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ISRAELI OFFICIALS PLEASED WITH HAMAS ELECTIONS DEFEAT

By Dan Baron

The results of local elections in the West Bank suggest that mainstream support for Hamas and kindred groups like Islamic Jihad may not be as widespread among Palestinians as Israel and the West fear.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah factions took 51 of 104 municipalities, and Hamas lagged with 13, according to results released over the weekend. The other municipalities were split among smaller and independent factions. Hamas blamed Israeli arrest sweeps in the West Bank which whittled down its list of candidates, but the charge was not echoed by Abbas, who praised the local polls as a fair reflection of the Palestinian mood.

Another indicator was a finding by the well-regarded Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research that, while 84 percent of Palestinians view Israel's recent withdrawal from the Gaza Strip as a triumph for the violence of Hamas and other terrorist groups, 62 percent are opposed to continued attacks from the territory.

Israel's justice minister expressed hope that mainstream Paletinians' appreciation of the relative quiet will translate into a desire for permanent stability as a democratic state.

"They cannot create a situation where Hamas uses the democratic process to take control," Tzipi Livni told Israel Radio. "It seems that this is being understood."

Israel appears to be taking a waitand-see attitude on Hamas, the dominant Palestinian terrorist group.

The key question is whether the Palestinian Authority will go ahead with a plan to allow Hamas to run in parliamentary elections in January. Israel has hinted this could kill off the peace process.

"We have made it clear that Israel sees danger from the participation and presence of Hamas in the elections. This step is contrary to the road map and the understandings with the Palestinians," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his Cabinet on Sunday.

"We have said this participation in the elections can only happen after Hamas renounces terror, dismantles its weapons and weapon



Mahmoud Abbas with supporters in Jenin in December 2004. Credit: BP Images/JTA

making facilities and give up its call for Israel's destruction."

Israel received a boost from U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who described Hamas as a direct threat to the prospects of the Palestinian Authority.

"Hamas is a terror organization and it has to be disbanded, both for the sake of peace and security in the Middle East and for the sake of the proper functioning of the Palestinian Authority," she said in a recent speech.

Abbas has consistently ducked these demands. When Israel answered Hamas rocket salvoes from Gaza with air and artillery strikes last week, he devoted much of the rhetoric instead to condemning the Israeli "provocation."

Elul goes out with a

La Shana Tova — a phrase shared happily this week as 5766 arrived around the world. Delaware's Jewish community offered an array of pre-holiday programs beginning with pre-Selichot

programs on Saturday night, Sept. 24.

Beth Shalom in Wilmington offered a preSelichot staged reading of the play, "The Gates
Are Closing" written by Merle Feld. Directed by
Rabbi Beals, the play featured 10 community
members reading about the dilemmas, struggles
and personal reflection that accompany many
Jews as the High Holy Days approach.

"It is hoped this presentation will prepare you to get ready for Rosh Hoshanah and Yom Kippur," Rabbi Beals told the large audience in Beth Shalom's sanctuary.

Beth Emeth in Wilmington presented a special speaker and discussion before Selichot, Al Vorspan, nationally known writer and author presented a comically serious talk, "Start Worrying...Details to Follow". Vorspan focused on the leadership provided by Jewish people in humanitarian and social/civil rights struggles throughout history. "The Relief Project of the Union for Reform Judaism is now helping flood victims from a huge warehouse in Utica Mississippi. The effort, called Jacob's Ladder, is distributing supplies sent from congregations around the country. The director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism is Rabbi Marla Feldman, a former JCRC director for Delaware's Jewish Federation," Vorspan told the local audience.

Temple Beth El in Newark dedicated a new



Torah scroll at a joyous celebration on Sunday morning after Selichot. The new Torah was written in Israel and was welcomed to its new home after a happy parade on the grounds of the Temple.

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth in Wilmington had a special "Visitors to Israel" panel on Sunday morning after Selichot. Three congregants shared their impressions about their recent Israel visits.

David Zussman mentioned his high point was hiking sea to sea — from The Kinneret to The Mediterranean. "It's important for Americans to go to Israel not necessarily to live, but by visiting, we learn how to live better here Jewishly," remarked the Concord High School student.

Howard Cohen had volunteered in Delaware's Partnership 2000 community of Arad. The retired banker helped students with their English at the ORT-Arad High School. "The experience was transforming," he said and shared tales of exploring the country when his volunteer work was done. He attended a victorious soccer match where Israel beat Ireland. He was able to get tickets, and blended in with the Ramat Gam stadium crowd; his own face painted blue and white

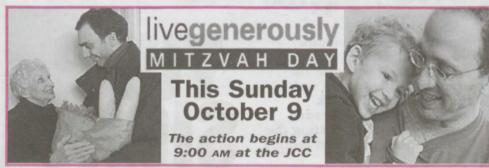
Iris Tocker was a first time Israel visitor and volunteer in Arad. "I had never been away from my family for more than one night before but felt completely safe and confident after one day in Arad," Tocker told the audience. She worked in a senior center where sculpture, knitting and conversational English were some of the activities that kept her busy. "The Israelis are full of passion about their country and I was overwhelmed by the beauty in the Arad/Dead Sea area," she shared.

Rabbi Sanford Dresin shared some observations from his recent trip. "I felt privileged to have spent time with some Ethiopian immigrants who eagerly have been learning Talmud," the veteran visitor to Israel said. As part of "Operation Promise", the JFD will be raising funds to support programs that help new immigrants from Ethiopia.

Idan Kligerman who recently began a 6-month stay in Delaware as Shlichut, (young emissary from Israel), was happy to hear about Delawareans' positive remarks about his home Arad and Israel. "The presentations I heard here this morning in Wilmington were interesting for me, even though I have lived my whole life in Israel," commented Delaware's new temporary resident.

For information about Partnership 2000 volunteer opportunities, Operation Promise and help for Ethiopian absorption programs, or to inquire about the community's Shlichut's activities, contact the Jewish Federation office at 427-2100.

Story and photos by Joel F. Glazier



INSIDE THE VOICE

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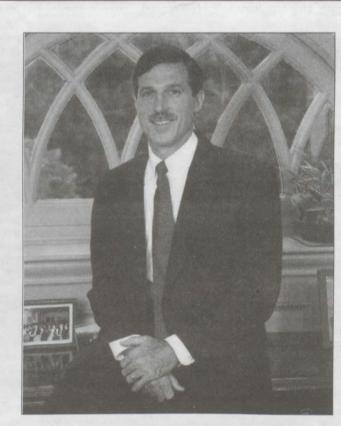


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FEDERATION FOCUS

As the Shofar sounds ...



Samuel H. Asher Executive Vice President

Parsha Nitzavimn Vayelech, read around the High Holidays, is a very important part of the Tanach. Its message is that, as Jews, we have free will. We can elect to do good or do evil. Simply put, we can choose life or death. The full verse of Deuteronomy 30:19 reads: "See,

I set before you this day life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life – that you may live, you and your offspring."

It is my great pleasure to be surrounded by friends and colleagues in our Delaware Jewish community who choose to do good and choose life for others all of the time.

As we enter into 5766, we are doing good work. We are choosing life for our community and for Jews around the world. As we continue to do good work in our community, we only have to look around us to take pride. Come take a look at the JCC's new early child hood wing, JFS's new offices and the JCC's new Pincus/Grant Fitness Center on the Weinberg campus and see how our agencies are improving. Yasher Koach to Richard Stat and the Building Committee for continuing to do good work in 5766.

Kudos to the Albert Einstein Academy, Gratz Hebrew High School and the JCC as they operate their agencies while undergoing the renovations of stage II of the Capital Campaign.

The Boards of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School are moving forward under the guidance of the Jewish Education Services of North America. We have received notice that the report being prepared by JESNA will be completed after Yom Kippur and we will have the benefit of that study to help us plan for the coming years.

In 5765 we launched Operation Promise, both a continuation and an expansion of our extraordinary efforts to sustain, support and uplift two population groups who need us-hundreds of thousands of frail elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union and the Ethiopian olimthose who await Aliyah and those who are acclimating to life in Israel. We have pledged \$160 million in new funding over the next three years to provide:

*lifelines to those older adults in the FSU who live in abject poverty.

*Jewish connections for young Jews in the FSU with no roots in Jewish life.

*vital services to maintain the compounds where the Falas Mura await their journey to the Jewish homeland such as assistance with food, rent and healthcare; Hebrew language education and other essential Aliyah readiness programs; and airfare to Israel.

*expansion of the absorption centers in Israel to accommodate those new arrivals.

*enhanced educational opportunities for all Ethiopians to ensure that they make a successful transition to life in Israel.

In the next few days we will hear the sound of the Shofar. It is our clarion call, as individual Jews and as a Jewish community, to recommit ourselves to our future. It is our call to action to develop and implement the 'ever-revitalization' of our Jewish community.

The sound of the Shofar can mean different

things to different people. It may inspire those who have let their synagogue or Jewish Community Center memberships lapse to rejoin. Others may elect to increase their charitable giving to the Jewish Federation's annual campaign, or create a lasting legacy in the Jewish Fund for the Future or contribute to Operation Promise. Some can seek out adult Jewish educational opportunities offered by the Florence Melton Adult mini-school or area synagogues. Others might be moved to visit Israel, perhaps on a Jewish Federation mission (one is being planned for the Fall of 2006.) Some can consider giving their children the benefit of a quality Jewish day school education by enrolling them in the Albert Einstein Academy. Others can resolve to lobby our elected officials on issues important to Israel. All are valid. None are mutually exclusive.

