

THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

THEJEWISHCHRONICLE.NET

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Take a walk

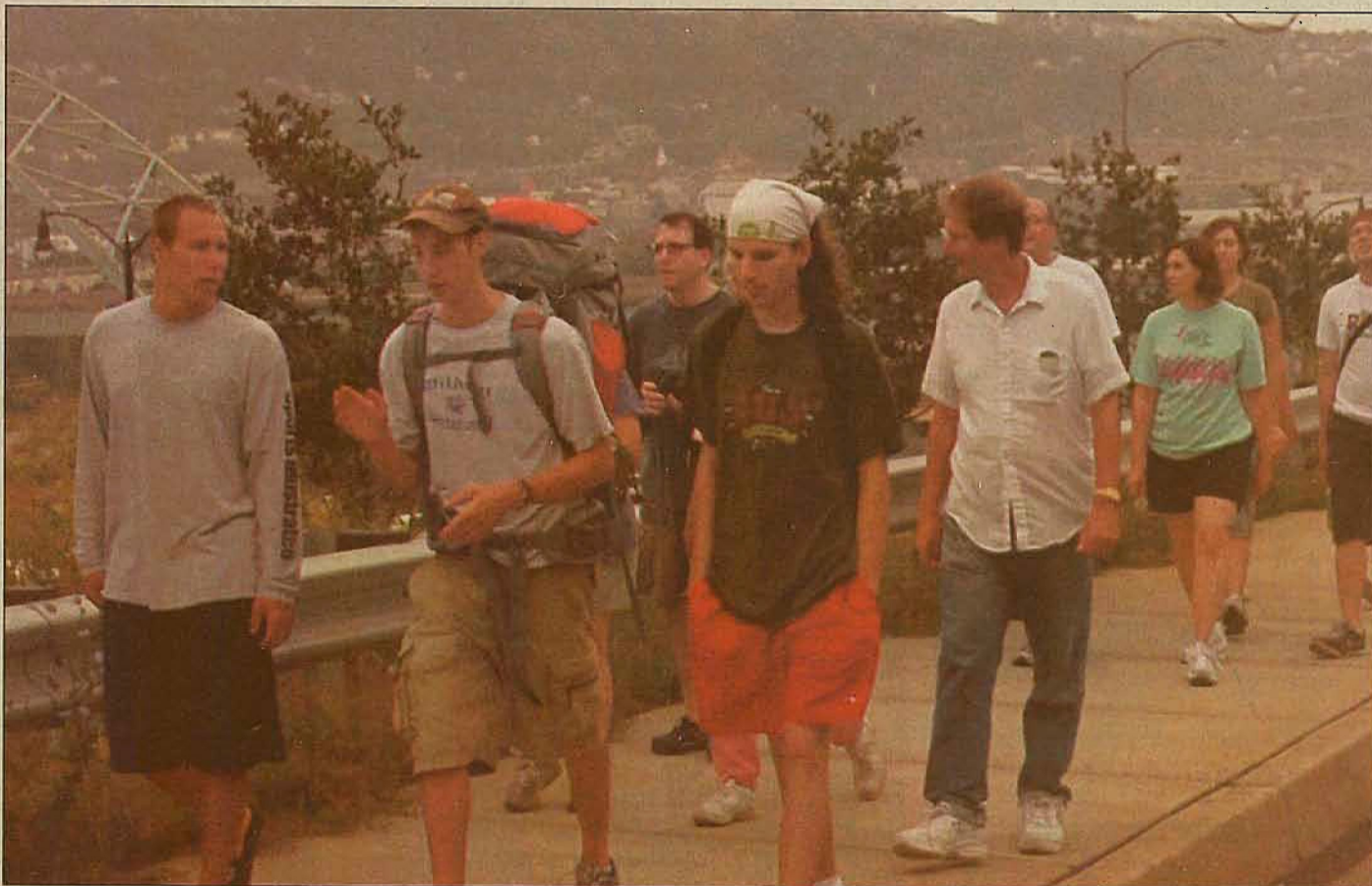


Photo: Courtesy of Richard Brok

Adam Brok (second from left) began walking from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia on Aug. 1 to raise awareness of hunger and homelessness in the state.

Local Jewish youth walks across the state to raise hunger awareness

BY JUSTIN JACOBS
Associate Editor

As a college student at DePauw University, Adam Brok wanted to donate to the charities and social issue groups that visited campus, but faced the same problem of so many students: "These are all great causes, but I don't have any money."

After graduating this spring, Brok decided to take matters into his own hands — beginning on Aug. 1, he is walking from Pittsburgh to

Philadelphia to raise funds and awareness of homelessness and hunger in Pennsylvania.

That's right; he's walking.

Twenty-two year old Brok left from the Jubilee Soup Kitchen in the Hill District and will end his walk at the Women of Change Shelter in Philadelphia. It's a 365-mile trek, and Brok plans to walk between 12 and 35 miles each day, stopping in small towns and rest areas along the way.

"I want to raise a lot of money, but also raise awareness," said Brok on

Monday as he approached Saltsburg, about 50 miles from Pittsburgh. "People like to complain and lament instead of actually trying to address problems themselves. Maybe this will motivate people to be a little bit more proactive."

There are about 30,000 homeless children in Pennsylvania, according to the Just Harvest Education Fund, and 49.1 million Americans without dependable access to enough food to ensure healthy living. With his cross-

Please see Walk, page 23.

Maryland pact gags Save A Torah under threat of penalty

BY TOBY TABACHNICK
Staff Writer

Rabbi Menachem Youlus, the so-called Indiana Jones of Torah rescue, is now prohibited from selling far-fetched back-stories along with his restored Torahs, pursuant to an agreement with the officials of the state of Maryland.

Save a Torah, Inc., the tax exempt organization Youlus runs out of Washington, D.C., to provide funding for his purported Torah rescue efforts, has agreed in a document dated July 12 to "only describe where a Torah was found or provide an account of its rescue if there is documentation or an independent verifiable witness to such history."

"In the absence of such independent verifiable proof," the agreement continues, "there will be no discussion of the circumstances under which the Torah was rescued so that those who dedicate or receive rescued Torahs can do so with total confidence."

A breach of the agreement triggers a \$3,000 penalty.

Earlier this year, The Washington Post published a story calling into question the veracity of the histories Youlus attached to many of the Torahs he sold to individuals and congregations across the country. Youlus, a scribe who restores Torah scrolls, claims to have rescued over a thousand Torahs lost in the Holocaust.

Youlus' Torah rescue accounts include the story of discovering two Torahs wrapped in Gestapo body bags in a mass grave on a pig farm in Kamenets-Podolsky, Ukraine. Youlus sold five Torahs purporting to be one of the two found on that farm.

Please see Torah, page 23.

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Times To
Remember

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8:12 p.m. DST.
SABBATH ENDS: 9:14 p.m. DST.



Metro

New Light, New Rabbi

Jonathan Perlman returns to his childhood congregation

BY BRANDT GELMAN
Staff Writer

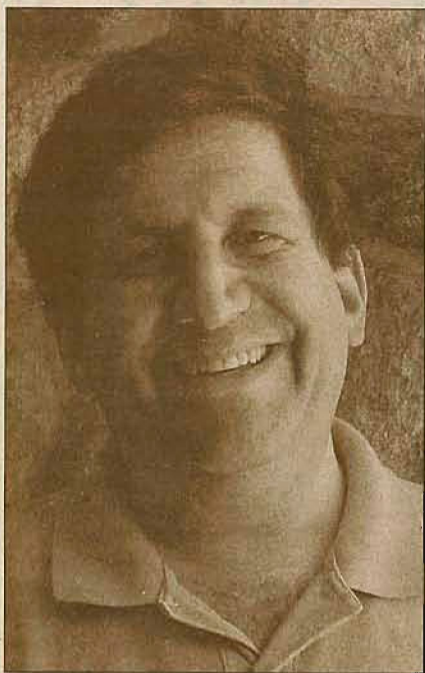
Rabbi Jonathan Perlman can't wait to return to his old stomping grounds. He is a Pittsburgh native who grew up in Shady Side and attended Peabody High School.

As a child Perlman was a member of New Light synagogue and participated in one-on-one learning sessions at the Kollel Jewish Learning Center.

Now, he is returning to be the rabbi of the synagogue he once attended as a kid. "I am very excited to come back," he said. "I have not been here since I graduated high school."

Currently the spiritual leader at Temple Shalom in Okreear, Wisc., Pearlman said he didn't hesitate to apply for the position of rabbi at New Light when it became available.

His resume shows he is more than qualified for the job. During rabbinical school Perlman interned at a large synagogue in Philadelphia. He was a chaplain at a hospital in Minnesota, and worked many years for the Minn.



Rabbi Jonathan Perlman

Jewish Community Center.

"Through all my experiences I have concluded that the small synagogue is the way of the future," he said.

Perlman wants to take advantage of what he calls New Light's "warm feel." He believes a small synagogue is the best opportunity for a rabbi to relate with people.

"I want people to feel comfortable whether they are normally alienated, or traditional shul goers," Perlman said.

Previously, Perlman was the rabbi for small congregations in Massachusetts and New Jersey, where he honed his interest in the small congregation model.

"What's missing with larger synagogues is the focus on the personal growth of individuals," he said.

Perlman is especially fond of keeping

his older patrons involved. He is striving to hold many learning classes in one-on-one situations.

"I taught many small classes at my JCC and loved the environment," Perlman said.

He is looking to make a connection with the Association of Jewish Libraries in an effort to have the resources needed to hold these learning classes.

"I really just want personal growth and counseling on top of my agenda," he said.

Perlman will hold his first Friday night service on August 6. He said he can't wait to get back to New Light.

"I just want to sell New Light as the warm place it is," he said.

(Brandt Gelman can be reached at brandtg@thejewishchronicle.net.)

"Through all my experiences I have concluded that the small synagogue is the way of the future."

Jonathan Perlman

What's Online: Aug. 5?

In case you missed what The Chronicle offered online this past week, here's a sampling:

THE JEWISH CHRONICLE online:

This week at TheJewishChronicle.net:

- Jewish leaders displayed mixed emotions about plans to build a Muslim center not far from Ground Zero, the site the 9/11 tragedy. Read why some leaders opposed the location for the center, and why others favored it.
- And as always we have updated our regular "Coming Up in Jewish Pittsburgh" column, which can be linked to from the right side of the Home Page above the calendar. It's the most comprehensive list of Jewish Pittsburgh activities available.

YINZ/YIDZ:

Where are the largest cemeteries devoted to the Jewish war veterans? Well, Israel obviously, but did you know the largest Jewish war veterans cemetery *outside* of Israel is in Richmond, Va., and it's devoted to Confederate veterans of the Civil War? Link to the story from Yinz/Yidz.

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METRO

Briefly

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh has named Kathy Revesz as director of the JCC-South Hills Early Childhood Development Center.

Revesz has many years of experience working with programs for young children. She was a teacher in ECDC for more than two years, most recently serving as lead teacher for the 3-year-old room. She has been a pre-school, kindergarten and infant teacher, as well as a daycare center director, for nearly twenty years.

She is a graduate of Slippery Rock University.

Revesz began in her new position on July 12. She succeeds Robin Chotiner, who has taken a position outside the JCC.

The JCC's Early Childhood Development Centers provide a nurturing, creative and safe learning and growing environment for young children from age 6 weeks to 5 years old. The early education program offers flexible scheduling with extended day options, enrichment classes and summer camps from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every weekday.

For more information, call Dan Garfinkel, branch director, at (412) 278-1975 Ext. 208 or dgarfinkel@jccpgh.org.



Kathy Revesz

There are a few spaces available for the 2010-11 school year at Temple Emanuel Early Childhood Development Center.

Classes are held both mornings and afternoons and the ratio in most programs is 10 children to 2 staff members. Included are toddler classes, a transition class for children not quite ready for kindergarten, classes for children 3 and 4, an enrichment program for children already in kindergarten, and a First Experience program for babies approximately 15 months — 2 years and their caregiver.

Depending upon the age of the child, classes meet one to five days a week, and the comprehensive, flexible programming includes Imagination Station (an extended day program), lunch, art, cooking, Spanish, and Jewish Enrichment. Children can participate in the babysitting program and come to school as early as 8:30 and stay until 4:00, depending upon their age and school schedule. Temple Emanuel Early Childhood Development Center classes begin Sept. 13.

Brochures are available upon request. For information, as well as an appointment to observe classes, contact Nanette Simon at (412) 279-7687 during school hours. Temple Emanuel is located at 1250 Bower Hill Road.

