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Hebron has a History of Conflict

by Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Of all the issues confronted in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations so far, none is so laden with emotion — and the potential for violence — as Hebron.

If spokesmen for the two sides are to be believed, an agreement for the handover of most of the West Bank town to Palestinian self-rule is imminent.

The redeployment of Israeli troops in this town of 450 Jewish settlers and 100,000 Palestinians was supposed to take place in March, according to the Interim Agreement signed last year in Washington. But a series of Hamas terror attacks launched in Israel just weeks before the scheduled redeployment led to its postponement.

Now, as negotiators continue to attempt to implement last year's accord, Israelis and Palestinians cast distrustful looks at each other, fearful that one extremist group or another will spark a massive bloodletting after the redeployment takes place.

The significance of Hebron in Jewish eyes can be summed up

in a single word: history.

According to biblical sources, Hebron was founded about 1720 B.C.E., making it the site of the oldest Jewish community in the world.

It is first mentioned in Genesis 13 as one of the first places where the patriarch Abraham settled in the land of Canaan.

As recorded in Genesis 23, Abraham purchased a plot of land in Hebron that included the cave he wanted to use as a burial site for his wife, Sarah.

In later biblical history, King David was anointed in Hebron, where he reigned for seven years.

When Jews revolted against Roman rule 1,000 years later, Hebron was the scene of extensive fighting. A Jewish presence remained there for most of the next two millennia, when Hebron was under successive Byzantine, Arab and Ottoman rule.

On Aug. 23, 1929, local Arabs organized a pogrom in Hebron, killing 67 Jews and forcing the rest of the community to flee.

With the exception of a few

short-lived attempts to re-establish the Jewish presence there, Hebron had no Jewish community until after the 1967 Six-Day War.

On April 4, 1968, on the eve of Passover, a small group of Jews came to the Park Hotel at the northern outskirts of Hebron to hold a seder.

Although the seder was a private initiative, it took place with the permission of then-Deputy Premier Yigal Allon of the Labor Party and senior officers in the Israel Defense Force.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the leader of the Park Hotel group, was surprised at how easy it was to hold the seder in the heart of the territories.

That night his group declared that they would remain in Hebron.

The settlers spent a month at the Park Hotel, after which they were moved to the military government headquarters on a hill overlooking Hebron.

It was a victory for the Hebron settlers; they had established a civilian settlement within the protected confines of a military camp.

In 1970, Labor Prime Minister Golda Meir supported the expansion of the Jewish settlement by creating a new town, Kiryat Arba, north of Hebron.

The first 105 housing units in Kiryat Arba were ready by the fall of 1972.

It was during this period that many of the seeds of the current conflict over Hebron were planted.

In the early 1970s, the settlers repeatedly tried to sink roots in the old city amid the Arab population.

Small groups of settlers moved into buildings such as Beit Hadassah and the synagogue of Avraham Avinu. The army removed them, but they tried again.

Then they found what for them was the key to success: Seven women and 40 children settled in Beit Hadassah in downtown Hebron, leaving their husbands in Kiryat Arba. The authorities did not remove them.

When the Likud Party came to power in 1977, the settlers were relieved, believing that they had a government firmly on their side.

In succeeding years, the Jewish settlement of Hebron was expanded. By 1980, Harsina Hill was added to Kiryat Arba, and Beit Hadassah was renovated.

But Hebron's Arab residents regarded these moves as a direct provocation, and violence soon ensued.



A Celebration of Learning

Hannah Schacht (left) and Yisroel Yavner display the projects they made for Providence Hebrew Day School's Academic Fair, held recently.
Photo courtesy of PHDS

Shortly after renovation work began at Beit Hadassah, yeshiva student Yehoshua Saloma was murdered in the heart of Hebron.

At the insistence of the settlers that he react to the murder with a "proper Zionist response," David Levy, then-housing minister, prepared a blueprint for the reconstruction of Hebron's Jewish Quarter that the Cabinet passed by a narrow vote.

The Arabs responded with a general strike in the territories. Hebron Mayor Fahed Kawasmeh urged the local Arab population to boycott the settlers.

In May 1980, six yeshiva students were gunned down near Beit Hadassah.

Then-Defense Minister Ezer Weizman ordered the deportations of some local Arab leaders, including Kawasmeh. Sev-

eral Arab-owned houses near Beit Hadassah were demolished and others were seized by the army "for security purposes."

By 1984, Hebron's Jewish community had expanded farther, with the establishment of a settlement in Tel Rumeida, a hill overlooking downtown Hebron from the south.

Hebron was often at the center of Israeli-Palestinian animosity during the six-year intifada, the Palestinian uprising that began in December 1987.

In February 1994, Dr. Baruch Goldstein, a local settler, opened fire inside the Tomb of the Patriarchs, killing 29 Palestinian worshippers.

The violence he committed has come to be known as the Hebron massacre — but history shows that Hebron has been the site of more than one massacre.

(JTA foreign editor Mitchell Danow contributed to this report.)

Super Sunday has Grown!

Over the past 20 years, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Super Sunday event has reached out to thousands of Jewish households in an effort to raise funds for the Jewish community's "Annual Campaign."

These funds are allocated to a myriad of agencies locally, nationally, and internationally, connecting Jewish communities around the world.

This year, another dimension has been added to Super Sunday which should enhance a community cooperative spirit. Using the theme of "All Jews are responsible..." synagogues and local social service agencies have been recruited to join to-

gether in sponsoring individual service projects and/or children's programs between the hours of noon and 6 p.m. on Super Sunday, Dec. 8*27 Kislev 5757.

The response from the community has been encouraging. Sixteen concurrent, but varied, projects will be offered in all parts of the state, from Newport and Middletown to South Kingstown and Providence.

The federation will also hold two phoning sessions on Super Sunday, from 9 a.m. to noon and from 6 to 9 p.m., to continue to raise the funds necessary to maintain Jewish social and humanitarian services in 55 countries around the world.



Special Gifts Celebrated

The R.I. Hadassah Special Gifts Event was held on Oct. 24, at the home of Donna and Mark Ross. All donations benefited the Hadassah Mother & Child Center in Jerusalem. Pictured (top to bottom steps) are Donna and Mark Ross, Evy Rappoport and Eunice Greenfield, and Marjorie Housen (guest speaker) and Rosalind Bolusky.

Photo courtesy of RI Hadassah

INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

See Gorgeous Trees on Parade

Each year the Rhode Island Urban & Community Forest Council a non-profit citizens' group, publishes a full color calendar featuring pictures of pin-up trees, in their best season, from various communities across the state. (Rhode Islanders are asked to nominate their favorite trees for this annual calendar.) The calendar, 1997 Notable Trees of Rhode Island, is now ready for sale.

"Each tree has its own special story. Appreciating the magnificence of trees is recognizing our natural heritage," said Guy Lefebvre, vice chair of the UCFC.

There's a 105-foot American Linden (the best models are always tall) and a 30-foot Weeping Higan Cherry which has pale pink blossoms cascading down

its long, drooping branches in the spring — must remind you a little of "Madame Butterfly."

The council is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining and improving Rhode Island's tree resources. It distributes federal money for urban and suburban tree planting projects, and organizes educational and stewardship programs in communities. During the last five years, the council has distributed approximately \$640,000 to 24 communities and organized many volunteer programs to plant and care for trees.

The 1997 Notable Trees of Rhode Island calendar will be sold in book and gift shops, or may be ordered from the council at 647-3367 for \$10 plus \$2 tax and shipping.

CVS Makes Historic Gift to Poison Center

The Rhode Island Poison Center has received the largest corporate donation in its 15-year history. CVS stores have donated \$75,000 for the operation of the 24-hour, 365-day service. As the designated regional poison center, the staff fields an average of 80 questions each day from residents and hospitals in Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts and eastern Connecticut.

This is the first year CVS has made a donation to this valuable community resource. "Our donation to the poison center fits very nicely into our mission statement of helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives and into our role in the community of being a health care pro-

vider for the people of southern New England," said CVS corporate president and CEO Tom Ryan.

The pharmacist specialists who answer the hotline never know if it'll be a frantic parent trying to find out what a child just swallowed and how to treat it, or a firefighter asking for information on a specific substance. The staff also works to prevent poisonings in the community.

Seventy percent of accidental poisonings can be treated at home or work, saving more than \$2 million each year in unnecessary emergency department visits. Rhode Island Hospital has financed the poison center (its budget for the current year is \$310,000) since its inception in 1981.

Giving Thanks for Birds

On Nov. 27 from 3 to 5 p.m., the Children's Museum of Rhode Island invites kids 5 and older to offer a Thanksgiving treat to our fine-feathered friends. Young bird buffs will hand-craft colorful bird feeders. Playing the detective game "What has been eating here?" children learn which birds visit during the winter and what they like to eat. Same day registration is required. Call 726-2591 beginning at 9 a.m. to register. There is no additional fee beyond the price of admission which is \$3.50. The museum is located at 58 Walcott St., Pawtucket.

You Can Never Own Too Many Books

A holiday open house and sale will be held at Twice Told Tales, 2210 Broad St., Cranston (Pawtucket Village), from Dec. 4 through 8. The work of local authors, artisans, and musicians will be featured. Refreshments will be served. Hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information, call 785-9599.

RIC Schedules Open House

Rhode Island College office of undergraduate admissions will hold its annual open house on Nov. 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Donovan Dining Center.

High school seniors and their families, transfer students and adult students are invited to attend. (Snow date: Dec. 8)

Scheduled for the afternoon will be tours of the campus, individual and group discussions with faculty members, and laboratory and performance demonstrations by academic departmental faculty and students.

Financial aid, admission and residence hall representatives and other college personnel will be available to answer questions and assist visitors. Refreshments will be served.

For further information or to R.S.V.P., call the admissions office at 456-8234 or (800) 669-5760.

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Direct Deposit Coming For Vets

Q: I heard the Department of Veterans Affairs is switching to direct deposit for compensation checks. My father has been receiving his checks by mail for many years. Does he need to take some step to ensure he continues to receive them?

A: No action is necessary at this time, but by 1999, all current beneficiaries generally will be required to switch to direct deposit under a government-wide statutory requirement. Information will be provided to beneficiaries well be-

fore the switch. However, VA does recommend that current beneficiaries consider switching now because of the added security of direct deposit, the certainty of timely receipt, and the reduction of costs involved in postage and handling of paper checks.

To change to direct deposit, a beneficiary may call the Providence VA at their toll-free number, (800) 827-1000, to get information, or the individual may pick up a form at his or her bank.

NEIT For Home Improvement

For 17 years, the building construction and cabinetmaking technology students at New England Institute of Technology have been creating modular and on-site buildings for student projects. Projects have included storage sheds, snack bars, cabanas, gazebos, and garages. Most of the buildings are built in modular fashion and shipped to their final destination. Several years ago, a barn was built that was shipped to Maine for assembly.

The most well-known project was the building done by NEIT students which was used as the entrance to the dinosaur exhibit at Roger Williams Park. Other projects are completed and then sold to the general public, students, staff and faculty. There are currently several storage buildings for sale. The sheds have a saltbox-style roof, white cedar shingles, pine trim, and pressure-treated wood floors. Anyone interested in purchasing a shed or being put on a project waiting list, may call Felix Carlone, the department chairman, at 739-5000, ext. 3471.

Jurassic Park at the Mall

Held over by popular demand, a baby "T" Rex will be extending his stay at the North Dartmouth Mall until Dec. 28.

More than 20,000 children and school groups have already visited the mall and have played in a giant dinosaur nest, dug for fossils, crawled inside a dinosaur, and made dinosaur tracks in the sand.

A roaring sound greets families as they enter the only Pre-historic Playground. Dinamations' "Baby Dinosaurs" combines the charm of young dinosaurs with the message that play and parental responsibility are vital for a child's development.

With the extended schedule, there is still an opportunity for educators to plan class field trips. The exhibit is open during regular mall hours.

For further information on all the activities which can take place at the Dinamation Exhibit, call the Children's Museum of Dartmouth at (508) 993-3361.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Woman Survived Holocaust Due to Human Decency, She Says

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

Although more than 50 years have elapsed since Holocaust survivor Lea Eliash stopped on the streets of the Kovno ghetto to ask a man and his wife why they were weeping, she still feels compelled to explain why she did.

"Death was certain for all of us, but I couldn't walk by, I just couldn't," said Eliash on Nov. 13 as she talked to members of Perspectives, Rhode Island's Jewish young adult project, at its Kristallnacht commemoration at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

Now an elegant elderly woman with a teacher's diction and a grandmother's warmth, Eliash understands what her act of compassion yielded.

But back in Nazi-occupied Lithuania, when Eliash was a young woman alone with an infant, she did not know her kindness would save her baby daughter from death.

"The woman, Berta, told me they had had to come to Kovno for a meeting," Eliash said. "They had left their two young sons alone with her mother, and had just learned that Nazi soldiers had come to their town and killed them all. In the ghetto, they knew no one and had no place to live."

Shortly before she had met the couple, Eliash's parents had sent word that 8,000 Jews nearby had been taken to a riverbank, forced to dig their own graves, and shot. Soon afterwards, she had learned her own parents, sister, aunt, uncle and cousins had died in a similar manner.

"I said, 'Come with me,'" remembered Eliash, who was then completely alone because her husband had been seized by Nazi soldiers.

Eliash had been a member of Lithuania's thriving Jewish community before the invasion, and she remembered a shopkeeper from the area all 40,000 Jews from the region were now confined to.

"I brought them to her, and we all lived together in a tiny room," Eliash said. "It was horrible, but we were alive."

Eliash was forced to work in a factory that made warm clothing for Germans fighting in Russia.

"There were 33 men and 3 women in our brigade, and the Nazis stood with guns and dogs and counted us and counted us and counted us. They would torment us while we waited for them to count. It was enough to drive you crazy. If one of us was

missing, the other 35 would die," Eliash said. "On the way to the factory, they would just count us. On the way back, they would search you like it was a doctor's appointment every single day."

But once they reached the factory, said Eliash, the gentle workers were warm and helpful.

"The workers were very sympathetic," said Eliash. "They shared bread and candy. The elite cooperated with the Nazis, but the workers did not."

One Christian woman, an upper level chemist, was especially helpful to Eliash. The woman had a radio, and she would inform the Jews about the status of the war.

Eliash trusted her, but one day, the chemist told Eliash something she did not believe.

"She said, 'Lea, I have heard that Hitler wants to get rid of the Jewish race by murdering the children. Hide your daughter.'"

Eliash retorted that her daughter, Asya, was only 18 months old and had done no wrongs.

