

The JEWISH VOICE



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Woman of Valor, by Heather Mendel

Heather Mendel is a Calligraphic Designer and Oriental Brush Artist. A native of South Africa, she lives with her husband, a rabbi, in California. She is the author and illustrator of *Towards Freedom: a feminist haggada*. To view a catalogue of her work, visit her website at <http://www.wordartist.com>



INSIDE THE VOICE

Calendar of Events	19	Election 2000	16	Jewish Arts & Culture.....	17
Community Spotlight	2	Federation Focus	4	Milestones	18
Editorial.....	3	Israel Focus	8	Opinions	7

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Or L'Atid - A Light unto the Future

By Rachel A. Gross

Traditionally, on Friday evening, immediately before reciting the Kiddush, the family sang to the woman of the house the "Eshet Chayil" from Proverbs (31:10-31). This song describes the "Woman of Valor" and pays homage to her many attributes and virtues.

In our own community we are blessed with many such women of valor: mothers and grandmothers who pass on Jewish heritage and traditions to their families, professionals who lead our agencies and schools, teachers who instruct our children, women who deliver meals on wheels, mentor school children, visit the sick, plan community wide

events, raise money and serve on our agency and synagogue boards and committees.

Two of these volunteers, Miriam F. Edell and Barbara H. Schoenberg, have immortalized their commitment to Tzedakah, to our Jewish community and to the transmission of Jewish values and heritage by creating Lion of Judah Endowments (LOJE).

Miriam F. Edell is the current Chairperson of the Jewish Fund for the Future. Through her involvement in the Jewish community and specifically the Jewish Fund for the Future, Miriam recognized the importance of a LOJE gift for the future of the Delaware Jewish com-

munity. "Endowing my Lion of Judah is an affirmation of my commitment to my daughters and to this community. Perpetuating my annual campaign gift with a life insurance policy was easy to do and it will allow me to continue to give to the community - forever." In addition to her commitment to the Federation, Miriam is involved in the community in a myriad of roles: she is a past President of the Kutz Home Auxiliary, a member of the Delaware Perinatal Board, a Beth Shalom Board member and President-Elect of the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home.

Barbara H. Schoenberg, im-

Continued on page 5



Barbara Schoenberg and Miriam Edell wear their Lion of Judah Pins.

Continuing A Legacy Of Tzedakah

By Lynn Edelman, Editor



Harry Cohen

Sadie Toumarkine gave the Jewish Federation of Delaware a very generous Chanukah gift—a \$39,071.79 check from the Harry C. Cohen Foundation. Federation President John Elzufon accepted the gift on behalf of the JFD Board of Directors and thanked Mrs. Toumarkine for her sound financial management of a Foundation that continues her father's proud legacy of tzedakah.

The Foundation was established in 1959 just two years after

the death of the one-time Federation treasurer and campaign chairman. Started with initial assets of \$1,250,000, this philanthropic vehicle has distributed more than \$3 million to a broad range of programs and services here in Delaware and in Israel.

In the Delaware Jewish community, the Foundation's beneficiaries include the Jewish Community Center, the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home and the Federation. This year's allocations to these three agencies plus two synagogues total \$170,003.59.

To date, the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home has received \$372,366.23 from the Foundation. The JCC has been the beneficiary of \$445,439.35 and the Jewish Federation, \$556,616.44.

Harry Cohen came from humble beginnings. He immigrated to this country from Odessa in 1905 penniless, yet determined to succeed. He labored tirelessly as a leather worker, barber and coal stove blackener until he saved enough money to open a grocery store in downtown Wilmington. This store launched a successful

career in business which was distinguished by Mr. Cohen's operation of a profitable furniture store.

Mrs. Toumarkine learned from her father the importance of giving back to the community that nurtured the family's success. She recalls her father cajoling his friend, Charles L. Belfint, to join a campaign to transform the vacant Adas Kodesch Center at 512 French Street into a Jewish Community Center. Under Belfint's leadership, the YM/ YWHA opened its doors in 1936.

Continued on page 5

HARRIS JEWELERS

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EDITORIAL

Women Of Valor

Our cover artist Heather Mendel eloquently captures the theme of this week's edition of the Jewish Voice with her original calligraphy "Women of Valor" based on the Book of Proverbs. How fitting that we usher in a brand new year by celebrating the talents and contributions of Delaware women.

"A Women of Valor
Who can find her
For her worth is above rubies"

In Delaware, we can find these women among the very highest ranks of leadership. Ruth Ann Minner is poised to make history as the First State's first female governor. The Jewish Voice met with her several months ago after her very first visit to Israel. She appears to be committed to continuing the close economic and cultural ties between Delaware and Israel that were forged by the Carper administration.

Toni Young, the first woman to serve as president of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, continues to make an important difference in the lives of Jews in Delaware and Israel. Recently, Young, the current chairperson of Delaware's Partnership 2000 community in Israel, was named vice chairperson of the Northeast Region of United Jewish Communities-the umbrella organization for Federations throughout North America and Canada-and will become Region chairperson next summer.

Throughout the pages of this edition, we salute other women who "open their palms to the poor" and stretch out their hands to the needy". We pay tribute to Delaware philanthropist Sadie Toumarkine, whose successful management of the Harry Cohen Foundation has significantly enhanced her

father's legacy of tzedakah. We spotlight the accomplishments of Jewish communal leaders Barbara Schoenberg and Miriam Edell who have perpetuated their own commitment to Jewish philanthropy by creating Libn of Judah endowments.

The Jewish Federation and its agencies are fortunate to have talented women in both lay and professional leadership roles. Yasser Koach to Judy Wortman, JFD executive director; Albert Einstein Academy's dynamic duo-Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, head of school and Robin Saran, president. Also, Marlene Milunsky, principal, Gratz Hebrew High School; Hillel's Executive Director, Renee Shatz-Amdur and President, Gene Danneman; Amy Leviton, president, Jewish Community Center of Delaware; Dory Zatuchni, executive director, Jewish Family Service; Karen Friedman, executive director, The Milton and Hattie Kutz Home.

We also salute Harriet Ainbinder, President, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth and the many other women who enhance our Delaware spiritual life.

Read about Delaware Jewish women who have distinguished themselves in the fields of arts and entertainment. Learn the stories of women who have created and currently manage successful businesses.

"All this and more in the first 2001 edition of the First State's only Jewish community newspaper!"

On behalf of the Jewish Voice staff and volunteers, my heartfelt wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

B'Shalom
Lynn Edelman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Generic Jewish Person

I enjoyed reading the article "The Limits of Words" by Dr. Shari Cohen in the December 1st edition of the Jewish Voice. I offer Dr. Cohen the suggestion to become familiar with the word "generic". It imparts "limitlessness" to the understanding of words.

For example, the opening words of the Torah are, in transliteration, "Brayshis Barah E-L-O-K-I-M" The separated letter word, has by most readers, been considered to be a plural word. On this basis, it has been distorted in meaning. I suggest that the word be considered a "generic" nominative.

The next words in the Book of Genesis, in transliteration, are "Ess Hashamayim V'ess Ha-Aretz." They are translated by most readers as "the heavens and the

earth." I suggest a generic interpretation - "space and matter." I leave it up to other readers to apply the generic terms to their interpretation of the Torah from that point on.

Now I offer the "struggling" Dr. Shari Cohen a generic definition of a Jewish person to assuage the problems stated in her article:

"The generic Jewish person dedicates himself/herself to instilling in his/her personality all the attributes of G-d that one can profess, practice and personify in interacting with all other human beings."

Sincerely,
Samuel W. Slowowitz
Wilmington

PARSHA PLACE

Week of January 6

Vayigash

Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

Growth Through Torah
by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

The Torah states, "And Pharaoh said to Jacob, 'How many are the years of your life?' And Jacob said to Pharaoh, 'I have lived one hundred and thirty years. The years of my life were few and bad and they have not reached the years of my fathers.'" (Genesis 47:8-9) The commentary Daas Zkainim cites the Midrash that Jacob was punished for saying that the days of his life were few and bad. Because of the lack of appreciation for life expressed in his words he lived 33 years less than his father, Isaac, corresponding to the 33 words in verses 8 and 9. Why did Jacob lose 33 years? What does Pharaoh's asking Jacob's age have to do with Jacob replying that his days were short and few?

Rabbi Chaim Shmuelevitz, former head of the Mir Yeshiva, comments that Jacob looked extremely old - older than his years - which prompted Pharaoh to ask his age. Because Jacob lacked joy in his life, his suffering caused the aging process to quicken. Therefore, Jacob was held accountable for allowing the difficulties in his life to cause him so much stress that he aged prematurely. The amount of stress one experiences in any situation is dependent on one's attitude. The greater one's joy in life, the less one will experience stress while going through life's journey.

The Midrash to Eichah, Lamentations, states that life itself is sufficient that we should have no complaints in this world. If one just won the lottery, he would be oblivious to many of the irritations and losses in life. If one looks at each moment of life as if he has just won the lottery, he will have joy in life. It has been said that happiness is every day that one views the grass from the top down.

