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Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

Jewish Book
Month

PAGE 11

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

VOLUME LXVII, NUMBER 2

KISLEV 17, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1996

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JFRI Supports Non-Orthodox Conversions

The Executive Committee of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island has unanimously endorsed a resolution that urges the Israeli Knesset not to change the law that now recognizes non-Orthodox conversions performed in Israel.

"This resolution was carefully drafted at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations which met in mid-November in Seattle," Edward D. Feldstein, JFRI president, told the members of the Executive Committee at the Nov. 19 meeting.

Steven A. Rakitt, JFRI executive director who attended the GA, said that "The delegates to the General Assembly clearly recognized that Jews in the Diaspora cannot dictate internal Israeli policy, but most felt that the question of the legitimacy of conversions of non-Jews to Judaism affects Jews the world over.

Most Jews in the United States identify themselves as Conservative or Reform and they are concerned that non-recognition of conversions performed by Conservative and Reform rabbis in Israel may have significant ramifications in the diaspora.

"The resolution asks the Knesset not to amend current law in order to restrict recognition of conversions and not to change any aspect of the Law of Return which grants immediate Israeli citizenship to diaspora Jews, including those converted to Judaism, who make aliyah," Rakitt explained.

Last year, the Israeli Supreme

Court said that there is nothing in Israeli law which invalidates non-Orthodox conversions performed in Israel. The court added, however, that it would be up to the Knesset to pass legislation on the matter.

Subsequently, the religious parties, which increased their Knesset seats significantly in the June elections, demanded passage of a law that recognizes only Orthodox conversions in Israel as a pre-condition for joining Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's coalition. The fear among diaspora Jews is that the next step would be to extend that restriction to conversions performed outside Israel, thereby narrowing the Law of Return.

The text of the resolution passed by the GA and endorsed by the JFRI executive committee reads:

"Whereas, the Council of Jewish Federations views, with the highest priority, the preservation of the unity of the Jewish people; and Whereas, the centrality of Israel to all Jews is fundamental to our very peoplehood; and Whereas, freedom of religion and conscience are basic principles of the State of Israel; and Whereas, the Law of Return is one of the basic laws of the State of Israel, as well as fundamental aspect of Jewish peoplehood, and has immediate ramifications for the relations between Israel and the diaspora.

"The Council of Jewish Federations urges the government of Israel and the Knesset:

- To abstain from amending legislation, or passing any new legislation which would change the current situation regarding recognition of conversions.

- Not to change any aspect of the Law of Return, which is one of the pillars of Jewish identification with State of Israel in each and every Jewish community around the world.

- To adhere to the Covenant (Article 7) between the government and the Jewish Agency regarding consultation with the Jewish Agency on legislation specifically affecting the functions of the Jewish Agency before such legislation is submitted to the Knesset.

"We, the Board of Delegates assembled at this 65th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations, meeting at a critical moment concerning this issue, urge the leaders of Israel not to underestimate the strength of feelings on this matter, and its detrimental effect on Jewish unity and Israel-diaspora relations.

"We direct the leadership of CJF to convey to the political leaders of Israel, in the most vigorous, immediate and continuing way possible, that they must not risk dividing the world Jewish community. Simultaneously, we reaffirm our continued total support for Israel, and for the Federation/UJA/UIA-Canada Campaigns, and call upon every Jewish organization and institution in North America to endorse this principle."



JWV's Newest Member

At a meeting/ceremony on Nov. 24 at Temple Am David, Irving Levin, department commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Rhode Island, made U.S. Senator-elect Jack Reed an honorary member of the JWV of Rhode Island. Reed, who had a distinguished military career, was recognized for his support of veterans' rights. Several JWV members were also honored for their involvement in the organization. See story on page 9.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

Chanukah Celebration to be Bigger and Better Than Ever

It was perhaps the busiest day of the year at one of Rhode Island's most popular shopping malls, when suddenly all action ceased.

Buyers, browsers, shopkeepers, moviegoers, security men, maintenance crews, media personnel and politicians were amongst the hundreds who witnessed in spellbound fascination the kindling of the giant menorah at Rhode Island's largest Chanukah celebration.

An emotionally captivating experience, a unique and joyful Chanukah fete, but most of all an unprecedented display of religious freedom!

Once again this year, Chabad of West Bay Chai Center will conduct this marvelous event.

"This year's celebration will be larger and more beautiful than in the past," said Rabbi Eliezer Levy, director of the Chai Center.

The festivities will get underway at the center of the War-

wick Mall on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. Dignitaries will address the gathering, and the giant menorah will be lit by Ethan and Rebecca Rosenberg, the children of Alen Rosenberg and Avis Gunther-Rosenberg, recently voted one of Rhode Island's two Jewish families of the year.

Chaim Fogelman, a world renowned Jewish singer and entertainer will entertain the crowd with traditional Chanukah songs, contemporary Jewish music, as well as a delightful children's program.

All children will receive the traditional Chanukah "gelt" (money) and dreidels. All participants will be treated to fresh, hot potato latkes and lots of holiday spirit.

The holiday of Chanukah is a festival of victory and celebration for all times, highlighted by the kindling of menorahs each night of the holiday.

"It is a holiday replete with
(Continued on Page 19)



Those Miraculous Olives

Rabbi Eliezer Levy of the Chai Center brought the Olive Pressing Workshop to Temple Am David's Hebrew school in Warwick on Nov. 24. The exhibit demonstrated, with the help of participants, the process the Maccabees used to refine olive oil for the golden menorah in the Chanukah story. Students hand-pressed the fresh olives in an old-fashioned press, then purified the olive juice with a modern centrifuge to recover the pure olive oil. The workshop will be visiting several local Hebrew schools prior to and during Chanukah.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

Senior Journal Announces Schedule

"The Senior Journal" is a program designed to educate the public on concerns of aging through the personal perspectives of Rhode Island seniors.

Sponsored by the Rhode Island department of elderly affairs and COX Cable Television, "Senior Journal" is written, hosted, produced and edited by senior volunteers.

The program can be viewed Monday at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m., over the statewide cableinterconnect, channel "A." "The Senior Journal" is chaired by Lee Chalek.

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

• Nov. 25 to Dec. 5 — "Assisted Living," hosted by Lee Chalek of Warwick, and featuring Scott Grande, director of admissions for Victoria Court,

and Jim Flanagan, area supervisor for Horizon Bay.

• Dec. 9 to 19 — "NIH Women's Health Initiative Memory Study," hosted by Eunice Morris, AARP/Women's Issue specialist and featuring Richard A. Carleton, M.D., chief of cardiology, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, and co-investigator of the National Institute of Health "Women's Health Initiative."

• Dec. 23 to Jan. 2 — "Celebrity Senior" Dorothy Thorson, hosted by Ann McGowan of Providence, and featuring Dorothy Thorson, Jefferson Award winner and foster grandparent.

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

Paige to Speak About AIDS

Marc Paige, Cranston resident, will present a program on Living with AIDS and AIDS Prevention at the Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road, on Dec. 2, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The program is aimed at people 12 years and older, and focuses on AIDS education and living with HIV. Paige is a graduate of Cranston High School West and holds a B.A. in political science from Rutgers University.

The program is free and is part of a statewide AIDS Awareness Week.

CVS Donates 50 Computers

Through the generosity of the CVS Corporation, 50 surplus computers were donated to the students of the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, a new public high school in Providence.

The key figure in developing this donation was Howard Edels, the senior vice president for Management Information Services at CVS.

Over the past few months, Edels has worked closely with

Elliot Washor, co-director of the Met, to find an appropriate way to give a second life to the corporation's surplus computers through student use.

During the law few weeks, Edels identified 50 machines that were no longer being used at CVS and prepared them to give to the school. The machines, IBM compatible 386 computers with color displays, along with three printers, will be available to students in their classrooms.

Women & Infants' Offers Programs

Put some glitz into your style with one of two Image-Update Workshops to be held Dec. 2, 7 to 9 p.m. and Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Make-up tips, wardrobe hints, skin care and color analysis are all topics of this class run by BeautiControl Specialist Olga Hawwa. The cost is \$15. To register, call 767-2344.

The expectant mom can enjoy an exercise program specifically designed with her needs in mind on Monday and Thursday evenings, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. This six-week series cost is \$60 and participants may enroll at

any time. To join, call the Women & Infants' Center at 767-2344.

Whether you have never taken yoga or are an experienced enthusiast, there is a yoga class designed specifically to match your ability level. Classes in yoga for intermediate level participants are held Monday evenings 7 to 9 p.m. Classes are taught by a certified yoga instructor and cost \$60 per series.

Call 767-2344 to reserve a spot to learn flexibility, stress reduction and breathing techniques guaranteed to relax and refresh you.

Multicultural Expert to Speak

"When Cultures Collide: An Approach to Conflict Resolution" will be presented by Guadalupe G. Lara, a national consultant and trainer on multicultural and family issues, on Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. in Gaige Hall auditorium on the Rhode Island College campus.

Lara, co-founder of the Michigan standing committee on multicultural mental health, worked at Children's Hospital of Michigan since 1980 as a pediatric social worker.

In 1989, she became director of social work there. She is responsible for directing, planning and implementing services for inpatient and outpatient hospital units, and for the development of instruction for physicians and nurses on conflict management and cultural relevant service delivery.

The event is free and open to the public. For further information, call Jay Latimer, director of the Unity Center, at 456-8791.

Compassionate Friends to Host Dinner Meeting

The next meeting of the Compassionate Friends (a self-help group for parents who have suffered the death of a child) will be held on Dec. 9 at The Gerry House on the Rhode Island Hospital campus.

This will be a special candle-light ceremony and dinner meeting where members will be able to remember their deceased children with those who truly understand. Members are asked to bring a candle, and a candle-holder.

The cost of the dinner will be \$8 for adults and \$2 for children. Members are reminded that this dinner meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. Reservations and information should be made by calling Carol Smith at 885-2900 before Dec. 5.

Volunteers Needed

The Miriam Hospital, A Lifespan partner, is recruiting volunteers in the following positions:

• Patient Information Desk — Volunteers greet hospital customers, provide patient room numbers and patient conditions, directions to various locations, and answer incoming telephone calls. Volunteers are needed for the following times:

Main Hospital — Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m., Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m.

Fain Health Center — Schedule is flexible.

• Family Liaison — Volunteers serve as liaison between the staff and the family of patients having surgical procedures. This volunteer also notifies departments of the arrival of patients having various testing procedures. Volunteers are needed for the following times:

Main Hospital — Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays from 8 to 11:30 a.m., and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fain Health Center — Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and Monday through Friday, 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Havurah Taking Shape in South County

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

Although Exeter resident Efreim Bromberg is now physically and ideologically distant from his observant upbringing in Omaha, Nebraska, he wanted to recapture some of his childhood.

"There was real community there," said Bromberg, a 37-year-old computer consultant, husband, and father of two young sons. "I have extremely fond memories of all the Jewish holidays."

