

# SAJAC

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EDITOR: SARAH TROCKI TYPING: MARCELLE SAMAKOFSKY

We are always eager to receive articles for inclusion in our publication. Please contact Sarah Trocki at 623-9280 to make further enquiries.  
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# SAJAC

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Change of Address/New Address:

SAJAC has a postal address for ALL correspondence:  
P.O. Box 13608, La Jolla, CA 92039-1360  
Please direct all SAJAC mail to this address

### Moving:

Please advise Merle Datnow of your change of address. Merle can be reached at 456-1046 or mail your change of address to P.O. Box 13608, La Jolla, CA 92039-1360. SAJAC uses Bulk Mail Third Class for its mailings. Third class mail is not required to be forwarded under regular forwarding orders. Unless you notify us of your address change, you will not receive your mail.

### Reporter Announcements:

Please advise Merle Datnow at 456-1046 of all announcements, such as births, Barmitzvahs, Batmitzvahs, weddings, illnesses and deaths. This will ensure publication in the next issue of the Reporter.

### Newcomers:

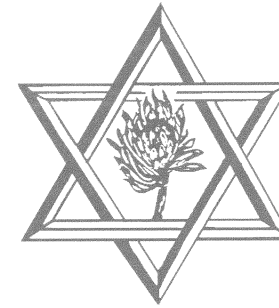
Please advise Renee Frank 456-0614 if you hear of any newcomers to San Diego, so that a welcome can be arranged.

### Friendship:

Please advise Carol Abramowitz at 454-9889 if you hear of anyone requiring meals or help due to illness or tragedy.

### Membership:

Please call Merle Datnow for information about SAJAC Membership.



# SAJAC REPORTER

THE PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF SAN DIEGO

Volume 3, No. 9

CELIA LEVY

Winter 1998

## Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 1

*“The earth was without form  
and void and darkness was  
upon the face of the deep...”*

## Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 3

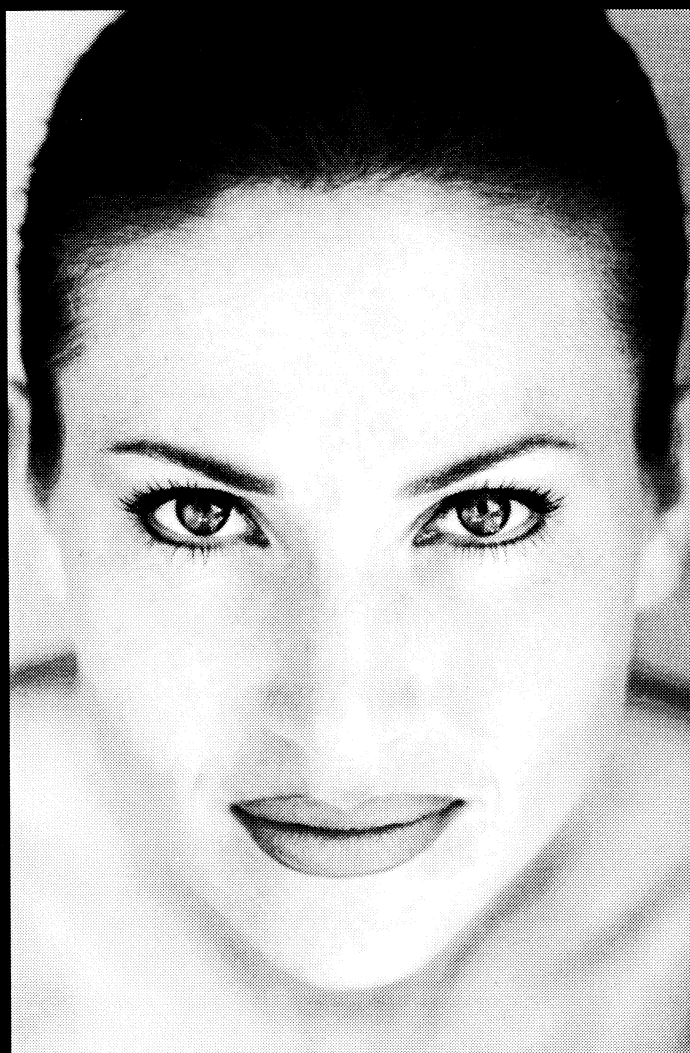
*And God said, “Let  
there be light...”*



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 2255 Via Tabara  
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Robert & Andrea Furman Tel: 558-0372  
 8154 Caminito Mallorca  
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Gary & Nadia Gruzd Tel: 509-4943  
 4715 Caminito Eva Fax: 509-4954  
 San Diego, CA 92130

Molly Lemberg Tel: 456-2744  
 7414 Herschel Ave., #210  
 La Jolla, CA 92037

Marc & Reva Myerson  
 5085 Toscana Way, #325  
 San Diego, CA 92122

Peter & Maureen Stern Tel: 456-2435  
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Yevilov, Kelvin Tel: (949) 650-2162  
 340 Ryan Lane voofsak@aol.com  
 Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Arenson, Ivan and Yvonne (Amato)  
 8310 Foxchappel Lane #425 Tel: (704) 708-4757  
 Charlotte, NC 28270

## WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

Have you something you would like to share with us? A story, an experience, an achievement or an interesting trip somewhere? Please let us know.

Either write to: The Editor  
 SAJAC  
 P.O. Box 13608  
 La Jolla, CA 92039-1360

Or contact: Shaun Edelstein ..... 623-9280  
 Merle Datnow ..... 456-1046  
 Steve Schraibman ..... 481-4940

## EMPLOYMENT CORNER

Are you looking for staff? Are you looking for work?

Please contact Roy Silver at 483-9999 or Fax your resume to him at 483-9109. We offer free advertising for those looking for staff and those looking for work. If you are interested in advertising in this column, please contact Roy at the numbers provided above.

Please note that such advertisements are at the publisher's discretion.

## CAN YOU SING?

We're looking for people with South African Shul Choir experience. Anyone interested in auditioning for the San Diego Jewish male voice choir, please contact Basil Abramowitz 530-8764 or Rhoda Gaylis 535-1143

## DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVERTISE IN THE SAJAC REPORTER!

With effect from 1 January 1999, Joan Wasserman will be handling all advertising inquiries. To advertise, please contact Joan at (619) 793-8985

### Advertising rates

Business card (3" x 2")	\$30
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Please submit articles, photos, community news or a child's writing or art.

Please call Joan at 793-8985 or mail to SAJAC Reporter,

P. O. Box 13608, La Jolla, CA 92039-1360

## PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MAZELTOV TO:**

- Joan & Len Wasserman on their daughter Terry's marriage  
 Howard & Shirley First on their daughter Kim's engagement  
 Fanny Krasner Lebovitz on her granddaughter's engagement  
 Ann & Howard Katz on their son Ryan's Bar Mitzvah  
 Steve & Ruth Schorr on the birth of their son  
 Mark & Laura Abelkop on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Paul  
 Syd & Denise Selati on the engagement of their daughter, Karen  
 Mike & Myrna Fainstein on son Garin's Bar Mitzvah  
 Marilyn Padowitz on Joel's engagement  
 Raymond Padowitz on Joel's engagement  
 Rosemary & Clive Essakow on Penny's Bat Mitzvah  
 Linda-Ann & David Kahn on their daughter Robyn's marriage  
 Gerald & Sylvia Kane on their grandson's Bar Mitzvah  
 Merle & Brian Datnow on the arrival of a granddaughter  
 Frank and Rochelle Stuppel on the arrival of their grandchild

**GET WELL TO:**

Bertha Levinsohn  
 Renee Frank  
 Sandy Kodesh

**CONDOLENCES TO:**

Lynn Silberstein on the passing of her mother  
 Len Lazarus on the passing of his mother

## NEW MEMBERS / ADDRESS

SAJAC welcomes the following new members.  
 Please make a note:

Meyer, Ruth (Horowitz) . . . . . Tel: 793-2524  
 12513 El Camino Real #B  
 San Diego, CA 92130

Saenger, Ingrid . . . . . Tel: 644-0057  
 6482 Lake Apopka Place  
 San Diego, CA 92119

Keet, Steven . . . . . Tel: 273-4735  
 7910 Ivanhoe Avenue #18  
 La Jolla, CA 92037

Lennon, Desray . . . . . Tel: (760) 967-6721  
 3378 Morningview Drive  
 Oceanside, CA 92054  
 Kelly - 24, Gary - 22

Max, Jeff and Joanne . . . . . Tel: 509-2652  
 13164 Winstanley Way . . . . . Fax: 974-6733  
 San Diego, CA 92130 . . . . . jmax@ucsd.edu  
 Andrew 10, Dylan 8, Odessa 5

Miller, Vera . . . . . Tel: (760) 967-6721  
 3378 Morningview Drive  
 Oceanside, CA 92054

Johnny and Shiraz Oken . . . . . Tel: 481-1947  
 12869 Caminito Diego . . . . . Fax: 481-1217  
 San Diego, CA 92130 . . . . . jokenl@sanrr.com  
 Gabriella 13, Tanya 12, Ariel 8

## PLEASE READ...

Back cover of this magazine for important general information.

## President's Message

By Merle Datnow



Merle Datnow  
 (Co-president)

Nineteen ninety eight is rapidly drawing to a close. It has been an exciting and productive year for SAJAC. Membership is at an all time high. Many of our programs remain viable. The seniors group continues to draw great participation. Annual events such as the tennis and golf tournaments and our annual barbeque are still popular. Our welcoming of new members still remains a priority. Other of our events have met with mixed success. The SAJAC directory is a labor of love, but continues to be a most important resource. We can look forward to our 3rd annual SAJAC Reporter so expertly handled by Sarah Trocki, it is always a commendable and an enjoyable reading experience and a great way to remain connected to our community.

It is The Board of Directors of SAJAC that has been its backbone and will continue to be its driving force in the future. Shaun Edelstein has graciously accepted the new leadership role as president for 1999. The SAJAC community is fortunate to have a person of his caliber at the helm and I am confident that with his energy and talent he will be a most dynamic leader. We wish him and his new Board every success.

I would like to thank and acknowledge our current Board members —they give time and energy and great expertise to keep this organization viable and effective. Special thanks to Ruth Schorr, past president (and new mom to Grant Jason Schorr) for her sound advice and savvy opinions...I think it was a great team effort and I applaud each person on our committee.

Happy Chanukah and the best of health and success for 1999!

## Letter From the Editor



Sarah Trocki  
 Editor

Dear Readers,

I want to thank everyone who so willingly contributed articles for this publication. This winter issue offers a variety of topics — knowledge, experiences, achievements, as well as successful social and sports events held since September. Remember, the Reporter is mainly about YOU, our SAJAC members.

And, of course, my grateful thanks to our advertisers, because, without your support, this magazine would not have been possible.

Wishing you all the very best for 1999.

Sincerely,

SARAH TROCKI





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## Chanukah

### The Chanukah Lights and the Mezuzah

The Mitzvah of the Chanukah lights is similar in two respects to that of the Mezuzah: both have to be placed by the side of the door of a house or a courtyard, and both must be set on the outside. But there are also two significant differences between them. The Mezuzah must be fixed on the right hand side of the door, and the Chanukah set on the left. And though both are placed outside, in the case of the Mezuzah, this is only to signify where the house or courtyard begin — to mark the entrance. On the other hand, Chanukah lights are intended specifically to illuminate the outside, the public domain. The Mezuzah, as it were, points inward while the Menorah shines outward.



## Tea Anyone?

There's nothing quite as refreshing as a cup of tea, and it's good for you!

British researchers have found that drinking tea regularly, up to five cups a day, could reduce your risk of having a stroke by up to 70 percent and cut your chances of getting heart disease.

The reason? Tea contains the antioxidant flavonoids that protect the body from being damaged by free radicals. Flavonoids also have a beneficial effect on blood cholesterol and high blood pressure. It is also thought that they may have anticancer properties.

Although the evidence is still incomplete, researchers agree that drinking black tea is beneficial, especially as it provides tea lovers with up to 15 percent of their daily requirement of calcium, 10 percent of folic acid and 45 percent of manganese. Go on, have a cuppa!

On Chanukah one has to give an extra amount of charity, "both in money and in person," both material and spiritual charity. And since the Mitzvah of Tefillin has, as we have seen, a special connection with the lights of Chanukah, Chanukah is itself a particularly appropriate and pressing time to devote to the work of the "Tefillin campaign", helping as many other Jews as possible to participate in the Mitzvah.

The miracle of Chanukah is apparent not only in the fact that "for Your people Israel You worked a great deliverance and redemption as at this day" — a deliverance from a people who were 'impure', 'wicked' and 'arrogant', and despite their being 'strong' and 'many'; but also in the result that "afterwards Your children came into Your most holy house,

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## The World's Most Nutritious Fruit

Forget the myths — the green stuff is good for you.

