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Delaware Community Will Observe Yom HaShoah with Various Programs

Rabbinic Association of Delaware, Jewish Federation of Delaware, Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, and Others are the Sponsors

Holocaust Victim Speaks Through Her Letters

In observance of Holocaust Remembrance Days the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center, in cooperation with the Concord Pike Library, is sponsoring a Holocaust program on Monday, May 12, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library, 3406 Concord Pike, Wilmington.

One of the many personal accounts of Holocaust victims in the Preston Holocaust Collection is "Signs of Life," a series of letters written by Hilde Verdoner-Sluiser from 1942-44. They were smuggled out of the Nazi Transit Camp Westerbork in Holland where she was being held before being deported to her death at Auschwitz. The letters were written to

her husband and children, ages three, five and eight, who were in hiding.

Hilde Berdoner-Sluiser's children survived and in 1985 they edited this volume. The letters describe in graphic detail the crowded barracks, the mud and the cold, and the weekly terror as inmates were called up for transport. They reveal her concerns, hopes and fears.

Elly Alexander, Hilde's granddaughter, will speak about her grandmother, her letters and the catastrophic event that shattered her life and the lives of her loved ones.

The program is free and open to the public.

Observance at Temple Beth El

The Yom HaShoah observance this year on Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth El has been titled "A Celebration of Life." We will be remembering individuals from the Holocaust and their creative talents. There will be an exhibit of art work around the sanctuary that was created in the camps and ghettos by artists as their final legacy to the human race. The Temple Beth El Choir will be singing songs, some symbolizing the resistance, others simple songs of longing and hope. The poems to be presented were all written by children of the Holocaust. The Klezmer Band will play music which uplifted the spirits of the Jews and is a testimony to the men and women who found the courage to make music and try to create a human and hopeful environment in the camps.

Israel Lichtenstein wrote a last testament to the Warsaw ghetto, July 31, 1942. "I know that we will not endure. To survive and remain alive after such horrible murders is

not possible. Therefore I write this testament of mine ... I want only a remembrance ... I want my wife to be remembered. Gela Seksztime, artist, dozens of works, talented, didn't manage to exhibit." We will honor Mr. Lichtenstein's request by exhibiting some of Gela Seksztime's art work.

The evening will also include lighting memorial candles, El Mole Rachamin, and the Kaddish. The entire community is invited to attend. Please call 366-8330 if you need directions to the Temple which is at 301 Possum Park Road, Newark.

Yom HaShoah Interfaith Holocaust Service

Date: May 5

Time: Noon

Place: City County Building

Speaker: George Preston

Information: 427-2100

Germany to Surrender List of Nazi Veterans Living in the United States

By MICHAEL SHAPIRO

Washington Jewish Week

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The German government, declaring it is committed to bringing Nazi war criminals to justice, will soon provide the United States with the names of Nazi Waffen SS soldiers who are living in the United States and receiving pensions from Germany.

The U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which is in charge of hunting Nazi war criminals living in the United States, plans to determine whether or not these former soldiers are suspected Nazi war criminals, according to Eli Rosenbaum, OSI's director.

"The government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the U.S. administration are both committed to investigating crimes against humanity, particularly crimes from the Nazi period, and bringing their perpetrators to justice," Friedrich Bohl, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's chief of staff, wrote in a March 21 letter to Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.).

Ackerman, along with the American Jewish Committee and New York City Public Advocate Mark Green, pushed Germany to provide the United States with the list containing some 3,300 names.

Bohl indicated in his letter that nearly half the names on the list are the dependents of deceased soldiers who received the pensions because of injuries suffered during service in the Wehrmacht or in the Waffen SS.

Rosenbaum and OSI will check the names of the soldiers still alive against the U.S. database of suspected Nazi war criminals, which is the largest one in the world with 60,000 names. Officials also will check the names against documents overseas.

While the list will provide OSI with numerous leads, Rosenbaum said it is "too early to say what investigative fruit it may bear."

If a person on the list is suspected of being a Nazi war criminal, Rosenbaum said OSI will launch a full-fledged investigation which could lead to legal action and the loss of their U.S. citizenship.

After the war, the United States decided that service in the Waffen SS would not disqualify people from becoming U.S. citizens because Waffen SS units were primarily combat units, Rosenbaum said.

However, there were many Waffen SS units that did "engage in terrible atrocities," he said.

In February, after revelations that Waffen SS veterans living in the United States were receiving pensions from the German government, Ackerman wrote to President Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno and Kohl concerning the situation. He called on the two governments to investigate whether any of the former soldiers living in the United States were Nazi war criminals.

"Although it is the policy of Germany to take care of its wounded veterans, many of these same veterans could potentially be war criminals," Ackerman wrote in a Feb. 4 letter to Clinton.

"This is outrageous, particularly since many Holocaust survivors receive little, if any, reparations from Germany."

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NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

Israel Blasts U.N. Resolution on Har Homa

By CYNTHIA MANN

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israel lashed out at the U.N. General Assembly after the body adopted a

resolution calling for an immediate halt to the construction of Jewish housing in southeastern Jerusalem. "Israel categorically rejects the one-sided resolution," said Ambassador

David Peleg, acting permanent U.N. representative from Israel. It "stands in contradiction to the peace process and its principles," he said. "Israel believes that all outstanding issues will be resolved only through direct negotiations between the parties concerned."

The non-binding measure was adopted last April 25 at the close of a two-day emergency session convened at the request of Arab states to marshal international pressure to halt Israeli building at Har Homa.

The vote was 134 to 3, with 11 abstentions. Israel was joined by the United States and Micronesia in voting against the measure.

The emergency session followed the U.S. veto of two similar resolutions last month in the Security

Council. It also followed a vote March 13 in a non-emergency session of the General Assembly calling on Israel to drop its construction plan.

Peleg used strong terms to protest the emergency session, the first since 1982, calling it a "relic of the Cold War." He said Israel believes "there was no procedural or substantive justification for the convening of the 'special emergency session,'" while "the international agenda is laden with genuine problems which require urgent attention."

The emergency session was opened by the U.N. observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Nasser al-Kidwa. He said Israel's actions and policies violated international law, the Middle East peace

accords and "also represent the practical abandonment of the peace process and a declaration of the resumption of occupation."

The April 25 resolution:

"asked the U.N. secretary-general to monitor and report within two months whether the resolution's demands were being implemented;

"expressed 'the need for scrupulous implementation of the agreements' between Israel and the Palestinians, and urged the international community to 'exert all necessary efforts to revive the peace process.'"

"cited increasing concern 'about the actions of armed Israeli settlers in occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem,' and rejected 'terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.'"



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NATIONAL • INTERNATIONAL

Chicago Rabbis Seek Dialogue

NEW YORK (JTA) — At a time of increasing religious factiousness, a ray of hope has blown in from the Windy City. The city's two rabbinical organizations — the all-Orthodox Chicago Rabbinical Council and the multidominational Chicago Board of Rabbis — have jointly issued a statement calling on their respective communities to work together toward understanding and cordial relations.

"We invite our respective communities to join in working toward authentic dialogue," said the statement, which was issued earlier this month. "We do not anticipate resolving the many points of disagreement that separate us, nor is this our goal. Rather, we seek to achieve better understanding and more cordial relations among ourselves as rabbis and congregants,

rooted in the conviction that the Jewish future is better served when we voice our disagreements to one another, and not to reporters."

It is the first time that the two groups have overcome the clear ideological wall that increasingly impedes Orthodox and non-Orthodox groups from officially working together. In Chicago, relations have been historically "cool but cordial" between Orthodox and non-Orthodox rabbis, said Rabbi Ira Youdovin, executive vice president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis. His group has 200 members, 20 of whom also belong to the Orthodox Chicago Rabbinical Council, which has 100 members.

Orthodox religious groups, in general, no longer work with non-Orthodox groups. Many Orthodox religious leaders also put pressure on the few of their colleagues who are still willing to cooperate with non-Orthodox rabbis to stop. They say the liberal movements have veered so far from the historically accepted standards of Jewish practice — on the ordination of women, and the Reform movement's acceptance of patrilineal descent and homosexuality — that it has become impossible to sit down at the same table.

For more information on any JCC program 478-5660

Researchers in Israel Find Link Between Arteriosclerosis Prevention and Licorice

Technion Researchers in Israel have discovered an ingredient in the root of the licorice plant that prevents the build-up of cholesterol in arteries. The ingredient, glabridin, delays the oxidation of low density lipoprotein (LDL), or "bad" cholesterol, a main contributing factor to increased cholesterol on arterial walls that leads to arteriosclerosis or narrowing of the arteries.

