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Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

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Special Occasions

PAGES 8 & 9

Lady Liberty

Vivian Weisman, executive director of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, was in the Purim spirit recently at a celebration at the JCCRI. Jeffrey Brier, president of the JCCRI, stands to her left. *Herald photo by Alison Smith.*

Cabinet Plans Separation in Wake of Bombing Wave

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Within hours after a suicide bomber blew up a Jerusalem bus, the Israeli Cabinet voted to implement a plan to separate the Israeli and Palestinian populations.

The decision to invest in separating Israel and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip comes as the Peres government, reeling from a series of attacks by the fundamentalist Hamas group in the past week, vowed to root out the terrorist cells and destroy them.

"This is an all-out war, which requires unilateral measures," that must be "implemented immediately," Prime Minister Shimon Peres said after the March 3 blast, the third bombing in eight days.

"We have decided to give the war on terror top priority," Peres said. "We will use every means and will not be deterred."

The blast in Jerusalem was an eery repetition of the Feb. 25 suicide bus bombing near the city's central bus station, in which 26 people, including the bomber, were killed. Two young Americans were among the dead.

Also Feb. 25, a suicide bomber blew up a soldier's hitchhiking post in Ashkelon, killing one other person.

The March 3 bombing left at least 19 dead, including the bomber, and at least 10 wounded. All the victims were believed to be passengers on the bus.

Six of the dead were Romanian workers who had come to Israel to replace Palestinian workers banned from entering Israel.

The attack occurred as the bus drove along the same route, No. 18, as in the earlier bombing, which occurred one week ago to the day at about the same time.

"The bomb used was very similar to the one last week," Police Commissioner Assaf Hefetz told reporters. The bomb used contained more than 30 pounds of explosives and was filled with nails.

Hefetz stressed that an overall solution for the security situation must be found.

"Attacks happen everywhere, in Jerusalem and other places and not just on buses," he said.

The separation plan adopted by the Cabinet at its weekly meeting on March 7 includes constructing a perimeter fence along the line between Israel and the West Bank and Gaza and creating 18 crossing points to monitor travel between the two areas.

Peres said $100 million had been allocated for the separation plan.

In addition, the Cabinet approved the creation of a special force of 800 security guards to protect public buses.

The guards will be drawn from former members of Israel Defense Force combat units.

A plan to deploy additional police and security reinforcements in Jerusalem, also approved by the Cabinet, "has already begun," Peres told reporters. "We will fill this city with the security forces needed to ensure its security."

Police and soldiers also will be stationed at bus stops and

Continued on Page 15)

Stunned by Wave of Terror, Israelis Question Peace

by Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Emotions of fear, anger, shock and helplessness surged throughout Israel as the victims of two other Palestinian terrorist attacks — third and fourth in nine days — were buried.

Exactly one week after a suicide bomber blew up a No. 18 bus, killing 26 and wounding scores more, Israelis awoke March 3 to learn that a nearly identical attack had taken place in the heart of the capital city.

The next day, a suicide bomber killed 14 people and wounded more than 100 at a shopping center in Tel Aviv.

As if caught in a recurring nightmare, Israelis again frantically phoned friends and family after the most recent bombings to see whether they were alive or dead.

On television news, Israelis again saw the skeleton of a No. 18 bus standing crippled as black-coated men from the burial society Chevra Kadisha scraped body parts off the sidewalk.

After the victims were rushed away and the twisted metal remains of the bus were removed, local shopkeepers were allowed to size up the damage.

Closed at 6:25 a.m. — the time of the blast — many of the stores, cafes and kiosks were nonetheless damaged beyond recognition.

"This isn't peace," said Shlomo Dalbari, a 55-year-old cafe owner whose small restaurant was destroyed in the explosion.

But Dalbari did not express anger, just shock and bewilderment. Dalbari, a passenger on the ill-fated No. 18 bus, escaped injury.

"I was on the bus that blew up, but I got off just in the nick of time," said Dalbari, standing outside the remains of his cafe. "Usually, the bus driver, who I know very well, lets me off right at my cafe, but for some reason I decided to get off earlier."

"I heard a huge blast and saw the bodies," he added. "I can't say any more."

For Dalbari's son, Shai, the day's events were too much to absorb at once.

"I was on the bus behind the 18 and suddenly it exploded," he said in a shaky voice.

"I knew [my father] was on the bus and I jumped off to try to find him," Shai Dalbari said. "I couldn't find him anywhere and I was frantic. I've never known such fear.

"Then, 15 minutes later, I found him, alive and well. It is impossible to describe my feelings at that moment."

While many agreed that things could have been worse, most Jerusalemites lining the

(Continued on Page 15)

A Show of Solidarity

On March 10, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis will host a community meeting to demonstrate solidarity with the people of Israel.

The meeting will convene at 2 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard St. Israel's Consul General for New England, the Hon. Dan Kyram, will speak on the current state of affairs in Israel.

The Community Relations Council will explain the kinds of actions people can take to show support for Israel, and there will be a service to commemorate the lives of those lost in the terrorists bombings.

Mensch of the Month

Providence Hebrew Day School recently presented certificates to its "Mensches of the Month" at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. *Herald photo by Alison Smith*

INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

Tapes of Seafood Export Forum Available

Taped proceedings of the regional Seafood Export Forum on Feb. 15 in Providence are available from Rhode Island Sea Grant.

The tapes should be helpful to both experienced and new export companies, those contemplating the export market, and those who service or regulate those companies.

The forum covered all aspects of seafood export, including: current U.S. policies and opportunities as they relate to the European Union, the former eastern block countries, and the Pacific Rim; regulations and inspection; financial services and international banking; and the use of Free Trade Zones.

Cost of the taped proceedings, a set of three tapes, is $20. To order, mail your request and a check to: Rhode Island Sea Grant Communications, University of Rhode Island Bay Campus, Narragansett, R.I. 02882. For more information, call 874-6842.

Free Tax Preparation

Many Internal Revenue Service programs offer free assistance with tax preparation or tax counseling using volunteers trained by the IRS.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance provides free tax help to people with low and fixed income who cannot afford paid professional tax assistance; to people with disabilities; to the elderly; and, to others with special needs.

The IRS trains the volunteers to help prepare basic tax returns including Forms 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ and some basic schedules.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) provides free tax help to people age 60 or older.

The volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with nonprofit organizations.

Taxpayers are asked to call the IRS, toll-free, at (800) 829-1040 for the locations of the nearest VITA and TCE sites.

Win a Trip to the Olympics

The Cranston Sir Speedy center has announced the Sir Speedy Olympic Games Sweepstakes, a national promotion in which a total of 20 trips for two will be awarded to this summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta. The center is located at 945 Park Ave.

The deadline for entries is April 12. Winners will be selected in random drawings on May 3. See the Cranston Sir Speedy center for details.

Each trip consists of round-trips for two, hotel accommodations and Olympic event tickets including the always-popular closing ceremonies.

In addition to the opportunity to win a trip to the Olympics, customers who visit the center will receive (while supplies last) an official Olympic commemorative pin — free with a $250 order; or a custom, limited edition, full-color Olympic poster — free with a $100 order. And, with any order, customers will receive a free Olympic calendar.

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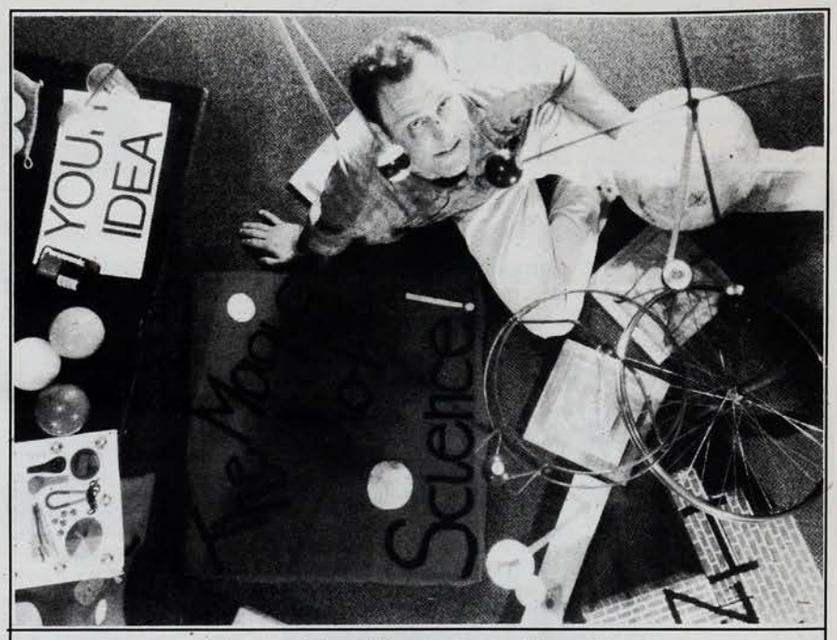

Presenting Marvelous Marvin

Books on the Square, 471 Angell St. in Wayland Square, Providence, will present science whiz Marvelous Marvin Novogrodski on March 10 from 2 to 3 p.m. The event is geared to children 5 and up and is free and open to the public.

Compassionate Friends Meet in Two Areas

The next meeting of The Compassionate Friends (a self-help group for parents who have suffered the death of a child) will be held on March 11 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Brendan's Church Hall, 33 Turner Ave., East Providence.

This will be a general sharing meeting.

For directions or further information, call Carol Smith at 885-2900.

The next meeting for the South County Compassionate Friends Satellite Group will be held March 13 at 7:30 p.m., at 143 Main St., Wakefield.

For directions or further information, call Carol Luciano at 783-3280.

Bread & Circus Holds Benefit

On March 14, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Bread & Circus Whole Foods Market, located at 261 Waterman St. in Providence, will donate five percent from every sale to The Nature Conservancy to help support their land conservation efforts in Rhode Island.

Free Listing of Vegetarian Vacations and Camps Available

The Vegetarian Resource Group is giving away a listing of vacation spots and camps offering vegetarian/vegan meals in the United States.

The list features music and family camps, wilderness adventures, a sports and arts center, religious camps, kosher facilities, and camps with an international focus.

To order the four page *Vegetarian Vacations — A Sampling*, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with two first class stamps to The Vegetarian Resource Group, P.O. Box 1463, Baltimore, MD 21203.

The Vegetarian Resource Group is a non-profit organization which educates the public about vegetarianism.