Was there ever a more undeserved bad reputation than that which dogs the smooth, fresh avocado? Take a look at the myths — and see how the avo really weighs in.

### Myth 1 — Avos are fattening

While no-one's denying that avos contain more calories than your average lettuce leaf, they are by no means the diet busting time bombs that they are reputed to be. If your eating plan allows you a small slice of Cheddar cheese, you could be eating half a medium-sized avocado for the same calories, and with lots more flavorful zing.

### Myth 2 — Avos are cholesterol-haden

There's no cholesterol in avocado. Most of the fat content is the good kind that counteracts the formation of cholesterol. Avocados contain vegetable protein, fiber and antioxidants, which are all part of the recommended diet for preventing heart disease and strokes. The South African Heart Foundation even awarded the Heart mark to the avocado last year — proof that making avos a part of your daily diet could save your life!

### What's in it for you?

Avocados can be found listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's most nutritious fruit. Here are some of the goodies you'll get in your avo: Dietary fiber: Avocados contain more dietary fiber than any commonly eaten fruit. Dietary fiber is crucial for preventing cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and even some types of cancer. Vitamins E, C and A: Known as antioxidants, they prevent free-radical damage, which contributes to aging and might cause cancer and cataracts. All the B vitamins — including folic acid, which is often destroyed in other foods during cooking and is vital for pregnant women. A wealth of minerals: Magnesium, potassium, copper, calcium, zinc, iron, phosphorus and manganese.

## YOGA

By Leo Feingold

Talk of Yoga has always evoked a picture in my mind of hollow-cheeked, bearded ascetics tangling their limbs in attempts to assume positions for which the human body was not designed, so it was fascinating to me to learn some factual information to replace my unfounded perceptions.

Yoga is the union of the body with the mind. The word "yoga" is derived from the Sanskrit root-verb "yuj" meaning to bind, join, unite or control; it is also related to the English word "yoke", the German "joch" and the Latin "jungo" (join).

There are a number of different schools of yoga, each embracing different systems but all designed to improve our physical and spiritual existence. Hatha Yoga is the physical form of yoga. Students are guided through positions, called asanas, which stretch, strengthen and relax, while paying attention to breathing techniques as well as the careful execution of the positions.

Yoga has been very helpful in managing the stress resulting from our fast-paced, demanding lifestyles. Its therapeutic benefits derive from the focus of a healthy mind in a healthy body.

In recent years, Hatha Yoga has enjoyed increasing popularity and its growth has been enhanced by increased knowledge derived from the fields of medicine and stress management.

*In 1975, Leo Feingold founded the Radiance Yoga and Therapeutic Center in Mission Hills which is now run by his daughter, Aura.*

**Make a Note! — Make a Date!**

**The SAJAC Annual Meeting  
will be held on January 11, 1999  
at 7:30 pm at the JCC.**

**Please make an effort to attend!  
(Flyer to follow)**

## SAJAC New Comers

By Pamela Nathan

At Thanksgiving it seems most appropriate to give thanks to the US and its people for the safe and secure environment they provide for us. San Diego, with its moderate, warm climate provides the back-drop of a rich and fulfilling life style that we are able to indulge in on a day to day basis. As you notice, people from other parts of the country are consistently relocating. People living in all parts of SA hear about San Diego and want to emigrate here, some because members of their families have already set down roots in this community, others because they have been here before, experience the charm it has to offer and want to come back. When most of the country is in snow and cold, we are off to the beach and complaining about the occasional occurrence of rain. We are truly blessed. Thank you San Diego!



Pamela Nathan



Ingrid Saenger

Ingrid Saenger has joined us in San Diego from Texas. She is living in San Carlos. I understand that she has plans to be married in the near future and we wait to hear more about that once her plans are finalized. Ingrid lived in Johannesburg, where her father and siblings still reside, except for one sister who lives in Amsterdam. Ingrid is working with the La Mesa Police Department.

Ruth Meyer, lived in Scottsdale, Arizona since 1990. She was originally from Cape Town but spent 11 years living in Sandton, Johannesburg. With the sudden passing of her husband last year, she decided to relocate and where better than San Diego, where she had previously visited on vacation and loved. She has two children, Mark 24 and Nicole 21. Ruth is an elementary school teacher, and an excellent one at



Ruth Meyer

that. She shared with me that she had won the Silver Apple Award of Excellence in Arizona. She is presently teaching at the Hebrew Day School; and also enrolled in a masters degree program in Special Education. She is living in Carmel Valley. She loves reading, gardening, baking and walking and is very keen to find a 'Mahjongg' school. Anyone interested please call her at 793-2524.

Belinda Fishman (25) arrived recently. She is the daughter of Marilyn and Len Fishman who are related to the Abelkop's, where she is staying presently. Only had a brief conversation with her as she was on her way



Belinda fishman

enjoying her new adventure. She is working as a Kindergarten aid at the Jewish Academy. She has a brother of 27 in St. Louis and a sister of 22 in SA.

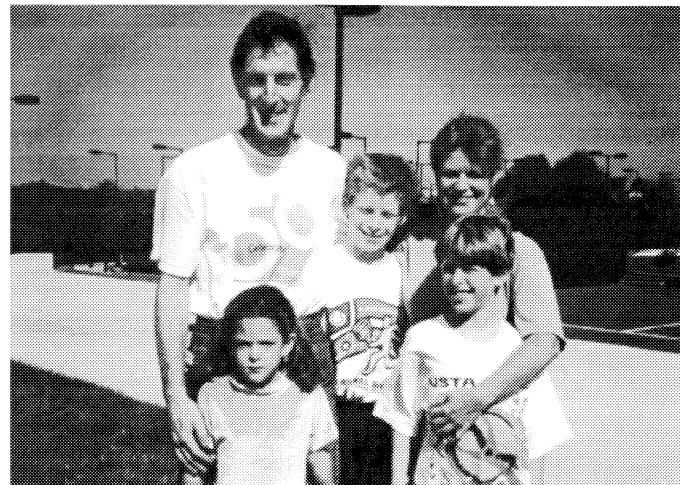


Shiraz and Jonathon Oken have been here for the past 4 months. They have three children, Gabriella 13, Tanya 12, and Ariel 8. They used to live in Senderwood, Bedfordview and were attracted to San Diego because Jonathan's sister, Linda Essakow lives here. He is working with Zanzibar Restaurant. They're living in Carmel Valley presently.

Maurice and Tia Dorfman used to live in Saxonwold. They have two children, Andy 20, and Raelle 18, who are both still in South Africa finishing their university studies. Tia is related to Barry Schechter. They have taken over Dor L'Dor. It was an unexpected surprise to have a South African greet me the last time I went into the store. They are presently living in Del Mar.



Maurice and Tia Dorfman



The Max Family

Joanne and Jeff Max arrived in San Diego in August. They have three children, Andrew 10, Dylan 8, Odessa 5 at the Jewish Academy, They started out in Rhode Island in 1984 where Jeff studied adult and child psychiatry. Then they moved to Iowa where he worked at the VA in Knoxville, Iowa and they sponsored him. He continued to do research in Iowa City involving children who have had traumatic brain injuries. It was then that they drew a line across the map to find a Jewish community and warm climate. Fortunately he found a job at University of San Diego. Joanne is a photographer, and wants to start working in the arts field in January. If anyone has any suggestions please call her at 509-2652. They are living in the Del Mar Highlands. Also, Jeff is a tennis player and would love join a league or have a regular game. If anyone is interested, please let him know.

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The most widely used herbal agent for BPH is the Saw Palmetto Berry (SPB). The extract of the dried ripe fruit is widely used especially in Europe. Many men in the US take Saw Palmetto to improve abnormal urinary symptoms such as a weak stream, frequent urination and night-time urination. Self medication without a formal medical evaluation is frequently frowned upon by Physicians because such symptoms may be caused by serious conditions such as Prostate or Bladder Cancer upon which Saw Palmetto would have little effect.

American Indians used SPB for the treatment of urinary ailments as well as a nutritional tonic. Sitosterols, related to steroids, are considered the active constituents of Saw Palmetto. Experimental data suggest that Sitosterol blocks the male sex hormone called Dihydrotestosterone however clear scientific validation is lacking and further studies are necessary to elucidate the possible action of Saw Palmetto.

Although many studies have been done on the effectiveness of herbal substances, most have been short term and uncontrolled. These studies have shown improvement in abnormal urinary symptoms in patients receiving treatment, however, the magnitude of improvement was not adequately quantitated.

Dr. Franklin Lowe from the Department of Urology at St Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York, suggested that the evidence for effectiveness of herbal agents in the treatment of urinary symptoms from BPH is inconclusive. He stated "unless other appropriate studies and trials are conducted to confirm their efficacy, it is difficult to refute the belief that these herbal agents are no more than an expensive form of placebo.

More recently a study published in the journal of the American Medical Association reviewed the existing published literature concerning Saw Palmetto. The authors of this detailed study concluded that evidence suggests that the Saw Palmetto plant extract, *Serenoa Repens*, improves urologic symptoms with few side effects. They too suggested that further research is needed to standardize preparations of Saw Palmetto to determine its long term effectiveness.

### Prostate Cancer

Prostate Cancer is the most common cancer and second leading cause of cancer deaths in us males.

Exciting research suggests that dietary modification and certain vitamins and minerals may prevent the development of Prostate Cancer. This information is new and unproved but warrants attention and possibly application.

1) Diet. Based on animal experiments and epidemiological studies, it appears that reducing dietary fat may prevent the development of prostate cancer.

#### 2) Micronutrients

Vitamins A,C,D and E and the trace metal Selenium are the micronutrients receiving most attention regarding a possible preventative role in Prostate Cancer development

A) Vitamin A - most epidemiological studies suggest that Vitamin A does not protect against Prostate Cancer.

B) Vitamin E was associated with a 36% lower incidence of Prostate Cancer in the large Finnish chemoprevention study. Most important, the mortality from Prostate Cancer was reduced by 41% in men receiving vitamin E supplements compared to men not receiving it. The dose of vitamin E (dl-Alpha Tocopherol) was 50mg (55 iu) per day.

C) Vitamin C. No apparent preventative effect has been noted on Prostate Cancer.

D) Vitamin D. No controlled studies concerning the effect of vitamin D on Prostate Cancer are available.

E) Selenium. In the randomized prospective double blind study of Selenium on Skin Cancer, patients receiving 200 micrograms of Selenium had an impressive 63% reduction in Prostate Cancer compared to controls.

One should note that in the Finnish and Selenium trials, the impact of these micronutrients was an incidental finding as Prostate Cancer was not an end point in the study designs. Only clinical trials performed in a scientifically rigorous fashion will determine whether these substances truly are able to prevent Prostate Cancer.

3) Soy Protein. The Isoflavonoid extracts of soy bean protein may play a role in preventing prostate cancer. This thought is based on the dramatically lower incidence of Prostate Cancer in Japanese men compared to Western men.

It would appear that a low fat diet supplemented with soy protein, vitamin E and Selenium may impart a preventative effect on Prostate Cancer. The use of herbal medications such as Saw Palmetto in the treatment of urinary symptoms from BPH may be beneficial however conclusive data is lacking. Well controlled randomized double blind studies are necessary to allow us to use alternative approaches in the treatment of Prostate disorders with greater confidence.

## Herbs, Vitamins, Diet And The Prostate Facts And Myths

By Franklin Gaylis, M.D.

The recent flurry of interest in alternative medical approaches to combat common medical problems has led to much confusion as to what is appropriate. Which vitamin, what dose, which herb and how much should one take and to prevent which ailment or disease has caused much uncertainty amongst millions of Americans.

The herbal and vitamin industry is growing rapidly as millions of Americans latch on to tantalizing information from the media, advertisements, heresy and so on. Sales of herbal medications grossed \$2 billion in the US in 1995 and continue to grow at 15% annually according to "Herbalgram" magazine. Reliable information is scarce and it is difficult to know what is good science versus hype. Vitamins in mega doses we know may be dangerous. A study published in the New England journal of medicine by Dr Charles Moertel showed that cancer patients treated with megadoses of vitamin C did much worse than cancer patients not treated. In the Finnish study of 29,133 male smokers who entered a randomized prevention trial, compared with placebo, the provitamin "antioxidant", B-carotene resulted in an 18% higher incidence of lung cancer and an 8% higher mortality. Alpha-tocopherol (vitamin E) produced more deaths from hemorrhagic stroke and had no apparent effect on overall mortality. However, the incidence of Prostate Cancer was reduced by 36 percent in men taking vitamin E, compared to placebo.

