

# The JEWISH VOICE



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## NPR's Linda Gradstein Delivers First Chaiken Jewish Culture Lecture

By CELIA GANS

Jerusalem-based National Public Radio correspondent Linda Gradstein expressed cautious optimism about current negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to her near-capacity audience in University of Delaware's Purnell Hall auditorium on Tuesday evening, December 7th, at the first Yetta and Sonny Chaiken Jewish Culture lecture.

Following her introduction by Sarah R. Horowitz, Director of the Jewish Studies Program and member of the university's English Department, Gradstein reminded her audience of the intransigence of the region's problems. A frog and a scorpion, she said, stood on the banks of a river; "Carry me across," said the scorpion. "But you'll sting me," said the frog. "If I do, we'll both die," said the scorpion. The frog considered this, and "being a civic minded citizen" commented Gradstein, agreed to transport his foe. In the middle of the river, the scorpion indeed stung the frog. "Why?" asked the frog. "Because," said the scorpion, "this is the Middle East."

That, as Gradstein sees it, is the choice confronting Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yassir Arafat: "either they both make across" the river of negotiations, "or they both drown." It's not like a marriage, where people become "partners for life. It's like two roommates. Two people who would prefer to live alone but can't afford it."

To illustrate the complexities of the problem, Gradstein described her visits with residents in the West Bank and Gaza Jewish settlements and PLO refugee camps, and in the communities of Palestinian citizens of Israel. In each community, people expressed

hatred, fear, and anger; but they also expressed optimism and hope. The key, said Gradstein in response to questions following her prepared remarks, may be economic: more jobs mean a higher standard of living for the entire region.

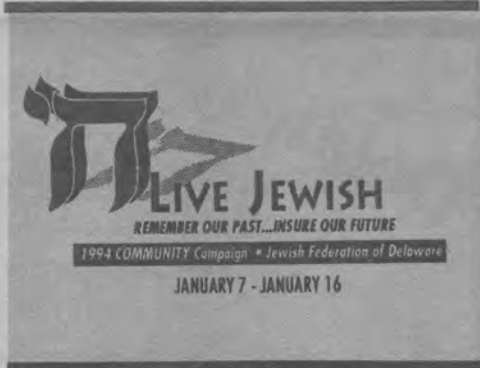
The Gulf War, believes Gradstein, pushed forward the negotiations process. What Israel learned, as it huddled in its living rooms wearing gas masks, was that conventional warfare was only one possible scenario for the Middle East. Given missiles and deadly chemicals, Israel recognized that territory can't always provide security. It also acknowledged the toll being taken by prolonged (and dangerous) reserve military duty on the country's families.

There will be delays in implementing the December 13th deadline for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and the West Bank, admits Gradstein, but "Israel and the Palestinians will see it through," there will be no turning back.

A reception honoring Gradstein and the Chaikens was held in the DuPont Music Building following the lecture.



Yetta Chaiken, Linda Gradstein and Sonny Chaiken at Purnell Hall.



## Jews Worried by Russian Ultra-Nationalists Strong Showing in Parliamentary Elections

By LARRY YUDELSON

NEW YORK (JTA) — The surprise showing of Russian ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party in that country's parliamentary elections has Jews, both here and in Russia, decidedly worried.

Initial returns showed Zhirinovskiy, who is widely seen as fascist and anti-Semitic, to have won between 20 and 30 percent of the vote, more than any other party.

"He's out there on the fringe," said Martin Wenick, executive vice president of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, which resettles Russian and other immigrants in the United States.

"When you start the slogan 'Russia for the Russians,' that's very scary stuff. What he's really saying is that nobody else counts," said Wenick.

"That type of sloganeering we've seen before in history," he added.

Zhirinovskiy's party seal reportedly features the old Russian empire ranging from Finland to Alaska. He has called for reasserting Russia's military dominance, has threatened the Baltic states and has called for renewed massive arms sales to Arab states. During the Persian Gulf War, he supported Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

President Clinton, in his initial reaction to Sunday's balloting, emphasized that Russian President Boris Yeltsin won ratification for his revised constitution.

But Jewish officials found less comfort in the constitution, which promises to advance reform and democratization by concentrating power in the presidency.

"What's dangerous is that the constitution is oriented to Yeltsin," said Leonid Stonov of the Union of Councils, an advocacy group for Jews of the independent states that succeeded the Soviet Union.

"If tomorrow something would happen to Yeltsin, there are no vice-presidents, no legal transferring of authority," he said.

Stonov and others also found little comfort in the reports that Zhirinovskiy is half Jewish, a fact he heatedly denies.

Just how powerful Zhirinovskiy would be in the new Parliament remained unclear, pending final count of the votes. He was leading initial returns for the half of the lower house of Parliament that was elected along party lines. Half of the Parliament will be made up of local representatives, and there has yet been no indication which way most of them will lean.

Continued on page 16



On Wednesday, December 8, President Clinton celebrated the beginning of Hanukkah with children from the Washington, DC Jewish Community Center's after-school program. In the Oval Office at dusk the President and children lit the candles of the Menorah and sang Hanukkah songs.



Wolf Blitzer  
See Page 7

### Inside

Arts .....	8
Calendar .....	14
Campaign Dates .....	2
Editorial .....	4
Local .....	6
National/International .....	2
Obituaries .....	19
Synagogue Life .....	10



NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

An Oasis of Understanding

By NECHEMIA MEYERS

Ulpan Akiva, the famous Netanya center for teaching Hebrew and Arabic, remains an island of calm in an increasingly stormy sea.

For at a time when continued violence has led to a serious deterioration in relations between Israelis and Palestinians, intercommunal goodwill, as I discovered last week, is still very much in evidence at the Ulpan, headed by Nobel Peace Prize nominee Shulamith Katznelson.

Ms. Katznelson had invited me there to attend a party for her Golan Druze friends, who came despite the fact that they may soon be under Syrian rule once again, and as they know only too well, Assad is likely to play rough with them for being "too friendly" with the Israelis.

The celebrants also included Arabs from Gara, Judea and Samaria who are at Akiva learning Hebrew, khaki-clad girls from the Israeli Army who are the retraining to become teachers of Arabic and overseas students of both languages from China, Japan, Germany, Denmark, the U.S. and other countries.

All joined in the bilingual singing, a common phenomenon at Ulpan Akiva, where students not only celebrate and eat together, but also room with one another. The management insists that housing be mixed, as the result of which a right-wing Knesset Member from Haifa may be sharing a room with a Fatah supporter from Jenin.

One of the people at the party was Samira Srur, who is the inspector of

Hebrew in Gaza and — under the guidance of Shulamith Katznelson — established two Hebrew ulpanim in the Strip. "Why," I asked her, "did over 7,000 Gazans decide to study the language of the enemy?"

"First of all," she replied, "it helped them in their dealings with the Occupation authorities and particularly with the soldiers, who tended to be

more gentle with Hebrew-speaking Arabs. Secondly," Ms. Srur continued, "it was useful to those looking for work in Israel or going for treatment in a Tel Aviv or Jerusalem hospital. Moreover," she added with a smile, "a lot of Gazans simply wanted to under the programs on Israeli TV."

"With the withdrawal, will there still be interest in learning Hebrew?"

I went on.

"Yes," Ms. Srur said, "because most residents of the Strip feel that there will continue to be some links with Israel, and that Hebrew will therefore remain important to them. The more optimistic even foresee the possibility of serving as intermediaries for overseas Arab businessmen who want to do business with Israel."

Shulamith Katznelson, for her part, fervently hopes to go on hosting Palestinians in Netanya and visiting Hebrew ulpanim in Gaza and in the Golan as well. This will only be possible, of course, if there are good relations between Israel and her non-Jewish neighbors. But in the absence of such relations, warns Ms. Katznelson, no political settlement will work in any case.

Friends in Gaza

One of Shulamith Katznelson's closest friends in Gaza is Toufik Musa Aniya, a well known educationalist.

Aniya first came to Ulpan Akiva over the objections of his wife and son. "My wife," he recalls, "wasn't able to forget the insults and blows she had suffered from Israeli soldiers, let alone the Israeli bullet that hit her in 1990. And my oldest son not only resented what had happened to his mother, but had also been wounded, about the same time, on his way home from school."

Yet Aniya, hoping that the hate of the past could somehow be overcome, went to Ulpan Akiva, where he and other Gazans were assigned Jewish roommates. One of his acquaintances, Aniya says, asked him to persuade the management to alter the situation. If not, the Gazan said, he would

immediately return home.

Yet despite the man's misgivings, and those of his Jewish roommate, they were persuaded to spend at least one night together, after which, much to Aniya's surprise, they walked out of their room chatting like old friends. "Moreover," he adds, "the three remain close to this very day."

Later on, at Shulamith Katznelson's suggestions, Toufik Musa Aniya sent his eldest son to Ulpan Akiva as well. The son subsequently wrote: "Before I came, I simply didn't believe that I could break through the barrier of fear created by my experiences as a young Palestinian who grew up surrounded by Israeli soldiers with guns and clubs. But by the end of my stay, I saw that Ulpan Akiva was a place where Jews and Arabs alike could overcome the hatreds and fears that had so long kept them apart."

1994 LIVE JEWISH REMEMBER OUR PAST...INSURE OUR FUTURE 1994 COMMUNITY Campaign Jewish Federation of Delaware JANUARY 7 - JANUARY 16 Friday, January 7, 8:00 p.m. Jean and Jack Blumenfeld, Chairs Federation Shabbat at Congregation Beth Emeth... Saturday, January 8, 3:00 p.m. Study Group: Jewish Continuity & Education with Rabbi Robert Toren Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth... Saturday, January 8, 7:30 p.m. Bentley and Clara Hollander, Chairs Dinner of Commitment at the Hotel DuPont... Sunday, January 9, 11:00 a.m. Steven and Miriam Edell, Chairs Chai Society Brunch at the Hotel DuPont... Thursday, January 13, 6:00 p.m. Sharon Mittelman, Chair/Matt Denn, Vice-Chair Young Leadership Cabinet FunRaising Sheraton Suites Hotel... Friday, January 14, 12 Noon Arlene Simon, Chair Lion of Judah Luncheon... Saturday, January 15, 8:00 p.m. Community Wide Event at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Siman Tov and Mazel Tov: The Wedding of the Century... Sunday, January 16, all day Suzanne Grant, Chair Super Sunday at Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate and a location TBA in Dover... Thursday, February 3 Marjory Stone, Chair Mission to Washington, DC... 1994 COMMUNITY Campaign Administered by Jewish Federation of Delaware

Hillary Has Hanukkah At White House

Published reports indicate that, according to First Lady Hillary Clinton, for the first time a bronze menorah would be displayed at the White House during the Hanukkah festival. Hanukkah, an eight day Jewish celebration concluded yesterday, December 16, 1993, corresponding to the Hebrew date 2 Tevet 5754.



Elderly Russian Immigrants learn which Israeli foods are economical, nutritious and tasty at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Initiated Holon Day Care Center in Israel. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is a beneficiary of The Jewish Federation of Delaware's (JFD's), 1994 Live Jewish Community Campaign. PHOTO: Vera Etzlon.

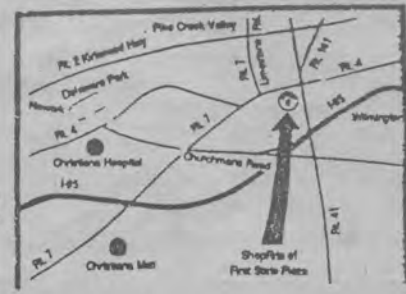
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## BRIEFS

The JEWISH VOICE

## NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

## Vatican Relations Expected 'Irrespective of Peace Process'

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

NEW YORK, (JTA) — The Vatican and Israel are expected to sign an agreement establishing formal diplomatic relations by the end of January, according to sources close to the negotiations.

Cardinal John O'Connor, the archbishop of New York and the moderator of Catholic-Jewish relations for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, told rabbis representing the Synagogue Council of American that he expects the accord to be signed by Jan. 31 "irrespective of the peace process," according to one witness.

"That's important because he's not linking what happens with the PLO and Israel to the Vatican establishing relations" with Israel, said Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, co-chair of the Synagogue Council's interreligious affairs committee, who attended the Dec. 2 meeting with O'Connor.

According to Avi Granot, the counselor for church affairs and ethnic relations at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, "all that remains is the signing of papers" for diplomatic relations to be finalized.

The "premise of the agreement is that whatever outstanding issues remain, they will be dealt with by the two parties after the establishment of relations, not that they should bar it," said Granot.

One outstanding issue for which a special committee will be set up is the question of whether Catholic institutions in Israel will pay taxes.

Most, but not all, religious organizations in Israel are taxed.

One issue of concern to the Israeli government is maintaining the status quo that exists with other Christian denominations.

To avoid upsetting the delicate relationships, "government representatives in Israel are meeting with the leaders of other churches and going over the agreement with the Vatican with them so no one will feel it will damage relations," said Granot.

The Vatican has confirmed reports leaked from Israel that the Holy See and Israel are very near to concluding an agreement on diplomatic recognition, but it has refused to confirm a date for signing of such an accord.



CARDINAL AND PILOT'S FAMILY... NEW YORK - Tami Arad, the wife of Israeli navigator Ron Arad, who was allegedly captured six years ago in Lebanon, poses with Cardinal John O'Connor and her daughter Yuval before their meeting. Ms. Arad is seeking international help regarding the plight of her husband who is believed to be still alive. CREDIT: RNS PHOTO/Reuters.

## APN Urges Patience

The following statement was issued December 13 by Americans For Peace Now:

Although the December 13 date for the beginning of implementation of Palestinian self-government in Jericho and the Gaza Strip has passed without a full agreement on interim arrangements, this does not mean that the peace process has suffered a major setback. On the contrary, the delay in reaching an interim agreement needs to be seen as an indication of the inherent complexity of the issues involved. It is surely better to invest the time needed to resolve these problems than to rush into a complex series of arrangements without a full understanding between the parties of the nature and jurisdiction of the Palestinian self-government.

Negotiations have become difficult not on the large question of whether there should be an agreement, but on the practical issues of the size of Jericho, responsibility for border crossings and security arrangements for Jewish settlements. Both Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat have committed themselves to further serious discussions on these issues. They should be resolved within weeks, and the planned interim phase will then go into effect.

