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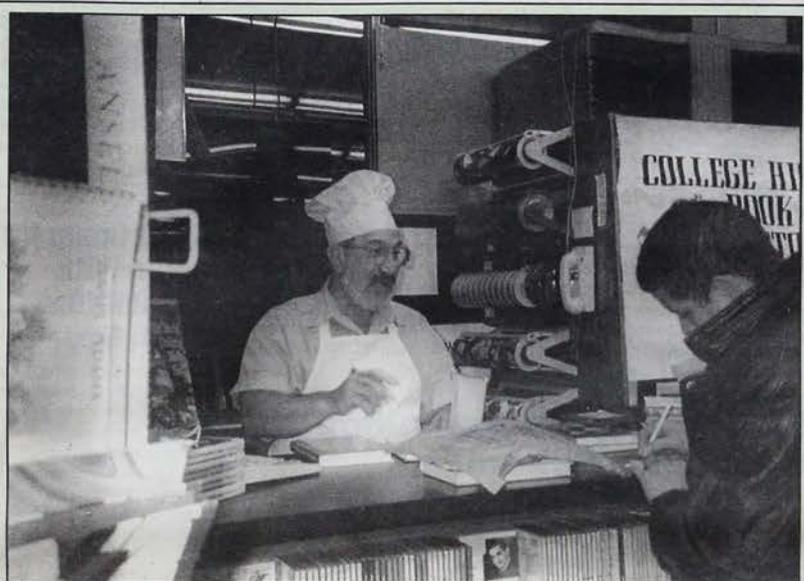
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The Only English-Jewish Weekly in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts

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## My Compliments to the Chef

Chad Luby, on the right, writes down his address for Mr. Food (Art Ginsburg) while Mr. Food starts to sign a pile of his own books Luby's bought for his friends and family members. Luby is a senior at Johnson and Wales, and knows a thing or two about food. Story on Jewish Book Month page.

Herald photo by Alison Smith

## Frankincense and... Murray?

by Alison Smith  
Herald Editor

When Mark Lerman, artistic director of the Perishable Theatre, called and asked us to attend a performance of "Tis The Season," we were willing, but wary. He said this play was "an alternative to 'A Christmas Carol'" and that it strove to pull religious and spiritual ritual to the forefront of the holiday season.

That's admirable, but oftener said than accomplished.

Then he told us that the performance had been endorsed by the Rhode Island State Council of Churches AND the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Now we were intrigued. What kind of show would you end up with if you tried to please, or placate, everybody?

Well, Sunday night we found out.

In a word — You've got to see this show for yourself.

If you've never been to the Perishable Theatre, be prepared to think small. The stage is a small room, scenes are created with a minimum of sets and props and a maximum of ingenuity, and the seats are stacked like baseball bleachers, so if you have long legs, sit on the aisle.

The show started with a quartet singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas," and for about 12

verses, everything went along without surprises.

However, having reached the conclusion of the 12th verse, the quartet continued, sotto voce, through a total of 65 verses, as the action on the stage in front of it ebbed and flowed.

We heard about 17 noses dripping, 25 jams of traffic, 44 office parties, 59 tacky sweaters, and 65 "sold separately"s.

There was a nine-minute version of "A Christmas Carol," for those who might suffer Dickens deprivation otherwise. The main, and only, character remained seated throughout, on a bar stool. Members of the audience were at some risk of injuring themselves from rolling in those steep little aisles.

Several times very quiet moments of true religious observance would begin, and proceed toward connection with the infinite spirit, and then a busy, efficient crew would remove all traces of spiritual observance in 30 seconds or less, to make way for the next big attraction, proving, I think, that we need to protect our souls more from the "nice" things of life than we do from the obviously cheap distractions.

Several spirited, hilarious, and all-too-true skits on gift-giving made the audience laugh, and squirm.

(Continued on Page 16)

## Failed Security on El Al Brings Peres Rebuttal

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Reacting to a newspaper report exposing what it claimed were lax security measures on El Al planes, acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres has lashed out at the media for endangering national security in reaction to a report on lax security on El Al.

According to a report in the weekend edition of the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*, a reporter put a dummy bomb in a suitcase, checked it on a plane, and then did not board the flight. The plane flew to its European destination with the suitcase aboard.

In his comments during a Cabinet meeting, Peres called the event scandalous, adding that newspapers would print anything to boost sales, even if

it sometimes came at the cost of national security.

He also questioned why the government censor had allowed the article to be published.

Meanwhile, in response to the *Ma'ariv* report, El Al officials said that security checks would be tightened and that no flights would take off carrying the luggage of someone who was not aboard.

At the same time, an El Al official, quoted by the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, attempted to deflect criticism by saying that the Port Authority was responsible for security on the ground at Ben-Gurion Airport.

"Explosive devices could have been planted on any plane taking off from Ben-Gurion, and not just El Al," he said.



THE BAND CAMEL. Frankincense and Murray, provides backup for Joe Auger as Auger plays during the Perishable Theatre production of "Tis the Season." Herald photo by Alison Smith

## JOLT to N. Y. for Israel Solidarity Rally

A trip to the Israel solidarity rally at New York City's Madison Square Garden on Dec. 10 is being sponsored by Jewish Outreach Leadership Training of the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres; Leah Rabin, widow of slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Vice President Al Gore, Israeli Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yisrael Lau and entertainer Marvin Hamlisch are expected to appear.

The trip is open to teen-agers in grades 8 to 12 in greater Rhode Island at a cost of \$18 per person. Seating is limited.

Two buses will depart from the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island and the Showcase Cinema, in Warwick. The group will stop for a kosher dairy lunch. It's suggested that participants bring \$10 for lunch. The buses are expected to return to Rhode Island by 7 p.m.

JOLT is supported by a continuity grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

To reserve a spot on the trip, call the BJE at 331-0956.

# INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE



## Paying His Respects

Representative David N. Cicilline (D-Dist. 4) kneels to place a lighted candle at the grave of Yitzhak Rabin. Cicilline was in Israel at the time, on vacation. He conveyed condolences from the Rhode Island State House of Representatives to the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

## Fashion Talk

An expert on women in pre-modern China will compare traditional Chinese dress to European fashion in a lecture on Dec. 8 at the University of Rhode Island.

The talk, entitled "We Europeans Invented Fashion; The Chinese Suffocate from Their

Costumes," will be given by Dorothy Ko, associate professor of history at the University of California, San Diego.

Free and open to the public, the program will be held at 2 p.m. in Ranger Hall, Room 103.

For further information, call Linda Welters at 792-4525.

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## Please Let Sleeping Seals Lie

Narragansett Bay will come alive, in cold weather, with visiting harbor seals: Migrating from their breeding grounds in Canada and Maine, the seals winter in the warmer and protected waters of Narragansett Bay.

Save The Bay volunteers have already spotted a few harbor seals in North Kingstown, Jamestown and Bristol. Last year, volunteer monitors from the organization's Bay Watcher program reported seeing seals at 39 sites across the bay.

While the seals will attract public attention, Save The Bay cautions that seals come here to rest and are under great stress when they are approached by humans or boats.

Any time they are disturbed as they rest, even unintentionally, they experience a negative reaction. Any disturbance impairs their normal metabolism. Save The Bay is encouraging winter boaters, in particular sea kayakers, and all individuals

walking along the shore to be conscious of this fact and to avoid disturbing seals.

It may be the low silhouette or the slow stalking movements of kayakers, but in most cases seals flee for the safety of the water when they're approached by kayakers or other boats.

"The impulse is to get as close to these seals as possible," said Save The Bay's Citizen Monitoring Coordinator Wenley Ferguson. "But if you get too close, you're actually violating the Marine Mammal Protection Act."

It's for this reason that humans should never approach seals or attempt to "rescue" seal pups.

For more information on Narragansett Bay's wintering seal population or to become a Save The Bay seal monitor and to receive a Save The Bay Bay Watcher Marine Mammal Monitoring Guide, contact Save The Bay at 272-3540.



## When Someone You Love Drinks Too Much

The joy of the approaching holidays may be overshadowed if someone you love is drinking too much. This issue will be the topic of a lecture at Women & Infants Center for Health Education on Dec. 14.

The center is located at 2168 Diamond Hill Road in Woonsocket.

The guest speaker will be Jean Robbins, LICSW. Robbins is a chemical dependency professional on the staff of Project Link at Women & Infants Hospital.

To register or to obtain additional information, call the center at 767-2344. Space is limited so pre-registration is required. There is no fee.

## Support Group for Men With Disabilities Will Meet

The Support Group for Men with Disabilities, sponsored by the PARI Independent Living Center, will meet on Dec. 11. The meeting will start at 11:30 a.m. and last until 1 p.m.

The group meets in the Capitol Room on the 11th floor of Westminster Towers on Cahir Street — next to Central High School — in Providence.

Participants are welcome to bring a lunch if they wish.

Transportation on a first come, first served basis is available from PARI by calling Kris at 725-1966.

## Epilepsy Support Group to Meet

The Support Group for People with Epilepsy, sponsored by the PARI Independent Living Center, will meet on Dec. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the main conference room at Independence Square, 500 Prospect St., Pawtucket.

Participants are invited to bring a lunch to enjoy during the meeting, or they may buy lunch in the building cafeteria.

Anyone wishing transportation should call Krista at PARI, 725-1966.

## Follow the Bouncing Ball

The YMCA of Cranston is having an organizational meeting on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. to discuss the "3 on 3" adult basketball league. The league will be running on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.

The league coordinators, Chuck Watson and Chuck Santos, will be discussing league rules, fees, ages, days and times at the meeting.

For more information, call the YMCA of Cranston, 1225 Park Ave., Cranston, 943-0444.

## Senior Journal Announces Upcoming Schedule

"The Senior Journal," is a program designed to educate the public on concerns of aging through the personal perspectives of Rhode Island seniors. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs and COX Cable Television, "Senior Journal" is written, hosted, produced and edited by senior volunteers.

The program can be viewed Monday at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m., over the statewide cable interconnect, channel "A." Reaching more than 200,000 households in Rhode Island,

"The Senior Journal" is chaired by Lee Chalek.

The broadcast schedule for upcoming "Senior Journal" programs follows:

Through Dec. 14 — "Relay Rhode Island," hosted by Lee Chalek of Coventry, and featuring Marie Younkin of Relay Rhode Island.

Viewers' written comments, suggestions, or opinions on "The Senior Journal" are always welcome and should be addressed to: Larry Grimaldi, R.I. Dept. of Elderly Affairs, 160 Pine St., Providence, R.I. 02903.

## Toy Collection Will Benefit Tomorrow Fund

Boomerangs, a consignment shop at 1333 West Main Road in Middletown, is trying to brighten the holidays for Tomorrow Fund children.

From now until Dec. 25, if you bring a new toy into the shop you will receive a 10 percent discount on any purchase.

All toys received will benefit The Tomorrow Fund at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

More than 90 percent of children diagnosed with cancer in

southeastern New England are treated at the hospital's cancer clinic.

The Tomorrow Fund is a non-profit organization whose mission is to initiate programs and services to reduce cancer's traumatic effects on children and their families, to raise community awareness about the special needs of kids with cancer, and to support medical and psychosocial research in the field of childhood cancer.

## Seeking Actors/Actresses

The YMCA of Cranston is seeking actors/actresses for its production of "Plaza Suite," the comedy by Neil Simon.

No theatrical experience is necessary as the rehearsal process will include individualized acting instruction for the novice actors/actresses. Five women and six men are needed for this play.

"This is an excellent opportunity for those who have never been on stage to discover the fun and excitement of live theatre, and for experienced performers to develop their skills

while working on one of Neil Simon's funniest comedies," stated Paul Buxton, theatre coach.

A casting session will be held on Jan. 2 at 7 p.m. Those interested in acting in the play will be asked to read from the script. Copies of "Plaza Suite" will be available in advance from the YMCA of Cranston reception center. Rehearsals will begin on Jan 9 at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Paula Taylor at the YMCA of Cranston, 1225 Park Ave., 943-0444.

## FEATURE

## The Non-Jewish Side of My Family Joel and Jacob

by Jason Berkowitz

"I meet people who say they don't like dogs, and I tell them that's all right, you don't have to like them, you don't have to like anything. I don't expect everyone else to feel the way I do. It's the same with racism. Some people don't like Jews or blacks. They have that right, as long as they don't do anything."

Those were the words from my grandfather, Bud Riedl.

Bud is half German and half English. His grandfather immigrated to this country from Germany during the 1870s. I talk with him about his ideas.

On this one particular occasion, he related his animal activist views to racism. My grandfather goes off track from the original subjects a lot, but I let him continue because it was interesting to hear anti-Nazi ideas from the non-Jewish side of my family.

"Herman Vogt was a Nazi — I hated him. You know I thought he had died at one point. Then, years later — it must have been '85 or '86 — I was taking a bath, and I heard someone talking out there in the living room.

"I couldn't tell who it was because of my hearing. Then your grandmother yelled out that there was someone out there who wants to see me. So I told her I would be out in a few minutes.

"I heard a voice yell out, 'Come out, Bud, it's the Nazi.' 'Who's a Nazi,' I said as I opened the door.

"He said, 'It's me the Nazi.' 'Then I realized so I said, 'I heard you died.'

"No, that was my wife.' 'That's too bad she was a nice lady.' I left the room and I refused to talk to him.

"Your grandmother said, 'I've never seen anybody treat anyone as cold as you treated him.'

"I said, 'Well, I had no love for him then and I have no love for him now, and he's got a lot of nerve coming into my house.'"

Bud went on to describe an earlier incident years back, during the '50s.

"Your grandmother said, 'Vogt's out there digging in the driveway!'

"So I ran outside and yelled at him. 'Why are you digging in my driveway?'

"He said, 'I'm diggin' a ditch across here. I don't want the water coming in my barn.'

"So I said, 'Well, I don't want any holes dug in my driveway and I certainly don't want the water coming to my door. That's my driveway and you have no right to dig in it.'"

Herman Vogt was the next door neighbor. He was a German Navy captain for the Nazis during World War II.

"You know, anyone on board

ship talk like that to me I throw them overboard."

"You wanna try throwing me into the creek?"

"So then he picked up his shovel and swung it at me. I grabbed it, and yanked it from him and threw it in the creek.

"For all I know that shovel is still at the bottom of the creek out there.

"Anyway he took off and I chased him. He ran into his house, slammed the door, and locked it.

"His wife was in the kitchen cooking. I was ready to get him. So I yelled out, 'Herman, there's only one thing to stop me, and it's not your flimsy door, it's your wife. If she wasn't there, I'd already be inside. Don't you ever step on my property again.'"

The one thing I'll remember the most from that conversation was when he told me about his reaction to Herman, questioning my grandfather's German background....

"Herman said, 'You're German. You're one of us.'

"This made me angry. I said, 'Hey, you don't have to be German to be a Nazi. Any half-wit can become a Nazi. If it's a German to make a Nazi, I'm an American to begin with. I've never even been in Germany, I was born in this country.'

"You're a Nazi. You're a man without a country.'

"But he was really mixed up because there's a lot of good decent German people around here that live here in Cazenovia. Only a few of them are Nazis, and those are the half-wits."

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

It used to be the tenth month, that's how it got its name. But December is our twelfth month. I share the candlelight of my birthday zodiac with the fame of figures from fact and folklore, from the Maccabees to Santa, the adventures of Jacob and a rendezvous with a rabbinical student on seminary seasonal leave, my friend Joel.

Before he puts pen to paper to compose a sermon, Joel talks out his ideas about the parsha of the week, the Torah tale, with colleagues and companions in study. "How does Jacob get away from his trickery, if he is to gain truth and shape the spiritual destiny of a dynasty?" We sip morning coffee while we follow the paths, not always righteous ones, of the person who became Israel. As I listen to Joel's account, I am picturing the deco drawings in the children's versions of the Bible, familiar to me from the depression years, not the Hebrew letters on parchment. Nevertheless, my bar mitzvah portion was Vayeshev, a chapter from the story of Jacob.

Jacob grabs the heel of his older twin Esau, reaching even in the womb for his place in the sun as a son. A smooth indoor mama's boy, he does the thinking while his brother goes out

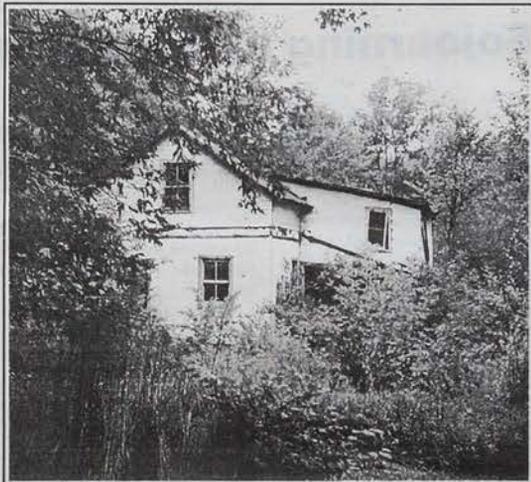
into the great world to make his fortune there. Jacob stirs the pot, buys a blessing with a bowl of porridge, makes use of his father's poor eyesight, and gets a flock of sheep by hook and by crook from his kinsman Laban, whose daughters, the true and the false bride, become the mothers of us all. Jacob rests his troubled head upon a pillow of rock, climbs a wobbly ladder to contend with his angels or messengers from above and below the world of others, and goes on to found a nation forever in search of guidance from above.

"Joel," I told my future rabbi, "isn't there the preview of Jack and the Beanstalk, not to mention The Little Mermaid, among the folkways of Genesis?" I went on about the trickster hero among Native American legend, the clever ruses of Promethean jesters who tease fire from Greek mountaintops, and all the rest of the fabulous fellows in human lore who share with Jacob the contradictory character who rises to a role from childlike beginnings. "You see yourself in both Abraham and in Jacob, the good food and happy tables in the tents of the patriarch, and the survival skills, the love of pleasure, and the longing for a message in the first grandson. You're a great host, guest and cook like Abe,

(Continued on Page 23)



Jason's Grandfather



TO GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE HE WENT, when Berkowitz was a boy.



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# EDITORIAL

## 'The Israelis Elected a Yitzhak Rabin's Legacy for Diaspora Jewry Prime Minister...'

...Not a Saint

To the Editor:

I am responding to Mike Fink's beautiful and sensitive article, "The Sacrifice of Yitzhak," in your November 16 issue. But I take issue with Mike on just one point: "We must not blame one side only."

Heartily disagree! Do blame the cultists on the far right who arrogantly assume that they are the sole possessors of The Word, who claim to speak with the Almighty, and who treat mainstream Jewry as if we were all heretics. They are the killers, not the rest of us.

I will mourn the loss of a great leader and great man, as does the rest of the civilized world. While Mike points out that Rabin made some tactical errors, it should be remembered that the Israelis elected a Prime Minister, not a saint. Surely the penalty for political mistakes, if such there were, should not be death!

To treat murder as if it were the will of G-d is the ultimate debasement of the meaning of Torah. History will provide the answer as to who are the real heretics, as it has dealt with the false prophets of the past.

Lester Ageloff

## We Can't Ignore Farrakahn

by Rabbi Maurice Weisenberg

Congregation Agudath Achim, Taunton, Mass.

We would be foolish to ignore Louis Farrakahn who calls Jews (and Koreans) bloodsuckers for doing business in black neighborhoods. He also charges that the slave trade was dominated by Jews.

Farrakahn uses Hitler's techniques. He repeats a big lie and makes the Jew the scapegoat, blaming them for his people's troubles which gives his followers an opportunity to release their pent-up resentments and frustrations on the designated enemy.

If they don't have much else, going for them, the Nation of Islam members can at least feel like other people in the world who

hate the Jew. For the leader of the Nation of Islam, as for the Jew-haters of history, the real sin of the Jew has been his success. (See Genesis Ch. 26, vs. 12 to 19)

The same psychological mechanism which works for Farrakahn in providing his followers with someone to blame, can also explain the appeal to hatred by the white supremacy anti-government militias in whose ranks there are many neo-Nazi sympathizers but not many high achievers.

