

Newspaper of the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation

Shalom

Serving the Central Kentucky Jewish Community Since 1962

February 2001

Shevat-Adar 5761

UPDATE ON THE CENTRAL KENTUCKY JEWISH FEDERATION WEBSITE

It is inevitable! After e-commerce, e-dating, e-trading, etc - HERE COMES THE E-SHTETL. For the past several years a growing number of national and local community-based Jewish organizations and congregations have been signing up on the Internet with new websites. A couple of years ago CKJF opened a website. Its success was "underwhelming." Now, capitalizing on the learning experience, we are renewing it !!!

The new website with its "test" form is located at <http://www.jewishlexington.org/test>. It has pages for different committees and for special interests. It also features a page with links to local organizational websites and another with links to national Jewish organizations. Yet another page is dedicated to news on Israel and the Jewish world. You will also be able to check on specific CKJF programs.

Most important, the new website includes a downloadable, easy-to-use, community calendar that will be updated weekly so you can use it for planning events in your organization, or choose what you want to do.

But that is not all. As part of this upgrade, we have created new e-mail addresses to help you contact people in a faster and easier way. So far we have created the following addresses :



General CKJF:	ckjf@Jewishlexington.org
Jewish Family Services:	jfs@Jewishlexington.org
Community Activities:	cac@Jewishlexington.org
Community Relations:	crc@Jewishlexington.org
Camp Shalom:	Campshalom@Jewishlexington.org
Shalom Newspaper:	Shalom@Jewishlexington.org

There will be more to come as we offer the local Jewish organizations the opportunity to have their own e-mail box at Jewishlexington.org. We hope this will become a home for everything Jewish in Central Kentucky.

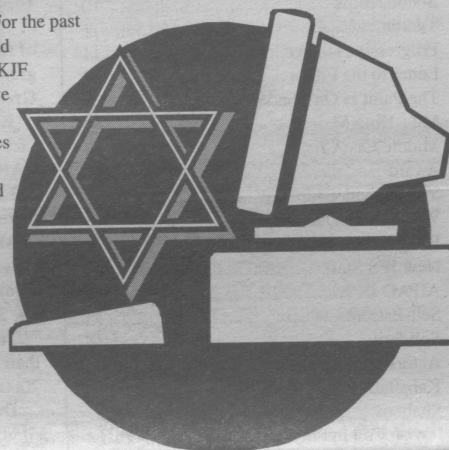
The website still has pages under construction, but you can navigate between the orange barrels, check it out and let us know what you think. With your help and suggestions we will continue to improve our "e-shtetl." ☆

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Lexington Jewish Community to Work with Habitat for Humanity

This past fall, the Temple's Social Action Committee and the Synagogue's Men's Club began discussing the possibility of participating in the Lexington Habitat for Humanity's program. Now, after several meetings and many discussions, this idea has blossomed into a project for the entire Lexington Jewish community. CKJF, Hadassah, Havurah, Ohavay Zion Synagogue, Temple Adath Israel, and the UK Hillel have all decided to come together to sponsor and build a Lexington Habitat house.

Lexington Habitat is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Habitat has built 154 homes in Lexington and serves families of low income who meet Habitat's home ownership requirements. Families are selected based upon their need for housing, their ability to pay and their willingness to work with Habitat. All families must agree to provide 250 to 500 hours of "sweat equity" by working on their own home or other Habitat homes and by attending workshops on parenting, financial management and home maintenance. Each family has a \$38,000 mortgage, which is repaid over 20 years.

At this time, we are planning to build our house in May and June.

We need to have people who will fill the positions of Project Coordinator, Building Coordinator, and Volunteer Coordinator. We also need individuals to volunteer to help with a variety of important jobs such as construction, food, telephoning, and publicity. We need all types of help and we have a job for everyone who is interested in this project.

If you are interested in participating in our Habitat project, whether in a small way or as a leader, please join us for a community wide meeting at 7:00 PM, on Sunday, February 11th, at Ohavay Zion Synagogue. At the meeting

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MAZEL TOV TO:

Robert and Judy Baumann on the birth of their grandson **Max Aaron Baumann Aizenstein** on January 5, 2001. Max is the son of **Barbara Baumann & Howard Aizenstein**.

Marvin, Amy, Zachary & Jesse Krislov are thrilled to on the arrival of **Eve (Evie) Rose (Chava Benyamina)** born October 17, 2000. Marvin is the son of **Joseph Krislov** and the late **Evelyn Krislov**.

Sonny and Terry Fletcher on the birth of their daughter, **Brennan Alexis**, on November 16, 2000.

Randy and Rochelle Grossman on the birth of their son on December 14, 2000. The proud grandparents are **Norman and Betty Grossman**.

Kelli Newman who has made the Dean's List with a 4.0 at the University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business. Kelli, the daughter of **Larry and Janice Newman**, plans to complete her business/marketing degree in May.

Marcos Oliveira and Gabby Rennebeck Oliveira, on the birth of their son, **Izaak Thomaz Rennebeck Oliveira**, on December 25, 2000.

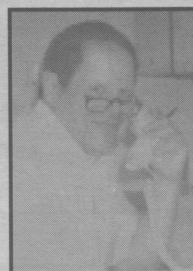
Josh and Whitney Steiner on the birth of their son, **Nathaniel Lewis**, on November 25, 2000.

Dan Kostecka and Tanny Stenzel on the addition of, **Marcelo Kostecka Stenzel**, to their family. Marcelo was born on July 18, 2000.

Merle and David Wekstein on the marriage of their daughter, **Debra**, to **David Kravitz**. The wedding took place in Cambridge, MA on November 12.

REFUAH SHLEMAH (get well wishes):
Bill Meece.

Please let us know of any news you would like to share with the community.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by
Marty Barr, President
Central Kentucky
Jewish Federation

Community. We use this word frequently in the Jewish world, but as often we qualify it to mean those who think or worship as we do rather than in an inclusive sense. CKJF has always strived to represent the Lexington Jewish community and I was surprised recently to hear someone refer to us as "a creature of ...". My interpretation of this remark was that they felt that we were biased toward the position of one or more of the constituent organizations. I would like to take this opportunity to refute this kind of thinking and reiterate CKJF commitment to representing the entire community.

In support of this statement, I would like to point out the following:

- 1) Each of the organizations which are the backbone of CKJF appoints members to our Board of directors. The Temple has three representatives, the Synagogue has three, Hadassah has one, and the Havurah has one. In the past the now defunct B'nai Brith chapter had one also.
- 2) There has been a concerted effort to make sure that the Board members who are elected from the general membership maintain this balance among organizations.
- 3) At the present time, the officers and Executive committee represent all of the constituent organizations.
- 4) Our programs are consistently aimed at the entire Jewish community. Examples of this are the recent Winter Dinner, which attracted over 150 people, the Yom Ha'atzmaut party which was held at the University last spring, and the upcoming Jewish composers concert which is scheduled for this coming spring. Our newest Jewish Family Service program, Tikkun Lexington, is one that builds upon the Jewish commitment to volunteer action, and is aimed at everyone in the community who either wants to provide or requires assistance.
- 5) This issue of Shalom contains an article written by the Presidents of the Temple and Synagogue on our newest community wide effort to build a home for a less fortunate family. The application to Habitat will be signed by the Presidents of all the organizations to indicate our community-wide commitment to this project.

I hope the point is clear; CKJF will continue to work for the entire Lexington Jewish community in the future as it has in the past. As always, if you have any ideas or thoughts on improving CKJF, please feel free to call either Danny Chefec or myself.

Thank you. ☆

Shalom

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Kathy Stein On Stage

Actors' Guild of Lexington will stage Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* on February 12, 2001 at 7 PM at the Singletary Center for the Arts Concert Hall. All tickets are \$15 and are available at the Singletary Ticket Office, (859) 257-4929. AGL joins in this project with U.K. Women's Studies and the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center, which will benefit from the proceeds. With *The Vagina Monologues*, Eve Ensler gives voice to a chorus of lusty, outrageous, brave and thoroughly human stories. This hilarious, groundbreaking play has rocked audiences around the world, and it has found a home Off-Broadway. The Obie Award-winning, lively, and liberating series of monologues combines painful subjects with sharp, incisive humor. Ms. Ensler digs into the heart of what it means to be a woman, an individual and a survivor. Writing in the Village Voice, Blanche McCrary Boyd said, "The brilliance of *The Vagina Monologues* lies in its ability to bring every woman to a common identity, like an international AA meeting for vaginas."

Even the most educated, established feminists wake up to their own encoded hypocrisies when they read the book or see the play. They also laugh very, very hard

because Ensler's play is funny. This year, V-DAY 2001 - a worldwide movement to stop violence against women - will feature performances of *The Vagina Monologues* during Valentine's week in 166 countries.

Directed by Deb Shoss, the AGL production stars Debra Hensley as playwright Eve Ensler; other performers include Kathy Stein, Rev. Kelly Flood, Cathy Rawlings and Missy Johnston. This special event will be a celebration of womanhood through the vagina and everything that relates to it. People will leave with the sense that 'vagina' is not a dirty word or concept and not a taboo. Also people will realize that a woman's body should never be violated. A post-play discussion, moderated by Nikky Finney, with the cast and UK Women's Studies Chair Dr. Joan Callahan, will follow the performance.

Bringing a well-known local cast together for *The Vagina Monologues* furthers the mission of Actors' Guild to create and produce compelling contemporary theatre for the region.

Further information can be found on the web at:

www.actorsguildoflexington.org. ☆

CONDOLENCES TO:

Janice Kuperstein, on the death of her uncle, **Leon Leskowitz**, on November 23, 2000.

Sandy & Deborah Isenstadt, on the death of her Sandy's mother, **Sheila Kouffman** on November 29, 2000.

Gary and Cindy Dunn, on the death of Cindy's mother, **Elizabeth Kuhn**, on December 12, 2000.

Bruce and Starr Gantz, on the death of Bruce's father, **Harry Gantz**, on January 3, 2001.

David and Bennett Luckens, on the death of their father, **Mark Luckens**, on January 3, 2001.

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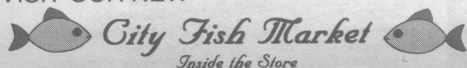
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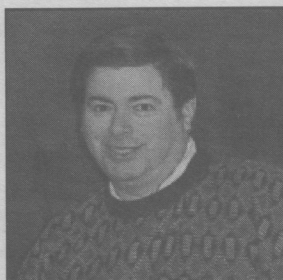
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"BUY JUDAISM"

By Daniel Chejfec, Executive Director
 Central Kentucky Jewish Federation

We are now officially living in the XXI Century - and what a way it started! A few highlights are violence in the Middle East, a delicate political balance in Washington, the beginning of an International Space Station (named "Alpha"). Does this in any way change how we look at our existence as a distinct group called "Jews"?

I do not believe it changes the fact that we are Jews with a unique ethnic identity. People are the product of their history, both inherited and chosen. Whether we are Jews by birth or Jews by choice, we have chosen to remain distinct. We have chosen to support the ethical foundations of our common heritage. What makes this remarkable is the social environment in which we are doing it!

In the beginning of the XXI Century, American society is very much a consumer-oriented society, with an open market of products. Different factories and stores compete for the consumer's attention with lower prices, better quality, or the latest technology. When it comes to ideas, the situation is not very different. Political candidates, grass roots organizations, and special interest groups, all compete for the public's sympathy and loyalty and market their own "schtick." While religion falls into a different category of ideas, the basic concept is still the same. Each religious denomination competes for the public's attention to secure their own followers.

