassah Medical Organization has been nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize. The organization has received international acclaim for promoting peace in the Middle East region by providing equal medical treatment to Palestinians and Israelis.

Although the Norwegian Nobel Committee does not release the names of nominees, professors and members of legislatures from at least four different countries recently revealed to Hadassah officials that they had extended formal nominations on behalf of the medical organization according to June Walker, National President of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, the founder and benefactor of the medical organization.

Their nominations cited three areas in which Hadassah Medical Organization has excelled in promoting peace in the region: the ability to maintain the value of equal treatment for all people despite treating more terror victims than any other medical center; the model of cooperation and coexistence set by the mixed staff of people of all faiths; and the medical organization's ongoing initiatives in creating bridges for peace even throughout the intifada.

"I can't think of a more mean-

ingful way to celebrate our founding," said Walker, noting that the organization is celebrating its 93rd birthday this month. "The values of Hadassah continue to set the standard that all people need to strive for."

The winner of \$1.6 million prize will be announced in the fall.

Cheryl Kamm and Dina Lipschultz will be joined by their husbands, Ken and Alan, respectively, and Suzy and Rabbi Peter Grumbacher on a special Hadassah Dedication Mission. These six Wilmingtonians will leave for Jerusalem on March 20th to help dedicate the Center for Emergency Medicine at Hadassah Medical Center in Ein Kerem. Nearly 700 donors from across the

U.S., who were among those who donated \$50 million to build the state-of-the-art emergency center, will spend a week touring Israel, being briefed by Israeli officials, and attending tours and programs at the Hadassah Medical Center in Ein Kerem. The Grumbachers, Kamms and Lipschultz will deliver bags of arts and crafts supplies for the children admitted to the pediatric ER at the new Center. These supplies have been donated by the children that attend Religious Schools at AKSE, Beth Emeth, Beth Shalom and Einstein Academy.

To find out more information about Hadassah in the Wilmington area, please contact Michele Sands, 478-6391.



At the recent opening of the new Center for Emergency Medicine at Hadassah Medical Center, the first child is wheeled into the new pediatric ER by special drivers. At left: Judy Swartz, chair of the upcoming donor mission to dedicate the CEM; at right and steering: June Walker, National President of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America

Survey Shows Americans Like Israel

By Rachel Pomerance, JTA

Publicizing Israel's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip may hold the key to winning public support for the Jewish state, according to a new survey.

In the post-Yasser Arafat era, Americans generally still side with Israel, considered a like-minded ally, and show hostility toward the Palestinians, according to The Israel Project, a group working to promote Israel's image.

In the survey, 58 percent said they had "warm" feelings toward Israel, with 11 percent expressing "cool" feelings. The comparative numbers for the Palestinians were 35 percent and 24 percent, respectively.

Also, some 40 percent of Americans sided with Israel over

the Palestinians. Only 10 percent took the Palestinians side, and 50 percent would not choose a side.

But perceptions of the Palestinians under new leadership have improved drastically - and Americans think Israel should compromise to advance the peace process, according to The Israel Project leadership.

The Palestinian Authority's president, Mahmoud Abbas, "has a suit, a smile and a snappy soundbite," said Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, president of The Israel Project. "In a world where people want to hear a message of peace, he's giving one."

At the same time, "we cannot underscore enough how special this moment in the peace process is, as Israel is doing exactly what Americans want it to do - make

compromises for peace," says the report, released Monday in a briefing to Jewish officials in New York.

"There is a clear opportunity, right now, to build support through a significant education campaign" about how Israel, a democracy, is taking risks for peace.

The group plans to pitch that message to the part of the media, such as CNN, that appeal to liberal viewers. To media seen as having more conservative viewers, such as Fox News, the group will steer clear of discussing disengagement, focusing instead on the values shared by Israel and the United States.

The situation in Britain is slightly different. There, a focus group of educated professionals put the onus for peacemaking squarely on Israel, which it considered the

oppressor. When group members were told about Israel's plans to withdraw from Gaza, their opinion of Israel improved.

The message in Britain, according to the report, should focus on progress on peace talks, concern for the Palestinians and the need to improve the lives of average people on both sides.

The studies were based on focus groups conducted by political pollsters Stan Greenberg and Neil Newhouse.

About 800 30- to 70-year-olds were interviewed in February. In Philadelphia, Jews and "opinion elites" - highly educated, engaged professionals - were interviewed; in Baltimore the groups were made up of white women and white liberals.

In Britain, 16- to 22-year-old

Muslim men were interviewed, along with non-Jewish "opinion formers," 30- to 50-year-old management-level professionals who follow foreign affairs.

The extent of public ignorance about Israel's disengagement plan came as a surprise to many Jewish officials, who are deeply involved in the plan's details, Mizrahi said.

She ascribes that ignorance to a "very cluttered media environment." The subject of Israel and the ongoing intifada have moved deep inside the newspapers, away from page one, and thus capture less public interest, she said.

The group plans to educate the 1,400 American reporters who cover Israel about the Jewish State's initiatives for peace through direct mail and by setting up meetings for them with Israeli officials.

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Jewish Fund for the Future

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Protect the people you love. Create a lasting partnership with the Jewish community. Your will makes it possible. Leaving a bequest to the Jewish community enables you to create a permanent legacy that can help Jews in need forever. Learn how you can help preserve the Jewish community ... for years to come.

Live Generously...It does a world of good!

For more information regarding Bequests or Endowments, please visit www.shalomdelaware.org or call Jennifer Young at (302) 427-2100 x 19. If you have provided for the community, please let us know, a recognition event is planned to honor all endowment donors on May 24, 2005.

Israel 2005

Contact Jennifer at (302)427-2100 x 19 for more information

Young adults ages 19-25 are encouraged to apply for this exciting program to work as a counselor in our sister community of Arad/Tamar. The Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Partnership 2000 allocation will cover **all expenses in Israel** - ground transportation, orientation, room and board, touring, and a portion of the airfare. The counselors each pay \$250 towards the airfare. Last summer 8 counselors from our NJ/DE partnership participated in the program.

Kefiada 2005
is late June—July,
call now for an
application



FEDERATION FOCUS

Birthright Israel: Helping our young people come "home"



Samuel H. Asher
Executive Vice President

A few weeks ago, Federation received an award from Birthright Israel. Taglit or Birthright Israel, now marking the completion of its fifth year, presented this award to thank its funding partners- the Jewish Federations and the government of Israel -for a successful collaboration. To date, the program has reached nearly 50,000 North American Jewish young people, 10,000 young Israelis, and 20,000 young Jews from 35 other countries around the world. In the process, over \$110 million was poured into the Israeli economy.

Birthright Israel provides a precious gift of

an all-expense paid, educational trip to Israel to young adults ages 18 to 26 who have never before traveled to the Jewish State on an organized tour. Program founders believe that it is every Jewish person's birthright to visit Israel. We have been told that participants return home with a greater appreciation of their Jewishness and a stronger sense of connection to the Jewish people and their communities. I now know this first-hand!

My son Adam went on Birthright in January and I can now attest to the fact that the kids return from the experience profoundly and positively changed. From the minute he landed at Ben Gurion Airport, things started to happen. My phone rang at home on his first day in Israel and I heard the voice of astonishment on the other end: "Dad it's such a beautiful country!" He had just landed, but the clear blue skies, the green valleys and the view of "his country" already had Adam under Israel's spell. I always say that Israel does its magic and it certainly had Adam under its spell from the moment his feet hit the "holy land".

During the ten-day tour, the people from "Israel Experts" took Adam to Masada, Jerusalem, Safed, the desert and many other places in Israel. It is safe to say that most of the tour providers for Birthright Israel are well qualified to show off the country and its history. Of course, Adam, like anyone else who has been on a tour of Israel, had the best tour guide, Ofer. We all have the best tour guides when we go to Israel. But you have to give Ofer credit. He had the kids enthralled after climbing Masada at 4 in the morning after a late night in the desert, and hearing the histo-

ry of the Zealots who held out against the Roman soldiers. They bonded with a contest to see who could get the most echoes after yelling into the great expanses on the western side of Masada-a bond that was cemented during the long hike back down the winding snake trail overlooking the Negev.

It was the history that was getting to Adam. He was becoming tied to the land and his heritage. He realized that there were ancestors who came before him who gave their lives for the Jewish people. One of the tour days was spent in the desert and in a Bedouin tent at night. The kids got to see the stars at night and marvel at the uniqueness and beauty of the desert. They stayed near the caravan routes that the desert traders used throughout time to ship goods throughout the Middle East. Any American college kid can be humbled by this experience and Adam was no exception. He came back with an understanding of Jewish peoplehood and as he walked with the tour guides into the desert, he gained a new appreciation of our people's nomadic existence. After all, Moses had to wander through the desert to get to the promised land.

The other connection that Adam got in Israel was spiritual. He was at the wall (Kotel) when Rabbi Eliezer Snyderman appeared and said "Asher how are you doing?" Adam told him, that he wasn't sure what prayers to say at the wall. The Rabbi took him and his friends under his wing and, the next thing you know, he was surrounded by people praying at the table in front of the wall. Soon after that the group grew larger and there was a

Kabbalat Shabbat that swayed and was immersed in powerful Shabbat song. It became one of those spiritual moments at the wall that you can only live, you cannot describe.

I was once on a mission in a former community and one of the folks failed to get back on the bus at the predetermined time. I went back to the Kotel to find her. I found Mrs. Cohen consumed by the moment. She was happily entranced in prayer by the women's side of the Kotel. I told that we were afraid that she was lost. She assured me that she "knew exactly where she was."

Adam surely knew where he was on his Birthright Israel trip. He had gone to his ancestral home, a place to which he hopes to return soon. The first thing he said to me when he came home was, "when can I go back?" We have to make sure that our kids keep going home!

The Charles and Lynn Shusterman Foundation is still offering its special partnership grant program. The grant stipulates that the Foundation will make a \$1 gift to our annual campaign for every \$2 that is contributed to the "birthright Israel" by members of our community. We are going after our second round of grant money. This is a great opportunity for our community as well as an opportunity to send more young people to Israel.

Many of our constituents recently received an e-mail about Birthright. We are trying to help Birthright again. When you are called please give generously.

Together, we can bring the power of Israel to all of our young people.



Jennifer Young

As my parents planted for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me... Talmud Taanit 23a

In 1985, several progressive families in Delaware organized the Jewish Community of

Delaware Endowment Fund to provide for the future needs of the Jewish community here and abroad. Today, this Jewish Fund for the Future provides the necessary financial capital to help the community plan for the future. Endowment funds supplement the Annual Campaign, provide scholarships for students going to Israel, and ensure the survival and long-term stability of existing programs upon which so many in our community depend. Partnering with the Jewish Fund for the Future to plan your charitable giving can provide unique insight into important Jewish community priorities and needs.