The good news is that the majority of the hundreds of thousands of African Americans who came together in Washington on Oct. 16 do not subscribe to Farrakahn's bigoted views, but responded to his call because of their great concern for

by Herzl R. Spiro, M.D., Ph.D.

Yitzhak Rabin, Z"l, left a legacy for the Jews of the diaspora in the three days that preceded his death.

I have just returned from a last set of meetings that he turned on its ear and I shall never forget. There are issues of Rabin's legacy of leadership which we can passively admire; with which we can identify and vicariously live; and then turn off the TV and leave all the hard work for the one third of World Jewry, the 4.5 million Jews who live in Israel. That was not Yitzhak Rabin's last message to World Jewry.

We all know the vicarious issues. Admire the heroism and

raw courage of Israeli soldiers, but let their children worry about sacrifice. Admire the guts required to build one of the world's best armies, but let Israelis pay the world's highest tax rates to protect world Jewish concerns, and to pay the increased costs of peace.

Rabin's heroism in trying to bring peace was hardest of all.

One third of the Jews of the world carry the real burden of the risks of war and peace, risking their children and their future if boundaries are set too near, and risking perpetual warfare and hatred with incessant battles if all potential partners to peace are transformed into enemies.

Rabin lead that peace effort.

While those who watched darkly through a TV tube chant various slogans in diaspora, Rabin struggled with real (territorial) lines affecting real people, and faced their enmity and approval where it really happens.

Right or wrong, it was the highest profile in courage in a life of courage.

The issue Yitzhak Rabin set before world Jewish leadership gathered at a Jewish Agency for Israel meeting on Nov. 1, three days before his death, was a moral change, with no room for vicarious living through others. This call to arms, too, will become part of the history of our ancient people. It was about all the Jewish people, you, me, our assimilated neighbor, and our grandchildren unborn.

Rabin understood we had a role beyond passive spectatorship; beyond adulation of remote heroes; beyond TV screens, and headlines.

He made it crystal clear that the rescue and resettlement of Jews from lands of distress is a worldwide Jewish obligation, not just the obligation of the one-third Jews who live in Israel.

We, in diaspora, stand \$110 million short over the next two years because we neither raise enough money nor send a high enough percentage to Israel for Israel to spend this money resettling Jews of distress. He expected — no — he demanded more of us, just as he pushed Israelis to their outer limits.

In one of the last political acts of his lifetime Rabin saved the Jewish Agency for Israel by infusing it with \$60 million especially to pay the expense of non-resettlement costs.

Then he made clear that the essential resettlement of all the Jews of the Former Soviet Union is an absolute obligation of diaspora Jewry and Israeli Jewry, working in partnership through the reorganized and revitalized Jewish Agency for Israel.

Here is his last political will and testament. The Jews of Israel will through the ballot box answer the assassin's bullets. It is fitting and proper that the Jews of diaspora find fitting tribute to Yitzhak Rabin through mass meetings and speaking our feelings for him. Then we must turn from feeling to action.

He did not want us to be the passive, vicarious Jews of diaspora.

The promotion of peace, his main concern, must be resolved democratically by Israel's voting citizens.

The migration from the Former Soviet Union, Rabin's last concern expressed to world Jewish leadership, is a task for all of us.

As our fallen leader could not complete what he had begun, but never desisted from pressing forward, now it is our turn. In his memory we must not desist.

Herzl R. Spiro, M.D., Ph.D., is professor of psychiatry at The University of Wisconsin Medical School/ Sinai Samaritan Medical Center.

He just returned from Israel where he served nine years on the Immigration and Absorption Committee of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

the hopelessness gripping many in the black community.

The bad news is that since the purpose of the Million Man March was good, even if the organizer was not, Farrakahn's bigotry and anti-Jewish diatribe were not adequately denounced. The success of the march has also had the effect of moving Farrakahn from the fringe to a more influential and respectable position.

The lies spread by the leader of the Nation of Islam and by other anti-Semites need to be countered. An insidious characteristic of slander is that even

when people think that it is mostly untrue, some of it may be believed.

The charge that Jews were heavily involved in the slave trade is hate propaganda masquerading as history. Only a small number of Jews had anything to do with the slave trade. There were most likely more blacks involved in the slave trade than Jews. Those of us whose grandparents came to America from Europe know

(Continued on Page 22)



## Sojourning in the World

This week's Torah portion, Vayishlach, relates Jacob's statement that, "I have sojourned — garti — with Laban."

The great commentator Rashi notes that the word "garti" has the numerical equivalent of 613. Thus, by using the word "garti," Jacob implied that, "Though I sojourned with the wicked Laban, I have observed the 613 mitzvot."

"Sojourned" implies that Jacob lived as a stranger with his father-in-law.

All aspects of Laban, all the physical objects of oxen, donkeys, flocks, menservants and handmaids, were to Jacob no more than garti — something alien, strange, transitory. They were not his true self.

Where was Jacob not a stranger? Where did he not merely sojourn, but live?

His true home was his soul and its involvement in studying Torah and performing mitzvot.

Once, Rabbi Dov Ber, the Maggid of Mezritch, was asked why his home was furnished so sparsely; it contained only a table and chairs which converted into a bed at night.

The maggid explained, "At home, one needs everything. On a journey, though, it doesn't matter if the temporary dwelling and furniture are not so beautiful; and after all, it is just a journey." And for him, his life was just a transition, a journey

to the eternal world of truth.

By keeping his material concerns in a state of "strangeness," Jacob assured not only that they would not interfere with his spiritual life, but also that a dimension of spirituality would be infused even into the material — transforming matter into something spiritual and holy.

The Torah and its instructions are everlasting and relevant to every Jew in all times and places. The lesson of the above is as follows:

Every Jew must realize that although his environment, the world, may hardly be perfect, each individual can prepare himself and everything related to him for the complete redemption.

This preparation is by means of "I have sojourned with Laban": the realization that all of this world is no more than garti — furnishings and baggage that one needs on a journey.

No matter what the duration of a person's life, whether 70, 80, or a 120 years, these years are no more than a stranger's temporary sojourn.

From this perspective, the physical is not in conflict with the spiritual. In fact, this attitude will result in having prosperity even in the physical sense.

Adapted from the works of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer.

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EDITOR  
ALISON SMITH  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
NEIL NACHBAR  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER  
MICHAEL FINK  
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT REP  
GREGG R. PARENT  
MAILING ADDRESS:  
Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940  
TELEPHONE: (401) 724-0200  
PLANT:  
Herald Way, off Webster Street  
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861  
OFFICE:  
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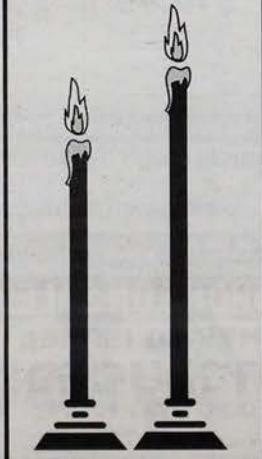
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### Candlelighting

Friday, Dec. 8, 1995  
3:56 p.m.



Notice: The opinions presented on this page do not necessarily represent the opinions of this establishment.

## A Walk on Rothschild Boulevard

by Campbell Simon  
for the Israel Ministry of Tourism  
Founded in 1909 and enriched in the 30s and 40s by the refugee Bauhaus architects' International Style, Tel Aviv is now emerging as one of the great cities of the Mediterranean.

It's one of only two major cities on earth which, in addition to being a bustling center of commerce is blessed with a magnificent beach (the other is Rio).

As the 21st century approaches, Tel Aviv has evolved into a non-stop city of 2 million. It offers a selection of events and ambiances that should satisfy any traveler.

Tel Aviv's curbing Rothschild Boulevard was laid out in 1909 soon after the city's creation as a Jewish garden-suburb of ancient Jaffa. The boulevard begins in Neve Tzedek — an area once crumbling, now undergoing a startling renaissance — and winds its tree-lined way to one of the city's foremost cultural centers which houses the Frederic Mann Auditorium (home of the Israel Philharmonic), the Helena Rubinstein Art Museum and Israel's legendary Habima Theatre (the Hebrew language repertory company founded in Moscow in 1912 — three years after Tel Aviv itself).

You might begin a sight-seeing stroll over on the opposite corner — at Rothschild (like New Yorkers, Tel Avivians omit the "Street," "Boulevard" etc.), in a Bauhaus building is the ghida levana (white ice-cream) ice-cream parlor, an elegant place to charge your batteries before you begin walking.

Rothschild Boulevard is very wide — two-lane widths of road, divided by a 30 foot-wide median of gardens, benches and trees. The trees arch gently to create generous acres of shade. There are no shops on Rothschild, just four- or five-story apartment buildings, and, later on, modern and post-modern office towers. As you stroll, notice the simple lines of the Bauhaus buildings which have become Tel Aviv's architectural signature. These structures, created by German Jewish architects who fled Hitler, are considered the world's most concentrated example of this art form.

Most are now sadly faded, yet each is cleanly bordered by hedges, and flowering bushes, their exterior lobbies arrayed with tricycles, strollers and the soothing detritus of family life — alive and well in the heart of the busy metropolis. Notice the angled skylights, the glass-brick walls, the tiny windows designed by the Bauhausers to retain interior coolness in those sultry days before the dawn of air-conditioning. Admire the gently curved balconies, the sparsely drawn lines which have so come to epitomize Tel Aviv's pre-World War II incarnation as Europe-in-the-Levant.

Rothschild is delightfully drowsy. There are cars of course, and children playing on the median, but the overreaching sense is of calm and quiet. It's an avenue immersed in what

evokes a seemingly semi-perpetual sense of siesta. And as you amble along — even if it's a hot and steamy Tel Aviv afternoon — Rothschild manages to promote a delightfully lethargic well-being.

When you reach Sheinkin Street, take a detour. Whether or not you're a shopper, Sheinkin is a treat. Its stores, galleries and boutiques offer styles, attitudes and design which are international, yet somehow particularly unique-to-Israel.

Here and there back on Rothschild, the Bauhaus disappears and earlier reminders emerge of the search for a uniquely Palestinian architectural style (remember, until 1948 it was only Jews who considered themselves "Palestinians.") At the corner of Balfour Street (named to honor the British Foreign Secretary, whose resolve to restore the Jewish homeland in Palestine was outlined in a letter to Lord Rothschild, a letter which we now know as "The Balfour Declaration"), a stately building recalls an earlier era. Bauhaus simplicity is replaced by busy-ness. Oriental arches, cloisters, juts, points, gothic gargoyles — a hodgepodge evoking Odessa or Manchuria worthy of having been concocted by Disney.

At the intersection of Nachmani Street, a tall office block is the first true break you encounter in the Rothschild "look." An all-curves, post-modern tower, its rooftop terrace is complete with single, distantly-spaced pillars, pale-green frosted glass, and punctured portholes. In contrast, the neighboring mansion — its Jugendstil balconies and fiercely red door summon up visions of central Europe's fin-de-siècle — now houses Yin Yang, one of Israel's finest Chinese restaurants.

It's time to make another brief diversion. Walk a block right to Achad Haam Street, where you will find several of Israel's best restaurants. At Pronto, you can sample some of the finest northern Italian antipasti and fresh pastas east of Brindisi. At the Golden Apple, one of Israel's most elegant restaurants, chef Israel Aharoni serves extravagant creations in the restrained splendor of a restored pre-Bauhaus mansion. At Capot Tmarim, French-trained Ofer Gal also creates nouvelle Israeli splendors, but here the flavors have a stronger sense of the healthy new Med-Rim cuisine sweeping the kitchens of Spain, Italy, France and Greece. (Before you walk on, look across at the beautiful restoration of Tel Aviv's first public school, with its tableaux-in-tiles Holy Land vistas.) And at the less costly Spaghettim, try savory pasta, and desert pastas, too (yes, date ravioli, fettuccine with strawberry-honey sauce), or lounge at a sidewalk table.

Back on Rothschild, keep an eye open for the old Russian Embassy, currently being restored to its original incarnation as the Czar's pre-revolution consulate in Ottoman Palestine. Stucco urns, turrets, ornamental lintels, a pagoda spire, make this a unique building.

Cross back and you'll come to Zion House, headquarters of Bank Hapoalim. Its blue tint glass sheath and its taxicab-yellow thrusts and indentations will not be ignored. Turn again the antiquity is restored as you peer across the street at the palms and pillars mansion housing the CLAL Insurance Company. And there is a lovely, ochre-colored house, complete with crisp, green-and-white striped awnings, white wall and a startlingly green lawn. This is yet another great Tel Aviv restaurant, the Birnbaum and Mendelbaum, which dishes up delicious steaks in an artful splendor.

Cross bustling Allenby Street and you're now approaching the beginning of Rothschild boulevard — and some of Tel Aviv's oldest houses. On the right, the restored cream-colored Beit Eliahu — complete with aqua shutters and garden patio — is now the home of the Hagannah Museum, recalling the military triumphs and tribulations of Israel's War of Independence.

Opposite is another Bauhaus gem: the square and spare home of one of Tel Aviv's first mayors, Meir Dizengoff, murdered in 1928 in circumstances that still mystify historians. The house briefly housed the Tel

(Continued on Page 23)

## Taking a Look at Capot Tmarim (Date Palms) Restaurant



THE INTERIOR OF CAPOT TMARIM, a Tel Aviv Restaurant, stylishly decorated and newly opened.

"I designed the restaurant and kitchen of Capot Tmarim so I could combine French cuisine actuelle techniques with Israel's magnificent fresh market products," said Ofer Gal, the owner-chef of the ultra-chic Tel Aviv restaurant he opened in 1994.

Gal changes the menu every week, sometimes more often. "I pay special attention to ensuring that every menu uses different cooking techniques..." and each menu relaxes to the availability of the freshest produce

— herbs and spices indigenous to Israel, locally caught fish from the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and the Sea of Galilee, prime Israeli meats and foie gras, and desserts encompassing a variety of textures and flavors.

Gal was born in Israel and learned to cook in Paris.

Capot Tmarim is located in a (Continued on Page 23)



TEL AVIV CHEF Ofer Gal



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# WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

## Reform Jews at Another Crossroads

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — Some 4,000 Reform Jews at the biennial convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations are bidding farewell to their old leaders, welcoming the new, and witnessing the marriage of two Israeli Jews prohibited from marrying in their native land.

Several issues that promise to have far-reaching impact on the Reform movement are sure to be debated now, and in the future.

A proposal to alter the union's mission statement, which now emphasizes liberal Jewish goals and values, calls for new language that emphasizes "the vibrancy of Reform Judaism through Torah (lifelong Jewish education), Avodah (worship of G-d through prayer and observance) and G'milut Chasadim (the pursuit of justice, peace and deeds of loving-kindness)."

Another proposal is that the organization change its name to the Union of Congregations for Reform Judaism, a shift movement leaders say is necessary because the current name is archaic.

It has also been proposed that any child being educated in another faith cannot be enrolled in a Reform religious school. If passed, this resolution would be a watershed decision for the Reform movement.

Even before passing the patrilineal descent resolution in 1983, which means that the Reform movement recognizes as Jewish a child born to a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother, if he or she is raised and educated as a Jew, the movement opened its doors wide to welcome intermarried couples and their children.

As a result, Reform congregations often grapple with decisions about the rights, responsibilities and honors that should be given to the non-Jews in their midst.

Every other segment of the Jewish community recognizes as Jews people born to a Jewish mother or one converted into Judaism.

The new resolution articulates a standard that would exclude

some children who are attending Christiansupplementary schools, as well as Reform Hebrew schools.

"Its a very small percentage" of children in Reform Hebrew schools who are being educated both as Jews and Christians, said the union's director of outreach, Dru Greenwood.

"We've been making the assumption that temple members are educating their children only in Judaism and we've found that that is not always the case."

The unusual wedding is between Yair Cohen, 31, and Ruti Florsheim, 26, both from Israel's Kibbutz Yakum.

They could not marry in Israel because Cohen, as his name indicates, is descended from the priests who served in Jerusalem's holy temples, and Florsheim is divorced. Orthodox interpretation of Jewish law forbids marriage between a member of the priestly class and a divorcee or a convert.

When the couple went to register with the rabbinate, as all Jewish couples who wish to marry in Israel must, they were told to look for other mates.

Instead the couple made contact with the Reform movement, which took up their cause and agreed to finance their wedding in Atlanta.

The Reform movement is trying to get legislation passed in Israel's Knesset that would permit non-Orthodox rabbis to officiate at religious and civil marriages in Israel.

Since the founding of the state, the only marriages performed in Israel that conform with Orthodox requirements have been recognized by the state.

The couple already celebrated their impending marriage with a reception — held in the Knesset, and hosted by two Meretz members of the parliament.

Although the bride's parents planned to attend their Atlanta wedding, the couple was wistful about the fact that the party, with all of their family members and kibbutz friends, was not the actual wedding.

## Mideast Partners Sign Regional Tourism Charter

Elaborating on the expansion of friendly ties in the Mideast, Israel, Jordan, Egypt and representatives of the Palestinian Autonomy — as well as Morocco, Tunisia, Cyprus and Turkey — have signed the charter for a Middle East regional tourism association.

The new organization is called MEMTTA — the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association.

MEMTTA will be dedicated to coordinating the marketing, manpower training and distribution of travel and tourism information in the Middle East, eastern Mediterranean, North Africa and the Persian Gulf.

The organization's management will not be governmental, but rather in the hands of the

tourism industry's private sector. Its initial gathering will take place in May 1996 and one of the first orders of business will be to choose a permanent location for MEMTTA's headquarters.

## Arafat Visits Jenin

by Naomi Segal  
JERUSALEM (JTA) — Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat visited Jenin a week after Israel completed its withdrawal from the West Bank town.

Thousands of Palestinians cheered as Arafat's helicopter landed on top of the building that had served as the Israeli army headquarters prior to the withdrawal.



### A Living Tribute

A tree in memory of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was planted on the Washington Ellipse opposite the White House at the conclusion of the Jewish National Fund's National Campaign Leadership Gathering in Washington, D.C. Picture are leaders from JNF and political and religious leaders.

## Peres Talks Tough to PLO

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Sounding his toughest message on peace since being sworn in as prime minister recently, Shimon Peres warned that the process would be halted if the Palestinian leadership did not abolish the portions of the Palestinian Covenant that call for the destruction of Israel.

Peres who has recently been wooing the support of right-wing religious parties, adopted the stance recently at an appearance before the Knesset's foreign affairs and defense committee.

The warning came as 25 Palestinian police officers arrived in Tulkarm, the second West Bank town to be transferred to the Palestinians under the terms

of the recently signed agreement for extending Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

Peres told the committee that Israel would keep all its commitments in the Interim Agreement, but that the Palestinians had to keep theirs as well.

Under the terms of that agreement, signed Sept. 28 in Washington, the Palestinians promised to amend the pertinent clauses in the covenant within two months after the inauguration of the Palestinian Council.

Elections for the council are scheduled for late January.

Prior to Sept. 28, Arafat had pledged on more than one occasion to revoke the offending clauses in the Palestinian Cov-

enant, which spells out the Palestine Liberation Organization's political agenda.

"This is part and parcel of the agreement. If they will not respect it, there will not be a continuation of the agreement," said Peres recently.

Peres did not mention a deadline for his demand. He added that negotiations for a permanent-status agreement with the Palestinians would begin as scheduled in May.

Peres also said that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher would lead the 1,000-member international observer team that will monitor the Palestinian elections.

## USCJ Speeds Down Information Super Highway

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has created both a public and a private presence on the Internet.

Not only is the organization expanding its web home page (<http://www.uscj.org>), which is targeted to members of the public but its private on-line project, USCJ\_NET, continues to attract both lay leaders and professionals in Conservative synagogues.

According to Martin Kunoff, director of computer operations, a large number of USCJ departments and regions now supply material to the web.

In addition, in response to a USCJ offer of free web space for affiliated synagogues and schools, an increasing number of Conservative synagogue home pages now also appear on the USCJ site.

USCJ\_Net, which includes the USJC Forum, serves as a medium through which information can be viewed, exchanged and/or downloaded among the national and international offices of The United

Synagogue and its affiliated congregations. Not only does the system offer organizational news and events, but it also contains an index of program ideas as well as USJC public policy resolutions.

