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Palestine National Council Amends Portions of Charter

by Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA)—U.S. and Jewish officials are giving a hearty thumbs up to the Palestine National Council's decision recently to amend the portions of its charter calling for the destruction of Israel.

Their enthusiasm echoed that of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who hailed the vote, saying that "maybe ideologically it is the most important change in the last 100 years."

During a closed-door session in Gaza recently — as Israel concluded its 48th Independence Day celebrations — the PNC brought to an end worldwide uncertainty about the outcome of the critical vote.

Knowing that the future of the peace process was at stake, Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat had strongly urged the so-called Palestinian parliament in exile to fulfill the

obligation to change the covenant, as called for under the peace accords with Israel.

In the end, council members, including some of the most extreme terrorists, whom Israel

The vote was 504 in favor, 54 against and 14 abstentions.

had allowed into Gaza to take part in the vote, overwhelming supported Arafat's appeal.

The vote was 504 in favor, 54 against and 14 abstentions.

The tally, taken during a closed-door session in the Gaza Strip, exceeded the two-thirds majority of the 669 PNC members needed to change the 1964 covenant.

Arafat reportedly appointed

98 people to the PNC recently, prompting accusations from hardline opponents that he was stacking the vote in his favor.

Despite the criticisms of Israeli actions, Arafat recently prodded the PNC to amend the charter, warning them that failure to do so could jeopardize the entire peace process.

"Make up your minds," Arafat said to recalcitrant PNC members. "Are we going to have a Palestinian dream or not? Are we going to have a Palestinian state or not?"

The vote came in the wake of repeated Israeli warnings that failure to amend the covenant would bring the peace process to a halt.

Even those council members who opposed amending the charter were quoted as saying that Arafat's strong lobby within the council had predetermined the results.

PHDS Celebrates Yom Ha'Atzmaut

by Dr. Iving Fried
Head of PHDS

The annual Providence Hebrew Day School Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration took place on April 24, in the school auditorium. The auditorium was decorated for the occasion with displays, pictures, poems, children's art work, posters and flags.

The story of Yom Atzma'ut, the struggle to establish the state,

the unending conflict with its neighbors, and the development of modern Israel, was told in songs and dances.

The students heard the sounding of a shofar by third grade student Moshe Fried in memory of Israel's soldiers who have fallen in all the wars. They listened to excerpts from the proclamation of independence read in Tel Aviv in May 1948.

A member of the Boston

Israel consulate, Samuel Schwartz, spoke to the students about the hopes and aspirations of Israel. He believes peace may be achievable within a year.

The Providence Hebrew Day School choir, under the direction of Rabbi Martin Fried, performed a medley of songs concluding with "Hatikva."

The program was arranged by Rina Holtzman, a member of the school faculty.



Jane S. Nelson, Honoree

Nelson to be Honored by Miriam Hospital Women

Jane S. Nelson will be honored as the 1996 recipient of The Miriam Hospital Women's Association's Annual Recognition Award.

The award will be presented at a luncheon during the association's annual meeting on May 15 at Ledgemont Country Club.

An active member in the association for more than 40 years, Nelson has served as secretary for four years, and as president of the association. Her family has been involved with The Miriam since its inception. Her father, Milton C. Sapinsley, who served as chairman of The

Miriam Hospital board from 1946 to 1950, was the presiding officer at his daughter's installation as president.

As president, Nelson is most proud of her role in changing the complexion of the board to allow physicians' wives to serve in all association positions, including that of president.

She was one of the first women to be named a trustee of the hospital in 1971, and in 1988, she was named an honorary trustee for life — the only woman to have achieved this honor.

(Continued on Page 15)

Palestinian Security Foils Hamas Plot to Kill Arafat

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As Palestinian security continued to pursue a Hamas activist who allegedly plotted to kill Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Jordan denied that it was harboring the fugitive.

Jordanian Information Minister Marwan Muashar said in Amman that the accused man, identified as Ziad Qishawi, was not in Jordan and that the state registrar had no record of him.

The assassination plot came to light as Arafat asked the Palestine National Council to amend those portions of its char-

ter that call for the destruction of Israel.

Earlier Palestinian police had announced that they had uncovered a plot by Hamas fundamentalists to assassinate Arafat when he made a scheduled visit to a Gaza Strip cemetery on April 28.

Col. Tawfiq Jaber, who heads Palestinian intelligence in Gaza, said two parcels of explosives and two mines had already been prepared for the attack.

Palestinian secret service officials said the militants had been hiding in a central Gaza neighborhood.

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DR. MORDECHAI FRIED keeps everyone moving along, as Providence Hebrew Day School students file in for their Israel Independence Day celebration. Herald photo by Alison Smith

INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

As I Look Back...

by Sylvia Ziman

As I look back to the olden days, when life was simple, I remember being brought up in the North End.

I remember that on Douglas Avenue there were several meat markets. One was my father's — Rubin Kosher Meat Market — and there was Irving Abrams Kosher Meat Market, and Star Delicatessen (where the best sandwiches were made and the pickles came right from the barrel.) Julie and David Abrams were the owners. And there was Phil's Dry Good Store... and a washing and drying place, and the Aron Butcher shop, next to Berman's Variety Store. There were lots of things to be had for two cents there, then, and for less.

My grandmother and grandfather lived upstairs, with an ice box in the back hallway. They plucked chickens on Shawmut Street.

Down on Orms Street there was a synagogue called Congregation of Zion where the women sat upstairs, and there was a Hebrew school. The children attended Hebrew school, and had their bar mitzvah and other religious programs there.

There was no hot water, so we had to take showers from the Quaid Street Bath House.

The neighborhood was primarily Jewish, then. From the

old countries, the young people came, sponsored by their relatives, and eventually landed respectable positions in their own trade.

Later they brought their families to America to become citizens.

In all respectable families, people learned English.

I remember Harry's Delicatessen, located in the downtown area. They had the best corned beef. In a large bowl, people placed change for the service as they entered the store, for those who were short of change. Harry's was on Clemence Street, called Pie Alley.

The Crown Hotel was nearby, and a wonderful catering place, the Rialto Hotel.

There was a dispensary down at the end of Orms Street. Upstairs there was a library. Now the Marriott Hotel is located there.

They had mikva baths on Candace Street for the ultra-religious groups to purify themselves.

I was married in South Providence by Rabbi Abraham Chill at the Congregation Sons of Abraham. Mrs. Libby Chill, his wife, taught Hebrew, and there were other teachers, like Mabel Berman. We had board meetings with Nellie Silverman and

various other people, to improve the synagogue. The children were taught Hebrew and went to Sunday school, and then graduated to become mensch.

There were quite a few synagogues at different locations then, and eventually some merged.

In Willard Avenue, there were other kosher markets. And there were Kaufman's Fish Market, Snell's Bakery, and Perler's nearby. Barney's Bakery had the best products, but other bakeries had delicious bagels and challah, too. All down the line they were real Jewish stores.

The Jewish Community Center, located near Niagara Street, had a preschool class with programs of interest. We had a telephone squad to contact other members and those who were interested. All ages participated and helped in raising funds.

Later the center was located on Benefit Street, where there was basketball, and dances during World War II. The servicemen would come, and take off their wedding rings while they were dancing, and then put them on again after the dances. It was a very active center.

Then we had rationing of gasoline and other articles, and we had President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on office. Thanks to him, we had social security, WPA, NRA, OPA rent control, and everyone was working.

I had a vulcan heater, and shoveled coal. Then oil was available for homes, at a very reasonable rate.

Some more synagogues merged as population moved to other destinations.

Temple Beth Israel, Congregation Sons of David — some of them went to Shara Zedek, Temple Sinai.

Congregation Sons of David became a meal site and a senior center called Smith Hill. Temple Beth-El, Temple Habonim in Barrington, Temple Emanu-El and Touro in Newport, and a Hassidic temple on Hope Street, became famous. Some of the professional men in the community were very noted, later, for instance, Gov. Frank Licht, Richard Licht, Judge Richard Israel, Julius Michaelson, and others too numerous to mention.

Many foreign people of all religious backgrounds came to the United States to be accepted in the New World, and everything changed.

Later came Hasbro, which manufactured toys.

The Jewish Home for the Aged, formerly on Orms Street, was a large place for the disabled, physically and emotionally... a haven, where patients with personal problems felt very comfortable. Then it was moved to Hillside Avenue.

Unfortunately it is closed. Now stands only a day school. (Ed. note: an adult day care center.)

Now the Jewish Community Center is on Sessions Street. (Ed. note: on Elmgrove Avenue.)

Now we have HUD houses, according to our income, and computing, layoffs, stores closing, volunteers helping out, a new regime, food stamps, drug addicts, nursing homes and livings with expensive prices.

Neighborhoods are changing, where some of the people have moved on to Florida and other parts. The economy is very poor. We have Grey Panthers, United Way, rehabilitating existing low-income houses and people purchasing existing abandoned housing, Wiley Center, the Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Service to help people adjust to the New World. There is intolerance, independence, anti-Semitism, and insecurity. We need wisdom for environmental care, for the present and future.

As a senior citizen of much

Jewelry Auction

The Manufacturing Jewelers and Silversmiths of America, a national trade association, will host a gala jewelry auction on May 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence to benefit the fight against domestic violence and abuse.

The evening will include both a live and silent auction of more than 150 items including jewelry, works of art, golfing packages, tickets to special events, gift certificates, and interesting items in every price range.

Tickets are \$75 per person which includes a buffet dinner and live musical entertainment. To purchase tickets, call Butler Hospital at 455-6266 or 455-6264.

Butler to Host Plant Sale

Butler Hospital in Providence will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale from May 8 to 11, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, at the hospital greenhouse.

experience, with a new and different world, I wish the politicians and others, and everyone with whom we are concerned, the best of health and opportunity, prosperity, regardless of faith or religion, also hope and charity.

Celebrate Mothers and Flowers at Blithewold

There will be a "garden favorites" plant sale at Blithewold on May 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Uncommon annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs and selected shrubs, plus expert gardening advice will be offered. The gift shop will be open and stocked with gardening books and tools. Blithewold Mansion & Gardens are located on Ferry Road in Bristol.

On Mother's Day, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., guided tours will be available through the house and grounds all day. Silhouettist Carol Lebeaux will be available from noon to 4 p.m. to render matted silhouettes of or for mothers. The gift shop in the Carriage House will be open till 5 p.m.

Call 253-2707 for more information.

Museum Plans for Kids and Moms

On May 8, between 3 and 5 p.m., at the Children's Museum of Rhode Island, children 5 and older can create special surprises and beautiful cards for Mother's Day while learning all about the Rhode Island state flower, the violet. Same day registration is required for the program. Call 726-2591, beginning at 9 a.m., to register. There is no additional fee beyond the \$3.50 price of admission.