The Jewish Fund for the Future manages over \$14 million in assets, including restricted funds, donor advised funds (philanthropic funds), unrestricted funds, charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder unitrusts. The mission of the Jewish Fund for the Future is to accumulate enduring resources to ensure the stability and continuity of Jewish life in Delaware, Israel, and throughout the

world. All six of the Federation's beneficiary agencies and several area synagogues have endowment funds invested with the Jewish Fund for the Future. Charitable gifts can be made to the Jewish Fund for the Future during a donor's lifetime or by bequest:

- *outright contribution of cash, securities, real estate or other property
- *bequest
- *gift of life insurance
- *charitable trust
- *gift of IRA or pension plan assets
- *grant from your foundation

The Jewish Fund for the Future offers a variety of giving programs tailored to individual needs - anyone can participate in endowment giving:

• Unrestricted Funds - Gifts of any amount to the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, Inc.

• Philanthropic Funds - Donor advised funds that allow you to better manage your charitable giving.

• Designated Funds/Field of Interest Funds - Gifts targeted toward specific agencies, programs, projects or needs, including endowments to benefit Israel.

• Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowments/Lion of Judah Endowments - Gifts that sustain your contribution to the Annual Campaign, in perpetuity, usually 20 times a donor's annual gift.

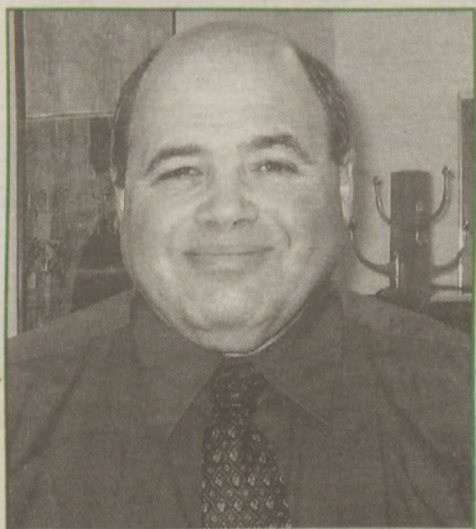
• Life Income Gifts - Gifts that provide you, your spouse or other loved ones with income during lifetime and sustain the Jewish community after you are gone, including charitable trusts and charitable gift annuities.

To learn more about planned giving and how you can set-up a gift with the Jewish Fund for the Future, please call 302-427-2100 ext. 19 or email jennifer.young@shalomdel.org. Through a commitment to the Jewish Fund for the Future, your generosity helps shape the destiny of the Jewish people. All endowment donors will be honored at the Endowment Book of Life event on May 24.

From Generation to Generation

JCRC Update

Cautious optimism in the air at JCPA Plenum



Samuel Horowitz

Imagine nine hundred Jewish students, and community relations leaders and professionals gathering in Washington to discuss public policy issues, share experiences, network, and of course lobby on Capitol Hill. Add to this scene appearances by high profile political leaders (and possible presidential aspirants) Senators Hillary Clinton, Mitch McConnell, and John McCain, and you have the annual plenum of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) - the major conference of Jewish community relations activists in the country (and a formula for very little sleep!) Meeting concurrently with the plenum were the Spitzer Forum, the Hillel annual public policy conference and The Coalition on Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL).

There was a note of cautious optimism regarding developments in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process reflected by a major panel consisting of Israel's Consul

General in New York, Aryeh Mekel, Egypt's Ambassador to the United States, Nabil Fahmy and former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk. Mekel related the Israeli government's support of a \$350 million Palestinian aid package. All agreed that there would ultimately be a two-state solution, but Mekel noted, "We are ready for compromise, but in the war on terror, we will not make compromises. We do believe they (the Palestinian leadership) want to make progress in the peace process."

A major new undertaking, the Israel Advocacy Initiative, has been launched by the JCPA and United Jewish Communities. Among the projects of the Initiative are mini-grants to communities, interfaith dialogue with mainline Protestant leaders, especially in light of threats of divestment by these denominations, and key influential missions to Israel, including university presidents and Hispanic

leadership.

It's been a year since the world woke up to the mass killings in the Darfur region of Sudan, with a loss of life surpassing 300,000. Secretary of State Colin Powell had declared this to be genocide, and delegates to the plenum were deeply concerned by the apathy and ineffective action to stop the atrocities in Darfur. The issue was raised with public officials attending the Conference, and will continue to be pursued by national Jewish organizations in Washington.

Hanna Rosenthal, outgoing Executive Director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, in her challenge to delegates, commented, "We will examine how our federal budget represents our country's moral compass-it is a blueprint of our country's priorities and it begs us to discuss what role we as a

See JCRC UPDATE, page 5

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Thou Shalt make Merry on Purim!

Next week we celebrate perhaps the happiest holiday on the Jewish calendar – PURIM. It's a time to drown out the name of the villainous Haman with groggers – dress in silly costumes and take the family to synagogue for a delightfully different megillah of a service! When else can you see your rabbi dressed like President Bush or the Wizard of Oz? At what other time of the year does the cantor chant traditional prayers and anthems to tunes made famous by punk rockers or country music stars? And, perhaps the best incentive of all to stay for the entire service is the prospect of hamantashen served at the oneg.

Purim carnivals and plays remind us of days of old when musicians and clowns strolled the streets to mark the downfall of Haman and the wonderful day in the month of Adar when Esther and Mordechai helped save the Jews of Persia. Then and now, pro-

ceeds from these Purim events benefit Jewish organizations sharing the joys of this festive holiday with Jews in need.

The Purim tradition of giving gifts of shalach manot—baskets of food and special Purim treats—offers another opportunity to perform tzedakah.

So, nu? What are you waiting for? There are countless opportunities to fulfill the mitzvah of Purim merriment throughout the Delaware Jewish community. Check out page 6 to find an event in your neighborhood.

Chag Sameach!

Lynn B. Edelman

Lynn B. Edelman
Editor



Published semimonthly, and monthly in July and August, by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

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Periodicals postage paid for The Jewish Voice (USPS-704160) at Wilmington, Delaware.
Subscription price: \$25.00. Mailed to subscribers and contributors to the Jewish Federation of Delaware. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Jewish Voice, 100 W. 10th St., Wilmington, DE 19801. (302) 427-2100.
The FAX number of The Jewish Voice is (302) 427-2438.
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Photo of the Week



JAFFA ORANGES—A SWEET WAY TO SUPPORT ISRAEL: Shop Rite of Cherry Hill will once again deliver Israeli-grown Jaffa Oranges locally to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation on March 30th as a fundraiser for Jewish National Fund. The cost is just \$10 per case for approximately 60 oranges and \$5 per half case of approximately 30 oranges. The exact count of oranges depends upon the size. To bring a taste of Israel to your table, please call the synagogue at 302-762-2705 with your order by Monday, March 28th.

Photo by Joel Glazier

PARSHA PLACE

Week of March 19

Vayakhel

Leviticus 1:1-5:26

O 'Soulo' Mio

By Norman S. Lipson

For anyone who has ever read or studied Torah, approaching Leviticus, or Vayikra, the third book of the Torah, often fills one with a desire to skip whole sections of it in search of ostensibly more religious or meaningful verses that hopefully manage to shine through the often tediously redundant narration, with its graphic detail of numerous sacrifices and how and why they are to be performed.

To do so, however, would be a mistake.

True, the opening chapters of Vayikra deal with the minutiae of sacrifices, but more importantly, they also discuss the type of person obliged to bring those sacrifices. All Israel was obligated to offer sacrifices—from the anointed priest (kohein hamashiach) to the country farmer (am haaretz). Every member of Israel, as human beings, sinned in one way or another and, therefore, needed a religious method of showing contrition and repentance—sacrifice.

Throughout the sidrah, the word "soul" (nefesh) appears enough times in place of the more expected word for person (ish) as to cause us to raise an eyebrow and question why. Though the JPS Torah translation in Plaut's commentary uses the word "person" rather than the more literal "soul," the word "soul" implies a greater depth of meaning as to the intent of the message within the verses.

Usually one is tempted to read these chapters on sacrifices with an emphasis on the offering. But by examining the person who brings the sacrifice rather than the sacrifice itself, the verses become more alive and relevant to our lives today.

The soul could be anyone and is everyone. Each of us is a living soul with mind and body, whether offering a sacrifice on the altar of the Temple or within our own synagogues today. Each of us is confronted with choices: to sin or to refrain from sinning; to admit guilt or to pretend that a sin never happened; to realize error can be made unwittingly or to act as if we are always right; to answer the call for testimony or to blend into the crowd of anonymity.

By looking at the offering rather than at the one who brings it, we fall into the trap of judging the person not by who he or she is but by what he or she may have to offer to God, or to us. We compare his or her offering with our own and play the "size does matter" game. But by seeing others and even ourselves as souls, we can become better Jews, better men and women, and better members of society, rather than defining ourselves by the labels we normally use—priest, leader, doctor, lawyer, Indian chief. By doing so, we may begin to understand the true purpose of sacrifice—that by sacrificing, we are, in reality, only giving back to God what already is God's. Hopefully, from that awareness, we can grow into more sensitive and holy children of God.

Norman S. Lipson is the rabbi at Temple Dor Dorim, Weston, Florida.

SHABBAT Candle Lighting

MARCH 25TH – 6:01 PM

APRIL 1ST – 6:08 PM

APRIL 8TH – 7:15 PM

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE

for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE	FOCUS	DEADLINE
April 8	Passover Preview (Passover begins 4/23)	April 1

All submissions *in person* for The Jewish Voice due at JFD offices or mail:
The Jewish Voice, 100 W. 10th St., Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801-1628
e-mail: lynn.edelman@shalomdel.org

This Week in Jewish History



Celebrate 350
Jewish Life in America
1654 - 2004

MARCH 15, 1820

The women of Shearith Israel synagogue in New York, led by Richa Levy, established the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society on March 15, 1820.

MARCH 18, 1905

Mollie Parnis, a fashion designer whose creations were worn by First Ladies, was born on March 18, 1905.

MARCH 18, 1922

Judith Kaplan (Eisenstein) became the first American bat mitzvah on March 18, 1922.

MARCH 18, 1927

Lillian Vernon, the successful specialty and mail-order retailer, was born on March 18, 1927.

MARCH 14, 1939

Actress Sara Adler was honored for her 50 years on the stage with a testimonial performance at the National Theater in New York City on March 14, 1939.

MARCH 14, 1972

On March 14, 1972, a small group of young Jewish feminists under the name Ezrat Nashim presented a manifesto entitled "Jewish Women Call For Change" at the Conservative Movement's Rabbinical Assembly convention.