"The licorice or anise plant grows primarily in East Asian countries, including Mongolia and Vietnam, where chewing licorice root is a common practice and arteriosclerosis is less prevalent,"

said Michael Aviram, professor of biochemistry and medicine, and head of the Lipid Research Laboratory in the Faculty of Medicine at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, who heads the research team. As the licorice is chewed, the digestive system releases enzymes that break down the glabridin, enabling the body to absorb it.

For the study, 20 Technion medical students took licorice extract tablets in daily doses of 100 mg. After two weeks, the researchers found that the LDL in their blood became 80 percent more resistant to oxidation as compared to a control group where no effect was

observed. The licorice works as an antioxidant by trapping the free radicals that cause oxidation, resulting in a reduction of the build-up, explains Prof. Aviram. But Prof. Aviram warns against eating large amounts of licorice candy. He described the licorice used in the candy industry as a watery extract from the licorice root that does not contain glabridin. "The active ingredient is found in the parts of the root that are thrown away after industrial production of candy," he said.

The Technion is Israel's scientific and technological center for applied research and education in Israel.



Jerusalem, Israel: Ever since access to Jerusalem's ancient Western Wall Tunnel was eased last fall by the opening of an exit into the Via Dolorosa, the site has fast become one of Israel's most frequented tourist sites. A segment of the 2,000 year-old tunnel is pictured at left; at the right, another section of the tunnel reveals part of a perfectly preserved column dating from Herod's Temple.



K

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EDITORIAL

Voice Mail

A Reminder to Volunteer

This past week's Presidents' Summit for America's Future, a three-day series of speeches and symposiums in Philadelphia, was intended to inspire volunteering nationwide. Critics may argue that the Federal Government's cutting back of entitlement programs passes the buck of community service. Such critics would be remiss in identifying the sheer power of volunteerism, to both address problems and strengthen community ties. When individuals volunteer, they learn to put another's needs before their own. Often those who volunteer gain the most through the rewarding feeling that helping others provides.

With more women in the workplace, people's fear of lawsuits, and the responsibilities of changing families, volunteerism has seen a downward trend. For example, the sandwich generation often copes with aging parents living longer and boomerang children returning home as adults or otherwise requiring family resources. Fewer people than ever join social and civic organizations, lodges, leagues and associations. However, the pattern of reduced volunteerism is being countered in creative ways. The recent "Mitzvah Day" at both Beth Shalom and Beth Emeth displayed one possible outlet for community action. The planned Young Leadership Development Alliance of The Jewish Federation of Delaware's "Getting Down and Dirty at the Kutz Home" on May 8 is another creative volunteer event. More

and more law offices and corporations actually expect their employees to perform volunteer work and give them the time to do it.

Volunteerism has been the foundation of the Jewish community's infrastructure from generation to generation throughout the world. This summit serves as a reminder to our children that the tenets of our tradition are as modern as they are ancient. The beneficiary agencies of The Jewish Federation of Delaware benefit greatly from the needs that are met through the time and work given by countless volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for any of them, please call from the list of phone numbers listed below.

- Albert Einstein Academy478-5026
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Hillel453-0479
Jewish Community Center.....478-5660
Jewish Family Service478-9411
The Jewish Federation of Delaware427-2100
The Jewish Voice427-2100
The Kutz Home764-7000
The following synagogues would also welcome volunteers:
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Beth Shalom Cong. of Dover734-5578
Congregation Beth Emeth764-2393
Cong. Beth Shalom654-4462
Machzikey Hadas Cong.798-6846
Temple Beth El.....366-8330

Enough is Enough

To the Editor:

Israel's decision to withdraw its request for the extradition of Hamas militant Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook now being held in the United States, makes it highly likely that the suspected Palestinian terrorist leader will go free. In recent days, the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also released hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned for a variety of criminal activities against Israelis.

These two developments cannot help but underscore the sharp contrast between the treatment of the Palestinian prisoners and the ultra-harsh punishment that continues to be meted out to Jonathan Pollard, the former civilian naval aide who has been incarcerated in a federal prison for 12 years for passing unauthorized U.S. government information to Israel.

Pollard's continued imprisonment under a life sentence is unwarranted. He has endured enough. It is high time that justice be tempered with mercy and he too be released.

I hold no brief for Pollard's transgressions. He has betrayed the trust of a country that has been hospitable to the Jewish people and exceedingly good to Israel. His was a grievous wrong, which he now recognizes with remorse, and for which he was condemned by the overwhelming majority of America's Jews.

But by now, the punishment has equaled, if not exceeded the offense. Pollard is eligible for parole. He deserves to have his sentence commuted.

Mine is essentially a plea for clemency, for a measure of human compassion, especially because there are aspects of the Pollard case that trouble me deeply and lead me to wonder whether justice was fairly applied.

The life sentence he received seems excessive. In recent years, those who were

convicted of spying for friendly states — and even a majority of those who spied for America's enemies — were given far less severe terms.

The argument that Pollard remains a security risk holds no water. It is absurd to maintain that information that was confidential in 1986 and available to Pollard then has not been fundamentally changed in the ten years since.

More troubling still is that before his trial, the federal prosecutors promised Pollard leniency if he agreed to forgo a jury trial. He accepted the offer. But the sentencing judge rescinded it after Pollard pleaded guilty. Was the government's breaching of the plea agreement a true rendering of justice, or its miscarriage?

The unilateral scrapping of a plea agreement by a judge is exceptionally rare. In this instance, it was occasioned by an unusual and arguably improper ex parte memorandum from the then Defense Secretary, Caspar Weinberger. That memorandum, which continues to stand as a key obstacle to Mr. Pollard's release, has never been made public. It is about time to bring it into the open. The bitter irony is that Secretary Weinberger himself subsequently received a Presidential pardon, even before trial, on the criminal charge that he had concealed vital evidence in the Iran-Contra scandal.

Judaism is a faith that condemns the crime even as it affirms the redemptive capacity of every living being. It is in this spirit that I feel that Jonathan Pollard, who has more than paid for his transgression, deserves to be released from prison.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
Past President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations

We're moving AGAIN! (this is the last one, we promise....) As of May 15, 1997 The Jewish Voice, Jewish Federation of Delaware, Milton & Hattie Kutz Foundation, Jewish Community Relations Committee, Young Leadership Development Alliance, Jewish Community of Delaware Endowment Fund, AND Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee will have a new address AND a new location: Our phone number will still be (302) 427-2100 (and our fax will still be (302) 427-2438) Please, also note our new E-mail: Delawarejfd@jon.cjfnj.org Office location & address: 100 W. 10th Street, Suite 301 Wilmington, DE 19801-1628

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Please let us know ... We would like to serve the community better through more effective communication. To update our records, the Jewish Federation of Delaware needs the following information from community members: NAME: DATE OF BIRTH (including year): FAX NUMBER: INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS: DAYTIME PHONE: Please provide any and all of this information which applies to you. For example if you do not have a fax or use e-mail please give us your date of birth. It would be especially helpful to receive your e-mail and fax numbers. Send the completed form to: (before May 14, 1997) (after May 14, 1997) The Jewish Federation of Delaware PO Box 2193 Wilmington DE 19899-2193 The Jewish Federation of Delaware 100 W. 10th St., Suite 301 Wilmington DE 19801-1628 Fax: (302) 427-2438 E-Mail: Delawarejfd@jon.cjfnj.org

OPINION

Leaders, Managers, and the Shemoneh Esrei



By JOHN A. ELZUFON
Special to The Jewish Voice

Moses, Passover's central figure, is the Jewish people's greatest leader. However, he has never been accorded a divine status and during his lifetime Moses himself was aware of his mortality. He knew that one day another would take his place as his people's leader. Moses sought G-d's help in choosing a successor to lead the Jewish people:

"Let the Lord, The G-d of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, who may go out before them and who may come in before them and who may lead them out, and who may bring them in; that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep which have no shepherd." Numbers 27:16

G-d responds by choosing Joshua. Why Joshua? Because in him G-d saw the qualities of a leader. What makes a leader? A leader is not afraid to stand up for his or her own views. A leader is able to move beyond preconceived ideas. A leader focuses on goals and will not readily compromise values and beliefs dearly held. A leader is a visionary. Leaders are different than managers. A manager is interested in process and making sure that tasks are properly performed. It is often said that a leader is concerned with doing the right thing and a manager is concerned with doing things the right way. A leader has the vision of where to go and a manager knows how best to achieve that vision. A leader chooses which tree to

climb and a manager determines how to climb the tree.