On May 10, between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., preschoolers will decorate a vase using shades of purple, and fill the vase with their own purple paper flower creations. Same day registration is required. Call 726-2591 beginning at 8:30 a.m. to register. There is an additional fee of \$1.50 beyond the price of admission.

The museum is at 58 Walcott St., Pawtucket, R.I.



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FEATURE



Closets

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing
Reporter

"Celluloid Closet" by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman edits clips from the very start of movies. A duo of gentlemen dance to an Edison recording in a 1912 silent routine. Dietrich and Garbo kiss lady friends in their famous and scandalous Paramount and MGM episodes.

This documentary tour of Hollywood history seeks out the gay-lesbian moments from the matter-of-fact through the "sissy" and camp, to the subversive and suggestive, toward the blatant, blunt and "liberal" fare of recent years.

You take a fascinating sentimental journey through often familiar territory. You meet Peter Lorre again, and surprising Doris Day and Rock Hudson characters, as well as a pained Audrey Hepburn and the other Hepburn with Elizabeth Taylor in versions of theater tailored for the shy screen.

You can't help but marvel at the way we mixed up our minorities. "Crossfire" was the non-Jewish Darryl Zanuck's attempt to deal with anti-

Semitism. He and the censors transformed a gay victim at a bar into a Jewish role. You can deconstruct that substitution any way you like.

The trouble with analyzing the cinema record in political terms is that you often leave out the most important question—does it work, is it art, or is it junk? William Wyler made two ver-

Marlon Brando claims that Jews rule in the industry. It's a timid regime at best.

sions of "The Children's Hour," the first with Merle Oberon, the second with Shirley MacLaine. The latter was more frank, but far less poetic. The code wasn't always a killer of beauty.

The first half of "Celluloid Closet" packs more poignancy and power than the finale. When you listen to the words and watch the faces of the writers,

producers, directors, and performers of movies that dealt with gender issues, you learn some profound lessons.

If you listen to the audience response, the laughter, the jeers, and the cheers, you enter into the domains of the dispossessed. Nevertheless, a close-up of Marlene or Greta, of Lawrence Olivier and Tony Curtis, carry more glamour and complexity than all the up-front liberationist lore of "Philadelphia."

All in all, I was moved by this movie. I only wish Hollywood could find the courage to explore the Closet in which images of Jewish characters could be arranged in a chronology of assimilationism and apology.

Marlon Brando claims that Jews rule in the industry. It's a timid regime at best.

On the same bill, you can catch an earlier children's sketch called "The White Balloon."

It's an Iranian import about a little girl, aged 5 or 7, who seeks her heart's desire, a plump goldfish with elegant fins, for her New Year's holiday.

This prizewinner will steal your soul with its modest majesty, its subtlety and beauty, its patience and texture. It's not very often that a director tries to take a child's point of view. You will see today's Iran through the eyes of a delightful but melancholy little person. Worth more as a sojourn on the silver screen than a journey on a silver plane.

Answering Questions About Adoption

What did my birth parents look like? What is my ethnic heritage? Why was I adopted? How do I find out more about my beginnings? What kind of connections, if any, do I want with my birth family?

These are some of the questions an adopted child might ask. Adoptive parents might want to seek some professional assistance to prepare for these and other questions.

"It is very natural and normal for young people, especially teen-agers who are exploring and developing an independent identity, to want to know about their birth history," said Toby Zaitchik, adoption coordinator at Adoption Options.

How much information should you reveal to your child, and at what ages?

"Sometimes adoptive parents feel threatened by a child's curiosity about birth parents. It helps to have someone with whom to discuss these issues, in a confidential environment," said Zaitchik.

"It is important to be com-

fortable with what you decide to tell your child, and to know that he or she is able to handle it. Some children are ready much earlier than others to process these details," said Zaitchik. She suggested that parents might find it useful to seek professional help with a trained adoption counselor or to attend a support group to find out how others have handled the questions, and to share ideas and concerns.

Adoption Options offers counseling to adoptive parents and adopted children or adults.

For more information or to arrange an appointment, contact Toby Zaitchik at 331-5437.

The Adoption Options program (a non-sectarian program of Jewish Family Service) includes comprehensive adoption services for birth parents, adoptive parents and children; and is open to the general community providing information, referrals, home studies, pre-adoption counseling, post-adoption counseling and supportive counseling with parenting concerns.

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EDITORIAL

Killer Decisions

by Rabbi Avi Shafran
Director of Public Affairs
Agudath Israel of America

The two recent groundbreaking court decisions on assisted suicide should do more than give us pause. They should take our breath away — and may literally do precisely that.

The March ruling of the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals established for the first time ever a "constitutionally recognized right to die," declaring that any law forbidding physician assistance in suicides violates a constitutionally protected "liberty interest" — much like the one presently protecting a woman's right to abortion.

That ruling suggested protection not only for doctors but for certain others acting under their direction "whose services are essential" to help terminally ill patients take their lives.

The "liberty interest" approach to the issue is, to say the least, intriguing. Charles Krauthammer, for one, wonders about its implications for things like drug laws. "If the state may not impinge on your liberty to make yourself dead," he asks, "how can it impinge on your liberty to make yourself high?"

Be that as it may, within weeks of the Ninth Circuit decision, another was rendered, this one by the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. It ruled that a New York State prohibition against physician-assisted suicide was unconstitutional because it violates the 14th Amendment's "equal protection" clause. Since New York's terminally ill patients are permitted to order the withdrawal

of life-support systems — the decision's reasoning goes — the state may not simultaneously prohibit the provision of lethal doses of prescription drugs for people to use to kill themselves.

Even leaving aside inadequately addressed — and some might say hopelessly unaddressable — issues like how we might define things like "terminal illness" and "sound mind," why indeed "the state's interest [in preserving life] lessens" (as the Second Circuit court maintained) "as the potential for life diminishes," or how such constitutional protection can logically be limited to the terminally ill, the most recent decision is startling.

Consider, for instance, the fact that a bill presently under consideration by New York State, if enacted, would empower third-party surrogates to authorize the withholding or withdrawal of life-support from incapacitated patients under certain medical circumstances.

Should that bill pass, as my Agudath Israel colleague David Zwiebel pointed out in a recent letter to New York legislators, the Second Circuit's logic would seem to require that those same surrogates be allowed to authorize the affirmative killing of a patient with whose welfare they have been entrusted. The image of a legally appointed surrogate choosing to end a sick person's life — even with no knowledge of what the patient himself would want to do — should be the stuff of cold-sweat nightmares, not constitutional niceties.

What is perhaps most intriguing, though, is that such widely

different arguments — leaving their individual integrities aside — are being pressed into service to permit the termination of lives. It almost seems as if the end (no pun intended) matters more than the means.

Add to the mystery the near folk-hero status garnered of late by Jack Kevorkian, the Johnny Appleseed of assisted suicide, and the plot thickens. What gives?

Well, for one thing, life simply isn't what it used to be. Thanks to a host of sociological developments — from the nearly non-stop portrayals of death and violence in modern "entertainment" to the all-too-real carnage on our cities' streets — the idea of human life as sacred has become increasingly unfashionable.

In a society where youngsters regularly murder for a car, a pair of shoes or even just "for fun," or where women can decide whether to carry a baby to term on the basis of personal whim or convenience, an elderly or infirm person's final weeks on earth just don't command the consequence they once did.

But we fool ourselves if we ignore another, perhaps even more chilling, factor in the headlong rush to "help people die with dignity" — a phrase Orwell would surely have appreciated.

We live in times when the elderly, who yield the most "terminally ill," are rapidly increasing in number.

At the same time, modern medicine has made great strides, providing cures for many once-fatal illnesses, and maintaining life longer than ever before.

Add skyrocketing insurance costs and the resultant fiscal crisis in health care, and suddenly life becomes less a holy, invaluable divine gift and more... a commodity. And every businessman knows how important it is to regularly turn over one's stock, to clear out the old and

make way for the new.

We at Agudath Israel of America, the nation's largest grass-roots Orthodox Jewish movement, are frightened by the recent court decisions, and intend to assist in the challenges

to them that will be brought to the Supreme Court.

What is even more frightening to us about the recent decisions, though, is how few of our fellow Americans seem frightened by them too.

The Idea of Helplessness Was Wiped Out

by Consulate-General of Israel to Communities Abroad
5756-1996

On the eve of the Sabbath, the 5th Iyar 5708, the 14th May 1948, the State of Israel was declared and her Scroll of Independence was signed.

In it, among other things, is stated: "the Holocaust which recently devastated the Jewish people and during which millions of Jews in Europe were massacred, once again clearly proved the necessity of independence and a homeland for the Jewish people by the establishment of its own country in Israel whose gates will be open to every Jew."

What followed is known. The idea of "helplessness" was wiped out forever from the thousands of years of history of the Jewish people. Never again!

The State of Israel, which now celebrates its 48th anniversary, is a strong country with many wonderful achievements in almost all fields. Few countries in the world have accomplished so much in so short a period.

The Israel Defense Forces are the best in the world. They and our other security agencies give the state its strength, a major factor in convincing the wiser amongst our neighbors to cease their enmity and accept the road to peace.

But the road to true peace with all our enemies is still long and full of dangers. There are still extremist elements, eaten by deep-rooted hatred, who wish to kill Jews only by virtue of their being such.

They choose not to remember the heavy price paid for the evil and crime committed 4 years ago. But it appears that nationalism was learned perhaps because fanaticism, jealousy and hatred blind the senses.

However, now, during these very days, the murderers and their supporters, are being made aware that there is a limit to patience and that suffering will be their lot too.

Those who reject our offer for peace will feel the long arm of the Israel Defense Forces. Those who proudly boasted in Beirut, and caused the inhabitants of Kirya Shemona to enter shelters, are now themselves seeking shelter. Those who still maintain that Jewish blood can be shed with impunity, forget that what was, will not be again, because the Jewish nation is a free one in its own homeland, a strong nation which defends itself.

And finally, during the week between Holocaust Memorial Day, the Memorial Day for Israel's Fallen, and Yom Haatzmaut, I again turn to you, our brethren, in the diaspora with a call from a warm and loving heart and from a country whose gates are open to you: "Rise up and come to Israel, and the words of the prophet Isaiah will be fulfilled in you: 'And the ransomed of the L-rd shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.'"

Lag B'Omer

The 49 days between Passover and Shavuot (Festival of the Giving of the Torah) are connected with "The Counting of the Omer."

The 33rd day of the Omer, called "Lag B'Omer" on May 7, is celebrated as a joyous occasion, since it marks the cessation of the plague that had taken a heavy toll of the students of the Torah-academy of the famed Rabbi Akiva.

Both the life-story of Akiva and the experiences of his pupils convey significant messages to us.

The Talmud relates that Akiva was faced with great hardships when he set out to begin a life of Torah study. He was already 40 years old, completely unlettered and extremely poor. Once, he noticed how constantly dripping water had worn a hole into hard rock. He said to himself "The rock is hard, the water soft, and the drops small. Yet, falling steadily, day after

day, month after month, the water has made an indentation in the rock! By perseverance and firm determination surely my difficulties can likewise be overcome and I can yet become a scholar."