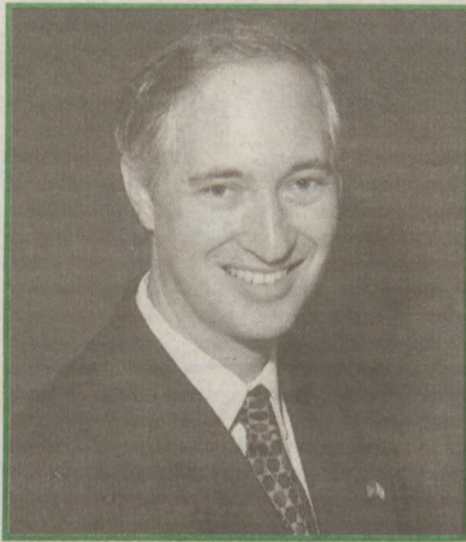
MARCH 14, 1977

On March 14, 1977, "The New York Times" reported on the growth of formal naming ceremonies for newborn Jewish girls.

"This Week in History" is brought to you by the Jewish Women's Archive. More information about each of the events described below can be found on JWA's website at http://www.jwa.org/this_week/week52.html

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

What's in a name: Esther vs. Hadassah



Rabbi Michael Beals

By Rabbi Michael Beals
Congregation Beth Shalom

Back in 1935, my zeida, by an Act of Parliament, changed our family name from Bilsky to Beals. As Izzy Bilsky, this gifted designer of ladies' fine apparel could not get West End London ladies to buy his creations (even with his cultivated accent). But as

William I. Beals, he was a great success. His feeling was that he nor his children nor their children should be prejudged on the basis of their Judaism. Rather, they should be judged by their merits and then they could decide whether or not to share their Judaism with others. (In a way, my zeida was foreshadowing something very similar to what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would say 30 years later in America).

What mischief have I done with my zeida's vision. I became a Rabbi, wear a kippa all the time, and along with my wife, have named our daughters Ariella and Shira. But perhaps my zeida's wishes have been respected after all. It was his desire that his progeny decide whether or not to share their Jewish identity with others. And perhaps he would take delight to know that unlike the London of the 30's, in the United States of the 00's, it is perfectly acceptable to be open about one's Judaism, and even "go public," as it were.

Such is the dilemma faced by Mordecai and Hadassah in the opening chapters of the Book of Esther. As the Jewish girl, Hadassah, our heroine can be of little use to her people. But renamed, Esther, her Jewish identity now hidden, there is much good that she might do in the harem of the Persian king. It is interesting to note, that these seemingly traditional Jewish names, Mordecai (my own

Hebrew name) and Esther, are really based on the ancient pagan gods of the region.

Mordecai is a reworking of the great city god of Babylonia, Marduk. And Esther is a reworking of the great fertility goddess, Astarte. In modern day America, to name someone Mordecai and Esther, would be equivalent to naming one's child, Christopher or Christina. Of course, today, so long after the death of these ancient pagan civilizations, it is impossible to conceive of the names of Mordecai and Esther as anything but being Jewish in origin. The Book of Esther, is the only biblical book outside of four of the Five Books of Moses to be written outside of the Land of Israel. As such, the story serves as a kind of guide book for Survival in the Diaspora.

The lessons are disturbing:

*Sleep with power (shades of Monica Lewinsky)

*Assimilate to attain power

*Reek revenge and havoc upon your enemies.

It is simply amazing that this story made it into the holy canon of Hebrew scripture and became one of the most popular of Jewish holidays. For me, the joy of the holiday of Purim is to note how far we have come as a Diaspora people. We are above seeking revenge from our enemies. Today the ultimate revenge is supporting a Jewish state of

our own. Today, we are morally above sleeping with power (although Hollywood is an entirely different issue). And most important, there is no need for us to hide our children's Judaism in assimilated names.

Although I may bear the English name Michael and the Hebrew name Mordecai, it is with special joy that my daughters' names are the same in English and Hebrew. We dress in costumes, masechet, on Purim to mark Esther's need to hide her Jewish identity. Today, we can safely take our masks off. May we raise our children and our children's children to be proud of their Jewish heritage.

That is the modern day miracle of Purim.

PURIM HAPPENINGS AT BETH SHALOM

On Thursday, March 24, Congregation Beth Shalom will be hosting a full traditional Megilla reading at 5:30 p.m. and a Family-Style, abridged Hebrew/English reading at 7 p.m. (costumes encouraged). On Friday, March 25, the abridged Hebrew-English Megilla reading will be incorporated into the 7:30 a.m. Morning Minyan. At 12 noon the synagogue will host the annual Rabbi's Purim Seudah and Comedy Open-Mike, accompanied by a kosher deli lunch. Congregation Beth Shalom is located at the corner of 18th St. and Baynard Blvd. in Wilmington. Call 654-4462 for more information.

Getting high on Purim

By Jonathan Feldstein

Purim is a holiday marked by heightened joy and festive celebrations to commemorate the salvation of Persian Jewry. Like all Jewish holidays, Purim comes with its array of customs, mitzvot, and food. One area that combines these three is the custom/mitzvah to get so drunk on Purim that you do not know the difference between the evil Haman and the righteous Mordecai.

As with any substance that diminishes capacity for judgment, there is a thin line separating the simcha of drinking to celebrate the holiday, and potential abuse. There is no accurate way to predict who will not be able to stop after one drink, or for whom binge drinking might lead to use of drugs. While it is not universal, it is true that one who abuses alcohol is more likely to use, or abuse, drugs. Often the pattern is to start with "light" drugs, and a certain percentage of people will migrate from light to more dangerous "hard" drugs. People can blame "addictive personalities," and other factors in defense of such binge drinking and subsequent drug use, but the best prevention is education, and caution.

Purim is a time that many communal institutions raise the issue of substance abuse. Yet, more and more over recent years, Jewish communities and organizations have begun to address the issue seriously and openly throughout the year. This happens both on its own and, frequently, in response to a sudden tragedy in the community. Recently, the drug related death of one, and arrest of four other American yeshiva students studying in Israel for dealing drugs highlighted this subject, and underscored the need for an international solution to this problem.

The myth that there is no substance abuse problem in the Jewish community can be as damaging as the substance abuse problems themselves. Denial perpetuates a situation where the community itself - by not doing anything - becomes the enabler. In a vacuum of sufficient education and prevention throughout the community, the ability for an addict to get help is that much more difficult. Without education and prevention on a wide scale, more people are destined to become addicted, needing resources that do not exist, or draining the limited resources that do.

But in spite of more and more people addressing the issue of substance abuse in

the Jewish community, when presented with the issue of substance abuse in Israel, the response is, more often than not, a dumbfounded blank stare. Israel has many problems we know, terrorism among the top of the list, but drugs? That's what people think, or what people want to think, but it is far from the truth.

It is a hard pill for people to swallow; yet it is the reality. It is a reality that impacts thousands upon thousands of people a year in Israel alone, from addicts and occasional users, their families (including young children), and corresponding criminal and other social problems. The positive side is that something is being done, and the war on drugs in Israel is a war that can be won.

Consider the numbers:

Israel's population stands at 6.8 million.

Israel has between 20,000-30,000 drug addicts, not including alcohol.

More than 300,000 Israelis are "occasional" users.

Drugs exist in every segment of Israeli society. None are exempt.

Legal, criminal, health, economic and other social consequences of the drug industry impact every Israeli.

In 1987 Israel's Knesset established the Israel Anti-Drug Authority, a quasi-governmental organization under the direct auspices of the Prime Minister's office. The Israel Anti-Drug Authority is responsible for implementing all policies and programs relating to education, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and law enforcement. It coordinates among dozens of

government Ministries and NGOs. In recent years, while the overall rate of drug use has gone up (largely due to circumstances relating to the four year terror war, weak economy and budget cuts for social services), the Israel Anti-Drug Authority has successfully innovated several new and acclaimed initiatives to fight the war on drugs.

Throughout these years, the war on drugs in Israel was supported by a dedicated group of American Jews who established the Israel Anti Drug Abuse Foundation, an independent New York based non-profit. Millions of dollars have been raised and used to support programs of the Israel Anti-Drug Authority. Recently, there was a significant shift in the direction of the relationship. While funds are still needed to support these programs in Israel, the Israel Anti-Drug Authority has begun to reach out to work with Jewish communities in the Diaspora to offer its expertise to help fight the war on drugs among Jewish communities throughout the world.

Especially as most 12-step recovery programs are based on faith and a "higher power" it has become evident that many Jewish addicts would like certain programs to be with a Jewish flavor, under the auspices of a Jewish organization. As a microcosm for the entire Jewish community around the world, Israel's dedication to this issue may provide a springboard to help.

In addition to special rehabilitation programs that are offered, Israel maintains a growing number of unique educational and preven-

tion programs. These are things that have a Jewish flavor, are based on Jewish values and can be translated and used widely abroad. Although there are certain cultural factors that exist in Israel's war on drugs that are not relevant in the Diaspora, there are still many more things in common and the opportunity to adapt initiatives originated in Israel, for use outside Israel, adds a new dimension to Israel-Diaspora relations. In a sense, Israel can serve the Jewish world as an incubator for programs that can be adapted and customized to help Jews in need, wherever they may be.

Together, both in Israel and the Diaspora, we must make it a top priority to fight a problem that is not going away and which, if left unchecked, will only get worse. For starters, anyone interested can visit the Israel Anti-Drug Authority web site, www.antidrugs.gov.il. Most of the web site is still in Hebrew but we are making progress at translating and adapting this to be of the widest help to the largest number of people. Please share your suggestions, questions, and concerns so we can launch something that will be able to begin to make a wider difference.

If you don't believe that substance abuse or addiction are problems, just think about this. Shortly after we sober up from indulging at Purim, we start to clean and prepare for Pesach and, that's right, 4 cups of wine at each seder.

Chag Purim Sameach.

Jonathan Feldstein is the Executive Director of the Israel Anti Drug Abuse Foundation in New York, jonathanf@antidrugs.gov.il.

JCRC Update (continued from page 3)

country have as a collective community to those that are hurting in our country." Rosenthal added, "This is a time that begs that we speak out on injustices. This is a time that calls for voices to the disgraceful silence of complacency. This is a time that calls for more advocacy. Not a time to pull punches."

Delegates were briefed on the proposed 2006 Federal budget and the \$15 billion in cuts to Medicaid, the nation's health care safety net of critical importance to the Jewish community. Medicaid is the only source of health care coverage for 47 million Americans, including working families, low-income children, seniors, pregnant women and people with disabilities. Jewish nursing homes alone

receive a quarter of a billion dollars each year through Medicaid.

Cuts on the federal level in this joint state and federal funding partnership will result in uninsured, low-income individuals and families unable to access medical and nursing home care.

