



JEWISH VOICE

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

Vol. 46, No. 38 13 Sivan, 5766 June 9, 2006 20 Pages
PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE, 100 WEST 10TH ST., SUITE 301, WILMINGTON, DE 19801-1628
WWW.SHALOMDELAWARE.ORG

WAGMAN NAMED JFD VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION AT THURSDAY'S ANNUAL MEETING



Mark Wagman

By Lynn B. Edelman
Editor

Mark Wagman, chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, will receive the inaugural Steven J. Rothschild Volunteer of the

Year Award at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Delaware on Thursday, June 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Wagman, a Senior Research Associate at DuPont's Experimental Station, will be honored for his tireless commitment to the Delaware Jewish community.

Mark was born in Washington, DC and spent much of his childhood in Frederick, MD and Cincinnati, OH. When he was 15 he moved with his family to Raleigh, NC where he distinguished himself in academics, athletics and the arts. He graduated as class Salutatorian and moved on to the University of North Carolina, matriculating with honors in Chemistry and earning his Bachelors of Science degree at the age of 20. He did his graduate work at the prestigious Harvard University receiving an AM in Chemistry and a PhD in Physical Chemistry for his research into NMR spectroscopy and computer simulations of protein structure and dynamics.

Mark joined DuPont and moved to Wilmington in 1981. His love for Israeli folk dancing took him to Philadelphia

singles event where he met and ultimately married Sylvia, who currently is a Jewish studies teacher at Albert Einstein Academy. The couple have two children, 17 year old, Rina and 14 year old, Jeff.

"Mark is the ideal recipient of this award which celebrates the work of those who exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and who promote cooperative efforts among the Federation and the agencies," said Federation Executive Vice President Samuel H. Asher. Asher has high praise for Mark's long-term involvement in JCRC activities. "Under his leadership, JCRC spearheaded the effort to pass legislation which moved the Delaware primary election from Saturday to Tuesday and has significantly strengthened Israel advocacy efforts in Congress and enhanced the image of Israel in the media," Asher added.

Mark is particularly proud of the Candidates Forum, a biennial event that JCRC co-sponsors with Hadassah. This year's event will be September 14, 7 p.m. at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center. He also is pleased with the great work done by

the Committee in developing religious concerns policies for Delaware school districts and helping to define the proper role of religion in the schools.

He also finds the time to take a leadership role in his synagogue, Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth in Wilmington. He serves AKSE as vice president of Religious Affairs and maintains involvement in a varied portfolio of synagogue committees including Rituals, Torah, High Holidays and Strategic Planning. Mark also lends his voice to the AKSE Choir and performs with the synagogue's dance troupe.

In his "spare time", Mark serves as treasurer of DuPont Chapter of Sigma Xi, an honorary scientific research society that promotes scientific research, science education in the schools and among the public, and the application of science and ethics in public policy.

A Jewish Federation of Delaware Board member since 1998, Mark is deeply honored that the JFD Executive Board unanimously selected him for this award, which honors the memory of Steven J. Rothschild, who died in 2005 at the young age of 60 after a

courageous 15 month struggle with a rare form of brain cancer.

Mr. Rothschild served as the managing partner of the Delaware office of Skadden Arps, the law firm he helped found more than 25 years ago. Despite the demands of his law practice, he made the time to serve his community as a past president of the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, as a former president of the United Way of Delaware and of The Delaware Art Museum and as a Finance Chair for U.S. Senator Tom Carper. He was a member of the University's Board of Trustees since 1998.

Come out and say Mazel Tov to Mark during the Federation Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 15th at 7:00 p.m. during a festive evening at the Siegel JCC, which will also feature a presentation by Stephen M. Berk on "Israel at the Crossroads" and the installation of Federation officers and Board of Directors.

For additional information about the event, please call Sheila Krinsky at 302-427-2100, ext 15 or visit the JFD website at <http://www.shalomdelaware.org>.

A PALESTINIAN SHOWDOWN LOOMS

By Leslie Susser, JTA

Three and a half months after fundamentalists swept to power in the Palestinian elections, the Islamicist Hamas and the secular Fatah are on the brink of a major showdown that could have far-reaching implications for Israel and the government's plans for a unilateral withdrawal from Palestinian territory.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah seized the initiative in mid-May,

by backing a call by Palestinian prisoners for a Palestinian state along the pre-1967 borders with Israel. In doing so, he forced Hamas to face up to the challenge of recognizing Israel or losing power. Abbas' move also opened up the possibility of international pressure on Israel to negotiate on the basis of those borders.

Abbas' move could also clear the way for ending the Palestinians' diplomatic isolation and freeing the flow of much-needed international funds. Those funds were blocked in the

wake of the Hamas government's refusal to recognize Israel, accept previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements and renounce terror. But while the Fatah leader's initiative could break the diplomatic logjam, it is fraught with danger.

Fighting between small groups of Hamas and Fatah militants on the streets of Gaza shows signs of intensifying. Both sides have mobilized large forces in Gaza and the West Bank, and some Palestinian observers are predicting civil war.

Abbas' call in late May for a national referendum on the prisoners' document pushed the sides closer to the brink.

Yet despite the mounting tension, the Fatah-Hamas confrontation could still play itself out politically.

On Tuesday, Abbas was supposed to set a date for the referendum, but the Fatah executive deferred the deadline for agreement on the prisoners' document for a "few days," ostensibly to give the sides more time to negotiate. But the move was seen as an effort to step back from confrontation.

Even if Abbas eventually does set a date for a referendum, the outcome could still be a non-violent political solution.

In one scenario, victory for Abbas in the referendum could bring Fatah back to power. A loss on the other hand, could see Hamas winning the presidency as well as maintaining con-

See SHOWDOWN, page 4

'birthright' Israel reaches milestone



Stephanie Lowenthal is the 100,000th person to participate in birthright Israel, a program designed to introduce Jewish young adults to the State of Israel.



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, left, and his host Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak hold bilateral talks during their summit June 4, 2006, in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik. Olmert presented his plan for a further Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

Credit: GPO/BP Images/JTA

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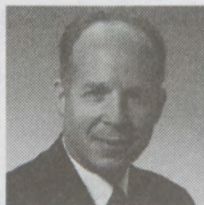
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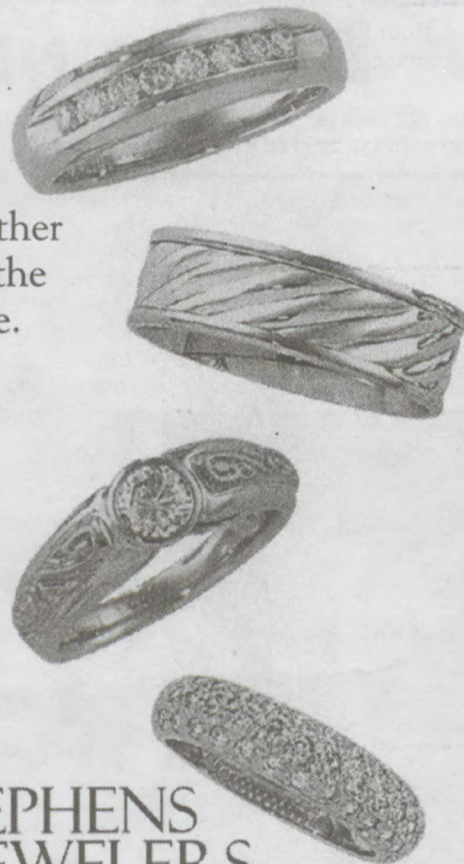
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FEDERATION FOCUS

JFD adopts new Governance Structure



Robert B. Pincus
JFD President

For many years, our Federation has been governed by a "community board," made up of a number of elected directors who served staggered three-year terms, a number of

directors who were appointed by the Federation's affiliated agencies and our synagogues and all past-presidents of the Federation. This form of governance served us well for many years; however, over that time, our Board had grown to over sixty members and, quite frankly, became unwieldy from a governance perspective.

In recent years, there has been a spotlight on good corporate governance, which has also been reflected on non-profit boards. While our community board certainly provided input from the Jewish community, it also had a number of inherent weaknesses, including that the size of the Board made candid discussions and debate difficult; decisions were being made by an Executive Committee and Board meetings were spent listening to reports — which resulted in waning attendance; there was little opportunity to utilize community representation for strategic input; and there were limited opportunities for new leaders.

Last August, we appointed a committee chaired by Glenn Engelmann and Mike Ginzberg to take a critical look at our governance. That committee proposed, and the Federation's Board adopted, a new governance model which will go into effect at our Annual Meeting next week and which consists of two governing bodies. Our new Board of Directors will consist of nineteen elected members who will serve staggered three-year terms, and up to two members appointed for one year terms by the President. The Board, which will be responsible for the governance of the Federation, will include the officers of the Federation and the Chairs of our standing committees, including the Allocations Committee, Campaign Committee, Finance Committee, Woman's Philanthropy Committee, Jewish Community Relations Committee, Israel and Overseas Committee and Fund for the Future. Subject to certain limited exceptions, Board members will not be able to serve for more than

two consecutive three-year terms.

The new governance model also establishes a Leadership Council, which will be chaired by the immediate past-president of the Federation and is intended to serve as the "voice of the community" and as the Federation's "voice to the community" and will offer advice and guidance to the Board. The Leadership Council will be comprised of the members of the Board, all immediate past-presidents of the Federation, representatives from our affiliated agencies and synagogues, five at-large members and representatives of a broad group of Jewish agencies which previously were not represented on the Board, including, Hadassah, ORT, National Council for Jewish Women, Va'ad Hakashruth, YJAD, AZA and others. In addition to providing strategic advice and direction to the Federation, the Leadership Council will nominate individuals to serve on the Board of Directors.

The new governance model is

intended to promote efficient and effective decision making, improve focus on priorities and strategic issues, ensure wide community engagement in the work of the Federation and encourage succession planning and development of new leaders.

I certainly believe that the new model will provide for more efficient governance; however, our challenge will be to engage the members of the Leadership Council in issues facing our community and strategic direction. I want to thank the members of our Governance Committee, Glenn Engelmann, Mike Ginzberg, Dan Kristol, Marty Mand and Eve Slapp for their hard work on this project, and the Federation's Board of Directors, who fired themselves in order to implement this new system. I look forward to reporting to you next year at our 2007 Annual Meeting on the success of our new governance model.

