

THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

Serving the Greater Pittsburgh Area

VOL. 43, NO. 39

FEBRUARY 5, 2004 SHEVAT 13, 5764

\$1.00

Sad homecoming



Brian Hendler/JTA photo

Israeli soldiers carry the bodies of Staff Sgt. Benny Avraham, Staff Sgt. Adi Avitan and Staff. Sgt. Omar Souad to lie in state at an official memorial service on Jan. 29, at Lod air force base near Tel Aviv. The soldiers' bodies were returned as part of a prisoner swap with Hezbollah.

IDF soldier's fate touches Pittsburghers

BY STEPHANIE SIEGEL
Assistant Editor

After meeting the family of a kidnapped Israeli soldier, some Pittsburghers were especially touched when his body was returned to Israel last week as part of the controversial swap with Hezbollah.

The bodies of Israel Defense Forces soldiers Benny Avraham, Adi Avitan and Omar Souad were returned to Is-

rael along with live captive Elhanan Tannenbaum on Jan. 22 in exchange for some 435 Arab prisoners.

The soldiers were captured and taken into Lebanon on Oct. 7, 2000, after they were attacked by Hezbollah operatives while patrolling the Israel-Lebanon border. Eight days later, Hezbollah announced they were also holding Tannenbaum, an Israeli businessman.

Less than a year after the kidnappings, as violence in Israel was on the

rise, a group of Pittsburghers, including some of the United Jewish Federation's top leadership, went to Israel on a solidarity mission in 2001.

One stop on their trip was the Bedouin village of Salma in Israel's Misgav region, Pittsburgh's Partnership 2000 area — Souad's hometown.

Souad had been kidnapped about 10 months prior to the visit, said UJF Di-

Please see Soldiers, page 31.

Tu B'Shevat
Ramon's challenge spurred tree-plantings

BY MARCI BARNES
South Hills Correspondent

A year after the death of Israeli astronaut Colonel Ilan Ramon in the tragic explosion of NASA's Space Shuttle Columbia, Tu B'Shevat, this year, holds special meaning.

In an effort to help fulfill Ramon's

dream of planting a tree in Israel for every Jew alive today, the Pittsburgh Jewish community certainly participated.

"Several thousand trees were purchased through congregations in Pittsburgh," said Bobbi Elmer, regional director of the Jewish National Fund, Western Pennsylvania Region. "It was

overwhelming, particularly the response from Beth El, Rodef Shalom and Temple Sinai."

Nationally, the JNF did not reach Ramon's goal of 13 million trees, but Communications Director Serena Roffe says that it is possible in a few

Please see Tu B'Shevat, page 31.

Black/Jewish
dialogue starts on
Pitt campus

BY JO MARKS RIFKIN
Staff Writer

In an effort to cross cultural boundaries, black and Jewish students at the University of Pittsburgh were to meet for an evening of dialogue this week.

The Black Action Society partnered with the The Edward and Rose Berman Hillel Jewish University Center (JUC) on Wednesday to present an award-winning PBS film, "From Swastika to Jim Crow," followed by a student discussion.

The program is the first in a series of events that will bring together student groups from various cultural backgrounds.

"I think it's a great opportunity for us to talk publicly about our fears, and build bridges that need to be put in place," said Jackie Braslawcsce, JUC program director for Pitt. "That's my vision and that's what I hope to bring to my students here in Pittsburgh. It's not an option. It has to be done."

The Anti-Defamation League supported the program, which is part of Pitt's Martin Luther King commemoration.

The next program in the series is an inter-group campus dialogue with JUC, an Islamic student group and three Christian groups later this month.

"From Swastika to Jim Crow" is a documentary that tells the story of Jewish-German scholars who fled Nazi Germany for America and ended up teaching in southern black colleges during the 1930s and '40s.

The refugees arrived in the United States to find a country reeling from depression and rife with anti-Semitic and anti-German sentiment. White, eastern academia was often hostile to them, but black schools welcomed the foreigners.

Southern white neighbors ostracized these educators, who could not invite black students and colleagues into their homes without a probable visit from the Ku Klux Klan. So they socialized mostly behind the walls of black academia.

From the beginning of the civil rights movement, many blacks and Jews stood together, but trust started to erode in the late 1960s with the growth of the Black Power movement and the decline of American anti-Semitism after World War II, as Jews were no longer seen as a persecuted population.

Louis Farrakhan's anti-Semitic rhetoric, the Crown Heights and Harlem riots and Million Man March, hardened distrust among blacks and

Please see Dialogue, page 31.

Metro

Making Russian Jews care about Judaism a 'challenge' for German rabbis

By LEE CHOTTINER
Executive Editor

Rabbi Walter Homolka sees his job as twofold: not only to train German and Eastern European rabbis, but to give Jews with virtually no background in their religion an easy entrance to Jewish life.

There are some 120,000 Jews in Germany these days — a major increase from the 18,000 who lived there before the Berlin Wall came down. However, few of those Jews, mostly Russian by birth, have any kind of background or interest in Judaism.

"The challenge is to show them why they should affiliate with the Jewish community," he said.

Homolka, the executive director of Abraham Geiger College in Potsdam, which trains rabbis in the liberal (Reform) tradition, visited Pittsburgh this weekend where he gave a Saturday sermon at Rodef Shalom Congregation. Rodef Shalom's rabbi emeritus, Walter Jacob, serves as president of Abraham Geiger.

The college's dean of academic studies,

Admiel Kosman, also made the trip to speak at the Milton Harris Interfaith Lecture.

Founded in 1999, Abraham Geiger, which has eight rabbinical students enrolled, but has yet to graduate one from its five-year program, is already sending its students to congregations without rabbis free of charge to the congregation.

In that respect, Homolka said the school is already having an impact on communities its graduates will eventually serve.

Yet Russian Jews, even though they identify as Jews for government purposes — German religious groups receive state funding through income taxes from their members — rarely affiliate.

In Munich for instance, 4,000 Jews live, yet only 150 of them actually affiliate with the city's five nominally Orthodox synagogues, which receive state support, and 200 attend the one liberal synagogue, which is self-financed.

Some German Jewish leaders have suggested that Russian Jews be allowed to live there only if their Jewishness can be determined halachically — an idea Ho-

molka dismissed as "preposterous."

"Do you really want German civil servants deciding who is going to get the green card on a halachic basis?" he asked. "That's pushing it."

Still, once Russian Jews become integrated into the community they became strong supporters.

Case in point: A congregation in Hameln with 300 members (and co-founded by a woman born in Butler County, Rachael Dohme) is 99 percent Russian.

Jacob, who makes at least two trips to Geiger per year, said liberal communities such as Hameln often face different problems. Unlike the nominally Orthodox synagogues and organizations in Germany, liberal organizations, get no funding from the taxes German Jews pay.

He said the Central Council of German Jews is responsible for doling out the money in a pluralistic way, but only traditional groups get funded.

"They have not been willing to recognize this sort of (pluralistic) approach," Jacob said, "and we are fighting this because we are entitled to a percentage of the funding."

On another issue, despite reports of resurging anti-Semitism in Europe, Homolka said the climate for practicing Jews in Germany is hardly dangerous.

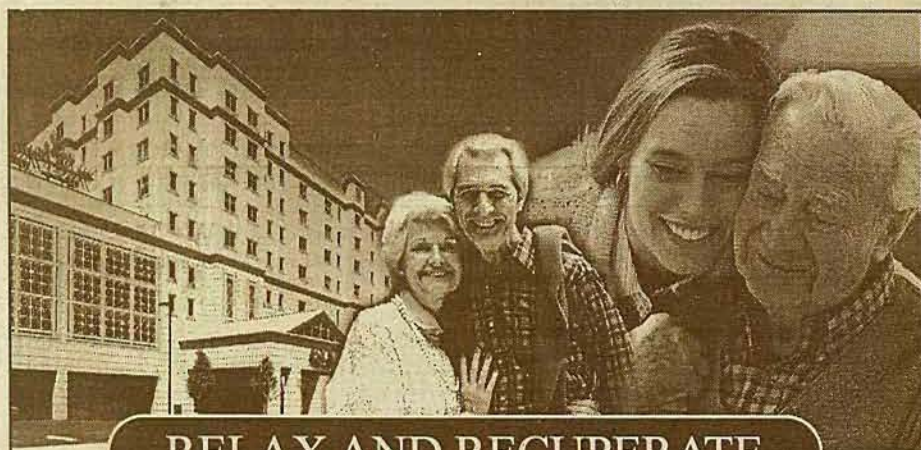
In fact, Homolka, a chaplain in the German army, says he's "flabbergasted" by the stories of anti-Semitism, because he rarely sees examples of it.

"I cannot say we have more anti-Semitism in Germany than we've had in the last decades, and we've had very little," Homolka said. "I think we're talking about a new Germany. I am German born, and I think this country has done a great deal" to make up since the Holocaust.

He said there is a problem in Europe, especially in France, with anti-Semitic acts and messages generated by fundamentalist Muslims from North Africa, but that hardly transcends Islam in Europe.

In fact, he noted a recent and unexpected guest of a liberal synagogue in Germany during the Sabbath was a Turkish imam. He was there to offer his sympathies for the recent synagogue attacks in Istanbul.

(Lee Chottiner can be reached online at lchottiner@pittchron.com.)



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Correction

Beatrice Slutsky's name was misspelled in the article, "Undoing Salk"

dramatizes story behind polio vaccine in last week's Chronicle.

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METRO

Donors up



UJF photo

Several Fundfest 2004 volunteers made phone calls to the community last week in an effort to help raise funds to support community programs and services. Fundfest phoning sessions were held at the UJF Building and South Hills JCC.

Fundfest gives boost to UJF campaign

The United Jewish Federation's annual Fundfest phone-a-thon has given a boost to the UJF Annual Community Campaign, in both total dollars and the number of new donors to the campaign.

More than 1,568 donors made commitments to the 2004 Annual Community Campaign during Fundfest, 228 of them are new donors to the UJF. More than \$515,000 was raised at a 16 percent card-for-card increase during the five-day phone-a-thon, in which more than 193 volunteers participated.

The Fundfest results pushed the UJF Community Campaign past the \$5.2 million mark toward an ambitious goal of \$11.7 million for the 2004 Campaign. "Even with the miserable weather and bad driving conditions they turned

out to phone," Lori Shure, community chair, said in a prepared statement. "The 228 new donors who made commitments this year will also have a huge impact on us reaching our 1,250 new donor goal and on growing the campaign."

Linda Joshowitz co-chairs the community level of the campaign with Shure.

Four sessions of Fundfest were held at the UJF Building in Oakland and one was held at the South Hills Jewish Community Center. Volunteers are still needed for follow-up phonings to finish the campaign in March, April and May. Contact Samantha Rothaus at (412) 992-5237 or srothaus@ujf.net for more information.

Elder Express expands route; UPMC Shadyside added

Elder Express, the new transportation service for adults ages 65 and older, will tentatively add UPMC Shadyside Hospital and Waterfront stops to its route through February.

Elder Express will evaluate the use of the new stops at the end of the month and determine whether to make them permanent parts of the schedule.

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (JCC) is coordinating the Elder Express shuttle service thanks to funding from the United Jewish Federation (UJF) Foundation

and the Ladies Hospital Aid Society.

The Elder Express route repeats a loop three times a day through the Squirrel Hill area. Stops include the JCC, Giant Eagle, UPMC Shadyside Hospital, and residential buildings such as Riverview, Maxon Towers, Murray Towers, Morrowfield, Weinberg Village, Weinberg Terrace, Imperial House, Forward-Shady, and Beacon Place.

Call ElderExpress at (412) 702-0050 for more information.

Briefly

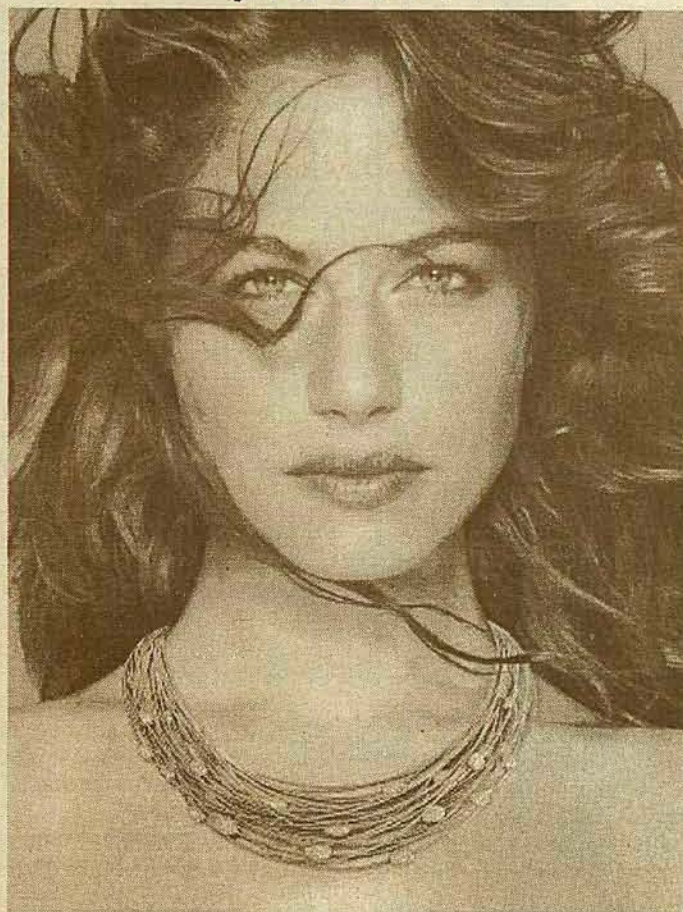
The Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh's Adult Services Department is collecting used cell phones with chargers to be distributed to senior adults in the community. Even without connected service, you can dial 911 on a used cell phone for emergency use. For information about donating a phone or receiving one, contact Melissa Stanton at (412) 521-8011, Ext. 335, or visit the JCC's Squirrel Hill location at 5738 Forbes Ave. or the South Hills lo-

cation at 345 Kane Blvd. off Bower Hill Road.

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh's Special Needs Department will offer a ceramics class for teens and adults with physical, cognitive or social/emotional disabilities at the JCC's Squirrel Hill location, 5738 Forbes Ave. JCC members and non-members are welcome to participate on Wednesdays, from Feb 11 through March 17, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. To register, call Barbara Milch, the JCC's special needs coordinator, at (412) 521-8011, Ext. 244.

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HOW SHOULD PROPERTY BE HELD BETWEEN SPOUSES?



K. Sidney Neuman

One of the most frequently asked questions of an estate planner is how a married couple should hold their collective assets. A recent article by Liz Pullien Weston found on CNBC.com dealt with the limited issue of whether an inheritance received by one spouse should be shared with the other. This, of course, deals with one part of the larger issue of allocating assets between spouses. The strength of the marriage, as Ms. Weston pointed out, is of major importance, particularly when we consider that over a third of all marriages end in divorce.

Whether assets should be held jointly as tenants by the entireties, as tenants in common, or in the separate names of each spouse depends in a particular case on many factors. These factors include: whether it is a first marriage; how long the parties have been married; what assets each spouse had at the time of marriage; whether there are children of a prior marriage and the desire to protect such children; whether there are children of the marriage; the age of each spouse; the size of the collective assets of the two spouses; the nature of the assets, tangibles, real, personal, or intangibles; the desire of each spouse as to what would occur should that spouse die first either suddenly or after a prolonged illness; whether the spouses would prefer that the survivor remarry; whether there was a prenuptial or postnuptial agreement; the health of each spouse; whether the combined assets are likely to be subject to federal and/or state inheritance tax; the importance to each spouse of minimizing or avoiding entirely the taxes at death of either the first or both spouses; the profession or occupation of each spouse; the financial risks undertaken by one or both spouses; whether such assets are held in qualified retirement plans, qualified college savings plans, trusts established by parents or grandparents or in asset protection trusts; whether such assets include closely-held business or controlling interest in family enterprises; the propensity of one or both spouses to gamble or otherwise spend excessively in light of the size of the asset holdings; and who do the parties want to benefit from their property in the case of a common disaster or upon the death of the survivor.

In the following weeks we intend to look at each of these factors and their importance in deciding how and under what circumstances property should be held by the married couple in either joint names or individual names.

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Northern Suburbs

Keeping kosher is possible outside of Squirrel Hill

BY HILARY DANINHIRSCH

Northern Suburbs Correspondent

Keeping kosher while living in the Fox Chapel area is challenging, but not impossible.

Two of the main grocery stores in the area, Giant Eagle at Waterworks and Community Market in the Fox Chapel Plaza, carry some kosher meat products.

Dennis Lowder, manager of Community Market's meat department, stocks Empire chicken, a carryover from when Community Market was the Food Gallery. He said the product sells well and the store orders it from their supplier on a weekly basis.

Community Market also carries a limited selection of bread products, primarily challah, supplied by Simple Treats Bakery.

The Waterworks Giant Eagle also carries Empire products, including chicken and processed meats. It also stocks Hebrew National prepackaged meats and Weiss corned beef.

Giant Eagle has an "ethnic foods" aisle featuring convenience foods, including Asian, Mexican and kosher food items. Kosher baked goods are usually available at holiday time.

Rabbi Ely Rosenfeld of Chabad Fox Chapel is frustrated by his inability to find a wide variety of kosher meats without going into Squirrel Hill. He believes there is a sufficient Jewish population in the Fox Chapel area that could support more kosher meat products at the local grocery stores. He does not believe that the kosher food aisle at Giant Eagle fully meets the needs of those who keep kosher.

"For real kosher shopping, there is no point in going there in the first place," he said.

Raising awareness of the availability of kosher products has been one of Rosenfeld's goals. A few years ago Chabad set up booths in several Giant Eagles around the city and tried to highlight the kosher items in the stores.

Rosenfeld said they wanted people to be aware that 50 percent of the products are actually kosher.

"It was a big success," he said. "People were almost shocked to discover that there really is that much kosher food."

He added, however, that the greater issue for most folks who observe dietary laws is the availability of meats and baked goods.

When a new Chabad comes to an area with a small Jewish community, one of the first things they do, says Rosenfeld, is make contact with local supermarkets to arrange for a steady supply of kosher food. Rosenfeld's desire is for observant families in the Fox Chapel area to be able to procure most of what they need without having to go to Squirrel Hill.

"Keeping kosher in today's day and age doesn't have to be hard and having to go to Squirrel Hill makes it hard," he said. "We have a decent-sized Jewish community here. We are almost dependent on Squirrel Hill for that major aspect of our lives continuously."

Brian Frey of Giant Eagle Corporation said the company is always "performing market research so we understand the customer base in each location and their lifestyles and needs. We're always examining opportunities and new products to better meet the needs of our customers."

He added that Giant Eagle is willing to source various items for consumers upon request.

(Hilary Daninhirsch can be reached online at hilarysd@comcast.net.)

Middle school volunteer honored as 'Community Quarterback'

BY STEVE SILVER

Teen Correspondent

Volunteering more than 20 hours a month at the Center for Creative Play is enough to certify Temple Sinai eighth grader Lindsay Forman as a mensch.

Forman, who attends the Rogers Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts, also donated a portion of her bat mitzvah money to the Center.

This is why the Pittsburgh Steelers honored Forman as a finalist in the NFL and Parade Magazine's Community Quarterback contest.

"Lindsay is energetic and caring and fun," said director of volunteers for the Center for Creative Play, Shannon Williams. "She is an all-around great teenager, one of the good ones that we don't hear enough about."

