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One Year Later: Community Bone Marrow Drive Continues to Give the Gift of Life

By Michelle Kramer-Fitzgerald
Special to the Jewish Voice

January 11, 2005 officially marked the one-year anniversary of the bone marrow donor drive, sponsored by Jewish Family Service of Delaware (JFS) and Gift of Life. The program was prompted by Linda Feinson Lowenthal's need for a donor. Linda was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia in November 2002.

Linda's sister, Judi Feinson, is a local community member who approached the staff of JFS to help her get the drive under way. Through public service announcements, pamphlets and advertising, an appeal was initiated to community members of Eastern European Jewish descent, who were between 18-60 years of age.

Held at the Wilmington JCC, the initial testing procedure required only a simple cheek swab. The outpouring of support was amazing: Nearly 80 volunteers helped to organize the registration process



Judi Feinson (left) and sister Linda Lowenthal in Seattle, where Linda received her bone marrow transplant in April 2004.

and administer tests, and more than 250 individuals were tested as possible bone marrow donors. In addition, 40 families from the community provided financial support to purchase an additional 100 test kits.

Although Linda's eventual donor was not matched through this drive, Judi recalls the program's

success with much admiration and gratitude for all who participated. "I was overjoyed with the community's response. So many people came out to volunteer and be tested!"

Judi continues, "My family knows firsthand that each person who joined the registry has the potential to save another person's

life. My sister is alive today thanks to one anonymous individual who donated her stem cells to help someone she did not know."

All registered donors from the JFS drive had the opportunity to help others in need. Their information was entered into a national registry that is available to patients worldwide in need of transplants. The Gift of Life organization noted that, as a result of the drive, several donors were identified as potential matches for other patients. One of those matches is Michael Goldberg of Wilmington.

His decision to donate was solidified after reading the following quote from Adam J. Lish, MD, found on the Gift of Life website: "It is not enough to send donations, as dollars cannot fill blood vessels with healthy cells."

Mr. Goldberg's generosity as a bone marrow donor was recently realized. On New Year's Eve 2004, he received word that he was a qualified match for a 21-year-old

man who suffers from acute lymphocytic leukemia. Mr. Goldberg traveled to New York in mid-January for his final interview and signed a donor letter of intent. He hopes to make his cell donation in February. (Coincidentally, Mr. Goldberg's brother was also a bone marrow donor nearly 5 years ago for a 10-year-old child, who is now considered cured.) Mr. Goldberg's reaction to the news was one of true joy and personal fulfillment. "I feel like I'm on a merry-go-round and have grabbed the brass ring - I'm that fortunate."

Judi Feinson's sister Linda underwent a successful stem cell transplant in April 2004, and is improving and working toward a full recovery. "I am feeling wonderful and now see everyday as a celebration of my life. The best part is being home with my husband, Mike, and my three children, Ben, Sadie and Alexandra," Linda notes. She hopes to meet her anonymous donor face to face, later this year.

Road Map to be Revisited

By Dan Baron, JTA

Call it the "Return of the Road Map."

Almost two years after Ariel Sharon and Mahmoud Abbas stood on the shore of the Red Sea and launched the U.S.-led peace plan, the two leaders will meet again.

With Yasser Arafat now dead and Abbas already making his mark as the new Palestinian Authority president, next Tuesday's summit in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh could herald real progress.

Regional hopes for a breakthrough are running high.

The meeting will be hosted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, attended by Jordan's King Abdullah and blessed by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who is due in the region next week on her first Middle East tour in her new position.

Israeli political sources said that at the summit Sharon will unveil a series of concessions to the Palestinian Authority, including Israeli troop withdrawals from West Bank cities, the release of hundreds of security prisoners and a de facto amnesty for terrorists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if

they agree to disarm.

"This is our way of boosting Abu Mazen, who has done a lot to help us prepare the disengagement plan," a Sharon confidant said, using Abbas' nom de guerre. He was referring to a calming of Palestinian attacks in the Gaza Strip.

Israel has presented its Gaza withdrawal plan as a way back into the road map, which has been tattered by violence. Israeli officials envision that Gaza and West Bank areas from which Israeli soldiers and settlers will withdraw will become a provisional Palestinian state where Abbas will have to prove his competency.

Though it has declined to crack down on terrorists, despite its road map obligation to do so, the Palestinian Authority insists the plan guarantees it full statehood in all of the West Bank and Gaza, and wants this recognized and implemented forthwith.

"We hope that this meeting, backed by Arab states, will make Israel fall in line" and "kick-start final-status talks," P.A. Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei told reporters.

The demands have stirred concern in the Israeli political opposi-

tion, which recalled a similar asymmetry of expectations when the Oslo interim peace accords were signed in 1993.

"Again we will see a gala event, with the Palestinian chief getting everything, with little in return," Effi Eitam of the National Union bloc told Israel Radio, referring to reports that Israel already has agreed to curtail army missions to kill or capture terrorists if they lay down their arms.

Egypt has been helping the indirect rapprochement by hosting talks in Cairo with Hamas and Islamic Jihad, aimed at getting the terrorist groups to abandon violence in Gaza. Egyptian security forces also are expected to help their Palestinian counterparts prevent a power vacuum in the strip when Israel withdraws.

But Israeli suspicions of Egypt, the first Arab country to sign a peace deal with the Jewish state, linger.

Yuval Steinitz, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, accused Cairo of playing a double game.

"Before the Egyptians offer help in calming the region, they should put an end to the smuggling of



President Bush, center, discusses the Middle East peace process with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, left, and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas in Aqaba, Jordan, Wednesday, June 4, 2003. CREDIT: Paul Morse/White House Photo

weapons from Sinai to the terrorists," Steinitz said, referring to Gazans who bring in munitions through tunnels from Egypt. "It is a matter of practicing what you preach."

MYTH #166

"Advocates for Israel try to silence critics by labeling them anti-Semitic."

FACT

Natan Sharansky has suggested a "3-D" test for differentiating legitimate criticism of Israel from anti-Semitism. The first "D" is the test of whether Israel or its leaders are being demonized or their actions blown out of proportion. Equating Israel with Nazi Germany is one example of demonization. The second "D" is the test of double standards. An example is when Israel is singled out for condemnation at the United Nations for perceived human rights abuses while nations that violate human rights on a massive scale, such as Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, are not even mentioned. The third "D" is the test of delegitimization. Questioning Israel's legitimacy, that is, its right to exist is always anti-Semitic (Natan Sharansky, "Antisemitism in 3-D", Forward, January 21, 2005).

Source: Myths & Facts Online — A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Mitchell G. Bard, <http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org>.

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FEATURED LISTINGS



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New Price - 110 Woodridge Drive - Smithridge \$820,000
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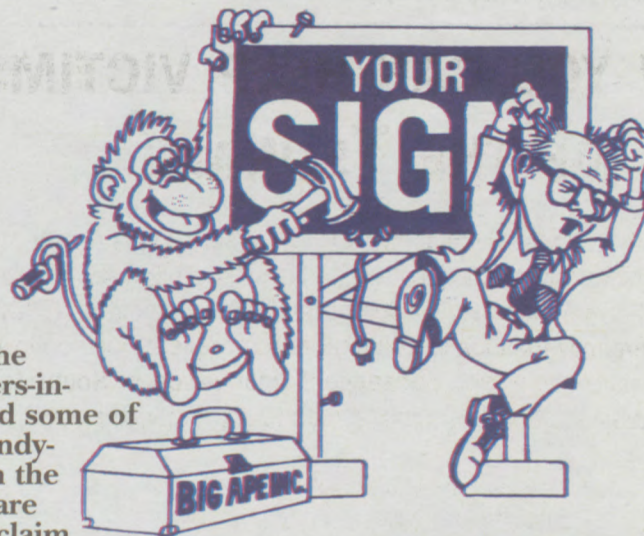
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FEDERATION FOCUS

Simchas and Snowfalls



Samuel H. Asher
Executive Vice President

It is great to write this column in time for the "Wedding and other Simchas" issue of the Jewish Voice.

While I am definitely not ready for the weddings of any of my three children, I've had ample experience planning b'nai mitzvot. My daughter, who just recently became a Bat Mitzvah, is not even allowed to start dating until she is 31. She bargained me down from 35!

Indeed, if her wedding in 2045 was anything like her Bat Mitzvah, it will be a blast—or at least a blizzard. Yes, Anna's Bat Mitzvah was on the 22nd of January. Rabbi Grumbacher said that it was warm in the synagogue, even though it wasn't so nice outside. While we listened to Anna chant Torah and kvelled as our family ascended to the bimah for aliyahs and other honors, the wind howled and the snow steadily accumulated.

People had been asking me for days what we would do if the weather was bad for the Bat Mitzvah. Ever the optimist, I responded that it would all be fine. Yet, when we left the synagogue at 3:00 p.m. after setting things up for the evening party, we confronted a "white out". Several of our guests needed help getting out of the synagogue parking

lot. Others, traveling home to freshen up reported treacherous driving conditions on local roads.

You know what they say about preparing for a special event? The expression is: "Man plans and G-d laughs." He or she must have been in absolute hysterics last weekend!

But when the going gets tough, the tough get going. My wife, Michele and I returned home around 3:30 PM after some first hand experience with hazardous driving conditions. We decided that we would attempt to move the Bat Mitzvah party to a location closer to where our guests resided. We wondered where we could hold the party on such short notice. The local hotels were all either booked or snowed in. The caterer and DJ were willing to move, but to where?

This is where you separate the men from the boys and the girls from the women—sorry the aphorisms are still flowing. We thought of hosting the party at our home, but it just wasn't conducive to such an event. And so, as is typical of the warmth and friendship in this community, some special friends stepped forward to help.

Caryl Marcus-Stape and Jeff Stape gave our family a beautiful gift—they opened their home to us and hosted Anna's Bat Mitzvah party. In their typically gracious style, they welcomed our out-of-town friends and family, our friends from the area, and all of Anna's guests (the kids). It was a fantastic party—made all the more fun and exciting by the collective resolve of the party-goers to make it a success and laugh in the face of the inclement weather.

It was—as it always seems to be in Delaware—a community undertaking. It was a lovely punctuation point on the warm embrace that we have received since we came to Delaware. It is a great community—This time exemplified by Caryl Marcus-Stape and Jeff Stape. This community will always meet its challenges. It will do so with class, kindness and desire to make things better.