The Psalmist wrote that "happy are the people who listen to the sound of the Shofar, for they walk in the light of G-d's presence." So this year when we listen to the Shofar's call, let it inspire us, as it has for generations before us and hopefully for generations to come, to be an active part of the continuing renaissance of Jewish life.

In 5766 may all of us be inscribed in the Book of Life for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year and continue to do the good work of our Jewish Federation and its beneficiary agencies.

Shana Tova everyone

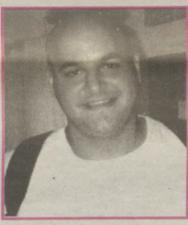
By Idan Kligerman

For those of who don't know me yet, my name is IDAN KLIGERMAN and I am the new shallach from ARAD, ISRAEL, which is the partnership city of Delaware.

This past year was a very hectic time (as always) for Israel. In 5765 our Jewish homeland faced one of its biggest decisions to disengage from the West Bank and Gaza.

There wasn't a house that didn't have a debate about the disengagement plan. This pullout put the Israeli society to a test, but in the end everybody came together despite conflicts.

I can truly say that the people of Israel emerged stronger from this situation simply because we needed to face ourselves and pull together as a nation. Israeli society



Idan Kligerman

is now reconnecting and hugging the people who pulled out. No matter where we are on the political map, Israelis must rally to help one another. I find this attitude very similar to the way that Americans have pulled together to help those effected by the recent hurricanes. I think it's amazing that the American Jewish communities are taking a big part in rallying support.

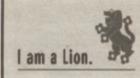
As the New Year unfolds, our beautiful country, Israel is starting to pick up in its economy, boosting and security. We have a long way to go, but we know that we are on the right path.

I am so happy to be here in Delaware, USA and on behalf of Delaware's Partnership 2000 community of ARAD-TAMAR, I want to wish you shana tova. We are working now on activities for all age groups, and I have already been involved with programs at Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, Hillel at the University of Delaware and Albert Einstein Academy, and I've

only been in Wilmington three weeks!

Idan Kligerman is Delaware's first Shaliach or Young Emissary in over twenty years. Support for the Young Emissary program in Delaware comes from the Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, Partnership 2000 and Matt Slap Subaru. Idan Kligerman will be here

for six months promoting Israel and strengthening the bond between Israel and Delaware. He is fluent in Hebrew and English, and will be offering Hebrew Conversation "coffee talks" while in Wilmington. If you are interested in learning Hebrew or speak Hebrew and want to practice, please call Idan at 302-427-2100 ext. 30 or e-mail: Idan@shalomdel.org



Women's Philanthropy ensures the strength of the Jewish community

Pledge to support Jews in need in Israel, Delaware, and over 58 countries around the globe. The Jewish Federation of Delaware Annual Campaign supports a network of agencies providing services to hundreds of thousands of people. To give tzedakah is a mitzvah. Make your voice heard ~ give a gift in your name.

Save the Date for the National Reach for the Ruby Event ~ exclusive Ruby Lion of Judah event at the Four Seasons, Palm Beach on February 27, 2006. Call Jennifer Young at

302-427-2100, ext. 19 for more information,

Chaim Circle

E'Chaim Circle recognizes men and women who have consistently contributed to the Tederation annual campaign for 25 years or more.

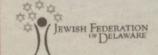
B'Chaim Circle Reception

You're invited to a buffet supper for D'Chaim Circle donors:

In the Sukkah at Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth Washington Blod. & Jorah Drive Wilmington, DE 19802

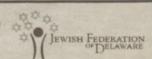
Thursday, October 20, 2005

Kindly RSUP by October 14th to Gina Kozicki at the Jewish Federation of Delaware at (302) 427-2100 ext. 20 or via e-mail gina.kozicki@shalomdel.org



Reception underwritten by the Jewish Fund for the Future, the Jewish community of Delaware endowment fund.

Are you new to the Delaware area Jewish Community?



The Newcomers program is part of the Women's Philanthropy initiative at the Jewish Federation of Delaware in collaboration with over 30 area Jewish organizations. Whether your interests lie in adult educational programs, day schools, or outreach, the Jewish Community of Delaware wants to welcome you and help enhance your awareness and understanding of our Jewish community and Jewish heritage. Visit www.shalomdelaware.org for newcomers information, including event listings on the Community Calendar and community resources.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Women Lead the Way!

"They used to give us a day—it was called International Women's Day. In 1975 they gave us a year, the Year of the Woman. Then from 1975 to 1985 they gave us a decade, the Decade of the Woman. I said at the time, who knows, if we behave they may let us into the whole thing. Well. we didn't behave and here we are."-Bella Abzug

New York's notorious Bella Abzug, our nation's first Jewish Congresswoman, was known for her big hats and even bigger heart. She was a tireless advocate on issues related to feminism, peace, and civil liberties.

Many successful women have stood on the shoulders of Congresswoman Abzug and trailblazers like her. This edition of the Jewish Voice, celebrates the success of women who have achieved notoriety in business, the arts, education, healing professions, business and Jewish communal leadership. We are proud to pay tribute to many of these inspiring individuals in advertisements and articles throughout these

At the Jewish Federation of Delaware, women are well-represented as officers. Suzanne B. Grant does double duty as vice president and as co-chair, along with Robin Saran, of the 2006 Federation Annual Campaign. Connie J. Sugarman, also is hard at work, serving as a JFD vice president and as co-chair of Women's Philanthropy along with Arlene Simon. Allison L. Amorison, Esq. is assistant secretary of the Federation Board. Toni Young is chairperson of the board of the Jewish Fund for the Future and chairperson of Israel Initiatives for United Jewish Communities.

Lelaine Nemser is Delaware chair of Partnership

Many of our Federation beneficiary agencies and Delaware synagogues are fueled by women power. Dorothy Bobman is president of Albert Einstein Academy, Delaware Gratz is doubly blessed by the leadership team of Sharon Rosen as president and Marlene Milunsky as principal, Dory Zatuchni serves as executive director of Jewish Family Services, Karen Friedman helps the Kutz Home run effectively and compassionately as its executive director, and Susan Detwiler serves as executive director of the Kristol Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) at the University of Delaware. Lynda Bell is the new director of the Florence Melton Adult Mini

In our synagogues, Deborah Savitz, Esq., serves as president of Congregation Beth Sholom in Dover and Linda Oster is executive director of Temple Beth El. At Congregation Beth Emeth, Rabbi Sarah Messinger is director of Youth and Family Programming while Gail Weinberg heads up AKSE's Delaware Community Hebrew School.

In this brand new Jewish year may we say Todah Rabah to the many women who have so richly contributed to the fabric of our lives. May they inspire others to follow in their paths.

Lynn B. Edelman

Tynn D. Edelman

Taste of Torah



Rabbi Sanford L. Dresin

THE FALASHA - MURA: MY INSPIRATION FOR 5766 By Rabbi Sanford L. Dresin

It was my privilege a few weeks ago to be part of a rabbinic mission to Israel sponsored by the United Jewish Communities (UJC) and partially subventured by our own Jewish Federation of Delaware. A

prime focus of this whirlwind four day mission was the resettlement in Israel of the Falasha -Mura, Ethiopian Jews, forced over one hundred years ago to convert to Christianity, who had for the most part clung secretly and tenaciously to Judaism, not unlike the Conversos in Spain centuries earlier. The reunification of the Falasha -Mura with their Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel is a prime focus of "Operation Promise" a 160 million dollar stand alone campaign undertaken by the UJC and worked in concert with the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). Over 15,000 Falasha - Mura are now being housed in compounds in Ethiopia where they are fed and clothed and given the opportunity to learn Hebrew and study Torah in preparation for Aliyah. Upon their arrival in Israel, they will reside in absorption centers for up to two years in preparation for their entry into the mainstream.

Perhaps the highlight of my trip, was the opportunity to study Torah B'Chavruta - as a study partner with four Falasha - Mura boys,

ages 12 - 14. Their obvious love of Torah study and joy to be in Israel knew no bounds, so much so that they brought tears to my eyes.

According to Jewish tradition Yom Kippur occurs on the tenth day of Tishrei because on this day Hashem pardoned our ancestors for the sin of the Golden Calf. Beta Yisrael - Ethiopian Jewry has their own tradition as to why Yom Kippur is on the tenth of Tishrei, they believe that precisely on this date Joseph was reunited with his father Jacob after a separation of twenty two years. At the time of this reunion we can only imagine the resentment they may have had for each other. Jacob could not understand why Joseph had failed to let him know that he was still alive especially after he had risen to become the viceroy of Egypt, while at the same time Joseph may have wondered how a man of his father's stature had allowed his family to become so dysfunctional, filled with favoritism, jealousy and animosity. Regardless Jacob and Joseph, father and son, met in heartfelt embrace. This Biblical event therefore serves as both the model and the source of merit for us as we approach our heavenly Parent during this holy season.

May our brothers and sisters among the Falasha - Mura be reconciled with not only Ethiopian Jewry, but with all K'lal Yisrael, the entire nation of Israel and may this season not only be a season of atonement, but also one of Achdut - unity and redemption.