While many individuals in our community accepted this fact over the years, as a community we kept taking Jews for granted; after all "a Jew is a Jew is a Jew." The result has been that conversions out of Judaism are very high, and not quite compensated by those who choose to become Jews. It is time that we live up to our conclusions. If Judaism is competing in the open market of ideas, as most Jewish sociologists would agree, let us find a way to sell our own product. In particular we must sell Judaism to Jews.

As in any good marketing approach, we first need to analyze the product. What does Judaism have to offer to those who were born Jewish as well as those who might be considering joining our ranks? The first thing that comes to mind is "a 4000 year old unbroken tradition" - Hey, talk about reputation! The

second thing that comes to mind is a clear commitment to a vision of active redemption of the world through Social Justice. That's a good point for action-oriented individuals. Another point is, rephrasing a recent comment by a local teenager, "What I like about Judaism is that it liberates my mind;" something that can be very appealing in a democratic society.

Judaism also represents a true "Unity in Diversity," for Jews generally agree to disagree. While this point appears to run counter to the mainstream enshrinement of consensus, it is just that - an appearance. Let me explain. While the general concept of consensus in the wider society is of something that most people agree with, the Jewish concept refers to an agreement that everybody can live with, but nobody is happy about.

While we could go on, I think that the examples described so far are those selling points that could make a difference in American society in the year 2001. Being active in Jewish life is, in my opinion, being a salesperson for Judaism wherever we are and whenever appropriate. Our objective is not to convert individuals, but to reassert the value of our own product.

While I do not believe that the slogan "what was good for Moses is good for you" would be a good idea, I do believe that we have a wonderful product, tempered by 4000 years of historical experience. We have a commitment to improve the world through active participation, and a historical acceptance of differences within Judaism. It is a tradition of learning and a tradition of pursuing the truth, and the knowledge of God by understanding Creation.

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CKJF Winter Dinner a resounding success

By Ruth Poley



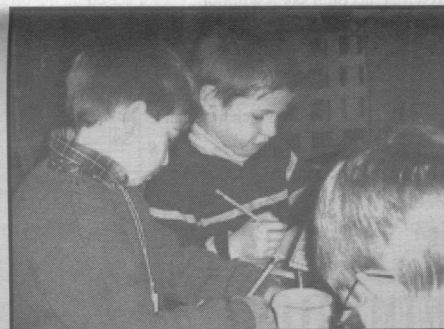
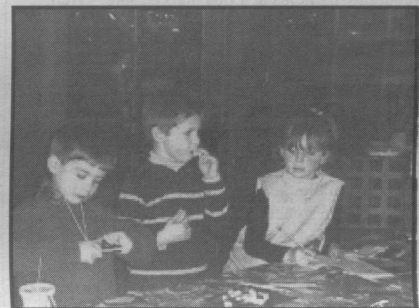
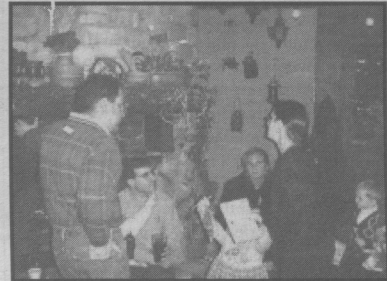
The Federation's Winter Dinner and Chanukah party was an outstanding success again this year. More than 170 of us gathered at Bella Notte on December 25th to sing, play, eat, and enjoy good fellowship.

The menu was outstanding, and the addition of potato latkes and sour cream was a welcome supplement to the Italian dishes. The magician mystified, surprised and delighted us all, the children participated in a variety of craft activities, and the adults loved the door prizes. We were gladdened by the musical entertainment of Aviva Bowling, challenged by the Name Game, and uplifted by the lighting of the Chanukah candles.

Thanks to all of you, we collected well over a barrel of food and more than \$60 for God's Pantry.

An event of this magnitude does not happen without a great deal of work. Take the time to thank some of the following people for all their efforts: Holly Barnhill and the CKJF Community Activities Committee; Hacky and Courtney Kanter of Bella Notte for working with us and for spending a day making the latkes; Aviva Bowling for the entertainment; and Artique, Great Harvest Bread company, Marie Howell Hair Design, Home Accessories, PHD, Chrisman Mills Wine, Phil Dunn's Cookshop, and Old Kentucky Candies for all the wonderful door prizes.

What? You missed it **again**? Better put us on your calendar **now** for next year!!



COLUMN MUSINGS

by Marcia Blacker
Editor in Chief, *Shalom*

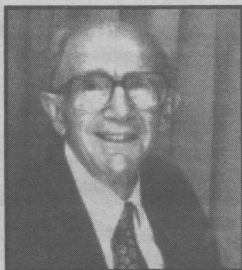
Is there anyone more certain about "truth" than a college student? I was talking with a young friend of mine the other day and we started talking about words and why they had the ability to hurt. You must understand, this college student friend of mine is extraordinarily bright, well read, and usually a pretty solid thinker.

The conversation centered on the student's insistence that "words are just words," and, therefore, had no intrinsic ability to harm. His conclusion — one should not be offended by words. This discussion led, inevitably, to how racial or religious epithets could hurt, and I told him the story of a co-worker of mine who, in the course of a conversation about buying items at a flea market, said, "Well, you can always try to Jew the seller down."

My young college friend argued that this shouldn't have hurt me; that it was said out of ignorance, perhaps. It reminded me that other co-workers to whom I told that story simply shrugged and said, "Oh, he didn't mean anything by it." As I tried to explain to my otherwise brilliant friend, that was the trouble. The co-worker who said it did indeed mean something by it, and though the slur wasn't directed specifically to me, it was directed generally to me by virtue of the fact that I'm a Jew. In this co-worker's mind the stereotype of the bargain-hunting, financially shrewd Jew was so permanently fixed that he could say it without regard to whom he was saying it. I did, by the way, confront the person who said it, and received a red-faced apology.

My college friend and I continued the discussion for a while, and when I couldn't convince him that

Column Musings continued on page 8



MACHIAVELLI AND ARAFAT

by Michael E. Adelstein

Hezbollah guerrillas.

In this situation, Arafat has demonstrated strength to his people by upping the ante. Barak made an offer at Camp David — reportedly 90% of the West bank and half of Jerusalem — that was beyond anything that the Palestine dictator could have expected. But the more that was conceded to Arafat, the more he has demanded.

Machiavelli pointed out that this is the way the dictator retains power. In a free country, a leader can negotiate because he has been elected by the people and knows that they will support him. But in a dictatorship, the leader fears that he will lose control unless he continues to berate the enemy, creating hatred and fear.

If peace were to come to the Mideast, Arafat would probably lose power, just as Churchill did after leading England to victory in WWII. But as long as Israelis are killing Palestinians, Arafat remains in control. And as long as Israel remains the enemy, peace will not come, not even with the threat of the possible election of a hardliner like Sharon.

Arafat also enjoys being on the world stage. And he realizes that he is winning the public relations battle. Every time a child or young person is killed by the Israelis, the world media report it graphically. It's David versus Goliath, stones versus bullets, innocents versus hardened soldiers, the oppressed versus the oppressor.

Is there any hope of peace? As the violence escalates, it seems doubtful. Perhaps the anti-Israel UN can work out some acceptable solution. Or, perhaps with Arafat's demise, a leader may arise who can bring the Palestinians to their senses, promising an end to the killings and a beginning of prosperity. In my view, it's a slim hope. But I'd love to eat crow.

A Wallenberg Postscript

I'd like to apologize for the many proofreading errors in last month's column about Raoul Wallenberg. Haste makes waste in life and in writing. But perhaps you didn't notice, because I heard only from one person, Hawkeye Ruth Barrett, a good friend. Or perhaps you didn't read the column or thought that I had been drinking or some such. Regardless, I'm sorry.

Since I wrote that column, there has been startling news about Wallenberg. First, his story seemed to have ended with a November 27, 1999 announcement by a Kremlin official that he was shot by the Soviet secret police in Moscow's Lubyanka prison on July 17, 1947. Swedish officials have not accepted this account; they are awaiting documentary proof.

They may have a good reason. According to Susanne Berger, a German researcher, Stockholm had declined to respond to Russian feelers from

Machiavelli continued on page 8

The political maneuvering in Israel seems so unpredictable at this Hanukkah writing that if I were wise, I shouldn't touch the subject. But I wish to express a viewpoint based on a clinical book.

At this writing, it looks like a race between Barak and Sharon, with the latter appearing to be the more popular. People are concerned about Barak's generous peace gestures and also dismayed at his poor handling of internal affairs. Sharon, the militant leader, appeals because of his primary commitment to security.

In the background, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators are meeting in Washington and expressing optimism about another summit before Clinton leaves office.

I may have to eat crow, but I contend that Arafat does not want peace. With it would come a loss of his authority and power. To support this view, I refer to Machiavelli's 1552 book, *The Prince*. Based on his observation of people and his reading of history, Machiavelli ostensibly wrote to show Lorenzo, a member of the powerful Medici family, how to seize and retain power. The purpose was patriotic: to free the Italians from continuing to be invaded by the French, Germans, Spanish, and Swiss.

Lorenzo may never have read *The Prince*. However, hundreds if not thousands of dictators and politicians have. Because of its pragmatic approach to politics, irrespective of morality, Machiavelli's name has become associated with cunning and deceitful political intrigue.

In one section, Machiavelli wrote that a leader should at all times make the people "feel the need of the State and of him, and then they will always be faithful to him." In another, he informed the leader how to enable the people to withstand adversity by "holding out hopes to his subjects that the evil will not be of long continuance; [and] ... by exciting their fears of the enemy's cruelty."

Arafat has learned from Machiavelli. He is aware of the rumors of unrest among the Palestinians as a result of his corrupt administration's mishandling of funds and granting of favors to insiders. He is also cognizant of the growing popularity of the Hamas terrorists, Tanzim militiamen, and

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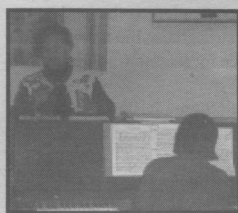
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CKJF LEISURE CLUB UPDATE Chanukah Party

By Ruth Moser

What a way to end the year! The Leisure Club's Chanukah Party in December was fabulous. We lit the first candle on a dozen menorahs, ate delicious latkes cooked by our very own Fran Morris, and listened to Svetlana Alkhasova's fantastic piano playing while her friend Nomi Lugo delighted us with her lovely singing.



Many of the regular Leisure Club gang were there, along with New Americans. We said good-bye to Teddy Garber, and we said

hello to Norma Chapman (Sandy Adland's mom). We even met a brand new New American Olga Vulakh, a delightful young lady. And a special thanks to Olga for helping to prepare the food. I must add that it is always a special treat when the entire CKJF staff comes to our events.

Annette brought a delicious sugar-free kugel with apples and raisins, and she made a ton of yummy cookies. She also brought a Chanukah CD and decorations. Every table was adorned with a menorah with a candle lit for the first night of Chanukah, gelt was strewn over all the tables



as an edible decoration.

Before we ended our delightful afternoon, some of us shopped at the Temple Adath Israel gift shop which Marilyn Lieber graciously opened especially for us. And yes, we did shop until we dropped.

If you missed the Chanukah Party, maybe you made it to the Coach House in January. And in February you have another opportunity to get together with your friends on February 15th at Polo's Restaurant in the Hilton Suites (over by Lexington Green). Remember, it's always fun when we get together - nobody in town kvetches and kvells like we do. ☆



DOLL PROJECT UPDATE

By Ruth Moser

The Lexington Chapter of Hadassah/CKJF Leisure Club involvement in the Doll Project began with a Chai tea on November 20, 1997. Twenty-five dolls were stuffed that afternoon. The money for the project began with an Enhancement grant from Central States Region. After that a hat was passed at a meeting, and we have since received a few small donations. Now, nearly three and a half years later, we have delivered 115 dolls to the University of Kentucky Medical Center's Children's Hospital - a facility that opened the same time as Hadassah Hospital's Mother-Child Pavillion at Ein Karem in Jerusalem. The dolls, each

wearing a hospital gown, are presented to children in the hospital.