It is much more important to focus our attention on the overall course of the peace process than on artificial deadlines. In recent weeks, progress has been made in negotiations with Syria and Jordan and most issues worked out with the PLO on an interim agreement. We expect that the remaining issues will be resolved and that the beginning of Israeli withdrawal and transfer of civil power to Palestinian authority will be implemented upon reaching a full agreement.

## Christopher Briefs AIPAC On Syria

By DEBORAH KALB

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher held a meeting Monday with two leaders of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee: Steven Grossman, the group's president, and

Howard Kohr, its acting executive director.

Israel and its Arab negotiating partners will be returning here next month to continue the long-stalled Washington-based peace talks, and President Clinton will be meeting with

Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Grossman said Christopher expressed hope that the upcoming meeting in Geneva between Clinton and Assad would set the stage for progress in the peace talks. Assad pledged to drop travel restrictions for Syrian Jews and he will allow some investigation in Syria of missing Israeli servicemen.

The secretary reaffirmed that the administration had no plans to remove Syria from the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism as long as Syria continues providing shelter to terrorist groups, Grossman said.

## Genetic Screening Used By Orthodox To Prevent Disease

By DAN WEINTRAUB

Editor of The Jewish Voice

According to a story published December 7 in *The New York Times*, a group of Orthodox Jews in New York and Israel is using advanced molecular technology to screen young people considering marriage. The article cites concern over the project from ethicists and geneticists. The recessive diseases which the project looks to limit are Tay-Sachs, Cystic fibrosis, Gaucher disease, and

Canavan disease. Other than Cystic fibrosis the incidence of these diseases are particularly pronounced for Ashkenazi Jews. The Orthodox Jews in question, through a program called Dor Yeshorim (Hebrew for "the generation of the righteous"), identify teen-agers who are carriers and discourage dating between two carriers. Such recessive diseases may occur only where both parents are carriers of the gene.

Dr. Michael Kaback, a medical

geneticist at the University of California at San Diego, advocates testing for Tay Sachs which the article describes as "almost always severe and tragic." However, screening for the presently treatable Gaucher's disease is much more questionable. Kaback and other's quoted in the article express the concern that many marriages may be needlessly prevented by projects such as Dor Yeshorim and that this has serious implications for autonomy and free choice.

## U.N. Backs Israel In The Peace Process In Historic Vote

By LARRY YUDELSON

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) — For the first time in two decades, the United Nations has thrown its support behind Israel's quest for peace. It overwhelmingly approved a reso-

lution that welcomed the peace process begun in Madrid in 1991 and expressed full support for the declaration of principles signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in September.

Voting for the resolution on Tuesday were 155 nations, with only Syria, Lebanon and Iran opposing. Libya abstained.

## Amnesty Representative Addresses Bias Concern

By ELEANOR SHAPIRO

Jewish Bulletin of Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — In an effort to improve its reputation within

the American Jewish community, Amnesty International has begun to meet with mainstream Jewish groups.

For years, the international human rights organization has been criticized for giving far more coverage to Israel in its reports of human rights abuses than to countries such as Syria.

As a first step, Celso Garbarz, the Brazilian-born, newly elected Israeli member of Amnesty's executive com-

mittee, recently toured the United States to meet with Jewish groups.

Extensive reports on the Jewish state exist because "Israel permits investigations within its territory, and the investigators get more material," the 38-year-old Garbarz said during a recent meeting here.

He added that reports from Syria, on the other hand, are more brief because "we are not allowed inside that country."

## Hardliner Elected To Head ZOA

By LARRY YUDELSON

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Zionist Organization of America has expressed its dissatisfaction with the progress of Israeli-Palestinian peace accords by electing a hard-line activist as the organization's president after a hard-fought campaign.

Morton Klein of Philadelphia defeated incumbent James Schiller on Sunday in what was described as a close vote.

The ZOA has long been one of the most hawkish of the American Zionist organizations and is linked to a faction of Israel's Likud party.

But following the defeat of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and particularly after the signing in September of the declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the ZOA lowered its political profile to adhere to the American Jewish mainstream's generally accepted policy of support for the elected government of Israel.

Klein, however, charged that the ZOA failed to be diligent enough in exposing how the PLO and Chairman Yasser Arafat violated the declaration of principles.

"The people at ZOA thought that by doing that, we would hurt the peace process," said Klein after his victory. "I think it would put some pressure on the PLO to abide by the agreement they signed."

Klein, an economist and health statistician, first made his mark on the Jewish community by protesting anti-Israel biases he discovered in textbooks, travel guides and newspapers.

This past year he led an unsuccessful campaign to block the admission of Americans for Peace Now into the

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. [Editor's Note: Klein wrote a column published in *The Jewish Voice* in September 1993. The column was personally critical of noted writer and activist Letty Coffin Pagrebin. Ms. Pogrebin's response was also printed.]

The ZOA convention, meeting in Washington, also elected the entire slate of officers aligned with Klein.

Gary Rubin, executive director of the Americans for Peace Now, said that in voting for Klein and in effect against the Israeli-PLO peace accords, the ZOA "elected to put itself outside the mainstream, which is too bad for the ZOA, but I don't think means too much for American Jews."

## Israel Pushes For Pollard

By STEVEN WEISS

WASHINGTON, (JTA) — The Israeli government appears to be stepping up its lobbying effort on behalf of Jonathan Pollard, as the Clinton administration moves closer to a decision on whether to commute the convicted spy's prison sentence.

Israeli Justice Minister David Libai met here privately Wednesday with Attorney General Janet Reno, who

is expected to submit a recommendation on Pollard's fate to President Clinton within a couple of weeks.

Libai urged her to "assist the president in making a favorable decision" on the case.

He told her that in light of Israel's planned release of thousands of convicted Palestinian terrorists, the Israeli public expects the "same gesture" from the United States.



EDITORIAL

# Jeers For Zhirinovsky

The recent elections in Russia seem like bad news for Jews in that uncertain portion of the former Soviet Union. Voters approved Boris Yeltsin's democratic Constitution which gives ample power to the President. What is particularly troubling for Russia's Jews, and anyone interested in Democratic reform, is the electoral strength of the ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky and his absurdly named Liberal Democratic Party which received between 20 and 30 percent in the parliamentary elections. The Liberal Democratic Party is neither liberal nor democratic. Zhirinovsky's call of Russia for

Russians feeds ethnic conflict, scapegoating and anti-Semitism. His ambitions for a greater Russian military, Russian expansion and a retreat from economic reforms are a prescription for instability in Eastern Europe.

Richard Wexler, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, in a statement issued December 13, in regard to the election, expressed concern with "the types of laws that will be passed by a parliament as volatile and reactionary as its predecessor; and how minorities, including the Jewish community will be treated."

Critics have charged that American policy has been unduly invested in the political future of Yeltsin personally. Actually, it is unclear whether or not greater American support for Russia's Choice, Yeltsin's allies would have improved their electoral showing. Should the United States have lent financial support and political expertise to Parliamentary candidates allied with Yeltsin? The Russian electorate, which to a great extent supported the anti-reform, anti-outsider messages of the militarists, fascists and communists, would likely have resented such overt American involvement.

What should be made of widespread comparisons of the Russia Federation today to Germany in the days of the Weimar Republic?

Some analysts are optimistic that the election of Zhirinovsky and his ilk, while cause for concern, may delay but won't deny the eventual reformation of Russia. Meanwhile, the results show a widespread tolerance for intolerant views. Interested Americans should urge President Clinton to keep the concern with Jews in Russia in the forefront of the United States agenda with Russia. Our voices are needed to keep open the channels of emigration to Israel for Russian Jews seeking a better life and to here in the United States to reunite families of Russian Jews.

The ominous election of Zhirinovsky, and other simple solution extremists, underscores the peril of Seymour Reich's recent call to relax our concern with the fate Russian Jews.

# Israel Camp Fair Bus Trip

"By bringing Jewish youth to Israel, we achieve two essential objectives; we strengthen their Jewish identity and ties to Israel while simultaneously helping our Israeli youth to intensify their ties with the

Jews of Diaspora and their understanding of the concept of Am Yisrael."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, November 1993

The Jewish Voice strongly endorses the planned JCC Bus Trip to the Israel Program and Camp Fair in Laurel, Maryland in January. If you are a parent who is interested in Jewish continuity and your child or teen's Jewish identity please call the JCC for information on this bus trip and fair.

# Overheard

"If last year's campaign theme was 'Think Jewish,' and this year's is 'Live Jewish,' what's next ... 'Eat Jewish?'"

# LETTERS

## Reader Questions Brady Bill Article

Dear Mr. Weintraub:

I would like to respond to your article in the Jewish Voice of 12/3/93 regarding the Brady Bill. There are a number of points in your article which I contend merely from the perspective of my own opinion. There is a remark which I will address where I frankly think you have taken liberty with the interpretation of the constitution (see enclosure).

In 1972 I wrote my first college paper on gun control, and was a strong supporter of it for exactly the same reasons you mentioned today. However, in 1989 I had a job in a fairly bad neighborhood and on my brother's advice bought a handgun for protection. I was amazed at that time that I was presumed guilty by the law enforcement establishment if I should carry it without a license and I could not carry it for self defense! Only if I carried large amounts of cash or drugs could I get a permit. I ultimately

received a concealed weapons permit but that experience drove me to join the NRA and to research gun control laws.

First, were any of us sure that any gun control law would work, virtually every American would be for it. Are you aware that there are over 20,000 gun control laws in the USA, including a number of variants on the Brady Bill (instant checks here in Delaware to 30 day waits in North Carolina)? The fear of many, including NRA members are that as it becomes increasingly obvious that these laws are ineffectual more and more laws will be added culminating in a total gun ban. While you might not think that is a bad thing consider that Criminologist Gary Kleck has reported that innocent Americans use firearms between 800,000 and 2.4 million times a year to defend themselves. (The reference for this is in his book *Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America*, New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1991, Chapter 4.) Do you really want to take away that layer of protection from the innocent? Do you want gun laws to deprive innocent people

of their right to self defense? Those are the reasons why the introduction of the Brady Bill was greeted with dismay by the NRA. Furthermore, Clinton, Sarah Brady, and others, such as the former head of NBC, as well as a number of legislators, have overtly called for the complete ban of firearms in the USA. Consider this — such a ban would have instant impact by criminalizing perhaps 50 to 75 million Americans. It would also give broad powers of search and seizure, punishment and fine to not only the police but the BATF and IRS. Are you interested in that? Can any Jew within memory of Nazi Germany advocate a government with those powers? If you find this intriguing, have you ever heard of a group called Jews for Preservation of Firearms Ownership? If not, perhaps you would find it interesting to read some of their premises, such as the fact that the American gun control acts were (and are) based very closely on the Nazi gun control acts of the early 20th century. We Jews always claim to be vigilant against the Holocaust but it seems to me that "Never Again" is an empty slogan when it comes to actually doing anything about preventing another holocaust.

In particular I am mortified at your glib quote that "The Second Amendment protects this right for the militia however, not to individuals or violent criminals." Now, this is the usual perception of the gun control lobby or supporter. At best this is controversial. Others say

that "assault" weapons were never anticipated by the forefathers and that military style weapons have no place in self defense or defense of liberty and property. Please review the attachment, which although it is from an NRA publication, quotes the authors of our cherished Constitution, that document which strives to guarantee the liberty of the Jewish people here in the USA, and draw your own conclusion about who is supposed to have arms and why. Further, an article in a local Delaware law journal a couple of years ago purported to demonstrate why in fact the Second Amendment should be extrapolated to in fact explicitly include "assault type weapons." As Mr. Zelman of JPFO says, good governments can turn bad and more Jews have died from governments than all of the hate crimes and fringe groups combined. Our problem in the USA is too much violence and not enough standards in a world with guns, not too many guns causing too much violence. Consider the crime rates in Israel and in Switzerland where every home allegedly houses a true fully automatic assault rifle (not the cosmetic assault rifles which people are trying to outlaw here in the USA. If one draws the gun control lobby's conclusion that guns, especially assault weapons, generate crime, then how do you explain the low crime rates in Israel and in Switzerland?

One thing I would dearly welcome is for anyone to trace for me exactly how a Brady Bill will make a substantial impact on violent crime. I have never seen anyone explain how exactly the Brady Bill will be effective.

My conclusion when I read the Jewish Voice

Continued on page 5



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## LETTERS

## Reader Questions Brady Bill Article

Continued from page 4

and Jewish community endorses this legislation is one of a naively liberal community, still entrenched in an atavistic post-war European dream of social liberalism without thinking about it and its results too critically. Indeed, on page one of the same *Jewish Voice* Dr. Wishner claims that social policy is an intimate concern of the Jewish community. Yet it seems that this social policy is perceived even within the Jewish community all too uniformly and other opinions virtually dismissed. I would urge you to realize that the NRA, despite its characterization by the media as extremists, is made up of American people, such as myself and perhaps a few other Jews as well. It is not an interest group which represents an industry or small political action committee and your casual remark that it is devoted to guns before people is inappropriate. It represents the devotion of millions to the liberty to own firearms, often based on exquisite study of history

and law and the ability to defend oneself and property if necessary against social unrest and tyranny. If you believe the social engines of our country are capable of protecting us I suggest you re-examine the decay that surrounds us, read an article titled "Dial 911 and Die" (published by JPFO and detailing the fact that our **government and police are not obligated legally to provide you and your family with protection**), and then read some history such as *The Great Reckoning* by Davidson and Rees-Mogg, which will describe the collapse of empires and the associated chaos, anarchy, and decay.

Gun owners welcome true dialog. I would encourage the Jewish community to make the effort to review some of the information I have mentioned in this letter, especially that of Dr. Kleck and Mr. Zelman.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Joseph M. Ullman, MD

*(Editor's Response: As The Jewish Voice is an open forum I welcome Joseph Ullman, MD's letter; nonetheless it is necessary to dispute the substance of his remarks. Joseph Ullman, MD cites the fear that current gun control laws are ineffectual and that more laws will be added culminating in a total gun ban. If his assertion is correct that present gun control laws and the Brady Bill prove ineffectual then the response is to craft more effective gun control legislation. The irrational fear of a total gun ban, held by Ullman and NRA members is at the very least unfounded and at the most extremely premature. Presently, in most of the United States it is easier to buy a gun than to be licensed to drive a car. The focus on a nonexistent hypothetical total gun ban underscores the apparent intention of Ullman and NRA members to polarize the debate on sensible intermediate steps aimed at preventing wrong-doers from easily obtaining guns.*

Ullman indicates how many innocent Americans use firearms to defend themselves. What he fails to address is how many innocent Americans injure themselves or their family members through the use or misuse of firearms.