The JEWISH VOICE

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THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE

for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice

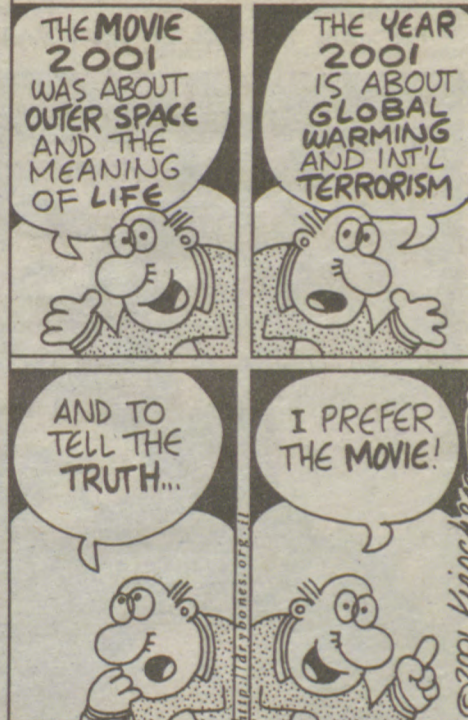
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JAN. 19	CAMP	JAN. 11
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 - 4:40 PM

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Visit the Jewish Federation of Delaware website at

www.shalomdel.org (currently under construction)
your gateway to Delaware's Jewish community

FEDERATION FOCUS

"Voice Chat" With Arje Shaw About The Gathering

By Joel F. Glazier
Special to The Jewish Voice

"Writing is part of my life," declared Arje Shaw when he spoke to The Jewish Voice recently. This wasn't always the case for the 59 year old writer of *The Gathering*, which opens at Wilmington's Playhouse Theatre on January 19. Originally presented by the Jewish Repertory Theatre for an extended 5 month run in 1999, Shaw's work was hailed as "thoughtful and provocative" by the New York Times and "a play of considerable substance and power" by New York's Jewish Week.

Arje Shaw did not start writing seriously until he was "in his 40's." His profession in the social work field has taken him to various Jewish communal jobs including his current position as Director of Highland Park, NJ's JCC. He also partnered with his wife in a Kosher catering business. In 1992, Shaw wrote "A Catered Affair" an off-Off Broadway comedy about running their Kosher caterers with 6 Italian helpers. His wife still operates the

catering business and in addition to his JCC responsibilities, Arje Shaw spends his other waking hours writing.

"The Gathering" was originally titled "Boychik" but an agent could see Shaw's story was a bit more extraordinary than the many father and son stories that are penned, often with cute titles. Since this story "grew out of my own estrangement with my father, it has been very personal from the start," comments Shaw. "Many men in their 40's go through self-examination about their relationships with their fathers. My own reflections were better for me to explore by writing about them."

"I'm not really sure how the President Reagan Bitburg visit as a backdrop entered into my work. I do remember the news about it, but my own father, unlike my character Gabriel Stern, did not even talk about going there to protest," Shaw admits. Shaw's father fled to the east from Poland prior to WW II and ended up meeting his wife in Tashkent. "My sister and I were born in Tashkent but for several years after the war, we all lived in a

DP (displaced persons) Camp at Bergen-Belsen. Finally in 1949 we were able to come to America in a stormy sailing across The Atlantic."

Shaw grew up "psychologically not feeling as if I belonged" among his more Americanized New York fellow students. "I of course was embarrassed by my father's accent and customs and would try to not be seen with him around my friends. I knew of his own struggles as a young man as he left his immediate family to flee from Poland." This generation estrangement continues to play on Shaw's mind.

"My work in the area of social work may be a way of reflecting my commitment to healing. Writing as a craft has helped me make dramatic sense." Shaw's father and mother are retired and living in Florida. However, Shaw considers himself, "A child of a man whose life was cut short." He insists the play is very personal, but "there is a universal value to the play. Relationships within families and having members see and realize their distances from one another resonates with everyone. What family does not have

conflicts or fights when there is a gathering at holidays?"

This universal value of strained family relationships appealed to the actors who have read for the lead role. "Theodore Bikel portrayed Gabriel Stern in New York, and Ed Asner read for it in Los Angeles. Hal Linden of course will be in Wilmington and when we open on Broadway. They are all exceptional actors and it is not just a Jewish role that attracts such actors," Shaw believes. "It is an ambitious play weaving many levels and topics in a short time." Shaw observed audience members talking about the show when they left the NY theatre last summer and heard them still discussing it several blocks away. Over 35,000 saw the show at New York's Playhouse 91.

Shaw believes all audience members, Jewish or not, will identify "big time" with the Stern family. "There's a universal value to stories on relationships. All will 'get' what is going on around the table" the distancing of the father; the mother as peacemaker. I hope a strong point learned in this play is to honor

those who have sacrificed; making remembrance a family dynamic and making that a part of the knowledge of a family as to what shaped them." His social work training and vocation come through as he feels "a commitment to healing" how to heal, and to take one step forward and to learn how to respect the survivor."

Arje Shaw's life has not only taken him from Tashkent to Germany and then to New York. After his formal education in NYC, including Graduate work at Yeshiva University, he now lives in New Jersey and attended classes at the Walnut Street Theatre School in Philadelphia. He looks forward to the Wilmington production and was impressed with the Delaware Federation's leadership who he met at the NY production. "I'm sure the audiences in Delaware will like the show," Shaw remarks.

A special Jewish Federation evening at *The Gathering* will be held on Saturday night, January 20. Both Hal Linden and Arje Shaw are to attend a reception after the performance that night.

"Voice Chat" With Hal Linden About The Gathering

By Joel F. Glazier
Special to The Jewish Voice

For most adults, Republican President Ronald Reagan's 1985 visit to Bitburg, Germany and laying a wreath at the cemetery there, where Hitler's SS Officers are buried, is a memory that brings to mind many feelings. For many WW II Veterans, it was considered an insult to the Allied sacrifices.

To many Jewish Americans it was seen as insensitive at best but also considered an inexplicable act by an American President.

For many Survivors of The

Holocaust it was considered an outrage. Nobel Laureate, Elie Weisel, used an occasion of a State Dinner at The White House to voice his disagreement and to courageously and appropriately remind dinner host President Reagan "that his place was with them [the survivors]; not with the perpetrators."

In Arje Shaw's provocative play, *The Gathering*, Tony award winning actor Hal Linden, portrays Holocaust survivor Gabriel Stern, whose son is employed as a speech writer for President Reagan. But as Mr. Linden told The Jewish Voice

in an interview, "The Bitburg visit was a gaffe on Reagan's part - *The Gathering*, however, is not a political play. Rather it is one which investigates human behavior. It asks serious questions."

Linden's character prepares for a protest visit to Bitburg and over Shabbos Dinner in their New York apartment, the Stern family is drawn into conflict, discussion, and forced to question the role of forgiveness versus forgetfulness. Linden insists, "It is not a political tract the audience will see; it is a personal story that the audience can identify with." Added to the mix of a familiar family gathering is Gabe's grandson, who has reached his bar-mitzvah year and is actively studying under the loving eyes of his grandfather.

Born in 1931, the teen aged Hal Linden, like most Americans at the time of WW II, had no personal awareness about The Holocaust. "Reading this play was an emotional experience for me, as it would be for anyone. However, the drama goes beyond being a Holocaust play. The primary question is asked, "When does holding on [to memory] become self-destructive?" As good theater, the play will not

answer that question, but does make the audience think.

"Is there some danger in 'never forget, never forget?' Linden is quick to ask, "How to remember in a healthy way and not let it become an obsession?" He praises writer Arje Shaw and reminds us "authors have the right to raise any questions" any questions they want. This play raises serious ones and will not give answers." Linden emphasizes the personal nature of the play and that he "didn't think he would have done another Holocaust play."

"This is a good play; a good theatrical play. It is about a family." Tension within three generations at a family gathering is not uncommon. Admitting that he cannot remember what he was even doing in 1985 when real protests were held in Bitburg during Reagan's visit, Linden also praises the character developed in the production of the young German Soldier his character meets in Germany. "This soldier represents an intelligent voice of a generation," and further adds to the conflict within Gabriel Stern and his memories. The encounter with a modern German soldier takes place away from

Stern's familiar setting. The production also takes no sides in the forgiveness/forget question. Linden also believes "the play will not change minds, but all audience members will leave with questions."

Linden was not drawn to the play because of its Jewish character. "There is not a role I have had of which I am not proud. My own Jewishness comes into it if it is a matter of importance to the play. Obviously it is important in this role as it was in my previous role in *The Rothschilds*."

Most recently Linden has been appearing with symphony and pops orchestras accompanied by his saxophone. Will we get to hear some between performance impromptu music? "I'll be very busy in Wilmington" don't think I'll be playing" unless the Delaware Symphony was to give me a call," remarked Linden, noting that this will be his first visit to Delaware. The show opens at Wilmington's Playhouse Theatre before 3 more pre-Broadway try out cities. With luck and success, Hal Linden will be spending his 70th birthday portraying Gabriel Stern in *The Gathering* due to open on Broadway in April.



Adam Rose and Hal Linden

Don't Miss Out On The 2001 Chai Event

The Playhouse in Wilmington is the place to be on Saturday, January 20th.

Members of the Delaware Jewish community who contribute to the 2001 Federation Annual Campaign on the Chai level-making a minimum household gift of \$2,018 or an individual gift of \$1,018-are invited to an extraordi-

nary evening!

