

Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

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

VOLUME LXVI, NUMBER 28

SIVAN 12, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1996

35¢ PER COPY

Jewish Community

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Providence Becomes Sculpture Capital for One Week

There will be more than 75 works of three-dimensional art, set up in six locations — Roger Williams National Memorial, the River Walk, Old Stone Park, indoors at the Fleet Galleria and One Citizens Plaza, and Roger Williams Park, in the upcoming Convergence IX.

The opening of the festivities will be marked on June 1, 5, 6, 8 and 9 with musical and dance performances, and several theater events. There will be a Sculpture Conference and Trade Exhibition from June 6 to 11, and a Grand Weekend of the Arts in downtown Providence from June 6 to 9.

As part of Convergence IX in Rhode Island, a sculpture by Chaim Gross will be on display in front of the boathouse in Roger Williams Park from May 31 through mid-September.

Gross grew up among the Austrian forests that supplied his father's lumber business. Surrounded by wood cutters during the day and those who whittled wood into useful objects during long evenings, Gross learned as a child to appreciate the beauty, properties and value of wood.

By the time he turned 10 in

1941, the deadly business of World War I had infested his countryside, shattering its serenity and causing his family to flee for their lives. A long period of uprootedness, separation from his family, and deprivation then began for Gross and countless thousands. Persecuted for being Jewish, his life became terror filled. It was not until the close of the war in 1918 that he and his parents reunited. Gross joined his brother, Abraham, in Vienna the following year then in Budapest, where he subsisted on odd jobs while he practiced drawing incessantly.

Still adversities plagued him, including the threats of imprisonment and deportation back to Austria, so he and Abraham made their way to America, landing in New York City on April 14, 1921. He had just turned 17.

During his formative years the gifted young sculptor was encouraged by his instructors to develop his talents as far as he could and in 1927 he committed himself to the life of a sculptor and was further encouraged by the first sales of his work. By 1930, he had carved in 40 types

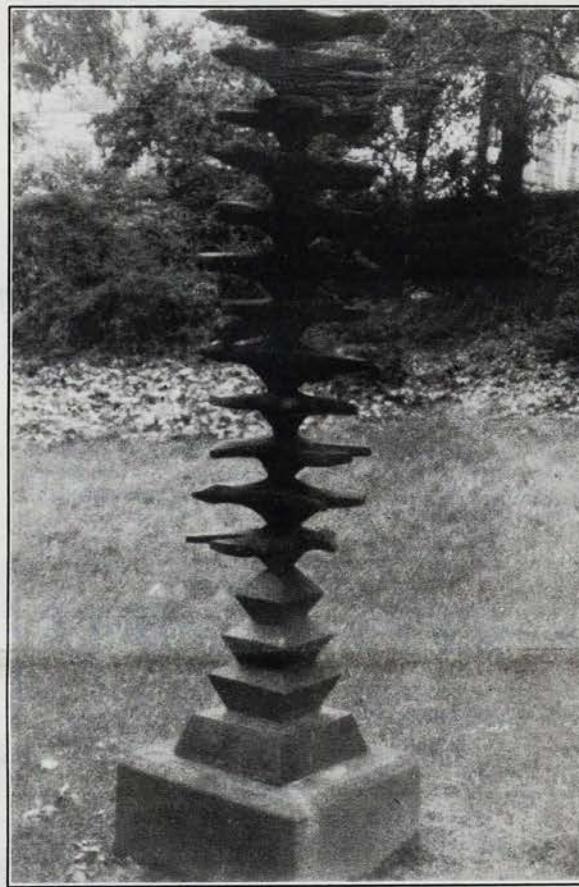
of wood (much of the sculpture from this period is now in the permanent collections of major public institutions).

His stature and reputation as a serious sculptor grew. The world of newspaper and periodical art critics discovered him and wrote positive commentary. Gross was on his way to becoming one of this country's foremost sculptors, a reputation he held throughout his life.

Without question, Gross was instrumental in resurrecting and revitalizing the ancient but nearly defunct principles of direct wood and stone carving. His style, expressionistic yet clearly readable, combine an artistic synthesis of the architectural, the abstract and primitive forms of African tribal sculpture; some would see in it qualities of the totemic columnar shapes indigenous to the Northwest Coast Indians. His figures exude rugged strength, earthiness, vitality and movement.

An unabashed admirer of the female figure, especially one unencumbered by attire, he created agile women who were acrobats, tightrope walkers, bareback riders, tumblers, and

(Continued on Page 15)



'SYMPHONY OF BIRDS' is an example of Gross's work. It was created in 1962 in bronze. Photo courtesy of Chaim Gross Studio Museum

Daniel Cohen Wins Course Scholarships

The 1996 scholarship from the Gourse Family Fund for travel and study in Israel has been awarded to Daniel Cohen, a graduating senior at Brown University.

Cohen, a son of Helene Cohen of Harrisburg, Pa., will spend the summer doing community service in the WUJS program in Arad, Israel.

Established when the city was a fledgling development town, WUJS arranges public service internships and ulpanim for diaspora Jews. He is particularly interested in teaching English and math to remedial students, those with learning disabilities and/or behavioral disorders.

Three years ago he volunteered to teach juvenile delinquents in Israel's "worst" secondary school, the Bet Sefer Mishlav in Jaffa — "a challenging but powerfully rewarding experience" he said.

Prior to his matriculation at Brown he spent one year in Israel on Young Judaea's Course and since has been active in Jewish and Zionist communities on the Brown campus.

He was a double major in political science and Judaic studies and hopes, ultimately, to pursue work in international relations from a diplomatic or academic perspective.

The award announcement was made by Zelda Fisher Gourse of Providence, on behalf of her family. The fund was established in 1978 and is administered through the offices of Temple Beth El of Fall River.

Since its inception, the scholarships have helped 48 young people travel to and study in the Holy Land.

Ziskind Memorial Lecture Series: 'Jewish Attitudes Toward Jesus'

Professor Feldman to Lecture on Controversial Topic
by Rabbi Moshe Ulmer
Tifereth Israel Congregation

During rabbinical school, one of my professors in homiletics advised the class that there is one word that should never be used in a sermon. That one word was "Jesus." No matter what the rabbi said after that word, the sermon would be misconstrued by at least some of the congregants.

For Jews the name "Jesus" is so charged with emotion that we rarely can discuss the topic with calm deliberation. Partly in response to this issue, the Rabbi Bernard H. and Minna Ziskind Memorial Lecture Series has as its scholar-in-residence Professor Louis Feldman. Feldman, a professor of classics at Yeshiva University, is a world-renowned authority on Hellenistic Judaism.

All of his books have become definitive works of scholarship, and he has lectured extensively on more than 60 topics.

The theme of Feldman's three presentations will be "Jewish Attitudes Toward Jesus."

Feldman will address such issues as: Did Jesus ever live? What do Jewish sources say about Jesus? How Jewish was Jesus and what did he find wrong with the Judaism of his day? How has Jesus been viewed by the great Jewish thinkers through the ages? Can we reconstruct the "trial" of Jesus?

In the tradition of the Ziskind Memorial Series the presentations promise to be interesting, enlightening and challenging.

On June 2, at 7:30 p.m., Feldman will deliver a lecture entitled: "How Jewish Were the

Views of Jesus?" On June 3, at noon, there will be a "Lunch and Learn" discussion in respect to "How Jesus Has Been Viewed by Great Jewish Thinkers." On June 3, at 7:30 p.m., Feldman will speak on "Talmudic Law and Jesus" and in particular will focus upon the alleged trial of Jesus as portrayed in Christian scripture.

The evening sessions are free and open to the public. There is a minimal charge of \$4 for the "Lunch and Learn" session.

Tifereth Israel Congregation, a Conservative synagogue, is located at 145 Brownell Ave., New Bedford. Call (508) 997-3171 to make reservations or for more details.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Announces New Way to Buy Passes

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum announced recently a professional affiliation with ProTix as its exclusive agent for advanced timed pass requests.

ProTix has established a national toll-free phone number to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, (800) 400-9373.

Analysis of Israeli Election Results in Next Week's Issue

INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

Johnson & Wales Announces Opening of Feinstein Community Service Center

Johnson & Wales University has announced the opening of the Alan Shawn Feinstein Community Service Center at the Arcade in downtown Providence.

The center which opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 10 will serve as the home of the Feinstein Enriching America Program and as the headquarters for all of the university's community service programs.

Speakers at the opening ceremony included: Feinstein, Dr. John A. Yena, president of Johnson & Wales University,

and Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.

Following the ceremony, Feinstein distributed cases of his collector's series of Babe Ruth baseball cards to local schoolchildren as a reward for their participation in his I Can Make A Difference program.

In October of 1995, Feinstein presented Johnson & Wales with a \$1 million endowment to establish a community service enrichment program as a permanent part of the university's required curriculum. Utilizing the annual earnings of this endowment, the Feinstein Enrich-

ing America Program will be instituted at Johnson & Wales in the fall of 1996.

At that time, all first-year students will be required to complete an intensive community enrichment course and participate in a hands-on community service experience.

In early 1996, Feinstein gave the university an additional \$500,000 endowment to establish the Alan Shawn Feinstein Community Service Center. The center is located on the third floor of the historic Arcade building at 65 Weybosset St. in downtown Providence.

Rabin Honored in Exhibition at Providence Public Library

Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is memorialized in a new traveling photographic exhibition entitled "Don't Whisper A Prayer, Sing Aloud a Song of Peace: Yitzhak Rabin in Washington," which is on exhibit now at the Providence Public Library through June 15.

Organized by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington and the Embassy of Is-

rael, the exhibition is sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel to New England.

Like countless other cities, Washington held a number of vigils and memorial services following Rabin's assassination. But the Washington community's search for a more permanent tribute to Rabin led to the partnership of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater

Washington and the Embassy of Israel to the creation of this special exhibit.

The exhibit is on display in the Barnard Room at the Central Library, 225 Washington St. Hours of the Central Library are Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This is the exhibit's only New England appearance.

For more information, contact Beth Watson Sousa at 455-8090.

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Hospice Offers Program for Grandparent-Headed Households

Hospice Care of Rhode Island is launching a new 10-week educational and support series for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren as a result of parental death, illness or incapacity.

The Grandparents Group will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. each Tuesday from June 11 through Aug. 20.

Meetings will be held at the Hospice Care of Rhode Island building at 169 George St. in Pawtucket.

Although grandparent-headed households are one of the most rapidly growing family structures in the country, Hospice Care of Rhode Island is one of the few institutions that will provide education, information and peer support to people trying to cope in the often-unexpected role of parenting one's grandchildren.

The new program is open to all grandparents who have primary responsibility for rearing their grandchildren. The sessions, facilitated in English and

Spanish, will combine informative presentations and interpersonal discussions on topics ranging from helping themselves and their grandchildren to cope with loss or family trauma, coping with substance abuse, helping to meet educational needs or dealing with learning disabilities, retirement planning with children as part of the picture, custody considerations, and many other aspects of this developing social pattern.

The Grandparents Group is being coordinated by Carlos Ortiz, a social worker at Hospice Care of Rhode Island, and Anne Stermock, Ph.D., of Rhode Island Hospital. There's no fee to participate, although donations are welcome to offset costs of the program, and pre-registration is required because of space considerations. Child care will be provided on site during the grandparenting sessions.