His comparison of present gun control efforts which are directed at controlling violence, with Nazi legislation aimed at creating a totalitarian regime is wholly in appropriate.

While Ullman's quote of a local journal may illuminate interesting ruminations of a Delaware student, it is far more instructive to consider what the courts of the United States have said about this issue. According to an Associated Press article published on Sunday, a federal appeals court in Cincinnati ruled in 1971 "The Second amendment

right to keep and bear arms applies only to the right of the state to maintain a militia and not to the individual's right to bear arms..." Furthermore, the court held "there can be no serious claim to any express constitutional right of an individual to possess a firearm."

In 1982, according to the article, a federal appeals panel in Chicago concluded "that the right to keep and bear handguns is not guaranteed by the Second Amendment." To date the Supreme Court has not ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to bear arms.

While it may be true that the effect of the Brady Bill is largely symbolic, if properly employed the measure will allow checks of a potential purchaser's criminal history before purchase. If this prevents even one violent crime it will be worthwhile.

Although I have heard about a group called Jews for Preservation of Firearms Ownership, my understanding is that it is a small group and not at all considered representative of mainstream Jewish opinion. On the other hand most gun control measures are supported by The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (JNCRAC), an organized coalition which includes the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, Anti-Defamation League, Hadassah, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., National Council of Jewish Women, ORT, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations, United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism, and others.

The NRA flier to which Ullman refers and the Associated Press article which I have mentioned are both in the offices of *The Jewish Voice*.)

## Schoenberg Asserts Individual Right To Bear Arms

In the December 3, 1993 edition of the *Jewish Voice* you state in an article regarding the Brady Bill, "The Second Amendment protects this right (to keep and bear arms) for the militia however, not to individuals or violent criminals." You are absolutely correct that violent criminals are not granted this right under this article, but the law abiding individual definitely is granted this right.

Coincidentally, I'm in the process of re-reading the Federalist Papers. These papers give the ideas of the founding fathers of the United States and are, specifically, a commentary by them, on the Constitution of the United States. In Number 46, James Madison, the primary author of the "Bill of Rights," makes it quite clear that the militia is not an agent of

the government (not the Army) but rather a well trained group of citizens who can be called upon to defend themselves, their families, and their state against brigands, robbers, other criminals and to defend themselves and their individual state against encroachment by the Federal Government. Since the source of such militia are the people themselves, the right of the individual to keep and bear arms in such defenses is essential. Madison even makes the point that the officers of the militia are not appointed by the government but are "chosen among themselves." Madison goes on to say that a free people must have the right to be armed along with other rights in order to insure that freedom.

As for the concept that the crime rate

requires that the citizens give up their rights or as John Dickinson once stated, in dangerous times extraordinary measures must be taken to insure safety. Benjamin Franklin responded, anyone who is willing to give up liberty for safety will have neither liberty nor safety.

Madison continues "Notwithstanding the military establishments in the several kingdoms of Europe, which are carried as far as the public resources will bear, the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms. Let us not insult the free and gallant citizens of America with the suspicion that they would be less able to defend the rights of which they would be in actual possession than the debased subjects of arbitrary power..." Basically he is saying, do not trust a government that doesn't trust its citizens.

John Adams in *A Defense of the Constitution of Government of the United States of America* states "Arms in the hands of individual citizens may be used at individual discretion...in private self-defense."

Richard Henry Lee, former Governor of Virginia in *Additional Letters From The Federal Farmer* states, "A militia when properly formed are in fact the people themselves...and include all men capable of bearing arms...To preserve liberty it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms..."

In the December 20, 1993 issue of *Time* magazine, University of Texas Professor Sanford Levinson says he believes the constitution was indeed intended to protect some personal ownership of firearms...

There are volumes of other historical information supporting this point.

This does not necessarily mean the government can't regulate firearms to some extent, but the government cannot prohibit law abiding citizens from having arms in sufficient numbers and type as can be used for defense. Of course, the possession and use of firearms may also be an individual decision and one of conscience.

The Second Amendment was and is seen by some as the final defense of all the other rights protected by the "Bill Of Rights." Hopefully, civilized people and the court system would not make it necessary to resort to this measure.

Thank you.

Alan Schoenberg

*(Editor's Response: While I appreciate the Mr. Alan Schoenberg's honorable convictions, I disagree with his sentiments and sources. In answering the letter from Joseph Ullman, MD I have explained my support for gun control. While every American should be concerned with the statements of our Founding Fathers, their sentiments should not always control our actions today. For example, you should remember that many of these same men had slaves, denied careers to women and had no experience with many of the sociological factors we face today. Former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, current Supreme Court Justice Ruth Ginsberg, and other have championed interpretations of the Constitution which depart from original interpretations but effectuate consensus social policy. There are occasions in our history, such as in the case of Brown v. The Board of Education which brought down the separate but equal policy which segregated Southern schools for generations, where a departure from precedent is not only appropriate but essential for the cause of justice.*

As to the comments Mr. Schoenberg repeats it is worth nothing that they have no effect of law. But, even if these comments were used to illuminate the original intent of the Second Amendment; it is just plain wrong to suggest present interpretations should be bound by those sentiments. I wonder how Madison would respond to last week's slaughter of passengers on a Long Island train and the senseless violence which plagues our country. I continue to respect Mr. Schoenberg but I cannot agree with his point of view on this matter.)

## THE VOICE BOX

"People say they care about Israel, about Jewish culture — well, for God's sake, if you can learn French, study Latin, why can't you learn Hebrew?"

Abraham H. Foxman  
National Director, ADL

"Some will argue that by reaching out to the intermarried, we will be encouraging intermarriage. The fact is that intermarriage is going to take place, regardless of whether we commit ourselves to outreach. If we fail to embrace these people, we will be turning our back on more than 50 percent of our children."

David W. Belin, President of  
The Jewish Outreach Institute

"I implore everyone to see it, it is an astonishing thing."

President Bill Clinton reacting  
to the new film 'Schindler's List'

## Regrets

Sarah Berengut and Joshua Berengut are step-Grandchildren of the late Wilbur Hait, not Grandchildren as stated in his obituary in the last issue of *The Jewish Voice*. Their father is David Berengut.

*Editor's Note: A number of our readers called The Jewish Voice, or our publisher The Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD), to express their positive or negative opinions concerning Hanukkah-related cartoons which appeared in the December 3, 1993 issue of The Jewish Voice. The cartoons included a cartoon menorah and people on the cover, a cartoon captioned "Oy, those latkeyarmulkes" on page 4 and "Jack-Be-Nimble's first Hanukkah lesson" on page 39. The cartoons are the creation of David Levitt of Newark, Delaware. Mr. Levitt is an artist and creator of a greeting card series titled "Inside Out" which is sold in stores throughout the area.*

Mr. Levitt was solicited to contribute his original free expressions on the subject of Hanukkah. The *Jewish Voice* strives to support free expression and artists within Delaware's Jewish community. The point of view in the cartoons, to the extent that they may be interpreted to represent an opinion rather than an entertainment, is solely that of the cartoonist. The *Jewish Voice* is proud to present provocative talents to our readers and will continue to do so.

Thank you for your many calls in support of these cartoons and for those which were critical of our inclusion of Mr. Levitt's original compositions. It demonstrates that many of you care about *The Jewish Voice* and what is printed in its pages. On this matter and your other concerns a letter to the editor is always preferred to a telephone call. With a telephone call only one person will hear your point of view. With a letter the entire community will hear your Jewish voice.



DLL © 93



## U of D Students Off To Israel

By SUZANNE BORDEN  
Special To The Jewish Voice

For 28 college students, the dream of going to Israel will become reality on January 1, 1994 when the group partakes in the eighth bi-annual winter session trip to Israel, sponsored by the University of Delaware's Office of International Programs and Special Sessions. Faculty members Viv Klaff and Marian Palley will be accompanying the students on what Professor Klaff describes as a "total cultural experience."

According to Professor Klaff, "the idea of all winter session trips is to expose students to a foreign culture with the opportunity to study specifics on site." He continued to say, "students attending winter session in Israel will have the opportunity to study the political and social structure and dynamics of Israeli society in context of the Middle East."

This year's four week Israel trip will consist of lectures by local Israeli experts from the Universities, Government Ministries and private organizations as well as field trips and bus tours throughout the country including a three day tour of the North and a five day tour of the South. Students will be exposed to agricultural Kibbutzim and rural towns as well as major sites such as Masada and the resort town of Eilat. One highlight of the trip is visiting the town of Jesse Cohen, Wilmington's sister city. The Delaware students will be delivering children's books and art supplies from the United States to the local community center. While in Jesse Cohen, students will also have the opportunity to meet and interact with local

Israeli teenagers.

Judy Wortman, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation, feels that it is important for college students to visit Israel. She says "this gives them an opportunity as an adult to really learn more about their own Jewish identity and history of their people."

"Being in Israel is a living laboratory and in many cases changes Jewish students' commitment to their people forever." Ms. Wortman continued to say, "The Federation is committed to helping Jewish college students study in Israel through the Greenbaum Scholarship Fund."

For most students, winter session marks the first time they are visiting Israel. Judy Anapolsky is one such student. One reason she is attending this year's winter session trip is because she is Jewish (though not all students are Jewish) and feels an obligation to visit Israel. She says, "Israel is the homeland and my heritage. I feel guilty because I have not gone already." Judy has also heard that going to Israel is the best experience ever and looks forward to her upcoming trip.

Aside from touring the country, students must keep a daily log and work on a term paper throughout the trip in order to receive six credits from the University of Delaware. Students choose a topic once in Israel and do research in University libraries as well as interview local Israelis. Once back in the United States, students have the opportunity to compile their research from Israel into a complete paper.

The JEWISH VOICE

LOCAL



Professor Jack Wertheimer

### NCJW Challah Fest

The National Council of Jewish Women are sponsoring an expert demonstration of "Challah Preparation and Baking" by Joan Wachstein at the January 19th, Wednesday program, Wilmington Section, National Council of Jewish Women. The event will be held at Congregation Beth Emeth at 10 a.m..

Participants and the curious are encouraged to bring their recipes. Talk will concern the techniques of challah baking as well as challah memories.

A lunch of hot soups, sandwiches, fruits, and desserts will be included in the program.

Reservations for members and their guests are encouraged.

Call Mary S. DeVries, Program Chair at (215) 388-6135 or Jean L. Blumenfeld at (302) 478-3835.

## Wertheimer Questions Americanization of Jews

By MARIAM VIKTOR

"If we do not regard the world through different spectacles," said Professor Jack Wertheimer, Chairman of the Department of History at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, "what is the purpose of Judaism?"

This was only one of the questions Professor Wertheimer raised with his audience at the Adult Education Committee of Congregation Beth Shalom's December 12th lecture titled "Walking the Tightrope: Tensions Between Jewish and American Values," as he explored Judaism's purpose as expressed by the observance of its rituals and the living of its values.

Professor Wertheimer sees a clear conflict between the religious Jews of the past, who lived with a communal code of laws, customs and behaviors, and today's American Jews — called by Rabbi Harold Schuelweiss of California the "Psychological Jews," whose are guided by America's code of rugged individualism — who ask questions like "what's in it for me?" In today's world, people — not just Jews — walk away from communal organizations; they walk away from "the tyranny of the should's and the ought's." Yet in Professor Wertheimer's view, we Jews, on the basis of our religious teachings, should take exception to American society's norms.

In the past, commented Professor Wertheimer, Jews dissented from American culture because of their belief in the Bible, where G-d commands Jews not to follow the ways of

their neighbors; or based on the teachings of the rabbinic sages, who recognize that to be Jewish is to be different; or because of their own popular culture, often revolving around *Yiddish* and *Yiddishkeit*.

Today's Jews are often more involved in a quest for self rather than an identification with a Jewish community. Like many Americans, they define their religion as their own inner voice, not linking themselves with any organized religion or religious authority.

Major branches of Judaism have attempted to deal with this tension between American and Jewish values in many ways, notes Professor Wertheimer, from the ultra-Orthodox, who have rejected American (or Western) values and accept Jewish values only, to the Reconstructionists who attempt to incorporate both Jewish and Western values, to groups who accept Judaism as a peoplehood only, or those who compartmentalize the practice of Judaism as observance only, not the living of values.

And what, asks Professor Wertheimer, has this "Americanization" of Judaism produced? A 52% intermarriage rate. What does this say about today's Jews, asks Professor Wertheimer, and what does it indicate about our future in America?

For those interested in Professor Wertheimer's answers to such questions, his book *A People Divided - Judaism in Contemporary America* (Basic books, \$25, hardcover, 268 pages) is available through local bookstores.

## Two New JFS Groups To Meet

Jewish Family Service will be offering two new groups beginning January 12, 1994:

### INTERFAITH COUPLES GROUP

Understanding, exploring, negotiating and compromising are the cornerstones in relating in an interfaith relationship. Couples participating in this group will have the opportunity to explore topics such as expectations, what religion means to each individual, religious differences and similarities, choosing a faith, learning about holidays, and raising children in interfaith homes.

Group begins: Wednesday, January 12, 1994  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Jewish Family Service Office

Group leaders: Arnold Lieberman, LCSW and Myrna Ryder, M.Ed., C.F.L.E.

Fee \$10 per couple, per session

Registration deadline: January 5, 1994 - Call 478-9411

### MARRIAGE AND MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS

"Fighting Fair" and coalition building in a marriage are essential for happiness and contentment in a spousal partnership. Participants in this group will explore their feelings and expectations regarding their relationship, and will gain skills to make their marriages more loving.

Group begins: Wednesday, January 12, 1994  
8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Jewish Family Service Office

Group leaders: Arnold Lieberman, LCSW and Myrna Ryder, M.Ed., C.F.L.E.

Fee: \$10 per couple, per session

Registration deadline: January 5, 1994 - Call 478-9411



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## Tribute Planned For Rabbi Leonard B. Gewirtz

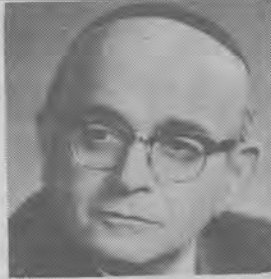
Plans are underway at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth to honor Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Gewirtz. The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to name The Sanctuary for the Rabbi. A committee, chaired by Arlene and Howard Simon has been hard at work for the past several months to plan the activities for the dedication weekend (October 14, 15, 16, 1994), determine the requirements to refurbish the Sanctuary and raise the necessary funds.