A recent editorial by Doctors Angell and Kassirer published in the New England Journal of Medicine (Volume 339, Number 12, 839-841) is worthy of reading by those interested in the subject. They concluded that there cannot be two types of medicine, alternative and conventional. There is only medicine that works and medicine that may or may not work, medicine that has been adequately tested and medicine that has not. It matters only that the medicine has been studied and shown to be safe and effective. Even if the medicine was once considered an alternative medicine it will be accepted if safe and effective.

Many people believe that herbs are safe and harmless because they are of natural origin or have been used for hundreds of years. These beliefs are not necessarily true as many plants are poisonous. Just like medications, herbs may have side effects which range from mild to life threatening. For example, nutmeg is harmless in small doses but deadly if consumed in

huge doses. Socrates died from hemlock. Some herbs however are safe and effective when taken in appropriate doses. But how do we know when to take them, which to take and how much should be taken? The problem lies in the scientific study of herbal medications as many have not been subjected to the rigorous clinical trials to determine safety and efficacy as are demanded of medications. Few of these agents have undergone formal testing to determine their effectiveness.

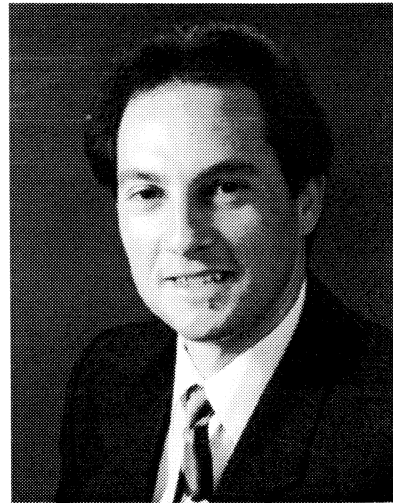
Many widely used medications originate from botanical sources. Until the 20th Century, most remedies were botanical. They were found to be effective through trial and error and sometimes at great human cost. With improved sophistication in medical science in the 20th Century, chemistry and pharmacological methods allowed purification of the active ingredients from botanicals. For example, Digitalis was extracted from the Purple Fox Glove, and is widely used in treatment of Cardiac conditions today. Morphine was extracted from the Opium Poppy and Quinine from the Cinchona Bark. Penicillin fortuitously discovered from the penicillium mold has led to the development of new and more effective Penicillins. The isolation and characterization of the active ingredient of the molds by scientific study has made this possible.

Benign Prostate Hyperplasia ((BPH)-(Enlargement of the Prostate))

BPH is a common condition afflicting millions of men in the U.S. The adverse effects include trouble with urination. Previously surgical treatment was the only treatment available, however, in the last few decades new medications (Hytrin, Cardura, Flomax and Proscar) have proven to be most effective in alleviating symptoms and avoiding complications from BPH.

Certain herbs (plants used medicinally) such as Saw Palmetto are widely used for treating BPH symptoms. Such treatments have been used since time began as evident by the description on Egyptian papyrus in the 15th century BCE of plant extracts to treat prostate disorders.

Franklin Gaylis, M.D.

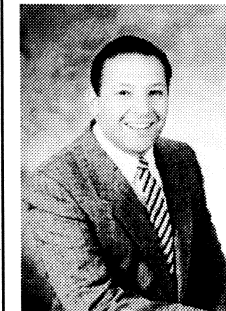


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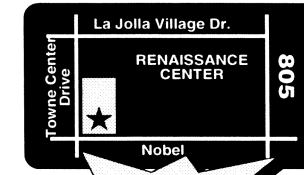
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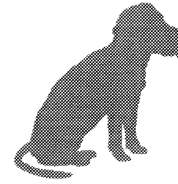
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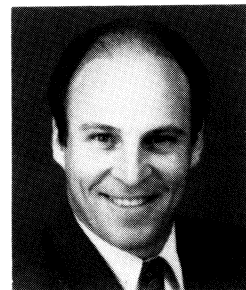
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## OWNING A CELLPHONE IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Barry Ronge

Okay, folks, it's official. Cellular phones are no longer major status symbols. That first heady rapture of novelty and rarefies is gone. I know people who have bought phones for their maid and made it a condition of employment that she wear the phone on her person all day. This enables them to check on the children, issue menu instructions and remind her to dust on top of the doors.

You hear these affluent housewives in supermarkets, poised indecisively over the loo rolls saying "Dora, have we still got enough toilet paper? And sugar? And what fabric softener do you prefer?"

I hear that some parents have bought them for their children so that they can phone at break with messages like "I'm going to be late fetching you from school, so don't wait on the pavement. Stay inside the building, and I'll phone when I'm nearly there."

I have even heard of people so terrified of being hijacked that they keep fully operative cellular phones in the boots of their extremely luxurious cars so that, if they are forced into the boot, they can phone for help.

So, I guess that all the routine utility applications of the phone have now been more or less used up and the rush is on to find the gimmicks that will restore the luster of exclusivity to the product.

I don't mean those phones for trophy wives, mistresses and toy boys that have bejeweled initials and butter-soft, silk-lined 24 carat gold-trimmed designer leather cases, now selling in Geneva for four times the cost of the phone.

I mean serious techno-innovations. We've all been caught in the scrum when we're sitting in a group, and a phone goes off, and everyone dives to see who the call is for.

Surely, the next step is for customized ringing signals, like those car hooters and door chimes, which play perky little snatches of "Never on a Sunday".

Technology is so clever these days. Perhaps you could elect to have a taped selection of your own favorite music to replace the phone's ring.

I imagine many a businessman would be pleased if, instead of just ringing, his portable phone blared out a

snatch of Tina Turner singing "You're simply the best, better than all the rest".

It is a sure bet that many kugels would be attracted by phones that rang out with Shirley Bassey going "Hey, Big Spender, spend a little time with me", and I imagine there would also be quite a demand for Roy Orbison singing "Pretty Women, walking down the street..."

Suburban studs and small cruisers could hardly fail to be turned on by Robert Palmer's Simply Irresistible, and I must admit I love the idea of my phone ringing with that fabulous anthem used with Twentieth Century Fox movies.

Everyone says that the next step will be two-day video phones, but I wonder. It's hard to say "I'm not going to make it into the office today. These negotiations are really getting tough," when over your shoulder the rolling sweep of a golf course or the seductive curve of something soft and cuddly is clearly visible.

I do foresee phones with calculators in them, automatic displays of the world's time zones so that you never phone your factory in Guangdong in the middle of the night, and some kind of ATM connection to your bank so that you can move funds at will.

Of course, another logical extension would be phones for divers which are water resistant to 50 meters so that if your deal comes through while you are diving off Penang, you won't miss it.

Someone must be working on a combination camera phone or at the very least a phone that is a real companion, which whispers some profound personal affirmation to you at least once an hour. It will say "you contain the universe within you. It's greatness is within your grasp" or "trust yourself and your abilities. You are the best person you can possibly be".

This will make you feel good and important and better than your fellow man which, in case you don't remember, is why you bought the damn phone in the first place.

Reprinted from the Sunday Times



Snippets from South Africa (continued from p. 47)

pair are inseparable, spending virtually every waking minute together. Skaap was also helped soothe the nerves of other orphaned animals including water buffalo and white rhinos. Over the years, Skaap has certainly displayed some maternal magic!

- If you missed their live performance in Paris in July, good news is that the world famous trio, Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti will perform in a spectacular concert at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1999. No doubt, advance reservations will be required!
- And finally, on December 5th & 6th, Fox Television showed the last two hours of the final two days of the Sun City Million Dollar Golf Challenge. Those watching witnessed the thrilling ending, when Nick Price won for the third time, beating Tiger Woods on the fifth hole of a sudden death play-off.



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## Dinner with His Excellency Franklin A. Sonn, South Africa's Ambassador to the United States

By Audrey Hutchinson

On the 4th of November, 1998, San Diego was visited by Franklin Abraham Sonn, the erudite South African Ambassador to the United States who delivered a speech on U.S./South Africa at a World Affairs Council dinner.

Sonn, a man of charismatic charm and a self-effacing manner, greeted the mainly American audience warmly. There was a sprinkling of South Africans in the audience including several students.

The theme carrying a strong spiritual message, focused upon racial and freedom struggles during the 1960's in the U.S. and South Africa as well as India at the beginning of this Century was not an unfamiliar one, but His Excellency delivered it in a simple, sincere, articulate and powerful manner. He drew on the lessons of three Selfless Saints of this Century, Mahatma Gandhi whose earliest freedom struggles in South Africa and India 'Satyagraha,' were inextricably linked with 20 years of repression during his life in South Africa; the freedom struggle of Nelson Mandela and his compatriots, and of course the equally great Martin Luther King. Coincidentally, these movements, almost identical in their goals, were taking place during a similar period in time (with the exception of Gandhi) and yet none of these leaders knew one another personally.



Ambassador Sonn, World Affairs Council President Lowell Blankford, Audrey Hutchinson

Photo: Jackie Main



Audrey Hutchinson

South Africa, said the Ambassador, had come a long way since 1990 when the apartheid struggle was in its final throes of annihilation. Sonn, a man of colour, feels strongly that "white South Africans are much freer within themselves, and there is a preparedness to go forward into the future together." President Nelson Mandela has given hope to the formerly disenfranchised people of South Africa and his special brand of magic has permeated South Africa, and indeed throughout the World.

Whilst the Truth and Reconciliation Committee was set up as a healing process, when quizzed on the subject, that process, he said, with the effluxion of time, would lead to forgiveness. "There was no sense in seeking retribution — that would lead only to bitterness." It was time for renewal and for building a free and unencumbered multiracial society in accordance with the goals and aspirations of the Freedom Charter of 1912.

He further stated that there was great empathy with the United States — they had travelled a similar but different path and the racial problems seemingly so intractable, could be solved, confidently and humanely.

"And now with racial freedom achieved, a greater worldwide movement towards spirituality and oneness with the Supreme, and hopefully a world in which Martin Luther King's dream can be realised, we are able to move more confidently into the 21st Century."

It was a soul-searching evening! Ambassador Sonn did South Africa proud that night with his words of wisdom and message of hope.

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Man will have a new name: God."

Sri Chinmoy - "The Wings of Joy"

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## Snippets from South Africa

By Sarah Trocki

In the last Reporter, I announced that the offices of the SA Consul would be closed in accordance with cost cutting measures. Since then, the decision has been reversed and the offices will continue to operate fully and effectively. However, Mpendulo Kumalo, who was in line to replace the outgoing SA Consul General de Klerk, has been recalled to South Africa. Kumalo, who was involved in a domestic dispute with his wife, then claimed diplomatic immunity, was judged to be unsuitable for the post.

- The bomb blast at Planet Hollywood restaurant on Cape Town's Victoria and Albert Waterfront in late August, in which two people died and 24 were injured, has resulted in large groups of tourists from the US canceling their trips.
- Fidel Castro paid a visit to SA recently, addressing a large crowd in Durban's new Convention Center. A hero to the ANC, Castro later delivered a ninety minute address in parliament which was boycotted by the DP and Democratic Front. Although the NP was present, they refused to join in the standing ovation of the ANC.
- At long last, the Dutch Reformed Church that formed the backbone of apartheid, denounced white rule as "wrong and sinful, not simply in its fundamental nature." Despite the strongly worded repudiation there was a resistance to a proposal to be voted for the church to merge with its non-white counterpart, the Uniting Reformed Church.
- President Nelson Mandela toured Canada and the US recently to bid farewell to world leaders ahead of his retirement from politics. He was awarded the highest medals of honour for his achievements by Canada, Harvard University and Washington. President Clinton presented Mandela with the Gold Order of Merit Medal after Mandela addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 21.
- One of South Africa's leading musicians, West Nkosi died on October 8th from injuries he received in a car crash in August. Nkosi, a saxophonist, songwriter and producer was a prime mover of South African music. He developed the beat that Paul Simon used for many of the songs on the 1986 hit album "Graceland" For those old enough to remember, Nkosi's first instrument was the penny whistle and he

played in a band led by Spokes Masiyani, a well known kwela musician. Askwela gave way to sax jive, Mr. Nkosi took up the alto saxophone.