Tree of Life Congregation in Morgantown, W.Va., will host a Holocaust-themed chamber music recital, Monday Aug. 30, 7:30 pm.

The program features Allan Blank's "Poems from the Holocaust" for mezzo soprano, double bass, and piano.

The piece includes settings of three poems from I Never Saw Another

Butterfly: "At Terezin," "Man Proposes, G-d Disposes," and "The Butterfly." These are separated by settings of two poems in Yiddish: "Spielzeit" (Abraham Sutzkever) and "Makh Tsu Di Eygelekh" (Isaiah Spiegel).

The first half of the program will include the concertino by Holocaust victim Erwin Schulhoff for flute, viola and bass.

The performers are from West Virginia University, including mezzo soprano Catharine Thieme, accompanied by her husband Robert Thieme, director of the opera program; flute professor, Francesca Arnone, and visiting viola professor, Andrea Priester Houde.

The performance is free to the public. Contact Tree of Life at (304) 292-7029 for more information.

More than \$440,000 in scholarships were awarded to 233 area Jewish students for the 2010-11 academic year from Central Scholarship & Loan Referral Service.

The scholarship program, supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh and the Sarah and Tena Goldstein Memorial Scholarship of Jewish Family & Children's Service, is the largest Jewish scholarship program of this kind in the United States.

The scholarships were presented at a ceremony Thursday, 29. Attorney Edgar Snyder delivered remarks at the event, speaking of the local Jewish community as "something to behold" and placed emphasis on the students' roles in giving back.

Rabbi Jonathan Perlman will conduct services at New Light Congregation, Squirrel Hill, on Friday, Aug. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 7, 9:45 a.m.

Mary Beth Kish, aquatics director of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, is retiring Sept. 30 after 34 years with the JCC.

Kish taught generations of Pittsburghers how to swim, led water exercise classes, and oversaw programming at the Squirrel Hill and Henry Kaufmann Family Recreation Park pools.



Mary Beth Kish

The Munhall native was a lifeguard and a swim teacher at Duquesne University, the Irish Center and the Pittsburgh Golf Club.

In her first years at the JCC, Kish taught at the Bellefield Y in Oakland and the former JCC building in Squirrel Hill. In the early 1980s Kish began working full-time at the JCC and became aquatics director in the late 1980s.

During her time at the JCC, Kish developed and taught the children's learn-to-swim program, the "bridge" Squirrel Hill Swim Team, water exercise including water workouts, arthritis aquatics and water exercise for seniors, and the JCC Aquastars synchronized swim team.

Shirley and Morris Shratter, hosts of "More Than Just Learning" on PCTV, will interview Casey Donlevy, a Carnegie Mellon University professor of homeland and computer security. The program airs on channel 21 in Pittsburgh only on Wednesday, Aug. 4 and 11, at 9 p.m.; and Friday Aug 20 and 27, at 4 p.m.



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METRO

Beth El the site for model religious ed. training program for teens

BY TOBY TABACHNICK

Staff Writer

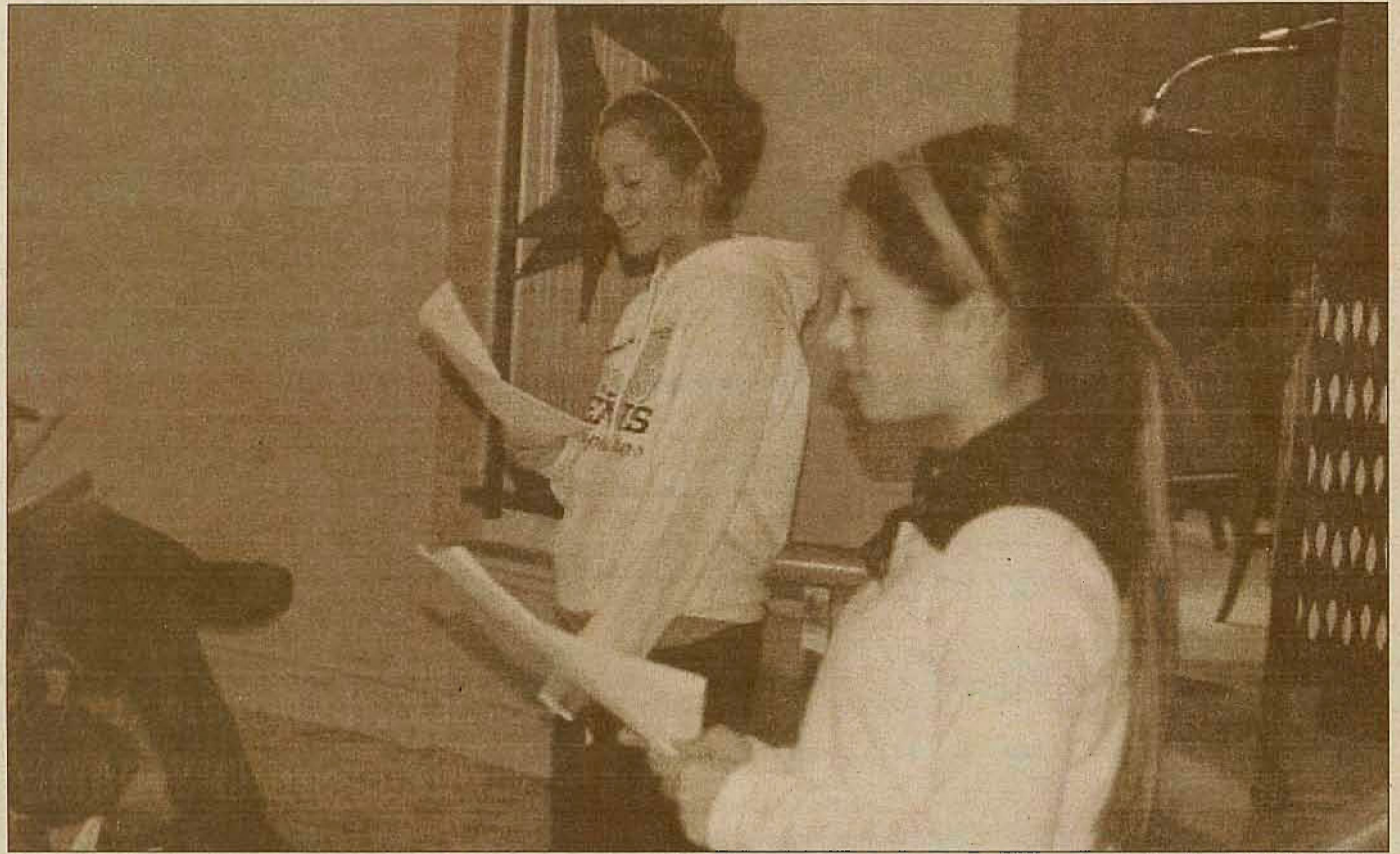
Beth El Congregation of the South Hills has been chosen as the pilot site for a new program that will train high school students to teach religious school in the Conservative movement, while providing them with credits from Gratz College.

While the Reform movement has had a similar program for over 30 years — the Isaac Mayer Wise Reform Teaching Certificate Program is currently offered in Pittsburgh at Rodef Shalom Congregation — this will be the Conservative movement's first foray into formally preparing teenagers to teach Judaics and Hebrew once they finish their high school education.

High school juniors and seniors enrolled in the two-year program will attend two hours of instruction each week at Beth El, and also will serve as classroom aids (*madrichim*) once a week at Beth El's Spiegel Religious School, according to Beth Goldstein, director of J-Site, which is running the program in partnership with the Agency for Jewish Learning and Gratz.

Gratz is the first trans-denominational Jewish college in the United States, and has been teaching Jewish studies and training Jewish professionals for more than a century, according to its website. Based near Philadelphia, Gratz offers both on campus and online programs.

After conversations last year with



Chronicle photo by Lee Chottiner

Two Wheeling, W.Va., teenagers — now in college — participate in a past religious school assembly at Temple Shalom. This year, Beth El Congregation of the South Hills will host a pilot program to train teens in the Conservative movement to be part-time religious schoolteachers once they graduate high school.

members of Beth El about the possibility of establishing a program for Con-

servative teens akin to the Wise program, Goldstein raised the issue with Gratz.

"They said, 'We've been waiting for a city to ask us that question,'" Goldstein said.

As Beth El will be the pilot site of the program, Goldstein expects that the majority of teenagers enrolled will be members of that congregation, although any teen affiliated with the Conservative movement is welcome, she said.

Participants will take a Bible class, as well as a class in pedagogy, during the first

year of the program — essentially the same curriculum required of the Wise students.

"The only difference [between the Reform and Conservative programs] will be the way they look at the Bible class. Gratz is not changing the curriculum dramatically," Goldstein said. "But there is a slight difference in the way the Reform movement and the Conservative movement look at the Bible."

The second year of the program will differ for the Conservative students, focusing on how to teach Hebrew, and examining the reasons why certain prayers are included or excluded from Sim Shalom, the Conservative prayer book. Participants in the program will also learn the history of the Conservative movement.

At the conclusion of the two-year program, each participant will receive a religious school teaching certificate, as well as college credit for two of the four courses.

Juniors enrolling this year will be

committing to the full two-year program. For this year only, the program will be open to seniors committing to only one year, but who additionally will engage in independent study courses with Beth El's Rabbi Alex Greenbaum and Fern Reinbeck, director of the Spiegel Religious School.

The teens will do their classroom aide work under Reinbeck's supervision.

"So far, we have seven to 11 students committed to participate this year," Reinbeck said. "I'm very excited about this."

Having a teaching certificate has

made Reform college students more marketable when they seek part-time teaching jobs, Goldstein said, and she believes the same will hold true for Conservative students.

"When a teen leaves high school, and goes to college, in his freshman year, it is not always easy to get a job teaching. But once [religious school principals] see the certificate, they are more likely to hire. They see the teen has had experience in the classroom, but also has had the classes to back it up," Goldstein said.

"For these teens, they're really well-prepared to teach moving forward," she added.

The program will begin in September, after Yom Kippur, Goldstein said, but teens can register now through J-Site.

(Toby Tabachnick can be reached at tobytab@thejewishchronicle.net)

BLOGGERS WANTED

BLOG

Yes, that means you!

The Jewish Chronicle will debut a series of blogs on its website this fall, and we need your help.

These blogs will cover topics that are of specific interest to niches of Jewish Pittsburgh.

Maybe you want to blog on an exotic journey coming up or a sporting event. How about a blog geared to an age group, ethnicity, art or musical genre; a blog that is continuous or one that lasts just a couple weeks or months?

If you have an interesting idea for a blog and want to follow through on it, send your proposal to bloggers@thejewishchronicle.net, and come be part of our new blogosphere.

METRO

Twenty Pittsburgh athletes to head to Maccabi Games

BY BRANDT GELMAN
Staff Writer

Five days, seven hours, and 40 minutes is the time displayed on the ticker at the bottom of the Jewish Community Center Maccabi Games Web site. As the ticker nears closer to the Aug. 8 starting date of the Games, it also represents the time gap until the Pittsburgh delegation of athletes will be together as an entire team.

Many of the athletes representing team Pittsburgh are currently at Emma Kaufmann Camp in West Virginia for the summer, which lets out on the same day those athletes are heading to Baltimore for the Games.

"It is not an ideal situation," said Alan Mallinger, director of Pittsburgh Maccab. "One of our mothers is going to EKC early on that Sunday morning to pick up the kids, and then it will be right out of the car and onto the bus for Baltimore."

While most of the athletes have not had the proper amount of practice time to form a cohesive group, Mallinger has taken steps to make sure the team receives as much practice time as possible.

Last week, Mallinger traveled to EKC with four of the five basketball players not at the camp.

"It was very hot," Mallinger said. "But we got a lot of good work in, and started to look good as a team."

Sam Bloom, EKC director, was happy to host the members of the Maccabi team.

"It is great to help out the Maccabi team," Bloom said. "We have two basketball courts for them to use, and we even got the kids involved in some camp activities."