Forman, who was recently accepted into the Creative and Performing Arts High School for technical theater, began volunteering at the Center in the summer of 2003 to fulfill service requirements for the National Junior Honors Society. At the center, Forman helped create art projects that were tailored to whatever disabilities a child at the Center might have.

From there, she fell in love with the

kids and started volunteering regularly. "I really like it when the kids can interact together and you get to see every type of kid playing with each other," Forman said.

Forman has become a regular in the art room at the Center, but she has also taken a liking to watching the children play in the ballpit. "I like sitting back and seeing the creativity that comes from the kids in the ball-pit," Forman said.

Although Forman has surpassed the 100 hours required for the NJHS, she continues to volunteer at the Center and hopes that it will turn into a paying job. "I do like technical theater, but making a career at the Center would be so much fun, you always get to play."

In a manner reminiscent of the cadets at her dream college, the Naval Academy, Forman shrugs off any mention of her being special for volunteering her time at the Center.

"I had totally forgotten that Shannon had nominated me for any awards until she told me that I had won," Forman said. "So I was really surprised and was like 'cool' then went back to playing with the kids."

(The Center For Creative Play has a Web site, www.center4creativeplay.org.)

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Published every Thursday by the
Pittsburgh Jewish Publication
and Education Foundation
5600 Baum Blvd.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Phone: 687-1000
FAX: 687-5119

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METRO

Gabriel next in Arabs for Israel series

Brigitte Gabriel will be the next speaker in the campus-based Arabs for Israel speaker series.

Her talk, "Betrayed By My Country, Rescued By My Enemy — Israel" will take place at 4:30 p.m., Feb. 19, at the Giant Eagle Auditorium in Baker Hall at Carnegie Mellon University, and at 8 p.m., that same day at the William Pitt Union, lower lounge, at the University of Pittsburgh.

Born in the United States and raised in Lebanon, Gabriel is one of the few Arab-Americans to speak out publicly in support of Israel. Her story of how she and her parents endured the occupation of Lebanon by Syria and attacks by the PLO is an example of personal bravery in the face of overwhelming prejudice and violence.

She tells of how she was trained to hate Jews and how her enemies later became her friends.

Gabriel, who is fluent in four languages, has been an anchor for "World News" — the evening news broadcast for Middle East Television

seen weeknights throughout Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Cyprus and Lebanon. She is a former production coordinator for ARD (German Television) in South Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank. She also worked as a satellite video distribution coordinator for METV/WTN (Worldwide Television News) studios in London for daily Eurovision Satellite Distribution to networks worldwide.

She relocated to the United States in 1989 where she founded an entertainment company providing services to national and international media clients. In 2002, Gabriel founded ACT (American Congress for Truth) to provide information about the Middle East conflict. She is currently an independent producer for "20/20," "Good Morning America" and other television programs.

The Young Zionist Organization of America, Israel on Campus, the Jewish University Center, Chabad and Pittsburgh District ZOA are supporting the The Arabs for Israel Speaker Series, which is free to the public.



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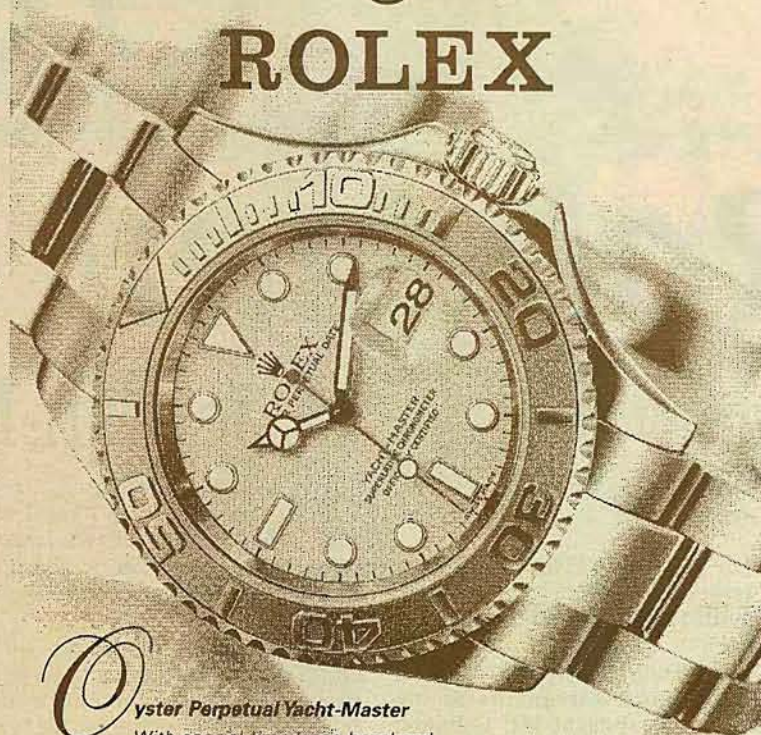
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Style

Roll 'em!

Plenty of firsts at Jewish-Israeli Film Festival

BY LEE CHOTTINER
Executive Editor

The 11th annual Jewish-Israeli film festival is more Israeli than ever.

The month-long festival, which runs from March 4 through 21 at venues throughout the city and the South Hills, including first-time screenings at the University of Pittsburgh, Mt. Lebanon and Bridgeville, will showcase a record number of Israeli films.

"We have more than half Israeli films this year," said the film festival's executive director, Kathryn Spitz. "Last year, we had more Israeli films than ever before, and this year we have more than last year."

That doesn't necessarily say anything about the growth of the Israeli film industry, she noted, "but it does say the film festival is really trying to help the Israeli film industry by screening as many quality films as possible."

Out of 16 feature and documentary films at this year's festival, 10 are from Israel. The rest are American, Canadian, French, German and Swedish.

Of the hundred films previewed, Spitz said, the majority were from Israel.

This year's film schedule, which was just released by the festival, is an eclectic, often dramatic and sometimes controversial line-up of productions.

The festival opens on March 4 with "James' Journey to Jerusalem." An Israeli film in Hebrew, English and Zulu, it's the story of a young African chosen by his village to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where his mistaken arrest leads him on a journey of misfortune turn adventure and courage.

The resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe is the subject of the French documentary "Decryptage," which examines media coverage of the second intifada and whether it contributes to

European anti-Semitism.

And the Israeli film "Yossi and Jagger," tells the story of two Israeli army officers who carry out a secret love affair on a remote army base in southern Lebanon.

"We're doing the things we always do," Spitz said. "We try to have a broad range of films for the entire audience, so there's not one theme. We try to take the best films covering a broad range of topics."

Again this year, the festival is planning several post-screening talks and programs.

A panel of reporters will discuss "Decryptage." The producer of "Miss Entebbe," which looks at terrorism through the eyes of children, is expected to be at the screening, and Stephen A. Glassman, chairman of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the first openly gay individual to receive a gubernatorial appointment in this state, will speak following the screening of "Yossi and Jagger."

In a first for the film festival, cast members from the documentary, "The Power of Balance," about a dance company that performs with the disabled, will come to Pittsburgh during the festival — only not to speak.

They plan to hold three 3-hour dance workshops in Pittsburgh with local dancers and disabled participants before staging their own work-in-progress performance here.

"To me, it doesn't get any better than that," Spitz said.

In addition to screening films for the first time at the Denis Theater in Mt. Lebanon and the Destinta in Bridgeville, the film festival will make its debut at the University of Pittsburgh.

"We had wanted to branch out to younger people for a long time," Spitz said. "This year, we finally coordinated a screening through [the Jewish Uni-

Info:

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filmfestival@ujf.net

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Destinta Theatres-Bridgeville
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11th Annual

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A project of the United Jewish Federation

The Pittsburgh Jewish-Israeli Film Festival runs from March 4 to 21. See listings, p. 24

versity Center] that will take place on campus at the University of Pittsburgh, which is so exciting to me."

Spitz said she's excited about the festival's growth to new venues and hopes

new audiences will be reached.

"Have film festival, will travel," she said.

(Lee Chottiner can be reached online at lchottiner@pittchron.com.)

Cool Jews

BY ANGELA LEIBOWICZ

Name: Joshua Schriftman

Occupation: Adjunct faculty at CCAC; prep cook at Soba in Shadyside

Cool Scale: Subtle and understated

Favorite quote: "My usual approach is to start off the class being really, really mean so that I can get rid of everybody who's afraid of doing more work. And then, the second class, I warm up to them. It works really well."

Who hasn't lived through that type of teaching method?

When you get to know Joshua Schrift-

man, 30, it's just hard to believe he wouldn't start out as Mr. Nice Guy teacher.

Schriftman grew up in Blacksburg, Va. He has done some interesting travel since he was 20 years old and took time off from school (he has bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Virginia Tech). Often, he worked in foreign countries to raise money to live.



Chronicle photo by
Angela Leibowicz

Joshua Schriftman

Back in Blacksburg, he was managing a travel agency when he met his fiancé, Pittsburgher Lindsay Adelsheim, while at a business meeting in

Los Angeles. She, too, was managing a travel agency, in Pittsburgh, at the time.

Now settled in Shadyside, Schriftman earns a living doing the expected and unexpected.

He teaches introductory composition at CCAC and laughs as he talks about the pretend mean act he starts the semester with. There's also part-time work as assistant editor of the Latin American Literary Review and freelance writing.

At Soba, Schriftman does prep work in the kitchen. When he comes in, he gets a long list of tasks to complete, including preparation of sauces, dumplings and soups.

"I love cooking," Schriftman said. [I'm in a] "uniquely cool position — I'm the only person who hasn't gone to culinary school. ... If I'm ever there chopping onions or something for two hours, I can say to myself, 'At least I don't have to pay

for culinary school.'"

"Until I worked there (Soba), I really thought of it as strictly hobby territory. But the more I learn, the more I see the workings of a restaurant, that's sort of a viable, career path to me now, too." Schriftman watched and helped his mom in the kitchen, but he never trained to cook.

Schriftman and fiancé Adelsheim, who is working on her master's degree in information library science at the University of Pittsburgh, plan to raise their family here because of the community and all the city offers. "It's nice to know that the friends we make are going to be here," he explained.

(Know any Cool Jews? Send suggestions to pittsburghcooljews@yahoo.com or call (412) 687-1003. Please include the person's contact information and what makes them cool.)

'Dream House' a fun, far-from-perfect read

BY BRIAN BALK
For The Chronicle

"Dream House," Rochelle Krich's second effort in her Molly Blume series, tries hard to wiggle that square peg into that round hole. It's not the credibility of Ms. Blume, being a Modern Orthodox novelist-writer-amateur sleuth that's the problem. It is that the gumshoe detective work, which is the center focus of the storyline, often flies in the face of Judaic virtues.

The plot revolves around the disappearance of the wealthy, musically talented and beautiful Margaret Reston. Krich plants many potential suspects at the onset, and dutifully carries these suspects throughout the tale. The novel is set in the old, well-heeled neighborhoods of Los Angeles where stunning architecture, as well as movie stars and millionaires, set it apart. Krich displays how the Modern Orthodoxy has comfortably weaved its way into the West Coast landscape by making old-world Yiddish phrases skillfully coexist with incessant L.A. traffic snarls.

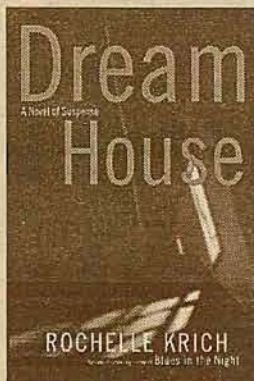
Krich obviously intended this book for today's audience. She sprinkles it with headlines from today's newspapers (i.e.: the Chandra Levy and Laci Peterson murders) and with today's cosmopolitan advantages — Supercuts, Priceline and nondairy cheesecake. Readers might appreciate the hip references, but the story will soon be outdated as Paris Hilton replaces Laci in the headlines.

She excels at figurative descriptions throughout the book, painting accurate and succinct pictures of people, topography and architecture. The dialogue, however, is too sweetly cute, too articulately lucid, and too incredibly concise throughout. Normal people, no matter how bright and well-spoken they are, cannot speak with such self-assurance. The all-too-perfect dialogue applies to all characters no matter how rough and gruff or intellectually schooled they are.

"Dream House" fails to turn the tables on suspicions. Although the twists in the plot are more than adequate for

novel is chock filled with characters of all levels of dysfunction and quirkiness. Having abnormal characters might be a good literary technique, but in this case, it soon becomes a worn out, he-ain't-what-you-think game.

Character development, unfortunately, is riddled with tired stereotypes. The contractor is coarse with obscenity-laden speech, the architectural professor is erudite and lacking passion for everything but man-made structures, and her bright sister is the doting Jewish mother who has put her legal career second to



raising her family. The characters with the most depth, which is no surprise, are those from the Orthodox community. In this case Krich does not break one of the cardinal rules of novel writing, write what you

know.

The most entertaining aspects are beyond the suspenseful plot. The close-knit Los Angeles Jewish community and wise teachings of Molly's frail grandmother piques interest more than the whodunit mystery. Having Molly Blume trying to balance the drive to unearth the clues with her drive to seek a stable, happy relationship, is authentic. It is the development of this personal side of Molly Blume that gives credibility to her tenacious, courageous and keenly observant professional side.

Krich, inexplicably, fails to fully digest the moral conundrums that an ambitious modern Orthodox detective might undergo. Among the federal and state laws she flagrantly violates in the pursuit of righteousness are: breaking and entering (twice), withholding evidence in a criminal investigation and even goes as far as using her kind-hearted grandmother in a ruse to pry information.

As a mystery/suspense novel, "Dream House" is a fun, albeit somewhat predictable, read. Just try not to think about the moral incompatibilities that Krich unknowingly presents.

Book Review

Dream House, by Rochelle Krich, Ballantine Books, \$24.95.

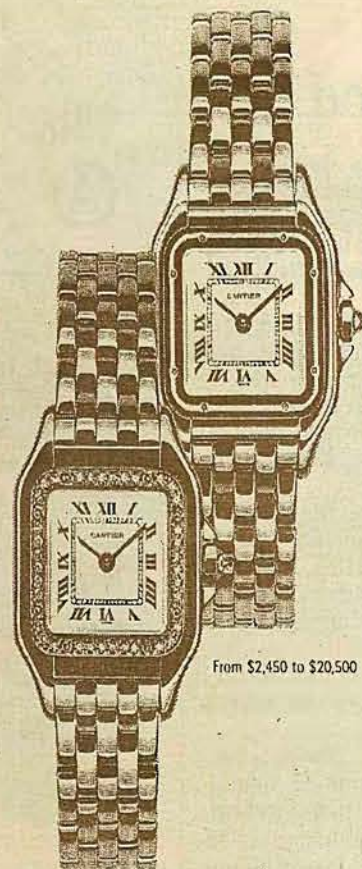
Briefly

Comedian **Robert Schimmel**, who has appeared on Howard Stern, Conan O'Brien and the HBO special, "Unprotected," will headline at the Improv comedy club at 8 p.m. on Feb. 12; 8 and 10 p.m. on Feb. 13; 7, 9 and 11 p.m. on Feb. 14; and 7 p.m. on Feb. 15. The Improv is located at The Stacks at The Waterfront, 166 E. Bridge St. in Homestead. For tickets, call (412) 462-5233.

Chatham Baroque presents "Les Nations: All in Good Taste," with music by Telemann, Handel, Couperin and others. Joining the ensemble are guests Stephen Schultz, baroque flute, and Barbara Weiss, harpsichord. Performances at 8 p.m., Feb. 13, at the United Methodist Church in Sewickley; 8 p.m., Feb. 14, at Synod Hall in Oakland; and 2:30 p.m., Feb. 15, at Chatham College. Call ProArts at (412) 394-3353 for tickets.

The 114-year-old Tuesday Musical Club will present a free concert, "Mid Winter/American Music/Black History Month Program," at 12:30 p.m., Feb. 10, at the Frick Art & Historical Center, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze. A reception will follow the program.

A Bridge Across, The University of Pittsburgh's concert series devoted to intercultural music, will return this month after a hiatus of several years. British Nigerian composer and performer Tunde Jegede will present a concert of traditional and contemporary music for the kora, a 21-stringed harp/lute from Mali, West Africa. Tunde's compositions have been performed by the Brodsky Quartet, Evelyn Glennie, The Royal Philharmonia, the Philharmonia, The Britten Sinfonia and the London Mozart Players. The concert takes place at 8 p.m., Feb. 16, in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. Tickets are available at the door.



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The Community Day School (CDS)/Solomon Schechter, an independent school located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, seeks a Head of School beginning July 2004. The K to 8th grade school enrolls 350 students from diverse Jewish backgrounds. Fully accredited, CDS has a 30 year history of providing excellence in secular and Jewish education. The Head of School will be responsible for managing all aspects of CDS, will work with a Board of Trustees and supervise an experienced staff and faculty of more than 40 professionals. **Qualified candidates will have an advanced degree, prior teaching and administrative experience, outstanding communication and interpersonal skills and a vision for educational excellence. Highly competitive salary. Attractive benefits.**

Qualified applicants are invited to send a letter of interest, resume, contact information for three references and a statement of educational philosophy, preferably by e-mail to **CDSsearch@jei.net**, or by mail to Community Day School, Attn. Search Committee, 6424 Forward Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Green is good

Gov. Ed Rendell's decision to make the environment the cornerstone of his 2004 budget proposal should be music to the ears of conservationists and — hopefully — the Jewish community.

Rendell's budget, which he introduced this week, will propose funding to improve state streams, forests and parks. It would stimulate economic growth with \$2 billion in state bonds, which include loans for capital projects and money for water and sewer systems.

He also proposes more funding for "nature tourism," which includes hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, boating, camping and bird watching; and investing up to \$100 million in programs of the state Fish and Boat Commission, including improvements to fish hatcheries that are used to stock streams and lakes for fishermen.

To some, Rendell's emphasis may seem misguided. They think he should make tax reduction — the mantra of his 2002 campaign for governor — and education reform his highest priorities.

Indeed, we shouldn't let the governor forget his pledge to do something about property taxes as soon as his first day in office. Still, Rendell is on to something.

Want to generate jobs in Pennsylvania? Manufacturing won't do it. Technology lets companies produce more goods with fewer workers, while other jobs continue to be exported abroad.

And high tech is still an iffy proposition, as the dot.com bust and recently-announced merger of Pittsburgh-based FreeMarkets Inc. with a California company show.

Biotechnology and robotics have possibilities, especially here in Pittsburgh, but the growth will be measured and slow.

So what does Pennsylvania have left? More than 200 years of history, hundreds of miles of streams and rivers, and thousands of acres of forests and farmland. Tourism can be a bigger job producer than it currently is.

For Jews, Rendell's timing couldn't be better. He makes his budget proposal the same week we celebrate Tu B'Shevat, which has come to be seen as the Jewish Earth Day.

As we hold our seders and pledge to plant trees in Israel, let's also reaffirm our commitment to growing greener here at home.

Relocation supported

If Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is serious about relocating 17 settlements in the Gaza Strip, our response is, "at last!"

Jews can, and do, disagree about the West Bank. It is, after all, where our patriarchs are buried — the biblical land of Israel.