B'shalom
Robert B. Pincus

On a Mission



Ruth Rosenberg
Campaign Director

What does being "on a mission" mean to you? I've been on a mission

to find just the right dress for a special occasion or to finish an exciting book. It's a passion or drive to accomplish a goal; an inner calling to pursue an activity or perform a service; a vocation. Nearly ten years ago, the leaders of this community embarked on a mission to improve and expand our aging facilities and prepare us for the future. The result is nothing short of spectacular. If you have not recently visited the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus on Garden of Eden Road, I strongly recommend you make it your personal mission to do so. The Bernard & Ruth Siegel JCC has never looked more beautiful! The lobby is bright and welcoming; the state of the art Pincus/Grant Fitness Center is the envy of every local gym; the Early Childhood Center is so inviting that I'm almost tempted to have

another child just so he or she could go there. (Not really, but I hope you get my point). Jewish Family Services has already expanded their many offerings thanks to their new space. They may even outgrow it soon! Students at Albert Einstein Academy have an expanded library and media center and the beautiful playground is irresistible. Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School finally has its own administrative area and the lovely, renovated classrooms not only offer comfortable, appropriate learning spaces for teens but are in constant use throughout the week by other organizations like the Melton School. It's a wonderful thing to see dreams turn into reality.

A mission is also defined as "a body of persons sent to conduct negotiations or establish relations with a foreign country." While negotiations

are not on our agenda (other than possibly for a good table at a restaurant) and relations are already quite sound, we will be on a mission to Israel this September. This trip offers the unique opportunity to travel with friends that goes well beyond the standard tourist fare. While we will surely hit the most important sites like Masada, the Dead Sea, Safed, the Golan Heights, the Old City in Jerusalem and Yad Vashem, we'll also be privy to special briefings on the most current news and the situation on the ground. We'll be treated to home hospitality in our sister city of Arad and see first hand how new olim (immigrants) are helped to become full, productive members of Israeli society. We will see exactly how our overseas allocations are spent in Israel in saving lives and securing our homeland for generations to come.

Spending ten days together will also no doubt bond us for life. You never forget the friends you share Shabbat with at the Kotel.

Hundreds of people stepped up to make a difference in the Community Capital Campaign, united in their mission. You can see their names adorning the walls of our magnificent buildings. You too can be a part of that mission. There's room to add your name, dedicate a space, be named among the "Stars" of our community. There's also plenty of room on the bus/plane/hotel for you to be a part of Delaware's first community mission since 1999. Call me at (302) 427-2100 ext 17. I'm happy to share all the details of how you can be "on a mission" for your community.

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

Having that conversation



Karen Venezky
Director, Jewish Fund for the Future and JCRC

Many years ago (41 to be exact), right before my late husband and I were married, my mother told me she wanted to have a conversation. I, of course, thought she wanted to give me some standard lecture about sex. No, she looked me in the eye and asked me "What are you going to do to have a Jewish life?"

"What am I going to do to have

a Jewish life?" I mumbled something about joining a congregation, lighting the Shabbat candles, having a seder. She told me that was what I would do for me and my family, G-d willing. And then she asked me the big question, "What are you going to do for the Jewish people?" I was speechless. She told me that I had a responsibility, both familial and financial. That volunteering and contributing to the continuation of the Jewish people was something I inherited from her and was something I should pass on to my children.

My mother was an extraordinary woman, not unlike the overwhelming number of Jewish women of that generation. She was a social worker who started the first day camp for the Jewish Community Center in Hazleton, Pennsylvania as a volunteer. She sang in the Temple choir, was an officer of the Temple Sisterhood and a life member of Hadassah. More than anything else, she was a mentor and she knew her audience. I have never forgotten her words. And I have lived them as a volunteer for the Jewish Federation of Delaware and Hadassah. After years as a volun-

teer, I am now the new Director of the Jewish Fund for the Future and Jewish Community Relations for the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

It feels good. I am now intricately and intimately involved in the future of the Jewish community here in Delaware, in Israel and

around the world.

In celebration of this new step in my life journey, I recently talked
See CONVERSATION, page 4

Slate of Officers, Board of Directors & At-Large Members of the Leadership Council 2006-2007

BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Term Expires 2007	Term Expires 2008	Term Expires 2009
Michael J. Ginzberg, PhD	Allison L. Amorison, Esq.	Wendy Berger
Barry S. Kayne, DDS	Suzanne B. Grant	Dorothy Bobman
Amy J. Leviton	Dr. Robin Karol-Eng	Jon A. Brilliant
Dr. Michael Samuels	Lelaine Nemser	Glenn M. Engelmann, Esq.
Dr. Mark Wagman	Eve Slap	Robert B. Pincus
Toni Young	Connie J. Sugarman	Robin Kauffman Saran
Carol Rothschild*	William W. Wagner	
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1st Vice President	Suzanne B. Grant	
Vice President	William W. Wagner	
Vice President	Glenn M. Engelmann, Esq.	
Secretary	Robin Kauffman Saran	
Assistant Secretary	Allison L. Amorison, Esq.	
Treasurer	Jon A. Brilliant	
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL		
(At-Large Members)		
Dr. Collin Anolick, Alfred Green, Dr. Kenneth S. Kamm, Wendy Shlossman, Dr. Allan Tocker		

*President's Appointment

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Celebrating community leaders

"You are not required to complete the task, yet you are not free to withdraw from it. The day is short, the task is great."

This quote from Ethics of the Fathers captures the essence of Jewish leadership. On Thursday at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, we will salute the dedicated men and women who have volunteered their time, talent, energy and resources to make the Delaware Jewish community a great place to live and work.

It's a time to rejoice in the many milestones we have celebrated together in the fiscal year now waning-chief among them is the beautifully renovated Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center on the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Jewish Community Campus which will play host to the evening's festive program. Thanks to the vision and generosity of the Federation Community Capital Campaign leadership, the Siegel JCC, Jewish Family Services of Delaware, Albert Einstein Academy and Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School have beautiful new facilities to meet community needs now and in the future.

Two of these Federation agency executives, Marlene Milunsky, the principal of Delaware Gratz and Jeff Metz, executive vice

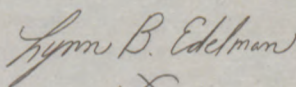
president of the Siegel JCC, will step down from their positions at the end of this month. The Annual Meeting is an ideal time to congratulate them on their exemplary leadership and wish them well in their new career paths.

One of the many highlights of the evening, which features the installation of JFD Officers and Board of Directors, will be the presentation of the Steven J. Rothschild Volunteer of the Year Award to Mark Wagman. As you will note from the article about Mark which appears on this week's JV cover, this inaugural award could not have been given to a nicer or more deserving honoree.

Please plan on spending a few hours this Thursday evening with your friends and neighbors in this true community celebration. The program begins at 7:00 p.m.

Hope to see you there!

B'Shalom,



Lynn B. Edelman
Editor

This Week in Jewish History



Celebrate 350
Jewish Life in America
1654 - 2004

"This Week in Jewish History" is an introduction to 350 years of American Jewish life, brought to you by the Jewish Women's Archive. More information about each of the events described below can be found on JWA's website at <http://www.jwa.org/this-week/week-31.html>

June 5, 1943 - Financial journalist Sylvia Porter was honored by the Headliners' Club.

June 6, 1901 - Bella Weretnikow, the first female Jewish lawyer in Seattle, was admitted

to the state bar.

June 6, 2005 - As part of a conference in her honor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, acclaimed historian Gerda Lerner gave a speech titled, "What Is Women's History and Why Should We Study It?", a day after she received an honorary doctorate from the University.

June 7, 1971 - Singer-songwriter Carole King released the album "Tapestry".

June 9, 1939 - Writer, feminist, and peace activist Letty Cottin Pogrebin was born.

June 9, 1962 - Notorious New York City madam Polly Adler died.

Conversation

Continued from page 3

to my lawyer and told him to create a bequest in my name to the Jewish Fund for the Future. I have been meaning to do this for quite a while but kept putting it off. Not for any important reason, just because it wasn't on my must do now list. But I kept hearing my mother's voice in my head...

I will be signing the Book of Life at the JFD Annual Meeting on June 15th. Anyone can join me by setting up a bequest, an annuity,

a named endowment or another planned gift. With even a small initial gift you, too, can create a permanent legacy and reap the benefits. For more information please call me at 427-2100, ext. 19 or stop by and say hello during Thursday's Annual Meeting.

A few years ago my daughter Dina and I went to look at the wedding gown she had picked out for her upcoming wedding. After she twirled around in it and we both cried I said, "Dina, I want to have a conversation..."

Showdown

Continued from page 1

trol of Parliament and the government. Or, an 11th hour agreement between the two parties could see the formation of a national unity Fatah-Hamas government, with Abbas taking the lead in Palestinian diplomacy on the international stage.

Abbas' determination to go through with his initiative and the way he has gone about winning support for it has gained him considerable prestige on the Palestinian street. He spent weeks traveling the Middle East getting Arab leaders behind the initiative. He also met with Jack Wallace, the American consul in eastern Jerusalem, to coordinate the move with Washington.

Often seen in the past as a weak, vacillating leader, afraid of confrontation, Abbas is now perceived by Palestinians as someone who could make a difference.

A recent poll showed that if the referendum goes ahead, Abbas would win with more than 80 percent of the vote. Since he embarked on his initiative, his own rating has gone from 51 percent to 62 percent, and that of Fatah from 34 percent to 45 percent.

Conversely, support for Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh is down from 49 percent to 38 percent, and Hamas is down from 42 percent to 29 percent. The figures reflect Fatah's newfound confidence on the street. The freezing of international aid is starting to bite, and many Palestinians blame the Hamas government for the non-payment of salaries and the lack of food and medicine.

Heartened by the new mood, Fatah leaders have stopped their internal bickering and are rallying around Abbas. Fatah received an additional fillip last week when it won a sweeping 80 percent victory in student elections at the Gaza branch of Al-Quds University.

As tension mounts, both Fatah and Hamas have been trying to show their strength. Fatah, which wields considerably more firepower in the West Bank, has put large forces on the streets in Jenin and other West Bank cities. Hamas has beefed up its street presence in Gaza, where it is believed to be stronger.

Nevertheless, 10,000 mainly Fatah security personnel demonstrated in Gaza last Thursday against the Hamas government for its failure to pay their salaries.

Commenting on the street clashes and the

general mobilization on both sides, dovish Fatah leader Kadoura Fares declared that he could see "all the signs of civil war."

But Danny Rubinstein, a seasoned analyst who writes for Ha'aretz, does not believe a major armed confrontation is imminent. "The war of nerves will most likely continue for a while longer. Abbas enjoys broad national support, and the backing of Arab leaders," he wrote.

"Hamas enjoys popular support. It does not appear that the violence, so far limited to local incidents, is likely to slide into a full-blown civil war," he wrote.

Fatah leaders depict the prisoners' document as an attempt to find the lowest common denominator for a Fatah-Hamas agreement that, once adopted, could get the wide international boycott of the Hamas government lifted.

"The referendum constitutes a lifeline to the Hamas government to rescue it from international isolation, but they are finding it difficult to grab hold of it," Yasser Abed Rabbo, a top PLO official, declared.