"She said I would live with that, and that I should find a Christian friend to hide my daughter," Eliash said. "I told her I had no Christian friends, but she insisted that children from the Vilna ghetto were being sent to the gas chambers. She said this every day. I told a member of the Judenrat, and he said not to worry."

But then, on Oct. 28, 1941, Germans with guns and dogs swarmed into the ghetto and ordered everyone to the gathering lot. Two German generals appeared, and they sorted people into two groups.

Eliash was in the group sent back to ghetto. From there, she heard the killing.

"There was shooting and shooting and shooting," Eliash said. "The sky was red. When the woman told me Hitler would send children to the gas chambers the next day, it began to penetrate."

In tears, Eliash confided in Berta.

"Berta told me, 'You saved my husband and me, and we can never revive our own children. I know a Christian woman who is head of an orphanage, and she has no child.' Berta gave me her address," Eliash said.

Soon, the chemist invited this Christian woman to her office, disregarding the six Nazi soldiers who stood guard outside.

In the office, the woman, named Vale, told Eliash she

would take Asya, for she wanted to show that world that all had not turned into beasts.

Eliash told the Jewish man who headed her brigade of her plans to hide Asya. He told Eliash to put her into a cloth shopping bag and to instruct her to be quiet. He himself held the cloth shopping bag while the Jewish brigade was counted that day, for on the way out of the ghetto, Jews were counted but not checked.

Together, they walked until they found Vale's house, which was located on the way to the factory. Eliash left Asya inside, weeping, and slammed the door.

"The woman was right," Eliash said, turning her face from her audience. "On March 27, 1944, the Germans and Ukrainians and Lithuanians came into the ghetto. They had yellow school busses with them, school busses just like here, and they were playing music so loudly that it was horrible. So they went from house to house, snatched the children, and threw them into the busses. The music was so we wouldn't hear the cries of the children."

Eliash watched as a mother who resisted saw her child murdered. Others who tried to hide their babies suffocated them.

"I felt I couldn't face those mothers," Eliash said, her voice breaking.

Conditions continued to worsen. The factory workers

(Continued on Page 19)

Kristallnacht and Holocaust Remain Painfully Fresh in Minds of Many

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

For Rhode Island Holocaust Survivors Association President Heinz Sandelowski, nothing destroyed on Kristallnacht can ever be repaired.

When Sandelowski shared his memories of that terrible night with an audience of about 120 during his organization's Kristallnacht Commemoration at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island on Nov. 13, they shared his rage and pain.

"This memory is like yesterday to me," Sandelowski said of the pogrom that heralded the end for about two-thirds of Europe's Jewry. "I can never forget those faces, how they went into our shuls and with the greatest joy, destroyed what was holy to us. They took our holy Torah and they desecrated it. It was the greatest heartache of my entire life."

Sandelowski finished his talk about the events of Nov. 9, 1938, with his concern that new generations may forget.

"Here in Providence, we are lucky," Sandelowski said. "We are supported, and we survivors speak to Jews and non-Jews. We will tell our story as long as we live. But what will happen when we are not here anymore?"

But after Sandelowski finished, Rosalie Franks, Ph.D., one of 3,000 volunteer interviewers for Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual

History Foundation, described her role in a historical project aimed at preserving such testimonies long after its bearers are silenced by time.

Seeking nothing except personal fulfillment and a sense of connectedness to her Jewish roots, Franks has interviewed approximately 40 individuals about their lives in Nazi-occupied Europe between 1933 and 1945.

To create videotapes for the foundation's archives, volunteer videographers work with the interviewers to record survivors' accounts.

Later, if possible, the foundation works with the recordings to incorporate footage of the individual's home and family before the war, to show the communities and cultures destroyed along with their people.

Since its 1994 inception, the foundation has recorded 22,439 survivors, said Franks. Interviewers have taken testimony in 36 countries to create the foundation's archive, which has already surpassed anything compiled previously.

With regional offices in Amsterdam, Bratislava, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Frankfurt, Jerusalem, Kiev, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Miami, Moscow, New York, Paris, Philadelphia, Prague, Toronto and Warsaw, the foundation has just opened an office in Boston.

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(Continued on Page 19)

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EDITORIAL

Our Journeys in Life

by Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman

The metaphor of a journey is an integral part of the Torah.

Abraham is instructed to "go forth." Jacob flees Esau's anger and begins his journey in this week's Torah portion. Later, Joseph, Moses, and the Jewish people will begin their journeys.

Jacob leaves Beer-sheva. Along the way, he has a transformative moment when he encounters G-d.

The dream — a ladder reaching heavenward, the angels, and the promise of safety and welfare on the journey — all are part of this extraordinary moment.

Yet Jacob had not prepared for this experience — it happened — G-d reached out to him. A simple rock in an unknown place — there he encounters the G-d of his parents and grandparents.

On a journey to the unknown, in a place of darkness, all alone, Jacob encounters the Divine. He awakes from his sleep to exclaim, "Surely G-d is in this place, but I did not know it!"

Thus it is so often with us. We embark on new paths — our lives themselves are a journey.

Often when we are least prepared, G-d reaches out to touch and embrace us.

It may even be in the stillness of sleep (a familiar experience for some of us during services or sermons) that we are addressed, called, brought close. It isn't planned — there is no "technique" to make it happen. But we must be open.

On our journeys in life to places and moments unknown, a voice may call; G-d may appear.

In the uncertainty of our path, in the fearful times of our lives, when alone with nowhere to turn for we have left the safety and security of our homes and the known behind, we may have that encounter. No guarantee — but faithful possibility!

Vayetze — and Jacob left. We leave the familiar behind. All of us begin our journeys and oftentimes resume them.

We leave, and then in the quietness of night, in the silence of our hearts, the voice calls, the ladder ascends, the dream begins. Vayetze — and Jacob left.

Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman is the president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

'Phony Judaism and Phony Rabbis'

To the Editor:

I was forwarded Jeffrey Ingber's letter regarding my epistle to the editor.

Ingber's letter in October entitled "Reader Protests Publication of Letter" is peevish and vituperative.

Ingber alludes that I reside 200 miles from Rhode Island. So what? We care about all Jews worldwide. Was distance of 200 miles criteria for not coming to the aid of Jews during the pogrom of August 1991 in Crown Heights or Soviet Jewry?

Indeed, where were the Ingbers when we in Crown Heights were under siege for three days? By logical deduction, Jews should only be concerned about their own community, then forget about Israel is the reasoning of Ingber.

He criticized the undersigned for mentioning Congregation Beth Shalom and Dr. Zuckerman. It was Zuckerman who originally signed himself as V.P. of Beth Shalom. What attracted my attention was not Zuckerman's attendance, but Zuckerman's write-up!

The Holy Baal Shem Tov states that "love thy neighbor"

(Lev. 19, 18) means a Jew feels pain of another Jew's fingernail at opposite ends of the earth... G-d can be written with two Judens representing two Jews. That verse ends with "I am G-d."

What is wrong with using the word "late" to describe the Lubavitcher Rebbe? For your information, the Mashichistim (minority in Chabad) are in the minority and attempting to take over the present majority who do not believe the Rebbe was the Moshiah (Messiah).

Furthermore, I eschew the word Orthodox, because Judaism has no branches and the term as stated by the late Rabbi Leo Jung obscures what is Judaism proper.

Indeed, Conservative and Reform are different religions. Their more intellectually honest spokesmen will tell you so, much as Arthur Hertzberg, who calls Conservative post-Halachic Judaism and chides his colleagues for lying when they say they are Halachic.

Also, the Reform cleric John Fields recently stated that Reform is a different religion.

Rabbi Soloveitchik was mis-

construed. He stated on the holidays to get his point across that no Jew be allowed to pray there even as the shofar is blown. His full statements appear in a book, *Sanctity of the Synagogue*, by Baruch Litvin.

Soloveitchik personally did not enter a Conservative temple when a Jew had a funeral who was Conservative, he would wait outside the temple and not enter.

Soloveitchik declared, "Any rabbi... who attempts to sanction the desecrated synagogue, ipso facto casts a doubt on his own moral right to function."

We are not dealing with pushing and shoving, the issue is one of fraud — misrepresenting what Judaism is, phony Judaisms and phony rabbis.

I believe that Professor Zuckerman is unfit to serve as an officer of an "Orthodox" Jewish congregation. The Talmud instructs us, "Me shyash byodow limchos, vainow mocha, na'anash olov. One who has the means to rebuke evil, and does not, is punished" (Tractate Avodah Zarah 18).

Rabbi Mordechai Friedman New York, N.Y.

Palestinians Need Jobs Now, Not Later

by Norman E. Mann

The Cairo Economic Conference can be deemed a dismal failure. Here was an opportunity missed which could have started the Palestinian Authority on its way to providing jobs and security.

Utterly missed its mark and President Hosni Mubarak could only think in terms of bashing Israel when he should have taken the podium and demanded that orders be written for goods manufactured in the P.A. administered areas.

If the plan is to wait until all is settled in the West Bank and Judea then a great tragedy will be perpetrated once again upon the Palestinians by their own people.

The likes of Egypt and the other Arab belligerent states created the debacle which Palestinians have experienced since the United Nations plan to partition Palestine.

Instead of each Arab nation attending to its own internal problems and realizing that they caused the Middle East trauma,

they suck up the healing energies and waste them on stirring up and fomenting the stone throwers.

Egypt, which was relieved of \$6 billion in debt by the United States for sending a token force to the Gulf War and which receives \$3 billion each year in aid from the United States, should at the very least tend to its own household.

And while we mention foreign aid, the time may also be prudent for Israel and Egypt to

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CONTRIBUTING REPORTER MICHAEL FINK

JEWISH COMMUNITY REPORTER EMILY TORGAN

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT REPS DIANA FLORIO

STEPHEN DUBOIS

MAILING ADDRESS: Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940

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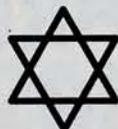
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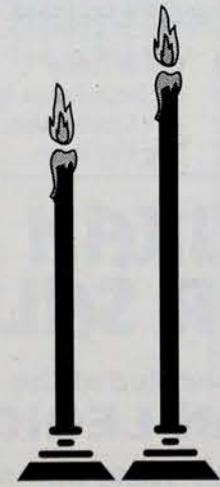
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Candlelighting
November 22, 1996
4:02 p.m.



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

The Source of Strength For All Jews

This week's Torah portion, Toldot, begins with the words, "These are the generations of Isaac, the son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac." What is the meaning of the repetition in this verse?

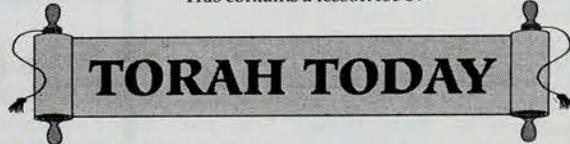
By stating "the son of Abraham" and "Abraham begot Isaac" — two ways of expressing the same idea — the Torah offers us the reason for "the generations of Isaac." The generations of Isaac are the consequence of Abraham having begotten Isaac.

Abraham, as the Torah relates, was "one" — the only Jew in the entire world. The whole world stood in opposition to Abraham. The entire world was on one side and Abraham on the other. Nonetheless, Abraham persisted in his mission to make G-d's Name known, as it states, "And he called there in the name of the L-rd, G-d of the world."

This approach was passed on to Abraham's son Isaac as an inheritance, thereby paving the way for the possibility of future

"generations of Isaac" — both in the spiritual sense (according to the explanation of our sages that the primary "descendants" of the righteous are their Torah, mitzvot and good deeds) and the physical sense, actual offspring.

This contains a lesson for ev-



ery Jew in his daily life. When a Jew takes a look at the world, he is apt to become discouraged. Evil people seem to prosper and flourish, and countless obstacles stand in the way of his service of G-d. For most of the day he must involve himself in mundane affairs. It is an ongoing struggle to bring holiness into this life. The Jew is liable to wonder where he will get the strength to observe the commandments and perform good deeds. How can he withstand the many trials that he must endure?

The answer is contained in this week's Torah portion.

"The deeds of the forefathers are a sign for their children" —

and not only a sign or indication of how they should conduct themselves, but an infusion of strength. "Abraham began Isaac" — Abraham was the rock from which Isaac was hewn, and the source of strength for all Jews. Just as Abraham did not

flinch at taking on the entire world, spreading the belief in one G-d and the knowledge that "there is none but Him," so, too, must every single one of Abraham's descendants take courage in his ability to overcome all hindrances and impediments that come his way.

By striving to fulfill "the generations of Isaac" in the spiritual sense, i.e., Torah, mitzvot and good deeds, we thereby earn the right to become the generations of Isaac in the literal sense as well, vanquishing the enemies of G-d and His Torah in preparation for the conquest of the holy land, at the hands of Moshiah.

Adapted for Maayan Chai from Likutei Sichot, Vol. 1. Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer of Chabad House.

SCHOOLBEAT

PHDS Holds Academic Fair

An Academic Fair was held at Providence Hebrew Day School recently. The fair was a celebration of learning in all academic areas.

The halls of PHDS were bursting with displays and projects in both general studies and Judaic studies. Visitors could experiment with sound with the first-graders, learn about the five senses in Hebrew and English with the second-graders, visit an imaginary country with the fourth-graders, and learn why oral law is so important to Judaism, with projects done by the fourth-graders.

Sixth-graders created projects about the environment, seventh-graders made posters about the ages of man and eighth-graders used their computer skills to make travel brochures for Providence and Sharon, Mass. The Internet gave the eighth-graders up-to-date information for their brochures.

Seventh- and eighth-graders also used computers in writing Divrei Torah.

The fair takes place annually and showcases creativity and enthusiasm in all academic disciplines.



PROUD OF THEIR WORK — From left, Miriam Diamond, Danielle Bessler and Benjamin Bharier display the projects they worked on for the PHDS Academic Fair. *Photo courtesy of PHDS*



WHEELS OF THE FUTURE — Glen Zeitzer, James DeMetro, Gerald A. Yurkevich and Christopher Bannister visit the New England Institute of Technology on the occasion of the donation of three-gas powered vehicles. *Photo courtesy of New England Institute of Technology*

Alternative Fuel Vehicles Donated to School

New England Institute of Technology recently received three donations to its Alternative Fuels Program, at the college's automotive technology facility.

The Providence Gas company donated two dedicated compressed natural gas vans, which students and faculty will use as demonstration models. The third donation, a dedicated compressed natural gas Dodge Dakota, came to the school from the Chrysler Corporation, the Providence Gas Company, and the New England Gas Association.

Schools May Receive Money For Community Service

Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein and The Rhode Island Foundation are jointly sponsoring a \$40,000, two-year effort to encourage community service projects in the state's public and private high schools.

Schools selected through a statewide competition can receive up to \$5,000 each to continue existing student volunteer programs or to develop new ones, or \$10,000 for documentation/dissemination projects which spread the word about public service.