When those memories flooded Bromberg's mind around Rosh Hashanah, he decided to begin a Havurah for himself, his family and his community.

"I started to see Judaism as something synagogue-based, and I'm not good at praying. Later, I started to realize Judaism is not something that takes place only in temple."

Efreim Bromberg

"I really felt like something was missing in my life here," Bromberg said. "I called Guy Bermeil, the Hillel director at the University of Rhode Island, to find out if there were any such organizations in South County. Because there were none he knew of, we decided I would start one."

Bermeil provided Bromberg with a mailing list of local Jewish residents and offered to cover the initial costs of the mailing.

This fall, a group of about 10 respondents met at Bromberg's house to discuss what they would like to gain from such an organization.

"If I had to put my finger on the pulse of what they all said they wanted, it would be a sense of community," said Bromberg. "They want to connect with other Jews here, and they want their children to be able to meet other Jewish kids. They do not necessarily want to do that in a synagogue setting."

But in other ways, their needs diverged, Bromberg said.

At the meeting, one woman requested an organization with a lot of programming, and some senior couples wanted a group similar to the regional offices of Jewish charities. Telephone callers with personal requests included a Hope Valley resident who wanted a minyan, and a Canton resident who wanted to study Jewish texts.

"Part of our bottom line was that we had two young kids who were too young to be connected to a greater community through the Hebrew school," Bromberg said. "But overall, we all agreed about where we want the group to go. We want to create a sense of community,

and if some members want to study Torah and others want to make latkes we'll figure it out."

Enthusiastic respondents helped Bromberg network.

"People have gotten interested, and they have really helped us find people," Bromberg said.

Bromberg and other interested parties plan to meet on the last day of Chanukah.

Bromberg's varied Jewish experiences have steered him towards havurot before.

"I grew up in a kosher, shabbat-observant home, but I became a religious flunkie," Bromberg explained. "I started to see Judaism as something synagogue-based, and I'm not good at praying. Later, I started to realize Judaism is not something that takes place only in temple. It happens in the butcher shop, the living room and the bedroom."

After Bromberg's studies at Northeastern University in Boston brought him to New England, he married Nancy Graham, an acupuncturist who has no religious affiliation. Watching the young sons the couple decided to raise Jewish stirred childhood memories for Bromberg.

"Having kids hit those buttons," Bromberg explained.

For four years, the couple was part of a chavurah in Providence.

"We enjoyed it, and I learned a lot," Bromberg said. "There were six or seven families involved at any given time. We went for bike rides in Bristol, made Havdallah candles or watched videos with Jewish content."

Although group members decided to disband the chavurah because their lifestyles were becoming too different, Bromberg felt both he and his family had benefitted.

"These are for adults too," Bromberg said of chavurot. "Activities for children are an important part of it, but not the entire thing. If adults want to plan bike rides or adult education programs, that's fine. But we need to do it together because, as the saying goes, you can't Jew it alone."

URI To Bring Back Judaic Studies Course

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

For the first time in two years, University of Rhode Island undergraduate students will get a chance to learn some of what they need to know to be Jewish.

This spring semester, Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer of Temple Shalom in Middletown will teach a class in basic Jewish studies.

The course will include an overview of Jewish history, discussions about Jewish holidays and traditions, an examination of Jewish life cycles and an explanation of the four major branches of Judaism.

"There are a lot of Jewish students at URI, and many non-Jewish students are also interested in learning about Judaism," Jagolinzer said. "For many of the Jewish students, this is the only association with Judaism that they will have."

Thirty students have already registered for the 30 seats in the class, and Jagolinzer may try to create five extra student places. According to Hillel Director Guy Bermeil, eight students have already put their names on a waiting list in hopes that spaces will become available.

"There are students that want to take the class who can't get in because of the demand," Bermeil said.

The class was last taught by Rena Wolfgang, who served as Hillel director before Bermeil became director in 1994.

The class has not been offered since then because URI has been wracked by severe financial problems.

As reported by the *Providence Journal Bulletin*, a series of state budget cuts throughout the 1990s have combined with poorly timed investments in new programs to create a deficit so severe that some faculty members have been forced to go home to make phone calls and photocopies.

"The class was cut because of financial reasons," Bermeil explained. "Because of funding, there has been no Judaic studies course that undergraduate students can take for credit."

Bermeil and Albert Silverstein, a professor of psychology and president of the Hillel board, knew they would have to seek outside funding sources if they wanted to offer the class to URI's 20,000 undergraduate students, an estimated 2,000 of whom are Jewish.

This fall, they obtained a grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island to make help the course available.

Although Bermeil is pleased to be able to offer the class, he still thinks the university's financial difficulties are creating problems for all of its students.

"It really doesn't help," Bermeil said. "It limits what we are able to do here."

According to Bermeil, budget constraints make it harder to attract observant students.

"Some students, mostly from out of state, call me and ask me three questions. They want to know if there is a kosher meal plan or a Jewish studies major. They also want to know how many synagogues are within walking distance. Because the

answer is no or zero, they cross the university off their lists."

Bermeil has termed many of the Jewish students who attend URI "identity passive."

"For the majority of Jewish students here, Judaism is part of their backgrounds, but they will not necessarily actively practice. They want to know that being Jewish is not a problem here and that a Hillel is there if they need it. We do not see most of them during the four years they will spend here."

Although financial problems prevent Bermeil and other Jewish members of the university's community from offering more to URI's Jewish students, they have used their personal knowledge and interests to offer as much as possible.

"Individual instructors with expertise in a given field have allied to teach a course in their respective departments," explained Norman Zucker, a professor of political science. "I teach Israeli politics and problems. David Gitlitz offers a course in Sephardic literature through the language department. In the history department, Bob Weis offers a course on the history of the Holocaust."

According to Zucker, Jewish faculty members understand the reality of the financial crisis.

"There is a need for these classes, but there is no budget," explained Zucker. "The administration simply cannot create new courses or bring in new instructors right now. If I offer my course in Israeli politics, that means I'm not teaching something else. We're all doing what we can."

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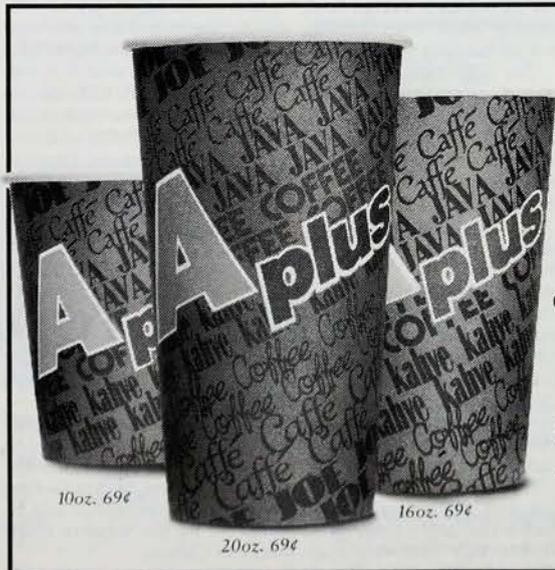
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EDITORIAL

'You Listen, But You Don't Hear'

"You cannot say to the Jewish people, we are opposed to anti-Semitism, but we want you to disappear as the people that you are," the national director of the Anti-Defamation League told a leader of the Southern Baptist Convention, who attempted to explain the meaning of his church's resolution to convert Jews and appoint a missionary to lead the conversion initiative.

The discussion took place recently at the ADL annual meeting in New York City.

"For a person to come to the conviction that Jesus was the Messiah" does not mean Jews would have to deny their culture or heritage, the Reverend Philip Roberts, director of the Interfaith Witness Department of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, explained to the league.

"Let me also say that you must understand that the resolution passed at this year's convention is not in any way, shape or form a statement of animosity," Roberts, who has long been involved with the league in interfaith dialogue, added.

Abraham H. Foxman, ADL national director, told the Baptist leader, "What I find so distressing is that you listened, but you didn't hear."

Foxman said, "The Holocaust did not happen in pagan Europe, in Muslim Europe, in Shinto Europe, in Buddhist Europe. It happened in Christian Europe. It was met with silence by Christians. Christianity bore

witness. And I would hope that the struggle in the conventions of Christianity is, how do we reconcile Gospel, truth, justice, with what happened? How did that happen? What kinds of adjustments do we need to make?"

Foxman continued, "If you mean us well, respect us enough for us to determine our salvation... Why set this as a priority?... I implore you to go back and to begin a dialogue within the church to understand the pain and the insult that we feel."

Referring to their nearly 20 years of interfaith work together, Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of ADL Interfaith Affairs, told Roberts, "We religious people have to heal. The Southern Baptist Convention does not heal in its aggressive and targeted evangelistic movement."

In citing common traditions and commitments between the two groups, Foxman said, "We need each other because the enemies out there are bigger than we are and we share a respect for values, we share a respect for history, and we share a respect for one G-d, and all we have to do now is find a way to bring some tolerance into that mutual respect."

At the time the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution to "direct our energies and resources toward the proclamation of the Gospel to the Jewish people," ADL called it "an insult to the Jewish people and a setback for the cause of interfaith dialogue and understanding."

Why The Shamash is my Favorite Candle

Which of the eight Chanukah lights is your favorite? The first? After all, the miracle began with its fire. The second? With enough oil for day one, the miracle really started on day two. Or perhaps it's the eighth? Surely there is special significance to the completion of the miraculous event.

For me it's none of the eight. Rather it's the shamash — the extra candle used every night to kindle the other lights.

But isn't it strange to favor the very candle which is not part of the original eight?

Indeed, the shamash possesses a significant and unique feature. All the other candles take light — the shamash alone gives light.

In a world that is too often selfish, the shamash teaches selflessness. In a world where people invariably ask, "what's

in it for me," the shamash asks "what can I do for you?"

There is one other important lesson the shamash teaches. Many believe that the more you give the less you have. The shamash teaches the reverse.

Look closely at the shamash wick as it touches any of the eight candles and ignites their fire. As the shamash touches the other candle its flame doesn't dim, it brightens. In the same way, the power of giving is that it does not diminish us in any way, rather it expands us.

A reflection of this idea may be seen in the topography of Israel where there are two major bodies of water. The one up north has clear water, its atmosphere is pure; foliage abounds and birds chirp everywhere. The one down south on the other hand, stagnates. Its atmosphere is heavy; the area is arid with little sign of natural life. Why

are they so different?

The northern body receives water from the Jordan River and then channels it to the Jordan which continues on at its southern tip. The one in the south, however, is fed by the Jordan but the water remains there.

The one in the north takes, but also gives water. It is alive and is called the Kinneret, the Sea of Galilee. The one in the south on the other hand, only takes but does not give and hence is called the Dead Sea.

So the next time we think of the eight candles of Chanukah perhaps we ought to also remember the importance of the ninth, the shamash. Like the Kinneret it teaches that to give is much more satisfying than to take.

Rabbi Avi Weiss is president of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns-Amcha and senior rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, N.Y.