As far as we know, Lexington is one of three Hadassah chapters to have doll projects. The project originated in Rhode Island where the chapter has been making dolls for Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence for ten years. A second project is going on at Hadassah House in West Bloomfield, Michigan, where over 14,000 dolls have been made. And Lexington is the third chapter to have a doll project. The dolls are made to reflect the diverse ethnic groups of children in the hospital. Each doll has a label attached reading "Made and Donated by the Lexington Chapter of Hadassah and CKJF Leisure Club."

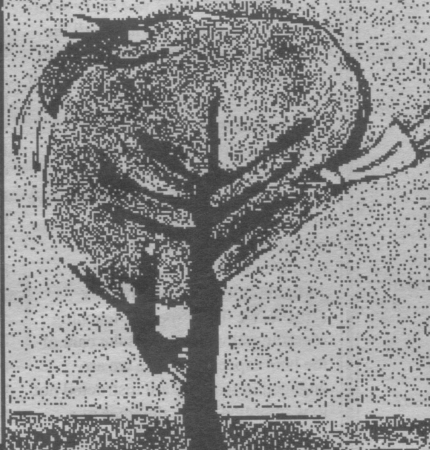
Now that we have dolls being sewn in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, Lexington's Doll Project is prob-

ably the first doll project to have gone international. Besides being international, the project is a joint venture of Hadassah and the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation (CKJF) through association with the CKJF Leisure Club. The project also has brought together Hadassah and the local Young Judaean group through their involvement in CUT, SEW, STUFF, a skit performed in January 2000 at a Hadassah general meeting. The cast included Hadassah members doing the CUT-SEW-STUFF rap (based on Mark Twain's "Punch, Brother, Punch"), Leisure Club members sewing, and Young Judaens holding a meeting to discuss whether they would participate in the doll project.

Actually, the project began five or six years ago when Judy Martin, Child Life Specialist at UK's Children's Hospital, attended a meeting in Rhode Island where she heard about the Hadassah doll project. She came back and told Judy Baumann about it. Shirley Bryan, who was then our president, introduced the idea at a board meeting. And the rest is history. ☆

Leisure Club Luncheon

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2001
at 11:45 am
Polo's Restaurant
in the Hilton Suites at
Lexington Green
RSVP by 2.13.01
269.8244



Leisure Club is a program of the Jewish Family Services of the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation.

Hadassah Notice

Hadassah is updating our directory of members. Please call or email Janice Newman with your changes, updates, and email addresses. The telephone number is 272-6807 or email jwnconsulting@yahoo.com. We would like to publish the new directory soon, so please call today.

Machiavelli (continued from page 6)

1946 to 1966 about an exchange involving Wallenberg and a Soviet spy. Although such a swap was a standard practice during the cold war, Berger claims that the Swedes were indifferent about having Wallenberg released and did not pursue the matter.

If her account is substantiated, it means that the Swedish hero was alive some 19 years after his supposed execution. And it will provoke a storm of angry criticism against the Swedish government. Time will tell. ☆

Column Musings (continued from page 6)

words can hurt because they are symbols of thoughts, and certain words allowed to be said without regard to the beliefs behind the words lead to hate and ultimately, violence. My friend was so earnest and wanted to desperately to believe that mere words couldn't hurt, that I finally had to tell him that "theoretically, words *shouldn't* hurt, but they do." If one calls a loved one, "sweetheart," it feels good; if words can make us feel good, they obviously can make us feel angry and sad, as well.

I knew that his argument was intended as a philosophical exercise and nothing more, and I finally convinced him that his being a member of every majority in this country (male, white, Protestant) was an advantage that afforded him the luxury of believing that words don't hurt! He understood.

But, this conversation reminded me that maybe I was guilty of retaining stereotypes because I had laughed at jokes that put minorities in an unfavorable light, or worse yet, I had told jokes like that. I am of the opinion that political correctness can be carried to such an extent that it can become silly (the whole Ms, Miss, Mrs thing comes to mind, but that's another column!); however, I do think that we have to work hard, all of us, to avoid labels, especially vicious ones. I also reminded my young friend that the older you get, the more you realize that there are more questions in this world than there are answers. ☆

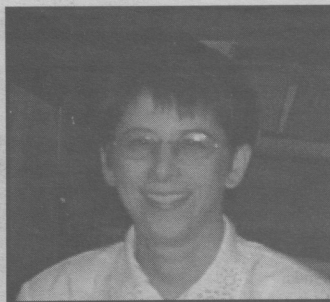
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Rabbi Sharon Cohen

This month, on Tuesday, February 8th, we celebrate what is considered to be a "minor" holiday on the Jewish calendar, yet has deservedly become a day for celebration, study and song for young and old alike. I am, of course, talking about Tu bi-Sh'vat, the 15th Day of the Hebrew month Sh'vat, better known by our children as "the birthday of the trees!" Although we celebrate the trees, it is really the day on which we take time to acknowledge the importance of nature in our lives and our responsibility to it.

Where in the Hebrew Bible, in the TaNaKH, will you find mention of the holiday of Tu bi-Sh'vat? Like several holidays on the Jewish Calendar, Tu bi-Sh'vat is never specifically mentioned in the Bible. There are no commands regarding the actual celebration of the day, neither from the Bible nor Rabbinic Literature, although we find in the Mishna that Tu bi-Sh'vat is indeed listed as one of the four "New Years" on the Jewish Calendar. In any case, we know that the Torah is filled with references to the natural world. In the Book of Genesis, the responsibility human beings have toward the earth, and toward trees in particular, is clearly laid out (Genesis 1:27-28):

Male and Female God created them. And God blessed them, and said to them, "be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and the birds of the air, and over every living thing that creeps upon the earth." And God said, "Behold I give you every seed bearing plant that is upon all the earth, and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit; and they shall be yours for food."

As partners with God in the process of Creation, we have been given the privilege of reaping the benefits of the land, of taking what we need from it. But "subduing" it does not mean destroying it. It means taking care of it.

In the Book of Deuteronomy (20:19), we find a specific teaching regarding how we are to take care of the land especially when we are engaged in war. We are instructed not to wantonly destroy the trees of a besieged city, in particular, the fruit trees, as we battle for the land.

RABBI'S CORNER
TU BI-SH'VAT: NATURE'S DAY

Maimonides, the great 13th Century Jewish philosopher and scholar, acknowledging the importance of this passage regarding trees, reimposed an extremely harsh penalty against anyone destroying fruit trees with destructive intent, whether in the act of war or not.

In the Book of Leviticus we are instructed to give the land a Shabbat, a year to let the land remain unworked and untilled every seventh year so that the earth might rest and be replenished. If you ask a farmer, s/he will tell you that letting the land lie fallow for a year only strengthens the nutrients in the soil and the produce for the future. Even the land gets a Shabbat.

All of these instructions emphasize our God-given role as protectors of the gifts of the Earth. At the same time, Jewish Tradition reminds us that we have also been given the land to reap enjoyment from it. The Rabbis of the Talmud recognized only too well that the human soul is inextricably linked with the natural world. I find it fascinating that 1500 years ago the Rabbis taught us that one may not live in a city in which there are no gardens (Jerusalem Talmud 114). Smelling the fragrance of the plants, touching the green grass, hearing the wind whistle through the branches of the trees, and seeing the brilliant colors of the flowers, bring us joy and contentment and remind us that we are not alone in the world. Even a large and congested city like New York has Central Park, an urban oasis designed to offer just such an experience.

Above all, Judaism teaches us that nature and the environment are not merely important, but of the utmost priority. Rabbi Yohanan taught that if you have a sapling in your hands ready to be planted and someone suddenly comes by and tells you that the Messiah has come, you are to complete the transplanting and then go out to welcome the Messiah. We have the obligation to see that the Earth is taken care of, not last, but first.

Here in Kentucky, we are fortunate enough to enjoy the beauty of nature at every turn. Because we have these natural gifts, it can often become easy to take them for granted. The holiday of Tu bi-Sh'vat reminds us that the gifts of the Earth can be safe only when we recognize just how precious those gifts are, and commit ourselves to protecting them. Although February 8th has the potential to be just another day on the calendar, I hope that everyone will take even a moment to think about the importance of the world around us, and our obligations to it. There is a lot you can do to celebrate Tu bi-Sh'vat this year: take some time out to bring a plant to someone who would enjoy it, join a group dedicated to protecting the environment, take more seriously the act of recycling, make a donation to the Jewish National Fund so that a tree might be planted in Israel, or even plan out your garden for the spring. I wish you all a very happy and meaningful Tu bi-Sh'vat!

Rabbi Cohen is the spiritual leader of Ohavay Zion Synagogue of Lexington.

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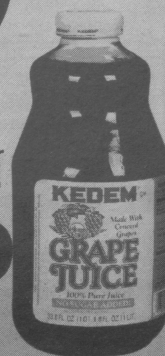
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LEXINGTON AREA

Man-O-War at 1-75

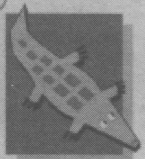
West Peppinville between Nicholasville Rd. and Clays Hill Rd.



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ASK JFS

Ask JFS is a monthly advice column with questions from members of the community requiring assistance with a wide range of issues. If you have a problem or a concern that you would like addressed in this Shalom column, please send your queries to: Ask JFS c/o Jewish Family Services, 340 Romany Road, Lexington, KY 40502. You



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**Loneliness
Unfulfilling Relationships
Marital Conflicts**

I have 22 years professional experience helping people with these difficulties. My current special interests include loss of a pet, Benedict Spinoza, and the search for a sense of one's significance and value at midlife. I want to help you live a rewarding life.

Harwell F. Smith, Ph.D.
Board Certified in Clinical Psychology
Saint Joseph Office Park
276-1836

Dear JFS,

Hello there. My name is Ida and I just turned seventy-two. I was wondering if you could help me. I am having a hard time cooking these days because the arthritis in my hands seems to be getting worse. Besides that I don't like to cook. I've been ordering in from restaurants but that gets to be too expensive after a while. Also, I wish I had more things to do with my time during the day. I don't get out as much as I used to and am feeling bored sometimes. What can I do?

Hopeful Lady

Dear Hopeful,

A very good service in town for seniors and the disabled is called Meals on Wheels where a hot and cold meal are delivered each day to your home. This service has two functions - to provide you with an inexpensive nourishing meal, and to provide you with an ongoing friendly-faced visitor, which is especially important for those who may not see many people on a day-to-day basis. The cost is approximately \$20 per week and it is well

worth the money. The phone number to call is 276-5391 from 8:30 - 12:30 pm Monday to Friday.

My second suggestion for you is to add some activity to your life. The Lexington Senior Citizen's Center on Nicholasville Road is an excellent place for seniors to meet, eat a nutritious lunch, and get involved in classes or lectures. For a complete listing of the daily activities at the center call 278-6072.

For an in-home option you might like to try out the new Tikkun Lexington visiting program. A trained volunteer is matched up with a senior like yourself to visit you in your home on a regular basis for conversation and company. This may be a good idea for you especially during the snowy winter months when getting out may be difficult.