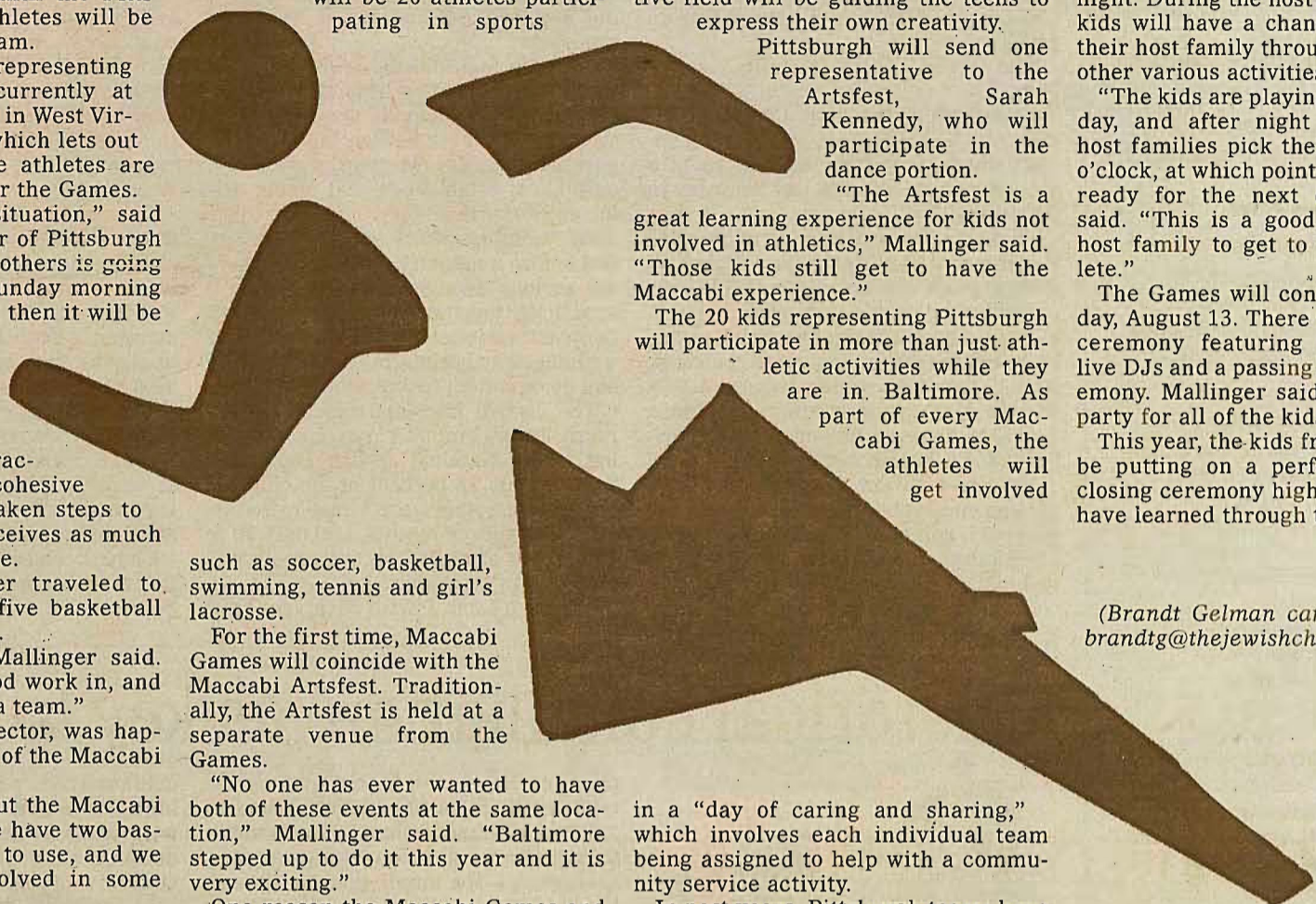
The kids ate with all of the campers, and even listened to a few guest speakers. Bloom made sure the kids who attend EKC did not miss out on the camp experience while practicing for the Games. He said the kids only missed

two activities a day at most.

It remains to be seen if the sporadic training sessions the team has had will lead to a rough start at the games.

The hectic traveling schedule for these athletes will end as the team gathers for the Games' opening ceremonies at Towson State University.

Representing team Pittsburgh will be 20 athletes participating in sports



such as soccer, basketball, swimming, tennis and girl's lacrosse.

For the first time, Maccabi Games will coincide with the Maccabi Artsfest. Traditionally, the Artsfest is held at a separate venue from the Games.

"No one has ever wanted to have both of these events at the same location," Mallinger said. "Baltimore stepped up to do it this year and it is very exciting."

One reason the Maccabi Games and Artsfest have never been together is a lack of host families. With both events being held together, there will be a cut back on the number of athletes that will be in attendance at the games. There are only so many families that

are willing to host, and with the influx of so many Artsfest participants something had to give.

The Maccabi Artsfest is designed to inspire Jewish teens through a combination of workshops. This year's workshops include acting, dance, creative writing, theatre and sports broadcasting. Professionals from each respective field will be guiding the teens to express their own creativity.

Pittsburgh will send one representative to the Artsfest, Sarah Kennedy, who will participate in the dance portion.

"The Artsfest is a great learning experience for kids not involved in athletics," Mallinger said. "Those kids still get to have the Maccabi experience."

The 20 kids representing Pittsburgh will participate in more than just athletic activities while they are in Baltimore. As part of every Maccabi Games, the athletes will get involved

games are held.

"It's a nice program to let the kids know there is more to Maccabi than the sports aspect," Mallinger said.

In addition to the day of caring and sharing, the kids will be treated to multiple nights out during the week. There will be a trip to Dave and Buster's, along with a host family night. During the host family night the kids will have a chance to bond with their host family through cookouts and other various activities.

"The kids are playing their sports all day, and after night activities their host families pick them up around 10 o'clock, at which point they have to get ready for the next day," Mallinger said. "This is a good chance for the host family to get to know their athlete."

The Games will conclude on Thursday, August 13. There will be a closing ceremony featuring moon bounces, live DJs and a passing of the torch ceremony. Mallinger said it is like a big party for all of the kids.

This year, the kids from Artsfest will be putting on a performance at the closing ceremony highlighting all they have learned through the week.

(Brandt Gelman can be reached at brandtg@thejewishchronicle.net.)

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Opinion

The Jewish wedding that wasn't

The bride wore a stunning strapless, silk organza Vera Wang wedding gown, enhanced by a swirling ball skirt with a silk tulle diagonally draped bodice and accented by an embellished belt.

The groom wore a tallis and a yamulke.

Former first daughter, Chelsea Clinton, who is Methodist, wed Jewish investment banker Marc Mezvinsky, at a celebrity-studded event last Saturday in Rhinebeck, N.Y.

It seems the wedding, in addition to its estimated \$5 million price tag, had all the trappings of a Jewish *simcha*. In photographs, the couple is standing beneath a *chuppa*, and in front of what appears to be a *ketuba* (Jewish marriage contract). And it has been widely reported that friends and family recited the *Sheva Berachot*, or seven blessings, customarily read at a Jewish wedding.

Yet this was not a Jewish wedding. Clinton and Mezvinsky have been dating for years, and there is no indication that Clinton has any intention of converting to Judaism. The wedding ceremony was conducted during the Jewish Sabbath, a

blatant violation of *halacha*. And although Rabbi James Ponet, head of the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, co-officiated at the ceremony, so did Rev. William Shillady, a Methodist minister.

What, in fact, did the *tallis*, *yamulke*, and *chuppa* mean to this couple? The *chuppa* has traditionally symbolized the creation of a new Jewish home. If the new Mr. and Mrs. Mezvinsky were sincere about establishing that home, it is incongruous that they chose to have their wedding performed on Shabbat, and before a minister. If the Mezvinskys are serious enough about beginning a Jewish life together to include the *Sheva Berachot* and *ketuba* as part of their wedding, why hasn't Chelsea made a formal commitment to Judaism?

The Jewish inter-marriage rate currently hovers around 47 percent, according to the National Jewish Population Survey. Only 28 percent of the children of these marriages are being raised as Jews, the survey reports, and only 10 to 15 percent of these kids ultimately will marry Jews themselves.

Although some Jewish observers have

taken delight in seeing symbols of their faith displayed at the wedding of so prominent a member of American society as the daughter of a former president and current secretary of state, we take pause. Sure, the wedding is great exposure for Jewish symbols to permeate mainstream society, and the couple has every right to celebrate their wedding as they see fit, but this may not be cause to rejoice for the Jewish community at large.

The Clinton/Mezvinsky wedding pushes the symbols, but not the significance, of a Jewish wedding to the forefront, and it leaves open the usual questions: How will they raise their children? Will they maintain a Jewish household? These are questions that aren't exactly our business, but it's important to remember that a wedding reverberates long after the honeymoon is over.

While many view the Clinton/Mezvinsky nuptials as a symbol of the Jews having "made it" in America, the far-reaching consequences are not as rosy. Yes, we have been accepted, and that is good. But must acceptance come at so high a price?

'Historical conciliation' as key to peace?



GARY ROSENBLATT

NEW YORK — Can you handle some positive news about dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians?

Like many of us, I suspect, I tend to discount reports of progress on the Mideast peace front as naïve or exaggerated. But I was impressed on hearing of the recent work of a longtime friend, Hillel Levine, an ordained rabbi and sociology and religion professor at Boston University, who is a veteran Mideast observer with no illusions about the level of mistrust between Arabs and Jews or the mounting tensions in the region.

During a brief stop in New York earlier last month, he described the work of the International Center for Conciliation (ICC), a nonprofit NGO he founded in 2001. He spoke of the "great developments largely ignored by the media" taking place now in Israel on the grassroots level between small groups of Jews and Arabs, which gives renewed hope to establishing positive relationships on a personal and communal level.

Levine's colleague, Anuradha Desai, executive director of the ICC, noted, "these are little rays of light [because] we are a small operation, but we have learned that people want to tell their story and they want to be heard."

In May, the ICC formed a partnership with Ossim Shalom, an Israeli professional organization of some 1,600 social workers, and held an initial workshop for 26 experienced

facilitators, both Arabs and Jews, training them in the ICC's method of "historical conciliation." The facilitators, in turn, are convening ongoing discussions for small groups around the country.

The premise here is that "while conventional wisdom holds that peace-making requires leaving the grievances of the past behind and focusing on current, common interests," according to the organization's literature, the reality is that the past must be explored, discussed and understood on both sides before any progress can be made.

The failure of the Oslo agreements to lead to Israeli-Palestinian peace on a national level underscores the weakness of a strategy that involves high-level deliberations on next steps but ignores the emotional history of communities, families and individuals on both sides.

Levine is passionate and articulate in speaking of his pro-bono work, in which "pained memory" is used as a means of creating empathy in a society. It's a formula he has employed in Cambodia, India, Japan and Korea since he founded the ICC in 2001.

"Our approach to developing reciprocal and functional relationships," he explains, is by dealing with society "from the bottom up, not from the top down," so that participants hear the grievances of "the other." That way, through guided workshops, people stop pointing fingers and start seeing each other as humans, whether or not they accept their adversary's narrative.

Resistance to such efforts remains strong, but the discussions have yielded positive results, leading to improved cooperation, Levine says. As an example, he related how the ICC and Ossim Shalom have created workshops in six diverse "hot spot" Israeli

communities, coupling sustained dialogue with a sustained community improvement program to re-enforce the notion that open discussion can lead to concrete action.

In one case, the group visited a rundown Arab cemetery and agreed to work together to restore it as a sign of respect.

In another, the facilitators dealt with how Israeli companies should be sensitized to Arab workers' feelings on Israeli Memorial Day, when nationwide sirens call for a moment of silence to honor Israel's fallen soldiers.

"We need to reframe Yom HaZikaron [Memorial Day] to recall that many lives were lost on both sides and that those people need to be honored," Levine says, stressing the importance of balancing personal as well as political values in a pluralistic society.

While the ICC is not a Jewish group per se, Levine says that as a rabbi, he struggles with Jewish texts and sees pluralism as a Jewish value. And he is critical of what he calls "the pessimism that polarizes the American Jewish community" when it comes to Arab-Jewish dialogue, noting that when he speaks to Jewish federations or foundations in seeking support, "their common wisdom is that it doesn't work."

"The past has to be addressed," he maintains, before real progress can be made. "We have to be concerned with the voice of the victim."

Levine is no stranger to speaking out against the Establishment or citing Jewish values to redress perceived wrongs. A New York native and rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary under Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, he always seemed ahead of his time, visiting the Soviet

Please see Rosenblatt, page 9.

OPINION

**to the tune of "Springtime for Hitler"*
It's time for...
Screen time for Hitler, with sympathy!
"Shoah" is so o-verblown!



Loathing for AIPAC and Dershowitz, Loving for Mel Gibson's rants!

Poor Adolf was mis-UN-derstood
That's 'cause the Jews own HOL-lywood!