The Delaware delegation to the conference included Mark Wagman, Jewish JCRC Chair, Karen Venezky, New Castle County Council member and Advocacy Chair for National Hadassah, Ann Young, daughter of community members Toni and Stuart Young, and two students from the University of Delaware Hillel, Lisa Bartow and Cari Chascione.

A highlight of the gathering is always the

visit to Capitol Hill to discuss issues and share concerns. Our delegation was warmly received by Sheila Murphy, Legislative Director in Senator Tom Carper's office, Dennis Toner, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Puneet Talwar, Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Aide in Senator Biden's office, and Kate Dickens and James A. Catella, Legislative Assistants in the office of Rep. Mike Castle.

Mark Wagman, JCRC Chair, reflecting on the plenum concluded, "We welcome involvement in the advocacy efforts of the JCRC, and adding their voice to the issues of concern to our community in Delaware."

For further information, contact Samuel Horowitz, JCRC Director at 427-2100.

Purim Events

Community Purim Calendar

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Temple Beth El, Newark-366-8330
 11a.m. Purim Carnival
 Congregation Beth Emeth
 Wilmington 764-2393
 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.- Purim Carnival

MONDAY, MARCH 21

Widener University Jewish Law Student Association
 4601 Concord Pike, just south of Concord Mall
 5:30 p.m. Purim party in Ruby Vale Courtroom
 Law Building (#6)

THURSDAY, MARCH 24: FAST OF ESTHER

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation

Wilmington, 762-2705
 7 a.m. Shacherit
 7:30 a.m. Megillah reading.
 Followed by coffee and Hamantaschen

Chabad Delaware

Wilmington, 1306 Grinnell Road, 529-9900
 7:00 p.m. Megillah Reading and refreshments

Congregation Beth Shalom

Wilmington, 654-4462
 5:30 p.m. Full Megillah reading
 6:30 p.m. Purim Seudah and Kosher deli dinner for those
 who attend full Megillah reading
 7 p.m. Creative Ma'ariv service and Family Megillah reading

Temple Beth El, Newark-366-8330

7 p.m. Megillah reading

University of Delaware, Kristol Center Hillel, 453-0479

Meet at Perkins Student Center (in the gallery) at 7:00 p.m. for
 Megillah Reading.

Dress up and bring noisemakers. Questions?, call Hillel at 453-
 0479 or email: info@udhillel.org.

Widener University Jewish Law Student Association

4601 Concord Pike, just south of Concord Mall
 8:30 p.m. Megillah Reading in L237
 Law Building (#6)

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, 762-2705

7 p.m. Ma'ariv
 7:30 p.m. Megillah reading
 Followed by Costume Parade then Hamantaschen
 for all

Chabad Delaware

1306 Grinnell Road, 529-9900
 12:30 Hear Megillah, give Mishloach Manot and feast
 on Hamantaschen in under 45 minutes.
 Held at Bouchard Margules Law Office
 222 Delaware Ave., Wilmington
 5:00 p.m. Last Call for Megillah reading, then a Purim/
 Shabbat dinner.
 Call 529-9900 to reserve for dinner at
 1306 Grinnell Road.

Congregation Beth Emeth 764-2393

8 p.m. Sabbath Services and Megillah Reading

Congregation Beth Shalom

Wilmington, 654-4462
 7:30 a.m. Minyan with abbreviated Megillah reading
 12 Noon Purim Seudah hosted by Rabbi Beals

Information courtesy of Jack Shattuck, Webmaster, Jewish
 Delaware, <http://JewishDelaware.eSmartWeb.com/Purim.htm>

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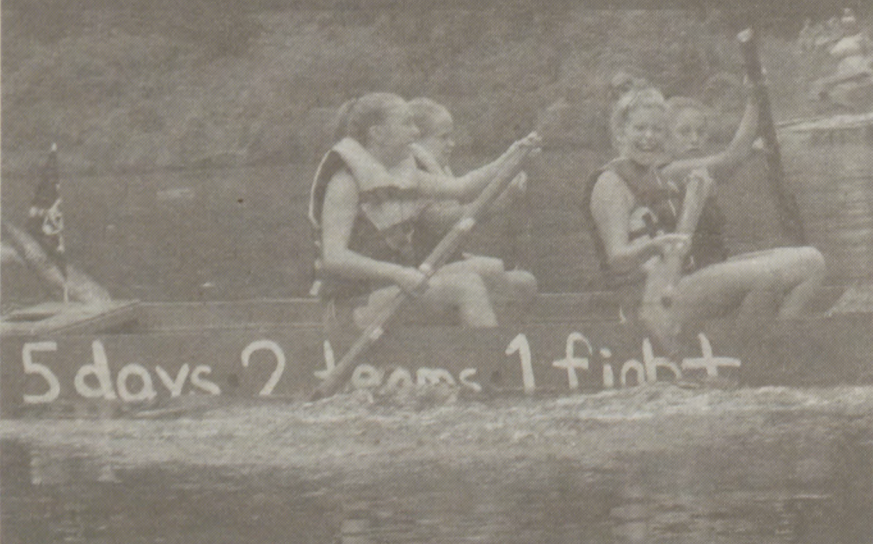


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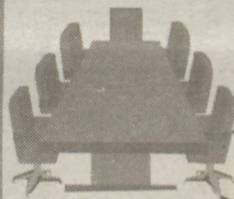
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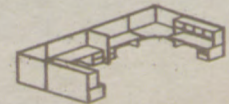
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INSIDE DELAWARE

Rabbi Steven Pik Nathan to Speak at Beth Shalom's Annual Kraft Educational Foundation Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

The Kraft Educational Foundation of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington welcomes Rabbi Steven Pik Nathan as its 2005 Scholar-in-Residence, March 18 - 20. The weekend program kicked off with a Friday evening Shabbat Dinner.

Rabbi Steven Pik Nathan was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1994 and has served the Jewish community as a congregational rabbi and teacher. Currently he serves as the Director of Informal and Family Education of Main Line Reform Temple in Wynnewood, PA and as a part-time rabbi of Temple Menorah - Kenneseth Chai in Northeast Philadelphia. A native of Scranton, PA, he graduated with a degree in Human Development from Boston

College and received a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Columbia University.

Rabbi Pik Nathan is a graduate of the Meditation Leadership Training program at Elat Chayyim: the Jewish Spiritual Retreat Center in upstate New York where he studied with Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, Rabbi Jeffrey Roth, and Sylvia Boorstein. He also studied Midrash and storytelling with noted storyteller and teacher Peninnah Schram at the Institute for Contemporary Midrash at Elat Chayyim.

In tribute to his interest in meditative practice, Rabbi conducted a first-ever Meditation Service at Beth Shalom beginning at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, March 19th. A more traditional Shabbat service followed at

9:30 am. Following the Torah Service, Rabbi Nathan presented a D'var Torah on "Spirituality in our lives." Those in attendance enjoyed a Kiddush luncheon and heard a special tisch on "Creating a Compassionate Self and a Compassionate World: An Exploration of Kabbalistic and Hassidic Texts and How We Can Apply Them to Where We are Right Now."

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUNDAY'S PROGRAMMING WITH RABBI PIK NATHAN.....

On Sunday morning, March 20th at 10:00 a.m., Rabbi Nathan will talk with parents at Beth Shalom. He will look at the topic of parenting techniques through a Jewish lens. Then

at 11:45 a.m., he will travel to Delaware Gratz to converse with students about the lessons he learned

through Jewish education. Both programs are free and open to the entire community.

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Beth Emeth Plans New Member Spring Party

Did you join the Beth Emeth family in 2004 or 2005? Do you know someone who is thinking about joining? If so, please plan on attending a Get Acquainted Party on Sunday afternoon, April 3rd, from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Joseph Zatushni and his wife Dory have volunteered their Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania home for the event. Enjoy finger food and beverages and review membership information at your leisure with no pressure or "sales pitch." This is an opportunity for new and potential members to get better acquainted with each other and Wilmington's Reform congregation—to enjoy noshing and schmoozing with each other and members of the synagogue's clergy team.

Don't miss out on this event. Make your reservation by March 25th with Adele Kessel at (302) 478-0776.



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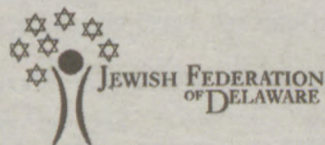
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INSIDE DELAWARE

JCC hosts a night at the races

Wilmington is lucky to have so many philanthropic families in our community. Two of these families happen to have more than a love of the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center and a generous spirit in common. Bob and Annette Aerenson and Stuart and Suzanne Grant also share a love of race horses. They are combining these interests as they co-host an event that promises to be our community's spring social highlight "A Night At The Races". This extravaganza will be held on Saturday evening, April 9th at the Siegel JCC.

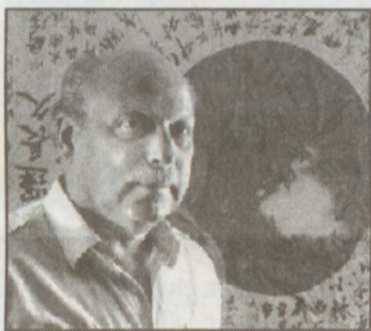
On February 10th, over sixty volunteers came to the home of Annette and Bob Aerenson to help kick off this event. This planning "meeting" felt like a party itself as this group listened to Executive Vice President Jeff Metz talk about what a great night this is going to be. There will be 12 thoroughbred horse races seen on a huge screen. Guests will have the opportunity to bet on each race, name race tracks, name races and name horses. There will be live

music, an open bar and scrumptious food. Prizes will be given out after each race. Owners of horses that win will have their pictures taken in the winners circle with their winning horse. There are two incredible grand prizes. He told the enthralled group, "You will not want to miss this night!"

Tickets are already for sale at the Center's front desk for \$30.00. Sponsorships are selling quickly. The Derby Special is sold, but other naming opportunities and ticket packages are still available. Levels range from the Preakness Special at \$2,500, which includes: an advertisement in the program, JCC acknowledgement in printed materials, naming of 1 track, 1 race, 5 horses and 8 event tickets to a Horse Ownership at \$100. What a great way to advertise, have fun, and support the Siegel JCC at the same time.

For more information, please contact Wendi Weingartner at (302) 478-5660 or by e-mail to wendiweingartner@siegeljcc.org.

Book signing and more at Newark Borders



Stanley Weintraub

Come out to Borders Books, 101 Geoffrey Drive, Newark on March 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Your purchases of books, CDs, DVDs and gift cards will benefit Temple Beth El.

Stop by the store at 7:00 p.m. to meet and greet Newark resident

Stanley Weintraub who will discuss and sign his most recent book IRON TEARS: America's Battle for Freedom, Britain's Quagmire: 1775-1783. The book, which combines military conflict with political intrigue, paints the history of the Revolutionary War from the perspectives of both the Colonists and the British.