"Alan Shawn Feinstein wrote the book on community service

in Rhode Island, if not nationally," stated Rhode Island Foundation president Ronald V. Gallo in announcing a Nov. 27 deadline for applications.

Gallo said an advisory committee will assist the foundation in selecting recipients.

"The committee will be looking especially for proposals which encourage student participation in the plan and design of

programs, integration of public service programs into the regular school curriculum, community partnerships between the school and non-profit, business or government agencies, and a demonstrated long-term commitment to community service within the school," said Gallo.

The one-page application is available from the foundation, 274-4564.

Metcalf Grants Available

The Rhode Island Foundation is offering grants up to \$5,000 for college sophomores and juniors seeking to broaden themselves through travel, independent study or public service in 1997.

The application deadline is Jan. 31, and applications can be obtained from The Rhode Island Foundation, 70 Elm St., Providence, RI 02903, or by calling 274-4564.

According to foundation officer Carol Scott, grants are intended to provide students

with experiences which will "broaden their perspectives and enhance their personal growth."

The proposed activity need not be limited to the academic year, and may include travel in this country or abroad, and/or a variety of independent study and public service programs.

Awardees will be expected to complete a final project, relating the value of the experience gained. Applicants can be attending any college or university, she said, but they must be legal residents of Rhode Island.

The Herald wishes its readers a Happy Thanksgiving!

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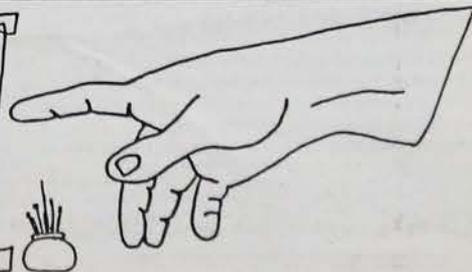
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SCHOOLBEAT

Hope High Class of 1947 Plans Reunion

Hope High School Class of June 1947 is planning to have a 50th reunion on Sept. 27, 1997 at the Radisson Airport Hotel in Warwick.

If you graduated with the class and have not been notified of the reunion plans or have any information concerning the missing classmates listed below, contact Justin Benharris at 434-6284 or Leila Abrams Green at 739-6965.

Doris Bazar (Ladd), Bernice Berard, Dorothy Bickell (McDonnell), Glendoris Bourne, Shirley Breene, Edward Breggia, Dorothy Brian, Fredrick Brown,

Jean Carol Brown, John Brownlow, Arthur Cappon, Henry Carlton, Richard Carpenter, Leonard Costa, Robert Cruickshank, Audrey Curriden, Rita D'Agostino, Fred Dinger, Rano DiPaola, Peter DiSimone, Barbara Donilon, James Dowding, Richard Duncan, Robert Duval, Betty Fagan (McNealy), Bessie Golusses, Jean Jerome, Juanita Johnson (Caldwell), Alton Kettle Jr., George Kreuger, Caroline Leeming, Robert Lennon, Eugene Lenoir, Stanley Levin, Patricia Lewis (Sewing), Elizabeth Lovenberg, Shirley Lynch

(O'Brien), Eleanor Lyons, James McCreery, Tamara Melamut (Kaufman), Harriet Miller, Arthur Murphy, Dorothy Nolan (Hutson), Alba Palma, Joan Nutter, Cecilia O'Keefe, Rose Paolino (Mollichelli), John Forbes, Gerald Friedenn, Carmela Fuoroli, James Gallagher, Maxine Rosenberg (Rolland), Ralph Perrotta, William Pizzo, Althea Poole (Billington), David Tannenbaum, Raymond Taylor, Maria Tella (Romano), Dorothy Wallace (Brown), Beverly Wheeler, Audrey Winsor, and Carol Wright.

Yawgoog Attracts Jewish Scouts

An increasing number of Jewish Boy Scouts are attending the summer program at Yawgoog Scout Reservation in Rockville, emphasizing the need to expand the Temple of the Ten Commandments there.

Jules Cohen of North Kingstown, chairman of the Jewish committee on scouting of Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, said the log cabin chapel can comfortably seat only 30 scouts for a Friday night Sabbath service. It is even more crowded during Sunday morning activities.

The chapel is dedicated to the memory of the late Abraham Aron, a well-known Warwick scout leader.

Rina Sky Wolfgang, Jewish chaplain at Yawgoog for the last seven seasons, reported to the committee that 346 Jewish scouts were at Yawgoog last summer, an average of 43 per week. In 1995, 302 scouts attended during the eight-week season.

She also noted that 57 boys earned the Jewish Scouting Award, a special patch that can only be earned during a scout's week at Yawgoog. To receive the award, a scout participates in a program under the



Herbert Wagner

chaplain's supervision, including taking part in religious services at camp.

Wolfgang also assisted scouts in preparing for the Ner Tamid Award, and helped those needing bar mitzva training while away from home.

During a Sabbath service at camp, the Jewish Committee on Scouting honored Herbert Wagner of Providence for his contribution of electrical supplies and the installation of electrical service at the chapel. A plaque has been placed in the chapel in his honor.

BBYO Offers Summer Trips To Israel

The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization is looking for teens who want to experience everything Israel has to offer — its history, religion, sights, people and outdoors. Kayaking, repelling, mountain bike riding and trekking by camel across the Negev are some of the exciting components of some of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization's (BBYO) summer programs in Israel.

Next summer, BBYO is offering four trips to Israel, all of which include getting to know Israeli teen-agers and spending a Shabbat in their homes.

The programs include:

- Israel Summer Institute 28-Day Outdoor Adventure — featuring repelling, an overnight camel trek and camping on the Jordan River, June 23 to July 20, \$2,950.

- Israel Summer Institute 38-Day Outdoor Adventure — offering a two-day kayaking trip on the Jordan River, a 3-4 day camel trek across the Negev, BBYO's exclusive "Mifgashim" program in which participants spend a week with Israeli teens and witness modern political processes at work, June 23 to July 30, \$3,595.

- Israel Summer Institute 38-Day Eastern Europe and Israel tour — which includes one week in Poland, two days in Prague, and several weeks in Israel, June 23 to July 30, \$4,400.

- BBYO International Leadership study in Israel — providing an in-depth look at Jewish leadership throughout the ages, integrating touring and studying, July 2 to July 30, \$3,900.

To receive a program brochure, call (202) 857-6633 or write Director of Israel Summer Programs, BBYO, 1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

PHDS Students Recognized

Two Providence Hebrew Day School sixth-grade students, Gavriel Berman and Aaron Hartman, received honorable mention in an editorial writing contest conducted by the *Providence Journal Bulletin*.

In the "Kidsbeat" column, sixth- to eighth-grade students from throughout the Providence area were asked to submit editorials in support of one of the

three presidential candidates. The editorial was to be approximately 250 words stating why the students supported the particular candidate of their choice.

Between 600 and 700 students submitted editorials. All of Ginny Goodall's sixth-grade students contributed editorials including, Berman and Hartman whose names were published in the Nov. 4 issue of "Kidsbeat."



STOP THE PRESSES — Aaron Hartman (left) and Gavi Berman received honorable mention in an editorial writing contest by the *Providence Journal Bulletin*. Photo courtesy of PHDS

'Fusionworks' to Perform at Lincoln School

On Dec. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m., Lincoln School, at 301 Butler Ave., will hold its annual open house. A 3:30 p.m. performance by "Fusionworks," an all-woman modern dance repertory company, will follow. Deb Meunier, "Fusionworks" founder and Lincoln School dance instructor, will also lead Lincoln students in a dance performance at the open house.

In addition to touring the school and meeting faculty and students, visitors can observe sequencing of bacterial DNA by upper school biology students, poetry reading, vocal and theatrical performances.

For more information, call 331-9696.

The winners of the Herald's annual Chanukah Poster Contest will be announced next week.



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Bubble Monster Designed to Beat the Babysitters' Blahs

Blowing bubbles and building castles out of graham crackers? Doesn't that sound likemore fun for an evening of babysitting than the same tired old video or TV program?

This newly published book, *Bubble Monster and Other Science Fun*, gives babysitters and adult caregivers the tools to engage children in fun activities while allowing them to explore and learn about science.

The 40-plus activities in the book were developed thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation. These activities are cost-effective, quick and facilitate scientific inquiry.

They were sponsored and developed by the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Md., who field tested each activity at local schools, daycare centers, and at 19 other YWCAs around the country.

Each activity is slanted to one

of five science topics: patterns, matter and more, the human body, design and technology and communication.

It is available, nationwide, in local book stores for \$17.95. It can also be ordered from the publisher, Chicago Review Press, at (800) 888-4741 quoting the ISBN # 1-55652-301-7.

The 172-page, 8" x 10" soft-bound book has illustrations throughout to make doing the activities even easier. Two videos, one directed toward teen-aged babysitters and the other toward daycare providers, are also available. Priced \$25, each of the videos can be obtained from the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County at (410) 626-7800.

One of the authors of *Bubble Monster* is Tali Katz, who is the director of education for the Jewish Historical Society of Maryland. She is also a cantor at the United States Naval Academy.

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Date: Sunday, December 1st
 Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 Place: Temple Beth Am, 300 Pleasant Street, Framingham, MA

For more information, call Marty Wiadro, 508-443-3655

REUNION FOR 1996 CAMP TEL NOAR CAMPERS AND STAFF

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Soccer Player Scores Big On and Off the Field

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

It takes a tremendous amount of hard work and determination for a student-athlete to excel in the classroom and in his or her sport.

Eric Block has not only excelled, but he's done it at Brown University, while competing on the soccer field against some of the best teams in the country.

An outstanding athlete in high school, Block received scholarship offers from several colleges. His decision came down to a choice between Duke University and Brown. He chose Brown despite the fact that it was the only school that didn't offer him a scholarship.

"I felt that Brown had a uniqueness to it that the other schools didn't," said Block, who is now a senior.

However, prior to starting his soccer career at Brown, Block tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and was forced to miss his entire freshman season.

"While I was injured, I learned the value of an education," said Block. "I realized how lucky I was to get an Ivy League education."

When Block finally rejoined his teammates in his sophomore year, he had to adjust to a much higher level of play than he experienced in high school.

"In college the game is much faster and the players are always good and strong. The coaching is much better also," said Block. "You think you're ready to play at that level, but it takes time."

It didn't take Block too much

time — he was named the Rookie of the Year for his team.

In his junior and senior year, he led the team in scoring. He had 5 goals and 3 assists this season and 8 goals and 4 assists last year. Three or four of his goals this year were game-winners.

However, the achievement he's most proud of is making the Ivy League All-Academic Team; to qualify, you must have at least a 3.5 grade point average.



Eric Block

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

"Making the all-academic team means more to me than if the award was for soccer," stated Block, whose major is history.

Coming from Phoenix, Ariz., Block had to get used to several changes at Brown. For starters, winter in Rhode Island is usually a little colder than in his home state.

"I love the change of seasons in Rhode Island, but winter drives me up the wall," said Block.

Perhaps a greater adjustment was getting used to being around so many fellow Jewish students at Brown (approximately 40 percent of the students are Jewish).

"I like that there is a large Jewish population at Brown," said Block. "At first, I felt uncomfortable with it because it was so foreign to me. I had to deal with a lot of anti-Semitism growing up. I only had a handful of Jewish friends in Arizona, but at Brown I have a lot."

As much as Block enjoyed living in Phoenix (he eventually would like to raise a family there), he has found people in New England and at Brown in particular to be a lot more accepting of minorities.

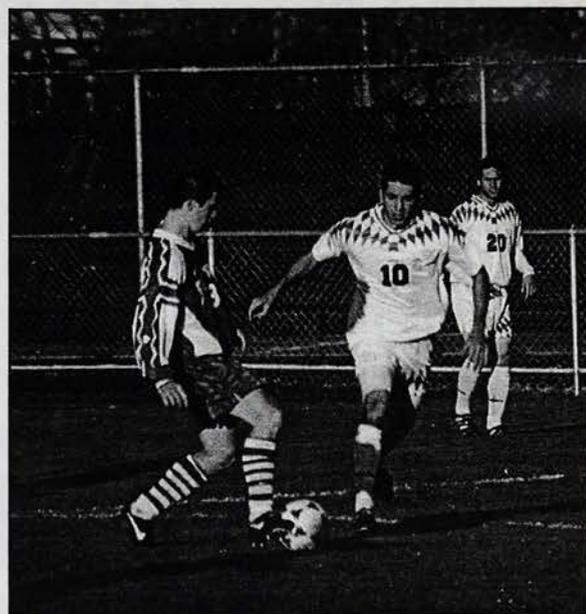
"The people in Arizona tend to be conservative and many people in the Midwest can be quite ignorant," said Block. "I've found at Brown and in Rhode Island a high level of intellectualism and an acceptance of different races and cultures."

Block has not only used what he has learned at Brown to further himself, but he has tried to help others along the way.

He has organized, with the help of some of his teammates and an assistant coach, a series of soccer clinics for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Rhode Island. He has also conducted a soccer class for underprivileged youth at Fox Point.

Within the Brown soccer team, Block has served as a mentor to some of the less-experienced players.

"We all have a little brother on the team," said Block. "I try to give advice about some of the



ERIC BLOCK (number 10) dribbles the ball past a defender in a recent Brown soccer game. Photo courtesy of the Brown Daily Herald

things they need to do off the field, like eating properly, getting enough sleep and being responsible."

Because he missed his freshman season due to injury, Block still has a year left of eligibility. He hopes to go to graduate school for business and play collegiate soccer one more year. Since Brown doesn't have a business program, he may have to finish his soccer career elsewhere.

Prior to next year, Block hopes to play soccer in Israel at the Maccabiah Games, in which the top Jewish athletes from all over the world compete in an Olympic-style event.

"A friend of mine competed

a couple of years ago and he said it was a wonderful experience," said Block, who visited the Holy Land with his family when he was 14 years old.

"I have fond memories of Israel," recalled Block. "I would be interested to see if it's the same as I remember it."

Tryouts for the U.S. Maccabiah team are in April in New Jersey. Block has an excellent shot of qualifying.

Some day, Block would like to try to make it as a professional soccer player. But if he doesn't reach that level of play, at least he has an Ivy League education and a whole lot of determination to fall back on.

The December Dilemma

The Hebrew School of South County will host a discussion of holiday stress with emphasis on "The December Dilemma" on Nov. 24 from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Jewish Family Service social worker Sandra Haas, LICSW, will be the speaker. She comes to South County through an outreach program sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

The event will take place in White Hall at URI. Refreshments and assistance with organizing the event are provided courtesy of South County Hadassah.