Also available from The Vegetarian Resource Group is *Vegetarian Journal's Guide to Natural Foods Restaurants in the United States and Canada* (296 pages), which list more than 2,000 restaurants, vacation spots, and more. Send $14 including postage to VRG, Box 1463, Baltimore, MD 21203. Or call (410) 366-8343.

Fitness For Seniors

Every Tuesday, from March 12 through May 14, the Pawtucket Family "Y" is offering a class just for seniors from 10 to 11 a.m. This class will include walking, marching, dance steps and stationary exercises led by Sue Jack, fitness director.

To sign up for either of these programs, stop by the "Y" at 20 Summer St., Pawtucket, across from the Pawtucket Public Library, or call 727-7900 for more information.

Aging 2000 to Hold Seminar

For those concerned about what politicians in Washington are doing to the Medicare program, confused about changes taking place in the health care system or worried about how their health care coverage will be affected, there is a non-profit consumer organization that is working to make sense out of the confusion, and trying to make the health care system better serve the needs of seniors in Rhode Island.

The organization is Aging 2000.

The Aging 2000 East Bay Community Group will host an informational forum on March 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Barrington Public Library. The forum "What is Aging 2000 and How Does It Affect Me?" is free and open to the public.

For more information, call Carol Cummins at Aging 2000 (521-7930).

Visitors Welcome at CCRI Observatory

Visitors Night at the Community College of Rhode Island's observatory, on the Warwick campus, will be March 8, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., clear skies permitting.

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FEATURE

Madeira on Stone and in Glass

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

New Bedford Portuguese Vice Consul Jose Canha, Robert Waxler, director of the Center for Jewish Culture of the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, anthropology professor Richard Lobban, Publisher of *O Jornal* Cathleen Castro, and Steve Gorban, program director of the area Jewish Community Center and of the Saudade series, met me at a Wickenden cafe to talk about future plans for Portuguese Jewish renewal and research.

"There was a Jewish cemetery on the top of a cliff in Madeira," Canha told us. "In one of our earthquakes it broke off and fell into the sea. Several stones vanished, and so did a caretaker family. The graves were not ancient. They went back to the early 19th century, when German and Morroccan immigrants settled on the island, a small community. Still, it is worth a journey of study and an effort at restoration."

UMass Dartmouth Professor Robert Waxler

Congressman Barney Frank made such a voyage and visit, and perhaps our small and diverse group could follow his path. "But my scholarly interest is in the fate of the Jews of the Inquisition era, who have fallen not into the sea but into Catholic assimilation," said Professor Bob Waxler. He recounted the story of his meetings with the Ben Saoud family, an Azorean dynasty of Jews who converted, but still keep some ties with their Jewish roots. Politically prominent, the Ben Saouds are in fact cousins to the newly elected Portuguese President Sanpaio. "Maybe they could help us now," he noted.

"When the new government leader was asked if he believed in G-d, he answered, 'Perhaps not in yours, but in mine.'" The vice consul offered this tidbit. "I couldn't go to Madeira without sipping its excellent wine," I returned. "Come to my house. I won't let you leave without taking a glass," he said with a gracious smile.

Even the tiny African islands of Sao Tome and Principe hold traces of the melancholy Jewish past, not only among cemeteries, but in the memory of people who announce with pride their survival and their stories. Carol Castiel, a colleague of Lobban, has interviewed citizens of these remote Portuguese colonies and has applied for grants to restore their sacred places of prayer or burial. Lobban brings up her name and refers us to her work in progress.

RIC Professor Richard Lobban

Each of us at our corner nook among the coffeehouses of Wickenden Street hopes to contribute to contemporary efforts at tying together the Jewish and Portuguese peoples of Southeastern Massachusetts and of Rhode Island, socially, intellectually, politically, and even poetically. We hope to travel together to Madeira for study, and upon our return to encourage courses that will engage young people in pursuit of a long, rich, sometimes sad and sometimes joyful narrative. To learn and publish, to mend the fragments of headstones, and to sing ballads of peace and friendship.

El Al Announces Spring and Summer Schedule

El Al Israel Airlines will expand its spring and summer flight schedules in 1996, with the addition of three new gateways: Atlanta, Orlando and San Francisco (subject to government approval).

In addition, El Al will be the only airline offering weekly nonstop service from Los Angeles, Chicago, and Miami to Tel Aviv.

The weekly schedule from March 30 through June 22, includes daily service from Newark except on Shabbat (Friday to Saturday sundown); 10 weekly nonstop flights from New York (JFK); four from Los Angeles, including a nonstop flight every Saturday (other departures Monday, Wednesday, Thursday); three flights from Miami (Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday); and two flights from Baltimore/Washington, D.C., and Chicago (Monday, Wednesday).

This summer, El Al will introduce weekly service from Atlanta, Orlando and San Francisco. The airline is also launching the only nonstop service from Chicago and Miami, and is adding a second weekly nonstop flight from Los Angeles.

As part of the summer schedule, El Al will offer, for the first time ever, return non-stop service from Tel Aviv to these cities: Los Angeles (every Wednesday), Orlando (every Sunday) and Chicago (every Friday).

Passengers flying into or out of any El Al gateway city in the United States are entitled to a free stopover in New York (JFK) on either the outbound or inbound segment of their trip. El Al passengers flying out of or returning to Newark International Airport are entitled to a free stopover in London. To benefit Newark passengers, El Al has an agreement with Air UK, offering unusually low, one-way fares between Stansted Airport and a choice of 17 European cities serviced by both El Al and Air UK.

Passengers traveling to Israel fly El Al from Newark to Stansted and can then fly Air UK to any one of the 17 European cities (either immediately or at a later date). Passengers continue from that destination to Tel Aviv via a nonstop El Al flight. Or, when returning from Israel, passengers may fly non-stop on El Al to any of the 17 cities, fly Air UK to Stansted and return non-stop on El Al to Newark.

El Al/Air UK low one-way fares are available for flights between Stansted and these cities: Aberdeen, Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dusseldorf, Florence, Frankfurt, Glasgow/Edinburgh, Hamburg, Innsbruck, Madrid, Milan, Munich, Newcastle, Nice, Paris and Zurich.

El Al flies to more than 50 cities worldwide from Israel and is the only airline operating 747-400 Boeing aircraft between the United States and Israel. Each seat in coach, business and first class has a personal TV monitor and an electronic stereo headset.

For more flight information, call any travel agent or El Al at (800) 223-6700 or (212) 768-9200.

El Al Offers Free Video

El Al Israel Airlines is offering a free video highlighting the airline's extraordinary history and accomplishments.

The video is an excerpt from a Canadian television series, "Yellow Brick Roads," which aired a special segment on El Al in December 1995.

The 30-minute segment traces the birth of the airline and the challenges it has faced in its nearly five decades of operation. The program is narrated by Rafi Harlev, president of El Al, and Captain Arieh Oz, one of the airline's veteran pilots. Harlev recaps the scope of El Al's humanitarian missions since the airline's formation in 1948.

Oz discusses his role in "Operation Solomon," El Al's dramatic airlift of almost 15,000 Jews from Ethiopia in 1991.

In addition, the show offers viewers a peek inside El Al's massive kosher kitchen in Tel Aviv, the world's largest, and features a brief interview with an El Al flight attendant who emigrated to Israel from Russia.

The program was shot almost entirely in Israel and also includes historic footage of early Israel with some of the pioneering flights made by El Al in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

The complimentary video can be obtained by calling El Al's regional office in Boston (617) 426-2651.

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EDITORIAL

Purim Is a Paradox

by Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas

Imagine a Jewish woman who has intermarried becoming a Jewish heroine. Her uncle even tells her at the beginning of the adventure not to reveal her identity. Then imagine naming a book in the Bible after her. The name of G–d is not mentioned in the Book (Scroll) of Esther, not even in connection with the salvation of Jews. Then how is it that this book was included in the Hebrew canon?

Purim, marking an episode when Jews were saved from genocide by a risky stratagem, is celebrated with raucous noise in the synagogue, masquerades, plays, hamentaschen and carnivals. Would anyone seriously consider naming a piece of pastry "Hitlertasch"?

Purim is a paradox. On second thought, perhaps it contains a series of deeper meaning and metaphors for Judaism in particular and life in general.

The issue of intermarriage takes on greater impact when we realize that the present rate of intermarriage in the United State is approximately 52 percent. While sociologists, rabbis, and statisticians are having a field day and Jewish families are having a heartache, Purim may provide us with a sense of perspective. Our age is hardly the first to deal with the issue, Moses and each of Jacob's children intermarried. All through history the challenge has been present.

No one, however, seems to be considering the positive side. While not condoning the practice, one may find that it is part of life when cultures coexist in relative acceptance, if not harmony. The Jewish gene pool and talents are enriched. Judaism is challenged to a greater vision and a more active program to retain adherents. Who knows when the process will save Jews? After all, Raoul Wallenberg's brother-in-law was Jewish.

Though the name of G–d is found elsewhere throughout the Tanach (Hebrew Bible), it does not appear in the Megillah/ Book of Esther. This issue has puzzled theologians and scholars over the centuries. Some argue that it was not the custom to mention G–d at the time the Megillah was written. Others contend that since Purim was celebrated with such boisterousness in the synagogue, it would not be seemly to use the divine name. There are also those who feel the Book of Esther is historical fiction.

In contemporary thinking about G–d, there is the problem of referring to a transcendent being taking the construct of a monarch. How can the finite mind understand the infinite? How can one conceive the inconceivable? All reference to G–d must be metaphor. But which one?

The Book of Esther provides us with a possible solution: Don't even try to use metaphor. Maimonides even hints at this possibility when he refuses to name the attributes of G–d in a positive manner. Is it not time to turn to the Book of Esther and simply refer to G–d without a name? While traditional terms might be employed for many reasons, why not refer to G–d as "The Nameless One"? Surely, this would help us in thoughts and feelings to "express" the ineffable.

Another paradox is the title megilat estahyr (Book of Esther). Esther was her Persian name — her Hebrew name was Hadassah. One would think the latter would be the proper term for the Hebrew Bible. Yet the great Jewish women's organization, Hadassah, which has done so much for Israel and Judaism everywhere, chose the appropriate Hebrew name, perhaps because the organization was founded on Purim. Its founder, Henrietta Szold, was one of the great Jewish scholars of the era.