Weintraub is the Evan Pugh Professor Emeritus of Arts and Humanities at Penn State University and is currently an adjunct professor of English at the University of Delaware. He is a National Book Award finalist and has authored many military histories and biographies.

For more information, please call the Temple Beth El office at 302-366-8330.

Hillel seeking second Seder Home Hospitality for students

Each year, the Kristol Center for Jewish Life/Hillel Foundation offers seders on the University of Delaware campus, for students who can't get home for the Passover holiday. This year, Hillel will offer a first night seder and "Seders-to-Go", but would like to offer students the option of home hospitality for the second night, Sunday, April 24th.

If you're interested in opening your home to these students who can't be with family during the holiday, the staff at Hillel would like to hear from you. Students and homes will be matched based on

number of students the homes can accommodate, distance from campus, transportation arrangements, and level of kashrut observance.

Please contact the Kristol Center if you're interested in performing this wonderful mitzvah of welcoming the stranger into your home. Since there may also be a few students who would prefer to be at someone's home for the first night, please let the staff know if this is also an option. Call 302-453-0479, or sdhillel@udel.edu, to offer your home or for more information.

Save the Date for the Hadassah Donor Tea

Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah will hold its Annual Donor "Chai" Tea at the Waterfall Banquet Center on Philadelphia Pike in Claymont, DE on Sunday, May 15th.

The "Chai" tea will take place from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Along with tea and refreshments the afternoon festivities will include a fashion show and gift basket raffle. Sponsors of the fashion show include clothes by Lady's Image and jewelry by Andrea & Co. A donor fee and small plate fee will be charged. New members are invited to attend for plate fee only. New members and new life members will be honored that afternoon.

For more information please contact Elisa Ley at (302) 475-4677 or e-mail elisaley@comcast.net.

Rowing camps

at the WYRA boathouse on the Christina River



ROW FOR IT!

Camp I June 20-July 7, Morning 10-noon; afternoon 1-3

Camp II July 11-28, Morning 10-noon; afternoon 1-3

Ages: 10-14; Cost: \$100.00

Now in its 14th year, ROW FOR IT! introduces youngsters to the wonderful sport of competitive rowing. Races and a picnic for rowers and their families at the conclusion of each camp at the WYRA Boathouse on the Christina River.

Rowing 101

Camp I June 27-30; 9-3 p.m.

Camp II July 18-21; 9-3 p.m.

Ages: 14-19; Cost: \$300.00

For high school youngsters who have never tried rowing and think they might like to row competitively for WYRA or join a college crew. Coaches will video rowers on our rowing tanks in the WYRA Boathouse and on the water in eights. A great opportunity to see if crew is for you! Lunch provided.

Advanced ROW FOR IT!

Date: July 11-14; 9-3 p.m.

Ages: 12-14; Cost: \$300.00

Prerequisite: minimum of 1 season in ROW FOR IT!

Youngsters can polish up their rowing skills in preparation for competitive crew. Nonstop fun on and off the water. Lunch provided.

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June 14-Aug. 2; Ages: 22+; Cost \$225.00

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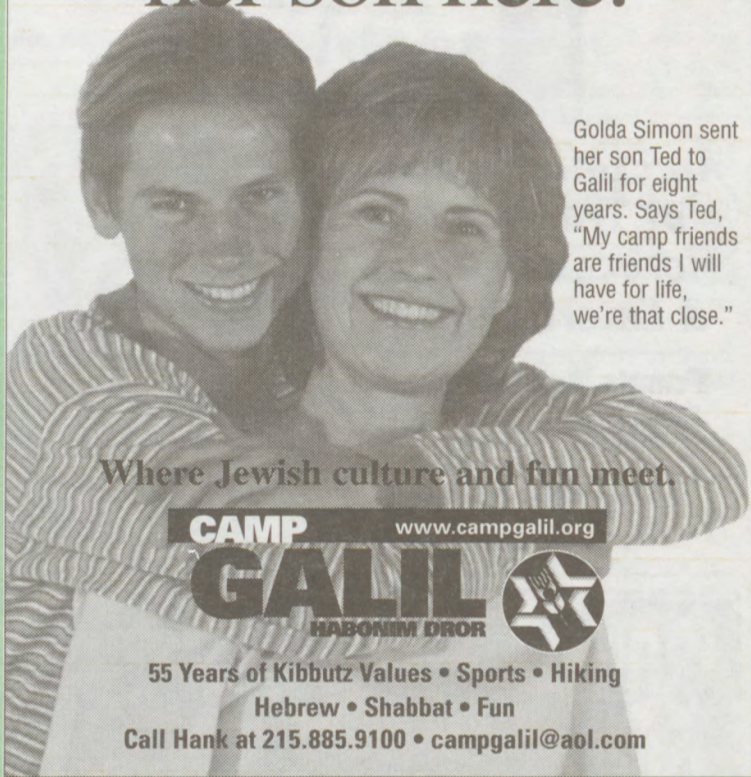
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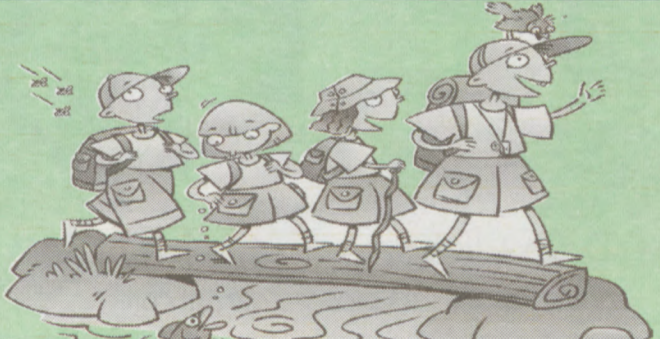

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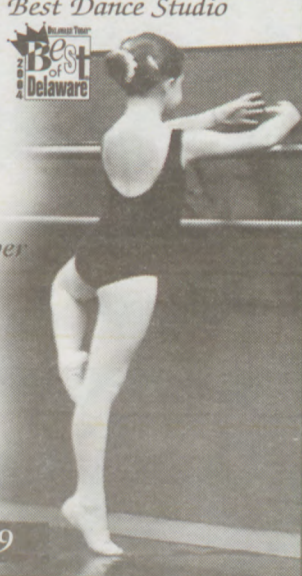



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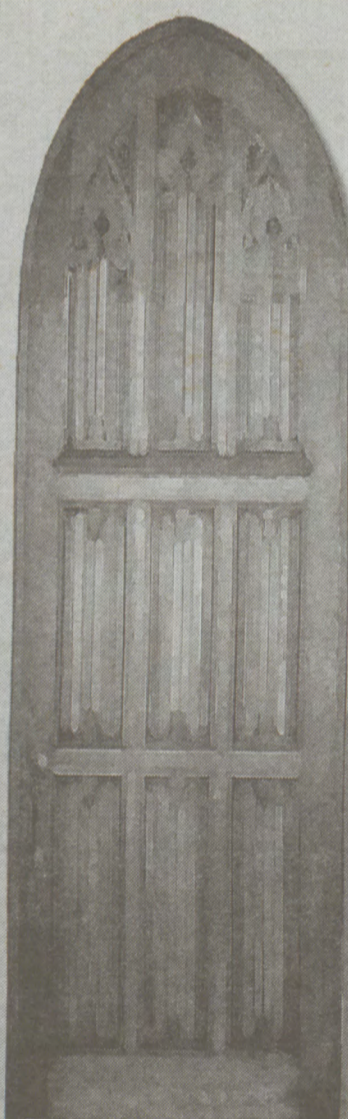
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AROUND OUR JEWISH WORLD

Israel sends in the Clowns to ease Tsunami Trauma

By Guy Sharett

The international Jewish community has sent in the clowns to help teenagers traumatized by the tsunami.

And they seem to be helping. "The clowns might not be able to give us physical help, but they help us to get out of the trauma because we are laughing a lot here. Sense of humor is important for us, especially now," says Darin Wahalak, 18, from Phang Nga in South Thailand, who spent a week in a camp with a group of Israeli clowns in Khao Yai.

Darin is one of 50 Buddhist and Muslim teenagers from Thailand's tsunami-ravaged Andaman coast who joined the camp recently organized by the Israeli embassy in Thailand, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and a local nonprofit agency, the Population Community Development Association.

"I feel that for these kids it's a huge change to be here in the mountains, where you do not see the effects of the tsunami and can laugh with clowns," says Shlomi Kofman, first secretary of the Israeli embassy in Thailand.

Many of the teenagers lost family, friends and homes in the devastating tidal wave on Dec. 26 that killed at least 165,000, according to The Associated Press.

"At first I was sad all the time. Now I am better," says Chusak Kokang, 18, of Krabi, who lost 10 of his good friends in Koh Phi Phi.

After the tsunami, he worked in a rescue team collecting bodies in the island.

"I am happy to be here in Khao

Yai. It's fun to do stuff with the clowns. I feel that they are more expressive, more open than Thai clowns. In Thailand clowns only play on stage, but here we're working with them side by side."

The clowns belong to a group called Dream Doctors, who work with children in hospitals in Israel—mainly kids who fight cancer and children who survived terror attacks.

They speak gibberish to them, taking them out of their difficult lives for a few hours of laughter.

"Actually we did not know exactly whom we would meet in Thailand," says Nimrod Eisenberg, or "Max," his clown name. "So we focused on preparations: We brought lots of red noses for the kids, tons of bubble liquid and balloons. These are all working tools we feel good with, and we have to work with things that make us happy, because this is how we can pass this joy to the kids."

The teenagers were not told in advance that the clowns would visit them "On the first day we decided the first encounter would be at lunch, and we would be the ones who would serve them the food," says "Prof. Chimichuri," clown Alex Gruber. "We thought that the kids would find it funny that clowns dressed up as chefs are the ones who serve them lunch, but they didn't laugh at all. At some stage I saw lots of flies around, and I asked every kid whether he wanted his rice with flies or without. They found it hilarious. Then I knew we found a way into their hearts, across the cultural and linguistic boundaries."

Activities with the teenagers included lots of group games and



Three members of an Israeli clown group, dubbed the Dream Doctors, visiting Khao Yai, Thailand, to cheer up teenagers traumatized by the tsunami, March 1, 2005. From left to right; Yaron Goshen ('Sancho'), Nimrod Eisenberg ('Max') and Dudi Brashi ('Dudon').

Photo: Guy Sharett/JTA

improvisation. At the end of the week every teenager performed in front of the group.

"Basically we came to give

those kids a kind of Thai massage. Not a foot massage, not shoulders massage, but a massage for the soul," says clown Dudi Brashi, or

"Dudon."

The embassy and the JDC are planning more tsunami-related projects in the near future.