May we go from strength to strength in building our community. And yes—we just got through the next event—The first Annual Leather and Lace Ball at Mike's Famous Harley Davidson. It too was a great success—despite a little snow!

JDC Tsunami Relief effort tops the \$12M mark

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) announced that its campaign to raise money for South Asia tsunami relief has surpassed \$12 million in contributions from more than 13,000 individual donors and local Jewish federation partners across North America.

Of the monies raised, a portion has been set aside for intermediate-term infrastructure reconstruction, such as rebuilding schools, clinics and orphanages. More than \$800,000 has been designated to support immediate relief efforts in the field. Significant additional allocations will be made for immediate relief once further assessments conclude.

As the response moves beyond the immediate relief phase, JDC is working with the Israeli Foreign Ministry/Mashav and with Israeli NGOs to identify areas of possible cooperation in the longer-term reconstruction of the affected regions.

Current efforts include:

*A partnership with Disaster Mitigation Institute in India to help people reestablish livelihoods and rebuild homes. Through this partnership in Tamil Nadu, JDC is providing temporary shelters—wooden beams and posts, thatched roof and walls—for up to 1,200 families; giving small cash grants to revive livelihoods; and furnishing 300 youth who wish to start new careers in higher-value sectors, such as marketing, trade or the service sector, with appropriate resources and guidance.

*A partnership in India with Catholic Relief (Caritas) to provide household supplies, temporary shelter and psychosocial services to 30,000 families in India. JDC is also helping to rebuild 70 houses in Cuddalore.

*A partnership in Indonesia with the

International Rescue Committee that focuses on identifying and protecting separated and/or vulnerable children. Specific activities to respond to their psychosocial needs, as well as the needs of their families and communities, will begin in the coming weeks.

*A partnership in Sri Lanka with the renowned local NGO, Sarvodaya, to reach more than 47,000 individuals on the east coast. The particular focus is providing psychosocial support services for women, children and elderly, as well as livelihood support and capacity building. JDC is also distributing school supplies and uniforms to more than 2,000 children.

*A partnership with Chabad in Thailand to provide medical help, meals and clothing to survivors.

*Additional need assessments in Indonesia and Thailand.

"Our North American donors and federation partners have enabled us to form on-the-ground partnerships that are making a real difference in this unprecedented humanitarian relief effort," said Steven Schwager, Executive Vice President of the JDC. "The work remains heartbreaking and challenging, but we are making progress everyday."

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) serves as the overseas arm of the organized North American Jewish community providing relief for Jews in need, promoting Jewish renewal, rebuilding Jewish communities, and helping Israel address its most urgent social challenges.

The JDC receives its funds primarily from American Jewry through the Jewish Federations of the United States and the United Jewish Communities. JDC also receives funding from World Jewish Relief of Great Britain and UIA Federations Canada.

HOW YOU CAN HELP VICTIMS OF THE TSUNAMI

Send a donation to the Jewish Federation of Delaware and help the hundreds of thousands of people in South Asia whose lives have been devastated by the recent tsunami. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has set up a special emergency mailbox to collect funds for relief efforts following the December 26th earthquake and subsequent tidal waves in South Asia. Your check, made payable to the Federation, will be forwarded to the JDC. Please send to:

Jewish Federation of Delaware
100 West 10th Street, Suite 301
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Save the Date

May 24, 2005 at 7 pm
Endowment Book of Life Event

Join us as we honor community members who have chosen to pledge their support... If you have been thinking about establishing an endowment but haven't gotten around to it, now's the time to do it. Contact Jennifer Young at the Jewish Federation of Delaware/Jewish Fund for the Future 302-427-2100 x 19. Be there...an Endowment is Forever.

Scholarships Available for Youth Programs in Israel

The Jewish Federation of Delaware/Jewish Fund for the Future announces support for programs in Israel. Applications are currently being accepted for scholarships from the Jerusalem Study Fund and the Summer 2005 Kefiada counselor program.

Jerusalem Study Fund: scholarships are available for students 16 years of age or older for study in Jerusalem. Scholarship funds shall be used to enable recipients to study Hebrew and/or Jewish subjects (i.e. history, religion, culture, art, dance, education, etc.) and may subsidize payment toward international transportation, tuition, books, room and board, at an educational institution located in Jerusalem, or its proximate suburbs in Israel. The Jerusalem Study Fund is a permanent fund of the Jewish Fund for the Future, the Jewish Federation of Delaware's endowment.

Kefiada: young adults ages 19-25 are encouraged to apply for this exciting program to work as a counselor in Israel. The application deadline is mid-March. Partnership 2000 and the Jewish Federation of Delaware subsidize this summer program in Israel. Counselors work in our sister community of Arad/Tamar in an English-speaking day camp. The program begins in Israel in June. The Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Partnership 2000 allocation will cover all expenses in Israel - ground transportation, orientation, room and board, touring, and the first \$600 towards the airfare. The counselors will each pay \$250 towards the airfare. At this time, each Federation has one available slot. Partnership 2000 links Jewish communities in the Diaspora and Israel in a shared effort to promote regional development in Israel, unity and Jewish identity. Partnership 2000 is a program of the Jewish Agency for Israel, United Jewish Communities, Keren Hayesod, Diaspora communities, and municipalities in Israel. For more information, visit <http://www.partner.org.il>

For more information about either program, please contact Jennifer Young at jennifer.young@shalomdel.org or 302-427-2100 x 19 or visit www.shalomdelaware.org.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Creating a climate for peace

This Shabbat, prayers for peace in the Middle East are particularly important as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas prepare for a February 8th summit in Egypt. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will host the two leaders in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik.

Although this meeting is one small step on the rocky road to peace – a road hopelessly clogged for more than four years with the carnage of homicide bombings and other terrorist acts – it is indeed a giant leap of faith in the future.

In accepting the invitation, Prime Minister Sharon spoke of an "historic breakthrough" in relations between Israelis and Palestinians. During a speech in Tel Aviv last week Sharon praised the new Palestinian leadership for taking a positive approach to reigning in terrorist groups—a key Israeli condition for resuming peace negotiations.

Since his election, Abbas has brokered a provisional agreement with Hamas to cease

fire against Israeli targets. Both the United States and Israel consider Hamas to be a terrorist organization. Abbas' success was assisted by Israeli assurances that they intend to stop the targeted killings of senior members of Palestinian militant groups.

It is our hope that **this** meeting between Sharon and Abbas will be more fruitful than their 2003 encounter when Abbas, then prime minister under the late PA Chairman Yassir Arafat, participated in a U.S. led peace initiative which soon stalled.

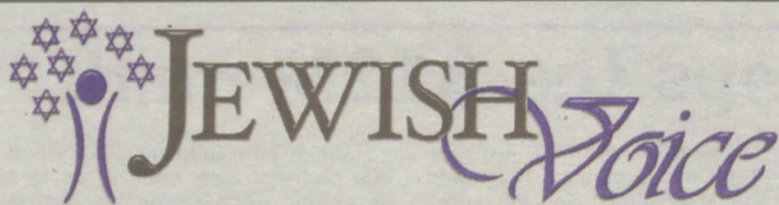
Shalom rav al Yisrael am'cha tasim l'olam
Establish abundant peace upon Your people Yisrael forever!

May G-d hear our heartfelt prayers for peace in this brand-new year.

B'Shalom,

Lynn B. Edelman

Lynn B. Edelman
Editor



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Photo of the Week



The State of Israel was not yet born when the Empire State Building opened its doors in 1931. But this week, a trio of youthful Israelis mastered the venerable building's toughest challenge, catapulting their young country into the elite ranks of an emerging sport by ascending the structure's daunting stairs – really, really fast. Dan (pictured) and Ran Alterman, 24-year-old identical twins from Even Yehudah, finished the men's heat of the annual Bank of America Empire State Building Run-Up in third and fourth places respectively, overcoming recent bouts with the flu to place in the competition's top four for the second year in a row.

Credit: Courtesy of
New York Road Runners

This Week in Jewish History



Celebrate 350
Jewish Life in America
1654 - 2004

FEBRUARY 4, 1838

Together with a dedicated group of Philadelphia Jewish women, Rebecca Gratz established the first Jewish Sunday School on February 4, 1838.

FEBRUARY 1, 1925

On February 1, 1925, Sophie Udin and six other women founded Pioneer Women, a labor Zionist women's organization based in New York City. Pioneer Women exists today as Na'amat USA.

FEBRUARY 4, 2002

Ann F. Lewis was appointed National Chair of the Democratic Party's Women's Vote Center on February 4, 2002.

FEBRUARY 6, 1902

The first independent Young Women's Hebrew Association was formed in New York City on February 6, 1902.

FEBRUARY 2, 1989

Marie Syrkin, author, editor, poet, teacher, and outspoken activist for Israel, died on February 2, 1989, at the age of eighty-nine.

FEBRUARY 3, 1874

American modernist writer Gertrude Stein was born on February 3, 1874.

"This Week in History" is 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/week52.html

PARSHA PLACE

Week of February 5

Mishpatim

Exodus 21:1-24:18

Down-to-Earth

By Rabbi Shraga Simmons

Last week's Parsha told of the dramatic revelation of God to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai. It was a spiritual trip so powerful that every Jew literally had an out-of-body experience. The ultimate "wow!"

This week's follow-up, Mishpatim, is one of the longest Torah portions, containing an exhaustive list of over 50 separate mitzvot. Included are laws regarding murder, kidnapping, cursing authority, personal injury and property damage, occult practices, helping the poor and vulnerable, returning lost objects, and alleviating the suffering of animals.

The juxtaposition between the two Parshas is striking: After the spiritual high of Mount Sinai, why would God "bring us down" (so to speak) with all these details of daily life? It's like being all heated up and then thrown into a cold shower. The two Parshas, it seems, are 180 degrees apart.

Actually, they're two sides of the same coin. The spiritual high of Sinai is gratifying, but it doesn't solve one problem of the world in which we live.

Spirituality is not achieved by meditating alone on a mountaintop or by learning in an out-of-the-way monastery. Jewish spirituality comes through grappling with the mundane world in a way that uplifts and elevates. Jews don't retreat from life, we elevate it. On Friday night, we raise the cup of wine and use it - not to get drunk - but to make Kiddush and sanctify the Sabbath day. Spirituality, says Judaism, is to be found in the kitchen, the office, and yes, even in the bedroom.