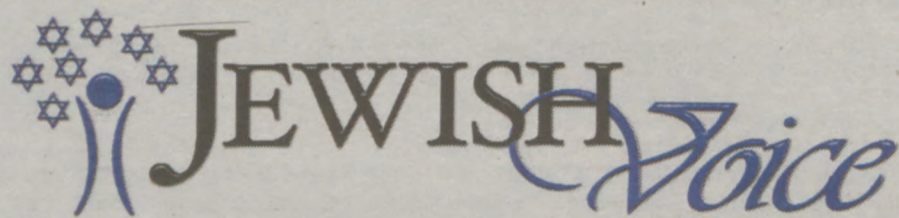
For Haniyeh, the internal dilemma is that if he accepts the document, he could run afoul of the more radical Hamas leadership abroad; if he doesn't, he could come in for criticism from the influential Hamas prisoners who signed it.

Whether or not he reaches agreement with Abbas on the document, Haniyeh opposes the referendum idea in principle. He sees it as a ploy to overturn the result of the January election that he won. Some Hamas spokesmen say ominously that the movement will not allow a referendum to be held, others that they will merely boycott it.

Either way the looming clash with Fatah, whether violent or political, could change the face of Palestinian politics.

So far, Israeli leaders are studiously avoiding comment on what they describe as an internal Palestinian affair. But the implications for Israel could be huge.

A clear-cut Hamas victory could accentuate questions about whom Israel would be handing back territory to after a unilateral withdrawal. An unequivocal Fatah victory could lead to pressure for a negotiated settlement. In the face of Palestinian developments, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert may have to draw on all his diplomatic skills to keep his unilateral withdrawal plan on the table.



Published semimonthly, and monthly in July and August, by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.
100 W. 10th St., Wilmington, DE 19801

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Printed by Dover Post Company

Periodicals postage paid for The Jewish Voice (USPS-704160) at Wilmington, Delaware.

Subscription price: \$25.00. Mailed to subscribers and contributors to the Jewish Federation of Delaware. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Jewish Voice, 100 W. 10th St., Wilmington, DE 19801. (302) 427-2100.

The FAX number of The Jewish Voice is (302) 427-2438.

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EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Israel gains from Olmert's U.S. visit

By Jack Rosen

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's highly successful visit to the United States has already resulted in important gains for Israel.

Mr. Olmert sought American backing for his unilateral disengagement plan, the platform on which he was elected and formed his coalition government. As the prime minister explained it to me when I met with him in his office several weeks ago, the essence of the Olmert Plan is that should Israel confirm the absence of a viable Palestinian negotiating partner, the Jewish State will unilaterally redeploy to new lines of its own choosing.

In real terms, this would involve a significant withdrawal from much of the West Bank, and from the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian population there, to lines defined by the route of the security barrier being built to separate Palestinian areas from Israeli ones.

These lines will not be the 1967 lines, and Mr. Olmert was counting on the commitments laid out in President Bush's April 14, 2004 letter to Ariel Sharon that in the event that new borders are drawn, account will be taken of the new demographic realities on the ground. In simple English, this means that President Bush supports

the proposition that some of the major settlement blocs outside the Green Line 1967 border will remain part of Israel.

On this score, Mr. Bush did not disappoint, specifically reaffirming the views expressed in the April 2004 Letter. Mr. Bush lent a virtual endorsement to the Olmert Plan, calling it a "bold" idea.

That endorsement was virtual rather than absolute because the United States has formally not abandoned the idea that any resolution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict should be based on terms negotiated between the two sides. Mr. Olmert was therefore under pressure to delay implementing his unilateral plan until after some decent interval during which a last ditch effort would be made to engage Palestinian moderates around Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

Earlier this month, Mr. Olmert told an international delegation of mayors visiting Israel under the auspices of our annual Jerusalem Mayors Conference that he would give the Palestinian negotiation option the next half year before proceeding with the Olmert Plan. He repeated this commitment during his talks last week with President Bush and the U.S. Congress.

Behind the scenes, the debate in Jerusalem was whether the government would use this pause through the end of 2006 to make a serious effort to "build-up" Chairman Abbas.

In theory, everyone agrees that to exchange territory for an internationally recognized negotiated peace settlement is preferable to a unilateral redeployment. After all, why give something for nothing?

The problem is that Chairman Abbas already has a long record of weakness and failure, as well as a shattered and divided Fatah movement that has thus far made no attempts to address the causes of its precipitous fall from power.

Moreover, the agreed-upon formula for proceeding with bilateral negotiations — the Road map for Middle East Peace — requires that Chairman Abbas unify the Palestinian militias, disarm the terrorists and uproot their infrastructure before moving on to further diplomatic steps. Mr. Abbas has clearly been unable, or unwilling, to fulfill his end of this bargain.

But political life is full of moves and countermoves. It was always possible that as Israel's unilateralist policy — strongly opposed by Palestinian factions — picked up momentum it would trigger a change in the Palestinian position.

Last Thursday, Chairman Abbas finally made a move, calling Hamas' bluff by announcing that if Hamas did not accept the prisoners' plan for a two state solution along the 1967 lines by next Sunday, he would appeal over their heads to the Palestinian voters in the form of a referendum in July. Chairman Abbas was basing himself on a recently published joint declaration by Fatah and Hamas prisoners held in an Israeli jail.

This took Hamas officials by surprise and also required follow up steps from Israeli leaders who announced the transfer of a limited amount of weapons and ammunition to Chairman Abbas' presidential guard.

Assuming Hamas refuses to back down, and if (and this is a big if) Chairman Abbas follows through with a referendum, his position will probably carry the day. That would create an entirely new landscape, full of new dangers and opportunities for Israel. The opportunity is for a chance to exploit the differences between the "no recognition" Hamas line and the "ambivalent recognition" implied in the Prisoners Plan. The danger is that the international community will be so relieved to see a change in the Palestinian position that it will ignore the facts that the Prisoners' Plan is no

peace plan and promotes the right of return of Palestinian refugees to Israel proper as well as "armed resistance" in the West Bank.

Despite its limitations, the referendum that Chairman Abbas has announced has one commanding virtue to recommend it, and to some this may be superior to all the objections: the fact that it is opposed by Hamas. If, a month down the road, a vote was called, with the advocates of a two-state solution arrayed on the one side, and the opponents of it on the other, and the vote carried, it could make a significant, even historic contribution toward a solution, the literal meaning of the wording notwithstanding.

What is important to keep in mind is that, however long in the planning, Chairman Abbas' decision to finally stand up to Hamas came right after Prime Minister Olmert's unilateral plans received a warm Washington welcome, and a day after Congress voted to tighten restrictions against any economic help for a Hamas-run Palestinian Authority.

American and Israel had to say "no" to get even the semblance of a Palestinian "yes."

Mr. Rosen is the Chairman of the American Jewish Congress-Council for World Jewry.

A religious argument against nukes

By Or N. Rose

The threat of nuclear weapons is once again a part of the American consciousness. Terrorist groups are seeking to acquire unsecured weapons and mercurial nations like Iran and North Korea want to join the nuclear club. Military experts warn of the possibility of a nuclear strike on an American target within the next 10 years.

What are we to do? How should the American Jewish community respond to these developments?

Earlier this spring, the Rev. William Sloane Coffin — one of the great religious activists of the 20th century — died. From his deathbed, Coffin convened a group of national religious leaders to help revitalize the nuclear disarmament movement.

I joined Faithful Security because I believe that it is sinful to live in a world in which human beings can destroy God's creation in a matter of minutes.

In the Book of Genesis, God places Adam in the Garden of Eden in order that he should "till and tend" (2:15) the land. Responsible stewardship of the earth is an obligation that applies to all human beings.

While I am not so naive as to think that we will achieve nuclear abolition any time soon, to strive for it is, I believe, a religious duty.

There are several steps that can be taken to reduce the threat of a nuclear catastrophe and to move toward the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons:

Lock Down: World leaders must work more diligently at locking down the many loose nuclear weapons and materials scattered across the world. At present, only 40 percent to 50 percent of the weapons in the former Soviet Union have been secured.

Russia, with assistance from the United States, must complete this task as soon as possible. I shudder at

the thought of Al-Qaida or some other rogue group obtaining an unsecured weapon or nuclear materials. As former Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) said in 2004, "We are in a race between catastrophe and cooperation."

A related security concern is the fact that today the presidents of the United States and Russia have only a few minutes to decide whether to launch a nuclear attack based on early-warning signals. A false warning could lead to a global calamity. This is particularly frightening because the Russian signal system has eroded since the end of the Cold War. To defuse this situation, all nuclear powers should remove their weapons from hair-trigger alerts.

Reduce: Instead of keeping thousands of weapons in service or storage, the United States and Russia should dismantle them. When these stocks reach a few hundred each, other countries like Britain, France and

China should follow suit.

In this context, we must also consider at what point Israel might join this initiative. The time has come for Israeli and American Jewish leaders to discuss this issue in an open and honest manner. Even if we believe that Israel has no choice but to maintain its nuclear weapons program for years to come, doing so is clearly a necessary evil — one that as Jews, we cannot live with forever.

Freeze: World leaders must place a permanent ban on the development of new nuclear weapons. Again, the United States and Russia must lead by example. How can we possibly dissuade countries like Iran and North Korea from developing nuclear weapons if we continue to expand our arsenals? Such hypocrisy only serves to further motivate non-nuclear states to develop their arms. To quote Coffin, "Mahatma Gandhi once said that a fat person cannot speak persuasively to a

skinny person about the virtues of not overeating."

For those who have grown cynical and do not believe that we can have an impact on the nuclear weapons debate, consider the fact that in 2005, various secular and religious groups lobbied successfully to eliminate funding from the federal budget for the "bunker buster" — a weapon 70 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima during World War II.

During this moment of renewed danger, let us recommit ourselves to the core Jewish values of peace and justice by working to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction. "Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; establish the work of our hands" (Psalm 90:17).

Rabbi Or N. Rose, director of informal education at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, is a founding member of Faithful Security, www.faithfulsecurity.org

Myths and Facts

MYTH #217: "Palestinians have the right to sell land to Jews."

FACT: In 1996, the Palestinian Authority (PA) Mufti, Ikremah Sabri, issued a fatwa (religious decree), banning the sale of Arab and Muslim property to Jews. Anyone who violated the order was to be killed. At least seven land dealers were killed that year. Six years later, the head of the PA's General Intelligence Service in the West Bank, General Tawfik Tirawi, admitted his men were responsible for the murders (Jerusalem Post, August 19, 2002).