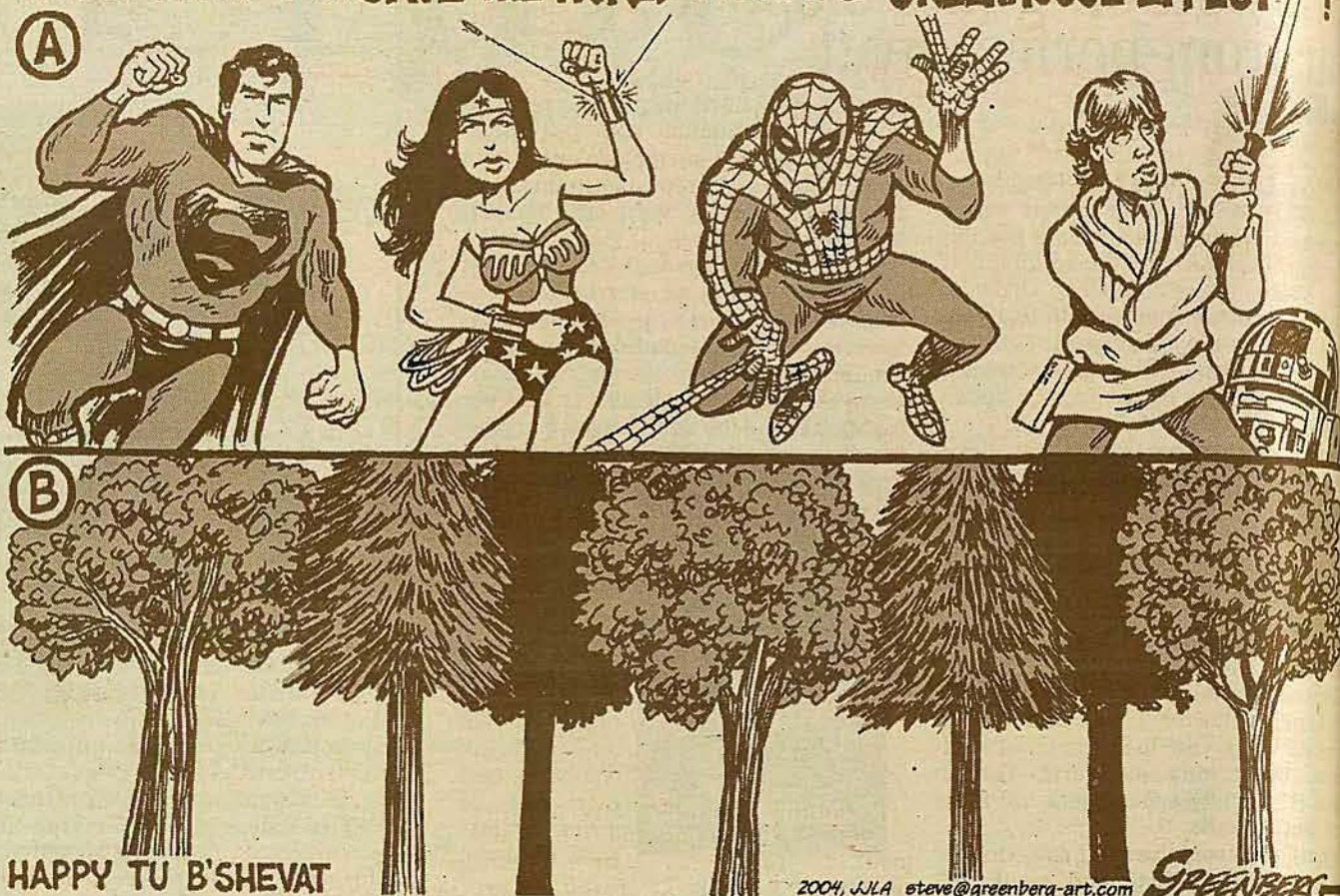
But we've all known for sometime that there will be no Jewish future in Gaza; to keep a handful of Israeli settlements there amid 1.2 million Arabs, especially in the current climate, is a recipe for disaster.

Israel has just completed a controversial prisoner exchange in which 429 Arab prisoners were handed over to Hezbollah in return for one Israeli businessman and three dead IDF soldiers — not a fair swap.

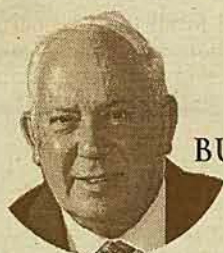
Yet Hamas has said it, too, will now try to capture Israelis to use as bargaining chips. The Gaza settlers represent their best opportunities.

Israel gains nothing by remaining in Gaza. Fortunately, Sharon now seems to acknowledge that fact.

WHICH GROUP CAN SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE 'GREENHOUSE EFFECT'?



For a moment, Jews, Arabs one family



JAY
BUSHINSKY

TEL AVIV — The sight and sound seemed surrealistic: A Muslim imam, dressed in a ceremonial robe and wearing a turban, chanted the traditional Islamic prayer for the dead in front of a plain pine coffin draped in the blue and white flag of Israel as the slain soldier's devout father prayed in Arabic alongside him.

Israel's leaders were paying their last respects to 1st Sgt. Omar Souad, a 27-year-old Beduin Arab citizen of Israel, who was severely wounded by Hezbollah guerrillas on Oct. 7, 2000, and died shortly thereafter.

His coffin had been placed next to those of his two fallen comrades, 1st Sgts. Avi Avitan and Benny Avraham. Their fathers recited the Kaddish, the mourners' prayer, in Hebrew.

It was one of the saddest moments in Israel's history.

For more than three years, the three bereaved families had clung to the hope that their sons might still be alive. They were tormented by the Hezbollah's refusal to reveal or confirm that all three died in the ambush its Lebanon-based gunmen perpetrated on the Israeli side of the United Nations-demarcated border. The deadly operation occurred only five months after Israel's hectic unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the region's immediate takeover by the guerrillas.

To retrieve the dead soldiers and rescue a 58-year-old Israeli businessman who was abducted by Hezbollah eight days after the ambush (despite his status as a reserve army colonel privy to vital military secrets, Tannenbaum took an

unauthorized trip to the Persian Gulf sheikhdom of Abu Dhabi and ended up a Hezbollah captive in Lebanon), Israel agreed to release 429 Palestinian, Lebanese and other Arab prisoners in a complicated German-brokered tradeoff that included Iran in the deal.

Despite the controversy here over the wisdom and justice of this swap, (generated by its failure to produce even a scrap of information about the fate and whereabouts of missing Israeli Air Force navigator Ron Arad, who was shot down over Lebanon 18 years ago), there was no denying its profound humanitarian aspects.

First and foremost, it adhered to one of Judaism's highest precepts: the ransom of captives, known in Hebrew as 'pidyon sh'vuyim.' One life was saved, that of Tannenbaum. And according to the ancient saying, he who saves a single human life saves an entire world.

Also of great significance, it demonstrated the fact that Israel's Arab citizens (nearly 20 percent of its population), especially those who are ethnic Beduin whose tribes date back thousands of years, share a common destiny with their Jewish neighbors.

There are too many here who forget that the Arabs who opted to remain in 1948, and not to flee as did the majority who became stateless refugees, threw in their lot with the Jews. Like Sgt. Souad, thousands of them have worn the Israeli uniform and gone into combat.

And the most touching outcome of the fatal ambush in which he lost his life is that a unique and lifelong bond was established between his parents and those of Sgts. Avitan and Avraham. To see them visiting and embracing one another is to believe that they belong to the same Israeli family, Jews and Arabs alike, because that is the real fact of life here.

(Jay Bushinsky is an Israel-based correspondent. He can be reached online at jay@actcom.co.il.)

Letters to the editor

We invite you to submit letters for publication. Letters must include name, address and daytime phone number; addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Letters may not exceed 300 words and may be edited for length and clarity; they cannot be returned. Mail, fax or e-mail letters to:

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The Jewish Chronicle	News@pittchron.com
5600 Baum Boulevard	via fax
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep the Golan

Anticipating the usual vituperation against Israel for any of its actions, planned or actual, please be advised of the following:

The Golan was never a part of sacred Arab territory until after World War I. At that time, among its assignation of mandates, the League of Nations placed Palestine under British and Syria under French management. A British and a French diplomat then met to determine a formal boundary between these two mandates in what came to be known as the Sykes-Picot Agreement.

The Golan up to that time had always been a part of Palestine. However, the French were concerned that, although then allies, at some future time the British might decide to sweep down into Damascus from the Golan Heights. To allay the fears of the French, the British agreed to move the boundary south so that the Golan would now be located within Syria. As it happened, the British, as a mandatory power, had no authority to do this, but this agreement prevailed.

Now, even if the above were not true, there is no recorded case in the history of civilization where an aggressor nation (Syria in the Six-Day War) in a war it lost obtained the return of territory seized by the defender in its own defense.

Why always a double standard when

Please see Letters, next page.

Bus bombing hits close to home



TEDDY WEINBERGER

GIVAT ZE'EV — I happened to be riding the bus into Jerusalem with my daughter Rebecca on the morning of Jan. 29. Rebecca normally leaves the house around 7 a.m., but she had been referred by our family doctor for X-rays of her ribs, and so she was riding in on the 8:50 with me. The next bus that Rebecca normally takes is the No. 19.

A few minutes after we boarded our bus, the first reports of the suicide bombing of the No. 19 came on over the radio.

Rebecca reacted initially with typical Israeli sang-froid. She wanted to know the exact location of the bombing and if it was going to interfere with our travel plans. As we continued our ride into Jerusalem, the news became graver, going from "several casualties" to "a number of dead and many injured." After getting Rebecca situated at the X-ray center, I left her to manage on her own and to then walk to school.

Late that night we received a phone call from Drori, our son Nathan's former teacher (Nathan switched schools in January). One of the victims in the bombing, 38-year-old Anya Bunder, was the mother of Shimon, one of Nathan's classmates. Coincidentally, Anya also was the mother of Nehama, a girl in Rebecca's class. The Bunders had lived in Givat Ze'ev for a number of years. We had carpooled with them one year, but had only exchanged brief snippets of conversation here and there. A few years ago the couple divorced and Shimon and Nehama moved with Anya to Jerusalem.

The whole 10th grade at Nathan's former school went to Anya's funeral on Jan. 30, and Nathan went with them. Rebecca chose not to attend the funeral, although most of the ninth grade from her school was there as

well.

I asked Nathan what he felt about the experience of going to the funeral of a friend's mother who had been killed by a terrorist. In a striking example of parent-adolescent conversation, he said: "I don't know what I think about it. Just leave me alone."

I then went to Rebecca and asked her whether she thought that living in Israel was worth it, and told her that there might be people who wondered whether it was better to stay in America and not risk being blown up by terrorists. Rebecca was a little more forthcoming than Nathan. She said: "I don't get the connection. It's still our country and the Jews need to stay here, blah, blah, blah."

I paid a shiva call to Shimon and Nehama on Monday. Nathan and his former classmates were there. There was a plaque on the door with three names, one on top of the other: Anya, Shimon, Nehama. I sat in the room with Shimon and his friends for a while. Shimon was saying that a number of people who had lost loved ones to terrorists had come to give him strength and support. I looked around the apartment and was overcome by a terrible sadness at a family destroyed. Where will Shimon and Nehama live now? I left the mourning house with Drori, and we walked up Gaza Street. Drori said, "We're taking Anya's last walk."

In the end, this bombing has not caused anyone to reassess "the situation." The only difference this time around for my family was that we could feel the tragedy more, since we were acquainted with one of the victims and her children, and since it occurred on the bus route that Rebecca uses to get to school every day.

I only hope and pray that somewhere the soul of Anya will watch over Shimon and Nehama as they try to get on with their lives and grow into adulthood without the guidance and love of their mother.

(Teddy Weinberger, director of resource development for the Israel Religious Action Center, is also a columnist who lives in a Jerusalem suburb, just over the Green Line. He can be reached online at weinross@netvision.net.)

CHRONICLE LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor reflect the opinions of their authors and not those of The Jewish Chronicle. Letters are welcomed and encouraged, but must not exceed 300 words. The editors reserve the right to delete material from letters or reject them completely because of

space limitations, subject material or redundancy with other letters. Letters should be typed and must include the writer's signature and telephone number for verification purposes. Letters that cannot be verified will not be published.

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IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE...



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from previous page.

it comes to Israel? And let us not forget that for decades the Golan was a launching platform for firing down into Israeli communities located below with their attendant casualties. Also, part of the Golan, including the town of Kuneitra, which the Syrians said they wanted to rebuild, but never did, was returned under the aegis of Henry Kissinger.

Harold Spokane
Monroeville

9/11 caused job loss

I must respond to all the Democratic candidates and their accusations about jobs being lost during the Bush administration: Have they forgotten Sept. 11?

How many jobs were lost in the World Trade Center alone? How about the travel industry? How many laid-off pilots and flight attendants came about because people were afraid to fly? Not to mention travel agencies, hotels and car rental agencies? How about the food service workers, who supplied the airlines with food they no longer serve on flights for security reasons? How many people in manufacturing, who make seats for airplanes or the planes themselves who ended up out of work because the airlines weren't ordering new planes?

Most of the jobs lost during the Bush administration weren't because the president wasn't doing his job well enough; it was because we were attacked by terrorists and the response to that attack is going just fine.

Robert Jon Rodgers
Pittsburgh

Tzedakah alive and well

I want to express our appreciation for the tremendous response to our recent appeal for food and monetary donations to the Squirrel Hill Kosher SuperPantry.

In recent months, there was an overwhelming strain on the food bank, leading to sparse shelves.

The overwhelming response to our appeal exceeded our expectations. The spirit of tzedakah is definitely alive and flourishing in our community.

On behalf of those hungry in our community served by the Squirrel Hill Kosher SuperPantry, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and families with young children, I again thank you for your cooperation, participation and support in assisting those most in need.

Aryeh Sherman
Squirrel Hill

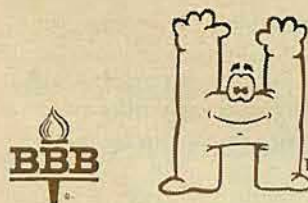
(Editor's note: The author is executive director of the Jewish Family & Children's Service.)

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Nation

Lieberman drops out Pundits debate where Jewish support will go

BY MATTHEW E. BERGER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON — The political landscape has shifted in the Democratic primary race, and Jewish donors are watching.

The decline of Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., the first viable Jewish candidate for president, has left many Jewish fund-raisers and donors without a candidate and has sparked a new round of fund-raising calls and solicitations.

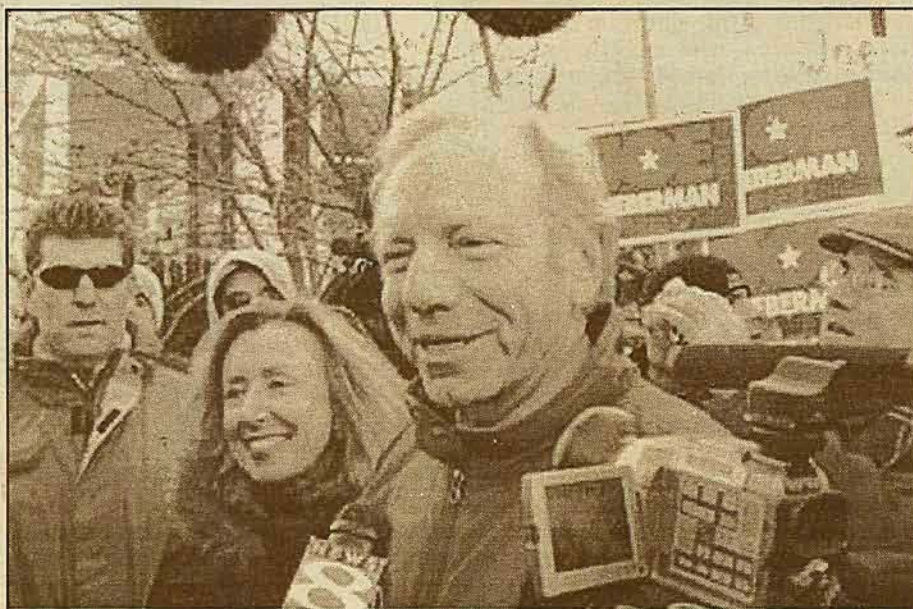
Lieberman dropped out of the race Tuesday following his poor showing in the Delaware contest.

Now, much of the discussion focuses on Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who is the front-runner after campaign victories in Iowa, New Hampshire, Missouri, Arizona, New Mexico, North Dakota and Delaware. Like Lieberman, Kerry is a political veteran who has cultivated deep ties with the Jewish community both in and out of his home state.

But there is talk that some pro-Israel backers will look to Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., a relative newcomer to the political scene who won the South Carolina primary on Tuesday, believing that he would take a more pro-Israel stance.

There also is some speculation that Lieberman backers, supportive of some of the lawmaker's more conservative positions, may consider supporting President Bush.

Some Jewish donors say their peers were reconsidering their support for Lieberman for weeks prior to his withdrawal, since it became clear that the favorite son was slipping out of the top tier of candidates.



Sen. Joe Lieberman's campaign failed to gain momentum, which led to his decision Tuesday to drop out.

There is no empirical data on the amount of Jewish money in Democratic politics because the Federal Elections Committee does not ask for a contributor's religion.

By all accounts, however, Jewish donors have played a significant role in bankrolling Democratic operations.

"I don't think all of the Jewish money will go to one of the candidates; it will go to the best candidate based on the individual contributors' thinking," said Marvin Lender, a member of Lieberman's campaign board, who raised funds in the Jewish community. "I think that Jews are not single-issue voters

and continuously will look for the best candidate."

Many of the major political players in Democratic politics, including prominent Jews, gave large donations to Lieberman and other candidates. Others have given small donations to numerous hopefuls, and may now choose one candidate to whom they will give the maximum donation.

Under new campaign finance laws, donors can give up to \$2,000 to a single candidate and up to \$37,500 total for candidates for president, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Lonnie Kaplan, a Lieberman fund-

raiser in New Jersey and past president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, suggested that Lieberman's withdrawal would give his backers pause before supporting another candidate.

"People will look at two things — where do they stand in terms of issues of Israel's security, and is there still a race?" he said.

Some believe Kerry has the race sewn up. That might lead some Jewish donors, who are pragmatic and want to be part of a winning team, to give to him, but others many feel their donations are therefore less necessary.

Alan Solomont, a fund-raiser for Kerry in the Jewish community, said there would not be a specific push for Jewish money right now but that the campaign would continue to make inroads in the community.

"As the dynamics in the race have changed, people and their campaigns have signed on to others," he said. "I think John Kerry will likely pick up some of these folks."

Some supporters of Israel say Kerry has a solid voting record on Mideast issues, but there are lingering concerns that as president he might pressure Israel to make concessions to the Palestinians, as former President Clinton did.

Lender said there was a "distinct possibility" that Lieberman supporters would move to Bush.

But Solomont said he believed most of Lieberman's backers will stay in the Democratic Party.

"Jewish Democrats, although they have a relationship with Joe Lieberman, have a more strongly held desire to defeat George W. Bush," he said.

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Briefly

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Egon Mayer, a leading sociologist of American Jewry, died last Friday of cancer in New York at age 59. A professor at Brooklyn College, Mayer was known for his studies of intermarriage, and was considered a pioneer in urging that non-Jewish spouses be welcomed into the Jewish community. More recently, Mayer found in 2001 that while the total number of U.S. Jews is 5.3 million, the number rises to 10 million if non-Jewish spouses and family members are included. Mayer was born in Hungary in 1944; his parents were among a group of 1,684 Hungarian Jews who bought their way to freedom from Nazi Adolf Eichmann in a controversial exchange.