Rabbi Shraga Simmons spent his childhood trekking through snow in Buffalo, New York. He has worked in the fields of journalism and public relations, and is now the co-editor of Aish.com in Jerusalem. For more Torah commentaries visit www.aish.com.

THURSDAY NOON DEADLINE

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EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

News and Jews in Britain

By Andrea Levin

Jews in a north London community have been physically assaulted in eight separate anti-Semitic incidents in six weeks. A gang is suspected and anger over the Arab-Israeli conflict is cited. A young woman from the area told a reporter: "Jewish people in London have been getting all kinds of grief for a long time now."

That would have to include "grief" from much of the British media in their coverage of the Jewish state. So pervasive and extreme has been the denigrating of Israel in recent years that a recent poll by the Daily Telegraph found sharp public disapproval of the nation, which was ranked among the least democratic, safe, friendly and attractive in a list that included China, Egypt, Dubai, South Africa, India. Only Russia scored worse.

The Telegraph explained that "the violence and Israel's continuing occupation of the West Bank and Gaza appear to have done immense damage to its standing." Not exactly.

The media's distorted rendering of events in the Middle East has done the damage. In much of British coverage, Ariel Sharon, for example, is relentlessly caricatured and disparaged whatever his actions and regardless of the violence by Palestinians that elicits Israeli response.

A Financial Times editorial of January 7 is

representative. It lavishly hails the impending Palestinian elections as an event that should "command universal support, but especially from Israel" and then dredges up canards about Sharon. The FT charges Sharon's government with having "undermined" Abbas during his brief tenure as prime minister in 2003 because Israel "opted to ignore a unilateral Palestinian ceasefire ...and continue its campaign of assassinating leaders of the intifada."

The paper is either oblivious to the facts or totally indifferent to the loss of Jewish life. On June 29, 2003 Fatah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad declared a Hudna, or ceasefire. During the next six weeks, until August 12, these groups launched at least seven terrorist attacks, three of which were suicide bombings. Five Israelis and one foreign national were killed. There were also scores of shooting attacks and another 40 attempted assaults that were prevented by security forces.

Then on August 19, Hamas carried out a major terrorist attack on a Jerusalem bus killing 23, including children, and wounding 130. In the face of such a "Palestinian ceasefire" Israel resumed targeted killing and on August 21 assassinated Ismail Abu Shanab, who was connected to the murders in Jerusalem as well as other attacks. (One wonders whether The Financial Times would insist

the British government not respond if, say, an IRA faction declared a ceasefire and then blew up a score of English men, women and children in Piccadilly.)

Financial Times readers will, of course, little remember the actual details of July-August 2003; they will likely accept the paper's version and record mentally that Sharon was an obstructionist prolonging violence.

The remainder of the same editorial would only add to reader disdain. Sharon's difficult and nationally wrenching disengagement plan is scorned as "the Gaza gambit" and dismissed. The editors demand instead the sweeping concessions offered at Taba in 2001. Of Abbas, gently termed "much the weaker party in the dispute," nothing is asked and not a hint of criticism is given.

The BBC, The Independent and The Guardian all provide a diet of unhealthy distortion about Israel. Glance at any of them on most any day and Middle East coverage skews against Israel. A Guardian story on January 20 by Chris McGreal on the departure of UNRWA chief Peter Hansen reads like a hostile editorial, blaming the move on "a campaign by conservative and Jewish groups in the U.S." The supposed news report refers to Israel's "wholesale destruction of Palestinian homes" and to "the killing of children by indiscriminate Israeli gunfire hitting UN-run schools." These are not quoted or alleged statements of a

source, but McGreal's own words.

There is nothing in the story about UNRWA vehicles being used to transport arms and explosives or its camps being centers of terrorism and incitement. Unmentioned are financial links between UNRWA and terror-sponsoring Saudi, Syrian and al-Qaida groups.

Lacking such essential information, once again British readers could only conclude from McGreal that bullying Jewish groups colluded with Israel to eject a harmless defender of innocent refugees.

The steady flow of such toxic falsities not surprisingly produces enmity toward Israel in all too many readers. Ironically, a Guardian column by David Smith on January 23, entitled "Jews 'still face discrimination in Britain,'" quotes Trevor Phillips, the chairman of the UK's Commission for Racial Equality, who warned: "Britain's powerful elite is still infected with a 'deep strain of anti-Semitism' and there is a growing hatred of Jews in the country at large."

One essential step to begin reversing that trend is for the Guardian itself and other media to start applying journalistic standards of accuracy and balance that would halt the demonizing of Israel and provide a truer picture of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Andrea Levin is Executive Director of CAMERA, Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America.

A new kind of Kashrut

By Nechemia Meyers

Many Israelis will soon be demanding that the institutions they patronize display two kashrut certificates. Not only will they want to see a standard kashrut certificate, indicating that any food served on the premises is prepared in accordance with the dietary laws, but also a second certificate testifying to the social consciousness of the owners. The latter document, just inaugurated in a ceremony at the headquarters of the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem, will make it clear that employees are treated fairly and paid at least a minimum wage. It will also indicate that handicapped people have access to the hall or shop.

The idea of a second kashrut certificate came from a group of four observant Jerusalem university students in their 20's,

who were disturbed by the fact that the religious establishment seems uninterested in social issues, which, de facto, have been abandoned to the left-wing secularists. The young men were able to gain the support of a large number of leading rabbis, and some non-observant personalities as well, including prize-winning novelist Amos Oz.

Writing in "Ma'ariv," religious student Einat Barzilai praises the initiative but thinks it might be rather naive. "It is hard to believe," she says, "that a family scouting for a wedding hall—after hours of discussions with the proprietors about what meat and drinks are to be served—will then demand to see the establishment's social kashrut certificate, in the absence of which they will go elsewhere."

This remains to be seen. But the initiative has already brought positive reactions from

Israelis who are not themselves observant. In a letter to the editor, one of them wrote: "It is pleasing to note that the Orthodox are finally speaking out on issues that are not directly connected to religion or the Land of Israel."

Yuval Albashan, a religious Hebrew University lecturer who also spoke to "Ma'ariv," sees this latest development as symbolizing "a return to the original meaning of the term kashrut, signifying purity and morality. Such an approach to kashrut is worthy of adoption not only by the religious public, but by everyone else as well. Should this happen, he declares, 'Israel could become the kind of land about which the Prophets dreamed.'"

Einat Barzilai berates those religious leaders who argue that social issues must be set aside because the struggle for the Land of

Israel takes precedence over them. "Does that mean," she asks rhetorically, "that we should ignore workers who go unpaid, women brought here from the Ukraine to serve as sex slaves, old people unable to pay for the medicines they need—all this so that our rabbis can spend their time looking over military maps with the Minister of Defense?"

Her answer is clear. "Social issues," she declares, "are the ones most worthy of our attention. One way or another our political future will be decided upon by forces that are stronger than us. The real question is what will be here afterwards. Will we have citizens who can support themselves, have self-respect, be devoted Jews, display creativity and have a strong sense of Jewishness? Or will we have people who have been worn out by the struggle to achieve security, and, as a consequence, have lost everything else."

Einstein and his relativity to Israel

By Carl Alpert

On the 50th anniversary of the death of one of its most distinguished sons, the German government has proclaimed 2005 Einstein Year, though the eminent scientist, aware of the political trends in his native land, abandoned Germany shortly before Hitler came to power. Special celebrations will be held in Germany throughout the year.

The occasion provides opportunity to recall at least a portion of Einstein's long and unusual relationship with the Holy Land and with the Zionist movement. Almost forgotten is the fact that with the death of President Chaim Weizmann in 1952 question arose as to his successor. Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion instructed Israel Ambassador Abba Eban to offer the post to the scientist, then resident in New Jersey. The president had almost no executive powers, but the position enjoyed prestige, and it was felt that the step would both pay honor to Einstein, and reflect to the credit of the State of Israel.

Einstein responded that the offer deeply touched him. He was "at once saddened and ashamed that I cannot accept it. All my life I have dealt with objective matters," he replied. "Hence, I lack both the natural apti-

tude and the experience to deal properly with people and to exercise official functions.... I am distressed over these circumstances because my relationship to the Jewish people has become my strongest bond, ever since I became fully aware of our precarious situation among the nations of the world."

Eban repeated the invitation, emphasizing the deep respect felt for Einstein, but the latter again rejected the offer, expressing the wish that a man might be found who by his life's work and personality could assume the difficult and responsible tasks.

He had always been a staunch friend and supporter of the Zionist movement, and at one stage issued a strong condemnation of the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism for what appeared to him as a "pitiable attempt to obtain favor and toleration from our enemies by betraying true Jewish ideals. The rebuilding of Palestine is for us Jews not a mere matter of charity or emigration; it is a problem of paramount importance for the Jewish people. Palestine is first and foremost not a refuge for European Jews, but the incarnation of a reawakening sense of national solidarity." On the other hand, he once expressed regret that the Zionists had committed the mistake of neglecting the Arabs.

One of his most significant messages was a warning to President Franklin D. Roosevelt that the Germans were well on the road to developing a bomb from uranium which would have the potential of catastrophic, comprehensive destruction. He urged the United States to speed up its work in the same area. Roosevelt got the message.

Einstein was always interested in advancing higher education in Israel, and upon his death willed his entire archives to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. That gave the University legal rights to use of his name, and formal commercial use of the name is said to have given the school income of about ten million dollars thus far.

He paid only one visit to the Holy Land, and that was in 1923. He inspected the

facilities of the Technion, which was about to open as the country's first institution of higher learning, and later agreed to head the German organization of Friends of the Technion.

A reminder of that visit remains. On the occasion, he and his wife were invited to plant two ceremonial palm trees opposite the main entrance of the grand building. The two trees flourished and still exist, though the one planted by Mrs. Einstein seems to be faring better.

At one stage the Technion erected a plaque on the site, identifying the source of the two trees. Someone stole the plaque, and in all likelihood affixed it to trees in his own back yard. Don't be misled if you find it. In the meantime, the Technion has replaced the original.