If you haven't already joined us, come to the monthly Leisure Club meetings through Jewish Family Services. Each month there is an ad in Shalom featuring the upcoming activity, whether it is lunch at a favorite restaurant, or a holiday party at the temple or synagogue. Be sure to mark the dates on your calendar.

Also, you can always call the JFS office at 269-8244 for a personal meeting to discuss further options. Best wishes.

JFS ☆

SCHOLARSHIPS

Central Kentucky Jewish Federation
is now accepting applications for
SUMMER CAMPERSHIPS

for Non-Profit Jewish Camps
& **SCHOLARSHIPS**

for
ISRAEL PROGRAMS

CONTACT FRAN AT JFS 269.8244

deadline is March 30, 2001



TIKKUN LEXINGTON IS UNDER WAY !!!!!

The Tikkun Lexington mitzvah resource initiative has successfully been launched! As Tikkun Olam is central to Judaism, this program enhances our efforts in identifying needs and performing mitzvot on a regular basis throughout the year. Volunteers have stepped forward from our community with interest, enthusiasm, extra hands, and warm hearts.

As Tikkun Lexington is geared toward volunteerism around identified needs within our Jewish Community, we also offer our resources to the greater Lexington community when there is urgent need. On December 25, when most people of most faiths take the opportunity to lounge in their homes with family or a good book, some are unfortunately hospitalized. Tikkun Lexington sent volunteers to U.K. and St. Joseph's East hospitals where patients most appreciated us. With good wishes and holiday gifts, Tikkun teams and individuals visited nearly every patient floor by floor. Patients received us with smiles of gratitude on a lonesome hospital holiday.

The mitzvot we perform are not soon forgotten. We look forward to further hospital centered opportunities of mitzvot this year.



Tikkun Sponsors Hanukkah Party

By Judi Oer

Holiday spirits were high on Dec. 26th when Jewish residents of the Stewart Home School in Frankfort were treated to a Hanukkah party. CKJF's Tikkun Lexington program sponsored the festivities with volunteers Lisa, Isaac, and Felix Satin; Judi Oer; Olga Vulakh; Lisa, Jonathan, Emily and Abigail Miller; and Fran Morris of Jewish Family Services.

Music, dancing, jelly doughnuts, and lighting of the menorah provided merriment to those still on campus while others celebrated at home with their families. Being there also served to reconnect these mentally and physically challenged individuals with their Jewish heritage. Renewing old friendships and making new ones along with having a good time was

the order of the day.

TIKKUN LEXINGTON Upcoming Oppotunities

- ✓ Visit the Stewart Home School. Purim Celebration - March 6th, 2 p.m.
- ✓ Help us polish the Headstones at the Jewish section of the Cemetery - April 15th, 2 to 4 p.m.
- ✓ Training session for working with elderly and providing telephone support. Date and time T.B.A.

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO SIGN UP TO DO A MITZVAH

*Tikkun Lexington is a program of the
Central Kentucky Jewish Federation*

Join the Lexington Singles for a Progressive Dinner / Havdalah event

Appetizers at
Gabriella Pessah's
Rabbit Run
Apartments
3650 Rabbits Foot
Trail #6

Dessert at
Ed Kahn's
Breckenridge Court
Apartments
430 Redding Rd.
#2206

Entree at
Fran Morris'
Racquet Club
Apartments
3900 Crosby Dr.
#1319

**R.S.V.P. by Feb. 8
269-8244**

Saturday, February 10 • 6:30 pm

Sponsored by the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation



BEAUTIFUL.

AND WE PLAN
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The Lexington Cemetery is more than a pleasant cemetery. Many consider the grounds to be beautiful in their own right.

We are proud of this, and take seriously the responsibility of maintaining its natural and artistic beauty; that's why we insist on setting aside 60 percent of the cost of a burial site for perpetual care. It's one part of our commitment to keeping The Lexington Cemetery as beautiful and affordable in the future as it is today.

We invite you to visit, and to inquire about interment options, perpetual care endowments and interest-free financing for pre-need purchases of burial lots, mausoleum crypts and columbarium niches.

The Lexington Cemetery

Established 1840
Grounds Open 8am-5pm Daily • 833 West Main St. • 255-5522
Website: www.lexcem.org

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

American Jews or Jewish Americans

In your November 2000 issue, Mike Adelstein once again raises the question as to whether we are American Jews or Jewish Americans. From my awareness, we are American Jews and not Jewish Americans. The reason for this is very simple. Our primary historic identity is the noun; our secondary historic identity is the adjective.

First we were Jews living in the Land of Israel, Judea. From this geographic area we took our name - Jews. Judaism, our religion, is our primary historic identity. We subsequently moved out into the world and added to that identity the name of the geographic lands of our residence as our secondary identity. We became Jews living in Rome, Gaul, Germany, and in modern times, America. Thus today we are American Jews.

In marked contrast, the Christian is a Protestant or a Catholic American. His primary historic identity is that of his geographic residence. He was a Teuton, an Anglo-Saxon, a Roman, etc., who subsequently adopted Christianity as his religion. Thus his area of residence became his primary identity and his religion, secondary.

We need also to realize that this concern for the juxtaposition of religion and nationality is a recent manifestation, coming from the time of Napoleon

and the rise of modern nationalism. We first encountered it when that Emperor asked the Jewish leaders of his country - the French Sanhedrin - whether they were primarily Frenchmen or Jews. They knew the answer - Jews, but walked a tight rope because they knew the answer he wanted - Frenchmen.

The founders of political Zionism of the Nineteenth Century learned this lesson also. They wanted to participate in the emerging nationalism of the lands in which they lived - Russia, Hungary, Poland, etc. But those whose primary historic identity was Russian, Hungarian, Polish, etc., said, "No, you are Jews." Out of this rejection came the Zionist movement, with its two strong emphases - a Jewish homeland (Israel) and the Jewish language (Hebrew).

Sadly, the Jews of Germany in the 1930's learned this lesson also, much to their undoing. So many of them thought of themselves as "Germans of the Mosaic Persuasion." But Hitler said, "No, you are Jews, not Aryans (Germans)." They had forgotten their primary historic identity as Jews and suffered untold horror for their lapse of memory.

We are American Jews, whether Mike Adelstein, William Safire or others think so or not. We respond in the first person when Jews in other parts of the world are ill-treated. They are our brethren. We respond in the first person and in anguish to the on-

going conflict in Israel. It is happening to our brethren. We respond in the first person to anti-Semitic incidents in this country. They have happened to our brethren and they could happen to us. All of this regardless of theological difference!

The Christian community does not respond in this way. They do not know the connectedness to world Christianity that we do to world Jewry. It is not a part of their tradition. Their national identities supersede their religious identity.

In the final analysis, we really do not have the liberty of thinking of ourselves as Jewish Americans. To do so would be to delude ourselves, to confuse the noun and the adjective. And, God forbid, if push came to shove, our American neighbors might not permit us to do so either, just as Hitler's Germans came to view the Jews of their country, as German Jews and not Jewish Germans.

William J. Leffler, II
Kennebunkport, ME

Express your opinions. Let your views be known. Share your thoughts and comments with your community. Please submit your Letters to the Editor to: CKJF, 340 Romany Road, Lexington, KY 40502.

THE PAINT IS ON THE WALL

By Daniel Cheffec, Community member

There are times when we all need to express ourselves from outside our normal role. This is for me one of those times. While I am thankful and proud of serving this community as Executive Director of CKJF, I am writing these lines simply as a Jew.

The events of the last few months in Israel have been for me, like for most of you, trying. The idea that Israel's existence or centrality might be at stake awoke a strong emotional response in me, for the disappearance of Israel from the Jewish equation would be a personal tragedy for me. I can not conceive my own Jewish identity without Israel being central in it.

But one event in particular led me to a different approach to the issue. A few weeks ago, a group of Palestinians smeared the Western Wall with red paint from the top of the Temple mount. I asked myself the question: "Why would anybody defile somebody else's holiest site? - what is the point they are trying to make?" When we look at that particular event as an isolated occurrence, the point could be made that it was the act of a few deranged individuals. It comes, however, on the wake of a number of similar events: 1) The description of Joseph's Tomb as a merely military target and its subsequent destruction contradicting standing

agreements between the PA and Israel. 2) The pronouncement that Rachel's Tomb is not a sacred place and the attack on it by Palestinian forces. 3) The declaration by Palestinian archeologists that there never was a Jewish temple on top of Mount Moriah, and that the whole structure was built by Muslims as an enclosure for the Mosque of El-Aqsa. There were other minor incidents on the same lines, but this selection I believe drives the point across - it is not just about control, it is about submission and legitimacy.

Incited by broadcasts on the Official Palestinian radio and TV, and misinformed by their own academic intelligentsia, the Palestinians are convinced that the historical link between the Jewish people and Jerusalem is mostly a Zionist fabrication to justify the stealing of Arab lands. The Palestinian authority had used the educational system they controlled for the last 5 or 6 years to convince their people of an alternative version of history in which Jews are European colonial invaders rather than the children of Israel returning to the land of their ancestors.

In this context, the Western Wall - The Kotel - is a threat to Palestinians, for it proclaims to the world the validity of the Jewish claim in History; it proclaims the reality of Jerusalem's Jewish past and

contradicts the more convenient version of history fabricated by the Palestinian authority. Yasser Arafat appears to be demanding not only the territory but a "Judenrein" Palestine not only in the physical sense of removing the settlers, but in the symbolic sense of severing the historical connection as well.

Two thousand years ago, the Kotel withstood the Roman attack and survived as the last living remnant of the Second temple. It withstood desecration and construction around it for centuries. It will survive this last attack as well, as will the Jewish people. I don't believe we should seek exclusivity to a city which is clearly sacred to the three major monotheistic religions, but I believe we should stand up to defend our own rights in the Old City. People might say that the wall is just a wall from an ancient Temple. I believe that the Kotel was nourished by the tears, the laughter, and the religious devotion of many generations of our people and because of that I agree with the lyrics of the popular Israeli song...

"Yesh anashim im lev shel eben, Yesh abanim im lev adam"

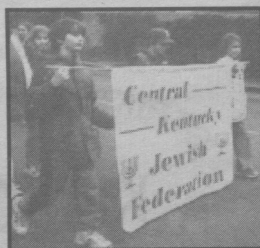
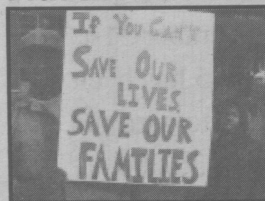
"There are people with a heart of stone, and there are stones with a Human heart." ☆

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."



On Monday, January 15th, 2001, the Jewish community joined our fellow Lexingtonians to mark the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., a true American dreamer and hero. ☆

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Jewish Community Members participate in the March For Freedom marking the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Resolution Adopted by the Delegate Assembly of the United Jewish Communities November 14, 2000 Statement on the Middle East Crisis

(Prepared by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs in consultation with the Israel and Overseas Pillar)

The United Jewish Communities and the North American Federations express their support for the Israeli government and their solidarity with the Israeli people during this difficult period, which has seen widespread violence in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem and parts of northern Israel. Whether the victims of this tragic situation were Jews or Arabs, we are deeply pained by this loss of life and human suffering.

We believe responsibility for the violence falls squarely on the shoulders of Chairman Yasir Arafat and the Palestinian Authority (PA). We deplore the rioting, the shootings by Fatah street gangs (Tanzim), the brutal lynching of Israeli soldiers in Ramallah, and the destruction of Jewish holy places in Nablus and Jericho. Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorist leaders have been released from PA prisons. Instead of seeking to control the situation, the Palestinian police have stood by passively and in some cases even contributed to the mayhem. Regrettably, all of these represent gross violations of past agreements signed by the Chairman Arafat, particularly the Oslo Accords.

