

▲ Conference

from Page 1

Records: Volume, Structure and Limitations.”

• Aliza Green, an award-winning Philadelphia-based chef, who will lead a workshop on “Tasting World Jewish Cuisines: Turkish, Syrian and Ashkenazi-Italkeni Recipes” and a speech on “Sweet & Sour: How Jewish Traders Changed the Way the World Eats.”

• Laurence Harris, Chairman of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, who will lead three programs, including “UK Records 1881-1918.”

• Susan Koelble, a professional researcher, author and lecturer from Philadelphia, who will lead a beginner track session about “Getting the Most out of Your Philadelphia Research.”

Distinguished French priest, author and humanitarian Father Patrick Desbois will present the opening session keynote address, “The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest’s Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 Million Jews.” Father Desbois is the president of YAHAD-IN-UNUM (www.yahadinunum.org), whose mission is to increase knowledge and

cooperation between Catholics and Jews.

The Conference offers a variety of tracks based on such interests as Holocaust, Genetics, Russian Empire, Beginners, Internet, US Resources and several others.

In addition to the sessions, the conference will offer a film festival, sightseeing tours, visits to historic Jewish cemeteries, Birds-of-a-Feather meetings for participants to network with others who have similar interests, “Breakfasts with Experts” and a banquet featuring entertainment by Yisrael Campbell, one of Israel’s premier stand-up comics. An exhibitor room and a resource room will also be available throughout the event.

According to conference co-chair David Mink, “This is a wonderful conference for anyone who’s interested in finding out more about their roots, whether they’re just getting started or are an experienced genealogist. It’s also a great way to meet others with similar interests and share information

Participants can register for the full Conference or select days. Details are available at www.philly2009.org. The site is updated periodically with program information.

DECLARATION AIMS TO EASE HOLOCAUST PROPERTY RESTITUTION

PRAGUE (JTA) — Forty-six countries ratified a document aimed at easing the restitution process for Jewish property taken during the Holocaust.

The Terezin Declaration, a nonbinding set of guiding principles aimed at faster, more open and transparent restitution of art, private and communal

property taken by force or under duress during the Holocaust, was approved Monday at the Prague Holocaust Era Assets Conference.

It was set to be signed this week at the four-day gathering organized by the Czech Republic under the auspices of the rotating European Union Presidency, which the Central

European country now holds.

The document, whose signatories will include the 27 countries of the European Union, Canada, Israel and the United States, also calls for greater commitment to the care of Holocaust survivors, Holocaust education and Jewish cemetery preservation.

▲ Maccabi

from Page 1

Mays Landing, and I wrestled there for a few years. Then it was Mullica Township for pre-high school wrestling, and high school at Absagami High School.

“I just never tired of wrestling. I think the thing that kept me fresh was that most wrestlers wrestler year round. I would also do baseball in summer and football in the fall. I never tired of it. And from the start I was winning a lot more than I was losing. I seemed to have caught on quickly, and I was strong at a young age.”

His talent has earned him numerous awards and team captain status. In college he was a three-time NCAA Division 1 qualifier. Of his numerous accomplishments there is one that has special meaning.

“Before high school they have an Eastern National Tournament. I had done it before but never came in first. I took third and a fifth, but never won it. Then, when I was 11, it was my goal to win the entire thing. I worked really hard and got first place.”

And what made the win extra special was that the competition was held at Cornell.

Zach, who is six feet tall and weighs 240 pounds, credits much of his success – along with the help and dedication of his parents – to “excellent coaching in high school and college.” He was recruited by Penn State, Virginia and Cornell, and said that his heart was always

definitely set on Cornell.

“You can’t go wrong going to Cornell when you think of its academic side and its wrestling program. You’ve got the best of both worlds.”

In his freshman year at Cornell he remembers competing against two seniors for a varsity spot in the heavyweight class.

“The way they do it there is we host our own tournament. Coach puts every body in their weight class and you wrestle. Whoever does best becomes the starter. I beat a senior and won a varsity spot.”

That was the good news.

“The next week, in practice, I blew out just about every ligament in my knee. I needed major reconstruction surgery and was in a wheelchair for about a month after surgery. I rehabbed for almost nine months. I got surgery in January, was on mat again in October. Within a few weeks I needed another surgery on the same knee, but it was not as serious.

“There were frustrating times. Very frustrating times. Once I was injured for a whole season,” Zach said. “Wrestling has a lot of pain and a lot of frustration. But I wanted to make it work. I never quit anything in my life.”

When close to 50,000 people attend the opening ceremony for the Games at Tel Aviv’s Ramat Gan Stadium on July 13, along with Zachary Hammond will be Team USA youth basketball head coach Scott Greenman of Linwood, and Mina Shakarshy, 16, of Margate, playing for Team USA’s junior squash team.

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