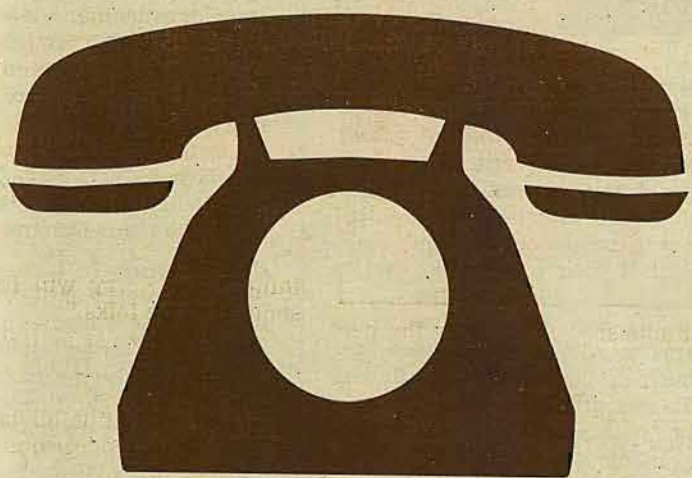
Mel Gibson sent a letter to Abraham Foxman regarding Gibson's controversial movie on Jesus. As the Feb. 25 opening of "The Passion of the Christ" nears, Gibson sent a conciliatory letter to the ADL's national president asking for a halt in mutual recriminations. Gibson asked Foxman to join him in "setting an example for all our brethren" by follow-

ing the path of respect and "love for each other despite our differences." The Los Angeles Times, which obtained a copy of Gibson's letter, said that though the director did not address fears that the film might reignite anti-Semitic religious prejudices, Gibson assured Foxman, "I do not take your concerns lightly." Foxman and other Jewish officials have warned that, by graphically dramatizing supposed Jewish responsibility for the death of Jesus, "The Passion" could revive old anti-Semitic libels and set back Catholic-Jewish relations.

A Hebrew program at a well-known New York City high school was saved. Parents whose children study Hebrew at Stuyvesant High School received a letter last month stating the program would be canceled because the regular teacher was ill and a replacement could not be found. But after protests from parents, the program, which has 60 students, was rescued. "The parents' and kids' passion for the program has more to do with religious feelings than with intense academic interest in Hebrew," said one of the parents, Seth Akabas. Hebrew, which is taught at five other high schools in New York City, is one of nine foreign languages taught at Stuyvesant.

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Israel

Immigrant who worked with youth remembered after bombing

BY DINA KRAFT

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

TEL AVIV — Riding together recently on a Jerusalem bus, Devora Goldberg, 19, asked her uncle whether or not being on buses in Israel frightened him.

Outside of his home, where relatives and friends now gather to sit shiva for the 42-year-old Yechezkel (Chezi) Goldberg, one of 11 people killed last Thursday's bus bombing, she repeats his answer: "Life must go on. We have to live and we have to give them the message that we will continue living here as proud Jews."

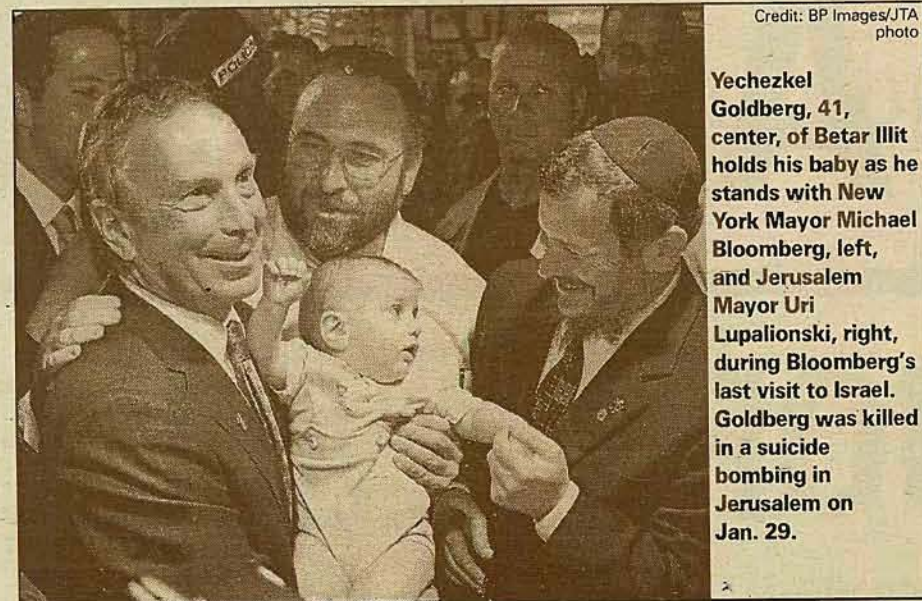
About 10 years ago, the Canadian-born Goldberg and his wife immigrated to Israel with their children, determined to make their lives here.

"To him, moving to Israel was the be-all and the end-all, saying things like 'God did not take us out of Egypt to live in Toronto,'" recalled Goldberg's long-time friend, Joe Halpert, who immigrated from Toronto around the same time.

Goldberg, a father of seven, was commuting by bus to his Jerusalem office, where he counseled at-risk teenagers and their families, when he was killed by the massive bomb set off by the suicide bomber, a Palestinian Authority police officer from Bethlehem.

The other dead were identified as Avraham (Albert) Balhasan, 28; Rose Bona, 39; Chana Anya Bunder, 38; Anat Darom, 23; Natalia Gamril, 50; Baruch Hondiashvili, 38; Dana Itach, 24; Eli Tsifra, 48; Octovian Floresco Viorel, 42; and Mebebra Valadi Zadik, 35.

A frequent contributor to Jewish newspapers and Web sites, Goldberg repeatedly had written about terrorist attacks. In one column he discussed the proximity between bombers and their victims, noting that every morning he traveled by Palestinian cities such as Bethlehem to



Credit: BP Images/JTA photo
Yechezkel Goldberg, 41, center, of Betar Illit holds his baby as he stands with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, left, and Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupatianski, right, during Bloomberg's last visit to Israel. Goldberg was killed in a suicide bombing in Jerusalem on Jan. 29.

reach Jerusalem from the religious Jewish community in the West Bank where he lived, Beitar Illit.

Referring to a 2002 attack, he wrote, "The bomber could very well be someone I have seen in a passing moment," he wrote in an article originally printed on Israel National News.com's Opinion page on Nov. 24, 2002. "I think we are in this bloody mess because many of the politicians making life and death decisions for this country have forgotten that terror is just a five-minute ride from home, anywhere."

Goldberg is remembered as a charismatic, almost larger-than-life figure who fit a tremendous amount into the day — balancing work, his home life, involvement in three synagogues and civic activities.

Bearded and burly, he always was on hand with a joke and an extraordinary capacity to help others, relatives and friends say.

He had a master's degree in education and training in crisis counseling and conflict resolution. He spent the last decade dealing with children, especially those with special needs and teens in crisis.

His colleagues say part of his talent was an ability to focus on children's abilities instead of their disabilities, and to push them to reach their potential.

One of his past jobs was with the Jerusalem municipality helping get teenagers off the streets. He recently had opened his own office where he privately counseled troubled teenagers and their families, many of whom came from Jerusalem's Orthodox, English-speaking community.

He also hosted a local radio show focusing on teenagers.

For eight years Goldberg worked for Gan Harmony, a center that tries to integrate special-needs children into mainstream schools.

"He was a very strong personality. When he thought something was right he went all the way for it and didn't mind taking slack over it," said Shoshana Savyon, a supervisor of Goldberg's at Gan Harmony who became a close friend. "He was willing to champion kids no one was willing to champion."

As part of his work with Gan Harmony, Goldberg spent time at an Arab school in eastern Jerusalem, helping teachers develop a program to mainstream students with special needs.

Savyon related how a staff member at the school who worked with Goldberg began crying hysterically on the phone when she called to express condolences.

Last week Goldberg lectured to more than 500 religious social workers and therapists at an international conference in Jerusalem on working with at-risk youth while staying within the framework of Jewish law.

"I will remember him as a person with a lot of charisma, optimism, energy and hope, a commitment to the Land of Israel, who was determined to make his life here and to make a difference," said Dodi Tobin, director of social services for Nefesh B'Nefesh, an organization that helps North Americans immigrate to Israel. Goldberg worked closely with the group's staff.

"He was very much about youth at risk and gave his heart and soul to that work. It will be a tremendous void felt by the teens he helped and the community," Tobin said.

Briefly

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Israeli commandos killed a terrorist in the first Israeli army raid on Jericho in months. The target of Sunday's operation on the normally quiet West Bank city was Shahdi Melhem of the Al Aksa Brigade, a terrorist group within Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. Israel's elite Yamam SWAT team, coming under fire at Melhem's home, shot him dead and arrested four other men. The last Israeli operation in Jericho was in August.

An Israeli businessman freed from Hezbollah captivity is being questioned on suspicion of divulging state secrets. The Shin Bet began interrogating Elhanan Tannenbaum, 58, near Netanya on Sunday after doctors certified that he was fit enough to undergo questioning. A reserve artillery colonel who returned home Jan. 29 in a prisoner swap between Israel and Hezbollah, Tannenbaum is suspected of giving up state secrets, perhaps under torture by the Lebanese militia. Israeli media said he had been privy to classified military data before he was abducted in October 2000.

A ceremony in Israel marked the first anniversary of the Columbia space shuttle tragedy. Sunday's commemoration for Israeli astronaut Col. Ilan Ramon and the six others who died when the shuttle disintegrated during re-entry on Feb. 1, 2003 was held in the Galilee.

The death toll from last week's Jerusalem bus bombing reached 11. Doctors identified the 11th victim of the Jan. 29 attack as Mebebra Valadi Zadik, 35, an illegal worker from Ethiopia. Police said Zadik's husband apparently had hesitated to come forward and report her missing, fearing he could be deported.

Almost one in four Israeli children is Muslim. According to a report issued Sunday by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, 24 percent of citizens under the age of 16 are Muslim, while 71 percent are Jewish. The rest are from Israel's Christian, Druse and other minorities. The figures appeared to back up concerns among some Israeli officials that natural population growth in the Arab community poses a demographic threat to Israel's Jewish majority.

Some 10,000 Jews have visited Jerusalem's Temple Mount since it was reopened to non-Muslim visitors. Israeli police said Sunday that almost all of the visits have gone without incident. The Temple Mount was reopened to non-Muslims last August with the cooperation of the Wakf, the Islamic trust that operates the site.

Israel reportedly disbanded a military police unit amid charges of stealing from Palestinians. Ha'aretz reported Sunday that members of the company, which policed the bustling Kalandia checkpoint south of Ramallah last year, stole property from Palestinians who sought to pass. Some personnel are also accused of physically abusing Palestinians. The army did not immediately comment on the report.

Larry Rubin

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ISRAEL

As Palestinians slide into anarchy, calls mount for better leadership

By GIL SEDAN

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — "Yes, we are in a state of anarchy."

That is how Zayyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council and a former Palestinian Authority Cabinet minister, describes life today in the areas ruled by the Palestinian Authority.

"Certainly when a Palestinian policeman cannot walk around freely wearing his uniform, this creates a vacuum in which everyone does whatever one pleases," he said.

The situation is becoming grave, Abu-Zayyad told JTA.

"We have people selling land that is not theirs, and our courts are unable to enforce the law. Everyone who has money can purchase as many arms as he wants and can do with them whatever he wants. There is strong collaboration between our mafia and the Israeli mafia," he said.

"I am surprised at the level of mutual tolerance within the Palestinian society that still exists," he added. "Other societies would have been at a much worse state."

However, Abu-Zayyad distinguishes between a state of anarchy and the possibility that the Palestinian Authority is on the verge of disintegration.

"The P.A. is not collapsing," he said. "Should it happen to collapse, it would certainly not be in Israel's interest; all extremists would go on a rampage. I know that there are a number of Palestinian intellectuals who feel that the P.A. should give up and let Israel take over — I am not among them."

A resident of the Jerusalem suburb of al-Azariyya, Abu-Zayyad is a close associate of P.A. Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia. Accordingly, he relieves Qureia of any responsibility for the deterioration of affairs.

"No one helps him, neither" P.A. President Yasser Arafat, nor the Israelis nor the Americans. He still stays put, but I am not sure for how long," Abu-Zayyad said.

Israeli and American officials reportedly consider Qureia a tremendous disappointment. Perhaps because he witnessed the fate of his predecessor Mahmoud Abbas, who tried to wrest real power from Arafat and was forced to resign within three months, Qureia has demonstrated virtually no leadership since taking office last fall, Israeli and American officials say.

There is a high probability that he soon will resign or be forced to resign, Israeli officials believe.

Maj. Gen. Aharon Ze'evi (Farkash), the head of intelligence for the Israel Defense Forces, told the Cabinet this week that Arafat understands that the present state of affairs weakens the hegemony of his ruling Fatah Party and further strengthens the political stock of fundamentalist groups like Hamas.

As a result, Ze'evi said, Arafat recently instructed uniformed P.A. police officers to return to the streets of Palestinian cities to demonstrate a political presence. However, the lack of discipline in the force is such that the suicide bomber who killed 11 civilians on an Israeli bus in Jerusalem last week was a P.A. police officer from Bethlehem.

Arafat finds himself under heavy pressure from Egypt to cope with the anarchy and create conditions that would enable a meeting between Qureia and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Qureia has kept his distance from Sharon, demanding that Israel suspend construction of its West Bank security barrier as a condition for meeting.

Sharon, who believes the barrier will dramatically change the strategic relations between Israel and the Palestinians in Israel's favor, refused.

"He wants to succeed, but this is not enough," Abu-Zayyad said of Qureia. "He has learned the lesson from Abu-Mazen," he said, using Abbas' nom de guerre.

Abbas "annihilated himself politically," Abu-Zayyad said, "after having met Sharon and receiving nothing from him."

"We love to smile. Thanks Dr. Frank"

Erica and Danielle Dunn

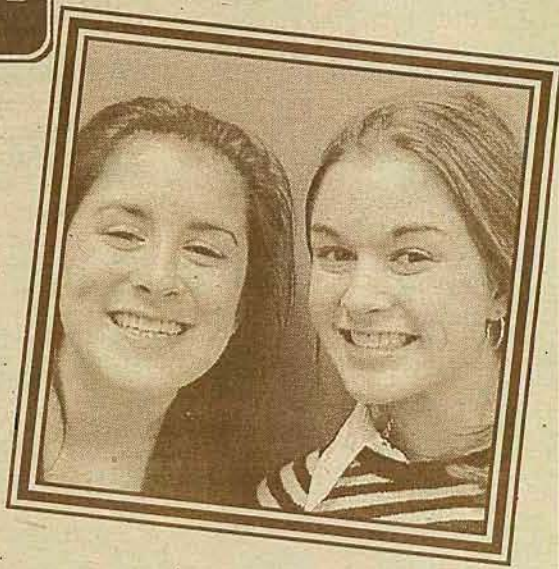
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World

Mexico's first Jewish film festival brings community to the mainstream

BY CORRIE MACLAGGAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's first Jewish film festival aimed to teach local Jews about their heritage and non-Jews about a community that is sometimes misunderstood.

Judging from the discussions here about Jewish history and culture and the flurry of radio and television interviews accompanying the festival — which began Jan. 25 and ended Tuesday — it appeared to have succeeded.

The sold-out festival in Mexico City is one of only a handful of Spanish-language Jewish film festivals in the world.

"We are looking at this festival not as a Jewish event," said Aron Margolis, director of the non-profit Mexico International Jewish Film Festival. "This is an excellent opportunity for Mexican society to get to know the Jewish community. The Jews in Mexico are known as a community that is very closed and doesn't let people in to get to know us. But the more they know us, the more they understand us."

There are about 50,000 Jews in Mexico, a predominately Catholic country. Most live in Mexico City, the capital.

Mexico City resident Becky Herman, who is Jewish, said the festival offers a unique opportunity to learn about contemporary and historic issues in world Jewry.

"If it weren't for this festival, we never would have heard about these films," said Herman, who has tickets to all the films.

Herman's husband Bernardo said he was deeply affected by the Jan. 27 screening of "Secret Lives," a documentary about people who risked their lives to hide Jewish children during the Holocaust.

"Even if you've read every book about the Holocaust, you always learn from listening to people's emotions," said Herman, who lost grandparents, aunts and uncles in the Holocaust.

The festival features nine films, including "Trembling Before God" (United

States), "The Burial Society" (Canada) and "Time of Favor" (Israel).

"Trembling Before G-d," a documentary about gay and lesbian Orthodox and Hasidic Jews, was scheduled to be shown in May 2001 at the Jewish Sport Center in Mexico City, but the screening was canceled due to pressure from Mexican Jewish groups.

"As part of the Jewish community in Mexico, I felt humiliated" that the screening was canceled, Margolis said. "I made a personal promise to myself that when this Jewish film festival happened in Mexico, this film would be part of it."

The documentary's director, Sandi Simcha DuBowski, said the fact that his film is being shown three years later at a Jewish film festival in Mexico City is representative of changing global attitudes.

"This film has unleashed worldwide change. It has become not just a movie but a movement," he said. "When I heard that 800 people were coming to see it in Mexico, I thought, 'This is amazing.'"

There is one Mexican film in the festival, a 2002 documentary called "Eight Candles" about eight Converso families in Veracruz, Mexico. It tells the story of a group of people who for generations had avoided eating pork and had lit candles on Friday nights without knowing why.

In the early 1980s, some members of the group discovered their Jewish roots and converted to Judaism. Twenty years later, the congregation is struggling for acceptance from the Jewish community in Mexico.

"This opportunity is amazing, because for this first time the documentary is going to confront its intended audience," said "Eight Candles" director Sandro Halphen, who lives in Mexico City. "I hadn't found venues to reach out to them."

Mexico's festival is one of three Spanish-language Jewish film festivals in the world, Margolis said. The Barcelona International Jewish Film Festival has been held annually since 1999, and Argentina held its first Jew-

ish film festival in October in Buenos Aires.

One of the most time-consuming and costly projects for Margolis' foundation was translating the films into Spanish, he said.

"This wasn't like in the United States, where there are so many Jewish film festivals that there are plenty of movies already subtitled in English," said Margolis, a filmmaker who owns a production company called Amar Media.

There are more than 50 annual Jewish film festivals in the United States and Canada, according to the New York-based National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Margolis hopes the Spanish-translated films can be used in other parts of Latin America. He said he has talked with Jewish leaders in Venezuela, Costa Rica and several Mexican cities — including Cancun and Guadalajara — about the possibility of taking the festival to those places.



The executive director of Mexico's first Jewish film festival, Aron Margolis, is pictured at a movie theater in the Mexico City neighborhood of Polanco after the showing of the documentary "Secret Lives" on Jan. 27.

He also said that his foundation hopes to award grants to filmmakers who focus on Jewish topics.

"This is just the beginning of something that's going to grow," he said.

French Jewish group losing control?

BY PHILIP CARMEL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — Intercommunal strife is threatening the future of one of Europe's largest Jewish organizations.

Following months of political maneuvers, anonymous letters and personal attacks, two senior members of the Paris Consistoire at the center of the dispute have filed a legal request demanding that the courts place the organization under judicial administration.

That would remove financial control and administration from the community for only the second time in almost 200 years — an idea that Consistoire President Moise Cohen strongly condemned.

"It is unbelievable that two Jews, who are members of the Consistoire, are trying to destroy the community," Cohen told JTA. "The last time this was done was in 1940, during the Shoah."

Cohen's comment, a reference to the dissolution of the Consistoire by the collaborationist Vichy regime, follows the recourse to legal action brought by Consistoire General Secretary Maurice-Ruben Hayoun and Sammy Ghazlan, one of the organization's five vice presidents.

Both men say that after a two-year struggle to change the way the Consistoire is run, they have no alternative.

