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Peace and prosperity go hand in hand in the Middle East

By LYNN EDELMAN
Editor, Jewish Voice

Peace and prosperity in the Middle East are inter-related and mutually dependent. Diplomatic representatives from the four major power brokers in the region – The United States, Israel, Egypt and the Palestine National Authority – discussed this equation during a recent program at Wilmington's DuPont Hotel.

The February 17 forum on Middle East Peace and Economic Opportunities – sponsored by the Delaware Chapter of People to People International, The World Trade Institute Delaware and the Delaware Economic Development Office – was dedicated to the memory of a man revered by all four participants – King Hussein of Jordan.

Jacob Wallis, director of Israel and Arab-Israeli Affairs for the U.S. Department of State, was the keynote speaker. The Wilmington native emphasized that "in the Mid-East, politics and economics go hand in hand." He explained that the region has few natural resources and spends 24% of all government monies on military expenditures. Thus, a lasting peace between these nations would allow them to redirect these dollars to joint ventures that nurture economic growth and development.

Wallis discussed one such program, which was profiled recently during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. Business leaders from Israel, Jordan and the PNA announced a project combining the resources of Magic, an Israeli software company with the financial backing

of Century Investment of Jordan and a Gaza businessman. The beneficiaries of this alliance will be the region's young people who will train for career's as computer programmers.

Khalil Foutah, deputy director of the PLO/PNA Office in Washington, D.C., concurred with Wallis on the need to "spend money on infrastructure rather than armaments." Foutah, who was presented to the audience by Jewish Federation of Delaware President Barbara Schoenberg, believes that "peace with Israel will create stability and stability can create the climate for economic growth."

Foutah bemoaned the stalemate in the Wye River Memorandum but pledged to remain involved in the peace process regardless of the outcome of the upcoming elections for Israeli prime minister.

Ahmed Maher el Sayer, the Ambassador of Egypt to the United States, shared his dream of "creating a zone of peace in the Mid-East which would support economic development and cultural exchanges." While Egypt and Jordan have signed peace agreements with Israel, the ambassador maintains that "there

can be no economic prosperity until this peace is expanded to include Syria and Lebanon."



Dan Ashbel, Israel's Consul General for the Mid-Atlantic Region (left), chats with Zalman Shoval, Israel's Ambassador to the United States (center) and Delaware attorney Ben Strauss at the program.

El Sayer expressed frustration with the stalemate in the Wye Accords. "Israel seems unsure about forging ahead with the agreements signed at Wye and unduly suspicious of her Arab neighbors," he observed, adding that "We Arabs are reconciled to the idea of a Middle East where Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side."

Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambas-

sador to the United States, refutes El Sayer's allegations that Israel has developed "cold feet." Although he believes that the peace process – begun in 1977 at Camp David – is unstoppable, he cautions that "Israel does insist on full compliance by the Palestinians with the terms set forth at Wye."

He called upon Egypt – "Israel's peace partner for more than 20 years – to play a "more energetic role" in convincing its Arab neighbors of the "enormous value of creating trade and cultural partnerships throughout the region. Shoval cited the link between the Cairo and Tel Aviv stock exchanges as one example of a "highly successful joint venture." Shoval expects that this link will be "expanded in the near future" to include Amman, Jordan.

Shoval shared his vision of a Middle East Free Trade Zone to reverse the loss of capital that bypasses the region and goes overseas. "Less than 70% of trade in this region directly benefits our people," he explained. He believes that strengthening the nations' economic ties could recover these losses and lead to "a true peace between all of our peoples."

LOOK INSIDE For News Of Two Super March Events

David Brenner &
Robert
Klein
Benefit
Beth
Shalom



Paul & Gloria Fine
Honored At
Albert Einstein
Gala



See Stories
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Bronfman steps up to bat for new Jewish partnership

By JULIA GOLDMAN, JTA

When it comes to risky start-ups, Charles Bronfman has an all-star record.

In 1968, the distillery fortune heir helped bring baseball's National League to Montreal by providing financial backing for the Expos when a major partner pulled out of an already foundering franchise at the last minute. A baseball fan, Bronfman was the team's first chairman.

Now the Montreal native is bringing his team-building experience to the 9-month-old partnership of the United Jewish Appeal, Council of Jewish Federations and United Israel Appeal.

Bronfman, 67, was nominated recently to serve as the first chairman of the board of the partnership, currently called the UJA Federations of North America.

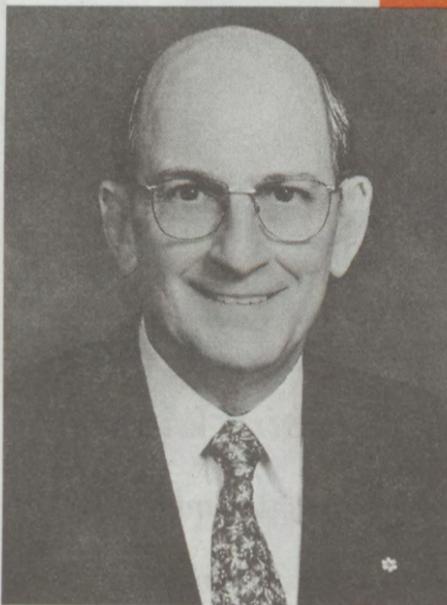
His nomination will have to be ratified once the merger of the three organizations – which represent North American Jewry's primary fund-raising and service-providing

agencies – is completed this spring.

"When you're an inheritor, the chance to be a pioneer is exciting," the Seagram's Co. co-chairman said in an interview. "It was as exciting then" – at the Expos' beginning – "as this is today."

The federations and national organizations that make up the partnership are responsible for raising money and providing services for Jewish needs around the world. This week the partnership reported that its 1998 campaign has raised a record \$743.6 million to date and is projected to close at around \$759 million.

In recent years, the UJA-federation system has seen an increasing number of Jewish charitable dollars go to private foundations, such as those run by Bronfman and his family. So the selection of Bronfman to head the reconstituted federation system is being viewed by some as a major victory in the battle to bring these two worlds back together.



However, Bronfman points out that he and his wife, Andrea, have always worked with the organized Jewish community.

"I know pretty well who the players are," he said in his homespun way, referring to executives of the most major federations and the presidents of the partnership's constituent agencies. "I have a pretty good understanding of the whos, the whats and the wheres."

Bronfman's involvement with the Jewish community may have been prompted by the charitable example set by his father, Samuel. His older brother, Edgar, is also a well-known philanthropist and the president of the World Jewish Congress.

But Charles' Jewish activism began in his late teens. At 17, he started "covering cards" for the UJA campaign in Montreal.

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LOCAL

Gloria and Paul Fine Honored By Einstein At Gala

Albert Einstein Academy will present its Community Builder Award to Gloria and Paul Fine during their annual dinner dance. "A Royal Gala Fit For Kings &

Queens." is slated for Saturday, March 20, 7:30 P.M. at the First USA Riverfront Arts Center in Wilmington.

Gloria and Paul Fine were select-

ed for this honor because of their commitment to young people. "Through their work with numerous agencies and organizations over the years, The Fines have selflessly devoted themselves to securing a promising future for all children," said Debbie Nachlis, AEA development director.

Gloria Fine is the current president of Children and Families First and serves as a board member of the Christiana Care Health Systems and as chair of the Advisory Committee for The Fund For Women at The Delaware Community Foundation. Her Jewish communal commitment is demonstrated by her former tenure on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, The Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, Jewish Family Service and Congregation Beth Shalom.

Paul Fine currently serves as executive director of the Business Public Education Council and is on the board of directors of PNC Bank. He is a past president of the State Board of Education and the Jewish Federation of Delaware. His community leadership is evidenced by service as a former chairman of the United Way and the United Way General Campaign and the Delaware Community Foundation.

Together they have created and actively participated in the Vision

of Hope Scholarship Project, a program that enables needy Delaware students to pursue the dream of higher education.

The Tribute to the Fines is being co-chaired by Ruth & Bernie Siegel and Charm & Chuck Welch. Dr.

Deborah Kahn and Caryl Marcus-Stape serve as co-chairs of the Gala dinner dance.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact, Debbie Nachlis, AEA Director of Development at 478-5026.

Beth Shalom Hosts Fun Fundraiser

By GARY HARAD
Executive Director

Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington offers a comedic respite from the winter doldrums. On March 28 at 7 p.m., the synagogue will host funny men David Brenner and Robert Klein at The Grand Opera House in Wilmington.

A Philadelphia native, David Brenner rose from the ranks of gang leader to Temple University honors graduate. Brenner received critical acclaim as the writer, producer and director of 115 documentary films. His comedy career, which began with stand-up routines at small clubs, skyrocketed after an appearance on the "Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson.

Robert Klein, a middle class

"nice Jewish boy" from Bronx, New York, entered college as a pre-med student. While at school he was bitten by the acting bug. Membership in the esteemed improvisational troupe *Second City* led to a meeting with director Mike Nichols. Nichols selected him for a role in the Broadway musical *Apple Tree*. Thirty-two years later, Klein is still performing on stage, in movies and on television.

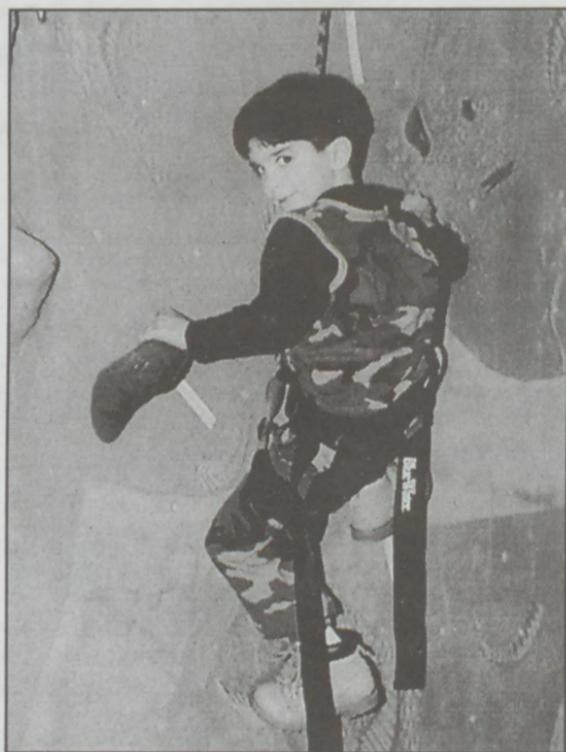
Tickets are \$100 per person and include orchestra seats and a champagne and dessert reception with opportunities to meet the comics.

Seating is limited. Please call Congregation Beth Shalom at 654-4462 today to make your reservation.



University of Delaware Hillel took to the phones for Super Sunday. Our thanks to: (Standing left to right): Joe Kleinman, JCSC Fellow, Andy Gross, Matthew Schwartz, Felicia Kaye, Brian Cohen, Sara Levin (standing in front of Brian), Renee Shatz, Hillel Director. (Kneeling left to right): Elysia Palma, Randi Fenichel, Lauren Glucksman, Alyson Cohen.

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JEWISH TRENDS

JFS Of Delaware To Launch The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center At March 7 Reception And Lecture



Rabbi Myriam Klotz

Jewish Family Service of Delaware will introduce The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center with a reception and lecture March 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Delaware Museum of Natural History. Rabbi Myriam Klotz, an expert on Jewish spirituality and healing, will speak on "Healing from the Jewish Prospective: Contemporary Approaches - Ancient Sources."

The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center will provide and coordinate volunteer services and resources to those experiencing life challenges, loss, illness, dying and grief. Volunteers and Jewish Family Service staff who are trained in the

Jewish traditions and customs relating to healing and death will provide support for individuals in need. Among the services The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center will offer are: Bikur Cholim (Visiting the Sick) and support through a statewide network of trained volunteers, education and support groups, and a Jewish healing resource center. The Center is scheduled to officially begin offering services and training volunteers in September.

