



Jewish Voice

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WWW.SHALOMDELAWARE.ORG

JEWISH COMMUNITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF WOMAN OF VALOR

By Lynn B. Edelman, Editor

On January 19th, the Delaware Jewish community lost one of its great matriarchs-Leah Z. Kraft, a woman who inspired many in her long years of service as rebbetzin, teacher, philanthropist and volunteer and so great enriched the lives of her family and friends.

Rabbi David Geffen was a long-time friend and colleague of Rabbi Jacob Kraft, Leah's life partner for more than 50 years. He describes Mrs. Kraft as "a true woman of valor." Rabbi Geffen, who came to Congregation Beth Shalom as rabbi in 1970, freeing Rabbi Kraft to take on more pastoral responsibilities in his new role as Rabbi Emeritus, had tremendous respect for the way that "Leah took care of everyone she loved." Rabbi Geffen recalls that Rabbi Kraft had a very serious heart attack shortly after he and his wife, Rita arrived in Wilmington. "She nursed him back to health not only by making sure that he had the proper medications but by reading to him from the works of Jewish authors who they both admired." During his recuperation, she encouraged him to become a walker, significantly prolonging his life, Geffen recalls.

Mrs. Kraft's nurturing spirit extended to her late brother-in-law, Rabbi Saul Kraft, who she helped care for during his illness and to her mother, Mollie Zimmerman, who lived with the Krafts before her move to the Kutz Home where Mrs.



Rabbi and Rebbetzin:
A 50-year love affair.

Kraft visited her daily. Rabbi Geffen also marveled at the devotion she exhibited to her daughter, Ruth and son-in-law, Dr. Lewis Gumerman, who also preceded her in death. Mrs. Kraft traveled frequently to the couples' home in Pittsburgh, PA, during his bout with pneumonia and her battle with cancer. "She gave her heart and soul to those she loved," Rabbi Geffen commented.

Rabbi Geffen recalls Mrs. Kraft's proficiency in Hebrew and her great love of learning. "When Leah was a little girl in Philadelphia, she studied the works of Hebrew poet, Chaim Nachman Bialik. When Bialik came to America, Leah had the great honor of being selected to greet the poet and recite one of his

poems," said Rabbi Geffen, who added that she took great delight when the poet kissed her on her forehead.

This love for learning was lifelong. She graduated from Philadelphia's Gratz College and began her teaching career with Congregation Beth Shalom in 1934 where she would continue to shape the lives of religious school students for more than three decades. Rabbi Geffen describes her as a

"teacher par excellence".

Yetta Chaiken was 14 when the young woman then known as Leah Zimmerman first came to town and she watched the "puppy love relationship" evolve between Leah and Rabbi Jacob Kraft, who lived across the street from Yetta and her family. Yetta and her late husband, Frank became close friends with the Krafts and their two daughters, Deborah K. Cohen and Ruth Gumerman. Yetta was deeply sad-

dened by the death of a woman who "was such an integral part of my life." She pays tribute to her as a "quintessential Rabbi's wife who cared so much-she embraced this role with all her heart and soul."

Ruth Siegel delighted in sitting next to Mrs. Kraft during Shabbat services at Congregation Beth Shalom every week for almost 50 years. "In between the 'davening,' I discovered a woman with a very

See COMMUNITY MOURNS on page 15



Leah Zimmerman Kraft was the lead teacher at Congregation Beth Shalom for decades.

THE P.A.'s NEW POWER BROKER

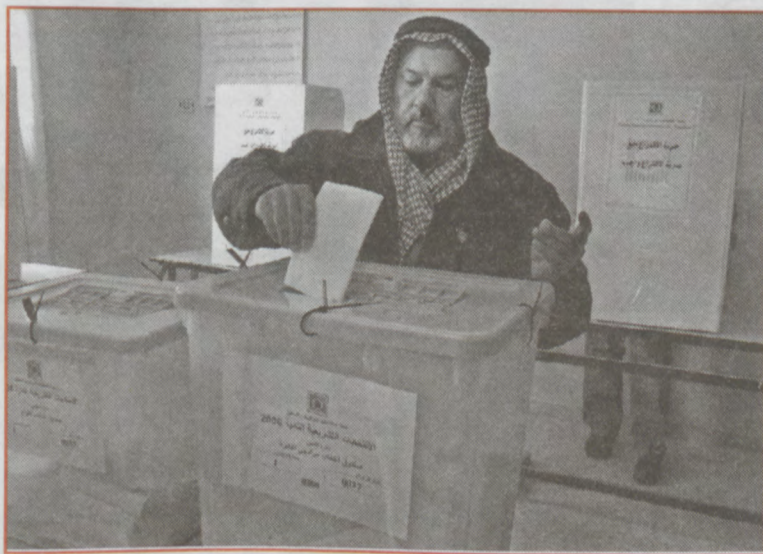
By Dan Baron, JTA

Hamas, a fundamentalist terrorist group committed to Israel's destruction, is now the Palestinian Authority's most potent power broker.

In its first-even run for Parliament on Wednesday, Hamas enjoyed an impressive showing in balloting for the Palestinian Legislative Council, with exit polls predicting it would take between 35 percent and 44 percent of the votes.

The results represent a major challenge for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' ruling Fatah faction, and no less of a diplomatic headache for Israel, the United States and other foreign powers interested in reviving peace moves.

Sworn to Israel's destruction, Hamas has carried out scores of



A Palestinian man casts his vote at a polling station Jan. 25, 2006, in the West Bank village of Anata north of Jerusalem, in Palestinian parliamentary elections taking place in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem.

Credit: Brian Hendler/JTA

suicide bombings against Israelis over the past decade. Although it largely held to a "truce" declared by Palestinian terrorist groups in 2005, the move was primarily tactical and Hamas shows no sign of disarming as required by the U.S.-led "road map" peace plan, or amending its charter.

"The Europeans and the Americans are telling Hamas to choose between weapons and Parliament. We say we will pursue both weapons and Parliament, and that there is no contradiction between the two of them," Hamas candidate Ismail Haniya told reporters.

With Fatah predicted to take close to half of all votes, Abbas put a positive spin on the day's events, noting that the balloting passed without a hitch in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and — under Israeli supervision — eastern Jerusalem.

"We are entering a new phase and we hope that the international community will help us to return to the negotiating table with the Israeli side in order to resume the peace process," he told reporters.

Israel's acting prime minister, Ehud Olmert, took a wait-and-see attitude, saying it was up to Abbas to rein in Hamas before peace talks could be considered.

"We will not negotiate with a government that does not keep to its most basic commitment — fighting terror," Olmert told visiting U.S. Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.). "We are willing to extend a great deal of help to the Palestinians and Abu Mazen, but they must honor their commitments."

Abbas said he could not carry out his obligation to disarm Hamas before the election, but had pledged to do so afterward. Given Hamas'

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FEDERATION FOCUS

Leaving it on the Mat



Ruth Rosenberg

I am new to the arena of high school wrestling. I'm learning the

scoring, the techniques, the names of the wrestlers and coaches and the various nuances that are part and parcel of every sport. There's a protocol for conduct at the meets, what to eat (or not eat) prior to competition, catchphrases and mantras and if you're a lucky mom in the stands, someone to hold your hand when your son is competing.

I'm fascinated by the rabid passion that many boys (and men) develop for this sport. I've seen dads whose sons have long ago graduated still attending matches both at home and away. Those sons go back to practice with their beloved coach and team on their college breaks regardless of the reduced state of their present physical condition. They just can't seem to get enough.

Despite the fact that a wrestler is

in the ring alone, I'm impressed with the team spirit I've seen and commitment the boys show to each other. Yes, the individual match results are tallied to create a team score and in the end one team wins or loses, but the sport is much more than that. It is boys cheering each other on, older wrestlers mentoring younger players, each person making sure they are prepared individually so that the team can show its best results as a whole. Kudos to the coach for teaching more than just wrestling techniques!