More information and registration are available by calling Ortiz at 727-2020, ext. 123, or Stermock at 444-7086.

Free Environmental Training Offered to Displaced Workers and Area Youth

be available then.

Those selected to participate in this summer program will receive training that will prepare them to work as environmental construction workers or environmental technicians for environmental engineering companies, and various agencies.

For more information, call the Department of Defense Environmental Training Program office, 294-1021.

New Program for The Unemployed

A special program has been created for Rhode Island workers who have lost their jobs because of plant closings and layoffs. The program, which is being offered by the Institute for Labor Studies and Research, is free and currently scheduled to run through the summer and fall.

Classes are held on Goff Street in downtown Pawtucket, only 10 minutes from Providence. They meet Monday through Friday, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Workers can choose to attend one or both of the daily two-hour sessions.

In addition to focusing on GED and English as a Second

Language instruction, the program offers workers the chance to improve their reading, writing, and math, sharpen their job search skills, and obtain basic computer skills.

For further information or to register for classes, call McGill at 463-9900.

Arts Fest in Cranston

Opening nights for Arts Fest '96, which will showcase art, music, dance, and theater in Cranston Public Schools, will be held at the Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanoset Cross Road, on May 30, at 5 p.m.

Activities will take place throughout the library building and on the lawn outdoors. Band and solo performances, art exhibits, and dance and theater presentations will be featured. Teachers as well as students will participate in some of the hands-on and performance activities.

Art exhibits will remain on display at the library through June 10.

School and community support, including funding from local sponsors, have made this second Arts Fest possible.

Last year's Arts Fest was attended by several thousand people.

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EDITORIAL

A Survivor Faces a New 'Führer'

by Elliot Welles

The plane descended slowly over the German city of Hamburg. My last visit had been 20 years before, when I had faced the man who selected my mother for death in a mass grave in the suburbs of Riga in February 1942. That trial in the Hamburg court had lasted for months, but the worse of it was the day I confronted the man who had put his finger to my mother and said, "You accompany the transport with the old people." I was 14 at the time of my mother's death. Now, 50 years later, I sat in the plane and thought of the terrible fate that had befallen her, and the day I faced her murderer in Hamburg.

Now there is another trial against a man who would also like to destroy the Jewish people. It is the trial of one of the most influential neo-Nazis of recent decades, Gary "Gerhard" Lauck, an American from Lincoln, Nebraska, who for the last 20 years has printed Nazi propaganda and disseminated it among extremists in Germany — where such material is illegal. Lauck heads the National Socialist German Workers Party Overseas Organization (known by its German acronym, NSDAP-AO), which was banned in Germany in 1974.

When I entered the Hamburg courthouse, hundreds of demonstrators from the left and right were picketing, shouting so loudly one could hardly hear. The carnival atmosphere contrasted sharply with my own quiet, burning, far-away thoughts.

Lauck, 43, is accused of being the main supplier of brochures, films and other propaganda

material for German extremists. In America, the U.S. Constitution and its guarantee of free speech protect his activities. In Germany, his activities are illegal. He was arrested in Denmark last year on an international warrant and extradited to Germany to face charges of inciting racial hatred there.

My last visit had been 20 years before, when I had faced the man who selected my mother for death in a mass grave...

Obsessively identifying with his hero, Lauck tries to resemble as well as emulate Adolf Hitler. He entered the courtroom with parted hair and a small mustache. As a Holocaust survivor, I was deeply distressed by the scene. I felt my stomach cramp and my chest flutter — part disgust and part anger — when I looked at this man who, if he could, would try to finish Hitler's work, to destroy the Jewish people.

He sat right in front of me. He yawned and smiled at his lawyer. He had two lawyers, one court-appointed, the other a highly-priced lawyer paid by sources unknown, who always defends right-wing cases. Lauck smiled again, and the court proceeded to read the 30-count indictment, which took more than two hours.

His attorney, Hans Otto Sieg, asked the judge to stop the proceedings on the grounds that the Danes were wrong to extradite Lauck. The judge rejected

his argument, Lauck had fought Germany's attempt to have him extradited, but exhausted his appeals after the Danish Supreme Court ruled in 1995 that his anti-Semitic statements in his newspaper, *NS Kampfruf* (*NS Battle Cry*), were an offense under Danish law. Shortly thereafter, he was sent to Hamburg. If convicted, he faces five years in prison.

Lauck once said that Jews were treated too nicely in Nazi concentration camps. Now I, the survivor of five concentration camps, was sitting behind this hateful, arrogant man.

I thought of my murdered family, my mother, all the friends I lost during the war. How cruel and ironic to face this pathetic spectacle who tries to resemble Hitler and debases his life, while millions who loved and valued life were robbed of theirs. I felt an urge to give in to my own private sense of justice. But I know that the rule of law — which for a time was another victim of the Nazis — must be maintained if civilization is to survive such evil.

Germany's action to bring Lauck to trial, to have him extradited to face justice in a democratic system's court, is profoundly important. It will show that Germany will not and does not allow hate mongers to operate without an accounting of the consequences. It is a small thing, perhaps, but it does make a difference.

Elliot Welles, director of the ADL Task Force on Nazi War Criminals, recently covered the opening of the trial in Germany of U.S. neo-Nazi Gary Lauck.

B'nai B'rith Asks for Removal of Antiquated U.N. Display

For more than two decades a large photo display entitled "The Palestinian Struggle" has greeted visitors on the third floor of the United Nations.

Now that the Israelis and Palestinians are holding peace talks, B'nai B'rith wants the display updated to reflect the Middle East peace process or removed.

Tommy P. Baer, international president of B'nai B'rith, sent a letter to Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright of the United States Mission to the United Nations asking for her help in removing or updating the exhibit.

The text of the letter follows: "While visiting the United Nations recently, I passed an exhibit which harks back to the bleakest days of the Arab-Israel conflict. This exhibit, prepared by the U.N. secretariat, is located on the third floor of the conference building, and is thus seen by millions of visitors as well as U.N. diplomats.

"It makes no mention of the peace process or of the treaties of peace between Israel and its neighbors. Indeed, it stresses conflict rather than reconciliation.

(Continued on Page 15)

'Our Land'

by Herb Brown

Sing to tune of "Home on the Range"

Oh no, you can't play with that new boy today,
Did you notice that both eyes are blue?
Though part of us now, I mistrust him somehow,
And he has such an odd accent too.
Here, here in our land,
Do we want all those foreigners here?
Their skin is so light that it gives me a fright,
I'm afraid we have too much to fear.

It seems such a shame, he has quite a strange name,
I don't think that I've heard it before,
It might have been "Jones" or some other unknown,
And to spell it will be a real chore.
Here, here in our land,
We have stars and the moon and the sun,
These things we must share, no alternative there,
Why not things we are doing or done?
We might be surprised if we opened our eyes,
And we learned they too hurt when they bleed.
To go it alone is to die all alone,
What an empty existence indeed.
Here, here in our land,
We should judge ev'ry one by their worth.
Why they laugh and weep when the sorrows run deep,
Oh, we're all the same over this earth.

It is Never too Late

In this week's Torah portion, Nasso, we find the command to count the Levites — the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari. The actual count of these people was taken only once, during the second year of their 40-year wanderings. What are we to learn from the Torah's inclusion of this commandment?

Let us examine the reason why the Jewish people had to wander for 40 years in the wilderness.

When the spies gave a negative report about the land of Israel, the Jewish people were reluctant to enter the land G-d had promised them. G-d, therefore, punished the Jews with 40 years of wandering and decreed that those who had been unwilling to enter Israel would not be allowed to do so. But why did G-d choose a wilderness for their wandering, as opposed to another location?

A wilderness is uninhabited by man, and indeed, the desert the Jewish People wandered through is described as "a great and terrible wilderness: snakes, poisonous serpents and scorpions, and thirst without water to quench."

The children of Israel, through their travels, were

charged with transforming that wilderness and purifying the negative forces that still had their hold on the Jewish people.

The cloud that preceded them as they traveled destroyed the snakes, serpents and beasts that threatened their existence. By overcoming the obstacles in the desert the Jews brought light and G-dliness into the world.

The uninhabited wilderness

the mission with which we have been charged and the special G-dly powers we are given to accomplish it.

Just as the children of Israel traveled from place to place by divine command, so, too, is every Jew, by divine providence, faced with precisely those obstacles and challenges he is charged with overcoming.

The Torah assures us that through our actions, we can succeed in turning any wilderness into a flourishing dwelling place for G-d.

We also learn from the fact that the Levites were not counted or required to carry the sanctuary until the age of 30, that it is never too late to try to improve oneself.

Even if our behavior has been less than admirable and undisciplined — in the category of "wilderness" — we must never become dejected and despair of achieving our spiritual goals.

Once the decision to improve is made, G-d gives us the strength to serve Him, purify ourselves, and uncover the G-dliness concealed within.

Adapted from the Works of the Rebbe, submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer.

RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD

(USPS 464-760)
Published Every Week By The
Jewish Press Publishing Company

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Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940
TELEPHONE: (401) 724-0200

PLANT:
Herald Way, off Webster Street
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

OFFICE:
1175 Warren Avenue
East Providence, R.I. 02914

Second class postage paid at Providence, Rhode Island. Postmaster, send address changes to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940-6063.

Subscription rates: Thirty-five cents per copy. By mail \$15.00 per annum. Outside Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts; \$20.00 per annum. Senior citizen discount available. Bulk rates on request. The Herald assumes subscriptions are continuous unless notified to the contrary in writing.

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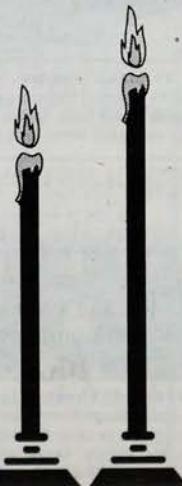
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The Herald is a member of the New England Press Association and a subscriber to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.



Candlelighting

May 31, 1996
7:55 p.m.



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

TORAH TODAY

FEATURE

Lofty Lofts Galore

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

There's another Providence above and beyond street level. You have to climb grand but ruined stairways to reach the lofts among the towers of the mill complexes that belong to the pigeons and the bats nowadays. If the age of the barons has gone with the wind, and of the department store empires also, a new era has taken over—not only in Divine Providence, but in other downtowns as well.

A studio-cafe has taken its

you wind an insecure path, up the oak treads, ever onward and upward to the din of the crowd. Photographs of students at Hope High School, downtown street people, and even a portrait of an Orthodox boy putting on his tefillin at home take up a narrow room. Alan Metnick's abstract images of houses in his favorite East Side neighborhoods between Methyl Street and Dexterdale Road occupy another chamber. Down the spa-



place at Olneyville Square, called simply "The Renegade Gallery." Recent work by Saul Metnick and Laura Copenhagen was shown this May, and also work by Saul's dad, Alan. You can only get there by walking among the phantoms of the former Atlantic Mills court-yards. The broken balustrade of the grandly curving stairway makes you feel otherworldly as

cious hallway, a nightclub has been set up, with groups of overstuffed chairs and cocktail tables, gleaned and gathered from aficionados of our city's past.

The wine was served from large jugs, but the mood was more intimate and private, and indeed there were personal messages written to the public by the artists, telling the story be-

hind each crafted and framed image.