JFS Mealsite Needs Manager

The Jewish Family Service Kosher Mealsite in Cranston is seeking a mealsite manager to take meal reservations, handle the money and make bank deposits, supervise the kitchen, serve meals and clean up.

The applicant must be 55 years of age or older, able to work and fit within the government's financial guidelines, and must have his or her own transportation.

Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Lisa Yanku at JFS, 331-1244, if interested.

Interest-Free Loans Available From Hebrew Free Loan Association

The Hebrew Free Loan Association of Providence was established in 1903 to provide interest-free loans to members of the Rhode Island Jewish community. Now in its 94th year, the association provides a vital service to those who need help, but will not accept charity.

Loans are available in amounts up to \$2,500 for educational purposes and \$1,500 for all other purposes. Loan applications can be obtained and filed at the association's office at 58 Burlington St. in Providence during the day, Monday through Friday. The telephone number is 331-3081.

Once a loan application is submitted, a member of the association's board of directors contacts the applicant to arrange an interview. The purposes of the interview are to ensure that the loan is for a legitimate pur-

pose, that the applicant truly needs the loan, and that he/she has the ability to repay the loan.

Applicants are also required to provide the names of two co-signers who would be responsible for repaying the loan if the applicant were unable to do so.

In most cases, a decision on the loan application will be made within two to four weeks. Loans must be repaid in 12 equal monthly installments commencing the first month after the loan is awarded.

The association encourages any member of the Rhode Island Jewish Community who needs assistance to apply for a loan. All members of the Rhode Island Jewish community are encouraged to join the association. The annual membership fee is \$5, while life memberships are available for a one-time fee of \$100.

Medina to Appear at Tufts Hillel

Avihu Medina, one of Israel's most renowned Mediterranean/Middle Eastern musicians, will be in Boston on Nov. 23. Medina is currently on a tour of U.S. cities and has held performances and concerts on college campuses and at community centers.

He will hold a combination performance/workshop at the Hillel Center at Tufts University at 8 p.m. on Nov. 23. This evening Beit Cafe (Middle Eastern Coffee House) is free of charge, and open to students and members of the community.

For directions and reservations, call Tufts Hillel at (617) 627-3242. This event is co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel to New England, and Tufts University Hillel and Tufts Music Department.

Addition

In our article on Hope Street last week we neglected to mention another great synagogue near Hope — Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, at 203 Summit Ave.

The omission was unintentional and was greatly regretted. Our apologies.



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Time: 11:00 am to noon
Place: Temple Emeth, 194 Grove Street, South Brookline, MA
For more information, call Leslie Brenner, 508-788-6968

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Minkin Reports Back to Association National Adoption Week

Last spring, the Touro Fraternal Association of Cranston sponsored a local high school student's participation in The March of the Living. At the association's September meeting Tali Minkin reported on the April trip to Poland and Israel.

Minkin was accompanied on the trip by her parents, brother, sister and Ruth Page of the Bureau of Jewish Education (Rhode Island Desk).

The "march" commemo-

rates Yom Hashoah — Holocaust Remembrance Day. During the first week, the students visited concentration camps, museums, cemeteries, memorials and synagogues in Poland. Next, they toured Israel, from Safed to Golan, with three days in Jerusalem. They had a chance to meet with Jewish youth in Warsaw and Israel in Jerusalem.

Touro members were shown a slide presentation of scenes

from Poland and Israel, and video clips of news reports of the visit by a local television station.

Minkin is a senior at the Providence Hebrew Day School. She said the trip to Poland and Israel was a once-in-a-lifetime trip which gave its participants a close and deeper look at what Holocaust victims saw and experienced in the Polish concentration camps. Some of the participants had parents or relatives who had been interred at these camps.

The trip to Israel, in contrast to their experience in Poland, was more uplifting. They covered a lot of ground in a short time and saw many of the famous landmarks throughout the country. They were in Jerusalem for Yom Hazikaron join in mourning Israel's fallen soldier, followed by Yom Ha'atzmaut to celebrate 48th Independence Day. While in the JNF Forrest in Israel, Minkin planted a tree in Touro's honor.

National Adoption Week

Nov. 24 through Dec. 1 has been declared National Adoption Week, announced Toby Zaitchik, coordinator of Adoption Options, a comprehensive, non-sectarian adoption program of Jewish Family Service.

Adoption is being honored as a family building method which has brought joy to millions of lives. The process involves many parties: the child, the birth parents, the adoptive parents and the adoption services which bring them all together.

Adoption Options offers a broad range of choices for anyone considering adoption, including services for birth parents, adoptive parents and children: information; referrals;

home studies; pre-adoption counseling; post-adoption counseling; and supportive counseling with parenting concerns. Services are available regardless of religious affiliation.

The agency is now offering informational meetings about adoption for anyone interested in exploring the choices. The meetings, which are free, will be held the first Thursday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the offices of JFS at 229 Waterman St. in Providence. The next meetings will be held on Dec. 5 and Jan. 2.

For information or to arrange a confidential consultation, call Toby Zaitchik, Adoption Options coordinator at 331-5437.



MINKIN REPORTS BACK at a Touro Fraternal Association of Cranston Meeting. From left to right, Robert Hodash, Ruth Page, Arthur Pouten, Tali Minkin, Bruce Weisman and Andy Lamchick wrap up the scholarship trip.

CJP Hosts Annual Breakfast

Health Professions Teams and Combined Jewish Philanthropies will hold their annual breakfast on Dec. 8 at 9 a.m. at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers, Park Square, Boston.

The guest speaker will be Dan Raviv, veteran CBS news correspondent. Raviv's front-line reports for CBS television and radio have been filed from more than 35 countries.

The cost of the breakfast is \$40 per person, \$75 per couple and \$25 for residents and interns (medical students will be sponsored by participating teaching hospitals and physicians).

Dietary laws will be observed. R.S.V.P. by Dec. 2.

For more information, or to R.S.V.P., call Wendy Schiffman at CJP, (617) 457-8549.

Inward Mobility

"If they don't come to your place, go and find them in theirs," is the motto of Maryland's new Chabad-Lubavitch campus emissaries.

Most students at the University of Maryland first became familiar with Rabbi Eli Backman during the festival week of Sukkot. It was the truck he drove that couldn't be ignored: a red and white U-haul with tall wooden walls covered with tree branches, and a carnival-style cardboard sign blaring: "Step into the Sukkah-Mobile!"

Inside, Backman was beckoning students to recite a blessing over the fragrant lulav and etrog, eat, drink and experience the mitzvahs of Sukkot.

The rabbi and his wife Nechama are the new Chabad-Lubavitch emissaries at the College Park campus. Their sukkah-mobile was one example of their innovative, grassroots programs.

Students welcome this approach. David Plotinsky, past president of the Jewish Student Union, said that Chabad reaches out to many "new faces." He credited this method with the all-around greater involvement in Jewish life on campus over the past year.

The Backmans brought Torah scrolls to dorms, fraternities and sororities; they conducted Shabbat festivities in the basement of the largest Jewish fraternity on campus; last Purim, a tireless Backman went around campus all night and the following day, reading the megillah over and over again — for students wandering back from the basketball playoffs,

during happy hour at "the Vous," a gathering spot near campus — wherever young people were curious enough to sit and listen.

The Backmans make themselves available to students at almost every campus fair or function. One fair in the Student Union was organized as a Friday all-nighter. The couple showed up with challah and bowls of chicken soup to warm up students who stopped by to talk about Jewish life.

Chabad-Lubavitch works in concert with Hillel at the University of Maryland. "Chabad is a

"Chabad, with its strong commitment to outreach and especially with its proximity to 'fraternity row,' does a lot to fill the void."

Barak Hamami

welcome addition to the Jewish activities on campus," said Rabbi Seth Mandel, director of Hillel at the University of Maryland.

On Friday nights, Mandel leaves College Park to spend Shabbat with his family in Silver Spring. By students' request, Backman has stepped up to the pulpit to conduct the Orthodox service at Hillel.

After about 10 p.m., when things at Hillel wind down, the remaining students are invited to the Backmans for singing and discussion well into the night.

"Chabad's relationship with Hillel," said Backman, "presents a unified Jewish face on campus. Everyone is together."

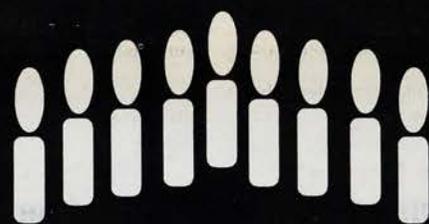
"It's nice to see them in the Union," said Sara Kovensky, who graduated last spring. "For a lot of my friends who didn't have a connection at all, this reminded them — you're Jewish and it's a special time."

Chabad-Lubavitch Maryland headquarters established the new center in College Park in September 1995 in a three-story colonial home. Sandwiched between the Tau-Epsilon-Phi and Alpha-Epsilon-Pi buildings, three blocks from campus, this Chabad House is used for student programming and apartments as well as the Backmans' home. There is an Ark with Torah scrolls for services, a library, and a room for students to socialize.

"Chabad, with its strong commitment to outreach and especially with its proximity to 'fraternity row,' does a lot to fill the void," said Barak Hamami, former editor-in-chief of *The Diamond Back*, the campus-wide newspaper.

Will the Backmans be able to top the sukkah-mobile "stunt" this year? They promise to try. Currently they're working on a Chabad Chinese Shabbat dinner, a women's group; and several Torah study programs in fraternities and sororities. The Backmans envision their Chabad House as a place for students to come to "learn and schmooze," as Nechama Blackman put it.

"We're in for great years ahead," she added with a big smile.



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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

B'nai B'rith Volunteers Will Donate Teddy Bears to needy, Sick Children

There are few things that make a child smile as much as a cuddly teddy bear. This February B'nai B'rith members across the country will be bringing a lot of smiles to needy children in hospitals and schools in underprivileged neighborhoods during the B'nai B'rith Cares for Kids Teddy Bear Drive.

"Too often children are affected by circumstances and tragedies that are beyond their control. By providing them with a teddy bear, we want to show the children that there is hope and that people care about their well-being," said Tommy P. Baer, international president of B'nai B'rith. "We

hope that every act of kindness will bring us one step closer to tikkun olam — healing the world."

"It is hard to believe but some children in this country have no teddy bears to hug, nothing to comfort them when they are scared."

Joel Kaplan

Across the country, local B'nai B'rith groups are teaming up with hospitals and schools in

their communities to meet the specific needs of the children in their areas. In Houston, B'nai B'rith volunteers are working with the M.D. Anderson Hospital to donate teddy bears to pediatric patients.

Last year, thousands of B'nai B'rith members, from teen-agers in the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization to senior citizens living in B'nai B'rith-sponsored apartment buildings, collected teddy bears for needy children. In Baltimore, a group of 20-something B'nai B'rith members collected more than 900 bears. In Washington, D.C., local merchants donated hundreds of new bears that B'nai B'rith distributed at local hospitals.

"It is hard to believe but some children in this country have no teddy bears to hug, nothing to comfort them when they are scared. We want to change that," said Joel Kaplan, national chairman of B'nai B'rith's Center for Community Action.

For more information on "B'nai B'rith Cares for Kids Teddy Bear Drive," call Lisa Goldman at B'nai B'rith headquarters at (212) 857-6582 or email CCA@bnairbith.org.

N.C.S.Y. Events

On Nov. 24, Jr. National Council of Synagogue Youth will decorate T-shirts and sneakers as their activity. All children in grades five to eight are welcome to attend.

The activity will take place at Congregation Ohave Sholam, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket, from 2 to 4 p.m. Call Abby Winkleman at 751-8323 or Marci Ingber at 521-3541 to reserve a space and advise your shoe and T-shirt size.

Senior N.C.S.Y. will host a movie night for students in grades nine to 12 on Nov. 23 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Brown University Hillel House, 80 Brown St., Providence.

Pizza and refreshments will be served. Bring \$5 to help defray the costs.

For further information, call Sarah Pliskin at 725-3886 or Marci Ingber at 521-3541.



Golden Anniversary

Left to right: Tel Aviv University President Professor Yoram Dinstein, Harriet Fulbright, American Ambassador to Israel Dr. Martin Indyk, and Minister of Science Ze'ev Begin at the university for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Fulbright Program worldwide and the fortieth anniversary of the Fulbright Program in Israel.

Internet Photo Exhibit on Rabin

A "virtual" photographic exhibit capturing the overwhelming sense of shock and grief that followed the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a year ago is now up on the Internet.

The exhibit, called "Tears of Shock," is presented by the Snunit educational database of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to coincide with the first anniversary of the assassination.

"Tears of Shock" is on the Internet at: <http://www.snunit.k12.it/rabin>.

The exhibit consists of 33 photographs by photographer Tal Gluck, who took all the photos at Kikar Rabin in Tel Aviv in the days following the assassi-

nation.

According to Gluck, the exhibit "attempts to transmit some of the feelings I have when I know that something has happened, but the body, is reluctant to accept it, and tries to spit out the inconceivable knowledge that Jew killed the prime minister."

Gluck, who photographs for leading European and Israeli monthly geographic magazines, has been exhibited in Israel, Japan and Germany.

Snunit, the University's educational information forum used by pupils and teachers in more than 50 Israeli schools, was recently voted one of the 10 most popular Israeli sites on the Internet.

Spread the Good, Used Words

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's Jewish Book Fair will take place from Nov. 25 to Dec. 12.

The center is now accepting donations of used books to be sold at the fair. The books can be dropped off at the center at anytime. If you have books to be picked up, contact Dana Zucker at 861-8800, ext. 108.

It's time to make room for new books and let someone else enjoy the books you are ready to hand on. Do a good deed for the center and give yourself a reason for a little book shopping — A win-win situation.

Nov. / Dec.

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JFS to Celebrate Family Week

Jewish Family Service will join with Family Service America and more than 1,000 other organizations in North America in celebrating National Family Week, Nov. 24 through 30.

The campaign "Celebrate Families!" recognizes the role of families as the basic building blocks of society and encourages the support of healthy family life and family values. It focuses on the everyday issues and occurrences central to the core health of the family such as the importance of family tradition, raising an awareness of how to keep families strong, encouraging family and community interdependence and addressing work and family issues.

The campaign will also en-

courage families to find renewed strength and inspiration in celebrating daily family life and provide practical information to help individuals cope with normal life stress.

Last month, JFS presented awards to two local families selected as "Families of the Year," who exemplified the best in Jewish family life in Rhode Island.

National Family Week is organized nationally by Family Service America, Inc., an international non-profit association dedicated to strengthening family life through services, education and advocacy. Family Week is sponsored by The Whirlpool Foundation.

For more information, call JFS at 331-1244.