Wrestlers are told to "leave it on the mat" meaning to give every ounce of strength, will and spirit in competition. If you come back to the bench with anything "left in the tank," you didn't work hard enough in your match. It's a singular pursuit, literally mano a mano, as the partic-

ipants face off trying with all their might to defeat their opponent. Some say it's the toughest six minutes of any sport, bar none.

Volunteers for the Jewish Federation of Delaware are much like the wrestlers I'm coming to admire. Our volunteer solicitors prepare carefully, learn techniques and dive into the work with all their heart and soul. They drive forward, sharing the message of tikkun olam, repairing the world together, while raising money to fund programs and services here and abroad. They may be alone at their phones, speaking one on one to a fellow participant/donor but their individual accomplishments make for a mighty impressive total result. We have "freshman" callers teamed with "seniors" who mentor them; we have coaches like Toni Young who inspire others to

come back, campaign after campaign, and strive to make our team/community the best it can be. Our volunteers "leave it on the mat" with every meeting they attend, every event they plan and every heartfelt conversation as they share their own passion to help others.

Our volunteers make a difference to countless people. From the elderly in the Former Soviet Union to the new immigrants to Israel to the teens who find a Jewish place to hang out just to name a few, we all share the pride of knowing that the sweat and tears are worth every second and every ache or pain that may result. Every ounce of courage and moment in time that could be spent in other pursuits make for a better self and a better world.

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

Notes from Idan



Idan Kligerman

Elections Are Coming!!!

No need to worry, your current administration is in power through 2008. However, Israelis take to the voting booths in less than two months!

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon remains hospitalized in stable but serious condition after a massive stroke, but the elections will go on as

scheduled on March 28. The Kadima Party he founded will continue under the leadership of acting prime minister Ehud Olmert.

The election process is very different in the State of Israel. There are 120 members of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, representing more than 18 political parties. These parties represent the diverse ethnic, religious and worldviews held by Israel's citizens.

Let me give you a snapshot of the main parties that compete in this campaign:

Likud - the biggest party today in the Knesset with 42 seats in the Knesset represents the mainstream right wing. It is led by Benjamin Netanyahu.

Avodah - the second biggest party Labor, is a political party in Israel. It is a social democratic and Zionist party, affiliated as left wing led by Amir Peretz.

Meretz-Yachad is an Israeli dovish social democratic left wing party. (In Hebrew: yachad means "together".) It is also an abbreviation of "Social Democratic Israel" in Hebrew led by Yossi Beilin.

Kadima (Hebrew: "forward") is a new Israeli political party with centrist aspirations. It was formed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon after he formally left the rightist Likud party on November 5. It is now led by Ehud Olmert on the path that PM Sharon has led so far.

Shinui - is a Zionist, secular, free market liberal party in Israel. In the election of 2003 it gained 15 out of 120 Knesset seats, making it the fourth-largest party, after Likud and Labour. The party's leader is Yosef 'Tommy' Lapid. In Hebrew, the word Shinui literally means "change".

HAMAFDAL - The National Religious Party (Hebrew: Mafdal), is an Israeli political party representing the religious Zionist movement. Mafdal is an acronym for Miflaga Datit Le'umit. In the past summer it led the struggle against the pullout from Gaza.

SHAS - is a Haredi Sephardic political party in Israel. The original name of Shas is the World Sephardics Association. Today has 11 seats in the Knesset. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef is the party's spiritual leader.

BALAD (Hebrew acronym for Brit Leumit Demokratit (National

Democratic Assembly), is also Arabic for (country), represents the Israeli Arab minority. The current leader of Balad is Dr. Azmi Bishara.

Those are just some of the parties who seek a voice in the Israeli political process. I would need an entire newspaper to list them all. After the elections the party with the most votes will see their leader elected prime minister.

Who will be the person best able to meet such challenges as reshaping our nation in the aftermath of our disengagement from the West Bank and Gaza; homeland security; boosting the economy and social welfare issues like unemployment, single parent families and reaching out to those who are impoverished and hungry? Israel's voters will decide on March 28th.

COMING EVENTS

On February 12th we will celebrate TU B'SHEVAT at the JCC with lots of games, songs and a special performance by Harokdim from AKSE. Tu B'Shevat is the Rosh Hashana for the trees and the environment and we give thanks for every blessing that the land has afforded us. On this very

same date, the Knesset is celebrating its birthday-making February 12th especially meaningful for Israelis. Please join us for this wonderful holiday event.

THIS WEEK'S TRIVIA QUESTION:

What Israeli basketball team beat an NBA team?

Answers can be sent to Idan@shalomdel.org or 302-427-2100 Ext 30.

Shabbat Shalom!

Idan Kligerman is Delaware's first Shlichut or Young Emissary in over 20 years. Support for the Young Emissary program in Delaware comes from the Jewish Fund for the Future, the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, Partnership 2000 and Matt Slap Subaru. Idan will be here through February promoting Israel and strengthening the bond between Israel and Delaware. After February, he will be in Cherry Hill and will visit Delaware once a month. Idan is fluent in Hebrew and English, and can be reached at the Federation office (302) 427-2100 ext. 30. Also visit the Partnership 2000 website for general P2K information <http://www.partner.org.il/arad/>

Philanthropic giant killed in car accident

By Chanan Tigay, JTA

Andrea Bronfman, a giant in the world of Jewish philanthropy, was killed Monday when a car struck her while she was walking her dog in Manhattan. She was 60 years old.

"She was a Zionist - and her parents were lovers of Israel and strong Zionists," said Marlene Post, who worked with Bronfman at birthright israel, the 6-year-old program that to date has brought nearly 100,000 young Jews to Israel for free 10-day trips. "She had excellent Judaic and Zionist values that I believe came from her parents."

Born in London to a Scottish father and a mother from New York, Bronfman and her husband - the billionaire businessman and philanthropist Charles Bronfman - maintained residences in New York, Florida and Jerusalem. They spent about three months of each year in Israel and in 2002 were awarded honorary Jerusalem citizenship.

Avraham Infeld, president of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, first met Bronfman when she



Andrea Bronfman

was a young woman in England and he was an emissary there for the Jewish Agency for Israel.

"She in every way was a symbol of life," he said.

Twenty years ago, the Bronfmans founded the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies Inc. The foundation has supported numerous programs and initiatives aimed at

strengthening Jewish life, in addition to programs not related to the Jewish community - from projects at the Hebrew University and the Israel Museum to the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada and Historica, and the Foundation for Excellence in the Arts.

Bronfman was also a great patron of the arts and worked to establish a nexus between her concern for Israel and her artistic pursuits.

In 2003, Bronfman founded AIDA: the Association of Israel's Decorative Arts, which has helped expose Israeli artists to North American galleries and collectors and educate North Americans about decorative arts in Israel.

Lynn Schusterman, another major Jewish philanthropist and president of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, remembers Bronfman's passion as the two toured Israel looking for artists they could help out.

"I remember the fun that we had the very first summer the two of us were there, at the height of the intifada, running about Israel finding these

artists in far-fetched places, wondering what would happen," said Schusterman. "I don't think she realized the effect this would have."

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Bronfman turned her philanthropic eye to the attack's victims. She became founder and deputy chairman of The Gift of New York, a non-profit initiative to provide free tickets to a variety of cultural offerings and sports events for the bereaved families of the 9/11 attacks.

Other initiatives included 21/64, which supports young philanthropists; and Reboot, which nurtures young Jewish leaders outside the mainstream of organized Jewish life.

Friends and colleagues described Bronfman as attractive, dignified, vibrant - and highly intelligent.