To be sure, a neglected heroine of the book is Vashti. Vashti prefigures feminism. What enormous courage it took to refuse King Ahashuerus' royal command to appear (some would say nude) before a drunken brawl. She pays for her conviction by being executed. Move over Betty Freidan, Gloria Steinem, and Letty Pogrebrin — Vashti is the heroine of the feminist movement, its true martyr.

On Purim, one is permitted by tradition to drink to the point of not knowing the difference between baruch Mordecai (blessed be Mordecai) and arur haman (cursed be Haman). The rabbis were hardly advocating alcoholism. Instead, they were metaphorically saying that hatred should dissolve into humor, defamation into deference, cruelty into compassion, and fury into forgiveness.

Purim is a holy day infused with Jewish values. There are the customs of shalach manot (gift sending), taking at least two portions of ready-to-eat foods to friends and Matanot laevyonim (gifts to the needy), for contributing at least two gifts to the homeless and hungry. There is a Purim seudah (feast), at which family and friends gather to eat a festive meal and remember Jewish survival.

Purim is a time to celebrate Jewish survival and creativity. There are Purim Torah, in which learning and scholarship are burlesqued, and Purimspielen, the plays and masquerades to challenge the creative. There are carnivals where children cavort and enjoy their Jewishness.

One can attend the synagogue and hear the whole megillah chanted. One can worship and recite al hanissim ("for the miracles") and seriously consider how Jews have survived anti-Semitism. One can also listen to the megillah and jeer, rattling graggers, to make noise when Haman's name is mentioned.

Purim is a paradox, but so is life. Purim is a holiday that includes all of the values and all of the Jewish people. Perhaps that is why the Midrash tells us that all the holidays will vanish in Messianic times, but Purim alone will endure. After all, it is fun and filled with Jewish values.

Reprinted with permission of Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas, rabbi emeritus of the Temple of Aaron, St. Paul, Minnesota, and distinguished visiting professor of religious studies at Macalester College. He is the author of the trilogy Heart of Wisdom.

Rakitt Clears the Air

To the Editor:

I was disturbed to read your editorial of Feb. 22 and your reported efforts to get information from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island pertaining to how many males and females hold positions of authority on our board.

You wrote that when you called, you were "brushed off" and that information "was not (and apparently never would be) available." I cannot understand how you were left with such an impression, and I am pleased to share the information with you and your readers.

The membership of the board of the Jewish Federation is a matter of public record and is printed at least once annually in *The Jewish Voice*. We are proud of the leadership of both women and men on the JFRI board and in the Rhode Island Jewish community.

The slate of officers for 1996/ 97 that will be presented next month consists of five men and five women. Two of the five vice-presidential slots will be filled by women, as will the position of treasurer. In addition, the JFRI board currently includes 8 men and 37 women, from all corners of Rhode Island, reflecting a broad diversity of age, religious practice and levels of financial contribution.

It is most unfortunate that you gave your readers the impression that somehow information was purposefully withheld from you.

Steven A. Rakitt
Executive Director

Ed. Note: We thank Steve Rakitt for his response to our editorial, and for his full disclosure of the Federation figures.

Compared to figures we have seen of other federations, in other parts of this country, these Rhode Island figures portray an organization which shares opportunity and authority without regard to gender — which was our impression all along.

We appreciate the letter and the facts of the situation.

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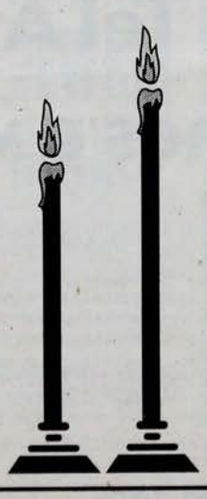

Notice: The opinions presented on this page do not necessarily represent the opinions of this establishment.

TORAH TODAY

A Coin of Fire

This week, in the Torah portion of Ki Tisa, we learn about the sin of the golden calf, which occurred after the revelation of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

The Torah proceeds to relate what the atonement was, and how the damage was corrected: by the giving of a "half shekel."

The children of Israel had reached tremendous spiritual heights both during their preparation for and after having received the Torah. The world was permeated with light, purity and holiness in a measure unknown since before the time when Adam and Eve had eaten from the Tree of Knowledge.

And then, with one unfortunate act — the sin of the golden calf, and its subsequent idol worship — the world was plunged into spiritual darkness and impurity. This transgression affected not only the Jews, but the entire world. Even today, after more than 3,000 years, the taint of the sin still remains, and will only be removed by the coming of Moshiach.

However, G–d has given the Jews a way to atone for their great sin, and that is by giving the "half shekel," to be donated towards the building of the tabernacle. The Midrash relates that when Moses heard this commandment, he was astonished. How could a Jew find atonement for himself in this way, by giving such a small sum? The Midrash continues by explaining that G–d took a coin of fire from under His throne, showed it to Moses and said, "They shall give one like this."

What kind of answer is this to Moses' bewilderment, and what is the significance of "coin of fire"? Why were they commanded to give only half a shekel? Don't we find that the Torah always seeks to promote wholeness and unity?

The answer to these questions lies in the nature of the commandment of the "half shekel." A Jew is supposed to feel that alone he is incomplete. His other half is G–d, Who completes every Jew's existence and makes him a whole being. Without the connection to G–d, a Jew can only be half of his real self.

Not only must he seek out that other half, but the "coin" itself must be made out of fire. Every Jew has within him a flame of love for G–d which can never be extinguished. This core is the Jewish soul. The love toward G–d needs only to be revealed. When a Jew ponders the fact that he is incomplete without his creator, he atones for the sin of the golden calf. The sin of idolatry caused the Jews to be separated from their source; the commandment of the "half shekel" unites the Jew with his Maker.

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

EDITORIAL

Sufficient Provocation Has Been Given

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

Anyone who reads the *Herald* regularly knows that our attitude toward the peace process in the Mid-East has been that of a fond, but distant grandparent. We studied every photo, described the first smile (handshake) with pride and joy, took note of the first steps, and believed devoutly in the bright future of this promising youngster.

But the bombings on two recent weekends have darkened our vision of the future of the process.

For negotiations to be meaningful, everyone at the table must have something to put into the deal, and something to be gained from it.

It has become clear now that Yasser Arafat has lost most of what he promised to put into the negotiations. He cannot control his own people, or deliver on his promises.

More than any other human on this planet, excluding all Israelis and everyone who knew one of the bombing victims, Arafat probably suffers regret and rage over these attacks.

We have never been to Israel, and this fact makes us reluctant to give advice to Israelis. We've read, we've listened, we've discussed — but we aren't there.

However, sometimes second-hand knowledge is enough. I've never been hit by a truck, but I've learned enough to know that I wouldn't like it.

So, from the distance of no personal knowledge, I feel free to say that a peace process which exacts such a toll from the Israelis, week after week, is not real. Sufficient provocation has been given for the Israelis to go after Hamas, and everyone else with similar plans, and root them out by any means legal, and by legal I mean any means not expressly forbidden by international convention or Israeli law.

Sometimes, there is no "good" solution, only a choice between two dangerous and painful alternatives. If you ask me, do we kill Israelis or Hamas supporters, because apparently that's what it has come down to, I say Hamas has asked for it, has asked for it a long time, has glorified martyrdom, and Israel should now oblige Hamas and give its members their moment in the martyrdom spotlight.

The Israelis who have lost sons and mothers and friends have rarely tried to make them national martyrs. They have grieved, and tried to go on. We owe them, at last, an end to our patience.

Arafat, and the Palestinians who believe in peace, had their chance.

In this country, we have a concept called "citizen's arrest." If more Palestinians had blown the whistle on those suggesting, plotting and carrying out terrorist attacks, their own lives and livelihoods would not now be at risk because of Hamas activities.

Agudas Chassidei Chabad — Lubavitch Issues a Statement on the Bombings

Our hearts are filled with pain and profound grief for the lost lives that we have suffered, this morning, yesterday and last week, by terrorist bombings in the heart of Israel. The staggering toll of death and casualties at each of these and all terrorist acts cuts us at the core.

As the world Jewish community tries to fathom these tragic occurrences in a country of our own, as the world contemplates how to bring an end to this barbaric slaughter of human life, the words of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, of sainted memory, resonate with clarity: "Israel's peace and safety can only be achieved from a position of strength: militarily and strategically secure borders. Any compromise of security or indication of weakness is sure to encourage Israel's adversaries to further acts of aggression and terrorism."

The latest tragedies strike us as we prepare for Purim, a holiday that commemorates our deliverance from the evil Haman's genocidal scheme against the Jewish people, to annihilate all men, women and children.

If we are to learn the lessons from our own history, we will find, as we read the Megillah on Purim, that "Mordechai the Jew" refused to compromise his integrity to placate those around him: "Mordechai did not bow or do him [Haman] obeisance..."

It was, ultimately, by preserving the fidelity of the Jewish people with resolute conviction, with special emphasis on educating and imbuing the children with steadfast commitment to the study of Torah and the observance of its mitzvot, that Mordechai and the entire Jewish people achieved a miraculous deliverance.

One of the important messages we learn from the story of Purim is that we must defy adversity.

Our heartfelt condolences to each of the families of the victims. "May only goodness and kindness follow you always," (Psalm 23).

May G-d Almighty heal the wounds of our people and fulfill the long-awaited promise for the ultimate Redemption.

Reform Movement Responds to Tragedies

To the Editor:

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations Northeast Council, the Boston Area Reform Rabbis and the CCAR-Northeast Region of Reform Rabbis join together in sorrows and pain at the recent suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

On this eve of Purim, a festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil, it is especially hard to digest such callous violence and an intentional slaughter of civilians.

First, our hearts and prayers go out to the families, friends and neighbors of those who were killed in the recent bombings. While we are not in Israel, we certainly know their pain is intense and raw. Their pain is our pain; their grief is our grief.

Second, we express our full and unwavering support for the goal of Prime Minister Shimon Peres and his government of achieving a full and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We pray that the peace process continue and that all parties to the process work to create the environment necessary to allow for a complete and permanent peace.

Third, we support Prime Minister Peres and his government in their effort to stop these violent and senseless acts of terror. Peace is a must but so is stopping this madness.

Oseh Shalom Bimromav, Hu Ya'aseh Shalom Aleinu, V'al Kol Yisrael, V'imru, Amen.

May the One Who causes peace to reign in the high heavens, cause peace to descend upon us, and all Israel. And let us say, Amen.