Maurice Potosky, chair of the computer operations committee, notes that electronic discussions are "vibrant and frequent" in the message and conference sections on youth (USY), synagogue business, and education. Participants include synagogue leaders and volunteers as well as professionals such as rabbis, executive directors and youth and education directors.

According to Rabbi Jerome Epstein, executive vice-president of the organization, "increased use of electronic communication will allow for improved service to member congregations."

The United Synagogue also sponsors the Internet list server KOACH, through which students from all over the world participate in electronic discussions on a wide variety of Jew-

ish issues, with special emphasis on the college campus.

To obtain more information about the KOACH discussion group and other college-age programming, send e-mail to [moline@boss.math.uic.edu](mailto:moline@boss.math.uic.edu) or contact Richard Moline at ext. 2514.

Other related list servers include USY, for high school youth (contact Yoni Hammer, 71263.400@CompuServe.com) and Reshet, which is designed for adults in their 20s to 30s (contact Rabbi David Kunin, 71263.442@CompuServe.com).

USCJ is a charter member of Shamash, a consortium of Jewish organizations committed to providing Internet services to the Jewish community at large.

For further information, send e-mail to 71263.212@CompuServe.com or contact Martin S. Kunoff at (212) 533-7800, ext. 2402.

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, established in 1913, is the association of 80 Conservative congregations in North America.

# WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

## Austria Pledges First Funds

by Alissa Kaplan

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Austrian government has vowed to pay the first 100 beneficiaries of a national fund for Jewish victims of the Nazis by Christmas.

The vow was reported by Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress.

The claimants will receive a one-time payment of \$7,000 each from the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for the Victims of National Socialism.

Austria officially established the \$50 million fund June 1 in connection with the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of the republic.

Steinberg said in an interview recently that he was pleased with the Austrian commitment, but that "everyone should be paid out tomorrow" not just the first 100 applicants.

About 25,000 to 30,000 former Jews of Austria are alive from

the World War II period, according to the WJC.

He added that the fund was "too little, too late," because the applicants are elderly, some of them as old as 101.

Although the fund was initially "intended as a hardship fund," the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria "succeeded in persuading the Austrian government to provide a payment to every surviving Austrian Jew," according to Israel Miller, president of the committee.

Miller, meanwhile, called on Jewish victims from Austria to register for claims, if they have not yet done so.

The committee said people are eligible for the fund if they:

- were citizens of Austria and living in Austria as of March 13, 1938;
- had been permanently living in Austria for a period of 10

years as of March 13, 1938, or were born as children of such persons in Austria within that period;

- before March 13, 1938, lost their Austrian citizenship or their place of residence of at least 10 years because they left the country due to the imminent march of the German armed forces into Austria; or

- were born before May 9, 1945, as children of such persons in concentration camps or under comparable circumstances.

Eligible applicants can contact their local Austrian Consulate or contact the Austria Consulate in New York, Attn: Irith Jawetz, 31 E. 69th St., New York, N.Y. 10021. The phone number for the New York consulate is (212) 736-6400.

Applications also can be sent to: Dr. Heinz Fischer, president of the Austrian Nationalrat, Parliament, A-1017, Vienna, Austria.

## Israel Considers Next Step as Rain of Rockets Ceases

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As life returned to normal for residents of northern Israel after two days of Katyusha rocket assaults, Israeli leaders weighed possible responses to the attacks.

Israelis living near the border with Lebanon emerged from their shelters to resume their daily routines recently, a day after dozens of Katyusha had been launched from across the border by members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah movement.

Israeli warplanes continued retaliating for the rocket attacks by bombarding Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon.

But beyond the two days of air attacks and the army's continued artillery assaults, it appeared unlikely that Israel's response to the Katyushas would be broadened into a larger military reply.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres publicly blamed Syria, which he said could have prevented the Hezbollah onslaught, and hinted that Israel would mount a massive response to the attacks.

But recently, he muted his re-

sponse, reportedly telling a group of ministers that there would be no large-scale retaliation.

The ministers were also informed by military officials at a briefing that Syria had not known of Hezbollah's plans and that there had been "no coordination" between Syria and Hezbollah, Army Radio reported.

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak adopted a similarly muted stance, telling visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Possouvaliok that Syria was not directly responsible for the rocket attacks.

But he added, as Peres had stated, that Israel remained firm in its belief that Syria had the power to rein in Hezbollah activities.

Some Israeli ministers said Hezbollah should be made to pay dearly for the rocket assaults, but the head of the northern command, Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine, expressed doubts that a massive retaliation would stop future Hezbollah attacks.

"We must find the way for it not to be worth their while to fire Katyushas," he said during a tour of the north.

## Urban League Praise of Farrakhan Stuns Jewish Groups

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — To the great dismay of many Jews, Louis Farrakhan's influence within the black community continues to grow.

At a recent black leadership conference in Washington, D.C., the Nation of Islam leader shared the stage with black leaders who have long been critical of his anti-Semitic and racist rhetoric and had chosen to distance themselves from October's Million Man March, the gathering of blacks organized by the Nation of Islam on Oct. 16.

In a clear move toward reconciliation with Farrakhan, Hugh Price, president of the Urban League, praised organizers of the march for putting on the biggest "family values" rally in U.S. history.

Price also applauded Farrakhan's offer to hold a dialogue with Jews.

"I commend Minister Farrakhan for his overture to the Jewish community before a worldwide audience," Price told blacks gathered at the National African American Leadership

Summit. "I hope it will be reciprocated and that the serious work of interracial healing and collaboration will begin."

The praise for Farrakhan — coming from a black leader who earned the respect and admiration of the Jewish community for speaking out against anti-Semitism and racism at a time when other remained silent — has caused a stir in Jewish quarters.

Jewish leaders have categorically rejected Farrakhan's call for dialogue, saying that the Nation of Islam leader must first renounce anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry and apologize for past statements.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, criticized Price's remarks about a dialogue as "simplistic" and "misguided."

"I am surprised that Hugh Price would commend Farrakhan for his overture to the Jewish community because that overture is a sham," Foxman said.

While accepting praise at the conference from Price, the Rev.

Jesse Jackson and Harvard professor Cornel West, among others, Farrakhan lashed out at black church leaders who boycotted the Million Man March and continue to shun his position in the community.

Black ministers, Farrakhan was quoted as saying, have misunderstood him and his commitment to G-d and Jesus. Likening himself to Jesus, he said, "I speak and transform human life."

"When I speak, blind people see, deaf people hear, dumb people speak, the sick get healed and the mentally dead people come to life. Dope addicts get cleaned up, alcoholics get saved, homosexuals get turned around. So don't tell me I know Jesus."

Speaking at a news conference capping the summit, Farrakhan also charged that he, like Jesus, faces persecution from Jews.

"I don't talk Jesus, I live Jesus, and that's why I'm in trouble like he was. Do you understand what I'm saying? The same scribes that were enemies of Jesus, how do you write about me?" He said. "You can't defeat me because he who is in me is the master of it all."

The Jesus theme is nothing new for Farrakhan, who has repeatedly accused Jews of crucifying Jesus, according to Foxman.

"It's all part of the same theme: 'Why are they rejecting me as they rejected Jesus?' He's got a fixation on Jews and the Jewish community," Foxman said.

## Symposium on Status of Women to be Held in Tel Aviv

The struggle for the equal status of women will be the main subject of discussion for hundreds of delegates from 50 countries who will participate in the 21st Conference of the World Wizo movement to take place in Israel in January.

Simone Veil, who was president of the European parliament and served as a senior French government minister for several terms, French actress Anouk Aimee and Sara Ehrman, senior political advisor to U.S. President Bill Clinton are among the guests who have agreed to participate in the international symposium.

It will focus on the status of women in various areas such as: politics and economics, women and the arts, the social struggle and the influence of the techno-

logical revolution on the status of women.

Additional subjects to be discussed will include the peace process in the Middle East, and Israel and its relationship with the diaspora of the 21st century.

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## Peres' Outreach to Orthodox Sparks Concern Among Meretz

by David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — It was Yossi Sarid, the environment minister from the Meretz Party, who first said after the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Israel would "not be the same again."

Politically, at least, he seems to have been right.

But given the way things are panning out for his party these days, he probably wishes he hadn't been.

In the wake of the Nov. 4 Rabinslaying, Israel's Orthodox parties, shaken by the assassination and fearful of its political backlash, have all entered into vigorous talks about possibly cooperating with the Labor-led coalition for the year remaining before the next elections.

In the brief period since Prime Minister Shimon Peres has taken over the reins of Labor and the government, his party has actively cultivated these talks with the religious parties.

Meretz, Labor's dovish and fiercely secularist main coalition

partner, fears that these talks will lead to concessions on the peace process and on stage-and-religion issues.

There is particular concern among Meretz members about the Orthodox parties' unified demand that Peres "rectify" a recent ruling by the High Court of Justice that opened the way to state recognition of Reform and Conservative conversions performed in Israel.

Quickly reacting to these Orthodox demands, the prime minister has pledged that a cabinet committee would study this subject and come up with proposed solutions. Peres is reportedly mulling the possibility of backing legislation to ban Reform and Conservative conversions in Israel.

The possibility of banning such conversions prompted eight Jewish organizations to call a news conference in Jerusalem recently at which they pledged a unified stand against any such legislation.

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# NEW DIRECTIONS

## The Shrinking of Israel in the American Jewish Mind

First of a Four-Part Series  
by Yosef Abramowitz

"If I forget thee Jerusalem..." —  
Psalms 137:5

Three bullets. Sirens. A dead prime minister. A Jewish assassin confesses. The world turned upside down for Leah Rabin, for all Israelis and for all Jews.

Eighty heads of state assembled for the funeral, which took place near the grave of Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism. Herzl never lived to see his dream become a reality and was only able to galvanize a small minority of American Jewry to his cause.

Yet now, millions of American Jews sat watching CNN's extensive coverage of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Countless memorials on campuses and communities attracted High Holiday-size crowds, from Boston's 4,000-person peace demonstration to Hawaii's 300-person memorial service.

And then, a month later, a new Israeli government is formed, the peace process continues, and Nancy Kaufman is busy once again planning in-city volunteer opportunities for Jewish youth.

Kaufman directs Boston's Jewish Community Relations Council, which organized several mass events to memorialize Prime Minister Rabin.

But like most JCRCs who used to primarily advocate and educate on behalf of Israel, Boston's main activities include missions to Israel for non-Jewish leaders, twinning projects with communities in the former Soviet Union and establishing a Jewish urban volunteer network.

"Our agenda has not changed because of the assassination," said Kaufman, "but was only temporarily superseded by tragic historical events. We're now back on track."

Nearly every dimension of American Jewish life associated with Israel — from political activism to fund-raising to education — is in decline, even in the aftermath of the Rabin assassination. An unprecedented combination of domestic and international factors has been eating away at the centrality of Israel in the lives of most American Jews, the American Jewish community and its kaleidoscope of organizations.

There hasn't been any drama associated with this downward trend; it's been subtle yet consistent over the course of two decades, and has recently accelerated.

"While the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin brought Israel into the forefront of the American Jewish consciousness, it's not going to be a turning point in relations between American Jews and Israel," said Jonathan Sarna, chronicler of American Jewish history and Brandeis professor.

"There's already been a sea change. The challenge used to be maintaining a Jewish state. Now the challenge, which is no less important, is maintaining Jewish life in the diaspora."

Gone are the glory days that followed the euphoric victory of the 1967 Six Day War, the alarm and relief of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, and the pride of the 1976 Entebbe rescue.

In their place are declining fund-raising campaigns, a relative indifference to the Mideast peace process, dwindling tourism to Israel, fewer participants in Israel-centered educational activities, and a growing emphasis on "domestic" issues like Jewish education and social action.

Yet, instead of grappling with this emerging reality, many Jewish leaders are in denial.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that any theory about Israel shrinking as a priority to American Jews is "part of a mythology. The community has come together this year, as it does every year, on Israel and on foreign aid. I've seen no diminution of activity on behalf of Israel."

That's because the multitudes of Jews who openly mourned for Rabin clouded a more enduring reality of general disinterest in Israel.

Hoenlein's perspective is further blurred because he is immersed in a world of die-hard New York-based activists.

On the 23rd floor overlooking Boston Harbor, the floor of Michael Rukin's office is covered with paper piles. Several are dedicated to magazines with articles about the internet and computers. Others tower with Jewish communal studies, strategic planning reports and battle plans in the fight for Jewish continuity.

Rukin, the newly elected chairman of Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies, said that he is not bothered by criticism from the United Jewish Appeal that Boston's contribution to Israel is among the lowest percentage-wise of the big cities.

"We pride ourselves in Boston on our history of innovation and trend-setting in the federation movement. Israel is, of course, important, but we have shifted gears to give Jewish continuity a higher place on our communal and budgetary agenda."

Boston, which this year hosted the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations, is no longer unique in its giving patterns.

For decades Israel used to receive 50 to 60 percent of the annual UJA/federation campaign from the nearly 200 Jewish federations across the country.

Now most federations average 40 percent (or \$250 million nationally to UJA), and a record number of communities from Worcester to Palm Beach to Los Angeles have cut back this year on monies going to Israel.

Ten years ago, the Boston federation handed over 48.9 percent of its gross campaign to Israel or \$9.3 million; this year it's down to 33 percent, or 47 million.

"You can no longer fund-raise on the back of Israel," said Dr. Sidney Schwarz, president of The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values.

"Almost no one is interested.

"The annual campaigns are being supported by older Jews for whom Israel holds a special place, but not by the next generation of givers. Israel is often not even on the map."

In interviews with dozens of Jewish leaders and experts, four themes emerge on why the centrality of Israel has waned. With each explanation comes a rebuttal that challenges the assumption that circumstances have really changed on the ground.

1) **Israel has peace treaties** with Egypt and Jordan, is negotiating with Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians and is expanding diplomatic and economic relations with other Arab countries. Israel is now secure and needs less American Jewish political support.

Steven Rosen, director of foreign policy issues at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, counters: "All those weapons are still there. The preparations being made today to kill Jews are more than ever in history. If Syria alone went to war with Israel, the number of Israelis who would die would dwarf the number who have died in the past.

"The assumption of Israeli military planners is that hundreds — not dozens — hundreds of missiles would land in Tel Aviv and Haifa from Syria."

2) **Israel's economy is booming.** The 6.8 percent growth rate last year is expected to continue. Exports are up 18 percent over last year. This is not a country that needs American Jewish charity.

Rabbi Brian Lurie, executive vice president of the UJA, counters: "A far wealthier country called America needs the private, philanthropic sector to do all kinds of projects, and, of course, Israel does too.

"It's a fact of life of modern society. We will continue to be partners with Israel, especially in the absorption of Russian Jews."

3) **The American Jewish community needs to turn inward** to focus on its own Jewish identity and education. Interfaith marriage is skyrocketing, assimilation is up, and Israel needs American Jewry to be strong. Since there is limited funding in the communal basket, we must make local Jewish education a priority over needs overseas.

Rabbi Art Vernon, director of educational resource development at the Jewish Education Service of North America countered: "I do not have the same confidence that everybody else has that a strong American Jewish identity can be sustained without a very strong tie to Israel.

"There are no identity boundaries in the Western world. When there is no border, then the only way to keep the Jewish people Jewish is with gravitational force, a center that pulls them in. It's got to be Israel."

4) **American Jews need to turn our attention to domestic politics** and away from Israel. With the U.S. Congress about to cut billions from the federal

budget, Jewish social service agencies are about to lose significant public funding — perhaps as much as \$3.5 billion over the next five years.

Mark Talisman, founding director of the Washington Action Office of the Council of Jewish Federations, counters, "We can, we must chew gum and walk at the same time.

"Yes, we have to focus more at home; yes, we cannot in the process denigrate our relationships. In fact, we must refine them and increase them with Israel. To do otherwise is nothing more than an expression of laziness."

While each reason and rebuttal ring true, missing from the equation is a simple acknowledgment that the community's demographics have changed.

More than one out of every two marriages involving a Jew is a mixed marriage and, as a demographic group, their priorities are different.

Only 12 percent of mix-married contribute to UJA, as opposed to 45 percent of Jewish-

Jewish unions.

Last year the American Jewish Committee asked 1,000 Jews if they agreed with the following statement: "If Israel were destroyed, I would feel as if I had suffered one of the greatest personal tragedies of my life."

Seventy-six percent of those who married Jews agreed; only 50 percent of those who married non-Jews agreed.

There is a similar drop by age group. While 81 percent of those over 60 years old agree, it drops to 67 percent for those 40 to 59 and down again to 57 percent for those under 40.

Perhaps most telling, only 18 percent of American Jews celebrate Israel Independence Day, the same percentage that have had a Christmas tree.

Next Week: Symptoms of a Changing Relationship

Yosef I. Abramowitz, a journalist and lecturer, is the editor of *Jewish Family & Life!*, Jewish parenting, family and lifestyles magazine. He can be reached at Jfamily@aol.com or (800) 421-8678.

## Israeli Ministry Gives Funds to Establish Humanist Yeshiva

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen  
FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. (JTA) — Secular Humanistic Jews in Israel are establishing their own yeshiva — and getting funding from the Ministry of Education to do it.

The Israeli government historically has provided funding only to Orthodox yeshivas, but a recent Supreme Court decision paved the way for other Jewish denominations to receive support.

The court's ruling supported an action brought by non-Orthodox religious groups, including the conservative, Reform and Secular Humanistic movements in Israel.

As a result, the movement of Jewish humanists, known in Hebrew as "Tnuat Hiloni Yisraeli," recently received the equivalent of \$16,200 from the government to aid in the planning of the yeshiva, which probably will be located in Jerusalem.

Although the aid is a breakthrough, the money is a pittance compared to what Orthodox in-

stitutions receive from the government, said Zev Katz, a co-founder of the Israel Association for Secular Humanistic Judaism.

"The Orthodox get mind-boggling sums of money, hundreds of millions of shekels" each year, said Katz, who teaches at Hebrew University.

There are probably 10,000 to 15,000 Israelis who are connected with the humanist movement in Israel in some way.

They hope to have the yeshiva doors formally opened in a year or two and to be offering full-time study of Judaism to 30 to 50 people, one-third of them new immigrants.

The new yeshiva, once opened, will offer training in Torah, Talmud, Chasidism, Kabbalah and neo-Orthodoxy, Katz said. "A secular Jew should be knowledgeable about what he rejects. Tanach is to us like Shakespeare is to English. It is a central part of our tradition. And there can be no Jewish continuity without tradition."

## American Jewish Groups Join Battle Against Conversion Law

by David Landau  
JERUSALEM (JTA) — Key American Jewish organizations have pledged their active support for a growing campaign by non-Orthodox and secular groups in Israel against new legislation that would effectively bar official state recognition of Conservative and Reform conversions performed in Israel.

Some are threatening that the issue could turn into a repeat of the vitriolic "Who is a Jew?" controversy that plagued Israeli-diaspora relations half a decade ago.

The conversion issue, always politically sensitive in Israel, surfaced in its current form after a recent decision by the High

Court of Justice that effectively opened the way to state recognition of Conservative and Reform conversions performed in Israel.

Orthodox leaders viewed the court decision as a blow to their control over major life-cycle events, including marriages, in the Jewish state.

Hillel Shuval, chairman of Hemdat, an Israeli lobbying group for religious freedom and pluralism, said in an interview recently that representatives of the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League and leaders of the Con-

# NEW DIRECTIONS

## Jewish Spiritual Healing Moves Into Mainstream

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen, NEW YORK (JTA) — Not long ago, the idea of prayer curing physical ills could be found only among Christian Scientists and Pentecostal Christians.

Today, a similar idea is gaining credence and an audience among religiously liberal Jews.

The Jewish concept of spiritual healing is not that prayer alone can cure physical illness, nor that prayer will necessarily cure wher used as a complement to traditional medicine.

"We make a distinction between curing and healing," said Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, rabbinic director of the recently created National Center for Jewish Healing. "The last thing I want to do is to sell snake oil."