Indeed, years later, Akiva headed a Torah-academy of 24,000 students.

This classic episode clearly demonstrates that it is never too late to return to Torah and Judaism, for there is nothing that can stand in the path of a man's firm

other with mutual love and respect.

In this merit, they survive the plague and enjoyed great success in perpetuating Torah. Their teachings and their name continue to shine brightly in our lives to this day.

The other group of students however, did not practice mutual love and respect. This proved their undoing and failure, the fate was sealed in the days of the plague before Lag B'Omer.

The lesson from the experience of Akiva's students is best expressed in Akiva's own words: "Ahav

Yisroel — love of our fellow Jew — is the great principle of the Torah."

Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer of Chabad House.

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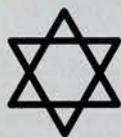
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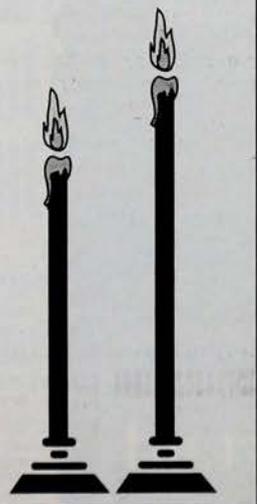
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Candlelighting

May 3, 1996
7:28 p.m.



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TORAH TODAY

resolution. If one will but persevere, he will eventually succeed and become both learned and observant of the Torah and its commandments. This is one of the lessons which Akiva's life-story teaches us.

The lesson from the personality and conduct of Akiva's students is as follows:

Akiva had two kinds of students. Some of them applied themselves to their studies diligently and also treated each

EDITORIAL

The Dismemberment of the Jews

by Rabbi Avi Shafran
Director of Public Affairs
Agudath Israel of America

It's hard to begin to describe the anguish shared by Jews the world over at the horrible acts of terrorism committed against Israel's citizenry mere months ago. It's easy, though, to see a morbid metaphor in the sickening scenes of body parts strewn across Israeli streets — may G-d save us from any further evils.

The Jewish people, according to the Jerusalem Talmud, is compared to a single human being, similarly comprised of variegated parts yet maintaining its life, identity and vitality as a unified whole. A body's components might look different and act differently from one another — they are different — but they still share a common heart, a common brain, a common fate. So, too, our people. And like so appallingly many of its individual members of late, the larger Jewish organism, too is being torn apart.

The Meaningful Response

The transcendent, authentically Jewish response to tragedy is soul-searching. And so, to meaningfully react to the catastrophes we have endured in recent months is to seriously ponder the true meaning of Jewish unity — a particularly trenchant issue today, as Jews find themselves widely divided on a host of social, political and conceptual issues.

The Sole Source of Our Oneness

In his collected Hebrew essays, Rabbi Moshe Sherer, Agudath Israel of America's president, stresses the significance of precisely where the Jewish people's unity is first implied.

The rabbis of the Talmud note the pointedly singular form of the verb "encamp" the Torah uses when referring to the 600,000 men and their families

who stood at the seminal event of Jewish history, the transmission of the Torah from heaven to earth — an event whose anniversary, Shavuot, we will soon celebrate.

Referring to the millions present, the verse declares, "And it encamped. 'It,' not 'they.'"

"As one person, with one heart" goes the Talmudic comment. The famously fractious people were then perfectly, poignantly united. We were then truly one.

And the key to that unity, writes Sherer, are the words that immediately follow: "opposite the mountain."

The possibility and power of true Jewish unity, in other words, are sourced exclusively in what the mountain represents — in the mission that is our collective religious heritage.

History teaches us no less. Before there was a Holocaust, or movements through which to express social vision, before the State of Israel was ever dreamed of or words like "humanism" or "liberalism" ever coined, there was a Jewish people, and the glue that bound our diverse lot together for millennia was our Torah.

Even as countless individual Jews suffered exile, torture or death rather than abandon the Jewish religious heritage, our people qua people thrived through the Torah's wisdom and laws, and were sustained through countless threats and challenges by its sublime, sacred mandate.

Withered — and Withering — Branches

There were, sadly, branches of the Jewish tree that were cut off from the Jewish-life-giving nourishment of that mandate, and that subsequently withered and died.

The ancient Sadducees, the Karaites and the early German Reform movement, among others, all "rewrote" Jewish tradition to suit their own feelings or the spirit of the times. All en-

joyed great popularity in their time. And all ultimately fell by the wayside of Jewish history.

Today, too, tragically, "alternate Judaisms" promoting contemporary agendas have appeared and attracted large numbers, despite those movements' open (as in the Reform) or subtle (as in the Conservative) rejections of the Torah's eternal, immutable laws. And those movements are splintering our people as never before.

The severing of entire Jewish families from the larger one of the Jewish people through the subversion of the Jewish religious laws of marriage, divorce and conversion has already begun to rend our people. And the ongoing campaign in Israel for "Jewish religious pluralism" — the mantle under which the undermining of Jewish law is smuggled — threatens to further widen the tragic tear in the fabric of Jewish unity.

All of which is but a symptom, though a telling one, of a still deeper, more fundamental malady, the declared fragmentation of the Jewish people into different "kinds" of Jews with different "kinds" of "Judaism." Where once there were "more observant," "less observant" or "non-observant" Jews, today there are Jewish leaders who insist that we have only "observant" ones, with a plethora of different "Judaisms" tailored to meet their varied personal needs.

Have We "Ceased to be One"?

Predictably, Jews who refuse to subscribe to the concept of "Judaism" without Jewish law, Jews who consider the Torah to be G-d's word and not a mere rubric for human-centered social visions, are becoming increasingly vilified for their stubborn adherence to the ancient and original definer of Judaism and the Jewish people.

At the recent Central Conference of American Rabbis, for

(Continued on page 15)

Nadav and Avihu may have been) that we miss the meaning of it.

The lessons are not like memorizing the names of presidents for a test. We have to understand and feel the purpose behind our acts: to improve the earthly sphere. So everything we do becomes part of that goal.

Torah is not separate from our daily activities. It's directly related to them. Which is why, when we experience passion or anxiety over daily life, we have to put it in context. We have to say, "And? What will happen after?" Ask this question over and over... and you'll see how important any individual issue is.

"And?" will eventually take you to the central matters of life; it will lift petty concerns from your mind; it will keep you focused on the true meaning of your actions.

And after you know that... who knows what might happen?

Submitted by Rabbi Eliezer Levy of Chabad of West Bay CHAI Center.

Greetings From Prime Minister Shimon Peres to the Jewish Communities Abroad

On the Occasion of Israel's
48th Independence Day,
April 1996

My Dear Friends,

In this season of Israel's 48th anniversary of independence — Yom Ha'Ha'Atzmaut — I send to you my heartfelt greetings of "Chag Sameach." I write to you from Jerusalem, our eternal capital, which shall remain our capital city forever, united forever.

What is it that we are celebrating on this day?

What is the intrinsic message of Israel's Day of Independence?

To me, what we celebrate on Yom Ha'Atzmaut is not just national freedom. We are celebrating a glorious pageant of the victory of the Jewish spirit in history.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut tells us that as long as we remain true to ourselves, our Jewish heritage, our Jewish values, our Jewish faith, we are indestructible.

It teaches us that we — all of us — have to be active partners and participants in our Jewish physical and spiritual renewal.

It reminds us that to keep a Jew Jewish — to keep our children Jewish — this requires effort, education, involvement, faith and — yes — sometimes sacrifice.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut reminds us that we have outlasted all our enemies and have come out of every challenge, stronger and more determined. We have withstood the tyrants of history — century after century — against all logic and against all odds.

Forty-eight years ago, battered and torn and bleeding though we were, we redeemed ourselves, defended ourselves, and restored our sovereignty in our historic homeland after 20 centuries of bitter exile.

This, to me, is the inner voice of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, just as the silence of grief is the inner voice of Yom HaZikaron, our Day of Memorial for those who fall in the cause of our freedom.

So, yes, Yom Ha'Atzmaut marks an epic. It is a call to all nations telling them that once again Israel — the Jewish people — are marching to the beat of their own drum.

All the decisions are ours to make. We are setting our own agenda according to our needs, our own will, our own choice supported by you — our fellow Jews. In every sphere — aliyah, economic, diplomatic, military, political, education, peace-making Israel has grown in stature.

And it has been thanks to that strength, and to the vast global and regional changes after the Cold War, that Israel has

felt quietly confident to test new and measured initiatives towards peace.

It was Yitzhak Rabin, of blessed memory, who led Israel towards this new future, as a great soldier of Israel, a great leader of Israel, and a great peacemaker of Israel.

The work of constructing the peace, complex and difficult though it be, continues apace.

Much of the old Middle East is still there, as the Lebanese border illustrates. The Israel Defense Forces have been operating in Lebanon to put a stop to the Katyushas of Hezbollah which have been raining terror on our civilian population centers in northern Galilee.

We did not seek this action, but when our citizens are subject to attack and threat, in any corner of our land, we shall do all that is necessary to protect their security.

In a moving manifestation of unity, Jews everywhere have stood by our civilians in the north and the IDF which protects them.

But even while that old Middle East persists, there is a new Middle East on the horizon. The transformation is manifested in the peace agreements. It was vividly illustrated at the Sharm e-Sheikh Conference when 13 Arab heads of state and governments joined United States President Bill Clinton and many other prominent world leaders to condemn terrorism against Israel and commit themselves to cooperation in the battle against it.

The whole event was unprecedented, without parallel. A year ago, even six months ago, such a scene would have been considered a fantasy.

Israel now has relations of one sort or another with eight Arab states and is in liaison with more. In many instances, yesterday's enemies are today's partners.

None of this could have happened were it not for our historic Jewish sense of kinship and partnership by which we have absorbed the great aliyah and thus rendered much strength to Israel.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut is a celebration of this unbreakable bond, one that enables us to share responsibilities with each other and give strength to each other as we work together to enhance our Jewish ties, our Jewish lives, Jewish education and Jewish communities wherever they be.

It is in this spirit that I send to you Israel's greetings in this season of our 48th anniversary of freedom.

And...

Is it possible that most arguments are unnecessary? Is it possible that most anxiety is pointless?

Yes, it is. Let's see how.

You're in a discussion with a friend. He thinks government should discontinue price supports for the jelly bean grower's industry.

You feel jelly beans are part of the backbone of the economy, and need to be protected from inferior imports.

Heated words are exchanged. Your gorge rises. His fist rises. You are tempted to disfigure him with your coffee.

Or perhaps you're about to plan a garden at the edge of your property. You wonder if the tomatoes will meander into your neighbor's garden. Will she "borrow" some? Will she object to the intrusion? Will you have to hire a surveyor to determine property boundaries?