The reception and lecture are open to the public. The Ken Ulansey Klezmer Ensemble will also perform. The cost is \$18 per

person, and tickets are available by calling the Jewish Family Service at (302) 478-9411. The Museum of Natural History is located at 4840 Kennett Pike, Greenville, DE.

"This is an exciting addition to the programs being offered by Jewish Family Service. So often, individuals who are suffering physically and emotionally can be comforted by turning to our Jewish heritage and what our traditions teach us. The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center will be available to anyone, without referral from an outside agency or religious affiliation, to provide that support," said Andrew J. Aerenson, Jewish Family Service president. "JFS is committed to outreach, and we are proud to inaugurate this type of support and community service. We are extremely grateful to The Kimmel-Spiller Charitable Foundation for its generosity and support of this new program."

The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center (KSJHC) is sponsored by The Kimmel-Spiller Charitable Foundation, which was formed in 1997 by the Kimmel family to help the community and keep alive the memories of their loved ones,

Judy, Paul, Harvey and David Spiller. The focus of the Foundation is to promote charitable causes including health care, education and cultural needs.

"The Foundation has sponsored The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center because of its mission to help Jewish families dealing with pain and crisis due to hardships caused by medical conditions and/or social situations," said Marcia Kimmel, one of the foundation's founders. "The Kimmel-Spiller Charitable Foundation

hopes that through its support, the KSJHC will be able to help many Jewish families during tough times."

Rabbi Klotz, who coordinates regional conferences on Jewish healing, has a long background in Jewish healing customs and practices, pastoral care, education and outreach in the Jewish community throughout the United States. She currently directs outreach, pastoral care and program development for Miriam's Well: A Service for Jewish Healing in Philadelphia. She is also

chaplaincy coordinator for HIV/AIDS Services with the Jewish Family and Children's Service and the Jewish Working Group on AIDS in Philadelphia. She has published an audio cassette titled *Each and Every Day: Yoga and Meditation for Jewish Spirituality*, and lists "BeLeiv Va-Nefesh: Healing of body and Soul" in *Raavonot* among her publications.

For more information about The Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center and Jewish Family Service of Delaware, call (302) 478-9411.

Delaware Dinner Honoring Sen. Roth Will Help Build Israeli Reservoir

U.S. Sen. William V. Roth Jr. of Delaware will be honored at a Jewish National Fund "Tree of Life" dinner on March 14. Also attending the event at Winterthur will be former Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., a personal friend of Roth's.

"We are honoring Senator Roth because he has long been a strong advocate for peace in the Middle East and has helped to foster the positive relationship between the U.S. and Israel," said Howard H. Simon, dinner co-chair and a vice president of JNF's Delaware Region.

Roth is currently serving his fifth term in the Senate. As a leading member of the Senate Finance Committee, he was instrumental in balancing the federal budget and expanding individual retirement savings opportunities

through improved IRA's, one of which bears his name. He was also the principal architect of the bipartisan Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

About 300 people are expected to attend the \$200-per-plate dinner. Those contributing a minimum of \$500 will be invited to a private reception, where they will meet personally with Roth, Baker and others, including U.S. Sen. Joseph R. Biden and Congressman Michael N. Castle, both of Delaware.

The event is expected to raise about \$100,000. The proceeds will go toward the planting of trees in Israel in honor of Roth and the construction of the Northwest Negev Reservoir in Israel's Negev Desert.

The reservoir, which will cost a total of \$7 million, will have a

capacity of 3.5 million cubic meters of water.

"It's very fitting that these funds be used to help build a reservoir that, for years in the future, will help ease one of the most pressing problems in the Mideast," Simon explained.

The Jewish National Fund is the American fund raising arm of Keren Keyemeth LeIsrael, which is the official land agency in Israel on behalf of all Jewish people everywhere. Through its fund raising and education efforts, JNF supports KKL in the reclamation of land for planting and forestry; environmental concerns; water conservation; recreation and agriculture; employment of new immigrants; tourism; and research and development.

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PURIM

Top Ten Reasons To "Veg Out" This Purim

By **RICHARD H. SCHWARTZ**
*Professor of Mathematics,
Staten Island College,
New York. Author of
"Judaism and Vegetarianism."*

10. According to the Talmud, Queen Esther, the heroine of the Purim story, was a vegetarian while she lived in the palace of King Achashverus. She was thus able to avoid violating the kosher dietary laws while keeping her Jewish identity secret.

9. During Purim it is a mitzvah to give "mat'not evyonim" (added charity to poor and hungry people). In contrast to these acts of sharing and compassion, animal-based diets involve the feeding of over 70 percent of the grain in the United States to animals, while an estimated 20 million people worldwide die of hunger and its effects annually.

8. During the afternoon of Purim, Jews have a "seudah" (special festive meal), when family and friends gather to rejoice in the Purim spirit. Serving only vegetarian food at this occasion would enable all who partake to be consistent with Jewish mandates to

preserve health, protect the environment, share with hungry people, conserve resources, and treat animals with compassion.

7. Jews make noise with "grogers" and other noisemakers, to drown out the infamous name of Haman when it appears during the reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther). Today, vegetarians are "making noise" in attempting to educate people and drown out the very well-funded propaganda of the beef and dairy industries.

6. On Purim, Jews emphasize unity and friendship by sending gifts of food ("shalach manot") to friends. Vegetarians act in the spirit of unity and concern for humanity by having a diet that best shares the earth's abundant resources.

5. Because of the deliverance of the Jewish people that it commemorates, Purim is the most joyous Jewish holiday. By contrast, animals on factory farms never have a pleasant day, and millions of people throughout the world are too involved in worrying about their next meal to be able to experience many joyous moments.

4. Mordecai, one of the heroes

of the Purim story, was a nonconformist. As the book of Esther states, "... And all of the king's servants ... bowed down and prostrated themselves before Haman ... But Mordecai would not bow down nor prostrate himself before him" (Esther 3:2). Today, vegetarians represent nonconformity. At a time when most people in the wealthier countries think of animal products as the main part of their meals, when

McDonald's and similar fast food establishments are expanding, vegetarians are resisting and insisting that there is a better, healthier, more humane diet.

3. Purim commemorates the deliverance of the Jews from the wicked Haman. Today, vegetarianism can be a step toward deliverance from modern problems such as hunger, pollution, and resource scarcities.

2. Purim commemorates the

time when conditions for the Jews changed from sorrow to gladness and from mourning to festival. Today, a switch to vegetarianism could result in similar changes for many people, since plant-based diets would significantly reduce health and environmental problems and hunger.

1. HAMANTASCHEN, A TRADITIONAL PURIM TREAT IS A VEGETARIAN FOOD.

Virtual Purim

By **JULIA GOLDMAN**
NEW YORK, Feb. 22 (JTA) — This Purim, the Internet is putting a new twist on the Scroll of Esther.

Revelers preparing to celebrate the springtime holiday can use the World Wide Web for a deeper understanding of the Megillah, or scroll, which tells the story of the fourth-century-B.C.E. redemption of the Jews of Persia. Purim begins March 1 this year, one week after the second annual Jewish Web Week (Feb. 22-26) promoting Jewish activity on the Internet. The Web Week's organizers estimate that there are 5,000 Jewish Web sites, 613 — the number of commandments in the Torah — of which are linked to their host site (www.jww.org).

One of the newest Jewish cyberspace locations is Jewish Interactive Studies, which hit the Web in August.

The service invites students to "study the classic sources of Jewish knowledge," ranging from the Midrash, rabbinic commentaries from the first to the fifth centuries C.E., to the 18th-century Rabbi Eliyahu of Vilna. Its 5-week Purim Holiday Handbook course, which runs through the end of February, provides weekly updates

on the Purim story. Each installment summarizes an episode in the tale of the Jewish heroine Esther's

marriage to the Persian King Ahasuerus and her strategies,

Continued to page 9

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PURIM

The Hamantash - Food For Thought

By Rabbi YEHUDAH PRERO

There is a widespread custom that during Adar, people make and bakers bake three cornered filled cookies called Hamantashen.

One year, on the day before Purim, Rav Yaakov Berlin, the father of the famous Rabbi Naftoli Berlin (the Netziv), went to the market to purchase this special treat in honor of Purim. He went from baker to baker, but no Hamantashen were to be found. He found this situation to be quite

odd, and he therefore asked one of the bakers why no one had any Hamantashen. He was informed that the year had been one of a serious drought. The price of flour skyrocketed, and bakers were only able to afford flour for the Shabbos challah. Flour for any other purpose, including Hamantashen, was not even considered because it was so expensive.

As soon as Rav Berlin heard this, he immediately called for all the city's bakers. Once they were assembled he presented them with a large sum of money. Rav Berlin told them that the money was to be used to purchase flour so that they could bake Hamantashen. Why did Rav Berlin feel so strongly about having Hamantashen available? He explained that these special cookies had for generations been consumed during Adar. Being that it was a long standing tradition to have Hamantashen, and it is forbidden to annul customs, Hamantashen must be baked.

Rav Berlin then explained how Hamantashen got their name. In Megillas Esther, we find that Achashverosh had never rewarded Mordechai for his role in saving the king from a plotted assassination. However, one night, "the sleep of

the king was disturbed." On that night, Achashverosh was reminded that Mordechai had not been rewarded, and he ordered Haman to parade Mordechai around in royal fashion. This marked the beginning of the salvation of the Jews from the murderous scheme of Haman. The Yalkut Shimoni tells us that Achashverosh was not the only one who had his slumber disturbed that night. On that night, the "slumber" of our three forefathers Abraham, Yitzchok, and Yaakov was disturbed because of the evil that was to befall the Jews. They pleaded with G-d to spare the Jewish people from destruction. In the merit of the forefathers, Haman's power weakened. When combined with the prayers and

repentance of the nation, this merit helped save the people from destruction. The word for "weaken" in Hebrew is "Tash." Thus, the three cornered cookie, with each other representing one forefather, is named "Haman tash," "Haman was weakened." The presence of

this highly symbolic cookie was a long standing custom, and therefore, Rav Berlin explained, the custom must continue.

When we munch on our Hamantashen, we should make sure that we properly digest the reminder contained within!



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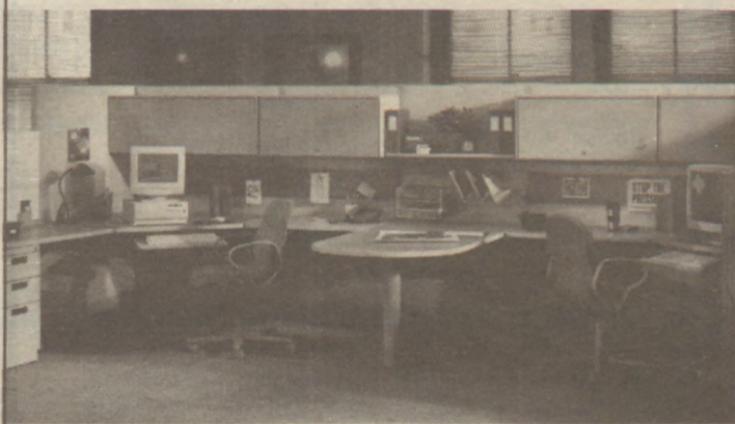
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When asked to reflect on the distinction of reaching 100 years old, a centenarian remarked, "It's the younger years that are the most difficult. If you reach 75 and have no serious illness, then you have it made."

Medical technology and the advent of new procedures and new medications have advanced the chances of living longer. So has information concerning diet and exercise. Longitudinal studies are providing important sources for

information on the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disease. In Clearwater, FL, on the state's west coast, the Florida Geriatric Research Program (FGRP) of Morton Plant Mease Health Care has been doing just that for more than 25 years.