Those who knew her also spoke of Bronfman's deep devotion to her husband, five children and six grandchildren.

"She was totally dedicated to her family, and to the Jewish people," Schusterman said.

The Bronfmans also were major

supporters of the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella of the North American federation system, where Charles served as its first chairman and Andrea served on its Prime Minister's Council.

"The Jewish world has lost one of its best friends, a woman who exemplified Judaism's highest values and whose vision led our community into the future for generations to come," said UJC's chairman, Robert Goldberg.

Earlier this month, Bronfman attended a birthright israel "mega-event" in Jerusalem, where thousands of young Jews from around the world come together during their Israel trip to meet and celebrate. Later she attended the ceremony for the Charles Bronfman Prize, an award given to outstanding young Jewish humanitarians.

Zeev Bielski, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, was one of many Israeli officials to lament Bronfman's death. Bronfman's passing was "a tremendous loss for the Jewish people," he said.

A memorial ceremony was held on January 25th in Manhattan with burial on January 27th in Jerusalem.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Zachor - Remember

Today, January 27th, we commemorate an historic event—more than 60 years in the making. The United Nations has designated this day as the International Day of Commemoration for the victims of the Holocaust. It is particularly fitting that January 27th was selected for this collective call to Zachor-remembrance of the six million men, women and children who were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators—as this date also marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where more than 4,000,000 people fell victim to gassing, medical experiments or diseases.

It is hard to imagine a massacre of this magnitude and it is harder still to memorialize its victims without some way to connect to them as fellow human beings. Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Museum, is making this connection possible through its Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names. More than 3,000,000 individuals have been immortalized through this database, ensuring that their stories, hopes and dreams will be perpetuated for time eternal.

Let today be a wake up call to help recover the names of the more than 3,000,000 of our fellow Jews who were slaughtered at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators by adding them to this database. We must act now, before the generation that remembers these precious souls has also departed this earth.

In the words of Rabbi Hillel "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?"

Seize the power of Zachor and ensure that all those who perished during this darkest chapter in modern Jewish history can live forever in our hearts.

Visit Yad Vashem today on-line at www.yadvashem.org and find out how you can help!

Shabbat Shalom,

Lynn B. Edelman

Lynn B. Edelman
Editor

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for The Jewish Voice

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Shabbat Candlelighting Times

February 3rd - 5:06 pm

February 10th - 5:14 pm

February 17th - 5:22 pm

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for being a caring community

Last Thursday evening, Leah Zimmerman Kraft passed away peacefully surrounded by the people she loved. The family requested shomrim, members of the community who stay with the body prior to the funeral. Shomrim means guardian and in biblical times, the shomrim were the Sentries that guarded the inhabitants of our camps, fortresses and villages. The practice of guarding the body is not about protecting the spirit from ghosts or goblins; but rather to comfort the family of the deceased and to let them know that their loved one is not alone.

For many who responded to the Kraft family request, this was the first time they were asked to be a shomer or shomeret. I want to personally thank Miriam Brenner, Alan Lipschultz, Irene Plotzker, Hayim Weiss,

Karen Moss, Regina Alonzo; Rabbi Michael Beals, Hazzan Michael Horwitz, Faye Goldstein, Arlene David, Diane Wolf, Karin Karel, Frances and Steven Klein, Mark Delmerico, and Jonathan Neipris for helping me in performing the shomrim mitzvah.

More people volunteered to help than we had shifts available and for that, our community should be proud. This week, we as a community will be asked to support the Kraft family during the Shiva. For many who attended the funeral, I heard that Mrs. Kraft's death marked the end of an era. The practice of shomrim is just one way we as a community have shown that the traditions and lessons she taught us have not been forgotten.

Thank you,
Alison Weiss

Save the Date

The Jewish Community Relations Committee &
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For more information or to RSVP, please contact
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This Week in Jewish History



**Celebrate 350
Jewish Life in America
1654 - 2004**

"This Week in History" is an introduction to 350 years of American Jewish history, brought to you by the Jewish Women's Archive. More information about each of the events described below can be found on JWA's website at http://www.jwa.org/this_week/week_31.html

JANUARY 25, 1879

On January 25, 1879, Rosa Sonneschein founded the Pioneers, a Jewish women's literary club in St. Louis, Missouri.

JANUARY 27, 1965

Up the Down Staircase, a best-selling novel written by Bel Kaufman, a granddaughter of Sholem Aleichem, was published on January 27, 1965. It was later made into a popular film.

JANUARY 28, 1986

The Challenger space shuttle exploded 73 seconds after lift-off on January 28, 1986, killing the first Jewish astronaut in space, Judith Resnik, along with her six fellow crew members.

JANUARY 29, 1848

On January 29, 1848, suffragist and anti-slavery activist Ernestine Rose declared "superstition keeps women ignorant, dependent, and enslaved beings. Knowledge will make them free."



Judy Levy



Phil Epstein



Karl Law



Carla Wasniewski



Zanna Tibon

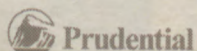


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BEAUTY, FITNESS & HEALTH

February 10th

"Israel must be wiped off the map."

Iranian President
Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
October 25, 2005

NOW is the time to stop Iran

The AIPAC Policy
Conference
March 5-7, 2006
The Washington, D.C.
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Not only does Iran's president routinely threaten Israel... he also threatens the entire world by refusing to give up Iran's nuclear weapons program.

Now is the time to tell Iran that the world will not tolerate its pursuit of nuclear arms.

The International Atomic Energy Agency-the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog organization-meets in Geneva on March 6th. If it once again fails to take appropriate steps against Iran, we will visit Capitol Hill on March 7th to demand the immediate referral of Iran to the U.N. Security Council.

But that's not all. We will also make the case for a far-reaching legislative package designed to stall Iran's drive toward the bomb.

This could be the most important Policy Conference you ever attend. We need you to be a part of it.

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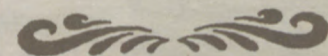
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INSIDE DELAWARE

Having a Blast at the Catskills Cabaret

More than 100 people enjoyed dinner, dancing and the borscht-belt style "schtik" of comedian Joel Chasnoff last Saturday evening at the second annual Vanguard Event sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington was transformed into a Catskills Cabaret for the event, which was chaired by Michelle and Glenn Engelmann and Cheryl and Ken Kamm.



Samuel H. Asher, executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, chats with Richelle Vible, president and CEO of Citizens Bank and her husband, Mark Vible; Peggy Strine, senior vice president of Citizens Bank and her husband, Leo Strine. Citizens Bank was the sponsor of this second annual Vanguard Event.



Rabbi Peter Grumbacher, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Emeth, poses with his favorite dance partner, his wife, Suzy.



Suzanne Grant, who serves as co-chair for the Federation Annual Campaign along with Robin Kauffman Saran (not pictured), and JFD President Bob Pincus, enjoy the opportunity to chat with Neil and Lisa Woloshin.



Front and center with wide smiles are Michelle Engelmann (left) and Cheryl Kamm, flanked by their husbands, Glenn Engelmann (back row, left) and Ken Kamm. The Engelmanns and Kamms served as co-chairs of this enjoyable evening.



Debbie and Jerome Nachlis prepare to dance the night away. Debbie is the director of development at Albert Einstein Academy.

Photos by
Idan Kligerman
and
Matt Rosenberg

Tastes, Tunes and Tales of Jewish India

COMMUNITY INVITED TO SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND FEB. 10TH-11TH



Rahel Musleah

Quilon, Mount Delly, Maravel, Flandrini, Shalyat, Kunjar-Kari, Shinkali, Cranganore: wonderful exotic names, all with wonderful stories to tell of the earliest Jewish settlements in India, along India's Malabar west coast, dating as far back as 970, and attested to by sources as diverse as Benjamin of Tudela and Marco Polo. Rumors exist, shrouded in mystery, of an older Jewish presence in India, dating back to destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE, or perhaps even further back to the Empire of King Solomon himself!