- His name is Van der Merwe, but this was no Van der Merwe joke! Neville Van der Merwe, a contract killer who, with an accomplice, Glen Chait, murdered a London businessman in 1991. Glen Chait was arrested, but committed suicide in a South African jail. Using an assumed name Graham Miller, with his movie star looks, the popular personal trainer to the wealthy, married a beautiful American woman, dressed well, drove a BMW and enjoyed the good life in California. It was his brother who unwittingly led police to track down Neville. Graham Van der Merwe bought a car in his own name and at least once had parcels sent to the gym where Neville worked. It was the unusual name of Van der Merwe that rekindled the search for his fugitive brother and within a few months Neville Van der Merwe was arrested. He now awaits extradition to stand trial in London.
- As South Africa gears up for its second all race General Election in April 1999, problems abound. The ANC has insisted that only people holding new ID books with bar codes, will be able to vote, to prevent the chaos that arose during the 1994 election. More than 2 million people have not been issued with these books and there is not enough time to do so. Chief election officer, Mandla Mchunu has also stated that there is no money to set up foreign polling stations.
- For sports enthusiasts—the South African Golf Team, led by Ernie Els, won the Dunhill Cup during October in Scotland, beating Spain in the Final.
- An odd couple? Most definitely! Skaap, a female sheep, has forged a special bond with Jabulani, a male orphaned elephant who was brought to the Hoedspruit Breeding and Research Station two years ago as an infant. Skaap has been with Jabulani (meaning happy in Zulu) from the beginning—the

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**Tennis Tournament** (continued from p. 45)

Special thanks to Shaun Edelstein for handling the entries and drumming up the much needed support; Joan Wasserman, Carol Abramowitz, Renee Frank, Celia Levy and Merle Datnow for supplying fruit platters; Celia, Carol and Renee for helping to set up the brunch—your presence was indispensable!

And finally, thank you to the tennis players and supporters on whom we depend for making the tournament such a great success.

Congratulations to the winners!

A Division Winners: Robert Furman,  
Dennis Goodman

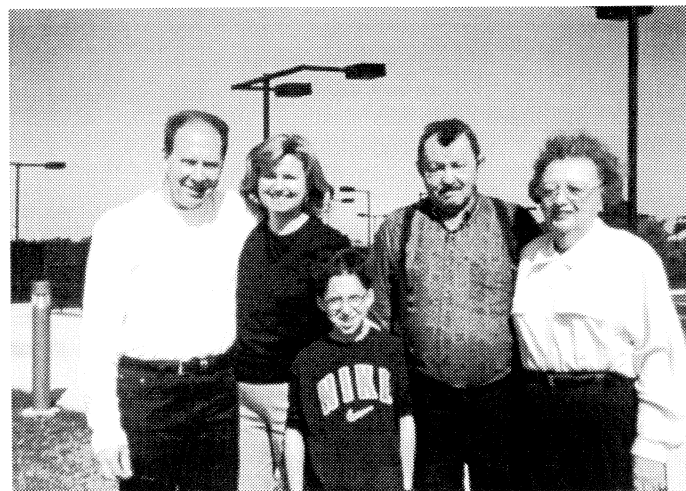
A Division Runners up: Eric Gold, David Bortz

B Division Winners: Mitchell Swersky,  
Greg Gaylis

B Division Runners up: Daniel Bortz, Calli Kaffel.



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Stan and Cheryl Kaffel, Harry and Bella Bregin with Cade Kaffel



Enjoying the tennis — Ronnie Werbeloff

**More Tennis Photos**

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## SAJAC Tennis Tournament

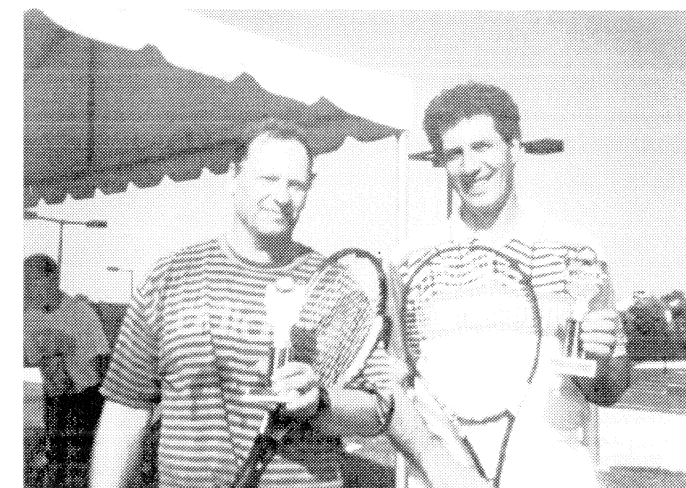
By Sarah Trocki

Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> was a warm, sunny day—the temperature just right for our annual tennis tournament. The "bagel man," Harold Shapiro arrived on time, carrying dozens of freshly baked bagels for our sumptuous brunch buffet that was served throughout the morning.

The Bortz' arrived late (not unusual!) having left home past registration time, then drove around trying to find the tennis center. Father and sons did well in the tournament, David and Daniel winning trophies—perhaps prizes next year for the Bortz's ought to be an alarm clock and compass!

The George Barnes Tennis Center is a spotlessly clean well equipped facility which made the tournament that much more enjoyable.

Lesley Hakala-Guajardo, head of the Center, was on hand to help with the organisation for the smooth running of the tournament. Thank you Lesley, you did as always, a great job!



A Division Winners  
 Robert Furman and Dennis Goodman

Twenty four A and eight B division players played a round robin mixed doubles format, yet scoring points as an individual, There was a high standard of tennis, and I am pleased to report, many spectators came to watch and enjoy the day.



Keeping Score — Lesley Hakala-Guajardo  
 who runs the center



A Division Runners Up  
 Eric Gold and David Bortz



B Division Winners  
 Mitchell Swersky and Greg Gaylis



B Division Runners Up  
 Daniel Bortz and Calli Kattel

(continued on p. 46)

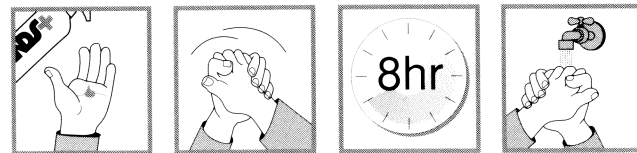
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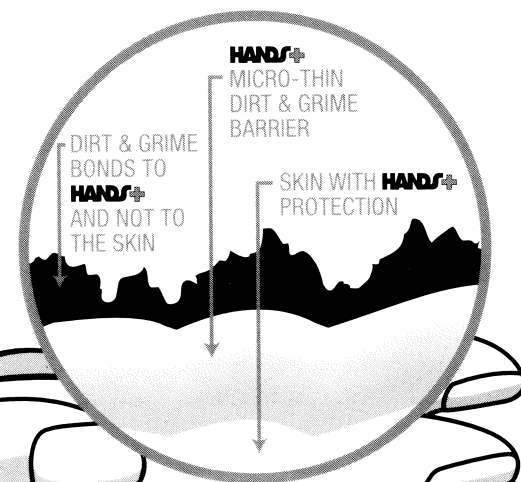
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## Rafting Down the River Kern An Eventful Experience

By: Hymie Gaylis

A well known but not too popular water recreation, termed white water rafting can be a most exhilarating experience and a little scary. I was invited to join a group of friends on a two-day trip on the lower Kern River, for such an expedition. Being a septuagenarian and harboring a few ailments, I thought it wise to consult my doctor about the wisdom of the proposed venture. He simply inquired whether I could swim and having replied in the affirmative, he pronounced me fit and after a little research and much consideration I accepted. The trip was not exactly uneventful.

We left San Diego just before dusk on a Thursday evening to head for the lower Kern River originating below Lake Isabella, a few hours north east of Los Angeles in the Mojave desert. We arrived at the campsite well after midnight and slept in our bags on mother earth and under a starlit sky. We arose at dawn and after a hearty breakfast at a nearby roadhouse, we made our way to the rafting center in Wofford Heights. After an introduction to the tour leaders and an orientation lecture followed by a disclaimer regarding injuries, we were taken to the river by bus and assigned to our rafts.

The rapids are rated 106 on the international scale of river difficulty. To simplify, anything up to 3 is perfect for families. Class 4 rapids, while definitely more challenging, will not prove overly intimidating for most active people. Class 5's are a different story. Their large, powerful waves may demand a high level of conditioning, swimming ability or rafting experience. Class 6 rapids are generally considered unrunnable. Rafts are carried overland around these waters. The rapids along the course of our river were rated as a combination of 3 and 4.

We were all given life jackets, which were mandatory, and helmets, which were optional and a paddle with a few lessons in oarsmanship. There were butterflies fluttering in the foliage on the embankment and quite a few in my tummy! Was this journey really necessary I thought? At this point the die was cast and there was no turning back. It was a cloudless sky and because of

the anticipated prolonged exposure to sun, liberal amounts of sunscreen were applied to my face and the exposed parts of my body. This subsequently almost led to dire consequences!

Having signed the disclaimer absolving the organizers of the trip of all liability, we then got into our rafts which were of sturdy construction and appeared unsinkable. We all sat on the outer rim of the raft, three on the left and three on the right with the captain at the stern whose main function was to steer the raft and issue

instructions. Although the river at that point seemed to be flowing at a leisurely pace, I knew that it would increase in velocity and intensity as we entered the canyons. I must admit that at this moment I felt a bit uneasy. After about ten minutes or so we had our first encounter with some protruding rocks but safely steered besides them. Not long after the pace of the river increased and it soon became clear that we were about to negotiate our first rapids. The guide yelled a few sharp commands with regard to paddling and



Can you spot Hymie river rafting?

almost immediately we felt a sudden drop in the raft, followed by a sudden deluge as if barrel of water had been thrown over us. In a flash I recalled Psalm 23. The turbulence of the waves gave the water its white foamy appearance and thus the name "whitewater rafting". Almost immediately and without warning, some low-lying branches of a tree appeared and I never ducked so fast in my life. Whew! I wished that I had donned my helmet.

It was exhilarating to enter some tranquil waters and to take in and enjoy the outstanding scenery. We whizzed by granite spires some thousand of feet tall looming overhead and some small waterfalls that run right into the river. Just as I was beginning to enjoy the "ride" I began to feel a burning sensation in my right eye. I thought that something had gotten into it. Rubbing my eye, washing it, and blinking furiously only made it worse. The only relief that I got was to keep my eye shut but this impaired my 3D vision and as luck would have it, we had to negotiate another rapid. Not

(continued on p. 14)

**Rafting** (continued from p. 13)

a pleasant experience under the circumstances. No sooner had the pain in my right eye resolved, when the same burning sensation occurred in my left eye and I had to endure the discomfort and disability until the penny dropped. The sweat and water running off my forehead onto my face had become admixed with the sunscreen, which had irritated my eyes. When I related the episode to my sport friends, of course they all knew about never applying sunscreen to the forehead. By this time we had traveled about five miles down the river and it was time to break for lunch. We pulled on to the left side of the bank, hauled the rafts up the slopes and after a swim in the cold but exhilarating Californian waters, we were delighted to find an already well prepared luncheon of a variety of cold meats and all those goodies.

Following our luncheon, the trip was resumed with the river flowing through a deep gorge forested with willows, cottonwood, sycamore and alder. As the canyons steeped the pace of the river quickened and the rapids got bigger testing our skills and endurance. When we approached some rapids too steep to be negotiated with safety, our navigator dutifully gave instructions to bypass the danger zone by landing and portaging the rafts overland to re-enter the river beyond the danger zone. While carrying our raft I tripped, fell spread-eagled, got up and dusted the gravel off my clothes. If I was destined to have an accident that was the right place and time for I was in the company of my good friend, the doctor. I sustained a few bruises and abrasions of my arms and legs and following some first aid resumed and completed the trip that afternoon. After disembarkation at the campsite we were served snacks, cold drinks and hor's d'oeuvres and again treated to a wholesome meal. After an exhaustive day and camaraderie we retired to "bed".

After selecting a spot on the campsite and slipping into my sleeping bag, it did not take me long to fall asleep. But before doing so I laid out a piece of chocolate next to my pad for an early morning snack. During the night I heard some weird tapping as if someone was knocking on my front door. I awoke, looked around but silence reigned supreme. I thought I must be dreaming and went back to sleep. When I awoke at dawn my chocolate had disappeared and on investigating, there were traces of footprints in the sand, incontrovertible evidence of a predator, probably a raccoon.

Our second day began with a hearty breakfast and after our personal gear was repacked and the camp cleaned up we were ready for another day on the river where we negotiated a series of class 4 rapids called

the big 5. We ended our trip that afternoon at Democratic Beach ending our two day 20 mile adventure on the Lower river Kern. And taken back to Wofford Heights our take of point.

Our return trip to San Diego unremarkable except for a road sign point to, guess where? "JOHANNESBURG". I asked my friends to stop so that I could take a picture of this. My native friends could not understand my excitement until I inquired how they might react if they suddenly came upon a sign "San Diego" while traveling on a South African road.



**SA? No — Johannesburg U.S.A.!**

I have often been asked if I would do the trip again. The scenery was beautiful, the experience unforgettable, and the answer is yes, but it is not for the fainthearted. My good friends, Dr. Bill and Judy Friedel made it worthwhile.