Welcome to Questions

by Leonard Fein

To the familiar "How odd of G-d to choose the Jews" we might well add, upon reading the story of Jacob/Israel, "But stranger still is Israel/It's odd indeed to be his seed/part cheat, part mouse, yet we're his house/How come we're known as Jacob's own?"

The text of Vayishlach is unbearably dense, and to the degree to which we learn still more of Jacob's character in the course of reading it, our earlier opinion of him is confirmed.

Through much of his story, he appears remarkably passive. Note especially his response to the rape of Dinah where he demonstrates none of the outrage of Dinah's brothers, his sons.

When he finally raises his voice, it is not against the murder and plunder his sons have committed but against the damage their actions have done to his reputation.

This last is yet another indication of his profound self-in-

volvement and his insensitivity to the others in his family: his placement of Leah and her children in the more vulnerable position as the meeting with Esau draws near; his consistent rejection of heal in earlier sections of the story; and, of course and most powerfully, his cheating of Esau with respect to the birthright.

More generally, the Jacob story is about a man who repeatedly suffers insult, injury, and tragedy and whose suffering is in no small measure a consequence of his own behavior.

Turn the pages, and over and over again, we find Jacob in a compromising position, father of a manifestly dysfunctional family.

And how could it not be, given his exploitation of Esau, his dishonesty towards his father, his meanness towards Leah, and his later blatant favoritism towards Joseph?

All of which raises at least

two difficult questions: Why was he chosen for the blessing; why is his named attached to us all, his descendants? And then, how can a man blessed by G-d — perhaps even in person, as it were — be so cursed?

Happiness and contentment were never part of the blessing. On the contrary, the blessing is highly specific, having to do only with Jacob's status as progenitor.

It is, in a manner of speaking, a biological blessing to be fulfilled in the course of time, well beyond the span of Jacob's years.

Perhaps, after all, it is the fate of anyone who is father to "a nation and a company of nations" to be troubled.

Or, perhaps, we are meant to understand not only that our early ancestors were real, hence imperfect, people but also that our story is one of growing moral discernment, that is only later, at the base of a mountain in a wilderness, that we will

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RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD

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

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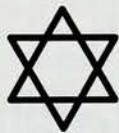
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Periodical Mail postage paid at Providence, Rhode Island. Postmaster, send address changes to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940-6063. Subscription rates: Thirty-five cents per copy. By mail \$15.00 per annum. Outside Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts: \$20.00 per annum. Senior citizen discount available. Bulk rates on request. The Herald assumes subscriptions are continuous unless notified to the contrary in writing.

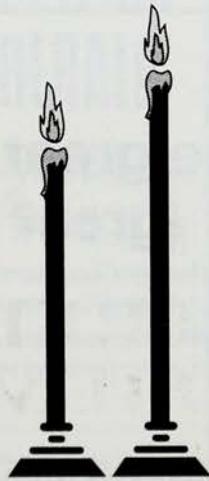
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Candlelighting
November 29, 1996
3:58 p.m.



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

Rely on G-d to Guide You

This week's Torah portion, Vayeitzei relates how a single and solitary Jew left his home and set out for a foreign land, arriving there with nothing save for his faith in G-d.

"For with [only] my staff I passed over this Jordan," Yaakov (Jacob) declared.

Nonetheless, Yaakov's steps were sure and confident, as he had full faith in the Holy One, Blessed be He.

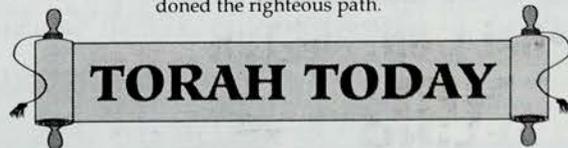
Once in Charan, Yaakov quickly saw that there was no one upon whom he could rely, not even his relatives. His uncle, Lavan, repeatedly tricked and deceived him, yet never once did Yaakov lose his faith.

Through outstanding service and dedication to G-d Yaakov merited to obtain great wealth. But Yaakov's main achievement in Charan was

that, despite their growing up in a hostile environment, every single one of his children was a pious and religious Jew.

Avraham had one son who was good, Yitzchak, but he also had another son who was not, Ishmael. Yitzchak had one son who was righteous, Yaakov, but he was also the father of Esav.

Both Avraham and Yitzchak raised their children in Israel and not in exile, yet they still had descendants who abandoned the righteous path.



Yaakov, by contrast, raised his family in exile. Required to serve G-d in the most difficult of circumstances, he made sure that his 12 sons would not be affected by the negative influence of Charan.

On the contrary, he strove to

instill in them the Torah he had received from his forefathers and studied with his ancestors Shem and Ever, thus proving that it was possible to live a Torah-true life even on the other side of the Jordan.

In Charan, Yaakov merited both spiritual and material success ("And the man increased exceedingly") by virtue of his faith in G-d. But the spiritual "great wealth" he acquired was the successful rearing of his children, who were all upright and devout individuals.

The lesson this contains for us at present is clear: The only one upon whom we can ever depend is G-d, to Whom we connect ourselves through the medium of Torah and mitzvot.

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

FEATURE



Through A Dark Glass

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Report

"The Mirror has Two Faces," and Barbra Streisand studies herself and reflects upon her image in the glass and the hourglass. She takes full credit or blame, as director, writer, star, and producer.

But it wasn't Streisand's punim, or face, that meant the most to me, it was Bacall's. Lauren takes the thankless role of Barbra's vain and shallow mom and plays it to the hilt. She looks great and moves gracefully in lovely costumes, almost like in the good old days of high Hollywood fashion.

More important, she tries to give poignancy, even poetry, to the otherwise trite picture of the Jewish matron afraid to grow old and give up full control over her daughters' lives. Bacall works hard to overcome a disappointing and charmless script.

The rest of the cast, including Jeff Bridges and George Segal, make their constricted way through stick figure parts. Streisand and Bridges are professors, and Segal, as a womanizing colleague does a chorus of witnessing their romance.

It's always posed a daunting problem for Hollywood to mount a classroom scene. Coeds are silly flirts, and the guys are simple jocks. These extras yawn when told, clap like crazy on cue, but never ring true as college students. Although Streisand earns our respect for

her portrayal of Yentl and Brice, her commitment to her Jewish identity, she disappoints this reviewer in a clumsy, clunky comedy that is too obvious, too soft, and yet strangely nasty as well.

The heroine's sister goes through husbands like the stereotypical Jewish American Princess, a distant echo of the Katherine Hepburn madcaps, but without the crisp dialogue and the sense of social purpose.

Insulting to men and women, to motherhood and university education, Streisand's looking glass gives off dark shadows, not gleams of humor. Even the plot itself, a derivative take-off from a French farce, yields few jokes. Professors can't chase skirts these days and keep their jobs.

The major scene between Bacall and Streisand at a kitchen table. "Mom, did you ever think I was pretty?" Really! I recall once asking my own mother if she thought I was handsome. "You're fine-looking and intelligent," she told me. It hurt my feelings just a jot, but I held her frank yet gentle honesty in high regard.

I have to add a postscript. Does Hollywood believe so deeply in surface beauty and popular success that it is incapable of permitting a good story to get out of its clutches alive and well? See "Mirror" for yourself and look for your own face in it.

Ten Yesterdays

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

It was a small life outside of time passing. I had just finished a year abroad, its reality, its actuality, fading in the rhythmic wake of the purple Atlantic waves sparkling under the early summer sun. The stronger forces, of family, of my looming senior year with its waiting roommates and its job searches, all seemed as otherworldly as the Statue of Liberty.

The Maasdam moved along at its stately pace, a small and classless Holland Line vessel. It took its time churning along—more than a week. I felt like its Flying Dutchman pursuing an endless path going nowhere, under my own spell. Indeed, there were Europeans who mistook me for a Netherlander: young people sometimes belong both everywhere and nowhere, Utopian before we settle down, jell, into who and what we are and must be.

For that week of passage, I scored a miniature hit, never seasick below deck, always up for every event and encounter. I saved a snapshot in a trunk somewhere, a tiny candid showing me in a navy gabardine jacket, a golfer's cap, a white shirt, smiling evenly, a nautical and natty young fellow. I danced, drank, stood and sat, moving among passengers in quest of new lives at the other end of the vast sea and the empty sky, not a return to their past.

Special friends were a mysterious couple with a 2-year-old boy named Rene. They put a red kerchief around his head to protect him from the glare. I knew that they were displaced persons, stateless survivors, starting again nearly a decade after liberation. I had met such people at the Paris cafes. I had even gone to school with former camp inmates, or youngsters whose parents had got them out. They often formed a part of what we used to be called: the silent generation. If you came after Krystallnacht, you never wanted to talk about it. If you came after Auschwitz, you sought to forget and fit in. If you came in the decade of repression and revision, you smiled softly in a canvas and wood awninged lounge settee chatting with a college lad.

I have also saved the menu of the last dinner on board the Maasdam. People signed the card that held the list of luxuries of the great steamship tables, as souvenirs of the poetry of the crossing. Somebody wrote that I looked like the king of Belgium. Another tablemate

mists of memory and with vague blessings.

We remember the past not only during holidays written upon calendars. Anything can touch off an image from yesterday upon the screen of the mind. I spent the war years as a child, here, among dramatic pictures



Mike with Rene and Mermaids on Maasdam.

claimed I spoke French better than the French did. Rene's parents wrote their names and addresses in Philadelphia.

My trunk got a hole bashed into it from rough handling. It sits in my attic now, empty for the time being. But I did pay a visit to my shipboard acquaintances in the city of brotherly love. I am not writing their names, because I cannot find them to ask their permission. They are not listed in the Pennsylvania directories. I think of their fate and I mix them up with other companions of brief interludes, who come our way and move on, leaving us with

and words. Those of my generation who lived the truth behind the pictures and words gave me some kind glimpses and glances that have imprinted themselves upon my soul.

I went back to Paris again and again, but never to the Paris I left behind when I climbed the gangplank to the Maasdam. In my berth and in the bars of that gentle boat I laughed and listened and learned and left something behind. Maybe Rene saw it in my eyes when that shutter clicked upon the two of us with the ocean behind us. Hope for the future, but a smile for that today, free between worlds.

UMass Video Coordinator Tapes Interviews For Archive

A video coordinator at the University of Massachusetts has become the eyes and ears for personal stories of history that might otherwise go untold.

Tom Zimnowski, coordinator of media productions in the audio visual department at UMass, is part of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the remembrances of people who lived through the Holocaust.

The Shoah ("Shoah" means "mass destruction," or "holocaust," in Hebrew) foundation

is the brainchild of filmmaker Steven Spielberg, who began the endeavor in 1994 soon after completing his film about the Holocaust "Schindler's List."

The foundation's primary goal is to videotape tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors worldwide and to create the largest multimedia archive of Holocaust testimonies in existence.

The foundation obtained Zimnowski's name from the International Television and Videographer Association, a professional organization which Zimnowski belongs to.

