

# The JEWISH VOICE

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## SENATOR BIDEN SPEAKS AT AKSE ON MAY 30TH

...Community to Rally Support for Israel during the Jewish Federation of Delaware's 68th Annual Meeting

By Lynn B. Edelman,  
 Editor

Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman of the powerhouse Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will be the keynote speaker at the Israel Solidarity Rally sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Delaware. The Thursday, May 30 event at Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth will mobilize community support for Israel during this critical time and will make the 68th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Delaware a particularly auspicious occasion.

The program begins promptly at 7:15 p.m. and will include the

installation of Federation officers and new board members. A special tribute is planned for John A. Elzufon who is ending his two-year term as JFD President. He will pass the gavel to his successor, Incoming President Barry Kayne.

Senator Biden is the Democratic Party's chief spokesman on national security and foreign policy issues. A staunch advocate of Israel, he was recently honored by the Jewish National Fund with its Tree of Life Award for his steadfast and vocal support. During the tribute dinner, Senator Biden spoke about the turbulence in the Mid-East and admonished attendees to "continue to believe that there is hope." He

expressed his personal belief that "Israel will remain an independent locale, with borders that it determines, and no one, no one, will be able to destroy its nationhood."

The senator has publicly called for the Bush administration to become "more personally involved" in the conflict in an effort to stop the bloodshed and has praised Israel's "tremendous restraint in the face of repeated suicide bombings." After the terrorist incident during the first night of Passover when 19 people were killed and 172 injured while enjoying seder dinner at a crowded Netanya hotel, Senator Biden stated his outrage and called for a quick response by Palestinian leadership.

"The time for responsible Palestinian action is quickly running out, and unless Yasir Arafat takes clear, unequivocal steps to put an end to terrorism, he will lead his people to disaster," he commented in a news release issued on March 27th.

This important Israel Solidarity Rally and JFD Annual Meeting is free and open to the entire community. Participants will have an opportunity to contribute to the Israel Emergency Fund. Demonstrate your commitment to Israel's safety and security-NOW AND FOREVER! Tell your friends and family to support this major show of solidarity with Eretz Yisroel!

For additional information about

the May 30th program, please call Amalia Snyderman, Campaign associate, at 302-427-2100, ext. 30.



Delaware Senator Joseph Biden

## SEASIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY DEDICATES REHOBOTH HOME

Story by Joel F. Glazier

Six years after responding to an advertisement inquiring about a possible Pesach Seder for "coastal Delaware" Jews, members of the newly organized Seaside Jewish Community held a dedication ceremony at their new home at the Ocean Wave Lodge Building on Holland Glade Road in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The April 27 ceremony was attended by 75 people, including statewide elected officials and area leaders. "I read about this dedication and was so glad to learn about a Jewish Community here. I have felt such a need for a connection, I am going to join," commented counselor Carol Randolph, who spends many weekends in Bethany Beach and also resides in Bethesda, Maryland.

Many in the Seaside Jewish Community, like Ms. Randolph, are former and current metro Washington, DC and Baltimore residents. Regular members have attended Seaside activities and services from their Delaware homes in towns like Lewes, Rehoboth, Dewey, and Bethany Beach. "It is so important to have a sense of community and the ability to learn from one another," shared Fay and Irwin Gold of Laurel, Maryland and Rehoboth. "This dedication event is wonderful, as are the people attending."

Father Max of All Saints Church on Olive Avenue in Rehoboth attended the festive dedication ceremony. His Episcopal Church responded to Seaside President Lynne Chichi's appeal of "We need a place to pray!", by letting the new group use the church on Saturday

mornings and for special holiday services for several years. Due to limited parking in the area in summers, Seaside could not hold services during the busy tourist time at the church, but met in members' homes. When the crowds became too large, they learned of the Rehoboth chapter of the I.O.O.F.'s (Odd Fellows) decreased use of their own lodge building. The building now is available to Seaside all year. "Not only is there sufficient parking, but there is a main meeting room and a full lower level for services, events, and a kitchen," according to Chichi, Board President of Seaside.