What about the Jewish people? Are we leaders or managers – or both?

As leaders, as visionaries, it was the Jewish people who introduced the concept of ethical monotheism as embodied in our Torah and so succinctly summarized in the Ten Commandments,

who set up codes of conduct for non-Jews as well as Jews making it clear that all of the righteous are worthy of the Kingdom of G-d, thereby becoming humanity's first universal religion

who, through the moving story of the binding of Isaac, condemned child sacrifice who, through the teachings of the prophets, taught humanity that it is not sacrifices that please G-d, but "to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy G-d." Micah 6:8.

who freed religion from the geographical limitations of a temple-based sacrificial worship by transforming Judaism into a religion based on individual conduct and thought which could accompany any Jew to any place. This "portability" kept Judaism alive in the Diaspora.

whose "vision" is summarized every time a Jew says the Alenu prayer in which we hope for the day "When the world shall be established under the rule of the Almighty."

and clearly no people has ever made more sacrifice, in terms of our own lives, rather than yield our beliefs.

Yet, it is also true that the Jewish people are managers – that is concerned with living a way which will achieve our vision for that vision cannot be achieved by merely wishing it. We must lead by example and the example we set is how we manage our affairs and lead our daily lives. For this we have developed rules of mitzvot (e.g. kashrut) as a guide to the day-to-day management of our lives. We dedicate our lives to our mission on earth: Tikkun Olam – to repair the world.

So the answer to whether we are leaders or managers is: that we are both.

However, whether we are leaders of humanity to G-d's purpose or managers of G-d's purpose is less important than our recognition that however our role is described, it is unique and important.

Central to this role is our belief that there is a G-d and that there is an intrinsic meaning in human existence because G-d created the world with purpose and with meaning. We express our interpretation of G-d's pur-

pose in many ways – one of which is prayer.

Through prayer we forge an ongoing relationship with G-d.

The task in prayer is not to change G-d because G-d doesn't change. It is for us to change and better ourselves through our encounter with G-d.

In Judaism the central prayer is the Shemoneh Esrei (Amidah). Among many Jews it is customary to take three steps forward to symbolize our awe in approaching G-d. What do those three steps symbolize? Why three? Many theories exist.

Rabbi Eleazar ben Judah (1165-1230), author of the *Sefer Rokeach*, related these three steps, our approach to G-d, to the fact that in the Hebrew bible, the *Tanakh*, the word *v'yigash* "and he approached" – appears three times.

The first time this phrase appears is in Genesis after G-d tells Abraham that Sodom and Gomorra were to be destroyed.

Abraham approaches G-d and pleads for justice:

"Wilt Thou indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" (Genesis 18:23), and later "...shall not the Judge of all the earth do justly?" (Genesis 18:25)

With this shocking audacity Abraham, who has only recently entered into his covenant with G-d, recognizes his covenantal duty on behalf of humanity to risk offending G-d. How often have the Jewish people risked offending others by the discharge of our covenantal duty?

Equally astonishing is that Abraham's plea for justice is on behalf of total strangers – thus emphasizing the value Judaism places on all lives as well as the universal and inclusive nature of Jewish values – as opposed to values fostering exclusivity overwhelming present then and unfortunately still present today.

The second time the phrase *v'yigash* appears is part of the Joseph story. At one point the youngest brother, Benjamin, is accused of theft and arrested by Joseph. Judah, who had assumed responsibility for Benjamin, approaches Joseph (whose true identity is not yet known to him) and pleads for Benjamin's release.

Judah does not plead for justice. For all he knows, Benjamin is guilty and "justice" would support jailing Benjamin. But Judah knows the effect that Benjamin's jailing would have on his father, Isaac, and with singleminded passion, Judah pleads for a different quality – mercy (Genesis 14:18-34). He succeeds.

Now, Judah's motive was not as universal as Abraham as Judah sought to protect Benjamin and preserve his own family. But central to his plea for mercy was the same motive that inspired Abraham's plea for justice – the dignity and worth of every life. Thus, Judah's approach was no less important than Abraham's for in its recognition of the value of a single identified life Judaism also recognizes that the destiny of entire nations and even the world may rest on the fate of a single individual. The Talmud instructs: "that whoever destroys one life is considered by the Torah as if he destroyed an entire world, and whoever saves one life is considered by the Torah as if he saved an entire world." (Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5).

The third time the phrase *v'yigash* appears is in I Kings as part of the narrative of the confrontation between the prophet Eliyahu and the false prophets of Baal. During the reign of King Ahad and his murderous wife, Queen Jezebel, the Jewish faith was suppressed in favor of idol worship of Baal. Eliyahu challenged the prophets of Baal to a direct public competition on Mount Carmel. After the total failure of the false prophets to gain any response from Baal, Eliyahu approaches G-d:

"...let it be known this day that You are G-d in Israel and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your bidding. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that these people may know that You, O Lord, are G-d; for You have turned their heart back again" (I Kings 18:36-37)

G-d responded by sending fire to consume the offer of Eliyahu and the faith of the Jewish people in G-d was restored.

G-d demonstrated that although divine presence may not always be obvious, it is always present. While, for reasons philosophers, rabbis, theologians and the rest of us have and will debate for years, G-d may hide the divine presence from time to time, it is never extinguished and the Jewish people will never be totally abandoned by G-d.

These therefore are the three times G-d has been approached (as that very word is used) in the *Tanakh*: for justice, for mercy and for confirmation of the presence of G-d. These qualities form the cornerstone of our beliefs and guide us on our path – whether it be as leaders or as managers of G-d's purpose.

Thus, when we take these three steps forward at the beginning of the Shemoneh Esrei, we symbolically recognize the central Jewish themes of justice, mercy and the universal presence of G-d, the role of the Jewish people in leading humanity toward these themes and the rededication of own lives to this purpose.

(John A. Elzufon, is a Vice-President of the Jewish Federation of Delaware, Former President and Present Board Member of AKSE and Present Board Member of Albert Einstein Academy.)

Bibi Can Take Some Lessons from Bill

By JONATHAN S. TOBIN

The distressing spectacle of a prime minister of Israel spending Shabbat worrying about whether he was going to be indicted will not soon be forgotten.

In the end, Israel's Attorney General wisely chose not to indict a sitting head of government in the absence of any credible evidence. What won't go away so quickly is the memory of the humiliation that this incident inflicted on Israeli democracy. But before signing Benjamin Netanyahu's political death certificate, it would be better to remember that he only has to emulate the president of the United States to survive and ultimately thrive in office. Bibi may look to be toast today, but in spite of everything, he could still be sipping champagne in 3 years.

As we all know from watching politics in our own country, sitting presidents can dodge quite a few ethical bullets on their way to re-election.

In the past month, in just the latest episode in the scandals plaguing the Clinton Administration, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno is under fire for refusing to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Democratic party campaign shenanigans. Many suspect her own re-appointment as Attorney General in January was subject to a commitment not to name such a prosecutor. Doesn't that scenario sound vaguely similar to the Bar-On affair? And if it is true, is it criminal collusion or just hardball politics?

How different are Netanyahu's claims of innocence followed by a promise not to sin again from President Clinton's by-now traditional reaction to revelations of ethical shortcomings in his administration?

Those who are prepared to give Clinton and Reno the benefit of the doubt, should not be so quick to call for Netanyahu's head.

Looking closely at Israel's recent political history, one ought to remember that the late

Yitzhak Rabin made his own questionable deals with Shas, including pacts affecting Deri's criminal trial and Shas support for the Labor government. We expect our leaders to make the deals which will enable government to function. We just don't want to know the messy details.

As for the Bar-On affair itself, the notion that the prime minister appointed a longtime Likud activist to be Attorney General of Israel, solely for the purpose of appeasing Shas and letting its criminal leader – the odious Aryeh Deri – off the hook for previous charges of corruption, never struck me as a credible scenario. Nor did it seem a likely basis for a criminal conspiracy if the purpose was to secure votes for a Hebron withdrawal which was never really in doubt. The fact that Bar-On himself, whose appointment was a political blunder but no crime, was never a candidate for indictment, makes the whole alleged conspiracy theory col-

lapse. It should be recognized that the source and the substance of the Bar-On Affair is not the cynicism and lack of political principles of Benjamin Netanyahu, as well earned as his reputation for these faults might be.