George Markley
President, UAHC-NEC
Rabbi David S. Wolfman
Regional Director, UAHC-NEC
Rabbi Debra Hachen
President, CCAR-Northeast Region

Coverage of Nazi Was Inappropriate

To the Editor:

Noah Webster, in his lexicon on definition of words, really hit the nail on the head when he defined the word "stupid" as lacking in intelligence, senseless, witless, shallow-brained, imbecilic and idiotic.

I accuse three highly prestigious establishments of fitting these definitions perfectly. The *New York Times*, the British Army and the Army of the United States of America.

The New York Times, in a recent issue, in their avowed motto of "All the News that's Fit to Print," thought it appropriate to devote to the obituary of a World War II Nazi flier, a full quarter page, four columns and approximately 1,300 words in reporting this classic event. Also, a two-column photo of Herman Goring apparently congratulating this pilot as being an outstanding ace.

Instead of a short paragraph reporting the death of this individual, the *Times* utilized an amazing degree of laudable praise in describing the life and career of this former enemy. We could well believe we were reading of the exploits of an American hero, past or present.

The article continued: In May 1945, he was captured by American forces in Salzberg, and transferred to the British Army. Such a distinguished person (by now a general) was not treated as a prisoner of war, but was fawned upon as a highly elite guest of honor. He was entertained at lavish dinners, hosted by ranking officers of the British Army, stating "mostly we just fed him good cigars and wines." Also, he was taken grouse hunting by his hosts. (To the uninformed, the grouse is a small redish, brown bird, whose habitat is the British Isles and is known affectionately as "the prairie chicken.")

Apparently, personnel in the American Army, somewhat enviable, wanted a piece of the action, and requested that he be turned over to them.

He remained "a prisoner" for the remainder of the war, and from the tone of this feature article, it would appear that the entire resources of this unit of our armed forces were placed at his disposal, to insure the comfort and well-being of this illustrious prince of the Nazi regime.

The article continued in this highly praised version of this man's career, how he shot down planes in Belgium, France, Dunkirk — the two or three sorties he flew in the Battle of Britain, bombing thousands of civilians with resulting casualties. He was one of the first to bomb defenseless Poland and his last act prior to capture was to shoot down an American plane at the Battle of the Bulge.

Ironically, it would appear that *The New York Times* devoted more space to this story than had even been allotted to any feature with regard to Pearl Harbor Day or to V-J Day, published on the anniversary dates of these events.

To Noah Webster, once again — you have really scored with your definition of the word "stupid" in these three cases.

Harry J. Kolodney
Pawtucket, R.I.

A Statement From the Federation

To the Editor:

The Jewish community in Rhode Island grieves for Israel and the families of those killed in these vile acts of terrorism committed in the last eight days.

It is with heavy hearts that we commemorate the festival of Purim tonight, March 4. Our brethren in Israel face savage attacks which create an atmosphere of genuine jeopardy that we in the United States can scarcely fathom.

Peace for people of Israel can only flourish in an atmosphere of security and it is our hope that for the sake of a lasting Middle Eastern peace, Israel and the Palestinian Authority can work together to eradicate Hamas and any other terrorist organizations that threaten regional stability.

We stand behind the efforts of the Israeli government to meet its obligations to provide security for its citizens, regardless of what others may do.

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

Attorney General Harshbarger Cautions Vendors, Consumers About Passover Advertisements

With the Jewish holiday of Passover soon approaching, Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger is cautioning area merchants and advertisers to comply with state laws that prohibit advertisements that mislead consumers into believing that advertised foods are kosher when they are not.

"When a restaurant or caterer advertises foods that are traditionally part of the Passover meal, and suggests the food is appropriate for Passover, some people may be led to believe the foods are kosher," said Harshbarger.

"If the foods are not actually kosher, the ads are deceptive and violate state laws."

Under a Massachusetts law enacted in 1991, it is illegal for an advertiser or retailer to represent as kosher, or kosher for Passover, any food which does not meet these standards, or use any symbols or words which might mislead consumers into believing foods are kosher or kosher for Passover. Violations of the law carry fines ranging from $500 to $2,000.

"Enforcement of this law is especially important during the Jewish holidays, when many consumers purchase special foods for their holiday meals," Harshbarger added. "My office will continue its efforts to ensure that consumers are not misled."

Harshbarger's Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division recommends that consumers specifically inquire if certain foods and food services are kosher or kosher for Passover. In addition, consumers are encouraged to read labels carefully, rather than assume items are kosher, merely because an advertisement refers to Passover, some other Jewish holiday or a traditional Jewish food product.

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

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Temple Torat Yisrael Men's Club to Host Brown University Coach

Mark Whipple, head football coach at Brown University, will be the guest speaker at the next Temple Torat Yisrael Men's Club breakfast on March 17 at 10 a.m. at the temple.

Attending with Whipple will be three Jewish football players: Evan Goldberg, Scott Weiser and Fry Wernick.

Whipple is in his second season coaching the Brown football team. Prior to coming to Brown, he was the former six-year head football coach at the University of New Haven.

He graduated from Brown with a B.A. degree in political science, and was a member of the Bears' 1976 Ivy League Championship team that finished 8-1 overall and 6-1 in the Ivy League under head coach John Anderson.

Admission to the breakfast is free for temple members, friends and community friends. A donation would be appreciated to help the Men's Club Scholarship Fund.

The temple is located at 330 Park Ave., Cranston (opposite Roger Williams Park). For more information, call Harold Winthrop at 461-5301 or Temple Torat Yisrael at 785-1800.

JCCRI Hires Two New Employees

To paraphrase a popular expression, "The only thing that is constant is change." No doubt that is true for the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

Two new faces will be arriving at the JCCRI in the coming weeks to replace staff members who departed for new jobs.

The departees include: Jay Snyder, the health and physical education director who left for a similar (although larger) position at the Greater Washington JCC in Rockville, Md.; and Carrie Jacobson, the controller who is joining the Monti CPA firm.

JCCRI Executive Director Vivian Weisman and the rest of the staff thank them for their sevice and wish them shalom and success in their new endeavors.

As a result of the departures, Kevin Murtough, formerly with United Health Plans, will be coming on as controller, and Timothy Chant has been hired as the new health and physical education director.

Chant is coming to the JCCRI from the Sidman-Leventhal JCC in Newton, where he was the assistant director of health and physical education.

Lax Named Knight of MDRT Foundation

Marvin William Lax, of Warwick, R.I., has become a Knight of the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation, the philanthropic arm of MDRT.

Lax, an 18-year MDRT member, attained knighthood by contributing significantly to the organization.

Since its inception in 1959, the group has donated more than $5.8 million to 600-plus charities.

Membership in MDRT is limited to the top six percent of all life insurance producers worldwide.

Jewish 49ers Host Social

The Jewish 49ers will host a dessert/social at Temple Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard St., Brookline, on March 10 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

The cost is $5 for members and $8 for non-members. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Dance to a variety of music played by a DJ or socialize if you prefer.

The temple is located between Beacon Street and Commonwealth Avenue, near Coolidge Corner. For information, call Jim at (508) 872-6533, Susan at (617) 969-5903, or Flo at (508) 877-0636.

Yoken Goes to France

David Yoken, son of Dr. and Mrs. Mel Yoken, is currently attending a French lycée in Douai, France. He is an American Field Service representative from New Bedford High School, where he is a junior, and will remain in France until July.

Barbara Orson
Photo courtesy of Temple Emanu-El

Leisure Club to Present Trinity Rep's Barbara Orson

Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club will feature Barbara Orson on March 10 at 2 p.m. in a reading of "Goodbye and Good Luck" by Grace Paley.

Orson, a founding member of Trinity Square Repertory Co., has appeared and starred in more than 100 productions, touring with Trinity Repertory to Edinburgh Festival, Phoenix, Boston and Philadelphia.

Other regional theatres include American Repertory Co., Yale Repertory and Dallas Theatre Center. She has toured the United States with the American Sandyards and performed on an off Broadway — film and television. She is the recipient of the 1982 Foundation for Repertory Theatre Award.

A social hour will follow the program. For more information, call the temple at 331-1616.

Purim Prizes

Completing its 100th year of success, Congregation Sons of Jacob held its Purim party on March 3. The prize winners were:

First Prize — winner of a Zenith 19-inch color TV with remote control — Lori Wortman.

Second Prize — winner of a GE telephone — Mel Fleischer.

Third Prize — winner of a liquor assortment — Carol Sulham.

The shul thanks all citizens who contributed and congratulates the three winners.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Purim Comes Just In Time

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

Purim is a bubbly holiday, a time of laughter and throwing off solemnity and taking pride in being Jewish. It comes just in time to save most of us from either boarding a plane — any plane, going anywhere — just to get out of here, or retreating between flannel sheets and goose down comforters and closing our eyes on the trees lashing in the cold wind, and neighbors slipping downhill on foot or in their cars.

Without Purim, this whole state might wake up deserted, some April morning.

Purim at Providence Hebrew Day School culminates in the Purim Parade on the corner of Elmgrove Avenue and Savoy Street. But on the preceding Friday, March 1, the school held a Purim assembly.

Mensches of the month were announced and received their certificates. They were: grade 1, Yisroel Meir Jakubowicz; grade 2, Mindy Lipson; grade 3, Esther Perel Krauss; grade 4, MN, Jacob Edelman; grade 4 RV, Eva Gluberman; grade 5, Simcha Ben-David; and grade 6, Dena Pearlman.

The Hakaras Hatov Essay Contest Winners were announced: Miriam Raskin, Jacob Edelman, Rafi Gerber and Rina Fried.

Rabbi Mordechai Nissel presided at the keyboard and kept the students attentive and entertained. At one point, he raised a hand in the air, said quietly, "Third grade voices," and lowered his hand. The noise level from the third grade diminished immediately. This man could write a best-seller on keeping kids under control and happy at the same time.

There was a play, "How Uncle Mendel Made Purim," which got a lot of laughs while making a gentle point. The narrators were Simcha Gilden and Jacob Edelman. Mr. Reicher was played by Hillel Samlan, the principal of the school by Hillel Shafner, and Reicher's three daughters by Elisheva Klausner, Irina Kratik and Rivka Saklad.

The housekeeper was played by Rachel Secunda, Mendel by Aryeh Raskin, the board members by Eli Vaknin and Marina Magidin and the students by Malka Antakol, Aduna Lipson, Ella Steinman and Leonid Spitserev.