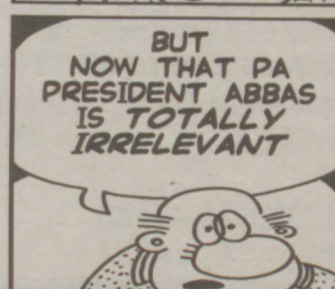
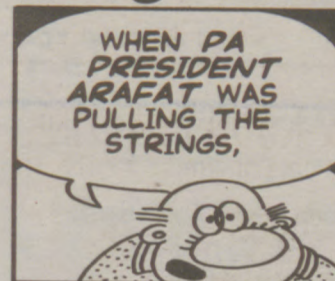
On May 5, 1997, Palestinian Authority Justice Minister Freih Abu Middein announced that the death penalty would be imposed on anyone convicted of ceding "one inch" to Israel. Later that month, two Arab land dealers were killed. PA officials denied any involvement in the killings. A year later, another Palestinian suspected of selling land to Jews was murdered. The PA has also arrested suspected land dealers for violating the Jordanian law (in force in the West Bank), which prohibits the sale of land to foreigners (State Department, Human Rights Report for the Occupied Territories, 1997, 1998).

During the Palestinian War, few, if any Palestinians tried to sell land to Jews, but the prohibition remained in effect. Now that the war is over, the persecutions have begun again. In April 2006, Muhammad Abu al-Hawa was tortured and murdered because allegedly sold an apartment building in Israel's capital city to Jews. Since the Mufti forbade Muslims accused of selling land to Jews from being buried in a Muslim cemetery, al-Hawa was laid to rest in a makeshift cemetery on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho (Jerusalem Post, April 18, 2006).

This article can be found at <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/myths2/exclusives.html#a54>
Source: *REVISED Myths & Facts Online — A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict* by Mitchell G. Bard.

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INSIDE DELAWARE

Jewish discovery through Pardes

By Rachel Kessler
Special to the Jewish Voice

Throughout my life, I have always been very conscious and proud of my Judaism. However, this Judaism has changed form over the years. When I was younger and under the influence of an egalitarian Conservative day school, I wore a kippah all the time and a talit to shul. In high school, I met Chabad, at which point I traded my kippah for long skirts and long sleeves. In college as I began to think for myself, I returned to pants but wondered in what kind of Judaism did I exactly believe. I was sick of observing Judaism based on other people's beliefs. I realized that it would be impossible to know where I stood in Judaism without doing some serious learning.

In the summer of 2003 while I was still in college, I spent a summer volunteering on a Kibbutz. Another volunteer, with whom I had become friendly, told me she was going to Jerusalem to find a place to study for a couple of months. When she returned, she told me about a wonderful place that was perfect for her. It was non-denominational but halakhic, non-coercive, and friendly. It simply wanted Jews to come and learn, no strings attached. This place was Pardes. When she described it to me, I decided that Pardes was exactly what I was looking for and that I would spend a year studying there after college.

Pardes has been everything it promised and more. One of the most wonderful aspects of studying at Pardes is the community. The students come from backgrounds ranging from completely secular to Reconstructionist rabbinical students to people who have been studying in Orthodox yeshivot until coming to Pardes, and somehow, everyone gets along. We study together and respectfully listen to each other's thoughts with open minds, even if we

do not always agree. Being around Jews of different backgrounds has definitely shaped my own views and has been an important component of my studying. One of the most valuable truths I have learned this year is that I do not have to choose a denomination. I am Jewish, and I practice my Judaism as I think I should (even if I have not yet fully decided on what this entails). I think that if Jews stopped being obsessed with labels, everyone would get along much better. Furthermore, despite the fact that we are philosophically diverse, we are all friends. People invite each other over for Shabbat, celebrate simchas together (This year we have celebrated two brisses, a pidyon ha'ben, two weddings, many engagements, and two conversions.), and almost everyone is active in the community whether it be by washing dishes after community meals, organizing fundraisers for charities, or giving lectures.

The teachers are also wonderful. They are learned, interesting, and involved. They all dispose of their titles, be it Rav or doctor, so that everyone can be on equal footing. They regularly invite students into their homes and talk to students outside of class. They are approachable and genuinely care about their students. Yet because of their tremendous learnedness, they still command the respect of all their students. Their classes are thought provoking, and large portions of class are spent in discussion.

As I had hoped, my text skills have also grown tremendously. From never having done any formal text study, I can now understand many texts on my own without translation and with little outside help. I have also learned some halakha, gemara, chumash, and Jewish philosophy. However, the more I learn, the more I realize I do not know. For this reason, I have decided to remain at

Pardes another year. Although my skills have definitely improved, I want to be able to learn at a level in which I can be completely self-reliant so that I can continue studying on my own after leaving Pardes. I have also not come to any conclusions with regard to my own practice, and I hope that another year of study will allow me to do more processing and discuss my thoughts with a new set of people.

And finally, one of the greatest parts of attending Pardes (and one of

the reasons why I do not think I am ready to leave) has been living in Israel. In Israel, I feel normal. Judaism has become a religion I can embrace and love rather than one that manifests itself in limitations that separate me from the rest of society. I can eat out. I do not miss out on events occurring on Shabbat because the world stops on Shabbat. And the Israelis I have met have been warm and genuine (even if at times a little pushy). I know that when the

family with whom I stayed on a school trip to the Galil told me to come back for a Shabbat in the spring that they were happy when I made arrangements to return.

Studying Jewish texts in Israel with open-minded people has made me completely surrounded by my ideal Judaism. I have thus far had a wonderful experience, and I hope it continues next year.

Rachel is the daughter of Cantor Joel and Arleen Kessler of Wilmington.

Temple Beth El confirms 12

This year's confirmation class at Temple Beth El in Newark had 57 students. These young men and women studied community, visited the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, participated in an annual retreat, and journeyed to Ellis Island and New York City. Twelve of the students were confirmed on June 1 at the beginning of Shavuot. Confirmation is a three year post religious school program which meets on Sundays.

Mazel Tov to the Confirmands for 2006. They are (from left to right on the upper row): Ian Luft, Lynn Sontowski (teacher), Isaac Schlecht, Alan Roth, Rabbi David Kaplan, Aaron Weingartner, Matthew DeFroda,

Sarah Margerison and Renee Fisher (teacher). Bottom row from left to right: Rachel Hannaford, Sarah Amer, Voitoria Berger, Sara Schiffman, Ilana Bagel and Jessica Anderson.

Temple Beth El is affiliated with the Reconstructionist movement. Religious school is a three day per week program, except for kindergarten, first grade, second grade and confirmation classes, which meet on Sundays only. The synagogue is located at 301 Possum Park Road in Newark. For more information, please contact the Temple office at 302-366-8330.



City of Wilmington honors Beth Emeth Centennial

By Paul Timmeney
Special to the Jewish Voice

On the afternoon of Sunday, May 21, 2006, CoroAllegro and Friends 2006, under the direction of Jack Warren Bumam, performed a concert including Ernest Bloch's Sacred Service and Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms. Produced in collaboration with Congregation Beth Emeth in honor of their 100th Anniversary, the concert marked the end of a year of festive events celebrating the Congregation's centennial.

The concert took place in Concord High School's newly renovated auditorium and was enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience of approximately 450. Beth Emeth's Cantor Mark Stanton performed the solo role of Cantor in the Block Sacred Service, accompanied by a symphony orchestra and a chorus of eighty singers.

After a brief intermission, Tina Betz, Director of Cultural Affairs for the City of Wilmington took center stage. Representing Wilmington's Mayor James M. Baker, Ms. Betz presented Congregation Beth Emeth President Richard Goldbaum with a proclamation signed by Mayor Baker commemorating Beth Emeth's 100th anniversary.

In part, the proclamation reads as follows: "Whereas, for the past century, Congregation Beth Emeth has been, and continues to be, an important center to the Jewish community of Northern Delaware. Beth Emeth is a Reform Congregation whose mission is to enrich the lives of their members and their communities by teaching, learning, and rejoicing in Jewish ideals and traditions; and

"Whereas, since 1986 CoroAllegro, Delaware's premiere chamber choir, has thrilled audiences with performances that range from a cappella vocal music to works for chorus and orchestra. CoroAllegro, for a number of years, has collaborated



Beth Emeth President Richard Goldbaum with Wilmington's Director of Cultural Affairs Tina Betz, who presented the proclamation from Wilmington Mayor James Baker honoring the synagogue for its centennial anniversary.

with various groups and communities in the City and its surrounding areas to present culturally significant programs of music; and

"Whereas, the City of Wilmington is pleased to be the home of Congregation Beth Emeth and CoroAllegro, two wonderful organizations committed to encouraging, uplifting, and inspiring the residents of and visitors to our beautiful and historic City.

"Now, therefore, I, James M. Baker, Mayor of the City of Wilmington, Delaware do hereby commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Congregation Beth Emeth and encourage all citizens to join me in celebrating this remarkable milestone."

Following the presentation, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, featuring soloist Kevin Kelso concluded this concert of all Jewish music. The performance was followed by a reception for the audience and performers who enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate and socialize.

A Banner year for BBYO

BBYO has had a very active and successful year. We are slowing down for the summer and our newly elected leaders will be taking over the reigns and getting ready for the coming year. We recently have had two very successful conventions which were well attended and closed out our convention year. We are still planning some local summer activities and hope to see new faces as well as returning members.

Wilmington BBG and AZA attended the Regional Kallah Convention in Wilkes-Barre, PA from April 7-9. This year's theme was "Jewish By Choice, Not By Birth," and was coordinated by a Wilmington AZA member, Oren Schragger. Participants were required to write an essay answering why they choose to be Jewish. Highlights from the weekend included a discussion over why we choose to be Jewish, a thought-provoking lesson from an Allentown Hebrew School teacher, and a video connecting the events of the Holocaust to modern day events. Participants also led the Saturday Morning Service at Wilkes-Barre's synagogue, complete with BBYO members reading that week's Torah portion and leading the community in prayer. BBYO even shared some of their special song tunes and danced around during "Miriam's Song." After a special Havdallah service on Saturday night, participants made travel Havdallah kits complete with handmade candles. Additionally, BBYO enjoyed the bowling alley, swimming pool, and open gym that were made available for their use in the Wilkes-Barre JCC.

As the year came to a close, it became the time to elect the new executive board for both Wilmington BBG and AZA. Chapter elections were held on May 10th and many eager candi-

dates were ready to make their speeches. Leading their last meetings respectively, Samantha Diamond and Alex Resch proceeded with the important election procedures. Congratulations to all our new board members.

The new 2006-2007 Wilmington BBG Board is: Julie France-N'siah (President); Jillian Leviton-S'ganit (Vice-President); Samantha Tocker-Morah (Membership Chair); Alison Bank-Gizborit (Treasurer); Rotem Hermann-Sh'l'icha (Judaism Chair); Samantha Diamond-Madricha (Past President Serving as a Guide)

The new 2006-2007 Wilmington AZA Board is: Jake Samuels-Godol (President); Matt Klein-S'gan (Vice-President); Adam Bloom-Morah (Membership Chair); Brett Carroll-Mazkir (Secretary); Sam Andrus-Shaliach (Judaism Chair); Kenny Rosenberg-Gizbor (Treasurer); Alex Resch-Kohane Godol (Past President Serving as a Guide)

Over the weekend of May 19-21, Central Region East BBYO descended on Camp Green Lane in Green Lane, PA. Approximately 100 BBG and AZA members came together to elect the new regional executive boards and say goodbye to the graduating seniors. From Wilmington AZA, the following are graduating seniors: Alex Resch, Ross Rudintsky, Greg Yugov, Zack Asher, and Oren Schragger. From Wilmington BBG, Alyson Sherman, Kayla Lahijani, and Bess Davis are all graduating. All of the seniors will be sadly missed by all, but we wish them the best for the future.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining BBG or AZA please contact either Julie France (477-0494, or France_soccer00@hotmail.com) or Jake Samuels at 655-3668, or Samuels142@comcast.net

JEWISH NATIONAL VIEW

Post-Katrina, firm is still cleaning up

By Larry Luxner, JTA

Anybody who watches TV for very long will inevitably see 82-year-old David Oreck pitching his "amazing Oreck XL 8-pound upright vacuum cleaner."

