

The JEWISH VOICE

Jewish Historical Society De
505 Market Street
Wilmington DE 19801

Vol. 31, No. 39 27 Sivan 5759 June 11, 1999 20 Pages
PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE, 100 WEST 10TH ST., SUITE 301, WILMINGTON, DE 19801-1628

DELAWARE TO HOST KOSOVO FAMILY

by Lynn Edelman
Editor

Within the next few days, Delaware will play host to a family forced to flee their home in Kosovo. Rrahman Axhami; his wife, Zelonjhe; 9 year old daughter, Zejrije and her 4 month old baby sister, Rrahime, left for the refugee camp in Macedonia with only the clothes on their backs.

The family does not speak English and will require the services of a tutor. Jewish Family Service, the official Kosovan Refugee Resettlement Agency in the state of Delaware, has secured housing in a Newark apartment complex where they will live rent free for 3 months.

In anticipation of the Axhamis arrival, JFS has outfitted the apartment with furniture, linens and other housekeeping supplies.

Roberta Schwartz, who is

coordinating the resettlement efforts for JFS, says that the agency would appreciate cash contributions rather than donations of clothing or household items. "We would like to have additional funds available to meet the family's present and future needs," she said.

Devout Muslims, the Axhamis will feel less isolated thanks to the efforts of volunteers from the Islamic Association of Newark. Association members will invite the family to pray with them at a local mosque.

JFS is also working with volunteers from Christ Episcopal Church who have pledged to "help out wherever and whenever they are needed," said Schwartz.

If you would like to fulfill the mitzvah of "welcoming the stranger," please call Schwartz at 798-0600.

CAN RUSSIA REGAIN HER FORMER CLOUT?

by Lynn Edelman
Editor

Russian President Boris Yeltsin views himself as a power broker in the ongoing crisis in Kosovo. Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, National Security Advisor to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, cautions against trusting in Yeltsin's alleged humanitarianism. "He is not concerned about ethnic cleansing but rather in preserving Russia's own interests in the area," he said Monday to members of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) Board of Governors.

Brzezinski, currently a Counselor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., questions the influence of a nation that he believes is "in the midst of a social and biological crisis." He forecasts a bleak future for the once expansive empire whose current frontiers "have shrunk back to what they were in the late 1700s to early 1800s."

He asserts that male longevity has dropped to the low level of many Central African Republics. Russia today, according to Brzezinski, records nearly twice as many deaths as births and experiences an "astoundingly high rate" of alcoholism and heart disease.

However, the statistics presented by Brzezinski regarding Russia's young people are perhaps even more distressing. Some 27% of infants have been diagnosed as

mentally retarded or mentally ill. He alleges that 40% of first graders are physically challenged.

Economic unrest-fueled by the collapse of the free-market economy and unsuccessful attempts at privatization-has led to a rise in anti-semitism. The NCSJ is currently meeting with Russian legislators and diplomats to express their concern about recent bombings at synagogues and other Jewish community sites in Moscow and Birobidzhan.

Can Russia regain its former super power status? Yeltsin, according to Brzezinski, is hoping for a political coup. If he could convince former Soviet states like Georgia and Estonia to change their status as independent republics and reorganize into a new federation, he might satisfy his compatriots' dreams of a nation "restored to its former glory."

In the process, Yeltsin-who survived recent impeachment hearings-could emerge the victor in the year 2000 presidential elections. If a new Federation is formed, Constitutional limits on Yeltsin's tenure no longer apply.

Editor's Note: In the next edition of the Jewish Voice, we will feature an update on U.S. foreign policy towards the former Soviet states from Richard Morningstar, Special Adviser to the President and Secretary of State for Caspian Basin Energy Diplomacy.

KOSOVOANS CONFUSED AND COMFORTED BY ISRAEL

By Leslie Katz

Jewish Bulletin of Northern California

Editor's Note: Katz accompanied the recent UJC Rescue Mission to Israel, Albania and Hungary.

For Lidija Ajar, life as a new immigrant is a mixed blessing.

On the one hand, she is grateful to be in Israel, far from the bombs pounding Belgrade. On the other, she is farther away than ever from her draft age husband, who cannot leave Yugoslavia.

Tears streaming down her cheeks, she recalls a recent and particularly agonizing cross-continental telephone conversation. "My husband asked me to teach the kids Serbo-Croatian so he can understand them when he sees them again."

She does not know when that will be. "The children ask me every day when father will come to see where they live."

In her worst nightmares, there is no reunion. Ajar arrived in Israel April 15 with her young children and sister-in-law Melita. Now staying at an absorption center run by the Jewish Agency for Israel, she embodies the paradox faced by many Balkan refugees: While the Jewish state has welcomed them with open arms, the prospect of starting over is more than daunting.

"When I explain how I am feeling, I must cry," Ajar says. "What will I do after six months?" the period during which Israel provides free apartments, food, clothing, education and Hebrew training to newcomers.

"We provide a soft landing for immigrants getting off the plane," says Mike Rosenberg, director general of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department. "This is where money to [the agency] goes."

The Israeli effort to shelter Yugoslavian Jews began in mid-April. Then, the Jewish Agency invited 80 young Yugoslavians staying in Budapest to visit Israel on a pilot trip exposing them to life in the Jewish state.

The guests met with educational advisers and employment counselors, visited colleges and universities, and toured the country. Two of the young adults have already become new immigrants; another 22 are in the process of changing their status from tourist to immigrant.

Many more are assessing Israel, trying it on for size. "Everything is like a perfect picture wherever I look," says Vladislav Ban, a 17-year-old from Subodica, Yugoslavia, who has been in Israel a month. "Everything is new — the roads, the houses, stores, cities."

Still, Israel is not his homeland. "I feel an emotional connection to Israel but it's much stronger to Yugoslavia because everything I learned, I learned there," says the teen, who is staying at Hadassah Neurim Youth Aliyah Village. There, the young Yugoslavians live alongside Russian and Ethiopian youth while trying to make sense of all that has happened in recent months.

"They are happy to be rescued, but they are angry," says Eli Amir, director general of



Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, National Security Advisor to former President Carter, (left) discusses the status of Russia with NCSJ Chairman Denis Braham.

the Jewish Agency's youth aliyah institutions. But for some immigrants, a sense of relief overrides feelings of anger and longing.

Shortly after the first group of young Yugoslavians arrived, another group comprised of 48 mothers and children touched down at Ben-Gurion Airport.

In that group was Ivan Percic, who managed to escape Yugoslavia via Croatia

and travel to the Middle East with his wife and two children. For now, the family resides at an absorption center in Ra'anana.

The Percics, unlike some other refugees in their situation, are 100 percent certain they want to forge a life in Israel. "I recognize it somehow as my homeland," Ivan Percic says. "If there's anywhere I belong, it is here."

INSIDE THE VOICE

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A FATHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

... a parent's love isn't to be paid back; it can only be passed on."
-Herbert Tarr

Dear Dad,

Tomorrow is Father's Day, and we are thousands of miles apart; apart as we are too often and for too long. So, it seems a good time to write you and tell you-dear God, what to tell you? How can a son possibly say what a father means to him-how can I say what you mean to me? From the time I was a little boy, I always knew you were different. You didn't play ball like other dads. You didn't help with homework. You didn't cook burgers on Sunday afternoon. I never really understood why, until much later. Later I learned that there had been no time for sports, or even school, when you were growing up. You grew up poor; burning-wax-paper-to-stay-warm-in-the-Minnesota-winter poor, picking-tin-cans-out-of-the-garbage-dump poor. I learned that when you were young and would come home from school with a book, the laughter and ridicule was too much for a lit-

tle boy to take. "Look at the professor," they would say. So you could never be the Little-League-coaching, algebra-tutoring kind of dad. But we had other things:

Fishing. God, how I loved to fish with you. Watching you row the boat across the lake, shirt off, tan, strong, eyes sparkling like the water. You were a giant; you were my dad. We had long walks in the woods. Smelling, tasting, feeling the wonder of God's great, green earth. We had work. If there was one thing you were going to teach your children, it was work.

When I was young, I never really noticed that you came home with bloody hands and frost-bitten toes, wounds from the war you waged for forty years at Leder Brothers' Scrap Iron and Metal. I never considered the fear and responsibility you must have shouldered. Married at eighteen, with five children to feed by the time you were thirty-yes, work, work was your salvation. Or so I thought. Now I know better. Now I know you were never working for yourself. To this day, in spite of

your success, you have a hard time spending money. You were working for me, for Mom, Marilyn, Sherry, Joanne and Greg too.

I started cleaning toilets and mopping floors at the scrap yard when I was still a little boy. "You have to start at the bottom," you told me. When I got caught shoplifting, you had three truckloads of dirt dumped on our driveway, handed me a wheelbarrow and shovel, and ordered, "Spread it over the yard, front and back." It took an entire summer. It was punishment, a humbling reminder, and it worked.

I turned around that summer. Hard work was your salvation, and somehow, it had become mine. It still is and will always be. Can I ever thank you enough for teaching me about the salvation of a job well done?

We never talked much about women, but somehow I grew up respecting women because you always demanded I respect my sisters and my mother. We never talked much about Judaism, but you brought me to shul with you to

say Kaddish for your father. You sent me to Israel when I was sixteen, and when we said good-bye at the airport, it was only the second time I ever saw you cry.

We never talked much about education, ideas, or the world, but from the time I was a little boy, you said "There's always money for books." Later, you sent me off to Oxford to study Shakespeare, to tour Europe and Russia. You supported me through college and five years of graduate school. The boy who was teased by his immigrant parents for wanting to read, became the father whose mantra was "There's always money for books."

"We never talked much about tzedakah, but somehow you were always helping someone who had much less. We never talked much about family, but you raised five children who live today without sibling rivalry because we had a father who knew how to forgive. Somehow you managed to rework your worldview to embrace a son, my brother, who is gay. Somehow, even now, you manage to guide your children without ever telling them what to do.

We never talked much about marriage, but at our wedding toast, you looked at Betsy and me, raised your glass with a wide smile, and simply said, "May you always be each other's best friend." After all these years of performing weddings myself, of premarital counseling with hundreds of couples, of volumes read on love and marriage, leave it to you to have said exactly the right thing. Leave it to you to get to the heart of it all in

one sentence.

We never talked much about being a mensch, but never once did I see you favor rich over poor, beautiful over ordinary, Jew over non-Jew, man over woman, white over black. We never talked much about being a father, but somehow, thanks to your example, I feel like I'm getting it right with my own children.

You know, Dad, there's a story in the Torah about when Aaron, the High Priest, is about to die. He takes off his priestly vestments and puts them on his son El'azar. It's our tradition's way of saying we must carry on the work of our fathers, that eventually they live through us.

Lately I've noticed something about us, Dad. We never used to, but now we end every phone call by saying "I love you." I think it's because somehow we sense that ever so slowly we're getting closer to Aaron and El'azar; closer to the end than we are to the beginning. So I'm writing to say thank you, Dad. Thank you for teaching me about God's green earth, hard work, women and friendship, money for books and being a mensch. Thank you for being the man I will forever strive to become, for getting me ready to carry on your work. Happy Father's Day. Love, Steve.

Editor's Note: Rabbi Steven Z. Leder has served the Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles since 1986. [From *The Extraordinary Nature of Ordinary Things*, copyright (c) 1999 by Steven Z. Leder. Published by Behrman House, Inc.]