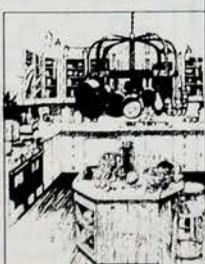
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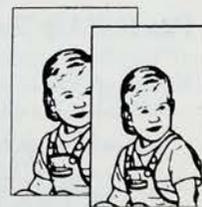
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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Survey Shows High Levels of Growth, Observance Among Reconstructionists

The first ever in-depth survey of the members of the Reconstructionist movement showed conclusively that most members consciously choose to identify as Reconstructionists because they are seeking a warm, inclusive, egalitarian and democratic Jewish community.

Many are more observant as adults than they were in their childhood homes.

The results of the survey indicate that the Reconstructionist movement is successful in meeting many of the challenges of Jewish continuity raised by the 1990 National Jewish Population Study.

The movement is attracting unaffiliated Jews, singles, and intermarried families and increasing their level of Jewish involvement and observance.

This survey of 4,500 Reconstructionist households nationwide selected by a stratified random sample showed that members are highly educated, committed to basic Reconstructionist values and concerned with both spirituality and an intellectual approach to worship.

The demographic study was conducted throughout North

America by Michael Rappeport of RL Associates, a Princeton, N.J.-based market research firm that has conducted several major Jewish research projects.

Congregations affiliated with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation will use the results of the survey to strengthen their program and focus outreach programming in the face of the rapid growth that the movement is experiencing, as well as position the three arms of the movement: the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and the JRF well into the 21st century.

The study also showed that Reconstructionists under the age of 50 tend to be more observant, than the family they grew up in. "Surprisingly, many people develop patterns of observance that are far more complete than those in their previous backgrounds," said Rabbi Sheryl Lewart Shulewitz, JRF associate executive director, who coordinated the survey.

Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, executive director of the JRF stated, "A very heartening fact is that few of our members leave the congregation after their chil-

dren become bar or bat mitzvah. Reconstructionist congregations provide meaningful communities for adults as well as educational opportunities for children."

Most Reconstructionists live in Jewish-Jewish households evenly distributed across the age spectrum. Diversity is reflected in family status, with three-quarters of the households based on a marriage or committed relationship, and one-quarter comprised of singles, most often women with a master's degree level of education.

In 41 percent of all of the households, at least one of the adults has a Ph.D., medical or law degree. The adults are more likely to work as professionals than in businesses.

Continued growth prospects for the movement are excellent. Besides maintenance at a steady 8 percent rate of growth, more than three-quarters of the respondents said they were very committed to their congregation for the long term.

Survey highlights are available from the offices of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, 1299 Church Road, Wyncote, Pa. 19095, (215) 887-1988 at a cost of \$5.



HADASSAH MEMBERS Ellie Elbaum, R.N., and Karen Dannin are pictured meeting with students at Lincoln School on Nov. 6.

Photo courtesy of R.I. Hadassah

R.I. Hadassah Teaches Girls How to 'Check it Out'

Rhode Island Hadassah is teaching area high school girls how to perform breast self-examinations.

The program, "Check It Out," is part of Hadassah's ongoing breast cancer awareness campaign and has already been introduced to 70,000 students nationwide.

Hadassah nurse-educators teach the 11th- and 12th-grade high school girls self-exams, and Hadassah volunteers and breast cancer survivors explain the

importance of early detection and distribute teaching models and educational material.

Hadassah members Ellie Elbaum, R.N., and Karen Dannin recently met with students at Lincoln School. Other schools throughout Rhode Island are scheduled for "Check It Out" programs as part of Hadassah's continuing commitment to improved health care and community involvement.

For further information, call 463-3636.

Holocaust Awareness at P.C.

"Bearing Witness: A Day of Holocaust Awareness" will be the theme of a full day of programming at Providence College's Slavin Center '64 Hall on Dec. 2.

There will be slide and picture displays, film clips, recorded music, informational tables and class readings in classroom ENG 445.

From 12:45 to 1:15 p.m., there will be live music performances by two students. From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Holocaust survivor

Leah Eliash will speak. Original student presentations will take place from 2:30 to 4 p.m. A Sabbath ceremony will happen at 4:30 p.m.

The day's events are sponsored by the Feinstein Institute for Public Service and the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum.

For more information, call Liza Pappas at 865-4100.

Meetings For Parents Who Want to Adopt

Adoption Options, the adoption program of Jewish Family Service, is now offering informational meetings about adoption for anyone interested in exploring the choices.

Beginning in January, the meetings will be held the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at the offices of JFS. The next meetings will be held on Dec. 5 and Jan. 6.

The agency is located on the second floor of the United Way building at 229 Waterman St. in Providence. The meetings are free and open to anyone interested in pursuing an adoption.

Call Adoptions Options at 331-5437 for information or to arrange a confidential consultation.

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Klezmer Concert

Klezmer music is just plain fun. And about the only time you can hear it in Rhode Island is when it's played by Fishel Bresler's Klezmer Orchestra.

Bresler will bring the orchestra to the Undercroft of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 15 Hayes St., Providence, on Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$7.



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Date: Sunday, December 1st
Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Place: Temple Emeth, 194 Grove Street, South Brookline, MA

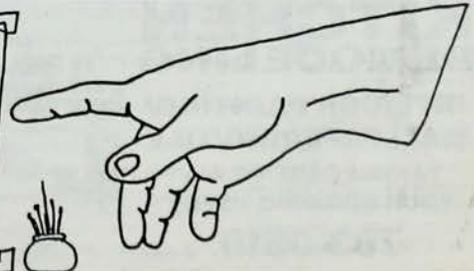
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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Aleph Initiates Chanukah Campaign

The Aleph Institute, a Surfside, Florida-based charity organization, is offering from spiritual and social programs to Jewish inmates, their families and Jewish members of the military nationwide as part of their Chanukah 5757 "Lights Across America" campaign.

The highlight of Aleph's campaign is a nationwide collection of toys for children of incarcerated Jews.

Rabbi Sholom D. Lipskar, Aleph's chairman and founder, noted that, "Jews in prison have no way to share Chanukah with their young children at home. And their children have no way to connect with a mission parent to celebrate the holiday."

To maintain essential family ties, Aleph distributed more than 2,500 applications to Jews in federal and state prisons around the country. Inmates were given the opportunity to list the ages and gender of their children.

"We ship age-appropriate gifts to children across the country," Lipskar noted. "Each package comes with a card signed

'Daddy,' 'Mommy,' 'Grandpa' or 'Grandma,' as the case may be. No child should have to think that they were forgotten by a parent who cannot be home for the holiday."

Aleph has received some assistance from various youth and civic organizations to collect toys, including grants from philanthropic groups such as the Nyman Foundation.

The prison outreach program provides for prison, visits by rabbis, plus free menorahs, candles, dreidels, Chanukah cards, audio cassettes, books and videos.

In another example, "A recent regional gathering of youth leaders from United Synagogue Youth highlighted the social issues facing Jewish communities as a result of incarceration," Lipskar said. "Each of these young leaders learned about the

mitzvah of 'tikkun olam' (repairing the world, and had the opportunity to act on their learning by collecting toys in their communities."

Many toys were collected, Lipskar noted, but more toys — and funds to support Aleph's other Chanukah programs — are still needed. Lipskar estimated Aleph's Chanukah budget at more than \$65,000.

The prison outreach program provides for prison, visits by rabbis, plus free menorahs, candles, dreidels, Chanukah cards, audio cassettes, books and videos.

The military program includes distribution of free menorahs and candles to Jewish men and women in the military around the world. A box of menorahs was requested by, and sent to, Jewish service personnel as far away as Bosnia.

Further information about Aleph can be obtained by visiting Aleph's Web site at <http://www.aleph-institute.org>. Individuals or organizations who wish to contribute to Aleph's toy drive can contact Isaac M. Jaroslawicz at (305) 864-5553.

New England Retreat is Scheduled, Dec. 20 to 22

The 10th National Havurah Committee New England Winter Retreat will be held on Dec. 20 to 22 at the Craigville Conference Center, in Craigville, Mass.

This year's list of presenters continues the tradition of bringing spiritually rich and varied topics to a weekend of prayer, study and community building. Highlights of this year's program include:

- Exploring the Ten Names for G-d through text study, discussion, singing and meditation. Marthajoy Aft, Storyteller, teacher, editor of *Neshama*.

- Guided meditation through the Ten Sephirot/Life Centers of the Tree of Life as a starting point for personal and universal healing and renewal. Rabbi Jeffrey Foust is the spiritual leader of Temple Beth Shalom in Melrose, Mass., as well as long-time student and teacher of Jewish mysticism.

- Roots: What You Can Do With an Ayin, S(h)in and a Rash. A trip through Tanach and Midrash celebrating the Hebrew for the number 10. Aliza Arzt, Jewish educator and Havurat Shalom Siddur Project member.

- Exploration of the Spiritual Calendar of the Year. How to leave the chaos in search of the holy: an exercise in centering on the sacred dimensions of life. Rabbi Alan Ullman, School for Jewish Studies, Worcester, Mass.

- Ten Takes on the Temple. A study of 10 different Jewish sources from contemporary to contemporaneous, that discuss how Jews have projected their ideals and current values onto "The Temple." Ronnie Levin, long-time member of Havurat Shalom and the Fabregan; currently a member of the Newton Centre Minyan.

- Talmud Study: 10 Right and Wrong Ways to make Requests of G-d. The study of stories from the Talmud and Bible that discuss petitionary prayer. Rabbi Philip Graubart, spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Israel, Northampton, Mass.

- Ten Words Make a World. Exploration of the tradition that teaches us that G-d created the world with 10 words. Rabbi Louis Reiser, storyteller and teacher of 10 retreats.

- Experiencing Family Learning: Discovering the Number 10. Nina Gelman-Grans, family educator and founder of Havurot in Ann Arbor and Boston.

Other teachers will include Joe Rosenstein, Yitzchak Buxbaum and Shira Belfer.

A special evening presentation by Dr. Michael Perlman will include a video presentation based upon Perlman's Rosh Hashanah prayer experiences with the Bretzlov Hasidim.

Child care will be directed by Leigh Dunlap, who will provide exciting activities for children ages 3 to 12.

The Craigville Conference Center is a picturesque and congenial group of historic guest houses nestled among the marshes of Craigville beach on Cape Cod.

Rooms vary from single, double and multiple occupancy, most with private baths and some with ocean, marsh and pond views.

For further information, call Esther Bean at (413) 586-022 or Steve Lewis at (617) 527-2456.

Happy Chanukah
from the
Rhode Island Jewish Herald

Hadassah Hosts Dr. Gitlitz

The South County Group of the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah will hold its next meeting on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at a private home in Kingston.

The guest speaker will be Dr. David Gitlitz, a professor at the University of Rhode Island, who over the last 20 years has divided his time among research on Sephardic historical topics. Spanish Golden Age literature and university teaching and administration.