In a study that includes more than 7,000 participants age 65 and older, the program has amassed an impressive database on the elderly. Each year, through annual evaluations, tests, and examinations, the study records vital information on variations and changes in the physical, psychological, and mental condition of each participant.

Centenarian Study

Several years ago the FGRP decided to do a modified study of those who are 100 years and older. The study procedures are not as extensive or scientific as those used for younger participants. The main study tool is simply a list of 25 questions about participants' genetic histories, lifestyles, habits, and philosophies. FGRP sent out a request for names of persons 100 years of age and over to between 9,000 to 10,000 readers of its quarterly *Health Letter for the Mature Adult*. Local newspapers picked up on the request for information on centenarians, and dozens of names came into the FGRP headquarters.

Of those who returned questionnaires, 43 (69%) were women and 19 were men. (In the United States, 79 percent of all centenarians are women.) Thirteen were

100 years old, nine were 101, 18 of the group were 102, 10 were 103, and the remainder were between 104 and 106, with one having reached 107 and one 109. A majority of those who replied now live in the milder southern states, but few of the 62 were born there. Fourteen were born in Pennsylvania, nine in New York State, several in New England, and most in the Midwest. Five were born outside the United States.

Influence of Lifestyle

The common wisdom, until several years ago, was that genes determine longevity. That is partly true. Three-fourths of the FGRP centenarians had parents who lived well past 80 and into their 90s. One 103-year-old reported that her father lived to be 105. Parents who escaped cancer and stroke seemed to contribute to the chances of their progeny's doing the same.

Heredity, however, is not the whole story. James Rowe, MD - gerontologist, president of Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York, and director of the MacArthur Foundation Consortium on Successful Aging - believes that other factors are more important. "Only about 30 percent of the characteristics of aging are genetically determined. The other 70 percent are linked to lifestyle," he says.

So what characteristics make up that other 70 percent? It is interesting that in this particular group studied in Florida, few had experienced serious illness in the past 20

years of their lives. As a group they had very good health. When answering questions about diet, most mentioned eating "in moderation," although a few mentioned prohibiting specific foods. The majority had never smoked, although at least 20 had done so in the past.

On the question regarding education 25 (40%) of the FGRP respondents reported they had college educations, a percentage that seems remarkably high when one considers the years they were of college age in the early 1900s. Twelve had graduated from technical schools, sixteen from high school, and the remainder had left school after the 8th grade or earlier.

One outstanding commonality in this group was that with few exceptions, they had experienced long marriages. Two of them had celebrated 70 years of marriages, 14 had been wed for 60 years, and 15 had lived with a mate for 50 years. Nineteen had been married between 30 and 40 years. Only a few had short marriages, with four respondents (6%) never having been married.

The FGRP participants clearly still have a great deal to contribute to younger generations - a collective memory of folklore, traditions, experiences, history, regional differences, arts, crafts and family who have preceded them.

Jo Ann Warden is an editorial associate at the Florida Geriatric Research Program.

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Virtual Purim

Continued from page 6

worked out with her cousin Mordechai, to save the Jews from the genocidal plot of the king's adviser, Haman.

The role of divine providence in the tale of political intrigue — though not specifically mentioned — is underscored by rabbinic interpretations. By examining the detailed account of the Megillah, the Web site explains, the student will realize that the "seemingly trivial events that preceded the salvation of the Jewish people" in fact "depict a sequence of concealed miraculous events that brought about the ultimate salvation." To date, classes have covered the Book of Esther and the biblical narratives of Isaac and Jacob. Future offerings will delve into the foundations of Judaism and an overview of the Hebrew Bible.

Jewish Interactive Studies has some 500 registered students logging on from places as far flung as France and rural West Virginia. About half of them have "little to no Jewish knowledge" according to Michael Zauderer, the director of public relations for the group,

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which is sponsored by a family foundation in memory of relatives who perished in the Holocaust. Students' questions are answered personally by the Jerusalem-based Talmud lecturer (and certified public accountant) Rabbi Moshe Zauderer and his staff of teachers. Occasional chat rooms have allowed students to exchange their own views as well, but the main interactions occur between teacher and individual student.

"I was overwhelmed by the depth of your response," writes one student from Philadelphia, identified simply as "Y.S."

"I assume you respond to all your students that way," Y.S. adds, "I am not sure how you find the time. It's like having a private rabbinical tutor." A few other Web sites offer users rabbinic exegesis on the Purim story and the holiday's customs and themes (such as www.vjholidays.com/purim). Some sites — including one run by an outreach group called Project Genesis (www.torah.org) — also provide instant e-mail links to rabbis for questions and comments.

While supporting the effort at virtual Purim, most rabbis will tell you that according to halacha, Jewish law, the ideal way to observe the Purim holiday is by attending a reading of the Megillah. "It is the hearing that is essential," said Rabbi Alan Cohen, a conservative rabbi in Kansas City,

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CALLING ALL CAMPERS

Sleepaway Camp - The First Summer Away From Home

By **ELAINE VIPLER**
founder, SummerScope,
a camp referral service

Sleepaway camp is an exciting, fun-filled valuable experience. Children develop new and lasting friendships. Athletic activities develop motor skills and foster good sportsmanship and healthy competition. Children discover their creative abilities and learn to express them in different forms of art, music and drama. Each day provides opportunities for learning, growing and having fun.

A child usually has his/her first sleepaway camp experience between the ages of seven and ten. Your child's readiness for camp will depend largely upon your attitudes toward camp and feelings about separation. Parents who have had a positive camp experience themselves and share their memories with enthusiasm will spark interest

in their child.

You can provide your child with opportunities that will prepare his/her for camp:

- Day camp and after-school activities help prepare children for sleepaway camp. Children who are involved in team sports, gymnastics, swimming, riding or drama are eager to go to camp so they can participate more fully in their special interest activity.

- Spending the night at the homes of friends or relatives allows for separation, and gives children a chance to feel comfortable and secure sleeping in a strange bed and being away from home.

- If your child has an older sibling who has gone to camp, chances are he has been to camp on visiting day and seen it in action. Such an introduction is bound to make a child eager to experience camp for him/herself.

Your choice of camp will be primarily dependent upon your child's specific needs and interests, as well as your own goals. Consider the following to clarify your priorities:

- Would you prefer a small, medium or large camp?

- What is your preference as to geographic location?

- Would you prefer a single-sex or co-ed program?

- Would an eight week, four week or other program be best suited for your child?

- Would your child do better in a more structured or less structured environment?

- Are you looking for a camp which emphasizes sports, creative arts, hiking, nature?

Once you have clarified your priorities, you are ready to look for a camp. Getting recommendations from friends can be helpful provided you ask specific questions based on your child's needs and interests. The first camp my daughter went to was highly recommended by a good friend whose children had been going for several years. As it turned out, the camp was great for my friend's children, but totally inappropriate for my daughter who needed a more structured program with a stronger emphasis on sports and opportunities for competition. Advisory services can assist you in finding an appropriate camp for your child, giving you information and recommendations based on personal camp visits and research.

After you have narrowed your choices to a few appropriate camps, talk about camp with your child and look at camp brochures together. Some camp directors recommend planning a family vacation in an area where you can visit camps that are possibilities for the following summer. Visiting camps will give your child a view of camp life and the experience of these visits will lead to more questions and discussion.

The best time to apply to camps is during the fall prior to the summer your child will be at camp. If you are working with a camp adviser, he or she will have camp information sent to you and contact the directors of the camps you are considering. The directors will then call you to arrange a meeting with you and your child to tell you about their camp. If you are choosing on your own, you can call the winter office of each camp to request information and set up an appointment. Some directors meet each family at their home, whereas others meet several families together at a central location.

It is a good idea for parent and child to prepare a list of questions to ask the director. One child's list included these questions:

- How will I know where to go when I get off the bus?
- How often do I have to take a shower?
- Where will I sleep?
- How will I get awakened in the morning?
- What if I don't like the food?
- What if I get sick at camp?

Every question is important, and the camp director should take the

time to answer every one. After the director gives the presentation and the questions are answered, you will have a better idea if this camp is a possibility for your child. As a family, discuss each camp under consideration remembering that

there are many good camps. The key is to choose the camp that is most suitable for your child. If your child is not ready for sleepaway camp this year, you've done your homework and you'll be ready whenever he/she is.

Group Kills

Continued from page 20

not calling for a shared Jerusalem and has not weakened its support for a united Jerusalem under Israeli control, as opponents charged during a brief debate on the measure.

Instead, JCPA wants Israel and the Palestinians to simply think creatively as they discuss their concerns, officials said.

*sided with Holocaust survivors who have criticized the World Jewish Restitution Organization and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

for representing Holocaust survivors in negotiations with European companies over Holocaust-era assets. The JCPA said "Holocaust survivors must play a direct role" in these efforts.

*voted down a measure calling on Israel to allow relatives of the Falash Mura still in Ethiopia who have family in Israel to emigrate. The Falash Mura are not recognized as Jewish by the government of Israel.

Instead, the group called on Israel to fairly and in a timely manner accept or reject their applications.

Providing A Jewish Camping Experience

By **SUSAN PARCELS**

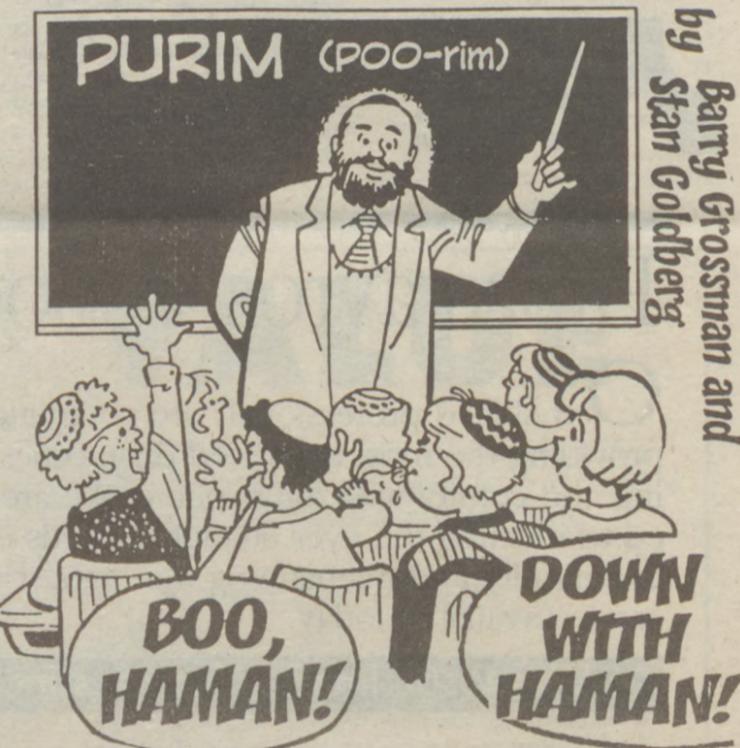
What are your favorite camp songs? do they include *David Melech Yisrael*, *Ufaratza* and *Tree of Life* in English and Hebrew? If so, you know the importance of a Jewish camping experience. Jewish summer camps have always played a large role in instilling a sense of Jewish identity and in building ties within the Jewish community.

"Here at Camp JCC, we have a profound sense of our mission to instill Jewish values, to teach Jewish history, and to be a center for Jewish life," says Ivy Harlev, Executive Camp Director. "We also know how much fun it is to sing Jewish camp songs at the top of our lungs!"

Every day at Camp JCC is part of a Jewish adventure. "We begin our day singing Hatkiva and raising

the Israeli and American flags. We sing Hamotzi before meals and we celebrate Oneg every Friday." these rituals are the framework for a rich program that includes Judaics and Israeli culture classes and numerous theme days dedicated to celebrating our Jewish identity. "Most of all, we draw upon the richness of the tradition to ground and liberate us. We are rooted like the *Tree of Life*, but our branches wave high in the air as we celebrate the joy of Jewish camping," adds Harley.