We support Prime Minister Barak's efforts and those of the Israeli Defense Forces to protect the security of all Israeli citizens. We totally reject one-sided United Nations resolutions that condemn Israel for employing "excessive force." The reality

is that Israeli soldiers and policemen, who are under strict orders to use live ammunition only when their lives are in danger, have responded with great restraint. While newspaper editorials have generally reflected an understanding of the crisis, we are concerned that many journalists, particularly in the broadcast media, have distorted reality and failed to provide necessary context and perspective. Too often, the life-threatening dangers confronted by Israeli soldiers and policemen are underplayed or ignored altogether.

Last July at Camp David, Prime Minister Barak was prepared to consider far-reaching ideas involving territorial compromise in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, creative solutions on Jerusalem and a formula for addressing the Palestinian refugee issue, all in the interest of achieving a permanent status agreement that finally would put an end to this terrible conflict. Chairman Arafat decided not to grasp the outstretched Israeli hand for peace, believing perhaps that he would gain political advantage through violence. He was wrong. His irresponsible actions of recent weeks have set back prospects for advancing negotiations and caused many in Israel and the American Jewish community to lose confidence in him as a peace partner.

As Prime Minister Barak has stated on many occasions, Israel will persevere in its effort to live in

peaceful co-existence with its Palestinian neighbors. When the Palestinian people have leaders who demonstrate a genuine desire for reconciliation, we know that Israel will be prepared to renew negotiations for the sake of peace. We urge Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and other moderate states in the Middle East to encourage the Palestinians to move in this direction. Arab summit statements critical of Israel and the serving of relations with Israel by Morocco, Tunisia, Oman, and Qatar only undermine chances for returning to a constructive political process. True peace requires more than signed agreements. Arab governments that want to move the region from conflict to stability and prosperity must intensify their efforts to counter anti-Semitism, educate their societies for peace and promote normal relations with the people of Israel.

We are outraged at the kidnapping by Hezbollah of Israeli soldiers and civilians in clear violation of international law and the UN-endorsed agreement in regard to Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. We call on the United States, the international community, human rights groups and people of goodwill everywhere to act vigorously in support of their immediate release.

The United States government and people have stood with Israel during this time of crisis. This

Middle East continued on page 16

Habitat (continued from front page)

we will discuss the project, outline our needs and start the process toward providing a home for a family. Whether you are a skilled carpenter or not, come share this wonderful opportunity for our entire Jewish community to participate in this mitzvah. ✧

As of December 31st only \$11,645 has been contributed toward the goal of \$35,000 for the Jewish Community Habitat Project.

We need your support.

Please send your contribution, made out to CKJF, and write "Habitat" in the memo section. Send to:

Central Kentucky Jewish Federation
340 Romany Road
Lexington, KY 40502

Horse Industry Awards Lexington Woman

Mary Simon of Lexington is the year 2000 winner of the Eclipse Award for feature and enterprise writing.

Ms. Simon received one of two Eclipse awards for writing given each year by the Thoroughbred industry. Other Eclipse Awards, the most prestigious in the horse industry, are given to both individuals and horses for exceptional

achievement.

Ms. Simon's award, presented late January in New Orleans, is for a series she wrote on thoroughbred racing in the twentieth century. She is a contributing editor of Thoroughbred times, and along with her husband Mark, a member of Temple Adath Israel. ✧

The Central Kentucky Jewish Federation's
'Young Leadership'
will be meeting for

Karaoke & Bowling

Join the gang in the lounge for food, drink
and yes, singing out loud.
Stay for bowling!!
Lanes are reserved & the event is free.

Sunday, February 25, 2001
7:00 pm

for more information 268.0672



Wise Jewish Dateline Notes Sixth Annivesary

Wise Jewish Dateline, the tri-state, non-profit Jewish dating service, reflected recently on an ongoing series of "sixes" which have been observed since its inception. "We took note several years ago when the first six couples who met through Dateline became engaged; we said 'mazel tov' a few years later when we heard about the sixth baby born from parents who met through Dateline," said Sandey Fields, Director. "It's hard to believe it has been six years (December 11, 1994) since Dateline began operation to Jewish

singles in the cities of Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Indianapolis, Lexington and Louisville who joined this unique and very private dating service.

While several dozen marriages have occurred since then and more babies have been delivered, Co-Chair Susan Waldman points out that Dateline also welcomes singles who are currently interested in companionship, casual dating or a strong relationship. "Moreover, we feel it is important for singles who are 21 and older to have options for meeting other singles with similar interests, to be able to make choices for potential networking and dating." Adds Co-Chair Diane Oestreicher, "We see many of our members on a monthly basis; they make selections of people with whom they are interested in exchanging first names and phone numbers. Our members know we enjoy seeing them and respect them - and their privacy!"

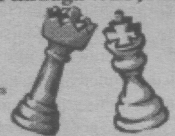
Dateline is sponsored by the Isaac M. Wise Temple in Cincinnati and is partially funded by the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati. Its central office is in the Temple. When it became apparent that more

and more members coming from two different cities were interested in meeting each other, "satellite" offices, located in Jewish institutions of each of the other five cities listed, were developed. All satellite offices have current copies of the member profile books. Singles from 21 up are members. At present, members range in age from 21-83.

"Members tell us that the hardest part of joining Dateline is asking for the packet and mailing the material back to us," remarks Rabbi Richard Steinberg, Associate Rabbi of the Isaac M. Wise Temple. "They say the procedure for making choices or responding to those who choose them is easy and quick."

Call Dateline at (513) 745-9573 if you have questions, would like information and an application packet. If you have already heard about the program and are thinking about joining it for the new year, call the satellite location in Lexington directly - Jewish Family Services, 269-8244 - for a packet. Dateline's email address is: dateline@wisetemple.org. ✧

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B'tay Avon (Hearty Appetite)

submitted by Ruth Poley

It's Never Too Late For Good Latkes

The following will serve about 12 people, depending on who the 12 are and what else you're serving. *

Ingredients:

5 lbs. baking potatoes, 2 medium onions, 2 eggs, flour or potato starch, salt and pepper to taste, canola oil

Directions: Grate the potatoes (here's where a food processor comes in really handy) and onions and put them in a strainer lined with a double layer of cheesecloth. Squeeze the cheesecloth to get out all of the liquid and leave the liquid sitting in the bowl. Put the grated potatoes and onions in another bowl; add eggs and salt and pepper and mix thoroughly. Now drain off all the liquid from the grating and you will be left with potato starch in the bottom of the bowl. Add the potato starch back into the mixture. It should be a little firm but dry enough to hold its shape. If it seems too wet, add flour, just a tablespoon at a time until the mixture is about the consistency of applesauce. Heat the oil in a frying

pan. When it is hot, add the potato mixture, about 1/4 cup for each latke and fry until golden brown on one side. Turn and repeat. Drain on paper towels and serve immediately with applesauce or sour cream. As anyone who has made latkes knows, the grated potatoes turn a lovely shade of gray if not cooked directly after grating. You can hold them a little longer if you do the following: grate onions with the potatoes, not separately; add some lemon juice to the mixture (you won't taste it); put clear plastic wrap directly on the surface of the grated potatoes. This will help some, but you still need to cook them soon after preparation. *As a variation, you can shred the potatoes. If you do this, shred short rather than long pieces, so that the shreds are relatively short. If you have long shreds, it's hard to mix and hard to fry. Shredded potatoes will give you latkes with lovely crispy, lacy edges. ☆

CKJF and Jewish Family Services Welcome Intern



Jewish Family Services of CKJF is proud to announce the addition of Amy Thomas to our team. Amy is a first year Masters of Social Work student at the University of Kentucky. This is a return trip for Amy. Several years ago, while she was an undergraduate social work student, Amy worked at JFS under the supervision of prior director, Mollye Schwab. This semester Amy will work on a variety of projects including case management, the Tikkun program, and assisting with grant writing. We are pleased to have Amy with us again and look forward to her association with our community. ☆

AIPAC In Lexington

Over 60 people turned out on a snowy December evening to hear from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). The event was hosted by, Steve and Susan Caller, Phil and Nancy Hoffman, and Jonathan and Lisa Miller.

Mark Moskowitz, AIPAC's Southeast Regional Director, briefed the group on the current crisis in the Middle East as well as the new Congress and Administration. He also spoke about the crucial role grassroots activist's play for the organization. "While AIPAC may consistently be ranked as one of the top five most influential lobbying groups in

Washington, according to Fortune Magazine, that is due to the work of our activists," Moskowitz said. He encouraged the participants to get involved in AIPAC's newly formed Lexington Council.

The council, which is still in its beginning phases, is a method for educating communities and maintaining their connection to the U.S.-Israel relationship. The Lexington Council will meet 4-5 times a year, and will work closely with 3 members of the Kentucky Congressional Delegation. The council will also serve as a voice to the local press and the greater Lexington community.

In addition to the council, AIPAC is also hosting

its annual Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., from March 18th-20th. The conference will be the first opportunity to connect a newly-elected president and Congress with the pro-Israel community at a time of potentially dramatic change for Israel. Leaders such as President Clinton, Vice President Gore, Prime Ministers Rabin, Peres, Netanyahu, and Barak and members of both houses of Congress regularly address the event.

If you are interested in finding out more about AIPAC, and how you can get involved please contact the Atlanta office at 770/541-7610 or visit their website, www.aipac.org. ☆

Self-Esteem Workshop Held for Teens

By Heidi Zimmerman and Tasha Sharer

On Sunday, January 7, 2001, there was a self-esteem workshop held for girls in 6th and 7th grades. The workshop was very informative, and we discussed all sorts of things ranging from friends to style. We were asked our thoughts on the topics which were followed by long



discussions. An important topic we discussed was about how hard it is to be a girl our age going through the kinds of things we do each day. In total, there were 15 girls, from both Temple Adath Israel and Ohavay Zion Synagogue. The leader of the workshop was Lauren Kehr, a professional counselor for older girls in Louisville. Lauren knew exactly where we were coming from because as a girl, she had experienced most of the things that we are experiencing now. During the workshop, we discussed the pressures of beauty in the media, and how not to get stressed



about the living up to the "perfect" image of how a woman is supposed to look. We talked about how to express our emotions better with a whole list of "feeling" words, and created hypothetical situations and learned how to deal with each one. By the end of the workshop, we left with a more positive view of ourselves and a better understanding of how to keep feeling better about ourselves every day. ☆



LARGEST EVER SOLIDARITY MISSION

A record 900 participants representing nearly 70 North American Jewish communities arrived there in early January on a special United Jewish Communities (UJC) Solidarity Mission.

The contingent, representing 70 Jewish communities across the continent, is the largest group of North American Jews on a UJC-sponsored Solidarity Mission since the latest conflict between Israelis and Palestinians began last year.

"The size of this mission is unprecedented, and immensely significant," said Robert M. Schryer, chairman of the UJA Federation Campaign of UJC. "During this time of continuing conflict in the Middle East, when it is critically important for Israelis and the world to realize the immutable bonds of unity that exist between Israel and Jews in North America, we continue to exhibit that in every way we can."

The mission, Solidarity VII, is the latest in a series that began in October, shortly after the outbreak of the current conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Since the first Solidarity Mission, and

including similar missions scheduled in months to come, more than 2,200 North American Jews have exhibited or plan to show their unity with Israel by participating in a UJC Solidarity Mission.

Dovetailing with Solidarity VII is the arrival in Israel of more than 7,500 young Jews from throughout North America for the Birthright Israel program. Birthright Israel, funded by UJC, the government of Israel, and private philanthropists, is an opportunity for young Jews aged 18 to 26, who have never been to Israel, to visit the country on a peer, educational group experience.