Bakst Will Talk to Brown Bag Club

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island will present Providence Journal political writer M. Charles Bakst at the Brown Bag Club on Nov. 26 at noon.

Bakst will comment on the recent elections, and will share his insights and opinions about those who will be taking office, and why he believes the elections came out the way they did.

The cost is \$1 per person; beverage and dessert will be provided. For information, contact Evy Rappoport at 861-8800, ext. 117.

ADL Gives Check to Ministers

The Anti-Defamation League and its partner in the ADL/National Urban League "Rebuild the Churches Fund" presented a check for \$225,000 to Black Baptist ministers to help restore burned houses of worship in the South.

ADL paid tribute to others who rallied in support of the churches, including a Colorado newspaper which mobilized the Denver community to raise money for the victims, and a music company donating profits from a gospel CD to the fund.

As part of an entire afternoon dedicated to strengthening race relations, Hugh Price, head of the National Urban League, told the ADL leaders at the 83rd annual National Commission Meeting "these are troubled times," and improved race relations in this country are imperative.

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MILESTONES

Ana Brown and Brad Tomsky Wed

Cantor and Mrs. Remmie Brown of Pawtucket and Wayne and Sylvia Tomsky of Waterford, Conn., announce the marriage of their children, Ana Brown to Brad Tomsky, on Aug. 4. The ceremony and reception took place at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston.

The bride is a graduate of New England Academy of Torah and Rhode Island College. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Brown of Deerfield Beach, Fla., and Dorothy Kay of Providence and the late Dr. Maurice Kay. Her paternal great-grandparents were the late Eva Greenberg and the late Rev. and Mrs. Meyer Smith.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Ner Yisroel of Baltimore, Md., and Talmudic University of Florida. He is the grandson of the late Patrick and Agnes Smith of Glasgow, Scotland and Mary Tomsky of West Hartford, Conn., and the late Sid Tomsky.

The bridegroom is presently working on his master's degree in business administration at Barry University and his smicha (rabbinical degree) at Talmudic University. The bride is presently teaching nursery school at the Mesivta of Miami and is planning to return to school for her master's in speech pathology and audiology.

The honor attendants for the couple were Marsha Pudell and Suellen Beiser, sisters of the bride, and Adina Rubin, best friend of the bride. The flower girl was Shoshana Pudell, niece of the bride.

Steven Pudell, Joshua Beiser



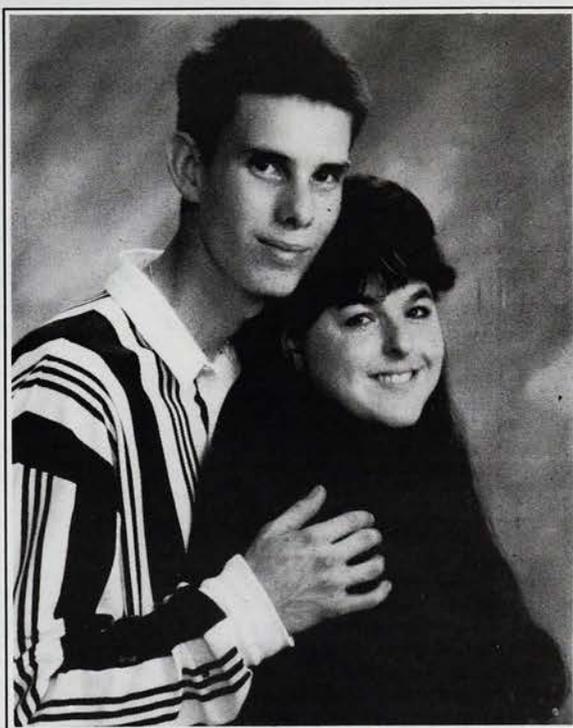
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Tomsky

and Meyer Brown, brothers of the bride, were the bridegroom's attendants. Junior attendants were Akiva Mordechai Pudell and Moshe Chaim Beiser, neph-

ews of the bride. Joel Tomsky, brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

The bride and bridegroom are currently living in Miami.

Susan Solod to Marry Danny Edmiston



Danny Edmiston and Susan Solod

Mrs. Phyllis B. Solod, of Warwick, R.I., announces the engagement of her daughter, Susan Solod, of Warwick, to Danny L. Edmiston, of North Kingstown, R.I., son of Harry and Sandi Edmiston, of North Kingstown. The bride-to-be is also the daughter of the late Arthur J. Solod.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Irene Thomashow and the late George Thomashow and the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Solod. Her fiancé is the grandson of Fred Smith and the late Marion Smith.

The bride-to-be graduated from Tollgate High School and is employed at Donmar and VNS. Her fiancé graduated from North Kingstown High School and is employed at S&S Automotive.

The date of the wedding is set for July 20, 1997.

Susan Wilbur Marries Benjamin Kaplan

Susan J. Wilbur and Benjamin E. Kaplan were married Oct. 13 at Temple Sinai.

The bride is the daughter of Evelyn Buonaiuto of Smithfield, R.I., and Joseph Wilbur of Exeter, R.I. The bridegroom is the son of Gladys and Jerome Kaplan of Cranston, R.I.

Rabbi George Astrachan officiated at the 11 a.m. ceremony and Cantor Brown participated. The reception was held at West Valley Inn.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Kathleen A. Floor, sister of

the bride, was matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Elizabeth Wilbur, sister of the bride, and Ellen D'Abate.

Charles Loens was best man and ushers were Steven Kaplan and Jay Epstein.

The bride is a graduate of Burrillville High and Rhode Island College. She is employed by GTech.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Cranston West High School and is employed by Hallmark Metals Corp.

They took their wedding trip to Las Vegas. They have made their home in Smithfield, R.I.

Linda Feldman Weds Marc Solomon

Linda Susan Feldman and Marc Ira Solomon were married Oct. 20 at Deer Creek Country Club, Deerfield, Fla. The bride is the daughter of Joan D. Feldman of Cranston, R.I. and Philip Feldman of Warwick, R.I. The bridegroom is the son of Al and Esta Solomon of Boca Raton, Fla.

Rabbi Larry Winer officiated at the 6 p.m. ceremony which was followed by a reception at the Deer Creek Country Club.

The bride was given in marriage by her parents.

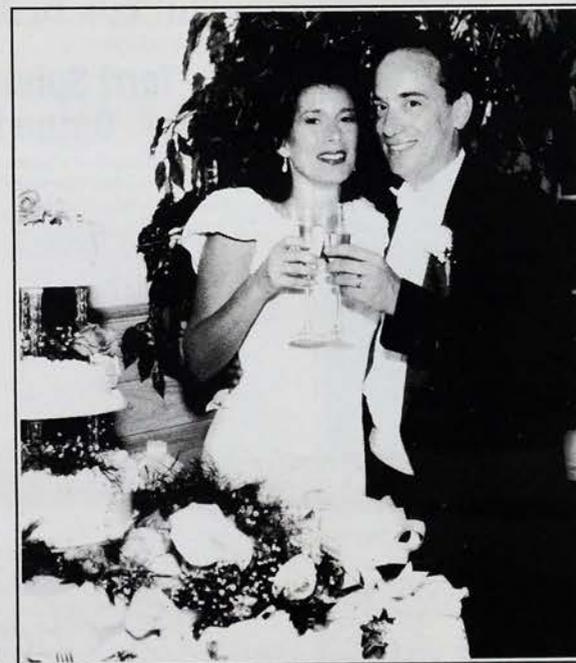
Maid of honor was Donna Carol Feldman, sister of the bride.

Mark Dorfman, the bridegroom's brother-in-law, was best man.

The bride graduated from the University of Hartford, West Hartford, Conn. The bridegroom graduated from the National Law Center of George Washington University, Washington, D.C. He is vice president of U.S. Delivery.

The bride will be known as Linda Feldman-Solomon.

The couple honeymooned in the Caribbean Islands. They have made their home in Boca Raton, Fla.



Marc Solomon and Linda Feldman-Solomon

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MILESTONES

Barbara Hecker Marries John Cabral

Barbara Gail Hecker and John Joseph Cabral were married Oct. 6 at the Metacomet Country Club, East Providence, R.I. The bride is the daughter of Norman Hecker of Cranston, R.I. The bridegroom is the son of Barbara Cabral Bannon, of Johnston, R.I. and the late John Cabral.

Judge Marvin Homonoff officiated at the 4 p.m. ceremony. A reception was held at the Metacomet Country Club.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Helen Sienivkowicz was maid of honor.

Joseph Cardin was the best man.

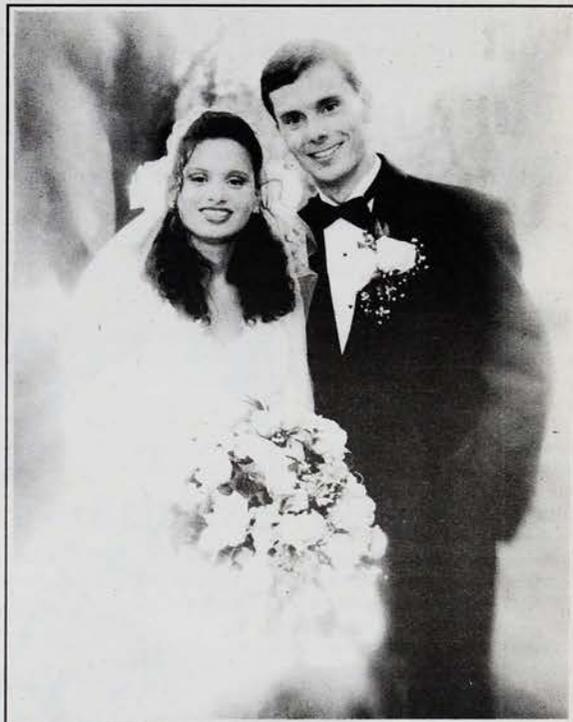
The bride graduated from Cranston High School East, and Community College of R.I., and attended Northeastern University. She is employed by Arthur J. Gallagher International Inc. as an international insurance broker and account executive. The bridegroom is employed by the state.

The couple took their wedding trip to Maui, Hawaii. They have made their home in Cranston, R.I.



Mr. and Mrs. John Cabral

Melissa A. DeCecco Weds David Z. Halpert



Mr. and Mrs. David Halpert

Jennifer Raznick Weds Kent Thaler

Jennifer Beth Raznick and Kent Myles Thaler were married Sept. 1 at Temple Beth El, Providence, R.I. The bride is the daughter of Barbara Raznick, of St. Louis, Mo., and Ira Raznick, of Davenport, Fla. The bridegroom is the son of Michael and Jill Thaler of Cranston, R.I.

Rabbi Leslie Gutterman officiated with Cantor Ida Rae Cahana participating.

A reception was held at Cafe Nuovo.

The bride was given in marriage by her mother.

Maid of honor was Heather Raznick, sister-in-law of the bride. Bridesmaids were Tara Thaler, the bridegroom's sister, and Rachel Brier. Junior bridesmaids were Sasha and Sophia Chudacoff, cousins of the bride.

David Conlin was best man and ushers were John Greim and Jason Raznick, brother of the bride.

The bride received a B.A. from Brown University and is employed as a research assistant at Brown University and instructor at Warwick Dance and Gymnastics Academy.

The bridegroom received a B.A. from Reed College, Portland, Oregon. He is vice president at International Concepts Unlimited.



Mr. and Mrs. Kent Thaler

The couple honeymooned in their home in East Greenwich, Kauai, Hawaii. They have made R.I.

Historic Scituate Congregational Church was the setting Aug. 17 for the marriage of Melissa A. DeCecco to David Z. Halpert. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip DeCecco of North Providence. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Halpert of Newburyport, Mass.

Stephanie DeCecco, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Maria Cabral, Dawn Wheelock and Amy Furia. The best man was Martin Ross. Ushers were Jack Brown, Duane Robidoux and Mark DeCecco, brother of the bride.

The bride graduated from Rhode Island College and is employed by the Central Falls School Department. The bride groom, employed by Citizens Bank, graduated from Johnson & Wales University.

They took a cruise to the Mexican Riviera on their wedding trip and live in Providence.

Terri Spisso Marries Daten Cohen

Terri Ann Spisso and Daten and Betty Taper of Providence, Benjamin Cohen were married Oct. 13 on Block Island, R.I.

The bride is the daughter of Ernie and Kathryn Spisso of Lanoka Harbor, N.J. The bridegroom is the son of Enid Cohen of Providence, R.I., and the late Robert Cohen.

Maid of honor was Debra L. Spisso, sister of the bride.

The bride is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Giordano of South Plainfield, N.J., and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Spisso Sr. of Loveladies, N.J. and Stuart, Fla.

The bridegroom is the grandson of the late Howard Cohen

and Betty Taper of Providence, R.I., and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gregerman of Boynton Beach, Fla.

The bride is the graduate of Lacey High School, Lanoka Harbor, N.J., and received a B.A. from the University of Rhode Island. She is currently enrolled in the master's program and employed at URI.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Barrington High School, and received a B.S. from the University of Rhode Island and is currently enrolled in the master's program at URI.

They have made their home in Wakefield, R.I.

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Jewish Book Month



NOVEMBER 6 TO
DECEMBER 8

Innocence Lost During the War

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

I've heard a number of Holocaust survivors tell their story of how they managed to survive the most horrific episode in the history of the world.

I'm always amazed at the courage it must have taken to make it through each day, while surrounded by so much death and destruction.

This again was the feeling I had when I recently read *The Lost Childhood*, a memoir by Yehuda Nir.

Nir, who was 9 years old at the start of the war, describes in

tally destroyed any semblance of human decency and morals among the captive laborers."

Another major theme of the book is how circumstances dictated each person's role in the family, and how these roles kept changing. This is seen for the first time when Nir's father is arrested by (and shot by) the Ukrainians.

"With Father's arrest, our lifestyle changed rapidly," Nir remembered. "The leader was gone and the surviving members of the family unit had to reshuffle their positions."

Although mentioned less frequently, another re-occurring theme is the anti-Semitism of the Polish people — which is something I've heard about from a number of survivors.

"Most of the Poles weren't fighting Nazism, I think; they were fighting Germany, their ancient foe, and therefore remained comfortably anti-Semitic while shedding their own blood in the resistance war," Nir wrote.

Throughout the story, I'm amazed at how observant and astute Nir is, at such a young age. I suppose that

when your life is in constant danger, certain survival instincts take over and you become aware of even the smallest detail which might help you live another day.

Because he was a circumcised male, Nir was in greater risk of getting caught than his sister or mother. There were several times when he was certain that it was going to be revealed that he was Jewish. Each time, he narrowly escapes, but the reader can sense his anxiety.

As resourceful and strong as the three surviving members of the family were, it's evident that the emotional support they gave each other helped them survive the experience.