The children's faces tell it all. Whenever an activity instills a sense of belonging, the looks of recognition shine from their faces saying, "You're Jewish and I'm Jewish too. We belong to each other. We belong together." Join us this summer at Camp JCC.



by **Barry Grossman** and **Stan Goldberg**

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Sunday, Mar. 14 • 12:15 pm JCHS of Gratz College, 7605 Old York Rd., Melrose Park	Sunday, Mar. 28 • 7:00 pm JCCs Klein Branch, 10100 Jamison Ave., NE Phila.
Tuesday, Mar. 16 • 7:00 pm Bucks County JCC, 677 S. State St., Suite 2, Newtown	

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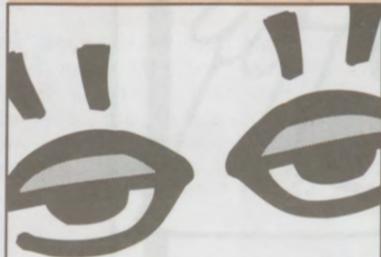
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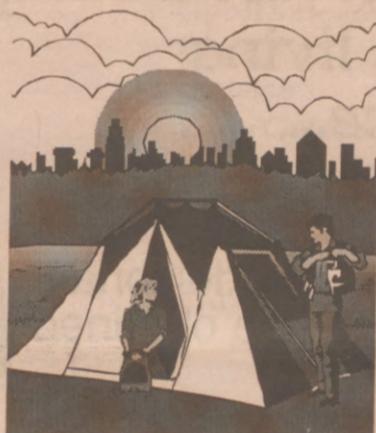
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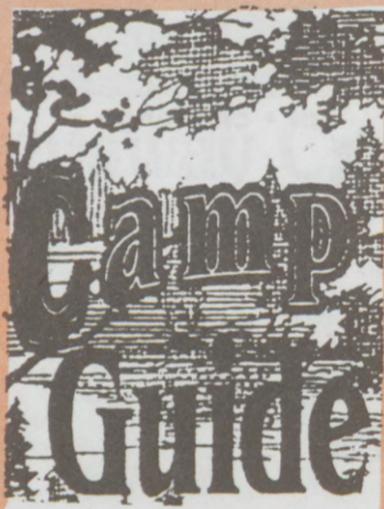
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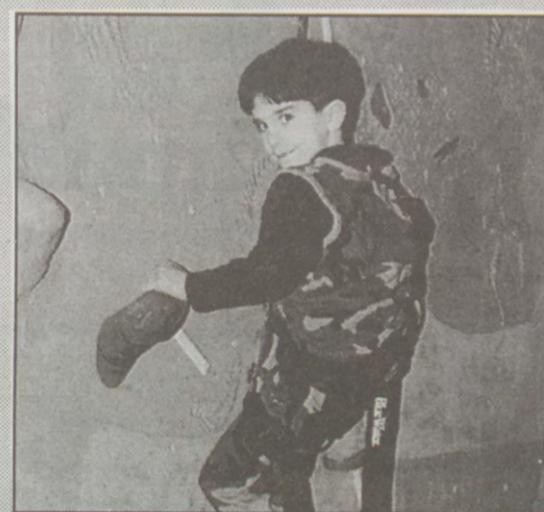
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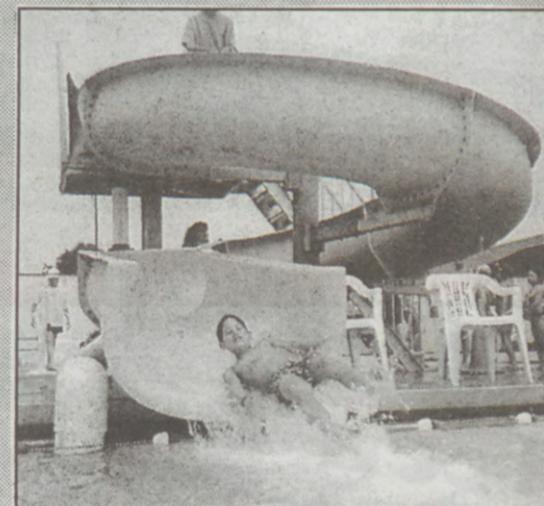
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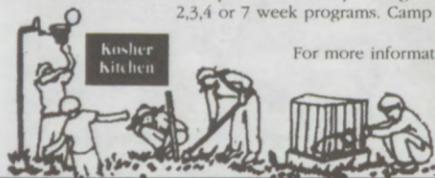
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Bronfman

Continued from Page 1

As an adult, he was the city's federation campaign chairman, sat on the executive committee and served as president. He is currently the honorary president of the United Israel Appeal of Canada. In the early 1980s, Bronfman served on the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and most recently he took on volunteer positions at CLAL, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, which he now chairs.

Last fall, the bespectacled Bronfman was the International chairman of the partnership's 1998 General Assembly, which attracted 5,000 people to Jerusalem, where it was held for the first time.

It was there that Bronfman announced his own partnership with Wall Street magnate Michael Steinhardt in launching Birthright Israel, which in the year 2000 is expected to offer every Jew in the world between the ages of 15 and 26 an educational trip to Israel. Bronfman and his wife had already joined with Steinhardt in the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education in 1997.

The Birthright program builds on one of Bronfman's initiatives - Israel Experience Inc., a clearinghouse for teen Israel trips founded in 1993 by a coalition of the Charles and Andrea Bronfman Foundation, the UJA, CJF, the Jewish Agency, the Jewish Educational Service of North America and the Jewish Community Centers Association of America.

Bronfman made his first visit to Israel in 1958 — the same year that construction was completed on the Seagram building, a soaring skyscraper on Park Avenue designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Philip Johnson.

Today he and his wife maintain a home in Jerusalem, along with residences in New York and Palm Beach, Fla.

Strengthening the bonds between North American and Israeli Jews is one of Bronfman's longtime passions.

He recalls with evident appreciation how his extended family gave him a special present for his 60th birthday: the Bronfman Mifgashim Center in Jerusalem, where Israeli and Diaspora youth can have encounters ("mifgashim" in Hebrew) that Bronfman hopes will lead to long-term connections.

Bronfman was a great believer in Jewish continuity before the term was widely used.

Today the idea of continuity has been replaced by "renaissance" — a major theme of the new partnership's mission, and one that Bronfman sees as essential for inspiring the Jewish community and for recruiting new blood and new ideas into the organization.

"What do we say to young, affluent, Americanized people," he asks, to let them know there could be "something more in

their life that may be missing?

"Maybe Jewish renaissance would be great for all of us," he says. But he believes that achieving this and strengthening the unity of the Jewish people together will take "a different kind of organization."

The game plan for that new entity is already in the works: a set of merger documents has been sent out to the local federations for their approval.

The merger will put community fund raising in the hands of the local federations and will give them a majority voice in running the mammoth organization.

But Bronfman anticipates a curve ball or two in melding the agencies, which for a century have cooperated closely, but functioned separately. "It's that human question that's so important," he said, and one that he and Joel D. Tauber, named first chairman of the executive of

the entity and one professional yet unnamed — must attend to.

Leaders are meant to take risks, Bronfman said, and the biggest risk the new entity's leaders face "is to get people on the same side, to blend together a group of both lay and professionals who want to go in the same direction" without holding one another back.

More than anything else, however, Bronfman sees providing inspiration as the new entity's main job. Bronfman himself is clearly inspired.

"I think this is the golden age of the Jewish world," he said, "and I think it's now our duty, responsibility and enormous pleasure" to see to it that "that golden age goes on for a long time."

"We can't guarantee it," he said, "but, by gosh, I think this new system will help set things up so that our great success can be continued."



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MUSIC

Musicians Sound A Jewish Note

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

JTA

Sculpted sideburns emanating from a head of closely cropped hair and several small hoops running up each earlobe mark King Django as a ska hipster.

Ska, a precursor of reggae that weaves together elements of American rhythm and blues with the laid-back sound of Jamaica's easy native groove, has been embraced by anti-Nazi skinheads as the music of their movement.

Yet while Django, as he's known to everyone but his parents — who named him Jeffrey Baker — may be big on the downtown alternative music scene, he's no Jamaican rasta.

He's a nice Jewish boy from Brooklyn who now makes the Lower East Side his home.

Now, after years working toward success in a non-Jewish musical idiom, Django is coming out of the Jewish closet.

He recently put out a CD titled "Roots and Culture," which brings together reggae rhythms and Yiddish lyrics, songs about the sanctity of Shabbat and a folksy version of "Shalom Aleichem" with a ska sound.

On the CD's back cover, Django reiterates Maimonides' 13 articles of faith without identifying them, giving simple testament to his Jewish faith.

It puts Django in the company of other musicians — including the hip-hop duo M.O.T. and the hard-core metal band Sons of Abraham — who are putting their status as Jews front and center.

Suddenly it's hip — or at least acceptable — to be Jewish.

That's in strong contrast to the earlier part of the century when Jewish musical talents like Irving Berlin (born Israel Baline) changed their names and devoted their skills to penning songs such as "White Christmas."

In recent years, too, Jewish musicians such as Neil Diamond and Barbra Streisand have put out Christmas albums.

The Jewishness of band members of the Beastie Boys (who now identify as Buddhists), Rush (Geddy Lee, born Gary Lee Weinrib), and KISS (band members Gene Simmons, born Chaim Witz; and Paul Stanley, born Stanley Eisen) is well known but invisible in their work.

The most explicit reflection of a mainstream group's Jewish identity may be a few lines of the High Holidays prayer "Avinu Malkeinu" in the middle of a song by Phish, added in by band member — and Conservative day school alumnus — Mike Gordon.

Many musicians, of course, have long focused their entire professional effort on Jewish music — and found themselves limited to that niche.

What's new is that those who have not been so visibly Jewish are staking a proud claim to their religious and ethnic identities and making them explicit in their work.

Avant-garde jazz musicians John Zorn, Anthony Coleman and Marc Ribot, among others, have for the last few years been playing free-flowing and often dissonant music that, they say, is inherently Jewish because it's coming from a Jewish place inside them.

This year they and others are playing "Jewsapalooza" at the Knitting Factory, a New York club, during the week surrounding Christmas.

The trend may well have started with the Klezmatics, the popular neo-klezmer group which roots world-beat music and progressive themes in traditional Jewish sounds.

They have been more successful than just about any other overtly Jewish group, selling more than 25,000 copies of their recordings when other acts sell a fraction of that, said music industry sources.

According to Klezmatics fiddler Alicia Svigals, until now "a lot of Jewish artists were into being Jewish, but in a very compartmentalized way, out-

side of what they did professionally."

"It used to be that Jews were everywhere and nowhere. Jews were prominent in arts and politics and hid at the same time," said Svigals who, along with klezmer clarinetist Andy Statman, played on King Django's "Roots and Culture."

Now "it's nice to see Jews doing something Jewish rather than hiding in shame," said Svigals.

The Klezmatics helped create the atmosphere that is making the new Jewish renaissance in music possible, she said. The band approached klezmer as not wanting to recreate the music of their grandparents, she said. Instead, "We incorporated sounds which were part of our musical psyche, but in an organic way. Then people realized you could do it," she said.

A Los Angeles duo — who have dubbed themselves Dr. Dreidel and Ice Berg — call themselves M.O.T. (Members of the Tribe) and are taking it a big step further.

The hilarious pair, more a 1990s version of Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks than the black rappers from whom they've liberally adapted their noms de musiques, recently put out a tongue-in-cheek CD titled "19.99."