"The 2001 Chai Event will feature an amazing 8:00 p.m. performance of the pre-Broadway show, "The Gathering", a champagne question and answer session with star Hal Linden and director Arje Shaw plus the most lavish dessert reception that Delawareans have ever

seen," said Caryl Marcus-Stape.

Marcus-Stape along with her husband, Jeff Stape and Dr. Deborah Kahn and Leonard Kahn serve as co-chairs of the 2001 Chai Event. Deborah Kahn added that "We've had an overwhelming response to ticket sales so hurry and reserve your seats today."

Couvert is \$65 per person and includes mezzanine seating, the champagne question and answer session plus the apres show dessert reception.

Call Rhonda Falk, campaign director, at (302) 427-2100 to make your reservations.

Don't miss out on the premiere event of the New Year!

Or L'Atid - A Light unto the Future Continued from page 2

diate past President of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, established her LOJE gift by designating a portion of her retirement assets to fund her gift. "I am deeply interested in and concerned about the future of our local Jewish organizations and believe that endowments can help secure their future. It is my pleasure to include a Lion Of Judah Endowment as part of my planning." Through her LOJE, Barbara's devotion will continue in her own name for generations to come. Barbara continues to lend her expertise and her time to the Federation as a member of the Endowment Committee and its Investment Committee and as Chair of the Capital Campaign

Finance Committee. Barbara is deeply committed to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth and is a past President of the Delaware State Board of Accountancy.

"A Woman of Valor, who can find her? She is worth more than rubies. Her palm is open to the poor and her hand outstretched to the needy. Return her deeds in kind and let her accomplishments praise her publicly." The Jewish Fund for the Future is proud of Barbara and Miriam - for their daily commitment and for their foresight and thanks them for their tremendous gifts.

A Lion of Judah Endowment Fund is a permanent endowment created with a gift of \$100,000 or more. A LOJE guarantees that

one's annual Lion of Judah financial contribution of at least \$5,000 to the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign will continue every year in perpetuity. It is not a substitute for an annual gift; it continues annual giving in one's name beyond her lifetime.

There are a variety of tax-wise ways to create a LOJE. A LOJE can be created through a bequest in a Will or trust, a life insurance policy or with cash, appreciated stock or mutual fund shares.

For more information on creating a LOJE gift for yourself, your wife, mother, daughter or another special woman, or to discuss some other way to immortalize a "Woman of Valor," please call Rachel A. Gross, Esq., our

Endowment Director at 427-2100 ext. 19 for a private, confidential consultation.



Next Issue:
January 19th

Camp Planning,
Education and
Life-Long
Learning

Deadline:
January 11th

Continuing A Legacy Of Tzedakah

Continued from page 2

Mr. Cohen also used his powers of persuasion with Milton Kutz, asking the then Federation president to conduct a survey about Jewish Education in

Wilmington. Survey results led to the establishment of the Associated Hebrew School in 1943.

Like Harry Cohen, Milton Kutz was generous to a fault. Indeed, the two men made matching

pledges of \$25,000 to the Federation in 1946-the largest campaign contributions that had ever been made to date! Not content to rest on their laurels, the two men raised a record \$27,000 for the Jewish National Fund.

Then JNF President Judge Morris Gothenburg traveled down from New York to Delaware to present the two men with a deed for a 250-acre colony in Israel.

Although weakened by a stroke in 1953, Harry Cohen's

commitment to Jewish philanthropy remained strong until his death in 1957. Today, through the Harry Cohen Foundation, his generosity continues to sustain and enrich the lives of Jews in Delaware and Israel.

Celebrating Women's Achievements

B.L. Avakian Oriental Rugs 239-0577

After receiving a B.S. degree in Fine Art from Hunter College in N.Y.C., Lucille Avakian Turnavian joined B.L. Avakian Oriental Rugs in 1990. Started by her mother, Barbara Avakian, in 1977, it moved to its current location, 1 2000 square foot showroom in Hockessin in 1983.

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Bonnie S. Greisler The Men's and Boy's Store (215) 914-2060

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Judy Levy Eileen Schwartz (302) 429-7379

Judy Levy and Eileen Schwartz celebrate the fourteenth year of their partnership as the new century begins. Together they have forged Delaware's most productive and most successful Real Estate Team.

We are fortunate that every day is different and introduces us to new and interesting people. As we reach to bring the new technology in our field to Delaware we also strive not to lose the very personal touch we enjoy with each of our clients.

Last year Judy's daughter, Rachel Levy Abrams, joined the team. Her people skills and knowledge of the community have been a welcome addition.

We believe that what we do is important and we are so fortunate that it's also fun!

Answer The Call On
Super Sunday - February 4th

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Continues

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FEDERATION FOCUS

Israeli Journalist Keynotes Federation Shabbat

Spend a special Shabbat weekend with your fellow members of Delaware's Jewish community. The

Jewish Federation of Delaware invites the entire community to attend Shabbat evening services at

Congregation Beth Shalom, 1801 Baynard Blvd. in Wilmington on Friday, February 2, 8:00 p.m. fol-

lowed by a festive Oneg with Israeli broadcast journalist Freda Keet. Keet, an anchor, newscaster and

interviewer with Kol Y'Israel, the Voice of Israel National Broadcasting Authority in Jerusalem, will also speak at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Washington Blvd. and Torah Way, Wilmington, following 4:00 p.m. Mincha services on Saturday, February 3rd. Talk with Keet while enjoying a Se'udah Sh'lishit meal. Then, complete the Shabbat celebration with Maariv and Havdalah services immediately following the meal.

Keet is certain to be an engaging guest speaker. A native of Zimbabwe, she studied theatre and acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, England. She made Aliyah in 1963 and was one of an elite group of female reporters to cover both the War of Attrition along the Suez Canal and the Yom Kippur War in the Sinai. In 1985, Keet served as a member of the Israel delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women. She was awarded Israel's "Seefs" prize for journalists who champion Israel and defend the nation's image abroad.

For more info, call Rhonda Falk at 427-2100, ext. 16.



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MATTER OF OPINION

American Democracy, Votes And Taxes

by E. E. Jaffe

Lexis De Tocqueville the French statesman and political philosopher became famous after he wrote the book "Democracy in America". It was based on his experiences during a visit to the USA in 1830 when he was in his 20's. He studied America by traveling widely and meeting important people over a period of nine months. The book was published in two volumes in 1835 and 1840. Even though he studied America when there were only 24 states and a population of 13 million people, the book is considered the "best ever written on democracy and the best book ever written on America" according to C. Mansfield and D. Winthrop the two political scientists who completed a major new translation of the book (University of Chicago Press).

De Tocqueville was a liberal who believed in political democracy and social equality and hoped that the American system will eventually replace Europe's system of institutions created by aristocrats. Unlike the social system in America where ordinary people who become educated and work hard can succeed and climb the ladder of social and entrepreneurial success, the European system does not allow such rapid advancement. It is very unlikely that a son of an English tailor or taxi driver, for example, will be able to study at Oxford University and eventually become a Member of Parliament.

There are definite impediments to social advancements. In today's America, on the other hand, achievement is based primarily on ability to perform and not on the status of parents or other relatives, making it possible for ordinary people to reach the highest levels of society and government.

De Tocqueville sensed early that the American system was a set of beliefs, values and practices which form the basis of democracy. He states that he was struck by the "equality of conditions" which provides "direction to public spirit" a "turn to the laws", "creation of opinions" that "modifies everything". Equality of conditions is interpreted as equality of opportunity rather than equality of results. He writes that there is "equality to indulge in the same pleasures, to enter the same professions" to live in the same manner and to pursue wealth by the same means". The basic assumption is that no one is automatically superior to anyone else, which separates America from the Old World with its aristocratic heritage. He praised American democracy but condemned slavery and stated that elections inspired "intrigues" and "agitation". This naturally leads to consideration of the recent presidential election. During the presidential campaign G. W. Bush advocated a tax cut that would reward primarily the people who pay high taxes. The question is whether that is a fair and proper thing to do.

In 1935 an important Revenue Act was passed by congress, which has frequently been characterized as Soak the Rich Tax. It established steeply graduated taxes, particularly for high income individuals with incomes above \$5 million per year. This step was advanced by Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the great depression when there was no unemployment insurance, no minimum wage, no social security, no Medicare, no federal aid to education, etc. Thus, taxes imposed on rich individuals was intended to follow the US constitution which requires the government to "promote the general welfare" of the country. Bush's call for smaller government, advertised everywhere as "Bush-Cheney: Smaller Government, Lower Taxes", is in effect a move to reverse the role of the government. Will G. W. Bush pursue this course of action now that he has been elected President? Does he have the mandate from the American people after receiving a minority of the overall vote? Based on the latest statements he

intends to push in congress for his 1.3 trillion tax reduction which would go overwhelmingly to the affluent in this society, people who have no real need for tax relief. He would be

well advised to change his approach or at least wait, particularly since a recount of votes in Florida is likely to be carried out soon which, of course, will not change the actual outcome, but may influence future policy makers. The conservative Judicial Watch group plans to use volunteers to inspect the disputed ballots in all 67 Florida counties. And the liberal Rainbow Coalition/PUSH intends to conduct a recount by Inauguration Day, January 20, 2001. In addition, the Miami Herald and its parent company, Knight-Ridder, have gained access to the so called under vote ballots, which did not register a vote for President, for a recount. One way or another these ballots will be counted. It would make good sense for the new President not to pursue elements of a radical agenda until these recounts have been completed.