To date, they have rejected calls from other Consistoire executive members to have the matter adjudicated by the Paris Beth Din or the Central Consistoire — both bodies that the pair say have an interest in backing Cohen.

According to Ghazlan, Cohen is guilty of "gross mismanagement" and of "not keeping the organization's expenses in check."

Cohen denied the charges, saying the Consistoire possessed "considerable resources," while its financial problems

were short-term.

"All Jewish organizations are feeling it at the moment," he said. "We have over 1,000 people working here. It only takes a drop in revenue of one-half of 1 percent to make things difficult."

Both Ghazlan and Hayoun, a long-time opponent of Cohen on the Consistoire executive, have strongly criticized the fact that the Consistoire is paying for a car for Cohen.

Cohen is not paid, though the presidency is virtually a full-time job in an organization that runs over 100 synagogues and employs around 1,000 people.

At the center of recent developments is Cohen's attempt to force Ghazlan and Hayoun off the executive on the grounds that their official roles are incompatible with the public attacks they have leveled against the Consistoire in a series of open letters and articles on community Web sites.

On Jan. 20, Cohen asked the whole executive to resign so that a new board could be appointed. The maneuver was designed to force out Ghazlan and Hayoun, though they and three other members of the executive refused to hand in their resignations.

Lazare Kaplan, a senior member of the executive and a Cohen supporter, said the president had been left with little choice.

"These articles do great damage to the Consistoire," Kaplan said. "We told them, 'You are part of the executive. You either abide by majority decisions or you leave and become part of the opposition. We have to get rid of them.'"

For his part, Ghazlan said he had tried over a long period to present criticisms internally.

"What am I supposed to do? Either I let these things pass and I'm an accomplice — in which case I'm letting down the people who elected me — or we do something about it," he said.

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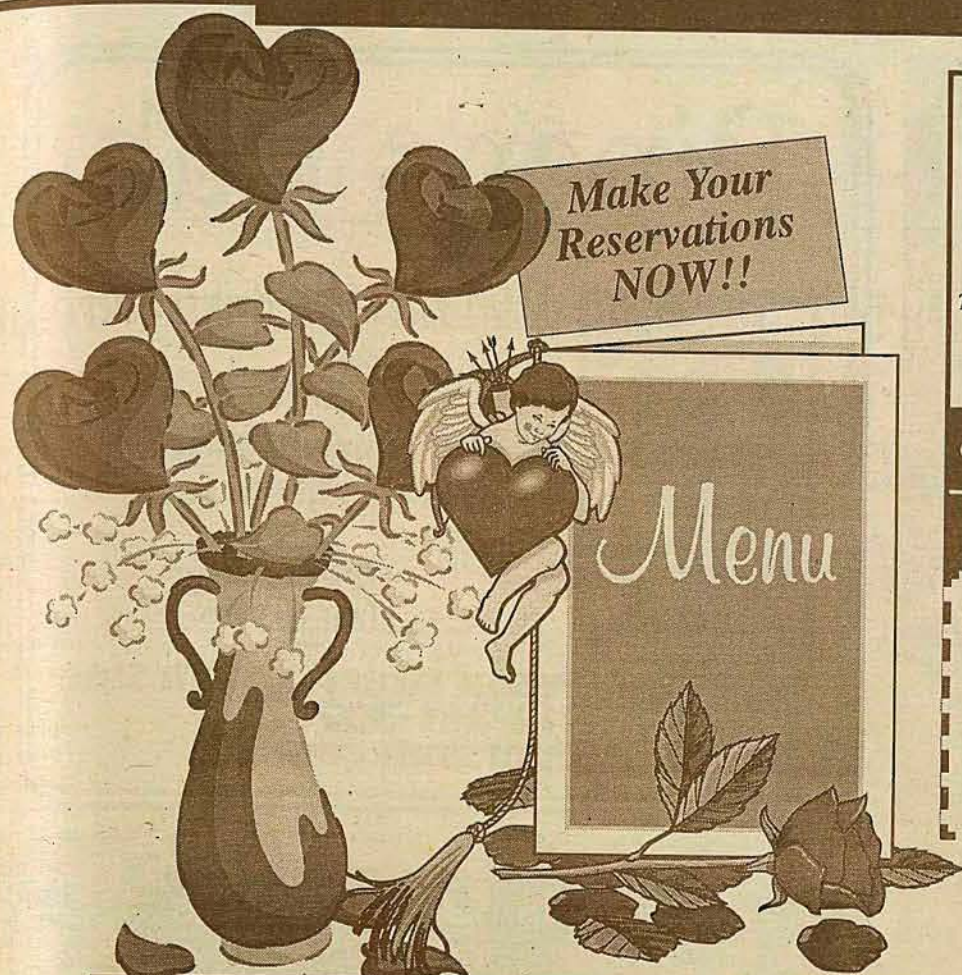
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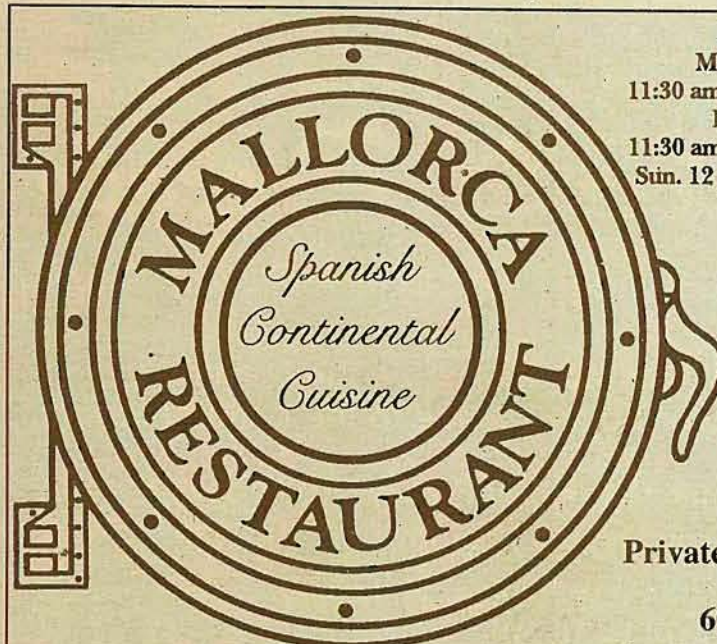
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DINING GUIDE

WORLD

Briefly

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Thirty countries have written to the International Court of Justice opposing a hearing on Israel's West Bank security fence. The United States, the European Union, Canada, Russia and South Africa are among the countries or bodies that oppose this month's hearing at the International Court of Justice. The countries argue that the fence is an issue that should be decided in direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, rather than at the court. But the Feb. 23 hearing at The Hague still is likely to take place, an Israeli official said Sunday.

Neo-Nazis and counterdemonstrators in Germany clashed over a controversial exhibit on the German army's actions during World War II. Several arrests were made Saturday after police in Hamburg were unable to keep right-wing and left-wing demonstrators apart. Neo-Nazis have protested, sometimes violently, against the "Crimes of the Wehrmacht" traveling exhibit since its release in 1995, claiming that it wrongly criminalizes German soldiers. Hamburg is the last stop for the groundbreaking exhibit, which documents war crimes committed by the Nazi army.

Canada's foreign minister condemned the killing of a Canadian citizen in last week's suicide bombing in Jerusalem. Among the 11 victims was Yehzekel Goldberg, a former Toronto resident who made aliyah more than a decade ago. Goldberg, 42, was a professional psychologist and the father of seven. "Canadians join me in expressing

deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Goldberg," Bill Graham said. "We are profoundly saddened by the loss of a fellow Canadian and an outstanding professional. He will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched and helped make better." A vigil was held for Goldberg on Friday outside the Israeli Consulate in Toronto.

France will introduce legislation to prevent anti-Semitic and racist material from being aired by foreign television satellite channels. A new bill is to go before Parliament later this month that will allow the country's public broadcasting commission to act against satellite providers and television channels that broadcast such material, Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin told guests Saturday at the annual dinner of the CRIF umbrella organization of French Jews. For the third consecutive year, the dinner was attended by a number of Cabinet ministers and the leaders of France's major political parties, who have paid increasing attention to the wave of anti-Semitism in France since the Palestinian intifada began in September 2000.

Some 25 Brazilian legislators will visit Israeli technological institutions and areas close to Israel's pre-1967 border. The Feb. 15 trip was negotiated by the Israeli ambassador in Brazil, Daniel Gazit, and the newly elected president of the Brazilian Israelite Confederation, the umbrella organization for Brazilian Jewry, Berel Aizenstein, as well other Jewish leaders. "This trip is fundamental for legislators to know Israel's reality through their own eyes, and not only from the not-always-honest news," Aizenstein said.

MOVIE TIMES

February 6th thru February 12th, 2004

CINEMAGIC

Manor - 422-7729 DOLBY DIGITAL () = Sat.-Sun..

Girl With A Pearl Earring (PG-13) (1:10, 3:15), 5:15, 7:40, 9:40; *The Cooler* (R) (1:00, 3:10), 5:20, 7:20, 9:30; *Monster* (R) (12:15, 2:35), 5:05, 7:25, 9:50; *In America* (PG-13) (12:30, 2:40), 5:15, 7:35, 9:40.

Squirrel Hill - 421-7900 DOLBY DIGITAL \$4.50 All Shows Before 6 p.m. () = Sat.-Sun.

Lost In Translation (R) (1:00, 3:15), 5:20, 7:25, 9:45; *Mystic River* (R) (12:00, 2:30), 5:05, 7:40, 10:05; *Big Fish* (PG-13) (12:10, 2:40), 5:00, 7:15, 9:40; *Along Came Polly* (PG-13) (1:30, 3:30), 5:30, 7:30, 9:30; *21 Grams* (R) (3:10), 10:05; *Something's Gotta Give* (PG-13) (12:45), 5:25, 7:45; *City of God* (R) (12:15, 2:45), 5:10, 7:35, 10:00.

Denise - 343-7300 \$4.50 All Shows Before 6 p.m. Every Tues. All Shows \$4.50. () = Sat.-Sun. *Girl With A Pearl Earring* (PG-13) (1:00, 3:15), 5:25, 7:35, 9:30; *Monster* (R) (12:55, 3:00), 5:15, 7:30, 9:35; *In America* (PG-13) (1:05, 3:05), 5:30, 7:40, 9:40; *Lost In Translation* (R) (1:10, 3:10), 5:20, 7:25, 9:25.

PGH. FILMMAKERS 682-4111

Regent Square Theatre - 1035 S. Braddock Ave.

The Triplets Of Bellville (OSCAR NOMINEE) Fri. 7:00, 9:00; Sat. 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:45; Sun. 3:00, 5:00; Mon.-Thu. 7:00, 9:00; *Dr. Zhivago* Sun. 7:30.

Harris Theatre - 809 Liberty Ave.

My Architect (OSCAR NOMINEE) Fri. 7:30; Sat. 4:30, 7:00, 9:15; Sun. 2:00, 4:30; Mon.-Thu. 7:30.

Melwood S.R. - 477 Melwood Ave.

Student Screening Fri. 6:30; Member & Student Screening Sat. 6:30; Film Kitchen Tue. 7:00.

CARMIKE

Carmike 10 - 700 S. Hills Village 835-7700

Miracle (PG) Dolby/THX 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; *Catch That Kid* (PG) DTS 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00; *Barbershop 2* (PG-13) Dolby 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:35; *The Perfect Score* (PG-13) DTS 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:55; *You Got Served* (PG-13) Dolby (no discount tickets) 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50; *The Big Bounce* (PG-13) DTS 1:05, 5:25, 9:50; *Win A Date With Tad Hamilton* (PG-13) DTS 3:15, 7:35; *The Butterfly Effect* (R) DTS 1:20, 4:00, 7:05, 9:40; *Along Came Polly* (PG-13) DTS 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40; *Cheaper By The Dozen* (PG) DTS 1:25, 3:50, 7:15, 9:30; *Lord Of The Rings* (PG-13) Dolby 2:45, 7:30.

Galleria 6 - Rt. 19 Mt. Lebanon 531-5551

Master And Commander (PG-13) DTS 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00; *Mystic River* (R) DTS 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; *Big Fish* (PG-13) DTS 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:50; *Calendar Girls* (PG-13) DTS 1:15, 3:45, 7:20, 9:45; *Cold Mountain* (R) DTS 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00;

Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) DTS 1:20, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40.

Movies and showtimes subject to change. Please call theatre.

WATERWORKS FOX CHAPEL 784-1406

Lord Of The Rings (PG-13) 12:20, 4:10, 8:00; *Along Came Polly* (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:15; *Catch That Kid* (PG) 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10; *Miracle* (PG) 12:45, 4:00, 6:50, 9:35; *You Got Served* (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30; *Barber Shop 2* (PG-13) 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45; *The Perfect Score* (PG-13) 11:40, 1:35, 3:30, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40; *Big Bounce* (PG-13) 12:00, 1:50, 9:50; *Mystic River* (R) 3:55, 6:45; *Butterfly Effect* (R) 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:55; *Big Fish* (PG-13) 11:45, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:25.

Please Note Times in () Parenthesis Are for Friday and Saturday only, unless otherwise noted.

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Wednesday, February 18 • 7:30 PM

"Israeli Politics after the Gulf War"
(in Hebrew)

Chug Ivri (Hebrew Speaking Circle) and Hebrew Language
Advanced Class, Jewish Education Institute
Holocaust Center, 2nd Floor
JCC Robinson Building, Darlington Road

Thursday, February 19 • 10 AM

"Israel and Japan - some points of comparison"

University of Pittsburgh Dept. of Jewish and Asian Studies
Cathedral of Learning, Room 156
Crogan and Schenley Room
Call Adam Shear 412-624-2280

Thursday, February 19 • 7:00 PM Community Lecture

**"Israel after 3 years of Intefada -
Where do we go from here?"**

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Friday, February 20 • 12:30 PM • AZM Board Meeting

"Israel-American Relations:

Agreements and Disagreements

JCC Board Room, Kaufmann Building, 3rd Floor
R.S.V.P. Bnai Zion 412-421-6789

Friday, February 20 • 6 PM

"Israel-Diaspora Relations"

Beth El Congregation of the South Hills
1900 Cochran Road 412-561-1168

Saturday, February 21 • 11 AM

"Israel and the Diaspora"

Young Peoples Synagogue corner Forbes and Denniston

Saturday, February 21 • 12:30 PM

**"Differing Views in Israel on the Peace Process -
Citizenship"**

Beth Shalom Synagogue, Beacon Street
Lunch and Learn 412-421-2288

Sunday, February 22 • 9:30 AM

**"Towards a Change in the Status of Reform and
Conservative Movements in Israel"**

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Simchas

Engagements



Berkman/Neustein: Judy Kitman Berkman of Pittsburgh announces the engagement of her daughter, Candace Jennifer Berkman, to David Greg Neustein, son of Charles and Jaclyn Neustein of New York.

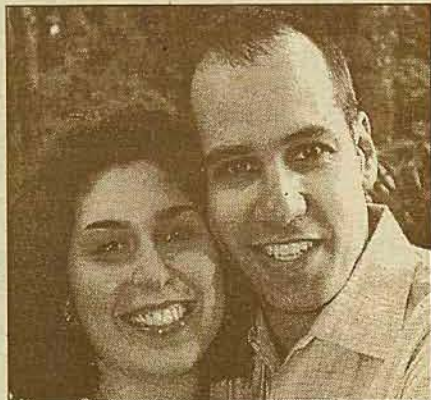
Candace's grandparents are the late Jerry and Pearl Kitman of Pittsburgh.

David's grandparents are Shirley Wolf and the late Mac Wolf of Forest Hills, N.Y.; and the late I. Daniel and Estelle Neustein of Long Beach, N.Y.

Candace graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in public relations. She is an account director at TARA, Ink Public Relations in Miami Beach, Fla.

David earned his bachelor's degree from Emory University and his law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York. He is senior president and general counsel for Deco Lav, Inc. in Delray Beach, Fla.

An October wedding in Miami is planned.



Morgan/Fafel: Amy and Ira Morgan of Squirrel Hill announce the engagement of their daughter, Alyssa Jill, to Steven Robert Fafel, son of Eleanor and Leonard Fafel of Marblehead, Mass.

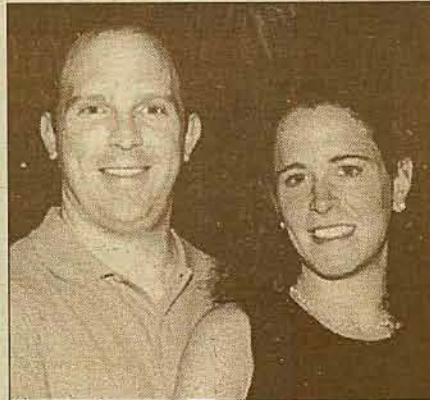
Alyssa's grandparents are the late Temi and Abraham Bender of New Jersey and Florida, and the late Sara and Jack Morgan of Pittsburgh.

Steven's grandparents are Milton Locke of Lynn, Mass., and the late Dorothy Locke; and the late Evelyn and Samuel Fafel of Chelsea, Mass.

Alyssa graduated from American University in Washington, D.C., with a bachelor's degree in literature. She lives in the Boston area where she is employed as a nanny.

Steven received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Bentley College in Waltham, Mass. He is a certified public accountant and a senior tax accountant at Vitale, Caturano and Company in Boston.

An October wedding in Pittsburgh is planned.



Strassburger/Barkin: Mona and E.J. Strassburger of Squirrel Hill announce the engagement of their daughter, Jill Sara, to Dr. Adam Barkin, son of Drs. Roger and Suzanne Barkin of Denver.

Jill's grandparents are the late Eugene and Jane Strassburger, the late Jeanne Kann and the late Rody Kann.

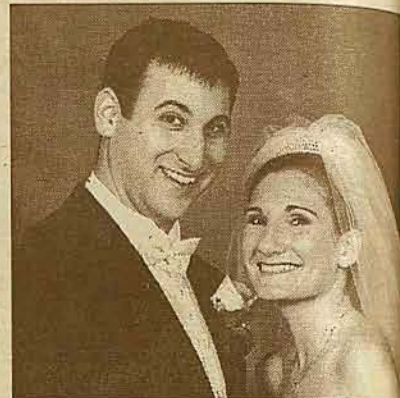
Adam's grandparents are Elaine Barkin of Leverett, Mass., and the late Dr. Solomon Barkin; and the late Dr. Reuben and Anne Zubrow.

Jill graduated from Williams College with a degree in political science and economics. She will receive her master's in business administration from Harvard Business School in June.

Adam also graduated from Williams College, with a degree in economics. He attended medical school at Vanderbilt University and is a resident in emergency medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

An October wedding is planned.

Weddings



Dektor/Levine: Sharon and Stan Dektor of Monroeville announce the marriage of their daughter, Dr. Jodi Beth Dektor, to Jonathan Adam Levine, son of Dr. Steven and Laurie Levine of Shreveport, La., on Nov. 8, 2003, at the Pittsburgh Hilton. Rabbi Charles Diamond officiated.

Grandmothers Leah Zisman of Monroeville; Miriam Levine of Tamarac, Fla.; and Thelma Winkler of Delray Beach, Fla., were included in the bridal party.

Dr. Kerry Stone served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were the groom's sisters, Dr. Karen Kamholz and Amy Levine; Bonnie Dektor; Christine Goldsworthy; Sejal Gross; Nicole McCune; and Rachel Zisman.

Jeffrey Spitko served as best man. Groomsmen were the bride's brother, Brian Dektor; Anthony DiStefano; Alex Dyer; Dr. Scott Kamholz; Karl Kraft; Richard Mager; and Frank Stone.