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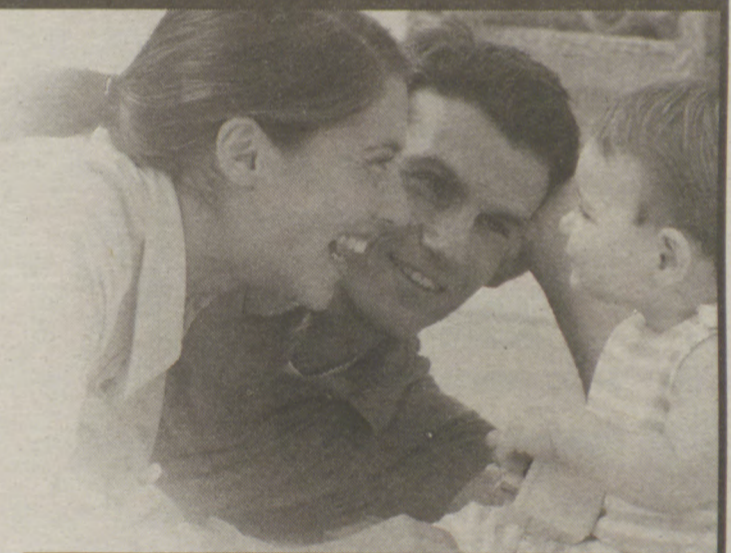
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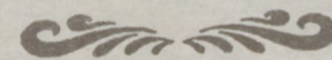
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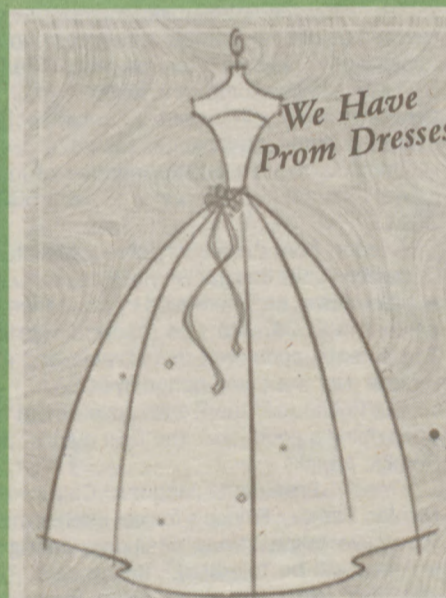
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GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

Hamas agrees to Palestinian vote

By Dan Baron, JTA

It seems oxymoronic: a terrorist group sworn to Israel's destruction, joining a Palestinian Authority now engaged in political negotiation with the Jewish state.

But this apparently will be the case come July, when Hamas takes part in Palestinian parliamentary elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — and puts Ariel Sharon's government in a diplomatic bind.

The radical Islamic group has boycotted elections conducted by the Palestinian Authority, which was formed under the Oslo peace accords of 1993 envisaging peaceful coexistence with Israel.

But on Saturday, Hamas official Mohammed Raza announced that the group had decided to run for seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council "for the sake of the people and to rectify political failings."

The "road map" peace plan calls for the Palestinian Authority to dismantle and disarm Hamas and other terrorist groups in the West Bank and Gaza.

But Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has made it clear that he

has no intention of implementing this clause to the letter. He prefers to talk rival factions into laying down their arms.

Abbas predicted that these talks would bear fruit at a conference in Cairo this week, when he predicted that 13 Palestinian groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, would agree to his cease-fire with Israel.

And Israel, apparently pleased at Abbas' success in calming down Gaza before it quits the coastal territory this summer, has not been protesting too much.

"Against the background of cries for liquidating the infrastructure of terror, the Palestinian leadership realizes, and Israel also understands, that there is no other choice than to cooperate with these organizations, which hold a violent right of veto over the peace process," said Ha'aretz commentator Zvi Barel.

"The readiness of these organizations to participate in Palestinian politics, and at the same time adopt a cease-fire, with Egypt granting them an umbrella of legitimacy, is part of the upheaval currently under way," he said.

Privately, some Israeli officials accept that

Hamas may have made a strategic turnaround.

"No one expects the group to change its charter," said one official on condition of anonymity, referring to a document that calls for Israel's destruction. "The question is how ready it is to act on this. An end to violence and terrorism is always a good thing, even if its motives are cynical."

Before and even during the last four and a half years of fighting, senior Hamas leaders hinted that they could "accept" rather than recognize Israel's existence if Palestinians get statehood in the West Bank and Gaza. Under this doctrine, the group would "suspend" indefinitely its quest to wipe out Israel.

Many believe that in Hamas' scheme of things, the well-being of the Palestinians comes well ahead of the jihad against the Jewish state.

Unlike Islamic Jihad, a group whose activities are devoted exclusively to terrorism and that already has announced that it will boycott the July elections, Hamas has a network of charities in the West Bank and Gaza. Its politicians are considered to be honest, in comparison with the corruption that has tainted many Palestinian Authority officials.

"With Hamas, you know who you are dealing with," the Israeli official said.

"If they call off the jihad, that is the way it will be. And who knows — maybe the very act of getting into politics, of dealing with the day-to-day of nation-building the West Bank and Gaza, will in itself mellow the group."

But Jerusalem is still a long way off from having to deal with a Hamas successor to Abbas. Raza said his group has no intention of seeking seats in the Palestinian Authority's Cabinet for now.

There is also the prospect of Palestinian infighting.

Fatah, the dominant Palestinian Authority faction, has been watching with concern the popularity Hamas has garnered in local polls, and it is redoubling its efforts to win hearts in the West Bank and Gaza. It's not just a matter of political jockeying: Fatah represents a more moderate Palestinian, who is unhappy with the idea of Hamas ushering in a Muslim theocracy.

An example of this infighting happened last Sunday. In the run-up to campus elections in Hebron University, activists from the rival factions faced off with fists and rocks. Eight students were hurt.

French Jews look to Israel

By Brett Kline, JTA

Harry and Murielle Ouaknine are successful professionals in France, but they're thinking of giving up their life here to move to Israel.

"We always thought about moving to Israel, but the environment in France now has pushed us to find the courage to do it," Ouaknine said last month at a fair here, held to encourage immigration to Israel.

Ouaknine, a shipping broker and the father of

two children, was gathering information about high schools in Tel Aviv.

He wasn't alone. An increasing number of Jews in France are contemplating a move to Israel. Nearly 4,500 people showed up at Aliyah Day last month, a huge increase from the 1,000 it drew in other years, according to the head of the Jewish Agency for Israel in France, David Roche.

Now a new group has been formed to help French Jews make the move to Israel. Launched last week at a posh dinner at the

Maison France-Israel, the AMI association will partner with the Jewish Agency in smoothing the process of immigration.

AMI stands for Aliyah Meilleur Integration, or better aliyah integration — the word "Ami" means "my people" in Hebrew and "friend" in French. AMI is modeled on the group Nefesh B'Nefesh, which sees its mission as "revitalizing North American aliyah to Israel."

"We think of the Jewish Agency as the big ocean liner, and AMI is the little speedboat," said its director, Alex Moise. "They pay for the ticket to go to Israel, and we take care of the taxi ride from the airport, a custom-designed ride, so to speak."

The group's initial budget, \$1.5 million, was donated by French Jewish philanthropist Pierre Besnainou. The amount is modest by American standards, but "it is a pretty good start," Moise said. "And of course we have plans for fund raising."

Two projects already are on tap. In one, AMI would help students get help from ongoing, privately funded financial aid programs — young French students studying in Israel can get Aviv grants, and French high-school seniors can get funding for trips to Israel at Chanukah.

The second project is new. AMI is setting up low-cost intensive Hebrew-language classes for families waiting for their departure date. It's funded by the Jewish Agency, AMI and other groups.

At AMI's launch, a 45-page report on French tourism to Israel was released. It included some startling figures.

At least 100,000 French Jews came to Israel as tourists in 2004, almost one-fifth of the Jewish population of France. Most of the tourists define themselves as religiously observant, or "pratiquants," but that could include people who go to synagogue only on the holidays and eat kosher food.

The French Jewish community is believed to number about 600,000, though the number is highly debatable.

Seventy percent of them are Sephardi. Either they or their parents tend to come from Algeria, Tunisia or Morocco. The rest are Ashkenazi, usually from Eastern Europe. The families of a small percentage of French Jews have been in France for many generations.

French Jewish tourists to Israel are 89 percent Sephardi and only 5 percent Ashkenazi, according to the report.

"Here in France, the overall system has been very good for French people and for many immigrants, but some Magrebis have been unable to integrate," said Rebecca Cohen, 17, talking about non-Jews of North African her-

itage. "The result is violence against us. You can't imagine how many Jewish teenagers are talking about leaving for Israel."

At the same time, most adults polled say they have good lives in France. "Jews have been very successful in France," Moise said. "But this year, there is a bad feeling."

"Frankly speaking, the anti-Semitism is coming almost entirely from the North African Muslim community," he said. "And Jews here have less and less confidence in France and in Europe. At least some of the Muslims here want to Islamize France. Jews have a capacity to adapt to this that other French people do not have."

People spoke frankly about their fears at Aliyah Day. The Ouaknines live on a houseboat on the Seine River in Paris. The parents came to France from Morocco and Tunisia when they were children. They eat kosher food and go to synagogue every week. But they are beginning to worry about the future.

"Honestly, the anti-Semitic violence has not touched us directly, but it is scaring us enough to believe we have no future as Jews in Paris," said Murielle Ouaknine, who works in information technology. "We want to construct our futures in Israel, no longer in France."

Unofficial figures put the number of immigrants to Israel from France at about 2,500 in 2004.


A report from the French Interior Ministry in December said that racist violence, including anti-Semitism, had increased by more than 70 percent in 2004, with 194 reported acts and 711 threats, compared to 112 acts and 418 threats over the same period in 2003.

But Roche said the French government has been doing a good job in the fight against anti-Semitic attacks.

French President Jacques Chirac and Nicolas Sarkozy, France's former interior minister, "have taken strong positions, saying no violence will be tolerated," Roche said. "But still, the courts could be doing more. And frankly, many people in France are simply not interested in the problem."

Cohen, who lives in a Paris suburb, was looking at information about high schools in Jerusalem. "I have Muslim Arab friends," she said, "but I have been called a dirty Jew by other Arabs in school more than once, more than twice."

"I was born here, but I am fed up. Whatever measures the French government takes, it is difficult to prosecute 15-year-olds, and the French people could not care less about this problem as long as it does not affect them directly."



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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The Purimshpiel: Taking Joy Seriously

By Batsheva Pomerantz
Israel Press Service

"From the beginning of the month of Adar, joy increases," the Sages say, and this adage is taken quite seriously by students in yeshivas and schools around Israel. From the first day of Adar until Purim, which falls on the 14th-15th of Adar, routine schoolwork takes a back seat as students prepare and perform the Purimshpiel (Purim play).