The repeal of the marriage tax as well as the inheritance taxes, also referred to as death taxes, are apparently first on the agenda of the new

President. The former is not particularly controversial but the latter is already set by law to provide an increased exemption in a few years to one million dollars per spouse. The total elimination of the inheritance tax will once again help only those who do not need any help. The granting of tax relief to those who are best off in this society is not only unfair but also unwise. De Tocqueville worried about obsession with individuality that might become self-defeating selfishness. He wrote that rich people who think only of themselves and ways to amass more riches might become vulnerable to "despotism" even with a democratic government. This admonition would be wise to heed by the new government as it forges ahead in the formulation of new policies.

The fiasco of voting in Florida using old and un-reliable machines has been a shameful chapter in American history. The European press has had a field day. A prominent German newspaper

Continued on page 19



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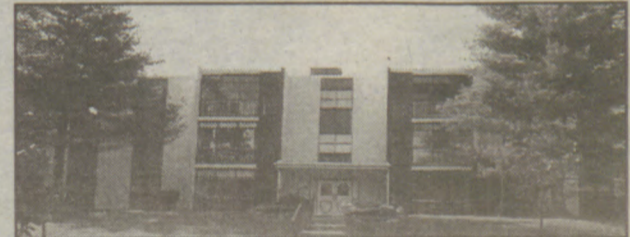
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ISRAEL FOCUS

Bombing Overshadows Clinton-Arafat Meeting

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) — President Clinton's 11th-hour efforts to salvage the peace process may be too little, too late for many Israelis.

Faced with heavy American and European pressure to reach a peace agreement before Clinton leaves office later this month, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat flew to Washington on Tuesday for a meeting with the U.S. president.

However, their talks were overshadowed by the latest terrorist bombing in Israel, and charges that the Palestinian Authority is encouraging the attacks.

At least 30 people were wounded when a car bomb exploded Monday night in the coastal city of Netanya.

A day before, Binyamin Ze'ev Kahane — the son of Rabbi Meir Kahane, the slain founder of the outlawed far-right Kach movement — was killed along with his wife, Talia, when Palestinian gunmen opened fire on their car on a West Bank road.

Five of the couple's six children were wounded in the attack. The couple's only son had been dropped off at school minutes before the attack and was not with the family.

The Netanya bombing came four days after two pipe bombs exploded on a commuter bus in Tel Aviv, wounding 13 people, one of them seriously.

A week before that, Hamas claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing near a roadside restaurant in the Jordan Valley in which three Israeli soldiers were wounded, two

of them seriously.

Reacting to the ongoing violence and terror attacks, Prime Minister Ehud Barak expressed pessimism Tuesday that an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal could be reached before Clinton leaves office — or before Israel's Feb. 6 election, for that matter.

Barak has been speaking increasingly about "separation" from the Palestinians should Clinton fail to achieve a peace deal.

During a phone conversation Monday, Barak told Clinton that Israel is now focusing on fighting terror, and that it is unlikely a peace agreement can be signed in the coming weeks, Israel Radio reported.

The report quoted Barak as telling Clinton that Israel would still consider invitations to send representatives for talks in Washington.

Speaking on Israel Army Radio, Barak accused the Palestinian leadership of supporting the terror attacks.

"The recent terrorist attacks show that the Palestinians are backing actions against us," he said Tuesday.

Senior Israeli security officials made a similar assessment, telling a Knesset committee that the Palestinian Authority has released all jailed terrorists and is encouraging attacks against Israel.

Israeli media provided an even darker picture, reporting that Barak has instructed the Israel Defense Force to prepare for a possible regional war. In a meeting with senior IDF officers, Barak said peace talks with the Palestinians could reach an impasse that causes the region to "deteriorate to a compre-

hensive war."

Barak also accused Arafat of wasting time by demanding clarifications to Clinton's proposals before formally responding to them.

Clinton's proposals call for far-reaching concessions by both Israel and the Palestinians.

Most controversial for Israelis is a proposal to cede control of Jerusalem's Temple Mount to the Palestinians. Israel also would divide Jerusalem, with Arab neighborhoods coming under Palestinian rule.

In exchange, the Palestinians would scale back their demand that descendants of the Arab refugees who fled or were expelled during Israel's 1948 War of Independence be allowed to return to their former homes inside Israel.

In Monday night's attack in Netanya, the explosives had been planted in a car parked next to a bus station.

Witnesses said three blasts rocked the downtown area, scattering nails that were packed in the bombs.

"There was a big explosion. The plate glass window shattered onto customers," said Yuval Tuchshneider, who works at an optician's shop opposite the bombing site. "We stood there frozen, and there was horrible shrieking outside."

Yehuda Ben-Hemo, another witness, said, "I saw a man fly from the car burning. I ran in his direction and he was burnt."

Following the bombing, an Israeli Cabinet minister called for breaking off negotiations with the Palestinians.

"We should stop everything and

figure out where we go from here," Communications Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said.

In the wake of the attack, Israel stepped up sanctions against the Palestinians, barring the passage of all goods except for humanitarian supplies into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel also banned Palestinian VIPs from traveling through Israel to get between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and closed the Rafah and Allenby border crossings.

The one person seriously wounded in the attack was believed to be the terrorist who detonated the explosives.

Israeli security officials were investigating whether Arafat's Fatah movement was behind the attack, which coincided with Fatah Day commemorations in the territories.

If so, this would mark an intensification of Fatah's struggle against Israel, which until now has not included terrorist attacks inside Israel proper. Those attacks generally have been executed by Islamic fundamentalist groups, who ostensibly are Arafat's opposition.

As Israelis await a Palestinian response to Clinton's peace proposals, two killings earlier this week in the West Bank drew cries for revenge and further dimmed the prospects for peace.

Settlers warned of retaliatory attacks after Binyamin Kahane was killed Sunday.

Hours later, a senior member of Arafat's Fatah faction was gunned down near his West Bank home, and Palestinian militia leaders promised to avenge his death.

Doctors at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital, where the family was

taken, said Binyamin and Talia Kahane were hit by bullets, and their children were wounded when the car flipped over into a ditch.

Like his father, Binyamin Kahane was militantly anti-Arab.

Brooklyn-born Meir Kahane founded the Jewish Defense League and the Kach movement, which was outlawed in Israel in 1988 as a racist organization. He advocated forcing all Arabs from the Jewish state. He was assassinated 10 years ago in New York by an Egyptian-born U.S. citizen.

His son, who ran religious seminaries, founded Kahane Chai — Hebrew for "Kahane Lives" — which espoused his father's beliefs. That movement also was outlawed, in 1992.

A New York native, Binyamin Kahane lived with his family in the West Bank settlement of Tapuah.

An estimated 20,000 people took part in his funeral procession through western Jerusalem, where some mourners rampaged through stores trying to attack Arab workers. Ten policemen were injured.

The procession also stopped opposite the prime minister's official residence in Jerusalem, where mourners denounced Barak's peace efforts and called him a murderer.

Sunday's slaying of the Fatah leader also drew vows of revenge. Palestinian officials claimed that Thabet Thabet, Fatah's secretary-general in the Tulkarm area, was the victim of an Israeli assassination squad.

Marwan Barghouti, leader of the Fatah militias in the West Bank, warned Sunday that Barak bore responsibility and that he had "opened the gates of hell."



Israeli bomb experts wait to remove the remains of a car bomb that blew up in the coastal city of Netanya, injuring at least 30 people on Monday. Credit: Brian Hendler/JTA

How Delaware Jews Can Help

The peace process is at a crossroads. With the latest conflict, Israel needs our support more than ever. The expenses of war are high — both in fiscal and human cost. The following indicators underscore the damage being done to Israel's economy and social welfare: Approximately \$750,000 is spent per day for military and other fighting costs (Yediot Aharonot, November 12, 2000). The Finance Ministry has cut approximately \$500 million for the planned 2001 budget to cover extra security expenses. (Yediot Aharonot, November 19, 2000).

Following US government warnings, 75% of U.S. tourists have canceled travel plans to Israel. (Ha'aretz, November 19, 2000) 30,000 people are normally employed in the hospitality industry. Since the occupancy rate has shrunk from 80% to 20% — or even 10% — seven hotels have closed in Tiberias, where 64% of the citizens earn their wages directly or indirectly from the tourism industry. (Yediot Aharonot, November 7, 2000)

The head of the Deutsche Bank delegation in Israel reports that "foreign investors have frozen their planned deals in Israel." (Ma'ariv, October 23, 2000) 10,000 people have already been fired in the construction sector. A third of the workers in the building materials sector have also lost their jobs. (Ilim) The damage to Israeli industries doing business with Palestinians is estimated at approximately \$62.5 million. (Ha'aretz, November 8, 2000) According to the Merchants Association, income from sales has dropped by 20% to 30% since the beginning of the riots. The Finance Ministry expects severe losses in taxes and V.A.T. (Yediot Aharonot, October 26, 2000)

Even in this most difficult of times, children have to go to school, new olim have arrived and need to learn Hebrew, parents depend upon secure day care for their toddlers while they work. It will take our collective best efforts to ensure that in this time of enormous stress and uncertainty, all avenues of our financial support for the people of Israel are utilized to the fullest.