Rabbi Sanford L. Dresin is the Rabbi of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and serves as the President of the Rabbinical Association of

This Week in Jewish History



Celebrate 350 Jewish Life in America october 6, 2003 1654 - 2004

This Week in History" is an introduction to 350 years of American Jewish history, 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

OCTOBER 4, 1976

When she joined the ABC evening news as a co-anchor on October 4, 1976, Barbara Walters became the highest paid journalist, male or female, up to that time.

Shabbat Shalom

Aviel Barclay became the first certified female Torah scribe on October 6, 2003. **OCTOBER 7, 1889**

Driven by the passionate lobbying efforts of activist Annie Nathan Meyer, Barnard College opened it doors in a rented Madison Avenue brownstone on October 7,

OCTOBER 9, 1892

Frances Jacobs, known as Colorado's "Mother of Charity," worked for the creation of a hospital dedicated to the care of tuberculosis sufferers that began construction on October 9, 1892.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hello from Hillel

Hello, I am Johanna Karasik, Jewish Student Life Coordinator at the Kristol Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) at the University of Delaware. I grew up in Colorado and graduated from Colorado State University where I was very active in the Hillel.

During my senior year in college, I decided that I wanted to go into Jewish communal services. I saw the JCSC Fellowship as a stepping stone for such work, as well as just a great job since I was already engaged as the office intern at my own Hillel. The JCSC Fellowship allowed me to do that full-time and have my own budget to do my own programs. Colorado State University Hillel was an integral part of my life- it was there that I received acceptance, encouragement, and a Jewish family. The gifts that I received from my CSU Hillel family only made me realize how much there was to give to other Jewish students, and the JCSC Fellowship was a way for me to make students welcome and interested in Jewish life in a way that was meaningful to them.

I spent the last two years as the JCSC Fellow at Towson University Hillel. There I worked heavily with freshmen-creating, leading, and training a First Year Students at Hillel (FYSH) board each year. I worked with the Office of Diversity Resources and co-facilitated an all-University Diversity Retreat weekend. I co-staffed an amazing Alternative Spring Break to Georgia and Alabama with 8 Jewish students and 8 African-American students to tour Civil Rights history sites and have discussions about issues and similarities among our groups. I took numerous students out for coffee and got to know them on deeper levels. I recruited and sent many on free me at Johanna@udel.edu to learn how you can Taglit-birthright israel trips and witnessed their become involved.

At the end of my two years, I was honored with the Towson University award for Outstanding Advisor - a huge honor considering my counterparts in Student Affairs were some of the brightest, most caring, and friendliest professionals I had ever met. But knowing that a student had written the nomination meant so much more to me than actually winning the award.

Other things: I've written three different articles that have been published (and sometimes picked up by Jewish newspapers across the country) on www.interfaithfamily.com. I also worked as an advisor at BCI this past summer.

I am very excited to be working at the University of Delaware Hillel. I am walking into an active Hillel with a strong relationship with its university. As the new Jewish Student Life Coordinator (JSLC), I plan to continue and expand the innovative social action programming that we are known for. Tzedek ("righteous action") will take a higher prority.

UD Hillel is also known as a place for great social programs and I plan on integrating more interactive, engaging, and Jewish elements into our events including such ideas as a Jewish essay contest and a university-wide talent show. Together, Jodi Roth, our new Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellow, and I are working to make the weekly Shabbat dinners grow in the quality and number of service options, increase in attendance numbers, and include a variety of delicious, unique menus.

Stop in the Hillel offices and say hello or email

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE

for all articles, advertisements and news for The Jewish Voice

ISSUE October 21 FOCUS

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DEADLINE October 13

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e-mail: lynn.edelman@ shalomdel.org

INSIDE DELAWARE

Community can study with Gratz visiting scholar



Rabbi Moriah Simon Hazani

Gratz invites the community to participate in the Delaware Gratz Scholar-In-Residence Program, sponsored by the Margules Family Fund. This year's scholar is Rabbi Moriah Simon Hazani, a doctoral student in rabbinics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Rabbi Hazani was ordained by the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, Israel, where she earned her Masters in Jewish Studies. She did her undergraduate work in Psychology and Bible at Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel.

She has served as an instructor at the Florence Melton Adult Mini School here in Wilmington and has

taught Talmud to rabbinical students at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in suburban Philadelphia. Rabbi Hazani also taught rabbinical students at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, California.

Gratz upperclassmen will explore the Book of Job, Psalms, and Proverbs with Rabbi Hazani and will gain college credits during this second-semester course. Students will pour over these texts to find the answers to such ageless questions as: how do we explain the existence of evil in the world if a single God created the universe? And what is the status of human beings in the universe conferred by their creator?

Class members will read and discuss these themes and discover how Jews have wrestled with these questions through the ages. They will examine the texts and attempt to understand them in their unique context of time and place. Students will be encouraged to probe their personal reactions to these questions through the prism of the texts they have studied and, ultimately, formulate their own answers both individually and as a community.

Adult students will study "Body Image and Judaism: What do our

texts have to say about "Body, Beauty and Brains?"

Adult sessions are scheduled as follows:

January 22 - Body: "In the image of God" imagination and realism in the rabbis' world

Explore the idea of being created in God's image. Discuss the implications of this idea that appears in the Bible and enhance your understanding of both the human image and the image that we have of God. Rabbinic literature will be applied to students' personal lives.

March 5- Beauty: Between ethics and esthetics: beauty and ugliness in the rabbis' world

Study some of the rabbinic stories that deal with beauty, and determine whether the Rabbis had a different view on beauty than our own. The main question to be addressed is whether or not we can talk about "ideal beauty."

April 30 - Brains: The story of Bruriah. A woman in the world of men

Examine the story of Bruriah and gain appreciation of the place of a very intelligent woman in a man's world....a world of study.

Contact Delaware Gratz to register at 478-8100 or gratz@delaware gratz.org.

A special place for freshmen

The first week of college can be overwhelming for new students, but The Kristol Center for Jewish Life at the University of Delaware (Hillel) has helped make the transition easier with its Freshmen Fest programming. Small groups of incoming Jewish students have the opportunity to get to know their new surroundings in a warm, intimate environment.

"They get to meet their new best friends," said Susan Detwiler, the executive director of Hillel at the University of Delaware. "In the past, we've walked around campus and seen three girls joined at the hip because they met at Freshman Fest."

In its third year of existence, UD Hillel's Freshmen Fest program has grown exponentially, from 50 partici-

pants at the first Freshman Fest in 2003 to 150 who attended this year's event in August. Perhaps more impressive, according to Detwiler, was the number of returning students who applied to be Freshman Fest facilitators – 58 students for 25 slots.

The two-day event began with early move-in privileges at the university dorms and included icebreakers, a sleepover at a vacant store on Main Street owned by UD Hillel supporter Richard Handloff, a tzedek (social justice) program, campus tours, a Jewish activities fair and barbecue and a special Shabbat complete with services, dinner and a performance by an a cappella group.

"....We're trying to bring all the Jewish groups and departments together. We're building klal Yisrael (Jewish community) on campus," Detwiler said."



JCC to host annual Jewish women's gathering

The Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center will host the Eleventh Annual Jewish Women's Gathering on Monday, November 21, 2005 at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation. There will be an organization information session held at 6:45 p.m., followed by a dairy buffet dinner and the program at 7:00 p.m.

This year's Jewish Women's Gathering will feature entertainment by MIRAJ, a fabulous female

musical group who writes and sings a capella music for Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh and other sacred times. MIRAJ is a blending of harmony and a weaving of friendships. MIRAJ offers songs for new liturgy, for meditation, for fun.

The cost for the buffet dinner and program is \$15 per person or you can become an event patron at the cost of \$25 per person. Registration received after November 14th is subject to space availability and the cost is \$20 per person.

This program is being co-sponsored by Adas Kodesch



Shel Emeth Congregation, Albert Einstein Academy, Congregation Beth Emeth, Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center, Congregation Beth Shalom, Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, Hadassah, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Federation of Delaware, Kristol Center for Jewish Life at U of D (Hillel), Milton & Hattie Kutz Home, National Council of Jewish Women, Temple Beth El, Women's American ORT

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

BBYO Corner - Youth lead the way

By Lynn Gold

Special to the Jewish Voice

BBYO is the largest, Jewish youth-led organization in the world, spanning 39 regions and 15,000 members. There are two separate organizations in BBYO: B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG) and Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA). The Wilmington Chapter of BBG is Tikvah BBG #1561, and the Wilmington Chapter of AZA is Brian L. Dombchik AZA #164.

Both of these chapters have an executive board that makes decisions on many topics, leads board meetings, arranges chapter meetings, recruits, and plans programming. The chapter officers are as follows:

Sam Diamond- N'siah (BBG President)

Alex Resch - Godol (AZA President) Kaila Rovine- S'ganit (BBG Vice-President)

Jake Samuels - S'gan (AZA Vice-President) Laura Davis - Morah (BBG Mem-

bership Coordinator)
Dave Meluskey - Moreh (AZA

Membership Coordinator)
Lynn Gold - Mazkirah (BBG Secretary)

Eran Preble - Mazkir (AZA Secretary)

Ilana Mintz - Sh'licha (BBG in Charge of Judaism) Dan Russakow - Shaliach (AZA in

Charge of Judaism)
Ross Rudnitsky - Gizbor (AZA in Charge of Fundraising)

The Wilmington BBG and AZA Boards recently went to the Regional Leadership Training Institute (RLTI). RLTI is only open to chapter board

members and those who are interested in running for regional chairs. Those who attended enjoyed workshops on programming, calendaring, and fundraising. There was also a special seminar entitled "Who Moved My Cheese?" to teach board members to deal with change.