"We look at the person and we see a body, a psyche, emotions and a spiritual and religious life," he said. "We're trying to make sure that the spiritual dimension isn't neglected."

According to Rabbi Eugene Borowitz, distinguished professor of education and Jewish religious thought at the Reform movement's seminary, "We are conscious of our limitations and are groping for ways to let G-d's power and presence into our lives more clearly."

Borowitz gave the keynote speech at a conference co-sponsored by the national center, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

It was believed to be the first time that the three liberal Jewish seminaries jointly sponsored a project.

Those involved with Jewish healing say they see a widespread hunger among Jews coping with chronic illness who want to integrate spirituality with their medical treatment in order to heal their psyches as well as their bodies.

In eight Jewish communities today — from San Francisco to New York City — organized support groups and prayer services exist for Jews living with chronic illnesses and their families.

Similar groups are in the early stages of development in a dozen cities, including Minneapolis, Phoenix and Philadelphia, and another five communities have expressed interest.

Prayer services for healing are also being held with increasing frequency in countless Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform congregations across North America.

Sometimes they are held around issues paining the entire Jewish community, such as the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Usually, they are conducted for a congregant suffering from grief over the death of a loved one.

The prayer service at the N.Y. conference was based on the Jewish contemplative tradition.

Participants, for example, joined in the chanting of a "niggun," a wordless tune that is rooted in Chasidic custom, and the singing was interspersed with instructions to re-

lax and various blessings to give thanks.

The national center helps train local rabbis, chaplains, educators, social workers and laypeople in getting support groups and healing services started, and provides suggested prayers and texts for group study.

It also works to catalyze Jewish organizations to address this issue.

When the national center recently sent out a "save the date card" for "Refainu" — "we heal" — an upcoming conference devoted to Jewish healing, slated for Summit, N.J., in January, 450 people — including rabbis from all four denominations — called to say they wanted to attend, though there was room for only 150.

Registration was closed even before the sign-up forms were printed.

Another seminar will be held in Los Angeles in 1997.

The goal, says Weintraub and others involved with the effort, is to help those in crisis find access to the resources that the Jewish tradition has to offer.

"Times of illness and death are spiritual moments for a lot of people. We want to help them find meaning and relevance at these points in their lives," said David Hirsch, president of the national center, which is based in New York.

Hirsch's interest in Jewish healing dates back to his earliest childhood memories.

When his mother was pregnant with him, she was diagnosed with cancer. She lived with that cancer for 15 years.

Part of a family of prominent Jewish philanthropists, she wanted desperately to find some spiritual succor to help her cope with being ill.

"She couldn't find spiritual Jewish support," Hirsch recalled, despite the fact that she was well-educated Jewishly.

Then someone gave her a book by the founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, called *Science and Health*.

Hirsch took her young son to many of the Christian Science prayer and study meetings she attended, where she found the comfort she needed to fight the cancer.

Although his mother never converted to Christianity, Hirsch said it was sad that she could not find any points of access to Jewish sources.

The Christian Science book "is fine, but it's not ours," said Hirsch. "We have to open up our own book instead of others."

In the Jewish community, there remains some resistance to the concept of spiritual healing.

"The word 'healing' means many different things," to different people, said Hirsch. "And there are Christological overtones to the term 'healing' in this culture."

"But where some Christians talk about faith, we talk about hope," added Weintraub in an interview at the National Center for Jewish Healing's headquarters, atop a Manhattan mansion owned by the N.Y. section

of the National Council of Jewish Women.

"We talk a lot about the women," said Weintraub. "We don't talk much about the after-life unless someone brings it up," citing another difference between the Christian concept of spiritual healing and the Jewish.

Despite reticence in some quarters, there is a remarkable upsurge in interest, he said.

Why now?

There are several reasons, said Hirsch.

There has been "a tremendous failure of expectations with the medical system," he said.

Doctors are no longer viewed as infallible, he said, adding that with the adoption of managed care physicians and nurses have less time to talk and counsel a patient.

People with terminal illnesses who until a few years ago lived only weeks or months are now surviving for up to 20 years and need help coping with the stress of illness in the long term.

There is an openness to spiritual development in North American culture at large, he said, and there is "a lot more interest in death. The image of 'the grim reaper' has given way to 'the light.'"

The concept that prayer can have an impact on physical healing is gaining credibility in the North American medical establishment, though it remains controversial.

A conference on "Spirituality and Healing in Medicine," which will explore the healing practices of nine religious traditions, is being run by the Harvard Medical School in early December.

The conference is being seen as an endorsement by the medical establishment of the connection between religious spirituality and the body.

## Unity Is Theme of R.I.'s Largest Chanukah Celebration

The lighting of the giant menorah at Warwick Mall was Rhode Island's largest Chanukah celebration last year. It was an emotional experience, a unique and joyful Chanukah fete, and display of true religious freedom.

In the center of this busy commercial establishment, while newspaper and TV cameras clicked and whirled, Jews celebrated Chanukah and were proud to be doing so.

Once again this year, Chabad of West Bay CHAI Center will conduct this timely event. The festivities will get underway at the center of the mall, with the lighting of the first Chanukah candle, on Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.

The joy of Chanukah will be expressed through singing and dancing with live Jewish music, and dignitaries will address the gathering.

A program has been prepared for the children, who will also receive the traditional Chanukah "gelt" (money) and dreidels.

All participants will be treated to fresh, hot potato latkes and lots of holiday spirit.

Chanukah is a festival of victory and celebration, highlighted by the kindling of menorahs each night of the holiday. "It is a holiday replete with traditions and display of Jewish pride and unity," said Rabbi Levy, "yet it also contains a universal message for people of all faiths, which is that ultimately good will overpower all the forces of evil, freedom over oppression, and light over darkness."

This year, the theme of unity will be stressed, as the need for peace and understanding is so vital in our times.

The menorah will be displayed at the mall throughout the entire week of Chanukah, where printed Chanukah guides will be available free of charge as a service to the community.

Throughout the holiday, CHAI Center will be visiting hospitals, nursing homes and shut-ins to make sure that those who are unable to make it to a Chanukah party or celebration will not be left out of the Chanukah spirit.

For more information, to receive a free holiday guide, or to request that someone in a hos-

## Touro's Going to Party

Touro Synagogue will host its Chanukah party on Dec. 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Independence Square (formerly Edgemoor), Harrison Ave., Newport.

A full program is planned, including an original play, "The Trial of Oiy Jay" by the Hebrew school, and a performance by Larry Sayco, The Yo-Yo Man.

Everyone, of all ages, is welcome but reservations are required. Call 847-4794 if you plan to attend.



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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## JERI Brings Chanukah to Nursing Homes

The Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island program is an outreach program to Jewish residents of nursing homes throughout the state. It is funded by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Jewish Home Corporation, and administered by Jewish Family Service.

The holidays find the JERI staff busy trying to bring the joy of Chanukah to the Jewish residents in nursing homes throughout Rhode Island. Special holiday programs and events have been planned.

Community participation and volunteer support for the JERI program is vital in making Chanukah a warm and memorable holiday experience for the residents.

On Dec. 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Temple Emanu-El Kulanu will assemble Chanukah gift bags for 15 nursing home residents and the Women's Association of the Jewish Home will wrap Chanukah gifts for 330 residents.

On Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. there will be a Chanukah party at East Bay Manor with entertainment by Laura Berkson, sponsored by Muriel Leach.

The Single Jewish Imperative group will visit and deliver gifts to two nursing homes on Dec. 17.

JERI has organized a Chanukah party on Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. at Rosewood Manor, with entertainment by Sandy Evans, sponsored by the women's association of the Jewish Home.

On Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. there will be a Chanukah party at Kent

Nursing and Rehabilitation Center with music by Dr. Aaron Wold.

Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. will find a Chanukah party going on at Oak Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center with students from the Alperin Schechter Day School participating, sponsored by the women's association of the Jewish Home.

On Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. there will be a Chanukah party at Highland Court with entertainment by Sandy Evans.

On Dec. 22 there will be a Chanukah party at the Summit, with entertainment by Laura Berkson, at 2:15 p.m. The party will be sponsored by Muriel Leach. Also on Dec. 22 at 2 p.m., a Chanukah Shabbat conducted by Rabbi Deanna Douglas will be held at the Elmhurst Extended Care Facility.

## Cultural Icon Allen Ginsberg to Speak at UMass Dartmouth

Allen Ginsberg, the poet whose name is synonymous with the Beat Generation will speak at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. The lecture is a celebration of the 40th anniversary of his poem, "Howl," which he first read to a cheering crowd at the 6 Gallery in San Francisco.

Tickets for the lecture in the main auditorium are \$5 general admission, \$2 for students. Tickets are sold at the university box office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, or at the door.

Ginsberg's portean presence has been felt in virtually every literary, political and social arena for the past four decades. Born in New Jersey and edu-

cated at Columbia, Ginsberg's early associations with writers Jack Kerouac, William S. Burroughs, Herbert Huncke and Neal Cassady heralded a lifetime involvement with the most radical innovators in writing, life style, and political and social activism.

Ginsberg is a prolific writer who has published more than two dozen books of poetry and prose. He has authored or been a participant in books of photography, anthologies, interviews, phonograph records, and films.

Ginsberg, who is 69 years old, has led an increasingly globe-trotting, politically and socially active, as well as stellar literary

## Expert Information on Adoption is Available

The Jewish Family Service is sponsoring a program which will be of interest to adoptive families or those who are considering adoption.

Adoption expert and author Sharon Kaplan Roszia, B.S.W., M.S., will speak about adoption on Dec. 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Temple Beth-El.

The recipient of several awards in the field of adoption, Roszia presents programs at conferences throughout the

United States and abroad, on a multitude of adoption-related issues.

Roszia will address topics of interest to Jewish families who have adopted or are considering adopting children from non-Jewish backgrounds. These topics might include conversion, identity and cross-cultural or cross-racial difference.

Program Director of The Kinship Alliance, a licensed California adoption and foster care

agency, Roszia is the co-author of *Cooperative Adoption*, a how-to manual detailing the options in creating an open adoption and has co-produced two videos entitled "The Seven Core Issues in Adoption" and "Open Adoption: The Experts Speak Out."

Pre-registration for the program is recommended. To register or for more information, call Toby Zaitchik at 331-1244.

## Pawtucket Hadassah Plans December Fund-Raisers

Pawtucket Group of Hadassah has its chairwomen of fund-raising projects ready to go with the December agenda.

The annual gift wrapping at Warwick Mall will be open for

holiday business on Dec. 10 and will continue until Dec. 24 with all the wrappings for your holiday packages. This project is being run in conjunction with the Kent County group. The booth will be manned during all hours the mall is open.

Dine-out books are now available at \$22 and can be purchased by a phone call to Arlene Goldstein at 722-2378. Get your books now and start using them Jan. 1. They also make great holiday gifts.

Gloria Levitt is taking orders for mah jongg cards now for early April delivery. Call her at 274-0725 or just mail your check with your list at \$4.50 per card.

## Touro Fair Is Open for Business

Touro Synagogue's annual Chanukah gift fair opened Dec. 5 in the synagogue gift shop, Touro Street, Newport. It will continue to be open on Sundays 1 to 3 p.m., and Mondays to Fridays, 2 to 3 p.m. or by appointment (847-4794).

The fair will offer a wide variety of children's and adult Chanukah gifts, including games, jewelry, dreidels, mezzuzahs, magnets, gelt, menorahs, candles and books.

The fair runs through Dec. 24.

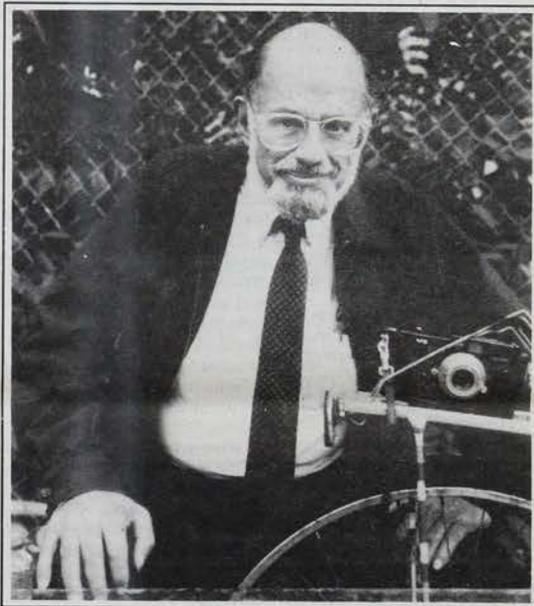
## Jewish Program Planned at Evergreen

Evergreen House Health Center, One Evergreen Drive, East Providence, is hosting a Jewish cultural program on Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at the facility.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 438-3250, ext. 32.

## Correction

In the Nov. 23 edition of the *Jewish Herald*, we identified the author of *The One and Only Hope of Beracha* as Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer of Temple Beth-El. Rabbi Kaunfer is associated with Temple Emanu-El and we regret the error.



Allen Ginsberg

Photo courtesy of UMass Dartmouth

## Touro Hosts Chanukah Celebration

Touro Synagogue will host its annual Chanukah party on Dec. 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Independence Square (formerly Edgehill), Ocean Drive, Newport.

The party will feature Larry Sayco, the Yo-Yo Man, as well as presentations by the students of the Touro Sunday School and Hebrew School.

The synagogue cordially invites all members of the community to attend the party. Reservations are required by Dec. 13. Seating is limited. Admission is free. Call the Touro Community Center at 847-4794.

## Temple Shalom Hosts Book Fair

The Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School and the Sisterhood of Temple Shalom are sponsoring a book fair and holiday boutique on the following dates in the temple, 223 Valley Road in Middletown: Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon, Dec. 13 from 3:30 to 6 p.m., Dec. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m., or by appointment.

A wide variety of books for the entire family is available to purchase for Chanukah gifts. The Sisterhood has items to fill all of your holiday needs.

For further information or to make an appointment, contact the temple office at 846-9002.

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Local Group Joins Worldwide Effort to Bring Jews Together

As Jews throughout the world continue to agonize over the divisions in the Jewish community in the aftermath of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, more than 1,200 Chabad-Lubavitch shluchim, or emissaries, from around the world attending the International Chabad-Lubavitch Shluchim Conference resolved on Nov. 20 to launch a global campaign for Jewish unity.

The campaign, aimed at Jews from all walks of life throughout the world, will include brochures, advertisements and discussion groups about the importance of unity, how to look beyond and rise above differences, and practical ideas for unity.

But the main focus of the worldwide campaign will be the actual bringing together of Jews in locations throughout the world, at times and in ways that foster understanding and interaction in a friendly, understanding environment.

These gatherings of Jews from across the religious-social spectrum will begin in thousands of locations around the globe simultaneously on the first night of Chanukah, Dec. 17.

The Chanukah component of the campaign will be titled "Chanukah: The World Jewish Family's Reunion" and will include menorah lightings, latke celebrations and other traditions that span the Jewish divide.

"At its core the issue is one of approach and philosophy," said Rabbi Yosef Chaim Kantor, director of Chabad-Lubavitch of Bangkok, Thailand, who addressed the conference. "The

Rebbe taught us that all Jews are united in essence. No matter our outward differences, be they social, geographic, or intellectual, essentially we are united."

"The essence of a Jew, that G-dly spark inside of us, is the same inside us all."

Rabbi Shlomo Ben-Tulila, of Chabad of Central Africa, in Kinshasa, Zaire, in an impassioned speech at the conference told his fellow emissaries that the Rebbe's teachings of unity were a result of the state of being in which he lived, a state of living in which everyone was truly one.

"When one came to the Rebbe you did not feel invited or welcomed; you felt that you belonged. We, too, must live like this and help others live likewise."

"We talk not of uniting world Jewry, but of reuniting them. One can unite strangers, but families are reunited. We are resolved to reunite world Jewry."

"It is this approach that will change the situation and help people look toward the unifying force beyond it all, underneath and permeating us all, and ultimately bring about the ultimate redemption, with the coming of Moshiach (Messiah)," Ben-Tulila continued.

The conference dealt at length with the urgency of bringing about unity in Jewish communities throughout the world, particularly in Israel. Emissaries from as far away as Zaire, Casablanca, Morocco, Tasmania, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore presented the issues facing their respective city, state or country.

"The over 2,000 Chabad-Lubavitch institutions worldwide, together with Chabad-Lubavitch in Providence and Warwick, have accepted the responsibility to reunite the Jewish people, to find the common denominator among Jews to foster understanding and unity," said Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer, director of Chabad of Rhode Island.

Rabbi Eliezer Levy of Chabad of West Bay CHAI Center said that after the convention was over, his fellow Lubavitch emissaries from Melbourne to Milwaukee and Brooklyn to Botswana were already organizing gala menorah lightings, community celebrations and other events to bring Jews from around the world together with their fellow Jews during Chanukah.

The local celebrations will start with a bang.

A Chanukah festival, R.I.'s largest Chanukah celebration will take place Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. at the Warwick Mall.

The program will include lighting the first candle of the giant Chanukah menorah, live entertainment, hot latkes, free dreidels and lots of Chanukah spirit.

Other plans include Chanukah parties for seniors and for children in the Providence and Warwick areas.

As usual, Chabad volunteers still visit nursing homes, hospitals and shut-ins, to bring the joy of Chanukah to those who unfortunately can not attend a Chanukah party.

For further information about a Chanukah celebration in your area, call 273-7238 or 884-4071.

## Hoffman to Speak at JCCRI

Shifra Hoffman, a Jewish activist from Israel, media personality and columnist for the *Jewish Press* (Brooklyn, N.Y.), and founder and president of Victims of Arab Terror International, Inc., will be in Boston and Providence for a number of interviews and presentations.

On Dec. 9, at 7:15 p.m., Hoffman will be speaking at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, on the topic "Israel's Post-Zionist and Anti-Religious Trends, and the Recent Scapegoating of Orthodox Jewry."

Her talk is sponsored by the Rhode Island Federation of Orthodox Organizations and is open to the public at large. Admission is free.

For further information, call Dr. Pinchas Baram, (617) 232-8070. For directions, call (800) 320-8555.

## JFS Kosher Mealsite to Hold Chanukah Party in Cranston

The Jewish Family Service mealsite in Cranston is holding a Chanukah party on Dec. 21, at 11:30 a.m.

Rabbi David Rosen of Temple Torat Yisrael and the temple's newly appointed Cantor Robert Lieberman will preside over a candlelighting service and holiday sing-along. Jewish Federation of Rhode Island president Harris Rosen and executive director Steven Rakitt are expected

to attend, as is Comprehensive Older Adult Services Inc. acting director Marilyn M. Fenner. Senior adults in the community are invited to attend.

Transportation is available to Cranston residents and to limited areas of Warwick. Reservations must be made one week in advance by calling 781-1771; a donation of \$3 is suggested for this event.

## Opportunity Knocks Twice in December

On Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to noon, Temple Emanu-El will accept donations of warm winter clothing for distribution to those less fortunate this winter.

On Dec. 17, during the Temple Emanu-El Chanukah party, non-perishable food items

will be collected to make Chanukah celebration easier for the needy in our midst.

The social action committee of the temple is responsible for these drives, and appreciates all donations.

## Mativ Plans Upcoming Trips to P-Bruins and Jazz Concert

Mativ is a group of young Jewish professionals affiliated with Temple Beth-El in Providence. This group of 20- and 30-somethings provides a comfortable social (and social action) environment to foster interaction with young Jewish singles and couples in the community.

The group hosts a variety of events on a monthly basis; Shabbat dinners, beer and wine tastings and trips to local sporting events are among the most popular events held. The group often gathers to attend temple events such as the temple play and guest speaker programs.

Mativ is the Hebrew word meaning "to improve." Each

year, Mativ sponsors a large social event to benefit others, and donates the proceeds to causes like funding an exhibit at the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum and providing a better education for the children of Talpott.

Mativ recently held its annual beer-tasting event, which was a big success. Brown's Pembroke Field House was the setting, with the fire warming the room on a chilly Sunday afternoon. Rabbi Guterman and his wife even made an appearance.

Upcoming events include a visit to Union Station Brewery and the Providence Bruins game on Dec. 10, a night of jazz at the Stanley Jordan concert at G-Clef on Dec. 23 and a delicious potluck Shabbat dinner on Jan. 19.