In a staccato beat and rhyming lyrics they poke fun at stereotypes of Jews being matzah-ball eating, money-hungry kvetchers rolling around Hollywood in Lincoln Town Cars.

Rather than being part of the hip-hop nation, which is part of black musical culture, "We're part of the Hebe-hop nation," said Berg, known to his mother as Andrew Todd Rosenthal. "We believe in power to the chosen people."

His musical partner, who goes by Dreidel but whose name is Hillel Tigay, offered a somewhat more serious analysis of what they're about.

"What we're trying to say is that it's okay to come out and laugh at these stereotypes," Dreidel said.

"We say we're not embarrassed to be Jews, who have contributed so much to comedy and literacy. We will not shut the hell up, we're proud of who we are. We're a cultural phenomenon, not people with long beards. We're proud of our stature in Hollywood," said Dreidel, who spent three of his formative years in Israel, while his father, a Conservative rabbi who works as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, worked there.

"Jews have achieved enormous success in the media and people only point out the negatives in that. It's latent anti-Semitism."

"We're just laughing at those stereotypes," he said. "It's pretty ballsy to say 'I'm super Jew'."

Django, for one, has gotten a gratifying response to his new visible Jewishness.

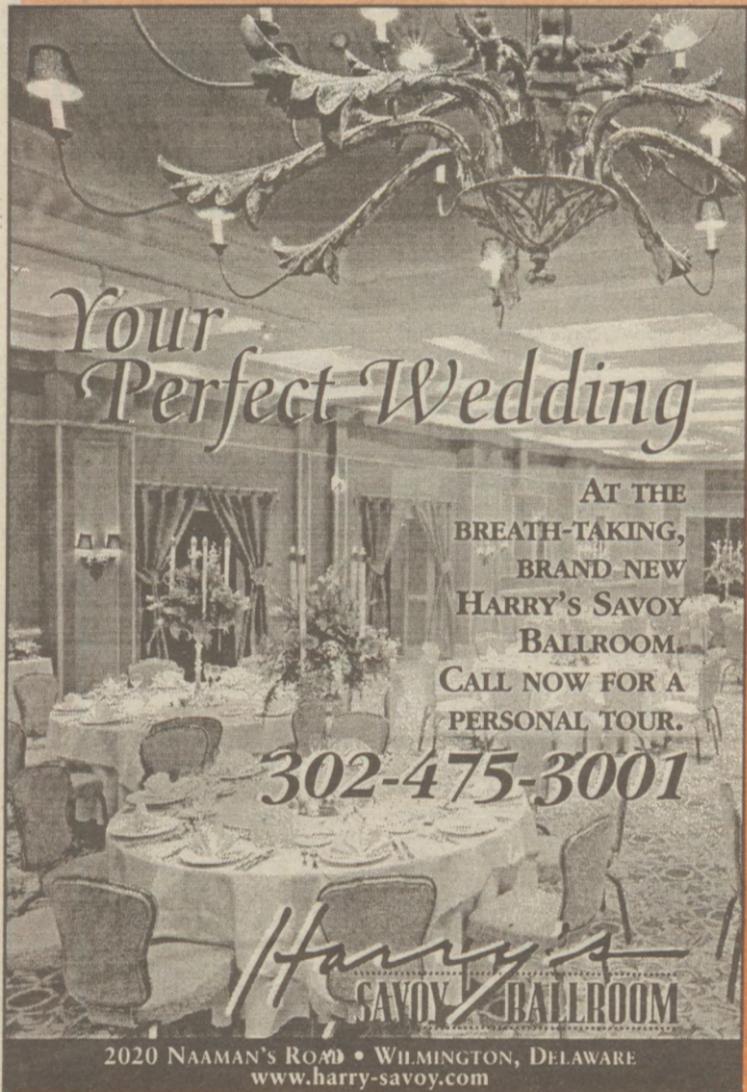
"There are a lot of Jewish guys in reggae and ska music," he said over an omelet at an East Village diner. "I've mostly gotten cheers from them, telling me 'Burn on, man.' A lot of them have asked to be on the next [Jewish] record."

Ska fans, mostly young men who attend the more than 180 club dates Django and his two ska bands play each year all over the world, have also given a warm response to his new Jewish music.

"It feels good to give people who are assimilated a sense of their Jewish roots," said Django, who credits his grandmother singing him Yiddish lullabies, and his experiences singing in a Conservative synagogue and at Jewish camps, with inculcating his love of Jewish music.

"A lot of the anti-Nazi skinheads are Jewish" but feel really alienated from their parents, he said. "I had this blue-eyed blond kid in Atlanta come up to me and say 'My mom doesn't understand this whole ska thing. Now I can show this to her.'"

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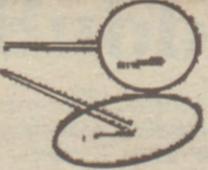
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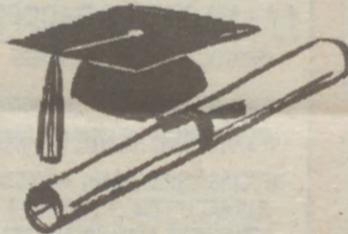
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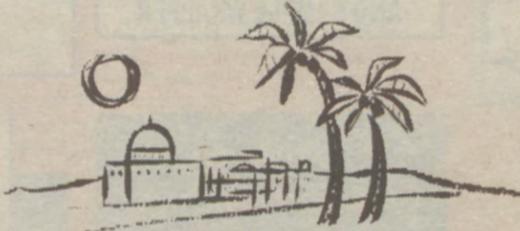
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THE RABBI WRITES

Herbert E. Drooz - The Gentleman Rabbi

**Eulogy By Rabbi
PETER GRUMBACHER**
Congregation Beth Emeth

This is a very sad day for me personally as it is for all of you, especially Dan and Angela, Jody and Alan, their children, Arnold, Herb's brother, and all of those of Beth Emeth and the Delaware community who knew and loved this wonderful man.

When I was interviewing for my first position, I didn't want an assistantship. My cousin ordered me to interview with Rabbi Drooz. He told me, "Even if you never wind up in Wilmington, at least meet him. He's known as The Gentleman Rabbi." Thank God I listened! Herb was a "gentleman" and, even more important to me, a "gentle" man.

About a year after I came to Delaware, a friend of mine from my ordination class was having a tough time in his small, solo pulpit. I suggested to him that after his contract was up he find a senior rabbi who was kind, considerate and understanding, a man who would give him plenty of room, credit for doing a good job, a mentor and a friend. Suddenly I stopped and told him, "Wait a minute, I have that job with Rabbi

Drooz and I'm not giving it up!!!"

Here was a man devoted to his faith and people. He was a deeply religious Jew. Suzy always commented that if we ever needed a prayer said for a family member, I was not to do it. Why? Because we both believed that when Rabbi Drooz offered a prayer, God heard it. And who could not feel the intensity in his voice at the end of Yom Kippur!? At Neilah, when our last chance for forgiveness was at hand, Rabbi Drooz kept the Gates of Repentance open for a minute more because of his petition in front of the open ark.

There were times when he stood at the pulpit and you could just imagine Micah, Amos or Isaiah speaking his words, but it was his compassion and kindness, his deep love for his congregants which touched our souls.

Herbert was active in our community. In the early '80's, he received the annual award from our NCCJ region for his tireless efforts on behalf of so many people. He was involved in Wilmington's Lincoln Club for years and years, surely because the message of Abraham Lincoln was his message as well. And for decades he actively participated in Rotary, composing some of the

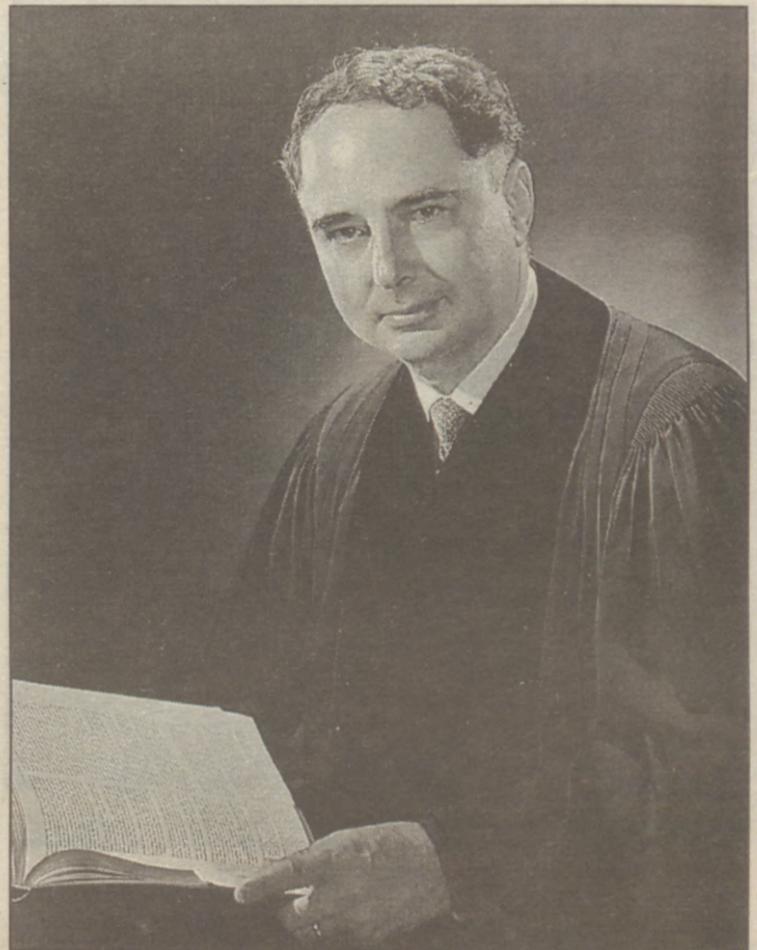
finest prayers for the members of the club, prayers which Rotary published in his honor just a couple of years ago.

He loved his family. He and Florence were a wonderful couple, truly a team. I felt so good to be together with them and I always had a terrific time. He always spoke glowingly about Dan and Jody, about the accomplishments of his grandchildren. Dan and Angela took such loving care of him since Florence's death. He felt so comfortable in their home despite the challenges of the last few years.

How I wish I could be with all of you not just to deliver this in person but because Herb was more than my senior rabbi, my "boss," all these years. He was truly like another father to me.

He and I shared the Hebrew name "Chaim," "life." So much of his life in the rabbinate was a model for mine, only in my eyes he did it better.

There's so much more I would want to say, but I know what my concluding words would be regardless of the length of this message. Herbert Drooz would want each and every one of us to go on with our lives "with a twinkle in the eye..." just as he did.



Herbert E. Drooz
May 14, 1917 - Feb. 8, 1999

The Boy In The Bubble

Imagine waking up every morning at five. Don't forget to wash your hands and say your prayers. Before you put on your clothes, make sure your mind is focused on God, thanking Him for allowing you to live through the night. Ok, time to go daven (pray). Shackris at the wall, put on your tephillin, and don't forget kavanah (intention). Time to eat. Don't forget to say your blessings over the food. Have to go to the bathroom? Don't forget to pray when you're finished; have to thank God for allowing you to go. By the time it's eight in the morning you've said approximately thirty blessings. Time to go spend the rest of the day learning in the Yeshiva. Go into the Beis Medrash (study hall) and learn Torah, Mishna, and Gemarrah. After occasional breaks for the bathroom and food, not to mention davening Mincha and Maariv, at nine in the evening you can go home and go to sleep. Don't forget to say your prayers before lying down to sleep. Oh yeah, I forgot, if you have any money matters, health questions, questions about politics, sports, or life, it's all done in the Yeshiva.