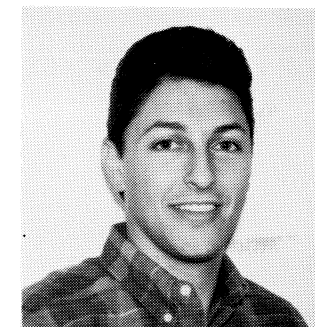
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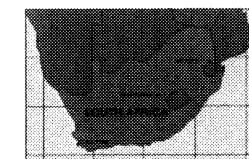
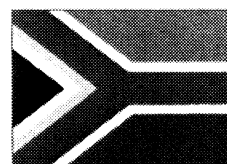
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saw many penguins sitting on their eggs or carrying their eggs in their pouches. The cutest penguins are the baby King penguins - they were all fluffy and covered with brown fur and sit huddled together. We saw over 100,000 pairs of these at one time.



Elephant Seal — female

We saw many seals as well. Many of them were baby Elephant seals. Each adult weighs about 11,000 lb. and are 17 feet long. They have long noses and during mating time they blow and expand these long noses. They eat squid and fish, are deep diving seals and live near the Antarctic convergence. If you get too close to them, they will chase you. One chased me one day and it was quite scary. I had to run through the puddles and ice.

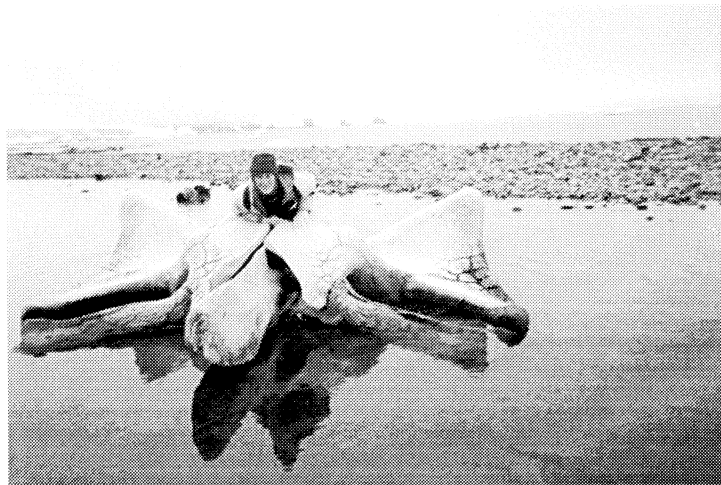
We also saw many Fur seals and Crabeater seals and learnt a lot about the different varieties of seals and their habits. The Crabeater seal does not eat crabs. Their young are often eaten by Leopard seals but the only thing that eats this seal, is the Orca whale, which is the strongest animal in Antarctica.



We were lucky to watch an avalanche of a glacier and studied their many forms in the sea. Of course we were surrounded by pack ice, bergs and glaciers at all times. Bergs come from glaciers and pack ice is frozen sea water. The glaciers often look blue which is the reflection of the sun on the sea. My best view of a glacier was one with a solitary penguin stranded on it. I also had a lot of fun one day sliding down a glacier like an Adelie penguin. Of course I got soaking wet and was freezing but it was fun. We sailed past the "Ross ice shelf" which can grow to be as big as the country of France. Antarctica is the 4th largest continent but in the winter it doubles its size.

We saw the White Mantled albatross. They live and fly in pairs and we had to be careful not to get too close. We saw many comerants and other types of birds. We also saw some Humpback whales swimming alongside our ship which was a treat for us all. It was so close to us as it went right in front of the boat and we could easily see its entire body, which is 18 metres long. We also saw skeletons of dead Humpbacks on the islands and they were huge.

One exciting moment was when I swam in the sea at Deception Island. The island is in the top of a volcano and has many hot springs erupting. The temperature of



On skeleton of humpback whale's head

the water was 32 degrees and it was a freezing day but I swam in a hot spring that was boiling hot and yet next to the freezing water. I took one dive into the cold water and jumped straight back into the spring.

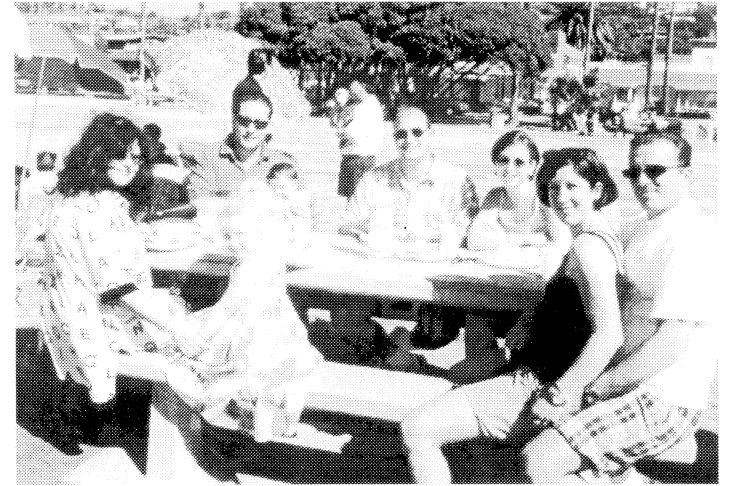
One of the hardest parts for me was eating. As I am kosher I could not eat the meat and I do not eat fish. So I had to eat salad, bread, soup and French fries and desert for lunch and dinner. We ate dinner one night with the captain and I had the waitress bring me salad for all four courses!

The trip was a once in a life time experience for me. My grandparents and I had a great time together and I learnt so much. I will never forget this trip and how lucky I was to be taken there by my grandparents.

The SAJAC Barbecue

By Diane Marks Schachat

It was a balmy Sunday at noon on the grassy area of La Jolla Shores beach. The mouth-watering aroma of barbecued chicken and the sounds of laughter wafted through the summer air. The ocean was the clear blue of the sky and gulls shrieked above the surf.



Having Fun in the sun...



Cousins Philippa and Diane Schachat



Four Good Friends— Clive Gross, Greg Favish, Shane Damelin and Steven Keet

So was the day of the Annual SAJAC Barbecue on October 18, 1998. It couldn't have been more perfect. Adults and children of all ages mingled and reminisced about what had occurred since they had last seen one another. For some it was years ago! Some South Africans were more American than South African. Some had barely set foot on American soil. Yet one thing that the folks had in common was the rich heritage they had acquired in the country at the southern tip of Africa.



Sisters Mandy and Debbie Chalmers with Paul Suntup

It seemed as though this day had just happened by itself. The drinks were laid out, the delicious meal served and the atmosphere perfectly created with guitar playing in the background. What luck! However, we all know that these events don't happen by themselves.



Soaking up the sun, Marcelle Bayley

Thanks to the organizers, Shaun Edelstein, Lauren and Karin Gross, president and Vice-President Merle Datnow and Sarah Trocki and their able volunteer members of the board, also Rotisserie Affair and South-African landsman, Kevin Fisher, as well as all those people who made the effort to support this special event. SAJAC is a non-profit organization whose main goal is to assist South Africans in whatever way possible. Kol Hakavod to all those involved. And thank you for a lovely day!



Seniors Helena Frysh, Elsie Roth, Gerald and Lisa Pinn

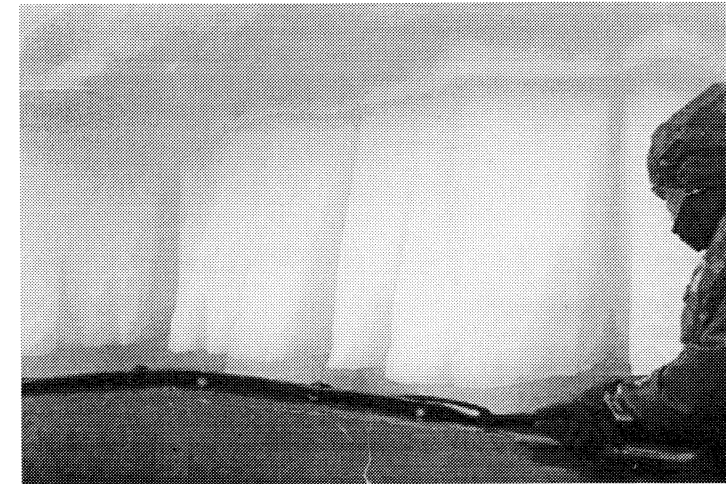


Mervyn and Sandy Kodesh taking care of Marni Gruzd



Karen, Clive and Lauren Gross with Marc Friedman

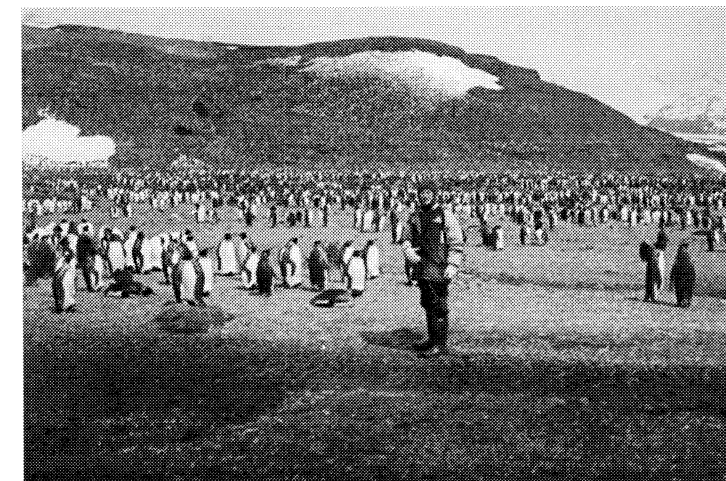
Antarctica (continued from p. 41)



Iceberg

some whales and we spent time looking out for our first penguin. When we spotted one it was really exciting and little did we know how many more thousands we would see on the islands all around us. Every day we got off the ship onto our Zodiacs, spent the mornings on an island, returned to the ship for lunch and then went off again to another island. Each landing offered a short and a long option for those who wanted to be more or less adventurous. I always took the long option, my grandparents did some long and some short ones.

We visited Gytviken on South Georgia Island and visited the first whaling station in Antarctica which today is a ghost town. We visited Ernest Shackleton's grave and remembered his legendary Antarctica exploration. We learnt about Krill there, which is the main food for many of Antarctica's animals. Grytviken is famous too, for its penguins and we saw the Gentoo penguin there. It has a white spot on its chest and a flaming beak so that during mating season it scares off other penguins and animals. We spent many hours walking on the



King Penguins on an island — 80,000 Penguins!

islands amongst groups of penguins, seals and birds, observing their habits and the nature around them.

We saw the Adelie penguin which has a white stomach and chest and are most famous for their penguin walk. They are also the famous slider penguins. Macaronis penguins have a white chest with yellow strands on their head. The Chinstrap has a black chinstrap around its neck and it builds its nest out of rocks. One sees them many times with rocks in their mouths.

The King penguin is the second largest penguin and



King Penguins

is the most beautiful of all. It is over 3 feet tall with a white and gold neck and sides. They breed north of the pack ice. Most live on South Georgia Island and we saw about 80,000 of them. They usually have 2 chicks but often one dies. Many of these penguins were killed in former days together with the whales for their products. Of course this whaling and culling is now prohibited. We



A baby King Penguin



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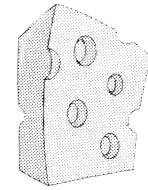
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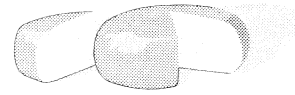


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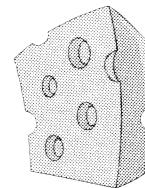
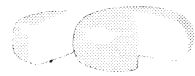
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Antarctica —  
An Experience of a Lifetime

By Daniel Ellman

Hello my name is Daniel Ellman. As a Barmitzvah gift from my grandparents I got to choose to travel to a place that interested me. After much research and discussion, I chose Antarctica. The trip was for 19 days. It was an amazing experience.

I flew alone to Santiago, Chile where I met my grandparents Renee and Ernest Samson and we joined an expedition group called Society Expeditions. We spent the day in Santiago sightseeing and left the next morning for the Falklands Islands. We boarded our ship the World Discoverer and our route took us to the South Georgia Islands, Elephant Islands, King George Islands, Livingston Islands, Petermann Island, through the Lemaire Channel to the Deception Islands and the Drake passage back to the Falklands.



Daniel Ellman

visited was Akedemik Vernadsky which is an Ukrainian research station with 14 researchers. They had last seen visitors 9 months before and happily showed us their projects, and barracks. We left them with fresh fruit and vegetables — that made them very happy.

The international treaty of Antarctica prohibits one from killing, wounding, capturing, or molesting any native animal or bird. All visitors to Antarctica have to have special permits and the laws are very strict. Our ship held 122 passengers and crew and it was our home for the entire time. There is no life at all on Antarctica, except at the research stations - not even a MacDonalds!!