Matter of Opinion pieces reflect the personal viewpoint of individual columnists. They do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editor, Jewish Voice Editorial Committee, or this publication's publisher, The Jewish Federation of Delaware

INSIDE DELAWARE

Sephardic artist on display at JCC



Aloma Treister

The Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center is hosting a special art exhibition now through February 28th featuring the works of Aloma Treister.

Her work is influenced by her unique upbringing. Born in Baghdad into a Jewish family she moved to Iran in 1948 and remained there until moving to Australia in 1973.

Her art is a reflection of both Jewish and Moslem cultures. The artist explains that "Both Jews and Muslims avoid the representation of the figure in their art, rather developing an elaborate decorative framework built around geometry and abstract symbols." Treister added that "Our synagogue was intricately decorated with mosaic mirror tiles in recognizable local Islamic patterns.

Silver platters embossed with these patterns carried our delicacies. Persian carpets adorned not only our floors, but also covered our furniture. The finest silk carpets of Mashhad, rather than prints or paintings, were displayed in prominent position on our lounge room walls. They were forms of investment in art. Their (Moslem) art became our (Jewish) art."

Aesthetic integration and cultural tolerance shaped Treister's artistic development and was integral to the formation of the decorative sensitivity and expressive awareness her art now reflects. Her artistic style was further shaped by her experiences in her new home in Australia. While Treister found a strong Jewish community in her new country, her experiences as a Sephardic Jew in an

Ashkenazic culture made her feel isolated.

Her collages-paintings with computer manipulated photographs and mono-prints contain an even symmetry of curves and sweeping lines. They mirror the dancing arabesques of mosque tiles and the decorative lace of stone screens which guard a hidden world from prying eyes. Treister's creations- featuring the intense colors of Persian rugs and block-print fabrics- represent the artist's search for cultural harmony.

The Aloma Treister - The Art of Memory exhibit will continue in the JCC Art Gallery through February 28, 2005. All artwork will be available for purchase at the Front Desk. For more information, please contact Ivy Harlev at (302) 478-5660 or ivyharlev@siegeljcc.org.

For adults only -

Gratz offers special program



Tamar Jacobowitz

Delaware Gratz offers community adult learners two free special sessions with its scholar-in-residence from the University of Pennsylvania, Tamar Jacobowitz. Jacobowitz is renowned by her peers as one of greater Philadelphia's leading scholars of biblical interpretation. Her appearance is made possible by the generosity of an anonymous donor. Please call Delaware Gratz Hebrew High School at 478-8100 to reserve your space for one or both sessions.

Sunday, February 13, 2005

12:30-1:15 pm

"Revisiting the Akedah"— an interactive study of the biblical story and its reverberations throughout the ages

Sunday, March 13, 2005

10:00 - 10:45 am

"Slavery and Redemption"— A study of human and divine responsibility



LEATHER & Lace

Mike Schwartz and wife Debbie, hosted the first annual Vanguard event, Leather and Lace Ball on behalf of the 2005 JFD Annual Campaign. Full photo coverage on page 17.

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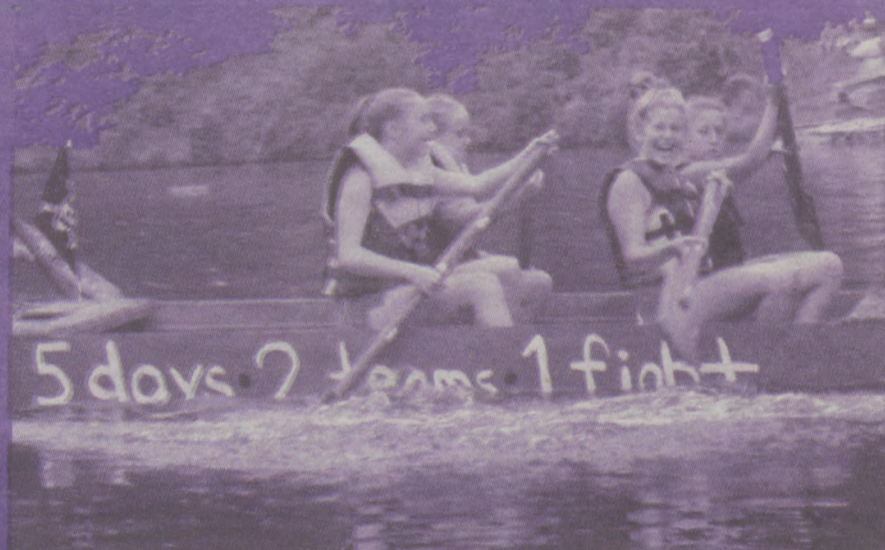
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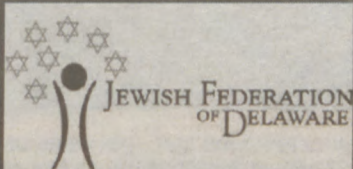
- Contributions to the Jewish Federation of Delaware Annual Campaign support a network of agencies in Delaware and services to hundreds of thousands of people in Israel and over 58 countries.

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Consider a gift in your name to the Annual Campaign. For more information contact Jennifer Young, Director, Jewish Fund for the Future and Women's Philanthropy at (302) 427-2100 x 19 or make your donation online at www.shalomdelaware.org.

Women's Giving to the 2004 Annual Campaign represents over 800 gifts — and more than \$670,000. Make your gift today!



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For more information regarding Bequests or Endowments, please visit www.shalomdelaware.org or call Jennifer Young at (302) 427-2100 x 19. If you have provided for the community, please let us know, a recognition event is planned to honor all endowment donors on May 24, 2005.

Israel 2005

Contact Jennifer at (302)427-2100 x 19 for more information

Young adults ages 19-25 are encouraged to apply for this exciting program to work as a counselor in our sister community of Arad/Tamar. The Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Partnership 2000 allocation will cover **all expenses in Israel** - ground transportation, orientation, room and board, touring, and a portion of the airfare. The counselors each pay \$250 towards the airfare. Last summer 8 counselors from our NJ/DE partnership participated in the program.

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Getting married in Israel

By Yael Adar

Israel has scores of unique wedding venues. Most couples typically choose a venue between Jerusalem and Caesarea, thereby missing out on the many special venues in Israel's periphery. Planning a wedding in the outlying areas is not more difficult and transportation for guests can easily be arranged.

Generally speaking there are four different types of venues:

Halls

Hotels

Event Gardens (some have indoor winter options as well)

On Location – outdoor events at unique venues

In Israel it's possible to hold outdoor events five months of the year, from May through September (however, the early part of this period falls during Sefirat Ha'omer, when weddings are not conducted). If you plan on getting married on Lag B'Omer you should note that all activities will typically have to be over half an hour before sundown. Also, this date usually has a premium and most venues will require a minimum number of guests (this varies from venue to venue), consequently the date is not ideal for small weddings (under 250 people).

Weddings in Israel tend to be large and the industry is built accordingly – therefore most Event Gardens have minimum requirements (during high-season) of 250 to 300 people, which can greatly increase the price of a small wedding. During the low season these minimums are often waived. While On Location events (such as those in the desert, at a nature reserve or on the beach etc.) seem to be the most expensive at first glance they actually afford an advantage

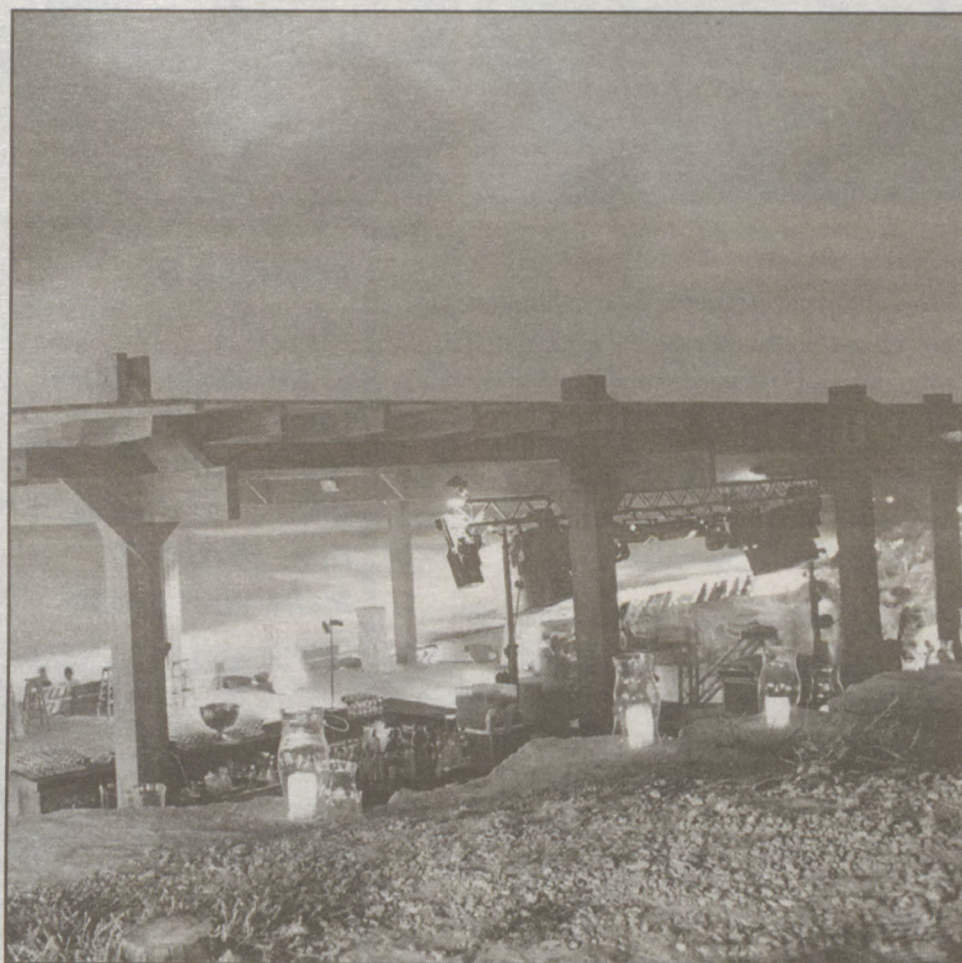
that most Event Gardens lack – On Location events have no minimum requirements and therefore can work out to be quite cost effective for smaller weddings. Hotels offer a happy medium in many cases, however they do have one disadvantage for those who like to dance into the night, since all music must usually cease between 11 and 12 PM, and could cause your Simcha to end earlier than you want.