Since the Middle Ages it has been customary among Ashkenazi Jews to masquerade on Purim. The Purimshpiel developed from this and involved the retelling of the story of Esther through humorous monologues and rhymes, providing an opportunity for the audience to cheer the heroes and boo the villains.

Initially enacted in Yiddish, Ladino or Hebrew, it was based on the Book of Esther (Megillat Esther) and was usually presented in private homes during the festive family meal by actors wearing masks and costumes.

The story of Purim is an exciting, historical one – an archetype of all stories in which Jews confront enemies who aim to destroy them. Esther is ordained as the queen of the Persian monarch, King Ahasuerus, who is unaware that she is a Jewess. His advisor, the evil Haman, plans to destroy the Jewish people, and Esther courageously speaks to the king on their behalf. This leads to their miraculous redemption and the hanging of Haman. The 14th of Adar, the date Haman chose to destroy the Jews by casting lots – purim in Hebrew – turns "from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday" for future generations.

The 14th century poet and philosopher Kalonymos ben Kalonymos wrote the Purim Tractate (which the Anglo-Jewish writer Jacob Israelstam jokingly referred to as "The Tractate of Lots for the Night of Sots") – a parody of the

Mishna and Gemara. Although opposed by many sages, the Tractate became popular and was published in a number of editions. An example from his work is his list of 24 different kinds of meat and pastry dishes that "were told to Moses on Mount Sinai, all of which one must prepare on Purim."

By the second half of the 16th century, Purimshpiels sometimes included contests between cantors from Poland, Italy, and Germany, and until at least the mid-17th century, the subject matter of the Purimshpiel was drawn from contemporary Jewish life and based on well-known humorous tales. From this point on well-developed texts on biblical themes began to appear, the oldest surviving text of this type being a manuscript from 1697 on the story of the Book of Esther.

At the beginning of the 18th century the plots of the Purimshpiel in Eastern Europe focused on Jacob and Esau, the sale of Joseph by his brothers and David and Goliath and would dramatize the plight and ultimate victory of the underdog.

The actors were either yeshiva students, members of craftsmen's guilds or actors, known as Purimshpieler. Plays were performed in the yeshivas or the women's section of communal centers and consisted of rhymes and catchy tunes, satire and hyperbole.

These shows quickly paved the way for Jewish theater, with the main character in one folk comedy – supposedly based on the sale of Joseph – being a German comic character known as Pickleherring.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the sacrifice of Isaac and the wisdom of Solomon were more popular.

According to historian Dr. Yitzchak Kerem, "Some Sephardi communities have parades and plays and wear costumes, but there is no satirical or spoof element like in the



Youngsters from the Boys Town - Kiryat Noar High School in Jerusalem during a Purimshpiel in which two of the cast are dressed as Sumo wrestlers.

Photo courtesy of Israel Press Service

Purimshpiels of Eastern Europe." Witty Sephardi and Yemenite Jewish writers, however, wrote eulogies for Haman, which consisted of songs and Torah witticisms. One example was the concocting of a Ketuba for Haman and his wife Zeresh.

In Eastern Europe, the head of the yeshiva would be replaced with a student known as the Purim Rabbi, who would wear typical garb, stand in the place reserved for the Rabbi and deliver a sermon in front of the city's dignitaries. This had to contain the latest Torah thoughts, with the word order changed, and be presented in mock seriousness.

"Every year when the Purim Rabbi enters our school, the imagination takes off," says Rabbi Mordechai Gordon, a coordinator at the

Boys Town - Kiryat Noar High School in Jerusalem where Torah, technology and academic subjects are combined. "Once the 'Rabbi' was lowered down in a car, and in another school he arrived by helicopter."

The senior class is responsible for the Purimshpiel, with preparations commencing on Rosh Chodesh Adar (the first day of the month of Adar), and the program is supervised by a faculty rabbi so as not to infringe on Jewish law.

As in most yeshiva high schools, the Boys Town Purimshpiel focuses on student life in the study hall, dining room and dormitory. "The students have a chance to express criticism in a cultured way with practical results, like improving the kitchen and services. They criticize the teachers but are cautious not to hurt their feelings or embarrass them or the students." Teachers receiving well-deserved praise take it seriously on this holiday of mirth and joy.

This year, the Gilo Comprehensive High School in Jerusalem, which has a large heterogeneous student body, has decorated its classrooms with placards containing rhyming jingles and, according to Pamela Halperin, English coordinator for the junior high school, "students have been learning about the history of Purim and its costumes and have been encouraged to send each other greeting cards by e-mail. Teachers will be receiving hamantashchen in which we've inserted different proverbs."

"Generally there is no theme for the Purimshpiel," adds Halperin, "although this year it may be Alice in Wonderland."

While the witty rhymes, jokes, parodies and colorful language of today's Purimshpiels may seem to diminish the spiritual importance of the holiday, they carry a serious message – the celebration of good over evil.

Pack your bags for a Pesach adventure

By Soriya Daniels

Years ago, Passover travel usually meant schlepping to Miami Beach—where great operatic tenors such as Robert Merrill and Jan Peerce would conduct the Seder at a fancy-schmancy hotel—or to the Catskills, which was more haimish but just as fattening.

Today, however, Passover travel options have expanded to encompass experiences ranging from Disney World to the Caribbean to a dude ranch in Wyoming. And you can get some decent deals on Miami Beach too.

In fact, the entire kosher travel business—especially around the United States—has grown dramatically in recent years, according to industry executives.

"It's exploded," said David Lawrence, an executive with Kosher Expeditions, which has offices in Atlanta, New York and Los Angeles and offers kosher-catered trips to places ranging from Alaska to Zimbabwe.

Kosher Expeditions and other travel companies are also becoming more adept at reaching specific Jewish market segments, according to Margo Dix Gold of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta.

"Trips are no longer marketed only for seniors and empty-nesters," said Gold, who noted that more and more vacations are being designed for singles or for people desiring adventure travel.

For example, said Lawrence, his company can provide food for

observant Jews who want to take a leisurely cruise or climb Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro. "Kosher-trained chefs and mashgiachs (kosher inspectors) travel with our groups," he said, "and we'll fly in food if necessary."

The Jewish travel business is especially good around Passover, said Gold.

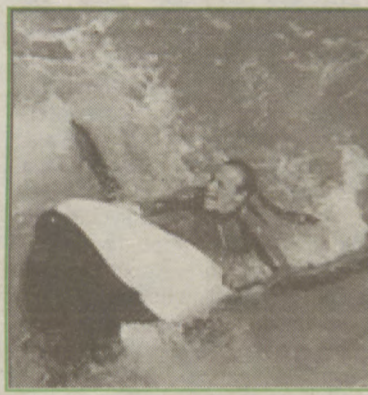
"Research has shown that Passover is the most celebrated holiday amongst Jews, even for those who are not very observant," she said. "Almost all Jews will celebrate Passover in some way."

And that has led a variety of companies to offer Passover vacation packages.

For example, MatzaFun Tours offers Passover at Disney's Contemporary Resort in Orlando. In addition to all the Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck you can stand, the package features three gourmet, Glatt kosher meals daily and traditional family Seders, daily synagogue services, guest lecturers and nightly entertainment.

Included are children's Park Hopper passes for full-stay guests and transportation to all Disney theme parks. To learn more, call (866) GO-MATZA.

If you prefer to spend Passover at sea, the Ontario Travel Service (800-893-5617) is booking passengers aboard the "Deep South Caribbean" kosher cruise, departing from Fort Lauderdale on April 22. The cruise package includes Seders on the first two nights of Passover conducted in a separate area of the dining room under



Conservative supervision.

The "Deep South's" itinerary includes Martinique, Barbados, Antigua, St. Maarten and the Bahamas.

Greg Bernhardt, a resident of Manhattan's Upper West Side, took the cruise with his mother and daughter, enabling him to spend Passover with his mother for the first time in years since he became observant.

"People who do not keep strictly kosher feel comfortable on the cruise, and the kashrut was good enough for me," he said, "but the best part was re-uniting the family and spending the holidays together."

At one point during the cruise, Bernhardt recalls, Jewish passengers who were not part of the kosher contingent asked if they could participate in the Yizkor service, while another passenger—an adult—celebrated his bar mitzvah with the group. That kind of cohesiveness appealed to Bernhardt, and to his teenage daughter, who



made friends from Scotland and Ireland while on the ship.

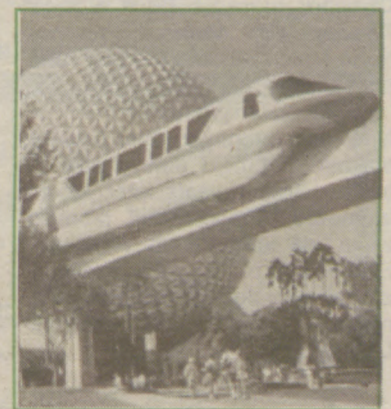
For something really different, Kosher Expeditions (800-923-2645) offers a dude ranch adventure in the not-so-wild West. Participants can ride horseback, go white-water rafting, relax in a hot spring, and explore nearby Yellowstone National Park. (The ranch is just 26 miles away.)

Joel Weinberger, a Maryland resident, took his two daughters on the trip a couple of years ago.

"My kids got the experience of being out there in rural America," he recalled. All meals were Glatt kosher, served family style in the ranch's dining room with several barbecues during the week.

There's no roughing it, either. The Kosher Expedition's package includes modern cabins with private baths and maid service.

For something a little more laid back, Club Kosher offers their yearly package dubbed "Passover



in Paradise," with two destinations to choose from: Cancun and Tuscan, Arizona. The Cancun trip, at a Hilton, offers guests typical resort amenities and expansive child-care programs, as well as atypical Mexican fiestas for those looking for a good party. In Arizona, spa delights abound and the resort features an expansive golf course. There will also be ample opportunity to explore spiritual realms with scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Manis Friedman. For details, go to www.ClubKosher.com or phone (866) KOSHER-2.

If San Juan or San Diego appeals to you, Afikomantours offers two resort packages featuring Glatt kosher meals, Seders and kid's camp. For more information, call (888) AFIKOMAN.

And there's always Miami Beach and the surrounding vicinity. Several hotels lining both coasts offer complete packages for the jet set. Check out www.totallyjewish-travel.com for more information.

MILESTONES In Memoriam

BODELL

Dr. Marvin Bodell, 78, of Hockessin, died at the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home on February 24th with his daughter, Deidre Vecchione at his side.

Dr. Bodell graduated from the City College of New York with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1949. He then went on to earn a diploma from the Chiropractic Institute of New York in 1958. He was the 30th chiropractor licensed in the state of New York where he treated patients for more than 40 years.

A natural healer, he was beloved

by all in his care.