Gitlitz, a nominee for the National Jewish Book of the Year for *Secrecy and Deceit: the Religion of the Crypto Jews* will speak on How Jewish Were the Crypto (Hidden) Jews? All are welcome.

For further information, call Vi Hellman at 783-5520.

Beth Sholom Hosts Party

On Dec. 8 at 4 p.m., Congregation Beth Sholom, at 275 Camp St. in Providence, will have its annual Chanukah Party.

Featured performer will be Bruce Kalver, magician extraordinaire. There will also be singing, dreidels, latkes and sandwiches.

In conjunction with the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, Beth Sholom will also be accepting donations for our fellow Jews in the city of Gomel, Belarus.

The admission charge will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for those under 12 years of age and \$15 family maximum.

If you have any questions, call the Beth Sholom office at 621-9393.

Seniors to Hold Party on Dec. 10

Majestic Senior Guild will hold its annual Chanukah party on Dec. 10 at noon at Temple Torat Yisrael on Park Avenue in Cranston.

A catered meal will be served and entertainment and prizes will be offered.

The December meeting will be held at the temple on Dec. 17 at 1 p.m.

Pam Franco, a representative of United Health Plan of Rhode Island, will speak on senior health care. Refreshments will be served.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

'The Changing Face of AIDS'

A Panel Discussion

"The Changing Face of AIDS and the Jewish Community," a panel discussion sponsored by the Jewish AIDS Task Force, is scheduled for Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence.

The program is open to all, and there will be time for the audience to question the members of the panel.

As the keynote speaker, Rabbi Cynthia Culpepper will present a firsthand perspective on living with AIDS.

Culpepper is a Conservative rabbi in Montgomery, Ala. A graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, she discovered her AIDS status around the time of last year's Jewish High Holidays. She has had to

deal with the reality of her status on a personal and professional level, sharing her situation with her congregation.

Culpepper will share these experiences on Dec. 3, as she has at forums in Colorado, Ohio and other states.

Dr. Alvan Fisher will represent the medical community. Fisher has been a leader in the treatment of those with AIDS and HIV for many years.

Gail Tonnessen, MSW, LICSW, is a mental health specialist dealing with individuals, families, and groups affected by the disease.

State Rep. David Cicilline will discuss the government response as it is or should be.

Marc Paige, long-time AIDS activist and PWA, will articulate how the face of AIDS has

changed over the years and how those afflicted have tried to deal with the shifting realities.

The panel members will give their perspectives on these new realities. The media is full of reports of new drug therapies being developed and swiftly being approved by the FDA.

Those who are HIV positive and those with AIDS are that AIDS may one day become a chronic, though not necessarily fatal illness. This new situation will impact those individuals in many direct ways. There will also be an impact on their families, on the health-care system, on government, and on society as a whole.

Call the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island at 421-4111 for further information.

Feinstein Makes Challenge

Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein, in conjunction with Newschannel 10, is making a \$50,000 challenge to the public to raise money for the needy in Rhode Island.

All monies raised will go toward food supplies for the food providers in our area and for \$500 grants to any churches and synagogues that agree to start a food pantry available to anyone in need in their community, regardless of their religious affiliations.

The amount of money raised will be announced on Channel 10 daily on their 5 p.m. newscast.

Checks should be made payable to: The Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation and sent to the foundation at P.O. Box 2065, Cranston, R.I. 02905.

All houses of worship that wish to start a food pantry and get the \$500 grant should send the foundation a letter agreeing to make the pantry available to anyone in need in their community regardless of religious affiliation. Enclose some verification of your non-profit status.

Some 70 churches throughout the country have already responded to this Feinstein offer.

JCCRI Presents J.J. Goldberg

J.J. Goldberg is a renowned journalist and author. His newest book, *Jewish Power: Inside the American Jewish Establishment*, is a revealing look at Jewish organizations, money and political power in the United States.

He will be speaking on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's Jewish Book Fair. This is free and open to the public.

Also, he will be speaking on Dec. 3 at noon at the Brown Bag Club at the JCCRI. Bring your own lunch. Beverage and dessert is provided. The cost is \$1 per person.

Goldberg specializes in covering the politics of the Middle East and the Jewish world.

He is a contributing editor of



J.J. Goldberg

the *Israeli News Magazine*, *Jerusalem Post*, and has won numerous journalism awards.

For further information, contact Dana at 861-8800, ext. 108.

'The Feminine Side of Chanukah'

Women of the Jewish community will have the opportunity to discover the unique connection women have to the holiday of Chanukah, at a special lecture scheduled for Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The lecture, entitled "The Feminine Side of Chanukah," will focus on the mystical connection between women and Chanukah.

Chanie Levy, who will be presenting the lecture, ex-

plained, "Women's role in the celebration of Chanukah is largely misunderstood. This lecture reveals a deeper dimension to Chanukah and will be an eye-opener for participants as they discover the inner dimension of this holiday."

Levy serves as the co-director of Chabad of West Bay CHAI Center, and is well known in the Jewish community for her outstanding work in Jewish outreach and education.

Levy noted, "This lecture will give participants a better understanding of women's role in Judaism, in general, with particular emphasis on her role in the history and commemoration of Chanukah." The lecture, "The Feminine Side of Chanukah," will be delivered at the CHAI Center, 15 Centerville Road, Warwick, and is a project of Jewish Women of West Bay. For more information, call 884-4071.

Holiday Party

The Social Seniors of Warwick will have a holiday party on Dec. 15 at noon at Temple Am David in Warwick. Lou Renzi will entertain.



Next week is the final week of Jewish Book Month.

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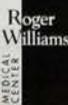
Just ask Ethel and Selma Kessler. The Kessler sisters used to reside on the East Side of Providence and have recently moved into The Village. "Everything is taken care of if we need help," says Ethel. "It's exactly what we wanted and what our niece and nephew wanted for us." Fine dining, transportation and social activities round out each day. "Luxury and security were very important to us," Selma adds.

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Adoption Options Study Group

Adoption Options, the adoption program of Jewish Family Service, is currently conducting a home study group for prospective adoptive parents.

Four families are participating in the group, led by a clinical social worker who specializes in adoption, to work on the home study process in preparation for adoption.

The families will meet for a total of five sessions to explore issues surrounding adoption, including infertility, cultural differences, concerns about birth parents and readiness to adopt.

The group format enriches the experience for participants by adding a level of support and education as families share concerns and information.

For information about Adoption Options, call 331-5437.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

JWV of R.I. Holds Meeting

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

On Nov. 24, the Jewish War Veterans of Rhode Island honored several of its members, along with U.S. Senator-elect Jack Reed, who was made an honorary member.

According to Irving Levin, department commander of JWV of Rhode Island, the organization is the first veteran organization to recognize Reed.

Reed received a B.S. from West Point in 1971. From 1973 to 1977, he served as an infantry platoon leader, company commander and battalion staff officer in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Reed then returned to West Point as an associate professor in the department of social sciences.

After receiving the hat and pin worn by JWV members, and a book which details the organization's 100-year history, Reed vowed to continue to work hard to protect the rights of veterans.

After recognizing Reed, Levin honored four JWV members who have contributed greatly to the organization over the years: David Kopech, Harold Fink, Miriam Miller and Murray Cohen.

Kopech was honored for his work as department commander prior to Levin, in 1993-94. Fink was given credit for preparing all of the general membership meetings. Miller was recognized for going to the Federal Court (in Providence) each month and giving a copy of the Bill of Rights to every new

American. Cohen, whose recognition was "long overdue," according to Levin, was thanked for serving as the quartermaster (accountant) of the JWV of Rhode Island for 25 years.

That wasn't the end of the awards and recognition. Twelve people were called forward and credited for 50 years of membership. The list included: Harold Fink, Jacob Fink, Dr. Seymour Friedman, Melvin Kahn, David Kopech, Meyer Mushlin, David Penn, Raymond Penn, Robert Penn, James Shocket, Philip Woled and Jerome Weiss.

One of the loudest ovations of the day was reserved for Brandon Kulik, a recent West Point graduate, who was granted membership into JWV. Kulik is a 2nd lieutenant.

Since this was a meeting, and not just an awards ceremony, Levin discussed some upcoming events and programs.

Having recently visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., Levin related his experience to the group. He said if there was interest, he would be willing to organize a trip to the museum — 10 to 12 people raised their hands.

Levin also said that if the interest was there, he would have someone from Massachusetts come to Rhode Island and help organize a descendants of veterans group and/or a wives of veterans group.

For more information about JWV or to join the organization, call Irving Levin at 467-3434.

Cantor Robert Lieberman a Finalist in National Opera Competition

Cantor Robert Lieberman, of Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston, is a finalist in the annual Bel Canto Scholarship Competition.

The purpose of the competition, according to Bel Canto founder Annamaria Saritelli-DiPanni, is to support talented vocalists who are actively pursuing a career in opera.

This year, 45 entrants from Maine to California participated, and four of the 14 finalists are Rhode Islanders.

The final round of the competition, to be held on Dec. 14, will award three scholarships for voice study, ranging from \$500 to \$3,000.

A native of Benton Harbor, Mich., Lieberman, 38, first followed his interest in music by majoring in trumpet at the University of Michigan, from which he received a bachelor of music degree.

But the impressions of his earlier work as a cantor in his hometown synagogue remained, so in 1983 he began four years of study in the Cantor's Institute at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City, graduating with a degree in sacred music.

He became a voice student of Cantor Richard Wolberg of Temple Beth El in Fall River three years ago. In the summer of 1995 he began his work at Temple Torat Yisrael.

That same summer Lieber-



AS STALWART PRIVATE WILLIS, Robert Lieberman resists the attractions of Christine Gannon's Fairy Queen in Ocean State Light Opera's recent production, "Iolanthe." Photo by Dave Kendrick

man, a rich bass-baritone, made his theatrical debut, performing with Ocean State Light Opera Company in Providence.

Renowned for innovative productions of operettas, especially those of Gilbert and Sullivan, OSLO gave Lieberman his first leading role — Robin Oakapple/Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd in "Ruddigore."

That winter, he performed in opera scenes for OSLO — as Falke in "Die Fledermaus" and Danilo in "The Merry Widow."

This past summer, he enchanted OSLO audiences with his comic performance as Private Willis in "Iolanthe." His outstanding vocal talents have been recognized by critics, peers, and audience members alike.

From now until May, Lieberman, a Woonsocket resident, will perform on occasion at Opera at Audrey's (Audrey's Rest, Seekonk) with other leading voices of Ocean State Light Opera.



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WELL DESERVED RECOGNITION — At a recent meeting of the Jewish War Veterans of Rhode Island, Irving Levin, department commander, gave recognition to four members. From left, Murray Cohen, Miriam Miller, David Kopech and Harold Fink. Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

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SCHOOLBEAT

Cranston A.Z.A. Pitches In

The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization develops youth to become leaders in college and their community after graduation, through a specialized training program which is developed by the regional office.

The youth leaders hold regional training weekends three times a year, with local chapters once a month.

The other fold in which BBYO is known is their participation in community service projects.