The Kraft Education Foundation (named for Congregation Beth Shalom's beloved Rabbi Jacob Kraft of blessed memory) will focus on Jewish life in India. The

congregation is pleased to present Rahel Musleah as its scholar-in-residence during the Shabbat weekend of Friday, February 10 through Saturday, February 11. Ms. Musleah was born in Calcutta, India, the seventh generation of a Calcutta Jewish family that traces its roots to 17th century Baghdad. During the weekend program, which is open to the entire community, Musleah will share her stories, music and traditions of her homeland.

Congregation Beth Shalom's spiritual leader, Rabbi Michael Beals and his wife Elissa learned from Musleah during a Rabbinical Assembly Convention, where she was one of the featured scholars. The Beals described her presentation as "spell-binding, in no so small part because of her wonderful rapport with her audience." "We both are so delighted that the Kraft Foundation chose her as our Spring 2006 presenter," Rabbi Beals commented.

On Friday evening, February 10, Musleah will assist Hazzan Michael Horwitz in seasoning the 6pm evening Shabbat service with religious melodies of Jewish Calcutta. During the 7pm dinner, Musleah will discuss her personal journey which mirrors the story of Calcutta's Jews with humor, poignancy and song.

On Shabbat morning, February 11, beginning at 9:30am, Rahel Musleah will once again assist Hazzan Horwitz with the Shabbat service. During the chanting of the Torah, she will share special

Baghdadi-Indian Torah trope melody during Beth Shalom's Shabbat Shira (Sabbath of Song). Her sermon is titled: "Torahs and Tiryahs: Shabbat Spirit, Song and Story." Musleah will share a medley of ancient texts, distinctive Shabbat rituals, customs and liturgy.

During our luncheon meal following services, the topic of Rahel Musleah's afternoon talk will be: "From Shipwrecks to Maharajas: The Jews of Bombay and Cochin." She will explore the saga of the lost tribes, shipwrecks and remote villages in India's oldest Jewish com-

munities. This program will be co-sponsored by Beth Shalom's Keruv Committee, which endeavors to reach out to all congregants, especially those members in interfaith families. Ms. Musleah will include how the Jewish community of India influenced, and was influenced by their non-Jewish Hindu and Moslem neighbors.

Musleah is a frequent contributor to Jewish magazines of all flavors, including Hadassah, Reform Judaism, Jewish Woman, Naamat Woman as well as secular journals such as The New York Times,

Family Circle and Publishers Weekly. Her newest book, *Apples and Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashana*, introduces the Sephardic custom of blessing the Jewish New Year with symbolic foods. She has also written a creative haggadah, *Why On This Night? A Passover Haggadah for Family Celebration*, for family education programs.

Of special note is her new CD, *Hodu: Jewish Rhythms from Baghdad to India*, featuring ancient texts, authentic melodies and con-

Continued on page 13

ZOA executive to speak at AKSE brunch

Steve Feldman, executive director of the Zionist Organization of America's Greater Philadelphia District and a veteran journalist, will discuss "The Media and the Middle East" at a Men's Club/Adult Education breakfast at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Synagogue in Wilmington on Sunday, Jan. 29, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

With the Middle East a key topic in the media and a crucial component of American foreign policy, Feldman will discuss the way newspapers, TV, radio and the Web cover the Middle East and particularly Israel, and why it matters.

Feldman is host of the weekly radio program "The ZOA Middle East Report" heard on 1540 AM WNWR

Radio in Philadelphia and also available at www.wnwr.com. He spent 23 years as a newspaper reporter including 20 with the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent, where he won numerous national writing awards. His opinion articles have appeared in local, national and international media.

For more information, contact Adas Kodesch at 762-2705.

JFS announces available board positions

Jewish Family Service's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that board positions will open for its 2006-2007 year. All will be for a three-year term membership.

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ings each year, participate on one of the standing board committees and contribute to the agency's Friends Campaign, United Way and Jewish Federation.

To nominate a potential board member or for more details on board membership and responsibilities, please call Nominations Committee Chair Roberta Levine at 302-593-7581 or Board President Steve Tanny at 302-239-4969.

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GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

Soviet archives help update Nazi exhibit

By Toby Axelrod, JTA

The fall of the former Soviet Union has helped launch a new exhibit at the site where the Nazis decided on the genocide of European Jewry.

Among the items on display at the Memorial and Educational Site of the Wannsee Conference is a memo from Secret Security Police Chief Reinhard Heydrich – written days after he chaired the 1942 Wannsee Conference – referring to the “total solution to the Jewish question” that he was charged to carry out. The memo was found in a Latvian archive, consulting historian Peter Klein said.

The KGB archive in Moscow also yielded information about the role in the genocide of police battalions and the Gestapo, memorial director Norbert Kampe said.

The overhaul is one of several major renovations in recent years that have changed the landscape of remembrance in Germany. The reopening marked the 64th anniversary of the notorious conference, and was one of several events around Germany's Holocaust Remembrance Day, Jan. 27.

The updated Wannsee exhibit – it originally opened in 1992 – includes newly unearthed documents and consists of flexible elements that will be easy to update. The project cost some \$730,000, covered by the federal government and an educational lottery. Funds are still needed for an exhibit catalog, Kampe said.

For the inauguration of the revamped exhibit last week, several

hundred guests – including Holocaust survivors, local political and Jewish leaders, Israeli historian Yehuda Bauer and French Nazi-hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld – gathered here, traipsing through fresh snow for a tour of the villa and a kosher reception.

Educational memorials like the one at Wannsee are an essential bulwark against Holocaust denial, said Beate Klarsfeld, noting that several noted revisionists currently are in jail.

“We have to fight and keep them from enlarging their circle,” she told JTA.

But memorials are not enough, said Polish Ambassador Andrzej Byrt. He told JTA he was profoundly worried by recent statements by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, in which he doubted the truth of the Holocaust and said Israel should be destroyed.

“It always starts with dehumanizing, and then come the physical means of annihilation. It could be disastrous,” Byrt told JTA. “Therefore all humanity has to stop him. I don't know how, but if we don't we could find ourselves in a cul de sac.”

Last week's gathering would have shocked the men around Reinhard Heydrich. On Jan. 20, 1942, they were working out ways to streamline the genocide that, as Turski noted, was already under way.

Some Jews surely would die from the effects of forced labor, the report says at one point. Because only the fittest would survive, these survivors would “have to be treated accordingly” lest they become the



Villa Minoux in 1922, site of the 1942 Wannsee Conference, where the Nazis decided on the genocide of European Jewry.
Credit: Memorial and Educational Site of the Wannsee Conference

“seed of a new Jewish revival.”

Preparations for this treatment should be made without alarming the local population, the report said. The language was sanitized, as Adolf Eichmann, the Reich's former security main office chief, testified in his trial in Israel 20 years later.

Since the memorial first opened, the site has earned a reputation for excellent pedagogic programs, drawing some 800,000 visitors, 40 percent from outside Germany.

The facsimile of the protocol still is the centerpiece of the exhibit. But change was needed for several reasons, Kampe said at a news conference.

For one, educational programs must adjust to Germany's changing demographics, and not all German

pupils are grandchildren of Wehrmacht soldiers. For example, history hits home for pupils of Turkish background when they see documents about Turkish Jews being deported, as Wolf Kaiser, Wannsee's pedagogical director, noted.

In addition, new technology would allow for a more flexible display; and a new guided tour was needed as well.

Designed by architect Rainer Lendler, the exhibit consists mostly of panels hanging from ceiling-mounted metal tracks. Video installations and other media are included.