Meanwhile, among the factories at Kinsley Avenue, senior class artists in film and sculpture share and celebrate the fabulous attics they transform into movie-set lots or performance stages. At a recent fundraiser, David Incorvai had a catered affair complete with a live jazz combo, salmon and pasta on the board, and his crew and actors entertaining a large company. You look down at a slumbering city, but there is life above its lonely streets.

Jessica Burko, a photography major whose portraits have appeared in the *Herald* in past issues, used a campus space in a building that once served as a manufacturing showroom. She created a small salon with bookcases, chairs and lamps. If you open the books, the pages have been cut out to hold her secret story, her survival without her mother, who left her, just walking out into another life. Jessica writes her account, borrows photographs and furnishings from here and there about town, and tries to come to terms with the possible wider meaning of her search. Her father Ernie came to help her set up and take down her show.

You could question the concept of a thesis so intimate, but Divine Providence seems to invite poets and artists to go up the ladders to wrestle with their visions and share them with those cooing doves and frightening bats.

Seriously though, can it be that our students will redeem the wreckage of our once thriving, almost feudally noble constructions? At this time of year I go from grandiose garret to airy attic, and I am uplifted by the spirit that saves us each year, the young people from everywhere who toast our past.

Trinity Rep and Temple Beth-El Talk About 'Angels'

As a part of the production of "Angels in America, Part I," Trinity Rep will participate in a discussion at Temple Beth-El on May 29 at 7 p.m.

The discussion will provide a forum where participants can share their feelings and reactions to the complex and provocative issues raised by the play, such as the changing nature of the AIDS crisis; how the gay civil rights movement and AIDS crisis intersect and/or differ from other movements for civil rights and social justice; the different strains of Judaism and different ideas of Jewish identity dealt with in the play.

Panel participants are: Dr. Kenneth Mayer, professor of medicine and health at Brown University; Ron Platt, executive director of Rhode Island Project AIDS; Marc Paige, an AIDS educator in Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts and a Jewish man living with AIDS; and Trinity Rep's Artistic Director Oskar Eustis, who directed the current production of "Angels."

Rabbi Les Guterman will serve as moderator.

"Angels in America, Part I" is a complex story of seven characters — from arch-reactionary lawyer Roy Cohn to a black drag queen to a pill-popping Mormon housewife — whose lives become intertwined in astonishing ways. From New York to San Francisco, from Antarctica to the Gates of Heaven, "Angels" takes on the great American themes of justice, love, and democracy with humor, heat and dazzling fantasy. With stunning dialogue and stinging wit, Kushner invites us on an emotional roller coaster ride that challenges all our beliefs.

Performances of "Angels in America, Part I," in the Upstairs

Theatre at Trinity Rep located on 201 Washington St. in downtown Providence, have been added to the end of the original run. New performance dates are May 29 through June 1, at 8 p.m.; and June 1 and June 2 at 2 p.m. Individual ticket prices range from \$24 to \$32, with student, senior citizen, disabled and group rates available.

For ticket information and the exact schedule, call the box office at 351-4242.

This discussion is free. Temple Beth-El is located at 70 Orchard St., Providence.

For more information, call Yvonne Seggerman, at 521-1100, ext. 224.

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Angels Hover Over The Weekend

Theater space works a magic of its own. It uses words, gestures, and objects as wands of metaphor and miracle within an enchanted circle of light in a dark forest of chairs and audience.

The Trinity platform is small, dwarfed by the majestic moviehouse balconies that survey and surround its miniature domain. A mix of stories cram its restless spotlight, actors and props bumping into each other. First, it's a plain pine coffin that holds a Jewish "bubby," with a rabbi in tallis (but played by an actress in male attire) declaiming a kaddish and eulogy. The coffin gets shoved to a corner, where it stays throughout the play. "Jews don't believe in forgiveness. Jews believe in guilt," the rabbi concludes.

Meanwhile, a neglected wife hallucinates a drag queen at her vanity dresser, a helpful, friendly spirit, one of the Angels in America. "You can't dream up something unless you already have lived it, seen it, put it there," she says to her phantom. She already knew her husband was gay, before this visit.

If among the cast there are two central, focussed figures, they would be Louis, the gay Jewish lawyer obsessed with the twin themes of justice and mercy, but terrified by the mortality of his AIDS + gay-boy lover. And Roy Cohn, the McCarthy-era villain, both vulnerable and obsessed by the theme of power, made concrete by his telephone. He hallucinates the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg, another Angel in America.

Crazy stuff, fancy talk! Performers vanish down holes, fly from invisible balconies, get wheeled in and out of mysterious portals, do weird things at arbitrary points on stage, crowd into one another, and then take leave of reality and enter a twilight zone of solitude. The bottom line is, the vigor of the "board," the truth of stage, live theater, the magic moment.

Rhode Islanders have a special touch, a way of reducing grand things into intimate, simple terms. For this reviewer, a more elaborate and elegant production of "Angels" might have dissipated the charm and the poetry of the Trinity design. You, too, become involved and responsible.

From a Jewish point of view, the actors really do come off as "angels," messengers struggling

with each of us. Tony Kushner asks the classic modern question, what does being gay share in common with the condition of being Jewish? Beyond the obvious outsider status they must live with. He blends humor and pathos, like the extended Jewish joke or parody. You might think of a Kafka tale or play, a Melamud yarn, or even a footnote in a pesikta.



Is "Angels" merely a politically correct and charged message from the misbegotten? No, it digs deeper than that. Poetry deals in paradox and doubt, not propaganda and opinion.

That wood coffin in limelight or shadow reminds us of something that nags. It says or asks something, like the play on a black dais. A compact dilemma goes in for existential insights like the postwar cave plays in Paris. Even, at moments, like a production of Shakespeare with heartfelt soliloquies confided to an invisible audience out there in the dark.

My daughter saw "Angels" with her grandpa, who got the tickets from the arts council. Of course, it made them uncomfortable, the frank jargon, the blunt body language, the disturbing and morbid mood. But perhaps that is what makes the planks of theater so valuable in a world of manufactured mass entertainment that packs in throngs of us to receive formula plots without the tentative fingers of art.

Editors note: We have just received word that the run of Angels in America at Trinity has been extended a second time — through June 9.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Cantor Stanley Lipp Recognized

On May 10, a group of friends from North Dartmouth and New Bedford joined the almost 200 people honoring Cantor Stanley Lipp on the occasion of his 40 years of devoted service to Congregation Agudath Achim in Taunton.

Rabbi Maurice Weisenberg opened the ceremonies with a tribute to the cantor's voice, his good will, collaboration and cooperation with the many programs and activities.

The rabbi expressed his personal regret that the cantor would not be continuing his tenure, but expressed his pleasure, however, that he will be returning to chant the services for the High Holy Days.

On behalf of the congregation, Arthur Arkanase, president, presented Lipp with a bust

of Moses holding the Ten Commandments, referring to Moses' 40-year journey through the desert.

Past president of Sisterhood Shoshanah Garshick, representing Sisterhood, gave to the cantor and his wife an Armenian Shabbat plate and a water goblet for handwashing. Garshick detailed the cantor's participation in the dedication of the Jewish Community House and Sisterhood's 25th anniversary.

She also mentioned that it had been a long journey from the cantor's birth in Germany to the land of Israel and finally the United States, where his career flourished on the radio in New Bedford, then to Taunton.

Lipp comes from a cantorial tradition on both sides of his family. His father retired as a

cantor at Tifereth Israel Congregation in New Bedford where his mother led the choir.

Ada Arkanase, past president of both the congregation and Sisterhood, told the gathering of her fondest affection for the cantor and of their close working relationship over the years.

Alfred Garshick, past president of the congregation, who also had worked closely with Lipp over the years, discussed how the cantor had come to the aid of the congregation in times of crisis over the years with pleasant and good-willed cooperation. Lipp also was affiliated with the religious school and taught classes there.

The previous article was reprinted with permission from Agudath Achim's bulletin.

Hadassah Offers Warsaw, Krakow, Jerusalem Tour

Hadassah is offering a 12-day "Warsaw Krakow, Jerusalem" tour from July 21 to Aug. 2 for Hadassah members and non-members.

Highlights of the trip will include a visit to Auschwitz, a visit to the newly established Jewish School in Warsaw, exploration of the Jewish Quarter in the Old City in Jerusalem, a drive to Masada, a tour of

Hadassah Ein Karem and Mt. Scopus, and more.

Jerusalem 3000 certificates will be distributed at the Western Wall.

"Warsaw, Krakow, Jerusalem," including round-trip airfare from New York, accommodations, meals per itinerary, all sightseeing and entrance fees and tips and gratuities is \$2,745 pp/d.o.; single supplement is

\$575. For information and reservations, call Hadassah at (800) 363-2373 or (212) 303-8031.

Tillie and Abe Kaplan Reunion Held

The first reunion of the Tillie and Abe Kaplan family was held on May 24 to 26 at the Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, New Hampshire.

Twenty-five family members attended from California, Michigan, Washington state, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island and Maryland.

The committee consisted of Lori and Ben Kaplan of Pittsfield, Mass., and Sheila and Lloyd Kaplan of Providence.

New Officers Installed at Temple Beth-El Meeting

Lauren and Sam Zurier chaired Temple Beth-El's 141st annual meeting, which was held in the Silverstein Meeting Hall on May 19.

Officers for the term ending May 31, 1997 include David B. Casten, president; Kenneth G. Orenstein, senior vice-president; Joseph A. Chazan, vice president; Patricia R. Cohen, vice president; Lynn D. Flanzbaum, treasurer; Joan Temkin Gray, assistant treasurer; and Samuel

Zurier, secretary.

Trustees for the term ending May 31, 1999 include Carol Garber, Joel Gluck, David Joseph, Frances Katzanek, Marvin Lax, Abigail Leavitt, Judy Mann, Joanne Summer, Norman Tilts and Eugene Weinberg.

Presidential appointees include: Douglas Blake, Robert Fine and Michael Thaler.

Honorary Trustee for Life is Frederick N. Levinger.



NEWLY ELECTED — Temple Beth-El newly elected trustees, from left: Dave Joseph, Joel Gluck, Fran Katzanek, Marvin Lax, Eugene Weinberg and Joanne Summer.

Photo courtesy of Temple Beth-El



TEMPLE BETH-EL'S executive board, from left: Joseph Chazan, Sam Zurier, Lynn Franzbaum, Ken Orenstein and David Casten.

Photo courtesy of Temple Beth-El

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On June 4 at 9:30 p.m., the CAV will present singer-songwriter Max Cohen. He was a finalist in Boston Acoustic Underground.

The CAV is located at 14 Imperial Place in Providence. Call 751-9164.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Lehman Family Honored by German Village

Ambassador John Loeb
Heads Delegation

Anton Kütt, mayor of Rimpar, Germany, home of the family that founded Lehman Brothers, has announced that the city council and the mayor of Rimpar have invited all the descendants of the Lehman family to ceremonies in Rimpar honoring their family on June 17. The Lehmans, penniless, left Germany in 1844.

Ambassador John Loeb, a great-grandson of one of the three brothers who founded Lehman Brothers, is heading the family delegation of 24 members, along with his cousin, Sir William Goodhart, who has played a major role in English public life.