Sweep away the wilder accusations against Netanyahu, many of which are clearly politically motivated, and what you have left is the corruption of the Shas party. The machinations of Aryeh Deri are where the crimes of the affair seem to begin and end. Indeed, the sole source of the accusations against Netanyahu is reportedly Deri's disgruntled former lawyer.

As long as the balance of power in Israeli lies within the grasp of the venal men who run Shas, there will always be a taint of corruption about any Israeli cabinet. The fact that the contenders to replace Shimon Peres

(Continued on page 11)



News Journal Editorial Page Editor to Speak at AKSE Brunch

On Sunday, May 18, 1997, at 9:30 a.m., the A.K.S.E. Men's Club will feature John H. Taylor, Jr. to speak on the topic of "The News Journal Editorial Staff's Impact on the Jewish Community and the Community at Large."

John Taylor is the editor of the Editorial Pages at The News Journal, Wilmington, Delaware. He began writing editorials in 1977 and was named editor of the Editorial Pages in 1984. Before becoming an editorial writer, he was Metropolitan Editor at The News Journal. Before that he was

the Assignments Editor, the Education Editor and a reporter on the Metropolitan Staff. From 1968 to 1971, he was Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools in Wilmington. Before joining The News Journal in 1966, he spent a year teaching secondary school just outside of London, England. He was a founding member and the 1991-1992 Chair of the Delaware Bar, Bench Media Conference, a group of print and broadcast media representatives, lawyers and judges dedicated to fostering better understanding among the three profes-



John Taylor

sions. John is a past member of the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Editorial Writers and was editor of The Masthead, the NCEW's quarterly professional journal, for three years. He has taught journalism and writing at the University of Delaware and Wilmington College.

The A.K.S.E. Men's Club monthly Sunday Brunch is open to the public. Brunch is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. and the program is from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$3.00 for an all-you-can-eat deluxe Sunday brunch.

Reservations for nonmembers are suggested and can be made by contacting the A.K.S.E. office at (302) 762-2705.



Contemporary Jewish American Women Writers and Jewish American Literature Jewish Studies' Lecture Series Continues

On Tuesday, May 13, Dr. Jay Halio, a member of the English Department at the University of Delaware, will discuss *Contemporary Jewish American Women Writers and Jewish American Literature*. His presentation will be in Room 204 Kirkbride Hall (corner of Delaware Avenue and South College Avenue/Rte. 896) from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Professor Halio will discuss the question, "What is Jewish American Literature?" and the various responses writers and others have given in a search for a possible (if not impossible) definition. He will then consider the work of a number of prominent Jewish American writers, such as Isaac Bashevis Singer, Bernard Malamud, Saul Bellow, Philip Roth, Chaim Potok, and

the wave of new Jewish American women writers, such as Anne Roiphe, Francine Prose, Lynn Sharon Schwartz, Allegra Goodman, and many others, with particular attention to the special contributions they have made to our literature.

Professor Halio is a member of the English Department at the University of Delaware. Along with Ben

Siegel, Professor of English at the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, he has published *Daughters of Valor: Contemporary Jewish American Women Writers* (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1997). He is also the author of a recently published book on Philip Roth, and he is currently editing a collection of essays, again with Ben Siegel, in honor of the late Melvin J. Friedman. Professor Halio is a member of the Jewish Studies Program Executive Committee.

On Tuesday, May 6, at 11:00 p.m., "Simon Wiesenthal: Freedom Is Not A Gift From Heaven" will be shown on PBS. In this documentary, Simon Wiesenthal, the world's famous Nazi hunter, reveals his life story on camera. He tells stories of his youth in the Ukraine, World War II experiences in various concentration camps, and his liberation by American soldiers in 1945. It is Simon's undying commitment to find and bring to justice those responsible for the Holocaust which Wiesenthal provides as explanation for the detailed detective work for tracking down Nazi criminals.

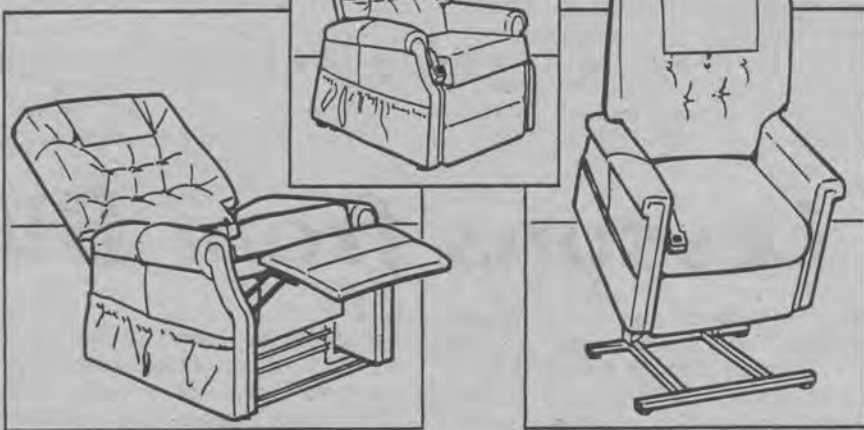
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Six Wilmington Rabbis to be Honored by Israel Bonds

On Wednesday evening, May 21, 1997, at 7:30 p.m., a Tribute Dessert Reception will be held at Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Washington Blvd. and Torah Way, Wilmington, at which time the State of Israel Bonds organization will bestow the Shema Yisrael Award upon six Wilmington congregational rabbis.

The honorees at the Wilmington event are: Rabbi Sanford L. Dresin

and Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Gewirtz of Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth; Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher, Rabbi Laurence P. Malinge and Rabbi Emeritus Herbert E. Drooz of Congregation Beth Emeth; and Rabbi David A. Wortman of Congregation Beth Shalom.

Rabbi David B. Kaplan of Temple Beth El in Newark and Rabbi Moshe V. Goldblum of

Congregation Beth Shalom in Dover will receive their Shema Yisrael Awards subsequently in their synagogues.

The organizational committee for the May 21st Tribute Dessert Reception includes the current and immediate past General Chairmen of the Delaware Israel Bonds Campaign, Jerome K. Grossman and Howard H. Simon, respectively; the current presidents of the three Wilmington congregations, Rhoda Dombchik of Congregation Beth Shalom, Perry Goldlust of Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth and Michael Joseph of Congregation Beth Emeth; and the following committee members, John Elzufon, David Epstein, Vivian Goldberg, Stuart Grant and Barry Wexler.

For many years, five Delaware congregations have held annual High Holy Day Appeals to help provide Israel with the capital need-

ed to enhance her economic infrastructure. The State of Israel Bonds Organization, in conjunction with the Delaware State of Israel Bonds Committee, say they are pleased to

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For more information, please contact the Israel Bonds office at 215-561-2663 or 1-800-752-5671.

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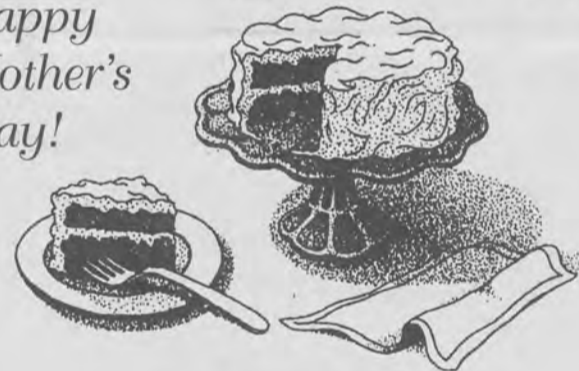
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JDC Volunteer Speaks at Kutz Donor Luncheon

The Auxiliary of the Milton & Hattie Kutz Home hosted its 1997 Donor Luncheon at the Brandywine Country Club on April 16th. Guests and residents of The Kutz Home listened to speaker Arthur F. Fost, M.D., a volunteer for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Com-



Dr. Arthur Fost

mittee. Dr. Fost spoke about his service as a medical officer in Rwanda after the genocide that occurred there in 1994 and his return to that country in 1996 when he assisted with the repatriation of Rwandan refugees. Approximately one hundred seventy-five people attended the luncheon. In addition, many supporters sent in contributions and helped to underwrite meals for the residents. Guests at the luncheon purchased an almost record number of raffle

tickets for which there were several beautiful prizes. As of this printing, the estimated net receipts will total approximately \$10,000.