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Michael Feinstein Brings Cabaret Show To The Playhouse Theatre

Michael Feinstein will bring his cabaret show to the Playhouse Theatre in Wilmington for a one-night only performance. This musical salute to George Gershwin, Cole Porter and other American composers will be presented on June 15th at 8 p.m. Feinstein's performance benefits the Delaware Theatre Company, the Brandywine Valley's only resident professional theatre company. Tickets are available by calling 594-1100 or online at www.delawaretheatre.org.



Michael Feinstein

Genuardi's Family Markets Opens New Store

Genuardi's Family Markets have opened a glittering new "Mega Store", Valleyview, at 2502 Foulk Road in Wilmington. Known for their fresh produce, meats, delicatessen, freshly ground coffee and baked goods, they are featuring an extensive line of kosher products at this new address. The market also features a dining area, and has several Zagara departments.

We Welcome Your Opinions... Write A Letter To The Editor

EDITORIAL

America: A Salad Bowl of Cultures

Many Americans view their country as a melting pot of religious and ethnic groups. Mix together diverse cultures and traditions - season liberally with liberty and justice and create a homogenous national dish.

Israelis see themselves as ingredients in a colorful salad bowl of cultures. Each citizen imparts as unique ethnic and religious flavor while maintaining a distinct identity. Every émigré who arrives on Israel's shores - be they Russian, Ethiopian or ethnic Albanian - refreshes the national mix.

Both nations share a commitment to religious freedom. Citizens are encouraged to worship at a synagogue, church or mosque without interference from the government. Their right to wear kipot or hijab - the Moslem head covering - is protected under law.

Separation of church and state is an issue that sets apart these two great democracies. In Israel, Jewish customs and traditions are openly taught in public schools and Jewish holy days are national holidays.

In the United States, religious expression is respected yet restricted from the public schools. The crafters of the Bill of Rights believed that prayer is a private matter and

that religious holidays should best be observed in private homes or houses of worship.

Delaware House Bill 206, expected to come up for a vote on the State House floor on Tuesday, June 15th, challenges this historic separation. Introduced by Representative Al Plant as a response to the rash of school violence across our great nation, it would allow student led prayer in school classrooms and auditoriums throughout the state of Delaware.

The legislation, which insiders maintain has an excellent chance of passage, forbids teacher involvement in the content or delivery of these prayers. This provision makes this bill especially problematic. In an era where teachers struggle to maintain control of their classrooms, they are powerless to prevent delivery of a message that might be insensitive or hurtful to many of their students.

You can make a difference. Join the many clergymen and women of all faiths who have voiced their opposition to HB 206. Call your State Representative today and tell them to vote NO next Tuesday.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On Tuesday, June 15, the Delaware House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on House Bill 206, a bill to allow student-initiated prayers in Delaware's public schools. We hope that members of the Jewish community, as well as other Delawareans concerned with religious freedom and school discipline, will contact their state representatives to voice their opinions regarding this bill.

House Bill 206 would allow students to conduct "non-sectarian" prayers at school functions whenever they so desired, and would prohibit teachers from doing anything to regulate the nature of the prayers. Not only is this bill illegal under the United States Supreme Court's cases separating church and state, but there are also some basic, common sense reasons why the bill is a bad idea.

1. Students should not be permitted to have control over classrooms in our public schools; that is the role of teachers. At a time when the state is spending millions of dollars to find ways to re-establish discipline in public school classrooms, it does not make sense to pass laws like House Bill 206 that allow students to take over school events.

2. The types of religious practices that are likely to be brought into our classrooms because of House Bill 206 are not the type to which most Delaware parents would want their children exposed. Some of the most popular music groups among high school

students, such as Marilyn Manson (whose recent album was titled "Antichrist Superstar") and Nine Inch Nails (whose popular song chants "your god is dead and no one cares, if there is a hell I will see you there"), are teaching young people bizarre perspectives on religion. House Bill 206 would allow a small minority of those young people to impose these Satanic religious practices on their classmates. That cannot be good for our schools.

3. Students who wish to practice religion in Delaware's public schools are already able to do so. Federal law requires that schools make classrooms and facilities available to student religious groups, and Delaware public schools are permitted to have a period of silence each school day when students can worship privately.

4. Religion is an intensely personal subject that should be guided by children's parents and ministers, not by the public schools.

There is a place for religious activity in our schools, but this bill is the wrong way to do it. Please call your state representative today, and let him or her know that you're opposed to House Bill 206. If legislators do not receive phone calls from their constituents, this bill will very likely pass, and we will need to live with its consequences for years to come.

Sincerely,
Matthew P. Denn
Susan Coonin
Co-Chairs, JCRC

SHABBAT
Candle Lighting

JUNE

18TH - 8:15 PM

25TH - 8:16 PM

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE
for all articles,
advertisements and news
for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE	FOCUS	DEADLINE
JUNE 25	BANKING FINANCE COMPUTERS	JUNE 17

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The Jewish Voice due at JFD
offices or mail:
The Jewish Voice
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The Parsha Place

Week of June 12 Shelach Lecha Numbers 13-15

Thus you shall be reminded to observe all my commandments and to be holy to your God.
Numbers 15:40

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the whole Israelite community and say to them: You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.
Leviticus 19: 1-2

The English word, holy, has its roots in several ancient words. The Anglo Saxon hal is one of them. Hal is the root of the English word whole. However, the modern use of holy is more directly derived from the old high German, heilig, which means infinitely good, worthy of homage, saintly, having spiritual perfection. This meaning reflects Christian theology and implies that you have some intrinsic attribute that disassociates you from the mundane.

According to the Brown Driver Briggs (BDB) lexicon, the possible original meaning of the root is separation, withdrawal. As a noun, Kadesh, it means apartness and thus sacredness. The adjective Kadosh, frequently applied to God treats God as separate, apart and therefore sacred, holy. The verb Kadash means "to be set apart, consecrated." Nothing about the meanings of these words suggests being intrinsically good or divine.

A closer English translation of Kadosh is "sacred," which means a character given to a thing by consecration.

Consider a pile of 100 gold pieces. You wouldn't ordinarily think of gold pieces as holy. But if you put aside 10 gold pieces with an intention of giving them to the temple, then those 10 pieces would be kadosh: consecrated, dedicated and, to a certain extent, elevated. You could no longer use them for any other purpose than the temple.

The next time you attend Shabbat services, try to imagine that instead of saying: Holy! Holy! Holy! is the Lord of Hosts
you say: Sacred! Sacred! Sacred! or Separate! Separate! Separate!
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The JEWISH VOICE

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

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Member of the American Jewish Press Association and Jewish Telegraphic Agency.
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Periodicals postage paid for The Jewish Voice (USPS-704160) at Wilmington, Delaware.
Subscription price: \$18.00. Circulation: 3,200. Mailed to subscribers and contributors to the Jewish Federation of Delaware. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Jewish Voice, 100 W. 10th St., Wilmington, DE 19801. (302) 427-2100. The FAX number of The Jewish Voice is (302) 427-2438. E-Mail: jewishvoic@aol.com



Voice Box

"We have plenty of compelling evidence of war crimes committed by the bombing in Yugoslavia,"

- Alexander Lykurezos of Greece
Comments made to the Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal Investigating NATO

"If the Serbs live up to what they have signed, this will end the killing and begin the peace."

- Defense Secretary, William Cohen
on Wednesday's Kosovo Peace Deal

LOCAL

United Way of Delaware and Delaware Community Foundation Receive Award for "Achieving Nonprofit Excellence"

United Way of Delaware and the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) were honored for "Excellence in Fundraising" by the Delaware Association of Nonprofit Agencies (DANA) at the 1999 DANA Annual Conference. The award, one of four presented to agencies for "Achieving Nonprofit Excellence," recognizes the resource-sharing partnership established by United Way and the DCF last year to encourage local donors to make lasting gifts to their favorite charities.

Twenty-seven United Way member and affiliate agencies have established endowment funds at the DCF since the partnership began. Thirteen United Way agen-

cies had endowments at the DCF prior to creation of the partnership. Twelve additional agencies are expected to join by June 30th.

Endowments are permanent funds in which the principal will always remain intact while the investment income supports the charity on an ongoing basis. Such funds help ensure the future financial stability of each agency.

"We're pleased that the first year of the partnership has been so successful," commented Charles W. Anderson, United Way of Delaware President. "United Way funding helps our agencies provide a continuum of care and this unique partnership enables our

agencies to plan for a healthy future." DCF Executive Director Collis O. Townsend added, "It's always gratifying to be recognized by your peers for the work you do. The partnership is already making a difference in helping to build the financial base of the nonprofit community."

The Jewish Community Center, a Jewish Federation of Delaware constituent, maintains an Endowment Fund at the DCF. JCC Executive Director Jeffrey Metz cited three main reasons his

agency decided to establish an endowment fund at the DCF. First, he noted the DCF's broad reach and the exposure it provides for its collection of funds. "Having a fund at the Foundation affords a new avenue for people to give to the Center," Jeff said. Second, he pointed to "the tremendous marketing and technical support" available through DCF Planned Giving Services. "It would be expensive or difficult to get this support elsewhere — at the DCF it's local and accessible." Finally, Jeff acknowl-

edged that the DCF's gift of \$2,000 for the Center's initial contribution of \$8,000 makes the endowment fund a "wise" investment. The JCC has other endowment funds, and the addition of a fund at the DCF will give potential donors more giving options, he added.

Two other Federation constituents, The Hattie and Milton Kutz Home and Jewish Family Service, also maintain Nonprofit Endowment Funds at the Delaware Community Foundation.

Ashford Award Applauds Community Service

By Lynn Edelman
Editor

The Jewish Fund for the Future, the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, congratulates Molly M. Murphy of Milford as the 1999 recipient of its Ashford Award for Leadership in Community Service.

Theodore H. Ashford, of Ashford Capital Management, established this award through the Jewish Fund for the Future to recognize a young person who demonstrates leadership qualities through his or her contributions to the community. Ashford, who is not Jewish, has managed a portion of the Federation's Endowment Fund since its creation. He made this one-time gift to launch a program that recognizes future community leaders. The Ashford Award recipient receives public recognition for his or her achievements plus a small monetary award.

Murphy, the daughter of John and Carol Murphy, competed against outstanding students at both public and private high schools throughout the State of

Delaware. Her commitment to her school and her community include service as President of the Milford Senior High School Chapter of the National Honor Society, the Lion's Club high school division (L.E.O.) and of Y.E.L.L. - Youth to Eliminate Loss of Life. She recently received the 1999 Governor's Youth Volunteer Service Award for successfully chairing a Toys-for-Tots drive at her high school. This drive collected 600 toys for needy children.

"Many thoughtful individuals like Ted Ashford furthered their philanthropic interests through creating Federation Endowment Funds," said Rachel A. Gross, Endowment Director. Gross added that most of the Funds are restricted. "For instance, she added, there are scholarship funds for college or graduate school students who are studying in Israel or working towards a career in Jewish communal service." Others benefit particular Federation constituent agencies like the Hillel Association of the University of Delaware or the Jewish Community Center.

"Our community needs to create Endowment Funds that benefit children in grades kindergarten through 12," said Gross. She maintained that "This type of Fund would be an ideal way to ensure that Jewish youth can attend Jewish day schools, enjoy Jewish camping or travel to Israel-experiences that help ensure Jewish continuity."

Jewish continuity builds community leadership. By establishing an Endowment Fund through the Jewish Fund for the Future, an individual can make an enduring contribution to the future of the Jewish community and leave a lasting legacy in their name or in the name of a loved one.

If you are interested in learning more about the Jewish Fund for the Future, please contact Gross at 427-2100, ext. 19.

Delaware Teens Learn The Jewish Take on Body Art, Medicine and Mutilation

by Marion Hamermesh &
Marlene Milunsky

Match the form of body art, medicine or mutilation with the statement which describes it best.

