

Playing This Thanksgiving Holiday!

Wed. NOV. 21 ★ 7:30 PM
OPENING NIGHT – TICKETS \$10!
 (Excludes Reefside and VIP seats. No double discounts.)

Offer courtesy of **94.9-KLTY**

Appearing:

NOV.
21 – 25

reunion arena

For full show schedule and to buy tickets, go to www.disneyonice.com,
 ticketmaster Retail Locations including Fiesta and Macy's,
 Reunion Arena Box Office or call
 (214) 373-8000 Dallas (972) 647-5700 Metro

Groups (214) 665-4269



**Send us
 your simchas!**

simchas@texasjewishpost.com

OIL in Israel?

Dallas firm to drill
 beyond obstacles

By Steve Israel

For Golda Meir, Israel's perennial search for oil produced at least a barrel of bittersweet laughter.

For John Brown, founder and chairman of Dallas-based Zion Oil & Gas, Inc., the quest for *shemen* has become a biblical imperative that must go forward, despite challenges Zion Oil has faced in drilling its first wildcat well on Kibbutz Ma'anit, east of Caesarea, Israel.

Over the summer, Zion's exploratory \$7.5-million effort, underway since 2005, was cut short (at a depth of 15,842 feet) by technical drilling problems related to underground water.

But the company's petroleum scientists said they extracted valuable geologic data — and evidence of oil and gas hydrocarbon deposits. That information will guide their next attempt, a well expected to be drilled nearby and penetrating more than three miles (over 18,000 feet) beneath the surface.

"Rest assured that we're determined to succeed," Brown consoled shareholders over the summer. "We're men of faith, men of substance, and God has provided everything that Zion has needed so far, and I fully expect that to happen until we physically see the oil flowing. Now you can get into speculation as to how much. I'm expecting a lot," said Brown, who professes love for Israel and Jews as a Christian Zionist.

For Richard Rinberg — an Orthodox Jew and former venture capitalist who is Zion Oil's chief executive officer — the project is a justified investment that has the potential to reduce Israel's need to import all its oil. Rinberg made aliyah from England in 1996.

"There are no field operations at present," Rinberg acknowledged in a telephone interview, "but we're analyzing data, planning new geophysical research and have started ordering and receiving pipe [for drilling] from abroad." When you drill in an area without proven oil and gas reserves, "you aren't surprised if the first well is not successful. But in the act of drilling, you are learning a huge amount of information and you build a 3-D

picture of what's there," he said. "Exploration is high risk — not an area for widows and orphans, if you will. If you get it right, you can be awash in money."

Productive gas wells have been dug offshore from Israel for years, but the 472 on- or near-shore wells that have reportedly been drilled since 1950 (including the West Bank and Gaza) have yielded only modest returns. However, most prior drilling was to shallower depths and in other parts of Israel than the fields chosen by Zion Oil.

Brown cites many biblical references to oil, though some Bible scholars doubt the citations may be to olive oil. The passage that helped direct Brown to the current drilling site was Deuteronomy 33:24: "Be Asher blessed above his sons; let him be acceptable to his

"Let me tell you something that we Israelis have against Moses. He took us 40 years through the desert in order to bring us to the one spot in the Middle East that has no oil!"

— Former Prime Minister Golda Meir

brethren and let him dip his foot in oil."

Brown noticed, on a map of the tribes of Israel, that Asher's land looked like a foot, a clue, he said, to where oil could be found. Based on technical factors, geologists also liked the location.

While securities laws restrict detailed comments about corporate plans and timetables, Rinberg said "it's in everyone's interest to get the next well done." Zion was

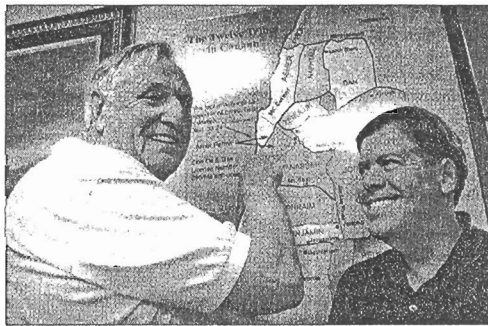


Photo: Steve Israel

Zion Oil & Gas Founder and Chairman John Brown points out the firm's first oil rig location to Don Weitz, Zion's PR/marketing consultant.

funded initially by over \$1 million of Brown's contribution and investments by others. Now the business operates with some of the \$12.6 million it raised in offerings on the American Stock Exchange earlier this year.

Last month, Israeli authorities licensed Zion to continue its drilling operations. Regulations stipulate that 12.5 percent of royalties will go to Israel. From the start, Brown has committed to allocate 6 percent of net revenue to two charitable trusts, one in Israel and the other in the United States, and will donate to charitable causes any of his own shareholder profits.

"For John that would be the crowning glory of everything we've done," said Rinberg. "This is not a desperate rush for personal gain. We are set up to help the state of Israel."

Rinberg recognizes that many Jews may be skeptical about the backing of Brown and other Zion Oil shareholders. But Rinberg attributes their support of Israel, Jews and Zion Oil to positive admissions in the Book of Genesis.

"Nobody has tried to change my belief," Rinberg said. "To my mind, the Jewish community is a little behind the curve."