The exhibit covers racism and anti-Jewish ideology before and during the Third Reich; it traces the

path to the industrialized mass murder of European Jewry; and it provides an in-depth examination of the Wannsee Conference, its participants and protocol.

While the new exhibit adds information on the fate of Jews in Nazi Europe, “this is the house of the perpetrators,” Kampe said. “The emphasis is on the organization of the genocide.”

Bauer reminded guests that the Wannsee Conference was not where the Holocaust was planned.

“Only the details had to be decided,” Bauer said.

The Holocaust would have happened without the Wannsee Conference, he said. But it was “a turning point in the development of the genocide.”

Latvian proposal would return Jewish properties

By Yasha Levine, JTA

The dilapidated carcass of a wooden synagogue that dates back to before World War II stands on a side street of Jurmala, a 30-minute train ride from the capital Riga.

This synagogue is one of many such Jewish communal properties in this Baltic nation currently in the government's possession. But this may change soon: A proposed Latvian law would return some 200 properties to the country's Jewish community – and could go a long way toward making the community self-sufficient.

Latvia's prewar Jewish population numbered 100,000, and the community owned a large number of communal and private properties here.

In 2003, the Council of Latvian Jewish Communities was organized as an umbrella organization to unite 12 Jewish organizations scattered around eight Latvian cities, representing roughly 10,000 Latvian Jews.

One of the primary objectives of the council was to facilitate the restitution process, says Gennady Trifisik, a representative of the Jewish community of Jurmala.

The cash-strapped community is in dire need of a resolution to the current property situation. The Jurmala synagogue, for instance, is rented by the state to the Jewish community, which formerly owned the building. But as long as the future of the property's ownership is

uncertain, the community is not ready to make the costly repairs the synagogue needs in order to function.

Instead, to cover costs, the community is subletting the building. It now houses a small produce market and deli, which, ironically, sells pork.

According to Arkady Suharenko of the Council of Latvian Jewish Communities and Congregations, a 1992 Latvian law allowed for the restitution of Jewish property, but required only the return of communal properties to observant Jewish communities.

Thanks to this law, a number of historic Jewish properties were regained, including Riga's Jewish Theater and Jewish Hospital, as well as some prayer halls and synagogues around Latvia.

But at the time, Latvia's Jewish communities were poorly organized and many missed the 1996 deadline to make their claims. Additionally, a number of communal properties in prewar Latvia were actually registered as private property and thus could not be claimed by the Jewish community under the previous law, local Jewish leaders say.

The new proposal will instead create a centralized list of all the contested properties and the compensation requested for each of them – either in the form of the property itself, an alternative property or a monetary compensation.

By pre-negotiating the proper-

ties, the community hopes to expedite the legislative process. To further smooth the process and possibly to minimize anti-Semitic reaction, the bill will not make claims to Jewish property in private hands.

“We want to push this through the Cabinet and Parliament as fast as possible,” Suharenko said.

There is a parliamentary election this year in Latvia, and new lawmakers could make the law's passage uncertain.

There is a potential problem with the new law: Ninety percent of the prewar Latvian Jewish population perished during the Holocaust. Most of the Jews now living in Latvia arrived during the Soviet period – Latvia was part of the Soviet Union 1945 to 1989 – and cannot make a direct hereditary claim to the property of the prewar Latvian population.

Solomon Bukingolts, a Jewish economic adviser to the Latvian president, said the issue is being resolved according to fair and mutually respectable principles.

Suharenko was optimistic about the outcome, calling the attitude of the Cabinet members involved in the drafting “well-intentioned and constructive.”

Since the proposal still being drafted, neither the list of the claimed properties nor the estimated value of the restitution is being disclosed.

At the moment, Latvia's Jewish community heavily relies on financial aid from international Jewish organizations for survival – the

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Chabad are two of its biggest sponsors.

But that may change. If the process is successful, the community plans to establish a trust fund overseen by a board of Jewish organizations to manage to the assets of the restitution, which may be in the tens of millions of dollars.

“The Jewish community in Latvia has been on its way to self-sufficiency. If the restitution process goes as planned, the community will be able to fully support itself and also help other Jewish communities,” said Andres Spokoiny, the Paris-based JDC country director for the Baltic states.

Though Jewish leaders here praise the government's intentions toward their communities, the country frequently makes waves with international headlines of a nationalistic flavor.

Last spring, protesters clashed

with World War II veterans of a Latvian Waffen SS Legion march in Riga. The demonstration was approved by Latvian authorities and was organized to celebrate those who fought for their homeland on the side of the Germans against the Soviet threat.

Although several former KGB agents accused in Soviet-era crimes have been convicted, no Latvian quislings have ever stood trial for war crimes.

Still, local Jews do not believe there will be a strong anti-Semitic reaction to the restitution process. “I think there will be a reaction, but it will not be drastic,” Chabad leader Rabbi Mordechai Glazman said. Glazman, who has lived in Latvia since 1992, said anti-Semitic reactions are quite common in Latvia. Any news touching upon Jewish life in Latvia gets some anti-Semitic comments on Latvian Internet sites and forums, he said.

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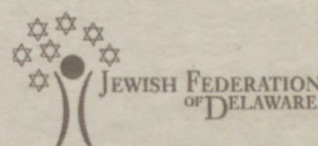
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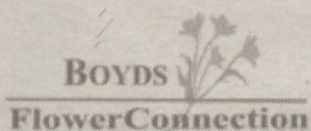


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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Friedman, Ari bring years of talent to Delaware

By Joel F. Glazier

What is the price we pay for decisions made in life? This is one of the questions raised in Arthur Miller's *THE PRICE* now at the Delaware Theatre Company in Wilmington. "It's impossible to know what is important," says Joel Friedman, who portrays furniture appraiser Gregory Solomon. Friedman considers that line about life's important things as a favorite in this play, the first Miller production for the veteran actor.

Friedman, 84, has heard, recited and directed many lines. He was a founder and first director of the Joe Papp New York Shakespeare Festival and besides directing the likes of James Earl Jones and Angela Lansbury, Friedman has played roles in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Antigone* and in films including *The Luckiest Man in the World*. "I have never spent time in Delaware before, but I like it very much—no sales tax and no recycling," he laughs.

"He provides desperately needed humor in a serious play," says Bob Ari, about Friedman's character Gregory Solomon, who provides "Some

needed comical Jewish clichés." Ari, who plays a successful doctor (Walter Franz) on stage, lives near Friedman in New York City. "My mother used to attend acting classes at the Y and kept bugging the instructor, Friedman's wife (Sylvia Gassell), about her son (Bob)." The two actors finally met in a production of "Awake and Sing" at Syracuse Stage.

Complex Family Relationships Explored

"I'm thrilled to play the part of the more respected surgeon brother, Walter. Usually I've portrayed rougher characters like the other brother (Victor) who is a NYC cop," says Ari who appeared at the Delaware Theatre Company in 2000 as Harry Brock in *Born Yesterday*. He has performed in many Broadway and off Broadway shows, as well as on television shows including *L.A. Law*, *Ed* and *Law and Order*. He was born into the tradition of Yiddish Theatre through his grandfather, producer Sol Dickstein. "I used to hang out at the Anderson Theatre on Second Avenue watching rehearsals, and stars like Molly Picon. I began performing there

when I was 8."

"I hope audiences realize the 'here and now' is important and they cherish their family," says Ari about the play's reflection of family relationships. In *The Price* two estranged brothers come together to dispose of their late father's belongings. "The furniture in the play represents the past and my character can't totally suppress the past." His brother in the play, Victor, has seemingly sacrificed more to care for their hard hit by the Depression parents.

"This play is compelling and we give the complexity clarity," says Ari, noting, "People come to the theatre to be challenged and this story reflects life and the complexity of family relationships."