Screen time for Hitler, with sympathy...

Now pardon me while I make a Sincere-sounding fake-uh
I'll make my apology dance!

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Letters to the editor

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Shiva still works

I just read your July 15 column, "As our world changes, so does shiva."
I'm not arguing with what you said and your opinions about shiva and whether or not it is changing. I just wanted to mention my experience lately.

I guess I'm at the age where so many of my friends' parents have died lately. On top of that, siblings of my friends and spouses have died "prematurely" (whatever that means).

Three years ago my father passed away and 11 months ago my husband died, unexpectedly and suddenly, leaving three sons in college. My Jewish friends and I have found the shiva experience incredibly intense, exhausting and overwhelming. However, that's actually a good thing. The constant onslaught of visitors, calls, food and care from the community is what has gotten us through this and continues even now, almost a year later. People came out of

Please see Letter, next page.



omakase

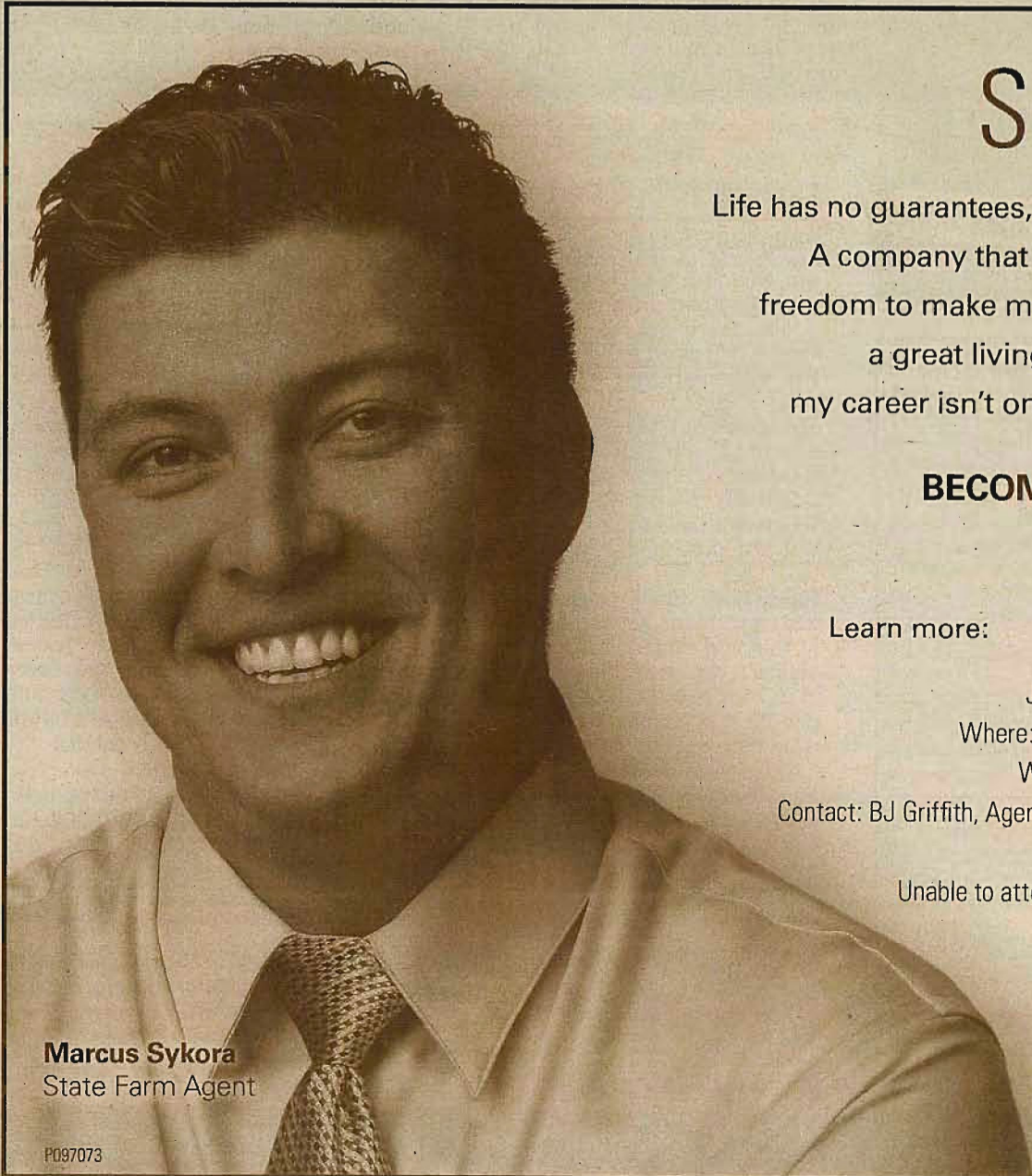
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OPINION

It's amazing what you can find in your desk



LEE
CHOTTINER

Not long ago I was clearing out my desk (no, I wasn't fired). I do that once in while to get rid of items long since forgotten — gum bands, old agendas — and make way for new papers and items I'd like to hang on to.

Maybe I should do that more often, because in my top left-hand drawer, nestled between some pocket directories, I found a tidbit of history, and maybe a suggestion of how Jewish thinking has changed in the past 75 years.

It was another pocket book, only this one was titled "A Book of Jewish

Thoughts." The red-cover hand-size book, dated 1943, was one of thousands the National Jewish Welfare Board distributed to Jewish U.S. servicemen during World War II. This particular copy, on its inside front cover, bore the signature of Albert W. Bloom, the first editor of *The Chronicle*.

The 150-pages of this tiny book contain a wealth of Jewish wisdom. Sources such as the Torah, Book of Esther, the Talmud, Shulchan Aruch and Ethics of Our Fathers are quoted. Verses from the triad of Spanish Jewish poets — Judah HaLevi, Moses Ibn Ezra, and Solomon Ibn Gabirol. Medieval scholars Rashi and Maimonides are side by side with modern Zionists Achad Ha'am, Theodore Herzl and Albert Einstein. There are even passages from non-Jews — George Washington, Robert Louis Stevenson Arthur Jamers Balfour Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, even Calvin Coolidge (go figure).

Pittsburghers will take some pride in

knowing that Rabbi Solomon Freehof of Rodef Shalom Congregation made the book, contributing a thought titled "Jewish Prayer." Here's an excerpt:

"In ancient Israel ... due chiefly to the creative idealism of the prophets religion became subjective, turning its attention from the world of outward performance to the inner world of thought and aspiration. With this deepening of the understanding, God was gradually envisaged as the one 'who searches the heart. ...'"

But here's why I think this book is a barometer of the evolution in Jewish thought, or at least could be: It was based on yet another volume of the same title, that one compiled by Joseph Herman Hertz, the chief rabbi of the British Empire during World War I. He put together a book for British Jewish soldiers and sailors.

By the time of World War II The NJWB revised the book to fit the times. In the

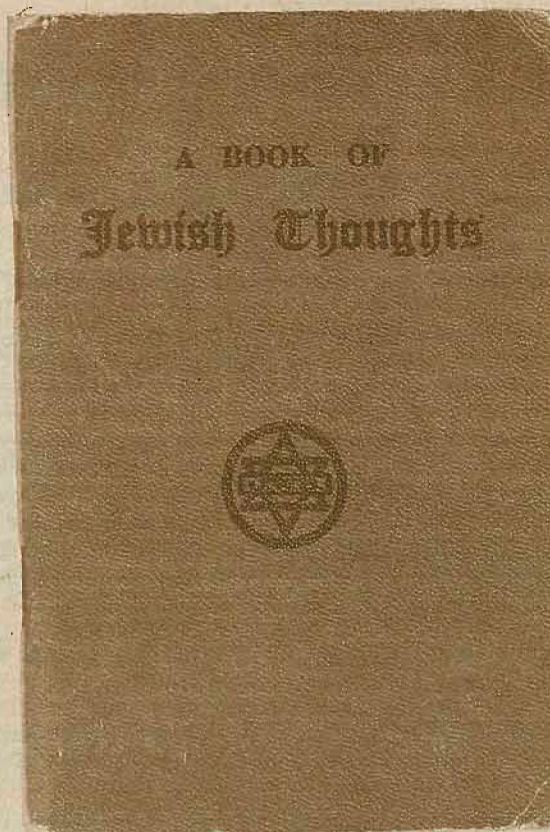
words of Walter Rothschild, the chairman of the Army and Navy Committee of the NJWB in 1943, who wrote its preface, "There are herein added many selections of special interest to the Jews of America."

That's probably how Freehof and Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver made the book, not to mention a few dignitaries who aren't as well known today.

Well, there are Jews in uniform today in the urban war zones of Iraq and the mountainous battlegrounds of Afghanistan. If "A Book of Jewish Thought" were revised for today's servicemen, what Jewish thinkers

would be added, what would they have to say to a modern Jew in uniform? Who would you choose?

(Lee Chottiner, the executive editor of The Jewish Chronicle, can be reached at leec@thejewishchronicle.net.)



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from previous page.

the woodwork to help us through a confusing and difficult time.

Yes, there are so many logistical things that need to be taken care of — I'm someone who was left such a mess, that it will take years to straighten out. However, with the help of others, and a clearer mind, a week later doesn't make much difference.

Actually, what I really wanted to say was that I have some Christian friends who lost close family members recently, too. They were around when we sat *shiva*. They told me they wish that they had something like that. After the funeral, they came home, and were so sad and lonely. It was over. They were supposed to go back to work, function as usual. No one quite understood how they felt or what they were going through.

Shiva was established a long time ago. It still works. People are free to adapt parts of it to fit their needs. But I'm so pleased to be part of a community that knows what to do, when one is at a loss to know what one needs or too shy to ask for help.

Donna Linder Jaffe
Atlanta

Shameful ruling

Could you forward this letter to the administrative authority in the Israeli

Department of Justice, which can overrule the conviction of Saber Kushour [the Arab man sentenced to 18 months in prison for rape by deception; he reportedly had sex with a Jewish woman while posing as a Jew].

The anonymous Jewish woman should be required to cover his legal expenses. The Judge who classified their one night consensual sexual event as a criminal "rape" should be disciplined for ethnic bias inconsistent with the law in any western democracy.

I rarely agree with the Haaretz columnist Gideon Levy, whom I have met. Some of his editorials in Haaretz have suicidal implications for Israel's security. But he is right in this case. The unnamed Jerusalem judge is sending a frightening message of prejudice to Palestinian Arabs and to Jews. The Judge's ruling, if sustained, undermines the high legal reputation of the Israeli Supreme Court.

As a Zionist, I feel ashamed that the Israeli courts might continue to include such an ethnically biased judge.

Joseph W. Eaton
Squirrel Hill

(The author is a professor emeritus of public and international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. The letter was first sent to Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren, and made available to The Chronicle.)

STYLE

Rosenblatt:

Continued from previous page.

Union and advocating for Soviet Jewry in the early 1960s, before there was such a movement. He spoke for Ethiopian Jews well before their plight was widely known, and he helped pioneer the chavura movement. And it was Levine who symbolized the student protest at the 1969 General Assembly of the Jewish federations, speaking to the delegates about the need to make Jewish education a top priority, a revolutionary demand at the time.

When I first wrote about him 30 years ago, some associates described him as "a prophet," and a close friend of his told me: "Hillel has no patience; it's his best and worst quality."

But over the years he has learned to take the long view in working toward conciliation, one conversation at a time, whether it be in facilitating dialogue between Koreans and Japanese

about the Korean "comfort women" forced into slavery by Japanese soldiers during World War II, or helping Cambodian villagers get "unstuck" from their memories of the Khmer Rouge atrocities.

Levine says history and geography have pitted Jews and Palestinians against each other in the Mideast, and that Americans, and particularly American Jews, need to be engaged in the kind of advocacy that will ease the pain on both sides. "This is not a time for Jews to disassociate from Israel" because of Jerusalem policies they may disagree with, but rather to "intensify our efforts to establish a more civil society."

Losing hope is not an option, he says. Beyond honest dialogue, what choice is there?

(Gary Rosenblatt, editor and publisher of *The New York Jewish Week*, can be reached at Gary@jewish-week.org. The column previously appeared in *The Week*.)



Overcoming Fear and Anxiety in the Dental Office With Conscious Sedation

A psychological study I recently read indicated that the top fears of Americans are an IRS audit and going to the dentist— not necessarily in that order. Patients cite many reasons for fear of the dentist, the most common being an unpleasant prior experience often as a child. Thus, these fears often persist throughout a patient's lifetime. As a result many people are reluctant to seek even routine and preventive dental care,



**WILLIAM Z. SPATZ
D.M.D.**

and serious dental and oral disease often result. Even those patients who are more dedicated to routine care often go grudgingly and with much trepidation.