A. Ear piercing B. Navel piercing
C. Tattoos D. Branding E. Plastic surgery F. Organ donation

___ 1. Most Jews now believe this can be done if it will save a life.

___ 2. A concern is that this will include the name of haShem or of Pagan gods.

___ 3. It is permanent and frequently its appeal is because of the pain it causes.

___ 4. This has the potential of breaking our laws regarding tzniut (modesty)

___ 5. This may make us feel better about ourselves and since our feelings of self worth are valued by the Rabbis, this is permitted.

___ 6. We know that this was okay for ancient Jewish people to do this because of the rules about it in the Mishnah.

Could you answer these questions? Students in our community recently had the opportunity to explore these timely questions with Joel Laurie Grishaver. Grishaver was brought to Wilmington by the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation of Congregation Beth Shalom. He is a renowned educator, speaker and teen motivator, the co-owner of Torah Aura Productions and Alef Design Group and the author of more than 60 books.

Sixty-five Delaware Gratz students along with other members of the community spent two hours in the JCC auditorium learning about Jewish approaches to a modern day dilemma. Mr. Grishaver used the problems presented by the recurring fashion of body-piercing to raise questions regarding our values concerning beauty, mutilation, mental health, the sanctity of the human body and masochism. He provided the students with Jewish resources, from Rambam to Dear Abby, upon which to base

their discussions. Through close examination of texts and considerable debate, everybody gained an understanding of both the issues at hand and ways to examine such sensitive topics in the light of Jewish teachings.

Coincidentally, two weeks later, Gary Soulsman wrote an article for the News Journal on this very subject. It seems to be of great current

interest. We are grateful to the Kraft Foundation for providing the community with this wonderful opportunity for a timely and thought provoking morning of study.

Marlene Milunsky is principal and Marion Hamermesh a faculty member of Delaware Gratz, Jewish Community High School. (Answers: 1F 2C 3D 4B 5E 6A)

Goya — Another Look

During his lifetime, Francisco Goya (1746-1828) was without rival in his native Spain; the "First Painter to the King." This exhibit will reexamine the artist through some 35 paintings complemented by works on paper. The core of the show is a group of paintings that he kept in his personal collection until the time of his wife's death in 1812.

On Tuesday, June 29, 1999, the JCC Senior Center will be visiting the Philadelphia Art Museum's

"Goya" exhibit. A docent will provide a private tour of the exhibit, followed by a catered panini lunch and additional free time at the museum. The cost is just \$36 for members and \$54 for non-members. Transportation will be provided

from both the JCC (at 8:00 a.m.) and the B'nai B'rith House (at 8:15 a.m.) and is included in the fees. For more information or to register, contact Wendi Weingartner at (302) 478-5660.

"A Call To Life"

Award-winning filmmaker Amiram Amital will join the JCC Senior Center on Wednesday, June 30th, as he presents his inspiring, charming and enlightening film about an older woman challenging life! The cost is just \$5 with advance registration and \$7

with walk-in registration. Transportation is also available with advance registration.

For more information or to make your reservations, contact

Wendi Weingartner at (302) 478-5660.

BANKING - FINANCE

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NEXT ISSUE:

JUNE 25

Deadline: June 17



Endowment funds are needed for Jewish camping experiences.

JEWISH HERITAGE

Reform Rabbis Vote for 'Centrist' Changes

By Julie Wiener, JTA

The Reform movement's much-anticipated "Statement of Principles" may rival the Torah for most carefully scrutinized text in Jewish history. The two-page statement, which seeks to spell out just exactly what Reform Judaism is about, was discussed for close to two years, underwent six drafts, garnered over 30 amendments and sparked heated debate among Reform rabbis and their congregants.

The controversial document was adopted recently by an overwhelming margin of 324-68, with nine abstentions. It was the centerpiece of the Central Conference of American Rabbis' four-day convention in Pittsburgh.

The statement seeks to reverse the movement's 1885 Pittsburgh Platform, which stridently rejected Jewish tradition and rituals.

It aims to redefine Reform Judaism for the coming years: celebrating the movement's growing acceptance of tradition and spirituality, while reaffirming its longtime commitment to inclusion, social action and diversity of thought.

The principles consist of a preamble urging Reform Jews to "engage in a dialogue with the sources of our tradition" and statements about Reform Jews' relationships with God, Torah, the Jewish people and the Land of Israel.

Among other things, the document:

- * Affirms the importance of studying Hebrew;
- * Promotes lifelong Jewish learning;
- * Calls for observance of mitzvot, or commandments, "that address us as individuals and as a community";
- * Urges observance in some form of Shabbat and holidays;
- * Encourages tikkun olam, which the Reform movement emphasizes as social action, and tzedakah, or charitable giving.

"Some of these mitzvot, sacred obligations, have long been observed by Reform Jews; others, both ancient and modern, demand renewed attention as a result of the unique context of our own times," says the document.

Earlier drafts of the principles, including a version that appeared in Reform Judaism magazine six

months ago, specified other mitzvot, such as observing kashrut and wearing kipot, or yarmulkas, and tallitot, or prayer shawls, "in the presence of God."

In the end, a document very different from the original was adopted by the Reform rabbis, one that many rabbis here believed had been diluted too much.

The seemingly endless revisions made for a "pareve" document with little energy or inspiration, critics said.

But Rabbi Richard Levy, outgoing president of the CCAR, called the adoption of the principles a "wonderful moment for Reform Jews."

Levy, who had authored the Reform Judaism piece and had been pictured wearing a yarmulka and a prayer shawl, said the document "will liberate Reform Jews to say there is nothing in the Torah which is barred to me."

When asked to respond to critics who said it was watered down from his original version, Levy said, "What was passed was a statement that reflected the large number of Reform Jews."

Levy, who stressed the reaffirmation of Reform Judaism's commitment to inclusiveness and social action, said, "I hope the Pittsburgh principles will deepen the lives of Reform Jews and make the entire community aware of our seriousness."

Since the publication of Levy's article, the principles had sparked debates about the identity of Reform Judaism, which claims more American Jews than any other movement.

As rabbis and lay leaders discussed and revised the principles at official meetings, rank-and-file Reform Jews sounded off on the Internet.

In response to its request for feedback, the Reform Judaism magazine Web site received approximately 70 pages of comments from Reform Jews throughout North America.

Some respondents were supportive. "I think without some kind of standards, Reform Judaism will lose its standing in the world Jewish community and either break off as its own religion or eventually disappear," Ellen Lerner of Rochester, N.Y., wrote.

But the majority were critical,

voicing fears that encouraging traditional mitzvot would soon give way to coercion and blur the lines between Reform and Conservative Judaism.

"If I wanted this much dogma, I'd be a Conservative Jew," wrote Don Rothschild of Denver. "I feel disenfranchised by my own religion," wrote Barbara Stern of Winchester, Va. "It is beginning to feel like the only option that will be open to classical Reform Jews is the Unitarian Church, an option that will not be spiritually satisfying for many reasons."

Jean Hecht of Binghamton, N.Y., wrote: "Such principles, while they may have lofty goals, will only serve to turn off potential members," she said. "All the CCAR leadership is doing is to create a controversy where none existed before."

The board of one Reform temple, Lakeside Congregation in suburban Chicago, even passed a resolution urging the CCAR not to vote on any statement of principles.

Many rabbis in Pittsburgh expressed disappointment with the way the platform had been changed.

"The principles now are not particularly substantive," said Rabbi Richard Kirschen, assistant director of the University of Michigan Hillel in Ann Arbor.

"I want a document that reflects who I am as a Reform rabbi, and this doesn't."

While both supporters and opponents complained of the statement's blandness, many acknowledged that insipidness is the fate of any committee-written document.

They also said that the Reform movement's rank-and-file members might not yet be ready for something stronger, and that the statement should be viewed as a beginning, rather than the last word on Reform Judaism.

One of the most heated discussions surrounded an amendment involving the intermarried. The amendment, which initially implied openness to all intermarried fami-

lies, was changed — after much debate — to a carefully worded statement saying, "We are an inclusive community, opening doors to Jewish life to people of all ages, to varied kinds of families, to all regardless of their sexual orientation, to gerim, those who have converted to Judaism, and to all individuals and families, including the intermarried, who strive to create a Jewish home." I'm glad the gravity is being taken seriously and it's not just being rammed through," said Rabbi Lance Sussman, who had sent numerous e-mails on the CCAR listserv arguing against the statement of principles.

Rabbi Sussman, a professor of Jewish history at the State University of New York-Binghamton, said he opposed the document because he was "bothered by the fact that it was brought here to Pittsburgh in essence to repudiate what a former generation did under different circumstances."

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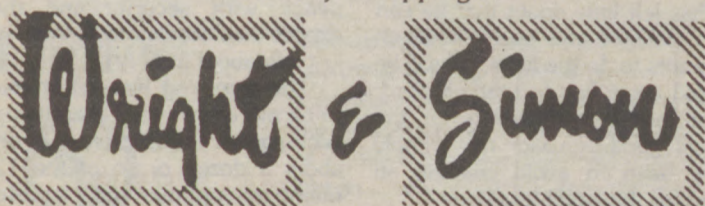
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ISRAEL FOCUS

Barak Edges Closer To Forming Government

By Gil Sedan, JTA

Ehud Barak is edging closer to naming his new government, and aides to the Israeli prime minister-elect say it may wind up being a narrow one, rather than the broad-based coalition he originally intended.

Barak had originally hoped to include either the Likud or Shas parties in his government, to give him the broadest possible mandate to reach peace agreements with Syria and the Palestinians.

But after difficult negotiations with Likud in recent days, his aides

say he is prepared to announce a coalition that would bring together 66 of the Knesset's 120 members.

That message, delivered Sunday, a day before the incoming legislature was scheduled to hold its first session, was seen as a signal to Likud and Shas that they should not demand too much from Barak in the ongoing coalition negotiations.

The more narrow coalition would include the following parties:

Barak's One Israel bloc, which has 26 Knesset seats;
The dovish Meretz Party, 10 seats;
The Center Party, 6;

• The secularist Shinui Party, 6;
• The immigrants rights Yisrael Ba'Aliyah, 6;

• The moderate Orthodox National Religious Party, 5;

• The fervently Orthodox United Torah Judaism bloc, 5; and

• The trade union-based One Nation Party, 2.

Despite Barak aides' optimism, a number of obstacles still existed Sunday to the announcement of the new government.

The United Torah Judaism bloc objected to Barak's plan to end draft exemptions for fervently Orthodox yeshiva students, while Meretz and Shinui were insisting that Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip should no longer enjoy any special government subsidies.

Yisrael Ba'Aliyah representatives, meanwhile, walked out of coalition talks Saturday night, demanding that some settlements continue to receive government support.

Settlements are among the issues covered in a draft of Barak's government guidelines that was distributed to potential coalition

partners.

Barak plans to cancel economic subsidies to Jewish settlers, according to the guidelines, which also call for accelerated negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, approval by a national referendum of any final-status agreement reached with the Palestinians and a resumption of negotiations with Syria.

In addition, the guidelines call for the completion of legislation to create Israel's first constitution and for a separate law to end yeshiva students' draft exemptions.

Still harboring hopes of forging a broad coalition, Barak met Sunday for a lengthy meeting with Likud leader Ariel Sharon, who said it was still too early to say whether his party would join the coalition.

One major difficulty stemmed from Barak's reported unwillingness to name Sharon foreign minister, a post that Barak was said to have promised David Levy, the leader of the Geshet Party, which ran in the recent elections under the One Israel umbrella.