Rabbi Gewirtz is to be honored for his more than forty years of service to AKSE and the Jewish Community of Delaware. The naming of the Sanctuary recognizes Rabbi Gewirtz as a builder of the Congregation and the integral role he played in the building of Adas Kodesch thirty years ago. He has been appreciated and respected by so many in both the Jewish and

non-Jewish communities throughout Delaware. In the course of his career, Rabbi Gewirtz has spoken out on social and moral issues beyond the Synagogue' civil rights, the rights of the emotionally disturbed, the rights of working people and the rights of children.

The AKSE Synagogue has stood as a stalwart symbol of Judaism for the Wilmington community since its creation. The present Sanctuary - serving the oldest congregation in Delaware - has provided a spiritual haven for three decades. Today, however, the Sanctuary is in need of improvement and repair.

Mitchell Associates has been engaged to assist the committee with the Sanctuary improvements. Refurbishment will take place over the summer months in order to be ready for the holidays which fall early this year.



Rabbi Leonard B. Gewirtz

For additional information regarding the plans to honor Rabbi Gewirtz, please contact the general chairpersons, Arlene and Howard Simon at (302) 888-0401.



Wolf Blitzer

## Wolf Blitzer Featured At Chai Society Brunch

Wolf Blitzer of CNN is the featured speaker this year at the Chai Society Brunch Sunday, January 9 at 11:00 am. at the Hotel DuPont. The Chai Society Brunch is one of the first events in the 10 day period of Campaign Week activities which provide support for JFD beneficiary agency programs and services benefiting people in Delaware, Israel and around the world.

Wolf Blitzer, the reporter, has held a unique position of being a window on the world for millions, indeed billions of people in hundreds of nations. He has analyzed and clarified events which have had profound effects on destinies of peoples and nations worldwide.

"Steve and I hope many will join us to hear Mr. Blitzer's predictions for the future, what is ahead for the United States as a world power as well as his interpretation of the peace process and related events in the Middle East," said Miriam Edell, Co-Chair with Steven Edell for the Chai Brunch.

Wolf Blitzer is CNN's military affairs correspondent in Washington. From Desert Shield to Desert Storm, he was CNN's around-the-clock correspondent at the Pentagon, providing as many as a dozen live stories during each day of the crisis. Altogether, Mr. Blitzer filed several hundred reports from the Pentagon during the world.

He flew to Moscow shortly after the failed coup in August and spent nearly a month reporting on the Soviet military leaders—all appointed after the coup—and was permitted to tour several major bases. He also

was invited into KGB headquarters in Moscow for a rare inside look into the Soviet intelligence apparatus.

Mr. Blitzer came to CNN in May 1990 with nearly two decades of reporting from the nation's capital, most recently as Washington bureau chief for *The Jerusalem Post*. In addition to his Washington beat, he has covered breaking stories around the world, most notably in the Middle East. He was in Egypt in 1977, covering the first Israeli-Egyptian

Continued on page 14

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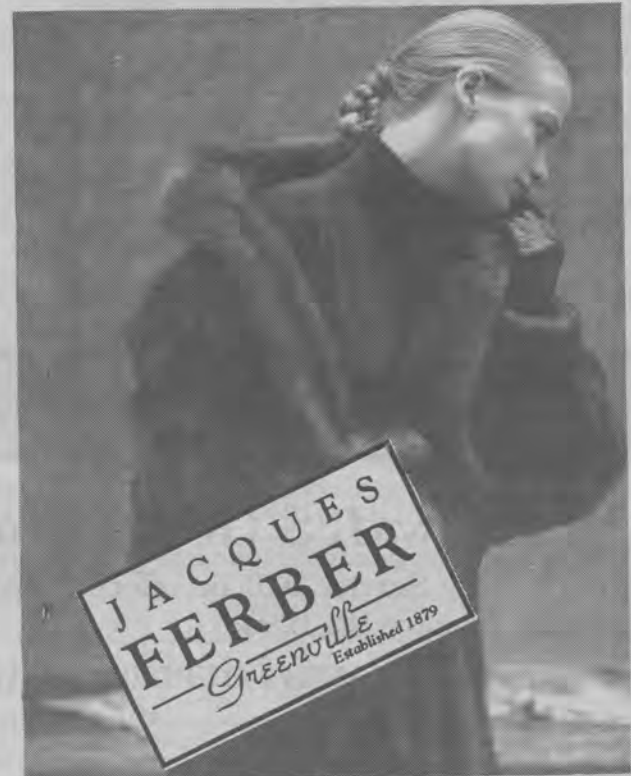
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## Schindler's List

A Film Review By:  
MORRIE WARSHAWSKI

Do not come to Steven Spielberg's new film *Schindler's List* expecting to see reassuring rainbow shades of his former work. This film is no *Jaws* or *Jurassic Park* high-tech romp, nor is it a bit of diverting family entertainment like the endearing *ET* or the cutely animated *An American Tale*.

For *Schindler's List* Spielberg has dug deep into his emotions, ransacked his psyche, squeezed the limits of his artistic talents and mined the soul of his Jewish heritage to bring forth a dynamic and wrenching tour de force of both pure film craft and gripping story-telling.

Perhaps only a talent as large and as bankable as Spielberg could have brought to Hollywood a project that rubs so hard against the grain of popular American cinema. Here is a film about an inherently difficult and controversial subject (the Holocaust), shot in an unpopular medium (black and white film), at a length that is considered notoriously uncommercial (just over three hours).

That the film works in its entirety is a great testament both to Spielberg and to the amazing true material reconfigured by screenwriter Steven Zaillian from the prize winning novel by Thomas Keneally. The German-Catholic industrialist Oskar Schindler (played by Liam Neeson) was a man of truly heroic proportions. Through

his work as a factory owner in Krakow, Poland, Schindler managed to save the lives of over 1,000 Jews — his "Schindler Juden."

When we first meet Schindler he is a bon-vivant wheeling and dealing businessman who prominently displays a large ornamental gold-on-black *Hakenkreuz* (swastika) in his lapel. Schindler intends to make his fortune during the German occupation of Poland. He forges an alliance with a suspicious and reserved Jewish accountant, Itzhak Stern (Ben Kingsley). As Schindler admits to Stern, "panache" is his forte, not work. Together they raise enough money from wealthy Jews to open an enamelware factory that will be run by the cheapest labor available — Jews from the ghetto of Krakow.

The film maintains an unrelenting and steady, inexorable movement from the initial round-up and selections of Jews, to the elimination of the Jewish section of Krakow, to the establishment of a forced labor camp at Plaszow, and finally to the ovens of Auschwitz. Schindler transforms himself from a philandering playboy who wants only to make a quick buck, to a humanitarian who, by the end of the film, has sacrificed a personal wealth of millions of dollars to save the lives of his Jewish workers.

Spielberg spends a hefty portion of the film on the final liquidation of the ghetto by the sadistic SS commander Amon Goeth (Ralph

Fiennes). Goeth turns to his men and says "For six centuries there has been a Jewish Krakow. By this evening, six centuries will be a rumor." A horrified Schindler watches the mad melee of the liquidation from above the city while on horseback riding with a paramour.

Soon he is both convinced and tricked by Stern into turning the factory into "...a haven for rabbis and orphans and people with no skills." The film does not spare the audience any of the horrors of life for the Krakow Jews in the forced labor camp. There are numerous summary killings. People are shot for the slightest offense, or randomly for no offense at all. The use of black and white film at least spares the viewer a bath in the red blood of innocent victims. But this mitigates only slightly the magnitude of the violence and injustice captured by the film.

The pitfalls of this material are many. How can a filmmaker transcend and not demean the many images that we have come to associate with the Holocaust — Star of David armbands, selection lines of naked and emaciated people, rooms full of luggage and mountains of shoes, the belching smokestacks of the crematoria, railroad cattle cars...

For a narrative fiction filmmaker the task can be daunting. Too much fear of and respect for the subject can produce a stilted film like *Murderers Among Us*. Too little knowledge can result in a well-meaning but mis-

Continued on page 9

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE GROUP PROGRAMS FOR 1994

The following programs will be available beginning in January, subject to enrollment. For meeting dates and times, and to register, contact Myrna Ryder, Director of Family Life Education, Jewish Family Service, 478-9411.

## BEATING THE ODDS

This group is for survivors of cancer who would like to share their experiences as well as support each other in the process of living through this disease.

## BREAKING THE CYCLE

Domestic violence does exist in Jewish homes. Is it happening to you or someone you know? Sometimes just saying no is not enough. Join this group to gain insight and support in breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Substance abuse is difficult to overcome, and the support of people who understand and can help is essential in the process. Join this group to gain insight and support in the process of beating an addiction. The Jewish "twelve step" approach will be used.

## TAKING AIM AT AIDS

We all know that AIDS is a deadly and painful disease. This group is designed for people with AIDS, people who have tested HIV positive, and for the people who love them. Share support and information in a warm, caring environment.

## THE STRESS OF PARENTING

Parenting children is not as easy as it appears, and children are still not being born with instructions! Join this group as we share ideas and problems in the process of doing the best job we can as parents.

## KIDS - CAN WE TALK?

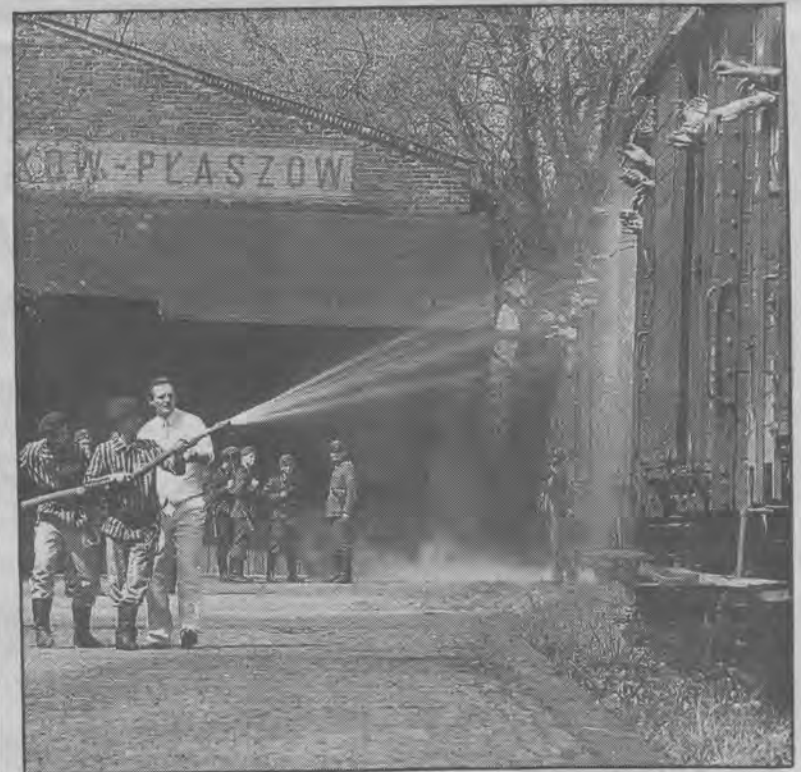
This group is for kids only, ages 8-11. Kids in this group will be encouraged to share their feelings about many topics including their parents, school, friends, concerns about an ill or dying relative, or other issues in their lives.

## COMING HOME TO JUDAISM

Who are you as a Jew, and what does Judaism mean to you? Join participants in this group as we explore our Jewish identity and grow in our knowledge and feelings of our faith.

## FROM MOURNING TO MORNING

This group is for anyone who has lost a loved one, and would like to share his or her feelings. Members of this group will experience support and caring, will learn that they are not alone, and that others in the group care.



Coming across freight trains crammed with human cargo on a blistering hot day, Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson) arranges to have the cars hosed down in an attempt to alleviate the excruciating conditions inside the cars. Goeth admonishes Schindler, "You're giving them hope Oskar, that's cruel." From "Schindler's List."

Carol A. Casner  
Attorney at Law903 French Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801(302) 888-1968  
FAX (302) 888-2039



# Schindler's List

Continued from page 8

guided effort like *Triumph of the Spirit*. Spielberg must have been fully aware of these pitfalls. And yet, he forged ahead with a risky and ambitious project that has resulted in one of the most engaging and gripping films ever made about the Holocaust.

MORRIE WARSHAWSKI writes frequently about culture and the arts for publications throughout the US from his home in St. Louis.

## Euthanasia Lecture

The Chabad-Lubavitch adult lecture series continues on Tuesday, December 21 at the J.C.C. 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Dr. J. Immanuel Schochet, who has lectured Delaware audiences in the past, will once again be the guest lecturer and his title will be "Euthanasia Mercy or Murder?"



Manhattan Theatre Club presents *The Loman Family Picnic*, written by Donald Margulies and directed by Lynne Meadow at Stage 1 at City Center. For ticket info call (212) 581-1212. Shown here: Jonathan Kaplan and Harry Barnades. PHOTO: Martha Swope.



**Judy Wortman**

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# Words & Music: The Loman Family Picnic

By STEVE COHEN

A little off the beaten track, geographically and dramatically, is *The Loman Family Picnic* by Donald Margulies, now on the Manhattan Theater Club stage at New York's City Center.

Tucked away on 55th street, a mile away from the familiar big houses

bordering Times Square, is one of the best theatrical productions of the last few years.

The Club's artistic director, Lynn Meadow, is personally directing this limited run. The superb cast includes Peter Friedman (from *Brooklyn Bridge*) as an unhappy salesman,

Continued on page 17

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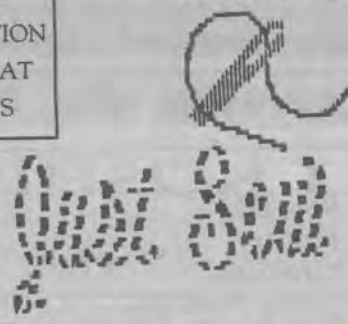
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## Beth Emeth To Honor Verna Schenker

On March 19, 1994, Congregation Beth Emeth will host a tribute to Verna Schenker for her tireless ef-

orts to her synagogue and the community. In '83 she was honored by The National Council for Christians and Jews for her outstanding community service. She also is a former president of Sisterhood, a member of the board of trustees and membership chairperson of Congregation Beth Emeth for the past 15 years.