Whenever I attend a PHDS event, I get the feeling that every event is interactive. Everyone, in the audience or on stage, is involved. There are schools which would sacrifice their sports budget to achieve this atmosphere.

Alperin Schechter Day School threw a Purim party on March 2 at the Casino in Roger Williams Park.

In case you weren't paying attention, Saturday, it snowed, blew and iced over all day long. I had to make about six phone calls before I located someone who could say absolutely that the party was still on.

When I pulled up in front of the Casino, I thought the park had rarely looked lovelier. Every tree branch was outlined in white, the old-fashioned park lights shone through the darkness, and cast long, fanciful shadows on the fresh snow. The Casino glowed. The whole scene was like a Currier and Ives print.

To my amazement, people came. In costume. The women wore bug stomper boots up to the front door, but once inside, they turned into Cleopatras, flappers, vamps and party girls. The men turned into pirates, Edwardian dudes, and gents of dubious distinction.

For an evening that started out with the odds heavily against it, this event was a triumph. Those who decided to go ahead, and to *!*# with the weather, made the right decision.

At the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, March 1, at least 140 people heard Jeffrey Brier, president of the JCCRI, speak, and then sat down to a hearty supper while a group of high school students put on an informal, spirited version of the Esther story.

In true Purim tradition, foot stomping and gragger buzzing accompanied the mention of a certain villain's name.

Vivian Weisman, executive director of the JCCRI, came as the Statue of Liberty, carrying a marvelous torch (which, to a hungry reporter, looked very much like an illuminated Dairy Queen vanilla cone) and wearing the regulation verdigris-green spiked headdress of the lady in the harbor. (Weisman's daughter got her the torch, which was designed to celebrate the 75th anniversary of women getting the vote.)

The community center pulses like the heart of the Jewish community at times like that.

The Kitchen Crew

These women helped prepare hamentaschen at the recent Purim party at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. As you can see, there were plenty of the pastries.

Herald photo by Alison Smith

Passover Seder to be Held at Congregation Agudas Achim

Reservations are now being accepted for a Passover seder to be held April 4 at 6 p.m. at Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro.

This traditional Passover seder will feature singing and reading from the Passover Haggadah, along with a kosher for Passover meal. The seder will be conducted by Rabbi Gail Diamond.

The cost of the seder is $20 per adult and $10 per child with a family price of $50 (two adults and unlimited children.) Reservations must be made by March 15. All are invited to attend.

For information or to make reservations, call the synagogue at (508) 222-2243.

Advertising in *The Herald* gets results. Call 724-0200 for details.

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TRENDS AND TIPS FO

What's in store for spring '96 fashion? Good news! The season promises something for everyone, with styles that are truly wearable and appropriate for every lifestyle. Noteworthy trends include color, color and more color, and the revival of classic American sportswear. Fabrics taking center stage include jersey, checks, plaids and anything with shimmer.

Here are some of the season's most wearable trends to keep in mind when choosing items for spring.

COLOR RULES — Let's hear it for the rainbow! This season, hues are hot, bright, beautiful and full of shimmer. The neutrals of past years have been replaced with acid lime greens, brilliant oranges, soft lilacs and blues of every degree. Speaking of blues, look for the most classic blue, navy, in spring's nautically inspired designs and as an elegant accent to other livelier shades of blue.

CHECK IT OUT — Squares and plaids are definitely hip this season, and they look great everywhere — particularly in the season's

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SCHOOLBEAT

Purim Celebrated at PHDS

The Purim season was celebrated with gaiety and joy at Providence Hebrew Day School as well as with intensive learning and religious practice.

The students studied the Megillah in the original Hebrew as well as the various texts on the laws and customs of the holiday. The upper school students were taught to chant the Megillah scroll for synagogue service.

Students were also taught and encouraged to fulfill the other mitzvot of Purim, specifically mishloach manot — the exchanging of gifts with friends, motanot le'evyonim — gifts to the poor and the Purim seudah festive meal.

The offices of the PHDS were transformed into a 3-ring circus by the New England Academy of Torah girls in celebration of Purim, replete with high-wire acts and lion taming and of course clowns. The students and members of the community enjoyed delicious hamentaschen baked by NEAT girls after the morning reading of the Megillah.

As at every Jewish festival one must always keep in mind the needs of the less fortunate. A considerable sum of money was collected for Od Yosef Chai, an organization which distributes money to the poor of Jerusalem.

The annual Purim parade which was to be held on Purim morning, March 5, was cancelled. School officials felt that in light of current events in Israel the displays of excessive joy were not appropriate.

DECORATING THE BOARD — From left, Eli Nissel, Yehuda Weiner, Chaza Berman and Nesanel Vogel of PHDS decorate their Purim bulletin board. *Photo courtesy of Dr. Irving Fried*

In Disguise

Everyone had a great time at Alperin Schechter Day School's Purim party on March 2 at the Roger Williams Park Casino.

Herald photo by Alison Smith

Judaic Studies Program Presents 'The Holocaust at Nuremberg'

Brown University's program in Judaic studies will present Professor Michael Marrus and "The Holocaust at Nuremberg" on March 14 at 4:30 p.m. at Salomon 001.

Marrus is professor of history at the University of Toronto, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Royal Historical Association. A graduate of the University of Toronto, he received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, and has lectured widely in North America, Europe, and Israel.

During recent years he has concentrated on the history of European fascism and the Holocaust, about which he has taught at the University of Toronto and UCLA. He is the author of five books and many articles on European history.

In collaboration with Robert Paxton, he published *Vichy France and the Jews in 1981*, which received a National Jewish Book award. His award-winning 1987 work, *The Holocaust in History*, has appeared in many languages and is being translated into Japanese.

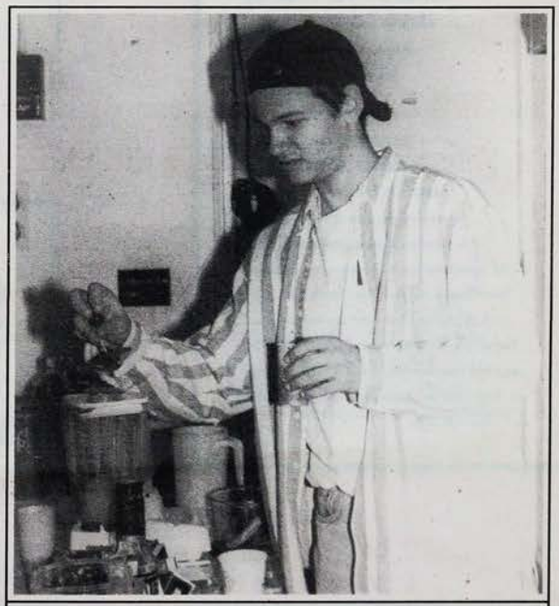
Marrus is presently completing a book on the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal for the Bedford Series in History and Culture of St. Martin's Press.

For more information, call the Judaic studies program at 863-3900.

Welcome to the Party

A small, but friendly group of students celebrated Purim at the University of Rhode Island Hillel on Feb. 29.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar



'What's Your Drink?'

Freshman Leon Rosen served the non-alcoholic drinks at the University of Rhode Island Hillel's Purim party on Feb. 29.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

The light will return.

Spring will arrive.

Plan to celebrate now by learning to love something new, and maybe meeting someone too!

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FEATURE

The Tiara

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Her little rhinestone '20s tiara sat in a dresser drawer a little the worse for wear. A couple of glass gems had fallen out and the band was held together by a shoestring. It rested next to the "rat," the hank of chestnut hair she had cut off to bob her burnished locks.

My mother had loaned it to us for Purim or perhaps Halloween, you should excuse the expression. In time I had it fixed with colored beads to replace the lost "diamonds," and once or twice let my two girls play dress up with my humble heirloom.

It wasn't a piece of costume jewelry that suited the depression or the war years, but a glittery memory of the decade of her earliest youth. Now it served in a throwaway culture as my own family fetish.

Well, my son has been studying mythology in school. He doesn't exactly break the first commandment, but he does like those quarrelsome Greek, Roman, and even Indian divinities, like his TV wrestling champions. The kids had to write, cast, and present plays for their class, skits based on myths. Reuben picked Midas, the goodhearted but greedy king with the golden touch. He asked if he could borrow the crown for his costume. "You don't have to if you want to keep it at home," he assured me. But no, it pleased me to have it come back to life, see the light of day, not the dark mahogany shadow.

I didn't even want to warn him to protect it. "Feel free," I said.

Reuben placed the diadem on his head, and it shone wonderfully. Now my boy is not vain. He's a regular guy. His friends are crazy about him. But he looked like some Prince of Wales in the hallway mirror, or the youngest son and heir of Midas, both kingly and full of his own desires, in short a lad a little lane before his bar mitzvah.

I bet the classroom performance dazzled the audience. I'm sure my Mom was beaming from some high spot above the bookcase, smiling down at the show. Reuben brought the toy coronet home safe and sound. I laid it back on its velvet bed in the top compartment of my highboy, where it belongs most of the time.

As for the "rat," it's in my school office. Once in a great while, somebody will ask what the heck it is. I don't always answer the question. My response might strike a student as morbid, or strange.

My mother has been gone more than 30 years by now. I try to keep her with me in whatever way I can. She is my own personal Shechina, or Shabbat, a spirit of shining peace that hovers over me, playful as that sparkling wreath.

The Midas touch froze water to gold. My children's touch does the opposite. It melts base metals, and the noble memories of myth rise above their brows like the light around Moses or Miriam.

Nearly every day something special happens that's worth recall. I don't always write it down or talk about it. I forget to note small events in my appointment journal. I do keep some things to myself. But early spring between Purim and Passover is the time the bulbs poke up. Wise words and charming images come back too.

Perfume and Peace

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Among the toy size gardens and the orchids and roses of the flower show a display of the mission of the Department of Environmental Management of our state caught my eye. The agricultural products inspector, and also president of the Richmond town council, stood cordial guard over the booth. I greeted my longtime friend Ron Newman.

Ron Newman
Photo by Mike Fink

"There are still productive farms in Rhode Island. We grow bigger pumpkins than ever, and we make every effort to preserve our local natural resources."

Ron points out the aims of animal health, mosquito abatement, program promotion, and pride of place. He even lets me in on the vineyards that produce some fine wines. A second-generation survivor on both sides of his family, Ron has inherited the forceful energy of his parents, their deep pleasure in belonging to a benevolent society with malice toward none, and their powerful sense of purpose. But his charm and eagerness grow from within his unique soul, flowering here in the Convention Center among other delightful people.