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American Democracy, Votes And Taxes Continued from page 7

mum wage, no social security, no Medicare, no federal aid to education, etc. Thus, taxes imposed on rich individuals was intended to follow the US constitution which requires the government to "promote the general welfare" of the country. Bush's call for smaller government, advertised everywhere as "Bush-Cheney: Smaller Government, Lower Taxes", is in effect a move to reverse the role of the government. Will G. W. Bush pursue this course of action now that he has been elected President? Does he have the mandate from the American people after receiving a minority of the overall vote? Based on the latest statements he intends to push in congress for his 1.3 trillion tax reduction which would go overwhelmingly to the affluent in this society, people who have no real need for tax relief.

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The fiasco of voting in Florida using old and unreliable machines has been a shameful chapter in American history. The European press has had a field day. A prominent German newspaper pointed out that the superpower USA with its technological prowess, could not determine accurately the number of votes cast for the President of the USA. The overhaul of this system should become a high priority of the new administration. And while this system is updated the Electoral College system should be reformed as well. It has outlived its usefulness in today's modern world. For example, with a population of about 0.75 million people, Delaware has more voting power per individual than California with a population of 35 million. Delaware is represented with 3 votes and California with 54 votes in the Electoral College. Consequently, a Delawarean is 2.6 times more influential than a Californian in the process of voting. In the last election for President the vote of a Democrat in Texas or a

Republican in New York was virtually worthless. Because of the requirements of the Electoral College, a real anachronism, the statement "one man one vote" is meaningless. The will of the people was not fully expressed. It is time for a change.

When dealing with the unequal vote and the proposed unequal distribution of tax relief it is advisable to keep in mind the pronouncement "what is hateful unto you do not do to others" by the Jewish sage Hillel. Let's hope that President Bush will inculcate the essential meaning of the above

statement in the domestic policies of the new administration.

Moreover, care must be taken not to disenfranchise any registered American citizens or fail to properly inform them about the election rules in order to enable everyone to vote and express their preferences in a true democratic fashion, a call that was heralded by De Tocqueville 1.5 centuries ago.

E.E. Jaffe resides in Wilmington and is a frequent contributor to the Matter of Opinion page of the Jewish Voice.

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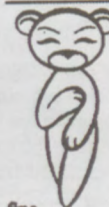
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Eileen is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Delaware Society of Certified Public Accountants, the American Society of Women Accountants, the American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Wilmington Tax Group.

Eileen serves on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, is treasurer of Gratz Hebrew High School, the Jewish Fund for the Future and as a commissioner on the Delaware Commission for Women.

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Judy is a member of the Delaware Estate Planning Council, The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, and the Delaware Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. She has had articles published in "Life Insurance Selling" magazine.

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During her freetime, Ellen serves on the American Civil Liberties Union Case Review Panel and volunteers as a Domestic Violence Project Attorney.

She is a board member of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and has served as chairperson of the Editorial Committee for the Jewish Voice.

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COMMENTARY

An Absence Of Escapism

By Nechemia Meyers

Since Israelis move from one nerve-racking crisis to another, it would be logical to expect that their movies and plays would be escapist, designed to provide relief from the pervasive tension. But a significant percentage are not.

Take, for example, the locally made film I saw this week: "Hesder," the English title of which is "A Time of Favor." Winner of five Israeli Oscars, the movie portrays a plot to attack the Al Aqsa Mosque on Jerusalem's Temple Mount. The plotters are a group of religious young men who were influenced by the fire-brand sermons of the head of their yeshiva, which presumably reminds viewers that rabbinical incitement apparently helped to motivate Yigal Amir's decision to assassinate Rabin. In the film, however, the plot is foiled.

The acting in "Hesder" is uneven, and the film is burdened with an overly melodramatic ending, when a "posse" of secret service men and soldiers comes charging in at the last moment to prevent the attack on the mosque. Yet it is interesting because it deals with the thorny issue of how violent words may inspire violent deeds. Moreover, by virtue of the fact that it was both written and directed by Joseph Cedar, who is himself observant, it presents the yeshiva world in both a realistic and sympathetic manner.

Political melodrama—mostly dealing with local problems—is also common on the stage, and its popularity helps explain why the theater here is flourishing.

Last year three and a half million tickets were sold by the various companies, an extraordinary figure when you realize that the total population of the country is some six million, and at least one-third of Israelis don't know enough Hebrew to enjoy a play in that language.

One of the most popular plays of recent years, like the film "Hesder," also deals with the link between religion and politics, albeit in a different sphere altogether. Called "Tikun Hatzot" (Midnight Prayer), it surveys the early life of Aryeh Deri, the man—now in jail—who was mainly responsible for the phenomenal success of the militantly Sephardic Shas party. As the play shows, Deri didn't start out as a Sephardic militant. Indeed, he attended an Ashkenazic yeshiva, learned Yiddish and was almost completely assimilated into his cultural environment when he suddenly discovered that the Ashkenazic ultra-Orthodox had no respect for Sephardim. This prompted him to return with a vengeance to his ethnic roots.

Another successful example of political theater in the mid-90s was "Gorodish", the tale of a general

who was a hero in the Six Day War but later was one of the main figures blamed for the military blunders that characterized the first days of the Yom Kippur War. Afterwards he embarked upon a self-imposed exile in Africa, where he died.

Ehud Barak didn't fare much better in a play called "Fog," in which it was implied that he was responsible for a mishap in which several members of a commando unit lost their lives. Altogether military men haven't been treated with kid gloves on the Israeli stage in recent years, perhaps because of the left-wing views of most playwrights.

In parallel, and not unrelated, the Palestinian characters are likely to be portrayed as victims of Israeli brutality. Prime examples include a play called "Malinki", based on the killing of Kafr Kassem villagers by border policemen on the eve of the Sinai Campaign, and "Murder", in which three Israeli soldiers do away with a captured Palestinian who had earlier murdered an Israeli soldier.

Yet to be seen is an Arab movie or play where the good guys are Jews and the villains are Arabs.

A Sequel to "Hesder"

The film "Hesder" took on added relevance this week with the inflammatory statements of right-wing spokesmen about Barak and his willingness to concede the Temple Mount and other parts of Jerusalem to the Palestinians within the framework of a peace agreement. To be sure, the rightists haven't called for an attack on the Al Aqsa Mosque in order to thwart such an agreement, but hot-heads out there could well draw their own conclusions.

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ELECTION 2000

Powell's Words Give Cause For Optimism



Colin Powell

By Matthew E. Berger, JTA

In accepting the nomination as President-elect George W. Bush's secretary of state, Colin Powell set out the foundation of the administration's strategy in the Middle East.

"America will remain very much engaged in the Middle East" under a Bush administration, he said.

Saying he expected the issue to be "a major priority" for him and the State Department, he also hinted at the role the new administration plans to take as it balances often competing interests in the region.

The policy "will be based on the principle that we must always ensure that Israel lives in freedom and in security and peace," Powell said.

"But at the same time, we have to do everything we can to deal with the aspirations of the Palestinians and other nations in the region who have an interest in this."

This balancing act — one the Clinton administration, too, has had to navigate — comes as a new administration prepares to inherit a region where the promise of peace has elapsed into violence and political turmoil.

Whatever the outcome of the latest push to revive Israeli-

Palestinian peace talks, Bush and Powell will take center stage Jan. 20, just as Israel is about to culminate a heated election for prime minister.

Powell's words are being watched closely by Jewish observers concerned about the future of the peace process, the role of the United States in the Middle East and the world, and the relationship between a new administration and the Jewish community.

Powell's name is familiar to the Jewish community, first for his role as national security adviser in the Reagan administration and then as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

But it has been 10 years since his pivotal role during the U.S.-led conflict with Iraq, which saw weeks of SCUD missiles raining down on major Israeli population centers.

Despite his initial hesitation to commit American troops to the Middle East, Powell emerged from the Persian Gulf conflict as a modern-day war hero able to match military strategy with public relations skills.

He has retained much of that luster from a decade ago. He has been heralded by both Democrats and Republicans and urged to join their ranks and seek political office.

But since the Gulf War, Powell has faded from the foreign policy spotlight, choosing instead to speak out on education and volunteerism instead of missile defense systems.

There is little known of Powell's current views on Israel.

His autobiography hardly broached the subject and many of his past speeches and notes from meetings with Jewish organizations are still hidden away in the storage areas of the organizations' headquarters and their leaders' minds.

What is remembered is that Powell impressed many.

He spoke a bit of Yiddish in addressing the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in 1991, a throwback to his high school days

as a clerk for a South Bronx shop owner.

He spoke of a recent visit to Israel, where he met with his counterparts and was able to speak "in short-hand, the kind that develops among close and dear friends."

And he emphasized a commitment to Israel as the lone democracy of the Middle East.

"We have stood with Israel throughout its history," Powell said, speaking a month after the end of the Gulf War.