On August sixth last year I arrived at Aish Hatorah Yeshiva, an accredited institution of higher education, in the heart of the Old City in Jerusalem, to learn an aspect of Judaism not understood by many people; an faction of Judaism many skeptics believe are trying to brainwash our society. I spend the next five months living with them and learning with them. Not only did I learn their philosophies, but also I took part in their religious convictions as I watched

and participated in their daily rituals. On Rosh Hashana I spent the whole day in prayer and spiritual renewal. On Yom Kippur, I joined a rabbi friend and davened from five-thirty in the morning until sunset, breaking the fast at his house.

Over the five-month period I attended daily classes on Judaism. These classes were centered on teaching me a better understanding of religious Judaism, what the people at the Yeshiva call "true" Judaism. First was a class entitled Jewish Daily Living. This class teaches Jews how to live life from totally Jewish perspectives; beginning with prayers over books, people, and daily activities, to davening, and washing the hands before a meal. The second class I took was an Ulpan (Hebrew instruction), focused on understanding modern and biblical Hebrew. After Hebrew was a class named A Crash Course in Jewish History. This class went through the Torah, and many writings from Josephus and other medieval scholars, outlining the history of Judaism from the perspective that one believes Moses wrote every word of the Torah as it was dictated to him by God on Mount Sinai.

The revelation and kiruv are the two focuses in the teachings of the Yeshiva. When a student comes to the Yeshiva with questions, the Yeshiva answers them. The goal of kiruv is that a student can come and learn about Judaism, and go back into the world with a clear understanding of the importance of remaining Jewish in a world where intermarriage is so prevalent. To do this, the Yeshiva teaches that

Moses wrote the Torah, and the most important event in the history of Judaism is the revelation at Mount Sinai. Those learning study the Torah, Talmud, Mishna, and Gemarrah, to better themselves, because they believe the best way to live is how God proclaimed we should live to Moses. They believe that people are not doing justice to themselves unless they are learning on a daily basis. Every aspect of their lives is prescribed in these books. This is where the difference in beliefs of Yeshiva Jews, and other Jews around the world, leads to controversy.

While I learned there my life was completely regulated by the rabbis in the Yeshiva. For a period of time a person could become shut off to the outside world. In a sense, those in charge promoted this way of life. A clear example of this, "living in a bubble," was shown to me when I met people learning in the Yeshiva who do not know who Bill Gates is, or who played in the World Series in the last five years. Although you and I may look at this and question the need or reasons to totally surround oneself with a religious bubble, neither of us have the right to persecute someone else because of their belief system.

When I look back on the five months in the Yeshiva from the perspective of a young adult trying to gain knowledge and understanding about Judaism, I recognize that I learned more there than in four years of college. When I say that I do not mean I read twice as many books or attended better classes, I mean that I learned about life. I learned why Judaism is important

and more importantly why history is important. More than developing my brain, I spent the last five months developing myself to go out into the world and be the best person I can be.

The next stage in my life is to receive my Masters degree and Doctorate in Jewish Studies. Beginning in February, I will be

attending the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Without the Yeshiva experience I may never have reached the point in my life where I understand myself enough both academically and spiritually to move forward into the next stage of my life. I believe everyone needs to live in a "bubble," in some shape or form, at some time in his or her lives, to achieve individual goals.



Irv Levitt, Dover, is a former board member of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and a former chairman of the JCRC.

NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL



Natan Sharansky, Israeli minister of industry and trade and former Soviet-era Prisoner of Zion, signs autographs in an appearance Sunday before Moscow's Jewish community. In his address, Sharansky urged Moscow Jews to consider emigration to Israel in light of a recent upsurge in Russian anti-Semitism. "I urge every one of you to think about it one more time," he said. Photo credit: Lev Krichevsky/JTA

Sharansky Glimpses His KGB Past

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
MOSCOW, Feb. 22 (JTA) — Natan Sharansky got a rare chance this week to review 20-year-old KGB documents relating to his activities on behalf of Russian Jewry.

Heading a trade delegation on a two-day trip to Moscow, Sharansky, Israel's minister of industry and trade, met Monday with Vladimir Putin, head of the Federal Security Service, the successor to the Soviet-era KGB.

During that meeting, Putin showed Sharansky his KGB dossier — some 52 volumes of documents — including papers relating to his arrest and conviction in 1977 on charges of spying for the United States.

Putin gave some of the documents to Sharansky, who spent nine years in Soviet prisons as a result of his campaign for Jewish emigration rights in the Soviet Union during the 1970s.

Sharansky later said he was impressed to see all the piles of

documents — and the one piece of paper certifying that he was "rehabilitated" less than a decade ago, under then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Two years ago, during his first trip to Russia as a member of the Israeli Cabinet, Sharansky was denied access to the KGB documents. Sharansky said the documents contained "so much grudge, so much bitterness."

But just the same, he found reason for optimism in the fact that this page of his personal history — and that of his native land — now belonged to the past.

"Where today are all those investigators? Where is the KGB?" he said in a television interview.

This was Sharansky's third visit to Moscow since 1997, when he visited the Lefortovo Prison where he had spent 18 months in isolation.

The official part of his latest visit focused on three issues: economic cooperation between Israel and Russia, Russia's nuclear assistance to Iran, and the recent growth of Russian anti-Semitism.

In a meeting Monday with Putin, Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin, Sharansky discussed Israeli concerns about the physical safety of

the Russian Jewish community.

Sharansky asked them whether they believed that recent anti-Semitic statements by members of the Russian Parliament could lead to pogroms. "They agreed that such a danger exists, at least purely theoretically," Sharansky said later, adding that his Russian hosts had assured him that they were closely monitoring the situation.

In another meeting Monday about Russia's nuclear cooperation with Iran, Sharansky suggested that Israel and the West should attempt to get Russian scientists involved in international research projects so that Russian strategic interests would follow those of the West instead of Iran.

On Sunday, Sharansky was greeted by some 500 members of the Moscow Jewish community, who packed the Moscow House of Cinema to see the former Prisoner of Zion.

Thirteen years after his release from a Soviet gulag, many in the audience still viewed Sharansky as a hero.

"He was among those people who made democracy in this country possible," Sima Landau, a retired librarian, said, echoing the view of many here.

Clinton Acquittal Brings Relief To Activists Ready For Some Action

By DANIEL KURTZMAN
JTA

President Clinton's acquittal has brought a palpable sense of relief to scandal-weary Jewish activists, who, like many across the country, have been waiting for this impeachment cloud to lift.

The relief comes at least in part from the fact that the president, who has been considered highly responsive to the concerns of the Jewish community, is now assured of completing his term in office.

But there is also an expectation that the end of the entire affair will generate new momentum to finally get real work done.

As Clinton turns from the ignominy of impeachment to the task of trying to resurrect his legacy, many of his legislative and foreign policy priorities can be expected to dovetail with the Jewish community's agenda — in areas including the Middle East, social spending, education, religious liberty and civil rights.

In fact, his efforts in those areas during the remaining two years of his term may provide a significant boost to Jewish interests, just as the community's lobbying efforts on behalf of mutual interests may, in turn, help Clinton.

Ironically, the post-impeachment political dynamic may provide the best bet yet for bipartisan cooperation between the Clinton administration and the Republican-led Congress, especially as both search for ways to restore their public standing.

Although deep partisan divisions and lingering animosity from the

impeachment process, coupled with a looming presidential campaign, may still make it difficult to achieve compromise, most Jewish lobbyists are optimistic about the prospects for positive advances in the 100th Congress.

"It's time now to heal the wounds that have been caused by this disastrous process in which so many bear responsibility, and it's time to move on to addressing the urgent problems that America faces," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Jewish lobbyists are anxious to start moving their agenda on Capitol Hill, which includes bolstering Social Security and Medicare, protecting patient's rights, strengthening the nation's hate-crimes laws, extending new protections for religious practice and securing aid to support Israel and to implement the Wye peace agreement.

"People have been so removed and so distanced from the whole Washington scene, it's been so distasteful, that we need to focus people on Washington issues that are something other than Monica and Ken Starr," said Michael Lieberman, the Anti-Defamation League's Washington counsel. "I think we'll be delighted to immerse ourselves back in the policy issues that we're trying to move forward."

Beyond the politics and lack of legislative movement, some Jewish and rabbinic leaders said that from a Jewish viewpoint they were deeply troubled by the impeach-

ment process and the independent counsel investigation that prompted it.

Rabbi Paul Menitoff, executive vice president of the Reform movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis, said the best thing to come out of Clinton's acquittal was that it would stop Kenneth Starr "dead in his tracks."

"Whenever you have an effort to hound people and to really badger them in ways that most respectable prosecutors wouldn't pursue, that's not good for the Jews or any other minority group," Menitoff said, calling Starr's approach "McCarthyesque." Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) touched on a similar point in the speech he delivered on the Senate floor during impeachment deliberations. In underscoring his reverence for the Constitution's protections from "partisan prosecutions," the Jewish senator invoked his family's experience fleeing Nazi Germany.

Another rabbi, Harold Schulweis of Valley Beth Shalom synagogue in Encino, Calif., said the way the trial was conducted by the House managers "violated one of the central aspects of Judaism itself."

He said the managers, who were responsible for prosecuting Clinton in the Senate, appeared to "gloat" in his shame.

"To shame somebody in public is considered as if you had shed his blood," Schulweis said, adding that Judaism teaches that everybody sins and instead "we ought to look forward and encourage his rehabilitation."

Group Kills Jewish Education Resolution

By MATTHEW DORF

WASHINGTON, (JTA) — A move to call for increased local Jewish spending on Jewish education has collapsed amid concerns over turf. Delegates at the annual conference of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs killed by a wide margin a resolution that would have called on local Jewish community relations councils to convene priority task forces with an eye toward urging local federations to increase their allocations to Jewish schools. The resolution, sponsored by Reform, Conservative and Orthodox groups and supported by the JCPA leadership, was intended to put some teeth into JCPA's longstanding policy supporting Jewish education. JCPA is the umbrella group of local Jewish community councils and national Jewish groups.

But the delegates voted Monday to pull the measure from consideration because of concerns that it was telling local federations what to do with their money.

"There was some concern, especially from those who felt it was not appropriate for one institution to tell another how to spend its money," said Lawrence Rubin, JCPA's executive vice chairman.

There was concern expressed, he said, that such a move would draw the ire of local federations,

which fund the local councils. The issue of Jewish education recently has exploded on the communal scene, with many believing that it should be a given priority status as a way to keep Jews Jewish.

Last year the JCPA in a more general way reaffirmed its support for funding local Jewish day schools and after school education programs. The decision drew sharp criticism from the Orthodox Union's delegate, who had spearheaded the effort to pass the measure.

"It's extremely disappointing that in this day and age where we have study after study showing that funding Jewish education is critical for Jewish continuity that the JCPA shouldn't manage to pass a resolution in support of Jewish schools," said Nathan Diament, director of the Institute for Public Affairs of the Orthodox Union.

The JCPA conference brought delegates from around the country. University students and environmental activists convened for simultaneous gatherings.

In other action this week, JCPA: "called on Israel and the Palestinian Authority to use "creative diplomacy" to resolve the permanent status of Jerusalem. JCPA officials insisted that the group is

Continued to page 10

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

An Evening With Flash Rosenberg

By PAULA SHULAK

"When I was a kid living in Newark (Delaware), I was convinced that God lived in a tract house in the middle of my neighborhood! They always told me we were in the House of God." That pithy statement was my first glimpse at the unique and wonderful humor of Flash Rosenberg, the wacky performer who will be giving a one woman show at Chapel Street Theater on March 14, 19 and 20. Whether you remember her as Susan, growing up here at Temple Beth El in the 60's (where she attended Hebrew School in that tract house); or as a zany Philadelphia photographer, you are sure to remember her NOW as a fantastic cartoonist, humorist and 90's performance artist, someone who is making a name for herself in New York, but who will always be a hometown Newark girl!