On September 4, 2005, Wilmington BBYO held a very successful car wash. We washed over 100 cars to raise around \$700. One third of this went to the Hurricane Katrina Victims. We will be doing another car wash during the Spring.

There is an upcoming event that Wilmington will be attending, In-Training Convention (IT). IT is a convention only for new members so that they can meet people, get a feel for what BBYO is, and better understand what a convention is. IT Convention is from October 21-23. We have a few people that are going, but we are hoping for more.

One of the most important things going on in Wilmington is the planning of Kickoff. Kickoff is a regional convention that happens on November 18-20 of this year. Wilmington is currently looking for any help with housing or donations that you can offer. If you are interested, please call Sam Diamond at 302-479-9876 or Alex Resch at 302-475-4606.

If you know anyone in grades 9-12 that would be interested in joining AZA or BBG, please call Laura Davis at 302-897-7354 or Dave Meluskey at 302-479-5421.

BBYO Corner, written by members of this youth organization, will appear monthly in the Jewish Voice.

Melton Adult Mini-School welcomes new director

By Lelaine Nemser Special to the Jewish Voice

The Melton Adult Mini-School opened for the fifth year of operation with fifty-five students, and a new director, Lynda Bell of Kemblesville, PA. Prior to joining Melton, Lynda was the Program Director at the Jewish Community Center in Newark. After the first 2 weeks of Melton classes, Lynda offered these words:

am very excited to be part of the Melton experience at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel JCC. 1 am impressed by the second year and graduate students' passion for the Melton program. We have a wonderful first year class that will continue that passion and spread the word about Melton



to others. Also I am greatly appreciative to our own Melton committee and the Melton staff in Chicago and Israel for their guidance and support. Every Wednesday morning the Florence Melton adult Mini-School in Wilmington takes on an energy of it's own with terrific teachers, laughter and discussion in all the classrooms. It is exciting for me to be part of this."

Sara Cohen, an instructor on the faculty, is also a new member of the Melton family. Although she is originally from New Jersey, Sara has lived in Israel for many years. Her professional position in Israel has been as the Director of the Keren Kolot Jewish Studies Institute and Educational Tourism. She lives in Kibbutz Keturah in the south of Israel. She will be returning there when she finishes her year in the United States. Sara is currently teaching Ethics to the second year students at Melton. As she began her year, she commented that she "hopes to challenge my students to think critically about Jewish texts and ideas as a way (of) deepening and strengthening their connection to Judaism."

Returning faculty include Rabbi Yitzhak Nates. Rabbi Nates teaches both first year and second year

Continued on page 11

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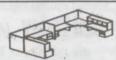
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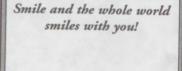
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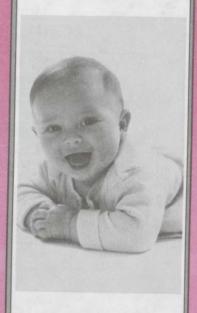
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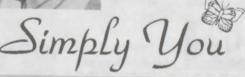
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Ellen S. Meyer has been engaged in the practice of law for the past 20 years. She concentrates in Family Law, with an emphasis on adoption. Ellen is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA) which requires attorneys to achieve expertise in the field of adoption law before they are invited to join. She has been an AAAA member since 1994.

For the past 20 years, she has been a Commissioner on the Family Law Commission of the State of Delaware, by appointment of the General Assembly.

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Elisa Komins Morris grew up in Wilmington. She moved to Washington, DC to attend college and remained there to establish her own business as a freelance photographer concentrating in political, public relations and event photography. Some of her clients include Vice President and Mrs. Gore, Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, and The First Ladies Gala Committee to name a few. Since moving back to Wilmington in 1997, Elisa has specialized in family and children's portraits and event photography.

Elisa has been recognized by Winning the

Elisa has been recognized by Winning the 1989 Kodak Professional Scholarship and honorable mention in the Wedding and Portrait Photographers International 1999 photo competition, and inclusion in the 2000-2001 Who's Who in American Businesses and Executives among many others. Elisa exhibits perhaps Wilmington's finest exhibit of celebrity, event, children's and artistic portraits in her studio at 804 Market Street.

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For the past 20 years, she had been a Commissioner on the Family Law Commission of the State of Delaware, by appointment of the General Assembly.

Judy Levy and Eileen Schwartz

Judy Levy and Eileen Schwartz have worked side by side for almost 17 years. They were the first Real Estate partnership in the state of Delaware. Both are members of Congregation Beth Shalom, Wilmington. Judy is a past president of the JCC. Judy's brother, Philip Epstein, became their 3rd partner 7 years ago when he joined their successful association to head up the new construction division. Judy and Eileen were honored this year in Las Vegas by the National Division of Prudential Fox and Roach as one of the top 100 Prudential agents in America. In 2004 they ranked 27 out of 60,000 Prudential agents, which from the state of Delaware is quite an achievement. Their mark of partnership is not volume, however, but percently exercises.

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Running the boutique gives me the chance to meet a variety of people and additionally provides me with the challenge of running a business with the added bonus of seeing the fabulous bridal fashions before they make their public debut.

Most importantly, my involvement in Taylor's permits me to share in the joy of one of the most special days in a family's life and gives me the satisfaction of knowing that I was able to contribute in a positive way in making the day a success.

Meet Ginger Weiss

Ginger Weiss moved to Wilmington from her native New York in 1968. The friendships she made through her involvement in such organizations as B'nai B'rith, Hadassah and National Council of Jewish Women helped her to become connected to her new home.

Ginger worked for a time as an elementary school teacher in the Wilmington Public School system before taking a career hiatus to raise a son, Douglas and daughters, Wendy and Debbie.

When her children were older, she formed a meeting planning business with some of her NCJW colleagues. For the past two decades, Ginger has been involved with New England Financial, a firm that focuses on life insurance and disability planning.

Despite her busy career, she finds time to serve on the board of directors of the Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment arm of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and is developing programming for Lion of Judah, a group of women who make a minimum gift of \$5000 to the Federation Annual Campaign.

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Barbara D. Stein (302) 429-4500 Direct Line (302) 576-6811

Barbara D. Stein brings solid business and people skills to her career as a realtor with Patterson Schwartz in Greenville. She specializes in residential real estate and is a lifetime member of the prestigious Million Dollar Club. She joined Patterson Schwartz in 1993 after honing her talents in sales, telemarketing, customer and public relations.

A past chairman of the Resettlement Committee of Jewish Family Service, Barbara has also chaired the fundraising Ad Book for the Grand Gala and has also served on the Dino Days Auction Committee, and as coach for the Delaware Association of Blind Athletes during the Special Olympics

during the Special Olympics.

She lives with her husband Sid in Wilmington.

Stephens Jewelers

Nancy Carbonetti established Stephens Jewelers with her husband Stephen, a master goldsmith, in 1988 when their first child was born. Their business has since grown into a retail store with a workshop in downtown Wilmington. As the lead salesperson, buyer and business manager for Stephens Jewelers, Nancy is an Accredited Professional Jeweler through GIA averaging about 50 hours a week at the store.

Nancy and Stephen have four children, ages 9 to 17, at home. Nancy continues studying to be a Graduate Gemologist while still handling the kids' volleyball, ice hockey games, and college applications.

Stephens Jewelers is located at 222 Delaware Avenue in Wilmington.

Mitzi Klatzkin Beautifully Detailed (302) 477-4975

March of this year, Mitzi Klatzkin fulfilled her lifelong dream and pened Beautifully Detailed. Her beautiful store is located in Wilmington at 4009 Concord Pike in the Talleyville Towne Shoppes (northbound side of 202 just before Silverside Rd). There is always a wide array of unique gifts to choose from as well as invitations for all occasions, stationery and greeting cards. Whether you are picking up a gift or selecting invitations for a special event you will be treated with highly personalized, exceptional customer service. Mitzi has truly enjoyed working with the community and looks forward to doing so for years to

PERSPECTIVES

Spiritual relief flies in for Biloxi congregation

By Sue Fishkoff, JTA

When Rabbi Sam Kieffer flew over Biloxi, Miss., all he could see below was complete devastation. "From the plane, you see almost every rooftop covered in blue tarp" indicating extensive damage, he says.

Kieffer and his wife, Melinda, of B'nai Aviv, a Conservative congregation in Weston, Fla., and Harry Silverman, the southeastern regional director for the umbrella group United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, were on a one-day spiritual-relief mission Sept. 21 to Biloxi's beleaguered Congregation Beth Israel, the only synagogue on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

All the Jewish movements have reached out generously to hurricane victims, sending money, food and clothing to Jews and non-Jews alike. But this was a rare mission focused on spiritual support.