"Arthur Miller always had an ambiguity about his Jewishness. My character, Gregory Solomon, may be the only outright Jewish character Miller wrote," says Friedman, adding "The Franz family, doctor Walter, officer Victor and wife Esther, may be Jewish but their tensions are universal. It is a tough play to unravel. The first half of the play is easy to follow; the second half is where the brothers' conflict



Actors Joel Friedman and Bob Ari take a break from rehearsals for Arthur Miller's *THE PRICE* to chat about and with *THE JEWISH VOICE*.

Photo by Joel Glazier

really comes into focus."

February marks the first anniversary of Arthur Miller's death at age 89. *THE PRICE* first opened in New York City in February 1968 and had a 426 performance run.

"The Price" is at The Delaware Theatre Company through February

12. A special free program "Connections" – A Community Conversation Retrospective on Arthur Miller, will be held February 4, sponsored by Delaware Humanities Forum. Tickets and information at (302) 594-1100 or www.delawaretheatre.org.

German-Jewish comedy coming to Theatre N

By Joel Glazier

"Go For Zucker", the first German-Jewish comedy made in Germany since World War II is coming to Wilmington. The film, winner of several German awards including Best Film and Best Comedy, provides a unique take on family, religious and even political squabbles. Brothers Jakob and Samuel Zucker, separated by the Berlin Wall, later reunite after 40 years after their mother dies. Jakob has become a non-religious Communist pool hustler and Samuel has become a black bearded Orthodox Jew. The moth-

er's will stipulates the two brothers' families must "sit shiva" together under a rabbi's supervision to get their inheritance.

"We're excited to be showing this movie," says Beverly Zimmerman of Theatre N, adding, "We're the first theatre in the region to show it." The comedy, written by a German Jew born and raised in Switzerland, was a hit in Germany. Theatre N is located in the Nemours Building, at 11th and Tatnall Streets, in Wilmington and has matinee and evening screenings of "Go For Zucker" from Friday, February 3 to Sunday, February 5.



TASTES, TUNES AND TALES OF JEWISH INDIA—

Continued from page 7

temporary rhythms. Her songbook, *B'Kol Arev: Songs of the Jews of Calcutta*, compiles more than 50 songs for Shabbat, holidays and special occasions. Through her efforts, Musleah is preserving her Baghdadi-Indian Jewish community's ancient past for current and future generations to enjoy.

There is no cost to attend the

Friday Evening or Saturday Morning Shabbat Services (followed by lunch). To attend the Friday evening dinner, the cost is \$12/adult \$5/child (under age 12). Pre-paid RSVP is required by February 7.

Congregation Beth Shalom is an egalitarian, conservative congregation founded in 1922 and is located at 18th and Baynard Streets in Wilmington, Delaware.

Sachek kadur – Play ball!

The Israel Baseball League (IBL) has launched an initiative to promote the game of baseball in the State of Israel. The program includes the building of community baseball fields throughout Israel, recruiting Jewish Americans to play on the 2008 Israeli Women's Softball Olympics team, the establishment of a summer baseball camp that will open this July in Israel, and ultimately, the formation of a professional league in Israel.

The IBL is collaborating with several Jewish organizations to execute this project. The Jewish National Fund, which is responsible for creating recreational areas in Israel, is helping the IBL secure parcels of land for conversion to baseball fields. Three such parcels have already been designated – in Tel Aviv, Netanya, and Be'er Sheva. The two relevant official Israeli federations, the Israel Association of Baseball and the Israel Softball Association, are also working closely within Israel with IBL representatives.

According to Larry Baras, the IBL's founder, baseball already exists in Israel and is growing steadily – over 2,000 players participate in league play and there are

national teams of all ages and genders that represent Israel in international tournaments. But its growth has been stunted by the lack of three key elements – baseball fields, equipment, and instruction. These three areas are the focus of many of the IBL's initiatives.

One of the projects that the IBL considers to be among its most important is assisting the Israel Softball Association in its quest to field a women's softball team to compete in the 2008 Beijing summer Olympics. "Israeli baseball has progressed in recent years and is beginning to have an impact on the international scene. One team that has reached such a high level of play that it can rightfully compete for a spot in the forthcoming Olympics is the women's softball team. Following the model of the European teams, we are actively recruiting additional Jewish players from the U.S. who are capable of playing at the caliber required to compete on the Olympic level and inviting them to try out for the Israeli Olympic team. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for them. And given the way the Israeli public embraces its Olympic ath-

letes, these kids have the chance to become true heroes in Israel," according to Baras.

Another major project already being promoted is the IBL Baseball Academy, which will sponsor a summer baseball camp in Israel in July. The camp will be a sleepover camp for non-residents of Israel and a day camp for native Israeli children. "This is going to be a wonderful way to integrate American Jewish youth with their counterparts in Israel, with baseball being the common denominator," Baras said. "The facilities are superb, with basketball courts, a swimming pool, fitness center, computer center, and a host of other amenities, besides, of course, a baseball field," Baras continued.

The IBL has established a web site (www.israelbaseballleague.com) that serves as a portal through which information about baseball in Israel is disseminated to the Jewish population worldwide and through which this population can join the effort to promote baseball in Israel.

For more information, please contact Baras at 617-987-0635, or via email at info@israelbaseballleague.com.



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MILESTONES

In Memoriam

BINDER

H. Lillian Binder died January 22, 2006.

She was born in 1912 in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Danvers, MA, prior to her marriage to Harry B. Binder (deceased). She spent her adult life in Wilmington, DE until 1998, when she moved to Baltimore, MD.

Active as a volunteer at Riverside Hospital and the Wilmington chapter of Hadassah, she enjoyed community dinners at Arden. She retired from Hercules, Inc. in 1977. Lillian enjoyed bowling, reading and traveling with her husband.

She is survived by her children, Judith Binder, and her husband, Milton Bock, of Albuquerque, NM, J. Morris Binder, and his wife, Eleanor Kreston Binder, of Baltimore, MD, twins, Ruth Elkins Poole, and her husband, Reginald, of Sacramento, CA, and Leslie Picker, and her husband, Lester, of Havre de Grace, MD; 2 sisters, Fannie Boober, of RI, and Ester Jonath, of MA; 13 grandchildren; and 14 great grandchildren.

The funeral service was held

graveside on Tuesday, January 24, in the Jewish Community Cemetery on Foulk Rd.

The family would appreciate contributions in her memory to Wilmington Hadassah, c/o Eva Weissman, 9 Devon Ct., Wilmington, DE 19810.

ROSENBAUM

Ruth Sorin Rosenbaum, 70, of Wilmington, DE, died of natural causes on January 13, 2006 in Harrisburg, PA. She was born on May 11, 1935, in Shenandoah, PA, the youngest of 8 children of Max and Rebecca Sorin.

Ms. Rosenbaum was a graduate of J.W. Cooper High School in Shenandoah and earned a nursing degree from Temple University School of Nursing in Philadelphia. She worked as a registered nurse in Harrisburg and then later in Wilmington before raising her 3 daughters. When her youngest daughters were in high school, she renewed her nursing license and went to work at the Mary Campbell Center in Wilmington, a home for people with multiple disabilities. Ms. Rosenbaum, whose kind and loving nature shined when she was

helping others, loved her work there.

Ms. Rosenbaum was a member of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Synagogue in Wilmington. She enjoyed reading, doing puzzles, and shouting out the answers as she watched game shows. At different times in her life she wrote poems and short stories for her own enjoyment. She loved reading to children and volunteered with Read Aloud Delaware and at Camp Curtin School in Harrisburg. She also volunteered on the Junior Board at Wilmington Hospital.