Arthur Straus, who conducted the barge tours of Narrow River for several summers, was among the crowd. "Yes, we are worried that the oil spill has reached into Pettaquamscutt Lake," he says, as he moves about the pristine promises of the indoor fair.

Among the little yards and retreats set up for our pleasure, a North Kingstown group has set up a Children's Wildgarden, dedicated not to spring but to autumn. They have heaped brown leaves among weeds and rocks. They want to leave nooks and crannies around schools to bring our children closer to nature and to their own love of open space. Their corner of the show holds a marvellous idea. There were beach gardens from Barrington, bonsai displays and stones inscribed with poetic thoughts, or even simply, Private Way.

The managing directors of the Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show travel in from Rockport, Maine. David and Nancy Jackson are neighbors and pals of my uncle Herb. Nancy Jo graduated from high school with me. She came to Hope from a southern state and had a charming accent and Dixie smile. Nancy has a thriving garden business, and with her soft and kindly demeanor seems to embody the mood of the entire show, and of my evening tour. She always had a good word for everyone, an open and intelligent face turned to welcome all her classmates. I see her personality among the varied indoor bouquets.

On the way out, among the lavish urns that seem to bring the classical world to our downtown, the house and garden editor of the *Providence Journal* stops to say a final word. "You can't really make your little piece of land look this good, unless you use containers for everything. Weeds and bugs will take over. This is just a weekend illusion." But that sufficed for me. We brought home two huge bunches of pink rosebuds for our Sabbath table. They will help bring perfume and peace from town and country to our own abode.

Roses for Shabbat
Photo by Mike Fink

Dr. Seuss and Estrella Have Birthdays

On March 10, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Children's Museum of Rhode Island, children enter the world of Dr. Seuss' fanciful beasts and imaginative settings in honor of his birthday. Children will create a mural with whacky cut-outs and enjoy treats and toss games with Sam-I-Am.

The Cat in the Hat will have a prize for each child who participates in a Dr. Seuss hunt throughout the museum. There is no additional fee beyond the $3.50 price of admission.

On March 13, between 3 and 5 p.m., children 5 and older celebrate the birthday of one of their favorite Children's Museum of Rhode Island friends — Estrella! She was created 16 years ago, by artist Diana Jackson, to provide children with the world's biggest hug. Kids learn how this giant chairwoman was made, create their own chair doll, and listen to Estrella stories while enjoying a piece of her birthday cake. Same day registration is required. Call 726-2591, beginning at 9 a.m., to register. There is no additional fee beyond the $3.50 price of admission.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Hebrew College Presents Jewish Choral Festival

The Jewish Music Institute at Hebrew College will be holding its third annual Jewish Choral Festival of New England on March 10 from 1 to 8 p.m. at Hebrew College's Usen Auditorium, 43 Hawes St., Brookline.

The festival will be led by master of ceremonies Hazzan Henry Rosenblum, a cantor at the North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, Ill.

The choral festival brings together 200 lovers of Jewish choral music and includes: a community sing; participation in a one-and-one-half hour workshop; brief performances by synagogue choirs and Kol Rinah, the Jewish High School Chorus of Greater Boston; and an exciting closing session for choir and cantor with Rosenblum.

Workshop options include: Instant Ensemble; The Alexander Technique for Singers; Yiddish Songs; Vocal Explorations; Sightsinging; The Music of Salamone Rossi; and, Music as Meditation.

The cost of the festival is $30, which includes a middle eastern dairy dinner. No previous background or choral experience is necessary. Advance registration is required.

For more information, contact: Janet Penn, coordinator, Jewish Music Institute of Hebrew College, at (617) 278-4958.

Hera Gallery to Present Paintings and Photos

"Food For Thought," paintings by Terry Gay and "China Diary," a photographic installation by Alexandra Broches, will be on exhibit at Hera Gallery, 327 Main St., Wakefield, from March 2 to 23. The public is invited to an opening reception for the artists to be held March 2 from 5 to 7 p.m.

In these paintings Gay examines everyday rituals involving food. She describes her work as being about "the small events of life," the small pieces of our lives which make up everyday, ordinary living.

In contrast, the work of Broches will present an interesting juxtaposition. She will exhibit photographs which respond to the extraordinary experience of traveling in China before attending the United National Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing last September.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Friday 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wheaton Exhibits Series of Silverpoint Paintings

A large collection of dramatic and finely detailed silverpoint paintings by an acclaimed Boston artist will go on display in the Watson Art Gallery at Wheaton College on March 7 through April 12.

"Intervals: Silverpoint Paintings by Susan Schwalb" opens in the Watson Art Gallery at 7 p.m. on March 7 with a lecture and demonstration of silverpoint technique. The gallery is open daily from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.; admission is free.

The works that comprise Schwalb's exhibit at Wheaton are studies of dramatic contrasts, according to the artist. The paintings feature the interplay of precise finely drawn lines with the organic, free-form shapes of brushed gold leaf. In general, Schwalb's works remind many viewers of landscape imagery, she said, adding, "To my mind, the muted colors suggest an autumnal harmony."

Schwalb is considered one of the country's leading figures in the revival of silverpoint painting, a technique that reached the height of its popularity in the 15th century. The silver wire stylus used in silverpoint produced a delicate mark on paper. One of the challenges of the technique is that silverpoint marks — unlike lead pencil marks — cannot be erased, thus requiring the artist to work with great deliberation.

Newport Children's Theatre Presents a Fantasy Adventure

The Newport Children's Theatre will present its March show, "The Phantom Tollbooth," by Susan Nanus, at St. Michael's School on Rhode Island Avenue in Newport.

Performances will be March 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. General admission tickets are $6 for adults and $3 for children and are available in advance as well as at the door.

Join NCT director Barbara Finelli's cast of young actors as they take you on a fantasy adventure, right out of the pages of Norton Juster's well-known book, *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Advance tickets are available in Jamestown at Baker's Pharmacy, in Newport at Pleasant Surprise and Broadway Joe's Video, in Middletown at the Walrus and the Carpenter, in Portsmouth at Clements' Market, and in Tiverton at The Toy Mill at Millpond Shops.

For reservations, group tickets or further information contact the Newport Children's Theatre at 848-0266.

Free Poetry Available

The Poetry Mission, a Rhode Island non-profit arts association, along with the Cranston Public Library and Copper Beech Press, is offering sets of Copper Beech poetry and fiction titles free of charge to all Rhode Island public libraries. Each set numbers approximately 25 titles, and is part of the Poetry Mission's "Seedling Project."

The Poetry Mission is also making collections of these titles available free of charge to shelters, non-profit agencies, hospitals, or any other service agency that deals with the public.

Agency directors can make available these books to clients in their waiting rooms or in their headquarters. There are no restrictions as to how they can be utilized. However, agencies may not charge clients for the use of the books.

For more information, contact Henry Gould at 863-2175 or John Bucci at 781-2450.

'Images and Variations'

Facets in Fall Rivers has announced "Images and Variations," a solo exhibition of creative work exploring color and form of the natural landscape by Catherine Chokola Nenart.

Nenart is from Bristol, R.I., and has received a M.F.A. from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. She has exhibited her digital mixed-media work throughout the United States.

"Images and Variations" opens March 10 at Facets, 386 Kilburn St., Fall River. The exhibition runs through March 31.

Gallery hours are Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. Public parking is available.

"Orchid 9"
by Catherine Chokola Nenart

'Rapid Eye Movement'

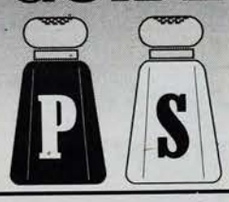
On March 9 at 7:30 p.m., the All Children's Theatre will present "Rapid Eye Movement," an evening of new and experimental writings from ACT members, aged 9 to 16.

"REM" will be held at the East Side Fox Point Elementary School, 455 Wickenden St. (entrance on East Street) in Providence. Tickets are $5 for children and $8 for adults.

"REM" is the culmination of ACT's writing and directing workshops held this year. It is a presentation of 10 short plays, ranging in length from 3 to 20 minutes, all of which are written, directed and performed by ACT members. These quick plays are filled with vivid images that stick in the brain, some of which follow a dream-like logic.

For reservations and more information, call 331-7174.

DINING GUIDE



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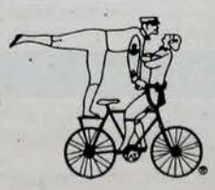

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WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

Investigation Reveals Driver Intended to Kill

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — One day after a car driven by an Arab American plowed into a group of people waiting at a bus stop, killing one and injuring 23, Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal said the driver acted with intent to kill.

Shahal's announcement recently reversed the local police's initial assessment that Ahmed Abdel Hamidah had lost control of the rented black Fiat Uno and that the incident was an accident.

The woman killed in the attack, Flora Yehiel-Twito, 24, was buried in Kiryat Ata.

Pedestrians were waiting at the bus stop at a busy intersection near Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood when Hamidah's car, traveling at a high speed, crashed into the shelter.

Two civilian bystanders shot and killed Hamidah after the crash.

Shahal said a background check had found that Hamidah, a former drug addict, had recently become a devout Muslim and that he might have links to the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad organization.

"It's not final, but I have the latest assessment from the checks done by police," he said. "The tendency is to see yesterday's incident as an attack."

Jerusalem Police Chief Aryeh Amit told reporters, "Most of the signs rule out a traffic accident. The car and brakes were in working order. One of the skid marks we saw yesterday apparently did not come from this car."

He said some of the skid marks found were made when the car accelerated toward the people on the pavement.

Member For Life

Hadassah National President Marlene Post (right) recently named Tipper Gore Hadassah's newest life member.

Photo by Susan Mark, courtesy of Hadassah

Non-Orthodox Weddings Chosen by 20 Percent of Israeli Couples

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — About one in five Israeli couples who married in 1994 chose to do so without involving Israel's Orthodox rabbinate.

This finding emerged from a study conducted by Hemdat, the Council for Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture, which found that 21,000 marriages were registered with the Chief Rabbinate in 1994 compared with the 26,149 registered with Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics.

According to the figures, which were presented in a pamphlet "Freedom in Marriage," more than 5,000 couples — some 20 percent of all those who wed — chose alternative marriage ceremonies.

Professor Hillel Shoval, Hemdat's chairman, said the study indicated a growing demand in Israel for alternative marriages.