Like the half-dozen devastated congregations in the New Orleans area, Biloxi's Beth Israel was slammed hard by Hurricane Katrina. The synagogue building was badly damaged and cannot be used. But worse than that, 13 of the congregation's 65 families lost their homes. Other homes are uninhabitable.

"Some may choose to rebuild. We don't know," says the congregation's president, Steve Richer.

"Some of our members have already moved away permanently."

Throughout the areas hardest hit by Katrina, food, clothing, shelter and above all cash, is sorely needed by everyone, says Richer, who also serves as the executive director of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau.

But the emotional damage is just as extensive, with families separated, job futures uncertain and lifetimes of memories literally swept away in the relentless floodwaters.

'Quite frankly, it's a very stressful situation for everybody," Richer says. "Driving around, you see parts of houses, people's personal memorabilia lying in the street. It's really tough, especially for the children. You get to the point where it's too numbing to focus on the individual tragedy."

With his own home under a foot of water, Richer was in Florida over the weekend buying a mobile home to drive back to Biloxi, so he'll have something to live in. "All the mobile homes in Mississippi are sold out," he reports.

It was to bring some much-needed moral support to the shaken Beth Israel community that Silverman and the Kieffers flew to Biloxi in a private plane belonging to David Keller, the president of Temple Beth Israel, a Conservative synagogue in Sunrise, Fla.

The visitors met with about 30 people in Biloxi, including congregants and children, some of whom were Jewish evacuees from Louisiana. They gathered in one congregant's office, which he was now living in, as his own home was destroyed.

Kieffer talked quietly with the adults, offering counseling and grief support, while Melinda Kieffer did a High Holidays arts-and-crafts session with the dozen children.

"We made Rosh Hashanah cards, and I asked them to make a wish for the New Year," she reports. "They said, 'Can we wish the hurricane didn't come?'"

Afterward, the Kieffers presided over a healing service for the entire group. Then they sat down to a kosher-deli lunch that Silverman had brought on the plane and handed out "Shabbat bags" containing candles, challahs and kosher grape juice prepared by the Kieffers' Florida congregation.

The Biloxi Jews were "very reluctant" to take the food, Melinda Kieffer says. "One woman said to me, 'We're Jews. We give, we don't take.'

The visitors left \$30,000 with the congregation, to fund rebuilding the synagogue and for distribution to its needy members and to the larger community.

People in Biloxi are finding it difficult to wade through the bureaucracy and get the emergency relief



Congregation Beth Israel in Biloxi, Miss., on Sept. 21, 2005, was badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. **Credit: Harry Silverman**

to which they're entitled. "There are people cutting trees so you can get back into your house, but they only work for cash," Silverman says, explaining why he authorized

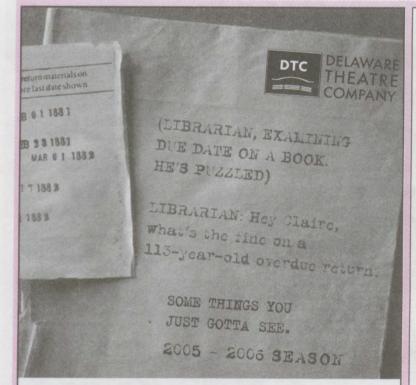
this cash disbursement.

It wasn't the first spiritual-sustenance visit to Biloxi from a Jewish group. On Sept. 9, two rab-Continued on page 11



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While the premise for Glen Berger's Underneath the Lintel sounds like the start of a joke, the play actually deals with intense issues such as the existence of God, the meaning of life, and one hell of a mid-life crisis involving spiritual, physical and monetary paralysis.

But, director David Stradley explains, it's okay to laugh. "That's the great thing about Glen Berger's play - he makes it a lot of fun to struggle with some of the all time big questions." Underneath the Lintel tells the story of a Dutch librarian who discovers a returned book that's slightly overdue... by 113 years. Suitcase in had, the determined bookworm sets out across the globe to find the mysterious and elusive perpetrator. At the heart of the play is the myth of the Wandering Jew - an ancient myth regarding a Jewish man who is doomed to roan the world, never stopping, never resting because he did not help Christ as he rested under the Jew's lintel (horizontal crosspiece over a door) on his way to Calvary. Although for the Wandering Jew (and many other mythical wanderers wandering is a punishment, Underneath the Lintel posits that wandering may just be a heroic act and a key to understanding the wonders (and horrors) of the world.





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PERSPECTIVES

Spiritual relief

Continued from page 10

bis from the Union for Reform Judaism counseled people at the Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Miss., which had taken in more than 100 displaced Jews from Biloxi and New Orleans. Four yeshiva students from the fervently Orthodox group Chabad Lubavitch arrived soon after Hurricane Katrina. They helped clean up the synagogue and counseled the devastated congregants.

"The single hardest thing is all the people who want to reach out, and a lot of what they are offering we don't need," Richer admits. "People need clothes, but there's no more room in the warehouse, and the distribution system isn't working. People need cash, but it's not getting to them."

Maintaining congregational operations is nearly impossible in such circumstances, he says. Beth Israel hasn't held services since the hurricane hit.

Richer says several offers have come in from other states to hold High Holiday services there, and while he's grateful, he says, "We can't really shlep our people to Mobile for services," referring to the seaport city in southwest Alahama.

One young girl in the congregation was planning to celebrate her bat mitzvah next month, and Melinda Kieffer reports that a woman called from Atlanta and offered to fly the girl to her synagogue in St. Thomas, in the British Virgin Islands, for the ceremony.

Despite all the turmoil, life goes on, Richer says. One congregant died Tuesday of causes not related to the hurricane. And the congregation's administrator is due to give birth this weekend. "Life doesn't stop because we've had a tragedy," Richer says.

For more information on Congregation Beth Israel, contact the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism. Its Web site is www.uscj.org.

Delaware connects to Gulf Coast victims

Rabbi Peter Grumbacher, spiritual leader of Wilmington's Congregation Beth Emeth, toured several synagogues in the Gulf Coast region during his sabbatical. He spoke with Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Leadner of the North Shore Jewish Congregation in Mandeville, Louisiana on the day that Hurricane Rita came into town. As Kurtz-Leadner spoke on the phone, buckets were set up on the bimah to catch water leaking from the storm-damaged roof.

While the synagogue sustained only minor damage, Kurtz-Leadner reported that many of his congregants were not as lucky. When Grumbacher asked how best to help those fellow Jews hit hardest by the storms, Kurtz-Leadner requested donations of gift cards to Home Depot and other national retail chains. The Wilmington congregation has responded generously to this appeal which will enable victims of the hurricanes to help rebuild their lives.

Melton Adult Mini-School

Continued from page 5

students. In thinking about his Melton commitment, he commented that his Wednesday mornings are the highlight of his week and that he learns a great deal at every Melton occasion, about himself, about Judaism and about community. He added that one of his favorite phrases is from Pirke Avot, "Who is a wise person? One who learns from all people.' Rabbi Nates has considerable teaching background and currently teaches at several institutions in the Philadelphia area

and is active in social justice issues. His work in the community includes Joseph's House in Narberth, PA and Hagar's Home.

Juliet Spitzer has also returned as a faculty member, teaching both first year and the graduate class. Juliet studied for the rabbinate, but has since focused on teaching and the performance arts. Juliet is a singer/songwriter and recording artist. She performs nationally with the a cappella trio Miraj, the vocal ensemble SheWho and several musical troupes. Juliet's love of theater finds expression in her

musical performances with Theater Ariel. A self-described 'devout post-denominational Jew', Juliet is also guest cantor at Congregation Beth Israel in Media, PA. She remarked that she very much appreciates the quality of the Melton curriculum and the stimulating learning that takes place between the texts suggested by Melton and the caliber of the contributions from the students themselves. She feels that Melton is a dynamic learning environment and that she learns as much from the interaction as the students do.

The students, faculty, director and Advisory Committee all look forward to a productive year filled with learning and good fellowship. The Melton Mini-School is housed at the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center. For more information, please call Lynda Bell at 478-5660.

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School is a school for adult Jewish learning committed to promoting Jewish literacy through the sequential, systematic study of Jewish sources in a pluralistic environment, over a period of two years.

How you can help

The Jewish Federation of Delaware has set up a mailbox for a relief fund through the United Jewish Communities system with checks being made payable to the JFD and sent to the Federation office, 100 W. 10th Street, Suite 301, Wilmington, DE 19801.

Please continue sending your financial assistance. If you would like to volunteer to provide housing for an evacuee(s), please contact Sheila Krinsky at the Jewish Federation of Delaware (302) 427-2100, ext. 15 or <a href="mailto:sheila.krinsky@s



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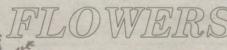
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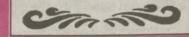


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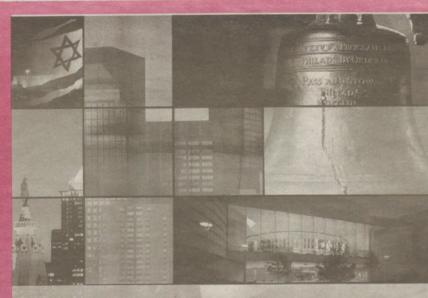


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MILESTONES

Memoriam

Sally Helfand, age 91 of Wilmington, DE died September

She was the widow of Albert Helfand, who died in 1983. She was a member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, its sisterhood and the Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation.