In a separate development,

Sharon announced Sunday that Likud primaries for a new leader would be held on schedule in early September.

His announcement came in the wake of a decision last week by the party secretariat not to elect a successor to the outgoing party leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, for another two years — which would have meant that Sharon, the party's acting leader, would hold the post until 2001.

This brought immediate protests from two other likely candidates for the party leadership, outgoing Finance Minister Meir Sheetrit and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

Meanwhile, Barak aides are not ruling out a coalition that would include Shas.

Several One Israel officials spoke Sunday of bringing Shas into the government even if its recently convicted leader, Aryeh Deri, remains party chairman.

Observers point out that Shas, which has 17 Knesset seats and is relatively dovish on territorial compromise, would make a more reliable partner on crucial peace process votes than would Likud, which has 19 seats.

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Barak's Peace Strategy

By Douglas M. Bloomfield
Syndicated Columnist

Ehud Barak's promise to submit any final agreement with the Palestinians to Israeli voters for their approval was dismissed by his opponent as a campaign gimmick, but a source close to the incoming prime minister says he is "very, very serious" and intends to do the same thing with any Syrian agreement.

And that is a potential time bomb for his Arab peace partners, his American intermediaries and even his own coalition partners.

"These are not just peace agreements, but a historic delineation of Israel's borders," the aide said. "It must be brought to a special decision by the people."

When Yitzhak Rabin proposed the same thing for any Golan Heights deal six years ago, Syrian President Hafez Assad went ballistic and brought out Syrian legal scholars to declare Israelis had no right to vote on such issues. This time he's being more circumspect, as is Yasser Arafat.

But the two autocrats have good reason to feel threatened by Barak's commitment to Israeli voters, and so do some of his own prospective coalition partners.

That's because submitting peace agreements to referenda gives Barak badly needed flexibility and independence by neutralizing the pressure that can be brought to bear on Barak by the Arabs and their European friends, the international community or the United Nations. For that matter, it is not good news for the United States Government either.

It is a valuable negotiating tool for Barak because it tells Assad and Arafat, men accustomed to getting

their way and asking no one's permission, that they not only have to cut a deal with Barak and his government, but then they also have to help him sell it to the Israeli people by convincing most of them that they are ready, willing and able to be good neighbors.

Syria's record with past agreements is better than the Palestinians'. Since 1974 Damascus has abided by its disengagement agreement with Israel on the Golan Heights. It helped to have the added incentive of the Israeli Army commanding the heights. If Israel is to withdraw from some or even all of the plateau, it will need much stronger assurances than it presently has.

Arafat's record, however, creates undeniable opportunities for improvement. He gives the impression of a man who believes promises — his, no one else's — are made to be broken. He has too often considered fighting violence a bargaining chip instead of a permanent commitment, and that has done much to delay and damage the peace process.

But he may have outsmarted himself. Over the past year or so he has left little doubt that he can stop violence and terrorism when he wants to. In the future he will be judged according to that standard, even though his motives for the recent good behavior may simply have been to avoid creating an issue for the Israeli elections.

A referendum as the last hurdle before a final status signing guarantees that Arafat will be held to a high standard of compliance.

Negotiating with Assad and Arafat may be a piece of cake after he gets through with his own government. But he can use the refer-

endum sword on them as well.

Barak has until July 9 to form a government. He wants it to be as broadly based as possible to avoid the pitfalls of Rabin and Benjamin Netanyahu, who presided over narrow coalitions anchored on opposite sides. Barak wants to straddle the center, which is essential to healing internal frictions and legitimizing the peace deals he wants to make.

"Barak understands well that decisions of major national importance which involve religious, historic and strategic emotions should be taken by a sound majority," said a former top intelligence official.

But in making the deals he needs to put together a coalition that can extend from Meretz on the left to the National Religious Party and the Likud led by Ariel Sharon on the right, his flexibility may be limited.

With only Barak's One Israel holding more than 19 seats in the 15th Knesset, and if he gets the 75-85 seat coalition he wants, no single party should be able to dictate terms or derail the peace process. The lessons of last month's election is that voters want peace with security and they expect their leaders to deliver, not just talk about it.

The incoming Knesset appears to be more pro-peace than its predecessors. It is estimated that only about a dozen or so of the 120 members oppose any land-for-peace deal. The rejectionist parties were humiliated in last month's elections, and their standard bearer, Benny Begin, retired from politics altogether.

The left wing isn't exactly ecstatic. They know Barak is a lot

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ISRAEL FOCUS

Shas — The Secret Behind Their Success

Micah D. Halpern

Editor's Note: Micah D. Halpern is the director of the Jerusalem Center for European Study. He is a theologian and a historian specializing in Jewish History and resides in Jerusalem.

People in Israel are walking around stunned by the success of this last election. Not by the victory of Ehud Barak, nor even by the loss of Knesset seats suffered by the Likud.

Israelis are stunned by the success of the Shas party. To the uninformed observer, Shas appears to be ultra-orthodox and anti-democratic. And yet, they are now the third largest party in the Knesset. With 18 seats, compared to the 19 seats now held by Likud, the Shas party may well become the linchpin of the new One Israel/Labor government.

Pundits may speculate as to how this group could have gained so dramatically given the overall move towards the left in this election. And there is little doubt that the type of success Shas is now experiencing is unprecedented in Israeli politics. But given the climate of today's Israel, this success story was certainly predictable.

Most Americans are dependent on the foreign press for their insight into Israeli political issues. That press often has a skewed conception of what their readers want to read and need to know. Not surprisingly, that conception does not always reflect the reality within Israel.

The foreign press is not alone in this regard. Even local Israeli press displays serious blind spots when it

comes to issues of religious life, religious communities and social conflicts. For some journalists and essayists it is a bias, while for others it is simply ignorance.

And so the country and the Jewish world of the diaspora was surprised. In many ways Shas' success is the failure of the rest of Israel! Shas represents the North African Jews, the eidot hamizrah, otherwise referred to as the Sephardim. Often, they reside in the poorest areas and neighborhoods of Israel. Development towns, the poor slums of Tel Aviv and the cities of Ashkelon, Haifa, and Jerusalem, once upon a time referred to as the "second Israel", are areas teeming with Shas supporters. And there is no doubt that even today those residents are in desperate need.

Shas reaches out to the people of those development towns and impoverished neighborhoods! And their success speaks for itself. Through social, educational and community projects, Shas resuscitates the self-image and restores a sense of self-worth to those in need.

The Shas infrastructure is based on providing services to those areas dense with Sephardic population. They provide nursery schools and free lunches for students. Shas initiates educational activities after school, allowing parents to work a full day and on Shabbat afternoons to give parents a few minutes of rest and quiet. Most of this is done for free or for a very minimal charge. Shas is out there delivering services to the needy.

No other organization or institution has ever come close to the success of the Shas party in establishing programs and making educational and social headway for the needy community in Israel.

But Shas also has a public persona.

Shas shouts to Ashkenazi Israel ... We are, they taunt, "in your face." And it is this persona, this brash, "out there" attitude which helped provide the essential fuel responsible for Shas' rocket propulsion into the arena of Israeli politics even before this election.

And Shas continues to cultivate this image - that they are the only ones who truly care about the economically disadvantaged and the social fabric of Israel. Shas, again and again, raises the issues of tension within Israel, principally

between the haves and have nots, the rich and the poor, the Jews of European descent and the Jews of Arab lands, the elite and the downtrodden.

Shas is so effective at their game that even the most hallowed institutions of Israel are fair game for their motto "we have once again been dumped on by the Ashkenazi elite of Israel."

The most famous example of this is the conviction of Aryeh Deri for fraud and bribery. Over the last decade, Rabbi Aryeh Deri has been the architect of most of Shas' success, in fact, his name and the party name had become synonymous. Deri, more than anyone, understood that Shas had a tremendous power base in the downtrodden. And he exploited it. He is handsome, charismatic and

young. He is an articulate, dynamic speaker with a gift for reading the political landscape and the uncanny ability to always say the right thing in order to further his or his party's cause. He is a product of the Ashkenazi Yeshiva world (religious schools of higher education). And most importantly, he is the "selected one" the "anointed son" by the chief spiritual leader of this community, the former Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Ovadia Yossef.

And despite his conviction Aryeh Deri continues to claim his inno-

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THE MARRIAGE OF GOOD AND WINE

By Gil Marks

Jewish Communications Network

Wine serves almost like a condiment with foods, enhancing the flavor of an appropriate dish. It is important to remember that a specific variety of wine differs depending on the year, location, and wine-making process (i.e. oak-fermented Chardonnays tend to be more complex than tank-fermented ones and should be served with more fla-

vorful dishes) and that various dishes also differ depending on the spices and cooking techniques. Therefore, pairing wine with food is a matter of experimentation.

Foods and wines share flavor affinities: The buttery aroma of rich Chardonnays complements buttery foods; the herbaceous nature of Sauvignon Blanc complements vegetables. Perhaps the most well-known wine rule is red wine with

red meat, white wine with white meat (fish and chicken). There is a reason for these pairings as the stronger fat in red meat requires a stronger wine and vice versa. Nonetheless, which wine goes with which food remains a matter of taste.

WINE / MATCHING FOODS & SPICES

Beaujolais, Cabernet Sauvignon
Beef, lamb, duck, aged cheeses; rosemary, savory, and thyme
Chardonnay
Veal, poultry, fish, creamy pasta; chervil, marjoram, and tarragon

Chenin Blanc
Soy, ginger, and garlic-based Oriental cooking, salads, mild cheeses; poppy seeds

Gewürztraminer
Indian, Mexican, and other spicy cooking, fruit salads, stuffed cabbage

Merlot
Beef, lamb, duck, aged cheeses, pizza, tomato-based pasta dishes; rosemary, savory, and thyme

Pinot Noir
Lamb, poultry, wild mushrooms, semi-soft cheeses, Moroccan cooking.

Riesling
Sweet-and-sour dishes, citrusy salads

Sauvignon Blanc
Vegetables dishes, olive oil-based dishes, salsas, curries, tomato-based pastas, goat cheese; dill

Zinfandel
Lamb, beef, roast-turkey, pizza,

tomato-based pasta dishes; sweet paprika

DESSERT WINES WINE / MATCHING FOODS

Asti Spumante-Sugar, nut, and vanilla cookies. Late Harvest Reisling-Fruit tarts and fruit-based desserts. Sauterne-Nuts, foie gras, and apple and peach-based desserts. Port-Chocolate, blue cheese, walnuts.

CHEESE, WINE, AND FRUIT

Cheese is one of life's great culinary pleasures. With wine or fruit, it tastes even better. Both of these flavorful foods are enhanced when paired with cheese. Cheese, wine, and fruit are the big three of entertaining. Throw in some bread or crackers and you have an unbeatable combination for a delicious and filling meal.

Enjoy any combination that appeals to your taste. But keep in mind that although all wines go with cheese, some combinations produce more memorable results than others. There are a few time-honored principles for matching cheese with wine or fruit: Young, mild cheeses go with delicate wines (white and light red). Aged, strong cheeses go with older, robust wines (Burgundies and Clarets). Cheese marries well with almost every fruit. However, not all fruits go with wine. Acidic fruits - cherries, plums, peaches, nectarines, and citrus fruits - will fight wines unless accompanied with cheese. Consider sampling a little bread or cheese between the wine and the fruit.

Likewise, cheese should be at room temperature when it is eaten.

Blue- Full-bodied reds, especially Cabernet Sauvignon or young Zinfandels Green grapes, honeydew, pears, firm plums, pineapple, sweet apples.