Jodi graduated from Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She is completing her residency at Children's Memorial Hospital of Northwestern University.

Jonathan graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Web developer for North American Company for Life and Health Insurance.

After a honeymoon in Hawaii, Jodi and Jonathan live in Chicago and will relocate to Philadelphia in the summer.

Please see Simchas, next page.

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Continued from previous page.

Births

Rothschild: Dr. Adam and Sara Rothschild announce the birth of their daughter, Lena London Rothschild, on Jan. 15. Grandparents are Elaine and Alan London of Pittsburgh and Renee and Leonard Rothschild of Chicago. Great-grandparents are Ruth and Jack London, Sande Wittlin, Rose Rothschild and May Bressler.

Lena (Leah Fruma) is named in loving memory of her great-great-grandmothers, Fanny Gordon and Lena Azen.

Anniversaries

Judy and Richard Rubinstein will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on Sunday.

The Organizations Directory will be running in March. Please e-mail: mjones@pittchron.com or mail or fax changes to **The Jewish Chronicle**, 5600 Baum Blvd., Pgh., PA 15206 Fax 412-687-5119

B'nai Mitzvah

Benjamin Abraham Congedo, son of Carol and Thomas Congedo, will become a Bar Mitzvah at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, at Temple Sinai. Grandparents are Tillie Zinn of New York, the late

Philip Zinn, and Rose and Emanuel Congedo of New York.

Myriah Leigh Hankins, daughter of Faye Silver and James Hankins, will become a Bat Mitzvah at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, at Temple Emanuel. Grandparents are Bernice and Donald Rothman and Nancy and James Hankins.



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Congregation Sukkat Shalom photo

Twenty-eight baby caps and 13 pairs of booties knitted by the women of Congregation Sukkat Shalom were donated to the Children's Home of Pittsburgh Transitional Infant Care Unit. Jan Lavine, right, gives the handwork to Kate Burroughs of the Children's Home. Watching is Jan's grandson, Warren Lewis, a graduate of Transitional Infant Care.

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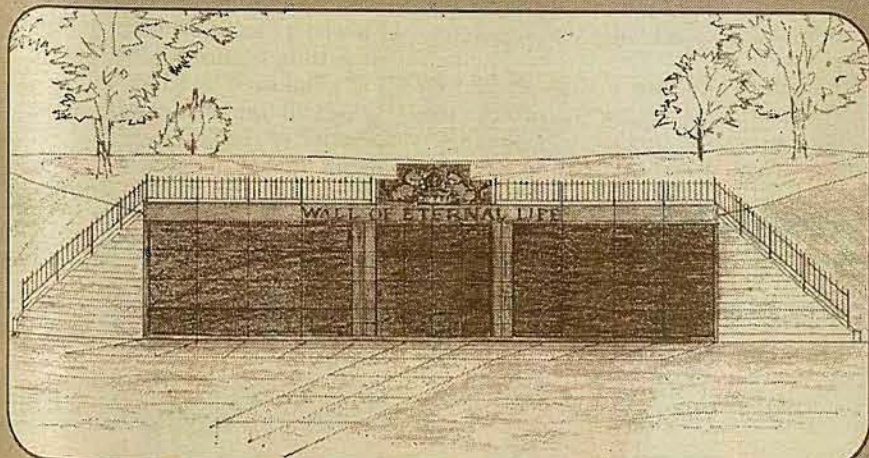
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Community

Congregations

Adat Shalom first Friday Family Shabbat service at 7 p.m. Shabbat services at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday. Sisterhood will lead services and sponsor a Kiddush luncheon. Men's Club Brunch series begins at 9 a.m. on Sunday with minyan followed by brunch and speakers Drs. Marc and Eileen Rice, who will discuss cardiology and neurology issues that face men. There is a charge; reservations are required. For information call (412) 820-7000.

Agudath Achim Synagogue in Beaver Falls Shabbat services at 9 a.m. on Saturday. For information call (724) 846-5696.

Ahavath Achim in Carnegie Saturday morning service at 9:20 a.m. For information call (412) 279-1566 or visit www.thecarnegieshu.org.

B'nai Abraham in Butler. For information call (724) 287-5806.

B'nai Emunoh Congregation Shachrit services at 6:30 a.m. on Friday. Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at 5:35 p.m. Shabbat Shachrit at 8:55 a.m. Pirkei Avos at 4 p.m. and Mincha at 5:10 p.m. Daily services: Sunday at 8 a.m. and 5:35 p.m. Monday through Thursday Shachrit 6:30 a.m. Rambam class at 6:10 p.m. followed by Maariv at 6:20 p.m. For information call (412) 521-1477.

Beth El Congregation of the South Hills Kids Shabbat services at 6 p.m. on Friday. Gan Mechina Shabbat dinner. Services at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Saturday services at 9:15 a.m. Sisterhood Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat. Junior Congregation at 10:30 a.m. SML at 10:45 a.m. Daily services: Sunday minyan at 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday minyan at 7 a.m. and Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m. For information call (412) 561-1168 or visit www.bethelcong.org.

Beth Hamedrash Hagodol-Beth Jacob Mincha and Maariv are at 5:30 p.m. Shachrit services are held Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 8 a.m. Monday, Thursday and Rosh Chodesh services are at 7:45 a.m. Shabbat services are at 9 a.m. on Saturday. For information call Rabbi Stanley Savage at (412) 471-4443.

Beth Israel Center Pleasant Hills Shabbat service at 8 p.m. on Friday with Art Weinblum as rabbi and Mollie Weinblum as cantor. All are welcome. For information call (412) 655-2144 or visit www.bethisraelphg.org.

Beth Israel Congregation Latrobe. For information call (724) 539-1450.

Preparing for Tu B'Shevat



Chabad of Fox Chapel Hebrew School made trees out of dried food in honor of the upcoming Tu B'Shevat holiday.

Beth Israel Congregation Washington, Pa., Shabbat service at 8 p.m. Friday. Shabbat service at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Adult education at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Services and adult education are conducted by Rabbi David Novitsky. For information call (724) 225-7080.

Beth Samuel Jewish Center in Ambridge Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat services at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Saturday services at 10 a.m. Sunday morning religious school Tu B'Shevat seders. Women's Group Movie Night will be on Tuesday at a private home. Deli and entertainment, featuring the film "Nowhere in Africa." For information call (724) 266-5238 or visit www.bethsamuel.org.

Beth Shalom Congregation Kabbalat Shabbat service at 5:25 p.m. on Friday. Early Shabbat service at 6:30 a.m. Saturday. Family service at 8:45 a.m. BSUSY will lead services. Library Minyan at 9:30 a.m. USY/Teen services are at 10 a.m. Junior Congregation, Kiddie Minyan and Plus meet at 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Shalom Family Circle at 10:30 a.m. for families with infants through second grade. Saturday evening services begin at 5:25 p.m. Sunday morning service is at 8 a.m. Daily services are at 7:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. BSUSY is sponsoring a Friday Family Shabbat service after the high school Shabbat dinner. USY dance Saturday night. For more information call (412) 421-2288.

Beth Shalom Congregation in Johnstown erev Shabbat services at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Shabbat morning service at

9:30 a.m. Saturday. Minyanim at 8 a.m. on alternate Thursdays. For more information call the office or Rabbi Irvin Brandwein at (814) 536-0647 or visit <http://homepage.earthlink.net/users/bethsholomjtn/>.

Bet Tikvah serving Pittsburgh's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. First Friday erev Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m. at Rodef Shalom Congregation. Tu B'Shevat will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday at Rodef Shalom. The seder will be followed by a dairy/vegetarian potluck. For information call the hotline at (412) 362-7025, visit www.bettikvah.org, or e-mail info@bettikvah.org.

Chabad of Fox Chapel. Shabbat classes and services and adult education classes throughout the week. For more information, call the office at (412) 781-1800; visit www.chabadfoxchapel.com; or e-mail info@chabadfoxchapel.com.

Chabad of the South Hills Jewish Center for Living and Learning, 1600 Bower Hill Rd., holds weekly Shabbat services at 10 a.m. followed by a sit-down Kiddush. Mommy and Me meets every Monday at 10:00 a.m. Hebrew and Sunday school are Sundays and Tuesdays. Talmud Study meets Mondays at 4:00 p.m. Torah class meets on Tuesdays at 8:15 p.m. For information on women's monthly study group or for a complete listing, call (412) 278-3693 or visit chabadsh@sgi.net.

Charles M. Morris Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at Weinberg Village daily morning service at 9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service at 9 a.m. For information call Rabbi Seidman at (412) 420-4000 or e-mail eseidman@jaapgh.org.

Congregation Emanu-El Israel. Everyone is welcome at services. For information call (724) 834-0560.

Dor Hadash Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation holds services at the Jewish Education Institute at 6424 Forward Ave. Erev Shabbat service at 8 p.m. on Friday. Service leader is Nancy Levine-Arnold. Sedra reviewer is Pam

Goldman. Social action committee speaker. Tu B'Shevat seder with Dor L'Dor at 3 p.m. on Sunday at New Light. For information call (412) 422-5158.

Gemilas Chesed Congregation in White Oak. For information call (412) 678-8859.

Edward and Rose Berman Hillel Jewish University Center invites students and community members to Orthodox, Conservative and Reform services every week at 5 p.m. at the Hillel JUC, 4607 Forbes Ave. Services are followed by free kosher dinner. Experience the delights of traditional, Israeli and international Jewish fare with students from across Pittsburgh's universities and colleges. There will be scheduled programming events each month and a monthly tish. For more information contact Aaron Weil at aaronw@hilleljuc.org or at (412) 621-8875.

Kollel Jewish Learning Center. For a full calendar of class events, contact the Kollel at (412) 420-0220, Ext. 203 or e-mail to kollel@telerama.com.

Lubavitch Center Synagogue Friday Mincha minyan 10 minutes before sunset followed by Maariv. Saturday Shabbat service at 10 a.m. Shabbat Mincha followed by Maariv 20 minutes before sunset. Sunday Shachrit minyan 9:15 a.m. Sunday Mincha minyan 10 minutes before sunset. Sunday Maariv minyan 25 minutes after sunset. Daily Shachrit minyan 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Daily Mincha minyan 10 minutes before sunset. Daily Maariv minyan 25 minutes after sunset. For information call (412) 422-7315.

New Light Congregation Shabbat service at 8 p.m. on Friday. Saturday service at 10 a.m. Sunday service at 9:15 a.m. followed by breakfast prepared by Men's Club. For information call (412) 421-1017.

Parkway Jewish Center Sha'ar HaShamayim Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv services at 8 p.m. on Friday followed by an Oneg Shabbat. Shabbat morning services at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, followed by Kiddush. For information call Cantor Richard Berlin, spiritual leader, or the office at (412) 823-4338, e-mail hazzanrick@earthlink.net or visit <http://members.aol.com/pgphjc>.

Poale Zedeck Congregation Friday Shachrit at 6, 6:55 and 8 a.m. Mincha erev Shabbat at 5:25 p.m. Shabbat Shachrit early minyan at 8 a.m. and main minyan at 8:45 a.m. Mincha 5:10 p.m. Sunday Shachrit at 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. Monday Shachrit at 6, 6:45 and 8 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday Shachrit at 6, 6:55 and 8 a.m. Thursday Shachrit at 6, 6:45 and 8 a.m. Friday Shachrit at 6, 6:55 and 8 a.m. Sunday through Thursday Mincha at 5:25 p.m. Daf Yomi at 6 a.m. Monday through Friday. Sisterhood International Food Festival from 5 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 15; call office for reservations. For information call (412) 421-9786 or visit www.poalezedeck.org.

Riverview Towers Oneg Shabbat 2 p.m. Friday Reform services Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. are sponsored by Rodef Shalom. Saturday Shabbat 10 a.m. For more information call (412) 521-7876.

Please see Community, Next Page

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COMMUNITY

Continued from previous page.

Rodef Shalom Congregation Erev Shabbat services at 5:30 p.m. on Friday. Torah study and TOT Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday followed by Shabbat service at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Nicholas Colovos, head of emergency at Allegheny General Hospital, will discuss "Crisis in the Emergency Room" at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday breakfast. Dr. David Miller, assistant dean and professor of Public and Urban Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, will speak on Thursday to the Discussion Group. His topic is "Pittsburgh and the Metropolitan Region: Is a Marriage Possible?" Daily prayer services Monday through Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Sunday prayer service at 9 a.m. For information call (412) 621-6566.

Shaare Torah Congregation Friday night services at 5:25 p.m. Shabbat services at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday. Daily services: Monday and Thursday 6:40 and 8 a.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 7 and 8 a.m. Evening services at 5:35 p.m. Call the shul for a list of classes given by Rabbi Wasserman and Rabbi Shusterman. Kiddush follows services. Flea market Feb. 15 and 16. For information call (412) 421-8855 or e-mail shaaretora@aol.com.

Sukkat Shalom, a member-led congregation in the liberal Reform tradition, meets at the Edward and Rose Berman Hillel Jewish University Center, 4607 Forbes Ave., Oakland. Erev Shabbat services at 6 p.m. on Friday. Torah study at 10 a.m. Saturday followed by services at 11 a.m. For more information call Marcia at (412) 244-8823 or e-mail SukkatShalomPgh@aol.com.

Temple B'nai Israel, 2025 Cypress Drive, White Oak, Pa. Sabbath services are usually held on alternating Friday evenings at 8 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. An Oneg Shabbat follows each service. Adult education meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Sunday each month. Services and adult education meetings are conducted by Rabbi Daniel L. Schiff. For information call (412) 678-6181 or visit www.tbi-whiteoak.org.

Temple Beth Israel in Steubenville Shabbat services at 8 p.m. on Friday. For information call (740) 264-5514.

Temple David in Monroeville early Shabbat service at 7 p.m. on Friday with Tu B'Shevat address by Gary Goodson from the Green Building Alliance. Third graders will participate. Torah study at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Junior Congregation at 9 a.m. Shabbat service at 9:30 a.m. Religious school Tu B'Shevat seder. The film "Relentless," a review of Israeli-Palestinian conflict, will be shown at 11 a.m. on Sunday with an introduction by David Shtulman, executive director of the American Jewish Committee. For information call (412) 372-1200 or visit www.templedavid.org.

Temple Emanuel of South Hills Family Shabbat service at 7 p.m. on Friday. Torah study at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Shabbat service at 10:30 a.m. Minyan at 9 a.m. Sunday. For information call (412) 279-7600 or visit www.templeemanuelpgh.org.

Temple Hadar Israel in New Castle, Lawrence County, holds services in the former Tifereth Israel Synagogue. For information call (724) 658-9708.

Temple Ohav Shalom in the North Hills. For information call (412) 369-0900 or visit www.ohavshalom.org.

Temple Shalom in Wheeling Tu B'Shevat seder/dinner at 6 p.m. on Friday. Torah Talk continues on Saturday at 9 a.m. For information call (304) 233-4870.

Temple Sinai Shabbat service at 7 p.m. Friday. Informal Shabbat service and Torah Study at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. Shabbat service at 10:30 a.m. Weekly parsha study class at noon on Wednesday. Thursday minyan at 7:30 p.m. For information call (412) 421-9715 or visit www.templesinaipgh.org.

Torath Chaim daily services Monday and Thursday 6:15 a.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 6:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday mornings at 9. For information call Arnie Swartz, (412) 362-0036.

Tree of Life Congregation Tot Shabbat at 5:45 p.m. on Friday. Kabbalat Shabbat service at 8:15 p.m. Traditional service at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday. Kiddush luncheon every week; all are welcome. Saturday evening service at 5 p.m. Weekday services: Sunday minyan at 9 a.m. followed by Men's Club breakfast at 9:30 a.m. with speaker Wendy Hallie on getting close and personal with special needs participants; Monday and Thursday at 7:30 a.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:45 a.m. Sunday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m. For all other information, call Ruth Scott at (412) 521-6788 or e-mail tolpgh@aol.com.

Tree of Life Congregation of Uniontown. Shabbat service Friday at 8 p.m. Saturday service 10 a.m. For information call Harold Cohen at (724) 438-0343 or Larry Smith at (724) 438-4197.

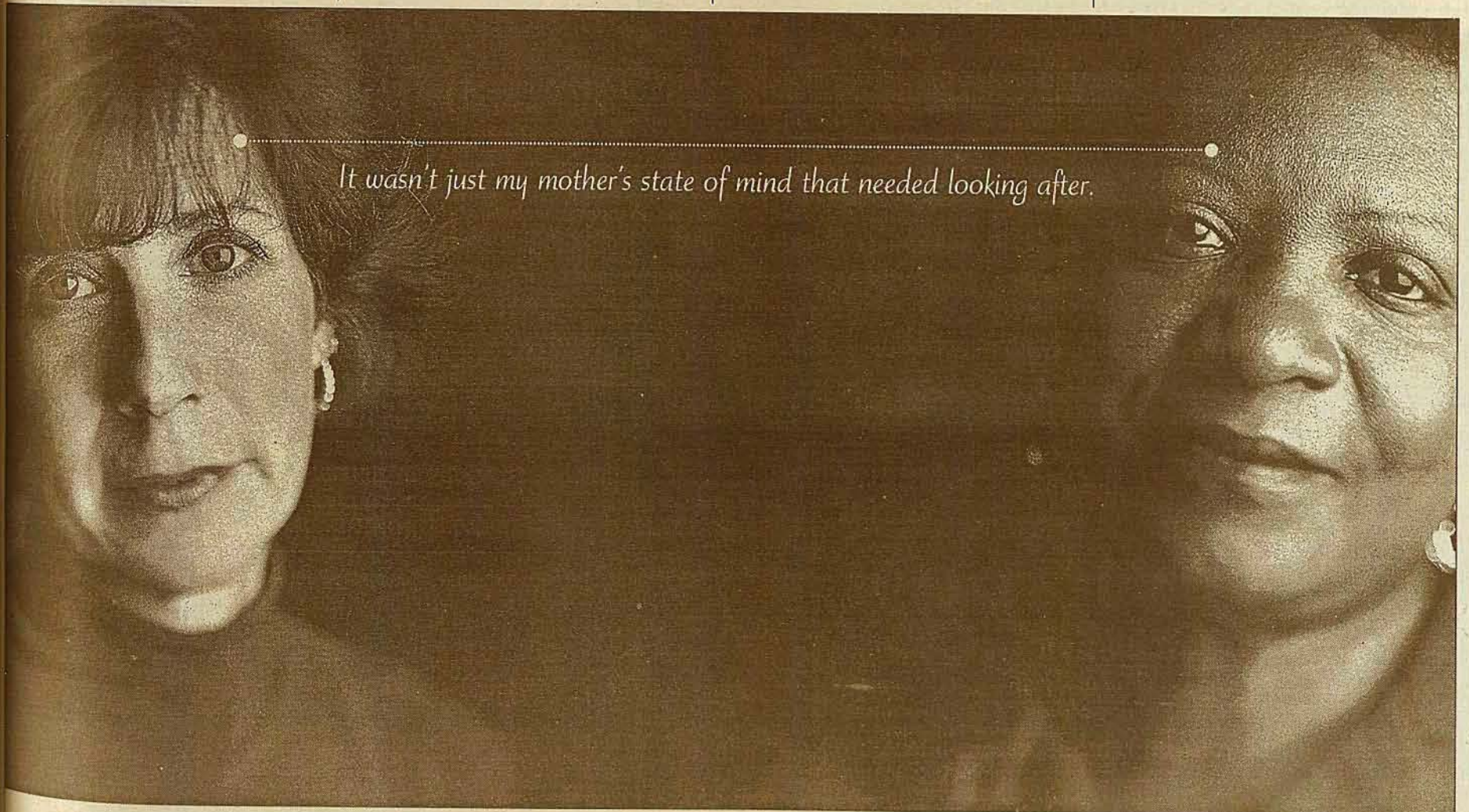
Young Israel Congregation, 5831 Bartlett St., Friday night Mincha, five minutes after candle lighting but no later than 7:30. Saturday services 9 a.m. Saturday Gemora class one hour before Mincha, one hour and five minutes before Maariv. Seudat shlisheet follows. Maariv 10 minutes before end of Shabbat. Sunday service 8 a.m. Daily Shachrit minyan at 6:30 a.m., 6:20 a.m. on Rosh Chodesh. For more information, call Rabbi Nosson Adler at (412) 421-2780 or visit www.geocities.com/youngisrael.pgh.