Costs – What You Should Know

In terms of prices there are variances of between 10%-15% between high season (May- September) and low season. Important to note is that there are also differences between days of the week. Thursdays and Fridays tend to be between 10%-20% more expensive than other days of the week. In recent years, Friday (afternoon) weddings have become quite fashionable.

Good catering starts at about \$58/per person, while the average ranges \$70-\$80 per person. Gourmet catering ranges between \$100-\$120/per person. Typical venue rental fees (for On Location venues) range \$3500-\$5000, while Wedding Planning & Coordinating fees typically start at \$3500, but vary greatly depending on the number of guests and type of event. All prices listed include 17% VAT.

If you plan on having a considerable number of guests from abroad, you should note that an added bonus of working with a wedding planner based in Israel is that many are able to offer travel services for you and your guests. Since they book many rooms a year they are able to offer you and your guests a group rate, that is better than any one individual could get. Whether its hotels, car rental, tours or special meals which many couples opt to offer their



guests – you get the ease of One Stop Shopping for all your wedding needs.

The type of venue that you ultimately choose should be a function of the type of wedding that you want to have, the number

of guests and your budget. Whatever decisions you make about your wedding, Mazal Tov!

The author is owner of www.WeddinginIsrael.com, a Travel and Events in Israel site.

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Wedding canopy honors memory of young bride-to-be



Naava Applebaum approached the eve of her wedding day with all the eagerness and anticipation of a beautiful 20-year old with her whole future ahead of her. But a terrorist's bomb ended a lifetime full of promise in one violent moment. Naava and her father, Dr. David Applebaum, Director of Emergency Medicine at Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem, were killed at a local café near the Hospital.

The Naava Chuppah memorializes the tragic and untimely loss of a young woman whose short life exemplified compassion and care for those most in need. Naava had just completed her second year of Israel's national service where she tended to pediatric oncology patients. She brought great joy to very ill children providing comfort and all aspects of non-medical care. The Women's Division of Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem commissioned the Naava Chuppah as a means of honoring the memory of Naava Applebaum.

Designed by renowned American Judaica artist Fred Spinowitz, the Chuppah is a tribute to Naava's life. It can be shipped directly for a tax-deductible donation of \$5,000. Proceeds directly support the Naava Applebaum Sherut Leumi National Service Program, and provide much needed funding for the young women who are an integral part of Shaare Zedek Medical Center.

Traditionally, the chuppah is the center of the Jewish wedding ceremony, symbolizing the new home created by a couple's union. It is formed by a large stretch of fabric that is draped above four poles. The sides remain

open to demonstrate that husband and wife will welcome many into their newly established home.

The Naava Chuppah's lush velvet fabric, intricate embroidery and hand-painted design are breathtaking in their detail, and are ripe with symbolism. Two trees stand tall against a backdrop of bright flowers, their branches intertwined like the couple that stands beneath the canopy, waiting to be joined for eternity. The tree is nourished by a body of water, in which are painted four phrases from "Song of Songs," an extended love poem composed by the Biblical King Solomon. Each of these phrases was specially selected because it contains the word "Naava," the Hebrew for "pleasant" or "beautiful."

"This is a fitting tribute to Naava, whose smiling face and tireless attention lifted the spirits of many ailing children," said Lee D. Weinbach, President, National Women's Division, Shaare Zedek. "We have chosen to commemorate her outstanding service with a specially designed chuppah. Naava never saw her own wedding day. But every marriage that takes place under the Naava Chuppah will be a tribute to her life's work, and to her memory."

Shaare Zedek, located in the center of Jerusalem, provides medical care to all patients regardless of religious affiliation or cultural background.

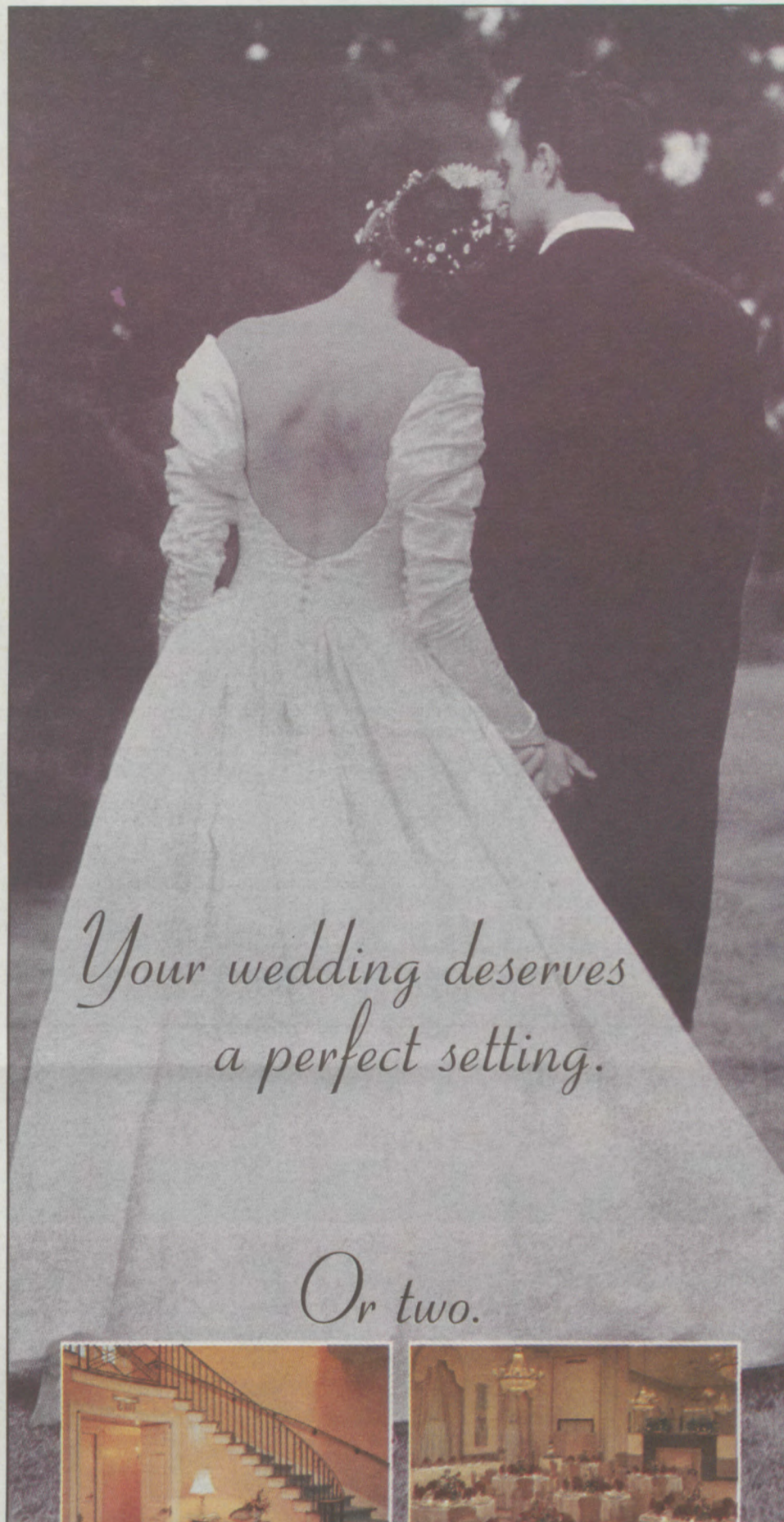
To obtain rental information on the Naava Chuppah, please contact Stephen Schechter at 212-999-5585 or call Lee D. Weinbach at Shaare Zedek at 212-764-8053.

"A woman of valor who can find, for her price is far more than pearls."

(Prov. 31:10)

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INSIDE DELAWARE

Albert Einstein Academy abuzz with activity

Despite the recent snow, Albert Einstein Academy students held a festive Tu B'Shevat Seder at the JCC. Each class led parts of the special seder and all shared symbolic varieties of food and drink appropriate to the holiday, sometimes referred to as The New Year for Trees. All students also

received live plants to take home.

AEA honored its grade 1 and 2 students at a special Havdalah Program. Rabbi Michael Beals of Beth Shalom explained the customs of Havdalah, which separates Shabbat from the rest of the week. He led the students in song. Every first grade student

received a Siddur and each second grader was presented with their own small Torah Scroll. Plays were performed before an audience of students, parents and special guests in the JCC auditorium.

(Photos and captions by Joel Glazier)



Rabbi Michael Beals



Child's Mitzvah Project brings warmth to others

When Gabrielle Busch, an 8-year-old student at Centreville School, realized that not all children have blankets to keep them warm during the cold winter months, she took decisive action to help make a difference.

"It made me sad to know lots of kids weren't snugly and warm on winter nights," she said.

Gabrielle quickly set to work, personally collecting blankets from her friends and family. She also set up a box in the lobby of the Wilmington Jewish Community Center, so the entire community could participate. In all, Gabrielle gathered more than three dozen blankets, which she delivered to

Lisa Driban, Volunteer Coordinator of Jewish Family Service. On behalf of Gabrielle, JFS donated the blankets to the women and children served by Mary Mother of Hope House in Wilmington.

"I feel better knowing that I helped other kids," remarked Gabrielle. "Doing a mitzvah and helping others makes you feel good in your heart."

For more information on participating in Youth Community Service (Mitzvah) Projects through the Volunteer Network of the Kimmel-Spiller Healing Center, please contact Lisa Driban at (302) 478-9411, ext. 21.



Gabrielle Busch

Beth Emeth Members Planning Trip to Russia

Rabbi Peter Grumbacher is leading a trip to Russia the end of June to visit Beth Emeth's sister congregation in Tumen.

For the past three years Beth Emeth has helped support this congregation as a contribution to

the revitalization of Jewish life in Russia. The trip includes stops in St Petersburg and Moscow to see all the major tourist sites as well as several days visiting with the members of Congregation Madregot in Tumen.

The group leaves Philadelphia on June 20th and returns on June 30th. Members of the community who would like to join this Russian tour are invited to call the Temple Office, 302-764-2393, for more information.