She is survived by her sons,

Barry H. Helfand of Potomac, MD, Arnold R. and Kenneth A. Helfand, both of Wilmington; 5 grandchildren; and 5 great grandchildren.

A graveside service was held Friday, September 23, 2005 in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Rd. Shiva was observed on Saturday, September 24, and Sunday, September 25.

In lieu of flowers, the family sug-

gests contributions to the Kutz Home, 704 River Rd., Wilmington, DE 19809.

Arrangements were Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Joan Klevan died September 14, 2005 due to a cancer related illness.

As a wife, mother, friend,

teacher and spiritual leader, she helped numerous people and touched countless lives by showing that true fulfillment is found in love, family and friendship.

Lois is survived by her husband, Carl Mann; and her sons, Brian Schneider (wife, Nicole) and Michael Schneider (wife Sari).

A graveside service was held 11:00 a.m. Sunday, September 18, in Montefiore Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, we request donations in memory of Lois Klevan to the Jewish Communal Fund, 575 Madison Ave., Suite 703, New York, NY 10022. Checks should be made payable to Rachel Joseph and Lois Scholarship Fund #3286.

Arrangements were by Levine & Sons, Philadelphia, PA.

NACHAS NOOK

Golden Anniversary for Sylvia and Bernard Panitz

Sylvia and Bernard Panitz will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on October 16th.

The couple wed at Beth Jacob Congregation in Baltimore in 1955. They've resided their whole married life in Wilmington, where Bernard worked for more than 40 years as a chemical engineer for DuPont. They have five children - Joel Panitz of Wilmington, Gary Panitz of Wilmington, Deena Bleich of Montgomery Village, Maryland, Debra Fredman of Rockville, Maryland, and Beth Panitz Edwards of Rockville, Maryland. They have seven grandchildren-Rachel, Nathan, and Judah Fredman; Ilana, Jessica, and Kayla Bleich; and Samuel Edwards.

Mazel Tov on achieving this wonderful milestone!



Weiss-Josefsberg to wed

Ginger Weiss, of Wilmington, and Daniel Weiss, of Woodstock, NY, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Wendy, to Robert Josefsberg, son of Peggy and Steve Josefsberg, of Long Island, NY. Wendy received her degree in Theatre at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida and is now a Senior Sales Manager at comScore Media Metrix in New York City. Robert, received his degree in Broadcast Journalism from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University and is now an Account Director at Chamberlain Communications Group, also in NYC. A December wedding is planned in Wilmington at Greenville Country Club.



DELAWARE NEWS NOTES

Another First for the First State:

Organ Donor on-line registration

By Joel Glazier

"I think this is a perfect way to start the New Year," comments Jan Weinstock, Vice President and General Counsel for Gift of Life Donor Program. Weinstock is referring to a newly unveiled program that now allows Delaware's licensed drivers to change their

license on line to reflect their desire to be an organ donor.

Governor Ruth Ann Minner and Lt. Jack Carney announced the new procedure, first in the country, that enables "every Delawarean to make his or his license a license to heal" by simply filling out an online form. According to the Governor, 52% of Delaware's drivers are currently registered organ donors and there are about 338 Delawareans waiting to receive an organ. Last year 65 Delawareans received an organ.

For information about the new Donate Life Online, contact the Gift of Life Donor Program at 1-800-DONORS-1 or www.donors1.org.

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The community is invited to learn about the importance of "FORGIVE-NESS in healing ourselves, our relationships and our world" during a November 1st Public Affairs Forum sponsored by the Wilmington Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). Robin Sesan, PhD, founder and director of the Brandywine Center, LLC and Gail Ball, vice president of Advocacy for for the event slated for 6:30 p.m. to verizon.net

9:00 p.m. at the Terrace at Greenhill.

Sesan and Ball believe that the Forum will be of particular interest to those members of the community who serve in an advocacy position either with family members, institutions and/or governmental agencies as well as those working in the public interest promoting legislation and other systemic changes.

Light refreshments will be served. the NCJW Wilmington Section and a To receive an invitation, please call national board member of the organ- Kerry Meluskey at 302-479-5421 or ization will be the keynote speakers email her at kndmeluskey@

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Over 100 People Attend Inaugural Endowment Book of Life **Event**

Endowment Book of Life - a Living Document and a Legacy

Over 100 community leaders attended the inaugural Endowment Book of Life event on May 24th at the Bernard & Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center. At the event, Lee Meyerhoff Hendler of the Meyerhoff Foundations, Baltimore, Maryland, and representatives of local families that have established endowments shared their views on philanthropy. Dr. Barry Bakst, Elliot Margules, Connie Sugarman, and N. Norman Schutzman talked about their motivation to provide for the future of the Jewish community, here in Delaware, in Israel and around the world. The Endowment Book of Life is a promise made by our generation to the next that our Jewish community will be here for them, for their children and for future generations.

The Endowment Book of Life, on dis-

play in the lobby of the Bernard & Ruth Toni & Stuart Young, Jennifer Young, and Rona Finkelstein

Siegel JCC, contains signatures of community leaders from every economic segment and from every walk of life who are committed to our future success. Endowment

donors are invited to write a personal statement and sign their page in the Endowment book of Life.

You can be included in the Endowment Book of Life by establishing an endowment now or by planning to leave a bequest to the Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment arm of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, through your will. Popular giving vehicles include: outright contribution of cash, securities, real estate or other property; bequest (will); gift of life insurance; charitable trust; gift of IRA or pension plan assets; or grants from your foundation. You can also establish Life Income Gifts – a gift that provides you, your spouse or other loved ones with income during their lifetime and sustains the Jewish community after you are gone. (See more photos from the Book of Life event inside, all photos in this edition by Eric Crossan).



Be there ... an

endowment is forever.





Andrea, Emily, and Richard Levine

Kate, Bob, Joshua, and Eric Pincus, and Helen & Sonny Schutzman

Establish a new Endowment Fund* with the Jewish Fund for the Future before December 23 and we'll make you a Star. The Jewish Fund for the Future will "match" your new endowment gift with a \$500 contribution to the Delaware Jewish Community Capital Campaign, please contact Jennifer Young at 302-427-2100 ext. 19 for details on this exciting matching opportunity. *fund must be established with qualified amount.

The Jewish Fund for the Future **Ensures the Vitality of our Jewish** Community's Future

young leaders, and ensures the survival and long-term stability of highlights on page 2.

existing programs upon which so many in our community depend. Over 70 individuals and families have established funds with the Jewish Fund for the Future. We hold endowments for each of our six beneficiary agencies and several area synagogues. The endow-In 1985, several progressive families in Delaware organized the ment began with \$300,000 in the 1980s, and in the last 10 years the Jewish Community of Delaware Endowment Fund to provide for fund has grown from \$3.6 million to over \$15 million. In the last the future needs of the Jewish community here and abroad. Today, year, the Jewish Fund for the Future distributed nearly \$1 million this Jewish Fund for the Future provides the necessary financial in grants benefiting a diverse array of Jewish and non-Jewish charicapital to help the community plan for the future. Endowment ties, educational, social and humanitarian causes, including our lofunds supplement the Annual Campaign, provides scholarships to cal synagogues and agencies. See Jewish Fund for the Future grant

Look inside for more information on how you can create an Endowment!

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From the Director

My parents, Bonnie and Harvey, taught me the importance of tzedakah. From putting coins in my tzedahak box at Jewish day school, to attending JCC summer camps in Florida, to BBG events in high school, to Hillel Bagel Brunches at Tulane, Florida State and Carnegie Mellon universities, I feel deeply connected to my Judaism and to ensuring the success of my Jewish community here, in Israel, and around the world. The Jewish Fund for the Future staff will work with you to ensure that your philanthropic goals are achieved, from establishing a fund now, to making provisions in your will, to providing the structure for family philanthropy. Jennifer S. Young

Community Participates in Inaugural Endowment Book of Life Event



Gina Kozicki, Suzanne Grant, Jennifer Young, Muriel Gilman, and Toni Young with the Endowment Book of Life.

Synagogue & Agency Endowment Funds at the Jewish Fund for the Future

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth
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Chabad Lubavitch of Delaware Fund
Congregation Beth Shalom Kraft Education Foundation
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Ginger Weiss signs her page from the Endowment Book of Life

Editor: Jennifer S. Young 10-3-05



Connie Kreshtool signs her page for the Endowment Book of Life

2004-2005 Grant Highlights:

\$120,000 to agricultural projects in Israel, from the Joshua Goldinger Trust in Memory of the Descendants of Lena and Berel Goldinger



Karen Friedman, Susan Detwiler, and Jeff Metz

\$38,000 towards the Jewish Federation of Delaware allocations process, benefiting the agencies and programs that are important to our community from the unrestricted endowment/Jewish Fund for the Future General Fund—including support for out Partnership 2000 Young Emissary program which brought our first Shaliach in over twenty years—Idan Kligerman is working with agencies, including Albert Einstein Academy and Hillel to increase our bond with Israel.

\$8,000 to provide social and education services for orphans & immigrant children in Israel, from the Esther Sherman McDonald Endowment Fund for Israel.

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

Your commitment to secure the future of the Jewish people is a sacred covenant. By giving, you are teaching important values of leadership and responsibility to your family, friends, and community.