YPS, a traditional and participatory congregation, meets every Shabbat and Yom Tov at 6404 Forbes, corner Denniston, in the Bnai Zion building. Friday Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat. Shabbat morning services at 9:30 a.m. Kindershtul with Nina Schor meets at 10:30 a.m. Saturday afternoon Mincha and Torah study. Newcomers are welcome. For information call Bernie Klionsky, president, at (412) 421-6172 or visit www.youngpeoples.org.

Organizations

The Jewish Women's Center will hold its annual Shabbat service on Saturday at the Labor Zionist Center in Squirrel Hill, 6328 Forbes Ave. Lisa Brush will give a D'var Torah. The service will begin at 9:30 a.m. and is informal and participatory. The public is invited. Refreshments in celebration of Tu B'Shevat will be served after the service. For more information, call (412) 422-8044 or e-mail jwcpgh@yahoo.com.

Please see Organizations, page 29.



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Film festival lineup has something for everyone

Here's a rundown of the films that will appear this year at the 11th Annual Pittsburgh Jewish-Israeli Film Festival:

"James' Journey to Jerusalem," March 4, 7:30 p.m., Loews Waterfront Theater, (Israeli) — in an imaginary African village, a young man chosen to undertake a pilgrimage to Jerusalem is mistakenly jailed and bailed out by a manpower agent who rescues illegal migrant workers in exchange for employing them in menial labor. A reception will follow at the Loews Club, with opening night events underwritten by Richard E. Rauh.

"Provence United," March 6 at 7:30 p.m., Loews Waterfront; March 8 at 7:30 p.m., Destinta Theaters in Bridgeville, (Israeli) — a small-time soccer star dreams about playing in the major leagues. Co-winner of the Best Film Award at the 2002 Haifa International Film Festival.

"Manhood," March 6 at 9:20 p.m., Loews Waterfront, (American) — inde-

pendent filmmaker Bobby Roth explores three generations of a Jewish family and their foibles. Actor John Ritter makes one of his fi-

nal film appearances.

"Thunder in Guyana," March 7 at 4 p.m., Loews Waterfront, (American) — a true tale of a Chicago-born Jewish woman Janet Rosenberg-Jagan, who falls in love with a Guyana native. Together they start a socialist revolution that leads to free elections and her election as the first foreign-born, female president of the country.

"Decryptage," March 7 at 7 p.m., Loews Waterfront, (French) — examines media coverage of the second intifada and whether it has contributed to growing European anti-Semitism. A panel discussion will follow the screening, featuring several area journalists who will explore the issue of balanced reporting concerning the Middle East.

"Yossi and Jagger," March 11 at 7:30 p.m., Regent Square Theater, (Israeli) — Two Israeli army officers carry out a secret love affair on a remote army base in southern Lebanon. Based on a true story, this anti-war feature captures young people trying to survive — and find love — in a troubled time and place. Best Actor awarded to Ohad Knoller (Yossi) at 2003 Tribeca Film Festival.

"Gloomy Sunday," March 13 at 7:30 p.m., Loews Waterfront, and March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Denis Theater, (German) — a romantic drama that focuses on a melancholy melody that was a legend throughout Europe for its power to drive young lovers to suicide. A love triangle, impending war and

Nazi imperialism all add to the drama set against the backdrop of 1930's Budapest.

"God's Sandbox," March 13 at 9:40 p.m., Loews Waterfront, (Israeli) — Leila, a Western tourist, falls in love with Najim, son of a Bedouin sheik. Najim is exiled for wanting to marry Leila as their love story turns tragic.

"Undying Love," March 14 at 1 p.m., Regent Square, (Canadian) — survivors reconstruct their lives and forge intimate relationships in the most difficult of situations. Narratives through interviews are interwoven with Holocaust survivors, rare archival documentary footage, vintage film clips from Hollywood and Yiddish films.

"One of the Lamed-Vav," March 14 at 4 p.m., Loews Waterfront, (Israeli) — viewers are taken through the Orthodox neighborhoods of Jerusalem, theaters, kibbutzim, army bases, coffeehouses and Torah study halls, to follow the footsteps of Jerusalem's Rabbi Arye Levin.

"My Terrorist," March 14 at 7 p.m., Loews Waterfront, (Israeli) — a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and a sixth-generation Israeli meet in 1978 when the terrorist points a machine gun at the El Al flight attendant. Two decades later, in an effort to break the cycle of violence, the Israeli considers writing a letter in support of the terrorist's parole.

"Miss Entebbe," March 18 at 7:30 p.m., Loews Waterfront, and March 21

at 1 p.m. at the Destinta, (Israeli) — when 13-year-old Noa learns her neighbor's mother was taken hostage on a plane hijacked by terrorists, she and her friends decide to kidnap a hostage of their own, a young Palestinian boy from their Jerusalem neighborhood, to demand an exchange.

"Desperado Square," March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Loews Waterfront, (Israeli) — in a community of Greek Jews living outside Tel Aviv, Nisim dreams of reopening the neighborhood's theater and bringing joy, and uncovers family secrets, in the process.

"Bit By Bit," March 20 at 9:30 p.m., Loews Waterfront (Swedish) — a 25-year-old Swedish slacker who has a love affair with video games has to choose between competing in the Nintendo World Cup Games and the family's seder.

"The Power of Balance," March 21 at 4 p.m., Loews Waterfront, (Israeli) — an Israeli dance company, Vertigo, and a group of individuals with disabilities work together to form a dance piece.

"Foreign Sister," March 21 at 7 p.m., Loews Waterfront, (Israeli) — an Israeli woman hires an Ethiopian Christian woman to work in her home. Parallels emerge between the two women as they bond in friendship despite their differences of age, race and class. Director Dan Wolman will be at the screening to discuss filmmaking in Israel. Wolman is the 1999 winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Jerusalem International Film Festival.

Want to go?

Tickets are available after Feb. 10 by calling the ticket line: (412) 992-5203. Seat reservations must be made in advance, and all films and programs are subject to change. For info: www.pjiff.net

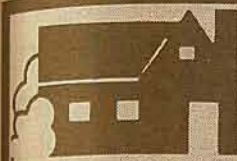
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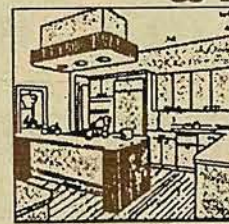
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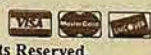
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Word search puzzle for Neil Simon

BY BEN TATAR

Neil Simon is called "The Patron Saint of Laughter," and is considered the most successful commercial playwright in history. Find the 41 words and names relating to his plays, his films and him. The words will be in a straight line and will be found forward, backward, up, down or diagonally. Draw a circle around each word or name found and cross it off the word list. Letters may be used more than once and words often overlap. The unused letters will spell out an appropriate phrase. Words in parentheses do not appear in the puzzle. The solution will appear in next week's Chronicle.

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E T I U S F O R E N O S I R P
F O T S A L T S O L G Y M M E

Hidden Phrase:

(1st wife dancer Joan) BAIM
"BAREFOOT (in the Park)" '63
"BILOXI BLUES" '85
("Come) BLOW (Your Horn)" '61
("The Sunshine) BOYS" '72
"BRIGHTON (Beach Memoirs)" '83
"BROADWAY (Bound)" '86
(Born July 4, 1927) BRONX, (NY)
(Adopted daughter) BRYN (3rd marriage)
"CHAPTER (Two)" '77
(For TV, co-wrote with brother) DANNY.
("The) DINNER (Party)" '99
("The Good) DOCTOR" '73
ELLEN (daughter from 1st marriage)
(He's a four-time) EMMY (winner)
"FOOLS" '81
(He's a master of the one-line) GAG.
("The) GINGERBREAD (Lady)" '70
("The) GOODBYE GIRL" '93
("The Heartbreak) KID" (Film '72)
(3rd wife Diane) LANDER

"LAST OF (the Red Hot Lovers)" '69
"LAUGHTER (on the 23rd Floor)" '93
"LONDON (Suite)" '94
(Pulitzer Prize for) "LOST (in Yonkers)" '91
(2nd wife actress Marsha) MASON
NANCY (daughter from 1st marriage)
(Born Marvin) NEIL (Simon)
("The) ODD (Couple)" '65
("The) PRISONER (of Second Avenue)" '71
(America's most) PROLIFIC (playwright)
"PROPOSALS" (2003)
"RUMOURS" '88
("They're Playing Our) SONG" '79
("California) SUITE" '76
"SWEET (Charity)" '66
("I Ought) TO BE (in Pictures)" '80
("The Out-of-) TOWNERS" (Film '70)
("Jake's) WOMEN" '92
WON (4 Tony Awards)
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Temple Emanuel to hold programming event

Temple Emanuel of the South Hills, a Reform congregation, will hold an event for current and prospective members from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday. This Temple Emanuel All Member (T.E.A.M.) Rally is an opportunity to discuss and provide input about Temple Emanuel and some exciting new adult programming opportunities.

The event will begin with a bagel brunch and activity fair where members can socialize and visit tables set up by Temple committees. Following a welcoming address, attendees will have an opportunity to discuss and indicate their interest in potential new programs from

movie and game nights to discussion groups and family retreats. Members will be able to choose among break-out groups by interest area to further discuss and plan specific programs. The event will conclude with a plenary session and remarks by Rabbi Mark Mahler.

The event is free of charge but advance reservations are requested. Babysitting and youth programs will be available during the rally by advance arrangements. Additional information is available at www.templeemanuelphg.org, or by contacting the Temple Emanuel office at (412) 279-7600.

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Portion of the Week

RABBI MARK JOEL MAHLER, TEMPLE EMANUEL OF SOUTH HILLS

Beshalach, Exodus
13:17-17:16; Judges
4:4-5:31

Genesis, the longest of all the Torah's books, ends with a grand total of 70 Jews. This meager sum underscores the theme that the Book of Genesis belongs to God, creating the universe, speaking to this person and that, bringing a flood, wasting sinful cities and appearing repeatedly in dreams.

Genesis is God's book, but Exodus is ours. In a scant few verses, we had "multiplied and increased very greatly," so

that when we stand at Mt. Sinai, we are six hundred thousand men strong, plus women, children and elders. Nowhere in Genesis does God proclaim, "Let there be Jews." It is in Exodus at Mt. Sinai that we become the Jewish people when we hear the voice of God and then act.

Being Jewish is not a birthright. Jewish parents cannot ensure that their children will be Jewish, as the demographic trends of American Jewry demonstrate. Neither is being Jewish a divine right. If it were in God's power to ensure it, God knows God would. If being Jewish were merely a cultural phenomenon — bagels and lox or hummus and pita — then half the country would be Jewish, rather than a pint-size percentage. Nor is being Jewish a measure of intrinsic genius or morality. For every Einstein, we have a Lewinsky.

Mt. Sinai established the standard for what it means to be Jewish. God commands and the Jewish people respond to that command.

There is no better example of this standard than the great hero of Beshalach, our Torah portion. Ironically, he is not even mentioned in the portion, but the midrash identifies and extols him. He is the first Jew that entered the waters as God urged the people to go forward into the Red Sea. He jumped in up to his eyes.

The imagery is beautiful. At that point, he no longer could breathe, but he could precisely see his predicament. When God witnessed this act of faith, the miracle unfolded, the waters divided and the dry land appeared. Our hero's name is Nachshon. That Nachshon's name is absent from our portion conveys its own beautiful lesson. Like Nachshon, you cannot find your name or mine anywhere in the portion, or in the Torah altogether. Yet like Nachshon, we can fashion miracles for our time that needs miracles as desperately as the Jewish people needed a miracle at the Red Sea. All that we have to do is hear the voice of God and then jump.

(This column is a service of the Greater Pittsburgh Rabbinic Association.)

Poale Zedeck set to hold international food festival

Congregation Poale Zedeck will hold an international food festival from 5 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the synagogue, Phillips and Shady avenues, Squirrel Hill. In the event of snow, the dinner will be held instead on Feb. 16 at the same time.

The cuisines of five countries will be featured. Menu items will include: falafel, hummus, techina, salad and baklava (Israel); mushroom-barley soup, stuffed cabbage, shlishkes and Czech cookies (Hungary); antipasto, chicken cacciatore, spaghetti and almond biscotti (Italy); egg drop soup, chicken-vegetable stir-fry, fried rice and fortune cookies

(China) and hot dogs, French fries and chocolate chip cookies (the United States).

There are separate charges for adults and children.

All foods are glatt kosher and under the supervision of Rabbi Yisroel Miller. Meat and chicken will be Lubavitch shechita.

Reservations with advance payment are recommended for expedited seating. Take out is available by reservation only and can be picked up between 4 and 5 p.m. Call the Poale Zedeck office at (412) 421-9786.

Town Jottings

A local online network of mothers called Pittsburgh Mamas has come together to save a South Side business. Carly's Closet, run by Lisa Chotiner, is a children's maternity consignment boutique located on East Carson Street. Chotiner announced last month that the store would have to close due to poor

sales, but Pittsburgh Mamas Network, a loose affiliation of more than 100 mothers and others on Yahoo-groups, is brainstorming ways to improve business. Interested groups and individuals should contact Carly's Closet at (412) 381-1664.

Organizations

(Continued from page 23.)

National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is hosting Monte Carlo Night at 7 p.m., Saturday, at the Concordia Club in Oakland. The evening will benefit the Children's Playrooms in the courts as well as NCJW's many other community service projects, which help to improve the quality of life for women, children and families. To reserve tickets to the event, or for further information, call the office at (412) 421-6118.

The Professional and Executive Jewish Singles invites you to The Perfect Match cocktail party at Poli's Restaurant, at 7 p.m. on Feb. 12. Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and find the perfect match. Attire is business casual, no denim. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (412) 521-3747 or send e-mail to

susan.patt@verizon.net and include name, address and phone number.

Squirrel Hill Historical Society will host a free lecture at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Sixth Presbyterian Church on Forbes and Murray avenues in Squirrel Hill. Nationality Rooms Director Maxine Bruhns will show a video and discuss the history of the rooms at the University of Pittsburgh. For more information call (412) 417-3707 or visit www.orgsites.com/pa/shhs.

Women of Temple Sinai present "Techniques for Helping Children Read," featuring Dr. Isabel Beck at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. Dr. Beck, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, is a nationally known researcher in reading education. Her work provided the foundation for the Literacy Plus Program in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. R.S.V.P. to office@templesinai.org.