Preparing for the disembarkment every day took quite a while as we had many layers of clothing to put on. Even though it was spring it was still quite cold. We spent many hours on the deck for the first few days, spotting birds. We saw the Wandering Albatross (the largest bird in the world with a wingspan of over 14 feet), Cape petrels and Southern Giant petrels. We also saw



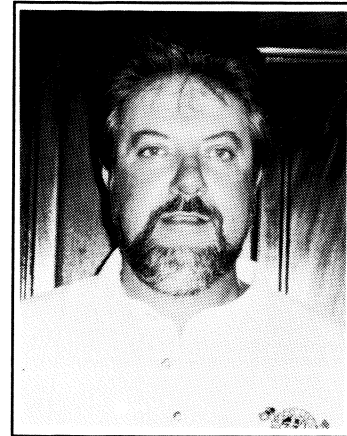
Daniel with his grandparents, Renee and Ernest Sampson

The first two days we went through the Scotia Sea and I did not do so well as I was a bit sea sick. Everyday was programmed and we had on board, experts in many fields like an ecologist, conservationist, ornithologist, naturalist, biologist, geologist, marine mammalogist, glacierlogist, and physiologist. Every day we had lectures in the morning and evenings on these many topics and what we were still going to see or had seen that day. Days were made up of lectures, and at least two on-shore excursions as well as real movies on Antarctica and some leisure time.

We went ashore on Zodiacs which are motorized life rafts and we were well fitted out with down jackets and lifejackets. Antarctica is the coldest place in the world. We visited a few research stations and that was very interesting to learn about the many research projects being done. One of the research stations we



The Wandering Albatross



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## SAJAC SALUTES OUR TENNIS STARS

### First in name, First in game

Reprinted from Union Tribune October 29, 1998

An unusual toy caught the attention of Lindy First as a 7-year-old. A metal pole with a tennis ball attached by a string swung at a furious pace in her hands. Every few swipes she'd make contact with the fuzzy sphere.

Her father noticed Lindy's hand-eye coordination. Tennis would be an obvious fit. Her admiration for family friend Elana Gold was a natural tie-in. Lindy's father presented Lindy with the idea of taking tennis lessons — at the same place Gold started.

"That was a big thing," said First, her eyes lighting up.

Now, First is a big-time player at La Jolla, starring as a junior for the traditional powerhouse. She's ranked 29th in Southern California girls 16s and is expected to be a top seed in next month's CIF singles tournament.

First's game received a shot in the arm this summer when she played in several national tournaments. She traveled to Virginia, Texas, Minnesota and Georgia, played on clay, grass and hard courts.

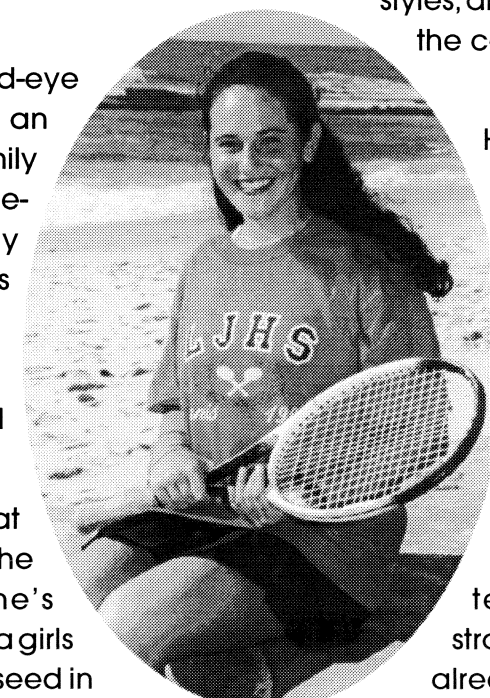
The national exposure helped increase her scholarship opportunities, and facing top-ranked players provided a valuable measuring stick.

"She had some great wins". Said Angela Horacek, her private coach, "And came back much more confident".

Horacek began with First at 7. Horacek's program — Junior Tennis Development — is run

out of La Jolla Country Day school, where she also coaches the high school teams.

Staying with one coach for along period isn't common for an up-and-coming tennis player. Often, players want to sample other coaching styles, and some switch because they blame the coach for their lack of progress.



First, however, had come to treasure Horacek's friendship as much as her teaching skills.

"She's like my mother First said. "We've grown together. We're like a part of each other"

Relationships and the social side of tennis are important to First. Watch her at a La Jolla High match and you can see shy.

When she's not yelling for her teammates, she's passing out strategy tips on an opponent she's already beaten.

"She's very dedicated. She knows what she wants," La Jolla coach Maggie Mulkins said. "But she still cares a lot about the team."

Her efforts have produced wins in all but four sets in Western League play, and she has not been swept by any one player this year. Even so, First claims her tennis is a little down right now, partly because of a heavy class load that includes four honors classes.

First could drop high school tennis to relieve the pressure, but for her that's not an option.

"I wouldn't know what to do with myself," First said. "I'm too social. I have lots of friends, and I like being a part of the team."

TENNIS STARS (continued)

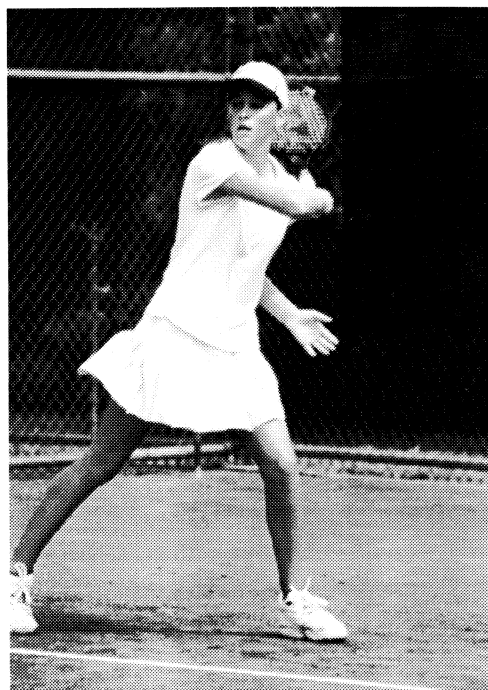
These Perls Are True Gems!  
Lauren and Justine Perl

Lauren and Justine Perl come from a tennis family. They are both following in the footsteps of their uncle Graham Silberman who played professional tennis and represented South Africa at both the Maccabi Games and Orange Bowl. Both Lauren, 14 and Justine, 10 are top tennis players in their respective age divisions in Southern California and the nation.

**Lauren Perl**

Lauren has had a successful year. She is currently ranked in the top ten in Southern California and #1 in San Diego in the girls 14 age division. Lauren qualified for all the United States Tennis Association's (USTA) National Tournaments. She played in the prestigious Easter Bowl Tournament in Palm Springs. Lauren also traveled to Florida to play in the USTA National Clay Court Championships and played in the USTA National Hard Court Championships in Atlanta. In November, she will be playing in the National Indoor Championships in St. Louis. In December Lauren will travel to Arizona for the Fiesta and Copper Bowl Tournaments.

Lauren represented Southern California at the Zonal Team Championships in Florida. Her team won the tournament, beating teams from Florida, Hawaii, the Pacific North West, and the South West Region. Lauren



Lauren Perl

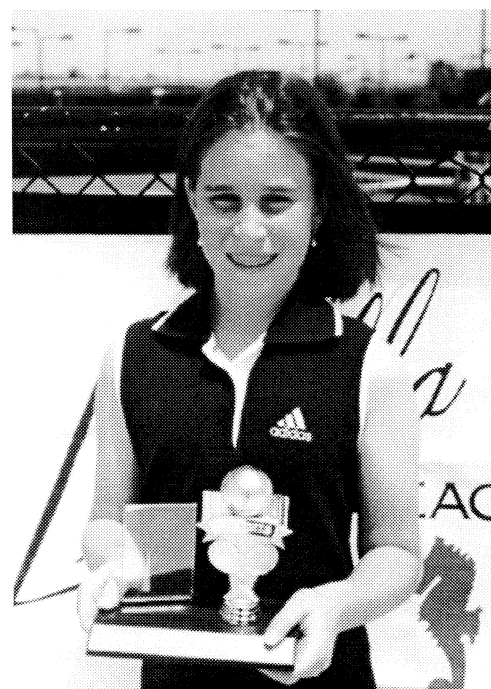
has attended clinics sponsored by the USTA which are by invitation only. The most recent was a Davis Cup format run by USTA coaches Tom Gullikson and Elliot Telcher for Southern California's top boys and girls in the 14 and 16 age divisions.

Lauren is a freshman at Torrey Pines High. She is on the Falcon's varsity team which recently won the CIF Division 1 Championships. Lauren has won numerous tournaments this year including the girls 14 San Diego Harper Ink Junior Tournament.

**Justine Perl**

Justine has rapidly developed into a top junior player. She is currently ranked #5 in Southern California and #1 in San Diego in the girls 10 age division. She recently qualified for the only 10 and under National Tournament by reaching the last 4 in her region consisting of Southern California, Southwest, Pacific Northwest, Northern California, and Hawaii Pacific. The tournament is a culmination of yearlong regional playoffs. Four winners from each of the four regions in the U.S. met in Dallas for the national playoffs. Justine was placed 8 in the nation out of the 16 finalists.

Justine won the San Diego Harper Ink Junior Tournament and The San Diego Metropolitan Tournament earlier this year. In June she was a semi finalist in the Southern California Sectionals Tournament. She has also won other tournaments this year in both singles and doubles including winning the girls age 14 doubles (2 age groups up) in the La Jolla Junior Tournament.



Justine Perl

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## Smoke and Gunshots in Paradise: A Safari to Zambia

By Brian and Merle Datnow

Do you remember Northern Rhodesia? Well, that is now Zambia. After several decades of Independence from Britain and a post-colonial flirtation with socialism, the country has a shattered economy and fragile infrastructure.

Now what has this got to do with a safari?.... Everything! Zambia has or had some of the most incredible game parks in Africa. The pristine environment and the sheer numbers and diversity of species were legendary. South Luangwa, Kafue and the Zambesi parks have attracted wild animal and bird connoisseurs from all over the world. Sadly, wild life conservation is now at a critical period in Zambia. Poverty stricken segments of the rural population are encroaching on the wild animal domain as they compete for precious land and resources. Villagers neighboring the parks are permitted limited access to some parks to share resources (water and fishing rights). Unfortunately, the privilege is being abused. In order to protect themselves from dangerous predators concealed in the long grass as they walk into the parks, they set fires and burn huge tracts of the precious savannah. They are depleting the food supply, changing the ecology and polluting the air.

Poaching is also rampant. In the nineteen eighties, South Luangwa had over eight hundred Rhinos, now there are none. Elephants have been decimated and reduced to small herds. Because it is such a lucrative source of foreign currency, professional hunting is permitted in ecologically delicate areas and to a degree that threatens the survival of some species. The price is the slaughter of such rare and regal animals as lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo, rhone and sable antelope, to mention a few. The large lion pride of South Luangwa dispersed after the dominant male was shot by a hunter.



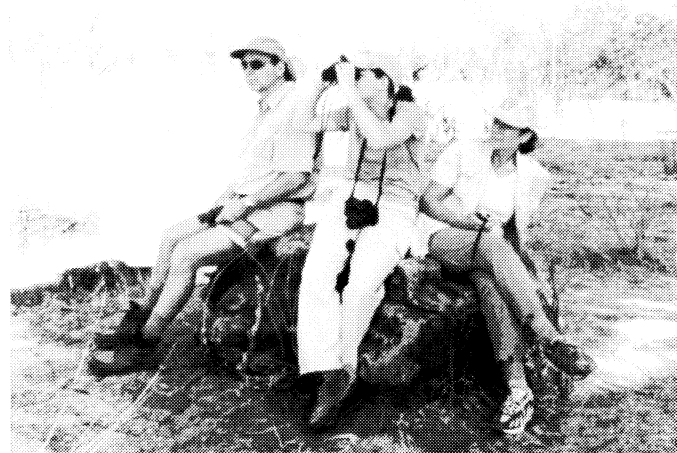
Brian and Merle Datnow

A small number of dedicated conservationists and game rangers are battling the poachers, hunters and indifferent officials. They are saving large areas of some the National Parks. South Luangwa still has the most numerous leopard population in Africa (partly because they no longer have to compete with lions). Kafue has

more than fifteen varieties of antelope. Some areas are still intact and unspoiled or recovering. Day and night drives with incredible guides are magnificent. Walking safaris are a speciality of Zambia and offer a unique perspective on game viewing. Bush camps are beautifully located, comfortable and well run. Some threatened species are making a tentative comeback. The bird life is incredible.