Jewish Fund for the Future Impact

A planned gift to the Jewish Fund for the Future/Jewish Federation of Delaware is a permanent resource ensuring the future and strength of the Jewish community. Jewish Fund for the Future endowments impact the community through grants for educational, cultural, health & welfare programs in Delaware, Israel and around the world. The Jewish Fund for the Future distributed \$971,860 during fiscal year July 2004 to June 2005, plus an additional \$24,353 in scholarship funding.

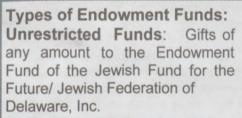
Calendar Year 2003 to 2004 ~

♦ Our grants program increased dramatically from approximately \$582,000 to over \$900,000

......

- ♦ Contributions to JFF endowments increased from \$302,697 (2003) up to \$780,341 (2004)* excludes Harry & Jeanette Weinberg capital endowment contributions of \$675,000 (2003) and \$452,000 (2004)
- ♦ Assets increased 11.4% (from \$13,445,888 to \$14,975,101)

The Jewish Fund for the Future Investment committee and investment advisors consistently monitor the Fund's investments and the performance of the Fund. Prime, Buchholz & Associates, Inc. our independent investment consulting firm, serves a variety of institutional investment programs, including Endowments, Foundations, Health Care Systems and Insurance Organizations, Pension Funds, and high net worth individuals. The 1-year performance of managed assets up 15.2% for the 1 year ending July 2005. The Jewish Fund for the Future's Market value is \$15,213,478 (July 31, 2005). For the quarter ending July assets went up 7.1% (previous performance is does not guarantee future performance).



Philanthropic Funds: Donor advised funds that allow you to better manage your charitable giving. Minimum \$5,000 to establish a donor advised fund.

Restricted Funds: Gifts targeted toward specific agencies, programs, field of interest, or need.

Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowments/Lion of Judah Endowments: Gifts that sustain your contribution to the Annual Campaign in perpetuity (PACE/ LOJE) suggested minimum 20

Life Income Gifts: Life Income Gifts include charitable trusts (Charitable Remainder Trusts/CRUT/CRAT, Charitable Lead Trusts/CLT) and Charitable Gift Annuities/CGA.

times donor's annual gift.



Federation Executive Vice President Sam Asher

Your increased support turns your values into actions that will change lives. Our goal is to help as many people we can based on our core values of Chesed (caring and compassing), Torah (Jewish learning), Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and Tzedakah (social justice).



Jewish Fund for the Future LOJE: Ruth Ann Ger, Suzanne Grant, Toni Young, Barbara Schoenberg, Connie Sugarman. (Not pictured: Miriam Edell, Amy Leviton, Caryl Marcus Stape)

A Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) is PACE Fund designated for the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Delaware with a minimum gift of \$100,000 (additional recognition in the national Star of David honor society is provided to donors for LOJE/PACE funds with a minimum of \$200,000). To arrive at the estimated amount needed to endow your entire Annual Campaign gift, simply multiply your current gift by 20. Establishing a LOJE allows a woman the opportunity to go the extra step to endow her gift in perpetuity. A LOJE can be established several ways, see information, below.

Year End Giving Consider the Jewish Fund for the Future

Listed below are a number of options for supporting the endowment:/ establishing a fund:

- Outright gift of cash, stock, real estate or other assets
- ♦ Bequest/will
- ♦ Life insurance
- ♦ IRA or pension plans
- Charitable remainder trusts
- ♦ Charitable lead trusts

How to Make a Stock Gift to the Jewish Fund for the Future or Jewish Federation of Delaware

Many donors to the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign and the Jewish Fund for the Future make their gifts with stock. A gift of appreciated stock generally offers a two-fold tax saving. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock. Second, you receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift. Please contact the financial department at (302) 427-2100 to request a Stock Transfer Form before you transfer stock. This new form will assure that the stock transaction is properly credited to your Annual Campaign, Endowment or other accounts.



Jewish Fund for the Future The Jewish Community's Endowment at the **Jewish Federation of Delaware**

Upcoming Jewish Federation of Delaware **Events**

October 20 ~ L'Chaim Circle Reception in the Sukkah at AKSE

October 24 ~ Lion of Judah event at a private

December 4-7~ Super Sunday & Super Week December 9 ~ Federation Shabbat For more information contact the Jewish Federation of Delaware 302-427-2100 www.shalomdelaware.org

A planned gift to the Jewish Fund for the Future/ Jewish Federation of Delaware is a permanent resource ensuring the future and strength of the Jewish community. For information on planned giving opportunities, including commemorative gifts in honor of a bar/bat mitzvah, memorial funds, bequests, and support for special programs, or agencies, contact Jennifer S. Young, Director lewish Fund for the Future & Women's Philanthropy at 302-427-2100 ext. 19.



Ruth and Bernard Siegel



Steve and Rhoda Dombchik



Bennett and Alice Epstein

Tzedakah

by Elliot Margules

Tzedakah, as a Hebrew word, and as a Jewish concept is often defined simply as charity. However, the parallels between these two words are not necessarily as deep as one might think. Charity is easily defined as gifts to the poor. In contrast, the extensive literature on tzedakah seems to imply that it cannot be defined with such simplicity. There is a basic concept in Jewish thought known as yesh m'ain, literally something from nothing. This refers to the creation process by which G-d created all matter, the basis for all that we see and have today, out of complete nothingness. This idea carries with it many important implications, one of which is that by being the singular source of all that exists, G-d can be looked at as having some sort of ownership over all that he has created, all that exists, making his laws regarding his creations a moral responsibility. G-d however, gives us access and use to almost all of his creations. What we are allowed and intended to use is outlined in the Torah-Mitzvot. Just as our use of land is largely guided by laws pertaining to Eretz yisrael (the land of Israel), and our use of food is guided by the laws of Kashrut, so too, our use of money is guided by the laws of tzedakah. This is the fundamental difference between charity and tzedakah, when we give 10% of our income to the poor, we are fulfilling an obligation, it is not a gift, but a requirement. Going beyond the required 10% is when we surpass our moral and halachic responsibility. In fact, it can even be said that by giving less than the required amount we are stealing from the poor what rightfully belongs to them.

G-d chooses who will be rich and who will be poor through a process known as hashcachah pratise, divine providence. Certain people are blessed with greater wealth and are therefore expected to give larger amounts of tzedakah. The Vilna Gaon, a great sage from the generation known as the achronim, once receiving a traditional Jewish education at Yemade the statement that the following genera- shivat Ohr Sameach. This unique experience

later part's meaning is clear, but it is only through the bility and expectation of the rich that is expressed through that we are able to understand the first. The Vilna Gaon did not want us to suffer from poverty, but he also understood how easy it is to separate ourselves from the mitzvoth if we have the distraction of wealth.

second night of

Passover, the Jewish calendar enters into a through education and its support, we will of the most important aspects of the omer, bring about the coming of Mashiach. arises simply through the dates by which it The Margules Family recently established a donor begins and ends. It begins on Passover, a advised fund with the Jewish Fund for the Future. holiday during which we celebrate freedom



Will, Michelle, and Elliot Margules

and the exodus from Egypt. It ends on Shavuot, the commemoration of the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sainai. Just as in the process of building a house, every step from the beginning on is for a singular purpose, a final product that has been envisioned from the start. So too, we learn that the freedom that G-d granted us on Passover was for the sole purpose of giving us the Torah, the end of the

Tzedakah is also a process, and it's desired result should be clearly defined. One of these results, which should be valued by all Jews, is the continuity of our people. We need to look at the current efforts and make tough decisions to stop those processes that are clearly not working, or have lost sight of this goal. We should also look at what our people has been doing for thousands of years to help maintain the miracle of Jewish survival. One of these techniques, which has consistently produced the desired results is Jewish education. The results are clear, the numbers are undeniable, and its affect on Jewish continuity is unparalleled.

Thanks to the Joseph and Marion Greenbaum Scholarship Fund, two years ago I was privileged to spend the year in Israel, tion should neither be too rich or too poor. of learning about our religion, in our land, was

without a doubt the most educational and significant experience of my life.

Throughout our history, Tzedakah has been supporting causes like this that have continually produced results. For this reason, my family has chosen to direct a large part of our tzedakah towards similar causes. The problems that we are facing today are not fundamentally different than problems that we have experienced and overcome in the past, and

49-day period known as Sfirat Ha'Omer. One once again overcome these obstacles, and

Many Donors Choose to increased responsi- Establish Named Endowment **Funds**

Named Funds At-A-Glance

- the laws of tzedakah \(\rangle \) Minimum \$10,000 contribution to establish a new named endowment fund
 - ♦ Provides annual income for charitable organizations you wish to support, or may provide scholarships to individuals
 - ♦ May be created now or through your estate
 - ♦ Offers tax benefits for you or your estate
 - May be created with a variety of assets
- ♦ Examples: Greenbaum Scholarship Fund, Starting with the Nisson Finkelstein Scholarship Fund

COMING EVENTS

It's not too late to study at Delaware Gratz. Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School classes began in mid-September. There are still openings available on Sundays and Tuesday evenings (the Wednesday and Thursday classes are filled to capacity). We welcome students to join us both at this time and also beginning in second semester. Please contact us if you wish to learn Hebrew as we have a core group of students that wishes to start a new Hebrew class. Contact: Marlene Milunsky, Principal, at 478-8100 or marlene@delawaregratz.