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MORNING SERVICES - 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH: JACOB ADLER, IDA ALPERT, SAMUEL APPEL, AARON HARRY BERNSTEIN, GUSSYE BERNSTEIN, SIMON BOSTOCKY, BELLA BRAVER, FROOMIE BROWN, DOROTHY TAUBER BURDMAN, MAURICE CHAITKIN, EVA COHEN, FLORA COHEN, JACOB FINEBERG, GOLDIE FRANK, MELVIN FRANK, DANIEL GLICK, LENA GORDON, LILLIAN GOULD, SARAH TWILA GREENBERG, EDITH M. GUSKY, SOPHIE HEILBRONER, MOLLIE HILSENATH, MICHAEL HOFFRICHTER, SAJL I. HYDE, ROSE KATZ, ROSE KLINE, GRACE M. LEVINE, DANIEL LEVINSON, ABRAHAM M. LEWINE, REBECCA LUICK, GOLDIE W. MARCUS, RAE MARCUS, WILLIAM MARK, SANDOR MARKUS, REBECCA MILLER, HENDEL MUNTER, MYER MYERS, CLARA M. NEIMAN, LOUIS H. NEVINS, BELLA PITTLER, DOROTHY POLLOCK, LEON PRINZ, LOIS ELLEN RABINOWITZ, ISRAEL C. RAMBACH, LOUIS ROSEN, ISAAC ROTHBERG, MOLLIE RYAVE, DAVID SAMUELS, SYBIL R. SCHERMER, MORRIS SCHLEIFER, MAX SCHOENBERGER, FRANCES SHELL, NORMAN SPEER, BENJAMIN W. STEINER, SAMUEL STONE, DAVID STRAUSS, SAMUEL WALDMAN, BRUCHA WEISSMAN.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH: SARAH ABRAMS, CHIA SORA BRODY, HYMAN BROWARSKY, MAURICE I. BROWN, ANNA L. CAPLAN, BELLA ESTHER ESMAN, ABRAHAM FALEDER, DANIEL JOSEPH FEINBERG, HANNAH GLUECK, HARRY G. GOFF, ETHEL GOLANTY, ABRAHAM GOLDFARB, CHARLES GORDON, EDWARD P. GORDON, JACK GOULD, FANNIE GREENBERGER, MORRIS D. HERWITT, BENNIE HIRSCH, DR. LEON HIRSCH, LILLIE HUTTNER, FRANK A. KAMINS, JACOB KELSEY, HYMAN KLAHR, NAOMI LEVENSON, REBECCA LEWIS, DAVID LUNDY, ISADORE LUPOVITZ, NATHAN MAGIDSON, JOSEPH MARKOWITZ, LEW J. MILLER, ISADORE PACHTMAN, ROBERT J. ROSENTHAL, EUNICE ROTH, ISADORE SCOTT, JUDITH SHUPAK, LENA G. SKIRBLE, SAUL SPIEGEL, GEORGE J. STEIN, SARA STEINER, EVA TRACHTENBERG, MORRIS S. WERTHEIMER, A. LEONARD WINER, IVAN LEE WOLINSKY, RABBI GABRIEL ZAKUTO.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH: PHILIP BABITZ, MYER BOROVIETZ, CHARLES I. BRISKIN, EATHER FREIDA CAPLAN, EVELYN R. COHEN, IDA LEBOW COHEN, LOUIS J. COHEN, DAVID ALBERT DICKSTEIN, PESACH FINEGOLD, SADIE FINKELHOR, SAUL FRANK, IDA SARAH FREEDMAN, RAE GERBER, DAVID I. GLANTZ, KATHERINE GLICK, SARAH BESSIE GOLDMAN, LENA GRODSTEIN, MARCUS GROPPER, MAX HALLE, REUBEN HELFANT, RAE L. HERR, IRVING HOCHHAUSER, LILLIAN Y. HORWITZ, SARAH KAPLAN, ISIDOR KLEIN, SAMUEL M. KRAUSE, SIMON KROUSE, WALLACE A. LAUTMAN, EVE LITTMAN, BESSIE MARCUS, SAMUEL MEHLMAN, ERNEST METZGER, BESSIE NYDES, MILDRED PECHERSKY, RACHEL PICHEL, JENNIE PINK, ELSIE L. PLESSET, ROSE ROSENFELD, IRVING ROSS, ALEXANDER ROTH, MARGARET SCHAFFRAN, MARK J. SERBIN, MARY SHANKER, DR. NINON A. SHAW, PHILIP SOLOMON, DR. JACOB OWEN SPECTER, SIDNEY STARK, LEON STEIN, HENRIETTA STRENG, MABEL Z. SWARTZ, SAM WEISS, FLORENCE EVA WEIZER, LOUIS BENNETT WHEELER, ADOLPH WINKLER.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH: WILLIAM BARNETT, BESSIE BEERMAN, LOUIS BENNETT, HARRY BRAUN, LOUIS BROWN, NEWMAN COHEN, ROSE RAND COOPER, BENJAMIN CUMMINS, REAH FEINBERG, ETTIE K. FRANK, BESS B. GINSBURG, EDWARD GOODMAN, ESTHER GOODMAN, ABRAHAM GREEN, ETHEL GREENBERG, FANNY H. GREENSTONE, MYER GROSSMAN, MOSES HARTER, SADIE JOSPE, SELMA B. KATZ, NATHAN LIEBLING, ELI LIVINGSTON, EVA MANDELBLATT, SALLY MARCOVSKY, DOROTHY L. MARSHALL, FLORENCE G. MENDELSON, PHILIP NATHANSON, SARAH NEISTADT, HERMAN OBERNAUSER, ABRAHAM PEREIRA, LILLIAN S. ROMANOFF, ROSE SCHLESSINGER, ANNA SCHWADRON, JACK M. SHAER, REUBIN SHAPER, DAVID SOLOF, KATIE L. SOLOMON, DORA STADTFELD, SARAH WAXLER, WOLF YOUNG.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH: FANNY P. BALKMAN, HYMAN BARNETT, JOSEPH BENKOVITZ, SAMUEL BENNETT, JOSEPH BLOOM, REUBEN A. COHEN, SAMUEL COHEN, GERTRUDE CRIEP, ABRAHAM DAVIS, HATTIE DEBROFF, HARRY EGLER, HANNAH R. ELIASHOFF, JACOB ERENSTEIN, ROSE FIREMAN, SAMUEL S. GARDNER, CELIA GLANTZ, LOTTIE GLANZ, HERMAN GLASS, ROSE GLICK, SAM GLICK, LEON GOULD, ROBERT KANE, ABRAHAM I. KANN, ROSE KLEIN, HAIM LAZARUS, NACHAME O. LEVIN, BEN LEVINE, HARRY E. LEVINE, SARAH LEVY, SAMUEL MALLINGER, MATHILDA MARCUS, REBECCA MEHLMAN, SAMUEL S. NEWMAN, FANIE HANTMAN ORR, WILLIAM D. ORR, RENA POLLOCK, HYMAN POSE, WILLIAM RACUSIN, NATHAN L. ROSENTHAL, SARA RUBENSTEIN, MAX A. RUBIN, PHILIP SCHMEISER, LOUIS SHENKAN, FRANK STARK, JOSEPH YETIN, HARRY STRAUCHLER, GITTEL SUKOLSKY, REBECCA TRACHT, GERALDINE TYSON, OSCAR WANETICK, ANNA I. WEINBERGER, RUTH WEINBERGER, ARTHUR WEINER, FANNIE B. WEINTHAL, MIRIAM WIESENTHAL.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH: ROSE AVNER, NETTIE G. BARON, LOUIS M. BENNETT, JACOB E. CANTER, MAE L. COHN, SARAH DEBROFF, ARTHUR EDELSTEIN, SAMUEL FEIN, AMY P. FRANK, LEONARD GLICK, GERALD LEE GOLDMAN, GEORGE W. GOODWIN, JENNIE RAE GRADITOR, TILLIE GRAY, DOROTHY L. GREENSTONE, RACHEL GRINBERG, LENA GUTKIND, ALICE HENRY, DR. ADOLPH HERSKOVITZ, AARON HIRSCHMAN, SAMUEL HORNE, ESTHER JACOBS, IDA G. KAFTON, DAVID KAPLAN, JOSEPH KEISLER, DAVID KLEIN, SARAH KORETSKY, HANNAH S. KUSMINSKY, SHINA E. LANDO, JOSIAH MARCUS, SAMUEL O. MARKOWITZ, SAMUEL NEWMAN, SAM OKER, SAMUEL PASEKOFF, DORA RABINOVITZ, OSNA ROSE, FANNIE ROSEN, BERTRAM SAMUELS, ETHEL SCHRAGER, EDWARD SCHULTZ, LOUIS SHER, BELLA M. SHERMAN, MYER SILVERMAN, GERTRUDE STEINBERG, EVA TENENBAUM, LOUIS WEINER, LOUIS A. WIENER, ALICE R. WOLF, ISAAC WOLOVITZ, OSCAR ZEIDENSTEIN.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH: MARY AMERICUS, CHARLES C. BAROFSKY, WALTER BURKE, PHILLIP CAPLAN, ANNA DUNN COHEN, DAVID COHEN, A.L. DAVIDSON, LEON A. FRIED, ABRAHAM FRIEDBERG, MARCUS FRIEDMAN, JOSEPH GOLDBERG, DORA GOLDSTEIN, DR. HARRY GOLDSTEIN, SAMUEL GREENBERG, DANIEL GRODNER, MEYER HANICK, NATHAN B. JACOBS, ZANGWILL KAMIL, STEPHEN L. KAUFMAN, SARA R. KITAY, MIRIAM F. KOPELSON, FRED KRAMER, HARRY LANGER, EDWARD LAPIDUS, YETTA LEVENSON, WILLIAM M. LOWENSTEIN, JEAN MARIANS, MELVIN MORGAN, ABRAHAM NERNBERG, JOSEPH PERELL, ESTHER PHILLIPS, FANNIE PROTECH, SYDNEY S. REICHAUT, ABRAHAM RIPP, PHILLIP H. SAACK, PHILLIP SACK, PAULINE SALKOVITZ, MILTON SAPIR, J.L. SAPPER, TAUBE SCHWARTZ, BENJAMIN SILBERMAN, ABRAHAM SILVERBERG, AUDREY S. SILVERMAN, FRANCES SIMON, JACOB I. SLOTSKY, ALBERT STEIN, JENNIE SMIT STRENG, WILMA J. TUMPSON, DAVID WALLACH, HERMAN WEISBERGER, JOSEPH N. WEISSBERG, HARRY A. WILKOFSKY, MARY WYCHANSKY, DEBORAH ZELMANOVITZ.

OBITUARY

BRODSKY: On Wednesday, January 28, 2004, Dr. Steven G. Brodsky, 51, of Center Twp., son of Annette Gleit Brodsky of Tamarac, FL and the late George Brodsky; beloved husband of Laurel King Brodsky; brother of Kenneth and Jane Brodsky of ME and Sheryl and Larry LaRaus of NY; uncle of Andrew and Timothy Brodsky and Jake and Alexa LaRaus. Graveside services and interment were held at Agudath Achim Cemetery. Arrangements by Hill & Kunselman Funeral Home, Inc., Beaver Falls.

FEINMAN: On Tuesday, January 27, 2004, Dr. Theodore Henry Feinman, 83, of Caldwell, NJ, formerly of McKeesport Area; son of the late Isadore Robert and Minnie Kirshtein Feinman; beloved husband of the late Jeanne Kalstone Feinman; father of Dr. Bernard (Cheryl) Feinman of Pgh., Paul R. Feinman of Weaverville, NC and Sally Feinman (Donald) Garson of Caldwell, NJ; grandfather of M. Benjamin Feinman, Traverse City, MI, Lori Feinman (Michael) Coscia of Washington, D.C., Mathew Garson and Andrew Garson of Caldwell, NJ; great-grandfather of Tina, Merritt and Jordan Coscia; brother of Evelyn Manstorf of Washington, D.C. and Shirley Katz of Philadelphia. Graveside services and interment were held at Temple Cemetery. Arrangements by Strifflers, of White Oak, Inc. Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., 17th fl., Chicago, IL 60601.

FRANK: On Monday, January 26, 2004, James Alan Frank, beloved husband of Ruth Ohringer Frank; beloved father of Susan (Thomas) Lippard of Pgh., James W. (Catherine) Frank of Rome, Italy, Linda Frank Ruth of Ithaca, NY and William O. Frank of Seattle, WA; brother of the late Thomas W. Frank and Marjorie Frank Green; grandfather of Gregory W. (Nina) Lippard, Jonsara Ruth, Adam R. Lippard, Jed F. Lippard and Sebastian A. Ruth; also survived by nieces and one nephew. Services were held at Rodef Shalom Temple. Interment West View Cemetery of Rodef Shalom Congregation. Contributions may be made to the American Jewish Committee, Pgh. Chapter, 2345 Murray Ave., Ste. 210, Pgh., PA 15217. Arrangements by Ralph Schugar Chapel, Inc.

HAFFNER: On Friday, January 30, 2004, Manuel Haffner, 76, of Sq. Hill, beloved son of the late Max and Ida

Times To Remember

Kindle Sabbath candles: 5:26 p.m. EST.
Sabbath ends: 6:30 p.m. EST.
Scriptural readings: Sedra Beshalach;
Exodus 13:17-17:16; Judges 4:4-5:31.

Haffner; brother of the late Arlene Haffner Werber; uncle of Steven Joel Werber; brother-in-law of Barry Werber. Graveside services and interment were held at Shaare Torah Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Hillel Academy, 5685 Beacon St., Pgh., PA 15217. Arrangements by Daniel T. Alessandro Funeral Home Ltd.

SILBERMAN: On Tuesday, January 27, 2004, Gertrude S. Silberman, beloved wife of the late Dr. Raphael Silberman; beloved mother of Stephanie Snyder; cherished grandmother of Andy and Kara Snyder and Jennifer and Alan Friedman; great-grandmother of Eli Michael Snyder and Alexandra Rae Friedman; dear sister of Edith Adler of Washington, PA, the late Edgar Schwartz, Mickey Schwartz, Seymour Schwartz, Goldie Glick and Harriet Marks. Services were held at Burton L. Hirsch Funeral Home, Inc., 2704 Murray Ave., Sq. Hill (opp. Morrowfield Apts.). Interment Beth Shalom Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the Charles M. Morris Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 200 JHF Dr., Pgh., PA 15217 or to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Western PA, William Penn Hotel, 555 Grant St., Ste. 425. Pgh., PA 15219.

SOLOW: On Tuesday, January 27, 2004, Charles L. Solow, of Pgh. and FL; beloved husband of Randy Solow; brother of Edward Solow of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Donald Solow of Pgh.; also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Private services were held at the Star of David Memorial Chapel Mausoleum, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

USICK: On Sunday, February 1, 2004, Zena Usick, 91, of London, England, wife of the late Ben Lane and the late Maurice Usick; mother of Nicholas and Eileen Lane and Patricia and the late Michael Usick; grandmother of Adam Lane, Erica Lane and Edward Usick. Graveside services and interment were held in London.

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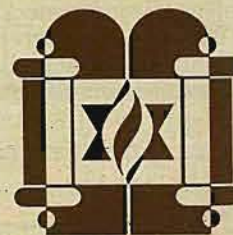
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Tu B'Shevat: A Jewish Earth Day

Continued from page 1.

years. "Normally, about two million trees are planted annually through the JNF and this year, we planted almost three million, so Ilan obviously made a big impact."

"We will realize the dream over a course of a number of years. Lots of calls came in on how people could help to make that dream a reality."

Tu B'Shevat literally translates to mean the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat and it is celebrated as the New Year for Trees, this year on Feb. 7. This comes at a time of the year when trees in Israel start drinking the new year's rainwater and the sun renews itself.

Over the past 100 years, Jews have come together to plant more than 240 million trees through JNF, covering over 250,000 acres of land in Israel.

In recent years, Jewish environmentalists adopted Tu B'Shevat as a "Jewish Earth Day," involving organized seders, tree-plantings and ecological restoration activities as a way to express a specifically Jewish commitment to caring for nature and protecting the environment. Trees defend

against the greenhouse effect, improve air quality, prevent soil erosion and protect areas that feed into water sources.

Many Jewish schools in Pittsburgh plan to celebrate Tu B'Shevat by conducting a seder where fruits and grains from Israel (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates) are blessed and eaten.

Beth Shalom Congregation joins hundreds of other schools across the country in the JNF's Tu B'Shevat Across America 2004. This program encourages synagogues and religious schools to not only hold seders but to plant trees as well.

Trees can be planted in memory or in honor of a loved one. A purchase includes two Ilan Ramon Tree Certificates, one for the purchaser and one for the honoree. Anyone interested in purchasing a tree at any time during the year can contact their local synagogue or Jewish organization, call the JNF tree order line at 1 (800) 542-8733 or go online to www.jnf.org.

(Marci Barnes can be reached online at marci_k_barnes@yahoo.com.)

Soldiers: Families can move on with their lives

Continued from page 1.

director of Agency Endowment Development Brian Eglash, who participated in the mission.

"We met his parents, his wife, his son, who I think was about 3 at the time, his brothers and sisters. It was a huge family," he said. "There was still a lot of hope that they [the kidnapped soldiers] weren't killed, especially because he was a Muslim ... it was worse for him because he was seen [by Hezbollah] as a traitor."

Souad was 27 when he was captured. He was one of 11 children and had a wife and two young sons. He was a career soldier in the IDF.

"It was very moving to meet his family," Eglash said. "It was very sad."

Although it was widely believed that the soldiers were dead before their bodies were returned last week, Eglash said he was still saddened by the news.

Essie Garfinkel, who along with her husband, Harold "Raven" Garfinkel, chaired the Pittsburgh Partnership 2000 program for three years, also went on the mission.

She recalled how touching the visit with Souad's family was.

"We all left there with our hearts hurting," she said. "They were experiencing the same type of pain that Jewish Israelis feel when they lose their

sons to war. It was very meaningful to them to have Jewish visitors and support. They were very thankful."

Garfinkel said she hopes now that Souad's body is home and buried, the family will be able to find some peace.

"They can move on with their lives," she said. "Which is both good and bad."

In the Misgav region, and in Israel in general, people have also reacted with

compassion for Souad's family, said Michal Ben-Ner, a social worker with the Misgav Regional Social Services Agency.

"It was just a total tragedy," she said. "People are very concerned about the family."

While Israelis have been skeptical about the prisoner

swap deal, they still feel for the Souads.

"They understand the pain of the family and the need of the family to get closure and to have a proper burial," she said. "There has been overwhelming support and care."

Thousands of people showed up for the shiva, she said, which according to Arab custom is three days long.

"There's a lot of pain and crying and open mourning," she said. "For the widow and the parents, as sad as it is, they can get on with their lives."

(Stephanie Siegel can be reached online at ssiegel@pittchron.com.)

Dialogue: 'Faulty comparison'

Continued from page 1.

Jews. So did the inequities, in terms of future dreams and financial realities confronting the two groups.

Also causing a rift was the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

"Many African-Americans view the Palestinians as a kind of black equivalent to Israel and therefore identify with them vs. Israel," said David Shtulman, executive director of the American Jewish Committee in Pittsburgh.

"It is a totally faulty comparison, but it exists nonetheless," Shtulman said, "and the anti-Israel feelings that many blacks have because of that gets in the way of black-Jewish relations."

It's this lack of understanding and communication that the program tries to change.

It's not about black-Jewish animosity on

campus, according to Black Action Society Advisor Michele Scott Taylor, who sees the issue more as a lack of awareness.

"This is the first time that we're going to be doing a program in a couple of years, from what I understand," Scott Taylor said. "There just needs to be some form of communication."

Both Scott Taylor and Braslawscs said students were excited about the program.

"It's a pro-active step and important how they dialogue, making campuses a safe living and learning experience for all students on campus," said ADL's assistant director, Rebecca Youngerman, who coordinated the program.

"We're proud to be helping the process move forward," she said.

(Jo Marks Rifkin can be reached online at jrifkin@pittchron.com.)

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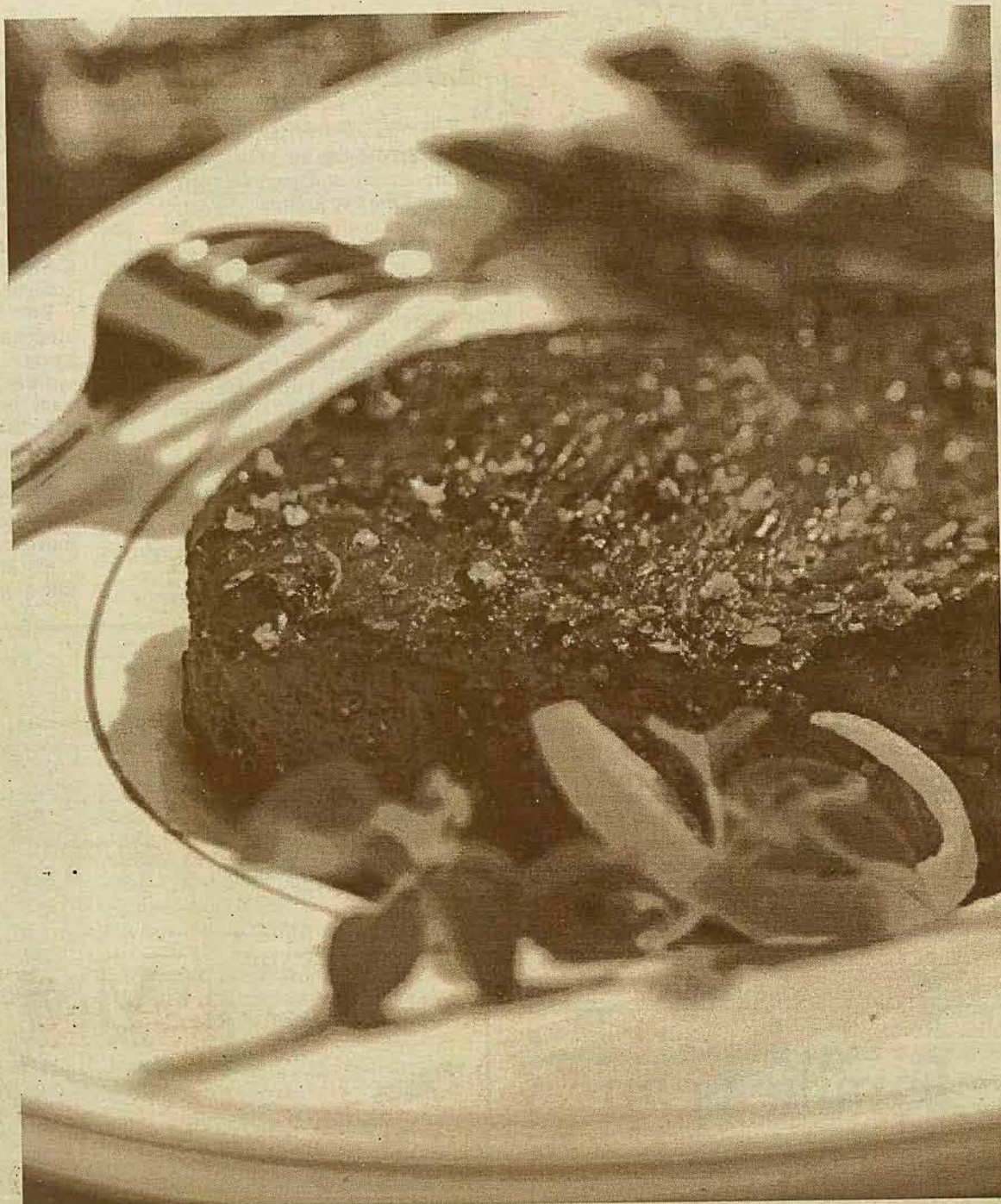
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