Recently, some of the brothers of Cranston A.Z.A. donated their time cleaning the outside of Temple Torat in Cranston. On election day, members of Cranston A.Z.A. spent time moving items, getting ready for the temple's flea market.

If your organization needs help, call the BBYO regional office at (617) 969-8455 or David Hochman at 467-2296.



HELPING OUT — Cranston A.Z.A. recently donated its time at Temple Torat Yisrael. Top row, from left: Max Dwares, Craig Hochman, Rob Cutler and Brian Goldman. Bottom row, from left: Jon Sugerman; Eric Hochman, regional president; David Roberts; and Scott Goldman. Not pictured is Drew Hochman.

Photo courtesy of David Hochman

BBYO to Hold 'Overnight'

The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization will hold its "new members overnight" at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island on Dec. 14 and 15.

The night will begin with a regional dance followed by activities through the night. New members will learn the history of BBYO, sing songs, and meet youth from the New England area.

Membership is open to all

Jewish youth between the ages of 13 and 17. Members belong to chapters and chapters make up the region. Each chapter plans their own programming, raises their own funds and works with volunteer advisors.

If you would like information concerning membership, call Rhode Island coordinator David Hochman at 467-BBYO (2296) or the regional office at (617) 969-8455. E-mail: ner96@aol.com

Learn About Galileo Mission

The public can learn firsthand about Galileo's amazing odyssey around Jupiter and its moons from the Brown University scientists and students who are retrieving and interpreting images returned by the spacecraft.

The researchers will present a free program about their work on Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 101 of the Salomon Center for Teaching, located on The Col-

lege Green at Brown University.

The program is called "Galileo at Jupiter and its Moons: A Year of Discovery." The presentation will include pictures, video animation and discussion that shares the excitement of the first 12 months of the spacecraft's mission. It will end with a question and answer session.

Art Students to Have Art Sale

The art students at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth will hold their first annual student art sale at the New Bedford Art Museum on Dec. 5, 6, and 7.

The sale will run from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The museum is located at the corner of Williams and Pleasant streets in New Bedford.

For information about the sale, contact Professor Karon Doherty at (508) 999-8906 or (508) 999-8907.

New Engineering Scholarship

The family of the late Brenda Karnasiewicz-Freese has established a memorial scholarship fund in her honor at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

A 1987 UMass Dartmouth graduate with a bachelor of science in electrical engineering, Karnasiewicz-Freese passed away in July after a month-long struggle with a meningococcal infection.

The Brenda Karnasiewicz-Freese Memorial Scholarship Fund will be used to aid full-time, matriculated junior and/or senior students in the college

of engineering, with preference to a female electrical engineering student with a minimum grade point average of 2.75.

An eight-year resident of Bristol, R.I., she was the wife of Larry O. Freese and the daughter of Stanley and Constance Karnasiewicz of Fall River. She was 31 years old at the time of her death.

Contributions to the Brenda Karnasiewicz-Freese Memorial Scholarship Fund may be sent to the UMass Dartmouth Foundation, 285 Old Westport Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747.

'Recent Pictures' at RIC

The work of James Janecek embodies a synthesis of the major trends in 20th-century abstraction. His "Recent Pictures" exhibit will be on display in Rhode Island College's Bannister Gallery on Dec. 5 to 21.

That Janecek terms these works "pictures" reflects not only their mixed-media nature, but also the idea that the term, generally used in a photographic sense, refers to an impulse to record a particular visual event.

Abstract visual action can in this sense be considered, as much as a photograph used to be, a true document of a real place as recorded by one who

has "been there," according to Dennis O'Malley, gallery director.

"Recent Pictures," said Janecek, "is the evolutionary result of a group of monotypes produced in the past two years. The printed material served as the basis for the expansion of a variety of drawn and painted ideas which may have related tangentially in content and at the same time may have had a compelling visual connection."

"This connection has been developed to the extent that one idea methodically dissolves into another idea to become part of the overall effect."

"All of the events in 'pictures'

als to help students choose the high school courses that best prepare them for a health care career, and a series of Health Career Days at BCC for high school students.

Plus, this Bridge to Employment program will develop a regional symposium for educators, business and community leaders, and health care executives to examine employment changes in the allied health industry.

Chanukah Poster Contest Entrants

Entries By City/Town

Barrington	2
Chepachet	1
Coventry	1
Cranston	5
East Greenwich	11
Foxboro	2
Lincoln	1
Mansfield	2
New Bedford	1
Newport	2
North Attleboro	2
North Providence	4
Norton	2
Pawtucket	13
Plainville	1
Providence	40
Rehoboth	1
Sharon, Mass.	17
Swansea	1
Taunton	2
Warwick	9
West Greenwich	1
West Warwick	1

Congratulations to all contest entrants

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Cookbooks Keep Jewish Culture Alive

Back in 1975, the Sisterhood of Cincinnati's Rockdale Temple, a Reform synagogue, decided to raise money by publishing — what else? — a cookbook.

It was an obvious solution, according to Barbara Rosenberg, one of the editors, who explains wryly that "in those days women were still expected to excel in the kitchen."

The cookbook was a "specialty" volume, devoted exclusively to hors d'oeuvres and soups. It became a national best seller, featured by major book chains and publicized in magazines and on radio and TV. Hundreds of thousands of copies were sold.

— estimates that between half and three-quarters of all Reform sisterhoods have published cookbooks at one time or other.

Betty Eichenbaum Benjamin, who served as WRJ president in the mid-1970s, has made a hobby of collecting sisterhood cookbooks from across the United States and Canada.

She recently donated 32 from her collection — including one dating from 1914 — to Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, which has what is believed to be the world's largest existing collection of Jewish cookbooks — approximately 700.

In recent years, the primary motivation for cookbook publishing among sisterhoods has been fund-raising. But leaders of WRJ point out that such manuals also help preserve and transmit Jewish culture and traditions from one generation to the next.

Following oral tradition, mothers passed down folk recipes through their daughters. Many still do. But Jewish cookbooks have made it easier to preserve traditional dishes.

In addition to the Rockdale publication, other sisterhood cookbooks have garnered nationwide attention over the years. Recent successes include *From Generation to Generation*, a 334-page work published by the Sisterhood of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas.

Graphically attractive, with watercolor illustrations by artist and temple member Camille Kress (whose work was featured in the 1992-93 nationally distributed WRJ Art Calendar), the cookbook includes everyday meals as well as holiday dishes and recipes for special occasions.

Several of its recipes were featured in the 1995 edition of *America's Best Recipes* and one dish, "Gypsy Brisket," will be highlighted in *Gourmet* magazine.

Some Pearls from Pearlman

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

"Was life then with its milestones and surprises a rehearsal for death? Maybe life was a throwaway prologue and being dead was the important activity... An oath, a prayer, a toast! To birth and death and the mess in between; might as well call it life, everybody else does."

Edith Pearlman writes her brief, 15 stories with a strange mix of melancholy and merriment. The writer, a native of Providence, the recent winner of the prestigious Drue Heinz Literature Prize of 1996, infuses her stunning accounts of lonely lives in far-off steaming ports with her own charming, curious, lively nature. She covers weddings and funerals with equal fervor, the tragic and the comic, and a golden thread of Jewish concerns weaves among all the tales.

The whole of Central America hides its Hebrew secrets. "Atopa donkey, yarmulke under sombrero, a wanderer sold tin pans. People descended from Indians who worshipped quetzal — what was a quetzal but a bird with a schnozz? — and from haughty Marranos who prayed to Yahweh in the basements of basements."

Edith Pearlman creates narrators young and old, male and female, wise and foolish. A dwarf doctor heals street orphans, brought like stray dogs to be robbed of their organs for

transplants! An American zeide travels south of the border to meet the native lad his gay son is adopting. These journeys cross hemispheres and equators, from Chile to Israel to Canada.

One of my favorites is set in Cape Cod on VJ Day, with a cancer patient at odds with the cheering crowds in the streets beyond his window. Maybe it is because I keep like the writer a strong personal memory of the ironies of that spring and summer of victory with all its ironies and revelations.

Indeed, I have another connection with the author of *Vaquita and Other Stories*. I went to our public schools with the former Edith Grossman, who not long ago paid a local visit to write a story about our Arcade. We shared a luncheon table, and some reminiscences of the downtown of before now.

"I plan on spending my prize money on a sojourn in Jerusalem. I'll see where my stories go in the shadow of the Western Wall," she said

cheerfully, and wrote down her address.

Perhaps if she comes back for a holiday among her friends in Rhode Island, I will



follow the fabulous fortunes of her myriad characters, all of them eager for life, anxious to do well spiritually and morally, messengers like angels.

This is short story writing at its very best.



THE COVER of *From Generation to Generation*, the prize-winning cookbook of the Sisterhood of Temple Emanu-El, a Reform synagogue in Dallas.

While it was a stunning success, the Rockdale sisterhood's gastronomic blockbuster was no pioneering venture. Reform sisterhoods have been publishing cookbooks almost since the birth of the sisterhood movement 150 years ago.

Judith O. Rosenkranz, president of Women of Reform Judaism-The Federation of Temple Sisterhoods — central body of some 600 Reform sisterhoods in the United States and Canada

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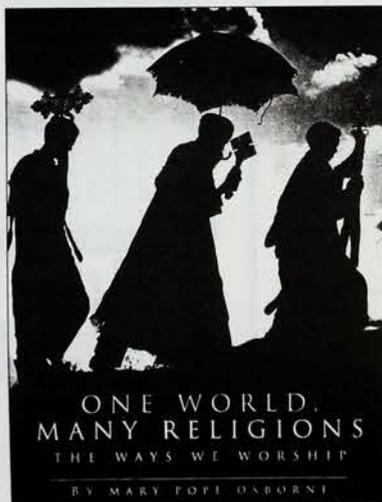
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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

'Lessons on Living' on WGBH

Morrie Schwartz was not a world leader, an American politician, a Hollywood legend or a sports hero.

Yet Ted Koppel has called him the most memorable person he has ever interviewed. Schwartz was a professor of sociology at Brandeis University who was dying of ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

"Morrie: Lessons on Living," airing on Dec. 3 at 10 p.m. on 'GBH/2 (repeats Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. on 'GBH/44), captures the moving and inspirational final chapter in the life of this extraordinary, ordinary man.

The one-hour special, which has been assembled by Koppel and the producers of "Nightline" expressly for public television, is culled from three "Nightline" programs which aired over a period of eight months in 1995.

during the three filmed interviews, Schwartz talked openly with Koppel about his life and the incurable illness that was imprisoning his fully functioning mind in a functionless body.

"Nine million people out there... are watching you right now," Koppel begins, "and saying 'What can this old guy tell me that's going to help me when I get to a similar point.'"

Schwartz responds by talking about life, and about what he has learned as a result of his illness. "Compassion, love, awareness and responsibility for and to each other," he said. "That's the lesson I've learned."

He also talks unflinchingly about death, primarily his own, which came on Nov. 4, 1995, less than a month after the final interview aired.