I am pleased to say that these fears and anxieties do not need to keep patients from seeking and receiving excellent dental treatment. With the use of conscious sedation anesthesia patients can literally sleep through any dental procedure, whether a small filling or complex oral surgery.

Conscious sedation is defined as a state of anesthesia in which the patient is

conscious but is rendered free of fear and anxiety. Conscious sedation means most significantly that the patient can breathe independently. As opposed to general anesthesia, which requires mechanically assisted breathing with the placement of a breathing tube and is usually an inpatient hospital procedure, conscious sedation is an outpatient procedure which is routinely administered in the dental office. Patients are conscious and awake after the procedure and can usually leave the office shortly thereafter.

With conscious sedation the patient is relaxed and free of fear and often asleep, but able to breathe independently and to respond to the doctors and surroundings.

Conscious sedation means most significantly that the patient can breathe independently.

In addition, a particularly advantageous effect of the anesthetic is amnesia. Thus, a patient has little or no memory of the procedure when it is over. This combination of effects allows for a very pleasant patient experience during whatever dental

or surgical treatment is necessary.

Conscious sedation anesthesia can be accomplished through several different methods. Many dental offices have traditionally employed inhalation anesthesia, most commonly nitrous oxide. Many patients know this commonly as "laughing gas." It is easily administered simply by breathing into a mask and just as easily terminated by turning off the nitrous oxide and breathing pure oxygen. Its effects are generally not long lasting, but also not as profound or easily controlled as with other anesthetic techniques.

A second method of administration for conscious sedation anesthesia is oral. That is, a patient can take medication by mouth prior to the procedure. The obvious advantage to this method is the ease of administration. Another advantage is the relatively low cost of the medications. However, there are several significant disadvantages. Relative to other routes of anesthetic administration, the onset of effect from oral sedation and the dose necessary to achieve desired effect on an individual patient is much less predictable. In addition the duration of effect is generally much longer. A patient may feel the sedative effects of medications taken orally for 24 to 48 hours after the procedure.

The most predictable and controllable

method of administration for conscious sedation is commonly called "IV sedation" and the medications are administered intravenously. The medications are generally a combination of sedative and narcotic drugs, which when used together produce a smooth, comfortable and controllable state of anesthesia. They are ultra-short acting, and reversible. The effect of a given dose may last for only a matter of minutes, so additional doses are added to reach the desired effect and duration of the procedure. These reversible and ultra-short acting medications can almost literally be turned on and off. As a result this technique is very safe. This is very comforting to patients who are concerned or fearful of the anesthesia itself.

As a dentist treating patients with a wide range of fear and anxiety, conscious sedation anesthesia is one of the most helpful techniques at our disposal. It allows patients to be treated comfortably and makes dental treatment a pleasant experience. Patients in our office have been treated with conscious sedation for procedures ranging from a single filling or crown to extensive oral surgery and implant surgery. Our goal is to provide patients with nothing less than that completely comfortable and pleasant experience in our office. It is a reality with conscious sedation anesthesia.

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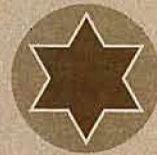
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Globe

The debate continues

Clinton-Mezvinsky wedding raises questions about intermarriage

BY JACOB BERKMAN

JTA

NEW YORK — Is it possible that the first iconic Jewish picture of the decade is of an interfaith marriage?

Photographs taken Saturday show the Jewish groom wearing a yarmulke and a crumpled tallit staring into the eyes of his giddy bride under a traditional Jewish wedding canopy with a framed ketuba, a Jewish wedding contract, in the background.

The couple is Marc Mezvinsky, the banker son of two Jewish ex-Congress members, and Chelsea Clinton, the daughter of the former U.S. president and current secretary of state.

The images and scant details of the tightly guarded wedding — dubbed by some the “wedding of the century” — have raised a number of questions about the significance of the union for American Jews and what it says about intermarriage in America.

We should “celebrate the full acceptance of Jews by the larger society that this marriage represents,” Hebrew Union College sociologist Steven Cohen told JTA via e-mail from Jerusalem.

At the same time, he noted, the fact that so few children of interfaith unions, particularly those between Jewish fathers and non-Jewish mothers, are raised solely as Jews raises the conundrum of our age: “How do we Jewishly engage and educate the intermarried, while at the same time maintaining our time-honored commitment to inmarriage?” Cohen asked.

“In short, we should celebrate the particular marriage of these two fine individuals, but we ought not celebrate the type of marriage it constitutes and represents.”

The wedding had more than just a Jewish flair.

It was officiated by a rabbi, James Ponet, head of the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale University, along with a Methodist minister. The marriage took place under a chupa. Friends of the



(Genevieve de Manio)

Marc Mezvinsky and Chelsea Clinton following their wedding ceremony, July 31.

couple recited the traditional “sheva brachot,” the seven traditional Jewish blessings given to the bride and groom. The groom broke a glass with his foot, as is tradition. And according to several reports, guests danced the hora and lifted the former president and the secretary of state, Bill and Hillary Clinton, in chairs during the dance.

Yet some of the more liberal streams of American Judaism, which accept intermarriage if the couple’s children are raised as Jews, chafed at the fact that the wedding took place on Saturday, before the Jewish Sabbath ended. The Reform movement frowns upon its rabbis conducting weddings on the Sabbath, the president of the Union for Reform Judaism, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, told JTA.

In 1973, the Reform movement decided officially that its rabbis would be allowed to perform intermarriages, though they would be discouraged from doing so, an edict that still stands today, he said.

“She has married in,” Paul Golin, the

associate director of the Jewish Outreach Institute, a nondenominational group that reaches out to unaffiliated and intermarried families, said of Chelsea. “Some will say he married out, but if he was marrying out, there wouldn’t have been anything Jewish.”

“The fact that they went to the effort to have a chupa and have a rabbi and that he wore a tallit says a lot about their future direction. Otherwise, why bother?”

The marriage has pushed the internal Jewish community debate about intermarriage into the view of mainstream America.

In the days before the wedding, the Washington Post asked several rabbis in its “On Faith” column, “Is interfaith marriage good for American society? Is it good for religion? What is lost — and gained — when religious people intermarry?”

Rabbi Steven Wernick, the CEO of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, said intermarriage is certainly “not ideal,” but that the Con-

servative movement in 2008 decided that it must welcome interfaith families and “help their spouses along their spiritual journeys.”

Rabbi Shmuley Hecht, who is Orthodox and the rabbinical adviser at Yale University’s Eliezer Jewish Society, said intermarriage can work only if the non-Jewish spouse converts to Judaism through an Orthodox conversion and genuinely changes religions. Otherwise, he said, the marriage is doomed to fail because down the road any self-aware Jew, “however defined, will feel the call of their people and have the fullness of their being disrupted by intermarriage.”

Rabbi Brad Hirschfeld, also Orthodox and president of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, said that when marriages break down it usually has little to do with religion. All religions should stop worrying about intermarriage and start worrying about how to help couples make their relationships work, he wrote.

Ed Case, the executive director of Interfaithfamily.com, said the Clinton wedding certainly had stirred interest in intermarriage, noting that traffic to his website was up 35 percent in July compared to the same month last year. Case said that accepting this marriage and welcoming this intermarried family into the Jewish fold could help pave the way for the Jewish community to be more accepting of others.

Golin said he is skeptical that the Clinton-Mezvinsky wedding does anything more than revive existing battle lines in the Jewish debate over intermarriage.

“The horse is so far out of the barn on this one,” Golin said, noting that as an intermarried person himself, he is turned off by much of the debate over intermarriage as a problem. “The folks who are fearful that my kind of Judaism is going to destroy Judaism are still going to be fearful. The folks who are fully embracing of interfaith families are going to be embracing. I don’t see a whole lot of movement.”

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GLOBE

Briefly

JTA

A New York City commission vote has cleared the way for the construction of a mosque near the site of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

The City Landmarks Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to deny landmark status to the building located on the site, clearing the way for the construction project, which includes a Muslim cultural center and a mosque.

Other legal challenges could stall the construction.

The Anti-Defamation League on July 31 issued a statement opposing the construction of the 13-story Cordoba House at 45-47 Park Place, two blocks from Ground Zero.

"There are understandably strong passions and keen sensitivities surrounding the World Trade Center site," the ADL statement said. "We are ever mindful of the tragedy which befell our nation there, the pain we all still feel — and especially the anguish of the families and friends of those who were killed on September 11, 2001.

"The controversy which has emerged regarding the building of an Islamic Center at this location is counterproductive to the healing process. Therefore, under these unique circumstances, we believe the City of New York would be better served if an alternative location could be found."

J Street, which calls itself "pro-Israel, pro-peace," issued a statement Monday in favor of the building. Opposing it, the statement read, would represent "anti-Muslim bigotry."

Signs brandished at Tuesday's vote

read "This mosque celebrates our murders" and "Don't glorify murders of 3,000."

"To cave to popular sentiment would be to hand a victory to the terrorists," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said following the vote.

A U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee allocated a record amount for U.S.-Israel missile defense systems.

The Appropriations Defense Subcommittee allocated \$217.7 million for the joint U.S.-Israel systems in the 2011 fiscal year — \$95.7 million more than the Obama administration's original request. It comes in addition to the \$3 billion in defense assistance that Israel receives each year from the United States.

"This is only the latest example that when it comes to defense, military, and intelligence cooperation, the relationship between the U.S. and Israel has never been stronger," said Rep. Steve Rothman (D-N.J.), a member of the subcommittee, in a statement.

Last year, Congress funded the program with \$202.4 million, which was \$82.8 million above the Obama administration's request. Nearly \$1 billion has been allocated for U.S.-Israel defense cooperation since 2007.

The money funds the Arrow and David's Sling missile systems.

Mitch Miller, a band leader who won fame as the host of the "Sing Along With Mitch" television show, has died.

Miller, also an executive at Columbia Records who guided the careers of such stars as Rosemary Clooney, Tony Bennett, Jerry Vale, Marty Robbins, Johnny Mathis and Mahalia Jackson, died last Saturday in New York. He was 99.

Miller's band, Mitch Miller and the Gang, hit No. 1 in 1955 with "The Yellow Rose of Texas" and had hit albums that included a series of sing-along records. This led to the "Sing Along With Mitch" series in 1961, which enjoyed high ratings until it ended in 1966.

In 2000, he won a special Grammy Award for lifetime achievement.

The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, Miller also recorded a choral-orchestral version of the Israeli folk song "Tzena, Tzena, Tzena."

Miller disliked rock-and-roll and left his executive position at Columbia in 1965. During his tenure with the record company, he turned down Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly for contracts.

Two Israeli military helicopters made emergency landings in Romania following a technical failure.

The emergency landings Tuesday morning came a week after another Israeli helicopter crashed into the side of a mountain during a joint search-and-rescue military exercise, killing six Israeli soldiers and one Romanian soldier.

The helicopters forced to make emergency landings were returning to Israel from the 10-day exercise. They are being repaired at a Romanian air base near Bucharest, Haaretz reported.

Seven of the CH-53 Yasur helicopters participated in the exercise.

The helicopter landed, following regular protocol, after an emergency light went on in the aircraft. The second helicopter landed also following standard procedure, according to Ynet.

A new iPhone application teaches the recitation of the Kaddish, the mourner's prayer recited daily in synagogue.

The free tutorial program iKaddish 1.0 for iPhone and iPod touch was released Monday by the Chicago-based Davka Corp.

iKaddish displays the text of the Kaddish in the original Aramaic and English transliteration, and chants the text, highlighting each word as it is read. The application includes both the Sephardic and Ashkenazi pronunciations.

The application also contains an explanatory section about the Kaddish that includes the English translation, as well as additional information about its recitation.

Dozens of Orthodox rabbis have signed a statement of principles calling for the acceptance of gays in the Orthodox community.

The statement, signed by rabbis in the United States and Israel, was released July 29, the same day as a Gay Pride parade in Jerusalem.