To join Mativ's mailing list or for more information, contact the temple office at 331-6070.

## BBYO Takes Youth to Bruins Game

The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, in conjunction with Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr., made it possible to take neighborhood youth to the Providence Bruins hockey game at the Providence Civic Center recently.

Members of Cranston A.Z.A. were the host to these young people. The chapter is made up of 13- to 17-year-old boys who plan community service projects throughout the year.

On Dec. 17, the chapter will be donating their time at the Rhode Island Food Bank. On Dec. 25, the chapter will serve Christmas dinner at St. Patrick Church in Providence.

If you have a community service project and need a little help, call Eric Hochman at 467-2296.

## Social Seniors Plan Holiday Party

The Social Seniors of Warwick will hold a meeting on Dec. 12 at 11:30 a.m.

A holiday party will follow the meeting at noon at Temple Am David, Gardiner Street, Warwick. The entertainment for the afternoon will be "Music Express."

On Jan. 18, members will go to Wright's Farm for lunch and will play cash bingo.

Contact Sally Goldman if you have a question.

There will be no regular meetings in January or February.

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## Choosing the for Your Sp

BY JEFFREY INGBER

**N**o matter what type of party you're planning; whether it's a bar mitzvah, wedding or a 50th anniversary, you want it to be "the affair of a lifetime." Choosing a caterer is usually the most important choice in your planning stages.

There are many caterers out there to choose from. So how do you arrive at a choice?

**Availability.** Depending on what's more important to you, is what you should secure first, the hall, the caterer or the entertainment. (Don't forget, flowers, photos and clergy.)

**Price.** First you have to set a budget. Setting a budget helps you weed out those caterers which you cannot afford. Don't be afraid to try and bargain slightly. Caterers want to earn your business.

**Reputation.** Most caterers have some type of reputation, albeit good or bad. What you've heard about a caterer, or what you've tasted is what helps you make a decision about whether or not you are going to call them and ask for a sample menu. Ask for referrals if it makes you feel more comfortable.

**Menu.** In the ever-increasing world of culinary arts, menus are changing daily. Caterers are constantly creating new and exciting dishes to offer their guests. You, the consumers, are the lucky winners in the caterer's quest to stay ahead of his competition.

**Personality.** Planning a party can be a very stressful event. The last thing

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# OCASIONS

## ENGAGEMENT • WEDDING • ANNIVERSARY

### Right Caterer Special Event

you need is a caterer who doesn't have the time to listen to what you want at your party. Caterers are there to cater the party you ask for. Don't let them dictate what you will have and do. However, keep in mind they are the professional and that any suggestions they may make comes from the mouth of experience.

**Helpful Hints.** Don't be afraid to ask for a tasting. It's really the only way to know what you are getting. Ask to attend a function that your caterer will be working, this way you can see the operation in full swing.

Most importantly, ask questions. You are paying good money to throw this "party of a lifetime"; if you have any questions, ask, ask, ask. Hidden fees, ingredients, staff attire, method of food prep, timing — all of these things you will need to know.

Recently I planned my own wedding. I was able to learn firsthand what my customers go through from the minute of engagement to breaking the glass to signing the checks while picking confetti out of my hair. Sitting across from the caterer's desk was a slightly traumatizing experience.

Jeff Ingber is the chef and owner of Jeff's Kosher Kitchen, located in Providence. Jeff's Kosher Kitchen is the exclusive kosher caterer to Brown University. He holds a degree in hotel, restaurant and institutional management from Johnson & Wales University, where he oversees their kosher-for-Passover dining facility (a program which drew national credibility last year by receiving a PITT grant through Hillel, the foundation for Jewish Campus Life). He credits his recent success to many of the schools chefs and staff, along with those people in the Jewish community who drove him to respond to the lack of variety and quality in the kosher food area.

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# HOLIDAY SHOPPER

## PPAC Plans Sale Day

Holiday shoppers can save 10 percent on tickets and gift certificates during a special one-day sale, Dec. 16, at the Providence Performing Arts Center box office.

The 10 percent savings opportunity is available only at the box office which opens at 10 a.m. Call 421-ARTS for more information.

The sale offers savings of 10 percent on gift certificates in any dollar amount, and tickets for children's shows, special presentations, and Broadway shows excluding Friday and Saturday evening performance times.

Broadway subscription packages, which offer savings off full ticket prices, will also be available on the 16th.

Patrons can save 10 percent on tickets for the following shows: "The World's Greatest Magicians," "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber," "Five Guys

named Moe," "Cats," "The parade of Dynasties," "West Side Story," "Crazy for You," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Sharon, Lois & Bram," "The Irish Rovers," "The Who's "Tommy," "STOMP," "Pippi Longstocking," and "Nonsense."

Mastercard, Visa, and American Express charges will be accepted. All sale tickets are subject to availability and some restrictions may apply.

Call 421-ARTS for a complimentary brochure or more information.



## Literary Celebrities Frequent Books on the Square in December

On Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m., nationally known children's authors Nancy Willard (*Water Walker, Sister Water* and others) and Jane Yolen (*Briar Rose, Sister Light, Sister Dark* and others) will be at Books on the Square for a special holiday reading and book-signing of their new jointly authored book, *Among Angels* (Harcourt Brace, illustrated by S. Saelig Gallagher).

This book is a collection of their poems about angels in both the Hebrew and Christian traditions. Yolen has been a prolific and successful author for decades — literally.

The program is free, and open to the public. Books on the Square is located at 471 Angell St. in Wayland Square, Providence. Call 331-9097 for more information.

On Dec. 8 and again on Dec. 15 The Wayland Square Mer-

chants' Association will sponsor special holiday shopping evenings for the whole family.

Strolling musicians, singing and playing holiday favorites, free refreshments, and special displays will be offered for shoppers' pleasure, and all participating stores will have extended hours.

The festival will take place in Wayland Square, Exit 3 off I-195; between Pitman and Angell streets and extending a block both east and west of Wayland Avenue. The festivities will begin at 6 p.m. each evening. The celebration is free and open to the public.

Books on the Square will host Joan Nathan, author of the bestselling *Jewish Cooking in America*, named best cookbook of 1994 by Julia Child, James Beard and the International Association of Culinary Professionals, on Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. She will appear to

promote a new, expanded edition of her classic, *The Children's Jewish Holiday Kitchen: 70 Ways to Have Fun with Your Kids and Make Your Family's Celebrations Special* (reviewed in the *Herald* on Nov. 16). Nathan's appearance is free, and open to the public.

The Second Monday Book Club will discuss two of Terry McMillan's bestselling novels about black women in America on Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

*Mama* is the story of a poor black woman struggling to raise her five children, and *Waiting to Exhale* is a look at four black women of the middle class who are searching for happiness with the men who move in and out of their lives.

The club meets at Books on the Square. Meetings are free and open to the public.

On Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m., Pamela Gleason will sign copies of her new book, *The Proud Italians*.

The book is an analysis of the contributions Italians have made to Western Civilization, beginning in ancient times and continuing today.

Gleason, a professional writer, co-authored this study with Carl A. Pescosolido, an Italian scholar and entrepreneur. Anyone with an interest in Italy or things Italian might like to receive this as a gift, particularly if the author had signed a copy specially for the recipient.

## Give a Gift of Education

For those hard-to-please people on your shopping list, Bristol Community College offers gift certificates that can be used for credit or noncredit courses. Parents or grandparents who want to help a student may find these holiday gift certificates ideal.

The gift certificate can also be used to pay for a hobby or non-credit course... such as watercolor painting, stained glass construction or cooking. You can select a specific course for the spring semester, or let the recipient choose at his or her leisure.

Gift certificates are available in the Continuing Education office in the Hudnall Administration Building, and can be purchased in any amount desired.

For more information, contact the continuing education office at (508) 678-2811, ext. 2590.

## RISD Gift Giving

On Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the RISD Metcalf Refectory, the annual art sale featuring hand-crafted works from more than 100 RISD alumni will be held.

Thousands of unique items will be for sale, including jewelry, glass, ceramics, clothing and fine art. Many unique creations will be available at discounted prices.

Admission, \$3 for adults, will benefit the 1995-96 annual fund for student scholarships.

The refectory is located at 55 Angell St. in Providence.

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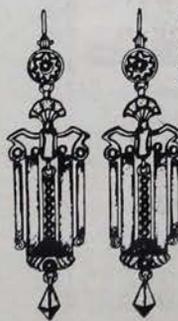
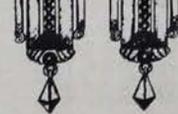
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# HOLIDAY SHOPPER

## On the First Day of Chanukah...

by Alison Smith  
Herald Editor

Chanukah is almost upon us. It is a known scientific fact that time speeds up in the latter part of November, and December, and then stretches out unbearably in February and early March. Someone should be checking into this, instead of sending people into orbit.

Before you actually hit the stores, it pays — really pays — to sit down and brainstorm, and make a list.

The store aisles will be crowded, clerks will be impatient and tired, selection will diminish, and knowing exactly what you want, and what your back-up items will be will make shopping much easier and quicker for you. An hour spent on making a list will save you four or five hours at the stores.

Begin with bookstores. You could walk into a good bookstore with your complete list, and emerge two hours later with a gift for everyone on your list, and all your gifts wrapped already. (Many stores offer free wrapping, or wrapping in exchange for a small charitable donation.)

If you cannot find the right book, proceed to the magazine display.

Whatever the hobby, there's a magazine created for it. Or more than one. Pick up the current issue of the magazine, take out the order card and put it in your pocket, roll the magazine, and gift wrap it.

You can fill out the subscription order at home, at your leisure, and give the current issue as a sample of what's ahead for your friend or family member in the year to come. If you haven't browsed through a big magazine display in the last several years, you are going to be

staggered by the number of elegant, even esoteric, publications now available.

Think creatively about each person on your list. Avi is a bird watcher? If you love him very, very much, how about a pair of those super-light birdwatching binoculars.

If you love him a lot, but not that much, or he's a backyard watcher, how about a new feeder, a bird guide, a bird watcher's magazine, or a hundred pounds of black oil sunflower seed? How about a book on planting a garden to attract birds to your property? For a joke gift, how about a large jar of vaseline to coat the pole his feeder is mounted on, so the squirrels can't climb up to get the seed, but will provide him with some laughs while they try.

If Belle is a wild, free spirit, how about a course in Cajun dancing, or a gift certificate for a hot-air balloon ride (check out the *Providence Journal* and *Rhode Island Monthly Magazine* for ads). Call North Central Airport and

arrange for the two of you to take an hour's flight over your section of Rhode Island. Buy her a big bottle of real, genuine, sensual French perfume. Or, if your budget is suffering withdrawal symptoms, a container of bath salts in that fragrance (much cheaper) or a pair of scented candles for that midnight glass of champagne.

If the lady loves jewelry, go for class. A real gold or real silver bracelet or necklace or pin...or genuine pearls or diamonds, even in a small size in a small earring, should charm her. Classy jewelry, however simple, is a subtle compliment to the lady's taste. Better a simple "silver rain" necklace she can wear with everything from Harris wool sweaters to silk blouses than a matched set of whatever is currently "fun" this month.

For the gardener, look for the *Old Farmer's Almanac Gardening Calendar*, a real steal at \$5.99, and full of charming illustrations and practical articles. There are gardening books that will just charm your socks off, and make you dream of spring, even if you can't keep a philodendron alive for two weeks in the house. Already-potted Amaryl-

lis bulbs will amaze and astound their owners in about six weeks with huge, gaudy, magnificent blossoms. All you have to do is water them, and they will do the rest.

How about delectable coffee beans, a little bottle of high-quality vanilla beans and a tiny bundle of cinnamon "sticks" (for extra flavoring) for your coffee gourmet?

For your tea drinker, a selection of really excellent tea — preferably imported from Great Britain — and a bone china cup and saucer will make an impression.

Every year, you can add another cup and saucer. The idea is not to end up with a matched set, but to end up with six beautiful, different sets of cups and saucers. If your tea drinker is really the love of your life, how about visiting a top quality jewelry store and asking if they carry fine china and porcelain? A small, beautiful teapot is something that will be enjoyed for years to come.

For the rugged man on your list — a massive leather belt with a turquoise studded buckle, or an Australian "outback" hat, with a broad brim (very flattering to most men) will tell him

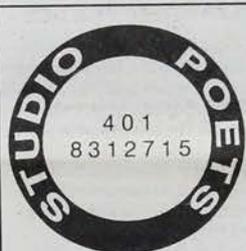
you think of him as rugged...all male.

If he is a sports fan, he already probably subscribes to his favorite sports magazine, but maybe he'd like a high-tech pair of binoculars, or an expensive but really priceless bit of sports memorabilia, like a ball Ted Williams autographed, or William Perry's football shirt...what-ever.

If your beloved is into computers, only computers, and always computers, I can't help you. Better just ask him or her what he or she needs or wants, and get the model or order number written down, and keep the receipt in case a substitution is necessary. This will take some of the surprise out of your gift, but there are times when "surprise!" isn't all that desirable.

Instead of listening to television pitchers telling you what you should buy, or going along with the biggest, brightest newspaper ads — SALE! SALE! SALE! — spend some time quietly envisioning how your friend or loved one is most happy.

Then contribute to that happiness, whether it's a bulb in a pot, sunflower seeds, or a pair of tiny diamond earrings.



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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Murray

(Continued from Page 1)

There was no single plot line, just events flowing across the stage like leaves on a river, until finally, we rounded a bend on the river and saw the tree all the leaves had been coming from — the human desire and need to understand, to relate to, and to worship the power that put us here.

There are very few things as beautiful as the soul at worship and on that small stage, during the last minutes of the show, six humans were reaching, in their own ways, toward G-d.

The thing that struck me almost immediately, and kept impressing me throughout the performance, was the quality of the talent in the Perishable Theatre group. Players were: Marilyn Brown, Algernon D'Ammassa, Russell Kellogg, James McLean, and Gary Potvin.

The three-piece band, Frankincense and Murray, was terrific. You could hardly sit still when they were pounding it out. Band members are Keith Munslow, Jake DeQuattro, and Joe Auger.

Next time I have a little money in my pocket, and an evening free, I'm going to check out what the Perishable Theatre is putting on.

And I hope to take some friends and family back to see "Tis The Season" before the run is over on Dec. 23.

Performances are at 8 p.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays. Tickets are \$10, \$8 for seniors and students. Call 331-2695.

The theatre is at 95 Empire St., Providence, between Weybosset and Westminster streets.

## Cash and Carry Art

An exhibition and holiday sale of affordable works by gallery artists will be held at Hera Gallery from Dec. 9 to 23.

The public is invited to an opening reception on Dec. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The exhibit is free and open to the public and is handicapped accessible.

## Saying It With Words and Music

As part of its Galway Kinnell Poetry Series, the Community College of Rhode Island is sponsoring a free reading by award-winning poet Gjertrud Schnackenberg on Dec. 12 at noon in Room 2714 on the Lincoln Campus.

The college music department will present a Holiday Concert on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bobby Hackett Theatre, Warwick campus.

The performance will feature CCRI's Chamber Ensemble, Chamber Singers, Chorus and Jazz Ensembles. Admission is \$3.

For more information, call the music department at 825-2168, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



WHAT REALLY COUNTS are the quiet moments of worship portrayed by (from the left) Russell Kellogg, Gary Potvin and Algernon D'Ammassa in "Tis the Season" at the Perishable Theatre. Photo by Glenn Turner

## 'Fiddler' Hits the Right Notes

by Neil Nachbar  
Herald Associate Editor

By going to see "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Providence Performing Arts Center, I felt like I've been culturally bar mitzvahed. Sure, I've been to other performances at PPAC, such as "Phantom of the Opera," but from a Jewish perspective, what can compare to "Fiddler"?

What struck me about the show, is that it can be enjoyed on many different levels.

Theodore Bikel adds a lot of humor to the leading role of Tevye, a poor dairyman with a sick horse, a wife and five daughters. Throughout the musical, Tevye is torn between maintaining tradition and ensuring his daughters' happiness. Faced with such difficult decisions, we sympathize with the character.

"Fiddler" happens to have some of the most well-known songs in theater, with "If I Were A Rich Man," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," and "Sunrise, Sunset." Although I thought Bikel's singing voice wasn't as strong as his speaking voice, the music was

still very entertaining.

There are a lot of light moments in "Fiddler," like the scene at the inn, where Tevye celebrates the engagement of his daughter. The "dream" scene with Tevye's mother-in-law is another funny moment in the show.

However, there are also some serious themes in the musical — these are issues which have withstood the test of time. Religious persecution and intermarriage are just two of the issues that are addressed.

The Sabbath scene and the Yiddish vocabulary sprinkled throughout the musical adds greatly to the "Jewishness" of the production. But I think even someone who isn't Jewish or knows little about Judaism would still enjoy "Fiddler" immensely.

Remaining shows for "Fiddler" are Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 8 at 8 p.m., Dec. 9 at 2 and 8 p.m., and Dec. 10 at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$26.50 to \$40.50. For more information, or to order tickets, call 421-ARTS.

## Jaffe Photo Exhibit Will Benefit Project/AIDS

A photography exhibit featuring more than 75 photographs taken by Edwin A. Jaffe during the past 60 years will be on display Dec. 10 through 22 at the Dryden Galleries LTD/Providence Picture Frame Co.

For additional information, call the 24-hour special events line at Rhode Island Project/AIDS at 831-5595.

## Brass Quintet to Perform in Barrington

A concert will be given at the Barrington Public Library by the Ocean State Brass Quintet on Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature a wide variety of music including early Renaissance and Baroque pieces, marches and Dixieland jazz.

For more information, contact Robert Greenawalt at 245-5161, or Lauri Burke at 247-1920.

## Not Your Usual Holiday Production

by Neil Nachbar  
Herald Associate Editor

When I first heard about the musical "Tis the Season," at Perishable Theatre, certain pre-conceived notions about the performance came to mind.

Knowing it was a "holiday" production that was sensitive to people of all faiths, I pictured a Christmas theme, with perhaps a token Chanukah scene or two thrown in here or there. Granted, this may sound a bit cynical, but I'm used to people trying to connect the two holidays.

However, to my surprise, "Tis the Season" took a much different route. Although there were a few Chanukah decorations on the set, the story really had nothing to do with the Festival of Lights.

The musical was about how the holiday season has become commercialized and how people try to observe religious rituals during a time of year when there are plenty of distractions. From a Jewish perspective, this was beautifully illustrated by a gentleman's struggle to celebrate the Sabbath.

In between some entertaining scenes about Christmas, the theatre is quiet and the lights dim as the Jewish character takes the stage. He sets his table with a loaf of challah, his kiddish cup, his prayer book and his Sabbath candles, but on two attempts he is interrupted, having not finished his prayers.

On the third attempt to celebrate the Sabbath, the Jewish gentleman is finally successful. In this climactic scene, he shares the stage with characters who also struggled to observe the rituals of their respective religions.

"We tried to convey how it

can be hard in a country where Christmas and Sundays are the days off, and that it can be a struggle to keep the Sabbath with so many internal and external forces at play," said Russell Kellogg, who played the Jewish character.

Although Kellogg is not Jewish, he did attend an independent school in Boston in which 70 percent of the students were Jewish. "I guess I learned about Judaism through osmosis," said Kellogg.

To help Kellogg with the role, Kathleen Jenkins, co-creator and co-director, borrowed a tape of the prayers said on the Sabbath from a local cantor.

Jenkins, who converted to Judaism six years ago at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, got the idea of the Jewish character from a photograph she once saw of an old immigrant man observing the Sabbath while living in the 1800s in New York City.

"The man lived in this barren space," said Jenkins. "He probably worked 10 to 12 hours a day. The bread must have cost him a lot of money."

"This picture showed how important the Sabbath is — much more important than Chanukah," Jenkins continued.

While a large part of "Tis the Season" is very humorous, the central theme is very meaningful.

"I was very moved by it," said Elliot Cohan, former executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. "I was particularly struck by the underlying values. They came through so beautifully."