During the course of the program, it is evident that Schwartz's body is failing, but his honesty and good humor are not. "To the very end," he said, "the disease is not going to get my spirit."

Koppel appears on camera to provide an original introduction, connecting remarks and conclusion.

"Morrie: Lessons on Living" is produced by Dan Morris for ABC New Productions. Tom Bettag is executive producer.

'Patinkin in Concert' at PPAC

Tony and Emmy Award winner Mandy Patinkin will entertain at the Providence Performing Arts Center along with accompanist Paul Ford on piano during "Mandy Patinkin in Concert," Dec. 7 at 8 p.m.

Patinkin won the Tony Award following his 1980 Broadway debut as Che in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Evita," and was again nominated for his starring role in the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical "Sunday in the Park With George."

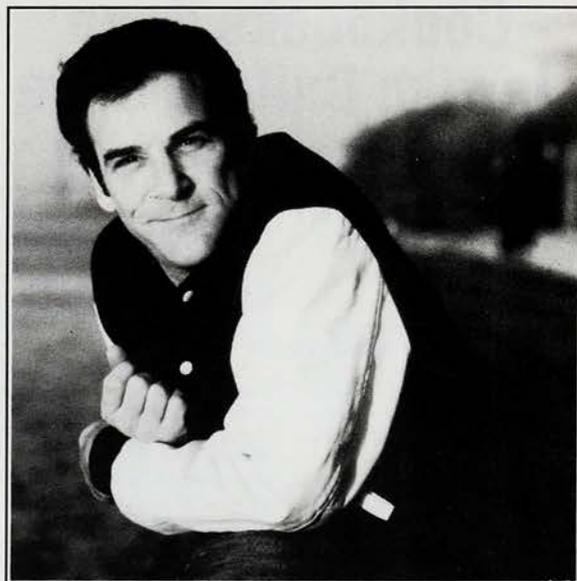
He returned to Broadway in 1991 to perform in the Tony Award winning musical "The Secret Garden," and in 1992 appeared as Marvin in "Falsettos."

Patinkin won the Emmy Award in 1995 for his role as Dr. Jeffrey Geiger on the acclaimed television series "Chicago Hope."

His television and film credits are numerous including the starring role as Quasimodo in a live action remake of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" for TNT, and a film version of Arthur Miller's "Broken Glass" for the BBC/WGBH Boston.

His film and television credits also include performances in "True Colors," "Dick Tracy," "The Princess Bride," "Yentl," "Ragtime," and "Alien Nation."

Patinkin began his concert career in 1989 following the release of his first solo album,



MANDY PATINKIN will be in concert at the Providence Performing Arts Center on Dec. 7. Photo by Joel Meyerowitz

"Mandy Patinkin." He has since been on extensive tours of the United States and Canada performing songs from stage classics by writers including Stephen Sondheim, Rodgers and Hammerstein, and Kander and Ebb among others.

His concerts feature selections from his 1994 recording "Experiment" that includes songs from

nine decades of popular music, and selections from his new recording, "Oscar and Steve" which pays tribute to the music of Oscar Hammerstein II and Stephen Sondheim.

Tickets for "Mandy Patinkin in Concert" are available by calling 421-ARTS. Tickets are also available through Ticketmaster or by calling 331-2211.

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Holiday shoppers can save 10 percent on Providence Performing Arts Center tickets and gift certificates on Nov. 29 and 30, during a special two-day sale following Thanksgiving.

The 10 percent savings opportunity is available only at the PPAC box office, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days. Call 421-ARTS for more information.

The sale includes savings on tickets for special presentations, City Children's Series shows, and tickets for upcoming Broadway shows, excluding "Miss Saigon."

Poetry Contests Announced

Poets are invited to submit their works to the 14th annual Galway Kinnell Poetry Prize, an award to recognize and award excellence in contemporary poetry sponsored by The Arts Council, Pawtucket.

Entries must be postmarked by April 1, 1997. First prize is \$200; second prize is \$150 and third prize is \$100.

Entries must be original unpublished poems in English in any style on any subject. The poem must be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than two pages, with only the title of the poem at the top of each page.

A cover page with each poet's name, address, telephone number, and poem titles must accompany all submissions. Each poet may submit any number of poems.

Each and every poem must be accompanied by a \$4 fee, with checks made out to The Arts Council, Pawtucket.

The Arts Council also announced its eighth annual High School Poetry Competition for students in grades nine to 12 residing in Rhode Island or enrolled in Rhode Island schools. U.S. Savings Bonds for \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be awarded as prizes.

There is no entry fee for the high school competition. The submission deadline is April 1, 1997.

Send all entries to The Arts Council, Pawtucket, 13 Summer St., Pawtucket, RI 02860. For further information, contact The Arts Council at 725-1151.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Winter Evening of Culture

It may be cold outside, but a warm cultural evening is being planned for Dec. 15 by the New Americans Committee of Temple Emanu-El.

The program begins at 7 p.m. with music by pianists Bela Miller, Victoria Lambrosa and Claire Rosenbaum. Songs will be presented by Cantor Brian Mayer, soprano Lori Ullman, and tenor Randy Rosenbaum.

Novelist David Shroyer will read one of his short stories, and painter Andrei Krichak will describe his spiritual journey and

show in his pictures how his odyssey is reflected in his art.

The program includes both Russian-born and American-born artists. The New American Committee invites the community-at-large to come and enjoy the rich talents of fine artists who live in the community.

Bring old friends and meet new friends. Russian-style delicacies will be featured at the refreshment hour following the program.

For more information, call the temple at 331-1616.

URI Presents 'The Music Man'

URI Theatre will present Meredith Willson's "The Music Man" on Dec. 5 to 7 and 11 to 14 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 7, 8, and 14 at 2 p.m. in the Robert E. Will Theatre of the Fine Arts Center.

"The Music Man" is an all-American valentine to a vanished era; it is the story of fast-talking Harold Hill, who cons the good citizens of River City, Iowa, into buying musical instruments by promising to create a boys' band.

He quickly sets his romantic sights on Marian, the town's

librarian, a skeptic who uncovers and, to his surprise, discovers the true Harold Hill.

The show offers a remarkable musical score complete with a barbershop quartet, delightful musical production numbers, and favorite standards including "Seventy-Six Trombones" and "Till There Was You."

Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$8 for students and seniors and \$6 for children under \$12. Call 874-5843 for reservation.

'The Queen of Flamenco' at RIC

by George LaTour

High energy improvisations are the focus of Maria Benitez, dubbed by *Vogue* magazine as "The Queen of Flamenco," when she brings her Teatro Flamenco to the stage of Rhode Island College's Roberts Hall auditorium on Dec. 2, for an 8 p.m. performance.

Benitez presents a diverse and demanding repertory for music and dance with the rhythms of flamenco at its core.

In addition to the daring solo work for which the form is tra-

ditionally known, Benitez has added her own choreographic voice to the company's repertory and also has commissioned distinguished Spanish choreographers and composers to create new works specifically to expand the dramatic range of the company.

Featuring solos, duets and trios, the dynamism of flamenco foot and body work is non-stop.

Reserved-seat tickets are \$18 with discounts for senior citizens and students and may be ordered by telephone by calling 456-8194 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily or at the box office from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily and until time of performance on the performance date.

For information, call the Performing Arts Series at 456-8194.

Dance Concert at Brown

The Brown Dance Ensemble will present its annual Fall Concert, Dec. 5 to 8 at the Ashamu Dance Studio in the Catherine Bryan Dill Center for the Performing Arts at Brown University. All performances are at 8 p.m.

The concert, produced by artist-in-residence, Julie A. Strandberg, features a lively mix of works by guest artists, faculty and students.

Tickets for the Fall Dance Concert are available at the Leeds Theatre Box Office, 77 Waterman St., Providence, or at the door on the night of performance beginning at 7 p.m.

Ticket price is \$5. For more information or to make reservations, call 863-2838.

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R.I. Philharmonic Concert Features Victor Yampolsky on Dec. 7

The Rhode Island Philharmonic will present a Classical Series concert on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence.

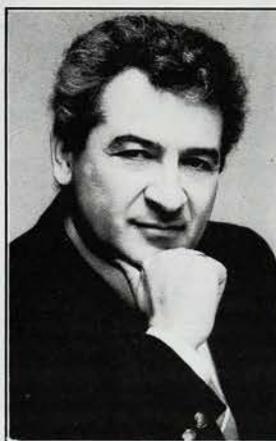
Entitled "Romantic Rhineland," the concert will feature noted guest conductor Victor Yampolsky and acclaimed piano soloist Xiang-Dong Kong.

Yampolsky will open the program with Wagner's Venusberg music from "Tannhäuser." Kong will join the orchestra in a performance of the "Grieg Piano Concerto in A Minor," Opus 16, one of the most popular piano concertos in the classical repertoire. "Schumann's Symphony No. 3" in E-flat major, Opus 97 "Rhenish" and the Richard Strauss "Dance of the Seven Veils" from "Salome" complete the program.

If tickets remain at 7:30 on the night of the concert, full-time students with a valid student ID may purchase up to two tickets for \$5 each.

Yampolsky currently serves as music director of the Omaha Symphony and of the Orchestras at Northwestern University. He also serves as principal conductor of the national Symphony Orchestra of Johannesburg, South Africa.

In 1992 he founded the Storioni Ensemble, North-



Victor Yampolsky

Photo courtesy of R.I. Philharmonic

western's resident string ensemble, and he continues to serve as both violinist and music director of this professional chamber orchestra.

Educated in Moscow, Yampolsky emigrated to the United

States in 1973. He was appointed to the Boston Symphony Orchestra and became principal second violin in 1975, subsequently serving as adjunct professor of violin and director of orchestras at Boston University School of Music.

Individual concert ticket prices are \$20, \$30 and \$35, depending upon seat location, with discounts for groups of 10 or more, full-time students and senior citizens.

Five-concert subscriptions are \$89, \$136 and \$157 for adults, or \$73, \$121 and \$143 for full-time students and seniors.

Tickets [other than the \$5 student rush] and subscriptions may be purchased at the Philharmonic office, 222 Richmond St., Providence, by phone 831-3123 using Mastercard or Visa, or in person during business hours Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are also available at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium box office during pre-concert week only beginning Dec. 1.

Exhibits at the Library

Two major exhibits are featured at the Barrington Public Library in December. One is a series of paintings inspired by stories, the other features polymer day jewelry.

"Tell Me a Story" is an exhibition of paintings by Barrington artist Joan L. Allen.

"Tell Me a Story" (Allen explains) is the plea of children and adults everywhere. These paintings are based on myth, legends, fairytales, or the artist's own invention.