Solidarity VII participants will meet with government officials, Israeli Defense Force personnel, business people and residents to fact-find, discuss the current situation, explore solutions and offer support.

"Nearly 1,000 community representatives are visiting Israel in the coming week, and by so doing, are countering the isolation that many Israelis may be feeling," Mr. Schryer said. "These North American mission participants are representing not

only themselves, but the millions of Jews in communities across the continent who are unified with the people of Israel."

Participants will arrive in Israel January 6-8 and depart January 12-14. (Editor Note: A list of represented communities appears at bottom).

"At this most difficult period for the people of Israel, it is absolutely critical that they know the Jews of North America stand with them in solidarity," said UJC President and CEO Stephen D. Solender. "The arrival of so many national and federation leaders at this time is a clear statement of our concern, compassion and solidarity."

United Jewish Communities (UJC), formed from the recent merger of United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations and United Israel Appeal, is the dominant fundraising arm for North American Jewry, and represents 189 Jewish Federations and 400 independent communities across the continent. It reflects the values and traditions of education, leadership, advocacy and social justice, and continuity of community that define the Jewish people.

Actors' Guild of Lexington proudly presents *A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry.

When it was first produced in 1959, *A Raisin in the Sun* was hailed as a watershed in American Drama. Not only was it the first Broadway production by an African American woman, Lorraine Hansberry's play was also a radically new representation of black life. Remarkable for its warmth and humor, the play anticipated the civil rights movement, the Washington marches, the King assassination and bitter ghetto uprisings to follow. Through the story of one

family, the Youngers of Chicago, Hansberry explored the whole spectrum of black American issues of beauty, identity and class. The result is a work that has captivated audiences from every walk of life and has become a classic of American theatre.

Performances run Thursday through Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday at 2 PM from February 8th through March 11th. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students and senior citizens. You may call Actors' Guild at 233-0663 for more

Middle East continued from page 13

unique alliance is based on common democratic and moral values, as well as shared strategic interests. We appreciate the overwhelming support demonstrated by Congress in adopting measures that strengthen Israel and prospects for genuine peace in the region. While supporting humanitarian and democracy-building assistance to the Palestinians through programs run by responsible non-governmental organizations, we oppose any aid to the PA if Chairman Arafat unilaterally declares an independent Palestinian state. President Bill Clinton, Secretary Madeleine Albright and other senior administration officials have been devoted and tireless supporters of Israel as they have sought to bring an end to the violence and create a basis for returning to the negotiating process. We call upon the next President and the 107th Congress to continue to view Israel's security and the achievement of peace in the Middle East as matters of high American national interest.

Australian Rabbi brings Kaballah to Lexington

By Leon Cooper

On Monday, December 11, an audience of twenty-three was treated to a one hour explanation of Kaballah by a master, Rabbi Laibl Wolf. One hour is hardly enough time to introduce the subject but Rabbi Wolf concentrated only on the aspect of Kaballah dealing with "tikun olam" - the repair of the world. The precepts of Kaballah ("Jewish mysticism") according to the Rabbi are designed to prepare one to assume the earthly task of assisting G-d in perfecting the world. His talk was enlightening, humorous and especially interesting when fielding questions about reincarnation. According to the teaching of Kaballah the soul of a person will continue to live on in others until all of the tasks required

for tikun olam are completed.

Rabbi Wolf resides in Australia and travels the world conducting seminars and giving lectures on the different aspects of Kaballah. He has written books on Quantum Physics and Kaballah, transforming anger (anger according to the Rabbi is strictly forbidden in Judaism), achieving self mastery, the inner meaning of love and other diverse topics. Rabbi Wolf was introduced by Rabbi Avrom Litvin of Anshai Sfard congregation in Louisville. Rabbi Litvin will begin a series of talks on tanya, a significant resource in Kaballah, during his second Tuesday of the month lunches at the CKJF office in Lexington. ✱



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SHABBOS

By Michael Nelson

CRUSY's 2000-2001 Heschel Programer

Lexington USY Religious-Education/Social Action Tikkun Olam Chair

Shabbos, Shabbat, the Sabbath...what does it mean to us Jews of today? What is so special about Shabbos, why is Shabbos the heart of the Jewish faith? It has been said, "More than Israel has kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath [observance] has kept Israel [alive]..." (Ahad Ha-Am.) What a powerful statement, he was implying that Shabbos has been the reason why the Jewish people are still here! So the question now is...how can that be?

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, z'tl, said, "Six days a week we try to dominate the world, on the seventh day we try to dominate the self." So on Shabbos we try and dominate our physical and spiritual selves. What do I mean by this? We try to better ourselves spiritually through our mental and physical selves. How do we go about doing this? We try and achieve "spiritual highs" by following the mitzvot (commandments) G-d gave us regarding Shabbos observance. The mitzvot are the "tools" which we use to achieve the kedusha, the holiness of the Sabbath.

We get the "restrictions" from the Talmud, Mishna Shabbos 7:2 where the 39 melachos, or forbidden acts are listed. The reason we refrain from doing this "work" is because when the Hebrews were building the Mishkan (tabernacle) in the desert, that was their important task. Yet they had to quit building on Shabbos, which shows how important Shabbos is. Also Shabbos is spelled (Shin-Beis-Tuf) which means to cease, or rest. And we rest on the seventh day, because that is when HASHEM rested (Bereshis <Genesis> 2:1-2, Shemos <Exodus> 20:11), G-d quit the creating...i.e. what we did for the building of the Mishkan, we created something important.

So what is the point, why is this so important to "rest" on Shabbos. There is a famous zemorah (Sabbath song) called "Menucha v'simcha," Rest and joy. Rest can bring joy on Shabbos! In a Midrash (Bereshis Rabbah 17:7) it says, "What was created after it was already Shabbos? Tranquility, serenity, peace, and quiet." The point is to make Shabbos different from the other days of the week. On Shabbos... it should be a totally different mind set, you should be able to tell it is Shabbos just from the atmosphere of the house.

The Talmud says, "If every Jew were to keep Shabbos properly twice, the Moshiach (Messiah) would come at once." This means Shabbos, then the week until the next Shabbos. The idea is the spiritual perfection we (Jews) could achieve because we observed Shabbos, spent a week in PREPARATION, then observed another Shabbos. So a lot of Shabbos is not only on Shabbos but also in the preparation for Shabbos during the week. Buying and making the special food, cleaning the house, making sure the lights are fixed so you don't have to turn them on or off on Shabbos. This is making the proper atmosphere for Shabbos. For example, when

I tape the light switch on the refrigerator so when I open it on Shabbos the light will not turn on...when I am taping the switch, I am also looking forward to Shabbos. Getting "pumped up" if you will.

On Shabbos we also do things to make it special, that we don't do during the week days. Like the festive meals. This is the part that would apply to the physical use of a mitzvah (we are commanded to have three meals on Shabbos) in order to connect with our spiritual selves and HASHEM. The Talmud tells us a Shabbos story, with Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Chanania and a Roman emperor (Talmud: Shabbos 119a). The rabbi had the Roman emperor over for a Shabbos meal. The emperor tried some of the bread, and said, "This is wonderful bread, what is your secret?" The rabbi said "it is an ingredient called Shabbos." Then the Roman emperor had a sip of the wine, he said "this is superb wine, what is your secret?" The rabbi said, "It is a flavor we call Shabbos." Then the emperor tried some of the meat, he exclaimed "this is wonderful meat, what is your secret?" The rabbi said "it is a spice called Shabbos." Finally after the wonderful meal the Roman emperor told the rabbi, "I must have this Shabbos, where do I get it." Then the rabbi had to inform the Roman emperor that Shabbos is something that can only be

"tasted" when observed properly. This is what we should try and elevate ourselves to...on Shabbos the food should taste better, the air seem fresher! We should sing Zemiros (Shabbos songs), we should be with people we care about, there are many ways to put the Simcha (joy) into Shabbos without breaking it. This is connecting to HASHEM through our spiritual selves.

Another thing I like about the Shabbos table is all of the symbolism. The two Challos (Challah's) represent the double portion of manna (bread-like substance) that fell each Friday. The cover represents the dew that covered the manna to protect it. Also the kabbalistic lesson is that the challah is covered so the challah will not be jealous when we say Kiddush (blessing over wine) before we say Ha-motze (blessing over the bread.) We can even find meaning in the gefilte fish...the numerical value of the Hebrew word "fish" (7) corresponds to the seventh day, Shabbos. Also the Talmud likens the Jewish people to fish, whose life depends on water just as we depend on the "waters of Torah." One of the interruptions of why we have two Shabbos candles is one for Zachor "remember" the Shabbos (Shemos <Exodus> 20:11), and the other

Shabbos continued on page 18

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Jews in Namibia

General Population 1,575,000; Jewish Population 60

History and Community

Most of Namibia's Jews are residents of Windhoek. The Windhoek Hebrew Congregation has maintained a synagogue since 1924, in which regular shabbat and holiday services are conducted. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies provides a chazan for the festivals.

The children receive religious education from their mothers, who are assisted by Cape Board of

Jewish Education in South Africa. There have been manifestations of anti-Semitism on the part of certain elements of the country's large German minority.

Israel

Israel and Namibia established diplomatic relations in 1994. Israel is represented by its ambassador in Zimbabwe. ✱

A Jew in an isolated area of Namibia left instructions that some Hebrew words be inscribed on his tombstone. His survivors only found one object with Hebrew letters and therefore the inscription on his tombstone reads: "Here lies Peter Cohen, Kosher-le-Pesach (kosher for Passover)."

Shabbos continued from page 17

for Shomer "observe" the Shabbos (Deverim <Deuteronomy> 5:15). Remembrance is a very important aspect of Judaism. An interesting quote about remembrance is "Forgetfulness leads to exile, while remembrance is the secret to redemption (Yad Vashem)." Shabbos is a key role in bring our redemption.

In Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan's book, *zt'l*, he wrote, "I was once spending Shabbos with a poor working man in Williamsburg. He was a simple but pious man who did not have very much in the way of worldly goods. Seeing his cramped, dreary apartment, you might have pitied him, but at his Shabbos table, he was like a king. He made a remark that has remained with me all these years. 'I pity people who don't keep Shabbos. I really pity them. They don't know what they are missing. The have no idea at all.'" This show how "rich" Shabbos can be when we make it all that it is!

One of my favorite Zemiros (Shabbos songs) is Meian Olam ha'bah (Taste of the world to come.) There is a Midrash that has the Jewish people at Mt. Sinai, and they ask HASHEM "what is the most precious gift you have for us oh L-rd?" HASHEM replies, "It is the world to come." So they wanted a "taste" of this wonderful gift, so they would have an idea of the "world to come," so HASHEM gave them Shabbos, a taste of the world to come. This is what our tradition teaches us! Shabbos is like a part of "Heaven" or the "world to come!" Oh how precious is this gift of Shabbos.

So my friends, as your 2000-2001 Heschel program I encourage you to step up your Shabbos observance. R' Abraham Joshua Heschel, *zt'l*, said, "The dignity of being a Jew is in the sense of commitment."

But please do not try and do it all at once, just take it step by step...like the ladder spoken of in Yakov's (Jacob's) spiritual dream. If you skip too many steps you fall off! May HASHEM bless you and your loved ones with many great Shabbosim. May the Mashiach come speedily in our days!