The affair will start at 7 p.m. and include a catered buffet and a "This Is Your Life" program about Verna. If you would like to contribute special "Verna" stories and anecdotes, which could be included in the tribute pro-



Verna Schenker

gram and/or would like to make reservation for this special evening, please contact: Ester Timmeney, 2818 Landon Drive, Wilmington, DE 19810, 478-0363.

## Yoskowitz Review

Delaware's Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz has agreed to review the book *Schindler's List* for the January 7, 1994 issue of *The Jewish Voice*. The book, written by Thomas Keneally, is based on the true story of Oskar Schindler, a German Catholic who was instrumental in saving the lives of more than one-thousand Jews during World War II. The book review by Yoskowitz is planned for early January since the Steven Spielberg film *Schindler's List* will soon be released. Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz is the spiritual leader of Delaware's Congregation Beth Shalom.

## AKSE Adult Education Program

The adult education committee of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth announces the start of its LEARN AT AKSE Adult Education program for 1994. All courses are open to the entire community.

Students may choose among the following courses being offered on 10 consecutive Wednesday evenings, at the Synagogue, beginning on Wednesday, January 5th.

Yiddish 101 at 6:30-7:30 with Ruth Goodman, fee \$18.

Learn to speak, read, and write Yiddish. Enrollment limited to 15.

Hands-on Judaica at 7:30-8:30 with various instructors, fee \$10 for members and \$25 for non-members.

A mixed-bag of do-it-yourself Jewish projects and activities including Israeli dance, painting a challah cover, macrame/tzitzit tying, matzah-baking, Hebrew calligraphy, and crocheting a kippah.

Great Jewish Books at 7:30-8:30 with Rabbi Leonard Gewirtz is free to members but \$25 for non-members.

Discuss 10 classics of our tradition including the Bible, the Talmud, Rashi, the Kuzari, The Guide for the Perplexed, the Zohar, the Shulchan Aruch, Judenstaat, poems of Bialik, and philosophy of Rav Kook.

Jewish History for Grownups II at 8:30-9:30 with Rabbi Sanford Dresin is free to members and \$25 for non-members.

Another opportunity to learn what you missed in Hebrew School. Study the dynamics of Emancipation and Enlightenment, 1776-1994, as Jews both shape history and become its victims.

How to be a Torah Reader at 8:30-9:30 with Cantor Daniel Leeman is free to members and \$25 for non-members.

Learn Torah trope and how to read from the Torah scroll. Open to women and men who know how to read Hebrew.

In addition to the above courses, weekly study sessions continue with Rabbi Gewirtz, Gemara Shi'ur on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM, and with Rabbi

## How To Set Up A Jewish Household

[Editor's note: The following is excerpted from a D'var Torah given by Irene G. Plotzker at the paid up membership meeting of The Beth Shalom Sisterhood on December 7. Beth Shalom is piloting a program to connect women experienced with Jewish customs to young women who may be unfamiliar with Jewish practices.]

I'd like now to tell you of some connections Karin Karel and I are trying to build in our community. It used to be that when a young Jewish woman set up a household, she usually knew more or less what to do - how to have a kosher kitchen, where to buy meat, and so on, because she learned from her family and neighbors growing up. Answers were easily found to questions - like, how does one arrange for a brit milah? when should my child start Hebrew school? how do I prepare for my son's Bar Mitzvah celebration? - because she was surrounded by people who had been through similar experiences. Connections existed between the inexperienced and those who knew what to do.

Today, too often, such connections do not exist, yet they are needed more than ever. It is difficult to make meaningful connections with neighbors in our fragmented society, and relatives are likely to live far away. There are also a growing number of

homes in which there are families desiring to create a more Jewish atmosphere, but they don't quite know how or whom to ask. Maybe they were brought up as nonobservant Jews, maybe one spouse is not Jewish or recently converted to Judaism, so knowledge of mundane details may be lacking.

But many of us have a lot of experience that we could share concerning living as Jews in Wilmington, Delaware. So Karin and I decided to try to facilitate connections between those who have questions and needs and those who have useful experience to share.

We'd like to develop a directory of people who could be resources or are interested in contacting such people. As a resource, your involvement might be as simple as answering a question on the phone about how your child gets to Hebrew school on weekdays, or it could involve more than that, like having a family over to share Shabbat dinner and building a relationship with them.

If you are interested in what we are trying to do, please contact Karin or me, care of the Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood and one of us will call you.

We hope this can be our contribution to keeping the oil lamp of commitment burning, building connections to Judaism and to each other.

Dresin, Parshat Ha-Shavua, on Thursdays, 7:30 PM at no charge.

Advance registration for the Wednesday evening course offerings is requested and can be mailed to LKSE, Wash. Blvd. & Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802. Please enclose your check, payable to AKSE, if there is a fee.

## Women's Midrash

Karen Moss will review a recently published book of *midrashim* written by contemporary Jewish women on Tuesday evening, January 4, 1994, 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center. *Taking of the Fruit: Modern Women's Tales of the Bible*, is a collection of 23 stories created from Torah and Talmud passages. These imaginative *midrashim* interpret biblical text with a new vision, while remaining respectful of Jewish history and tradition.

Reading between the lines of the text, and in many cases answering questions never posed by the holy books, the authors attempt to weave a place for women into the fabric of our history. The book answers questions such as, "What was Sarah do-

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Continued on page 11





## Congregation Beth El Adopts Policy on Interfaith Marriage

By DAN WEINTRAUB  
Editor of *The Jewish Voice*

On Sunday night, December 12th at Temple Beth El, the Newark Reconstructionist congregation voted overwhelmingly to endorse a proposed policy which, subject to certain limitations, would allow Rabbi David Kaplan discretion to officiate in an interfaith marriage. Jay Stellenberg, President of the Temple, presided over the meeting which included pro and con comments from the members.

According to congregant Bob Moyer, "The general consensus of the discussion was that the Temple should be progressive and allow the Rabbi to perform the interfaith marriage ceremony under certain restrictions. Allowing this will help to retain those who wish to continue to follow Judaism." The vote was 79 for the proposal, 21 against and 1 abstention.

The policy restricts such marriages to Beth El members of at least three years, a commitment to raise children Jewish, completion of basic Judaism study, no co-officiating with other clergy and the marriage would not be held on Beth El property.

Speaking to *The Jewish Voice* Rabbi Kaplan explained his conviction that young couples of two different faiths who are determined to marry will do so regardless of whether he agrees to officiate at their nuptials. With the new policy, according to Kaplan, such couples will think earlier about their plans for their children and the non-Jewish spouse will be more likely to eventually embrace Judaism.

brace Judaism.

Kaplan asserts that if the interfaith marriage is performed by a Rabbi, the inviting atmosphere is likely to encourage many non-Jewish spouses to become active in the congregation, and often convert and learn Hebrew and prayers.

According to Rabbi Bob Tayback, Assistant Director of the Philadelphia board or Rabbis, the major branches of Judaism have responded differently to the question of performing interfaith marriages. The Orthodox and Conservative movements allow no interfaith marriages whatsoever. In contrast, a minority of Rabbis within the Reform and Reconstructionist movements will officiate at an interfaith marriage.

Tayback remarks that among those Reconstructionist Rabbis who agree to officiate at an interfaith marriage "a smaller group would only allow such marriages under limited circumstances" such as the Temple Beth El policy contemplates. Tayback considers Temple Beth El's decision a reflection of a moderate to conservative (with a small "c") approach compared to other Rabbis officiating at such weddings. Tayback explained that often a Rabbi will determine to officiate at an interfaith marriage without seeking a congregation's input or approval.

Rabbi Robert Layman, Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, reacted to Temple Beth El's interfaith marriage policy in

Continued on page 15

## JCC Bus To Israel Camp Fair

The Jewish Community Center (JCC) is sponsoring a bus trip to an Israel program and camp fair in Laurel, Maryland on January 30, 1994. The program will last from noon to three p.m. The JCC is sponsoring this effort so that the offspring of interested Delaware residents can

benefit from an Israel program. The Israel program and camp fair is sponsored by Moment and Washington Jewish Week. This notice is provided by *The Jewish Voice*. For more information regarding the JCC Bus Trip to the Israel program and camp fair, please call Elise Greer at 478-5660.

## Beth Shalom Sisterhood Presents Women's Midrash

Continued from page 10

ing while Abraham prepared to sacrifice their son Isaac?" and "How did Pharaoh's daughter end up casting her fate with the Hebrew people?" The stories in this slim volume are often playful and always thought-provoking.

Karen Moss, former editor of the *Jewish Voice*, has been actively involved in Jewish feminism for many

years.

The book review is sponsored by Beth Shalom Sisterhood and is open to the community at no charge. Books may be purchased (\$9.95) through the Sisterhood gift Shop at Congregation Beth Shalom, 18th and Baynard Blvd., Wilmington. Refreshments will be served. For further information, call Sharon Rosen, Sisterhood President 479-0766.

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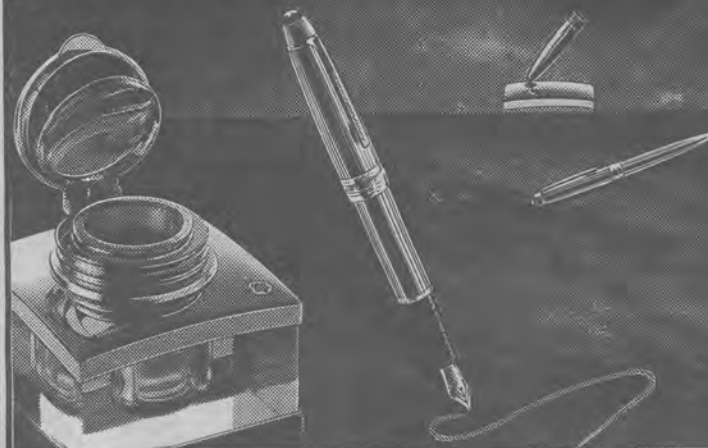
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**Federation Shabbat To Kick-Off 'Live Jewish' Campaign Week; Rabbi Robert Toren To Speak**

This year the 1994 COMMUNITY Campaign will officially begin with Federation Shabbat at Congregation Beth Emeth on January 7, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. "We welcome the entire community to Congregation Beth Emeth. I underscore the need for those, regardless of affiliation, to participate in celebrating Shabbat to hear important words in the spirit of cooperation for the sake of Delaware and Clal Yisrael," commented Rabbi Peter Grumbacher, Rabbi of Congregation Beth Emeth. Jack Blumenfeld, Co-chair of Federation Shabbat added, "We are very pleased to begin the campaign with a communitywide event which represents our heritage, our roots and our hopes for the future." Rabbi Robert Toren will discuss the theme of the 1994 Campaign "LIVE JEWISH...Remember our Past, Insure our Future." "The miracle of the Jewish story provides us with meaning and purpose. We are living the story, doing it every day... We will be writing it and telling it into the future. We need to share within this 'telling' the compelling reasons for being

Jewish," says Rabbi Toren. He will expand his thoughts about the future of Judaism and the community's share in shaping the destiny of the Jewish people in his words to the Jewish community of Delaware.

Rabbi Robert Toren has spent his life working to combine his love of Jewish learning and service to the Jewish community with his passion for the fine arts. He currently serves as the Director of the Judaica Department and Assistant Executive Director at the Jewish Community Center of Cleveland.

The Judaica Department, one of the first of its type in the United States, works to provide informal Jewish education opportunities at the JCC, whether it be studying the holidays with pre-school teachers, developing study sessions with Trustee members around contemporary Jewish issues, or searching for the Jewish flavor of the physical education department. The Judaica Department also sponsors a Visiting Israeli artists/educators program.

Rabbi Toren came to Cleveland from Jerusalem where he took part in the Jerusalem Fellows program — a two year fellowship program designed to develop leadership in Jewish education for the Diaspora. In Israel, he developed programs for adults which teach Bible and Midrash in concert with the arts. He has served as an assistant to Rav Adin Steinsaltz.

Rabbi Toren has served as the Rabbi and Cantor for congregations in New York and Washington, D.C. He received his Rabbinic Ordination in 1985 from the Academy for Jewish Religion, and received his Bachelor's of Sacred Music Degree and Cantor's Certificate in 1975 from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He is a 1971 graduate of Harvard University, where he majored in Bible.

He has been a professional opera singer, accompanist, and conductor. His hobbies include classical music,



Rabbi Robert Toren

cross country skiing, and swimming. He and his wife, Jocelyn, and their four sons reside in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

"We hope to see everyone at this Shabbat service, which should be a wonderful beginning for this year's campaign, as it follows our being honored with the William J. Shroder Award for Campaign Week by the Council of Jewish Federations at the recent General Assembly in Montreal. The award states, in part: 'By mobilizing the community, Federation proved that fundraising can be a community-building process,'" said Jean Blumenfeld, Co-chair of Federation Shabbat.

At 3 p.m. at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, in a study session open to the community, Rabbi Toren will lead a discussion on Jewish Continuity and the role of Jewish education as a vital force in the affirmation of commitment to Jewish life.

Southern Delaware Federation Shabbat will be observed on January 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Sholom in Dover. Douglas Bloomfield, political commentator and writer of a syndicated column about the Washington scene for American Jewish newspapers and the Jerusalem Post and Davar, will speak. For more information on Federation Shabbats or Campaign Week, call 478-6200.

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**New Americans Hear Russian Violinist's Concert**

On December 9th, thirty-eight New Americans went to the Grand Opera House to hear their former countryman, Ilya Kaler, play the violin. The Jewish Family Service and The Delaware Symphony helped make it happen.

Kaler is the only violinist to win all three of the most prestigious international violin competitions. He played brilliantly for this very appreciative group. As a bonus, Kaler had the opportunity to be reunited with former neighbors, Nina and Arkady Chechik, who arrived in the U.S. in 1988. They had a long visit with each other following the performance.

George and Larisa Neimark, who arrived here August 28, 1993 said, "We all went to a wonderful concert, in a beautiful opera house, together with other Americans. Now we really feel like Americans too."

According to Roberta Burman, Director of Refugee Resettlement for Jewish Family Service, many of our New Americans were used to easy access to this type of event prior to emigrating. Due to the financial up-

heaval they experience as newcomers, most New Americans have been unable to afford to visit the opera for some time. They really experience a loss and are starved for the opportunity to enjoy fine music.

Much of the thanks for making the evening happen belongs to Barbara Yalisove and Lillian Shifrin, volunteers for Jewish Family Service and Elizabeth Garcia, Public Relations staff for the Delaware Symphony, says Burman. We look forward to other collaborative efforts.