Fall Israeli Dancing Schedule Announced. Israeli dancing continues twice a month in Wilmington area. It is at the Siegel JCC the second Sunday of each month from 3-5 p.m.: October 9, November 13 and December 11; and on selected Wednesdays at the Arden Gild Hall starting at 7:30: September 28, October 26, November 30 and December 21. Sharon Kleban and Howard Wachtel teach more beginning dances the first hour, and the second hour gets progressively more advanced.

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

Beth Emeth Hosts Bowling Bonanza. Bring your family to Bowlerama in New Castle for the holiday on Friday, November 11 at Noon for a special event for the kids. Children under 12 enjoy a hotdog lunch and bowling for the special Beth Emeth Outreach. Outreach price of just \$5 per Child (includes shoes). Adults can bowl separately at the cost \$2.75 per game plus \$2.75 for shoe rental (lunch is extra). Reservations are required - call the Temple Office at

764-2393 or write bowling@ bethemethoutreach.com.

The Outreach Committee is proud to also hold events for singles, interfaith families, those new the community, and gay and lesbian families. More information is always available at www.bethemeth outreach.com

Delaware Gratz Goes to Washington. Travel to Washington, D.C. on Sunday, October 30th and see a performance of Shear Madness at the famed Kennedy Center. Just \$57.50 per person includes a guided tour of the Kennedy Center, a ticket to this award-winning comedic interactive murder mystery, which is ideal for all ages, bus transportation and a tip. Lunch at the Kennedy Center and dinner are on your own. Performance time is 3:30 p.m. Bus will leave the Brandywine Town Center at 8:30 a.m. and will depart from Washington at 5:30 p.m. after the performance.

Please make your check payable to Delaware Gratz Auxiliary and mail to Annette Chason, 400 Whitby Drive, Wilmington, DE 19803. For additional information, please call 479-0848 or email Annette at mannie5@aol.com.

Delaware Gratz Goes to the Big Apple. Be the first to see The Woman In White, one of Broadway's hottest new shows. The bus will leave for New York on Wednesday, November 30th at 8:30 a.m. leaving plenty of time for lunch (on your own) before the 2 p.m. performance. Leave New York for home at approximately 5:00 p.m.

For reservations, please make check payable to Delaware Gratz Auxiliary and mail to Annette Chason, 400 Whitby Drive, Wilmington, DE 19803 or call her at

479-0848

Jewish Family Services Open House. A Festival of Family Thursday, November 10, 7:00pm to 9:00pm. JFS welcomes friends, family and the community to celebrate their new home! The evening's informal program will include facility tours, a guest speaker, and special acknowledgement of community friends. Cocktails and hors d'ourvres will be served. There is no charge for this event, but you MUST RSVP by November 1 to Michelle Kramer-Fitzgerald, 302-478-9411, ext. 12 or info@jfsdelaware.org.

Spend Winter Break in Israel. The Kristol Center for Jewish Life at the University of Delaware (Hillel) is now taking applications for its FREE 10-DAY TRIP TO ISRAEL!! Spots are limited and interviews are now going on, so APPLY NOW!! Contact Johanna at 302-453-0479 or email her at Johanna@udel.edu for more information about this exciting birthright Israel adventure!

Yad Vashem urges people to submit unrecorded names at ww.yadvashem.org. Close to 6 million people, from 203 countries, have visited the Yad Vashem website, www.yadvashem.org, since the Internet launch of the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names in November 2004. Since then, approximately 110,00 names have been added to the Database.

From its inception, Yad Vashem has been dedicated to recovering the names of Jews killed in the Shoah by collecting Pages of Testimony - special forms for registering Holocaust victims. The organization launched its Central Database of Shoah Victims' names onto the Internet in order to keep the memory of the victims alive,

and recover as many names as possible. The Database contains some 3 million names; half the victims' names are still unidentified. As we approach the High Holidays, Yad Vashem is renewing its call for people to add as yet unlisted names to the Database. Yad Vashem urges people to be a part of this critical effort to recover names of Holocaust victims, while those who remember them are still with us.

There are currently some 109,000 pictures of victims in the Database, including 900 photos that have been added to existing Pages of Testimony November. While in most cases no photographs remain of Jews killed by the Nazis, some relatives and friends managed to save these treasured images. Now these photos can be scanned directly from home computers and become a part of the Database. Yad Vashem is calling on the public to add photos to names that already appear in the Names Database, and to include photos, whenever possible, when submitting additional names.

To submit new names, please first search the Database to prevent duplicate entries. If the name does not already appear, click on "Submit additional names" to fillout an online Page of Testimony, or download a Page of Testimony from the site, fill it out, and mail it to Yad Vashem.

To access a free resource guide to initiate a Names Recovery Campaign, contact names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il.

Experience Israel. If you're age 25 - 35 and want to experience Israel in an extraordinary way with other young adults, Tel Aviv One, March 5 -8, 2006 is for you. Tel

Aviv One is an opportunity to live generously, both at home and abroad. It's a way to strengthen and enrich worldwide Jewry while deepening your personal commitment to leading a valuable, meaningful life. It is for those who wish to transform their lives by creating new ways of looking at the world and the people around them. Tel Aviv One is offered to qualified individuals making a minimum \$500 gift to the Annual Campaign plus the \$500 fee to participate (these subsidized spaces are limited). For more information, call Ruth Rosenberg, Campaign Director, (302) 427-2100 ext 17

Special Exhibit at the Delaware Art Museum. October 22, 2005 -January 29, 2006

Pirate Tales and Beyond: The

Adventures of Rip Squeak & Friends More than 70 paintings and drawings by nationally renowned illustrator Leonard Filgate, created for the Rip Squeak series of children's books written by his wife, Susan Yost-Filgate. The stories detail the adventures of an unusual group of friends-a mouse named Rip and his sister Jesse, an abandoned kitty named Abbey, and a thespian frog called Euripides. The friends use their imaginations, improvisational skills, and each other's unique qualities to care for each other, overcome challenges, and have fun. Pirate Tales and Beyond will enjoy a perfect context at the Delaware Art Museum where Filgate's lively images will be in the company of the Museum's revered collection of American illustration, particularly the famous pirate paintings of Howard Pyle, which inspired Filgate's vision for the costumes and settings for the Rip Squeak

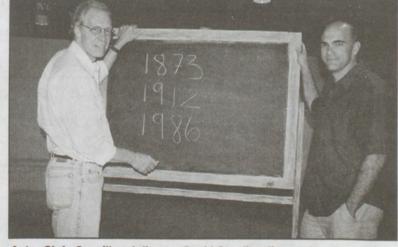
ARTS & CULTURE

Historical Mystery "Underneath the Lintel" at Delaware Theatre Company

By Joel F. Glazier

From its start at Yale University Summer Cabaret and then on to a successful Off-Broadway run, the play Underneath The Lintel will arrive at Delaware Theatre Company on October 19. "I love stories with mythic undertones and that is what drew me to this play," says David Stradley director of the upcoming production. "The play has such an interesting world view. It presents such arcane bits of history, I hope people who see this will learn how to look closer and deeper at things. People who are addicted to sit coms or television are losing that.'

"The rich and wonderful writing interests me as an actor," com-Vineland, NJ native Coucill who has the daunting task of keeping the audience riveted to his one-person performance. His character, a Dutch librarian tracing the origins of the book borrower whose book was returned 113 years overdue, Coucill learns that he might be searching for the mythological Wandering Jew. "It becomes a real story of investigation as my character leaves his rootless, sheltered life as a librarian whose search takes him though time and countries." The search is



Actor Chris Coucill and director David Stradley discuss key dates in the "Wandering Jew's " history in Underneath the Lintel.

Photo by Joel Glazie

shared with the theatre audience in the form of a slide lecture, which not only informs, but also entertains with some laughter. The show challenges the audience to consider their own lives, and their own mistakes. This makes interesting reflective theater for the post High Holiday period.

Playwright Glen Berger has said his play sometimes elicits angry letters from those who think the explanations of the Wandering Jew are anti-Semitic. He also gets letters complaining his history vignettes are "pro Zionist." Director Stradley thinks the play's story is neither. "Any reactions at all tell more about person making the comment than about the play. This story is not political and the Wandering Jew character is presented very sympathetically," he comments.

"The mythic Wandering Jew is not the main story here; instead it is a story of a wandering Dutch man who finally explores life outside his confined world of a library. He has memorized and has been obsessed with history and details. He ventures out from underneath the lintel and begins to realize how to live. He admires and respects what the Wandering Jew has been through," says Stradley.

Klezmer Music inspired playwright Glen Berger before creating this play. Director David Stradley was inspired by the mythic undertones of the story. Actor Chris Coucill was inspired by its "impressive presentation of lovely evidences" as the librarian searches for the identity of the delinquent book borrower.

Audiences should find the performance introspective, funny, informative and they also may learn what can happen if a laundry claim check is left in a library book!

Underneath the Lintel will run from October 19 to November 6 at the Delaware Theatre Company. Details about tickets available at (302) 594-1100 or the website, www.delawaretheatare.org.

Save the Date



JFD Annual Campaign

Vanguard Event

Details to follow

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