* *Zt'l* = Zecher Tzadik LeBrocha = The memory of the righteous is for a blessing (Tanach, Proverbs). ✱

UK Judaic Studies for Spring

The University of Kentucky Jewish Studies program is offering the following courses in the spring semester:

Elementary Hebrew, second semester (Rosenbaum): MW 3-4:50

Jewish Thought and Culture II: From the expulsion from Spain to the present (Leaman): TR 12:30-1:45

The Bible and Literary Studies (Gardner): MWF 11-11:50

The annual Zantker lecture series is pleased to present Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth) on Monday, April 16 (8pm, President's room, Singletary Ctr for the Arts) on "When Jesus was an Aryan: Protestant Theologians in Nazi Germany". Heschel is a dynamic lecturer and an engaging person, who has written on a wide variety of historical and feminist topics. Please circle the date and plan to attend. ✱

AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

Community centers become focus of Jewish life in former Soviet Union

By Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — In the United States, Jewish community centers are known mostly for their pools and nursery schools.

In the former Soviet Union, however, JCCs are seen as an essential tool for rebuilding Jewish life.

The centers, the majority of which are funded by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, house Jewish activities including religious services, Hillel student clubs, Sunday schools, welfare centers and Hebrew classes.

"If the Joint suddenly pulled out, we wouldn't die, but the greater part of local Jewish life would come to a standstill," says Yevgeny Vakulenko, a Jewish community leader in Penza, a city southeast of Moscow that is home to 3,000 Jews.

In addition to the JDC, Chabad-Lubavitch is the other major player in JCCs in the former Soviet Union, sponsoring 70 community centers.

The JDC donated \$15,000 to Jewish community projects in the city last year, Vakulenko said, and also funded the restoration of the city's synagogue building, which now serves as the local JCC.

The situation in Penza is typical of the Russian

cities where the JDC operates.

The Jewish community center is controlled by a council of local Jewish activists and funded by the JDC, which houses and supports all Jewish activities in the city.

The more than 100 community centers supported by the JDC serve some 150,000 Jews across the former Soviet Union, according to Sarah Bogen, head of the JCC-development department of the JDC's Jerusalem office.

The work of the JDC points to the ongoing need for international Jewish groups in the region.

During the waning days of the Soviet Union, local bodies hoped to revitalize a Jewish community forced underground by Communist oppression.

Despite the efforts of Jewish organizations to create a self-supporting community system, it soon became evident that external help was needed.

"There are Jewish businessmen in town. But they don't want to identify themselves with the Jewish community. The only real help is coming from the Joint," says Maya Kazakevitch, a Jewish activist from Bobruisk, Belarus. ✱

Say It Loud/I'm Half-Jewish and I'm Proud!

by Michael Aushenker, Staff Writer,
Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — Married authors Daniel Klein and Freke Vuijst know what its like to experience the half-Jewish dilemma. Several years back, their half-Jewish daughter, now 21, experienced some discrimination during a trip to — of all places — Israel.

"Samara had a terrible time at a kibbutz in Israel where they basically said she was not Jewish," said Klein, "despite the fact that she had a bat mitzvah and spoke Hebrew."

Klein, who is Jewish, and Vuijst, who is Dutch Protestant, decided to address half-Jewish issues and celebrate half-Jewish pride and culture in their new collection of tidbits, trivia, and tongue-in-cheek tips, "The Half-Jewish Book" (Villard Books).

Vuijst — whose parents helped hide Jews during wartime — told the Journal that, sometimes, comments emphasizing continuity within Jewish culture not only hurts the half-Jewish offspring, but the non-Jewish parent.

"It is troublesome when you're a non-Jewish partner," said Vuijst, "and you're made to feel like you're doing something wrong, something detrimental to the Jewish culture" by marrying a Jew. However, Vuijst added that she has not experienced such resentment within the Jewish community of the small Massachusetts burg where the authors now reside.

What Klein and Vuijst could not foresee until researching their book was the kindred spirit half-Jews shared; a sort of unofficial network of bonding based on shared injustices and cultural ambivalence. Klein even believes that many "half-Jews are more likely to get a Jewish education with one parent than those with two Jewish parents," who might take their Judaism for granted.

"One thing that all of them spoke about is a heightened sense of duality," said Klein. And the authors feel that half-Jews are "more tolerant of other cultures and points of views," perhaps explaining the plethora of half-Jewish talent. Adam Sandler touched on this cornucopia of celebrities in "The Chanukah Song" when he put together half-Jews Paul Newman and Goldie Hawn to make one "fine-looking Jew." Now Klein and Vuijst take it

one step further in their book, as they lionize the long list of famous half-Jews, such as half-Jewish/half-Irish Protestant Daniel Day Lewis, who married half-Jewish/half-German Protestant Rebecca (son of Arthur) Miller; or Lisa Bonet and Lenny Kravitz. In fact, the half-Jewish factor has produced many of popular culture's sexiest thespians in recent years — Noah Wyle, Alicia Silverstone, Gwyneth Paltrow, Harrison Ford, David Duchovny, Ben Stiller, Matthew Broderick and

his wife Sarah Jessica Parker, and the Arquettes (including Rosanna, Patricia and David) all have half-Jewish heritage; of another generation, Anthony Newley and Joan Collins, each half-Jewish/half-Wasp, and comic actor Peter Sellers was half-Jewish, half-Anglican.

Since the book's publication, Klein says that he has been flooded with e-mail from people pointing out the half-Jewish celebrities list excluded — Robert De Niro, Andy Garcia.

However, "The Half-Jewish Book" is not short on witty inclusions, such as Amy Irving, the half-Jew best known for portraying Jewish women in "Crossing Delancey" and "Yentl"; and "The Rugrats" Tommy Pickles, the first ever animated half-Jew, created by the now-

divorced half-Jewish couple Arlene Klasky (Jewish) and Gabor Csupo (not).

And "wanna-be half-Jew" Howard Stern, who has routinely claimed to be part Italian, is outed as the full-blooded Jew he really is. Readers will also find an extensive interview in the book with author Judy Blume discussing why she made her eponymous character half-Jewish in "Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret."

Perhaps shedding some light on the absurdity of prejudice, the authors rightly include the famous words of Groucho Marx, who was stopped from swimming at a restricted country club's pool because of his religion:

"My son's only half Jewish — can he go up to his waist?" ★

Central Kentucky Jewish Federation **PROGRAM DIRECTOR NEEDED** Part-Time

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One World Film Festival

The One World Film Festival will sponsor a showing of the film, "Voyages," Sunday, March 4, at 2:00 p.m. at the Central Library Theater, 140 E. Main St. The showing is open to the public without charge, and will be followed by a reception. "Voyages" was filmed in 1999, and voted the best feature film at the Jerusalem Film Festival. Directed by Emmanuel Finkel in French, Yiddish and Polish with English subtitles.

This is a film about the Holocaust, but one that is set in the present with no flashbacks to that time period. "Voyages" tells three linked stories focusing on the lives of three elderly Jewish women who find themselves facing new situations and struggling to make sense out of their history.

Rivka and her husband take a bus tour from Warsaw to Auschwitz and their relationship changes. In Paris, Regina receives a phone call from a man who claims to be her aging father whom she thought had died in the camps. Vera searches Tel Aviv for a long-lost cousin and becomes acquainted with Rivka.

The director weaves a tapestry of these lives, incorporating threads of memory, tenuous associations, humor and sadness. A poignant film that subtly explores the legacy of genocide. Anyone willing to help provide refreshments for the reception is asked to contact Annette Mayer, 266-6073.

Below is a schedule of other films being presented by the One World Film Festival:

Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, SEVEN SISTERS. Patrick Donohew, a native of Lexington now living in San Francisco, made this documentary about his mother and her sisters growing up in Appalachia. Patrick, his mother and her sisters, will join in discussion about Appalachia following the showing.

Thursday, March 8, 7:00 p.m., Cowgill Building, Transylvania University Campus, UP TO A CERTAIN POINT. Directed by Tomas Alea, one of Cuba's greatest filmmakers, the film uses a light touch to explore gender relationships.

Saturday, March 10, 2:00 Central Library Theater, SANKOFA. The film is classified as fantasy/science fiction, and is the story of an African American model who goes to Ghana to pose for a photographer in a castle, a castle with a dark history.

Monday, March 19, 7:00 p.m., Worsham Theater, University of Kentucky campus, ADAM'S RIB. This film is in Russian with English subtitles. It is a perceptive look at a deteriorating Soviet society as well as a poignant comedy about a single woman trying to cope in the quickly changing modern world.

Thursday, March 22, 7:00 p.m., Central

Library Theater, HATRED. The documentary's director traveled from Berlin to Harlem, to the Middle East and to Australia to investigate the role hatred plays in our lives.

The One World Film Festival is co-sponsored by the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation. ☆

Lexington Havurah

The Lexington Havurah will be conducting its Tu B'Shevat Seder on Wednesday, February 12, 2001, in the Fellowship Hall at Lexington Theological Seminary, 631 South Limestone, at 7:00 PM. We will celebrate the New Year of the Trees with a service and light refreshments consisting of fruits, nuts, and juice.

We will also conduct a Kaballat Shabbat service on Friday evening, February 23, 2001, at 8:00 PM in the Fellowship hall of the Lexington Theological Seminary.

Upcoming Bar / Bat Mitzvah's In The Community



WITH GREAT PRIDE AND JOY
WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE
A SPECIAL MOMENT IN OUR LIVES
WHEN OUR SON

JARED

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH
AS A BAR MITZVAH

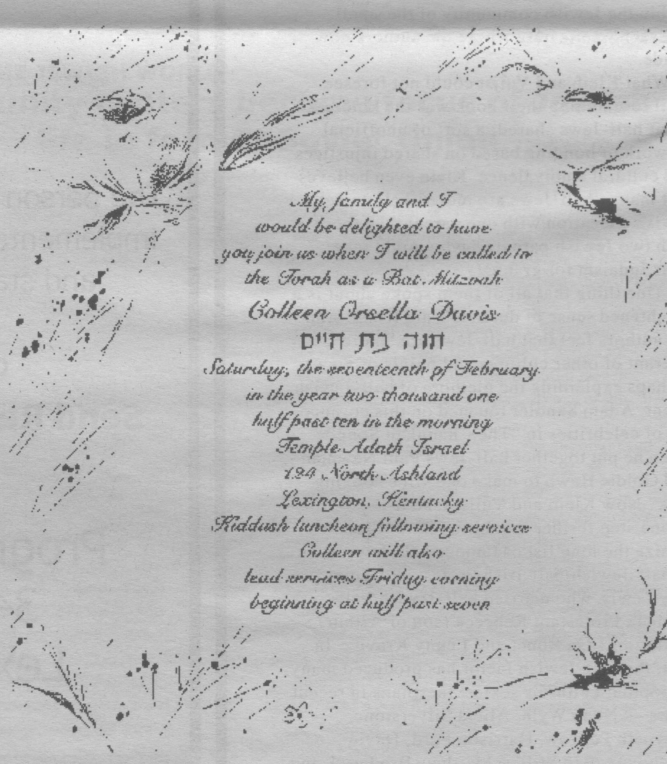
SATURDAY, THE SEVENTEENTH OF MARCH
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND ONE
AT HALF PAST TEN IN THE MORNING

TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL
124 NORTH ASHLAND AVENUE
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A KIDDUSH LUNCHEON
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

JARED WILL ALSO LEAD THE EREV SHABBAT SERVICE
ON FRIDAY EVENING AT HALF PAST SEVEN

LINDA AND JEFFREY NOFFSINGER



*My family and I
would be delighted to have
you join us when I will be called to
the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah*

Colleen Orsella Davis

חנה בת חיים

Saturday, the seventeenth of February

in the year two thousand one

half past ten in the morning

Temple Adath Israel

124 North Ashland

Lexington, Kentucky

Kiddush luncheon following service

Colleen will also

lead services Friday evening

beginning at half past seven



Around The Community



CKJF - Central Kentucky Jewish Federation (340 Romany Road, 268-0672, Marty Barr, President)

OZS - Ohavay Zion Synagogue (2048 Edgewater Court, 266-8050, Bennett Bayer, President)

Daily Minyan Mon.-Thurs. at 6:00 p.m.; Kabbalat Services Friday evening at 8:00 p.m., except the fourth Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m.;
Shabbat services Saturday at 9:45 a.m.