# Chanukah Choopla

Over 70 people came together on Sunday, December 5th at the JCC, under the auspices of Jewish Family Service, to celebrate Chanukah "American style." Most of the participants were New Americans from the former Soviet Union. Several arrived many years prior but still enjoy coming together to shmooze with old friends and to hear a repeat of how the holiday is celebrated by American Jewry.

Einstein kindergartners presented a delightful skit. Holding papers almost as big as themselves, the children explained what each candle in the Chanukah menorah meant to them while kvelling parents snapped photos.

Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt told the ancient story of the Maccabees, instantly translated into Russian by Genrietta Mazina. Chanukiot were presented to the newest (1993) arrivals by chairperson, Miriam Edell and her committee members Barbara Yalisove and Roberta Woloshin.

Lively music provided by Myrna Ryder and Jane Horsodally added to the latke brunch festivities.

At the conclusion of this light hearted event, everyone spilled out into the throngs of people arriving

for the annual JCC Chanuka Choopla. Seniors and children, old-timers and newcomers celebrating



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Chanukah Choopla Celebrants

# Siman Tov and Mazal Tov: The Wedding Of The Century



Golden Medina Ensemble Group to perform.

Do you remember the wonderfully joyous wedding scenes in "The Chosen" and "Yentl"? Do you cry every time you hear "Sunrise, Sunset" and remember the moving wedding of Tevya's daughter? If so, then you know what to expect from "The Wedding of the Century." If not, it's time to experience the joy and emotion of a traditional Jewish wedding!

That's just what the Jewish Fed-

eration of Delaware and its agencies hope you'll do by joining in the community wedding celebration to be held on Saturday, January 15th at 7:30 p.m. at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation. The event is part of the 1994 Campaign Week themed "Live Jewish: Remember Our Past...Ensure Our Future." In this spirit, the Wedding of the Century will be a traditional Jewish wedding

followed by a celebration for people of all ages.

As in the past, the wedding will provide an opportunity for the entire community to honor the bride and groom and share their joy. Every congregation and agency will be involved, with all the area clergy participating and young people from every religious school and youth group adding their talents. In a unique melding of art, ritual and community spirit, the chupah will be quilted from panels created by every religious school in the state, featuring such themes as creation, Jewish holidays and life cycle.

Following the ceremony there will be food, singing, Israeli dancing and entertainment provided by community members and the renowned klezmer band, Goldene Medina Ensemble Group. In addition, individuals celebrating significant anniversaries or engagements will receive special blessings during the evening. Anyone wishing to receive such an honor should contact Rabbi Marla Feldman at 478-6200 by January 5th.

As the couple pledges to love one another, we hope you will pledge your commitment to "live Jewish" and contribute to the continuity of the Jewish people. For more information, call the Jewish Federation of Delaware, 478-6200.

# Ryder Awarded Certification

Jewish Family Service of Delaware is pleased to announce Myrna Ryder has been awarded the designation of Certified Family Life Educator by the National Council on Family Relations. The CFLE designation recognizes professionals in the family life education field as qualified family life educators. The credential denotes a proven background and knowledge in each of ten family life substance areas including families and society, internal family dynamics, human growth and development, human sexuality, interpersonal relationships, family resource management, parent education, family law and public policy, ethics, and family life education methodology. The National Council on Family Relations is a non-partisan educational

and professional organization.

In addition to planning and carrying out a full range of Family Life Education Programs, Myrna is also available to provide individual and couple counseling around interfaith issues and parenting children of all ages.

Ms. Ryder joined the Jewish Family Service staff as the Director of Family Life Education in 1989. Prior to working at JFS, she was a personnel director of a State agency in Pennsylvania, a teacher and a counselor of adolescents in a public school system, a day camp director, and a newscaster and cameraperson for a cable television station. Ms. Ryder has a Bachelor of Science degree in education, and a Master of Education degree, with a focus on counseling,

# Blau Licensed

Jewish Family Service announces that Dory Blau, Director of Services to the Aged and Their Families, recently earned her Delaware State License as a Clinical Social Worker.

Licensure requires a Masters Degree in Social Work (M.S.W.); several years of supervised clinical practice; and successfully passing an extensive written examination.

Ms. Blau holds an M.S.W. degree from Temple University, and has been on the professional staff of JFS since November, 1990. She joins Arnold Lieberman and Helene Rudnick as the third Licensed Clinical Social Worker (L.C.S.W.) on the JFS staff.

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## Dozens of U of D Students Attend Shabbat Event

By CELIA GANS

The first joint Chabad Lubavitch/Alpha Epsilon Pi Shabbat was on Friday, December 4th at AEP's Wyoming street residence. The attendance, estimated at approximately 120 young men and women, was the highest ever for a regular Friday night service and dinner at the University of Delaware. This was no required course; this was an elective, attended with dress up-clothes, yards of sparkling clean hair, freshly barbered faces, and an earrings display (on both males and females) to rival any rock group.

Everything was in readiness. Student-produced *siddurim* were on the common room's pool table; the three unmatched screens of the *mehitza* were in place; the dining room was festooned with blue and white streamers, "Happy Chanukah" signs and blue balloons. Rabbi Sneiderman's *kiddush* cup rested on the bar in an unused storage room until needed.

True, the youngsters were restless, but not disrespectful, during the service. But perhaps, as Rabbi Eliezer Sneiderman gently reminded three of his regular Chabad Shabbat service attendees, our most spiritual moments are often private, and this was a public display of affirmation.

This was a celebration. A welcoming of Shabbat, a pre-Chanukah feast, a celebration of being Jewish. And, of greatest significance, a celebration of being Jewish together, on this evening and in this place.

The evening was the culmination of months of preparation by the brothers of AEP, under the leadership of David Schechtman, Chabad Vice President and Jewish Philanthropy Chairperson of AEP; Lisa Sturman, a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi, AEP's sister sorority, and the Chabad Board of Directors; and Miriam Gelfand, member of the Chabad Board of Directors. These young women, plus Ruth Lanton, with and the assistance and guidance of Rebbetzin Roni Sarah Sneiderman and in the Chabad House kitchen, prepared a *glatt kosher* with four salads, *matzoh* ball soup, home-baked *challah*, two kinds of chicken, two vegetables, two *kugels*, and three kinds of cake for desert. The meal was served by the "Magnificent Seven" of AEP: Scott Freimauer, Jeffrey Kirsch, Brett Kobren, Daniel Pogach, Brian Rubin, Steven Rosen and Kevin Weiss.

At 11:00 p.m., a group of 20 to 30 students remained talking with Rabbi Sneiderman, his weekend

guest, seminary student Rabbi Baruch Cohen, a Massachusetts native currently studying in Crown Heights, and Rabbi Cohen's brother-in-law from South Africa, on his first visit to an American university campus.

Rabbi Sneiderman and his family moved into the Oaklands, adjacent to UD housing and dormitories, in the spring of 1993 to serve the needs of the university's 1,800 to 2,000 Jewish students. His activities include staffing a weekly information table at the Perkins Student Center, weekly Shabbat services (attendance at recent Chabad House services has recently increased to over 25 students), and special holiday workshops and celebrations. His role, as defined by Rabbi Chuni Vogel, director of Chabad of Delaware, is "to make a Jewish difference for our Jewish youth."

AEP, the Rho Deuteron Chapter (chartered in 1925) of the national fraternal organization, currently has 55 brothers—including Wilmington natives and Gratz Hebrew High School graduates Dan Katz and Steve Rosen. Its house on Wyoming Street, which houses 42 brothers, was dedicated in 1987 and is slated for remodeling. Chapter officers for 1993-94 are: President, Marc Wasser; Vice President, Ian Castronuovo; Secretary, Michael Carle; and Treasurer, Eric Salmonson. AEP is the largest of the three Jewish fraternities on the UD Campus; the others are Zeta Beta Tau and Sigma Alpha Mu.



AEP brothers with Rabbi Eliezer Sneiderman after a *mezuzah* was placed on the fraternal house. Shown here: Sneiderman, J. Wallach, D. Schechtman and E. J. Siff.



Judy Wortman, JFD executive V.P., and Toni Young, JFD President accept Shroder award from Betty Kane, Chair of C/JF Shroder Awards Committee in Montreal last month.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Entries for the Calendar of Events are due on the Copy Deadline, published in each edition of *The Jewish Voice*. Copy should be typed and double spaced. Please include day and date, time, place, brief description and contact person.

### DECEMBER

#### Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ 18

**Public Menorah Lighting** and celebration at the giant Menorah adjacent to Macy's in Christiana Mall. The program, sponsored by Chabad, will start at 7:30 p.m. with entertainment and fun for the whole family. Traditional Chanukah songs will be sung, and dreidles, latkes, raffles, balloons and Chanukah gelt will be distributed to all participants. The annual "Dreydel Championships" will take place after the lighting.

#### Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ 19

**A.K.S.E. Men's Club** 9:30 a.m. Speakers are Colonel Tom Gordon, Chief of Police, New Castle County. Topic: Our Community Crime Watch.

#### Monday \_\_\_\_\_ 20

**Medicare Supplement Insurance** 10:30 a.m. Becky Gates from the Delaware State Insurance Department will discuss Medicare and Medicare Supplement Insurance at the JCC Senior Center. A representative from Delaware Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be available to discuss the new rates and options that are offered by her company. Different insurance options will also be shared. Bring your questions and concerns.

#### Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ 21

**Jewish Great Books Discussion Group**, third Tuesday of every month at the J.C.C., 7:30-9:00 p.m. *The Man Who Thought He Was Messiah*, C. Leviant.

**"The Fountain of Age" Book Review**, 10:30 a.m. at the JCC Senior Center. Bebe Sklut reviews "The Fountain of Age" a new book by Betty Friedan. This book is being hailed as the best explanation of the feminist movement. Join us for this interesting, informative program. Bebe always gives an excellent review. Please mark your calendars!

#### Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ 26

**National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia**. Noon to 4 p.m. "Being Jewish at Christmas"—The Museum's annual

day of fun is being held a day late this year in order to observe the Jewish Sabbath. Family entertainment, including music, storytelling and refreshments, is part of the festivities that this year feature the Philadelphia debut of the Robyn Helzner Trio, a dynamic ensemble performance of both traditional and contemporary folksongs reflecting the musical heritage of Jewish communities throughout the world. Admission \$2.00.

#### Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ 29

**Candlelight Dinner**. Join the Senior Center at the JCC for the dinner where we will celebrate our Monthly Birthday Party and the coming New Year, 1994, with food, music, and dancing. Advance reservations are required and transportation is available. Dinner donations are requested. Please call the Senior Center at (302) 478-5660.

### JANUARY 1994

#### Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ 8

**Come out to the movies with YJAD!** We'll be seeing a current feature at the Painter's Crossings theater in Pennsylvania. Callenice Rosenstrauch at (302) 792-1666.

#### Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ 18

**Jewish Great Books Discussion Group**, third Tuesday of every month at the J.C.C., 7:30-9:00 p.m. *If I Am Not For Myself*, R. Wisse.

#### Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ 20

**YJAD is holding a planning meeting** at the JCC to set up events for the springtime. If you have any ideas on an event, would like to run an event, or just want to find out more about YJAD come on out and join us. Call Dan Loewenstern (610) 444-1839.

#### Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ 23

**The annual YJAD Atlantic City trip!** Call Loewenstern at (610) 444-1839.

#### Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ 30

**A.K.S.E. Men's Club** 9:30 a.m. Speakers are Edith Carlson, Executive Director, Northern Delaware Greenway Council. Topic: Preservation of our Natural and Cultural Resources.

**The Jewish Community Center (JCC)** is sponsoring a bus trip to an Israel program and camp fair in Laurel, Maryland on January 30, 1994. The program will last from noon to three p.m. The JCC is sponsoring this effort so that the offspring of interested Delaware residents can benefit from an Israel program. The Israel program and camp fair is sponsored by Moment and Washington Jewish Week. This notice is provided by *The Jewish Voice*. For more information regarding the JCC Bus Trip to the Israel program and camp fair, please call Elise Greer at 478-5660

### FEBRUARY

1994

#### Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ 15

**Jewish Great Books Discussion Group**, third Tuesday of every month at the J.C.C., 7:30-9:00 p.m. *If I Am Not For Myself*, R. Wisse.

#### Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ 27

**A.K.S.E. Men's Club** 9:30 a.m.

Continued on page 15

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### Temple Beth El's New Interfaith Marriage Policy

Recognizing that conversion prior to marriage is the preferred approach, Temple Beth El allows its Rabbi, at his/her discretion, to perform interfaith marriages under the following limitations.

**Temple Beth El Membership:** Members, or children of Temple Beth El members, are the only eligible candidates; three (3) consecutive years of membership in good standing is required unless the interruption in affiliation is due to relocation outside the area.

**Children:** Prior to the marriage, a commitment is required from the couple that all children from the marriage will be raised as Jews. This commitment includes instruction in Jewish customs and tradition, with the exception of B'nai Mitzvot.

**Orientation/Study:** A period of orientation and/or study is required prior to the marriage ceremony. This involves completing a basic Judaism course, or a minimum of six (6) private sessions, totaling at least twelve (12) hours of study with the Rabbi.

**Co-Officiating:** No co-officiating will be allowed during the Jewish marriage ceremony. Participation of other clergy, at other times during the wedding celebration, may be acceptable at the Rabbi's discretion.

**Ceremony Location:** The marriage ceremony may not be held on Temple Beth El property.

## Policy

Continued from page 11

a manner which might be representative of those who would contemplate no circumstance where a Rabbi should officiate at an interfaith marriage. "We are a Halichic movement," Layman said, "there is no way anyone can interpret Jewish law to permit mixed marriage."

According to Layman, Temple Beth El's decision is "outside the realm of Jewish law." Layman questioned the last element of the policy which provides that such interfaith marriages would not take place on Temple Beth El property. "What they are countenancing is not kosher because what they are conducting would 'defile' the synagogue," Layman argues.

Layman explained the Conservative movement would encourage conversion rather than intermarriage. Once conversion takes place, Layman explains, it is two Jews getting married and therefore it is not a mixed marriage. Since the Conservative movement only recognizes matrilineal descent he notes that children of a non-Jewish woman would have to convert in order to be Jewish.

Rabbi Mordechai Leibling, Executive-Director of The Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot, told *The Jewish Voice* that "The Reconstructionist movement has taken a position on the need to welcome intermarried couples. Given the need to welcome them a minority of our Rabbis feel it is consistent with that welcoming to perform an interfaith wedding." Leibling notes that many of those few Reconstructionist Rabbis who will officiate at such weddings have not even imposed such limitations on the practice as obtaining a commitment to raise children

as Jews, a commitment to study Judaism and the commitment to no co-officiating.