Boursin Light- whites and blush wines, especially Gewürztraminer and white zinfandel fruit. Brie- Full-bodied reds, especially Cabernet Sauvignon; light reds, especially Beaujolais and Zinfandel; Fruity whites, especially Muscat and

Champagne-Apples, honeydew, green grapes, pears, peaches, firm plums, nectarines, strawberries

Camembert-All reds; fruity whites, especially Chenin Blanc; most dessert wines Apples, honeydew, pears, firm plums, red grapes.

Caraway-Most white wines, especially dry most Gewürztraminer; reds Apples, cantaloupe, green grapes, pears, firm plums, pineapple.

Cheddar (sharp) Full-bodied reds, especially Cabernet Sauvignon and Rioja Apples, honeydew, pineapple, firm plums, raspberries

Cheddar (mild) Most whites, especially Cabernet Blanc, White Zinfandel, and Pinto Blanc; dry blush wines Apples, honeydew, pineapple, firm plums, raspberries

Chevre (strong) Full-bodied reds; dry Gewürztraminer

Champagne- Apples, berries, grapes, pears, Chevre (mild)- Semi-dry whites like Reislings, Chablis, and Gewürztraminer; Champagne Apples, blueberries, grapes, pears, strawberries.

Danish Havarti- Dry reds, especially Bordeaux and Rioja; dry whites, especially Bordeaux Apples, bananas, cantaloupe, honeydew, green grapes, pears

Edam- Most dry light reds, especially Valpolicella & Beaujolais; most whites, especially Riesling and White Zinfandel Apples, cherries, red grapes, cantaloupe, pears.

Feta- Light reds, especially Beaujolais; fruity whites, especially Gewürztraminer Apricots, figs, mangos, peaches, watermelon

Gouda- Light reds, especially Valpolicella; most light whites; blush wines Golden delicious apples, cherries, red grapes, honeydew, pears, pineapple

Gruyere-Semi-sweet whites; light wines, especially Beaujolais Apples, peaches, firm pears, plums

Kaskaval-Light reds; semi-dry whites, especially Riesling and Gewürztraminer apples, figs,

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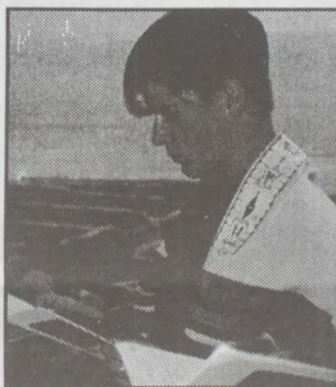
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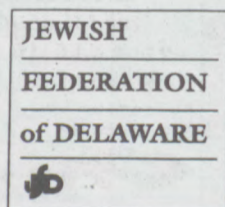
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NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

Palestinian Statehood Stance May Hurt Hillary

By Matthew Dorf, JTA

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton believes that it is in the long-term interests of the Middle East for there to be a state of Palestine.

New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani had Yasser Arafat removed from a 1995 concert at Lincoln Center saying the Palestinian Authority chairman is a terrorist and murderer.

If the two face off in a race to become the next junior senator from New York — as they likely will — the different approach to the Palestinians is certain to be an issue.

For Clinton to win, she's going to need overwhelming support from voters in and around New York City — that's where more than 1 million registered Jewish voters live.

Clinton wants to focus on domestic issues such as education and health care.

But already some Democrats are worried that her views on the Middle East and Palestinian statehood — which they argue are not fairly reflected by one comment that she made two years ago to a group of Arab and Israeli teenagers — will haunt her on the campaign trail.

Last week, Clinton said she would form an exploratory committee in July to begin to raise money for the race. The announcement falls one step short of a declaration of candidacy.

Despite the questions about her view on Palestinian statehood, Clinton is believed to enjoy widespread support in the Jewish community, especially among women.

Once Clinton begins direct fund raising next month, officials expect Jewish campaign contributions to pour in. But whether Clinton can overcome charges of "carpetbagger" and convince Jews who have supported Giuliani to cross over and vote for her has yet to be seen.

To be sure, New York has its "yellow-dog Democrats," those who will vote for the Democrat no matter what, as well as its staunch Republicans. Only when Clinton hits the campaign trail will she test the loyalties of Jewish voters who lie in the middle.

Already, Jewish voters are the talk of political consultants who are looking at mathematical ways for Clinton to beat Giuliani if, as expected, he survives a likely primary challenge from Rep. Rick Lazio (R-N.Y.).

Just as Democrats can't win the White House without California, Clinton can't win New York without strong Jewish support, according to a Democratic activist. "If Giuliani gets 40 percent of the Jewish vote, he wins," said this activist, who has a pessimistic view of Clinton's chances based on the mayor's track record of more than 60 percent support among Jewish voters in his two election victories.

A poll of 748 voters three weeks ago by Zogby International, a New York based polling firm, showed Giuliani beating Clinton among Jewish voters 50 percent to 36 percent. Among all voters,

Giuliani was ahead of Clinton 49 percent to 44 percent, the poll said.

Perhaps with this in mind, some of Clinton's first public events in the next few weeks will target the Jewish community.

A fortuitous coincidence has Clinton traveling to Israel only days before she is set to officially open the exploratory phase of her campaign.

According to a preliminary schedule, Clinton is slated to arrive in Israel on June 24 during a long-planned mission visit to the region. Clinton is also expected to visit the Palestinian self-rule areas, although no details have been released.

While the visit will give the first lady a high profile, she is also planning to step up her Jewish speaking engagements when she returns.

On July 27, Clinton is scheduled to speak to Hadassah's annual convention in Washington and then attend a National Jewish Democratic Council award celebration for Steve and Barbara Grossman. Steve Grossman is the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee and a former president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Most likely, she will reiterate to Jewish audiences what she said in April in a speech to the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

Referring to the question of Palestinian statehood, she cited the U.S. administration's position, saying, "We will stand behind any decision made between the parties and we will oppose any unilateral step that prejudices the outcome of negotiations."

But while the first lady "can spin Palestinian statehood away," the Clinton administration's Jerusalem policy "is going to dog her like crazy," a Democratic activist said, on the condition his name not be used.

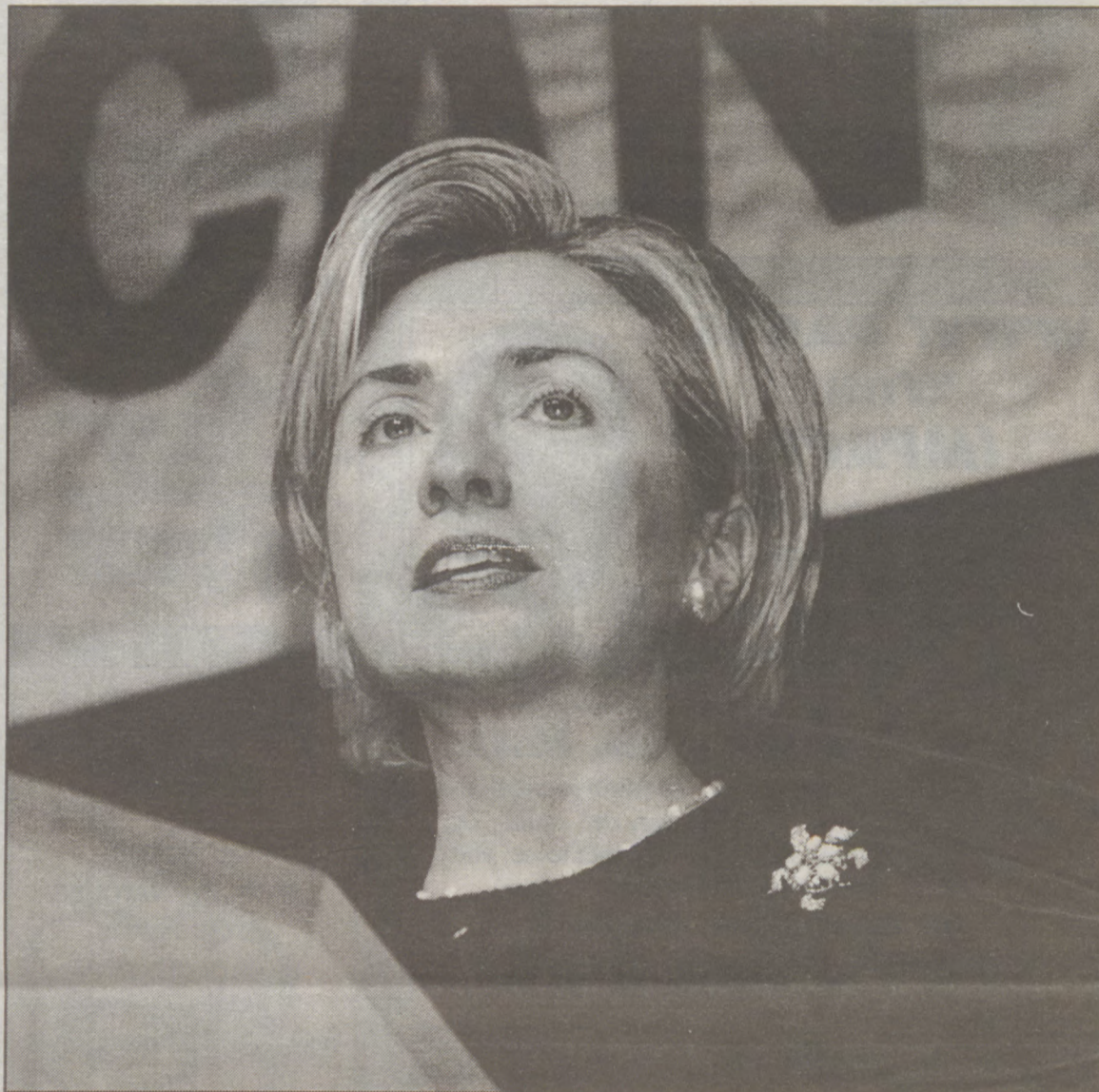
Just this week, the Clinton administration notified members of Congress and Jewish officials that the president would formally waive the provisions of a 1995 law that requires the United States to move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

According to participants at a closed-door briefing at last month's policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a top official with the lobbying group cast doubt on Clinton's support for Israel.

The pro-Israel community can be confident that there will be supporters in New Jersey and Florida, the official said, referring to the open seats where Sens. Frank Lautenberg, a Democrat, and Connie Mack, a Republican, are retiring.

"I wish I could say the same about New York," the official said, in an apparent jab at Clinton.

While no one expects the pro-Israel community to launch a campaign against Clinton, their opposition is a source of concern and irritation for some supporters who say her genuine support for Israel will



Hillary Rodham Clinton

shine through.

Both the president and Hillary Clinton believe in Yitzhak Rabin's analysis that the peace process is integral to Israel's security, according to Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center.

"If she's elected to the Senate, it's hard for me to imagine a senator more deeply committed to Israel and the special U.S.-Israel relationship and more able to convey that commitment to those feelings to large numbers of Americans," he said.

Still, reservations about her views linger. Several single-issue pro-Israel political action committees do not plan on supporting Clinton unless she renounces her support for Palestinian statehood. In contrast, they said they plan to contribute to Giuliani's campaign.

For its part, the Joint Action Committee, which focuses on Israel, abortion rights and church-state separation, won't weigh in until they see who all the players are, but many individuals in the predominantly women's PAC are supporting Clinton, according to Betsy Sheerr, national president of the group.

Polls show that the Jewish community is more committed to abortion rights and women's rights than any other, Saperstein said.

"The Jewish community will see in Hillary Clinton a true champion," he said.