TAI - Temple Adath Israel (124 N. Ashland Ave., 269-2979, Jane Grise, President)

Shabbat Services Friday 7:30 p.m.; Worship Service Saturday 10:30 a.m.

HAD - Lexington Chapter of Hadassah (Nancy Menard, President)

HAV - The Lexington Havurah, 272-1459 (Ernie Cohen, President)

Shabbat Services monthly. Call for schedule.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Tu B'Shevat Seder T.A.I.	
January 28	29	30	31	February 1	2	3
Tu B'Shevat Seder OZS 11:30 a.m. Al Galgalim at OZS • 4:00 p.m.				A.M.O.S. Meeting At T.A.I. <i>Tu B'Shevat</i>		Singles' Progressive Dinner
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Deadline for March <i>Shalom</i> Tu B'Shevat Seder Havurah 7:00 p.m.		<i>Valentine's Day</i>	Leisure Club at Polo's 12 noon		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	<i>President's Day</i> <i>CKJF Office</i> <i>Closed</i>					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
CKJF Young Leadership Bowling Night			CKJF Executive 6 pm CKJF Board 7:30 pm			
25	26	27	28	March 1	2	3
Al Galgalim at OZS • 4:00 p.m.				<i>Erev Purim</i> <i>Megillah Reading</i>	<i>Purim</i>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Ohavay Zion Synagogue News

B'nai Mitzvah Class Learns About Tikun Olam

During a recent class in Mrs. Kroot's B'nai Mitzvah Class of 5761, students were busy writing letters to orphans in Russia. Early in the school year they had learned about the Forget Me Not Foundation. The Foundation, in cooperation with University of Kentucky, is working on bettering the lives of orphans in Russia. The Class learned from Elena Domatov (Alexandra's mom) that the children in these orphanages are often abandoned by their parents due to economic conditions in the northern part of Russia; there are few jobs. Elena is a translator of a UK Team who is training the orphanage workers in Russia to better provide for the needs of these children. When the team asked the orphans, they expressed a desire to visit relatives in Israel, which led the team to believe that some of the orphans may have Jewish roots. The class also learned that just collecting goods for these orphans was not an option for several reasons. First was the cost of shipping collected goods to Russia, added to the cost was duty charges assessed on American goods entering Russia. Finally, the items really needed are winter clothing and in this area of the country we do not have access to clothing needed for the Russian winter. Recently it was reported to be -40° C or -72° F. The students were told that they could sponsor winter clothing for an orphan for \$50.00. They chose to sponsor six orphans, one for each student. Elena agreed to have her UK Russian language student translate letters from the B'nai Mitzvah students to orphans.

The B'nai Mitzvah students have raised over \$700 for their mitzvah projects by holding Hot Dog lunches and one fun project. Yorkshire Global Restaurant, Inc., parent company of Long John Silver and A&W Root Beer, asked for a group to come and explain Chanukah and play Dreidel with their guests at an international party. The B'nai Mitzvah class, after studying a portion of the Book of Maccabees, was ready for the task. They educated and entertained about 250 children of the employees of Yorkshire Global Restaurants at the event. In appreciation of their evening's work, a donation was made to the B'nai Mitzvah Tzedakah project.

The B'nai Mitzvah still has money in the Tzedakah box and they continue to look for worthy causes. The Rabbi is steering them to many possible projects, both Jewish and otherwise. They are looking at doing something here in Lexington as well as in Israel, perhaps with Masorti. Keep up the great work repairing the world!

Kiddush lunches every Saturday at OZS

For details call the synagogue (266-8050) or Sharyn Sharer (273-6774).

You Are Invited to the OZS Not-So-Talmud Discussion Group

Where Jews Discuss Being Jewish In Contemporary Lexington & Modern America. Meets every month, third Sunday 9:30 am in the

OZS Adult Lounge Serving bagels, juice & coffee
Next date: February 18

NOT JUST FOR KIDS ANYMORE Continuing Adult Education programs at Ohavay Zion:

*Biblical Hebrew, taught by Rabbi Smith on Monday evenings. Open to everyone. Call the OZS office if you are interested.

*Daven, Bagels, and Talmud begins, an ongoing lay led class of Talmud study meets at 7:30 AM on Monday mornings. New participants are welcome. Call the OZS office for more information.

A NEW SHABBAT OPPORTUNITY: MISHPAHA SHABBAT AT OZS

Each month, on the LAST Shabbat of the Month, the OZS Friday Evening Service will now begin at 6:00pm. Called "Mishpaha Shabbat" (Family Shabbat), this special "early" service is aimed at allowing families with younger children the opportunity to enjoy the Friday Night experience together and still be home before the hour is too late. It will also give those who have had to choose between enjoying Shabbat dinner with family and friends and rushing to the synagogue on Friday night an opportunity to come to shul first to welcome in Shabbat before heading home for a leisurely dinner.

The Mishpaha Shabbat Service will be a bit

shorter and more "child-friendly," and include more songs and stories than the usual late service. It will be a wonderful opportunity for both children and adults alike to share in the spirit of Shabbat with the OZS family.

The next Mishpaha Shabbat Service will be **February 23rd, at 6:00pm.** We hope everyone will take advantage of this new opportunity to welcome in Shabbat together. Feel free to call Rabbi Cohen if you have any questions or suggestions for this exciting new program.

NEW Programs Beginning at Ohavay Zion:

*Beginning Hebrew, taught by Rabbi Cohen. Learn the alef-bet and develop reading skills and vocabulary especially from the Siddur (prayerbook). Sundays, 10:15 to 11:00 AM, beginning January 21st. Open to members of OZS, others with permission. Leave message for Rabbi Cohen if you are interested in participating in the class. Small fee for materials.

*The Mitzvot of Community, taught by Rabbi Cohen. We will study the Jewish concept of mitzva, examine sources on specific mitzvot and discuss what it means to be part of a Jewish Community. 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month 11:10 to 11:45 AM, beginning January 28th. Open to members of OZS, others with permission.

A Message From A Gan Shalom Parent

By Michele Rivkin-Fish

To help our 21 month-old son fall asleep at night, my husband and I often sing him songs. We've gone through thousands of rounds of "the itty-bitsy spider," the "ABC song," and "The Wheels on the Bus." But two months ago, he abruptly interrupted "The Bus Song," looked at us earnestly, and made a request I'll never forget: "SHABBAT!" He wanted us to sing the song Rabbi Cohen has been teaching him at Gan Shalom every week: "Shabbat Shalom."

It might seem somewhat trivial, but that moment meant a lot to me. As a mother who works full-time outside of the home, I have my fair share of concerns regarding my son's day care. I know the great importance of the preschool years for a child's psychological well-being and preparation for later learning, and no less importantly, for building the foundations of a strong Jewish identity. Having moved to Lexington from New Jersey at the beginning of my pregnancy, I worried a great deal about how it would be possible to begin inspiring a love of Judaism in such a small community. Options for full time child care ranged from commercial centers to church-based programs, where the curriculum would be either secular or explicitly Christian.

But all these fears have been entirely alleviated. Last August, OZS opened a new early childhood program called Gan Shalom, where my son and other Jewish children in our community are thriving. With full-time and part-time hours, Gan Shalom is teaching Hebrew songs, Hebrew vocabulary words, and a love of Jewish ritual celebration. Children make artwork in the shape of sukkahs and menorahs, do puzzles with pieces that illustrate Purim, and participate in a Shabbat celebration every Friday. Not least of all, my son already knows I is synagogue as a second home and loves coming with us for Shabbat services. What he's learning is that Jewish themes are an everyday part of life, the synagogue is a community center, and lullabies can be sung in Hebrew. I can't imagine a better situation for our family.

Temple Adath Israel News

Sisterhood sponsors Valentine's Day Dinner

Temple Adath Israel Sisterhood joins Hands with the Junior League of Lexington and The Black Achievers In Hosting the Residents of the Florence Crittenton Home For a Valentine's Day Dinner!

Date: Sunday, February 11, 2001

Time: Mid-afternoon to early evening

Place: TAI Social Hall

Please offer to participate (there are several opportunities and options) in this very special and rewarding community service project by calling: Sandy Heymann at 224-4230

Temple Adath Israel Sisterhood presents...

"Lunch and Learn" with Rabbi Sharon Cohen

(Rabbi, Ohavay Zion Synagogue)

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: TAI Social Hall

Cost: \$10/person for catered luncheon (payment required by RSVP deadline)

RSVP deadline: Friday, February 23, 2001

(Transportation and child care available upon request)

At Shabbat Services This Month

February 2, 2001 - Our senior high school Temple youth group, The TRYB, will lead the Erev Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM. Your support of the TRYB and its place in the Temple is very important.

February 23, 2001 - Our Temple Religious School Fifth Grade class will lead the service. This is always a special Shabbat worship experience.

March 2, 2001 - At this Erev Shabbat Service we will the 125th anniversary of Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion. We are honored to host Rabbi Stacia Deutsch as our guest speaker. Rabbi Deutsch is now the Director of the Outreach Education Department of Adult Jewish Learning and Living.



SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Patricia Madsen, judge and current candidate for the Master's of Arts in Judaic Studies at the University of Denver, will present the following programs on February 4, at Temple Adath Israel.

10-10:45 AM

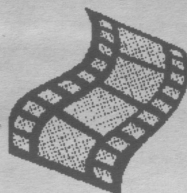
Meet the Maid of Ludmir, a Virgin Rebbet When Nice Jewish Women Werent Supposed to Be Either

Hannah Rachel Werbermacher, born around 1805 in the Ukraine, acquired learning, prayed like a man, and held court like any other Chasidic Tzaddik and that's just the first part of her life. Prepare to be surprised by her remarkable story.

11 am - 12 pm

From Communal Barbecue to Communal Prayer: Where Jewish Liturgy Comes From

Hebrew Bible sets out the clearest possible rules for how to worship the Divine: send the odor of roasting meat heavenward in the courtyard of the Temple. But what did the Holy One want after the Temple was destroyed? We will explore liturgy as the new avodah, the new sacrificial service to God, from the 1st Century CE to yesterday morning.



Film Festival 2000-2001

Two films and a "nosh".

Where: Temple Adath Israel's Large Screen Theatre

When: Saturday, March 24 - April 28

@ 7:30 P.M.

Seating at tables for ten

Film will be followed by a discussion.

Minimum Donation: \$5 - individual film. \$16 - for series of four.

For reservations and tickets call: TAI 269-2079 or Bloom 223-8700

Tickets ordered in advance can be picked up at the door

March 24 - The Nasty Girl (German with English subtitles)

This biting satire details the hostility encountered by a young woman who is determined to discover the truth about the Third Reich. Best Foreign Film, 1990 Academy Awards.

Discussion leader: Larry Kant

April 28 - A Price Above Rubies Starring Renee Zellweger

The provocative tale of a young Orthodox woman who discovers her sexuality and individuality with surprising results

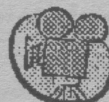
Discussion leader: To be announced

I would like _____ tickets Enclosed check for \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

For information on a sitter for your kids call Bloom - 223-8700



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this way about your bank.*