Zambia still has much to offer the wild life enthusiast.

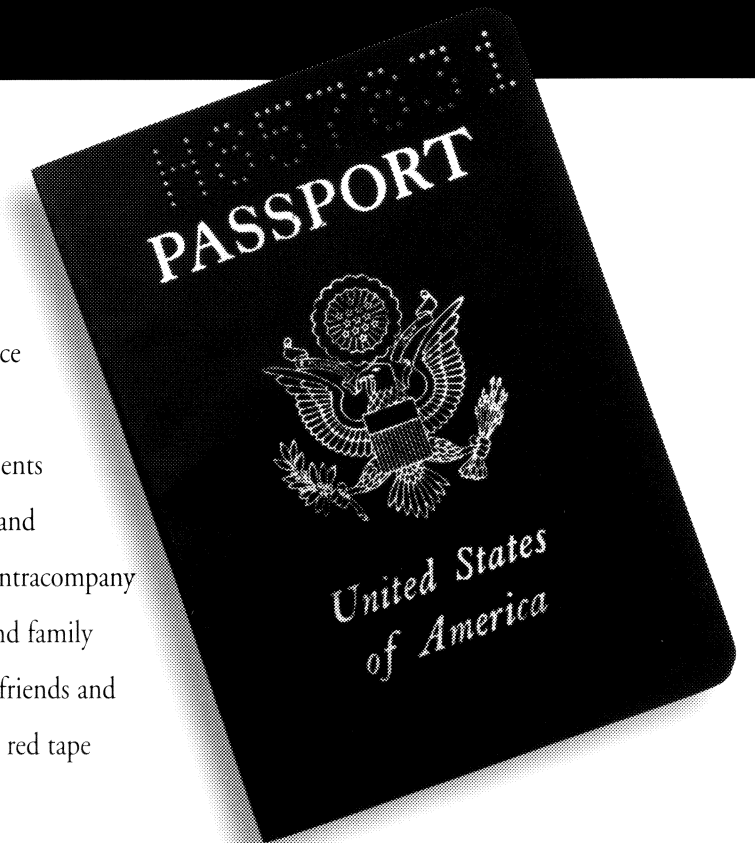
Pristine areas still exist and the safaris are less expensive than in other African countries. The terrain is diverse and in many places, spectacular. A visit should include the Victoria Falls (on the border with Zimbabwe). If we were to rate and compare safaris to other countries, we would allocate Botswana and Tanzania four stars, Kenya three and a half stars, and Zambia three stars.



Looking for game —  
Brian, Jami and Merle Datnow

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Gary Perl is the 1998/99 chair of the San Diego County Bar Association International Law Section; past vice chair of the San Diego Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association; author of numerous published articles on immigration; and lectures on immigration law to lawyers, private organizations, and bar associations including presentations at the International Bar Association conferences in Berlin and New Delhi.

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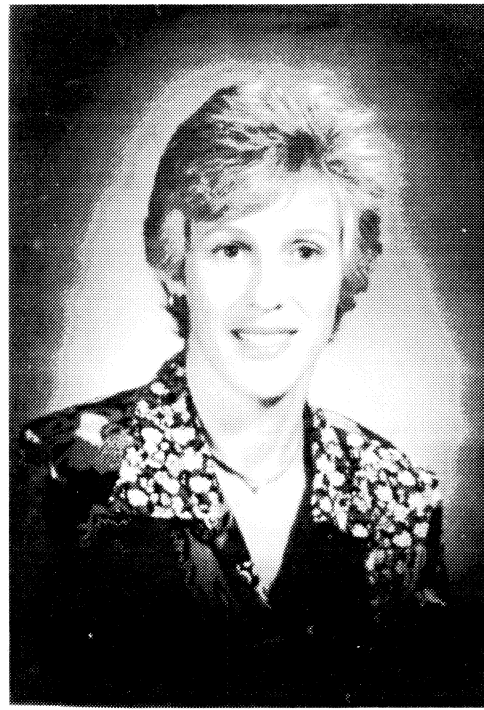
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**Congratulations Claire!**



Claire Ellman was elected to the board of directors of the Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA). The organization is the Jewish Federation system's educational, coordinating, planning and development agency for Jewish education.

Ellman has held many leadership positions in the San Diego Jewish community, and has received the "Pillar of the Community" award. She is a current participant in the Wexner Heritage Foundation program.

Ellman, a past president of the San Diego Jewish Academy, is the immediate past president of the Agency for Jewish Education Women's Division.

Claire is a current board member of Hillel San Diego and is also serving as co-chair of S.D.J.A. High School Committee for the National Academic Advisory Panel. Claire serves on many other Federation Committees too.

A very busy lady indeed — Well done, Claire!

**STRONG SUPPORT FOR JEWISH EDUCATION FROM SAJAC**

The belief that education is the key to Jewish survival and continuity, is an important factor in the lives of many SAJAC members. Strong SAJAC family tradition with emphasis on education and life long learning, has carried over to San Diego. SAJAC is a dedicated proponent of educational opportunities, and has assumed an active leadership position in our community.

The Agency for Jewish Education is the central advocate for quality Jewish education in San Diego County. The SAJAC community has brought forth valuable leadership to join the work of the Agency. Dedication to providing effective Jewish education as a necessity for Jewish life, is a mission that the Agency and many SAJAC members tackle as a team.

The Annual AJE Festival of Learning is an opportunity for the entire Jewish community to come together, study and learn with distinguished guest speakers and scholars February 1 - 14, 1999. A wide variety of classes are held throughout San Diego, in both the AJE Learning Center and various business offices and locations. Julian and Jenny Josephson and Stanley and Mal Smiedt generously underwrite this very popular annual event. In addition, David and Claire Ellman, Dr. Barry and Avra Kassir, and Bertie and Jackie Woolf also sponsor lectures.

The Agency for Jewish Education has been fortunate to have had two Presidents from SAJAC, Past Presidents Avra Kassir, and Claire Ellman. Both are still very actively involved Board members. Avra Kassir is currently Vice-President Board Development, and Claire Ellman is Fund Raising Chair. Other committed Board members are Jane Scher, (Past President Women's Division UJF, and currently Hillel Board President), Yael Aires., Vice-President High School of Jewish Studies, Jean Gaylis, (currently President Women's Division UJF), and Jackie Woolf.

SAJAC's own President Merle Datnow, is an active participant in programs at the Agency, and a valuable supporter. The Agency for Jewish Education is a vibrant part of Jewish life in San Diego, and expresses thanks and gratitude for the hard work, endless hours and effort of leadership that SAJAC members provide. Please call the Agency for Jewish Education, 268-9200 for information about Jewish resources, classes and learning opportunities. Make sure you are on the mailing list for the brochure and schedule for the AJE, Festival of Learning February 1 - 14, 1999.

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## A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

By Renee Frank

It has been just over a year that Warren, our son, had his leg amputated seven inches below his knee. He was involved in an accident nine months before where a dunebuggy crashed into him while he was riding his off road motorcycle. The bones in his left lower leg were shattered. He underwent numerous surgeries and had an external fixator bolted into his shinbone but the bones wouldn't heal. He had a bone graft where they took bone from his hip and put it in his leg but the bone still would not knit together.

After eight months Warren developed a bone infection and had a tube placed through his chest leading to the entrance of his heart. Through this tube he had to give himself an IV twice daily to keep the infection from spreading any further. The antibiotics that were in the IV were dangerously strong and had many nasty side effects, which scared us on quite a few occasions.



*Cycling Away, Warren Frank*

Warren consulted with Doctors in LA that specialized in only that type of bone break and their prognosis was that he needed to have many more surgeries over a two year period, including taking muscles from his stomach and attaching them to his leg. The doctors said that he probably wouldn't have any ankle movement of his foot and that after the 2 years of surgeries they couldn't guarantee that the situation would get any better. They told Warren that his other option would be amputation. Warren consulted with 2 other groups of doctors after that who all told him the same thing. After meeting other amputees, contacting people via the internet and visiting two prosthetic companies, Warren made the decision to have his

lower leg amputated to end his suffering and put an end to all the pain killers and very strong antibiotics.

His attitude during these difficult times was always positive. An example of this was just after the final surgery, we weren't quite sure what to say or how to react. After regaining consciousness a nurse asked him "Mr. Frank how much do you weigh?" and with a straight face he answered "You should have asked me that yesterday, I've never weighed myself so far without

my leg." We all broke out in laughter and the tension was broken. I mentioned to my daughter-in-law Romy, that I thought he was still "high" from the drugs and that in a few days he would realize the impact and seriousness of the situation. This however was not the case — he has never had a down day since.

The amputation was performed on October 13th, 1997 and miraculously, 5 weeks later while we were all on vacation in San Felipe Warren water-skied. He has not let this so called "handicap" affect his lifestyle. He works out regularly in the gym, surfs, jetski's, snowboards and recently entered a triathlon that benefits disabled sport people. Warren road the bike portion of the race completing the 56 mile course in 3 hrs 10 mins.

Warren keeps us amused by making jokes and remarks like "Do you think if I went for a pedicure should I ask for half off" or "I tried to put my foot down but I didn't have a leg to stand on." I sometimes look at him in awe and wonder at his calmness, determination and positive attitude. As a family, we have grown and learnt from this experience and we are truly inspired by Warren.

## SAJAC Golf Tournament

By Dennis Goodman

5:00 AM - Trrrng, Trrrng. "What's going on? I got such a fright" she says waking up startled. "Sorry, my liefling but I have to get up early this morning". You must be crazy, it's Sunday morning. You never get up this early!" "Oh yes I do - once a year for the Annual SAJAC Golf Tournament.

Would you like to come and caddie for me?" "Now I know you've really lost your marbles!" she mutters and goes back to sleep. Talking about caddies - Did you hear what Lee Trevino said? "Caddies are a breed of their own. If you shoot sixty-six they say, "man WE shot sixty-six!" But go and shoot seventy-seven and they say "Hell, HE shot seventy-seven!"

This year we all met up at Eagle Crest which is near the Wild Animal Park. There were a total of 52 golfers or should I say players. Let's face it, it's a tough game. Even Hank Aaron, a famous baseball player and great athlete said: "It took me



*Dennis Goodman*



*Organisers of the Event  
Denise Sneag and Colin Berman*

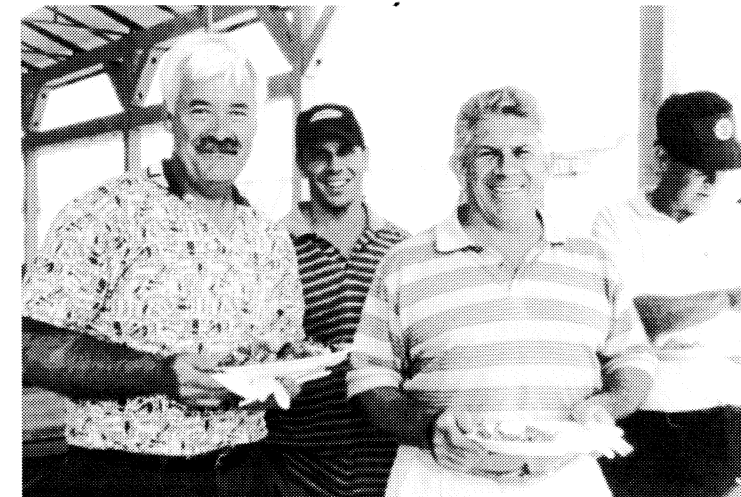
seventeen years to get three thousand hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon on the golf course!"

You can learn so much about a man's character on the golf course. Billy Casper once said: "Golf puts a man's character on the anvil and his richest qualities - patience, poise and restraint - to the flame." Some have argued that it isn't really a sport but I agree with Dick Schaap - "It is a sport, a bloodless sport, if you don't count ulcers!"

It was a glorious day and everyone had a great time. As usual Colin Berman did a



*Only two ladies in the field:  
Jillian Moss and Brenda Lurie*



*Darryl Bestall, Adi and Barry Jacobs and Marty Gluck*

spectacular job organizing the tournament but he could not have done it without the assistance of two wonderful ladies, Sarah Trocki and Denise Sneag, and of course our generous sponsors. Our sincere thanks go to all of them.

Whilst we were enjoying the delicious lunch (lekka braaivleis and salads) cooked to perfection by Kevin Fisher (Rotisserie Affair), I interviewed some of the "players" and here are some of their comments:



Lining up for lunch —  
Allan Katz, Brett Saloner, Colin Bernstein and Bill Cohen

"My swing was so bad I looked like a caveman killing his lunch."

"The vultures from the Wild Animal Park kept following me around."

"This game is tougher than my first wife!"