Leibling believes it may be "very off-putting to young couples in particular, if the non-Jewish spouse is all of the sudden faced with the issue of conversion." Anecdotal evidence suggests, Leibling says, that over time the non-Jewish spouse is likely to convert and the children are likely to be raised Jewishly if a Rabbi officiates at the marriage and the couple maintains an involvement in a congregation.

In a writing concerning the new policy, Rabbi Kaplan wrote of Ruth from the Torah. "One must remember that Ruth did not convert before marrying her first Jewish husband. It was being part of the Jewish community which helped her decide that being a Jew was right for her," Kaplan wrote.

Rabbi David Kaplan declares his involvement throughout the life of Jewish youth as a decisive factor in his advocacy of the policy. For Kaplan, who expects to remain in Delaware for years to come, he has been greatly troubled by the prospect of telling those who were at Temple Beth El for their baby naming, B'nai Mitzvah, and confirmation, that he could not officiate at their marriage.

Continued on page 17

## New Town Seen As An Alternative To Territories

By HUGH ORGEL

TEL AVIV (JTA) — In the Jerusalem hills, halfway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the foundation stone has been laid for Modi'in, planned to become Israel's third-largest city.

The city will stand just inside the old "Green Line" on the site where the Maccabees launched their rebellion against the Hasmonean Greeks, for which Chanukah is celebrated.

Housing Ministry officials admit privately that they hope the intended low costs of Modi'in housing will attract many future residents away from the cheap housing that is offered in the West Bank by settler groups for political purposes.

## Calendar

Continued from page 14

Speakers are Rabbi Marla J. Feldman, Delaware's new Jewish Community Relations Council Director. Topic: Our Jewish and Civic Responsibilities — A Report on the National Jewish Relations Advisory Council Plenum.

### MARCH 1994

Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ 15

**Jewish Great Books Discussion Group**, third Tuesday of every month at the J.C.C., 7:30-9:00 p.m. Black Box, A. Oz.

Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ 20

**A.K.S.E. Men's Club** 9:30 a.m. Speakers are Dr. Marian L. Palley, Professor of Political Science & International Relations, University of Delaware. Topic: The New Israel?

### APRIL 1994

Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ 19

**Jewish Great Books Discussion Group**, third Tuesday of every month at the J.C.C., 7:30-9:00 p.m. *Where Are We?*, L. Fein.

### MAY 1994

Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ 19

**Jewish Great Books Discussion Group**, third Tuesday of every month at the J.C.C., 7:30-9:00 p.m. *Wasteland*, J. Sinclair.

### Ongoing

**On Wednesdays in December** the YJAD will play coed volleyball inside the JCC Gymnasium. Games run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and are non-competitive. Cost is \$2 (\$1 for JCC members). Contact Mike Schenk at (215) 558-3781.

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## Mazon Dinner Without Dinner

On February 26, 1994, MAZON, a Jewish Response to Hunger, will host "Dinner Without Dinner", an evening of entertainment and dancing to be held at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The event will feature comedian/performance artist Flash Rosenberg, formerly of Delaware, as emcee and musical performances by Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Julie Gold as well as dance music provided by the Goldene Medina Klezmer Band, under direction of Jack Kessler.

MAZON was founded in 1986 as a vehicle through which American Jews can respond to the tragedy of hunger in the United States and abroad. MAZON asks American Jews who are celebrating life-cycle events — weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and bar/bat mitzvahs — to support its efforts to help those who are hungry by contributing 3% of the cost of the food served those celebrations.

"Dinner Without Dinner" is aimed primarily at increasing awareness about hunger in the U.S. and abroad and to educate people about what they can do to help. "Dinner Without Dinner" proceeds will be distributed among social service agencies (both Jewish and non-Jewish), homeless shelters, soup kitchens, Kosher Meals-On-Wheels programs, and other agencies involved in combatting hunger both in inner-city and rural areas.

Tickets for the event are \$54 per person, with larger donations welcomed. The evening will allow guests to enjoy the unique setting and the exhibits at the Academy of Natural Sciences. However, in keeping with MAZON's mission and the spirit of the evening, no food will be served; guests will be expected to dine either before or after the event.

Anyone interested in attending "A Dinner Without Dinner", serving on MAZON's Host Committee, or being involved with MAZON's efforts to fight hunger should contact Larry or Ann Spector at (215) 732-3120 or David Broida at (215) 296-7588, co-chairs of the Philadelphia Executive Committee for MAZON.

## Disease Support Group To Meet

The Wilmington Satellite Group of the Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) meets at the Medical Center of Delaware in Christiana to educate patients as well as family and friends about Crohn's disease and colitis, diseases which affect Jews disproportionately from the rest of the population.

The group meets to hear speakers discuss a variety of topics pertaining to these inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). Crohn's disease and colitis are chronic diseases of the intestinal tract characterized by inflammation, abdominal pain, diarrhea and bleeding. Jews are between 2 1/2 and 3 1/2 times more likely to have IBD than members of the general population. These diseases affect at least 2 million Americans, 200,000 of them under the age of 18. Every year, 30,000 new cases are admitted to hospitals. To find the cause and cure, the CCFA sponsors millions of dollars worth of research projects.

The group participates in talks on such topics as stress, coping, diagnostic testing, nutrition, surgery and how to talk to your doctor. Meetings are open to the public and admission is free. They are held at 7:30 p.m. on second Mondays of every month, October through June, in Room 1200 at the Medical Center in Christiana.

For more information call Art Green at (302) 475-2363.

## Blitzer

Continued from page 7

peace conference. In 1979, he accompanied President Carter to Egypt and Israel during the final round of negotiations that resulted in the signing of the peace treaty. In 1982, Mr. Blitzer was in Beirut during the withdrawal of PLO and Syrian forces.

He is the author of two books, *Between Washington and Jerusalem: A Reporter's Notebook* (Oxford University Press, 1985) and *Territory of Lies* (Harper and Row 1989), the latter on the Pollard spy case. It was cited by *The New York Times Book Review* as one of the most notable books of 1989.

He has written articles for numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Los Angeles Times*. He has a B.A. in history from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and an M.A. in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. Originally from Buffalo, N.Y., he currently lives outside Washington.

To honor those who support the community by attending this event, for the first time the Campaign will be distributing a gold "Chai" pin. The "Chai" pin has been designed in conjunction with A.R. Morris Jewellers expressly for Jewish Federation of Delaware. For more information regarding the Chai Brunch, call Jewish Federation of Delaware, 478-6200.

Share your  
good news  
in the  
Naches column

## Russia

Continued from page 1

Russia's Choice, the party closest to Yeltsin and most supportive of reform, was predicted to come in second.

But the Russian Communist Party and several other communist offshoots did very well.

In a statement, Union of Councils President Pamela Cohen said that the election returns elevate Zhirinovskiy from "a marginal 'clown' to a significant and credible player in Russian politics."

"Adolf Hitler's rise to genocidal power from a legal parliamentary election victory is a frightening model for what could happen in Russia," she said.

Similarly, Rabbi Avi Weiss, national chairman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, called the strong showing of Zhirinovskiy's party "a clear danger signal for Russian Jews."

Given the "drastic deterioration" of Russia's economy, "scapegoating of Jews and other ethnic minorities is a distinct possibility," he warned.

Other Jewish groups were similarly, though more cautiously, concerned.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry welcomed the passage of the new constitution, but expressed concern over the apparent strong showing of the ultranationalists. The group promised to monitor the situation closely.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the ecumenical Appeal of Conscience Foundation, also praised the passage of the new constitution, but called Zhirinovskiy's electoral success "a threat to the future of democracy in Russia."

Stonov of the Union of Councils recalled participating in a conference on the KGB last May.

"Zhirinovskiy entered the hall, and his behavior was absolutely hooliganism. He said the Jews should go to Israel, the Democrats should go to jail. It's unbelievable that most people supported him. He has no real economic program," Stonov said.

Alvin Rubinstein, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania who specializes on Russia, described Zhirinovskiy as "a strange duck."

## JCRC Has Available 'Schindler' Related Educational Material

According to Rabbi Marla J. Feldman, of the Jewish Community Relations Committee "The soon to be released film "Schindler's List" by Steven Spielberg has been hailed as one of the most moving and realistic films about the Holocaust ever produced. The film provides an educational opportunity which should not be missed. It is especially important to take advantage of this opportunity in the face of Holocaust deniers and a new breed of anti-Semites."

Background materials and discussion guides for the film are available through the Jewish Community Relations Committee. This material is appropriate for Junior High School level and above. "Whether you see the film with your family or as part of a group, the material bound to generate provocative and worthwhile discussions," said Feldman. For more information contact Rabbi Marla Feldman, 478-6200.



## Policy

Continued from page 15

Kaplan described his explanation of the policy to his confirmation students. "I am not approving of intermarriage, but I approve of you. I am not your parent, but I think of you as my children. I don't want to completely reject you (if you choose to marry someone who does not share your faith in Judaism), so now I can still work with you."

(Bob Moyer in Newark also contributed to this story.)



## WHAT'S ON TV

Sunday, December 26, 11:30 a.m. TV 12

### KWANZAA: A CULTURAL CELEBRATION

More than 15 million African-Americans celebrate Kwanzaa annually, with dancing, poetry, storytelling, feasting and much more. KWANZAA: A CULTURAL CELEBRATION, airing Sunday, December 26, at 11:30 a.m. on TV 12, looks at how the unique and colorful holiday is observed at home and in the community. Rooted in rich traditions and symbolism of the African harvest, Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration from December 26 to January 1.

## Words & Music:

Continued from page 9

Christine Baranski as his distraught wife, and Jonathan Charles Kaplan as their 11-year-old son who dreams up a happy musical version of *Death of a Salesman* because he feels that Arthur Miller's Loman family deserves one carefree day.

If you miss this one because it's a bit off the familiar path, you'll miss a lot. Margulies is one of the most original and interesting writers for the stage, and *Loman* is a play of rare warmth and compassion combined with daring theatrical tricks

Continued on page 18

## TIPS ON FINANCE

### Charitable Giving Afer '93 Tax Act - Part II

By JORDON ROSEN, CPA  
Special To The Jewish Voice

(This is the second of two articles dealing with the tax aspects of charitable contributions.)

In the December 3 issue of The Jewish Voice I discussed how the new tax laws will impact charitable giving in light of higher tax rates, and how contributions of appreciated property could benefit both the donor and the donee organization. This article looks at a few of the new rules affecting individuals and charitable organizations beginning in 1994. As always, the advice of your CPA or tax advisor should be sought.

Beginning in 1994 contributions of \$250 or more (both cash and noncash) must be substantiated by a written acknowledgement from the donee organization. For contributions made by check, the canceled check itself will no longer be sufficient. The rationale for this new rule is that some taxpayers were deducting amounts paid to charitable institutions when in fact they were receiving goods or services in return for the payment, such as school tuition, books and raffle tickets.

Separate payments will generally be treated as separate contributions and will not be aggregated for purposes of applying the \$250 threshold. Regulations to be issued will contain anti-abuse rules such as in the case where 4 checks of \$240 each are written during a one week period. In this case the checks will be aggregated and a written acknowledgement required. It is possible, however, that larger contributions could be spread throughout the year to avoid the new rule.

Although there is no specific form prescribed, the acknowledgement must contain (1) the amount of cash and a description (but not value) of any property contributed, (2) whether the donee organization provided any goods or services to the donor in consideration of the contribution, and (3) a description and good-faith estimate of such goods or services rendered; or that the goods or services consisted solely of "intangible religious benefits". An example of an intangible religious benefit would be an admission ticket to a religious ceremony. This intangible benefit exception does not apply though, for example, to tuition for education, travel services, or consumer goods other than those incidental to a religious ceremony (such as wine).

Acknowledgments can be made in almost any form (i.e. letter, postcard, etc.) and may be made per contribution or sent to donors on a periodic basis during the year setting forth the required information for each contribution of \$250 or more. Knowingly providing false statements will result in severe penalties for the donee organization.

Finally, the law requires that the written acknowledgement be received by the donor no later than the earlier of the due date (including extensions) for filing his or her return, or the date the return is filed. To avoid problems, individuals should request a dated acknowledgement at the time of the contribution. Saving the postmarked envelope would also be wise. Charitable organizations should begin to develop standardized acknowledgement forms that can be used to meet donors' needs beginning in 1994.

A second change in the law now requires information disclosure by charitable organizations that receive "quid pro quo" payments in excess of \$75 in connection with fundraising activities. "Quid pro quo" payments are those that are part contribution and part in consideration for goods or services. For example, assume that an organization holds a \$100 per person fundraising dinner. Even though there may be no cost to the organization for the dinner (assume it is fully underwritten), the organization must still determine a good faith fair market value of the dinner and advise the donor that only the excess paid over the fair market value is deductible for federal income tax purposes. The disclosure must also state the good faith fair market value of the goods or services provided in its solicitation or in connection with the receipt of funds. The disclosure must also be made in a manner that is reasonably likely to come to the attention of the donor. Separate payments made for separate fundraising events will generally not be aggregated.

The disclosure rules do not apply to de minimis or token goods such as mugs, key chains, etc. Nor does the rule apply if the donor receives solely an intangible religious benefit.

The penalty to the charitable organization for failure to comply with the disclosure rules is \$10 per contribution with a maximum of \$5,000 per

event or mailing. Charitable organizations should closely look at their fundraising strategies. Consider limiting fundraising events to no more than \$75 per gift, or re-evaluate the goods or services that are being offered in exchange for the contribution. The new disclosure rules are effective for all contributions made after 1993.

Jordon Rosen, CPA, has a Masters Degree in Taxation and is currently Director of Taxation at the Wilmington CPA firm of Barbacane, Thronton & Company. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund, and a vice-president of the Wilmington JCC.



Art teacher Shoshana Hershkowitz and AEA students work on chuppah for "The Wedding of The Century."

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**Words & Music: Rabbi Grumbacher Going To Egypt, Jordan and Israel**

Continued from page 17

that break conventions.

In that respect, it reminds me of the way in which *Oklahoma!* introduced the device of ballet to reveal the psychology of its characters. In *The Loman Family Picnic* we have a mini-musical comedy that reveals the inner longings of its principals.