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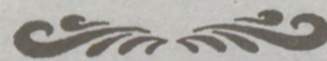
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GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS

Hamas wins big in Gaza election

By Gil Sedan, JTA

Hamas' landslide victory in the first-ever municipal elections in the Gaza Strip is seen as a bad omen for Israel, the United States and the Palestinians' ruling Fatah movement — but some say it may tie the terrorist group down by making it more responsible for Palestinian decision-making.

Israel kept a low profile in its reactions to last week's vote, but U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher stressed that the U.S. still regards Hamas as a terrorist organization, despite its electoral gains.

In any case, the results must be kept in context: These were only local elections, and for less than half of the municipal councils in the Gaza Strip. Large population centers such as Khan Yunis, Rafah and Gaza City did not vote this time.

But the elections could be an opportunity for the militant Islamic movement to reinvent itself as a political party sharing power and responsibility with the newly elected Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas.

The formula is simple: The more formal responsibility Hamas has, the bigger its moral obligation to Palestinian society. A strong, post-election Hamas has more to lose.

"You can't take part in decision-making and at the same time continue terrorist activity," said Ra'anan Gissin, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Labor Party legislator Ephraim Sneh, a former deputy defense minister, told Israel Radio that the Gaza voting results showed the need to work with Abbas' government to coordinate Israel's withdrawal from the strip, planned for this summer.

Some detect a softening of Hamas rhetoric. Both the movement's Gaza leader, Ismail Haniyeh, and its West Bank leader, Hassan Yousef, made statements — even before the elections — indicating that they may now change their tactics.

"If there is total Israeli withdrawal from Gaza," Haniyeh said, "the Hamas movement will be ready to halt its military action because

it is important for us to put an end to the misery of our people."

However, some cautioned that Israelis desperate to find signs of moderation from an enemy dedicated to Israel's destruction were seeing signs of moderation where there were none. On Sunday, Hamas and Hezbollah reiterated their support for the notion of violent "resistance" against Israel.

Hamas' victory in Gaza was indeed impressive, surprising even the winners and stunning the losers, Abbas' Fatah.

Hamas now controls seven out of the 10 councils in which elections were held last week. The final tally gave Hamas 77 council seats to 26 won by Fatah-affiliated candidates. Another 11 posts went to independents thought to be Fatah supporters. Other independent candidates shared the remaining four seats.

Thousands took to the streets of Gaza to celebrate the victory, waving green Hamas flags, distributing candy and chanting, "Hamas is the real way for reform and rebuilding."

"Our people have a consensus on the choice of jihad," or holy war, "and resistance, and the election has underscored that concept," Hamas spokesman Muhr Al-Masri told reporters.

However, in reality the situation is more complex. Palestinian society is undergoing dual processes: Abbas largely enjoys a national consensus in his attempts to calm the situation, but the majority of Gaza voters still vow allegiance to Hamas, particularly on the municipal level.

The vote was a combination of protest against the Palestinian political establishment, run by Fatah, and a debt of honor to Hamas for developing an effective network of social services, including schools and health and welfare services in Gaza.

"This is a victory of the Palestinian people and a victory to the resistance against the occupation and to the demand to introduce reforms in the Palestinian Authority," said another Hamas leader, Mahmoud Zahar. He said the Hamas-controlled municipalities would seek to switch power and water supply from



Palestinians wave Hamas flags at a demonstration in Ramallah in a file photo.

Credit: BP Images/JTA

Israel to "Arab sources," most likely Egypt.

Most notable was the victory in Beit Hanoun, the northern town that has Hamas has turned into a launching pad for Kassam rockets into Israel, and which has borne the brunt of Israel's retaliatory raids.

Hamas' victory in Gaza followed an earlier victory late last year in municipal elections in the West Bank. Though Hamas is weaker in the West Bank than in Gaza but still won a third of the municipal councils there, including in a number of traditional Fatah strongholds.

The Islamists boycotted the P.A.'s Jan. 9 presidential election, which Abbas won on a platform of stopping violence and renewing dialogue with Israel.

Hamas has not yet decided whether to take part in parliamentary elections scheduled for July. But Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman, said the municipal victory would

increase the pressure to contest parliamentary elections.

The bottom line is that Fatah will need to work hard to maintain a comfortable majority in the Palestine Legislative Council.

Fatah's shock over the election results led some senior PLO officials to suggest postponing the parliamentary elections. But it may be too late: The taste of victory has increased Hamas' political appetite.

Hamas is demanding a greater voice in Palestinian decision-making, particularly regarding any concessions to Israel. The organization even is considering joining the PLO umbrella group, Yussuf said.

"Everybody won, those who were elected and those who were not, because the exercise of this process is more important than the winners," Zahar said at a press conference in Gaza City.

Charges of anti-Semitism in British campaign

By Daniella Peled, JTA

Accusations of anti-Semitism have become a part of Britain's election campaign.

In the latest of a series of high-profile spats over prejudice, Conservatives have expressed outrage over a poster produced by the Labor Party.

The image, a pun on the phrase, "pigs might fly," features the faces of Conservative leaders Michael Howard and Oliver Letwin — two of Britain's most prominent Jewish politicians — superimposed on pigs' bodies.

Labor politicians and Jewish leaders dismissed claims of prejudice, but there is concern that the scandal could distract attention from the issue of rising anti-Semitism in the country. In mid-February, a major new report by the Community Security Trust, the body that monitors threats to British Jewry, is expected to show a large increase in anti-Semitic attacks.

The political poster, intended as part of Labor's campaign for the May general elections, is one of several on the party's Web site, with visitors invited to vote for their favorite.

Andrew Mennear, the Conservative candidate in London's Golders Green, an area with a large Jewish community, slammed the poster as "shocking and tasteless."

"I am shocked the Labor Party finds it remotely clever or amusing to impose the faces of probably the two highest-profile Jewish politicians onto flying pigs," he said.

Katia David, a politician in north London, said, "This poster is a cheap, political shot, that has been ill-thought out and is found deeply unpleasant by Jews and Muslims. I hope Labor will see sense and revoke this

campaign and apologize."

Religious Jews and Muslims do not eat pigs.

The scandal erupted last week as the world marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and Holocaust Memorial Day.

But the Labor Party refused to withdraw the poster, saying it was not an expression of prejudice.

"We don't regard the posters as anti-Semitic," a spokesman told JTA. "They are an attack on the Conservative party and made the very simple point that the Conservative sums do not add up."

The Labor Party said it had heard no complaints from Jewish groups.

The poster dispute played out in the media, featuring prominently in all the major national newspapers. But the Board of Deputies, the representative body of British Jewry, declined to make an official comment.

Jewish leader Lord Greville Janner said his own inquiries in the party had reassured him that there was no anti-Jewish intention behind the poster.

The furor followed another incident in January when the Conservative Party lodged a complaint with the Commission for Racial Equality after a Labor Party minister published a piece in a Muslim newspaper attacking Howard.

The minister of trade and industry, Mike O'Brien, told the Muslim Weekly that Labor was the only party that would protect the rights of Muslims and dedicate itself to the creation of a Palestinian state.

"Ask yourself what will Michael Howard do for British Muslims? Will his foreign policy aim to help Palestine?" he wrote.

"It saddens me greatly that a Labor minister should stoop to such a low personal attack," Howard responded, "and deploy such blatant scare tactics as this."

Jewish community figures emphasized that their real worry was not whether Labor was inherently anti-Semitic but whether alleging racial prejudice would become a tactic to be played ahead of the polls.

In my view this has a distinct political turn," Lord Janner said. "The Conservatives do not

like the posters and they are creating a deliberate political paranoia."

But the commission swiftly dismissed Howard's complaint.

"We are completely satisfied that no aspect of the race relations laws have been breached," a spokesman said, "so this is not an instance where CRE intervention is appropriate. Making political points about their opponents is precisely what political parties do all the time."

Ukrainian Jews are hopeful

By Vladimir Matveyev, JTA

Ukrainian Jews have high hopes that their nation's new president will bring real changes to this former Communist republic.

Like other Ukrainians, many of the country's estimated 200,000 to 500,000 Jews are banking on the promises of democracy, wealth and increased participation in international bodies made by Viktor Yushchenko in the days after he was sworn in earlier this month.

On Jan. 25, Yushchenko spoke at the Council of Europe session in Strasbourg, France, and declared his firm intention to see Ukraine part of the European Union.

Ukraine, a nation of roughly 48 million, is eager to start the application process as soon as this winter, although it may take years to complete, analysts say.

"Yushchenko showed his direction toward turning Ukraine into a democratic European nation with full respect for freedom of speech and a fair judicial system," said Eduard Gurvitz, a Jewish member of

Parliament and a longtime Yushchenko supporter.

"This is a total contrast to Kuchma's corrupt regime," he said, referring to outgoing president Leonid Kuchma, who held office for 10 years.

Many of the country's Jews — perhaps a majority — backed Yushchenko's opponent, Viktor Yanukovich, in last fall's heated election campaign.

Some of these Jews are fearful of a possible rise in anti-Semitism coming from radical



Viktor Yushchenko

See UKRAINIAN JEWS, page 19

LEATHER & Lace

A winning formula for campaign success

The First Annual Vanguard Event, The Leather and Lace Ball was held on Saturday, January 29, 2005 at Mike's Famous Harley Davidson. Over 80 people attended this fab-

ulously fun evening whose gifts to the 2005 Annual Campaign totaled more than \$200,000. We are grateful to Mike Schwartz for allowing us the use of his beautiful show-

room. Co-Chairs Annette and Bob Aerenson and Jodi and Benjie Cohen were thrilled with the event and feel proud of all that's accomplished through the Annual Campaign.

"Events like this truly make a difference in people's lives. We're able to party together while helping others. It's a perfect combination!"

Photos by Mike Samuels



Amy Crain, Annette Aerenson and Iris Tocker spend time in conversation.