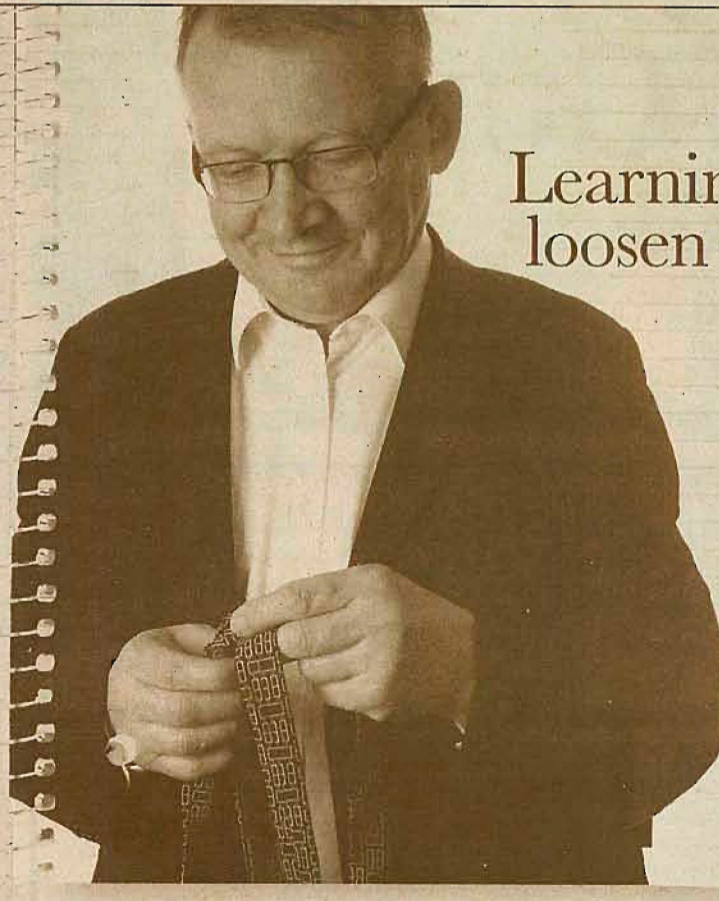
"All human beings are created in the image of God and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect (kevod haberiyot)," the statement says. "Every Jew is obligated to fulfill the entire range of mitzvot between person and person in relation to persons who are homosexual or have feelings of same sex attraction. Embarrassing, harassing or demeaning someone with a homosexual orientation or same-sex attraction is a violation of Torah prohibitions that embody the deepest values of Judaism."

Signed mostly by Modern Orthodox rabbis, as well as educators and mental health professionals, the statement was drafted following a panel held six months ago in New York that included three gay graduates of Yeshiva University. The school's spiritual supervisor, Rabbi Yosef Blau, hosted the panel.

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Style

Missing the mark 'Dinner For Schmucks' not exactly a laughing matter

BY JUSTIN JACOBS
Associate Editor

Director Jay Roach is a sucker for movie titles that grab the audience. This is, after all, the man who brought us "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" and "Meet the Fockers." But those titles, titillating as they may be, precisely summed up those movies.

With his newest addition, "Dinner For Schmucks," Roach may have

missed the mark.

The word *schmuck* has an interesting place in American culture. To most non-Jews, it's another Yiddish word that sounds funny and means just about nothing. Like *schlemiel*, or *putz*, all three of which are generally understood to mean "idiot" or "that thing my Jewish friend calls me."

To Jews, though, especially the vanishing Yiddish-speaking community,

Please see Schmucks, next page.



Steve Carell (left) and Paul Rudd play schlemiels in "Dinner For Schmucks."

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STYLE

Schmucks:

Continued from previous page.

schmuck is a vulgar, phallic-referencing insult.

So, we've got "Dinner for Schmucks," a remake of a French comedy centering around a dinner party in which rich businessmen compete for who can bring the most idiotic guest. These guests — idiotic as they may be — are not schmucks. If anything, this light-hearted flick paints them as sympathetic fools, unaware of their own foibles.

A title doesn't make a movie, but "Dinner for Schmucks" still struggles to stand on its own.

Tim (Paul Rudd) is climbing the

corporate ladder in a financial firm. He's got it all — a gorgeous girlfriend, a gigantic salary, a Porsche. To seal the deal of a new promotion, Tim's invited to his boss' "Dinner for Winners." Or so these "winners" are told. He needs to find the biggest schlemiel (a better Yiddish pick) he can; luckily, he hits one with his car. Barry (Steve Carell) is an IRS worker and obsessive taxidermist who puts stuffed mice into historical dioramas.

Barry's a match for dinner, but not before he all but accidentally destroys Tim's life in a series of ridiculous mix-ups, miscommunications and often-hilarious situations. But Tim needs that promotion, and so he perseveres as his world crumbles under Barry's bumbling destruction.

Carell, of "The Office" fame, is great, making Barry a character we

all know — that idiot that can't get anything right, but tries so hard we just can't hate him. When Barry crashes Tim's business lunch with an important Swiss investor, he asks, "Does the cheese come out of the cow with the holes already in it?"

Chuckle, chuckle, right?

"Dinner for Schmucks" works more on the strength of its giant cast of comedy stars than as a cohesive piece of film.

Zach Galifianakis pops up as the bearded mind reader who stole Barry's wife. Jermaine Clement, of HBO's "Flight of the Conchords," is a hypersexual artist trying to seduce Tim's girl.

By the time Barry and Tim finally make it to dinner, the schtick has worn a bit thin. Luckily, the collection of idiot guests liven things up and push the

movie towards a satisfying end.

The idea at the core of "Dinner for Schmucks," that regular guys would invite idiots to dinner just to make fun of them, is inherently cruel. The movie tries to come full circle with some emotional appeals (of course, Barry gets hurt, and of course, Roach wants us to feel for him), but the whole thing is so goofy that those moments fall flat.

"Dinner for Schmucks" is a funny movie. It's hard not to laugh at Carell's dead mouse diorama of Vincent Van Gogh, of which he says, "Everyone said to him, 'You can't be an artist, you only have one ear.' And he said 'I can't hear you,'" but these gags can't pull the whole thing together.

It comes off as a *tchotchke*, when it could've been a treasure.



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STYLE

'Jerusalem Trilogy' makes for beautiful, but complex, listening



BY LEE CHOTTINER
Executive Editor

Try to follow this: A well-known jazz pianist writes a trilogy for a chamber music society about — Jerusalem.

Sounds like a paragraph full of contradictions, until you listen to the music of Matt Herskowitz, who just released his new CD titled "Jerusalem Trilogy."

Know what? It is jazz, but it also fits a chamber ensemble, and it does make you think of the City of David.

Actually, Herskowitz was commissioned to write the trilogy, which comprises three of the eight tracks on the album, for a concert of works by Jewish composers that the Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York presented. Seems they wanted to include a selection by a living composer.

Herskowitz, and his music, are very much alive.

The Trilogy is a complex piece of music. Sometimes melodious, sometimes technical, always sophisticated, Her-

skowitz makes full use of his 88 keys. The tempo switching from part I — *Allegro con brio* — to part II — *Adante moderato* — changes the entire feel of the composition. One goes from listening intently to the artist's skill with a keyboard to being swept up in the emotion the music produces; it's uplifting and sad at the same time.

As fine a musician as Herskowitz is, though, it's the accompanying cello, played by Mike Block, which makes the transition complete.

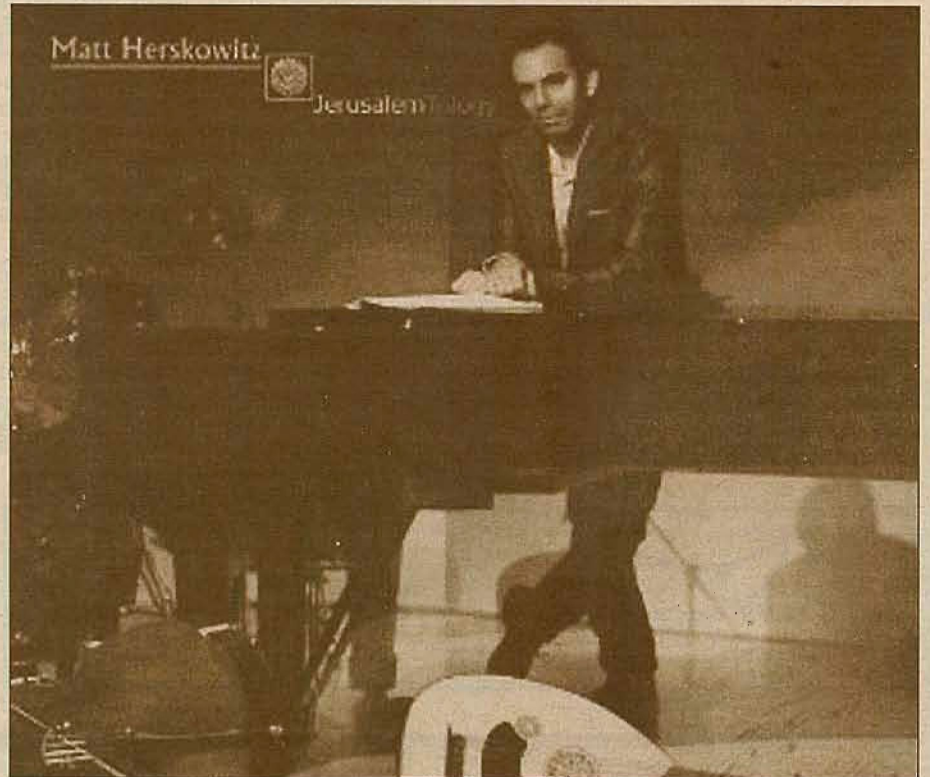
Finally, part III of the composition, *Moderato misterioso* — *Presto*, is well described. We again hear the complexity of part I, but it's a full ensemble engaging in the play now. Percussionist David Rozenblatt is more a force here, but the musicians hardly build to a crescendo; they simply layer on their orchestral brushstrokes until the music just stops.

An added treat of this album is the fifth track, "Gottingen." It feels like a Jewish version of the "Love Story" theme — romantic, sad, and hypnotic in a way.

Even if you're not a jazz lover, something inside of you would make you stop to listen to this piece.

Then the mood is suddenly broken by the next track, "Cross Bones," the closest thing to hot music on this album and perfect for a smoky jazz club in the Strip. The abrupt transition in themes is typical for this album; you never know what's coming next.

A pianist, composer, songwriter and arranger, Herskowitz has performed at jazz festivals around the world earning



plaudits from the likes of David Brubeck, but he has proven his versatility in many other genres, including classical.

There isn't a bad track on "Jerusalem Trilogy." But, like a 12-year-old single malt scotch, it's for the sophisticated music palette; you may not like this CD if your taste runs to warm familiar music.

If you're into stretching your listening muscles, though, then by all means, pop this disc into your player.

(Lee Chottiner can be reached at leec@thejewishchronicle.net.)

CD Review

"Matt Herskowitz: Jerusalem Trilogy,"
Justin Time Records Inc., 2010.



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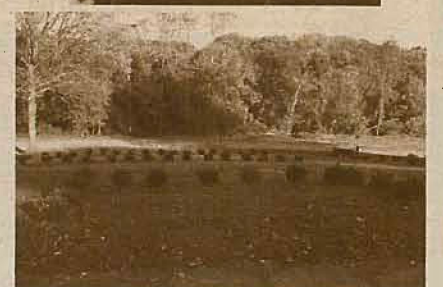
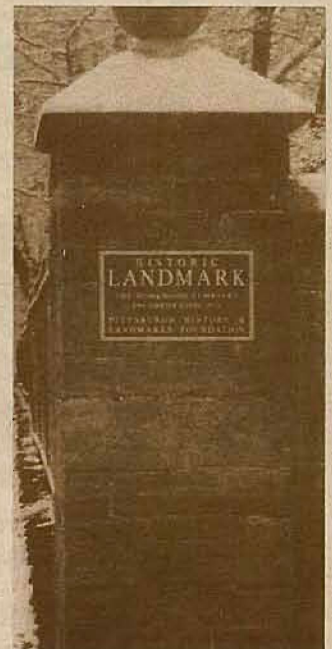


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Simchas

Engagements



Grinberg/Davis: Abby and Edwin Grinberg of Pittsburgh announce the engagement of their daughter, Marni Sue Grinberg, to Larry Davis, son of Susan Stapler Davis of Philadelphia, and the late Donald Davis.

Marni's grandparents are the late Beulah and Julius Axelrod and Rhoda and Ralph Grinberg of Hallandale, Fla., Larry's grandparents are the late David and Reba Stapler and Lena Davis.

Marnie graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is the associate director of Women's Philanthropy at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

Larry graduated from Shippensburg University and is a sales executive with Smarter Agent of Camden, N.J. Marni and Larry are planning a December wedding.