Will it all matter?

Though these issues seem far removed from our usual topics

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Temple Torat Yisrael Celebrates Israeli Arts and Independence

On April 23, Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston held a "Festival of the Arts." Hebrew schoolchildren, their siblings, parents and grandparents gathered in the social hall for dinner. The room was filled with the aromas of freshly made falafel, freshly sliced Jaffa oranges, displays of student art and the sounds of children singing. As Rabbi David Rosen commented, it was a perfect way to celebrate Israel's 48th birthday.

Lonna Picker, the educational director, was delighted at the turnout and positive energy of the event. She explained that this year's Yom Ha'Atzmaut (independence day) celebration focused on Israeli foods and visual arts, in addition to songs. Credit for this event goes not only to the child artists themselves, but also to Picker and a host of others, including the temple's librarian Hana Berman,

teacher Martha Sholes, parents Candace and Eric Shuman (who made more than 960 falafel balls), and volunteers Marcia Slobin and Evelyn Nussenfeld.

Sholes' class produced a breathtaking award-winning collage of Kotel-like blocks depicting all aspects of Israeli life assembled in the geographic shape of Israel itself.

Students in various grades studied the subject of facing east and produced their own piece of art, specifically a "mizrach." Some were made of mosaic tiles while others were of a more contemporary paper-cut assembly. A mizrach is an article of beauty, so designated and placed on an eastern wall of a home as to remind people which direction faces toward Jerusalem. Many thanks go to Merav Minkin, Minna Ellison and the Bureau of Jewish Education for facilitating the mizrach project.

The eastern wall of the social room was transformed into a kotel. Nearby was a box into which people could deposit their own personal prayers for the State of Israel. The prayers stuffed in the box were sent to Israel.

After dinner, the Hebrew school classes sang various songs under the direction of Cantor Robert Lieberman, accompanied by Stephen Martorella. Each class stood before the kotel while singing their song. The largest contingent was the youngest. After the kids in Yeladon, kindergarten, 1 and 2 sang "Am Yisrael Chai" (The People of Israel Live!), the room burst into spontaneous applause and dance. The Heh class led the whole group in singing "Hatikvah," to close the festivities.



DECORATING THE HALL for the Independence Day celebration and art festival, Lonna Picker, on the left, and Dr. Stuart Rosenfeld hang a banner on the stage curtain.

Herald photo by Alison Smith

Chabad Plans Lag B'Omer Festival and Kite Show

Lag B'Omer =
Yiddish Kite Day

Lag B'Omer celebrates the yahrzeit of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai on May 7. Rather than being considered a sad date, Shimon asked that his yahrzeit be preserved as a day of joy. As a result, thousands of Jews visit his resting place in Meron, Israel, to recite psalms and sing songs of praise.

Over the years, it has become a custom for Jewish boys and girls all over the world to go out into the fields and play games on this occasion. In Rhode Island, the Jewish community celebrates Lag B'Omer with a custom of its own... the annual community festival sponsored by Chabad-Lubavitch and Camp

Gan Israel!

This year's community picnic and festival takes place on May 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Chabad House, 360 Hope St., and in the Hope High School field.

As is traditional, there will be live music, a special performance of the Chabad players. A stunt kite show, games for children, free balloons for kids of all ages, and more. Hot dogs, and cold drinks will be available for a modest donation. (Call 273-7238 for more information.)

Kites over New England will put on a kite show synchronized to music.

Last year, more than 125 people came to the festival. This year's festival promises to be even bigger, and better, and more fun.



Hadassah Hosts A Very Special Seder

From the left, Bertha Goldberg, Gloria Kolodoff, Goldie Greene, Norma Friedman, Shirley Schreiber, Selma Price, and chairwoman Frances Sadler (seated) prepared a seder on March 28 at Temple Sinai in Cranston for patients of the General Hospital and Jewish residents of the Institute of Mental Health, and group homes. The celebration continues a 25 year tradition of service.

Temple Am David Hires Cantor

Temple Am David, Warwick, recently welcomed Stanley Rosenfeld as the new cantor for the temple.

Rosenfeld has several years experience as a cantor in New England and in New York. In addition to being the cantor, he will also be the director of the Hebrew and Sunday School.

"We are delighted to have Cantor Rosenfeld to be part of our congregation. He brings with him a love for Judaism, singing and children," stated Marty Cooper, Temple Am David president.

Parents and children of the temple first met Rosenfeld more than a year ago when he became

a regular Sunday morning volunteer singer for the pre-school children in the E-Z school.

Most recently, Rosenfeld participated in the temple Purim program and was a guest cantor during a Saturday service. In both instances, members of the congregation enjoyed his participation very much.

"The addition of Rosenfeld fills a void that had been missing," said Marty Cooper.

"His presence, with Rabbi Nechama Goldberg, now gives Temple Am David a complete ritual program," said Cooper. The absence of a cantor had been felt by temple members.

The temple, however, will continue to encourage its own members to lead the congregation.



Cantor Stanley Rosenfeld

Photo by Neil Nachbar

Rosenfeld will officially become the cantor for Temple Am David in July, although he is already an active member of the congregation, reading Torah and assisting at services. He will be the cantor for the High Holy Day services this year.

Social Seniors Meeting Twice in May

The Social Seniors of Warwick will hold a meeting on May 8, at 1 p.m. at Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick.

Eunice Morris will be the guest speaker. Morris represents the American Association of Retired Persons.

On May 22 a trip is planned to Bull Run, featuring Shirley McAfee.

Lunch is included.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Holocaust Rescuer Shares Story

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter

When Righteous Gentile Irene Gut Opdyke told hundreds of students from schools across the region of her actions during World War II on Tuesday, they learned unforgettable lessons about honor and courage.

The students, who had been let out of their middle and high schools for Student Awareness Day at the Jewish Community Center, grew silent soon after Opdyke stepped to the podium.

A petite, 72-year-old blond in a red suit, Opdyke addressed the young students.

"My dear young friends, I was 17 when Hitler invaded my country," Opdyke said. Then she told her story.

As a young Polish girl growing up six miles from the German border in Kozlowa Gota, Opdyke led a carefree life. Because she wanted to become a nurse, her parents sent her to a nursing school about 200 kilometers away. Opdyke was away at school when the war broke out.

"I was forced to face the war alone," Opdyke remembered.

Along with other, older students, Opdyke joined the Polish Army. But one day in the Ukraine, Opdyke and others were overtaken by a Russian patrol. Opdyke was raped by a soldier and left to die of exposure.

Fortunately, Opdyke was found and taken to a Russian Hospital in Tarnopol, where she was nursed by a kind doctor. Soon afterwards, she returned to Poland.

Because she was unable to go home because of the war, she went back to the town where her school had been located.

"I was hoping to find someone I knew, any contact" Opdyke explained.

But one day Nazi soldiers surrounded a Catholic church and seized young worshippers. Opdyke was one of those selected to work in a German ammunition factory.

For months, Opdyke packed ammunition to send to German soldiers. But one day she looked through the windows of an empty house.

"I saw SS soldiers killing people from the Ghetto," Opdyke said. "They were beating and pushing. Babies, 2- and 3- and 4-year-olds, were crying 'Mama, Mama,' but they had to face their deaths alone," Opdyke said. "One of the SS soldiers grabbed a baby from its mother, threw it into the air and shot it like a bird."

Opdyke said she asked God where he was. The next morning, she said she asked Him for the strength to help.

"God gives us free will, and we can be evil or good," Opdyke said.

Soon afterwards, Opdyke would get an opportunity to help.

A German officer ordered Opdyke to serve meals in his house. As she cooked and cleaned, she met 12 Jews who were doing forced labor in the laundry room. Opdyke wanted to help them, but did not know how.

Then, the old officer, Major Edward Rugemer, informed Opdyke that he was moving to a villa and asked her to help him



Irene Gut Opdyke
Herald photo by Emily Torgan

there.

Opdyke smuggled the 12 Jews to the house, where they slid into the house through a coal chute. Rugemer wanted the house repaired, so Opdyke moved the Jews to the attic while workmen were fixing the cellar.

"There was a teacher, a doctor, a businesswoman, and we were friends," Opdyke said.

One of the Jewish prisoners remembered that the villa architect had been Jewish, and so had probably created a hiding place. They discovered it, and lived behind a false wall and underneath the gazebo while Opdyke served food to the Nazi officers upstairs.

But one day, Opdyke went to the town square and saw a Polish couple and their babies and the Jewish family they were hiding, being hung.

"I cannot tell you how that felt," Opdyke said. "I was... shaken up. They had helped Jews, and there were signs all over town telling people that the punishment for helping Jews was death."

Opdyke was so upset that she left the door ajar instead of locking it. Shortly thereafter, the major entered and found himself face to face with three of the Jews.

"He shook with rage," Opdyke said. "He screamed and screamed. I begged him to let them stay. I told him I would do it again."

The major told Opdyke he would go to his office to decide what to do. During that time, Opdyke told the Jews to hide in the gazebo and to consider her dead if she did not return within three days.

Later, the major returned drunk and told Opdyke he would not do anything to the Jews if she would be his without

question.

Soon afterwards, Opdyke and Helen, her gentile helper, dressed one of the Jewish prisoners in an SS Uniform and hid the others in a sleigh. The prisoner in the uniform drove the sleigh to a forest six kilometers away, where they survived the Polish winter of 1944 in an underground bunker they dug.

Then, in 1945, the red army took Poland.

After the speaking engagement, Opdyke said her greatest honor was not the Medal of Honor she received from Yad Vashem in 1982, but seeing the people she saved after the war. One, a man of about 50 today, had been conceived by his parents while Opdyke hid them.

"I did not do it alone," Opdyke said. "God was with me."

Opdyke was very pleased with the large youth turnout at the Jewish Community Center.

"I love to speak to the children," Opdyke said. "Soon we will not be here, and nothing is as important as the link between then and now."

Hadassah Nurse in Bosnia

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter

Nurse Deanna Pearlmutter thinks about her humanitarian mission to Bosnia every time she showers in her Boston home.

"In Sarajevo, I met a woman who told me she showered and washed her hair with two glasses of water," Pearlmutter said on Tuesday of her summer 1994 trip. "When I take a shower, the water keeps running and running. It gives you a different perspective."

Pearlmutter and three other nurses also representing the Hadassah Medical Organization travelled to the war-torn region on a fact-finding mission to learn what the people of Bosnia needed the most.

The Hadassah Medical Organization, a nonprofit organization comprised of 385,000 women volunteers across America, has since donated more than 100 tons of supplies to help Bosnia's people.

Pearlmutter, the recently retired chief of surgical and psychiatric nursing at the Massachusetts General Hospital, said the experience affected her deeply as a person and as a Jew.

"We met a Catholic neurosurgeon, and we stayed at his house," remembered Pearlmutter. "He had a half-brother who was Muslim."