But critics contend that the first lady's record on domestic issues of concern to the Jewish community

is, as one activist put it, "very mixed." This activist cited specifically her role in encouraging the president to sign the 1996 welfare reform law, which eliminated federal entitlement to welfare benefits.

In the area of education, which is already emerging as a focus in New York, Clinton has a long track record.

Giuliani has staked out a position as an advocate of school vouchers, which Clinton adamantly opposes.

Clinton can draw on a long history that includes bringing the Israeli program known as HIPPY

— the Home Instruction Program for Pre-school Youngsters — to Arkansas.

Clinton sat on the HIPPY board of directors from 1991 until her husband took office in January 1993.

The president of the National Council of Jewish Women, Nan Rich, who was instrumental in bringing HIPPY to this country, believes Clinton "would make a fabulous senator."

"She deserves the opportunity. She's been there for others. Now it's her turn," Rich said.

Jewish Agency Sponsors Special Flight

Leonardo Leibman, an acclaimed soccer player from the San Lorenzo Club of the Argentinian Premier League was one of 100 Latin American immigrants who landed at Israel's Ben-Gurion airport last week. This special flight was initiated by the Jewish Agency for Israel and Keren Hayesod. The new immigrants were accompanied by representatives of Keren Hayesod in Argentina, who attended the World Assembly of Keren Hayesod's Women's Division this past week in Upper Nazareth. This is the first time that a group from the local

Jewish community will accompany a flight of new immigrants to Israel.

Also on this flight was a group of 15 young people who will be participating in an educational program with Israeli youth run by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI).

This group includes individuals from Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. Most of the immigrants will be integrated within the "Immigration 2000" project of JAFI for absorption in the fields of employment, education, and job retraining. The JAFI Immigration Department estimates that 1000 Jews will immigrate to Israel from Argentina in 1999.

SPOTLIGHT

British Group Campaigns To Honor Righteous Gentile

By Douglas Davis

Unlike the legendary Oskar Schindler, Albert Gustave Bedane's acts of courage were not enacted in the horror-filled world of wartime Poland.

His heroism was played out on British soil — on the Nazi-occupied Channel Island of Jersey, which now glories in a reputation as a tax haven and home to the super-rich.

Now, after a result of the efforts of an amateur historian in Jersey, the London-based Holocaust Educational Trust has launched a campaign to convince the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem to make Bedane a Righteous Among the Nations.

Most of Jersey's prewar Jewish population had left before the Nazi invasion in June 1940. A total of 12 islanders who were registered as Jews were deported. The Jewish community of Jersey now numbers about 150.

When the Nazis invaded the tranquil island, Bedane, a French-born veteran of World War I, was a successful physiotherapist with a thriving practice in Jersey's capital, St. Helier.

During the occupation, which ended in 1945, German officers

frequently sought out Bedane in his rambling five-story home — now a hotel — to soothe their aching limbs.

What the Germans did not know was that while Bedane was treating them in his clinic, much of the rest of the building was hiding escaped prisoners of war, escaped slave laborers — and a small, middle-aged, Dutch-born Jewish woman, Mary Erica Richardson.

While Richardson is the only Jew definitively known to have been saved by Bedane, it is assumed that he also harbored others during the war. If any of the people he kept secretly at his home had been discovered by the Nazi occupiers, Bedane knew he would have been shot.

Among those "guests" was Richardson, the Jewish wife of a retired, non Jewish British sea captain, who hid in an ancient stone cellar barely 4-and-a-half-feet high.

She had escaped from the back-door of her apartment while her husband, pretending to be senile, had kept the Germans who had come to arrest her waiting at the front door.

Despite efforts to find her, in which Nazi officials were aided by

Jersey's attorney general and local police, Richardson remained safe in Bedane's home until the Nazi retreat at the end of the war.

The only surviving guest that Bedane sheltered is 87-year-old Francis Le Sueur, an islander who was wanted by the Germans for his activities in the Jersey underground.

Now living near the town of Dinard in northern France, Le Sueur vividly recalls playing cards with Richardson before he decided to take his chances and escape to France.

He also remembers his first encounter with Bedane. "When I arrived, he showed me into a windowless room, little bigger than a cubicle which had perhaps once been used for patients. Bedane said to me: 'You're going to stay in this room and I don't want you to come out.'"

"But I was just one of many, many." Last week, Le Sueur described how Bedane had confided in him that Richardson was hiding because she was Jewish. "I remember we discussed this matter quite fully, as the question of race and religion was, and still is to me,

Continued on page 16



Albert Gustave Bedane

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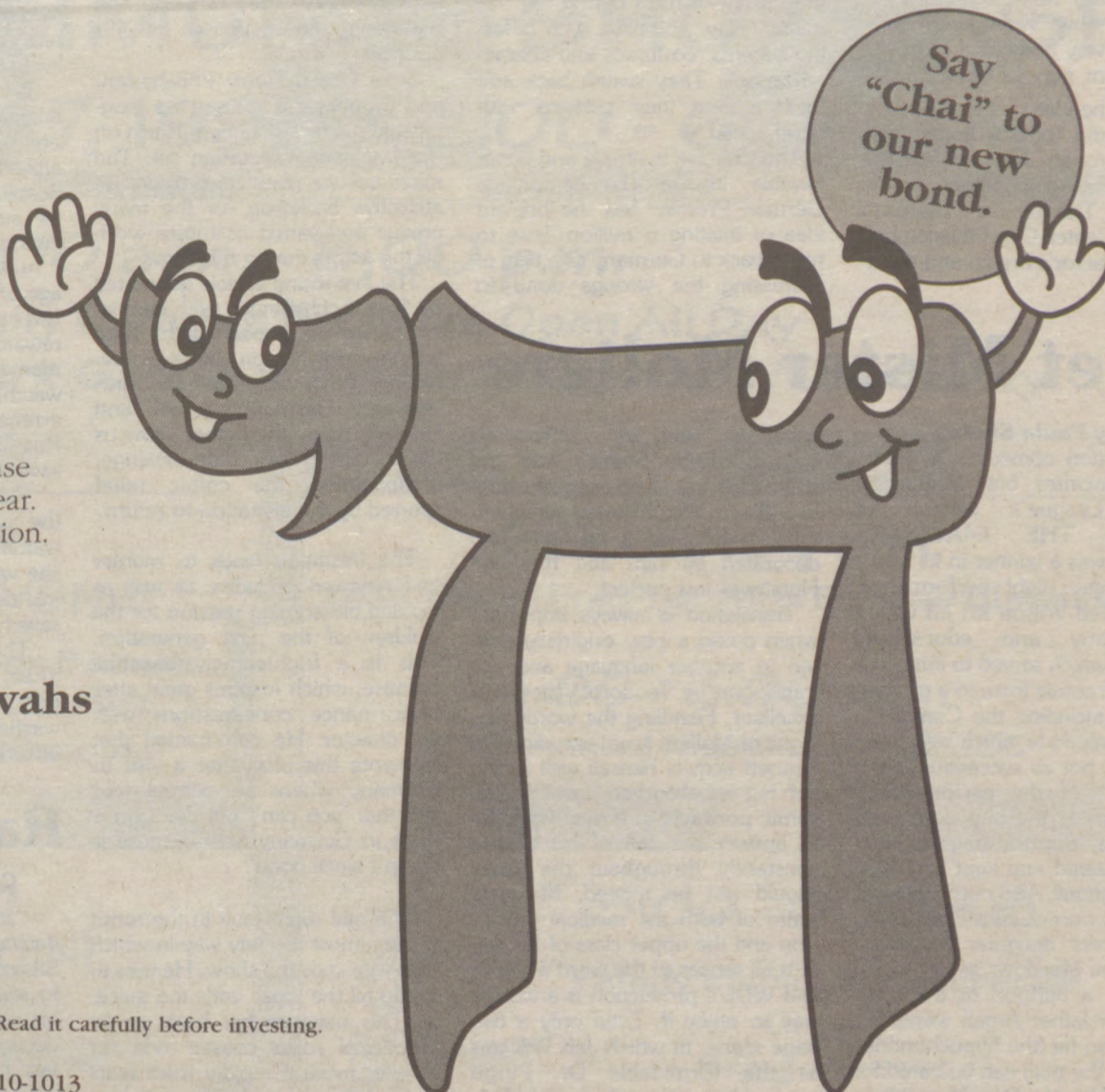
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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Down Memory Lane At The Prince Theatre

by Paula Shulak

Have you ever listened to an old radio show and felt nostalgic-yet, at the same time you realized that what you heard is outdated and a little funky by today's standards? That is exactly the feeling brought to mind by *SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW: YIP HARBURG'S AMERICA*, the current show at the new Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia. It is billed as "neither a musical review — with performers changing character and songs sequenced for entertainment — nor a book musical with the plot driving the music, but rather music driven by the emotional development of the characters".

The show falls short of its aim. It is pleasant enough but the single intermissionless act seems long and slow at times and it is difficult to see real character development in the melange of tunes culled from Harburg's long and varied career as one of American's foremost lyricists.

Many of the songs are so innocent that they pale in comparison

to today's meaty scores. The best part of this production are the musical arrangements, done by Mel Marvin and James Roberts. They are uniquely interesting, especially with songs like "It's Only a Paper Moon", "Brother Can You Spare a Dime" and the classic "Over the Rainbow". You have to credit author Deena Rosenberg (Harburg's daughter-in-law) for wanting to honor him. He was Broadway's social conscience for many years and his political and philosophical statements as expressed in his music are thought provoking. The various segments of the show run the gamut from musings about love, many's purpose, truth, despair and the evils of money to the final "Hope in Hard Times". This is not great theater but does provide a nice evening's entertainment. It is worth the trip just to see the refurbished American Music Theater Festival home with its one of a kind brand new Al Hirschfeld mural in the lobby. The show continued until June 20 and tickets are available at \$30 and \$36 by calling (215) 569-9700.



ALBERT EINSTEIN ACADEMY FAMILIES GO CAMPING IN STATE PARK. Twenty-eight brave participants accepted the challenge of surviving 2 days in Brandywine Creek State Park during Albert Einstein Academy's first ever camping trip. The trip began with a canoe ride down the Brandywine creek from the river museum to the park, where dinner was prepared in a joint effort by all the campers. After nightfall the campers braved the darkness to experience the forest at night. Day two of the excursion consisted of a hike through the Ramsey estate to the quarry where the campers collected rocks and learned about geology. After lunch the group hiked through the park one last time to end their adventure at Albert Einstein Academy and return to civilization. Applications are being accepted for the fall of 1999. For further information about the Academy, please call (302) 478-5026.

Don't Miss Lebensraum

by Paula Shulak

It is okay to laugh at the Holocaust now! Roberto Begnini paved the way and Israel Horovitz in his recent play *LEBENSRAUM* has taken the idea one step further. This amazing tour de force, performed through June 20 by the Interact Theatre Company at the Adrienne Theater on Samsom Street in Center City Philadelphia, is both an actor's dream and nightmare.

Three performers take on more than a dozen roles during the 95-minute play, complete with differing accents, costumes and characterizations. They switch back and forth among their persona with rapid speed.

The premise is simple and unbelievable; in the 21st century, a German Premier has the brilliant idea of inviting 6 million Jews to move back to Germany as a way of redressing the wrongs done to

them. The remainder of the play demonstrates the bizarre and frightening consequences of this decision.

Scott Greer, Harry Philabosian, and Catherine K. Slusar are magnificently directed by Seth Rozin on the fascinating utilitarian set. The raked circular platform provides an attractive backdrop for the many unique and varied costumes worn by the actors during the show.