"We have demonstrated again and again that our roots are intertwined, as they are with all nations who share our beliefs in openness and democracy."

"So let there never be any question about our commitment to Israel," he said. "And let there be no question that America will stand by Israel in whatever the future holds."

"Peace in the Middle East, as peace we all yearn for, can only be secured if the U.S.-Israeli relationship remains strong and vibrant."

But, there is concern that his words may not match his actions. While most Jewish officials and analysts are optimistic about his role in the peace process and as a friend of Israel, some note his hesitancy to fight against Iraq — and in the process support Israel — as a sign of future reluctance to use American strength to thwart international conflict.

"I think the fact that he occasionally uses a word of Yiddish is less important than how he uses the region geo-politically," said Morris Amitay, an Israeli activist and former executive director of AIPAC, the pro-Israel lobby.

Amitay said that during the Gulf War, Powell viewed Israel more as a hindrance than an ally. Wary of allowing Israel to fight back against Iraqi attacks, the United States urged Israel to allow the United States to fight its battle for it.

And while Powell would later applaud Israel's "heroic restraint" during the war, Amitay said he got the impression that Powell's regional priorities lay with protect-

ing the oil supply and maintaining the coalition of Arab states waging war against Iraq.

In his 1991 speech to AIPAC, he said the Gulf War dispelled the myth that "the United States must choose between Israel and the Arabs."

The Middle East has changed dramatically since that time.

The Gulf War was credited with creating the conditions that led to Israeli-Arab peace negotiations. But the Arab alliance that fought Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has broken down, and several countries in the region are flaunting the U.N.-imposed sanctions against Iraq.

While some see Powell's skepticism during the Gulf War as a window into a semi-isolationist viewpoint, others see it as a necessary cautious tone.

"You'll see a calm, mature system of foreign policy," said Newt Gingrich, a former Speaker of the House of Representatives who served as a Republican House leader during the Gulf War.

"He's very cautious and he's determined to win. Our opponents should remember that."

Jewish officials hope he will bring that same attitude to the current situation in the Middle East.

"He will be more focused on the peace," said Tom Neumann, executive director of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs.

Powell "understands the strategic importance of the State of Israel," Neumann added. "That is an important component of our negotiations."

In his speech accepting the nomination on Saturday, Powell reiterated Bush's mantra that the parties in the Middle East must handle their conflict on their timetable, not on the United States'.

"At the end of the day, it's going to be the parties in the region who will have to find the solution and come into agreement," he said. "They are going to have to live with each other."

Some see that approach as a refreshing departure from the

Clinton administration, which took a pro-active role in helping Israel and the Palestinians reach an agreement.

"The peace process is not something that should be going along with a ticking clock," Neumann said.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that no matter who was elected president last month, the activity level of the president in the Middle East peace process was destined to decline after Clinton.

And because Bush and Powell may take a hands-off approach, Hoenlein said, it is key to watch the rest of the foreign policy team as it is assembled in the coming weeks.

Already, the Jewish community has had a strong working relationship with Condoleezza Rice, named recently as Bush's national security adviser.

Rice, who served as a Russia specialist in the National Security Council during the elder Bush administration, has little experience in the Middle East, but has won praise for her intelligence and attitude related to Soviet Jewry issues.

There is a bit of concern that if the upper levels of the State Department focus on other matters, the influence the Jewish community has enjoyed in the past will dwindle.

But Hoenlein said previous Republican administrations have embraced the Jewish lobby, and he expects Powell's staff to do the same.

And Jewish leaders were encouraged by the comments of the president-elect.

Israel was the only country Bush mentioned by name, and in parsing his comments, some Jewish officials see a renewed commitment for the Jewish state.

"We will defend America's interest in the Persian Gulf and advance peace in the Middle East," Bush said. "Based, as any lasting peace must be, on a secure Israel."

Mixed Reaction To Bush's Faith-Based Initiatives

By Sharon Samber, JTA

President-elect George W. Bush's meeting this week with religious leaders shows he intends to move ahead with his controversial plan to involve religious institutions in social welfare programming.

It also sent a signal about who in the Jewish community he plans to consult on the issue — a signal that some Jewish leaders are not happy about.

Bush's meeting in Austin included some 30 Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders. There he laid out plans to establish a federal Office of Faith-Based Action.

The Jewish representatives at the meeting were Murray Friedman, a conservative thinker who also serves as director of the Mid-Atlantic region of the American Jewish Committee, and Rabbi Daniel Lapin, a Seattle-area based Orthodox rabbi and presi-

dent of Toward Tradition.

The early timing of the meeting suggests Bush's desire to make so-called charitable choice programs a priority.

Charitable choice, passed as part of the 1996 welfare reform legislation, allows religious institutions to bid for government social service contracts in areas such as drug counseling and job training.

"I'm afraid we'll hear a lot of it in the next four years," said the Rev. Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a group that monitors religious liberties.

Lynn calls the establishment of a federal office "outrageous," and anticipates many lawsuits will emerge challenging the religious-based programming.

The Jewish community remains divided on the role of faith-based organizations in public policy.

Most Jewish organizations worry about violations of church-state separation, as well as the possibility that such programs could involve proselytizing and coercion.

But others want to give synagogues and Jewish organizations more of a role and a chance at more funding.

Friedman, who is working on a project with a number of religious groups to study charitable choice, said he conveyed to Bush the concerns of some in the Jewish community about religious intrusion in the public arena.

Bush told the group that his plan would not fund churches, just the services that the churches perform, said Friedman, who also is director of the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Friedman said he senses the Jewish community is nervous

about the issue but he encourages Jewish groups to enter the discussion.

Lapin, the other Jewish participant, said he told Bush the meeting would help "to undo the epidemic of secularism that was unleashed in America eight years ago."

Lapin said that having a Jew in charge of the Office of Faith-Based Action would help downplay any fears that such an office was intended to "Christianize" America.

Stephen Goldsmith, the former Jewish mayor of Indianapolis who served as a key domestic adviser in the Bush campaign, is thought to be Bush's choice to head up the office.

By placing religious values at the core of the incoming administration, Bush will do a great deal to help unify the country, Lapin said at the meeting.

Lapin, known for his involvement in many conservative projects, including a voter registration project led earlier this year by the Rev. Jerry Falwell, said he believes that faith-based social programs have performed much better than their secular counterparts.

But opponents of charitable choice say there is little evidence to show that.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said that strengthening religious institutions is necessary, but churches, synagogues and mosques should not be the "be all and end all solutions" to social ills.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Focus On Jews In The Arts



Mary Davis

By Paula S. Shulak

In Delaware we are very fortunate to have a number of people prominent in the arts world who are also members of the Jewish community and from time to time we will try to feature them in this column. Today's subject is Mary Davis, who is the Director of Marketing for the Grand Opera.

Mary came to Delaware in 1988 and began her career with Shipley Associates. As a graduate of the University of Denver with a

degree in Mass Communications, she did well at this PR firm and also used her journalism skills as a writer for the Delaware Business Review and Delaware Today. When she moved to DelDOT a year or so later, she took on the responsibility of developing a marketing plan and strategy to coordinate all public transportation services in the state. Due to the passage of the Clean Air Act, Mary soon transferred to the Commuter Services Administration where she honed her administrative skills in combination with her PR background and in 1993, MBNA, recognizing her considerable expertise, hired her to oversee their Employee Commute Options program. Mary was the envy of many other Employee Transportation Coordinators all over the country because of the tremendous support which MBNA gave to this program and, had a category existed for a national award in this realm, she surely would have won it! MBNA subsequently loaned Mary to the Wilmington Renaissance Corporation where she worked on the revitalization of the downtown area's Ship Tavern's District. She feels she has been very fortunate that her career path has been a swift

and rewarding one, in which she has been able to use all the basic skills she learned in college. But where you are probably asking yourself do the arts fit in to all this?

During her time at DelDOT and beyond, Mary dabbled in community theater (thanks in part to yours truly when I cast her in an old fashioned melodrama at the Delaware Agricultural Museum) and through her participation, she met Ken Wesler, Executive Director of the Grand Opera. In 1999, he directed her in a 10 minute play at City Theatre and when he called her one day, she thought that was what he wanted to talk about. But she was wrong because instead he offered her the position of Marketing Director at the Grand. "It was the job of a lifetime," she explains, "an incredibly perfect marriage of my passion (theater) and my skills (mass communication). Most people never find this in their careers. My big opportunity just came out of nowhere. I sat there nodding calmly and holding all the excitement inside me. And then I got in my car, closed all the windows and shouted at the top of my lungs for joy."

Mary's position requires her to do all the brochures, direct mail,

advertisements, telemarketing and group sales for the myriad of programs run by the Grand Opera. In addition, she also publishes the newsletter of the Grand and writes for arts magazines. (In her spare time she free lances for the News Journal, Delaware Today and is now working on a major anthology). She has immense job satisfaction. "I know few people who wake up in the morning and love everything that lies ahead of them in the day. My job is to work together with everyone else at the Grand to create a marvelous experience for our patrons. We give them either a night they will remember forever or a horrible memory which prevents them from ever coming back. The saddest thing is that when a bad experience happens, the opportunity to rectify it is gone forever. It is a great challenge to satisfy every one of our customers and to send the right message to the right group." But Mary feels she is learning and improving every day. Her artistic vision has been broadened and her musical tastes have grown in her job. And she has had some amazing moments, like the time she got to meet B.B.King in person or had her picture taken with Itzhak Perlman. She gets to chat

with many celebrity performers and finds "they are just people".