Says Alan Greenspan, chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas: "It's been debated in a variety of contexts nationally. Reasonable people disagree on what the Jewish community's response [to evangelical support] should be. Our local JCRC feeling is that we are an advocate for positions that enjoy support of the consensus of the community, and given that there's not a consensus in the Greater Dallas community, we have not taken a position either for or against. Some feel very strongly that we should be

partnering with them, some not. That's the approach until we can achieve some sort of consensus."

As it plans more wells, Zion may need to raise additional working capital or possibly go to an industry partner and sell off a portion of the next well, Rinberg said.

Zion is considering re-entering the first well and then "sidetrack-

ing" and drilling directionally. "The purpose of such a well would be to appraise the apparent findings of the Ma'anit #1 [the first well] in the Triassic [geologic layer] and to test the deeper Permian horizons," Rinberg said. "The bottom hole location for the second well on the Ma'anit structure may then be chosen in an attempt to maximize the chance of being in localized fracturing in the Permian section. This would be important for successful completion of the well at such an extreme depth."

Some 50 of the firm's 4,000 shareholders (including a majority of evangelical Christians and a lesser number of Jews) attending the summer meeting in Dallas heard a sober assessment from veteran oilman Glen Perry, Zion's president and chief operating officer and the man who runs day-to-day field operations from Caesarea, Israel.

Perry reiterated that "numerous indications of hydrocarbons" were found at depths of 11,000 to 15,000 feet in the first well, add-

ing that Zion has "no competition in exploration" onshore in Israel. "I'm really enthusiastic about the prospects for the future."

Eventual results could range "from beyond your wildest dreams to the biggest disappointment," said Perry, a former evangelical Christian who converted to Judaism.

Perry was doing consulting work for Israel's Delek energy conglomerate when Brown recruited him in his search for oil.

Brown — formerly a well-paid executive in a Michigan tool-making company — had overcome personal challenges and became a born-again Christian in 1981. Two years later, inspired by his own biblical reading and influenced by mentors, Brown said, he traveled to Israel and accepted a God-given mission to spur the search for oil and gas, leading to Zion Oil's baseph

Project.

Brown's staff of 15 is supported by PR/marketing consultant Don Weitz, an active member of the Dallas Jewish community. Five of Zion Oil's 11 board members are Jewish.

Over the last few years, Brown has been a frequent shuttler between Texas and the shadow of Zion's oil first derrick, amid the lemon groves on Israel's coastal plain.

Back in his Dallas office last week, Brown concluded, "It's tough for a faith guy like me not to have great expectations of what I believe HaShem is going to do for the nation of Israel and for us — Jews and Christians working together to fulfill Genesis 12:1-3 where it says, 'I will bless those who bless Israel.'"

For more information on projects and activities of Zion Oil & Gas, Inc., visit www.zionoil.com.

Dallas Hebrew Free Loan Association
invites you to a "Celebration" honoring our

Fourteen founding athers

Featuring Dr. Carey Israel,
President of the Collin County Community College

Entertainment by:
The Les Elgart Orchestra
Under the direction of Russ Dorscy

Sunday, October 21, 2007
7:00 PM
Congregation Shearith Israel
9401 Douglas Ave., Dallas, Texas 75225

\$75 per person includes includes glatt kosher dinner



**DALLAS HEBREW
FREE LOAN
ASSOCIATION**
"A Hand-up Not A Handout"

For more information or to make your reservation:
214-696-8008

Sixth Annual
Senior Expo

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 16, 2007
8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
7900 Northaven Road
Dallas, TX 75230

ACCENT ON LIVING WELL!

Check out the Sixth Annual JCC Senior Expo!
Exhibit Booths, Giveaways, Entertainment and
FREE Seminars. The Expo is open to the community
and admission is free — all ages are welcome.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Presentation by Alex Burton,
Radio Personality and Journalist

10:00 a.m. **The Veterans Administration Benefits**
You May Be Missing!
Presentation by Kris McGlathery,
Social Worker with the VA Hospital of Dallas

11:00 a.m. **Living Well in the 21st Century!**
Presentation by Robyn Horn,
Public Speaker and Former Nursing Home and
Assisted Living Administrator

12 noon Entertainment by **Las Vegas Entertainer**
Richard Barry — Perfectly Frank — The
Songs of Frank Sinatra!

1:00 p.m. **The Importance of Cell Phones and How To**
Use Them! — Adam Szlamkowitz of Wireless Toyz
will discuss the importance of cell phones and how
to operate them.

For your convenience, box lunches may be ordered and purchased in advance for \$5 each.
Reserve yours by contacting Anna Angarone at 214-339-7119 or angarone@jccdallas.org.
Orders and non-refundable payment are due by Monday, October 8.

We are grateful to our Sponsors

Official Media Sponsors: *The Senior News Source, The Texas Jewish Post, Senior News and The Senior Voice*
Supporters: *Team Kugelheim, Friends, Family, Selling, Soukris, HealthNet Medicare Programs*
Ruby Weinman Eye Center, Professional Call Makers, Southwest Medical
Admission is free. Thank you to our Booth Sponsors.

For more information, please contact Anna Angarone at 214-339-7119 or angarone@jccdallas.org