What most viewers don't know is that Oreck, his brother Marshall and his son, Tom Oreck, chairman and CEO of Oreck Corp., head one of the most prominent Jewish families in Louisiana.

"The Orecks are major contributors, not only to the Jewish community but to the entire city," said Roselle Ungar, interim executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans. "They not only write checks, but roll up their sleeves and get involved."

Last year, the Oreck Corp. gained even more respect for promptly and generously helping hundreds of its desperate employees in Louisiana and Mississippi following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

"It's well-known that we're Jewish. It's not a secret," Tom Oreck told JTA in a recent interview. "We're one of the top four or five locally owned companies in New Orleans."

Tom Oreck, 54, is on the board of Touro Synagogue, a Reform house of worship. He's been to Israel five times and is very much involved in fund-raising campaigns for Jewish causes.

"My great-grandfather was named Oreckovsky, but he thought that didn't sound American enough, so he shortened it to Oreck," he said. "My dad founded the company in 1963 in his Connecticut warehouse, which was an empty rail car in the back of a building."

Forty-three years after that humble beginning, Oreck — headquartered in the New Orleans suburb of Harahan — is today one of the largest U.S. manufacturers of upright vacuum cleaners. It makes 20 different models priced from \$300 to \$7,000, and airs more TV commercials than any other vacuum cleaner maker in the world.

At last count, Oreck had 1,200 employees, 500 retail outlets — including two in Israel — and annual sales of around \$300 million, though the exact amount is a secret.

Tom Oreck is vice chairman of the Business Council of New Orleans, which comprises the city's top 50 corporate CEOs. He's also a graduate of Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis., a board member of Jewish Children's Regional Services, a sponsor of the New Orleans JCC Maccabi team and the father of four.

"As individuals and as a company, we've given to every synagogue and every sisterhood," he said. "We've supplied the JCC with vacuum cleaners for the last 15 years. There isn't a Jewish organization in New Orleans that doesn't come to me for vacuum cleaners."

Oreck Corp. also had a well-rehearsed disaster emergency plan — yet nothing could prepare the company for Hurricane Katrina, which struck last August with unprecedented fury, leveling buildings along the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast and triggering levee breaches in New Orleans that flooded the city for months.

Oreck said the emergency plan called for powering down the company's computer system and sending tapes to a backup site in Boulder, Colo. In addition, Oreck's call center was relocated from New Orleans to third-party call centers in Phoenix and Denver. Its 375,000-square-foot factory in Long Beach, Miss., was shut down in stages, and employees and their families evacuated to Dallas and elsewhere.

Oreck said he fled New Orleans "with three pairs of underwear, three shirts and three pairs of socks," because he expected to be back in a matter of days.

"I evacuated my family to Houston," he told JTA. "I'm a pilot, and brought them all out to the Lakefront Airport and flew to Houston in a Swiss-made Pilatus aircraft. That airport later ended up



The Oreck factory in Long Beach, Mississippi, was one of the first on Mississippi's coast to reopen after the storm, despite millions of dollars in damage from Katrina. Credit: Larry Luxner/JTA

under eight feet of water."

Many of his employees weren't so lucky. Of Oreck's 750 workers in Louisiana and Mississippi, about 250 were "completely wiped out," he said, losing their homes and possessions.

The company focused on bringing its Web site up and having a company-wide conference call to track the safety of its employees.

Once the skies had cleared, the scene in Mississippi was one of utter devastation.

The factory in Long Beach sustained "tens of millions of dollars in damage," said Oreck, including \$4 million in inventory damage caused by a single spinoff tornado.

Yet within 10 days, the vacuum cleaner plant was up and running again — making Oreck the first major employer on Mississippi's Gulf Coast to reopen following the storm.

"We purchased generators to run

the factory, and mobile homes from all across the country. We set up a city nicknamed Oreckville on the parking lot to house our people, and we trucked in food and water. We brought in trauma doctors, and insurance specialists to help our people make claims," he said.

The company also set up an Oreck Relief Fund to help employees who had suffered significant losses. Oreck funded the charity with \$500,000 in seed money, and later raised another \$500,000.

"That money was distributed to our employees to help them rebuild," Oreck explained. "Within five days of the storm, we'd set up offices in Dallas. We never missed a payroll. We never paid attention to how much all this was costing, we just said 'do it.' We kept records and made claims as best as we could."

Four months after Katrina, Oreck distributed 188 grants totaling \$887,900 from its employee assis-

tance fund. The fund is administered by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

"Oreck has been great," said Flor Guandique, a staff accountant at the company's New Orleans headquarters, in an article posted on the BRAF Web site. "In a time of great despair and uncertainty, I was reassured that I'd still have a job, that somehow my family could recover."

Another employee, 17-year veteran GERALYN MOUILLE, said: "There just isn't a substitute for the loyalty and compassion this company has shown me. From helping my family get out of harm's way, to providing shelter while my roof was repaired, Oreck has kept me going, looking forward and thinking positive."

Sales jumped after the storm, and Oreck said January was his best month ever. The factory has long since returned to 100 percent of pre-Katrina production of about 3,000 vacuum cleaners a day.

Drug bust wakes up U.S. Jews

By Uriel Heilman, JTA

When three American teenagers on a study-abroad program in Israel were arrested on drug charges some two months ago, the incident created a major stir among parents, students and administrators from the students' school in the United States.

In the days and weeks that followed, after the three were released from police custody, more than a dozen students left the 11-week program at the Alexander Muss Institute for Israel Education. More than half of those who left were expelled because of their ties to the drug incident; others quit the program because they — or their parents — felt that the Muss Institute no longer embodied the atmosphere they had sought.

But the full implications of this spring's drug bust — involving the sale and possession of about 3.3 pounds of marijuana by students from the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School of Rockville, Md. — may not be apparent for years to come.

If the past is prologue, the fallout

may affect everything from the way Jewish schools in Israel and the United States handle drug prevention, to enrollment levels in Israel study-abroad programs from the communities most affected by this scandal. School administrators also hope the incident will have taught the program participants about the consequences of drug use.

"It just was a big wake-up call," said Simcha Pearl, head of Atlanta's Weber School, which also had high-school students at the Muss Institute's program. No Weber students were implicated in the scandal, though one student chose to leave the program after the arrests.

"How do we beef up our education for the kids about the effects of engaging in illegal substances?" Pearl said. If there is a "silver lining" to the drug incident at Muss, Pearl said, it is that it "may have put the fear of God into these teens. Maybe they'll think twice about engaging in some of this stuff."

Educators in Israel involved in overseas study programs say drug scandals like the one at the Muss

Institute could have a lingering effect on Israel programs for years to come, in part because of the fear it generated among parents and others.

One former staffer at the Zionist youth movement Habonim Dror said, for example, that a nearly decade-old drug scandal at the movement's Israel program still has a significant impact.

"The effect was massive," said the former staffer, who like several others requested anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the subject.

"Everyone remembers the headline in the paper: 'Habonim Teenagers in Ecstasy Row.' " He added: "That, from a PR point of view, was very damaging, and the damage was felt throughout all of the activities of the organization for, some might say, even up to today."

The incident, the staffer explained, caused parents to lose faith in the institution. "There has to be a very strong element of trust between the parents and the organization responsible for that child, and a lot of that trust was lost."

That's why the Muss Institute dealt with the incident at the end of March so severely, said Chaim Fischgrund, headmaster of Muss, which is located in Hod Hasharon, just north of Tel Aviv. The three students found to be selling the marijuana immediately were turned over to the police, and the others who were found to have used or bought the drugs were expelled.

"We have a zero-tolerance policy toward drugs and alcohol," Fischgrund said.

As a result of the scandal, the Weber School says it will conduct an extensive review of its drug policies this summer, and even though Pearl said he was pleased with the Muss Institute's handling of the situation, he is asking Muss to review its drug policies as well.

"We're asking them to revisit their procedures, and we will revisit ours, so that we feel more in control from our side vis-a-vis our parents and our kids," Pearl said.

The Weber School is considering drug-testing students before they leave for the Israel program, testing

students while they are in Israel, upgrading drug education at the school in Atlanta, and reviewing "interrogation" policies regarding students suspected of marijuana use, possession or sale.

Officials at the Charles E. Smith School, whose students are accused of being behind the marijuana sale at the Muss Institute, were unavailable for comment.

The American participants remaining in the Muss Institute program returned to the United States last Wednesday, after the scheduled end of the program.

In the final analysis, several educators and substance-abuse experts say, parents would be naive to blame a drug bust on the particular program involved. It can happen anywhere.

"I don't think it's the program's fault," said Sharon Almougy, head of the English-speaking division of the Institute for Youth Leaders from Abroad, which is run by the Jewish Agency for Israel. "There are cases of certain behaviors that went on before, and the kids perhaps think that they can go on in Israel as well."

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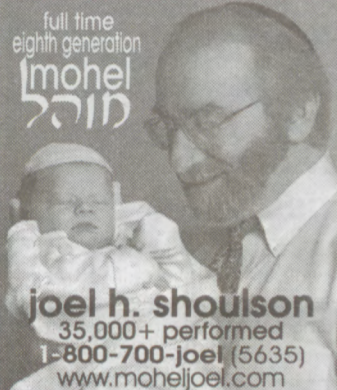
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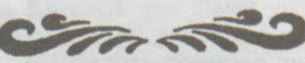


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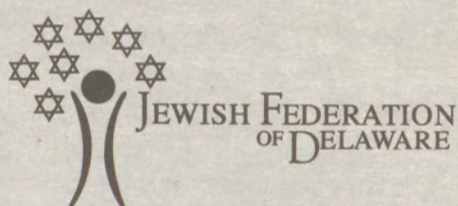


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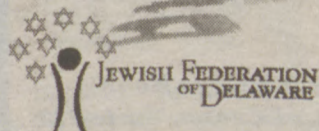
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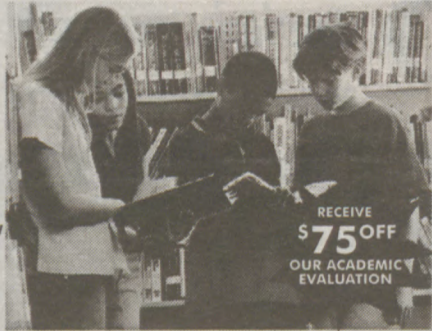
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GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

Iran's Jews live dual life

By Rachel Silverman, JTA

Iran wouldn't appear to be a likely candidate to house the largest Jewish community in the Muslim world.