Pearlmutter said the doctor's half-brother had stayed hidden in a small bomb shelter-like

room in the house along with 21 other people.

"It was incredible to imagine 21 people hiding in that room," Pearlmutter said. "The man had lost 80 pounds while hiding, and the terror on his face when he talked about being turned in by people who had been his friends before the war was unbelievable. It reminded me of the Holocaust."

Pearlmutter said she was happy to find a Jewish humanitarian organization entitled La Benevolencia helping all Sarajevo citizens.

"They were keeping the city going," Pearlmutter said of La Benevolencia, which remained active although only 700 Jews had remained in the city. "They were doing the mail, and they had a visiting nurse program and a program for the elderly."

Pearlmutter and the three nurses went to the city's two major hospitals, where they made lists of the most-needed supplies.

"Many of the personnel had left, but they were making do," remembered Pearlmutter. "There were surgeries being performed."

Conditions in the hospitals have improved since peace has been declared, Pearlmutter said.

This week, Pearlmutter told a Hadassah group of her trip at a brunch at the Marriott.

"I think it's very important to realize the extent of Hadassah's commitment outside Israel," Pearlmutter said.



HADASSAH DONOR BRUNCH COMMITTEE members, from the left, Rita Slom, Muriel Leach, Claire Bell, Norma Friedman, Rosalind Bolusky, Shirley Chernick, Audrey Hirsch and Donna Ross pose for the photographer.
Courtesy of Hadassah

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Flowers A Splurge For

Spring is here, and with Mother's Day around the corner, there's no better way to show mom how much you appreciate her than by giving her the splendor of beautiful fresh flowers.

Iris, liatris, and lilies are just some of the stunning varieties that are back in bloom. And, here's some advice from the world's largest florist, on how to care for spring's beautiful blooms:

- Prepare conditioned water by filling a vase with warm water (100F to 110F) and adding the floral preservative provided by the florist.
- Remove all greenery from the stem that would otherwise fall below the waterline in the final arrangement. Leaves in water will promote bacterial growth.
- To eliminate water getting into the stem, which causes flowers to drop, hold stems under water and cut between 1 and 2 inches off the bottom of the stem. Use sharp shears or a serrated knife, and cut the stems on an angle to provide maximum area for water absorption. Cutting under water enables



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the stem to draw in water, instead of air. Immediately place flowers in the conditioned water.

- Keep cut flowers and arrangements looking fresh by adding warm water to the vase every day. Always keep the vase full, and change the water every three to four days. For maximum longevity, it is beneficial to recut stems at this time, and always remember to remove any leaves that will fall under the waterline.

• Appliances like televisions give off heat, causing flowers to dehydrate. Place vases in a cool spot, away from direct sunlight and heating or cooling vents.

Following these simple guides will help mom get the most of her flowers. And if you want to surround her with some of the best blossoms of the season, in addition to iris, liatris and lilies, florists recommend other spring floral varieties including tulips, roses and larkspur.



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SCHOOLBEAT

R.I. Holocaust Museum Announces Contest Winners

"Memories: Lest We Forget" was the theme for this year's statewide Holocaust Arts and Writing Competitions sponsored by the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Students in middle school and high school competed with entries that included non-fiction, fiction, poetry and drama, painting and three-dimensional pieces. The works were judged by a committee composed of educators on the Holocaust.

Winners in the writing category are:

Middle School Division

- First Place — Adam Ocaso, grade eight, Gaudet Middle School, Middletown
- Second Place — Amanda Stanford, grade eight, Slater Junior High School, Pawtucket
- Honorable Mention — Jennella Sambour, grade five, E.W. Flynn School, Providence
- Honorable Mention — Johnathan Antonizio, grade five, E.W. Flynn School, Providence

High School Division

- First Place, Morris Gastfreund Prize — Courtney Sears, grade 12, Rogers High School, Newport
- Second Place — Jennelle Marie Jarret, grade 12, Rogers High School, Newport

- Honorable Mention — Kristin Rosner, grade 12, Rogers High School, Newport
 - Mixed Media — Courtney Kopplin, grade 12, Rogers High School, Newport
- Winners in the art category are:

Middle School Division

- First Place — Brianna Fishbein, grade eight, Slater Junior High, Pawtucket
- Second Place — Raymond Montaquila, grade eight, Blessed Sacrament School, Providence

- Honorable Mention — Sarah Volante, grade seven, Dr. Ricci School, N. Providence

High School Division

- First Place — Bob Ferreira, grade 11, Tiverton High School, Tiverton
- Second Place — Se-Hwan Jun, grade 12, St. Andrew's High School, Barrington
- Honorable Mention — Janusz Welin, grade 11, Tiverton High School, Tiverton

First place winners received a set of books about the Holocaust and had the opportunity to participate in a Student Awareness Day ceremony. Second place winners received the set of books and honorable mention winners were given a certificate. The school of each winner also received a set of books.

This year, there was a special award, due to the generosity of the Morris Gastfreund Family Holocaust Memorial Fund. Courtney Sears, a Rogers High School senior who placed first in the writing category, received a \$100 cash prize.

Several area teachers made special efforts to encourage their students to participate: Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Crowley from Gaudet Middle School, Mrs. Mary Caswell from Slater Junior High, Mrs. K. Cotter-Lewis from the E.W. Flynn School, Mrs. Alfaro from the

Blessed Sacrament School, Mrs. Joyce Bessiere from the Dr. Ricci School, Bob Meikle from Rogers High School, Mrs. Gerri Feldman from Tiverton High School and Ms. Audrey Berry from St. Andrew's High School.

Tom Marcello has been selected by the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum as the Teacher of the Year, for exemplifying excellence in educating students about the Holocaust.

Hope High Class of '56

The Hope High School Class of January 1956 will hold its 40th reunion on June 9, at the Marriott Hotel, Charles and Orms streets, Providence. The event will start at noon to 4 p.m.

For more information class members may call Rona (Namerow) Nachbar at 231-2296 or Charlie Dress at 738-5729.



Celebrating Together

Three generations of the same family celebrate Israel's Independence Day at Providence Hebrew Day School. From the left are Fanya Berina, Irina Kritik and Lyabov Kritik, as they wait for the ceremony to start. *Herald photo by Alison Smith*



Let's Hear It For the Blue And White

Providence Hebrew Day School students wave flags and sing Israel's praises at the recent celebration of Israel Independence Day. *Herald photo by Alison Smith*

Providence Schools to Present Citywide Music Festival

The Providence School Department will present the annual spring music festival at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium on May 7 at 7 p.m. Students from the elementary, middle, and high schools will perform. The festival will

feature department presentations in string, choral, and band music. This will be the third year the school department has held such a festival focusing on its music program systemwide.

The concert will feature choral groups from Carl G. Lauro, George J. West, and Pleasant View Elementary Schools, Samuel W. Bridgman Middle School and Classical High School.

The band students will perform as an all-city band. The Hope High School Jazz Band will make its debut appearance. The All-City Orchestra, under the direction of Melody Albanese, and the All-City Junior Orchestra, under the direction of John Rainone, will perform, as well as the Classical High School Orchestra, under the direction of Thomas Sargent.

This concert is free and open to the public.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

In The Fiddler's House With Itzhak

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

When we did a Closer Look on Tikva Traditions, we mentioned a CD called "In the Fiddler's House" by Itzhak Perlman as being the kind of gift an older parent might enjoy.

Well, we've heard "In the Fiddler's House," and it's some kind of disk. It is a comprehensive spin through all the highs and lows of Klezmer — any mood you might wish to experience is on this disk except "calm."

There are 15 selections, ranging from one minute, 36 seconds to six minutes and 55 seconds. Featured with Perlman are: The Klezmatics; The Klezmer Conservatory Band, The Andy Statman Klezmer Orchestra; Brave Old World; and several soloists.

Band one, "Reb Itzik's Nign," starts out sad... a touch of the

gypsy ham here, you should pardon the expression. But, during the last 30 seconds, watch out! Hot stuff coming through!

Band two, "Simkhes Toyre Time," is a cheerful little drinking song for Simchat Torah. The words are given in English and Hebrew. Oy!

Band three, "Flatbush Waltz," is a wild, sweet, sad dance piece originally recorded by a leading Irish traditional band, which is not so surprising. Anyone familiar with Celtic and Jewish music can hear the similarities.

Band four, a wedding medley, consists of three popular Jewish dance numbers. It's very festive — a real workout, but you pass out with a smile on your face.

Band five, "Dybbuk Shers," is sad, evocative... the disk envelope says, "haunting," and

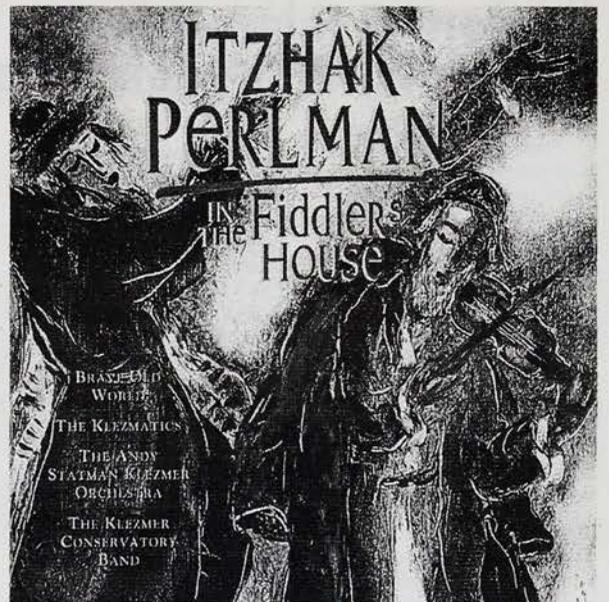
that's true. It develops into a violin duet, sometimes venturing into cheerfulness but always with a bittersweet undertone.

Band six, "Basarabye," starts off full of mournful words and chords. Oh, it is so sad. But somewhere around the halfway mark, at three minutes, there is a musical pause where it gathers strength, and you can feel it tensing up.

Then — it's hora time! It's like that moment when the sled starts slowly downhill, and then suddenly the wind and snow are in your face, and the scenery is whizzing past. You're out of control!

Well, there are nine more bands. Enjoy! Enjoy! This is wine music, friends. Get out the bottle and the glasses, and kick back.

(Tikva Traditions, 727 Hope Street, should have some of these disks on hand.)



Rosalie Gerut
Photo courtesy of JFS

Stillman to Perform

Pianist Judith Lynn Stillman will give a recital at the North Kingstown Free Library on May 5, at 3 p.m. Her program will include works by Scarlatti, Mozart, Chopin and Debussy.

Stillman is a world-renowned pianist, winner of 18 national and international competitions. She has collaborated with artists such as Walter Trampler, Leslie Parnas, Cho Liang Lin, Peter Oundjian and Wynton Marsalis, with whom she recorded "On the Twentieth Century." She is currently artist-in-residence and professor of music at Rhode Island College. She is on the piano faculty at Brown University and serves as artistic advisor for The Music School, Inc.