Toward the end of the book, he wrote, "Lala (his sister) returned with Mother. They were crying, vainly trying to conceal their tears. For reasons not clear to me I felt an urge to console my mother, to cheer her up."

The Lost Childhood is a moving story, yet it's not emotionally draining. Perhaps that's because the circumstances in the story change so rapidly, there's not enough time to dwell on the sadness of Nir's situation.

I highly recommend this book to readers who are teen-agers or older. The 256-page memoir costs \$5.99 and is published by Berkley.

Orthodox Woman Writes Spy Thriller

by Michele Chabin
JERUSALEM (JTA) — Where does an American-born Orthodox Jewish mother of five get the knowledge needed to write a fast-moving, rather sexy Israeli spy thriller?

If you're Barbara Sofer, you do your homework.

A longtime journalist, Sofer, 47, employed her talents as a reporter during the three years it took to write her first novel, *The Thirteenth Hour*, which was just released by Dutton Books.

In the process of writing the book, which follows the lives of two women — one an American Jewish immigrant to Israel, the other an American-educated Palestinian — as they are recruited by the Israeli and Palestinian intelligence forces respectively, Sofer said she asked herself one question: "What would I do if I was recruited?"

Seated in the Jerusalem home she shares with her husband, physicist-writer Gerald Schroeder, and their children, Sofer said the idea for the novel evolved from an actual terrorist attack.

"About five years ago, four women were stabbed to death at a park where I often took my children to play. Afterward, I was tormented by the question of what I would have done if I'd been there with the terrorist," she said.

"I felt overwhelmed by helplessness, so I took a self-defense class. Then the question became, 'How can I use these skills?' Of course, I never wanted to have to use them, but I imagined what it would be like to defend myself and others. And then I just started writing."

To imbue the book with realism, Sofer embarked on a personal odyssey that led her to a Muslim cleric, an expert on explosives and a martial arts master.

"I needed to learn about explosives, so the first thing I did was read up on them," she said. "Then I went to my cousin, a sapper in the IDF, who gave me a lesson."

Smiling broadly, Sofer recounted how, during this lesson, one of her cousin's fellow kibbutzniks overheard the conversation.

"I said something like, 'I want to blow up a bus but not kill anybody,' and my cousin told me how this might be done. He noticed that this man, a carpenter who was there to finish a closet, wasn't finishing the closet."

"My cousin had to go and tell the guy not to report us."

To flesh out the Palestinian side of the story, Sofer consulted a Muslim religious leader.

"I've interviewed Palestinians, have been in Palestinian homes in professional circumstances and I drew on this information. In addition, I went to an Imam because I wanted to make sure I had the right details about Muslim worship."

In writing a novel that takes place just before the September 1993 signing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord on the White House lawn, Sofer said she strived to make her characters as multidimensional as the Israelis and Palestinians she meets every day.

"These characters aren't stereotypical. These are real Arabs and Jews, real secular and religious people who have their good points and their bad points. I believe they give the reader a chance to get beyond the clichés."

Although the novel is not

strictly speaking, educational, Sofer said she "wanted it to open up the Middle East the way *Shogun* [by James Clavell] opened up Japan for readers."

"After reading *The Thirteenth Hour*, people told me it was the first time they understood the news coming out of Israel. I'm pleased about that."

Sofer has been equally pleased by readers' reactions to her two female protagonists.

"I, for one, was tired of hearing only men's voices" in spy novels, she said. "As a feminist, I wanted the women's characters to stand out. A lot of people have responded to this."

As a modern-Orthodox Jew, Sofer admitted to feeling "some ambivalence" over the novel's steamier scenes.

"I knew I wanted to write an adult book and felt sex was an organic part of the story, not something gratuitous. I do hope that people will understand that this is a novel, not a children's book, but the bottom line is, I trust my readers."

"UNFORGETTABLE" — Chaim Potok, *New York Newsday*

In 1939, the Nazis entered Poland. Yehuda Nir survived. His innocence did not.

THE LOST CHILDHOOD

a memoir

Yehuda Nir

"A memorable rendering of the experience of the Holocaust by one of its younger survivors." — *Kirkus Reviews*

detail how he, his sister (who is older) and his mother used their intelligence, their charm, their resources and some luck to escape death on many occasions. Nir's father, and other relatives, weren't as lucky.

The story starts out in the Polish town of Lwów, where Nir grew up. It is with the prospect of war that we read a reference to "innocence lost," one of the book's major themes, for the first time.

Nir had a crush on one of his classmates, a girl named Lotti. Wanting to impress her, he planned to give her the biggest present at her birthday party. Coming from a well-to-do family, this was manageable.

But when Nir's parents argued about the cost, he recalled his mother saying, "Let him have it; you don't know how long we will be able to afford it."

Even as a young child, he knew this sounded ominous. "My mother's statement clouded the image of my first love with the prospect of war," he recalled. Toward the end of the book, he stated, "If I had any vestige of childhood innocence left by the time I arrived in

Erzberg — which I doubt — it disappeared rapidly on the estate. After five years of war, life in slave-like conditions had to

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

First Announcement of New Broadway Show

It's 1939. "Gone With the Wind" opens. Hitler invades Poland. And the daughters of Atlanta's most prominent Jewish families are ready for the Ballyhoo dance. It's going to be a night to remember.

"The Last Night of Ballyhoo," Alfred Uhry's first play since "Driving Miss Daisy," will open at the Helen Hayes Theatre, New York, on Feb. 27. Previews begin Feb. 7.

For the first time since he won the Pulitzer Prize for "Driving Miss Daisy," Uhry will return to the stage with a romantic comedy which stars Dana Ivey, who created the role of Miss Daisy, and Ron Lagomarsino, the original director of "Daisy."

Sets will be by Tony Award-winning designer John Lee Beatty, lights by Kenneth Posner, costumes by Jane Greenwood and incidental music by Robert Waldman. The remainder of the cast of seven will be announced shortly.

The story focuses on two young women, first cousins Lala Levy and Sunny Freitag. Filled with anticipation and dreams of romance, they prepare for Ballyhoo, the social event of the

holiday season for the cream of Southern Jewish society. Against this backdrop, the family is pulled apart and ultimately brought back together in this exploration of love, bigotry and the uplifting power of one's family.

Uhry won the Academy Award for the "Miss Daisy" screenplay, and "Daisy" won Best Picture of 1989. Other Uhry films include "Mystic Pizza" and "Rich in Love."

"The Last Night of Ballyhoo" was commissioned for the Cultural Olympiad for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, where it premiered to rave reviews this past summer.

The performance schedule for "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" is Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., with matinees on Wednesdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Reduced preview prices will be available for \$40 (Wednesday matinees) and \$45 (all other performances). Tickets will thereafter be \$50 (Wednesday matinees) and \$55 (all other performances). Reservations can be made by calling Ticketmaster at (212) 307-4100.

City Nights to Hold Auditions

City Nights Dinner Theatre announces open auditions for its February/March production of the comedy "Don't Dress for Dinner." The show will be produced by David Jepson.

Audition dates for "Don't Dress" are Dec. 2 and 3, at the theatre, at 7 p.m.

The show will be directed by Bruce W. Lackey. All roles are open. Needed are three men and three women, ranging in ages from mid-20s to 40.

Performance dates for this show will be Feb. 21, 22, 28, and March 1, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

City Nights provides a stipend payment to all cast, crew and production staff members. Inquiries are always welcome for all areas of participation. Apprentice positions are often available.

Those auditioning for the first time are encouraged to bring, if possible, a resume and a recent photo — to be kept on an active file — or a form and photo can be taken at the theaters. Readings will be done from the script.

Auditions for new shows take place approximately every six weeks.

City Nights is located at the center of downtown Pawtucket, next to the Pawtucket Times Newspaper Building, with easy access from Route 95 by exit 29 (at the end of the exit ramp, turn south onto Broadway, then at the first traffic light turn right onto Exchange Street).

For more information, call 723-6060, and leave a name and number. All calls will be returned.

BCC Presents 'The Tempest'

BCC Theatre Rep will transform the main stage at the Margaret L. Jackson Arts Center at Bristol Community College into an enchanted island as they present "The Tempest" by William Shakespeare on Nov. 21, 22 and 23.

Shakespeare's last play tells the story of Prospero, a magician, who lives on a magical island with his daughter, Miranda, Caliban, his slave, and an airy spirit known as Ariel. Associate professor Rylan Brenner is BCC Theatre Rep's artistic director.

Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. each evening at BCC's Elsbree Street campus in Fall River. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$3 for students and seniors, and are available at the door on the nights of the show. For more information, contact BCC Theatre Rep at (508) 678-2811, ext. 2442.

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Oop! Event

Oop!, 297 Thayer St., Providence, will present a "Found Object Art" show from Dec. 1 to 31.

The show will feature original craft work using anything and everything as the medium. Works include furniture, clocks, picture frames, candlesticks and sculpture.

For more information, call Oop! at 455-0844.

42nd Street Revisited

by Arlene Sherman
Special to the Herald

Weybossett Street, home of the Providence Performing Arts Center, was transformed into 42nd Street as it looked and sounded decades ago, last night.

A high spirited, toe tapping production was energized by Kathy Halende, as Maggie Jones, when she delivered powerhouse renditions of the old songs in Ethel Merman style. Rebecca Rupken was terrific as Peggy Sawyer, star of the show, playing a girl who wanted to be the star of a show like this one.

The dancing was energetic, the singing terrific, the costumes sparkling, the orchestra top notch, but when the story line of a production is as slight and familiar as this one, the songs and dances should be non-stop, and so strong that the plot becomes incidental.

People over fifty will love the show for the memories these great songs bring back.

Dancers will appreciate the tap dancing, which appeals to people of every age.

"The Street" provides a light and frisky trip back in time.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



A Backward Glance at the Jews of Boston

From its early history as a place that forbade Jews to be buried within its city limits and demanded that a Hebrew teacher convert to Christianity, Boston has become home to the nation's sixth-largest Jewish community.

"The Jews of Boston," a new hour-long special produced by WGBH, chronicles the history of Boston's Jewish population and looks at the meaning of "being Jewish." Leonard Nimoy, a native of Boston's West End, narrates "The Jews of Boston," which will air on 'GBH/2 on Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. (repeats Dec. 1 at 7:15 p.m. on 'GBH/44, Dec. 8 at 12:20 p.m. and 11:40 p.m. on 'GBH/2, and Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. on 'GBH/2).

"We've tried to lay out a chronological, intergenerational presentation of this often-surprising history, both through academicians and through first-person anecdotes," said producer Lorie Conway. "We hope to make an extraordinary heritage come alive."

Contemporary Bostonians talk about being Jewish and how it affects their lives. Aaron Feuerstein, CEO of Malden Mills, tells how his faith influenced his decision to rebuild his Lawrence-based factory after a devastating fire last winter. Writers Anne Bernays and Jus-

tin Kaplan, non-observant Jews, describe their Judaism as more about personal identity than religion. Harvard student Aton Cohen, a Yiddish scholar who writes for the *Harvard Lampoon* and "Beavis and Butt-Head," describes having to leave editorial meetings or step away from deadlines to observe the Sabbath on Friday nights.

Ellen Smith and Jonathan D. Sarna, editors of the book *The Jews of Boston*, which served as inspiration for this program, lend perspective on the history of Jews in Boston. Before the Civil War, Boston was home to fewer than 500 Jews. By 1895, more than 20,000 Jews lived in Boston, and by the early 1900s, that number doubled.

Mary Antin, a Russian Jew who came to Boston when she was 13 years old, described the dichotomy of immigrant life — exuberance of opportunity and desperation of poverty. Contemporary Bostonians recall their families' passages from Eastern Europe to Boston and the lives they met here.

The North End was home to the first wave of Jewish immigrants; there, Jews lived side-by-side with Italians in crowded tenements. "Many people told stories of Italian children that



THE JEWISH WORKERS of the Boston Matzo Baking Company on Parmenter Street, North End, pose for a picture in 1894. Photo courtesy of The American Jewish Historical Society, Waltham, MA

could speak Yiddish and Yiddish children speaking Italian," said Ellen Smith. Chelsea, the West End, and the South End soon had sizable Jewish communities, as well. By the 1950s, Blue Hill Avenue in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan became the last Jewish enclave in

the city. Through personal anecdotes about push carts, delis, herring barrels, and synagogues, "The Jews of Boston" brings Boston's Jewish community — from Salem Street to Blue Hill Avenue — alive.

Anti-semitism runs throughout the Jews' history in Boston,

first from Yankees, then from other immigrants, and, by the 1930s, from Hitler in Germany. "It's always good for American Jews to be nervous," said Jonathan Sama. "Jews have learned from their history that complacency is a luxury they cannot afford."

Queensland Ballet to Dance 'Pirates of Penzance'

Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" has gone through yet another transformation. Following the hit musical (1980) of the hit comic opera (1879), a ballet version has been created by the Queensland Ballet, Australia's classical dance company.

The world's only dance ver-

sion of the Gilbert and Sullivan hilarious light opera, featuring dancers as well as singers, will be performed under the heading of "Pirates! The Ballet" in Rhode Island College's Performing Arts Series on Nov. 25, at 8 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

Reserved-seat tickets are \$18 with discounts for senior citi-

zens and students and may be ordered in advance by telephone via Mastercard or VISA by calling 456-8194 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. The box office is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, and up to the time of performance.

For more information, call 456-8194.

Brass Quintet to Perform

The Ocean State Brass Quintet will give a concert at the Barrington Public Library on Nov. 24 at 2 p.m.

The concert offerings will be lively, upbeat and eclectic as usual. The program will include Dixieland jazz, big band music, fanfares, show tunes, marches and a bit of holiday music as well.

Quintet members Peter Williams and George Proulx (trumpets), Robert Greenwalt (horn), Craig Leonard (trombone) and Rolland Bartlett (tuba), enjoy providing commentary on their instruments.

Families with school-age children are welcome. This concert is free and open to all.

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WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

Christopher's Exit Heralds New Era

by Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — As president, Bill Clinton decides the administration's policy toward Israel and the Middle East.

But it was Secretary of State Warren Christopher who anchored a pro-Israel team that many believe set a new standard by which future diplomats will be measured.

When Christopher leaves his post after President Clinton's inauguration Jan. 20, U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East will have a dramatically different face.

In addition to Christopher's resignation, announced just after Clinton was re-elected to his second term, White House officials expect a major reshuffling of the entire Middle East peace process team.

No secretary of state before him logged more travel miles, including 18 trips to the Middle East.

Since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed their historic agreement on the White House lawn three years ago, Christopher has spent more time trying to achieve what all secretaries of state before him could not: comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Although not fully successful, it was on his watch that significant progress was made,

including Israeli accords with the Palestinians, Jordanians and other Mideast nations.