"The performance cut across all religions and paths," continued Cohan, who is an actor at New Gate Theatre. "It was a real affirmation of life."

## Cranston Libraries Plan Neighborly Celebrations

"Celebrate Together" in an after-school program at the William Hall Library which will include stories and crafts focusing on Id al Fitr, an Islamic celebration, Santa Lucia, and Kwanzaa.

On Dec. 8, at the Oak Lawn Branch, Christmas and Chanukah stories and crafts will be offered for children from ages 4 through the third grade at 3:15 p.m. At 6 p.m., children in grades four and up are invited to bring a brown bag supper and to enjoy stories, crafts and a sing-along. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

At 7 p.m., on Dec. 12, a family program will be held at the Central Library. This "Celebrate Together" program will focus on Chanukah and Christmas with stories, songs and activities. Refreshments will be served.

On Dec. 19, there will be a winter solstice program for families at the William Hall Library. The hour of stories, crafts, a movie and refreshment will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Call the libraries for more information and registration. Then celebrate together!

## Wheaton Chamber Orchestra to Perform Winter Concert

The Wheaton College Chamber Orchestra will present its annual Winter Concert on Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Cole Chapel, Wheaton College, Norton, Mass. The concert is free and open to the public.

The concert will feature a wide variety of music for string orchestra. Selections will include the "Water Music Suite" by G.F. Handel, W.A. Mozart's

"Eine Kleine Nachtmusik," Gustav Holst's "St. Paul's Suite," "Prelude for Strings" by Vincent Persichetti and "Rhosymedre" by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

The orchestra is comprised of Wheaton students and faculty, as well as adults and advanced high school students from surrounding communities.

For more information about the orchestra or the free concert, call (508) 286-5389.

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Bell Gallery Exhibits Set Designs

Brown University's David Winton Bell Gallery will present an exhibition entitled Film Architecture: Set Designs from "Metropolis" to "Blade Runner" from Dec. 9 through Jan. 21.

The show will then travel to the exhibition galleries of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills, Calif. (April 4 through June 9) and to the Deutsches Film-museum and Deutsches Architektur-museum in Frankfurt, Germany (July 1 through Sept. 1).

The exhibit will include original set designs and models from the medievalizing, expressionistic and psychological spaces developed in films such as "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" (1919) to experimental depiction of the anticipated modern city in films such as "Asphalt" (1928-29) and "Sunrise" (1926-27) to the dark view of the future in "Metropolis" (1927).

In the case of "Caligari," the show will bring together a majority of the extant drawings for the first time. "The Fountain-head" (1949) will illustrate how the ideology of modern architecture was presented to a mass audience in the United States, while "Blade Runner" (1982) will present a postmodern view

of the city as another response to the earlier cinematic discussions.

By combining the presentation of original designs with models, still photographs, film clips and statements by set designers and architects, the show will place set design in relation to contemporary architectural debates and illustrate its position relative to painting, stage design and architecture. The exhibition will include approximately 140 objects.

The exhibition is being curated by Brown University architectural historian Dietrich Neumann and a group of international scholars.

The exhibition focuses on urban visionary architecture and takes as its starting point the period between 1918 and 1933, the years of the Weimar Republic in Germany, a time critical to the development of a democratic mass culture and its different manifestations.

### Programs

• Dec. 8, 5:30 p.m., opening lectures and reception, Salomon Auditorium, College Green (no admission charge).

• Dec. 9, noon to 3 p.m., film program, CableCar Cinema, 204

South Main St. (admission charge). Two architecturally important silent films, "The Last Laugh" (1924) and a newly restored version of "Asphalt" (1928-29), will be introduced by Dietrich Neumann.

• Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., "Metropolis" (1927) with the Alloy Orchestra, Rhode Island School of Design Auditorium, Canal Street (admission charge). The Bell Gallery will present the recently re-edited version of "Metropolis" with a new score composed and performed live by the Alloy Orchestra.

• Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m., lecture, List Art Center Auditorium, 64 College St. (no admission charge) Arnold Weinstein, the Henry Merritt Wriston Professor and professor of comparative literature at Brown University, will speak on "Visionary Cities: Dream or Nightmare."

• Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., film program, List Art Center Auditorium, 64 College St. (no admission charge). Virtually unknown in the United States, "L'Inhumaine" (1924) is considered the most important modernist French film of the 1920s.

For more information, call Linda Mahdesian of Brown's News Bureaus 863-2476.

## Three Artists Come to Life

The New Bedford Whaling Museum presents a one-woman performance by Robin Lane on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. in the museum theater.

Over the past decade, Lane has gained a national reputation for her moving portraits of historical women. In "Artful Lives: Living Portraits of Women Artists," Lane has put together a program depicting the lives of three remarkable female artists.

The passions and struggles of Mary Cassatt, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Frida Kahlo come to life through this performance.

Admission is \$5. Seating is limited, reservations are recommended. Call (508) 997-0046, ext. 16.

## 'Holiday Wishes' at Bumblebees

For Sentimental Reasons, the cabaret group that has been selling out regularly at places like Bumblebees on the Boulevard will return to Bumblebees on Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 at 8 p.m.

Unfortunately for Sentimental fans, the Dec. 10 performance is already sold out, but reservations (call 453-1797) are still available for the Dec. 17 appearance.

This show, "Holiday Wishes," is packed with the songs like "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and "White Christmas" that can still bring tears to your eyes, if you're over 60. If you're younger, you will certainly enjoy them, but the bittersweet impact will be softer.

Tickets will be \$10. A full dinner menu is available.

## Follow the Yellow Brick Road

Providence will be home to the Emerald City when producer Kenneth Feld's new spectacular, "The Wizard of Oz on Ice," comes to the Providence Civic Center from Jan. 3 through 7 for seven performances.

Audiences of all ages can experience the journey to the Land of Oz. The tale of Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman and the Cowardly Lion, and all of the memorable songs, characters and moments that audiences have come to expect, will be brought to life through the artistry of figure skating.

The \$9 million state-of-the-art

production features special choreography by Robin Cousins of Great Britain, the 1980 Olympic Gold Medalist. Bobby McFerrin provides the singing and speaking voices for all the characters, with the exception of Dorothy, who is vocalized by Laurnea Wilkerson.

Tickets are now on sale at the Providence Civic Center box office, all TicketMaster locations or charge-by-phone in Rhode Island at 331-2211, in Massachusetts (508) or (617) 931-2000.

For more information, contact Dean Roussel at 331-0700, ext. 123.



THIS PIECE, titled "Second Version (City with tower)," was done for the movie "Metropolis" (Ufa, 1927). It was done with ink, pencil and watercolor on paper, by Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek, Berlin, Germany.

Photo courtesy of the David Winton Bell Gallery, Brown University

## Gould & Stearns Perform Special Holiday Program

The widely acclaimed comedy team of Gould & Stearns will bring their lively holiday season program "Simple Gifts" to the Orpheum Theatre in Foxborough for two performances, on Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"Simple Gifts" is a fun-filled, thought-provoking family show filled with original stories and songs, zany physical comedy and tongue-in-cheek social commentary. In this fast-paced, hour-long show, Gould & Stearns are road performers, far from family and friends on a cold December night.

To while away the hours, they ask the age-old questions and physically act out the answers as to the real story of Chanukah; what really happened on Christmas Eve 2,000 years ago and why so many catalogues come in the mail.

Directed by famed silent clown Avner "the eccentric" Eisenberg, "Simple Gifts" also features a full-sized soft-sculpture motel room set, designed and sewn by Joan Peters of Guilford, Vt.

Peter Gould and Stephen Stearns have been delighting

audiences across the country and internationally since they first started to perform together in 1980. They have been honored three times with prize fellowships from the Vermont Council on the Arts, and were featured performers at the 1991 Lincoln Center Institute in New York City.

Tickets are priced at \$12.50 for adults and \$7.50 for seniors and students. To purchase tickets or for further information, contact the Foxborough Regional Center for the Performing Arts at (508) 543-ARTS or (800) 810-ARTS.

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# SCHOOLBEAT

## Feinstein Foundation Donates \$1 Million to URI Capital Campaign

by Dave Lavallee

The Feinstein Foundation has made a \$1 million donation to the University of Rhode Island's Capital Campaign to the support community service component of a new course for freshmen.

Entitled, URI 101, Traditions and Transformations, the course is being offered for the first time this fall to 1,500 of URI's 2,000 freshmen. It becomes mandatory for all freshmen entering next fall.

The gift will establish an endowment that will provide perpetual funding for community service projects done in each of the classes to improve community life and enhance the students' understanding of the issues that affect people's lives.

In making the gift, well-known Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein said URI 101 makes the university a leader in higher education.

"This program is going to put Rhode Island in the vanguard of community service in higher education throughout the country," he said. "It's a hands-on course. This isn't just theory, this is direct impact on the community.

"It's my feeling that every college student should have the opportunity and the duty to make a positive difference in the lives of others," Feinstein added.

"Service is one of the three cornerstones of the mission of this university," said URI President Robert L. Carothers. With this generous support, we can reaffirm this core value with each new entering class."

Diane Strommer, dean of University College and Special Academic Programs at URI, developed the URI 101 course and edited the textbook for it.

"I have seen the power of service-learning to transform students' lives," she said. "We want our students to experience the value for themselves, to give them an opportunity to work together as a community of learners, to reflect on and discuss community involvement and to begin to understand the needs of the larger community as they start their undergraduate years."

In the nearly 70 class offerings of URI 101, students regularly discuss core values in rela-

tion to their daily academic lives, but they also put into action what they've learned by working together on class service projects.

Examples of some of the recent and upcoming projects by students include environmental cleanup work, working with Habitat for Humanity, assisting the elderly with chores, and visiting children and others in area hospitals.

Marguerite M. Brown, director of URI's corporate and foundation relations and the author of the grant proposal, said the gift is an important affirmation of the vision and commitment of the entire university.

"As a land, sea, and now urban grant institution, URI has always had service at the heart of its mission," said Brown. "Grants such as this one help to ensure our ability to continue to fulfill this mission in perpetuity."

The private, non-profit Feinstein Foundation focuses on community service through education at the elementary, secondary and higher education levels.

## Schechter Provides Us All With Turkey Recipes

Did Your Thanksgiving Turkey Measure Up?

The kindergarten students at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School have compiled a list of tips on "How to Cook a Turkey." Their ideas will tickle your fancy, if not your taste buds. The Herald urges you to take these directions with a grain of salt, also sugar and beer.

- You catch a turkey at Mama's and Papa's house. Catch a big one. Catch it with a fishing rod. Bring it home and wash it. Cook it in a pan with salt, sugar and beer. Put it in the toaster and toast it. It's done when the toaster stops.

- Buy the turkey at the mall. Girl turkeys are best. Cook it in the oven for about seven minutes. Put salt on it first. It's done when the stove beeps. Eat it with a fork.

- Buy a turkey at the shop. Look for the sign that says "Good Turkey." Cook it in an oven for two days. Salt it a little. When the timer goes up to two it is done.

- Buy the turkey at the store. Feel it. If it has a lot of blood it's a good one. Put it in a six foot pan for six minutes. It's done

when the thing you use on chicken tells you it's done. Eat it with cranberry sauce.

- You buy the turkey at the store. They cost about one dollar. Buy a little one. Put it in the toaster oven for one minute. It looks like turkey when it is finished.

- Don't catch a real turkey with feathers. Catch one with just skin. You put it in an oven to fry it. You fry for maybe six o'clock. That's when the big hand points to twelve and the little hand points to the six. It's done when my dad whispers a secret.

- You get the turkey at a Thanksgiving store. The best one is the shiniest. Put it in the oven for three minutes. It is done when it is brown.

- Buy it at a store. Cook it with sugar and peanut butter in a pot. Cook for twenty minutes.

- Go to the farm and check out the first turkey you see. Look for a net. Two nets would be best. Catch one from the front and back. When you catch one bring it home. Roast it for five minutes on a big roaster. Check it with a knife, fork, or spoon to see if it is done. Eat it!

## ASDS Holds Humash Ceremony

This year's grade three Humash Ceremony at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School was an emotional experience for all who participated — students, faculty, parents and family members.

It was an opportunity to underscore the beauty of the Jewish tradition, as youngsters begin to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to full adult participation in the Jewish community.

Students put on a Hebrew play and led a Shohar service. As the Torah was taken from the ark, students and parents formed concentric circles, unrolling the scroll and demonstrating in a concrete way the passing on of the tradition from generation to generation.

Third-graders recited a Torah blessing and chanted the Torah portion as parents, sib-

lings, teachers and friends looked on.

At the end of the service, students were each called up with their parents and presented with Humashim which they will use from now on.

The occasion ended with a celebration dessert, reminding the students that the study of Torah is sweet.



MIRIAM KLEIN receives her Humash at Schechter Day School while her mother, sister and brother look on.

## Sugar and Spice and Gingerbread

On Dec. 13, between 3 and 5 p.m., the Children's Museum of Rhode Island will delight the senses as children taste and learn about the sweet legacy of gingerbread.

Same day registration is required. Call 726-2591 beginning at 9 a.m. to register. There is no fee beyond the usual price of admission.



TENDERLY, TENDERLY, parents, siblings, and Alperin Schechter Day School third-grade students participate in a Humash ceremony, as the Torah scroll is unrolled.

## Museum Holds a Festival of Joy

On Dec. 10, from 1 to 5 p.m., the Children's Museum of Rhode Island will host a Family Fun Day celebrating a wealth of December holidays and Rhode Island's rich cultural diversity.

Children ages 3 and over and their families will sample tradi-

tional foods, from latkes to Santa Lucia rolls, and explore the ways Rhode Island families celebrate the season.

No registration is required. There is no fee beyond the price of admission.

## Bronfman Fellowships Offered

For the 10th consecutive summer, 26 outstanding Jewish teenagers from the United States and Canada, entering the 12th grade of school in the fall of 1996, will be chosen for a serious program of study, dialogue and travel in Israel this summer.

The program is seeking the most promising young people in the North American Jewish community, coming from a wide variety of Jewish backgrounds. The objective of this program is to foster a sense of community among a diverse group of potential Jewish leaders.

All expenses will be covered for this five-week program, be-

ginning July 8 — round-trip transportation, room and board, travel in Israel and incidentals. Selection will be based not on need but on merit alone.

For a descriptive brochure and application, call or write at once to: The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, 17 Wilbur St., Albany, NY 12202-1716, (518) 465-6575. Completed applications must be postmarked by Feb. 1.

For further information, call Ruth Page, Israel Desk coordinator at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, at 331-0956.

## MTV — B'BYO Style, Dec. 9

MTV, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization-style, comes to the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island on Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the girls of Judy Ann Leven, Le/Olum and Sharon B.B.G.S. The cost of this event is \$7. If you bring two canned goods, you will receive \$2 in return.

If you are between the ages of 13 and 18 and are interested in this event, call David Hochman at 467-BBYO.

## Fiddle-dee-dee at Barrington Library

The acoustic band Fiddle-dee-dee will perform a seasonal program of traditional Christmas carols, Chanukah songs and tunes celebrating the winter solstice at 7 p.m. on Dec. 14.



NO PRAYING TO THE SUN, say third-grade Alperin Schechter Day School students.

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# MILESTONES

## Meredith Weisman Marries Richard Amaral

Meredith Dara Weisman, of Cranston, R.I., and Richard Amaral, of Cranston, R.I., were married Oct. 28 at Manning Chapel, Providence. The bride is the daughter of Fran Weisman of Warwick. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hanabel Amaral Jr., of Riverside, R.I.

Rabbi Benjamin Z. Rudavsky officiated at the ceremony with Father Daniel Graham participating. A reception was held immediately afterwards at The Newport Marriott.

The bride was given in marriage by her uncle, Stuart Weisman.

Maid of honor was Andrea Weisman, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Shari Beranbaum, Gillian Holland, Diane Reuter Andrade, Deborah Wilcox, sister of the bridegroom,

and Christine Almeida, sister of the bridegroom.

Ronald Amaral, the bridegroom's brother, was best man. Ushers were Stephen Scanlan, Robert Scanlan, Harold Lane, Robert Wilcox and Joseph Almeida.

The bride graduated from the Wheeler School and Hofstra University with a bachelor of arts degree. She is employed with Mental Health Services as a case manager.

The bridegroom graduated from East Providence High School and Rhode Island College. He is employed at John E. Fogarty Center as a vocational instructor.

The couple took their wedding trip to Cancun, Mexico, and reside in Cranston, R.I.

## Spielberg Film Archive Wins Special Award

A special award has been presented to the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem for its presentation of the first-ever retrospective of pre-state Israeli films at the recent 14th Podernone Silent Film Festival in Italy.

The award was granted to the Spielberg Archive for its contribution to enriching the knowledge of Israeli filmmaking in general and specifically those made in the era of silent film. Accepting the award was Spielberg Archive Director Marilyn Koolik.

The Spielberg Archive operates under the auspices of the

Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at The Hebrew University and the Central Zionist Archives.

The retrospective included 35 films, most of which came from the archive's own collection, but including also a number of important films contributed by Czech, Dutch, British, French, American, Danish and German film archives.

The program was compiled by Hillel Tryster, the Spielberg Archive's deputy director and researcher, whose new book, *Israel Before Israel: Silent Cinema in the Holy Land*, was published in conjunction with the Italian festival. The book is the first

historical survey of the silent era in Israeli film history.

Among the rare films screened by the Spielberg archive at the Pordenone Festival was one shot in the French city of Renees during the second trial for treason of Alfred Dreyfus in 1899.

An additional film in the Spielberg presentation that roused particular interest at the festival was "Springtime in Palestine," which was produced by Keren Hayesod in 1928 and distributed by the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish National Fund.

## Cheryl Miller to Wed Dr. Peter Fischer

Charles and Billie Fischer of Cranston, R.I., announce the engagement of their son, Dr. Peter Andrew Fischer, of Newton, Mass., to Cheryl Ann Miller, of Newton, Mass., daughter of Stanley and Sally Miller, of Quincy, Mass.

The bride-to-be graduated Tufts University. She is home health division manager for

Norton and Associates, Inc.

Her fiancé graduated from the University of Vermont and received his M.D. degree from Tufts University, School of Medicine. He is currently completing his rheumatology fellowship at New England Medical Center.

The date of the wedding is July 1996.



Grandparents Allan and Sydelle Sydney of Providence announce the birth of their fifth grandchild, Joshua Mermelstein.

He was born Nov. 28, in San José, Costa Rica, to Linda Sydney Mermelstein and Dr. Simon Mermelstein.

Joshua has two brothers, Dani, age 7, and Max, 5.

Paternal grandparents are Gil and Chaya Mermelstein of San José, Cost Rica.

## Shavitz Elected President of Jewish Braille Institute

Selma Shavitz of Manhattan, a leader of numerous local and national Jewish organizations, was elected to a two-year term as president of the Jewish Braille Institute of America at the annual meeting of JBI's board of trustees in New York, it was announced recently.

She succeeds Dr. Jane Evans of New Rochelle, N.Y., who served as president for the last 16 years, presiding over the expansion of JBI's programs worldwide. In recognition of her long-time service to the institute, Evans was designated as honorary president.

Elected to two-year terms as new vice presidents were Thomas G. Kahn of Manhattan, chairman of the institute's investment

committee, and Myron Kaplan of Manhattan, vice chair of the investment committee.

Paul Herman of Englewood, N.J., a tax and estate attorney long active in Jewish communal affairs, was elected to a two-year term as the new assistant treasurer.



Mrs. Richard Amaral

## Two Wyner Prizes Awarded

Two prizes for achievements in the promotion of intercommunal tolerance and democratic values, established by Boston philanthropist Elizabeth Wyner Mark, were recently awarded in Jerusalem by the new Israel Fund.

The awards were presented at a Nov. 2 event, held at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, which fea-

tured a keynote address by member of Knesset Dalia Itzik, chair of the Parliament's education committee.

The 1995 Wyner Prize, worth \$2,200, was awarded to the educational department of the Jerusalem Cinematheque, an innovative movie house that sponsors lectures and seminars about human rights, democracy, coexistence and tolerance.