This will be the final performance in the 1996 season of "Sunday Musicales at the Library."

The performance is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call 294-3306.

Eden Garden Club Hears About Herbs

The annual meeting/luncheon of the Eden Garden Club will be held on May 16 at noon at Quiddnessett Country Club.

Susan Carpenter of Cherry Hill Herb Farm will speak on herbs in the garden and kitchen.

Call Janet Friedman, chairwoman of the day, at 463-7858 for menu choices and directions, or mail a check for \$15, payable to Eden Garden Club, 306 Spring Green Road, Warwick, RI 02888. The deadline for reservations is May 9.

"Let the woman into Paradise, she'll bring her cow along."

RUSSIAN PROVERB

SAGE Concert to be Held May 9

A concert for seniors will be presented by Senior Adult Group Educators on May 9 at 12:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave. in Providence.

Rosalie Gerut, singer, composer and actress, will perform "Songs of the Jewish Experience," a program of traditional and original songs in Yiddish, English and Hebrew.

Admirers have labeled her the "Jewish Joan Baez," ...her beautiful voice and warm, engaging personality create a sense of intimacy with the audience.

Gerut, the daughter of Holocaust survivors from Vilna and Lodz, originally learned Yiddish folk songs from her parents. Her recordings include: "We Are Here," "Of Angels and Horseradish" and "The Imported Bridegroom Soundtrack."

Gerut composed the music for and starred in the Joseph

Papp Public Theater production of "Songs of Paradise." She received widespread acclaim for her portrayal of Mrs. Shlemiel in the hit musical "Schlemiel The First."

Tickets are \$3 each; the concert is open to all seniors who wish to attend. Dessert and coffee will be served after the concert.

For tickets or information, call Beth Blazar at Jewish Family Service, 331-1244.

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WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

Nation of Islam Leader Claims His Father Had Jewish Lineage

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — It's hard to know whether to laugh or cry. Louis Farrakhan suspects that his father may have been Jewish.

That's what he told Henry Louis Gates Jr. in the current issue of *The New Yorker* magazine.

Speaking of his father's white Portuguese parents, the Nation of Islam leader said, "I'm going to get you something. You really want to know what I think? I think they were members of the Jewish community."

He added, "I believe that in my blood, and not in a bad way. Because when I was a little boy I used to love listening to the Jewish cantors in Boston. They had a program, and every week I would listen. I was struck by the cantor, and I've always loved the way they sing or recite the Torah."

Gates, citing an academic source, said Farrakhan's assertion about his lineage is "highly

probable" given that nearly all people of Iberian descent in Jamaica and Barbados are of Sephardi Jewish ancestry.

Farrakhan was born in 1933, the son of Mae Clark, who was from Barbados. He was named Gene after his father, a light-skinned man with straight hair from Jamaica. Farrakhan's father, Gates writes, was a philanthropist whom the family rarely saw.

"If in my lineage there are Jews, I would hope that in the end, before my life is over, I not only will have rendered a service to my own beloved community of black people but will also have rendered a service to the Jewish community." Farrakhan was quoted as saying.

In the interview with Gates, however, Farrakhan also made reference to "wise Jews who plan evil," the international conspiracy of Jewish bankers, and overwhelming Jewish complicity

in the slave trade.

Jewish groups expressed outrage over Farrakhan's latest public statements.

"Farrakhan's effort to make it appear that he is merely criticizing the 'evil' he finds in his own 'Jewish' antecedents is a reflection of the bizarre and ludicrous nature of his entire behavior towards Jews," Phil Baum, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said in a statement.

A protest against the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith planned for late April fizzled when Washington, D.C., police denied former Nation of Islam spokesman Khalid Abdul Muhammad entrance to the B'nai B'rith office.

Flanked by four bodyguards in black fatigues, Muhammad took a moment to rail against the ADL and the Jewish community before he departed the scene.

"This is a criminal organization and a criminal enterprise that has lied and spied on black leaders and black organizations," said Muhammad, who was dismissed as Farrakhan's spokesman in 1994 in the wake of a national controversy surrounding a vehemently anti-Semitic speech he delivered at Kean College.

Muhammad called the ADL and its parent organization, B'nai B'rith, one of the "main arteries of improper propaganda and nefarious activity"

that has greatly influenced the larger American Jewish community.

Muhammad also said the black man and black woman "are the chosen people of G-d and we want to put an end to this lie of the so-called Jews, these people who crawled out of the caves and hills of Europe just a few years ago claiming our birthright."

Example of Swamp Yankee skepticism: "Well, it does look like a sheep — from this side."

Noted Family Unites to Honor Cousin

Ambassador John L. Loeb, former ambassador to Denmark, and his cousin, Orin Lehman, former commissioner of parks of New York, joined forces to co-chair a program honoring another cousin, New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau as the first recipient of the Lehman College Leadership Award on April 29 in New York City.

The cousins are great-nephews of the late Governor Herbert H. Lehman, for whom Lehman college is named.

Their great-grandfather, a

peddler, was one of the three brothers who founded Lehman Brothers as a dry-goods store in Montgomery, Ala., in 1844.

"Our family's had a long tradition of public service dating back to our days in Alabama and even Germany," said Loeb. "Bob Morgenthau's distinguished career has been in the tradition of the highest standards set by our great-uncle Herbert (Lehman). Bob has demonstrated leadership, integrity, innovation, vigilance and a humane spirit."



AMBASSADOR JOHN L. LOEB, former ambassador to Denmark, on the right, meets with his cousin, New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, at the awarding of the first Lehman College Leadership Award.



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A Potpourri of Things Remembered Those Were the Days!

by Harold Bloom

It seems unappreciative to ignore progress. Advances such as those in medicine allow us to live so much longer these days. Developments in transportation enable us to reach distant places in much shorter times. The invention of computers and satellites bring us much more entertainment and information than ever before.

Nonetheless, every now and then assorted memories of past pleasant pursuits percolate into my daily thoughts, and I feel the loss of long-gone places and things.

For instance, there was Hayward Park with its fountain and pool. It was a tree-shaded haven of tranquility near downtown Providence, about two blocks up Chestnut Street from Weybosset/Broad streets.

On a recent visit, I saw that it had been "redeveloped" out of existence to make way for I-95 just beyond its intersection with I-95.

Toobad... The park's benches and plentiful trees and shrubs made fine trysting places for young lovers walking home after a movie at Loew's State, the Albee, or the Majestic. I wonder if the person who cut down the trees in the name of redevelopment realized what they meant in the name of love.

Incidentally, one of those trees was, to the best of my knowledge, the only persimmon tree in South Providence.

Another casualty to progress was the lovely pond surrounded by a grove of pines that occu-

pled the southeast corner of the Rhode Island Hospital grounds at the corner of Dudley and Eddy streets.

The high fence that inhibited easy entrance to this forested enclave was a constant challenge to the youth of the area.

No doubt many old-timers miss the ornate drinking fountain outside the Louttit laundry building on Broad Street below the intersection with Elmwood Avenue. A sign (or plaque) noted that the fountain was fed by a deep artesian well. I enjoyed many a refreshing drink there on my way home from Classical High.

Of course, some of the places that come to mind are not so pleasant. Trips to Kirwin's Beach come to mind. It was located somewhat upriver from Field's Point, so it was within easy access for South Providence folks of limited means.

While the cool waters were welcome on a hot, sticky summer's day, the film of black, oily residue that often clung after a dip was a definite drawback, as was the sight of the shoreline littered with the flotsam and jetsam of passing ships.

Remember the large diner-on-wheels that stood below Union Station at the corner of Dorrance Street, catty-corner from City Hall? The food wasn't gourmet, but it was filling.

Speaking of food. Do you remember the automatic doughnut machine in the window of the Downyflake store at the corner of Dorrance and Eddy streets?

It was fascinating to stand outside and observe the process: the dough-filled hopper mechanism extruded rings of raw dough like clockwork, dropped them into the channel of flowing hot oil, which floated them along for a couple of feet until they came to a rotating paddlewheel that flipped them over to expose a nicely browned side, and floated them a couple of feet further to another rotating paddlewheel that flipped them out of the hot oil into a collecting bin. There, the mouth-watering doughnuts drained and accumulated until the attendant collected them and proceeded to powder, ice, or simply pack them in bags or boxes for the drooling customers.

I can vouch for the fact that it was possible for a young couple to consume a dozen of these delicacies in a matter of less than a half-hour — an action that, today, would have us (now, the old couple) running for the milk of magnesia or bicarb, at best.

Finally, I wonder whatever happened to the many stained glass windows from the synagogues on Willard Avenue and Robinson Street, which have been redeveloped into the Willard Center.

I believe each of the large "shuls" had, at least, 12 such windows — one depicting each of the 12 tribes. While they were not, in all likelihood, "Chagalls," they were works of art, real stained glass, and worthy of preserving.

I hope they were preserved... somewhere.

Set against the spectacular backdrop of Rosecliff, the Preservation Society of Newport County will sponsor the first annual Newport Flower Show.

Eight prominent floral designers will decorate the mansion's second floor bedrooms during "Rosecliff Revisited," which will be open to the public on July 13 and 14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Show admission is \$12 for adults; \$6 for children under 12. Advance tickets are available by mail through July 1 at \$10 each.

A Preview Cocktail Party will be held on July 12 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50 for members of the Preservation Society, \$65 for non-members. A patron ticket is \$100. For reservations and information, write to The Preservation Society of Newport County, 424 Bellevue Ave., Newport, R.I. 02840, or call 847-1137, ext. 20.

Among those who are interpreting the period when the house was in its heyday at the turn of the century are: Reinaldo Maia, New York; Richard Nelson, Newport, R.I.; Susan Detjens, Wilmington, Delaware; Julie Morris, Blithewold Mansions & Gardens, Bristol; Mrs. Hardie Newton, Hardie Blossoms, Virginia; John Giammearse, Jardinere, New Jersey; Jan Kish, La Petite Fleur, Ohio; and Mark Larson, M & K Design Group, Washington, D.C.

Each designer will create floral arrangements that reflect the grandeur and glory of the Gilded Age.

In addition to the room settings, visitors to the Newport Flower Show will also see flower show competitions where entrants will recreate some of Rosecliff's most notable parties, such as:

The First Dinner party, was given by Theresa Fair Oelrichs, in the ballroom, on Aug. 22, 1900. Frustrated by the slow pace of the builders, Oelrichs ordered the workmen to leave, and invited 132 guests for a lavish dinner party while Rosecliff was under construction. The incom-

plete sections of the house were disguised with delphinium, digitalis and a profusion of fragrant perennials, and the orchestra played among electrically illuminated palms.