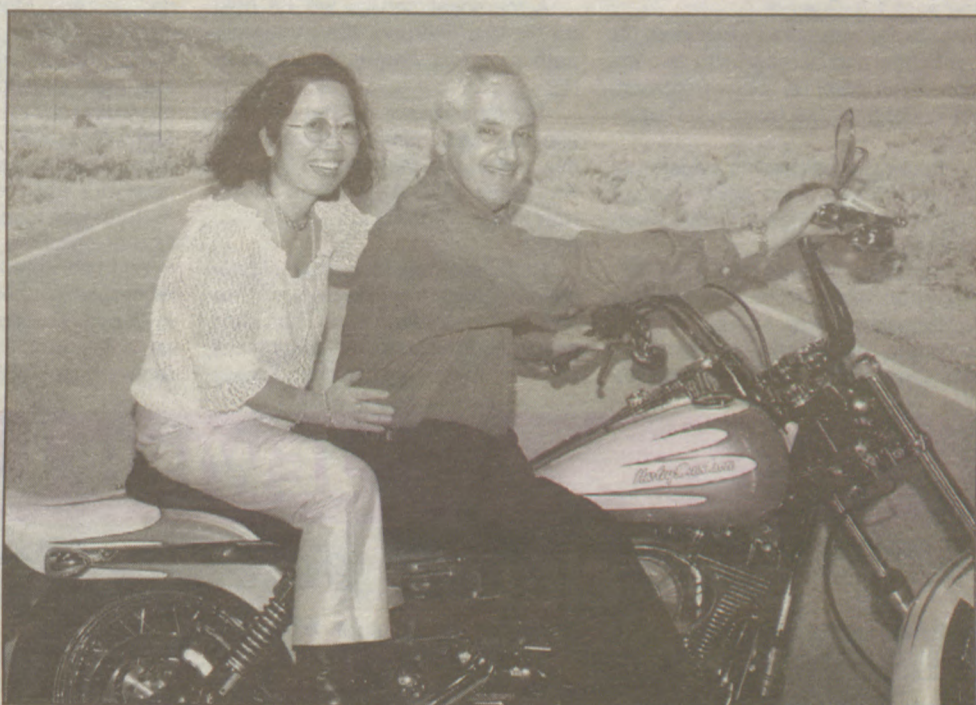
Sam Horowitz, Federation's newly hired JCRC & Community Planning Director, and his wife, Lorna show Barry Kayne their moxie.



Biker beauties Jodi Cohen, Caryl Marcus-Stape, Annette Aerenson and Debbie Kahn rate the evening "an unqualified success." Jodi and Annette served as co-chairs of the Leather and Lace Ball.



Caryl Marcus-Stape enjoys the evening with good friends Sam Asher, JFD executive vice president and his wife, Michele.



Barry Kayne, JFD president and his wife, Reiko, test the merchandise at Mike's Harley-Davidson, the site of the Leather and Lace Ball, the first annual Vanguard Event on behalf of the 2005 Jewish Federation of Delaware Annual Campaign.



Mike Samuels, photographer extraordinaire and his wife, Sue show their spirit.



JFD Campaign Director Ruth Rosenberg, Wendy Berger and Sheri Hart are outfitted for fun.

MILESTONES

In Memoriam

FINFER

Marian Finfer, 82, a resident of Wilmington, passed away on January 29th. She lived at Foulk Manor for the past 1 1/2 years.

Mrs. Finfer was born in Bayonne, NJ to Michael and Dorothy Lieb. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, George Finfer.

She was employed as a secretary in the Millburn, New Jersey School District for more than 30 years when she retired in 1996.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Cathy and Louis Vaspasiano, of New London, CT; her son and daughter-in-law, Matthew and Carol Finfer, and a granddaugh-

ter, Samantha Finfer, all of Wilmington, DE; and two sisters, Helen Perkel of Philadelphia, PA and Wilma Feinberg of Bayonne, NJ.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, February 6th at Temple Beth Am, 111 Avenue B, Bayonne, NJ.

The family requests that contributions in Mrs. Finfer's memory be directed to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 710 West 168th Street, New York, NY 10032.

MOSS

Ruth Juster Moss, age 97, of New Milford, Connecticut, formerly of New York City and Akron Ohio, has died after a short illness. The daughter of Charles Juster and Minnie Zenker

Juster of New York City, she is survived by her son Arthur Moss and his wife Karen, of Wilmington, DE, as well as grandchildren Noah, Anna, and Jessica Moss of Wilmington, Barbara Nilsen of Michigan, and Nancy Hoyer of Connecticut, and four great grandchildren. She was predeceased by husband Charles Moss of Vermont, New York City, and Akron Ohio, and son Arnold Moss of New York and Connecticut.

Ruth was a talented saleswoman who at one time or another worked in and patronized every store with a recognizable name on Fifth Avenue in New York. She spent many years as a homemaker, raising her children and caring for her invalid hus-

band. During the 1960s, she engaged in public "debate", advocating tirelessly for the disenfranchised and downtrodden. At the age of 62, the recent widow moved to Florence Italy where she lived for two years. She also traveled extensively in Switzerland. Her last years were spent reading murder mysteries.

Interment was in Long Island, New York on Tuesday February 1. Contributions in her memory may be made to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, Washington Blvd. and Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE.

WEINER

Esther Weiner, 95, of Wilmington, died February 1st. She was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom

and was a past president of the Wilmington Chapter of the Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation. Predeceased by her beloved husband, William Weiner, she is survived by her son, Norman Weiner and her daughter and son-in-law, Phyllis and Norman Aerenson. Also mourning her passing are eight grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

A private, graveside service was held in Beth Emeth Memorial Park.

Contributions in her memory may be made to either The Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809 or to the Bernard and Ruth Siegel Jewish Community Center, 101 Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington, DE 19803.

JEWISH LIFESTYLES

Book offers science fiction with a Jewish hook

Reviewed by Martin Roffman
Special to the Jewish Voice

"More Wandering Stars: An Anthology of Jewish Fantasy and Science Fiction", edited by Jack Dann, Jewish Delights Publishing, 1999, 179 pages, \$16.95.

Deep down, I really prefer to read good science fiction. However, much of what passes as current sci-fi is only fair and offers mundane fictional accounts of how the universe ought to behave when in fact, it doesn't conform to the story writer's assumptions. There's a limit to how far I feel comfortable suspending my knowledge of the physical universe for the sake of a particular author. On the other hand, I definitely enjoy light, humorous writing rather than a heavy novel if possible. Since the primary audience for these reviews is readers of Jewish newspapers, I search for books of Jewish interest that are entertaining and in the case of sci-fi, encapsulate these requirements in a

compelling portrayal of fiction that approximates reality as closely as possible.

You can imagine the intensity of my delight when coming across **"More Wandering Stars: An Anthology of Jewish Fantasy and Science Fiction"**. The book's cover describes its contents as "a book for Jew and Gentile, Male and Female, human and not so human." I heartily concur.

Isaac Asimov wrote the introduction, a short but very humorous account of how the stories were selected, what they have in common, and why there should be a genre of writing such as Jewish science fiction. In fact, many of the stories are based upon biblical themes updated to reflect anticipated issues in the Jewish future. My favorites included *Tauf Alef* by Phyllis Gottlieb and *The Scrolls* by Woody Allen.

Tauf Alef involves a delightful tale about the last remaining Jew in the entire universe who lives on a backwater planet in a star system very far

from earth. The story's main character, Samuel Begelman, sends a request to the cosmic Federation on earth to provide a rabbi who is capable of saying kaddish for him at the appropriate time. The Federation acknowledges his plea and assigns a special robot who prepares for this task by learning Hebrew, Torah, Talmud, and all of recorded Jewish History in a few day's time, just prior to departing for *Tauf Alef* on his mission. As the story develops, the robot begins to assume more of a human personality, and a Jewish one at that. In short order, the robot arrives on *Tauf Alef* to help Begelman. However, as the robot becomes acquainted with its new environment, some of the local life forms that resemble walrus begin to take interest in what the robot rabbi is doing and how it lives as a Jew. I loved what happened to the walrus when they decided to form a local minyan under the guidance of their new rabbi.

Woody Allen's story, *The Scrolls*, is

not a story but instead offers readers an incredibly funny shtik. I quote from one section of his tale: "And it came to pass that a man who sold shirts was smitten by hard times. Neither did any of his merchandise move nor did he prosper. And he prayed and said, 'Lord, why hast thou left me to suffer thus? All mine enemies sell their goods except I. And it's the height of the season. My shirts are good shirts' ...

And the Lord heard the man and said, 'About thy shirts...' "Yes, Lord," the man said, falling to his knees. "Put an alligator over the pocket." "Pardon me, Lord?" "Just do what I'm telling you. You won't be sorry." And the man sewed on to all his shirts a small alligator symbol and lo and behold, suddenly his merchandise moved like gangbusters and there

was much rejoicing...

More Wandering Stars is easy to read and quite enjoyable. Not all the stories are top notch but many of them are and they will challenge both your sense of what-if as you begin to see the possibilities the authors are describing. In addition, it might even offer a good holiday or birthday purchase for the dreamer in your family. I strongly recommend it.

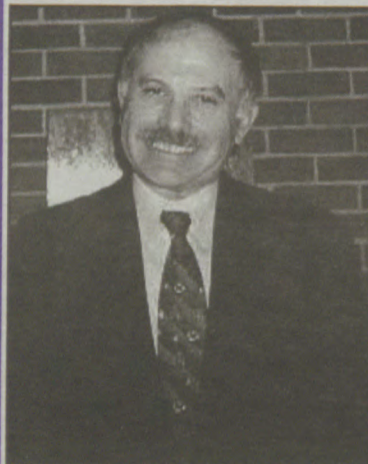
The author of this review teleports from Elkins Park to Wilmington daily on SEPTA's R2. Most of the time, he uneventfully arrives in near-average time but sometimes, the R2 enters what is affectionately described as a "black hole". The journey then expands into hyperspace and clearly demonstrates Einstein's principal of relativity where time stretches to fill the job that needs to be done and then some!