Among other Lehman living descendants are Ambassador Loeb's nephew, Edgar M. Bronfman, Jr., CEO of Seagrams, Orin Lehman, former commissioner of parks for New York State, Robert Morgenthau, New York County district attorney, and Sir Phillip Goodhart, recently retired Conservative member of Parliament.

The late Herbert H. Lehman,

governor of New York during the Depression and World War II, a senator and first director of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which saved Europe from starvation after World War II, will attend.

Robert Lehman who bequeathed his incomparable art collection to the Lehman Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, will also be present.

A plaque will be unveiled on

Feinberg and Bell Honored

Lincoln's Upper School Principal, Rosemary Lenrow, recently announced that five Lincoln School students were state winners of the National Spanish Exam.

Two of the winners are sophomore Sara Feinberg, daughter of Dr. Alan and Doris Feinberg of Newport; and seventh-grader Sarah Bell, daughter of Joshua and Lynne Freed Bell of Providence.

Lincoln School's Foreign Language program begins in the Lower School and continues through the Upper School.

the house where the three Lehman brothers grew up. In the town hall a permanent exhibition will be opened featuring the Lehman family and commemorating the history of the Jews of Rimpar, including victims of the Holocaust.

Eva Lehman Thalheimer, a first cousin of Gov. Lehman, was killed at Treblinka.

Gov. Lehman and the Lehman family were able to save 65 other cousins from the Nazis.

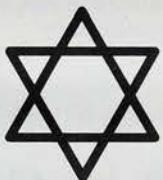
Hepp Joins Executive Board

Lincoln School's English department head, Sherry Hepp of Providence, has been invited to be a member of the Executive Board of the Rhode Island Council of Teachers of English.

Hepp was nominated by her peers in recognition of her outstanding professionalism and her pursuit of excellence in the area of English and language arts.

As a board member, Hepp will have the opportunity to influence the direction of the council and contribute to the profession at the regional level.

Hepp has been a teacher at the Lincoln School for 15 years and most recently was selected as a senior teaching fellow by the Association of Independent Schools in New England.



R.I. Hadassah Women Honored

Hadassah Women of the Year were honored at the Western New England Region of Hadassah Conference on May 5.

Rhode Island recipients included Fran Sadler (Cranston-Warwick Group), Betty Levitt (Nurses' Council), Hannah Rita Millen (Providence Group), Dr.

Meredith Drench (incoming president of Kent County Group) and Eve Zucker (Pawtucket Group). Zuckerman's daughters flew in from different parts of the country and the world to help their mother celebrate.



CELEBRATING WITH MOM — Eve Zucker's daughters came together recently to celebrate her award. From left: Honey Krasnoff, Diane Sudakoff, Eve Zucker, Donna Zucker and Suzanne Zucker.

Photo courtesy of Hadassah

Arab Americans Challenge Israel's Claim to Jerusalem

by Shawn Cohen

Washington Jewish Week

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A new ad hoc group of Arab American organizations and leaders is waging a national education campaign on the subject of Jerusalem, arguing that sovereignty over Jerusalem must be shared with the Palestinians in order to achieve an enduring peace.

The Washington, D.C.-based American Committee on Jerusalem is pressing what it calls the mainstream Arab American position on Jerusalem.

"We believe strongly that there can be no monopoly on sovereignty over Jerusalem by either party if there is to be a just and lasting peace," said Raafat Dajani, coordinator of the ACJ and a member of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

The two organizations operate out of the same office complex but are considered independent.

Israeli officials have stated that the entire city must remain the undivided capital of the sovereign Jewish state. Palestinian negotiators argue that eastern Jerusalem, with a heavy Arab population, must serve as the capital of a new Palestinian state.

While these positions appear intractable, ACJ members see room for compromise.

According to Khalil Jahsan, a member of ACJ's board of directors, the prevailing opinion among mainstream Arab Americans is that Jerusalem should not be redivided. They envision a united city serving as a capital for both Israel and an emerging state of Palestine.

Sovereignty would be shared and the city would be split into two boroughs — eastern and

western Jerusalem — with independent city councils managed by a joint mayoral council of Israelis and Palestinians, said Jahsan, who is also executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans.

"There is widespread support for this" position in the organized Arab American community, Jahsan said.

"If Israel wants sovereignty over East Jerusalem, Palestinians must have some sovereignty over West Jerusalem," Jahsan said.

Although ACJ has not taken a formal stand on Jahsan's shared sovereignty proposal, Dajani said the committee could support such a compromise. However, he departed from that position when pressed on whether eastern Jerusalem would be part of Israel.

"That depends on how you define Jerusalem," Dajani said. He considers eastern Jerusalem not as a part of Israel but as land "occupied" by the Jewish state.

"This territory has to be returned to people it was forcefully seized from."

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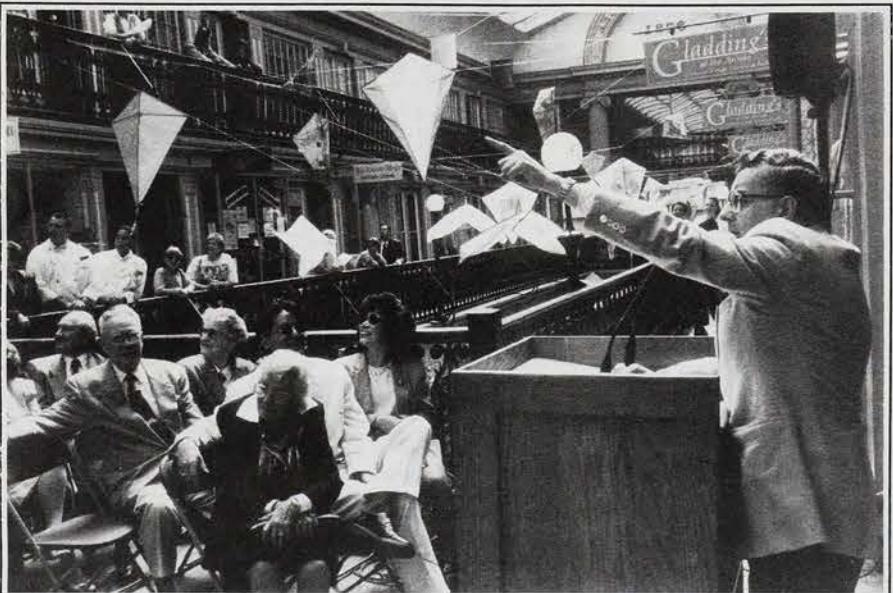
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SCHOOLBEAT



Grand Opening

Johnson & Wales recently celebrated the grand opening of the Alan Shawn Feinstein Community Service Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. At the podium is Feinstein, whose \$500,000 endowment made the center possible.

Photo by Constance Brown

Touro Synagogue Announces Hebrew School Promotion

The Touro Synagogue United Hebrew School held its annual Promotions/Awards Assembly on May 19.

The program, held in the social hall of the Touro Community Center, was led by Dr. James Herstoff, chairman of the Edu-

cation Committee, and assisted by the school's principal, Rabbi Dr. Chaim Shapiro.

Awards for academic achievement were presented to the following children: Ethan Briskin, Mathew Cawley, Jacob Cawley, Benjamin Fuller, Jonathan Herstoff, Naomi Herstoff, Benjamin Konoff, Daniel Konoff, Benjamin

Pedrick and Jeffrey Pedrick.

Rivka Gerber was praised for her outstanding service as the school's Early Childhood teacher. Rhoda Konoff and Kathryn Sorenson were honored for their supplementary instructional assistance.

The Sunday school children, under Gerber's leadership, presented a musical potpourri of holiday songs. Refreshments were served by the school's parent organization.



AWARD WINNERS — Dr. James Herstoff (rear, left) and Rabbi Dr. Chaim Shapiro stand with the students who won awards for academic achievement.

Photo courtesy of Touro Synagogue

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The Music School Posts June Schedule

The Music School will sponsor or hold the following events in June:

On June 2 at 7 p.m. The Music School will hold a special recital for its graduating seniors at The Music Mansion, corner of Congdon and Meeting streets in Providence. The event is free and open to the public.

On June 3 The Music School opens auditions for the Rhode Island Touring Ensemble. The ensemble, a 20-person chorus, is seeking all voices. Singers should know how to sight read and have some experience singing with a group. To schedule an audition, or for directions to a rehearsal, call Gail Geisser at 437-0715.

On June 6 at 6 p.m. The Music School will hold its annual Name That Tune Fund-Raiser at Brown University's Salomon Center. Teams from local businesses will compete in this parody of the 1950s' television game show. New York-style refreshments will be provided by Guy Abelson and comedy by master of ceremonies Charlie Hall (Ocean State Follies). Tickets are \$15. Call the school at 272-9877 to reserve yours.

On June 9 at 3 p.m. Mark Godin, The Music School's Larry Resnick piano scholar, will give a recital at Nathan Bishop Middle School in Room 219. The event is free and open to the public.

On June 9 in the early evening The Music School's annual Jazz Bash and Dance Party will be held at The Call on 15 Elbow St. in Providence. The event features the jazz and rock faculty of The Music School, the school's Paul Murphy Rhythm & Blues ensemble, and the junior and senior division of the school's Rhode Island Youth Jazz Ensemble. Admission is \$5 at the door.

On June 10 and 11 The Music School will conduct a search for new members for the junior and senior divisions of the Rhode Island Youth Jazz Ensemble.

Windwalkers Care and Share

by Pearl Solatto

Children from the D.J. Respect for Living Things Song Group and the Human Being Dance Group of Central Falls shared their talents and their friendship with each other on May 16, in an afternoon of performances at the Lincoln Library. They were all strangers before the event began, but by the time it was over they were friends, crossing cultural and ethnic boundaries easily.

Singing, dancing, poetry reading, taking pictures, and munching donuts kept everyone busy. The children's horizons were broadened, their self-esteem boosted, in one unforgettable afternoon during which each child knew that he or she had made a difference.

This event was sponsored by the Windwalker Humane Coalition, a group dedicated to educating and empowering the public to reduce violence against people, animals, and the environment.

Call 333-2422 for more information on Windwalkers.

Junior division applicants should be in grades six to nine and should call the school for a phone interview with Wendy Klein, the director. Senior division applicants should be in grades 10 to 12 and will have to audition at The Music School's Providence branch at Nathan Bishop Middle School, 101 Sessions St. in Providence. To schedule an audition on the 10th or 11th, call 272-9877. There is a \$5 fee for an audition.

On June 16 at 3 p.m. The Music School will hold its eighth annual Scholarship Competition for finalists at its Providence branch at Nathan Bishop Middle School. Young musicians from junior and senior high schools throughout the state will be competing. Winners will receive scholarship money for advanced study at the Music School. The event is free and open to the public.

On June 17 through 21 the final week of registration for The Music School's summer term will take place. Summer classes and workshops begin on June 24 and run through Sept. 2. Classes will be held at the Providence branch and at the West Bay branch at St. Luke's Church School in East Greenwich. The East Bay branch will close for the summer. For a course catalog, call 272-9877.

On June 20 The Music School will hold auditions for its Youth Chamber Orchestra. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. for eight weeks during the summer. There is a \$25 fee for the summer semester. Call 272-9877 to schedule.