The 1995 Wyner Mark Prize went to *Halonot (Windows)*, a magazine for Jewish and Arab children. The \$2,500 award recognized the bilingual magazine's work to bridge educational gaps between Arab and Jewish school children by promoting dialogue partnership, and equality.

## Marilyn Muffs Bat Mitzvah

Marilyn Gail Muffs, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Michael Muffs, was bat mitzvah at Temple Beth El, at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on Nov. 18.

Guests came from New Jersey, Chicago, Los Angeles, Maryland, New York, Florida, California, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Poughkeepsie.

Marilyn is the granddaughter of Sadie and the late Ray Muffs, and of Anita and the late Dr. Julius Posner.

## Correction

On the Milestones page of the Nov. 30 *Jewish Herald*, the name of one of our brides, Alison Nalibow Smith, was incorrectly spelled in the headline. The *Herald* regrets the error.



Mr. and Mrs. Alan J. Goldberg announce the arrival of their son, Kenneth Paul, born Oct. 21, 8 lbs., 13 oz. His sisters, Jennifer and Michelle, welcomed him.

He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard S. Goldberg of Cranston and Narragansett and Mrs. Lillian Paul of New Rochelle, N.Y., and the late Irving Paul. His great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Halpern and Mrs. Tillie Goldberg.

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# Jewish Book Month

NOVEMBER 18—DECEMBER 18

## It's Not Just Your Imagination — Boston Is Different

by Alison Smith  
Herald Editor

For decades, Boston referred to itself as "The Hub of the Universe."

Before that, it was dubbed "The Athens of America," and its citizenry felt that the name was appropriate.

Now, reading a book called *The Jews of Boston*, I understand that the Jewish community in Boston contributed to the city's high self-esteem, and gloried in it.

Right from the start, in startling ways, the Jewish presence in Boston was different from the Jewish presence in Savannah, Charleston, Philadelphia, and New York.

Solomon Franco, "the Jew" was the first Jew to land in Boston — on a cargo vessel in 1649, and for reasons that were purely legal and commercial, he left again in less than three months, never to return.

While Sephardic Jews settled down in other east coast cities and prospered, the Jews who came to Boston were just passing through, on business or family trips.

It wasn't until the 1840s that there was a small community of Boston Jewish, who organized a synagogue, the third in this nation. So the most striking fact of Jewish history in Boston is that until that time, there was none.

Even when the cooperation necessary to organize a synagogue was mustered, it did not last. The community split into Polish and German camps in the second half of the 19th century. The Polish, conservative faction, triumphed, which had lasting significance for the community.

Finally, suddenly, from 1880 to 1900, a population explosion

among the Jews in Boston took place, and their numbers went from 5,000 to 40,000.

Zionism was extremely popular with this population. By World War II, 90 percent of Greater Boston Jews were supportive of Zionism.

There were the usual wars between Italian, Irish and Jewish immigrants, with ethnic populations shifting from the South End, then to the North End, then into the West End.

Finally, Jews who had made it commercially spread out to Roxbury and Dorchester, and made those areas their own till another ethnic group, Afro-Americans, moved in, and older, poorer Jews became the targets of anti-Semitism.

In the end, it can be said that Jews prospered more than any other ethnic group in Boston. There were several contributing factors, but one of the most important was the belief that your first obligation, once you had made it, was to help other Jews make it, too.

Another was the tradition of a strong work ethic and a willingness to start at the bottom, where jobs were frequently going begging, and work your way up.

A third factor was the Jewish tendency to stick with what they already knew well from the old country, or were not excluded from by bias...commerce and clothing.

They put most of their eggs in those two baskets, and they watched those baskets.

Then, whenever possible, they emphasized education. Nothing was too much trouble if it meant the children would be well educated. Eventually, Jewish students became a force to be reckoned with at Boston Latin High School and Harvard

University...a development which later led to the creation of the Jewish Harvard, Brandeis University.

It was from the latter half of the 19th century, when commerce and clothing were king, that families like the Filenes and Levis established their commercial base.

The book is a big volume, studded throughout with pictures. It is as thorough a piece of scholarship as most readers could wish for. When you read it, patterns become clear. The fact that the Polish faction exerted the greater influence in shaping Boston's Jewish community has significance even today. The fact that Zionism was so important, and that people like Brandeis and scholarly rabbis were the role models of the time, and that Harvard University became the goal of most bright young Jewish males, all played a part in making Boston Jews what they are today.

One of the results of these factors was the recurrence of divisions between conservative and liberal in the community.

(Continued on Page 24)

## Nathan and Karas to Appear at Book Fair

Nationally celebrated author Joan Nathan will appear in a program at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elm Grove Ave., during the center's Book Fair and Gift Sale which begins Dec. 10 and runs through Dec. 22.

This year's version of the fair will offer a wide selection of general and Jewish best-sellers, children's books, a used book corner and holiday gift items. The sale will be held Mondays through Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Dec. 11 from 4 to 6 p.m., parents and their preschool and school-age children, are invited to meet Joan Nathan, the author of *Jewish Cooking in America*, as she presents her new cookbook, *The Children's Jewish Holiday Kitchen*. Nathan will prepare edible driedels and menorahs for Chanukah. Winner of both the 1994 IACP — Julia Child Award for Best Cookbook of the Year and the James Beard Award for Food of the Americas, and a popu-

lar lecturer on food, Nathan will conclude her demonstration with a book signing.

On Dec. 10 at 1 p.m., Phyllis Karas, author of the new novel for young adults, *The Hate Crime*, which is based on an actual anti-Semitic incident in her community of Marblehead, Mass., will discuss her book and the issues it raises. Teens and their families and teachers should find this event of interest.

The film, "Children Remember the Holocaust: Through Their Eyes," starring Keanu Reeves and presented on CBS TV, will be shown on Dec. 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum.

A collective memoir based on selections chosen from young people's diaries and letters, and the recollections of survivors, the film will be the topic of a discussion in which teens, teachers and parents are invited to participate.

All of these events are open to the public. For further information, contact the JCCRI at 861-8800.

## "Mama Didn't Raise No Fool!"

by Alison Smith  
Herald Editor

Mr. Food came to the College Hill Bookstore during the evening of Nov. 28, to meet his fans and sign copies of his books.

On the way to interview him, I heard him being interviewed by Arlene Violet, on the car radio. Casually, he and Violet discussed the facts of his popularity: He gets two million requests for recipes every year and his show is televised in 300 cities.

He explained why he has not yet tackled cookbooks for the dietetically restricted (no sodium, no fat, no sugar, no wheat, etc...). He expects people to get one of his books and use their own discretion to remove offending substances and substitute acceptable ones.

It is his conviction that people do not, by and large, follow these dietary restrictions to the last detail, anyhow.

When you eat at a fine restaurant, he said, how many people do you observe eating salad with no dressing, tofu instead of steak, bread with no butter?

And when you do put out a specialized cookbook — do they buy it? No!

So he creates "comfort" foods, and foods that are as luscious as he can make them ("Ooh! It's so good!") and the rest is up to the reader/cook.

At the College Hill Bookstore, he sat behind a counter with piles of brightly colored cookbooks in front of him, while a steady trickle of people with smiles on their faces shuffled forward and shoved books at him for signing.

The man does not just scrawl "Art Ginsburg," or "Mr. Food." He finds out who the book is for, asks whether it is a Christmas gift or not, and writes a whole message on the inside front page. He chats with the customer, and takes his time.

Everyone he meets leaves feeling as if Mr. Food really

looked at them, really listened to them, really enjoyed meeting them. In my opinion, this guy is the ideal book signing author.

He told me he was born in Troy, N.Y., but now lives in Fort Lauderdale during the winter. (He grinned, and tilted his head to one side. "Mama didn't raise no fool," he said.)

In 1972, he came to visit Scarborough Beach for four days, and decided he would be back.

He has come back every summer since, and considers himself a summer resident of Rhode Island.

I asked him if he was planning to beat a hasty retreat back to Florida before the oncoming snowstorm arrived.

Actually, he was headed due north, right into the heart of snow country, but I'd be willing to bet his publishers make sure Ginsburg is well taken care of wherever he goes.

He told Violet, and he told me that he never expected to achieve such popularity. It just sort of happened. He said, "I think I'm the luckiest person I know — to do something I love, and get paid for it."

The two newest books are his 11th and 12th. They are \$14.95 each, which is a very reasonable price for a cookbook, these days.

I mentioned that fact to him, and apparently struck a responsive chord. He said that right from the start, he made it clear to his publisher that he did not want to put out some glossy, gorgeous coffee table cookbook that would sit there all year untouched. He wanted his books to be kept in the kitchen, and used. So price was an important consideration.

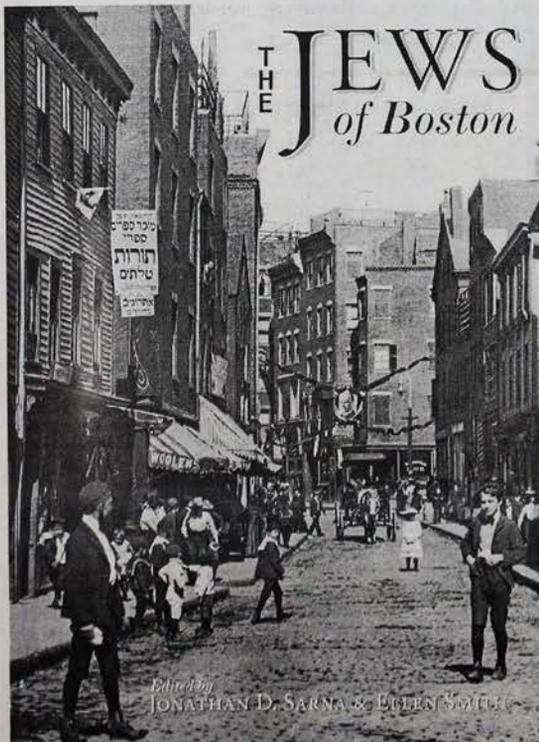
"And it's worked out just the way I wanted it," he said. The books fit nicely into the hand, and are designed, I'm sure, to look serviceable.

The man you see on television is the man you get in the

bookstore. He laughs a lot, says he loves people, and is proud of his work.

When I was thanking him for the interview, he grabbed my hand and kissed it. In my opinion, not enough of that kind of thing goes on, these days. I'd forgotten how lovely it feels to have someone bend over your hand, and if I'd known he was going to do it, I'd have started to use hand cream about a week ago.

Mr. Food's books — 12 in all — consist of: *Help, Mr. Food! Company's Coming*, \$14.95; *Mr. Food Grills It All*, \$11.45; *Mr. Food's Kitchen Tips*, \$11.95; *Mr. Food's Old World Cookbook*, \$14.95; *Mr. Food's Quick & Easy*, \$11.95; *Mr. Food Cooks Real American*, \$14.95; *Mr. Food's Favorite Cooking*, \$11.95; *Mr. Food Cooks Chicken*, \$9.95; *Mr. Food Cooks Pasta*, \$9.95; *Mr. Food Makes Dessert*, \$9.95; *Mr. Food Cooks Like Mama*, \$12.95; and *The Mr. Food Cookbook*, \$12.95.



Edited by JONATHAN D. SARNA & EUGEN WOLFF

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# No Jews Allowed: Anti-Semitism in 1995

by Sophia M. Fischer

The "No Jews Allowed" announcements may no longer adorn the entries to hotels and restaurants in places like Miami Beach as they did from the early 1900s until just after World War II, but that doesn't mean the invisible signs have been dismantled.

Bigotry toward Jews is alive and well in the United States, in spite of success and progress by Jews in many aspects of American life — in business, philanthropy, politics, entertainment — and ironically, in spite of assimilation, which is considered by Jewish leaders to be the greatest threat to Jewish life.

Not to be confused with bias crimes, social discrimination is a subtle form of intolerance that can surface anywhere. In another time and place, Jews knew where they were not wanted. Today, it's not always immediately clear.

No statistics exist for acts of social discrimination based on religion, only the aggrieved tales of people who have felt its sting.

"People are shocked. They've been invited to join a club, assured they would be accepted, wanted, welcome, and then the person who has nominated them has to tell them it won't happen," said Louise Shure, Anti-Defamation League Palm Beach region director.

Reaction to such bias varies. Some individuals fight it, others ignore it. According to New York ADL counsel Steve Freeman, making a legal case can be difficult, as hard, documented evidence is necessary.

ADL officials admit that discriminatory incidents of this kind are not a priority. Racist militia groups, defacing of buildings, and physical violence are more of a concern.

"We get a steady stream of individual complaints, but we don't have the time to go after every one. Many times there's insufficient evidence," said ADL Southern Area Director Art Teitelbaum.

"I waited for five years. Nothing happened. My application was never even acknowledged," said Richard Rampell, 42, a certified public accountant from Florida who applied for membership in a Palm Beach club. "A friend who was a member finally told me they'd never let a Jewish person in."

One thing the ADL does do is to legally challenge lease renewals that private clubs seek for public land use. In Florida, the ADL kept the Sailfish Club that had discriminated against Rampell from getting a renewal on its lease of submerged public land. Teitelbaum said the ADL intends to dispute other Florida clubs with similar leases.

Nevertheless, some Jews choose not to act against discrimination, perhaps because they fear reprisals, and instead, find ways to circumvent it. Two Jewish families who live in Essex Fells, N.J., a small, but exclusive community of large, wealthy estates are a case in point. They

agreed to be interviewed for this article provided they were not identified.

"Jews are not allowed to join the community pool. You have to be asked," explained one woman who recently moved to the neighborhood. "My Jewish neighbor goes away in the summer with her children to avoid problems in trying to join the pool."

The other family said they knew what they were getting into when they purchased their home because the town was restricted at one time and has a reputation for being anti-Semitic. Now that this couple has young children, they worry about what might happen when their son and daughter begin attending the town's public school.

"People are shocked. They've been invited to join a club, assured they would be accepted, wanted, welcome, and then the person who has nominated them has to tell them it won't happen."

Louise Shure, ADL

"We'll see what happens. If it's a difficult situation, we'll have to consider private school," the mother maintained.

Private clubs are among the most notorious venues of discriminatory behavior. Such clubs have existed for years, often openly barring women and minorities. Many enjoy preferential treatment: tax exempt status, leasing of public land and hard-to-obtain liquor licenses.

Lloyd Bentsen, Dan Quayle and Billy Graham all belong to clubs with discriminatory practices. Ross Perot resigned from his exclusive clubs after his membership became public knowledge. Bill Clinton apologized for golfing at a Little Rock club with no minority members.

There are no specific laws that prohibit discrimination in private clubs.

There are no specific laws that prohibit discrimination in private clubs. The federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and numerous states have laws that prohibit discrimination in places of public accommodations, but in most cases, private clubs that do not lease public land and are not open to the public in any way are not affected.

"Some people feel that private clubs should be seen as someone's living room and they should be able to invite anyone they want," explained Jonathan Bernstein, executive director of the southwest regional ADL office in Houston.

However, in some fields, access to private club membership is crucial to executives seeking to advance in their corpora-

tions.

"There's no question business is conducted at private clubs. The attitude is, 'We'll be pleased to promote you up until a point where private club membership becomes a significant part of employment. If you can't get in, you can only go so far in the company.' It's never said as openly, but it's a fact of corporate life," Teitelbaum said.

Five years ago, several events brought anti-discriminatory behavior in the country's more than 5,000 private golf and country clubs to national attention.

Shoal Creek Country Club, an all-white club near Birmingham, Alabama, was to host the 1990 PGA Championship, in spite of the club's president saying that bringing a black guest to the club was simply not done in Birmingham. Although PGA and United States Golf Association tournaments had been held at discriminatory clubs for years, for some reason people were suddenly outraged.

Shortly after the Shoal Creek incident, golf pro Tom Watson, whose wife and children are Jewish, resigned from the Kansas City Country Club because the club refused to admit a prominent local Jewish business leader. The club later admitted the businessman, but Watson did not rejoin.

The PGA and USGA have since revised their policies to prohibit holding tournaments at clubs with discriminatory practices. A number of clubs chose to begin admitting minorities, while others have refused to change.

Richard Rampell's experience in trying to join the Sailfish Club in Palm Beach is typical of what happens when unwanted applications are received by private clubs nationwide, not only from Jews, but from women, African Americans and other minorities.

"I wanted to get in for business and social reasons. A number of my friends and clients were members. The club has nice facilities — dining, sailing, a swimming pool — which I knew my kids would enjoy," Rampell said.

In spite of being sponsored by friends who were members of the club, Rampell's application was left unacknowledged for five years.

"I knew there was a long waiting list, but this long? I thought the older members were bigoted, but my friend told me the young members were, too. My friend said the members I did business with said it was okay to do business with me, but not to eat with me," Rampell continued.

Rampell withdrew his application, which had asked for "church affiliation." Several friends who were members quit in protest. But that wasn't the end of it. When he wrote a number of letters to the local newspaper publicizing what had happened, the response shocked him.

"People in the Jewish community denounced me, saying that Jews are treated pretty well in Palm Beach County and asking why didn't I join the predominantly Jewish Palm Beach Country Club, which I didn't because the initiation fee is too expensive," said Rampell.

Discriminatory attitudes are not limited to private clubs. Jack Luskin, chairman of Luskins, a successful electronics firm based in Baltimore, tried for 20 years to join the Boumie Temple, a prominent Shriner's group.

"It's a big group of reasonably well-placed people in banking, law and other businesses. They are active in charities, which appealed to me," he said.

Luskin said he fulfilled all the requirements: He has been a Mason for many years, was in

"My friend said the members I did business with said it was okay to do business with me, but not to eat with me."

Richard Rampell

good standing, and had paid his dues. He was told, however, by someone he knew that he would never get into the Boumie because he was Jewish.

"I contacted the ADL and made appearances before Maryland commissions," Luskin said. "After awhile, I stopped trying. It seems ridiculous to belong to an organization that is considered bigoted."

Al Schlossberg is a member of the Jewish War Veterans South Shore Post 301 in Randolph, Mass., and the state JWV commander. Like other towns nationwide, Randolph has a town-funded Veterans Council that sponsors a Memorial Day parade and other veterans' events.

"I remember wondering why I got cut from certain houses when my friends, who were from Virginia, too, were getting in."

Amy Goldenberg

Such councils are made up of various veterans' groups, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the local JWV. In Randolph, the JWV has not been permitted to participate on the council.

"Initially they said we couldn't join because we are a religious organization. We replied that JWV is not a religious organization. We're a group of veterans, who are Jews," Schlossberg said. "There they said we could become associate members of the council, but we couldn't vote."

Schlossberg and other JWV members appeared before the Randolph town council, but to no avail.

"One board member said, 'If

you really want to get in, join individually through other posts and when enough of you are in, vote yourselves in," Schlossberg said.

After continued complaints by the JWV, the town board voted to cease funding the council as of next year. The national offices of two of the veterans' groups notified their local chapters to remove themselves from the council or lose their national membership.

"That leaves the council with nothing more than the Veterans of Foreign Wars representative who is chairing the town Memorial Day parade, so we're back to exactly square one," Schlossberg said.

Sororities and fraternities on the university campus have long had a reputation for being discriminatory.

In fact, as with private country clubs, Jewish fraternities and sororities were formed because Jewish students couldn't get into the other houses, said Linda Mann of the Hillel International center in Washington, D.C. Although things have changed somewhat over the years, at many colleges, those attitudes remain.

During last spring's rush, Barbara Koff, a sophomore at the University of Arizona, in Tucson, didn't wear her Jewish star necklace every day, so people didn't always know she was Jewish.

"I told a girl at one house my major was Judaic studies and went on to ask what the Jewish representation was in the house. The girl said nonchalantly that she didn't know. I wasn't invited back," Koff said.

She ended up joining SDT, a "Jewish" sorority, although she adds that there are many non-Jewish in her pledge class.

There are Jews in every sorority and fraternity at the University of Maryland, according to Amy Goldenberg, 24, Hillel outreach coordinator at the school, where 6,000 of the 30,000 students are Jewish. But it's not like that everywhere. A friend of Goldenberg's who attended the University of Texas told her Jews couldn't get into the local Kappa Alpha Theta chapter. Goldenberg, who is from Virginia, graduated from Tulane two years ago, and recalls her experiences during rush.