The Bal Blanc, hosted by Oelrichs on Aug. 19, 1904, was held during the Astor Cup Race Week for 400 guests. To recreate an evening at the Grand Trianon, the model after which Rosecliff was built, ladies were attired in white powdered wigs and costumes of the Louis XIV period. Silver birch boughs and white hydrangea formed arbors over the dining tables while the columns and pilasters of the house were draped with white satin. This floral exhibition, with its profusion of hydrangea, lilies and hollyhocks, all in white, will truly capture the splendor of the Gilded Age.

The Monroes Remember Mardi Gras honored Mr. and Mrs. J. Edgar Monroe of New Orleans, who bought Rosecliff in 1947 and spent many summers graciously entertaining in the southern traditions of Louisiana. In 1971, the Monroes gave Rosecliff to the Preservation Society of Newport County. The theme of a Mardi Gras dinner, circa 1950, is a tribute to the vibrant social life of the Monroe era at Rosecliff.

The dining room will feature The Fairy Tales Dinner, also hosted by Oelrichs in 1913, when the estate was illuminated with colored glass globes and the hostess and guests were dressed as characters from Mother Goose and other fairy tales.

Not to be missed is Rosecliff's rose garden, overflowing with more than 200 hybrid tea rose bushes and ever-blooming climbers. Guests can shop for garden-related products including garden statuary, furniture, tools, books, clothing and jewelry which will be sold by more than 30 vendors in the tented Garden Marketplace on the back lawn of the estate.

Where is She?

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

We gather for yizkor and at yahrzeit we light the way for memory to return to our hearths. But can your mother really and truly come back for a visit? We American Jews tend to think in rather rational and ethical patterns about the mystery of death. We say, your good deeds, or your good name, may carry on. We hope our grandchildren will recall some detail about our daily lives.

I'm the type that clings to superstition and fantasy. I hold fast to dreams and grab at coincidences. My mother passed away more than three decades ago. She appeared once or twice in dreams, leaving me either in tears or soft smiles. Even that happened long ago. Betty was a doer more than a talker. She sketched clever details on my school papers, or made covers for reports. I have no lack of mementos of my most-beloved. But what I hope for is her return to me with a word of her welfare. Is she all right in the next world? Can she see me, my household, my world?

I look at my three children, a hank of chestnut hair, a look in the eyes, a graceful profile, quality of touch in a hand, and I ask myself, is she here? No answer comes to me, so I try to recall, after all, some sentences of good counsel. Can you sum up a life with a couple of aphorisms?

My mom, above all else, believed in kindness was strength. You only yell if you're small. Turn away wrath. She had the gift of quiet calm. One thing you can say about me, I never for a moment doubted that she lit up my world with a magical aura of miracle. She could make anything sacred just by touching it with her hand. What she gave me was a belief in beauty, that's where I can glimpse her yet, in lovely things.

Not that we got along any better than any kid with a parent. If she was regal, I was her Prince of Wails. She clucked many a "tsk tsk" and worried that the neighbors would hear our spats. I'm sure I wore her out as much as all children and teens chip away the veneer of their mothers and fathers. We often don't honor them until too late.

But I'm sure she never doubted the depth of my devotion. Maybe that distressed her too. I'm trying to find some almost forgotten details from our life together — just exactly half of my current time on earth, and also half of hers. Like those broken, owl-shaped horn-rimmed specs she put on in the movies, as we sat side by side to watch Ingrid Bergman in "Gaslight," when it first came out, at a neighborhood theatre.

She was shocked by odd things. One time at a drugstore counter, her business landlady, Mrs. Halliday, poured cold wa-

ter into her own cup of coffee, to cool it fast. Betty came home to tell me how dreadful a disservice that was to the dignity of the precious potion. Not many things brought out her scorn, but store-bought food could do it, and unmade beds. And minor slights.

I used to wear one of Betty's scarves, or belts, to keep her spirit close to me, in an embrace. But of late I don't know how to table-tap a message back and forth to the next place. I suppose you would have to say, she's within me, but that doesn't satisfy me either.

Mother's Day isn't a Jewish holiday, and I don't know what was particularly Jewish about my mother. She spoke an excellent Yiddish. She never failed to set an elegant Sabbath table. Somehow, she wanted a proud Jewish world, not a diminished version of it. But she was not conventionally a religious person, more of an artist, even, perhaps, something of a loner. She cheated just a bit on her kashrut.

I guess she eludes me, leaving me with a mist through which I make out lovely promises of comfort. She leaves me free to seek my own way. If you come across a soft gesture of courtesy, of imagination, of vigor and humor, of good sense served up with refinement, then she is still here looking out to keep the coffee strong, the tablecloths clean, and the children properly tucked in.



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OBITUARIES

SYLVIA S. KRASNER

PROVIDENCE — Sylvia S. Krasner, 68, of 44 Sinclair Ave., Cranston, a sales lady at the former James Kaplan Jewelers in Cranston for more than 30 years, died April 20 at the Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Providence. She was the wife of Ernest M. Krasner.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Saul and Annie (Kaplan) Katz, she lived in Cranston since 1954.

She was a volunteer worker for the American Heart Association for many years, and held the rank of captain.

Besides her husband, she leaves three sons, Richard Krasner of Carmel, N.Y., Jack Krasner of Piedmont, Calif., and Gary Krasner of Irvine, Calif.; a sister, Phyllis Dworman of Sun Lake, Ariz.; a brother, Moton Katz of Cranston, and three grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Irving Katz.

The funeral service was held April 22 in Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Reform Leader Dies at 83

by Vivian Witt
Cleveland Jewish News
CLEVELAND — Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, a major figure in Reform Judaism, has died at the age of 83.

An outspoken advocate for social justice and civil rights, Lelyveld was among six Cleveland clergy who went to Hattiesburg, Miss., to help register black voters during the turbulent "Freedom Summer" of 1964.

There, he was beaten and seriously wounded by segregationists.

The next year, Lelyveld received an award for distinguished service to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the cause of freedom.

He also served on the board of trustees of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change.

Born and raised in New York

City, Lelyveld graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia University, having worked his way through college by playing the banjo and guitar.

Lelyveld, who has said he wavered between careers in journalism and the rabbinate, chose the later, mostly at his father's urging. Lelyveld's maternal grandfather was a rabbi.

He earned his master's of Hebrew letters from Hebrew Union College.

Lelyveld was author of two books: *Atheism is Dead* and *The Steadfast Stream: An Introduction to Jewish Social Values*.

During his distinguished 57-year career in the rabbinate, Lelyveld also served as president of national Jewish organizations, including the American Jewish Congress, Central Conference of American rabbis, Synagogue Council of America and the American Jewish League for Israel.

Joseph Polakoff, Former Chief of JTA Washington Bureau, Dies

by Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When Joseph Polakoff died, early in April, at the age of 87, the Jewish community lost a veteran journalist who was a strong advocate for Israel and American Jewry.

He served as the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington bureau chief from 1970 to 1982, and continued to file stories for Jewish newspapers almost until his death, which resulted from

a long bout with cancer.

Many revered Polakoff as the "dean of the American Jewish press," said Robert Cohen, editor in chief and publisher of the *St. Louis Jewish Light*.

He never shied away from confrontations with Washington's power brokers, and "took on the powerful people on behalf of American Jews," said Cohen.

At a recent State Department briefing, Jim Andersen of the

German Press Agency paid tribute to Polakoff, who had attended the sessions regularly for more than 20 years.

"We'll remember Joe as a person who held very strong, passionate views about his main love in life, which is the future and security of Israel," Andersen said. "He never concealed the way he felt. He was outspoken and passionate, and I think he will be missed."

Grove to Honor Student Victims

In memory and in honor of Sara Duker, 22, and Matthew Eisenfeld, 25, killed in the Feb. 25 terrorist bus bombing in Jerusalem, and of all the student victims of terrorism, a Student Memorial Grove will be planted in the Jewish National Fund's American Students' Forest in Yatir, in the northern Negev Desert.

Students committed to Judaism and Israel are invited to plant trees

in this grove, which will include a plaque at the site on which student victims' names will be listed.

Individual certificates will be sent to the families of the victims. College campuses may also make a general contribution to this project.

For more information, contact JNF on Campus at (212) 879-9300, ext. 330, or send e-mail to jnfoncamps@aol.com.

Some See Universities as Reintroduction Points

A mutual interest in advancing technology can create new bridges between American Jews and Israel, experts said at a recent American Technion Society forum on 21st Century Zionism.

As the peace process continues and Israel emerges as a global center of high technology, its world-class universities will attract Jewish students from around the world. These universities could become pioneering forces for re-energizing worldwide Zionism.

Author-editor-columnist Leonard Fein and director of Brandeis University's Center for Modern Jewish Studies Dr. Gary Tobin noted that the majority of young American Jews are disinterested in traditional Judaism. Israel's universities could offer superior education at lower tuition than those prevailing at top U.S. colleges — while providing an alternative entry point into Judaism and Zionism.

"We cannot do it alone," President Tadmor said. "But together we can create a new sense of 'peoplehood' among Jews throughout the world."

"The contribution of advanced technology to Israel's defense and survival does not need proving," Professor Arnan Seginer said.

"But the issue now is not survival in a hostile region, but rather survival and success in a harshly competitive international market."

To maintain its current edge as a world leader in high technology, Israel must increase the number of its science and engineering graduates, a task taken on by the Technion,

which already graduates 75 percent of the country's engineers.

The optimism expressed about Israel's technological prowess and its relevance to 21st century Zionism were somewhat dampened by presentations on trends in the American Jewish community.

Tobin cited the increasing numbers of Jews marrying non-Jews, disinterest in religious education, and fading of Jewish identity among the young as danger signals for Zionism's future.

Fein, while agreeing that 1950s-style Jewish community life was in decline, stressed the importance of taking the long view. He expressed hope that Jewish institutions will develop programs — from creating a "University of the Jewish People" to renewed emphasis on tikkun olam (repairing the world) — that will make Judaism genuinely attractive to young people in the 21st century.

"We began the 20th century with Judaism as a condition," he said. "We are entering the next century with it as an option. No one has to be a Jew. But many will want to be."

Twenty-first century Zionism will be focused on supporting Israel's economic independence as intensively as we have helped Israel in this century achieve political independence, said Melvyn H. Bloom, executive vice president of the ATS.

"This is a work in progress," he noted. "I expect we'll be 'making it up' — finding new and creative directions for our 21st century Zionism — as we go along."

Professor Moshe Davis Dies

Professor Moshe Davis, founding director of the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, died on April 10 at the age of 79.

Davis, who was Stephen S. Wise Professor Emeritus of American Jewish History and Institutions at The Hebrew University, was born in 1916 in New York City. He received his M.A. and was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

In 1937 he came to Jerusalem to study at The Hebrew University and was the first American Jew to receive Ph.D. there.

Returning to the JTS, Davis went on to become an authority on American Jewish history, dean of the JTS Teachers Institute and College of Jewish Studies, and later provost, a position he held until his immigration to Israel in 1959.