Starting on June 24 and 25 The Music School will run its Paths to Music classes for young children. Classes will be held in Providence on Mondays and Thursdays and in East Greenwich on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The instructor will be Meg Myette. Call 272-9877 for details.

The Music School is the only non-profit community school for the performing arts in Rhode Island.

Sculpture Exhibit

In conjunction with the 16th International Sculpture Conference in Providence June 6 to 8, Rhode Island College's Bannister Gallery will present an exhibition of art faculty sculpture June 3 to 8.

The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Rachel Deutsch Makes Dean's List

Rachel Claire Deutsch, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Stephan D. Deutsch of Providence, has qualified for the dean's list at the College of Arts and Sciences, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

Correction

Ryan Friedman, pictured on page 10 of the May 23rd Herald, is in the ninth grade, not the seventh grade. We regret the error.



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Speiser's Work to Appear at Bert Gallery

Bert Gallery is pleased to announce its exhibit of works by sculptor Kenneth Speiser. The exhibit will be titled "Perceived by the Eye — Conceived by the Mind: Regional Sculpture From 1990—1996."

The exhibit will coincide with the International Sculpture Conference to be held in Providence from June 3 to 28. The show will be on view at the gallery at 540 South Water Street at Corliss Landing. Hours are Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no charge for admission.

Speiser is known for his meticulous work and his artistic sense of humor. He combines materials such as garden hoses, hacksaw blades, and sequins in non-traditional ways, finding "possibilities outside their intended function (Speiser)."

His work often deals with the combination of natural subject matter and man-made ma-

terials. On display, will be pieces from the artist's "Crotton" series, a group of plant leaves that are painstakingly constructed out of thousands of colored sequins. In addition, Bert Gallery will sell his "Windlilies" series.

These floating sculptures in which the artist manipulates literally hundreds of plastic soda bottles into moving water sculptures were first showcased in Providence's 1996 First Night Celebration at Waterplace Park. They range in size and are compatible with many environments including urban waterfronts, streams, and private ponds.

His work will be shown with the work of 10 other artists, at the gallery.

For more information, call Catherine Little Bertal 751-2628. Gallery hours from Monday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Current Affairs To Be Discussed

A six-part discussion group called "Domestic Discussions" will be offered at the Barrington Public Library in June, July and August of this year.

Barrington resident Bernhard Weiss will lead this series of discussions about current affairs in the United States. The programs will run bi-weekly, Thursdays at 10 a.m., June 13 to Aug. 22.

The group's first topic will be "Lifestyles of the Rich and Congressional." Participants are encouraged to bring along news articles and ideas on the subject. Further topics for discussion will be decided at the first meeting.

Registration for the series begins at 9 a.m. on June 6, in person, or by phone at the library's reference desk. The group will be limited to 12 participants.

For more information, call Bernhard Weiss at 245-8618 or Lauri Burke at 247-1920.

Register Now for Havurah Summer Institute

Registration has begun for the National Havurah Committee Summer Institute.

For the first time the NHC, a dynamic force for Jewish renewal, will hold its institute in the Washington, D.C. area. The weeklong educational and spiritual event will take place at Hood College in Frederick, Md., Aug. 12 to 18.

The institute attracts Jews of all denominations, backgrounds and ages, with a mix of families, singles, and couples. In the week-long program of classes, workshops, prayer and performances, hundreds of people from around the world experience Jewish education, spirituality, song and dance. There will be a special "family camp" program for children and families, and two Artists-In-Residence.

This year's theme, drawn

from the Torah portion for the week of the Institute, will be "Tzedek, tzedek tirdof, I'mar tichyeh: Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may live."

As it weaves through the courses and events at the Institute, this theme will highlight the Jewish obligation to pursue justice in our lives and through our communities.

Registration for the Institute is now in progress. The NHC offers a reduced rate for full-time students, and the Everett Fellows Program provides subsidies for a selected number of people in their 20s.

For further information about the '96 Summer Institute or other NHC sponsored programs call (215) 248-9760, or write to NHC, 7318 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19119-1720 or e-mail c-service 73073,601.

Sherman is Crazy About 'Crazy for You'

by Arlene Sherman
Special to the Herald

When "Crazy for You" opened on Tuesday night at Providence Performing Arts Center, those familiar with George and Ira Gershwin's works knew that the music would be great. It was great — their songs have transcended the passage of time. The overall production brought together these songs with great dancing, costumes, and sets for a delightful show.

There were moments when the audience roared with laugh-

ter, particularly at the antics of Bobby Child (played magnificently by Noah Racey). He executed some remarkable slapstick routines that were as good as the best of Dick Van Dyke or Jim Carey. He also seemed equally capable in his tap dancing (most memorable on the roof of a prop car), and his elegant ballroom dancing in the Nevada desert with Polly Baker (Coleen Hawks) in "Shall We Dance?"

The story is simple — it takes place in the 1930s, as Bobby is sent out west by his wealthy mother (played by Rhode Islander Deloras Dermody) to foreclose on the mortgage of a theater in Deadrock, Nev.

When Bobby arrives, he falls head over heels (literally) for Polly, and decides to try to save the bedraggled theater. While their attraction is not mutual in the beginning, this is a warm and fuzzy show... and you know how this will end. It is, however, pulled off with flair, and is great fun the entire time.

One of the most amusing scenes involves Bobby (Racey) and Bela Zangler (David Shepard) in a classic mirror-type scene, as Bobby is discovered impersonating Bela, a big-time producer from New York City. The mere act of the two staring

at each other, drinking and eating bread, was hilarious and needed no dialogue.

The scenery worked well, as the stage was instantly transformed from New York's 42nd St. into MainStreet in Deadrock, Nev. The costumes were magnificent in the finale, and great throughout the show. The ensemble's singing and dancing were terrific.

It is the obvious energy of the cast combined with the greatness of the Gershwin's songs that makes this production what it is... 'S Wonderful!'

Eden Stars in Musical at Theatre-By-The-Sea

Barbara Eden (TV's "Jeannie") is starring in "Nite Club Confidential," opening the '96 season at Theatre-By-The-Sea.

"Nite Club Confidential" is an original musical comedy created by Dennis Deal with Albert Evans and Jamie Rocco.

In her starring role as Kay Goodman, Eden is a sultry, sassy torchsinger, weaving her magic spell with such classics as "That Old Black Magic," "Goody Goody," and "Something's Got to Give."

Eden heads a cast that includes Abe Reybold as the male lead Buck Holden; Elena Ferrante; Branch Woodman and Dante Sciarra.

"Nite Club Confidential" is running now through June 16. For tickets, call 782-8587.

All Aboard!

The special exhibit, "All Aboard! The New York Central With The Vanderbilts" is now open to the public weekends and holidays until Labor Day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at The Breakers Stable and Carriage House on Coggeshall Avenue in Newport.

The exhibition provides a unique look at the role of the Vanderbilt family in building and maintaining the New York Central's mighty rail network, and its contribution to the family's history. It features train lore, model railroads operating against historic Vanderbilt tabuleaus, and a railroad passenger car with historic scenes.

Admission to the exhibit is \$3.50 for adults; and \$2 for children 6 to 11. For further information, write to the Preservation Society, 424 Bellevue Ave., Newport, R.I. 02840, or call 847-1000.

J & W Cooking Classes Offered

Johnson & Wales University's continuing education department is offering Chef's Choice classes to cooking enthusiasts who want to sharpen their culinary skills this summer.

Registration is accepted up to one week before each class. The price per class is \$35.

Correction

The Barnsider's birthday promotion was incorrectly stated in last week's Herald. If you visit the restaurant during the month of your birthday, you will receive an entree for half price (not free), if someone who is with you orders an entree of equal or greater value.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



SAMSON AND DELILAH, 1668, oil on canvas, by Jan Steen, courtesy of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Art.

Photo by Marshall Cohen

Morality and Merriment in the Art of Jan Steen

by Marshall Cohen
Photojournalist

There are many good reasons to visit Washington in the springtime. The city explodes with the colors of cherry and dogwood blossoms, azaleas and rhododendrons. Even the local civil servants and lobbyists, holed up behind winter memos have discovered the renewing effect of springtime in Washington, racing to the parks and outdoor cafes when the lunch bell strikes.

But some of the city's greatest shows are in the art galleries of the capitol. There is one major attraction, the arrival at the National Gallery of Art of 48 paintings by the Dutch 17th-century master, Jan Steen, which may only be seen in Washington and will be on view only until Aug. 18, in the west wing of the National Gallery.

Steen (1629 to 1679) was a contemporary of both Rembrandt and Vermeer, and is best known for the comic narrative in his paintings. His subjects were often of the merriment and ribald nature of daily life. He was a storyteller, using humor as a device to allegorize moral principles. In his "In Luxury Beware," a household has gone completely awry. The living room is invaded by a pig and a bird, a seductress tempts a drunk, a fiddler plays, a dog eats a pie on the table and a child smokes. The floor is covered with litter (disarray is so common in Steen's paintings that the epithet "A Jan Steen Household" has been coined to describe an untidy house!). The title tells all — luxury begets

sloth and leads to ruin.

Steen, who was born in Leiden, ran a brewery (his father's occupation) and was an innkeeper. He drew on these settings in his work. His rich, ornamental paintings typically illustrate intimate and warm and joyful groups — hedonists over-enjoying themselves with wines, foods, sexual intimacies.

However, Steen, like Rembrandt and many other 17th-century Dutch painters, was also inspired by the Bible. The exhibit showcases four works by Steen, that illustrate his strong sense of morality as well as his sensitivity to Jewish history.

In "The Wrath of Ahasuerus," Steen depicts an enraged King Ahasuerus cursing his chief minister Haman following Queen Esther's revelation that Haman had plotted the massacre of his Jewish subjects, and that she, in fact, was Jewish. Steen considered this to be one of his most serious pieces, and it is filled with symbolism. A peacock pie, representing Haman's vices of pride and arrogance, falls from the table. A small brown and white terrier, a motive in many of Steen's works, is seen on the verge of biting or barking, adding a small dash of tension to the masterpiece. Steen was a master of depicting animals and wildlife, and the dog, at the time, was a symbol of diligence and the redemptive value of education. This work also contains lavish costuming and shows off Steen's expertise in painting the rich textures of oriental carpets.

Love turned to hatred is the theme of Steen's "Amnon and

Tamar," and tells the biblical story found in the Book of Samuel of Amnon's rape of his sister Tamar. Both are the offspring of King David. Tamar is led away by a servant-accomplice, while a half-clad Amnon, reclines awkwardly on a bed with a highly textured rug and mattress.

On the wall is a painting of a figure dancing, an immoral activity, at that time associated with worship of the golden calf. Steen's "trademark" small dog looks on from his position at the corner of the work.

Steen offers an unusual perspective of the exodus from Egypt in "The Worship of the Golden Calf," a theatrical vision of the Israelites during a bacchanalian moment in violation of the divine covenant. The scene does not hint at the fierce punishment about to descend on the sinners, nor is the figure of Moses present.

In the background, figures dance around the golden calf set on a high pedestal. In the foreground, the lavishly robed figures are composed as in a stage production. The small dog barks prophetically, the only hint — other than one dark cloud — of the tragedy about to fall on the idol worshippers.