When the drama reaches its most intense moments in the second act, when dialogue has gone as far as it can go, comes the little musical. It provides emotional release and, even more importantly, it provides a new level on which the characters can communicate.

The happy songs, such as "What a Day for a Picnic," are performed with all the clichés of musical comedies. But the words reveal anguish and irony. In its drama, *Loman* pays tribute to *Salesman*. In its use of music, it reminds me of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*, particularly the scene from that show where the successful diplomat breaks down in the middle of a song and confronts his dissatisfaction.

*Follies*'s Benjamin Stone stumbles on his words, his song and his life on the brink of disaster. *Loman*'s wife decides, in the middle of her song, to end her marriage. *How* to end the marriage is explored in the play's daring final scene.

You could call this a fine example of the Dysfunctional Family play, and it's also a nostalgic Jewish Family play, with one of the funniest Bar Mitzvah scenes ever. But *The Loman Family Picnic* has a picnic-boxful of creative twists that make it much more than either, and a must-see for any lover of theater.

I recommend a drive to the rolling hills of Millburn, New Jersey, to see the Paper Mill Playhouse's production of the Marx Brothers' 1928 stage musical *Animal Crackers*.

This show is much better than the classic film version. There's more energy and spontaneity and music and dancing on this stage than there is in the old film.

Frank Ferrante, Les Marsden and Robert Michael Baker as Groucho, Harpo and Chico give funny, athletic, exuberant performances.

In this production, as in last year's smaller-sized version at the Goodspeed Opera House, we see a restoration of the original musical that was written for the Marx Brothers by George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind with songs by Bert Kalmar and Harry Ruby.

Compared to the movie, the show has many more songs and dances and more opportunities for the Marx Brothers characters to be lovable and funny.

*Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and...* at the Arden Theatre in Philadelphia until January 2. This company has been giving inventive stagings of musical and dramatic works for the past five years in its 150-seat home. This evening of dramatic songs by the late Flemish songwriter is being shown in a cabaret setting that recalls the material's European roots.

But the staging by Terrance Nolen is American, emphasizing the universality of Brel's compositions. The English lyrics are by Eric Blau, the colleague of Brel's who was in town to visit last week. The renditions at the Arden are, in several cases, better than those by the 1970's cast which was preserved on videotape.

**By Rabbi PETER H. GRUMBACHER**

Next month eighty Reform rabbis will be traveling to the Middle East, to the three countries stated above, and I am pleased to say that I will be among them. How hard it is to believe that such a tri-nation trip is possible as we enter the new secular year, but the changes occurring have opened up all kinds of combinations. Americans have always been able to visit Egypt and Jordan and, of course, Israel, but the miracle is that we are not only going as Jews but as rabbis who will be able to meet political and

cultural personalities from all three governments!

In Egypt we are tentatively scheduled to meet with Israel's ambassador as well as the U.S. ambassador; in Jordan we are supposed to tour the archaeological site of Petra, traveling there by horseback (!) and then have home hospitality with Jordanian families. The schedule in Jerusalem is also exciting with a meeting with an Israeli representative to the peace talks, as well as Palestinian leaders living in the towns and villages which soon are to achieve a different status than they have these

**Young Single Adults Overlooked, Says Geffen**

**By LARRY YUDELSON**

NEW YORK (JTA) — Here's the plan: Take all the parents juggling two careers and raising a family, put them on the boards of synagogues, federations and community centers, and tell them the future of Jewish life is in their hands.

If it sounds crazy, it is. But that is exactly what is happening, delegates to the last month's General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations were told.

Despite two decades of change in the structure of the American family, the Jewish community sticks to organizational patterns of a generation ago, Rela Monson Geffen, coordinator for programs in Jewish communal studies at Gratz College in Philadelphia, and Barry Kosmin, the CJF's research director, said in two separate sessions at the CJF meeting.

The theme of the meeting, which brought thousands of Jews from North America to Montreal for several days in mid-November, was "Jewish Community Through Diversity," and one of the messages of Geffen and Kosmin was that the Jewish community has failed to understand the demographic diversity of its members.

The Jewish community is continuing to pile burdens on the increasingly overworked, and decreasingly common, so-called traditional family, even as it neglects groups with time and energy to spare, such as unmarried and childless adults and couples with grown children.

Only a minority of Jewish households have children at home, said Geffen. The most common household type is one person living alone, followed by two adults without children.

The 1990 National Jewish Population Study found only 14 percent of the households surveyed consisted of two married Jews with children.

"We have the largest proportion of any ethnic group who live on their own," said Kosmin.

But the Jewish organizations, he said, remain "traditional and very family oriented" in their outlook.

"Most things are done in couples. The Jewish community considers it very hard to sell an individual ticket to anything," he said.

Kosmin recently conducted a study on women in federation leadership.

"Only 7 percent of women involved in women's divisions of federations are single," including divorced and widowed women, he said. Similarly, Geffen told of being ap-

proached by a woman who, despite 17 years of involvement in a synagogue that she helped found, still felt like an outsider because she was not married.

"The cadre of adult single Jews under 35 is particularly important for Jewish institutional life," said Geffen, and yet it is an "abandoned group."

But it is precisely the adults, straight out of college, who are looking for connection, frequently seeking to meet other young Jews, and to be taken seriously by the community for the skills and time they can contribute.

This group has the fewest proportion of their closest friends who are Jewish, said Kosmin.

And this is the age when people marry. The median age of Jewish women getting married today is 26; that for Jewish men is 28.

"These people are not in Jewish social networks as much as in other points of their lives," said Kosmin.

In large measure, he said, the Jewish community's attitude is to blame, because it does not try to reach out to them — even though they're at a crucial stage, when they have money to spend and are defining who they are by how they spend it.

They can be skiers, travelers, artists, Jews — or all of them.

That decision, Kosmin said, "is affected by their peer group, and they will then find a mate who is compatible with that lifestyle. If you're a skier, you'll marry a skier and have skiing children."

"There's a tremendous need for Jewish, what we might call artificial, ties," he said.

"The organized Jewish community everybody thinks about doesn't exist anymore. The family ties don't exist, the old Jewish neighborhoods are gone."

"If they want to be social animals, they've got to make decisions," he said. "But we have to provide answers."

Some answers are being offered by a Montreal program, ProMontreal.

Launched two years ago with a three-year allocation of \$1 million, the initiative aims to keep the Jewish youth in the community. (The threat in Montreal is less that of assimilation and intermarriage, than of joining the exodus of English-speakers from the province.)

"Young people are not only staying, but many who have left are returning," said Stanley Plotnick, co-chair of the program.

The ProMontreal programs include a free placement agency, which last

past twenty-six years. This is but a taste of the itinerary still in process of finalization, but ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, part of our parent body, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, is planning an experience to remember.

I will be speaking on that experience at Shabbat services on Friday, January 28th. While a few weeks will pass between now and departure time (January 15), use that time to say a short prayer for me and my colleagues. Not everyone in the region knows that rabbis are *ohavel shalom v'rodfei shalom*, "lovers of peace and pursuers of peace."

This commentary originally appeared in *The Orbit Newsletter of Delaware's Congregation Beth Emeth*.

year found jobs for 150 young graduates and counseled 350 others; a language and cultural committee to help people feel comfortable in English and French; and a social committee, made up of a consortium of 10 Jewish youth groups, which brought together 1,500 people to its last event.

But the ProMontreal program went beyond setting up a program for the youth, to getting them involved in the broader community.

"Virtually every agency in the community, every committee in the community, involves representation of 18-to-24 and 24-to-40-year-olds," said Plotnick. "We want our young people in the community."

Said Geffen: "Employed single women, and men, of all ages need to think the Jewish community thinks of them as adults. Everyone has to find a way to be part of the mishpacha (family), whether in a household, or across households, or in a synagogue."

At the same time that the community needs to do more for the majority of households without children living at home, it should be doing more for those who are raising children, said Geffen.

"Agency, organization and synagogue leadership cannot be based on parents of young and school-aged children. They should not feel guilty for not going to meetings."

"Singles, empty-nesters and young seniors would be better" candidates for leadership, she said.

"The rhetoric of community should be supportive of dual career people, particularly women. They should be told how excellent they're doing."

Rather than making them feel guilty when they do not make gefilte fish by hand like their grandmother did, she said, "We also have to tell them that takeout is OK for a Shabbat meal. You and your spouse don't have to personally bake the challah, or even be the one to buy it."

"The community should encourage and support Jewish fathers, but expecting, rather than be surprised, when they decline to come to events and meetings in evenings."

Geffen acknowledged that "these kinds of social changes require enormous investments in time and resources."

But, she said, "nothing less than a revolutionary response based on a great vision will be adequate."

[Editor's Note: Geffen, the author of the new book *Celebrations and Renewals*, is the featured speaker of *The Jewish Federation of Delaware's (JFD's) Lion of Judah Luncheon*].



OBITUARIES

**ISRAEL CRAMER**

SALEM, N.J. - Israel Cramer, 95, the oldest practicing chiropractor in New Jersey and the one with the longest practice, died December 4 of pneumonia in Salem County Hospital.

Mr. Cramer, came to the United States in 1912 from Ukraine and settled in Philadelphia.

After graduating from Palmer School of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa, he started a practice in Salem in 1920 with his first wife, Dr. Pauline Ellis Cramer, also a chiropractor. After she died in 1928, he practiced alone. He was an officer in New Jersey Chiropractic Association.

He was a member of the men's club at Congregation Beth Shalom, Wilmington; Congregation Oheb Shalom, Salem; and Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Philadelphia.

He is survived by his wife, Ada T.; five daughters, Goldanna Cramer Perlsweig of Salem, Dr. Faith Walsh of Brant Beach, Pauline Cramer of West Palm Beach, Fla., Margaret Cramer of Staten Island, N.Y., and Marcia Barr of Montreal; a brother, Isadore Cramer of Kingston, N.Y.; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to charity.

**S. HARRY GOLFAND**

PHILADELPHIA - S. Harry Golfand, a former Philadelphia commerce director and labor arbitrator, died December 2 at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania of diabetes complications. He was 72.

Mr. Golfand, of Philadelphia, was the city representative and commerce director in the Cabinet of the late Mayor James H.J. Tate from 1968 to 1972.

He had also served as a labor consultant to Tate in his career as an arbitrator on many closely watched cases, among them disputes with city teachers, orchestra members, transit workers and hospitals.

Mr. Golfand was a fund raiser for 15 Jewish organizations and often led delegations of management and labor interests on trips to Israel.

Survivors include his wife, Amy Burke Golfand; a son, Ted; and four daughters, Leah, Judy, Cindy and Wendy.

**RUTH PROBSTEN**

Ruth Probst, 80, of Forest Hills, N.Y., died December 5 in Calvary Hospital, Bronx.

Mrs. Probst and her husband owned a linen making company in New York.

Her husband, Herbert N., died in 1987. She is survived by a son, Jack of Wilmington; a daughter, Joanne Hyrkin of Westtown; and four grandchildren.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Calvary Hospital, Bronx.

**SYLVIA SILVERMAN**

Sylvia Silverman, age 83, died of a heart attack on Wednesday at St. Francis Hospital. The Wilmington homemaker was married for close to sixty years to Mr. Isadore N. Silverman. She belonged to the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, its Sisterhood and Choral Group of Hadassah. She was also Past President and a Life Member of Mizrahi Women.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by four daughters as follows:

Barbara S. Keil of Surrey Park, Vivian S. Halberstadt of Green Acres, Shiels Freeman of Miami, FL, and Lea E.S. Jaffe of Bloomington, In. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled for today, December 17 at 11:00 a.m. at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, at Washington Blvd. & Torah Drive in Wilmington, Delaware. Shiva will be observed at the residence of Charles and Barbara Keil in Surrey Park on Saturday evening, December 18, Sunday morning, December 19 and Sunday evening, December 19. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Silverman Scholarship Fund, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Washington Blvd. & Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802.

**SANFORD A. SOLOMON**

Dover: Sanford A. Solomon of Dover died at home on Sunday, November 14 of kidney failure. He was 65.

Sandy Solomon was born in Brooklyn, New York on December 25, 1927, but he was brought up on his parents' farm in Maryland where he experienced first hand the intolerance of the Klan. It was those formative memories that influenced him to take a leadership role in the Jewish community.

Since his move to Dover in 1970, Sandy was an active member of Congregation Beth Shalom, having served for many years as Vice President and as the spokesperson-fund-raiser for Israel Bonds. He chaired the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the State of Israel. An active lobbyist, Sandy was a member of the AIPAC National Council in Washington, D.C. He served on the Jewish Community Relations Committee of Lower Delaware, an organization dedicated to fostering ecumenical cooperation.

S.A. Solomon and Son, a respected home building and siding company, served homeowners and businesses throughout Dover and at the shore. It was also awarded contracts on Air Force Bases around the country, including the Dover Air Force Base. Sandy was Delaware's delegate to the White House Small Business Conference during the Carter administration.

A graduate of City College and Baltimore Junior College, while Sandy was living in Baltimore, at the age of 27 he served two years as the youngest Grand Master of St. John's Masonic Lodge.

During World War Two, Mr. Solomon served as a paratrooper and spent his last year in the service in Japan where he developed a love and knowledge of Japanese art and culture.

Mr. Solomon is survived by his wife Jeanne and his son, Andy; his brother Milton and sister Pearl Gartnerman, four nephews, Stephen and David Gartnerman and Stuart and Steven Solomon of Baltimore; and a niece, Tivia Yaffee of New York City.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Congregation Beth Shalom, Queen and Clara Streets, Dover, DE 19901.

Arrangements are by the Torbert Funeral Home.

**Lawyer Honored**

WASHINGTON — Civil Rights activist Joseph Rauh, the late Washington Jewish lawyer who devoted much of his adult life fighting for uplift of legal, social and economic equality of African-Americans, has posthumously received America's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom.

Rauh and the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall who were friends and collaborators in the civil rights struggles were awarded the honors at a White House ceremony from President Clinton. Marshall was the first Black on the U.S. Supreme Court before which, as a lawyer, he argued brilliantly for civil rights for all Americans.

**Work It Out**

Pacem in Terris and the National Coalition Building Institute/Delaware Chapter are sponsoring a workshop, "Conflict Resolution: Finding the Common Ground," on Saturday, January 22, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Newark Center for Creative Learning, 401 Phillips Ave., Newark.

The cost is \$20 - \$50. This workshop has been accredited by the Delaware Department of Public Instruction for 2/5 of an Inservice Credit. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

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