Rabbi Dresin, Cantor Kessler participate at Governor's Inauguration

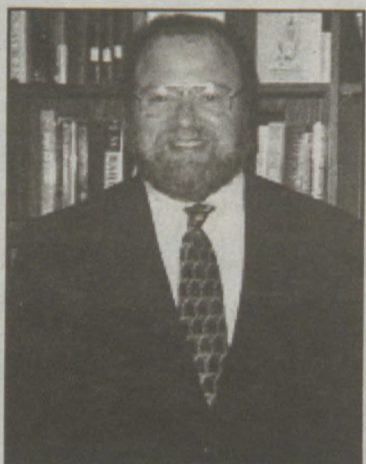
On Tuesday, January 18th, Rabbi Sanford Dresin and Cantor Joel Kessler of Adas Kodesch-Shel Emeth were asked to be a part of Governor Ruth Ann Minner's inauguration. The proceedings began with an interfaith service held at the Christ Episcopal Church in Dover. Emphasizing the Governor's

theme of her inauguration, "Planting Seeds for the Future," Rabbi Dresin spoke about the famous story from the Talmud in which a 70 year old man plants a carob tree knowing full well that he would not live long enough to benefit from its fruit but that his descendants would. Then Cantor Joel gave a rousing rendition of

"Bashana Haba'a", a song of hope for the future. Afterwards, braving the cold weather, Cantor Joel was honored again with the singing of the National Anthem at the inauguration itself before the Governor and many of the State dignitaries.



Rabbi Sanford Dresin



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COMING EVENTS

MOONLIGHT DINNER CRUISE

Dine, dance and tour Baltimore's inner harbor by moonlight as part of an elegant Beth Emeth Outreach fund-raising event on Saturday, March 5 from 7 pm to 10pm. Enjoy a romantic and cozy atmosphere. Minimum donation of \$100 per person includes 3 hour cruise, dinner buffet, and open bar. Tickets are limited - Reserve yours today by making your donation at the Congregation Beth Emeth Temple Office (Phone 764-2393). Dress is upscale festive - boarding starts at 6:30. For directions, local hotel information, and the menu, please visit www.bethemethoutreach.com.

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR BRENNER MEMORIAL FUND

The Leo Brenner Holocaust Study Memorial Fund was established by the family of the late Leo Brenner on his first yarzeit, January 26, 1999. It is dedicated to keeping the memory and lessons of the Holocaust alive. The Fund offers an annual cash award and accepts applications from members of the Delaware community who are studying or teaching the Holocaust.

Mr. Brenner was a Holocaust survivor from Berlin, Germany. He was imprisoned by the Nazis from 1939 in Sachsenhausen, Buna Monowitz, Auschwitz and Buchenwald until liberation in 1945.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and may be obtained from Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Washing-

ton Blvd. and Torah Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802. Please return completed applications to Mrs. Marion Brenner, c/o AKSE.

The Leo Brenner Holocaust Study Memorial Fund is a fund of AKSE and is invested with the Jewish Federation of Delaware's Fund for the Future.

Contributions to the Fund are always welcome.

A MELODIC SHABBAT AT BETH EMETH

A "Shabbat of Melody" will take place at Congregation Beth Emeth on Friday, February 11th at 8 PM. Cantor Yvon Shore will present "Melodies in time: from Sinai to New York by way of Germany. Our sacred text through music." Cantor Shore grew up in Wilmington and is Director of Liturgical Arts and Music at Hebrew Union College - Institute of Religion, Cincinnati Campus. Cantor Shore will also speak at Torah Study on Saturday morning starting at 9:15.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ISRAEL?

OTZMA is a service-based leadership development program offering young adults ages 20-26 the unique opportunity to contribute and acquire an in-depth understanding of Israel and the Jewish people. The OTZMA program combines social action, civil rights and community building. Spend three months in an absorption center learning Hebrew, three months doing community service using your skills in

a development town and three months on a kibbutz or participating in our new internship track! For more information check out our website at www.otzma.org or contact us at otzma@ujc.org.

JOIN DELAWARE GRATZ IN WASHINGTON

Tour The National Museum of the American Indian and The International Spy Museum on Sunday, April 10, 2005. Leave Brandywine Town Center at 8:00 AM. Enjoy lunch on your own at the museum. Transfer to The International Spy Museum at 2:30 PM. Bus leaves the spy museum at 5 PM for the trip home to Delaware. Your check is your reservation. Cost of trip: \$45.00. Make check payable to Delaware Gratz Auxiliary, send to Annette Chason 400 Whitby Dr., Wilmington DE., 19803, 302-479-0848.

SINGLES TO HAVE FUN IN POCONOS

Asaf Romirowsky, Israel Advocacy associate with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, will be scholar-

in-residence for the YJLC 16th Annual Presidents' Weekend Pocono Ski Escape. The program is organized by Young Jewish Leadership Concepts (YJLC), the Philadelphia based national non-profit young professionals network.

The February 18-20 Weekend Escape will take place at the Allentown, PA and will feature a full range of winter sports activities including skiing, snow boarding, and snow tubing.

The weekend's "I Love Israel" theme will be carried out through such programming as an Israeli film screening and parties with popular Israeli dance music. Also scheduled is a comedy club, bowling party and a Sunday lox and bagels brunch.

Special discounts are available for Birthright Israel participants.

Young Jewish Leadership Concepts (YJLC), a national, non-profit organization for young professionals has been

sponsoring trips and special events for 18 years.

Jewish young professionals who want to reserve a spot on the 16th Annual residents' Weekend Ski Escape are invited to contact YJLC at P.O. Box 313, Langhorne, PA; Tel. (800)223-YJLC (9552); or E-mail: Lou4YJLC@aol.com. Photos of past Pocono Weekends can be viewed on the YJLC website at www.israelen-counter.org.

AKSE CABARET RESCHEDULED

Snowy weather led to the rescheduling of the January 30th Cabaret Night at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth. Come out and hear AKSE's own Cindy Goldstein, Rebecca Buswell and an ensemble cast performing Broadway show tunes on Sunday, February 13th, 7 pm at the synagogue on Washington Blvd. and Torah Way in Wilmington. Ticket prices are \$20 at the door and \$7 for children ages 12 and under.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, February 13, 2005

AKSE Men's Club & Adult Education will present Jeffrey A. Dvorkin, Ombudsman for National Public Radio "Perception of Media Bias and NPR"

Breakfast begins at 8:30 am and the presentation will be at 10 am • Cost: \$4.00
For further information, please call 302-762-2705

Ukrainian Jews

Continued from page 16

nationalist groups and individual politicians who were part of Yushchenko's election coalition, but others are speaking the language of reconciliation.

"The new president stretches out his hand of collaboration to all who want to shake it," said Alexander Feldman, a Jewish lawmaker and a prominent community leader who backed Yanukovich. "I do believe that Yushchenko's politics will be aimed at protecting the interethnic peace and concord in Ukraine. Otherwise we shall correct him. But today I have more hopes than fears."

Those Jews who share Yushchenko's Euro-focused vision of Ukraine have faith in his ability to make Ukraine a more prosperous nation.

"I believe in the transparency of his politics," said Mila Milner, a Jewish activist in Kiev, a city that overwhelmingly backed Yushchenko. "This was something we totally lacked during the previous regime," she said.

"Today, Yushchenko has a historic chance to forge better ties between Ukraine and the West. To his credit, he has a good starting capital, as Ukraine's current economic situation is generally seen as promising."

Alex Dukhovny, a Reform rabbi in Kiev and the only Jewish religious leader who spoke at pro-Yushchenko rallies during last year's street protests, which eventually helped Yushchenko become president, says people in his congregation hope for simple things. "People talk about bigger salaries and pensions," he said.

Josef Ostashinsky, a 56-year-old member of Kiev's Jewish community, agreed. "I hope to see in new Ukraine the same standards of life as in Europe," he said.

He added that a recent spate of anti-Semitic incidents in neighboring Russia, including an anti-Semitic letter signed by a group of Russian lawmakers, showed what Ukraine may have averted by defeating Yanukovich, who was backed by pro-

Russian voters and the Kremlin.

"Today, we can better understand what Putin's Russia, which backed Yanukovich, really means," he said.

Some Jews say the key to Yushchenko's success at home will depend on his ability to win the support of the regions that voted overwhelmingly for his competitor and to spread Kiev's standard of living to other parts of the country.

"It is very important to spread the positive changes from Kiev to the regions," said Rudolf Mirsky, a Jewish activist in the city of Lvov.

But some Jews are less optimistic.

"I have both hopes and fears," said Grigory Shoikhet, the Jewish community president and director of a Chabad day school in Kharkov, an eastern city where both non-Jews and Jews supported Yanukovich.

Shoikhet fears the anti-Semitism that has often developed in Ukraine during times of instability and change.

Yushchenko has tried to alleviate

these fears. On Jan. 27, addressing an audience in Krakow, Poland, where he traveled to participate in commemorations of the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Yushchenko said, "I publicly swear that the so-called Jewish question will never be raised in Ukraine."

Meanwhile, some of the first appointments in Yushchenko's administration suggests that politicians of Jewish descent may be as powerful during his presidency as others were during Kuchma's reign.

Yevgeny Chervonenko, another Jewish lawmaker and a close aide to Yushchenko, is expected to be appointed to a key post in the new government. Chervonenko, 45, is also vice president of the United Jewish Community of Ukraine, an umbrella group.

Another public personality with Jewish ancestry already has been appointed secretary of the Council for National Security and Defense. Pyotr Poroshenko, a member of the Parliament, a financier and media

magnate, has never publicized his Jewish background but it is known to many in the Jewish community.

There is a possible pitfall, however. Now that expectations have been raised, they can be dashed if improvements do not follow.

"Now people will simply not allow the authorities to treat them as before," said Semyon Gluzman, head of the Ukrainian-American Bureau for Human Rights in Kiev. "The only thing I'm afraid of is the disappointment of people."

But for now, optimism seems to be prevailing.

"We ourselves must help Yushchenko and his team to change our lives for the better," Gluzman said.

One of Kiev's chief rabbis, Moshe Reuven Azman, echoed this sentiment.

"What I hear from the members of the Jewish community is that it should be us who will help Yushchenko build a flourishing democratic society."

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The theatre owner and co-sponsor, the Buccini/Pollin Group, renovated the theatre last year. Theatre N seats 221 people and features a 35-mm projector, a perforated movie screen, and state-of-the-art Dolby surround sound system. Theatre N is the only movie theatre in New Castle County showing independent films.

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FEBRUARY

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| 4- 6: | Kinsey
rated R, 129 minutes |
| 11- 13: | What the Bleep Do We Know?
not rated, 108 minutes |
| 18- 20: | The Sea Inside (Spain)
rated PG-13, 125 minutes |
| 25- 27: | Bad Education (Spain)
rated NC-17, 109 minutes |