Civil and non-Orthodox marriages are only recognized in Israel if conducted abroad.

Shoval said the alternative marriages had included civil ceremonies in Cyprus, proxy marriages in Paraguay and ceremonies performed abroad by Reform and Conservative rabbis.

He said the couples who chose those ceremonies were from three main groups: couples who preferred not to marry within the Orthodox framework of the established rabbinate; couples barred from marriage for halachic reasons; and immigrants from the Soviet Union, for whom proof of their Jewish background is sometimes difficult to provide.

Knesset member Avraham Ravitz, of the United Torah Judaism bloc, rejected the Hemdat study, saying that the figures were not authoritative.

German Envoy Asks U.S. Jews to Help Counter Neo-Nazi Acts

by Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — American Jewry could help stem the flow of neo-Nazi material available in Germany, most of which originates in America, said Juergen Chrobog, the new German ambassador to the United States.

"We have pleaded with the American government to crack down on the purveyors of Nazi propaganda, but are told that such material falls under the First Amendment protection," said Chrobog, addressing a recent American Jewish Committee meeting.

Acknowledging that his country is "not immune" to desecration of Jewish cemeteries and attacks on foreigners, the German envoy said there had been a dramatic decline in the number of hate crimes during the last two years.

While many American Jews still view Germany "from the perspective of 1945," Chrobog said, "we are now different from the Germany of the old empire, of the Weimar Republic and of the Nazi era."

In foreign relations, "Germany is one of Israel's strongest and most reliable friends," he said.

NCSY Announces Two New Ways to Get Jewish

Recently, the New England chapter of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth New England unveiled two new programs geared at making information about being Jewish available for Jewish teens.

The first is the Jewish Youth Information Hotline, in which Jewish teens can share thoughts, get answers to questions, and discover whatever they may want to know about growing up Jewish. All they need to do is dial (800) SOS-NCSY and teens are offered the option of hearing a contemporary Jewish law (halacha) or something from the weekly Torah portion, leaving a message, or hearing information about events in their communities.

According to Rabbi Ari Solomont, regional director of New England NCSY, membership is not required to call the Jewish Youth Hotline.

NCSY has also unveiled a Home Page on the World Wide Web.

According to chief architects, Shimmy Trencher, a senior at Yeshiva University in New York and Jeff Weiss, a senior at Maimonides High School, "Teens are surfing the web, so why not provide them with a safe haven to meet other teenagers who are interested in ideals and values? We want Jewish teens to meet other Jewish teens, identify with the Jewish community, and get involved with Jewish life.

"NCSY is one of a few organizations that is attempting the task of 'on line' education," according to Weiss. Everyone can set their Web Browser to http://nerncsy.torah.org/ to get the Jewish information for teens.

In other NCSY related information, Congregation Agudath Shalom of Stamford, Conn., will be the host synagogue for this year's Junior NSCY Spring Regional Conclave, March 22 to 24.

NCSY is the youth movement of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. More than 100,000 young men and women in Jewish communities throughout North America and Israel are involved in NCSY.

For more information about NCSY and other youth programs for your community, call New England NCSY at (508) 441-2141.

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OBITUARIES

ABRAM 'AL' GORDON

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — Abram "Al" Gordon, 82, of 14712 Bonaire Blvd., founder of Gordon Motors Inc. in 1948, a Kaiser distributorship, and founder of Gordon Chevrolet Co. in North Kingstown in 1953, died Feb. 28 at his home. He was the husband of the late Beatrice R. "Bea" (Kaplan) Gordon.

Born in Providence, a son of the late William and Rose (Rabinowitz) Gordon, he had lived in Florida for the last several years, maintaining a home in Cranston.

He was a graduate of the University of Rhode Island. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving as a carrier pilot, and as a fighter pilot with the renowned "Flying Tigers." He was a member of the Quidnessett Country Club and the "Over The Hill Gang."

He leaves two sons, Michael Gordon of Miami, Fla., and Lawrence "Patrick" Gordon of Newport, R.I., and three grandchildren. The funeral was held March 3 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

G. SIDNEY GRANOFF

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — G. Sidney Granoff, 79, of 5020 Golfview Court, Delray Beach, Fla., a consultant for the Koffler Corp. in Providence for the past 12 years, and an executive for many years at American Tourister in Warren, died Feb. 28 at the Delray Community Hospital in Delray Beach. He was the husband of Selma (Woodman) Granoff.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Louis and Edith (Samdperil) Granoff, he moved to Florida nine years ago. He maintained a summer home in Providence.

He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was a member of Temple Emanu-El and its Brotherhood. He was the coordinator of the Saturday morning services at the temple. He was a member of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Touro Fraternal Association. He was a member of the Crestwood Country Club.

Besides his wife he leaves a son, Bruce R. Granoff of Atlanta, Ga.; a sister, Beverly Satloff of Providence; two brothers, Samuel Granoff of Pawtucket, Leonard Granoff of Providence and Palm Beach, Fla., and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held March 3 at Temple Emanu-El, Morris Avenue. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick. Arrangements were by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

HOPE Present — Strategies for Lymphadema

Lymphadema is the accumulation of lymphatic fluid that causes swelling in the arms and legs, pain, restricted movement, and increased susceptibility to infection. It occurs most commonly in women and after breast cancer surgery, and is something that receives little attention in doctor/ patient discussion.

HOPE has amassed a good selection of reference materials which focus on the many practical ways to cope with the problem of lymphadema.

On March 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. massage therapists Ellen Belconis and Betty Jane St. Jean will present Strategies for Coping with Lymphadema, a workshop focusing on skills and techniques for reducing the pain and swelling of lymphadema, including the basics of manual lymph drainage, maintenance regimens, exercise, and skin care.

It will be held at The HOPE Center's offices at 297 Wickenden St., Providence.

Belconis is a licensed massage therapist with 19 years of experience in private practice, who is also a cancer survivor and lLymphadema patient.

The fee is $10 for non-members and $5 for members of HOPE.

Advance registration is required, as space is limited. For further information and registration, call HOPE at 454-0404.

Lives and Dreams Cut Short

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — Soon after Matthew Eisenfeld and Sara Duker met, it became clear to those around them that the couple would one day be married and together build a life full of love and commitment, to each other and to Judaism.

But their lives and their dreams were cut short by the suicide bomber who recently annihilated the Jerusalem bus on which they rode as they traveled to Jordan.

Instead of sharing their lives together, Eisenfeld and Duker were buried side by side recently at the Beth El Temple Cemetery in Avon, Conn.

Eisenfeld and Duker described by those who knew them as vibrant, intelligent and passionate, were on the bus because they were going to visit Jordan while Eisenfeld had a break from his classes at the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary campus in Jerusalem. He was in his second year of rabbinical school.

Duker was working as a research technician in a microbiology lab at Hebrew University.

Eisenfeld, 25, was a native of West Hartford, Conn. He attended Yale University as an undergraduate, majoring in religious studies. While there, he became involved in Young Israel House at Yale and Yale Hillel, where he inspired many students with his dedication.

"He would sit down and study Gemarah and people would want to sit and study and learn with him," said Josh Cahan, a Yale senior.

Eisenfeld was also a member of Yale's Political Union and was a founder of "Magevet," Yale's Jewish a capella singing group. After graduation, he spent a year in Israel at Yeshiva Himiztar in Efrat, and then returned to the United States to enroll in the Jewish Theological seminary.

Duker, 22, who grew up in Teaneck, N.J., had attended The Frisch Yeshiva High School in Paramus, N.J., and majored in environmental science at Barnard, where she graduated last May summa cum laude. She also was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Last year, Duker went to Siberia as a participant in an environmental studies exchange program between the United States and Russia.

> "Until now we have taken for granted that Israel would 'put the kipah on our heads,' that Israel would do much of the work of shaping Jewish identity."
> *Sara Duker*

Also last year, Duker won first place in an essay contest sponsored by the Israel Aliyah Center of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Her prize was a round-trip ticket to Israel.

"Until now we have taken for granted that Israel would 'put the kipah on our heads,' that Israel would do much of the work of shaping Jewish identity," wrote Duker in her essay.

"As Israel continually struggles with its own identity, it is important to be reminded of the essence of Heschel's statement — 'The State of Israel is a spiritual revolution; not a one-time event, but an ongoing revolution.' The key ideas are 'spiritual' and 'ongoing,'" she wrote, referring to Jewish theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel.

She was the second Frisch alumna to be killed within a year by Hamas terrorists in Israel. Alisa Flatow, a native of West Orange, N.J., who graduated from Frisch in 1992, was killed last April.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford has set up a fund in Eisenfeld's memory. Donations to the Matthew Eisenfield Memorial Fund may be sent to the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, 333 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford, Conn. 06117.

The Duker family has asked that donations in Sara's memory be made to the Jewish National Fund.

(Alexandra J. Wall of the Jewish Standard *of Teaneck, N.J. and Stacey Dresner of the* Connecticut Jewish Ledger *contributed to this report.)*

Victims of Two Latest Bombings

NEW YORK (JTA) — The following people died in the latest two terror attacks in Israel, according to the Israeli Consulate in New York.

On March 3 in Jerusalem, a suicide bomber on a No. 18 bus killed:

- Sgt. Haim Amedi, 19, of Jerusalem
- Sarina Angel, 45, of Beit Jala
- Maya Birkan, 59, of Jerusalem
- Uzi Cohen, 54, police officer, of Jerusalem
- Raya Daushvili, 55, of Jerusalem
- Mirze Gifa, 39, Romanian worker
- Marian Grefan, 40, Romanian worker
- Dimitru Kokarascu, 43, Romanian worker
- Valerian Krasyon, 44, Romanian tourist
- Sgt. Yoni Levy, 21, of Jerusalem
- Dominic Lunka, 29, Romanian worker
- Daniel Petenka, 33, Romanian worker
- Shemtov Sheikh, 63, of Jerusalem
- Anna Shingeloff, 36, of Jerusalem
- Gavriel Shamashvili, 43, of Jerusalem
- Juday Stepanz, Ethiopian tourist
- Gidi Taspanish, 23, Ethiopian tourist
- George Yonan, 38, of Jerusalem
- Naima Zargary, 66, of Jerusalem

On March 4 in Tel Aviv, a suicide bomber outside the Dizengoff Center killed:

- Inbar Attiya, 21, of Ramar-Efal
- Gail Balkin, 48, of Herzliya
- Sylvia Bernstein, 73, of Hod Hasharon
- Hadas Dror, 15, of Tel Mond
- Tali Gordon, 24, of Givatayim
- Dana Gutman, 14, of Moshav Mishmeret
- Yovav Levi, 13, of Tel Aviv
- Leah Mizrahi, 60, of Tel Aviv
- Rahel Sela, 82, of Tel Aviv
- Bat-Hen Shahak, 15, of Tel Mond
- Dan Twersky, 58, of Tel Aviv
- Assaf Wax, 21, of Holon
- Kobi Zaharon, 13, of Tel Aviv

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Stunned

(Continued from Page 1)

blast site expressed anger.