### State Wide Leaders Praise The Jewish Community

"A new Jewish house of worship honors our past and our future," proclaimed Delaware State Treasurer and Jewish Federation Board Member, Jack Markel. "We have a proud tradition of *z'chut avot*, living off the merits of our ancestors," he told the assembled crowd. "Imagine the life cycle events which will take place in this building," he added and shared an old belief that "one is strong and not afraid because one is not alone" and that no longer will the growing Jewish population in the Delaware Beach area feel alone.

Delaware Attorney General, Jane Brady, spoke about the "envy and respect" she feels toward Jewish roots and Jewish history. "I know this is a hard time for Jewish people in the world but a positive time for Seaside." A representative from Senator Biden's Sussex Office read a congratulatory letter from the Senator and also commented "it was an honor to attend such an event." The superintendent of Cape

Henlopen School district attended and added his words of "welcome to Sussex County."

Governor Ruth Ann Minner, and Lt. Governor John Carney sent their regrets that out of state commitments kept them away but a Tribute Honoring The Seaside Jewish Community of Delaware was presented. After the last speech was given, Seaside President Chichi and Vice President Cheryl Fruchtman led a hearty "L'Chaim" and champagne and hors d'oeuvres, prepared by Celsius Restaurant in Rehoboth, were served in huge quantities.

### Summer Services Planned

In their new home, which is off Route 1, Seaside plans to hold Shabbat services on the third Saturday of each month. "We welcome the tourists and visitors," said Cynthia Silverblatt. Many Seaside members are seasonal but a growing number are year round permanent residents of the Delaware Beach area. "Because of the many young families moving here, we will begin a parallel service for children at the same time as our 10:00 AM Shabbat Services," according to Allison Colker, who will also act as children's educator. "We will have a family service in June, and may form religious school classes on Saturday as demand warrants." Ms. Colker is a religious school teacher from Maryland.

Many Delaware natives may remember Rehoboth as a place known for property "restrictions" and for restricting Black citizens' beach use to only one day a week. According to Dr. Vivian Klaff, Professor of Sociology and Director of the University of Delaware Center for Jewish Studies, Rehoboth now

could be considered a "take off point" community. "Not only is there a Jewish presence, but the general population of the beach area is taking off. It is no longer considered back-woods."

Dr. Klaff, who was part of the team conducting the 2000 National Jewish Population Study explained, "While there is a national trend of younger Jews leaving smaller communities, Rehoboth's new Jewish community is more of a random occurrence due to the condition of being a center of a leisure industry and a popular place for retiring professionals." He added, "Delaware's beach area is now considered a place to live instead of Florida, apparently, for a number of aging professionals from the Wash./Baltimore area."

The same day Seaside held its dedication, the NY TIMES reported about the final services of a congregation that had been meeting for over 100 years in Wharton,

Texas. It was reported that, as part of a national pattern, many members have died off or have moved to larger urban areas. The old Texas Shearith Israel Synagogue as recently as the 1970's counted 400 members and 100 students in its religious school. The Jewish population in Wharton, coincidentally, held its first services in a Masonic Lodge. The Seaside Jewish Community of Delaware now welcomes all to its newly established home in an Odd Fellows lodge. The rabbi of the now disbanded Texas shul, commented, "Wherever we are, wherever we go, ...we worship. As remnants of Israel we must build a mighty future." The members of Seaside seem to have taken up that idea that very same day, when they dedicated "their warm humble building" as a place of worship for the future.

(Information about the Seaside Jewish Community is available by calling (302) 644-2209.)

### Arad/Tamar Delegation Comes to Wilmington



Betzalel Tabib, mayor of the Israeli city of Arad, spent time in Wilmington recently as part of a delegation from Arad/Tamar-Israeli communities which are paired with Jewish communities in Delaware and New Jersey through a collaborative program known as Partnership 2000. Mayor Tabib received the key to the city from Wilmington Mayor James Baker during his visit, which was designed to give Delaware Jews insight into the devastating effects of the Intifada.

(Please turn to Page 4 for additional photos and coverage of the Arad/Tamar delegation)

## INSIDE THE VOICE

Book Excerpt .....	11	Confirmations .....	12	Graduations .....	13
Calendar of Events .....	15	Editorial .....	3	Jewish Lifestyles .....	11
Community Spotlight .....	6	Federation Focus .....	4	Milestones .....	14