He also founded the Conservative movement's Camp Ramah network and Leadership Training Fellowship.

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Dismemberment

(Continued from Page 5)

instance, the Reform organization's president, Rabbi Simeon J. Maslin, brusquely derided the Orthodox community for insisting on the different roles the Torah prescribes for men and women, for insisting on the validity of Jewish law despite the contemporary social climate and, perhaps most sadly, for "pray[ing] to this very day for the reestablishment of the sacrificial cult in a rebuilt Temple."

He went on to turn history on its head, equating the Orthodox with the ancient Sadducees, wildly misrepresenting the stubbornly traditionalist Pharisees' meticulous transmission of the Sinai-sourced Oral Law as — amazingly — an ancient Reform movement.

But Jewish history will not be so flippantly deconstructed. What has persevered as Judaism through the ages is precisely what Maslin so stridently and desperately condemns.

And in the course of his remarks, the Reform leader insisted that "we have ceased to be one." Tragically, he may be right; it may be too late, G-d forbid, to still save Jewish unity. But all Jews owe it to all other Jews to challenge that terrible prognosis, to stand up for the honor and integrity of our Torah, to recognize and to embrace the only real hope for reversing the dismemberment of the Jews.

One person, one heart, one Torah.

Nelson

(Continued from Page 1)

She has served on the hospital's professional and academic affairs committee for 15 years, and as chairwoman of the hospital's development committee.

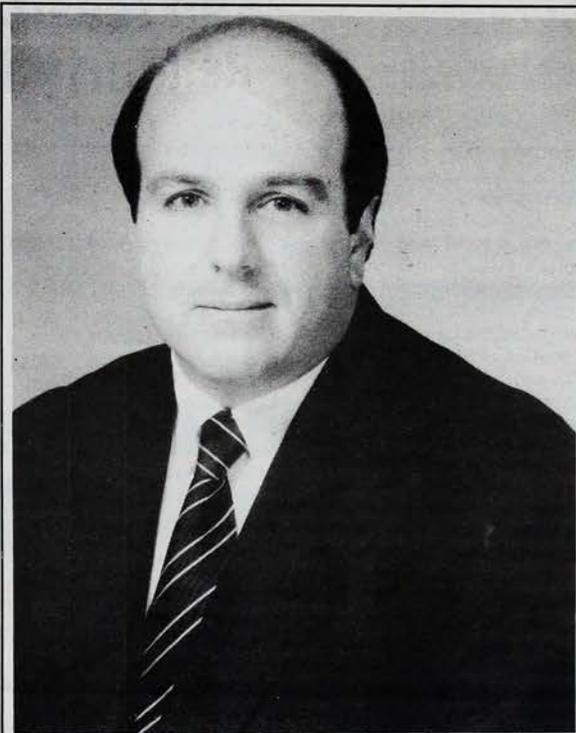
She said that she has "learned by doing." "The more responsibility they asked of me, the more I grew. I've worked with and learned from a lot of wonderful people."

Last year, Nelson was surprised at The Miriam People dinner with a special recognition award. "I was at a complete loss for words — I was so touched."

She has been recognized by the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Association of Fund-Raising Executives for her philanthropic work on behalf of The Miriam Hospital.

The mother of three and grandmother of five, Nelson plays golf, tennis and bridge, and is an accomplished chef. She has served as volunteer director of volunteers for the Gordon School and on the boards of the Rhode Island Zoological Society and the National Council of Jewish Women. She has recently been involved in the Temple Beth-El capital campaign. Professionally, she is a managing partner of Tennis Rhode Island, Inc.

Those interested in attending the luncheon and award ceremony may call 331-8500, ext. 2520.



Miriam People Dinner Scheduled

John Blacher, above, chairman of The Miriam People Dinner, has announced that the dinner will be held on May 21 at the Providence Marriott. Peter Tilkemeier, M.D., director of Nuclear Cardiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation at Miriam will speak. The dinner honors Miriam's donors. Call 444-6412 for reservations.

'Passages in Time'

"Passages in Time," an exhibition by three associate members of Hera Gallery — Clare Asch, Cynthia Claybough and Alison Horvitz — will be on display at the gallery, 327 Main St. in Wakefield from May 4 to 25.

The public is invited to an opening reception that will be held May 3 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Claybough works in a mixed media environment that places the desktop computer at the studio's heart. Within the realm of pixels and points, images are created using traditionally made photographs, drawings, and

paintings with digitally based renderings.

Horvitz, a painter from Somerset, Mass., will be exhibiting paintings which pay homage to the celebration of life. She has been awarded an artist stipend by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Asch, from Marlborough, Mass., creates paintings on silk. Her work connects diverse ideas and artistic traditions, and is influenced by Chinese landscape painting as well as Western expressionism and abstraction. The paintings in this series are literally about the roads that she has traveled.

Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 to 4 p.m. It is free and open to the public and is handicapped accessible.

Security

(Continued from Page 1)

Jaber presented six of seven Hamas members who had been arrested in connection with the plot.

One of the men, identified only as Motaz, said he was asked three months ago by Qishawi to carry out the assassination.

The group said they turned themselves in to Palestinian officials after rejecting the assassination plot.

In Amman, Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh denied any knowledge of the alleged plotter.

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Estate Tax Calculation

This is the 26th article in the continuing series highlighting estate planning sales concepts.

Q: Why is knowledge of the estate tax calculation useful in estate planning?

A: Information concerning includable items, deductions, and credits may help you determine how to structure your estate and how much insurance will be necessary to handle the liquidity needs at your death. The trustee of your irrevocable trust should own at least enough insurance on your life to cover the net federal estate tax payable.

Q: How are the estate taxes calculated?

A: The first step is to determine the gross estate by adding together all of the assets owned by you or transferred by reason of your death, including but not limited to, the following:

1. Life insurance which is payable to your estate or contracts in which you have an incident of ownership.
2. Annuities (other than those for your life only with no remainder).
3. Fifty percent of property owned jointly by you and your spouse (100 percent if not married and the survivor can't prove the survivor paid for the item).
4. Transfers within three years of death.

5. Gifts in which you retain some interest.
6. Transfers which you have the right to alter, amend or revoke.
7. Assets over which you possessed powers.

Next, the adjusted gross estate is derived by subtracting debts, taxes, losses, funeral expenses, and administrative costs from the gross estate.

Third, the taxable estate is calculated by subtracting the marital and charitable deductions.

Fourth, the taxable portion of gifts made since 1976 (other than gifts already included in your gross estate) are added to arrive at the tentative tax base.

Fifth, a tentative estate tax is calculated by multiplying this tentative tax base by the appropriate figures from the graduated estate and gift tax table.

The next procedure is to subtract the gift taxes derived by multiplying the gifts added in the fourth step by the tax table in the fourth step. In other words, the purpose of the fourth through sixth calculations is not to cause any taxation on the post 1976 gifts but to use the sum of these gifts to move your estate further up the graduated estate tax table.

The seventh step is to subtract one or more of the following credits:

1. Unified credit.
2. State death tax credit.
3. Credit for prior transfer taxes.
4. Foreign death tax credit.

Finally, your executor will add a 15 percent penalty tax on any excess retirement accumulation. This surcharge applies when the sum of your IRAs, qualified pension and profit sharing plans, and tax-sheltered annuities exceeds an amount necessary to produce an annual distribution of \$150,000.

The result is the net federal estate tax payable within nine months from the date of your death. Your executor will place this information on your estate tax return — Form 706.

Q: Who pays the life insurance premium?

A: The trustee of your irrevocable life insurance trust should be the premium payor as well as the applicant, owner, and beneficiary. Using this approach, and giving the trustee the discretion but not the responsibility to purchase assets from (or loan proceeds to) the estate should avoid any estate tax on the life insurance.

Submitted by Lawrence M. Halperin and Marvin William Lax of Halperin & Lax. In their monthly column they will answer questions about life and disability insurance and investments. Mail questions to: 335 Centerville Road, Warwick, R.I. 02886-9990 or call 738-2350.

The Music School's Merry in May

The following is The Music School's calendar of events for this month.

- There will be a lecture/concert on May 6 from 8:15 to 9:45 p.m. on J.S. Bach's Mass in B Minor. This work will be performed by the R.I. Civic Chorale on May 11 at 8 p.m. The lecturer will be Martin Gardiner, Ph.D.

Lectures will also be given on May 9, from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. and on May 11 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at The Music School, Nathan Bishop Middle School, 101 Sessions St., Providence. On May 8 from noon to 1:30 p.m. it will be given at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. There is a fee of \$10.

A half-hour version will be presented 45 minutes before the concert itself. Admission is \$5. Discount tickets to performances are available. Call Gardiner at 949-2729, mailbox 4.

- There will be a family concert on May 4 at 2 p.m. Nick Page will lead a family multicultural sing in the community room of St. Michael's Church, Oxford Street in Providence. The event, for individuals of all ages, is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by The Music School and the Children's Crusade for Higher Education. Call 272-9877 for details.

- There will be a workshop on May 4 at 10 a.m. entitled, "How to Empower Children Through Music and Song," a workshop with Nick Page for music teachers, camp directors, choral directors and anyone interested in helping children using music.

Page will base the workshop on his book, *Sing and Shine On*, a teacher's guide to multicultural song leading. The workshop will be held at The Music School, Nathan Bishop Middle School, 101 Sessions St., Providence. It will cost \$15. Call 272-9877 for details or to register.

- There will be a concert on May 19 at 3 p.m. entitled "A Musical Tour of Baroque Eu-

rope." This will be the fourth in The Music School's Hausmusik concert series. The concert will be held in a private home in Foster. Tickets are \$20 and include refreshments. Call 272-9877 for information or reservations.

- There will be a folk festival on May 19 from noon to 5 p.m.

The Spring Folk Fest at The Music School will include workshops, jams and concerts. Everyone is encouraged to bring an instrument, or just come and listen. All ages are welcome. The fee is \$7 adults, \$3 children and \$15 (cap) for a family. Call 272-9877 for more information. The Music School is located at Nathan Bishop Middle School, 101 Sessions St., Providence.

- There will be recitals on May 18 and 19 at 2:30 p.m.

The Music School student recitals will be held at The Music Mansion, corner of Congdon and Meeting streets in Providence. They are free and open to the public.

- There will be a conference on May 17 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. and May 18 from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The second annual Creative Arts Therapy Conference will be held at the school. This year the conference will explore effective arts therapy methods used with specific populations: geriatric, special education, and child victims of domestic abuse and caregivers. There is a \$65 fee. Early registration is suggested. CEUs may be available. Call 272-9877 for a brochure.

- There will be a community sing on May 28 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The sing will feature songwriter and storyteller Bill Harley and folk singer Marcia Taylor. It is suitable for all ages and all voices, and will be held at The Music School at Nathan Bishop Middle School, 101 Sessions St., Providence. Call 272-9877, for more information. There is a \$3 fee, collected at the door, and a minimal charge for music handouts.

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