Flash is bringing her exciting show entitled, "Camping in the Bewilderness: The Adventure of a Romantic Scientist," to Chapel Street partly to please her Mom and Dad (who hope to "qvell" at their successful daughter in the company of their Delaware friends) and partly to feel the thrill of returning to "ye ole home town" as she put it and sharing her love of life. "You are so wonderfully dear for bringing me to Newark that I

want to do very special things and interact with the audience. I want people to tell me their problems and rationalize them away." Such humorous rationalization is Flash's stock and trade nowadays. Her fabulously clever cartoons and short poems or stories have appeared in the Philadelphia Jewish Times, the Forward, the Wall Street Journal and The New York Times. Whether writing about "The Lonely Lark of Rose Hashanah" or a "Grown Up Chanukah," Flash meshes her sense of humor and her love of Judaism to produce the cleverest material I have ever read. And I am looking forward to the opportunity to hear her deliver some of this material when she appears at Chapel Street Theater in March.

Flash is very easy to talk to. She says she is often asked if her parents gave her "that" name which of course they did not, but it fits her to a T. She is quick and bright and her one liners come fast and furious. Flash says that her current show, Camping in the Bewilderness is "between a laugh and a hard place." She calls herself a woman who does humor that hurts by helping people laugh at the agony in their lives. She believes her shows are very much in a Talmudic tradition, that is she creates humorous vignettes by taking a topic and

then looking at it - verbally - turning it around, twisting it, then flipping it inside out. "A lot of what I do I think is a Judaic way of taking adverse information, whether it's bad romance, or a disappointing career turn, or some idiocy of food impropriety, and inverting it in some way to say, "Well it could go wrong like this and still be all right."

While Camping in the Bewilderness is not a particularly Jewish show, I am sure it will still have some of the flavor which Flash described above. The show uses cartoons (drawn by Flash), photographs (taken by Flash) and humorous repartee (written by Flash) to lead the audience on a jaunt tour of the urban "Bewilderness" meaning the *Great Indoors*. Full of offbeat tips for surviving the chaos of city life, she demonstrates how keeping a helium balloon in the trash can combat depression. Like a comic Simone de Beauvoir working at a deli counter, Flash dissects a slice of pizza to explain failed romance. Using the slide projector as her comic partner, she creates a unique "live storyboard" form of cartoon theater. She is truly a triple threat! As she puts it, "I think I am an ordinary person but more articulate about my ordinariness than most."



Flash Rosenberg

There is no doubt in my mind, after several phone conversations with her that left me holding my sides with laughter that she is EXTRAordinary. Performances will be on Sunday, March 14 at 2

p.m., Friday and Saturday, March 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by calling 368-2248 or at the door. The price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. If you go you won't be sorry!

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra Performs At Grand Opera House

By STACIA FRIEDMAN

Special to the Jewish Voice PHILADELPHIA - Delaware music lovers are in for a treat when the world renowned Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra comes to Wilmington's Grand Opera House, March 17, 8 p.m.

Under the direction of David Shallon, the orchestra will perform *Flute 3000*, by Israeli composer Shlomo Gronich with soloist Noam Buchman; *Piano Concerto in A minor* by Schumann; and *Symphony No. 8* by Dvorak.

Flute 3000 was commissioned

by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and dedicated to its flute soloist Noam Buchman as part of the "Jerusalem 3000" celebrations. It is only natural for the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra to perform such a work that is linked to Jerusalem, illustrating the orchestra's role in promoting original Israel compositions. *Flute 3000* is a journey through time, bound to the three religions sanctifying Jerusalem. The first movement is an image of an ancient

Jerusalem village of 3000 years ago. Although played on a modern flute, it uses a unique blowing technique that evokes the sounds of the ancient shepherd's flute. The two middle movements express modern-day Jerusalem, torn between different cultures, combining Georgian and Arabic melodies with stately trumpet calls. The third movement is a rock party with Eastern-Arabian phrases leading to a pure and peaceful fourth movement expressing the essence of

prayer for Jerusalem. The music closes on a dominant chord that remains - like the peace process - unresolved.

Buchman, one of Israel's most distinguished flutists, performed the world premiere of *Flute 3000* in Jerusalem in 1995. Born in Tel Aviv, Buchman studied with Uri Shoham at the Rubin Academy and later in London with William Bennett. For tickets and information, contact Wilmington Grand Opera House: 302-652-5577.



Noam Buchman

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In Memoriam ~ Gene Siskel

Since the news of Gene Siskel's death, Chicagoans and people the world over have eulogized him as a master movie critic, a dedicated family man and a modest person whose fame didn't detract from his friendliness.

Yet there is a lesser-known but equally important side to Siskel, one reflected in his Jewish upbringing and his continued observance of and dedication to Judaism and his community.

A long-time contributor to the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, Siskel, who died Saturday at the age of 53, was an active supporter of Israel and of Jewish educational initiatives.

A Chicagoan by birth and by passion, Siskel spent his early childhood in West Rogers Park on Chicago's North Side, a historically Jewish neighborhood.

His parents, Nathan and Ida, passed away when Siskel was very young, and he and his siblings were raised by their mother's sister and her family in Glencoe, a northern suburb of Chicago. His aunt and uncle were founding members of North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, a Conservative synagogue, and it was there that he celebrated his Bar Mitzvah.

The breastplate on one of the Torahs in use at the synagogue was donated in honor of his Bar Mitzvah. Siskel, whose wife also grew up at Beth El, remained a member, and their daughter celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at the synagogue last month, the last time he

was out in public.

More than 1,200 people attended his funeral there on Monday, including Oprah Winfrey and his film critic partner and longtime friend, Roger Ebert.

Last April, just days before he was diagnosed with a brain tumor, Siskel was master of ceremonies for Chicago's community-wide celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary. Although he was already suffering from migraine headaches at the time, he stoically emceed the event, organized by the Jewish federation.

"Gene was a revolutionary at his craft, known the world over, yet he never forgot where he came from," said JUF/Jewish federation president Steven Nasatir.

"In an era when public figures often have little to do with their community, Gene was a mensch, whose Judaism was paramount in his life and who was a very willing and active member of his community."

Siskel's dedication to Israel was strongly influenced by a family trip there two years ago when his oldest daughter, Kate, was in eighth grade.

Siskel and his wife, Marlene, sent their children to Moadon Kol Chadash, a small family-run Hebrew school whose first graduating class was taken to Israel. According to those who knew him, Siskel was deeply touched by the way the trip affected his daughter's Jewish identity.

Upon talking to his friend

Howard Swibel, the president of the Community Foundation for Jewish Education of Metropolitan Chicago, the two agreed that such a trip should be brought to a greater number of local Hebrew school students.

Siskel pledged his help, and true to his word, took the project, now called Taam Yisrael, under his wing.

The first group of eighth graders went to Israel last February, the second group - with six times as many students - went earlier this month. The trip is a six-day whirlwind tour of Israel.

A critic of bigotry and racist portrayals in movies, Siskel took a stand several years ago when Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan appeared on the Arsenio Hall show.

Upset that Farrakhan appeared and feeling that the interview failed to press him on his anti-Semitic

record, Siskel and Ebert decided not to appear on the show. Siskel wrote a column explaining their reasons in the Chicago Tribune.

Siskel also put together a video chronicling Jewish stereotypes and anti-Semitism in Hollywood, which he used as an educational tool.

Friends of Siskel say that he expressed Judaism in much the same way he expressed everything else in his life - with modesty and little fanfare.

"Gene never wore anything on his sleeve, not his fame, not his accomplishments and not his Judaism," said longtime friend and retired Illinois state Sen. Howard Carroll, who grew up with Siskel and his siblings.

"He was very low-key and never took himself too seriously, but he was fervent about his Jewish beliefs. He was a believer."

His rabbi, Vernon Kurtz of Beth El, recalled in his eulogy Monday

that just weeks ago, prior to their second daughter's Bat Mitzvah, Siskel and his wife told her that the two most important values in life were family and Judaism.

"Judaism has taught me right from wrong," he told his daughter.

Siskel's modesty is something Jewish community leaders here have known. When the Community Foundation for Jewish Education asked to honor him at its annual dinner last year, he turned them down, saying he didn't like to be honored.

Instead, he offered to chair the event, at which he showed a videotape that he narrated about the first Taam Yisrael trip.

He told the audience that he made the video in order to raise awareness about the benefits of an Israel experience such as Taam Yisrael.

then, he told them that he gave the movie "two thumbs up."

MILESTONES

Memoriam

IRWIN ABRAMSON

Irwin Abramson, 68, of Wilmington, died on February 6. A long-term member of Congregation Beth Emeth, he is survived by his son, Scott, of Wilmington and his daughter, Sherri, of Newark. Contributions in his memory may be made to The American Cancer Society.

LEONARD E. BROWN

Leonard E. Brown, 73, of Wilmington, died on Jan. 14. He was a self-employed electrician. Mr. Brown is survived by his wife, Nance; his brother, Harvey, also of Wilmington; stepdaughters, Lois Fische, Wilmington, Esther Greenberg, Florida and Nany Hitch, Ocean View, Delaware and seven grandchildren. Contributions in his memory may be made to Congregation Beth Emeth or Kutz Home for the Aged, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

DR. DAVID ABRAHAM DRAGIFF

Dr. David Abraham Dragiff, 79, of Sun City, Arizona, died on January 12. Born in Rochester, N.Y., he was an orthodontist in private practice in Darien, CT. He and his wife of 46 years, Evelyn, lived for many years in New Canaan, CT before his 1983 retirement. Dr. Dragiff taught dentistry and was Acting Director of Clinical Research at New York's Columbia University Dental School. He published numerous articles which appeared in the National Library of Medicine and held two patents for dental equipment. Upon his retirement, he became active in Temple Beth Shalom in Sun City, serving the synagogue as treasurer. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Rebecca Breverman of Wilmington, his son, Matthew of Jacksonville, FL and eight grandchildren. Contributions in his memory may be made to Temple Beth Shalom Memorial Fund, 12202 North 101st Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

ETHEL GRITZ

Ethel Gritz, 86, of Wilmington, died January 16 at the Kutz Home.

A retired employee of the Department of Defense, Mrs. Gritz was predeceased by her husband, Bernard. She is survived by a sister, Edna Greenstein, of Fort Myers Beach, FL; a son, Michael, of Newark, Delaware; a daughter, Susan Licht, of Boothwyn, PA and four grandchildren. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to the Kutz Home or to the Delaware Hospice in Wilmington.

HOWARD LEVY

Howard Levy, 69, of Ocean View, died February 20, in Florida. He was a retired salesman at Airbase Carpet Mart and was a former member of Congregation Beth Shalom, Wilmington, Delaware Veterans Cemetery Commission. He was a member of Bat Yam Congregation, Berlin, MD., Brandywine Masonic Lodge 33 AF&AM and was a past commander of the Jewish War Veterans Harry Fineman Post 525 and the Department of Delaware Jewish War Veterans. He also was a commissioner of the state Veteran's Affairs office. Mr. Levy is survived by his wife, Elaine; his daughter, Michelle Croach of Annapolis, MD; his son, Frank of Boothwyn; three grandchildren and his sister, Marlene Horn of Wyncote, PA. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Jewish War Veterans of Claymont or to the synagogue of the donor's choice.

HORST H. LEWKOWITZ

Horst H. Lewkowitz, 60, of New Castle, died January 31. For the past 27 years, he was the owner of Brandywine Pastry Shop. He is survived by his wife, Pam; sons, Craig, of Travers City, Michigan, Glenn, of Margate, New Jersey and Justin, of New Castle; daughters, Lesli Felix of Beacon Hill, DE, Audra Lewkowitz of Bellefonte and Mariah Lewkowitz of New Castle; step-daughters, Stacy Saienni of Bear, DE and Nichole Saienni-LePere of Newark, DE; seven grandchildren; his mother, Elfa; his brother, Bernd of Margate and two sisters, Ava Baerd of Vineland, NJ

and Inga Fixler of Margate. The family requests contributions to either the American Cancer Society or to the Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation.