"The government is doing nothing to protect us," charged 16-year-old Mazzie Hanoni, a high school student. "Last Monday, when a car rammed into people waiting at a bus stop, the government initially said it was an accident, not a terrorist attack. They're afraid to tell us the truth."

Noting that her father is a bus driver, Hanoni said, "Last week, when we heard about the blast we didn't know where my father was. I hope no one ever has to feel the fear we felt."

Batya Walker, a teacher who has five children, said she is worried about her family's safety.

"I'm sad and angry and I want the government to do more," she said. "A week ago I spoke to an official in the police department about tightening security and she told me that if the terrorists stop attacking buses they will simply attack someplace else. What kind of answer is that?"

Walker, who emigrated from New Jersey 25 years ago, said the government "ought to start issuing magnetic cards for Israeli citizens, and this could go a long way toward preventing terrorism."

Echoing the Cabinet's decision recently to implement a plan to separate the Israeli and Palestinian populations, Walker said, "What we need is a total division" between Jews and Arabs.

Instead of attending a school Purim party, 16-year-old Estie Levi decided to rush to the site of the blast.

"I was getting ready for school, for the party, when I heard about the attack. I just couldn't face going to school today," she said.

Tears in her eyes, Levi said, "Do you know the saying 'the month of Adar is a time to rejoice'? Instead of happiness, all we feel is horror. It's as if a second Holocaust has befallen Israel, and the government remains silent. I was in favor of the peace process, but now I know that peace between Jews and Arabs is impossible."

Rina Michaeli, a 40-year-old postal worker, said she was still in shock.

"The bomb went off right outside and it was total chaos when I arrived for work soon afterward. I saw bodies everywhere."

Speaking from the central post office, just a few yards from the bomb site, Michaeli, too, said she had lost hope in the peace process.

"Of course I want peace, but look what's happening. There is one attack after another, blast after blast — this is the action of a people that wants peace? My son, a soldier serving in South Lebanon, called this morning to see if I was injured. He told me that it's safer in Lebanon than in Jerusalem."

Walker said the peace process "is being handled in a slapdash way, as if some child were in charge. It's been poorly planned and Israelis are scared and uninformed. If I planned Shabbat dinners the way our government has planned the peace process, my family would be starving."

Cabinet

(Continued from Page 1)

hitchhiking stops throughout the country to check passengers, the prime minister said.

In a measure seen as an effort to deter suicide bombers, the ministers approved steps against the families of bombers, which would include sealing their homes and demolishing them.

Peres said this would bring an end to the "celebrations of the martyr bombers."

He said the homes of the two Hamas militants believed to be responsible for the Feb. 25 twin bombings would be sealed. The attackers were from the West Bank village of Al-Fawwar, near Hebron.

Peace negotiations with the Palestinians, suspended after the twin attacks, will not resume until Palestinian Council President Yasser Arafat takes sufficient measures against the fundamentalist groups, Peres told the Cabinet.

But President Ezer Weizman, seeking stronger action, called on the Peres government to suspend immediately all negotiations with the Palestinians.

"The peace process will not run away, we must suspend it, until we find a solution," he told Israel Radio.

Weizman also urged all political parties to put aside their campaigns for the May 29 Knesset elections and join in working toward a solution to the security challenges.

Peres held consultations recently with opposition leaders, but he ruled out the possibility of establishing a national unity government.

At a time like this, "I do not differentiate between parties," he told reporters. "The entire country is right and left, young and old. I am convinced that we must first focus on this war against terror, and I believe this is the first priority of all parties."

The Likud distanced itself from the anti-government demonstrations that erupted on March 3 after the attacks, and called for unity.

"I met this morning with the prime minister and told him we would support the government if it takes intensive measures against terror," Netanyahu said in the Knesset. "I hope he adopts some of the measures I proposed."

Netanyahu called for imposing a total closure on the areas where terrorist organizations operate, closing down Orient House — the Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters in eastern Jerusalem — and giving Israeli security forces freedom of activity in all areas.

Among those who rushed to the scene of the bus bombing was Edward Abbington, the U.S. consul general in Jerusalem, who surveyed the site in his jogging clothes.

"I heard the explosion go off, it was only about 400 meters from the consulate," he told Israel Radio. "I immediately went there. It was like a scene out of hell."

Expressing his horror at the bloody scene, Abbington said, "I can't understand how people can do this, and just tear people up with bombs."

'Macbeth' in Leeds Theatre

Brown University Theatre presents William Shake-speare's powerful drama, "Macbeth," March 13 to 17 at 8 p.m. in Leeds Theatre.

A story of power, plots, passion, and paranoia, "Macbeth" is one of Shakespeare's most popular and inherently theatrical works.

The cast includes Iris Bar-Ziv, Max Finneran, Andy Greenwald, Ben Samuels, Caroline Sharman, Austin Winsberg and Vanessa Zimmerman.

Tickets are available at the Leeds Theatre box office, 77 Waterman St., Providence, Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tickets will also be available at the door on performance nights from 7 to 8 p.m.

Ticket prices are $11 regular, $8 senior citizen and Brown faculty/staff, and $5 for students. Phone reservations are accepted with Visa/MasterCard.

For more information or to make reservations, call 863-2838.

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Discover Mediterranean Cuisine at Tabü

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

"Discover Tabü." That's what I've been reading repeatedly in the new restaurant's advertisements.

Well, recently I did "discover" the Mediterranean-style establishment, and what I found was a restaurant that is sure to quickly establish itself as one of Providence's most popular places to eat.

In fact, for the last three weekends, Tabü has been booked solid. Granted, the restaurant only seats up to 52 at a time (32 in the non-smoking bistro and 20 in the lounge), but the restaurant is still in its infancy — it opened on Jan. 11.

A CLOSER LOOK Business Profiles

"I'm thrilled that the restaurant is doing so well," said owner Costanzo DiMeglio. "I'd like to start seeing people come in regularly."

Many of the items on the menu are Italian dishes, but what makes them Mediterranean-style, according to DiMeglio, is the lightness of the sauce and emphasis on ingredients such as garlic and basil. Also, no batter is used, just olive oil.

As a pre-appetizer, each table is given a small dish of caponata, which essentially is large croutons cooked with olive oil, garlic, parsley and fresh tomatoes.

"It's a good way of clearing the palette, especially if you're going to order wine," said DiMeglio. It's also a lot tastier and more creative than just eating rolls or bread before your meal arrives.

There are several interesting appetizers to choose from. My guest and I selected the mischiata, which is mushrooms with concasse of tomato pesto sauce. They were very tasty, and the array of vegetables that came with them was a pleasant surprise.

For a main course, I had the chicken parmigiana and my guest had a chicken special. The servings were extremely generous and the light sauce that DiMeglio mentioned was a refreshing change from the typically heavy sauces served elsewhere.

We saved some room for dessert. I had the chocolate mousse cake and my guest had a strawberry cake. The slices were a good size and they weren't overly rich. The orange syrup decorating the plates added a nice touch.

Tabü's menu consists of a wide range of pastas, seafood dinners and meats. But for those looking for a kosher-style meal, much of the menu is eliminated.

Prior to DiMeglio opening Tabü, the restaurant was formerly known as Angel's. In the 1970s, it was called Penache. DiMeglio named the place Tabü because it reminded him of a restaurant he knew by that name as a child growing up in Palm Beach, Fla.

THE LOUNGE area at Tabü seats 20. The flowers and artwork give the restaurant charm.
Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

DiMeglio is no newcomer to the restaurant business. In the 1970s he was the co-owner of a restaurant called San Tropé, which stood at the opposite corner of where Tabü is now, at 125 North Main St., near the Rhode Island School of Design.

"San Tropé was at the height of its time back then," recalled DiMeglio. "We introduced rack of lamb, which Providence didn't know about."

Since then, DiMeglio has run several large restaurants (outside of Rhode Island). But this time around, he wanted something small.

"I was looking for a small restaurant that was easy to run, a place where I could be happy," said DiMeglio.

Because of Tabü's size however, reservations are required on the weekends and suggested on the weekdays.

While reservations might paint the image of a "fancy" restaurant, Tabü maintains a comfortable feeling.

"We don't want to be too sophisticated," said DiMeglio. "No jacket or tie is required and we (purposely) didn't create a large wine list."

Considering the quality of ingredients used and the size of the portions, the prices are reasonable.

"For a full dinner, which includes an appetizer and a glass of wine, you're talking about $25 to $30 per person," said DiMeglio.

In trying to keep the prices down and the ambiance tasteful, but modest, DiMeglio has concentrated on substance over appearance.

"You won't find a $500 chair here or a plate that looks like it came out of a book," stated DiMeglio. "I think it's more important to focus on a great meal with great portions."

Tabü also places great emphasis on service. The waiter was friendly and helpful and the food was prepared quickly.

The restaurant is open 5:30 to 10 p.m., during the week and 5:30 to 11 p.m. on the weekend. DiMeglio hopes to soon open for lunch.

For reservations, call 272-2600.

THE MOOSE overlooks the non-smoking bistro at Tabü.
Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

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all-American sportswear, including the country-club and collegiate looks of the '60s. Hot items to "check" out: dresses in every style, hipster and Capri pants, and the zipper-front jacket.

A CLASSIC NOTION — Many classic looks are back this season, which is good news for the longevity of your wardrobe — and your wallet! Twin sweater sets remain extremely strong; classically tailored suits and single-button jackets are everywhere. V-necks, the sleeveless shell and simple jersey dress also make major statements. The classically elegant fabric, silk shantung, is also a good bet.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE ACCESSORIES GONE? Keep your jewelry in the drawer. This is a season that's practically free of accessories, with one exception: handbags. This year, look for pocketbooks that are structured and ladylike. By the way, fashion insiders say the backpack, which was riding so high for several seasons, will be out this spring.

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