Similarly, "Samson and Delilah," is a moral narrative in theatrical proportions! We find a lavishly clothed Samson drugged, a victim of Delilah's cunning and his own sensual appetites. Both Samson and Delilah lie on a richly textured carpet. A servant holds Delilah the shears, while Philistine soldiers wait in the background. It

Music School Program Praised

The Music School's Cultural Alternatives Program has been honored as one of 200 arts and humanities programs across the nation which are helping turn around the lives of at-risk youth.

Cultural Alternatives integrates music and dance education with mentoring and training in both conflict resolution and substance and violence refusal methods. A typical example of the program is The Music School's work at Smith Hill Community Center in Providence where it uses a Capoeira dance class as a means to reach Providence youth.

The Music School runs similar programs using African drumming and dance, choirs, and other forms of music at the Providence Housing Authority, City Arts, the Woonsocket Housing Authority, the Providence and Woonsocket School Departments and the Barton Street Center. These programs

are funded by HUD, the Rhode Island Children's Crusade for Higher Education, the Mary Dexter Chafee Foundation, the Levy Foundation and the City of Providence.

The Music School's Cultural Alternatives Program was the only Rhode Island program cited in the report.

Glass Artists

Featured

The Worcester Center for Crafts will host a New England Glass invitational exhibition in its main gallery from June 5 through July 5.

Twenty New England artists will be featured: Dan Dailey, Bernard D'Onofrio, Tom Farbanish, Kelmis Fernandez, Steven D. Haszonics, Page Hazelgrove, Susan Holland, Sidney R. Hutter, Eileen Jager, Hitoshi Kakizaki, Barbara Kingsley-Hall, Alan Klein, Nancy Langston, Linda MacNeil, Will Pappenheimer, Linda Ross, Jodi Salerno, Josh Simpson, Steven Weinberg and Bavara Valee. The opening reception will be on June 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. Both exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

Glass work is now emerging as a distinctive form of communicative and meaningful art. Many of these artists use their work to comment on social, political and personal situations.

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MILESTONES

OU Honors Miller and Mitchell

Rabbi Israel Miller and Jonathan E. Mitchell will be presented with the National Distinguished Leadership Award at the Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs annual dinner on June 12 in New York City.



Rabbi Israel Miller

The leadership awards are presented by the OU to individuals who serve as leaders in the public policy arena and whose unwavering commitment to the next generation of young Jewish leaders serves as an inspiration to those who assume the mantle of responsibility of Jewish community service.

Miller earned his bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, at Yeshiva College in 1938 and was ordained in 1941 at the Rabbi Elchanan Theological Seminary, where he still teaches applied rabbinics. He received a master's degree from Columbia University in 1949, and served as the spiritual leader of Kingsbridge Heights Jewish Center, Bronx, NY, for more

than 25 years.

An active member of the Young Presidents' Organization, Mitchell's business acumen is matched only by his involvement and active participation in numerous philanthropic endeavors in the United States and Israel. In this, he represents the third generation of a distinguished family committed to civic and charitable leadership.



Jonathan E. Mitchell

Mitchell is secretary-treasurer of the Edward D. and Anna Mitchell Family Foundation which was founded by, and is named for, his grandparents. He is a member of the International Board of Governors of the Technion and Tel Aviv Universities. He serves on numerous local and regional boards including the Anti Defamation League, Israel Bonds, Friends of Israel Defense Forces and the Los Angeles Jewish Federation Council.



Receiving His Degree

Rabbi James B. Rosenberg, of Temple Habonim in Barrington, recently was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree, honoris causa, by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion at its annual Founders' Day ceremonies in New York. President Sheldon Zimmerman (left) reads the honorary degree to Rosenberg.

Photo courtesy of HUC-JIR

Levy Elected Chair of MAZON Board

Mark C. Levy of Santa Monica, Calif., a leader in Reform Judaism, has been elected chairman of the board of directors of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger.

Los Angeles-based MAZON ("food" in Hebrew) was established in 1986 and is now one of the largest privately supported

organizations in the United States working to prevent and alleviate hunger. Funds are raised principally by asking American Jews to contribute 3 percent of the cost of their life-cycle celebrations, and through Passover and Yom Kippur appeals and commemorative contributions.


**Abraham
Gelch
Benghiat**

Ilene and Gilbert Benghiat of Lexington, Mass., announce the birth of their son, Abraham Gelch Benghiat, on May 1.

Maternal grandparents are Dr. Melvyn and Joan Gelch of Providence. Paternal grandparents are Dr. Isaac and Pearl Benghiat of Mt. Laurel, N.J.

Great-grandparents are Pearl Kamery of Providence and Esther Gelch of New York.

Lauren Half Honored

Lauren M. Half has recently graduated from Connecticut College, bachelor of arts degree with magna cum laude honors.

She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Her concentration has been in international studies.

She is the daughter of Fred and Cherrie (Gershman) Half of Palo Alto, Calif., and the granddaughter of Ed and Eleanor Gershman of Pawtucket.

She is also the granddaughter of Madeline O. Half and the late Irving M. Half of Pittsburgh.



Lauren M. Half, Phi Beta Kappa

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WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

Young Israel Resists Effort by O.U. Head to Merge Agencies

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen
NEW YORK (JTA) — Mandell Ganchrow wants Young Israel and he wants it badly.

Problem is, Young Israel does not want him.

Ganchrow, the president of the Orthodox Union, has been calling for a merger with the National Council of Young Israel since he was elected to head the flagship organization of the centrist Orthodox world in November 1994.

And at the O.U.'s annual dinner recently, he repeated his call.

"It is my hope that Young Israel leaders will come to the same conclusion that I have — enough of duplication, enough of waste, enough of competition. The time for merger is now,

and it should be done in a brotherly, open and warm fashion," Ganchrow said in an interview after the dinner.

The leaders of Young Israel, however, are not interested.

"Absolutely under no circumstances" will Young Israel merge with the O.U., said Young Israel President Chaim Kaminetzky, citing divergent Orthodoxy ideologies that would make a merger impossible.

The conflict between the two Orthodox synagogue umbrella bodies reflects the cementing of ideological shifts in the Orthodox world and the inherent tension between the philosophies that each organization's leader says he represents.

Ganchrow said 90 percent of Young Israel-affiliated congregants share the same centrist religious philosophy as O.U. member congregations.

But Kaminetzky sharply disagrees, saying that Young Israel's philosophy is a more right-wing interpretation of what Orthodoxy requires of its adherents and a more aggressive Zionist nationalism. Although secret merger talks dating back eight years broke off about 18 months ago, Ganchrow is optimistic about an eventual merger.

"I would love it to come from the top, and I still hope it could happen. But if it doesn't happen that way, I'm calling for a grassroots type of reaction," Ganchrow said. When 50 Young Israel synagogues are O.U. members, "that reaction will be inevitable."

At the O.U.'s dinner, Ganchrow announced that the O.U. recently accepted into membership their 29th and 30th Young Israel synagogues and said he expects to achieve his goal of 50 in two years.

But this trend has not weakened Young Israel's membership ranks, as all the synagogues joining O.U. have maintained their Young Israel affiliation.

"Obviously we are better and different" than the O.U., Kaminetzky said in an interview.

"We know who our rabbinic leaders are. I don't believe that other Orthodox organizations have rabbinic input into their organizational life."

Young Israel synagogues have closed parking lots on Shabbat and holy days, Kaminetzky said, and all member congregations have

mechitzahs, the walls that separate men from women in Orthodox synagogues so that, during their prayers, men are not disengaged by the women.

Ganchrow said the O.U. dropped six congregations because they refused to install mechitzahs, but four of the O.U.'s thousand members still do not have mechitzahs.

They remain O.U. members "because they have youth groups and we'd be afraid that the Conservative movement would come in and take them over" if the O.U., and its national Conference of Synagogue Youth, dropped them, he said.

But in any case, "We don't check the tzitzit of every Jew," Ganchrow said.

Kaminetzky, however, said that at Young Israel, "we do check people's tzitzit."

"We have very strict requirements and watch our synagogues the way you watch your children," he said.

The O.U.'s approach is to work with the Israeli government, which "doesn't mean that we agree with them," said Ganchrow.

The O.U. meets with Israeli prime ministers "to present the arguments on behalf of everything our community believes in, including an undivided Jerusalem and the sanctity of the sites in Hebron and the Temple Mount," he said.

"You don't always have to represent your people with vehemence and loud noises and demonstrations to do a good job," said Ganchrow.

Ganchrow said he proudly calls himself a modern Orthodox Jew, a term that has recently fallen out of widespread use in favor of the term "centrist Orthodox."

He acknowledged that modern Orthodox organizations have lost the power to steer the philosophical direction of the Orthodox world.

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"We have lost the moral center to the right, and I am working feverishly to keep the O.U. on the center path," Ganchrow said. "Those of us who consider ourselves centrist are no less Orthodox Jews than anyone else."

"Obviously we are better and different" than the O.U.
Young Israel President,
Chaim Kaminetzky

ees and 146 member synagogues.

Just over half of the O.U.'s budget comes from traditional fund-raising. The rest comes from its kashrut division, which supervises 150,000 different items produced by 3,000 food production plants, Ganchrow said.

Young Israel is now working

hard to get into the highly profitable kashrut business, too. Just before Passover, it struck a deal with the Star-K supervision agency, which is based in Baltimore, to market the agency's services.

In the last two months, a dozen food producers have signed on with Star-K through Young Israel, said Kaminetzky.

Israeli Flight Controllers Stage Protest Over Pirate Broadcasting

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli flight controllers shut down Ben-Gurion Airport for three hours last week to protest broadcasts by pirate radio stations in the vicinity of the airport that interrupted control tower transmissions.

Radio interference is not a new problem for the flight controllers, but the decision to close the airport came after two planes had trouble landing because of the pirate broadcasts, the director of the airport authority explained.

Among the difficulties experienced that day, a French passenger plane was forced to switch to an international emergency channel in order to land when a Hebrew song appeared on the radio frequency the pilot was using.

A controller said that a Russian cargo plane also had difficulty landing because the pilot could not communicate with the

control tower.

Because of the interference, a number of planes were asked to circle over the Tel Aviv area.

Some incoming flights were diverted to Cyprus, Turkey and Greece. Five flights were grounded, leaving some 1,500 passengers stranded in the airport.

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15 MINUTES FROM PROVIDENCE

OBITUARIES

EDITH COHEN

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Edith Cohen, 79, of 4700 N. Main St., died May 17. She was the wife of Robert Cohen.

A native and lifelong resident of Fall River, she was a daughter of the late Morris and the late Bessie (Dondis) Bolusky.

She was a member of Temple Beth El, Congregation Adas Israel, Hadassah and the Jewish Home for the Aged.

Besides her husband, she is survived by a brother, Max Bolusky of Fall River; two grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews. She was the mother of the late Lois Burr and the sister of the late Lillian Cohen, Minnie Epstein, and George, Benjamin, Samuel and Harry Bolusky.

A graveside funeral service took place May 19 at Temple Beth El Cemetery in Fall River, Mass. Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

LINDA RAE COHN

PROVIDENCE — Linda Rae Cohn, of 51 Cliffdale Ave., Cranston, died May 15 at the Philip Hulitar Hospice Care Center, Providence.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Abraham and Mildred (Zisquit) Cohn, she lived in Cranston for 37 years.