The live sound effects generated by Ron Schindlinger add immeasurably to the impact of the hard hitting script has on the audience. Bouncing incredibly back and forth between Germany, Israel and Massachusetts, the actors show us the feelings of love, hate, revenge, compromise, the comic relief spurred by the invitation to return.

The invitation leads to murder and renewed prejudice as well as joy and blossoming passion for the children of the next generation. This is a frighteningly beautiful premise, which inspires great after performance conversations with the director. He commented that he wrote this play after a visit to Germany where an actress told him that 'you can't put Jews on a stage in Germany now because it doesn't smell good'.

The one slight fault in the script is the almost too tidy way in which Horovitz ends the show. He tries to tie up all the loose ends too quickly. The audience has been on an emotional roller coaster ride for awhile, moving rapidly from tears to laughter and back. The audience needs a slower letdown.

But other than that, this is a masterpiece and you should not miss it.

Call (215) 568-8077 for tickets.

British Group Campaigns—

Continued from page 15

a matter of small importance."

Bedane's wife, Clara, died during the war and his daughter, Valerie May, was last heard of living in Australia in the 1950s.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, the anxiety of the period took its toll on Bedane. He collapsed soon after the war and was admitted to a hospital, where he was diagnosed as suffering from the delayed effects of chronic stress.

When he died in 1970 at the age of 76, his acts of selfless heroism were neither recognized nor rewarded by the West. His sole memento was an inscribed gold watch, a gift from the Soviet government in appreciation for the Russian slave laborers he had saved.

Richardson and her husband left the island immediately after the war. The last trace of her is a letter she wrote to Bedane from a clinic in Austria thanking him for having saved her life.

The Holocaust Educational Trust, headed by Lord Janner, has only recently learnt of Bedane's wartime heroism through the efforts of a 42-year-old Jersey

property dealer and amateur local historian, Frederick Cohen. "As president of the Jewish community in Jersey, I felt I had an obligation to record the story," Cohen said in an interview. "And once I started, I carried on until I had completed the record."

Janner says his organization is submitting Bedane's name to Yad Vashem because it is satisfied, having seen the documentation and having heard the evidence, that "he was a hero and should be honored."

The request to Yad Vashem has also been endorsed by Britain's former chief rabbi, Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, and David Cesarani, director of the Wiener Library, a London-based Holocaust documentation center. "Little was known until now, but he saved many lives, including that of Mrs. Richardson, for whom he risked everything," says Janner.

According to Janner, Bedane "fulfills every criteria for recognition" by Yad Vashem. "There was never any suggestion that he sought or received payment or reward for his courageous acts," he adds.

Meet Mister Moliere

By Paula Shulak

Restoration comedy is not one of my favorites but Wilmington Drama League's version of Moliere's *THE IMAGINARY INVALID* was a winner in its opening Saturday night performance. Director Ted Wilson led off with a very funny and educational Prologue which served to introduce this classic comic form to a modern audience including the *Commedia del Arte* Interlude which was interesting but not as successful as the main part of the performance). Mary Davis as the impudent maid Antoinette lit up the stage as soon as she entered and kept us laughing throughout. Also outstanding in their roles were Jessica Rowland as the innocent daughter Angelique and Wayne Meadows as her would be suitor, a buffoon of a Doctor whom her father Argan wants her to marry so he (the hypochondriac invalid of the title) can be cared for the rest of his life. Pam Huxtable as the money-grabbing second wife of Argan was also delightfully nasty. She as well as all the characters were attired in fantastic costumes which were as authentic as any I

have ever seen in a restoration comedy. Ruby Stanley and her committee are to be congratulated. In addition, the utilitarian yet whimsical set designed by Ed Nolan and decorated by him and Roxanna Hurst was just perfect.

Translation is always important when doing a play originally written in another language and this translation by Teodoro Valicenti is excellent. Handling the wordy dialogue of Moliere is not easy and Art Sennett acquits himself well as the rich but self-absorbed "invalid". His comic portrayal of a man who has to answer the call of his bowels constantly throughout the show should not be missed. Moliere's satire of both the medical profession and the upper class of his day is in all senses of the word a classic and WDL's production is a worthy way to enjoy it. Even only a two page scene, in which Jeff Williams as the formidable Dr. Purgit expounds, is riotously funny. Jody Allen (as the lover Cleante) and Larry Pennefeather (as Argan's level headed brother) deserve mention also for their contributions to the hilarity.

Rabbis Vote

Continued from page 5

"It's like being angry at a deceased grandparent," said Sussman, who was one of the last to stand up on the floor and urge his colleagues to vote against the document. "This is too much too fast for too many people in the movement."

But in the end, Sussman was a minority voice.

The vote, which occurred at Temple Rodeph Shalom, the largest Reform temple in

Pittsburgh, reflected a consensus view among the rabbis that some statement was necessary, even if it wasn't everyone's ideal.

"I supported it in the end with some reservations, but I feel it is a statement that reflects at least in part who we are as Reform Jews," Rabbi Jerome Davidson of Great Neck, N.Y., said, echoing the views of many here.

"It's a centrist document and it moves us from where we were a century ago," he said.

Barak's Peace Strategy

Continued from page 6

closer in outlook to Netanyahu than to them, but they also understand that unlike his predecessor the new PM genuinely wants to make a peace with the Palestinians and Syrians, and he knows how to disagree without being disagreeable. They're none too fond of his referendum proposal — they prefer a simple Knesset vote — but they don't want to risk damaging relations at this early stage with a man who is not one of their great admirers.

The American role in the upcoming negotiations should diminish, according to sources close to Barak. He wants direct talks, without intermediaries, and that means the United States will have to relinquish its seat at the table and return to the sidelines where it was under Rabin.

Netanyahu, to his great regret, made the US a full partner out of his inability and unwillingness to work with Arafat. Barak got an endorsement for the changing US role from the new Jordanian monarch. During his USA visit, King Abdullah said, "I don't believe in middlemen — the two parties should speak and work together, but [the Americans] should be available if needed."

Abdullah, whose first venture into diplomacy has been to repair Syrian Jordanian relations, said Assad is "extremely committed" to peace and Israel will be "pleasantly surprised."

Palestinians are worried that Barak, like Rabin, would prefer to travel the Syrian track first and cut a separate deal at their expense. Abdullah told Jewish leaders last

month that would be a dangerous course and he feared an outbreak of Palestinian violence "if something doesn't happen in the next three or four months."

It was recently revealed that Netanyahu had been conducting secret negotiations with Syria and that an agreement in principle was close but the outgoing prime minister backed out at the last minute, fearing political repercussions from right wing allies already unhappy with the Wye Accords.

Barak has raised hopes and expectations by saying he is ready to thaw the peace process- implement the Wye agreement-resume talks with the Syrians and pull out of Lebanon within a year, but he also has everyone a bit nervous with his referendum plans.

Maybe he likes it that way.

Shas

Continued from page 7

cence. That might not be so unusual... convicted criminals often claim innocence. What is so remarkable is that nearly the entire Sephardi population of Israel agrees with him. They even wrote a song with a refrain chanting "he is innocent, he is innocent," "hu zakai, hu zakai."

Rabbi Ovadia Yossef publicly announced Deri's innocence. Major rallies and prayer vigils were organized on his behalf. Huge demonstrations of support were showered on Deri. But the court convicted him and sentenced him. And yet, despite conventional wisdom, that very act of the court may have been one of the main factors that propelled Shas to success as evidenced by this election.

Shas produced 100,000 copies of a videotape called J'accuse, a take-off on the famous Dreyfus case in France, where Captain Alfred Dreyfus was falsely accused of treason simply because he was a Jew in a high position. The success of this public testimony was immeasurable. Its message pushed all the right buttons for this sector of the public: "I, Aryeh Deri defended and still defend your interests and the interests of the Jewish people. I am proud of that fact and proud to represent you. And yet, they continue to persecute us."

And the people believed the message, and they proved it with their votes. Shas almost doubled its number of mandates. It is important to note that the Shas

voters are not necessarily orthodox. However, they do come from traditional communities in Israel. They hold their rabbis in high esteem even if they themselves are not 100% observant. The Shas community respects Rabbi Yossef and the religious leaders of Shas. And the vast number of Shas supporters was insulted by the way their "religious leaders" were mocked and berated in the Israeli press. And today, the majority of the press disbelieves Aryeh Deri even now, even though he has officially "resigned" from politics.

It would be a mistake to try to analyze Shas as one would any other party in Israel. No other party has the grass roots infrastructure of Shas. No other party delivers the goods to their constituency like Shas.

And so it is not surprising that in their ad campaigns Shas began courting the Arab vote. 'We'll do for you what we do for all our constituency,' Shas proclaimed. 'We promise community services and we provide them. We care about our constituents and we care for them.' I repeat this not as a paid political announcement, but rather, to hammer home the Shas message as it was heard in the trenches.

Those are promises that paved the way at the voting booth. That is why Shas could just as easily be in this new government, as they have been in past governments.

Food and Wine

Continued from page 8

gooseberries, honeydew, pears, firm plums

Muenster- Dry whites, like



Bordeaux, Soave, and Gewürztraminer; light reds, especially, Beaujolais; blush wines Apples, green grapes, pears, pineapple

Neufchatel- Dry & semi-dry whites, all fruit

Port du Salut- Full-bodied reds, especially Bordeaux and Zinfandel Bananas, cantaloupe, green grapes, honeydew, pears, pineapple, plums

Swiss- Most whites; most reds Apples, grapes, honeydew, pears, pineapple, plums

Editor's Note: Rabbi Gil Marks is gourmet food correspondent for The Jewish Community Network. His first book, *The World of Jewish Cooking*, was published by Simon & Shuster in September 1996 and nominated for a James Beard Award as best international cookbook. He is also the co-author of the play "The Golem of Gavah." Besides his regular contributions to JCN, Marks has recently finished a second cookbook, *Jewish Entertaining*.