Surviving are her daughters and sons-in-law, Cindy and Eyal Eisner of Zichron Yaacov, Israel, Marcia and Mark Tannian of Bethesda, MD, and Deborah Rosenbaum of Wilmington, DE, 3 granddaughters, Nufar, Noga and Inbal Eisner of Zichron Yaacov, Israel, her sister Frances Goldberg of Harrisburg, PA, and many nieces and nephews.

Ms. Rosenbaum was predeceased by 6 brothers and sisters, David, Reuben, Sylvia, Milton, and Sherwin "Sheila" Sorin, and Mildred Hershinson, all of Shenandoah.

Services were held on January 15 at Oravitz Funeral Home in Shenandoah. Internment is at the Hebrew Cemetery in Shenandoah Heights.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg, the Mary Campbell Center, Hadassah or Read Aloud Delaware.

WOLFE

Sylvia M. Wolfe, nee Pikus, 85, of Sunrise, FL and New Castle, DE, passed away on January 6, 2006.

She was the devoted mother of

Barry and Jacqueline Wolfe and Sandra Lottes; the mother-in-law of Stephen; and the loving grandmother of Stephanie and Samantha. She is also survived by nieces, nephews, and great ones.

Interment was private January 10th in Mt. Sharon Cemetery in Springfield, PA.

The family respectfully requests that contributions in her memory be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation of Delaware, 100 W. 10th St., Suite 1103, Wilmington, DE 19801.

May His Memory Be A Blessing

VIVIAN Z. KLAFF



Vivian Z. Klaff, professor emeritus of sociology and director of the Frank and Yetta Chaiken Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Delaware, died on Saturday, Jan. 14.

Specializing in demography, ethnicity and computer education, Dr. Klaff's research included the social demography of religions, specifically the study of the demographic characteristics of the American Jewish population.

A past chair of Hillel at UD, Dr. Klaff was the recipient of many grants and awards and was a member of several professional organizations. His "Winter in Israel" study-abroad trips with colleague Marian Palley, professor of political science and international relations, were popular with students.

Among his many publications are DEM-LAB: Using Computers to Teach Demography (1992) and a series of newspaper articles on America's aging population.

Dr. Klaff received his bachelor's degree from the University of Natal, South Africa, and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin.

He is survived by his wife, Frankie; his children, Oren, Tamir, Alexandra and Caryn; and grandchildren, Tali and Cale.

Funeral services were private. Shiva was held at Hillel at UD on Jan. 16.

Donations in his memory would be appreciated to the Center for Jewish Studies, University of Delaware, Newark DE 19716.

NACHAS NOOK

Wagner named to National Board



Ellen Wagner

Ellen Wagner, a member of Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington, became a member of the Board of Directors of Women of Reform Judaism at the organization's 45th Assembly held recently in Houston, Texas. Along with 85 other women from around the world, Ellen will serve on the WRJ Board for a term of four years. Responsibilities of Board members include attending annual meetings in New York City where policies regarding the entire organization are made, and representing the organization on committees and task forces within Women of Reform Judaism, as well as the

Union for Reform Judaism.

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM, The Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, is the voice, the presence and the arena of action of the women of Reform Judaism in the synagogue, the Jewish community, interfaith groups and the general, local, national and international community. It is the women's agency and an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, the central body of Reform Judaism in North America. The founder of NFTY (the North American Federation of Temple Youth) and JBI International, WRJ is a member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and works on behalf of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. WRJ bands together more than 75,000 Jewish women in over 550 Sisterhoods throughout the United States and in Canada and around the world.

Levy receives Jefferson Award

On November 3rd, The Delaware Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (DeARF) presented the Jefferson Award for Public Service to Roger Levy.

The Jefferson Awards Program recognizes and encourages volunteerism and community service. Levy was selected for his ten years of service on the State Use Commission and for his ten years as Commission chair. Through his leadership this Commission has enabled hundreds of individuals with disabilities to become employed and remain employed through the Commission's set-aside contracts with State Agencies.

Levy has volunteered his time with numerous Delaware organizations including: The Delaware Association for the Blind; The Jewish Federation of Delaware; Friends of Brandywine Park; The Wilmington West Rotary Club; The Governor's Forestry Commission; The Delaware Commission on Corrections; The Quaker Hill Neighborhood Association; and The First State Ballet Theatre.

The award is signed by U.S. Senators Harry Reid, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Bill Frist, Thomas R. Carper, and by Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Sam Beard, Curtis Riddle (President & Publisher of The News Journal), and Doyle R. Dobbins, Executive Director of The Delaware Association of Rehabilitation Facilities.

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First Year courses explore the meaning and purpose of Jewish Life from the perspectives of the bible, the Talmud, other sacred texts, and contemporary writings...and you study the central ideas and beliefs behind the practices that define the daily and cyclical experiences of being Jewish.

Come see what all the excitement is about. A two year commitment to Melton is something you will never regret. If you have questions on specific classes or possible cancellations due to snow, please call Melton Director, Lynda Bell at 302-478-5660

A Special Brunch for Men Only
A special "men only" brunch will be held on March 5th from 10:00 am to Noon at the home of Ken & Cheryl Kamm, 312 Springhill Ave, Wilmington.

Dr. Brian Aboff of Christiana Health Care will speak about "Men's Health Issues and Answers"

Learn more about key men's

health issues and what you can be doing to maintain your health and vigor. This brunch is sponsored by Wilmington Hadassah Associates and is open to all men. Cost is \$12 and reservations are required (dairy brunch, dietary laws observed). RSVP by March 1st to Ken Kamm, (302) 764-9700 or email CherylKamm@comcast.net

Get Involved at JFS & Help with Our Wish List!

JFS is in need of volunteers and donations in the following capacities:

★Donations of small-portioned frozen meals or soup to stock our mitzvah pantry

★Donations of gas cards, phone cards, and gift cards for clothing and school supplies

★Donation of a wheeled cart to transport baskets and supplies

★Office volunteers to answer phones, handle data entry and filing

★Creative individuals to assist with assembling and wrapping baskets

★Delivery assistance for meals and baskets

★Caring individuals to make friendly visits or phone calls to community members. Hours are flexible. No experience is necessary - we will train you! Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Driban at 302-478-9411, ext. 21.

Jewish Healing Service - Free & open to the community; 2nd Tuesday of every month; 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center. Led by Rabbi Michael Beals.

Bereavement Group - Free & open to the community; 1st & 3rd Thursday of every month; 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center; 1st Thursday led by JFS staff member only; 3rd Thursday led by Rabbi Sanford Dresin & JFS staff member

Women in Transition Group - \$20/session or \$75 for entire program. Discussion group for women of any age who are contemplating or experiencing changes & choices in their lives.

Wednesdays - Call for specific dates. 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center. Led by JFS staff member Nona Smolko, LCSW

Computer Maven Workshop. This program is open to older adults in the community teaches basic computer skills such as e-mail and how to surf "the Net" (Internet). Cost: \$25/JCC members, \$35/non-members. Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m., in the JFS Classroom. For more information, contact Scott Michels at 302-478-9411, ext. 18.

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

Summer Scholarship Available. The Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund will be awarding its 17th annual Scholarship to a

deserving youth for a Jewish summer experience in camp or Israel. Applications may be picked up at the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Synagogue office, Washington Street Ext. and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE 19802, and must be returned by the deadline - March 1, 2006. The fund was established in 1989 to honor the Silverman's 55th wedding anniversary by their four daughters and many friends. Questions can be directed to Mollie Epstein at 494-5980 or Mollie1818@aol.com

Arab and Jewish Musicians to perform at Longwood Gardens. TZILUT: CONCERTS FOR PEACE, the Philadelphia-based international touring ensemble that features Arab and Jewish musicians in concert together, will perform at Longwood Gardens on Sunday Feb. 19 at 3:30 PM. Directed by Hazzan Jack Kessler, this high-energy Middle Eastern orchestra, combining Arabic and Jewish music, makes a strong statement for peace thru working together. For more information on ATZILUT: CONCERTS FOR PEACE and the three cds the group has produced, go to www.CONCERTS-FOR-PEACE.COM. For additional information about Longwood Gardens, visit www.longwoodgardens.org.