The Donor Luncheon is one of three annual fundraisers held by the Auxiliary to enable it to fulfill its mission of "enhancing the quality of the lives of the residents." This year's proceeds will be used to purchase outdoor furniture so that the residents may enjoy their new patios in nice weather. Luncheon Chair Susan Sandler and her committee planned the luncheon.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is a beneficiary of the UJA/Federation Campaigns. Its mission in 58 countries around the world is to save Jewish lives, to help disadvantaged Jews with food and shelter, to reconstruct Jewish communities harmed by geo-political events, to help Israel to improve

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Susan Sandler, Donor Luncheon Chairperson, with Anna Arlicks, resident.

its social welfare infrastructure. The JDC continues to work in war ravaged areas such as Sarajevo and Rwanda to set up humanitarian programs.

Albert Einstein Academy Holds Its Annual Passover Seder



Left to right: Elliot Margules, Mr. Shmuel Yoseph, Gilli Cherrin

On Wednesday, April 16, 1997, the JCC auditorium was packed with enthusiastic children from grades kindergarten through sixth grades participated in a Passover seder. They were joined by their parents and their "buddies" from the Kutz Home. The sixth graders sat at the head table and conducted an extensive seder while Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, Head of the school, offered explanations. The Home School Association members prepared a full lunch for those assembled. Albert Einstein Academy is a constituent of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. For further information, call the Academy at 302-478-5026.



Left to right: Lucy Cohen, Rose Plummer, Jamie Jacobs, Lindsay Swinger.

Lessons

Continued from page 5

as leader of the Labor party are all refusing to take a firm stand against Shas shows again that when it comes to dealing with Deri, there is little difference between Labor and Likud.

Given all this, it is probable that Netanyahu will serve out the rest of his term.

Those who say it is impossible for a prime minister to continue to serve after such an incident should look to Washington to learn how a leader cannot only survive but grow in office with grave accusations hanging over him. How many times during his first term did ethical scandals and political incompetence make Bill Clinton look like a certain one-term president if not a clone of Warren Harding. Yet in November 1996, he easily won re-election.

True, Clinton had help from an incompetent opposition. But look at the Labor party. They are deeply divided with an aging leader who doesn't want to let go and inexperienced young Turks who aren't ready to step up to the big leagues. They are just as capable of blowing it as the Republicans. Nor do his rivals within Likud seem to be capa-

ble of mounting a credible challenge. The three years until the year 2,000 when Netanyahu will have to face re-election are going to seem like an eternity to his critics.

Netanyahu will always carry the taint of the scandal with him. But his success or failure in office will hinge not on deals with Shas but on maintaining Israel's security.

Contrary to the conventional wisdom heard in this country, Netanyahu will not revive his popularity by handing Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority even more concessions. With Arafat and the Palestinian Authority consistently overplaying their hand and fomenting violence, the odds are Netanyahu will be able to rally public support for his policies and paint Labor as too soft-headed to be

given power again. If he learns from his mistakes and devotes the remainder of his political career, whether it lasts another three years or longer, to political behavior which will be as above reproach as the first ten months of his government were troubled, Netanyahu will probably emerge victorious. And if Israelis are really serious about avoiding these kinds of scandals, they know what they can do. Perhaps the affair will help mobilize Israeli opinion behind real political reform such as constituency representation, which would end the power of Shas and Deri. But don't hold your breath waiting for that to happen.

(Jonathan S. Tobin is executive editor of the Connecticut Jewish Ledger.)

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AN ALERT TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE

To counter Christian missionaries targeting the Jewish people, a significant campaign is being waged in Jewish communities in the United States, Israel, Russia and other countries. The dynamic film ISRAEL: APPOINTMENT WITH DESTINY is being shown to enthusiastic audiences in programs sponsored by synagogues, Jewish Federations, B'nai Brith Chapters, Hebrew schools, etc. It is a story of promise and hope that finds a fulfillment in the nation of Israel. Produced by the Bible Students, a Christian group, it

is highly recommended by leaders of all three segments of Judaism and major Jewish newspapers have joined in the accolades. Its message is—don't assimilate. Rather, cherish your Jewish hopes as found in the Torah. Many Jewish people have found this video to be one of the single most important tools in combating cults and other Christian missionaries who target young Jews at the most vulnerable age. The cost is \$10.00, including postage. Write to

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Baby Boomers' Spiritual Life Focus of Conference

Rabbi Richard F. Address, Reform Judaism leader from Philadelphia, will speak on "Spiritual Health of Baby Boomers — Challenge to Church, Synagogue and Society," at a conference Wednesday, May 14, at Beth Emeth Synagogue, 300 Lea Blvd., Wilmington.

The sponsor of the program is Delaware Interfaith Coalition on Aging, whose board includes these members of the Jewish Community: Rabbi Peter Grumbacher of Beth Emeth; Verna Schenker of Beth Emeth, DICA chair; Shelia Mensch, Kutz Home, and Dory Zatushni, executive director of Jewish Family Service of Delaware.

Address was ordained in Cincinnati 25 years ago with Rabbi Grumbacher. Address and Grumbacher are "on the edge" of the Baby Boomer age group, and have been involved heavily in community service ideas. As co-founder of the Black-Jewish Coalition of Philadelphia, Address is co-chair of an annual seder and liturgical music concert.

This year, Grumbacher started a midday senior citizen Shabbat ser-

vice with lunch, and community service activities for young people in lieu of lavish Bar Mitzvahs.

As regional director, Pennsylvania Council, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Rabbi Address works with committees on older adults, bio-ethics, the synagogue as a caring community, youth suicide and AIDS. He is also regional director of the Reform Synagogues of Greater Philadelphia.

Experienced in and knowledgeable about health and aging issues, he has written and edited several publications, including "How to Create a Caring Community in Your Synagogue," and "Preparing for the Graying of a Congregation."

Serving as a spiritual leader in California, he was host and panelist for a radio clergy roundtable in Los Angeles, taught at Pierce College and was columnist for the Las Virgenes News.

In Delaware Valley, he has taught at Gratz College, Gwynedd Mercy College, and Medical College of Pennsylvania. As chaplain at Children's Hospital, Philadelphia, he was rabbinical

representative to the 1987 Surgeon General's Conference on Pediatric AIDS. He writes extensively on bio-ethics and was host/panelist of a religious talk show, "Dialogue," on WPVI-TV.

The DICA conference, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. includes continental breakfast and lunch. Cost is \$20 a person or \$30, a couple. For information and reservations, call Verna Schenker, 478-6673.

AKSE Sisterhood Event

On Wednesday, May 7 the Sisterhood of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth will conduct its Induction of Officers for the 1997-98 year beginning at 6:00 p.m. with the Donor Dinner. The fashions of Honey Kamali, 2 Greenville Crossing will be shown during the evening. Boscov's a la Carte Catering will be serving another delicious meal.

Recognition will be given to Sisterhood members who work tirelessly during the year in service to the synagogue. The officers being installed for the 1997-98 year are: Sharon Berry, President; Judy Stiebel, Vice President; Judy Lamet and Mitzi Echt, Fund Raising; Lisa Elliott and Nedda Barth, Programs; Susan Pevar, Membership; Leona Weissman, Treasurer; Judy Berlin, Corresponding Secretary; Vicky Erdman, Finance Secretary; Selma Barshay, Recording Secretary; Mary Samuels, Gift Shop; Judy Rosenberg and Sylvia Wagman, Purim Baskets; Esther Kopolovic, Barbara Leeman, Dianne Seidel, Kitchen Committee.

Please join us at the synagogue for a delightful evening of food, fashions, fun and kudos to the many dedicated members. Cost for the evening is minimum donor of \$36, plate charge of \$18. Guest fee is \$22.00 so invite a friend. Reservations are required. Please contact Wendy Shlossman (479-5599) or Judy Stiebel (478-6822).

SYNAGOGUE LIFE

Beth Emeth Mitzvah Day



Sorting clothes for local agencies.

On Sunday, April 13, over three hundred congregants, men, women and children, assembled in the Beth Emeth Congregation for breakfast and a morning service prior to the start of Mitzvah Day.