After all, Iran is run by a fundamentalist Islamic regime whose president has threatened to destroy Israel and who regularly denies the Holocaust.

But Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Iran currently is home to an estimated 25,000 Jews.

What is life—and Jewish life—like for these Iranian Jews? How do they reconcile their dual identities? And why do they choose to stay in a land that, at least from an outsiders perspective, appears increasingly inhospitable?

History, in part, holds the answer to these questions.

Iranian Jews have lived in the region for more than 2,700 years. During that time, they've survived waves of forced conversion, anti-Semitic propaganda, derogatory dress codes and economic, legal and social persecution.

But there have also been times when they flourished, like they did under the pro-Western regime of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, who ruled until the Islamists took over in the late 1970s.

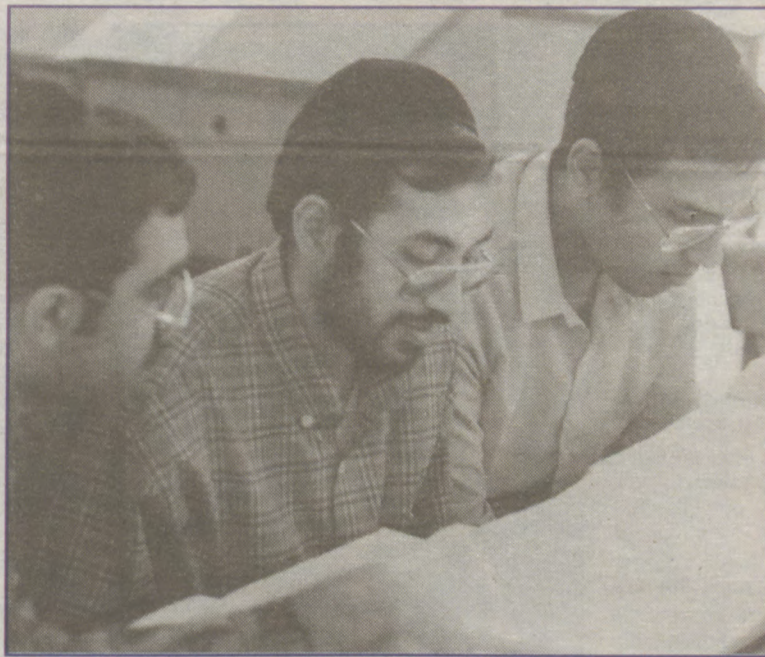
Indeed, some 100,000 Jews lived in Iran before the 1979 Islamic Revolution prompted an exodus.

Through these ebbs and flows, Iranian Jews have learned that oppressors, no matter how tyrannical, are only temporary masters.

For this reason, as George Haroonian, a community activist in Los Angeles put it, Iranian Jews tend to think of the current anti-Semitic, anti-Israel climate as only "a temporary disruption in the long centuries of the relationship between Jews and Iranians."

"These people know this government will vanish, but Israel will stay and Iran will stay," Haroonian, who runs a magazine for Iranian Jewish émigrés, said. "We have to think of it in those terms."

For many Iranian Jews, that means making their peace and carrying on.



Iranian Jewish refugees study Jewish texts as they await processing through HIAS immigration services in Vienna in 2002.

Credit: Jeff Lauterbach/HIAS

"Right now, the situation is like a calm before a storm," said Frank Nikbakht, the former public affairs director of the Council of Iranian American Jewish Organizations. "The problem is as long as the situation seems to be normal, it's very difficult to ask somebody to pack up and leave a country they've lived in for hundreds of generations."

But there have been occasional anti-Semitic outbursts during the past decade or so.

In 1999, 13 Iranian Jews were accused of spying for Israel, and 10 were imprisoned. Though all were released by 2002, the incident sent shockwaves throughout Iran's Jewish community.

During that period, reports also rose about 11 others who went missing between 1994 and 1997. Haroonian said that Iranian American Jews are "very much still following the issue," since "the Iranian government has not

given straight answers of what happened to these people."

In other ways, too, the situation for Iranian Jews is difficult.

Anti-Semitic propaganda is pervasive, say those interviewed for this article, and Jewish citizens have been stripped of many rights, such as their ability to provide testimony in court or hold a position superior to that of a Muslim.

Things have gotten so bad that several weeks ago, reports that Iran would be enacting a law mandating a Nazi-like uniform for Jews was widely believed in the West. That report, however, proved to be false.

To cope with their lack of freedoms, Jews in Iran have mastered the art of separating their private lives from their public ones. Outwardly, Iranian Jews do their best to blend in and stay quiet.

"In order to be as safe as possible, you must hide most of your feelings," Nikbakht explained. "You keep a low

profile and agree to the government position, whatever it is."

Haroonian concurred. "Many Jews have sort of accepted, internalized the idea of being inferior to the majority Muslims. It's the relationship of, You do your thing and I'll do my thing and we don't step over the lines."

Iranian Jews, at least publicly, often mask their affiliations with both Judaism and Zionism.

When an Iranian Jewish dance troupe traveled to Russia recently, several members refused to eat pieces of cake decorated with the Israeli flag.

And members of the community keep mezuzot on the inside of their doors instead of the outside.

What happens inside those houses is another story, however.

In recent years, Jewish practice may have strengthened in Iran.

"Jews in Iran have become more religious since the revolution," confirmed Pooya Dayanim, president of the U.S.-based Iranian Jewish Public Affairs Committee. "As their numbers have dwindled, solidarity and action among them has increased."

He cited 13 active synagogues in the country, as well as a Jewish hospital and a slew of Jewish day schools.

Nikbakht attributed this upswing to waning public entertainment, as well as a general trend toward religious extremism in the country.

"When you see the environment is doing something, you tend to do the same in order to say its not only you who are close to God, it's us too," he explained.

Still, practicing Judaism under the current regime has proved difficult. State law forces Jewish schools to remain open on the Sabbath, and specifies that Hebrew lessons are not permitted outside prayer time.

Schools are required to have Muslim principals, since Jews must occupy subordinate positions at all times, and prayer books are printed in Farsi instead of Hebrew, as a means of controlling what is studied.

These obstacles, perhaps, also

account for the slow trickle of Jews out of Iran.

The Hebrew Immigration Aid Society holds a contract with the U.S. State Department to operate an immigration center in Vienna, where Iranian Jews are detained until they can enter the U.S. Refugee Program and emigrate. Statistics provided by the organization show that about 200 Iranian Jews were resettled in 2004, and about 300 in 2005.

Haroonian reported that relatives in the United States are "giving messages to their families saying, 'think about your future, the future of your young kids.'"

Many Jews in Iran are dismissive, he said.

"When they hear about assimilation and divorce rates here, and security issues in Israel, so many choose to stay," Haroonian said. "They think it's not very rosy here either."

But Sam Keremian, secretary-general of the Los Angeles-based Iranian Jewish Federation, pointed to other, more pragmatic reasons for staying put: Many are too old, or too sick to leave.

"Those who remain to a large extent would have a more difficult time adjusting to life in a different country," he said.

He added that others may not have the financial means to leave.

But unless Iranian Jews speak up, agencies in a position to help them will continue to receive mixed messages.

"We certainly have noted with concern the flow of new stories of problems and statements by the government," Gideon Aronoff, president and CEO of HIAS, said. "But we really do leave it to the people on the ground to assess their own circumstances."

Nikbakht reiterated this claim.

"Most of the Jewish organizations outside the country have made it clear to relatives or co-religionists in Iran that whenever they want to leave, the Jews outside the country are ready to help them," he said. "Beyond that, there is no large-scale, organized effort to get them out. All we're doing is telling them, if you want to get out, we're ready to help you."

Argentine court to study bombing cover-up

By Joe Goldman, JTA

An Argentine court is studying a possible cover-up in the investigation of the 1994 bombing of an Argentine Jewish center that killed 85 people.

This week, the court began inspecting the events following the July 18, 1994, bombing at the AMIA Jewish social service building in Buenos Aires.

That attack, and the March 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, which killed 29 people, remains unsolved.

The main AMIA court investigation ended almost two years ago with the entire case being thrown out by a special tribunal that had spent three years hearing the evidence. This trial was reportedly the longest and costliest in Argentina's history.

A few weeks ago, an appeals court upheld that decision and opened up a judicial process to investigate the original failed investigation of the AMIA bombing.

Now a federal court will begin to try to unravel the mystery of whether there was a cover-up after the bombing—and whether it reached into the highest levels of the government of former President Carlos Menem.

Among those who were ordered to

testify in this new proceeding are an ex-federal judge, Juan Jose Galeano; two of the original prosecutors; the former chief of the Argentine intelligence service and two of his top assistants; and Ruben Beraja, then-president of the main Jewish political organization, DAIA.

Court officials will not rule out possible interrogations for Menem and two or three of his top ministers.

The questioning is expected to center on why Galeano apparently paid a suspect \$400,000—from intelligence service coffers, whose expenditures must be approved by the president—to change his testimony and finger other defendants, why evidence went missing or was altered and why films of interrogations were burned with knowledge of the judge, the prosecutors and some lawyers involved in the case.

Galeano was forced to resign his court post earlier this year in the face of an impeachment trial concerning these charges.

Pablo Jacoby, the lawyer for Memoria Activa, one of three organizations representing families of the victims, said this new investigation "could prove to be very important if in the testimony we can find out who gave the orders to point the case toward a specific theory. We now know that the central focus of that origi-

nal investigation was a setup," he said, referring to the fingering of a group of Buenos Aires provincial police officers.

While underscoring the importance of this secondary investigation, Jacoby said there are still hopes for advances in the central investigation, now under a new prosecutor, and reiterated that Memoria Activa plans to go ahead with its presentation before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Washington in October.

"Some basic questions remain unanswered in this case and we will bring those to the court. For example, why did the government have no contingency plan for disasters, why are the intelligence service files on the AMIA case not open to public scrutiny, how could public funds be utilized to pay off witnesses without public knowledge and a number of other matters," Jacoby said.

A spokesperson for AMIA called the new court investigations "coherent" and said the next logical step would be calling Menem and former Interior Minister Carlos Corach to give testimony in the case.

However, a DAIA spokesperson complained publicly that the new investigation is not addressing the most important question of who bombed the AMIA building.