Mary is Jewish by choice and feels that she has been warmly welcomed by her adopted religion. Her mother studied Judaism when Mary was a teen but it was five years before she decided that this was what she wanted too. She believes that Jews are much more grounded in the reality of this life. While in college she studied with Rabbi Joel Newman of Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Denver, CO. She comments that the Jewish community as a whole is quite eclectic in its artistic tastes and she is always gratified when she meets an acquaintance who has enjoyed a particular performance at the Grand. The opening of the Baby Grand has not yet affected her workload too much because most of the productions booked for that space are community oriented and are handled by outside groups, but she is thrilled with the progress of the Baby. Mary has already had an impact on cultural life in Delaware through her work at the Wilmington Drama League, Chapel Street Theater and now the Grand Opera. I am sure that she will have a great deal more impact as years go by.

Into The Arms Of Strangers

Stories Of The Kindertransport

Film review
by Joel Glazier

For nine months prior to World War II, Britain coordinated a unique rescue mission, opening its borders to over 10,000 Jewish children from Germany and other Nazi-threatened countries of Europe. The children, "Kinder," were taken into hostels and foster homes in Britain, expecting to be reunited with their parents. Most of these children were never to see their families again.

"Into The Arms of Strangers" is a heartbreaking yet inspiring account of the journey. The stars of this documentary film are the kinder, who now are adults, and in a few cases, the rare surviving parents of the kinder. Viewers are taken on the unique journeys by listening to the clear, concise and focused accounts given by the now adult participants.

Real news footage of events in wartime Europe is used effectively and not for shock or sensational value. The tales of hope, both real and false, are sensational enough.

"We thought of England as a land of lords and ladies because of the King and Queen, and the two little princesses [Elizabeth and Margaret] appealed to us very much," remembers Bertha Leverton, now a grandmother in London, where she was the principal organizer of the 1999 Sixtieth Anniversary Reunion of Kindertransport children. She and her two siblings are alive today due to the Coventry, England family who took them in.

Childlike memories like Leverton's engage viewers. While German Jewish parents secretly planned for the transport of their children, the destruction and

arrests of Kristallnacht pushed the plan into action. 300 children a week arrived in London. Each child would have a tale to share and the dozen or so who appear in this film have stories that cover a range of experiences. Some spent their formative years in uncaring hostels, some with ambiguous cold families, some were considered real family members with their English hosts. One poignant tale is Lory Cahn's. Now living in Philadelphia, Cahn's father pulled her off the train at the last minute as he could not bear to have his only remaining child separated from him and his wife. Cahn survived the subsequent concentration camp experiences. Her parents did not.

For fifty years after the Kindertransport, most of the participants did not talk of their experiences. Sylvia Avamovici Oppenheimer did not speak of her experiences even to her daughter. Daughter Deborah Oppenheimer became producer of this film partly as a tribute to her mother, who died in 1993. Research into her own mother's history revealed a lack of historical knowledge on the part of many of the surviving participants. One question that the film raises indirectly is why no other country was willing to take in Jewish children.

At the film's opening in London in November, Bertha Leverton raised the feeling of anger at America. After visiting our country she was overwhelmed by the vastness of America. "All 6 million European Jewish victims of The Shoah could have been settled in The American West," she told a screening audience. Leverton, along with Ms. Trudy Gold,

Director of Holocaust Studies of the London Cultural Jewish Centre, discussed the importance of Holocaust Education in schools. Ms. Gold proudly reported that Holocaust Education is now part of the National [British] Core Curriculum for all 13 and 14 year olds. She expects film like "Into the Arms of Strangers" to be used as part of future education to British children as an important

lesson to the influence bystanders can have in world affairs.

While the film received an adult rating, there are no graphic concentration camp shots. However, the tales of continual grief over loss of family, remembrances of separation, fruitless searches for dead parents and intellectual musings about treatment of refugees, having two sets of parents and guilt of surviving, render this film

totally engaging for thinking adults and for compassionate folk of all ages and cultures.

(Into The Arms of Strangers is currently showing in Philadelphia and is being talked up for Academy Award consideration. Its director, Mark Jonathan Harris co-authored a companion book and won an Oscar in 1997 for the Holocaust Documentary The Long Way Home.)

Adults Can Learn Hebrew



Ruth Fisher Goodman

"EASY STEPS TO THE HEBREW ALEPH BET"
Author, Ruth Fisher Goodman, 2000
Softcover, 60 pages, \$15.95

Reviewed by Sharon Milner

Most adults view the task of learning to read and write Hebrew as daunting. They frequently begin with great trepidation, especially if they have had a difficult time during

previous attempts.

Wilmington author Ruth Fisher Goodman's text/workbook represents a new approach based on solid and sequential learning principles. The book was field tested with adult students at the Academy of Lifelong Learning, the Continuing Education Division of the University of Delaware.

"Easy Steps to the Hebrew Aleph Bet" utilizes a linguistic, multi-sensory approach to learning Hebrew that results in easy and rapid learning. The author's strategy is presented in a step by step format, with opportunities to practice new letters and sounds via study sheets. Flashcards are also provided for further drill.

This reviewer finds "Easy Steps to the Hebrew Aleph Bet" to be a refreshing alternative to traditional approaches.

Coordinating reading and writing tasks helps the learner to asso-

ciate new information in a meaningful and practical way. The learner has the opportunity to explore word definitions which adds to his/her understanding and ability to use Hebrew in a functional manner.

"Easy Steps to the Hebrew Aleph Bet" is printed in a spiral text/workbook format which increases its function as a practical and easy to use learning tool. It provides a strategy which promises success without stress. This book is currently available at the University of Delaware Book Store and may also be purchased through the author.

Ruth Goodman, who also authored the 1996 children's book Pen Pals, may be reached via email at: ruthfg@aol.com

Sharon Milner is an adjunct professor in the Division of Education at Wilmington College. She also is a speech-language pathologist in private practice,

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MILESTONES

In Memoriam

CHINSKY

Eileen B. Chinsky, 83, Claymont, died December 29. Mrs. Chinsky moved to Delaware in 1969 from Irvington, NJ. She and her late husband, David, operated a corner luncheonette in Orange, NJ and a convenience store in Newark, NJ. Recently, she worked at Happy Harry's in Branmawr Plaza.

Mrs. Chinsky was a committed volunteer. She donated countless hours of service to the Jewish Community Center and its Senior Productions and on site Counsel. She also volunteered with Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation and as a floor representative at the B'nai B'rith House.

She was a devoted mother to her daughter Adrienne and son-in-law Jeff Koltenuk of New Castle; son, Irwin and daughter-in-law Arlene of Kirkland, WA and son, Dr. Jack and daughter-in-law Marybeth of South Windsor, CT. She also is survived by Her sister, Florence Goodstein of Lakewood, NJ; seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to either the Lupus Foundation of America, Delaware Chapter, 100 West 10th

Street, Suite 1015, Wilmington, DE 19801 or to the American Cancer Society, 92 Reads Way, New Castle, DE 19720.

GELLER

Hilda Geller, 77, died December 23rd. She is survived by her brother, Samuel Geller and nephews, Jay and Edward Geller. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation, c/o Mary Weinstein, 8602 Society Drive, Claymont, DE 19703.

GENEVITZ

Joseph Genevitz, 62 of Atlantic City, NJ, died December 18. Formerly of Wilmington, Mr. Genevitz was the former owner of Clover Block. He was a member of the Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society. Survivors include his wife, Roberta; daughters, Connie Miller, Stacy Donachy and Carrie Rosauri; son, Phillip; sister, Gelsa Levithon and ten grandchildren. Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society.

GOLDSTEIN

Dorothy Goldstein, 81, formerly of Ridgewood, Wilmington, died December 17. She was a founder of the Diamond Chapter of B'nai B'rith

and was a past president of the organization's Edna Reibman Chapter. A former member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and its Sisterhood, she also served on the Board of the Jewish Community Center of Delaware and as a member of the Anti-Defamation League.

She was pre-deceased by her husband, Abram and is survived by her son, Jeffrey P. Goldstein of Annapolis; daughter, Lorraine G. Miller of Coffee Run; sister, Frances Kandel of Boyton, FL; five grandchildren; son-in-law, David Miller and daughter-in-law, Roberta Goldstein.

The family requests that donations in Mrs. Goldstein's memory be made to either Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th and Baynard Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802 or to Congregation Kneseth Israel, 1125 Spa Road, Annapolis, MD 21403.

LUBAROFF

Martin I. Lubaroff, age 59, of Greenville, died New Year's Day. He was a senior partner in the law firm of Richards, Layton & Finger and was an internationally recognized lecturer on the subject of the Uniform Commercial Code.

Mr. Lubaroff was deeply devoted to the Delaware Jewish Community. He was a past president of the Jewish Community Center of Delaware and was a board member of Congregation Beth Shalom.

He was a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, where he was extremely active as a member of the school's Alumni Board, and Harvard Law School.