Hatter/Klein: Diane and Eddie Klein of Plum Borough announce the engagement of their son, Scott Eric Klein, to Stephanie Marie Hatter, daughter of Paula and Dennis Hatter of Connellsville.

Stephanie's grandmother is Velma Fortune of Dunbar. Scott's grandparents are Anne Klein and the late Kenneth Klein, and Daniel B. Heller and the late Marian R. Heller.

Stephanie studied musical theater at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and will complete a medical assistant program in November.

Scott graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a degree in communications media. He is the sous chef at Luma Restaurant in Aspinwall.

A 2012 wedding is being planned.

Weddings



Aguilar/Adelson: Arleen and Marvin Adelson of Pittsburgh announce the marriage of their son, Andrew Charles, to Mary Frances Aguilar, daughter of Linda Holding and Richard Aguilar of Kansas City, Mo., June 6 at Temple Sinai. Rabbi James Gibson officiated. A reception was held at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

Mary's grandmother is Mary Segura. Andrew's grandparents are Lenore Adelson and the late Leon Adelson and Czerna and Cecil Cohen.

Mary is a graduate of Point Park University and Andrew is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh.

After a honeymoon in Bar Harbor, Maine, Andrew and Mary reside in Pittsburgh.



Becker/Glanz: Shelli and Larry Glanz announce the marriage of their son, David, to Michelle Becker, daughter of Arlene and Kenneth Becker of Potomac, Md., May 15 at Hotel Monaco in Washington, D.C.

Michelle's grandparents are Miriam Becker of Bethesda, Md., the late Arthur Becker, Juliette Friedland and the late Albert Friedland.

David's grandparents are Alex and Ida Glanz of Highland Park and the late Myer and Leah Alpern.

Michelle's maid of honor was her sister, Allison Becker, and her bridesmaid was Antonia Valdes-Depena. David's best man was Ian Eberhardt, and his groomsmen were Matthew Tretter.

After a honeymoon in Italy, David and Michelle reside in Bethesda.



Riemer/Strassman: Paula and Sandy Riemer announce the marriage of their daughter, Aliza Shoshana, to Chanan Yehuda Strassman, son of Barbara and Ken Strassman of Highland Park, N.J., Sunday, May 23, at the Omni William Penn Hotel.

Aliza and Chanan were attended by their siblings, Aliza and Yaakov Apfelbaum, Chaim Strassman, Chava and Eric Riemer, and Meira and Danny Riemer, and their nieces, Rachel Apfelbaum and Eliana Riemer. Julia Cohn and Lexie and Eden Sittsamer escorted the honored grandparents, Alfred Strassman, Maxine Sittsamer, and Marion and Morris Riemer.

Aliza graduated from the Sy Syms School of Business at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women and is a student at the Bank Street College of Education, where she is pursuing a mas-

ter's degree in special education. She is an assistant teacher at SAR, a Jewish day school in Riverdale, N.Y.

Chanan graduated from New York University and is pursuing a master's degree in counseling psychology at Montclair State University.

Aliza and Chanan reside in New York City.

B'nai Mitzva



Noah David James, son of Carol and Ian James, will become a bar mitzva Saturday, Aug. 7, at 10:30 a.m. at Temple Sinai. Grandparents are Marsha and Mervin Stewart

and Colin James and the late Ceinwen James.

Please see Simchas, next page.



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Community

A Jewish Rowers from Pittsburgh compete in Boston Regatta

A number of Jewish Pittsburgh rowers are finding success in the sport of crew competition at the regional, national and even international levels, while helping to spur interest in the sport here.

Nearly a third of the team representing Pittsburgh at a recent invitational regatta in Boston, in which they finished in fourth place, were Jewish.

Competing in the Cambridge Boat Club Invitational Relay Regatta on Boston's Charles River were Maureen Kelly Busis, Herb Cohen, Jackie Goldblum, Steve Irwin, Toby Yanowich and coxswain Sonya Berkovitz. They are members of the Three Rivers Rowing Association's Men's and Women's Masters Teams, which were invited to participate by the regatta's sponsor, the Cambridge Boat Club.

During the race, teams of 20 men and women raced five relay legs totaling 14 miles in approximately an hour and a half. Boat classes included eight and four-oared coxed sweep boats, and quadruple and double sculls. This is the only event of its kind in the United States.

The course is long and technically demanding, with teams racing downstream to turning stakes and back, for a total of two miles for the smaller boats, and four miles for the larger boats.



Pittsburgh rowers Herb Cohen (left), Maureen Kelly Busis, Jackie Goldblum, Sonya Berkovitz, Toby Yanowich and Steve Irwin competed with the Three Rivers Rowing team that won fourth place in the Cambridge Boat Club Invitational Relay Regatta, held on the Charles River in Boston on July 17.

JCC's Counselors-in-Training are inspired by Israel tour

Counselors-In-Training from the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh's overnight camping program, Emma Kaufmann Camp, recently returned from a 3-week trip to Israel.

The Israel Leadership Program, in its fifth consecutive year, is a program of the JCC and the Partnership 2000 program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

"It's a very positive experience for our teens," Adam Baron, Assistant Director of EKC, who organizes the CIT program, said in a prepared statement. "We feel that it's the best way to spend your summer — being in camp with your camp friends and being in Israel."

This year, 47 teens are in the CIT program, bringing the total to almost 170 young people who have participated in the Israel Leadership Seminar. Many of the CITs return as EKC staff members.

A highlight of the trip was a six-day visit to Pittsburgh's Partnership 2000 and sister city and region, Karmiel and Misgav, where the CITs met and participated in activities with Israeli teens and families.

The Israel trip, developed with the JCC Association, also included stays on kibbutzim, workshops about Jewish identity, Israel and Judaism and the environment; hikes through the desert and the hills at Safed; snorkeling in the Red Sea and floating on the Dead Sea; and hands-on archeological experiences.

The group visited Massada at sunrise and the Roman Theater at Caesarea; it walked through the Old City of Jerusalem and toured Israel's border with Egypt.

Many program participants considered the Israel trip a transformative experience. One mother of a participant this year wrote that her son "loved every moment in Israel and I mean every second of every day.

In my experience, when the kids return home from EKC, I always see so much growth and maturity. But this was absolutely astounding. [He] grew by leaps and bounds. It was simply the most amazing trip."

The group recently returned to EKC where their new experiences and leadership skills are enhancing their work as CITs. "They're doing programming with campers and staff that directly relates to their experiences in Israel," Baron said. "The CITs helped plan an Israel Day program to teach campers about Israel and the importance of Israel."

Emma Kaufmann Camp, is situated in the hills and forests along Cheat Lake in Morgantown, W.Va., providing opportunities for adventures, sports and recreational activities on land and water. EKC camping programs, for kids entering grades 2 through 10, run through Aug. 15.

Simchas:

Continued from previous page.

Births

Swedarsky: Marilyn and Robert Swedarsky announce the birth of their granddaughter, Kayla Esther Swedarsky, July 2. Parents are Aviva and Joshua Swedarsky of New York. Maternal grandparents are Zelda and Eugene Baskin of Baltimore and the late Barbara Baskin. Great-grandparents are Maier Rabhan of Savannah, Ga.; Geraldine Siegel of Virginia Beach, Va.; and Ruth Siller of Delray Beach, Fla. Kayla joins big sister Hannah Neima Swedarsky.

Kayla Esther is named in loving memory of her paternal great-grandmother, Esther Rabhan,

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The Chronicle Cooks

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This side dish from "Jeff Nathan's Family Suppers" is a good one try out before Rosh Hashana.

4 large orange-fleshed sweet potatoes
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
Grated zest of 1 large lemon
1 teaspoon honey
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Position a rack in the center of the oven and preheat to 400 degrees. Place the sweet potatoes on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake until they are tender, about 1 hour. Protecting your hands with a kitchen towel, peel the potatoes while they are still hot and put the flesh in a medium bowl. Mash them with a potato masher. Using a rubber spatula, fold in the olive oil, dill, lemon zest and honey. Season with salt and pepper. Serve hot.

COMPILED BY ANGELA LEIBOWICZ
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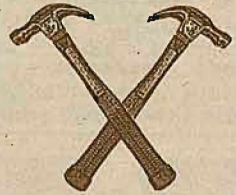
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SPORTS

14th Ward All-Star game inspires coach's thoughts on parenting



JONATHAN MAYO
The Chosen 1s

Much of my summer has been taken up with a particular pastime: baseball.

Those of you who know my regular job won't find this surprising. I do, after all, write for MLB.com. But the baseball I'm talking about wasn't being played by Major League millionaires or even top prospects. It was being played by 8- and 9-year-olds.

I had the honor, and yes, privilege, to coach my son and a group of about 15 boys this summer as part of the 14th Ward Association's 8-year-old All-Star team. It's been a true labor of love working with what's been an amazing group of kids (and parents). The team improved tremendously over the course of the summer, not just as players, but as people and teammates, and it culminated with us winning the final tournament we played in.

This, of course, created much

excitement and, I must admit, stirred the competitive fire in me from my youth. The question I kept asking myself, though, was, "Is that a good thing?" How much should excelling in a sport matter? Is winning and losing — being competitive — something kids of this age should even care about?

I was hoping to find some Jewish texts to guide me, wisdom about competition from scholars, that sort of thing. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to come up with much, other than some information on how post-biblical and Talmudic writings frowned upon sports because they were associated with Greek and Roman idol worship. In today's context, not a whole lot of help unless you wanted to extrapolate something about not having role models from the professional sports ranks.

During the first part of the summer, when the team hadn't gelled and was getting daily doses in humility, the worry was about diminishing returns. Sure, losing builds character, but does getting killed every time out serve any purpose, other than to deflate self-confidence?

Slowly, but surely, the team started playing better, winning one game in the next tournament before going home with trophies in the third. There's no doubt it was a wonderful moment. As Nuke

LaLoosh in the movie "Bull Durham," said so astutely: "I like winning. It's like, you know, better than losing."

But I realized this summer was about much more than wins and losses, something that didn't dawn on me until I took a step back. More than celebrating on the field, every single player saw that the hard work they put in had a direct positive impact on their play. Better than that, they came together as a team, pulling for each other every step of the way, supporting each other not only when things went well, but even when they didn't. They grew more as people and friends more than they did as ballplayers.

And for that, there's plenty of text to draw from. Let's start with Proverbs, where it is written:

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

That's the value of competition at this age, in my opinion, and where the extreme non-competitiveness of things like Dynamo miss the boat. I understand the need to keep things under control, and that the extreme opposite of crazy parents and coaches in little league has been well documented. But it's also important, in a warm environment, to teach kids about competition. Life lessons don't need to be

hard ones at this age, but there's nothing wrong with starting to learn about winning and losing, exhibiting good sportsmanship on both sides and how hard work can improve outcome.

The value of being on a team and working toward a common goal is equally crucial. I'm reminded of Hillel's immortal words, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me. If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?"

If those aren't words for any athlete on any team to live by, then they don't exist.

The educational experience of the summer was a two-way street, of course. Any parent who was an athlete of any sort can't help but live vicariously through their children as they make their first forays into the sporting arena. Coaching this summer, in particular, has helped me manage expectations. It's not that I had delusions of grandeur, but as we embarked on this All-Star season, it was hard to contain that part of me that wants to win at all costs and see my son perform better than I ever did (He's already done that — I never won an All-Star tournament).

(Jonathan Mayo, The Chronicle's sports columnist and a staff writer for MLB.com, can be reached at jonathanm@thejewishchronicle.net.)

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OBITUARIES

BERGAD: On Tuesday, July 27, 2010 in Torrington, CT, J. Richard "Dick" Bergad, 77, husband of Sally Nelson Bergad; father of Daniel (Denise) Bergad, of West Orange, NJ, and Andrew Bergad, of Denver, CO; son of the late Max M. and Lillian Fink Bergad; brother of Barbara Eckstein of Pittsburgh; grandfather of Alethea and Callia; uncle of John and Tom Eckstein and Sue Stotsicy. Services were held at Temple Emanu-El Cemetery, Greensburg. Arrangements by Coshey-Nicholson Funeral Home Inc., Greensburg. Contributions may be made to Beth El Synagogue, 124 Litchfield St., or Warner Theatre, 66 Main St., both of Torrington, CT.