Rescuers sift through the rubble in the aftermath of the July 1994 AMIA Jewish cultural center bombing in Buenos Aires. Credit: DYN/Archive

ISRAEL PERSPECTIVES

Visit Israel - It makes sense

By Mark Reitkopp
Special to the Jewish Voice

"My recent visit to Israel was an extraordinary experience. Using all my senses, I was able to feel its uniqueness," Chris Stark from Canada, a blind visitor who had just completed exploring Israel. Whether you are coming to Israel for the vacation of your dreams or in search of your heritage, Israel 4 All provides customized travel in Israel for groups and individuals of all ages with physical disabilities and special needs.

Israel 4 All has the philosophy that the best way to experience Israel is through your senses.

By making use of your sense of vision, you will experience within the 335 miles (540 kilometers) of Israel's length, the snow on Mt. Hermon, the waters of the Sea of Galilee, the magic of green fields by an arid desert in the Negev, the saltiest lake in the world found at the lowest point in the world and the wonderful underwater life at the underwater observatory in Eilat

By using the sense of smell, you will experience the minerals of the Dead Sea, the flowering of orange and apple trees, the incense used in religious ceremonies, or the herbs found in the Fragrance Garden. You will experience the intoxicating smells of spices and coffee, fresh baked goods, and tantalizing grills in the Arab Market in Jerusalem and the wonderful smell of fresh

fruit and vegetables in the many open air markets in Israel.

When using your sense of taste, you will experience the unique taste of St. Peter's fish from the Sea of Galilee, the taste of the excellent wines from the numerous vineyards found throughout Israel, and the taste of ethnic foods found in magnificent village restaurants; peppery Yemenite soups, hearty Moroccan tagines enlivened with harissa, and goat's milk yogurt cheese sprinkled with za'atar, an intoxicating spice blend of hyssop, sumac and sesame seeds.

By using your sense of hearing you can experience the unique sound of Jerusalem: the combination of church bells, Jewish prayers and the sound of the muezzin calling the Muslims to their daily prayers. You will hear the thrilling sound of the shofar at the Western Wall, and sounds of praying. You will also experience the fascinating mixture that is modern Israeli music: a new combination of oriental music, rap and hip hop. When you want some peace and quiet you will be able to listen to the sound of the waves at sunset at one of the many pretty beaches along the Israeli coast.

By exploring with your sense of touch, you can experience history dating back for thousands of years, through the touching of columns of synagogues, basilicas, and mosques, sculptures found at various museums, and the mud of the Dead Sea.



We can make all of this possible.

Israel 4 All (www.israel4all.com) is based in Israel and its founder is Eli Meiri. He has more than 15 years of experience developing various services for individuals

with special needs, including the job of an executive director in several rehabilitation centers that specialize in working with people with mobility, senses, and emotional disabilities. In addition, Eli is also a licensed travel agent.

Mark Reitkopp is responsible for incoming tourism. Mark is originally from the United States and has lived in Israel since 1985. He has many years of experience in the travel industry and is a licensed tour guide and a licensed travel agent specializing in accessible tourism.

If you are hearing impaired we will supply you with various types of equipment in order to make your visit accessible. In hotels we use auxiliary equipment such as flashing lamps, bed shakers, vibrating pagers, and audio alarms or similar systems, to announce different activities. You will be accompanied by sign language interpreters on your tours.

If you are using a wheelchair, we will put together tours that are wheelchair accessible. We will personally check your lodgings to assure their accessibility. You will have the use of private vehicles, accessible buses, and accessible vans all with lifts. In addition, our selected tour guides are especially trained to work with people with all types of disabilities.

We have the experience for those who need that little extra attention, and we firmly believe that everyone can visit Israel.

New European Polling Shows Huge Drop in Support for Palestinians Hamas Rated as Overwhelmingly Negative

New public opinion surveys conducted among opinion elites in Europe show that support for the Palestinians has dropped dramatically, according to leading international pollster Stan Greenberg, Ph.D.

Greenberg, who served as a key strategist for former President Bill Clinton, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, conducted the surveys in France and Germany on behalf of The Israel Project.

In comparison with similar research conducted at the end of 2002, French attitudes have undergone profound changes. Three years ago, nearly half (47 percent) of the French respondents sided with the Palestinians in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The current poll shows support for the Palestinians has dropped by over half, to 21 percent, among those who did express a preference. The difference in support has moved to the categories of "don't support either side" or "support both sides equally."

Greenberg believes the change was caused by a paradigm shift of the frame through which the French view the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "Three years ago, Europeans viewed the conflict in a post-colonial framework," said Greenberg, adding, "Previously, there was a sense that Europe could cancel out its own colonial history by taking the 'right' side by supporting the Palestinians. The leader of the Palestinians, Yasser Arafat, was viewed as an anti-colonial, liberation leader."

"The shift has occurred because today the Europeans are focused on radical Islam and its impact on them," he said. "The Europeans are now asking themselves 'who is the moderate in this conflict, and who is the extremist?'" France, with the largest Muslim population in Europe - the vast majority of whom are Arab Muslims - is the place where this view has been pushed into greatest focus. The election of the extremist terror group, Hamas, as the leader of the Palestinians has reinforced the perception among the French.

The polls also showed both the French and the Germans have an overwhelmingly negative view of Hamas. When asked to rate their feelings on a scale of 0 to 100, where zero meant very cold/ unfavorable and 100 meant very warm/favorable, Hamas was rated negatively by a wide majority of opinion elites in both countries. In France, Hamas received a cold/unfavorable rating from 65 percent of elites while they received a warm rating from just 3 percent and an average or mean rating of 28.3 percent. In Germany, Hamas was rated negatively by 61 percent and received a positive rating from only 3 percent with an average or mean rating of 24.9 percent. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas also was seen in a very negative light, though not at the same levels as Hamas.

For the purposes of the polls, opinion elites are defined as those with a high level of education and who closely follow the news, especially foreign affairs. The surveys were conducted from May 10 to June 1 and include 400 elites in France and Germany. The margin of error of error is +/- 4.9 percent. In Germany, 1,200 respondents were contacted overall, with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percent. The French survey includes 1,385 interviews overall with a margin of error of +/- 2.6 %. The 2002 survey, conducted in November and December of that year, included 900 opinion elites and the margin of error is +/- 3.27 percent.

The Israel Project's Jerusalem Media Resource Center provides journalists, leaders and opinion-makers accurate information about Israel.

1) Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred, the higher the number the more favorable your feelings are toward that person or organization. If you have no opinion or have never heard of that person or organization, please say so.

	% Mean	% Warm	% Cool	% ID
Hamas				
Total France	23.1	3	55	72
France Opinion Formers	28.3	3	65	88
Germany Opinion Formers	24.9	3	61	82
Total Germany	22.9	4	57	73
Mahmoud Abbas				
Total France	34.5	7	30	54
France Opinion Formers	41.0	11	36	72
Germany Opinion Formers	42.4	9	27	65
Total Germany	41.7	8	21	47

2) Now, for something a little different. Thinking about the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in the Middle East, please tell me whether, in general, you consider yourself to be a strong supporter of Israel, a supporter of Israel, a supporter of the Palestinians or a strong supporter of the Palestinians.

	France Opin	Grmny Opin	France Opin '02
A strong supporter of Israel	-	3	2
A supporter of Israel	4	19	10
A supporter of the Palestinians	19	19	41
A strong supporter of the Palestinians	2	2	6
(Don't support either side)	47	27	19
(Support both sides equally)	24	27	17
(Don't know/refused)	4	2	-
Total Support Israel	4	22	12
Total Support Palestinians	21	21	47

3) In the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, do you think that (France/Germany) should take Israel's side, take the Palestinians' side, or not take either side?

	France Opin	Grmny Opin	France Opin '02
Should take Israel's side	2	11	4
Should take the Palestinians' side	8	8	35
Should not take either side	83	77	48
(Don't know/refused)	6	4	12

The Israel Project is an international non-profit organization devoted to educating the press and the public about Israel while promoting security, freedom and peace. The Israel Project provides journalists, leaders and opinion-makers accurate information about Israel.

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Amalia Sarah Berger	Rebecca Ariel Jonas	Eric Reuben Schuman	Binghamton University	University of the Arts
Ross Kyle Berkowitz	Monica Nicole Kamen	Adam Edward Shapiro	Boston University	University of Maryland
Ira Resnick Blum	Max Evan Kaplan	Jennifer Stefanee Shawe	Brandeis University	University of Massachusetts
Daniel Aaron Boyette	Sara Tova Kaplan	Mira Batya Shore	Carnegie Mellon	University of Pennsylvania
Jacob Michael Carpey	Daniel Gilbert Klausner	Alexander Shoulson	Columbia University	University of Pittsburgh
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Jessica Tan Drake	Adam Ross Klazmer	Talia Eve Stein	Cornell University	Vassar College
Amanda Michelle Dworkin	Meredith Ann Klein	Bruce Elliot Strong	Drew University	Wesleyan University
Justin Scott Finkelstein	Alexis Page Kushner	Nomi Clara Teutsch	Franklin and Marshall College	
Rachael Brent Foster	Arielle Nicole Manstein	Alana Miriam Tilman	George Washington University	Israel Programs:
Aaron Donald Frait	Andrew David Markowitz	Jonathan Joseph Turner	Hamilton College	Bar Ilan University
Becky Sara Friedman	Leah Sarah Meadvin	Robin Meryl Wasserman	Harvard University	Hebrew University Summer
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Joshua Aaron Goldstein	Rebecca Lauren Orel	Kimberly Ore Wexler	Muhlenberg College	Raphael Reconati
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			Princeton University	Tel Aviv University
			Rutgers University	Ulpan
			Sarah Lawrence College	Yeshivat Sha'arei Mevaseret Zion
			Skidmore College	Young Judea
				Young Judea Shalem

MILESTONES In Memoriam

ENGELMANN

Shirley J. Engelmann, 81, of Martins Run, died Thursday, May 25, 2006.

The widow of Howard Engelmann, she received her BA from Hunter College and Masters from Columbia University Teachers College.

She is survived by her daughter, Patricia Engelmann (Brian Brankin) of Villa Park, IL; son, Glenn Englemann (Michelle) of West Chester, PA; and grandchildren, Brendan Brankin; Rachel, Jason, and Harris Engelmann.

A graveside service was held on May 28, 2006 in Beth Israel Cemetery, U.S. Hwy. 1, Woodbridge, NJ.

The family would appreciate memorial contributions to either, Jewish Family Services of Delaware, 99 Passmore Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803; or Martins Run Senior Residential Community, 1 Martins Run, Media, PA 19063

EPSTEIN

Alice Epstein, died peacefully at home on Saturday, June 3, 2006.

She was born on June 25, 1931 in New York City, NY and was a life-long advocate for children's education. Her passion was to spread a love of reading among low-income families. She was a teacher, and later a reading specialist, in a number of Wilmington-area elementary schools. As part of her work there, she created a parent education course called "Parents As Tutors" to strengthen parents' ability to teach reading skills to their school-age children.