Mr. Lubaroff is survived by his wife, Sandy; his daughter, Beth; his son, Rick and future daughter-in-law, Terri Feldman; his father, Herman and sister, Terri Snyderman.

Shiva will be observed Saturday, January 6 and Sunday January 7 at 147 Deer Valley Lane, Greenville.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to either the Martin I. Lubaroff Fund, c/o the Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington, DE 19803; the Leukemia Society of America, Delaware Chapter, 100 West 10th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

MARSHALL

Laura E. Marshall, 96, died Thursday, December 14. She is survived by her son, James K. and daughter-in-law, Sharon of Darley Woods; her daughter, Gloria Singer; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions in her memory be made to either the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809 or Albert Einstein Academy, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington, DE 19803.

METZKER

Rita E. Metzker, 52, died December 28. She was a psychologist with the Christina School District. She is survived by her husband, William S.; her daughter, Lindsay E.; her mother, Florence Talcott; and her two brothers, Gregory and Richard Talcott. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions in her memory be made to either the Bone Marrow Unit of Christiana Hospital, Stanton, DE 19713 or to Delaware Hospice, Suite 100, 3515 Silverside Road, Wilmington, DE 19810.

PAUL

Sidney Wolf Paul, 84, of Chateau Orleans, died December 20. He was the owner of Wilmington Auto Seat Cover Company for sixteen years and was president of Northern Builders. He developed Kingsridge, Holiday Hills, Limestone Gardens, Hyde Park and

other residential communities. A 50-year member of B'nai B'rith Lodge #470, he was a two-time past president of the Delaware Chapter of the National Home Builders Association. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his military service during World War II.

His first wife, Bess Grablow of West Chester, PA, died in 1958. His second wife, Grace Knopf, of Wilmington, died in 1987. He was also pre-deceased by a daughter-in-law, Charlotte Paul (nee Sommers). Survivors include his children; Norman, Ron and Gerri Paul; his brother and sister-in-law, Ralph and Rosalyn Paul; stepdaughters, Sally and Judy; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and his companion, Ruth Bresden.

The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to the American Heart Association.

PROTAS

Judith B. Protas, 77, of Smyrna, died December 20th. She is survived by her son, Russell; daughter-in-law, Barbara; daughter, Linda P. Haley; son-in-law, Samuel and three grandchildren. The family suggests contributions to the Delaware Hospice, 911 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901.

ZINMAN

David Zinman, 77, Ventnor, NJ, (formerly of Wilmington), died on December 22. Mr. Zinman worked for many years as a stockbroker. He was a long-term member of the Jewish War Veterans and B'nai B'rith. Survivors include his wife, Ruth of Ventnor; daughters, Sharon Zinman and Alison Kortanek, both of Wilmington; a son, Daniel Zinman of CA; sisters Dora Kaufman and Rose Reitzes of Wilmington and four adored grandchildren.

Funeral services and interment were private.

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NACHAS NOOK

Cohen Named To Maccabian Team

Valerie Cohen, daughter of Merle and Ron Cohen of Wilmington, has been named to the Maccabian Field Hockey Team. The team will be one of 26 United States sports teams competing in the 16th World Maccabian Games, July 16 through July 26, 2001 in Israel.

The competition is the world's 4th largest international olympic style forum.



Valerie Cohen

Garson Bound For Penn

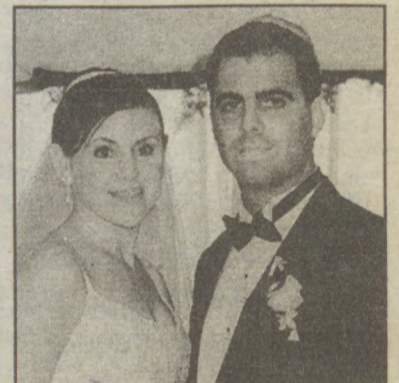
Julie Keil Garson has been admitted to the University of Pennsylvania on early decision; Julie is a senior at Akiba in Philadelphia where she lives with her parents Drs. Eliot and Lea Keil Garson. Her grandparents are Judge and Mrs. Charles K. Keil of Wilmington.

Kazinoff And Goldstein Are Wed

Laurie Jill Kazinoff became the bride of Howard Elliott Goldstein on July 23rd at the DuPont Country Club in Wilmington. Rabbi Daniel Satlow of Congregation Beth Shalom officiated. Laurie is the daughter of Phyllis Kazinoff and the late Dennis Kazinoff. Howard is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Donald Goldstein of Warminster.

After a honeymoon in St. Thomas, the couple make their home in Lafayette Hill, PA.

This photo ran in the December 15th edition of the Jewish Voice with an incorrect cut-



line. We apologize for the error.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

READ HEBREW IN JUST ONE DAY!

Sign up now for a single day of Hebrew learning that will last a lifetime. The community is invited to a Hebrew Crash Course on Sunday, February 11, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. offered at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. The class is based on the teachings of Rabbi Noah Golinkin, founder of the Hebrew Marathon movement and author of the book "Learn Hebrew While Standing on One Foot". A \$36 registration fee includes the class, a copy of Rabbi Golinkin's book, lunch and snacks. The class is limited to 50 students. To register, please call Eleanor Weinglass at 475-7630.

A WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE TORAH

Discuss and reflect upon the collection of commentaries in "The Women's Torah Commentary: New Insights from Women Rabbis on the 54 Weekly Torah Portions." Discussion will be led by Rabbi Myriam Klotz, Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center. Attend a class or the entire series which will be offered Thursday, January 18, February 1 and 15, March 1, 15,

29 and April 5. All sessions will be held from 11:30a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington. \$50 for the series, \$10 per class. Advance registration is required. Please call Jewish Family Service at 478-9411.

MOVE AND MEDITATE JEWISHLY

Jewish Family Service presents "Torat Hagufyoga: Jewish Movement and Meditation for Body and Soul" on Mondays, January 22nd, 29th, February 5, 12, 26 and March 5, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington. Learn Hatha Yoga, do breathing exercises

and meditate in a Jewish context. \$60 for the entire series, \$12 per class. Advance registration is required. Call JFS at 478-9411.

JEWIS IN THEATRE TOPIC OF AKSE BRUNCH

Dr. Leslie Reidel, Professor of Theatre at the University of Delaware, will be the guest speaker at the January 21 Men's Club and

Adult Education Committee breakfast program on Sunday, January 21, 9:30 a.m. at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Breakfast and program only \$4.00! To register, please call the AKSE office at 762-2705.

HEAL FROM YOUR DIVORCE

The JFS group "Healing from Divorce" creates a caring communi-

ty for sharing and support. Led by Peggy Lubinm, LPC and Karen Townsend, CSW, the group will meet for a series of five Tuesdays, beginning February 6, at noon at the Jewish Family Service Relationship Center, 288 East Main Street, Newark. To register, or for more information, please call (302) 286-1402 or (302) 478-9411.

Support The Delaware Kidney Fund

Diane Levin Widder, president of the Delaware Kidney Fund, asks the community to support the 940 Delawareans who suffer from kidney disease.

Established in 1981, the fund helps these men, women and children relieve their financial hardships through grants for food, rent, medical supplies and treat-

ment-related expenses. Now entering its 20th year, the fund needs individual and corporate donations to continue its work.

American Democracy Continued from page 7

pointed out that the superpower USA with its technological prowess, could not determine accurately the number of votes cast for the President of the USA. The overhaul of this system should become a high priority of the new administration. And while this system is updated the Electoral College system should be reformed as well. It has outlived its usefulness in today's modern world. For example, with a population of about 0.75 million people, Delaware has more voting power per individual than California with a population of 35 million. Delaware is represented with 3 votes and California with 54 votes

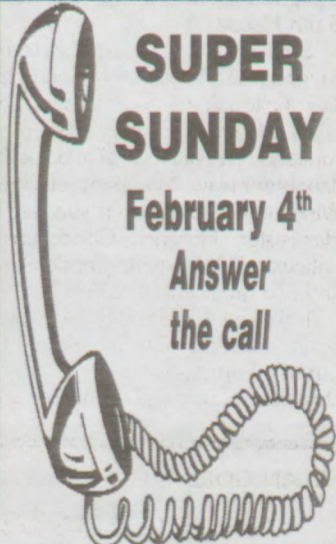
in the Electoral College. Consequently, a Delawarean is 2.6 times more influential than a Californian in the process of voting. In the last election for President the vote of a Democrat in Texas or a Republican in New York was virtually worthless. Because of the requirements of the Electoral College, a real anachronism, the statement "one man one vote" is meaningless. The will of the people was not fully expressed. It is time for a change.

When dealing with the unequal vote and the proposed unequal distribution of tax relief it is advisable to keep in mind the pronouncement "what is hateful unto you do not do

to others" by the Jewish sage Hillel. Let's hope that President Bush will inculcate the essential meaning of the above statement in the domestic policies of the new administration.

Moreover, care must be taken not to disenfranchise any registered American citizens or fail to properly inform them about the election rules in order to enable everyone to vote and express their preferences in a true democratic fashion, a call that was heralded by De Tocqueville 1.5 centuries ago.

E.E. Jaffe resides in Wilmington and is a frequent contributor to the Matter of Opinion page of the Jewish Voice.



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