Dr. Bodell's passions were classical music, good food and precious time with his family,

In addition to his daughter, Deidre and son-in-law, Ken Vecchione; he is survived by his two grandchildren, Alex and Darcy Vecchione and his sister, Frances Richards.

Services were private.

Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the American Cancer Society, 92 Reads Way, New Castle, DE 19720.

COHEN

Rose Cohen, 91, died March

9th. She was predeceased by her husband, Benjamin and a daughter, Glenna. Her son, Barry, will mourn her passing. A private graveside service was held in Beth Emeth Memorial Park. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to Congregation Beth Emeth, 300 Lea Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802.

FISH

Rabbi Judah L. Fish, former spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Sholom in Dover, DE, died February 25th after a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife, Joy (nee Tenor); his sons, Daniel Jeremy Fish and Rabbi Joseph Ron Fish;

his siblings, Miriam Reisman, Vivian Forman, Dr. Charles Fish, David Fish and Cherie Artz; and his grandchildren Hana, Dore, and Nili. Funeral services were held on February 28th at Adath Jeshurun Congregation in Elkins Park, PA with interment in Shalom Memorial Park.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Jewish Theological Seminary Scholarship Fund, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027, Beth Sholom Congregation, 8231 Old York Rd, Elkins Park, PA, Adath Jeshurun, 7763 Old York Rd, Elkins Park, Pa or The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, 3

Forest St., New Canaan, CT, 06840.

GARRETT

Bernard "Tootsie" Garrett, 46, died March 6th. He was preceded in death by his mother, Della Brown and is survived by his son, Bernard Smith of Wilmington; his sister and brother-in-law, Teresa and Michael Waters of Townsend; niece and nephew, Karyn and Jordan Gatling and dear friends, Kevin Homier, Julian "Buzzy" Andersen and Fred Hall. A memorial service was held on March 10th at the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel. Burial arrangements were private.

LIFESTYLES

B'nai Mitzvah project memorializes Holocaust victims

Keeping memories alive is not only at the core of Judaism, it is also at the heart of the Remember Us: The Holocaust Bnai Mitzvah Project that is now finding its ways into synagogues and Jewish communities across the country.

Remember Us offers young Jewish children preparing for their bar or bat mitzvahs an opportunity to honor those children who were lost in the Holocaust before they

could be called to the Torah.

"We recognize that the Jewish past is the wellspring from which we create a meaningful Jewish future," said Gesher Calmenson, director of Remember Us which is headquartered in Northern California.

In the Fall 2004 issue of "Torah at the Center", produced by the Union for Reform Judaism, he wrote, "Similar to breaking a glass

under the chuppah, this practice can become a loving act of remembrance. When the Jewish community comes together to celebrate an important simcha in one Jewish person's life, that person can take a moment to remember a Jewish person on whose shoulders he or she stands."

Calmenson, together with Barbara Tobin, project coordinator, developed this child-to-child non-

profit connection in 2003 and have seen it successfully implemented in seven states - California, Oregon, New York, Illinois, Florida, Maryland and Michigan. To date more than 30 schools and 700 young children and their families participate in the project.

"What sets this project apart is that we aren't memorializing, we are offering a redemptive means

to heal the past and the future," said Tobin.

This program is designed for all levels of involvement, from financial support to remembering a lost child. It is funded by grants and individual donations. Resource materials, including Mentor and Parent guides, are available. For more information, visit www.remember-us.org or call 707-520-2883.

Delaware Theatre Company presents:

Tuesday's with Morrie

Meet Morrie Schwartz, Professor of Life. Classes are registering now as Delaware Theatre Company presents *Mitch Albom's Tuesdays with Morrie*. Previews begin March 30, and the play runs through April 17, 2005.

Mitch Albom graduated from college and promised his favorite teacher that he'd always stay in touch. Sixteen years later, Albom is moved to honor that promise when he learns that Professor Schwartz is battling ALS, a degenerative neurological disorder commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Albom tries to make up for lost time, spending every Tuesday afternoon with his beloved professor. Over the course of their visits, the two recreate their roles and learn valuable life lessons from one another.

Called "A touching, life-affirming, deeply emotional drama with a generous dose of humor" by the *New York Daily News*, the production is the stage adaptation of Mitch Albom's book, *Tuesday's with Morrie*—a worldwide best seller. Albom wrote the script for the stage play in collaboration with Jeffrey Hatcher.

Mitch Albom, a Delaware Valley native, took every course that Professor Morrie Schwartz taught at Brandeis University. After graduation, Albom earned a Masters degree in journalism from Columbia University and then pursued a career as a sportswriter, eventually ending up at the *Detroit Free Press* where he now writes a nationally-syndicated column. He also hosts a nationally-syndicated radio program and appears regularly on ESPN's *Sports Reporters* program. Albom is the author of eight books, including the current best-seller, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

Albom is helping to sponsor a benefit performance of the play on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:45pm. All proceeds will go directly to the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the ALS Association to help support the chapter in its mission to provide care and treatment for people with ALS in the Greater Philadelphia Region and state of Delaware. Also sponsoring the benefit in part is the *Wilmington News Journal*.

Preview performances are March 30 and 31 and April 1 at 8PM. The play opens Saturday, April 2 at 8PM and runs through April 17. Evening performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m., with matinees on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 2PM. Ticket prices are \$23, \$33, \$40, and \$43, depending on the performance day and time, with special discounts for students, seniors, and groups of 10 or more.

To order tickets call (302) 594-1100 or online at <http://www.delawaretheatre.org>.

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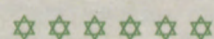
Jewish Federation of Delaware

announce with deep sorrow the passing of

Rabbi Judah L. Fish,

former spiritual leader of Congregation Beth
Sholom in Dover.

In his brief but meaningful tenure with the synagogue, he profoundly enhanced the quality of
Jewish life.



Federation extends its sympathy to Rabbi Fish's wife, Joy, his sons, Daniel Jeremy Fish and Rabbi Joseph Ron Fish and his three grandchildren.

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COMING EVENTS

ISRAEL EXPERIENCE FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Jewish Federation of Delaware announces the availability of grants for ISRAEL EXPERIENCES for high school students between 15 and 17 years of age. These grants are for structured programs in Israel that are sponsored by national or international Jewish youth organizations and are approved by the Federation (examples- BBYO, NFTY, Young Judea). Funds for these grants have been made available through an allocation from the Federation Annual Campaign. Please email gina.kozicki@shalomdel.org for guidelines and application materials.

April 1 application deadline.

SCHLOCK ROCK COMES TO WILMINGTON

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and Congregation Beth Shalom and their joint Hebrew School bring SHLOCK ROCK to the Wilmington Jewish community on Tuesday, March 22 at 4:15 PM. for one performance only! SHLOCK ROCK is the "biggest sound in Jewish music today," according to Cantor Joel Kessler who invites the entire community to attend.

SHLOCK ROCK puts original, clever words to popular rock, pop

and rap tunes from the 50's to the present. Through their music they enhance Jewish identity and awareness and stimulate Jewish pride.

The band has produced 23 albums to date. Their music library includes more than 7150 song parodies and original songs. The latest Shlock Rock album, "Shlock Rock Almost on Broadway," debuted in August 2003 and offers parodies from such well-known musicals as "Les Miserables," "Guys and Dolls," and "My Fair Lady."

The concert is free and will be taking place at Congregation Beth Shalom. For more information call Cantor Joel Kessler at AKSE at 762-2705.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ISRAEL?

OTZMA is a service-based leadership development program offering young adults ages 20-26 the unique opportunity to contribute and acquire an in-depth understanding of Israel and the Jewish people. The OTZMA program combines social action, civil rights and community building. Spend three months in an absorption center learning Hebrew, three months doing community service using your skills in a development town and three months on a kibbutz

or participating in our new internship track! For more information check out our website at www.otzma.org or contact us at otzma@ujc.org.

CREATE YOUR OWN SEDER PLATE

Create a special holiday keepsake when you paint your own Seder plate at the special Outreach price of only \$25 per person. Or, paint a mezuzah for \$15. The Sunday, April 3, 1 p.m. workshop at Color Me Mine in Glen Mills, is open to kids and adults. Space is limited - reservations required. Call the Beth Emeth Temple Office at (302) 764-2393 or email beout2@minque.com. For other fun events, visit www.bethemethoutreach.com.

LEARN HOW TO INVEST IN ISRAEL

On Sunday, April 10th, the America Israel Chamber of Commerce will host a seminar, "Adding Israel To Your Investment Portfolio-Public and Private Options," at Haverford College with panelists from SEI Investments, Amidex35 Mutual Fund, and BDY Ventures. The panel will be moderated by Fred Sherman, Chief Economist, Sovereign Bank. The program is a way to acquaint investment managers, individual and institutional investors with the Israeli market. And provides an opportunity for representatives from organizations involved with Israel to learn about Israel's economy and the ways in which the

Chamber can help to further their involvement. Reservations are required to ensure that everyone is seated. Please call, Debbie Buchwald at 215-790-3722 to reserve a space or if you need information.

MELTON SPONSORS PRE-PESACH SHABBAT DINNER

On April 15, 5:30 - 7:30, the Melton School will sponsor a Community Shabbat Dinner and Supper Quiz at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center. It's the week before Passover. Get out of the kitchen and join the community for a traditional Shabbat dinner cooked by someone else. Phone 478-5660 for more information.

Two activities to honor War Vets

AKSE TO HONOR WWII VETS - On Sunday, April 10, 2005 the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Men's Club will remember the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII by presenting two veterans of that war. The speakers will be Arnold Kneitel and Dr. Ralph Tomases. Arnold Kneitel enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as first lieutenant. In 1945, he was stationed outside of Munich, Germany where he bore witness to the Dauchau death camp. Dr. Ralph Tomases was a regimental dentist in Germany. In December 1944, Captain Tomases fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was captured. He was held in a POW camp. The breakfast will be at 9:30 a.m. and the presentation will be at 10:00 a.m. Cost of breakfast: \$4.00. The program is open to the entire community.

JEWISH WAR VETS TO MEET - Jewish War Veterans will have a meeting Sunday April 17th at 10:30 at the Bnai Brith Building in Claymont. The speaker will be Jane Brady, Attorney General. Her topic will be Identify Theft. All Jewish War Veterans, spouses, Patrons, and new members are invited. Refreshments will be served.

CLASSIFIEDS

To advertise in the Jewish Voice call Sid, 427-2100, Ext. 24

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

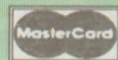
Main Line Reform Temple is looking for a Director of Education to join our Sr. Staff Team, and work closely with our clergy and Informal/Family Life Educator to develop programs of formal and informal experiential learning. Must be a creative, warm, caring person who seeks to be a presence in our community and have strong interpersonal and administrative skills. The Director will have overall responsibility for our 600+ student K-12 school, including staff hiring and supervision, budget, curriculum development and implementation.

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