After her retirement from the Brandywine School System, Alice taught prospective teachers as an Adjunct Professor at the University

of Delaware. She worked with local schools and residents as a reading consultant. She also established a fund for children and youth at the Delaware Community Foundation. For the past 14 years, Alice was a volunteer and site leader with Read-Aloud Delaware, reading with parents and children at the Wilmington Hospital Pediatric and OB/GYN Clinics. Alice was a graduate of Simmons College and the Harvard School of Education. Alice was a loving wife, sister, mother and grandmother.

She will be remembered by all who loved her for her integrity, humanity, civility, creativity, gallantry, humility and perseverance. Survivors include Bennett, her husband of over 50 years; her sister, Ruth; her children, David, Steven and Eric; and her grandchildren, Rebecca, Sarah and Hannah, all of whom asked family and friends who visited during Shiva at the Epstein residence to take home care packages of the bumper crop of strawberries, cherries, lettuce, and peas currently being produced in Alice's beloved garden.

A funeral service was held at Cong. Beth Emeth, Wilmington on Monday, June 5. Interment was in Sharon Gardens Cemetery in Valhalla, NY.

Contributions in memory of Alice may be made to Read-Aloud Delaware, PO Box 25249, Wilmington, DE 19899.

SCHWARTZ

Ruth Ann Schwartz, 91, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, May 29, 2006, surrounded by family.

A native of Philadelphia PA, she spent most of her life in Atlantic City, NJ. She attended Atlantic City High School and went to work at D.

Kaltman & Co and later, for the City of Atlantic City in the Violations Department. She retired in 1995 and moved to Delaware in 2004 to be with her family. She belonged to Pythian's Women's Auxiliary and was active in the Ventnor Senior Center.

The family matriarch, she was loved and respected by all.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 27 years, Isadore Schwartz and is survived by her son, Michael S. Schwartz and his wife, Betsy, with whom she lived in New Castle; five grandchildren, M. Isadore Schwartz of Exton, PA and his friend, Sharon Davis, of Wilmington, Deborah and Vincener Saragino of New Castle, Ilana and Ardell Wright of Bear, Kathleen Bosler and her fiancé, Marc Hannum, of Middletown, Albert Bosler and his fiancé, Holly Oboryshko of Wilmington; 13 great grandchildren, Avram, Sierra, Mackenzie, Dominic, Olivia, Grant, Trayton, Elijah, Izaiah, Taylor, Donovan, Trevor, and Gianna; and also our very special friend, Anita Cohen, of Ventnor, NJ.

Funeral services were held on June 1, 2006 at SCHOENBERG MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 519 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, DE, followed by a gravesite service in Cardiff NJ.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Compassionate Care Hospice, 5610 Kirkwood Hwy., Wilmington, DE 19808, whose care and love were immensely appreciated, and Temple Beth Shalom, 1801 Baynard Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802.

SILNUTZER

Ethel Ferber Silnutzer, died June 5, 2006 at the Kutz Home, just six weeks shy of her 100th birthday.

A native of Monticello, New York, she traveled to New York City after graduation to work in a bakery. To know her was to love her.

There, she met her beshert, Louis Ferber, who had just returned from Paris, where he trained to become a jeweler. The couple married and moved to Wilmington in 1935. Together, they operated a jewelry store on West Second Street. Ethel worked with him until the day he died, stringing beads, pearls and crystals. She strung beads until she was 90 years old and passed on the skill to her only child, Florence.

When Ethel was 63, she met

Meyer Silnutzer from NJ, a kind and loving man who became her second husband. They enjoyed 19 wonderful years together and were embraced by the entire Silnutzer family.

Ethel Ferber Silnutzer, a true woman of valor, will be missed by her daughter, Florence Green and her husband, Alfred. Also surviving are her devoted grandchildren, Penny, Karen and Andrew, and their mates, Teresa and Linda; and her great grandchildren, Alexander, Lezlie, Elana, Zoe and Bianca. She is also survived by the Silnutzer family: daughter-in-law, Selma, and her children, Bonnie, Janet, and her

husband, Michael, Randy, and her husband, Roger; and another granddaughter, Eleanor, in Atlanta, GA.

The family wishes to thank the Kutz Home Nursing Home family for their constant care and compassion.

The funeral service was held on Wednesday, June 7, 2006, at Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington with interment in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Rd.

The family would appreciate memorial contributions to the Kutz Home, 704 River Rd., Wilmington, DE 19809.



*The Officers, Board of Directors
and Staff of the Jewish Federation
of Delaware mourn the passing of*

Alice Epstein

*An educator who shared her passion for
reading with community youth*

Alice left this earth on June 3, 2006

May the memories of her kindness,

integrity and humanity bring comfort to

her husband, Bennett, her children,

grandchildren and the many family and

friends who loved her

NACHAS NOOK

Wishkoff training for child advocacy

Ari Ross Wishkoff, son of Joan Kaye and Harvey L. Wishkoff, is embarking on a new career challenge. After several successful years on Broadway, he is setting his sites on entering the field of child advocacy.

Ari recently completed his first year of law school at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is the recipient of a grant from the University's Center for Family Law.

He will work this summer for the office of an Attorney General.

Ari Ross Wishkoff



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COMING EVENTS

Israeli Dancing spells summer fun-Israeli dancing continues twice a month in the Wilmington area, at the Arden Gild Hall through the Arden Folk Dance Guild.

Second Sunday afternoon dates 3-5 p.m. are: June 11 and July 9 (no August date). The last Wednesday of each month Israeli dancing is from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. on: June 28, July 26, and August 30. There will also be an Israeli dancing session at the Arden Fair on September 2.

For further information, please contact Elaine Schmerling at (302) 475-3708.

Congregation Beth Shalom invites you to participate in a camping weekend. Join Beth Shalom for "Shabbat in the Forest" June 16-18 at Belleplain State Forest in Woodbine, New Jersey. The weekend will include Shabbat services, led by Rabbi Michael Beals, nature walks, pot-luck dinners, a campfire/kumsitz, and plenty of time to enjoy swimming, boating, and hiking in the park. Campsites, which can accommodate two tents and two cars, are \$20/night, and yurts (large screened tents with wooden floors and two sets of bunk beds) are \$30/night. Two breakfasts and one lunch will be provided by Beth Shalom for an additional \$9/person. Contact Dina Lipschutz (762-

4341 or dina.lip@verizon.net) or Roland Roth (654-4462 or education@bethshalomwilmington.org) for information or to register.

Melton Offers Early Registration Discount-Registration is now open for the Florence Melton Adult Mini School 2006/07. Beginning on September 20, 2006, classes will be offered at the Siegel JCC on Wednesdays 9:15-11:30am and Thursdays 7 - 9:15 pm., and at Beth El in Newark on Wednesdays 1-3:15 pm.

Melton is a two-year curriculum meeting 2 hours per week for 30 weeks each year. The curriculum was developed by a team of scholars and educators at the Melton Center for Jewish Education at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The cost is \$450 per year plus a small materials fee. REGISTER BY JUNE 30TH AND SAVE 10%.

Contact Melton Director, Lynda Bell, at the Siegel JCC 302-478-5660 or email lyndabell@siegeljcc.org

AKSE NEWS NOTES-Come support Cantor Joel as he once again sings the National Anthem for our own Wilmington Blue Rocks, June 22nd at 7:00 PM. (Cap Day!) Tickets are \$9.00 and are available by calling AKSE at 762-2705 by May 22nd.

Join the many people who are

now enjoying the great Kosher fresh fish from Dawson's Sea Food of Wilmington. If you would like to receive a weekly notice by E-mail of what Kosher fresh fish is available and prices, please send a note to Cantor Joel at jkessler48@comcast.net.

AKSE History Is Ongoing Project-The Historical Committee of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth is looking for information to further update the history of AKSE. "We will be keeping a current record for the future of our congregation as well", stated Barbara S. Keil, Historian for AKSE.

If you have any information about, or memorabilia from past years, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Information for the Historical Committee can be left at the synagogue office for the committee, or mailed to Adas Kodech Shel Emeth Congregation, Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802.

12 Friends Needed by JFS!-To share volunteer hours each month on an ongoing basis. Basic office responsibilities and tasks as assigned. Any assistance is appreciated - no experience necessary! Please call Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Driban today at (302) 478-9411 for further details.

The Jewish War Veterans of

Delaware need new members, young or old and patrons. It is extremely important that this Jewish Organization continue. Please call Len Markovitz at 302-234-4785 or Milt Slovin 302-478-4888. You do not have to be a veteran to join.

Aligning Your Desires- a unique weekend for Jewish couples, will take place at Elat Chayyim Retreat Center in New York's Catskill Mountains, July 7-9. The weekend is designed for married or committed couples who seek more connection, passion, and meaning in their relationships within a Jewish framework. Workshops will be led by Rosalie and Efraim Eisen, the founders of Basherte, Inc™, and have presented more than 150 programs for Jewish adults throughout the US, Canada, and Israel. Rates vary depending on accommodations, and include gourmet, kosher meals. Pre-registration for the weekend is required.

Information/Registration: (800) 398-2630. info@elatchayyim.org. info@basherte.org

JFS SPONSORS INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

THE HEALING CIRCLE workshops - Led by Rabbi Michael Beals in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center of JFS will be briefly postponed while new dates and times

are scheduled. If you are interested in attending future Healing Circle programs, please contact Lisa Driban at JFS at 302-478-9411, ext. 21.

Bereavement Group-free and open to the community. Group meets the first and third Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center. JFS staff leader on the first Thursday, on the third Thursday, Rabbi Sanford Dresin of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth will lead the program accompanied by a JFS staff member. Call 302-478-9411 to register.

Women in Transition Group - \$20/session or \$75 for entire program. This Discussion group is open to women of any age who are contemplating or experiencing changes & choices in their lives. Join JFS staff member Nona Smolko, LCSW on Wednesdays, 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Health Center. Call 302-478-9411 to register.

Computer Maven Workshop- This program is open to older adults in the community teaches basic computer skills such as e-mail and how to surf "the Net" (Internet). Cost: \$25/JCC members, \$35/non-members. For more information, contact Scott Michels at 302-478-9411, ext. 18.

Jewish Voice editorial chair receives honor

At the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School International Alumni Association Retreat held in Boca Raton, FL, a special presentation was made to Marion Hamermesh for her pioneering work in starting this International Alumni Association and for her leadership and years of excellent service and commitment to adult learning. Marion served as the first Director of the Melton School in Delaware from 2001 - 2005.

In addition to her initiative with respect to the International Alumni Association, most importantly Marion laid the groundwork for the local Alumni Association in Wilmington. Florence Melton, founder and visionary of the Mini-School, Dr. Jonathan Mirvis, International Director, and Dr. Betsy Katz, Director of the North American office, presented her with a certificate and with The Historical Atlas of the Jewish People, edited by Eli Barnavi, in recognition of her achievements.



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 JUNE 23RD - 8:16 PM
 JUNE 30TH - 8:16 PM

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