Area Teens Invited To Jewish Leadership Retreat. Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School, the Bernard and Ruth Siegel JCC Teen Department, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Beth Emeth & Beth Shalom synagogues invite all area teens to learn more about Jewish life on

campus by participating in a President's Day Weekend Retreat, February 18-20th.

Retreat participants will spend Saturday night at the Kristol Center for Jewish Life (Hillel) on the University of Delaware campus. Following Sunday brunch, they will travel to Hillels at college campuses in Baltimore, MD and Washington, D.C. This "College Tour" is an opportunity to visit college campuses, share meals and conversations with Hillel students, have fun and learn a great deal. Participants will arrive back in Delaware at approximately 4 p.m. on Monday.

Delaware Gratz students will earn credit for their participation in this weekend program. All community teenagers are encouraged to attend.

For additional information, please call Marlene Milunsky, Delaware Gratz principal, at 302-478-8100. RSVP by January 18th by phone or email, gratz@delawaregratz.org.

Seeking Jewish Athletes. Applications for the Maccabi Australia International Games Now Available. Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel, located in Philadelphia, is sponsoring U.S. participation in the MAIGs in July 2006.

For more information about the Maccabi Australia International Games call Ami Monson at 215-561-6900 x116 or email amonson@maccabiusa.com, or visit the Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel website at www.maccabiusa.com.

COMMUNITY MOURNS

Continued from page 1

wry sense of humor," Siegel recalls adding that her friend was a great teacher who didn't stand for nonsense. "Leah's watchword was 'our time is limited and woe to the student who dares to waste a minute,'" Siegel remembers.

Toni Yong believes that her friend "always saw the best in people and encouraged others to do their best." Toni feels that this "positive attitude" made Leah excel as a teacher. "One of the marks of a good teacher is to make people feel good about where they are in the learning process," she said adding that "Leah inspired me and countless others, through her personal commitment to life-long learning, to

learn more about Judaism and the Jewish people."

Shelly Mand remembers babysitting for the Krafts' daughters on Friday nights and "keeping the tea kettle warm" so that Rabbi and Rebbetzin could enjoy a cup after their long walk home from services. She recalls the many acts of kindness that Mrs. Kraft bestowed upon her family and the many families she befriended during her more than 70 year association with the Wilmington Jewish community. As a child, Shelly's son, Michael had a debilitating illness that required frequent visits to the Al DuPont Institute. "Leah could always be depended upon to call us after we returned from the appointments

and see how he was feeling,"

Two years ago, The Jewish Theological Seminary, honored Mrs. Kraft for her many years of service to the Conservative Jewish movement. Shelly recalls that the event, which was held at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, attracted hundreds of people.

Shelly remembers another tribute three decades earlier at Congregation Beth Shalom, when the synagogue staged a celebration of Rabbi Kraft being named Rabbi Emeritus. Congregants penned letters which eloquently expressed the impact that this long-time spiritual leader had on their lives. "In many of these letters, people also alluded to Leah's many acts of kindness

and the strength of her partnership with her husband," she said.

"She was truly a great lady," Shelley concluded.

This great lady, who served on the board of the Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation and volunteered weekly for more than ten years at St. Frances Hospital, is survived by her daughter, Deborah K. Cohen; her sister, Shirley Stolzer; her grandchildren, Jeffrey and Daniel Green, Etan and Meira Gumerman and 6 great-grandchildren. In addition to her beloved

husband, daughter, son-in-law and brother-in-law, she was preceded in death by her sister, Miryam Kass.

A January 22nd funeral service at Congregation Beth Shalom, led by Rabbi Michael Beals, was a celebration of Mrs. Kraft's 89 years of selfless service to others. To continue her great works, her family asks that contributions in her memory be directed to the Rabbi Jacob Kraft Educational Foundation at Congregation Beth Shalom, 1801 Baynard Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802.

PA'S NEW POWER

Continued from page 1

strong showing, however, it's not clear that the post-election landscape is any more opportune.

President Bush, for whom Hamas' triumph challenged the principle of democratizing the Middle East, was more explicit in his expectations.

"A political party, in order to be viable, is one that professes peace, in my judgment, in order that it will keep the peace," Bush told the Wall Street Journal. "And so you're getting a sense of how I'm going to deal with Hamas if they end up in positions of responsibility. And the answer is: Not until you renounce your desire to destroy Israel will we deal with you."

Hamas' participation in the next P.A. government is not a given. With independent candidates expected

to take at least 20 percent of the votes, Abbas conceivably could form a coalition that is moderate by Palestinian standards and would relegate Hamas to the parliamentary opposition.

But even with a Fatah-Hamas power-sharing deal, the Palestinian Authority may not be diplomatically doomed.

Some experts predict that Hamas, while preserving its virulently anti-Zionist covenant, could shelve its armed struggle and concentrate on fighting rampant corruption in the Palestinian Authority. Doing otherwise would jeopardize the Palestinians' copious foreign aid, deepening the poverty and misery which Hamas proposes to relieve.

There are many in Hamas who want to leave the question of 'who

wins, them or us' to future generations, to God," said Rabbi Menachem Froman, a West Bank settler who has cultivated ties with members of Hamas.

Hamas already has launched a propaganda campaign aimed at Israeli public opinion. One of its candidates in eastern Jerusalem, though formally banned from the PLC vote, gave Israel Radio an interview in which he said Hamas seeks peace and mutual respect with its Jewish neighbors.

One Hamas member in Gaza, Ribhi Rantissi, even speaks fluent Hebrew and engages Israeli journalists in witty exchanges.

"Look, how many Israeli parties are willing to recognize us?" he asked rhetorically in a Channel 2 television panel discussion. "Leave us alone, and we'll leave you alone."

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THE PRICE

by Arthur Miller

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VICTOR: Lot of baggage in here.

WALTER: You talking about this junk or us?

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THE PRICE

By Arthur Miller
Directed by John Grassilli

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- Selling concessions and making popcorn
- Collecting tickets at the door of the theatre

All volunteers get to watch the films for free when they work, and are entitled to a free drink and free popcorn or candy.

Showtimes starting July 8th are:

Fridays: 2 PM & 8 PM

Saturdays: 2 PM, 5 PM & 8 PM

Sundays: 2 PM & 5 PM

Volunteers need to be at the theatre an hour and a half before the scheduled showtime in order to set up the "box office" and concession stand. The box office opens one hour before showtime.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bev Zimmermann at 302-576-2137 or by email at theatren@ci.wilmington.de.us. You may also sign up on our website at www.theatren.org- click on the "Contact Us" page and fill in your contact information.

Thanks for your interest and we'll see you at the movies!

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FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Admission: \$7 Adults; \$5 Seniors & Students

All shows before 6 PM are \$5

For Advance tickets call, 302-571-4699
or visit www.theatren.org

JOIN US
For These
Special Screenings

Isn't This a Time
A Tribute to
Harold Leventhal
Tuesday
February 7
@ 6:30

The Passenger
A Re-release of the
1975 classic film
Tuesday
February 21
@ 2:00 & 6:30

CITYFEST

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

3 4 5
GO FOR ZUCKER! (not rated)
2:00, 8:00* 2:00, 5:00, 8:00* 2:00, 5:00

10 11 12
CACHE (Rated R)
2:00, 8:00 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 2:00, 5:00*

17 18 19
BUBBLE (Rated R)
2:00, 8:00 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 2:00, 5:00

24 25 26
COWBOY DEL AMOR (not rated)
2:00, 8:00 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 2:00, 5:00

*Join us for a film discussion immediately following the the show

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