FIEDLER: On Thursday, July 29, 2010, Marilyn "Micki" Fiedler, 81, beloved wife of the late Melvin Fiedler; cherished mother of Soni (Michael) Cohen of Minneapolis, MN, and Debbie (Steven) Buchsbaum of River Vale, NJ; loving companion of the late Howard Swartz; sister of Joel (Selma) Tanur of Ft. Lauderdale, FL

and the late Rae Hadburg; adoring grandmother of Aaron Cohen (fiancé Katie Clark), Benjamin Cohen, Emily and Eric Buchsbaum; also survived by nieces and nephews. Services were held at Ralph Schugar Chapel, Inc., 5509 Centre Ave., Shadyside. Interment Beth Shalom Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Rodef Shalom Temple, 4905 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

KATZ: On Wednesday, July 28, 2010, Shirley Katz, beloved wife of the late Larry Katz; beloved mother of Jesse Katz, Sandor Katz and Vicki (Tom) Lynch; twin sister of Ernest (Joyce) Pearl; grandmother of Adam, Alyse, Melanie (Nate) Painter, Julie, Valerie, Max and Cassie; great-grandmother of Liam. Services were held at Temple David, Monroeville. Interment Temple Sinai Memorial Park. Contributions may be made to Temple David Rabbi's Mitzvah Fund, 4415 Northern Pike, Monroeville, PA 15146. Arrangements by Ralph Schugar Chapel, Inc.

LEWINTER: On Thursday, July 29, 2010, Beverly LeWinter, beloved wife of the late William LeWinter; cherished mother of Jack (Denise) Malvin, Carol (the late Richard) Maidman and Mark (Debra) Malvin; sister of Lois (Howard) Robins; loving grandmother of Reid (Courtney), Brett and Kari Malvin, Scott (Liz), Robin (Ryan) and Erin Maidman and Hannah and Jeremy Malvin; aunt of Jeff (Rena) and Steve (Debbie) Robins; she will be sorely missed by the love of her life, Muffin. Graveside services and interment were held at Beth Shalom Cemetery. Arrangements by Ralph Schugar Chapel, Inc.

PINKEL: On Tuesday, July 6, 2010, Anne Swartz Pinkel, of San Diego, CA, originally from Pittsburgh; wife of the late Irving Pinkel; mother of Dr. Daniel Pinkel of San Francisco and Dr. Robert Pinkel of San Diego; sister of Sylvia Dobkin Feldman, also of San Diego; also survived by three grandchildren. Services and burial were held in San Diego.

SIMONS: On Tuesday, July 6, 2010, Gerald Jay Simons, 83, of Hallandale Beach, FL; cherished husband of Barbara; beloved father of Mona, Larry Simons, Cary Simons and Randi Endersby; dear brother of Marcella Tepper, Morton Simons and the late David Simons; loving grandfather of Stephanie, Max, Will, Hali and Raizi.

SNYDER: On Monday, July 19, 2010, Ella Bergstein Snyder, wife of Bernard Snyder; beloved mother of Jane (Mark) Joos, Lincolnshire, IL; Tina (James) Snyder of Jerusalem, Israel; Susan Snyder Gross of Narberth, PA, Jeni and Robert Snyder Alcakovic of St. Paul, MN; sister of Rose Markovitz and Edith Hollander of Pittsburgh; grandmother of Alan, Ian, Lily, Daniel, Erica, Stephanie, Samuel, Katrina and Alexis; also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Services and interment were held at Temple Beth Am (formerly Knesseth Israel) in Monessen, PA. Contributions may be made to the Ella Bergstein Snyder Memorial for Children's Educational Programs, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

WEINSTOCK: On Friday, July 30, 2010, Renee (Americus) Weinstock, beloved wife of the late Fred Weinstock; beloved mother of Ronald (Debra) Weinstock of Boynton Beach, FL, Michael (Donna) Weinstock of Atlanta, GA and Lisa Weinstock of Boca Raton, FL; daughter of the late Sarah Fisher and William Americus; sister of Rochelle Lewinter of Woodland Hills, CA; grandmother of Josh (Kerri) Weinstock of Los Angeles, CA, Shaun (Alayna) Weinstock of Atlanta, GA, Nicole Weinstock of Atlanta, GA, Lauren (Matt) Joffe of Boynton Beach, FL, and Tracy (Jason) Ballot of Atlanta, GA; great-grandmother of Olivia and Maya Joffe and Phoebe Ballot. Services were held at Ralph Schugar Chapel, Inc., 5509 Centre Ave., Shadyside. Interment Beth Shalom Cemetery. Contributions may be made to National Parkinson Foundation, PO Box 5018, Hagerstown, MD 21741, Animal Rescue League of W. PA, 6620 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 or Hospice of Palm Beach County, 5300 East Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33407.


ZUCKERMAN: On Tuesday, June 29, 2010 in Denver, CO, Jeannette Kottler Zuckerman, 84, formerly of Squirrel Hill, Long Island, NY, and Coconut Creek, FL; beloved wife of the late Max Zuckerman; mother of Pamela (Dr. Lawrence) of Denver, Laurence (Laura) Zuckerman of Salmon, ID, and the late Susan Zuckerman; daughter of the late I. B. and Ethel Kottler; sister of Ronald (Jean E.) Kottler of McCandless, and the late Marcean Eve Kottler, Rita (Alfred) Cohen, Saul Kottler of Pittsburgh; beloved grandmother of Jacob and Alexandra Allen of Denver; also survived by loving nieces and nephews. Private interment North Lauderdale Cemetery Star of David Section. Contributions may be made to the Marc A. Kottler Memorial library of the Career Development Center of the JF&CS, 5721 Bartlett St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Unveilings:

WINERMAN: A monument in loving memory of Freda Winerman will be unveiled on Sunday, August 8, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at Beth Abraham Cemetery. Rabbi Symons will officiate. Relatives and friends are invited.

Please refer to www.thejewishchronicle.net for regularly updated obituary information.

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METRO

Walk:

Continued from page 1.

state walk, Brok hopes to chip into those figures by raising awareness.

Brok's walk began with about 18 friends and family along with him, and he expects different groups to join him along the way. The staff of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, based in Harrisburg, may walk with him when he reaches the state capitol, Brok said.

The idea for his walk was born in downtown Philadelphia, where Brok spent a semester.

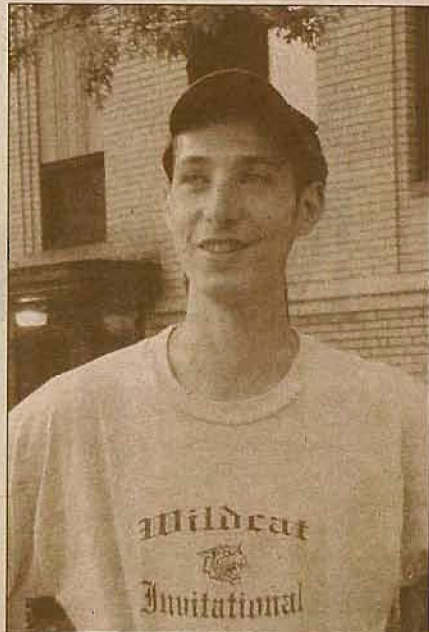
"You'd see homeless people laying on the sidewalks asking for food all the time. You couldn't go more than a block without seeing a homeless person," he said.

But while a walk across the state may seem drastic, to Brok, it felt logical.

"I like walking and being active and challenging myself. Being that I'm from Pittsburgh and have experience in Philadelphia, this would be a simple, meaningful way to raise awareness for something I'm concerned about," said Brok.

Organizations like the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank were more than happy to help Brok get started. The money he raised — and continues to raise as he walks — will be donated to food banks and shelters throughout the state.

"It means a lot to us in terms of his willingness to draw attention to hunger," said Cindy Moore, chief outreach officer of the GPCFB. "Times call for extraordinary measures. The



Adam Brok

concept he had about walking across the state to draw attention — it's a wonderful thing."

Brok's father Richard agrees, but still approached his son's walk with natural parental trepidation.

"He's not at a point where he asks permission, he just let us know," said Richard. "He's always thought outside the box and always sought challenges. Not attention, just challenges."

With his son now well on his way — at press time, Brok was leaving Black Lick, Indiana County, where he slept at a shelter — nerves are pacified.

"There are people in our congregation who were very concerned," said

Richard, a member of Rodef Shalom Congregation. "One said [to Adam], 'Your mission is to come back safely, and if you do I'll give to your cause.'"

Brok, for one, doesn't seem too worried. If anything, he's enchanted by the prospect of such a challenge. To account for the hills and long daily walks, Brok packed light, carrying with him only a backpack with an extra pair of shoes, some clothing, food, books and a copy of the Tanakh.

"It's a challenge, but it's definitely doable," said Brok. "I just have to keep going, doing it each day again and again."

Brok planned his route with the help of Google Maps and PennDOT employees, who alerted him to the dangers of certain roads and assisted him in plotting a course mostly free of major roads. Brok picked towns to stop every night and successfully arranged housing in each. His night in Saltsburg, for example, was spent sleeping at a local pastor's house after miles walking along the Westmoreland Heritage Trail.

Brok launched a blog in June to chronicle the preparation for his journey, on which he described his excitement and kept a log of his progress. One post even listed the directions for his trip — all 282 of them. His entry posted at the end of August 1 read "Today was a pretty awesome day. The

walk definitely got off to a great start."

As money continues to pour in from local supporters (donations can be made at pittsburghfoodbank.org), Brok already sees his walk as a personal and communal success. Not surprisingly, so does Maura Rodgers of the GPCFB.

"Word is getting around. Adam is inspiring a citizen movement," said Rodgers. "He's someone who's really taking a stand. It's all about ordinary people doing extraordinary things."

More than collecting funds, however, Brok is concerned with simple awareness of local hunger and homelessness issues.

"There are a lot of subtle aspects of poverty. There are people here who are really hungry, but you wouldn't be able to tell," said Brok, who calls such people 'the invisible homeless.' "Just because it's not in your face doesn't mean the problem doesn't exist."

Brok hopes that his walk inspires people to donate their time as well as money, recognizing that many Pittsburghers have more of the former than latter.

"This didn't cost me much to put together," he said. "Walking is pretty free."

(Justin Jacobs can be reached at justinj@thejewishchronicle.net.)

Torah:

Continued from page 1.

Robert Kushner of Mt. Lebanon, purchased one of those Torahs. Kushner donated that scroll to Beth El Congregation of the South Hills in 2001 in memory of his father, who was born in Kamenets-Podolsky.

The state of Maryland began investigating Save a Torah a few months ago at the request of Menachem Z. Rosensaft, vice president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Their Descendants, and a frequent contributor to The Chronicle.

After looking into the matter, state officials concluded that Youlus' stories "may be misleading," and "we could probably or reasonably assume they could not be wholly accurate," said Michael P. Schlein, investigator for the Office of the Secretary of State of Maryland.

"The agreement is not an admission of guilt," Schlein said. "There has been no finding of guilt here. The purpose of the agreement is to fix a potential issue. I can't say they (Save a Torah) broke the law."

P. Richard Zitelman, president of Save a Torah, did not respond to a phone message from The Chronicle seeking comment.

Rosensaft, who was "outraged" by what he sees as a "fraud upon the community," said he is "75 percent satisfied" with the outcome of the Maryland's inquiry into Save a Torah's practices.

"I am satisfied because Youlus and Save a Torah are now under state im-

posed sanctions to tell the truth," Rosensaft told The Chronicle. "And, more than that, their word is no longer good for anything. Any statement has to be backed up by documentation of an independent, verifying witness. Youlus is exposed as being a con man, and Save a Torah is exposed as having engaged in totally inappropriate, deceptive practices."

Still, Rosensaft does not feel the agreement redresses past wrongs.

"It would have been nice if they (Save a Torah) would have been required to give the money back to the synagogues who purchased the Torahs, and to the b'nai mitzva kids who gave donations to the organization, who thought they were helping rescue Torah scrolls, when the money was really enabling Youlus to continue with his con game."

While Rosensaft sought state action to contain Youlus in order to protect the community, he also had a personal reason to go after the scribe.

"I was outraged by his totally provably false claim to have discovered a Torah scroll somewhere around the year 2000 under the floorboard of a barrack in Bergen-Belsen, where my parents had been liberated from," he said. "The British burned that camp in 1945 to contain a typhoid epidemic. The barracks of Bergen-Belsen do not exist."

"I was born in a displaced person camp a half mile away, and I've been back to Bergen-Belsen many times. This was a personal affront. I knew he was lying on this, and I felt morally obligated to try to put an end to it."

(Toby Tabachnick can be reached at tobytab@thejewishchronicle.net)

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