She leaves a sister, Phyllis Zubow of Malden, Mass., and a niece, Marjorie Zubow, also of Malden.

A graveside service was held May 16 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick.

Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

HYMAN FREEDMAN

WARWICK — Hyman Freedman, 82, of 1040 Narragansett Parkway died May 25 at home.

Born in Cranston, a son of the late Joel and Annie (Schneider) Freedman, he lived in Warwick for more than 50 years.

He was a member of the Potowomut Golf Club and Temple Am David, both in Warwick.

He leaves a sister, Fannie Greco of Warwick; a brother, Michael Freedman of Bristol; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held May 27 in Lincoln Park Cemetery.

etary, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

MARIA RUTH GABRILOWITZ

NARRAGANSETT — Marcia Ruth Gabrilowitz, 38, of 1227 Narragansett Parkway, a research assistant at Butler Hospital, died May 14 at 15 Sand Hill Cove Road, Narragansett.

Born in Providence, a daughter of William and Ann (Geller) Gabrilowitz of Warwick and Pompano Beach, Fla., she was a lifelong Warwick resident.

She received highest honors when she graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1975 at the age of 17. She was a life member of Hadassah.

Besides her parents, she leaves a sister, Debra Gabrilowitz of Pompano Beach and a brother, Steven Gabrilowitz of Orlando, Fla.

The funeral service was held on May 19 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

RUTH S. GURNICK

PROVIDENCE — Ruth S. Gurnick of Rosewood Manor Nursing Home, Providence, died unexpectedly on May 21. She was 76 years old.

She was a longtime resident of North Providence before moving to Providence in 1994. She was a bookkeeper for Bond Furniture before retiring.

She is survived by a daughter, Vicki of Paris, France, and a cousin, Ruth Davidson of Belmont, Mass.

Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

SHELDON D. HELLER

NORTH PROVIDENCE — Sheldon D. Heller, 71, of 53C Nelson Terrace, president of the former Heller & Michaelson Textile Co., Providence, for 25 years and manager of Sun Vision Inc., Warwick, retiring seven months ago, died May 23 home. He was the husband of Janice (Finn) Heller.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Abraham and Bessie (Davidson) Heller, he lived in Providence before moving to

North Providence 11 years ago.

During World War II, he served in the Army in Europe. He attended Brown University and the University of Biarritz in France.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El, Providence, a member of the General Jewish Committee of Rhode Island, and a member of the Big Brothers of Rhode Island.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Andrew Heller of Boston, and Jonathan Heller of New York City, and a sister, Hannah Rita Millen of Barrington. He was the brother of the late Selma Halpern.

The funeral service was held May 26 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

MARY KAY

PITTSFIELD, Mass. — Mary Kay, 89, of 1959 East St., Pittsfield, a department store buyer of women's clothing, died May 25 in the Willowood of Pittsfield. She was the widow of Irving Kay.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Harris and Sophie (Siegal) Simon, she moved to Pittsfield in the 1940s.

She worked as a saleswoman for the Textile Store, Pittsfield. She was a member of the Knesset Israel Synagogue, and also Hadassah.

She leaves a daughter, Sheila F. Pick of Great Barrington, Mass.; a brother, Philip Simon of East Providence; a sister, Nettie Seltzer of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and a granddaughter. She was twin sister of the late Freda Berger and sister of the late Evelyn Morris and Herman Simon.

The funeral service was private.

EDWARD 'EDDIE' MARKS

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Edward ("Eddie") Marks, 96, died in Miami Beach. He was formerly of Astoria, Queens. He was the husband of Rose Marks.

He was active in various Jewish organizations and synagogues and had served as president of the Col. David Marcus Chapter of B'nai B'rith.

Besides his wife, he is survived by stepchildren Joel,

Renee and Elaine, and their children; and many nieces and nephews to three generations.

Graveside services were held at Mount Ararat Cemetery in Farmingdale, N.Y., on May 23.

JEANETTE SLOANE

WEST WARWICK — Jeanette Sloane, 91, of West Warwick, a bookkeeper for Sloane Furniture for many years, retiring in 1970, died May 25 at West View Nursing Home. She was the wife of the late Theodore Sloane.

A daughter of the late Abraham and Rose Kaplan, she was born in Poland, and moved to Pawtucket where she lived for most of her life before moving to West Warwick.

She was a graduate of the former Bryant-Stratton College. She was a member of Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, the Jewish Home for The Aged, and The Golden Agers Group from the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. She was a life member of the Jewish Home for the Aged, and a life member of Hadassah.

She leaves two sons, Leon of Narragansett and David of Pawtucket; a brother, Max Kaplan of Providence; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was also the sister of the late Lillian Weinstein.

A graveside service was held May 27 at Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

LENA SOKOLL

FALL RIVER — Lena Sokoll, 91, a resident of the Jewish Home for the Aged, 538 Robeson St., Fall River, died there on May 14. She was the wife of the late Nathan Sokoll.

She was born in Russia, a daughter of the late Joseph and Rebecca (Sprinzen) Horvitz and had been a resident of Fall River since she was a child.

She was a member of Congregation Adas Israel and its Sisterhood. She was also a member of the Jewish War Veterans Post 168 Auxiliary and she was a member of the Jewish Home for Aged and Hadassah.

She is survived by three sons, Francis Sokoll, Fall River; Milton Sokoll, Vienna, Va.; and Zelig Sokoll, Staten Island, N.Y.; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She was sister of the late Udel Turk and Devorah, Rivele, Louis, Max, Abraham, Milton, Sidney and Morris Horvitz.

A graveside funeral service took place May 16 at the Hebrew Cemetery in Fall River, Mass. Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

DR. MURRAY M. TALLMAN

FALL RIVER — Dr. Murray M. Tallman, 82, of 46 Stamford Road, died May 20 at Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River. He was the husband of the late Edna (Feldman) Tallman. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of the late Samuel and Mary (Karlin) Tallman. He had lived in Fall River for many years.

He served in the Army during World War II and was a graduate of the Temple University School of Podiatry. He practiced podiatry in New Bedford and Fall River for 38 years, retiring six years ago. An avid golfer, he belonged to the Fall River Country Club and was a founder of the Allendale Country Club in North Dartmouth.

He is survived by a daughter, Jane Wiznitzer of Stamford, Conn.; a stepdaughter, Carol Miller of Chappaqua, N.Y.; a stepson, Robert Winegard of Bristol, R.I.; and seven grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Dr. Herbert Tallman.

A graveside service was held at Hebrew Cemetery in Fall River. Arrangements were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

MEYER WEINBERG

WARWICK — Meyer Weinberg, 83, of 106 Birch St., a salesman for the Hoover Vacuum Cleaning Co. in the Rhode Island and Massachusetts areas for more than 35 years, retiring 18 years ago, died May 25 at Roger Williams Medical Center. He was the husband of the late Zelda (Reffkin) Weinberg.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Samuel and Teny (Rotenberg) Weinberg, he lived in Warwick for 30 years.

He leaves a daughter, Linda Hines of Goldsboro, N.C.; a son, Steven Weinberg of Delray Beach, Fla.; a brother, Julius Weinberg of Cranston; and four grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Tillie Goodwin, Max Weinberg and Zangwell Weinberg.

A graveside service was held May 26 in Lincoln Park Cemetery. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

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Mayor says

(Continued from Page 9)

In your letter, you asked about Yemin Moshe. This area is one of Jerusalem's most prestigious neighborhoods. Being an artists' colony, the neighborhood possesses a very unique ambiance that is highlighted by its scenic view of the old city. In 1967, following the Six Day War, Yemin Moshe was renovated and made into an upscale area of Jerusalem.... Although the installation of escalators into the area would facilitate the activity of walking up the stairs, it would also detract from the historical look that the neighborhood maintains.

In response to your question of kashrut in Jerusalem, approximately 75 percent of the Jewish population observe the laws of kashrut. Keeping kosher in Jerusalem is fairly easy because most of the restaurants and food stores sell kosher products.

You have also asked about the housing prices in Jerusalem. Because there is such a high demand for housing, they are very expensive. In Rehavia, the average price per room in a new house is 150,000 U.S. dollars, while in an old house it is \$100,000. In the area of Nachlaot, which is substantially less expensive, the average per room is \$80,000. Most of the apartment buildings in Jerusalem have elevators, however, there are very few buildings that are too tall to use the stairs in.

In your letter, you asked about the different roles of the President and Prime Minister in Israel. The President is the head of the State. His office symbolizes the unity of the state and carries high prestige and moral force. Presidential duties are mostly ceremonial and formal....

The Prime Minister is the head of the government, whose policy-making powers are very wide with respect to all major aspects of the country. The Prime Minister is also a member of Knesset, the Israeli parliament, or legislative body.

You asked about Israel's population. There are currently more than five million citizens in the country, and we are continuously growing. Like the United States, Israel has a very diverse economy and society. This provides a wide range of occupations for the populations.

Gilo is a very nice neighborhood. It has a population of 37,000 people. The area was established largely by immigrants in 1971. Part of the purpose to the founding of Gilo was to provide low-cost housing for new immigrants. Today, the number of Israeli born citizens has greatly increased because many of them are the children of pioneers of the city.

Regarding the duration of a mayor's service, Jerusalem has municipal elections every five years. At that time the mayor of the city may choose to rerun for election if he or she pleases to.

You have also asked about the country's vegetation. Israel is famous for many of its fruits and vegetables that can be purchased at their lowest prices at the Machane Yehuda market. The Jaffa orange is Israel's number one fruit export. I am sure you could find them in your home town; I urge you to try one.

Ramot Eshkol... has its own shopping center, restaurants, stores, playground, parks, and an arcade, providing a wide range of activities for all its residents. In the neighborhood specifically, there is not a movie theater or a roller rink. However, the residents of Ramot Eshkol can easily get to any of the three movie theaters in Jerusalem, or to the roller-blading facilities near the center of town. All the residents of Ramot Eshkol live in apartments, and many of them have pets. The two parks in Ramot Eshkol provide a wonderful location to get some exercise or some fresh air with a pet.

Approximately 20 minutes from the center of Jerusalem,

Gilo is a newly developing area that was first developed in 1971. Although it is very modern looking, it is built over the ruins of what is thought to be the biblical city of Gilo. The neighborhood is very independent, having its own schools for its students and shopping facilities to fulfill the needs of its residents....

You have also asked about Mea Shearim. It is a very interesting area to visit. Most of the children grow up learning a minimal amount of secular studies, and their time is instead concentrated on learning Torah.... The communication that exists between the ultra-orthodox and the non-religious can at times be tense, however as mayor I try to encourage a sense of mutual respect between the many diverse groups throughout Jerusalem.

Rehavia... was founded in 1921 and is now celebrating its 75th anniversary.... Its thoughtful architecture, large living quarters and centrality to the center of the city are the main aspects that have contributed to its prestige.... Both the Great Synagogue and Heichal Shlomo were chosen to be built in Rehavia as a result of its central and unique atmosphere.

In response to your question about the Israel Museum, I am proud to let you know that it houses the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Shrine of the Book, has world-class collections of archaeology, Judaica, anthropology, Israeli and international art, as well as a sculpture garden, a pavilion of the 20th century art, a youth wing, and other temporary exhibits.