Along the way, his quest included many controversial steps:

- Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat won a coveted Oval Office meeting with Clinton on Christopher's recommendation.

- Clinton sat with Syrian President Hafez Assad in an attempt to win a peace treaty between Jerusalem and Damascus.

- World leaders gathered in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheik to condemn terrorism in the wake of a string of deadly suicide bombings in Israel. Some faulted the U.S.-initiated conference as "photo-op" diplomacy.

Attaining peace in the Middle East was so central to his goals that may believe that Christopher, 71, would have stayed in his post if Israel and Syria had been on course toward a peace accord.

But with Syrian negotiations stalemated and the Israeli-Palestinian talks stalled, Christopher decided to step down.

Not all Jewish organizational officials are sad to see Christopher go.

"Christopher was a major disappointment," said Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America.

"He, along with President

Clinton, ignored Yasser Arafat's anti-peace behavior," Klein said, citing the Palestinian Authority leader's calls for "jihad, incitement of terrorists and failure to amend the PLO Covenant."

Others were critical of Christopher's approach to Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

"This administration was unrealistic about what could be accomplished through their diplomacy with the Syrians," said Douglas Feith, deputy defense secretary during the Reagan administration.

"A sign of their excessively high expectations was the excessive high investment they were willing to make in the form of more than two dozen trips by Christopher to Damascus," said Feith, who has been a vocal critic of the Clinton administration's foreign policy in the Middle East.

Fans of Christopher sought to deflect such criticism.

"You cannot fault this administration for working every angle to put the peace process on firm footing against all challenges," said Jason Isaacson, director of the Washington office of the American Jewish Committee.

At the same time, Christopher has won praise for his vigorous defense of the U.S. foreign aid program, through which Israel receives more than \$3.1 billion a year.



Hail and Farewell

At the recent Israel Bonds Leadership Conference in Toronto, Gen. Nathan Sharony (second from right) was honored on the completion of his successful three-year tenure as president and CEO of the bonds organization.

Pictured from left: William Belzberg, chairman of the board; Zeldia Sharony; Burton P. Resnick, incoming national campaign chairman; Susan Weikers-Volchok, national campaign chairman; Gen. Sharony; and David Hermelin, international chairman.

Photo by Rosemary Goldfar

'Happy Birthday, King!'

Israel Line

President Ezer Weizman recently participated in a party honoring Jordanian King Hussein on the occasion of his 61st birthday, *Yediot Aharonot* reported.

The party was held at Jordan's embassy in Tel Aviv. Among the dignitaries who attended the event were Foreign Minister David Levy, Justice Minister Tzachi Hanegbi and Egyptian ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Bassiouny.

Jordanian ambassador to Israel Omar Rifee said, "This is the first time we have celebrated the king's birthday in Israel, and it gives us great joy to do so."

Weizman wished the king long life and continued stability in his regime.

Israel Line was prepared by Adam Z. Heilman and Osnat Yanusevsky-Yacoby.

Hebron Agreement Under Discussion

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has ordered a large contingent of troops to Hebron, in the interest of preventing conflict between Jewish and Palestinian residents of the city on the eve of the IDF's redeployment there, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Speaking to members of the United Kibbutz Movement on Nov. 14, Mordechai said the new Hebron redeployment agreement is different from the one signed by the previous government. The crucial distinction is the IDF's reserving the right to operate in Arab areas of the city, in cases where the threat of a terrorist attack is present.

Some details from the draft of the new Hebron agreement are as follows:

- The territory surrounding

the Jewish quarter of the city is to be designated a buffer zone, which it is hoped will decrease potential friction between Jewish and Arab residents. The diameter of the zone has been set just beyond the range of a rifle bullet; the carrying of rifles within the zone will be strictly prohibited.

- Areas which constitute vantage points over Jewish neighborhoods are to be reconnoitered jointly by Israeli-Palestinian patrols. No unaccompanied Palestinian police presence will be permitted.

- Palestinian police stations

will be posted no closer than one kilometer (approximately 0.6 miles) from the nearest Jewish home.

- The maximum number of rifles allowed Palestinian police forces has not been adjusted, and remains at 100 rifles for every 400 policemen. Israel is requiring that the Palestinian police be forbidden from equipping officers with any weapons more powerful than short-range sub-machine guns.

In Jerusalem, negotiators continued to talk without achieving significant progress, Israel Radio reported.

Israel Gives Aid to Zaire

Communicated by Foreign Ministry Spokesman

Adhering to its policy of offering humanitarian assistance to distressed countries, Israel has donated \$30,000 worth of medical supplies to the government of Zaire to assist refugees who have been displaced as a result of the recent fighting.

Israel's ambassador to Zaire is insuring that the supplies are properly disseminated. Israel also intends to offer further assistance to Zaire through the United Nations when its aid plan is finalized.

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Agudath Israel Plans Event for End of Talmud Study Cycle

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen
NEW YORK (JTA) — More than 20,000 fervently Orthodox Jews are expected to pack New York's Madison Square Garden next September for a "Siyum Hashas," a celebration completing the cycle of studying the entire Talmud.

There are 2,771 pages in the eight volumes that make up the commentaries of ancient rabbis on the text of the written Torah.

Tens of thousands of men study one page of Talmud each day, a process that takes seven and one-half years to complete.

Agudath Israel of America wants to know who they are.

The organization, which represents the interests of the fervently Orthodox community, is asking the men who study "Daf Yomi" or a daily page of the Talmud, to register with it so that it can determine how many people are engaged in the worldwide

undertaking. Those who register will get a certificate honoring their achievement and the chance to buy tickets for the Sept. 28 celebration, said Rabbi Avi Shafran, a spokesman for Agudath Israel.

No one really knows how many men study *Daf Yomi*, he said.

The organization is aware of about 600 small groups of between six and a dozen men who gather each day to learn together, but countless more men study in private pairs with a friend or in yeshivas across the country.

Add to that the number of men on their way to work who can be seen on New York City's subways and buses each day focused on the open volume of Talmud resting in their laps, and the more than 15,000 men around the world who study each day by calling "Daf-a-Daf," and the number could surprise everyone.

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Israeli Principals Glimpse Pluralistic Jewish Education

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA)—Joyfully singing prayers of thanksgiving, some 40 third-graders clutch the new Bibles that their parents have given them.

As the children stand inside a large circle formed by their parents in the gym at Manhattan's Abraham Joshua Heschel School, the grown-ups bend down to say a few private words to their children.

In unison, they sing the prayer thanking G-d for bringing them to this blessed moment at which the kids will begin their formal study of Torah. There is hardly a dry eye in the room.

At the back of the gym, a group of visitors, principals of Jerusalem public schools, are deeply impressed by the sight of non-Orthodox families so happy and serious about their children's religious educations.

"The way the parents and the rabbis talked with such emotion spoke to the people involved and made it more significant" than the way the comparable Chumash ceremony is held for second-graders in his school, said Dov Segal.

Segal is principal of the Aleph elementary public school, which is Orthodox, in Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood.

He was visiting Heschel and other Jewish schools here as part of a delegation of 13 Jerusalem principals on a recent trip designed to demonstrate how Jewish education can inculcate religious values, pluralism and tolerance.

The seminar, titled "Jewish Education in a Pluralistic Society," was organized jointly by the American Jewish Committee and the Education Authority of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert joined the delegation during the first of its dozen days visiting schools and Jewish education experts in New York, New Jersey and Washington, D.C.

Participants also met with leaders of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism.

Teaching tolerance to devoutly religious people and imbuing positive religious values in people who lead secular lives has become increasingly important in Israel since an Orthodox Jew murdered Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin one year ago.

The assassination brought into painful relief the gulf separating the two populations.

The system of public schools in Israel reflects the estrangement. There are separate schools for every segment of the population, from the fervently Orthodox to the secular.

The populations are segregated and, as a result, students tend to possess inaccurate and slightly demonized views of the other segments of the population, the principals said.

In Israel's Orthodox schools, students are often taught that there is only one way to be Jewish — their way.

And among secular Israelis who are now two and three generations removed from the meld of religious and communal identity that their grandparents knew

in European and North African Jewish centers, there is Jewish illiteracy and resistance to the notion that Judaism as a religion might have something to offer them.

Although every secular school student is taught about three hours of Bible each week, it is transmitted as literature and history rather than as a sacred text with the potential to inspire holiness.

The central problem the trip was designed to address is the fact that in Israel, "secular education leaves people without any roots and religious education is very fundamentalist," said Meir Kraus, deputy director of Jerusalem's Education Authority.

"We haven't found the balance between universalism and particularism," he said.

The Israeli educators said they felt inspired by the integration of religious and secular identities evident in many of the classrooms they visited in the United States and wanted to try to weave some of it into their own schools in Jerusalem.

Two years ago, Israel's national Shenhar Commission con-

principal of the secular Rene Cassin Junior High School. "Through history I teach them very important values, and I don't think I'll ruin the soul of some little child" by doing it that way.

She would like to see Israel introduce a religiously integrated school system, though she acknowledged that it is not likely to happen.

"Being divided makes extremists on both sides," she said. "Judaism belongs to all of us."

Some principals of both religious and secular schools in Jerusalem are working to introduce that concept to their students.

Dov Singer, principal of Mekor Chaim Yeshiva, a fervently Orthodox boys high school, this year began bringing his students together with boys from a nearby secular school once a week to study Talmudic texts.

At the secular Beit Hinuch High School, 11th- and 12th-graders are required to study Talmud, according to the principal, Gideon Stachel.

"It is very rare to learn Talmud in a non-religious school," he said. "In the beginning there was some resistance, but if you are a Jew and an Israeli you must learn it because it is the basis for our culture." A new school in Jerusalem is making coexistence a reality.

The school, Keshet, brings together equal numbers of rigorously religious and stringently secular students and teachers.

The students study some subjects together and others apart, said Principal Ruth Lehavi, who is observant.

"We are not looking for a compromise between the two populations," she said of the 2-year-old school.

Only religious students participate in morning prayers and study Jewish law. Secular students will look at the same theme as religious students, but "in a different voice," she said.

For example, rather than studying the laws governing the observance of a particular holy day, the secular students are taught "the customs and the idea of the holiday," she said.

"In the beginning there was some resistance, but if you are a Jew and an Israeli you must learn (Talmud) because it is the basis for our culture."

Gideon Stachel

cluded a four-year study of Jewish identity in Israeli schools.

One of the recommendations, to include Jewish religious education in secular schools, will be implemented next year, when the Torah portion of the week will be taught in Jerusalem's junior high schools, said Kraus of the education authority.

"There is always suspicion [in secular schools] that we are trying to make them" Orthodox, said Kraus, "but we just want to build common Jewish identity."

The challenge of implementing even this seemingly simple program was evident in the feelings of at least one of the principals, who dismissed the idea of teaching the portion of the week.

"I don't think it is the most important thing for my students to know," said Shula Carmel,

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U.S. Survivors of Holocaust May File Late Claims For Reparations

U.S. survivors of the Holocaust eligible for reparations from Germany under a new Holocaust Claims Program should file their claims, even though the official deadline has passed, the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States announced this month.

"The Commission will continue to accept claim forms as long as handling those claims will not interfere with the review of claims that were filed on time," said commission chairwoman Delissa A. Ridgway. "However, potential claimants should file as soon as possible, to help ensure that their claims can be considered."

The new program was announced by Attorney General Janet Reno in a speech at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. The attorney general stated, "It is essential that those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis receive reparations for what they lost."

The program is based on a September 1995 agreement between the United States and Germany in which Germany agreed to pay three million marks (about \$2.1 million) to certain Americans who survived Nazi concentration camps.

Under that agreement, Germany also pledged to provide funds for reparations to additional U.S. survivors of the Holocaust whose claims are adjudicated before September 1997.

Congress passed legislation authorizing the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to determine the validity of claims under this agreement and give

the information to the Department of State, which is to use those findings to negotiate a final settlement with Germany. The Department of Treasury will hold the funds received and make payments pursuant to the commission's decisions.

Commission chairman Ridgway emphasized that the new Holocaust claims program is open only to those Holocaust survivors who were U.S. citizens at the time of their Nazi persecution and were interned in a concentration camp or under comparable conditions.

The agreement excludes reparations for those subjected to forced labor only and for those who have received compensation from Germany previously.

The claims program offers the only opportunity for U.S. survivors of the Holocaust to receive compensation from Germany through the U.S. government.

The commission is an independent quasi-judicial agency in the Department of Justice that works to resolve claims of U.S. citizens against foreign countries.

Claims under the Holocaust program may be filed by completing and returning a form available from the commission, Ridgway said. To obtain the forms and other information about the Holocaust program, write to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Washington, D.C. 20579.

Forms also can be obtained in person at the commission office at 600 E Street, N.W., Suite 6002, Washington, D.C.; or by telephone, (202) 616-6975 or fax (202) 616-6993.

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OBITUARIES

FREDA BEZAN

WARWICK — Freda Bezan, 88, of 270 Post Road, a saleswoman at Lerner Shops for more than 40 years, died Nov. 11 in the Pawtuxet Village Nursing Home. She was the widow of Benjamin Bezan.

Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Harry and Augusta (Feldman) Malin.

She was a former member of Temple Beth-Am in Warwick, Hadassah and B'nai B'rith.

She leaves a son, Dr. Allen I. Bezan of Waban, Mass.; a brother, Edward Malin of Lake Oswego, Ore.; two sisters, Esther Spaniel of Denver, Colo., and Ada Malin of Plattsburg, N.Y.; and a grandchild. She was the sister of the late Benjamin Malin.

The funeral service was held Nov. 14 in the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery.

HENRY COHEN

FREETOWN — Henry Cohen, 82, died unexpectedly Nov. 15. He was the son of the late Abram and Rebecca (Roscoe) Cohen.

Born in New Bedford, he lived there most of his life, living in Dartmouth for 27 years.

He was the owner of the former Byron's Sportswear Shop in New Bedford until his retirement in 1976.

He was a member of the New Bedford Chamber of Commerce, a life member of the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home, and a member of the Jewish Federation of New Bedford.

A WWII veteran, he was a member of the Jewish War Veterans.

Survivors include a sister, Minnie Cohen of New Bedford. He was also the brother of the late Harry Cohen, Sidney Cohen and Rose Tepper.

Services were held Nov. 18 at Plainville Cemetery, New Bedford.