"I remember wondering why I got cut from certain houses when my friends, who were from Virginia, too, were getting in," Goldenberg said. "I guess it worked out best. I wouldn't have been happy in those houses if I had felt resentment."

Great progress may have been made in fighting discrimination, but as Teitelbaum said, it would be naive to believe it no longer exists. His response is to "give bigotry no quarter. We've learned from history that to be silent in the face of bigotry is to encourage it," he said.

This article was reprinted with permission of Women's American ORT from The Reporter, Fall 1995.

# OBITUARIES

## MAY BROTKIN

FALL RIVER — May Brotkin, 90, of the Jewish Home for the Aged, 538 Robeson St., died Nov. 30 at the home. She was the widow of Sidney Brotkin.

Born in Fall River, a daughter of the late Isaac and Sarah (Abramsky) Prescott, she had also lived in Somerset.

She was a member of Congregation Adas Israel and its Sisterhood. She was a member of the Fall River Jewish Home for the Aged, and a former member of Hadassah, and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans Post 168.

She leaves a daughter, Barbara Rosenberg of Somerset; two brothers, Dr. Benjamin Prescott, M.D., of San Diego, Calif., and Dr. Joseph Prescott, M.D., of Bayside, N.Y.; three granddaughters and six great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late George Brotkin and the sister of the late Samuel Hyman and Edward Prescott.

A graveside service was held Dec. 1 at Agudas Achim Cemetery. Burial followed. Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## MINNIE DUBIN

HUNTINGDON VALLEY, Pa. — Minnie Dubin, 78, of 8580 Verree Road, Philadelphia, Pa., head bookkeeper for the Jewish Vocational Employment Service for several years before retiring, died Dec. 1 at the Holy Redeemer Hospital in Huntingdon Valley, Pa. She was the widow of Joseph George Dubin.

Born in Philadelphia, she was a daughter of the late Isaac and Anna (Fink) Manin.

She leaves three daughters, Linda Garfield of Wynnewood, Pa.; Barbara Portney of Warwick and Andrea Pollock of Portsmouth, Va.; two sisters, Annetta Fishman of Hayarden, Israel and Marcella Krakow of Philadelphia; and eight grandchildren.

The funeral was held Dec. 4 at Goldstein's Philadelphia Chapel, 6410 N. Broad St., Philadelphia. Burial was in Mount Sharon Cemetery, Springfield, Pa.

## LILLIAN EAGLESON

PROVIDENCE — Lillian Eagleson, 94, of 69 Fair St., Warwick, died Nov. 30 at the

Charlesgate Manor Nursing Center in Providence. She was the wife of the late Andrew Eagleson. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Jacob and Sarah (Ronberg) Cohen.

She worked as a manager at Lerner's Clothing Store in Providence. She retired many years ago.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews. She was a sister of the late Samuel A. Cohen, Max A. Cohen, Rose Fabricant and Elsie Berger.

Graveside services were held on Dec. 4 at Swan Point Cemetery in Providence. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## ROSE L. SCHNEIDER

BROCKTON, Mass. — Rose L. Schneider, 86, a resident of the Meadowbrook Nursing Home, Canton, Mass., for the past two years, died Nov. 27 at the Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton. She was the widow of Howard E. Schneider.

Born in Austria, a daughter of the late Abraham and Fannie (Brieter) Linder, she lived in Canton for the last two years, previously residing in East Providence for 25 years and Providence for many years.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and was an honorary board member of its sisterhood. She was a member of Hadassah and the Jewish Home for the Aged. She was a member of the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, the Providence Hebrew Day School, the Bardeis Women's Association, Meeting Street School and the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.

She leaves a son, Gerlad Schneider, and a daughter, Lois Schneider, both of Sharon, Mass.; two sisters, Anne Krakowsky of Pawtucket and Ida Linder of New York City and two grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Stella Linder.

A graveside funeral service was held Nov. 29 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## JOAN M. UNKAUF

FRANKLIN, Mass. — Joan M. Unkauf, 53, of 30 Island Road, Franklin, a real estate agent for ERA Town & Country in Franklin for the past five years, died Nov. 28 at home. She was the wife of Fred Unkauf.

Born in Providence, a daughter of Harold and Eunice (Cohen) Levene of Little Compton, she moved to Franklin 26 years ago.

She was a graduate of Boston University. She was a craftswoman and specialized in tole and reverse glass painting. She was a member of the Franklin Garden Club. In Providence, she was a member of Temple Beth-El.

Besides her husband and parents, she leaves a daughter, Laura Unkauf; a son, Eric Unkauf, both of Franklin, and a sister, Roberta Oppenheim of Boston.

The funeral was held Nov. 30 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St. Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery.

## Conversion Law

(Continued from Page 8)

servative and Reform movements will all seek meetings with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and other ministers to urge them not to go ahead with legislation, which has been demanded by the Orthodox parties.

Shuval said the Labor Party is split on the issue, with several Knesset members likely to balk at any party requirement to endorse the proposed legislation.

The Israeli groups opposed to the legislation include the Masorti movement, Israel's Conservative movement; the World Union of Progressive Judaism, with which the Reform movement is connected; Na'amat, the Histadrut's women's movement; the Israel Women's Network; the Association of Civil Rights in Israel; and Yisrael Hofshi, a new movement representing immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad are already recognized in Israel.

## Louis Malle, A Friend in Films

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

Louis Malle climbed into the back seat of a battered grey van piled with luggage, and settled in a jumpseat beside me. His wife Candace Bergen perched up front in the cockpit beside the driver, my RISD colleague, Peter O'Neill.

It fell to us, as department representatives, to meet the famous French filmmaker and whisk him to the campus to receive an honorary degree among the graduating class at the former Loew's State Theatre downtown.

We sneaked him into the Biltmore Hotel not via a sleek, smooth limo, but only in a cluttered family wagon.

En route, I tried to show off my remaining French, sharing memories of the Paris of the '50s, when American films were still a novelty and the New Wave was just starting to tell small ironic tales of young people caught in the web of their parents' worlds, forged in wars.

At the cafes, Sorbonne students argued the issues of the Occupation and also of the Indochinese and Algerian revolts against French colonial rule. Warfare and filmfare ruled the student debate.

Malle fit into the mold of his generation, with its love of intimate, not heroic, stories.

Once he had dined and wine and worn the cap and gown among us, Peter and I, who were makers and teachers of film together at that time, returned him to his hotel.

I left him a message at the desk. It was a story idea I had written about my Paris sojourn, an odd sketch about an American buddy who met an older French lady at my corner cafe and created a romantic liaison that lasted the semester. Malle penned and posted me a kind

## Farrakahn

(Continued from Page 4)

for sure that our forbears had nothing whatsoever to do with the slave trade.

Still, the hate peddlers insist on implicating and striking us with the alleged sins of our ancestors. They want hate and not truth to prevail.

Sounds familiar? Don't start packing a suitcase yet, but stay informed. Above all, don't be silent when you hear them say nasty things about the Jews.

response. He found my script touching and funny, but he was already involved in a number of his own projects. His most recent plan was to do a life of Marlene Dietrich. I wish he had sent the scenario to me.

I learned some lovely lessons from my too brief encounter with Malle. His movies have made landmarks in my cinema education. His eccentric frankness, mixed in with an innate poetic dignity, drew me to everything he photographed.

From a Jewish point of view, "Lacombe, Lucien," which I saw on a winter trip to Paris, at a Left Bank theatre, stopped me in my tracks. A simple country lad tries to join the Resistance, but the teacher-leader turns him down.

He links up with the Gestapo instead, but on one of his missions, he meets a Jewish girl he likes. Instead of sending her off, he helps her to hide. Nonetheless the partisans hunt him down and shoot him.

It was the exception, not the rule, that appealed to Malle. In "Au Revoir, Les Enfants," a personal anecdote sculpted into an allegory, he studies the tragic twists and turns of the betrayal of a hidden Jewish schoolboy.

Peter and I drove to a far-off cinema for "Alamo Bay," an unusual American picture about Vietnamese fishermen in Texas fighting for survival right here among redneck competitors.

For my last class in Hollywood History this month, I have scheduled "Atlantic City," a celebration of the skills of the aging Burt Lancaster.

Although Malle was sometimes classed by critics as an "auteur," a director who claims top credit in screen narrative, in fact he appreciated the American star system, in which the performer, like a Greek god, works out a feature into an aspect of personal character.

Foreign directors often imprinted us with the dreams of the cultures they left behind.

French moviemakers made us all just a little bit Gallic, Parisian, with their charming and subtle touches of magic. They made us a bit more understanding of the individual, less susceptible to dehumanizing generalization.

I offer these words of melancholy appreciation to a friend in the realms of film and poetry.

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# CLASSIFIED

## Joel and Jacob

(Continued from Page 3)

and a superb wanderer like Jake. That's why we're such good chums." I say this to Joel because it's true. The magic power of myth and of Torah stems from the way each of us, born with our gestures and drives, can take the best part of our heroes right along with the paradox that our virtues and vices get all mixed together.

I don't have to rub it in or drag it out. Joel knows all this far better than I do. He grew up in a rabbi's house among sacred words and parables. But he likes to bounce his ideas the same way he used to show off his skills with the yo-yo on the stage of the Castle Theater as a boy. It's great fun to delve into the mysteries of Jacob/Israel in a breakfast booth among the chitchat of other folk at their little tables by the Wickenden Street windows. I put together all my recent images of Joel, biking, canoeing, motoring in some battered, borrowed grey sedan among half-forgotten rural roads, dropping by among his myriad friends from all walks of life, never stopping for long, like a migrating bird mentioned in a psalm.

I wonder what kind of rabbi Joel will make. He began his pursuit of smicha, ordination, almost as late in life as a Biblical prophet. He turns his home town of Providence into a kind

of Canaan of contradictions. This year the Chanukah card that has charmed me most among the shoppes shows an elfin creature riding a carousel-like giant dreidel, and going "Oy Veh" as the cover slogan. Joel, with his wide, even smile, his candid blue eyes, and that open gait that grew from sandalled semesters spent among the streets of Jerusalem over thirty years ago when and where I first met him, takes on that logo for me. He's hoping he lands on the lucky side. I'm with him in this. I think he'll do great things as a rabbi. "Jews don't have a lot of real estate as other cultures do. Mostly we have stories. We build our lives around them." Joel didn't say this to me, but to a charming lady in his life, while I sat in the back seat en route home. He had to fetch her before dropping me off. He came in, leaving his car door ajar and the motor running, and checked out the hummus on our table. "Sprinkle some cayenne and squeeze more lemon!" he told us. Nothing stays the same once Joel has stopped by and touched your day.

The strange part of friendship is, somebody knows you and remembers your life. You keep tabs on that person, who thinks well of you and wishes you the best. So you grow together in the Eden of promise.

## Boston

(Continued from Page 20)

Another was the mistaken impression, among the highly educated, that liberalism was and should be an integral part of everybody's Judaism.

Philanthropy on a massive, marvelous scale was frequently present in the Boston Jewish community. Not that there weren't moments of small-minded meanness, but the heroes of philanthropy were so remarkable in their generosity to all people that lapses in the community can be overlooked.

If you want to know and understand what made, and still makes, the Boston Jewish community different, this book would be a good companion for those long winter evenings.

It was published by The Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, written and edited by Jonathan D. Sarna and Ellen Smith.

The people who produced it will be interviewed by Ray Rickman on his program on Channel 36, sometime in January. Watch the listings. If you won't have time to read the book, tune into the interview and get an abridged version of what the authors had to say.

## Rothschild

(Continued from Page 5)

Aviv Museum and it was here, in 1948, that David Ben Gurion declared the rebirth of the State of Israel after 1,875 years of wandering.

If you've chosen to take this expedition on a Tuesday or Friday afternoon and you've reached Nachlat Benjamin Street, you'll find a giant craftsman and people-fest that fills the pedestrianized streets with stalls of ceramics, woodcarvings, blown glass and assorted tchotkes — plus mimes, noise, bustle and clamor. Spend an hour browsing, shopping, munching, people-gazing.

In this brief afternoon stroll you'll have seen more of the real Tel Aviv — and the "new" Israel — than many visitors see in two weeks.

Campbell Simon is a New York-based travel writer.

## Vegetarian Essay Contest

The Vegetarian Resource Group is sponsoring an essay contest for students 18 and under. First prize in each category is a \$50 savings bond.

Entrants should write a 2- to 3- page essay on any aspect of vegetarianism. Vegetarianism is not eating meat, fish and birds (for example chicken or duck).

Contest categories are ages 8 and under, 9 to 13, and 14 to 18. Entrants should base their paper on interviewing, research, and/or personal opinion. You need not be a vegetarian to enter.

All essays become the property of The Vegetarian Resource Group. Submissions should be postmarked by May 1, 1996.

Send entries to The Vegetarian Resource Group, P.O. Box 1463, Baltimore, Md. 21203. Include your name, age, address, telephone number, grade, school, and teacher's name.

## Capot Tmarim

(Continued from Page 5)

restored Bauhaus mansion at the core of Tel Aviv's business district — at the crossroads of the 86-year-old city's first five streets. "In designing Capot Tmarim," observes Gal, "I wanted very much to integrate all sorts of local crafts." Ancient archeological artifacts litter the art-deco tiled floor. Sepia photographs of early Tel Aviv are mounted on ochre-hued walls. The windows were reconstructed to recreate the original 1930's design: outside each an olive tree has been planted and, at night, each is subtly floodlit.

Service plates were custom-fired at Jerusalem's oldest Armenian pottery factory. The waistband worn by each waiter was woven by Druse artisans from ancient designs. The lighting is muted yet radiant. And the overall effect is of impeccable — and uniquely Israeli — taste.

Capot Tmarim's excellent three-course "business lunch" (NIS58: approximately \$20) is said to be one of Tel Aviv's great bargains.

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## Minimizing Estate and Gift Taxes

This is the 23rd article in the continuing series highlighting estate planning sales concepts.

**Q:** Why is unified credit useful in estate planning?

**A:** Unified credit enables you to give away \$600,000 during your lifetime, gift-tax free, leave \$600,000 at your death, estate-tax free, or have any combination of gifts and bequests up to \$600,000 without paying gift and estate taxes. If you are married, your spouse also has a \$600,000 exemption, so up to \$1,200,000 may be transferred by the two of you.

Gift and estate taxes are calculated based on a graduated table. The more gifts or bequests you transfer, the higher the tax rate, up to the maximum rate of 55 percent above \$3,000,000 of taxable transfers. The unified credit reduces the tax bill by \$192,800 and is equivalent to the tax on \$600,000 of property.

**Q:** If you are ready to eliminate a large debt that a relative owes you, is it better to forgive the loan or make a gift (using the unified credit)?

**A:** It is definitely better to make gift than to forgive a loan. The general rule is that forgiveness of a debt creates taxable income for the debtor in the amount of the loan. If an individual forgives a debt of \$640,000, the debtor has taxable income of \$640,000. This amount would be subject to ordinary income tax.

When a gift is made, there is no deduction by the donor and no taxable income to the donee. If the client makes a gift of \$640,000 to a family member, there is no income tax levied on this gift. There is an annual gift tax exclusion of \$10,000 per donor per donee. If the gift is from you and your spouse to your son and daughter-in-law, there are four individuals involved so there is a \$40,000 gift tax exclusion. The other \$600,000 of the gift would be covered by the unified credit equivalent exemption. Therefore, no gift tax would be paid.

**Q:** How do you replace unified credit if you use it during your lifetime?

**A:** Don't hesitate to use all of your unified credit during your lifetime, because it is easily replaced with life insurance. The purchase of \$192,800 of insurance outside of your estate will cover the taxes that would have been eliminated by the credit.

**Example:** You are a 65-year-old widow, so the marital deduction is not available to you as an estate planning tool. Your \$1 million estate consists of a \$200,000 residence, \$600,000 of securities, and \$200,000 of savings and other personal property. You are concerned that the securities will have a rapid increase in value and your estate will be subject to a very large estate tax bill.

The solution is to give away the securities to your adult children and keep all the appreciation out of your estate. This transfer not only reduces your estate by \$600,000 today, but by the potential earnings of millions of dollars, all of which could have been subject to es-

tate tax at your death. The unified credit prevents you from having to pay any gift tax on this transfer. Your children buy a \$192,800 LFP100 policy on your life to replace the credit and cover the taxes on a taxable estate of up to \$600,000.

**Q:** How is this credit utilized in business succession cases?

**A:** The unified credit reduces the amount of cash necessary to purchase the stock of the owner. This is very helpful when your children, who will buy out your interest, are struggling to make ends meet and when the business owner is uninsurable.

**Example:** You own a business worth \$950,000. You have two daughters who are interested in continuing in your footsteps and a son who wants to be a dentist. You want to enable your daughters to take over the business in a smooth transition.

First, you utilize the unified credit to gift \$200,000 of business interest to each of your two daughters and \$200,000 of other assets to your son. This leaves you with controlling interest of your firm during your lifetime. The company bonuses enough to your daughters to buy a \$550,000 Selectex contract on your life to fund a cross-purchase buy-sell agreement. (This costs significantly less than the \$950,000 of insurance that would have been required if no gifts had been made.)

Simultaneously you utilize your \$10,000 annual gift tax exclusion per donee to transfer premium dollars to an irrevocable life insurance trust, which will purchase \$192,800 of Excel 5 to replace the loss of your unified credit. At your death the trust will purchase assets from your estate to provide the liquidity to cover estate taxes.

**Example:** You and your brother have been working diligently in the family business for more than two decades and are looking forward to taking the reins from your father. Normally you and your brother would each own a \$500,000 policy on your dad's life to fund a cross-purchase buy-sell arrangement in which you will each buy 50 percent of the \$1 million company from your father's estate. Unfortunately, he is uninsurable and you and your sibling do not have the means to come up with a million in cash. The solution is for your parents to each use their unified credit to make gifts of \$1,200,000.

The \$1 million business goes to you and your brother and \$200,000 goes to an irrevocable life insurance trust to buy \$1,200,000 of Excel 5 on your mother's life. At your father's death, no estate taxes will be paid due to the unlimited marital deduction. At your mother's death, the estate taxes will be covered by the insurance which replaced the unified credits of both parents.

A monthly column submitted by Lawrence M. Halperin and Marvin William Lax of Halperin & Lax, Ltd., will answer your questions about life and disability insurance and investments. Mail questions to: 335 Centerville Road, Warwick, R.I. 02886-9990 or call 738-2350.



AMONG FRIENDS, Ron Nastari, owner of Transpetation, sits on his sofa with Ted, on the left, and Chelsea, on the right, competing for his attention.  
Herald photo by Alison Smith

## Friend to Man's Best Friend

by Alison Smith  
Herald Editor

Ron Nastari went through some rough times, a while back. He'd had back surgery and recovered, but was finding it almost impossible to get a new job. Depression and discouragement — the twin nightmares of once-active people — settled over him.

But his dogs were always there to cheer him up. And he knew he could handle dogs, in fact almost all animals, well. So finally it hit him! He would make lemonade out of the lemons life had handed him by going into business for himself, doing the things for their pets that people were unable to do themselves.

He started Transpetation, which is more than just a transportation service to and from the vet's or the groomer's. He will come by your place as often as you specify, and feed, walk and socialize with your animal while you're away (which means you don't have to board the animal, something that inherently is risky for your pet).

He is insured and bonded so you know this is a reliable man with whom you're dealing.

He has dogs of his own...has had at least one of almost everything, including a squirrel that used to ride around with him in his truck. His expertise, therefore, is not limited just to dogs. Whatever you love, chances are

he can handle it.

He studies animal psychology, trying to become more and more aware of what goes on in an animal's mind. In the future, he would like to learn more about canine physiology so he could use soothing massage on dogs suffering the incapacity and pain of arthritis.

He has been known to find the right owner for a needy animal, or the right animal for a grieving owner. If he can help,

he feels he must help.

All you have to do, if you need transportation or surrogate care for your pet, is call Ron and explain what you would like him to do. He has a beeper so he is always available for emergency calls. He can be reached at 354-4470.

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