Sisterhood members and volunteers prepared over 600 meals for Emanuel Dining Room and the Peace Meal AIDS program. The library was filled with families who sorted children's books for Read-Aloud Delaware and the auditorium and lounge were the pre-schoolers' domain as they decorated Passover baskets for the residents of B'nai B'rith House and learned about the Passover holiday. At the same time many others were carrying out a variety of volunteer projects at fifteen different sites in the community. The agencies, the beneficiaries and the volunteers have all expressed their gratitude for the gifts of giving and receiving that was Mitzvah Day.



Kick-off breakfast before going out on Mitzvah Day.

Silverman Scholarships



Clockwise from upper left: Jennifer Berry, Marna Lew, Lisa Sandell, and Sharon Sandell.

Jennifer Berry, Marna Lew, Lisa Sandell and Sharon Sandell have been named the 1997 recipients of the Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship awards. Given annually, these stipends assist young people participating in a summer program of Jewish study or enrichment.

Currently a ninth grader at Concord High School, Jennifer will be attending the Kutz Camp - NFTY Summer Leadership Academy. Her parents are Sharon and Daniel Berry.

Marna, a 10th grader at Concord High School, will participate in the NFTY Zachar program - six weeks in Israel and three days in Poland. She is the daughter of Lynne and Jeffrey Lew.

Lisa is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania. She will attend a Kibbutz Summer Program with a short summer

Ulpan.

An 11th grader at Concord, Sharon will participate in Young Judea's Israel Summer Program - Israel Discovery. Sharon and Lisa are the daughters of Nancy and Lionel Sandell.

The Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship Fund was established in 1989, on the occasion of the Silverman's 55th wedding anniversary, by their children and friends. The award honors their many years of dedication to the Wilmington community, especially to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and to the Boy Scouts of America.

Applications for next year's awards may be obtained at the office of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Washington Boulevard and Torah Drive. The scholarship program is open to all Jewish youth in Delaware.

Mourner's Kaddish

(Continued from last issue)

The renowned historian Leopold Zunz, in his *Nachtrag zur Liturgie* (p. 4) calls attention to this historical factor that brought the Doxology for the living, *Yitgadal Veyitkadash*, to become also the Doxology for the Jewish people who died *Al Kiddish Hashem*. "When thousands of Jews died a martyr's death and whole communities were wiped out. The custom then developed of holding memorial services for the martyred. From communal mourners, the *Kaddish* naturally passes over to an individual one" (Zunz p. 4; quoted in AZ. Idelsohn's *Jewish Liturgy*, p. 88).

Only the shocking experiences of the Crusades and later tragedies of Expulsions from England, 1290;

blaming the Jews as scapegoat for the Black Death, with the massacres of Jews in Germany 1350; the expulsion of Jews from France in 1394 and England in 1399; the various Inquisitions that began in Spain in 1480; all these catastrophes tested the faith of the Jewish People. The Doxology of *Yitgadal Veyitkadash* and the Jewish life saturated with *Kedushah* helped sustain the people in these times of martyrdom.

For 1000 years, there was no *Kaddish Yatom*. It became part of the religious consciousness as revealed in *Mahazor Vitry*, 1208, because of the overwhelming religious need of a martyred people.

In contemporary life, Jews who are removed from religious observance, return to Judaism and fulfill the obligation to honor the memory of father and mother and recite the *Kaddish* for eleven months daily. This act of respect is a sanctification of the name for father or mother, as it is a Doxology for the G-d of the Universe. For many Jewish sons and daughters *Kaddish Yatom* mourner's *Kaddish*, gradually becomes the historic Doxology and brings these Jewish people back to a living *Kiddush Hashem*, a life of *Kedushah*, holiness.

(Rabbi Gewirtz is Rabbi Emeritus of Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth.)

FEATURES

From Ancient Exodus to Current Exodus: Sharansky in His Own Words

By GERALD S. NAGEL
Special to *The Jewish Voice*

It was a coming home unlike any other, and it was not even, not really, coming home. But here he was, Natan Sharansky, returning to Moscow, even to a prison where he had been held captive for daring to challenge the colossus of the Soviet Union.

More had changed than even he could have imagined, when he had been planning, with a small band of idealistic and independent-minded Jews who were to become known as Prisoners of Zion, how to get an empire that barred emigration by its hundreds of millions of citizens, to let a fraction of a percent of them, an unlikely group at that, Jews, to emigrate, and to a country, Israel, that the Soviet Union refused to recognize.



WHERE THEY MET. Avital and Natan Sharansky reminisce outside the Chorale Synagogue in Moscow where they originally met. The day after they were wed, she was told by the Soviet government that if she wanted to leave, she had to do so immediately and that her husband would be permitted to follow the next day. Instead, he was imprisoned for years for his struggle for Soviet Jews' freedom.

Yet, here he was, being received as an Israeli Minister of State, having been among the first of over 675,000 Jews who have left in the past ten years; of perhaps a million will leave by the end of this decade. He survives. Israel survives. It is the Soviet Union that is no more.

"No, I did not think all of this would happen," a jubilant Sharansky, beaming under



FREEDOM, FREEDOM. Sharansky holds an impromptu news conference outside Lefortovo Prison, after he revisited the KGB prison where he was incarcerated for standing up for the rights of Soviet Jews to emigrate. He told reporters that he had just sat alone in his former cell for 15 minutes to contemplate how far the Jews of the former Soviet Union have come since he gained his freedom in 1986, and the potential of the *aliyah*.

his black Russian hat in the frigid Russian air, told a UJA representative outside Lefortovo Prison. This was the most emotional stop on his visit. He had returned, with his wife Avital, his brother Leonid, and about 50 reporters, cameramen and sound crews bearing overhead craned microphones, sometimes falling over one another into the snow as they tried to capture every word and image, every glimpse and every aside of the former Prisoner of Zion who stood up for Jewry, for liberty against tyranny — and won.

Later, in a private interview with UJA, Sharansky spoke appreciatively of the role of UJA, the UJA Federation Campaign and world Jewry in making the miracle happen. He emphasized, however, that the *aliyah*, and the miracle, are still in progress.

Here is Sharansky in his own words.

Q: Where do you see the Jews today, at this juncture in history?

A: I know it is very Jewish of us to try to make every moment of our life a unique historic moment. But I think it is not one moment, but all our life that is the continuation of the same process which we started when we left Egypt thousands and thousands of years ago. This process continues; it does not stop for a moment.

But there were unique moments in history when this process accelerated. And what is done today, in this day, and this year and these ten years, will influence our history for thousands of years ahead. That is exactly what is happening with the exodus of Soviet Jews. We are in the middle of this unique Exodus. And the strongest contribution which we can make for the future of Jewish people is to support them.

Q: But the gates have been open for years now, and 675,000 have already moved to Israel. Is the *aliyah* over?

A: "We should not forget that every month another 5,000 to 6,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union are leaving and coming to Israel. This would seem rather modest in comparison to the number of *aliyah* of 1990-1991. But in '85, or '86 when I was released, if you said 60,000 to 70,000 Jews would be leaving every year to Israel, you would think that it is unbelievable — impossible. Yet that is exactly what is happening.

So this biggest exodus of Jewish people in modern history continues and it is very important to make sure that these Jews will find their home in Israel.

Q: What do you say to American Jews who feel that American Jews must now mainly fund programs to preserve Jewish continuity in the U.S.?

A: Look, I am not going to give advice to people on how to spend their money. I think the problem of assimilation of Jews is a big problem everywhere and it has to be dealt with. The problem of Jewish education all over the globe, including Israel, is a big job and we have to face it.

But we should never forget that Jewish history is made in Israel and the future of Jewish people, wherever they live, is defined in Israel.

Then there is the unique process of ingathering of exiles, a process which happens only to Jews. There is no other people on the globe who has this ingathering of exiles after 2,000 years, and it is very important that it continues and will be completed.

Q: Isn't this mainly an issue for Israel now?



STAR IN THE FIRMAMENT. Sharansky never shirked from visibility for the cause of Soviet Jews, world Jews and Israel, but he has always been reluctant to seem like a celebrity. Visiting Moscow, however, he responded to autographic requests from two young Russian Jews who said they hoped to make *aliyah*.

A: This can be done by all the Jews of the globe. We could never by ourselves open the gates of this country, defeat this regime and help a million Jews come to Israel. We could never do it ourselves. We could do it only because it was a part of a very powerful struggle of all the Jews of the world. The process of ingathering all the exiles will never be completed if it is not [with] the effort of every Jew in the world.



VISITING SAKHAROV'S GRAVE. Natan Sharansky places flowers at the grave of his mentor, André Sakharov.