JEWISH COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Sunday, June 27, 1999 ★ 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Jewish Family Campus Facilities Open All Day

Family Entertainment ★ Games ★ Activities for the Whole Family

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

USA Tennis Free-For All & Fitness Classes

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

65th Annual Meeting of the JCC

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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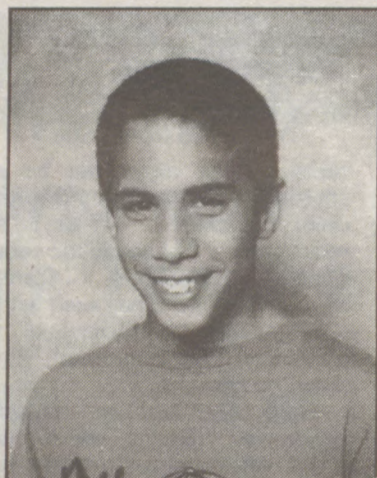
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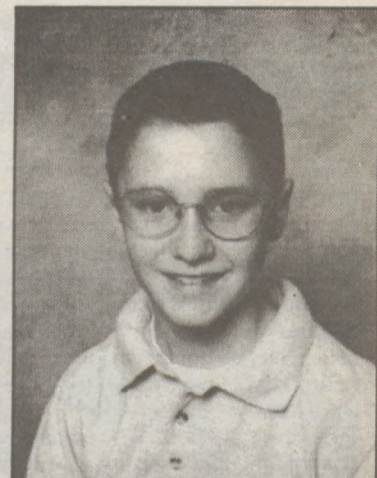


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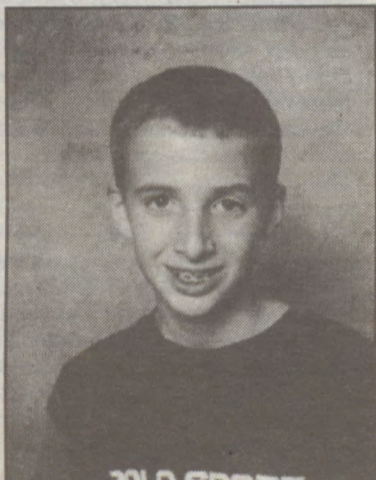
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Zachary Rowen



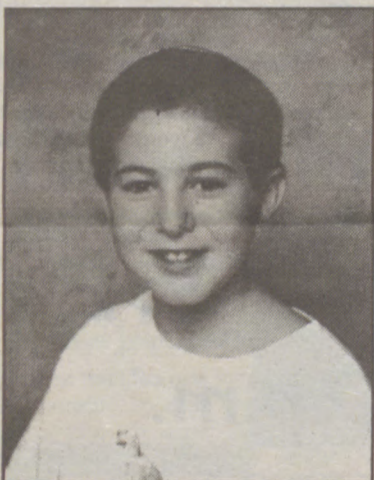
Alexandra Pistilli



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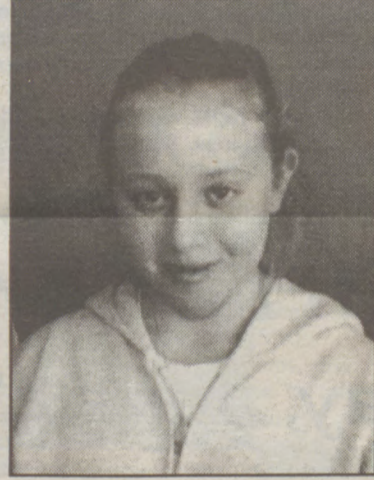
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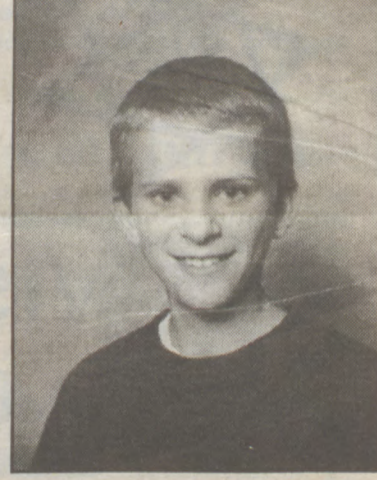
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MILESTONES

In Memoriam

Maurice R. Genevitz, 87, died on May 31st. He is survived by his wife, Helen; son, Joseph of Atlantic City, NJ; daughter, Gelsa Levithan of Medford, NJ; six grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to the Seashore Gardens Memorial Fund, 3850 Atlantic Ave., Atlantic City, NJ 08401.

Belle K. Haberman, 86, died on May 11th. A resident of Wilmington, she was a long-term member of Congregation Beth Shalom, Machzikey Hadas Congregation, Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation, Hadassah and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Mrs. Haberman was predeceased by her husband, Abraham Haberman and is survived by: her son, Stanley Haberman, M.D. of Trenton, NJ; her daughter, Shirley Klassman of

Sharpley; her brother, David Krigstein of Claymont; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Donations in her memory may be made to Kutz Home for the Aged, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

Jay Silberman, 71, died May 30th. He was a member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation of Wilmington and B'nai B'rith Lodge #470. Mr. Silberman also served as a volunteer for the New Castle County Police Senior Roll Call. He is survived by his wife, Rita Silberman and son, Louis. The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Howard A. Cohen, 57, Middletown, died suddenly in Philadelphia on June 7th after leaving the Phillies baseball game. He was the owner of Duncan Donuts

in Middletown where he was a member of the Rotary service organization and was a sponsor of the Little League baseball team. He is survived by his brothers H. Ronald Cohen and D. Bruce Cohen. The family requests that contributions in his memory be made to either the Delaware Hospice or the Middletown Little League.

JEWISH
FEDERATION
of DELAWARE



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JUNE

Tuesday June 13 Young Jewish Singles of Delaware

invites men and women in their 20s and 30s to take a canoe trip down the Brandywine River. Experience not required. Please pack a bag lunch, change of clothes and shoes. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Wilderness Canoe Trips, behind Bennigans on Concord Pike and Rte. 202, just off I-95. Cost is \$24. For more information, please call Ronnie at 322-3228.

Tuesday June 22 Jewish Family Service presents a free program

on "Poetry for Living"-10 a.m. at Ingleside Retirement Community. Call Lauren at 478-9411 for more information.

Sunday June 27 The Jewish Community Center of Delaware hosts its annual Jewish Community Showcase

on Sunday, June 27, 2-6p.m. The event features a variety of entertainment, games and activities for the entire family. Demonstrations of recreation and fitness classes and facility tours will also be offered. At 4 p.m., come to the 65th Annual Meeting of the JCC then stay for a family barbecue dinner served from 5 to 6 p.m.

For more information, call Ella Zukoff at 478-5660.

COUNSELING AVAILABLE AT JFS

Individual and family counseling is now available by appointment through Jewish Family Service - We can help you cope with the challenges of adolescence, substance abuse, parenting and other stressful situations. Please call Stacey at 478-9411.

SPECIAL ISRAEL PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Livnot U'Lehibanot, the hiking, study and community service program of Tzfat and Jerusalem, is accepting registrations. Through a special arrangement with the Jewish Federation of Delaware, the Livnot experience is available to qualified young adults, ages 21-30, from Delaware for as low as \$600 including air fare from New York. Short term and long

term programs are offered throughout the year. No knowledge of Hebrew is required. JFD offers a limited number of scholarships to qualified applicants. Please call Judy Wortman at 427-2100 for an application.

For complete information about program dates for 1999 call Livnot at 1-888-LIVNOT-0 or visit their website at <http://www.livnot.org.il>

ONGOING

SENIORS WANTED FOR DISCUSSION GROUP

Have lunch and enjoy a stimulating conversation on a variety of topics every Monday at the JCC. During June, the focus is on "Creative Self Expression".

Call Stacey at Jewish Family Service, 478-9411 for details.

GRATZ NEEDS A "CART FAIRY"

Gratz Hebrew High School is expecting a shipment of books this summer and needs a book cart on wheels to transport them between classrooms. Please call Marlene Milunsky at 478-8100.

VOLLEYBALL ANYONE?

Young Jewish Singles of Delaware sponsors a weekly volleyball game and dinner outing for adults in their 20s and 30s. Non competitive play every Wednesday at 6p.m., dinner at 8p.m. Call Phil at 652-6688 for more information.

SUPPORT GROUP FORMING FOR WIDOWS

Jewish Family Service sponsors a free Widows Support Group during the month of June. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays- June 15th and 29th at 2 p.m. This community program will be held at JFS, Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington. For additional information, please call Stacey Friedland, JFS, at 478-9411.

SINGLES FIND FIREWORKS RAFTING IN THE POCONOS!!!

Romance rafting on the Lehigh River in the Poconos is the prescription for Jewish Singles looking to create fireworks over the July 4th Weekend. Celebrating its 12th Annual Pocono Rafting Weekend Escape is the non-profit Philadelphia based young professionals network known as Young Jewish Leadership Concepts.

Scheduled for Friday through Sunday, July 2-4, 1999, the program will be hosted at the

Allentown Ramada Inn, July 4, Friday afternoon, begins the fun with an afternoon volleyball and pool party. The Pool Party will be followed by a Welcome Dinner, a Comedy Show, and a Dance-Party.

Splashing down the Lehigh River, four to six Singles in a raft, takes place on Saturday, with a Pizza Party, July Fourth Fireworks, and Dance-Party to round out the day. On Sunday following a full buffet brunch, young professionals will be able to thrill on the East Coast's newest, tallest, fastest, and best roller coaster, "Steel Force," at Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom amusement and water thrills park. Costs for the complete weekend package begins at \$239 including the rafting, Dorney Park, and three days/two nights lodging. Or for young adults who want to escape for the July 4th weekend, make new friends, relax, and not go thrill seeking, prices begin at \$189 without the rafting and amusement park.

Also included is a Welcome Kit with the Official YJLC Resort Weekend Souvenir gift and one year membership to YJLC.

Room share assistance is provided by YJLC, and many initial strangers become best friends after a YJLC weekend. YJLC also provides ride share assistance so participants can connect with neighbors and make friends even before the weekend begins. Conveniently located, the hotel is just a short two hour drive from New York or one hour from Philadelphia.

Young Jewish Leadership Concepts (YJLC), is a non-profit young professionals network that reaches out to more than 11,000 young adults around the country, and has been sponsoring trips and special events for more than a dozen-years. YJLC is also known for its highly acclaimed Israel Encounter - National Young Professionals Tour which schedules five Israel adventure tours a year.

Jewish young professionals are invited to contact YJLC at P.O. Box 313, Langhorne, PA; Tel. (800) 223-YJLC; or E-mail: Lou4YJLC@aol.com; to reserve a spot on the 12th Annual Rafting and Resort Weekend. More than one hundred young adults have met their matches on YJLC weekends, Israel Trips, and other social programs. YJLC makes no guarantees that singles will find their intended at the upcoming July 4th weekend, but fireworks can happen...

SENIORS, SERVE AND TOUR ISRAEL WITH B'NAI B'RITH

B'nai B'rith has an answer for senior citizens seeking more than the usual vacation: Active Retirees in Israel. ARI is now in its 17th year.

For four to eight weeks, ARI participants make their home in coastal Netanya, where they spend half their time tutoring local students, tending public gardens, or packing medical supplies for the army, or doing other community service.

The active seniors take a day or more each week to tour such classic sites as Jerusalem's Old City, the Galilee, and the Golan Heights. They can also join "Taste of Hebrew" classes to enhance their language skills. The combination of, travel and learning has drawn many repeat participants, some up to 13 times. ARI, which means lion in Hebrew, thus has generated its own sequel: ROAR (Return of Active Retirees).

"It's wonderful to see Israel and to be a part of it through

our volunteer work," says Belle Cohen, of Hamden, Conn., a retired office manager. An 11-year veteran of the program, she has shared it with her sister Frances and her brother-in-law, Julius Levine, first in their family to go. "We call it among ourselves a mini-aliyah," says Cohen.

ARI's next trips are as follows:

Fall: Oct. 13-Nov. 10, 1999 — \$3,500

Winter: Jan. 16-Mar. 12, 2000 — \$4,400

Spring: April 30-May 28, 2000 — \$3,500

Based on double occupancy at the kosher Hotel Galil, prices include round trip airfare via El Al from Newark International Airport, tours, meals, tax, gratuities, and more. Single rooms are available at additional cost.

For complete details, call toll free (800) 500-6533 or (202) 857-6584. Or write to B'nai B'rith, Center for Senior Services, 1640 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20038.

AKSE LIBRARY REDEDICATION

The Eleanor Bell Kursh Library of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, originally dedicated in 1962, has been renovated and restored. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of the Kursh family, the library is now a beautiful, 'state-of-the-art' facility serving the congregation and community. The library now features Halachic and historic texts, as well as Holocaust and contemporary literature. It also includes a new children's corner and reference section for students attending Gratz Hebrew High School.

The reopening celebration will take place on Sunday, June 20th at 11:00 a.m. Festivities include: a Father's Day brunch, dedication ceremony, jazz combo (featuring the 'Brandywine Blazers'), library tour and summer reading program kick-off. The celebration will include a special surprise for every youngster and raffle prizes for the Dads, Pop-pops, Zaydes, Uncles, etc.

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