PHILIP LONDON

Philip London, 50, of Downingtown, PA, formerly of Wilmington, died Feb. 19 while on vacation in Puerto Rico. Mr. London was principal of the Vision Quest School in Embreeville for five years and was a guidance counselor in the Chester County Intermediate Unit for many years. He was a member of Congregation Beth Chaim in West Chester and was a board member of Chester County Community Housing. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen; his parents, Samuel and Janet London of Brandywine Hundred; brothers, Matthew of Lancaster, PA and Randy of Wilmington and a sister, Ellen London of Wilmington. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Society for Yad Vashem, c/o Schoenberg Memorial Chapel, Wilmington.

HILDA VYTH

Hilda Vyth, 91, of Media, PA, died January 14. A retired salesperson, she is survived by her brother, Arnold Vyth, of Media and her sister, Hanna Leibinger of Germany. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation of Wilmington.

SUSIE QUELLER

Susie Queller, 79, died Feb. 4 at the Kutz Home for the Aged in Wilmington. A retired salesperson for B. Altman and Company, she is predeceased by her husband, Alexander Queller. Mrs. Queller is survived by her daughter, Jacqueline S. Harad and her son-in-law, Gary Harad of Wheathermill Farms; three grandchildren and her sister, Toni Plutner of Floral Park, N.Y. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to either Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders, 1701 Gilpin Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19806 or the Kutz Home.

NACHES

Sheldon and Ruth Weinstein are pleased to announce the birth of their grandson in Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital on January 16. His name is Hallel (meaning *thanks* or *thanksgiving*) Dor (signifying *generation*). Hallel Dor's name is especially meaningful as he is the first of a new generation for

both families and is a tribute to the memory of his great-grandmother, Dora Eisenstat, whose Zionism, commitment to Israel and Hadassah were an inspiration to many. His parents are Mick and Hila Weinstein. Mick is a rabbinic student and Hila will graduate soon from Hebrew University Law School.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

FEBRUARY

Saturday 27

The Jewish Community Center hosts its 3rd annual Purim Masquerade Ball from 8 p.m. until midnight at the JCC. Dancing, music and entertainment by D.J. David Zeidman plus a dairy and pareve buffet from Boscov's Ala Carte caterers. Prizes will be awarded for best costumes in many different categories. Advance tickets are \$28 per person or \$32 per person at the door. For more info, call Ella Zukoff at 478-5660.

Sunday 28

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth School Purim Carnival, 10:30 to 1:30 p.m. Games, food and fun for the entire family. Prizes and hamantashen galore. Proceeds benefit AKSE Talmud Torah.

Congregation Beth Sholom Men's Club, 340 North Queen Street in Dover hosts its Purim Carnival featuring the magic of Jungle John. Enjoy games, crafts, costume contests and food from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington hosts its Purim Carnival from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch, hamantashen games and fun. The community is welcome.

MARCH

Sunday 1

Erev Purim - Megillah readings at the following area synagogues: Temple Beth El, Newark, 7 p.m.

Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington, 7 p.m.

Congregation Beth Shalom, Wilmington, 6 p.m., full Megillah reading in chapel, 7 p.m., Megillah reading and costume parade.

Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Wilmington, 7:30 p.m. reading followed by costume parade and hamantashen.

Tuesday 2

AKSE invites community to an 8 a.m. Megillah reading followed by hamantashen and coffee.

Sunday 7

AKSE Men's Club hosts Physicians Assistant Connie Sugarman for a discussion on medicine, ethics and Jewish law. Sugarman, employed in the medical field for more than 14 years, will talk about such issues as organ donations and transplants, Viagra and more. She will speak during brunch which begins at 9:30 a.m. For additional information, call 762-2705.

JCC dedicates its climbing wall, a new feature of the Center's fitness facility. Dedication ceremonies will be held from 2:30-4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Jewish Family Service opens its Kimmel-Spiller Jewish Healing Center with a reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Delaware Museum of Natural History. Keynote is Myriam Klotz, regional coordinator of Jewish Healing Centers. Klezmer music and a light supper. Tickets are \$18. Please call 478-9411.

Wednesday 10

Jewish Family Service offers

a Family Court mandated workshop for divorcing and separating parents. This two-part program will continue on Wednesday, March 17. Call Lauren Pokras, director of Jewish Family Life Education at 478-9411 for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dance Away The Weekend - The Newark Jewish Community Network Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and Temple Beth El invites the community to learn Israeli dancing. Chaim Cohen of the Arazim Dancers will teach classes on Saturday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 14 at 2 p.m. Both classes require reservations. Please call the Temple Beth El office at 366-8330.

Monday 15

JCC hosts Shawna Goodman, a professional chef, who will demonstrate Passover cooking techniques and share recipes. Class begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 for members and \$8.00 for non-members. Call Ella Zukoff at 478-5660 for more information.

Saturday March 20

Temple Beth El in Newark is hosting an art show and auction of paintings, lithographs, etchings, prints and sculptures. Wine and cheese preview at 7:15 p.m. Auction begins at 8 p.m. Call 366-8330 for information and tickets.

Friday March 26

Jewish Family Service Shabbat Ha-Gadol. Join JFS at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth for a 6:00 p.m. Shabbat service and presentation by JFS President Andy Aersonson. This is part of a nationwide celebration to spotlight Jewish human service agencies. All are welcome.

Saturday 27

Adath Kodesch Shel Emeth's 16th annual Young Artists

Concert featuring Kathy Cammett, of Opera Delaware, Inc. Cammett and her young students will perform classical music, show tunes and Hebrew melodies beginning at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$18, \$10 for students. For additional information, call the synagogue at 762-2705.

DELAWARE JOINING JUNIOR MACCABI GAMES

The Delaware Jewish Community Center will send a boy's soccer team to participate in the Tri-State Junior Maccabi Games to be held on Sunday, May 2 at the Kaiserman JCC in Philadelphia. Participation in the games is open to Jewish children, ages 10-12. The program costs \$36. Practice begins in April 4. For more info. call Scott Bowers at 478-5660.

RENT "THE LONG WAY HOME" AT THE JCC

"The Long Way Home," an award-winning film that explores the plight of the tens of thousands of refugees who survived the Holocaust, has been recently added to the Jewish Heritage Video Collection, housed in the JCC lobby.

Thanks to a grant from Ira and Barbara Lipman of Tennessee, the film has been made available to every JCC in the nation through the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Moriah Film Division. Nightly rentals are \$2. For more info. please call Ella Zukoff at 478-5660.

SPECIAL ISRAEL PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS

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

including air fare from New York. Short term and long term programs are offered throughout the year. No knowledge of Hebrew is required. JFD offers a limited number of scholarships to qualified applicants.

Please call Judy Wortman at 427-2100 for an application.

For complete information about program dates for 1999 call Livnot at 1-800-LIVNOT-0 or visit their website at 222.livnot.org.il.

Israeli Films Focus on Diversity

The third annual **Israeli Film Festival, March 6-14**, presents seven outstanding and, at times, subversive films from a new breed of Israeli filmmakers.

Israeli screenwriter/actor **Amit Leor** will be the special guest at the screening of his romantic comedy *Afula Express* on Opening Night, Saturday, March 6, 8 p.m. at the Gershman Y, Broad and Pine Streets. The Honorable Consul General of Israel, Dan Ashbel, will kick off the celebration which includes Israeli folk dancing, a discussion led by filmmaker Amir Amital and a VIP reception.

Amit Leor will also appear at the screening of his children's film, *Superboy* Sunday, March 7 at 2 p.m. at the Perelman Jewish Day School, Wynnewood.

Chronicle of a Disappearance by Arab-Israeli Elia Suleiman documents the filmmaker's return to Nazareth following 12 years of self-imposed exile in New York. The film will be shown in video format, Monday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at the Gershman Y. **Dr. David Rabeeya** of Bryn Mawr College is the guest speaker.

My Mom's First Olympics by Ron Carmeli, a documentary about a woman who conquers her disabilities through her Olympic ambitions, will be shown Tuesday, March 9 at 2:15 p.m., Kaiserman

JCC, Wynnewood.

Hide & Seek, winner Best Documentary, 1998 Jerusalem Film Festival, follows working class women in Tel Aviv who join a theater group and challenge the boundaries of their traditional Sephardic community. Wednesday, March 10, 7 p.m., Gershman Y and Sunday, March 14, 7 p.m. at the Perelman Jewish Day School.

The 92 Minutes of Mr. Baum, winner of six Israeli Academy Awards, mixes Woody Allen's humor and Fellini's surrealism with Israeli angst as writer/actor/director Assi Dayan (Moishe's son) contemplates his own mortality. Saturday, March 13, 8 p.m., Gershman Y.

Out for Love ... Be Back Shortly is the celebrated first film of Dan Katzir who documents his personal search for love against a backdrop of politics, terrorism and the military. Sunday, March 14, 7 p.m., Perelman Jewish Day School.

Films are in Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles. Tickets are \$8. Students and seniors \$6. Children \$4. The 1999 Israeli Film Festival is sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel and the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Philadelphia. For more information call 215-446-3032.

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ANNUAL PURIM DINNER AND CELEBRATION - Chabad-Lubavitch will once again host the annual "Family Purim Shindig," the happiest Delaware tradition, Tuesday, March 2 in the JCC Auditorium, 5:30 p.m. The dinner will be preceded by a "last call" Megillah reading at 5:00 SHARP for those who were unable to hear it during the day. The evening will include a full course dinner, musical entertainment by the Rockin Rabbi Avram Rosenblum, a magic show by amazing Scott the Clown, a children's masquerade contest, "L'chayims," singing, dancing and prizes and the unmistakable Chabad festive spirit.

"Chabad has earned the reputation as the place to celebrate Purim. For the past six years we have been sold out!" said Rabbi Chuni Vogel. "Purim is the time when we can create joyous Jewish memories that last a lifetime!"

Only prepaid reservations are guaranteed due to yearly sellouts, and should be mailed to Chabad at 1306 Grinnell Rd., Wilm. 19803 and the cost is \$16 a person (children under 12, \$8).

For those not able to make it to services on Tuesday morning; Chabad will once again be holding a downtown Megillah reading at the law offices of Wolf Block, One Rodney Sq. 3rd Fl. at 12:30 p.m.

The Anna E. Finger - Ruth F. Gordon Memorial Trust will accept requests for cash grants of up to \$1,000 for the promotion of the study of Judaism and Jewish culture. The Trust was established in 1968 by Louis J. Finger and Abraham J. Gordon in memory of Mr. Finger's mother and sister and Mr. Gordon's wife. The Trust will provide funding for programs or for the participation of individuals in programs relating to the study of Judaism or Jewish culture including, but not limited to, Hebrew language, Bible, Jewish literature, religious customs and ceremonies, theology and Holocaust studies.

The current Trustees of the Trust are Richard A. Levine, Robert Jacobs and Steven D. Goldberg. The Trustees will consider financial need as a substantial, but not controlling, factor in evaluating grant requests. Likewise, the Trustees will afford a preference to programs or individuals affiliated with Congregation Beth Shalom. Recipients of individual grants or scholarships will be expected to share their experience as part of an event open to the community.

The Trustees anticipate making grants totalling \$2,000 for calendar year 1999 on or before May 31, 1999. Grant applications should be directed in writing prior to March 31, 1999 to Richard A. Levine, Secretary, Board of Advisors, Anna E. Finger and Ruth Gordon Memorial Trust, c/o Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, P.O. Box 391, Wilmington, DE 19899-0391.

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