Q: As Minister of Trade and Industry, you speak increasingly of economic relations and development. Is *aliyah* no longer your top priority?

A: I always believed that *aliyah* is the most important component of the building of Israel. And I also believe in the motto, the *raison d'être* of our party [Yisrael B'Aliyah] — that today Israel should be not so much of a shelter for exiles, but the magnet which is attracting Jews from all over the globe, with the quality of its life, its Jewish life and general life. This means the problem of *aliyah* has to be solved and addressed first in Israel.

Successful absorption is the key for a strong *aliyah*. That is why I do not see any difference, any contradiction, between my fight for over 30 years for ingathering of all exiles and my efforts and contribution to strengthen the economy of Israel, to strengthen the State of Israel, to improve absorption and integration.

Q: Were you aware when you were in Lefortovo and other prisons of world Jewish efforts to help Soviet Jews emigrate? And did they make a significant difference?

A: I am familiar with the unique work which the United Jewish Appeal of the United States of America is doing. I heard about this unique work a lot when I was a Refusenik in the Soviet Union, meeting some of the messengers who were later mentioned in my KGB files as my accomplices. Of course I heard more about this work when I was released and traveled all over the world. The slogan that is written on the banners, "We are one" — that is exactly the feeling with which these people are leaving. And that is the message that they are bringing. And I am very grateful to them for their unique work.

Q: Many people think of American Jews as living only in big cities, but many live in small towns. Is there hope for them, and their families, in the assimilating democracy of America, to remain Jewish?

A: It is not a question of geography if you consider yourself part of the Jewish people — even if you are the only person in a cell in a KGB prison. That is a very strong and powerful feeling, of interconnection, of being part of your people. That is the feeling that helped me survive, helped me to continue to struggle.

You realize that you are participating actively in the thousands of years of unique Jewish history and that you are participating in building its future.

That is what gives you the feeling, the strength, the power and connection with the Jews. So if I could do it in prison, definitely everybody could do it living in a small town in the U.S.

But, for this, you must really be involved in all possible ways in building Jewish life. And UJA is one of the important tools, one of the very important organizations, that gives you such an opportunity.

Q: In this age of instant communication, when Israel is brought to us vividly on TV and the Internet, is there any longer reason to visit Israel?

A: I think it is more important to travel to Israel, to send your children to Israel, to feel that wherever you live, you are yourself part of the people of Israel. After all, that is the place where our future is built.



PRISON VISIT. Natan Sharansky visits Lefortovo Prison where he was incarcerated as a Prisoner of Zion for agitating to open the gates of freedom for Soviet Jews. Security guards wear face coverings to conceal their identity from public knowledge.

NACHES

Kane to Receive Award from AJFCA

Cynthia B. Kane of Manhattan and Wilmington, Delaware will receive a Founders Award from the Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies (AJFCA) at its Annual Conference and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration May 4-6 in Atlanta, GA. Ms. Kane was President of the AJFCA from 1985-1987. She served on the board of directors of Jewish Family Service from 1983-1987.

Cynthia Kane, currently the Coordinator of International Special Projects for Delaware's Department of State, was previously Special Projects Coordinator at the Delaware Economic Development Office and also served as Executive Director of Delaware's Gubernatorial Inauguration in 1992 and 1993. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Boston University and has done graduate work at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Her husband, Richard Kane, served as President of the Jewish Federation of Delaware from 1973-1975.

AJFCA is the parent body of over 145 Jewish human service agencies located throughout the United States and Canada. Headquartered in Kendall Park, New Jersey, it provides information and consultation services to its member agencies and advocates on their behalf in the continental Jewish community and in international human service and legislative networks.

Levy-Abrams



Judith and Allan Levy announce the engagement of their daughter Rachel to Michael Abrams, son of Diane and Kenneth Abrams of Fairlawn, New Jersey.

Rachel is on the staff at the Jewish Community Center of Wilmington and Michael is completing his studies at the University of Pennsylvania toward a Masters degree. Their wedding is planned for June 1998.

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.

Brunch and Bowl - On May 18th at 9 a.m. at Holiday Lanes, Young Jewish Adults of Delaware are holding a brunch and bowl. Come join us for more competitive bowling schmoozing and eating. We would like to have RSVPs by May 16th. For more information, to RSVP and to be put on the mailing list, please call Phil Gross, (302) 652-6688.

Cafe Tamar - May 11 in the AKSE Social Hall. Program entitled "From Dream to Reality" will celebrate the 49th year of Israel's independence and 100 years of Zionism. Program begins at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$4 for children under 12 and are available through the synagogue office, 762-2705. Refreshments will be served.

Circus Trip - Join your friends in kindergarten through 6th grade for an afternoon at the Ringling Brothers/Barnum & Bailey Circus on Sunday, June 1, 1997. See Zusha, the world's only performing hippo, world-famous animal trainer Mark Oliver Gebel and, of course,

America's favorite clowns.

Registration and payment will be accepted at the JCC Front Desk. The cost of this afternoon of fun is only \$22.00/members, \$25.00/non-members. For more information, call Rachel Levy or Scott Bowers at (302) 478-5660.

Divorced Men's Support Group - Newark. 7:30 Sunday night. 10 Casho Mill Rd. Call JFS, 478-9411 for reservations. Join a group of men as we discuss issues confronting divorced men.

Golf Classic - Philadelphia Chapter of American ORT Fifth Annual Golf Classic at the Radnor Valley Country Club, Villanova, PA will be on May 5. Contact George Pomerantz (215) 572-7790 or George Stasen (609) 802-1788 for additional information.

"Half the Kingdom" - The Jewish Community Center's Adult Department is presenting the film, "Half the Kingdom" on Tuesday, May 20, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. Following this one-hour film will be a discussion led by Yvette Rudnitzky, a licensed clinical social worker, who is in private practice as a psychotherapist with an emphasis on feminist issues. The cost of this program is \$1.00 per person. Advance registration is required at the JCC Front Desk. For additional information, call Michelle Silberglid at (302) 478-5660.

Happy Hour - On Thursday,

May 15th at 6 p.m. Young Jewish Adults of Delaware are holding their monthly third Thursday happy hour drop in. Food, drink, new faces and old friends make up this evening. We will be meeting at 6 p.m. at Porky's on South Union Street. Call Phil Gross for more information and to be put on the mailing list at (302) 652-6688.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" - Students and parents of the Albert Einstein Academy are putting on a full scale production of the musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," on Wednesday evening, May 7 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, May 8 at 7 p.m. The show will be held in the auditorium of the Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington, Delaware. Ticket prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Tickets are available in advance or at the door. For information, contact the Albert Einstein Academy office at (302) 478-5026.

Minyans - Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth (traditional), Washington Boulevard and Torah Way, Wilmington, DE, 762-2705, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Sunday-8:00 a.m.

Chabad (Orthodox), 1306 Grinnell Road, Wilmington, DE, 478-4400, Sunday, 9:00 a.m., 208 Cheltenham Drive, Newark, DE, 455-1800, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

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OBITUARIES

SIDNEY HENDLER

Sidney Hendler, 78, of 3102 Society Drive, Claymont, died April 19 of an aortic aneurysm at Wilmington Hospital.

Mr. Hendler was self-employed for more than 50 years. He owned and operated a slaughterhouse at 737 S. Market St. in Wilmington from the 1940s through the 1960s before relocating to Norma, N.J., and opening Hendler Packing.

He was a member of Machzikey Hadas Congregation, Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society, and Harry Fineman Post 525 Jewish War Veterans. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

Survivors include wife, Evelyn; sons, Marc of Naperville, Ill., and Merrill of Bridgeton, N.J.; daughter, Carin Hendler of Claymont; sister, Shirley Ross of New City, N.Y.; two grandchildren.

BENEDICT LBOVITZ

Benedict Lebovitz, 70 years old, died April 17 at home.

Mr. Lebovitz was a certified public accountant in practice in

Wilmington for almost 40 years. He was a graduate of Temple University. He served in the Coast Guard during World War II. He was an active member of Rotary International, Brandywine Chapter. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Congregation Beth Shalom.

He is survived by his wife, Myra, his mother, Mollie S., of Wilmington, DE, his sister, Marian Wolgin of Philadelphia, PA, two daughters, Nancy of Philadelphia, PA and Marcy of Jersey City, NJ and a son, Jonathan of New York, NY.

JAMES PIZOR

James Pizor, 62, of 3 Wheatfield Drive, Meriden, Brandywine Hundred, died April 16 of heart failure in Christiana Hospital.