Regarding children riding buses in Israel, we do not have laws requiring citizens to be of a certain age before taking public transportation alone. Families, however, are strongly encouraged to teach their children responsible safety skills. It is the consensus in Israel that parents should have the right to judge the issues that pertain to the independence of their children.

Grandparents — Part of the Answer or Part of the Issue?

by Barbara Pash

Baltimore Jewish Times

BALTIMORE (JTA) — The family had gathered for the funeral of an elderly aunt.

When the rabbi arrived at the shiva house to lead the prayers, one of the relatives introduced her 8-year-old grandson to him.

"This is Rabbi X," she said.

"What," asked her grandson, innocently enough, "is a rabbi?"

A tense family situation has led these grandparents to avoid any mention of religion with their daughter, who is married to a non-Jew, and their grandson, who is being raised without any religious education.

Their grandson does not even know that they are Jewish, much less what that means.

But other grandparents are more outspoken.

"Grandparents are a growing part of the issue," said Beth Land Hecht, director of the Jewish Family Network, a joint program of Jewish Family Services and the Baltimore Board of Rabbis.

When their grandchildren were born, Iris and Bernard Kaufman of Pikesville set two ground rules for themselves.

They did not want to cause friction between their son and his non-Jewish wife, and they did not want to confuse their children, who are being raised Christian.

"It's better for them to have one religion but to know that their father is Jewish, their grandparents are Jewish and these are our traditions," said Iris Kaufman, a member of the Reform Har Sinai Congregation, who gives the children Chanukah—not Christmas—gifts and who answers questions openly.

When her grandson wistfully asked why "Nana" did not go to church with them, she told him that "Nana's Jewish and Nana goes to synagogue," said Kaufman.

Hecht said she began to realize how important Jewish grandparents could be from talks with Jewish College Services' staffers. They often find themselves working with students from intermarried backgrounds who were not raised with a lot of Judaism.

When these young men and women get on a college campus, Hecht said, "the relationship they had with the Jewish grandparents was so significant that they want to learn about Judaism. They're drawn to Jewish campus activities."

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Likewise, Rabbi Gustav Buchdahl, of the Reform Temple Emanuel in Reisterstown, Md., has heard of conversions in which people who were raised as non-Jews, even as second generation non-Jews, have been inspired by a grandparent who made a lasting impression.

But, Buchdahl said, grandparents should not involve their grandchildren in Jewish activities in the "false hope" that this may ultimately lead to their becoming Jewish.

Buchdahl said adult children "are entitled to the dignity of the decision they made" to marry a non-Jewish spouse and to raise their children as they want, as painful as that may be to their parents.

A Pikesville grandmother said she came to the same conclusion after her first grandson was born.

At her insistence, her daughter and non-Jewish son-in-law had a bris. "It seemed terribly important," the grandmother said.

Afterward, though, she began to feel that "I had intruded. I thought, I'd raised my child the way I wanted and she had the right to do the same."

There was no bris for her second grandson.

Instead, said the grandmother, she would send her out-of-town grandchildren Jewish books and music tapes, "the important thing is they feel positive about Judaism, that they're proud" of their heritage.

Rabbi David Greenspoon of Nevey Shalom, a Conservative congregation in Bowie, Md., takes a more proactive approach. Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington's Interfaith Outreach Department recently initiated a monthly discussion group specifically for grandparents.

Greenspoon is not aware of any organized attempt by rabbinic groups to address the grandparenting issue. But he said he had noticed a shift in thinking.

"Instead of 'oy vey,'" he said, "the focus is, how do we deal with this?"

"The problem won't go away but the challenge is redefined. Just because people intermarry, just because the kids are not being raised Jewish" does not mean the children are lost to the religion.

Rather, said the rabbi—who often sees Jewish grandparents bring their "non-Jewish" grandchildren to family Shabbat services, Chanukah and Purim parties, and second-night Passover seders—"these Jewish grandparents represent a deep emotional attachment that could keep open the door to Judaism."

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FEATURE

The Bond Remains Strong

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

When Leonore Sones, educational director at Temple Sinai, dreamed up the idea of her fifth-graders studying the different neighborhoods of Jerusalem and writing the mayor of Jerusalem about questions they might have, she never dreamed that the mayor would write back.

Oh, maybe a form letter signed by a secretary — "Thank you for your interest..." but not real letters, and not to every single student.

But Mayor Ehud Olmert did write back, to each student, and he answered their questions in thoughtful detail. Sones, the students, and their teachers, Sandy Abrams and Marlo Davidson, were overwhelmed.

He also promised to wear the Temple Sinai T-shirt when he visits him, and have his picture taken for them while he was writing it.

Below are some interesting excerpts from his letters, which were addressed to: Ashley Arbor; the Bensusan family; the Biern family; Justin Connor;

Lauren Ehrlich; Hillary Frank; the Galkin family; Joshua Kane; Benjamin Kaplan; Alex Mazar; Danny Mills; Jennie Moscovitz; the Motroni family; Miriam and Kathi Nogradi; Hollie Palombo; Justin Pomeranz; Michelle Rittner; the Robinson family; Jonathan Steinberg, and Maxine and Dorothy Swajian.

Each letter began: "I would like to thank you and the Temple Sinai Congregation for your fascinating letters and kind support of Jerusalem during our historic 3,000th Anniversary as the City of David and the eternal capital of the Jewish people."

"I was deeply moved by the effort and concern that you and your classmates showed for Jerusalem in your letters, and have tried to answer your questions as fully as possible."

(When Sones gets the picture of the mayor in his T-shirt, we will run that, too.)

This proves, probably, that the mayor of Jerusalem is a caring man, possibly a father and a grandfather, and one heck of a good sport. But it also proves that the citizens of Israel, to



We are So Proud Of You

Leonore Sones, director of Temple Sinai's religious school, hands out awards to children and families who participated in, and helped make a success of, the temple's celebration of Jerusalem 3000.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

those every wish a successful politician must be finely tuned, still care mightily about what

American Jews think of them. The diaspora/Israel relationship may be going through a

time of change and testing, but the bond underneath the unrest remains extremely strong.

The Mayor Says...

In your letter you asked about the neighborhood of Rehavia. It is one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in Jerusalem.... Some [of] the street names in Rehavia include Rambam, Saadiah Gaon, Rashba, and Alfasi. The streets are mostly named in honor of famous Jewish scholars. The Jerusalem Theater is also in Rehavia, and hosts many concerts, plays and musicals, both from Israel and abroad all year long. ***

In response to your question about Israeli students learning English, all Israeli students are required to learn English....

...We are home to the largest shopping mall in the Middle East, called the Camon Malcha.

You have asked about going to the beach. Jerusalem is not on the beach, but is situated in the center of the State of Israel. At the same time, we are such a small country, that nothing is too far. In order for the local residents to enjoy a beach they must travel for approximately forty minutes west. ***

In your letter, you asked about sports in Jerusalem. The two most popular sports in Jerusalem are basketball and soccer (my favorites as well). However, since the construction of a new roller skating facility near the center of town, this activity has also gained a lot of popularity. Jerusalem also has its own professional basketball and soccer teams. They are both named "Betar Yerushalayim." ...

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra is world renowned and often travels abroad for performances. ***

... Students learn English as a second language in addition to learning Arabic. Students also have the option to learn other languages if they would like. ...In Israel, every citizen is

required to join the Israeli Defense Force when they turn 18 years of age. Males must go for a minimum of three years and females for two years.... Men continue to go to reserve duty for several weeks each year until an average of 45 years old. ***

You have asked a third and very difficult question, about the liberation of East Jerusalem in 1967. The 19-year period from 1948 to 1967 was the only time recorded history that the City of Jerusalem was divided. It was also a time when no Jews were allowed to live in the Old City, nor to visit any Jewish holy sites ever again. ***

I remember being a student at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem during the 1967 War, and the feeling of freedom and liberation that each us felt when we learned that Israel finally had control over all of Israel's capital. ***

As difficult as it was to realize the state of ruin that East Jerusalem was in when we returned, we knew that the city would be united and rebuilt into the large, modern, diverse and dynamic center that it is today. It is precisely because of this that I am so determined, as Mayor of Jerusalem, to do everything in my power to ensure that Jerusalem remains the eternal, united capital of the State of Israel. ***

As you are aware, Jerusalem has a special place in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This uniqueness can sometimes lead to clashes between two or more of the groups. However, many people are surprised to see the friendly interaction between the different peoples. It is because of their physical proximity that individuals have the opportunity to see and feel other cultures. In Jerusalem, the Jewish and Arab students go to separate schools. In their respective

schools, the students learn about their own religions and cultures, as well as each others'. We hope that education will be the key to a promising future in Israel of understanding and mutual respect.

Jerusalem's special place in Judaism, Christianity and Islam can sometimes lead to tense situations and can make the job of being Mayor a challenging one. However, seeing people of different backgrounds working and living together, all with concern for Jerusalem, can also make being Mayor of Jerusalem extremely rewarding. ***

You asked about the school system in Jerusalem. In Israel, the majority of the students that are the same age as yourself go to school six days a week. Primary school is grades 1 through 6, intermediate school grades 7 to 9, and secondary school is grades 10 through 12. The average school day in Israel starts at 8:30 in the morning and ends at 3:00 in the afternoon. However, on Friday school is dismissed at noon in honor of the Sabbath. The length of a school day may vary, because in some schools parents pay for extra hours of classes for their children in subjects such as music, art, or added religious education. ***

... You asked about Machane Yehuda. This open air market is a tradition for Jerusalemites, that opens every morning by the merchants at dawn and usually remains open until sunset. The merchants constantly make sure that there is fresh fruit and vegetables on their shelves, thereby always having a fresh stock to offer to their clientele. The merchants who sell meat and fish make sure that their products remain fresh by keeping them in refrigeration devices.

You have also asked about the Jewish Quarter of the Old City in Jerusalem. Otherwise known as the Rova, this section

(which is actually only 12% of the Old City) has a population of approximately 2,500 people.... The Jewish Quarter is a relatively small area consisting of 32 acres. Therefore, the residents do not require cars to get around the area. Within the Rova there are 16 synagogues that are frequented by residents from all over Jerusalem because of their location and rich history. ***

In your letter, you asked about store signs. Most signs are written in Hebrew, however, many signs are often written in English, Arabic and Russian for those that do not know Hebrew. Road signs, though, are written in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

Today, the produce that is on sale in the market is brought by the merchants from the five main regions of Israel. Each region favors the cultivation of specific fruits and vegetables as a result of the various geographical, climatic, and water conditions that are present. ***

In your letter you asked about

the Nachlaot neighborhood. This area is composed of several smaller neighborhoods that were joined together. The pioneers of the area were mostly Middle Eastern immigrants from Yemen, Syria, Kurdistan, Persia, and Turkey. Today, the area is mostly populated by families, with 28.6% of the Nachlaot population under the age of fourteen.... The houses in the area are generally small but intimate. All the roof tops of the houses are orange colored, making Nachlaot very easy to recognize when looking at a view of Jerusalem.

Regarding your question about the history of Ramot Eshkol, prior to 1967, Jerusalem was a divided city.... In 1967, Jerusalem was reunited by the Israeli Defense Force in the Six Day War. Following this triumph, the Israeli government decided to develop and populate areas which joined West and East Jerusalem. This is how the neighborhood of Ramot Eshkol came into existence.

(Continued on Page 16)

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