One accountant said "This is simply a game of numbers. You yell fore, shoot six and write down five."

"I hit the woods three times. Unfortunately, I only found my ball once."

"I was three over after 9 holes: one over a house, one over a patio and one over a parking lot."

But my favorite comment was: "The last time I had this much fun, I was having a root canal!"

Congratulations to our winners. The fact that they all own way too many T Shirts and have a great tan is purely coincidental. For those of you

who consider them "lucky" remember what Gary Player said. "The more I practice, the luckier I get."

I did get lucky by getting an interview with our winner, Les Edelstein. When I asked him the secret to winning the SAJAC Golf Tournament for the fifth time, he was kind enough to share it with me. So I will share it with all of you would be winners: "It's quite simple" he said. "Just shoot a lower score than everybody else!!!!!"

Happy Golfing. Don't forget to stop and smell the flowers on the course.

See you next year.



Sharing a joke —  
Norman Sarkin, David Kinaugh, Selwyn Moss and Joe Sery



Smiling for the camera —  
Sorrel Nemzer, Lou Lewis, Gerald Lieb and Mike Kessel

(continued on p. 26)

## The United State of America

By Gary Sneag

As immigrants to this country, most of us can probably agree that America was somewhat of a dream destination. This is where it all happens. Needless to say, everyone can name many disappointments and bubble bursts but nevertheless we are all here enjoying quite an amazing country.

Born in Johannesburg and growing up in a very protected environment in the northern suburbs public schools, and then doing my stint in the armed forces, I can honestly say that I was never made to feel welcome in my own country by certain forces. I am talking about two particular forces. The first one was that of the government and that includes all the people protecting the apartheid whirlwind. This occurred in the working environment, the military and even the media. The second force was that of the people who form the majority in Africa. Africa is for Africans and the longer I lived there; the more I felt that I was trespassing on their land.

I did not imagine that I would be able to say what I am going to say next with such conviction. I am truly proud to be an American! I recently voted and did so with enormous zeal and pride. My vote in my country of birth was done just merely to try and remove the government.

It is fascinating that so many people of so many different cultures can live together and create what is the most influential and powerful nation in the world. When we were sworn in as citizens, the invited speaker made an interesting comment. He hoped that we

Gary Sneag



would not lose our individuality from the home country and also said that as American citizens, we should aim for one thing—beresponsible. How true.

When I hear born Americans complaining about all kinds of trivial things about this country, I find it very hard to stay silent. "Look at what you have" I say, but it inevitably falls on deaf ears as they cannot possibly know how fortunate they are.

I do not regret for a second, that I was born and grew up for almost 40 years in South Africa. It offered my family and me the opportunity to taste what it is to be in Africa and truly appreciate all the good things that it has to offer. It also gave us the opportunity to grow up in a very strong foundation with the strong morals and standards that South Africans seem to have.

What stimulated this thought process? I have just returned from my second year of "Insights", a forum offered once a year at the Convention Center in San Diego. Although this year was not as exciting and fulfilling as the one in 1997, it was exhilarating and thought provoking.

It truly makes me appreciate the country, the state and the city in which I now live. Next year, make sure that you attend. You will experience a day of insights.

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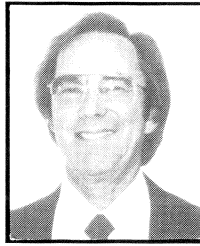
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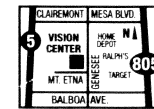
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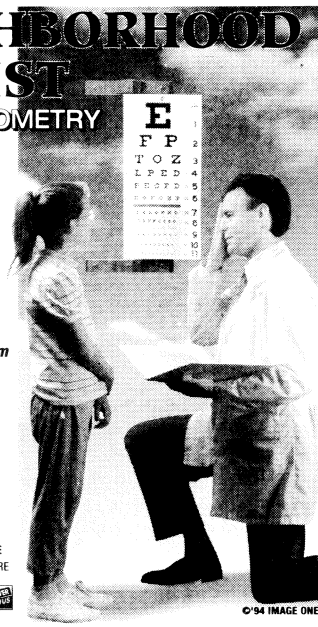
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SAJAC Golf Tournament (continued from p. 25)

**Golf Results**  
This Year's Winners

**A Division**

Lowest Gross Winner: . . . . . Les Edelstein  
 Lowest Nett Winner: . . . . . Lou Lewis  
 Lowest Nett Runner Up: . . . Gordon Koz

**B Division**

Lowest Gross Winner: . . Sheldon Cohen  
 Lowest Nett Winner: . . . . . Jill Moss  
 Lowest Nett Runner Up: . Fane Robinson

Team Lowest Net: Dale Gross,  
 Allan Legator,  
 Fane Robinson,  
 Milton Solomon

**A Division**

Closest to the Pin Laurence Meyerowitz  
 Longest Drive Neil Rabinowitz  
 Laurence Meyerowitz

**B Division**

Closest to the Pin Brett Saloner  
 Barry Lotz  
 Longest Drive Len Brenner  
 Derek Davis



Relaxing after the game.  
 (L to R) Barry Broomberg, Tony Rindsberg,  
 David Aires and Julian Frank



B Division Winner: Sheldon Cohen



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 Allan Legator, Dale Gross,  
 Fane Robinson and  
 Milton Solomon

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Seventy-six percent of the elementary school students and 46% of the high school children questioned do not know what a "concentration camp" is, 92% of the elementary schoolers and 66% of the high schoolers do not know what "Nazi" means, while 50% of the first group and 30% of the second group do not know who Hitler was.

### WEB EDUCATION

Sweden's government has opened an Internet site to educate teens about the Holocaust and to counter-balance young neo-Nazis who make wide use of the Internet to disseminate hatred.

The site, called "Living History," is part of a wide-ranging program begun by Prime Minister Goeran Persson after a Stockholm University study showed that nearly one third of the country's 12 - 18 year-olds are unconvinced that the Holocaust took place.

There is a dictum: "If you do not learn from history you are condemned to relive it."

Beware the future!

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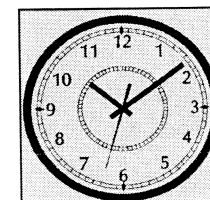
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## Kristallnacht: The Night of Broken Glass A Disturbing Revelation

By Gerald Kane

November 9 saw the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night in 1938 when the Nazis smashed the windows of 7,000 Jewish shops and homes across Germany, burnt down hundreds of synagogues and arrested 20,000 Jews.

This is an account of its 50th anniversary commemoration at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles. November 9th 1988.

It was on the night of 9th November 1938 in Berlin, Germany that the shattering of plate glass windows of Jewish owned businesses, accompanied by looting and burning on the Friederichstrasse, irrevocably endorsed the stamp of anti-Semitism which presaged the holocaust.

Whilst on a university sabbatical in Los Angeles my wife Sylvia and I attended the 50th commemoration of Kristallnacht at the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

The keynote speaker C. Brooks Peters, the then 1938 New York Times correspondent in Berlin was to give an account of the events he was to witness having been "tipped-off" by an informed acquaintance. Indeed, it was he (Mr. Peters) who was the first correspondent to notify the world of the night's events.

After introduction to the large audience, Mr. C. Brooks Peters, now 78 years old, erect in bearing and of clear voice began his narrative.

"Before I describe to you my personal experience of Kristallnacht 50 years ago, I will preface my address with an experience I had today on the flight from New York."

After a short pause he continued.

"On the airplane I sat next to a young lady whose age I estimated to be 24 years. We started a conversation when I asked her the purpose of her flight to Los Angeles. She told me that she was to transplane there to a flight destined for Sydney, Australia. She was to visit a friend whom she had last seen at their high school graduation five years previously."

"My estimate of her age was correct."

Gerald Kane



"She then asked me the purpose of my visit to the Pacific Coast."

"I told her that I was to be the main speaker, that night, at the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht" and continued.

"You are much too young to be aware of the tragic events of that night in Berlin. It was the night that Hitler ordered his thugs to destroy Jewish owned stores, to shatter windows, to burn books and to loot."

She seemed non-slugged and looked at me amazed.

"Please tell me, who was Hitler?"

The large audience was stunned.

The impact on me was that I could not remember a single word of the speech that followed.

A 24-year-old high school graduate inquiring "who was Hitler?"

Is she a *rara avis*?

Is she a representative of a not insignificant group of young adults whose focus is contemporary and narcissistic?

With the passage of time I have come to believe that the young lady herself was not an endangered species. There are many young adults of the same mold. Never having read a book that had reference to the holocaust. Never having seen a movie with an historic theme. Never having spoken to family who are war veterans. What has caused them to walk around wearing blinkers and blinders?

The following extracts are from the January 1998 and February 1998 publications of World Jewish Congress and Dateline

### POLL

According to a poll conducted among French schoolchildren by the children's daily *Mon Quotidien*, most elementary school students and many high school students do not know World War II history well.

## Musings while driving up the Interstate 5

By Marlene Hyde

So there I was driving up the I-5 towards Del Mar on an afternoon last week.

On my left the ocean sparkled in the distance - on my right a few hot air balloons meandered lethargically across the sky. Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony played quietly on the car radio - a fitting choice. All felt right with the world as I drove peacefully up the highway, cocooned in my car. I felt a sense of joy as I floated along in my encapsulated world. It reminded me of those timeless minutes when a plane starts its descent before landing - everything seems suspended - almost in slow motion - clouds drift by, sounds appear different, the plane balances between the aerial world and the ground.

The music on the car radio changed to Saint-Saens' piano concerto - played by Philip Entremont. This piece always evokes images of Paris for me. This usually leads to thoughts about Pei's well-known 'pyramid' at the Louvre - his seemingly out-of-place modern glass building

Marlene Hyde



against the traditional museum buildings. I enter into a debate with myself - arguing back and forth as I try to evaluate my views about his approach to this project. It is almost a philosophical discussion as I continue to tease the subject repeatedly. My internal discussion toys around with the following views: if Pei had further emulated the surrounding buildings of the Louvre his design would have been non-significant (and he would have been the wrong architect for the job anyway!). On the other hand, his work has almost eclipsed the other buildings and in that sense the integrity of the whole has been dislocated - the original buildings have almost become a foil for his pyramid. I happen to like his work a great deal and find both the external and the internal structure very interesting - wonderful angles and play of light. His work has assumed a stature that almost supercedes the Louvre buildings - quite an achievement in itself, if looked at in that way! However,

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*Musings (continued)*

from an ethical point of view — if one could use that vantage point! — I wonder whether his work has detracted from the whole Louvre complex rather than enhancing it.

I realize that my involvement with this subject is a metaphor for something else: it is an attempt to find a balance between the freedom of the individual where this may not be consistent with the well-being of the group - just as Pei's pyramid may not be in the interests of the Louvre complex as a whole. This question of the balance between the individual's role and the group's interests may be viewed from many perspectives — ranging from a world view right down to cellular biology. The family provides another perspective for examining this issue. The behavior of one individual within a family can disturb the whole quality of life for that family — in the same way that Pei may have disturbed the "peace" of the Louvre buildings by the intrusion of his pyramid. All family attention rivets on the member who is disrupting the peace as they all struggle to deal with the situation. Disruptions in the family may arise in many ways - such as from depression, aggression, incompatibility. The behavior of the individual — for whatever reason — is not consistent with family harmony. Interestingly, "things aren't always what they seem"! Sounds trite — but carries wisdom! The so-called 'disruptive' family member may be highlighting aspects that are unhealthy for everyone in the family. Unwittingly, that individual may provide a catalyst for the family to look at itself - to find new ways of being together, to move forward meaningfully. In that sense, the family owes a real "debt of gratitude" to its 'disruptive' member for signaling the need for some change. In the same way, when I tap into the excitement and controversy that Pei's pyramid has engendered, I realize that 'imbalance' is not only provocative — it is also stimulating and growth-producing. Architectural discourse has surrounded his work — my involvement with it has been both aesthetic and philosophical. I am interested both in the architecture of the pyramid as well as in using it as a metaphor — evaluating the balance of individual freedom within its social context.

These are interesting musings for a ride up the freeway in the sunshine! That is the beauty of the mind — it is not constricted by surroundings and can wander anywhere! My mind can hip-hop from topic to topic, play with ideas for the sheer fun of it and enjoy examining concepts endlessly! I also realize that I will continue to puzzle these questions as there are as many answers as there are questions — which is also a source of delight to me!

Saint-Saens draws to a close on the car radio and I am now confronted with Chick Corea of jazz fame conducting classical cellist Yoyo Ma! Who says that apparent discord between individuals — apparent incongruity between parts - can't be melded into a whole that is truly exquisite?

Marlene Hyde is a  
Marriage, Family and Child Counselor  
Lic.# MFC 34921

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