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

STEVEN DWARES

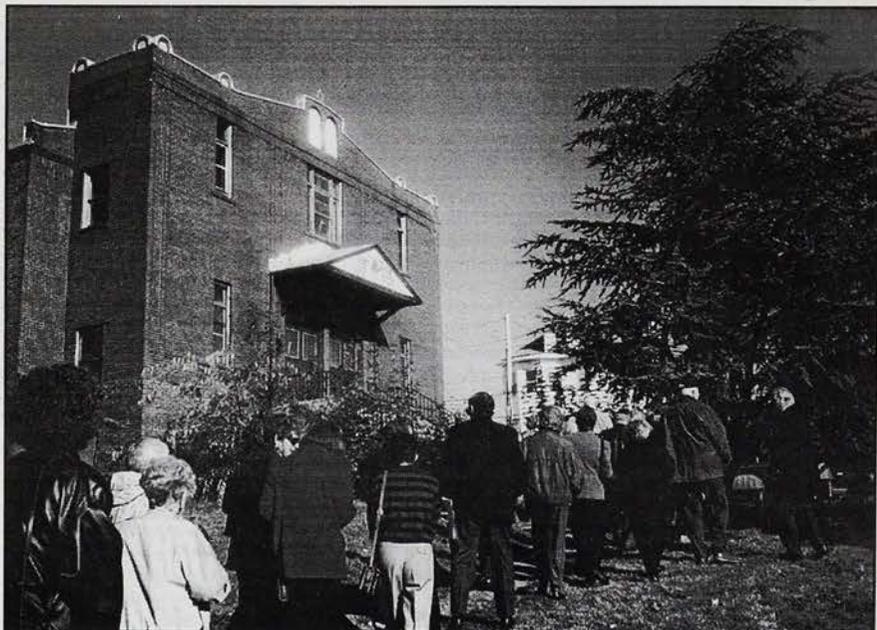
NEW YORK, N.Y. — Steven Dwares, 41, of New York City, formerly of Providence, a philosophy teacher and social activist, died Nov. 11 at home.

Born in Providence, a son of Rosalyn (Kremer) Sinclair and adopted son of Joseph Sinclair of Providence and Narragansett, and the son of the late Milton L. Dwares, he lived in New York for 15 years, previously living in Providence.

He was a 1978 graduate of Brown University. He was a teacher and student of Eastern philosophy. In New York City, he was an activist and advocate for several social programs.

Besides his parents, he leaves a sister, Sarah Sinclair Scoliard of Providence, and three step-sisters, Sherry Pederson of Fresno, Calif., Lani Sinclair of Takoma Park, Md., and Jodie Sinclair of Boston.

The funeral and burial were private. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.



Visiting an Honored Veteran

Friends and members of The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association visited the Sons of Jacob Congregation at Douglas Avenue and Orms Street on Oct. 27. The congregation was 100 years old on Oct. 13.

ANNI HAYUM PROVIDENCE — Anni (Meisel) Hayum, died Nov. 16 at her residence, 1085 North Main St. She was the wife of the late Alfred Hayum.

She is survived by a son, Walter Hayum of Marshfield, Mass.; a sister, Josi Glaser of Bern, Switzerland; and grandchildren, Dr. and Mrs. Scott Haltzman, and four other

grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were private. The family was assisted with arrangements by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

ALBERT LASHER

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Albert Lasher, 85, of 3 Merrymount Drive, N. Dartmouth, died Nov. 10. He was the son of the late Jacob and Esther Lasher.

He died at St. Luke's Hospital.

Born in New York City, he lived in the New Bedford area most of his life.

He was employed by Aerovox as a supervisor for 40 years until his retirement 24 years ago.

He was a vice president of Ahavath Achim Synagogue, a member of the Lions Club, B'nai B'rith and a volunteer for Hospice of New Bedford.

Survivors include his widow; two daughters, Elaine Shea of Hanover and Marlene Lasher of Eugene, Oregon; a brother, Shep Lasher of Florida; and two grandchildren.

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

HARRY SHECHTMAN

PROVIDENCE — Harry Shechtman, 77, of 38 Glengrove Ave., an upholsterer for 20 years before becoming the property manager for the Isidore Shechtman Co. of Providence, retiring seven years ago, died Nov. 16 at Roger Williams Medical Center, Providence. He was the husband of Esther (Simkofsky) Shechtman.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Isidore and Ida (Beck) Shechtman, he lived in Cranston for 43 years. He also resided in Reseda, Calif., for seven years.

He was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael. He was a member of the William Gates Cutler Olympics and the Touro Fraternal Association.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Kent Shechtman of North Kingstown and Stuart Shechtman of Cranston; a daughter, Barbara Sherman of Port Charlotte, Fla.; a brother, Samuel Shechtman of Cranston; a sister, Lillian Weinberg of Cranston; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held Nov. 17 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

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Lewis Weinstein, 91, Dies

The Jewish Advocate BOSTON (JTA) — Lewis Weinstein, an eminent Boston lawyer and longtime community and national Jewish leader, recently died at the age of 91.

Weinstein served as president of Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston and chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

Born in 1905 near Vilna, Lithuania, Weinstein came to the United States when he was 15 months old.

He practiced law in Boston for more than 60 years.

In 1942, at the age of 37, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and achieved the rank of colonel. He served as Gen. Dwight D.

Eisenhower's liaison officer to Charles de Gaulle, entering Paris with him at the time of its liberation.

In April 1945, Weinstein persuaded Eisenhower to see the extent of Nazi atrocities, and accompanied Eisenhower, Gen. George Patton and Gen. Omar Bradley on their visit to the first German death camp liberated by the Americans.

He was a recipient of the French Legion of Honor and Croix de Guerre with Palm, and the U.S. Army Legion of Merit and Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster.

After World War II, he was a partner and senior partner at Foley, Hoag & Eliot for almost 50 years.

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CLASSIFIED

Women

(Continued from Page 3)

begged Eliash to hide, but she feared for the lives of the rest of her brigade.

Then, on July 8, 1944, a Nazi general ordered all Jewish workers out of the factory. Carrying a watch the chemist had pulled from her own wrist, Eliash marched back to the ghetto to find that the Nazis had poured tar into the corners and set everything on fire.

"It was a horrible scene," Eliash said. "There was shooting, and people were running. Some were running to the electric fence, because the fence had lost its power in the fire."

Using the watch as a bribe, Eliash convinced a guard to lift the fence for her, and she staggered out into a cemetery while the ghetto burned.

Later, she returned to the factory.

"They were delighted to see me," Eliash said. "I had worked next to a woman named Maria.

Palestinian

(Continued from Page 4)

go it alone and tell Uncle Sam we thank you for the help in the past and we would like to try survival on our own resources and on our industrial capability.

If the unemployment problems of Palestinian Authority territories must wait for the final resolving of all the issues then the Middle East will head for an abyss with further tragedy for the whole area and especially the Palestinians.

It must be realized that the plight of the Palestinians has

She hid me in a pigsty, then she found a man to hide me. I stayed in the hiding place until the war was over."

Eliash and her daughter were reunited, and in 1947, she learned that her husband, Solomon, had survived Dachau.

Looking composed after the talk, Eliash answered questions about her experience directly, telling her audience not to generalize about human evil.

"After my husband got out of Dachau, he and a friend stood in their camp uniforms at a long line for a restaurant in Munich," said Eliash. "They had no money. The restaurant owner came out and told them, 'You don't have to wait, you have suffered enough,' and brought them in and fed them. The owner, a woman, fed them for nothing three times a day and offered them a place to sleep. She also said she had been proud to lose her only son in Hitler's army."

been brought upon them by their fellow Arabs who fight amongst themselves and who have ostracized them within the Fertile Crescent.

Under no circumstances should any aid funds be parceled out to the P.A. Economic help should be given out only to those manufacturers and agricultural farmers who are producing for export. The existing factories must start working around the clock now. Not later.

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Kristallnacht

(Continued from Page 3)

each regional office complete a spate of interviews as they battle time for testimonies.

At the ceremony, Franks played a demonstration tape about a man who had survived the Holocaust because he could play the harmonica.

Semitic melodies filled the room as an image of an elderly man playing the harmonica lit up the screen. Viewers heard both his music and his voice. Later, there were black and white images from the world the way it was before the Holocaust.

"I have heard horrible things," Franks said after the tape. "I have spoken to someone whose aunt went mad after she saw the bodies of her town's male population still moving in a new mass grave, and to people who saw their mothers and sisters taken away."

But Franks also said many of the survivors she spoke to had survived because of the efforts of other Jews or gentiles.

"A woman with typhus was shivering in concentration camp barracks, and there were no blankets," Franks said. "The other women surrounded her, and hugging her, made a human blanket. She survived the night and none of the women contracted typhus."

Franks also cited examples of people who had survived due to luck, and people who had received help from gentiles.

"There were few helpers, but those who helped made a huge difference," Franks said.

Franks ended her presentation by reading "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," a poem written by a young Theresienstadt inmate who did not survive the war.

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Orthodox Groups Fight Doctor-Aided Suicide

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Terminally ill people do not have a constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide, Orthodox Jewish groups argued in briefs submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the Rabbinical Council of America and Agudath Israel of America have filed friend-of-the-court briefs urging the justices to support laws banning physician-assisted suicide.

Earlier this year, federal appeals courts in New York and Washington struck down laws prohibiting doctors in the two states from prescribing life-ending drugs for terminally ill but mentally competent people who want to die.

The court is scheduled to hear the states' appeals early next year and will issue a ruling by July.

The high court first acknowledged a constitutional right to

die in 1990 when it ruled that terminally ill people had a right to refuse life-sustaining medical treatment.

But in the administration's brief, Dellinger said, "There is an important and common-sense distinction between withdrawing artificial supports so that a disease will progress to its inevitable end, and providing chemicals to be used to kill someone." Lawyers for the Clinton administration also filed a friend-of-the-court brief urging the Supreme Court to reinstate the New York and Washington laws banning assisted-suicide.

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Teaching the Torah Way

by Cary Eichenbaum

On the chalkboard of Robert Allen's third-grade classroom at the Camden Avenue Elementary School in Providence are writings that are as typical as any to be found at any school.

There are multiplication tables, English vocabulary lessons, instructions as to how get ahead in life, the day, date, weather and current events.

On the bottom right-hand corner of the board, however, are two sentences that read:

"A good deed I deed yesterday was to _____"

"A good deed I will do today will be to _____"

In short, these two brief blackboard etchings are in the stories of Allen's 28-year-life. For Allen has always made doing good deeds and mitzvahs the rule in his life, rather than the exception. He has always lived a life full of Torah and yiddishkeit replete with love and fear of G-d, community involvement and charity, strict adherence to the laws of Judaism, and love of his fellow Jew and person.

And he passes these sentiments on every school day to his students, whether it's the third-graders at Camden Avenue School, or the fifth-graders at Temple Sinai Hebrew School, where he also teaches.

Camden Avenue School is in the heart of Smith Hill, not ex-

actly the Palm Springs of Rhode Island. Just about every day, according to Allen, there are fights outside the school and bikes being stolen.

The school is as typical as any inner-city school in the country, possessing kids, who, although at times can be good, can be downright unruly at other times. Allen said his kids are sometimes disrespectful (to himself, other teachers and administrators), run around in class, and start fights with each other.

The oldest of three boys of Egyptian immigrants, Allen makes kindness and good deeds a regular part of his life.

This past year was quite frustrating for Allen, as he consistently had to raise his voice in class. (Allen did stress, however, that he had many exceptional and bright students in his class.)

But throughout his eight years in the profession, Allen has maintained a steady belief in himself, his abilities as a teacher, and mostly, in G-d.

Whenever Allen is depressed or angry or down in any way, he turns all that negative energy

into prayer, and most of the time, he said, things get better.

Allen said one time, when he was extremely behind in his paperwork and was nearly at wit's end, he went to the 6:30 a.m. minyan, prayed hard for his kids to be quiet for half an hour so he could get his work done, and somehow, miraculously, they were.

The oldest of three boys of Egyptian immigrants, Allen makes kindness and good deeds a regular part of his life.

He worships at temple every morning and night, leads parts of the Shabbat services at Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, the first temple he remembers going to, gives to Jewish and non-Jewish charities and never speaks bad words (loshon hara) about his fellow Jew.

Allen also reads the daily portions of King David's Book of Psalms (Tehillim) every day. He reads Tehillim because he said it gives him energy and motivates him to face each new day.

When asked what motivates him to be an exceptional Jew, Allen responded that it was his paternal grandfather, who died in 1988, but who is still very fondly remembered in Providence's Jewish community.



Honored Guest

Janice Greenwald, national chairwoman of Hadassah's Nurses Council, spoke recently to Rhode Island Hadassah. Greenwald was a delegate to the Fourth World Conference on the Status of Women held in Beijing, China.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

'Gateway' Helps Israeli Firms

by Michael Gelbwasser
The Jewish Advocate

BOSTON (JTA) — Israeli companies are entering the North American market through a new "gateway" officially opened in October by the New England-Israel Chamber of Commerce and the Massachusetts Port Authority.

The Market Gateway program will provide business strategy counseling and a physical infrastructure to 10 to 15 Israeli companies eager to establish themselves in the United States. These companies will leave the Gateway in 12 to 18 months and, ideally, set up offices in Massachusetts. New companies would then join the Gateway.

The Gateway's first two participants, Limited Software Co. of Tel Aviv, a systems integrated network management firm, and Spegas, a Jerusalem company that produces carbon dioxide monitors, are set to move into Gateway's base, a section of the Boston Fish Pier West Building. Each company will pay \$2,000 per month to participate.

The chamber, Massport, which owns and operates the building, and the Israel Economic Office/New England Region are co-sponsoring the Gateway. Proceeds from the chamber's recent annual meeting will provide the seed money for the project.

Officials expect that the program will be self-sustaining through revenues before the end of its second year of operation.

Participants will have on-call access to business counselors from local legal, accounting, financial and other professional service firms.

"Boston is a great headquarters for a company trying to operate in the U.S.," chamber Executive Director Dana Edelman said, adding, "The

kind of people you need to work are here, and the venture capital is here."

The Gateway program aims to help Israeli companies succeed in North America quicker by reducing the cost and risk associated with entering this market.

Participating companies will be assigned at least one volunteer "mentor," a successful local entrepreneur or senior executive, who will offer business development guidance.

One mentor, Paul Rodman, chief executive officer of the Gallery Group of Automobile Dealerships in Norwood, envisions the mentors as catalysts and conduits between the Israeli and North American markets. "I'm excited because I can help somebody," Rodman said. "If we can help somebody be successful, great."

However, the mentoring element concerns Israeli economic official David Salton, who said he is worried that the "expectation of Israeli companies will be much higher" than volunteers can reach.

Participants will have on-call access to business counselors from local legal, accounting, financial and other professional service firms. In addition, the companies may network nationwide through the 24 members of the America-Israel Chambers of Commerce.

The Israeli companies "can plug into the expertise and experience so they can stay on track," Edelman said.

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