Mr. Pizor was a manager at Airbase Carpet Mart, New Castle, for 11 years. Memberships include Congregation Beth Emeth and the Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society, both in Wilmington. His wife, Elaine Pizor, died in 1994.

Survivors include son, Mark A. of Meriden; brother, Harvey of Wilmington.

Contributions may be made to Jewish Family Service, Wilmington.

GER LUBACH VAN RAAN

Ger Lubach Van Raan, a former resident of Arden, Del., who sheltered two Jewish boys during the German occupation of Holland during World War II, died April 13 at her home in Montclair, N.J. She was 84.

Mrs. Van Raan and her husband, Gerard Van Raan, were newlyweds when a friend in the Dutch under-

ground asked them to hide 8-year-old Rudolf Klijnkrumer. Several months later, they were asked to hide an 8-month-old Jewish boy, Rudolf Liebknecht, whom the Van Raans called Peter.

The boys lived with the Van Raans for two years. Their neighbors were told that the boys were the sons of Mr. Van Raan's brother, who lived in Indonesia.

The Van Raans moved to the United States in 1951 and settled in Arden, where they lived for about 25 years. Her husband died in 1992.

In 1983, the Van Raans were honored by the Jewish community in Wilmington at the dedication of the Garden of Righteous Gentiles at the Jewish Community Center. Inside the garden is a tree with a plaque honoring the couple, who are the only local residents honored there.

"The late Ger and Gerard Van Raan represented humanity's heroic best," said Dan Weintraub, the director of the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Survivors include children, Heleena Van Raan of New Jersey, Sigmund of Massachusetts, Sheila Mulligan of Maryland, and Debbie Fassano of New Jersey; foster son, Rudy Klijnkrumer of the Netherlands; brother, Bob Lubach of Florida; five grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Fund in care of the Jewish Federation, P.O. Box 2193, Wilmington, DE 19899-2193.

ISRAEL BONDS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Congregation Beth Emeth (Reform), 300 West Lea Boulevard, Wilmington, DE 19802, 764-2393, Monday through Friday, 7:55 a.m.

Congregation Beth Shalom (Conservative), 1801 Baynard Boulevard, Wilmington, DE, 654-4462, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m., Sunday, 9:15 a.m.

Senior Candlelight Dinners - On Wednesday, May 4, "The Duo" will be the featured entertainment at the first Candlelight Dinner of the month. "The Duo" are Raymond Montoni on viola and Nanette Duea on piano. A portion

of the program will be commentary on music and composers. For Candlelight Dinners, the Senior Center opens at 5:00 p.m. and dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. Advance reservations are required and transportation is available. A dinner donation of \$5.00 is requested; however, all programs following the dinner are free of charge and open to the public. For more information or to make your reservation, call Michelle Silberglied, Senior Services Coordinator, at (302) 478-5660.

Teen Gym Night - The Teen Services Department at the JCC is

currently offering free Teen Gym Nights for 7th through 12th graders. The first Saturday of the month is reserved for all Junior High students to use the facilities from 8:00-10:30 p.m. and the second Saturday of the month is reserved for all Senior High students.

Teens can play half/full court basketball, soccer, hockey and volleyball. In addition, the teens can enjoy use of our state-of-the-art Fitness Center. The basic principles of exercise and fitness are taught on new strength training and aerobic conditioning machines. Teens have the opportunity to develop their overall fitness level. For more information about Teen Gym Nights, please call Etai Belinky, Community Teen Coordinator, at (302) 478-5660.

Torah Classes in Wilmington - Mondays: 8 p.m. - Talmud. Tuesday: 12:30 at 1 Rodney Square - Skaden Arps: Talmud. Wednesdays: Behind The Lines, The weekly Torah portion, 8:30 p.m. Call Rabbi Vogel at Chabad in Wilmington at 478-4400 for more information.

Torah Study in Newark - Mon.-7-8:30: Secrets of Existence; 8:30-9:30: Talmud

Tues.-7:00: Rambam's Mishnah Torah; 8:00: Intro to Jewish Mysticism. Individual classes available. Call Rabbi Sneiderman at Chabad, 455-1800.

Volunteer Yard Work Effort At The Kutz Home With YLDA - On Sunday, May 4 at the Kutz Home in northern Wilmington, the Young Leadership Development Alliance (YLDA) has planned a volunteer clean-up of the Kutz home court yard. All are welcome between 9:00 a.m. and noon to weed, shovel, clip, plant and broom the court yard at the Kutz Home. YLDA is a group of volunteers aged 25 to 45 but "Getting Down and Dirty at the Kutz Home with YLDA" is open to gardeners of all ages. Volunteers should wear clothing which can get dirty and bring their own gardening tools. Event organizers say "this is an ideal opportunity to translate the spirit of the President's summit on volunteerism into a down-to-earth project." The Milton and Hattie Kutz Home for the Aged is currently undergoing renovations to better serve residents. The court yard is visible to residents from a variety of vantage points. No previous experience is required to garden with YLDA. For directions to the Kutz Home call 764-7000.

Volleyball - Young Jewish Adults of Delaware (YJAD's) co-ed, noncompetitive volleyball league continues every Wednesday night from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the JCC.

Yom Hashoah Interfaith Holocaust Service - On Monday, May 5, from noon to one p.m. at the City County Building in Council Chambers, George Preston, a Holocaust survivor of the Auschwitz, Birkenau & Buchenwald camps, will address the topic of "The Industry of Death - Surviving the Holocaust" as part of the annual Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Day of Remembrance Interfaith Service sponsored by a variety of local religious and interfaith organizations and organized


by the Halina Wind Preston, Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. For more information call the Jewish Federation of Delaware at (302) 427-2100.

Yom Hashoah Observance - The Rabbinic Association of Delaware Holocaust Memorial Observance will be held at Temple Beth El at 7:30 p.m. May 6, 1997. The format for the remembrance will take a different form this year. Rather than a service, most of the evening will consist of remembering particular individuals from the Shoah and their creative talents. In remembering the number Six

Million, we often forget the individuals who were affected by the Holocaust. The observance this year will include some of the legacy left to us by those who, in spite of the hardships imposed upon them by the Nazis, continued to leave a heritage for future generations. We will honor their memories focusing on their achievements and their lives. In the words of Henry R. Huttenbach, "Judaism is a celebration of life; even as one mourns the dead, the glory of life is reaffirmed." The evening will also include lighting memorial candles, El Mole Rachamim, and the Kaddish. The entire community is invited to attend.

FINANCE DIRECTOR NEEDED
Jewish Federation of Delaware seeks Finance Director. Responsibilities include database administration and systems control, budgeting, management of investments and cash flow; fundraising reporting and maintaining donor records.
Candidates should have degree in Finance, Accounting or Business. Good benefits, flexible hours. Send or fax resume to Judy Wortman, Jewish Federation of Delaware, P.O. Box 2193, Wilmington, DE 19899-2193 (fax 302-427-2438).


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Call for a personal appointment or to reserve space at an upcoming meeting:

1-800-856-2700



Don't miss out! Make plans to attend one of the following U.S. Healthcare Golden Medicare Plan meetings to be held this month.

Dover

Dover Mall
3054 Dover Mall
Community Room
Thursday, May 8, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, May 8, 11:30 a.m.
Monday, May 19, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, May 19, 11:30 a.m.

Newark

Christiana Hilton
100 Continental Drive
Tuesday, May 6, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 6, 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 20, 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 20, 11:30 a.m.

Holiday Inn

1203 Christiana Road
Thursday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, May 22, 11:30 a.m.

Newark

Mother's Kitchen Family Diner
1108 South College Avenue
Thursday, May 29, 10:00 a.m.

New Castle

Ramada
I-295 & Route 13
Wednesday, May 28, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, May 28, 11:30 a.m.

Wilmington

**Holiday Inn—
Wilmington North**
4000 Concord Pike
Wednesday, May 21, 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, May 21, 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.



Open to Medicare-eligible individuals living in the state of Delaware. The U.S. Healthcare Golden Medicare Plan has continuous open enrollment.

* You may also need to file claim forms. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. Current U.S. Healthcare members: see member handbook for specific exclusions, limitations and copayments. Member precertification is required for self-referred hospitalization and certain other services. Deductibles and coinsurance apply. A federally qualified HMO with a Medicare contract. © 1997 U.S. Healthcare, Inc.