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Shrimp Scampi & Sirloin - Scrod & Sirloin
Coffee or Teal/Ice Cream or Sherbet |
| OPTION 4 | 23.95* per person |
| Choice of | New York Sirloin - Prime Rib - Baked Scallops & Prime Rib
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MILESTONES

Isaac Stern Receives Award

At a recent ceremony and tribute dinner, at which world-renowned violinist Isaac Stern received the Jewish National Fund Tarbut Award in recognition of his enormous contribution to the people of Israel, young artists and the cultural enrichment of the world, former Prime Minister Shimon Peres told an audience of more than 300 that "Isaac Stern represents a great heritage."

"King David was a musician," he said. Emphasizing the place of music in the soul, he added, "The Jewish people speak in three languages: Hebrew, with which we praise G-d; Yiddish, with which we argue, and music, with which we dialogue with our innermost selves."

Israeli Consul General (New York) Colette Avital noted how Stern, like King David, "placed his gifts at the service of his people," recalling that when Iraqi SCUDS fell on Tel Aviv, Stern was there giving a concert, before an audience in which both performer and listeners wore gas masks.



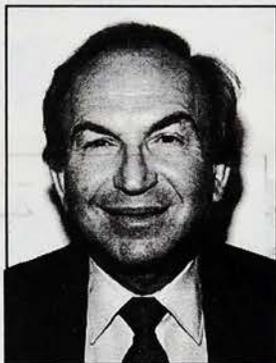
FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Shimon Peres (left) praised violinist Isaac Stern at a recent dinner in Stern's honor. Stern received JNF's Tarbut Award from Israeli Consul General (New York) Colette Avital, who was joined by Bertram L. Podell, JNF New York, regional president. Photo courtesy of JNF

After the assassinations of Yitzhak Rabin, she remembered, "Isaac Stern was the first person to come to our offices to express condolences and ask what he could do to help."

Ivor Jackson, M.D. Occupies 'Spinoza Chair'

Ivor Jackson, M.D., physician-in-charge, division of endocrinology, Rhode Island Hospital and professor of medicine, Brown University School of Medicine, was invited to occupy the "Spinoza Chair" at the University of Amsterdam from Oct. 6 to 17.

This professorship, named after the great 17th-century Dutch philosopher, Baruch (Benedict) Spinoza, has been instituted by the Amsterdam University Association whose members are alumni of the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.



Ivor Jackson, M.D.

It is meant to be occupied by outstanding scientists who will contribute to the further advancement and skill of staff members, graduates and students of the Faculty of Medicine, as well as other medical centers in the Netherlands.

While in the Netherlands, Jackson delivered six lectures at the Amsterdam Medical Center, University of Amsterdam and at Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

Halperin Named to Honor Roll

Lawrence Halperin, of Warwick, is a member of the Million Dollar Round Table's 1996 Honor Roll.

The Honor Roll, which numbers 5,420, recognizes members who have qualified for MDRT by meeting or exceeding the Round Table's production requirement 15 or more times. Halperin is a 28-year MDRT member.

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nearly 19,000 leading life insurance producers, each of whom has met strict ethical and production requirements to qualify.

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Membership in MDRT is recognized internationally as the standard of excellence in life insurance sales performance.

Special Gift

Aaron M. Feuerstein, president of Malden Mills of Lawrence, Mass., will be presented with a quilt designed by children and made entirely of Polartec at a special "Repairer of the World" Award program at The Rashi School in Needham, Mass., on Dec. 4 at 8:15 a.m., nearly a year to the day since a fire destroyed a large part of his mill.

The quilt depicts 10 of Judaism's teachings or commandments (mitzvot). Feuer-

stein gained worldwide attention when, after the fire he vowed to rebuild on the site, and maintained 3,000 workers on his payroll for three months during the rebuilding.

Addition

Barbara Gail Hecker, who married John Joseph Cabral on Oct. 6, is the daughter of Norman and Frances Hecker.

Naama Yovell and Joel Kortick to Wed

Janet and Carl Kortick, of Cranston, R.I., announce the engagement of their son, Joel Kortick, of Jerusalem, Israel, to Naama Yovell, of Jerusalem, Israel. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Yoseph and Sosanna Yovell, of Jerusalem, Israel.

The bride-to-be received her B.A. in physical education from Miclelet Givat Washington at Kibbutz Yavneh. She is presently employed as a physical education teacher. Her fiancé received a B.A. from American University, and a master's degree in Jewish history from Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The date of the wedding has been set for Jan. 19, 1997, in Jerusalem.



Naama Yovell and Joel Kortick

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FEATURE

Fond Memories of Leisurely Sundays Scout Earns Badge of... Torah

by Harry Kolodney

This year, the Sons of Jacob Synagogue is celebrating its 100th anniversary. To reach this century mark and still continue its religious and other services to the community, is indeed a source of great pride.

Most naturally, there are many memories with regard to the accomplishments of this congregation throughout these many years. One function, beginning in the 1920s, which stands out, and while not of a religious nature, is worthy of a reminiscence. That elaborate social occasion was the Sunday morning breakfast, which was held possibly every other week.

First, in the early part of the century, Sunday was a day of rest, a do-nothing day. All commercial stores were closed, no theaters open, no baseball or other sports allowed. Public transportation was sharply curtailed, all restaurants were closed, as were all manufacturing plants. A few stores dared to open clandestinely for a few hours in the early morning, and apparently the authorities looked the other way.

Against this background, a main event on many Sunday mornings, was the breakfast. The men of the congregation were, for the most part, only a few years away from immigrating to this country from their native Eastern Europe.

They were strong, virile, hard-working, moralistic and with their wives as equal partners, proudly raised their children within the culture of this

country and with the heritage of our people.

The men, dressed in their Sunday best, after early morning services, gathered for the big event. The gourmet food served at the breakfast was almost invariably the same. Chunks of delicious tasting herring, washed and skinned, platters of raw sliced onion, bowls of hot potatoes, boiled in their skins, an ample supply of hard-boiled eggs, also hot bread and rolls, and mounds of cream cheese in many varieties.

Occasionally, there was an added delicacy — na'hit (boiled chick peas). Hot tea, not in the insipid dainty bags which are today dipped into a cup of tepid water, but brewed strong and dark, was served in tall glasses, hot to the touch. As was the custom of the times, the tea was sipped through a cube of sugar, held between the teeth.

The coup de grace was a colorless bootleg whiskey, so potent and powerful, an unconfirmed report — highly unconfirmed — would have it that sometimes it was possible to see a thin wisp of smoke emit through the top of the skull of one who had consumed more than one drink.

With the repeal of the Prohibition Amendment, many scorned the weak, lifeless taste of legal whiskeys, in favor of this bootleg delicacy.

We youngsters scampered about, and although scolded and admonished by our elders, they loved us all, and were proud of both our Jewish heritage and of

being the first generation Americans.

We grew to young manhood just in time to be shipped overseas en masse, to fight in a great World War, with courage and honor to our people and to this country. At the conclusion of the war, most of us returned to this country and to our families.

Very sadly, several returned at a later date, sent home in flag draped caskets, to be enshrined for all eternity in an honored section in one of our Jewish cemeteries.

Driving through the streets of this city and neighboring communities, we still see the weather beaten wooden plaques attached to the lamp and telephone poles, dedicating a square to a fallen hero.

At the conclusion of the breakfast, after reciting the Grace After Meals, all returned to their homes. Those who utilized horses in pursuit of their livelihood first went to the place where the horse was stabled and fed the animal.

The balance of the day was spent leisurely, possibly a nap in the afternoon, and conversation with the entire family. Also, perhaps listening to the recent invention, the phonograph, with recordings by great cantors, in Hebrew and in Yiddish, comedy with "Cohen on the Telephone" and listening to the antics of Molly Picon, the original "I Love Lucy."

So passed an era — for those of us who still remain, we remember with nostalgia and fond memories.

STERLING, Alaska (LNS) — Twelve adjectives are used in the official definition of an American Boy Scout: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

With the help of a visiting Lubavitch rabbi, Josh Barsis of Sterling, Alaska, was able to complete the last point of the Scout Law, which states that: "A Scout is Reverent. He is reverent toward G-d. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of customs and religion."

Last spring, Josh, now 10, became the first Cub Scout in the state of Alaska to earn the organization's Aleph award.

Jewish life in rural Alaska can be isolating. Sterling, where the Barsises originally from Albuquerque, N.M., have been living for the past two years, is a small town on the Kenai Peninsula. They are one of about 15 Jewish couples who get together for prayers and socializing every few weeks.

Aside from the Barsises three children, there are only four other Jewish children on the entire peninsula.

To get an Aleph badge, a Cub Scout must display some

proficiency in Torah and the Hebrew language. He must write an essay and do community work. He must be familiar with key personalities in Jewish history and tradition.

Josh spent nearly six months acquiring the knowledge needed to receive the award. He and his mother went to the local public library and made numerous phone calls to the Lubavitch center in Anchorage.

They memorized Jewish prayers and Hebrew words. Each night Josh recorded the lessons he learned that day in a spiral notebook.

After several months of study, Josh was ready to pursue his award and Josh's mother put out the word that she wanted more Jewish education for her son.

Rabbi Avraham Berkowitz, 21, served last year as chaplain to 200 Jewish children at the Boy Scouts' Ten Mile River camps in Narrowsburg, N.Y. He was interning with Rabbi and Mrs. Greenberg, Lubavitch emissaries to Alaska in Anchorage, when Mrs. Barsis called. He was the natural choice to be dispatched to Sterling to tutor Josh.

After a few lessons and a couple of tests, Berkowitz was able to present Josh with the coveted badge.

Courses During Mid-Year Break

It takes just a little time to learn a whole lot in one of the almost 50 courses being offered during the semester break at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's division of continuing education.

The university's academic calendar now includes a month-long mid-year vacation, from Dec. 23 to Jan. 26. DCE has scheduled classes during the three weeks in January, beginning Jan. 6, so students of all ages can take advantage of the break to complete an entire course.

The cost of a three-credit course, including fees, is \$365.

Registration begins Dec. 9; students can register by phone, fax or in person.

The DCE telephone registration number is (508) 999-9129; the line is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday.

The DCE fax number is (508) 999-8621.

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WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

G.A. Delegates Grapple With Federations' Relevance

by Cynthia Mann

SEATTLE (JTA) — Delegates at the recent annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations, the umbrella body serving 200 federations in North America, grappled at workshops and plenary sessions with what role federations can and must play as the new century dawns.

How, they asked, can federations be relevant to American Jews, half of whom are not affiliated with or engaged by the Jewish organizational world?

They also sought to redefine the meaning of Jewish community and brainstorm about how to reinvigorate its institutions.

Underpinning all the discussion, of course, was the pressure of knowing that to keep these institutions alive, federations must compete hard for Jewish dollars solicited for other causes.

Arnold Eisen, religious studies professor at Stanford Uni-

versity, told delegates that the "task of imagining federations of the future begins by talking about communities."

A central challenge in articulating a communal vision is embracing diversity and inclusiveness, he said. "We need the wisdom of all at the table at which Torah is studied."

The G.A. drew close to 3,000 participants. It featured a speech via satellite by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as well as an appearance by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres and by Natan Sharansky, former Soviet dissident-turned-Israeli minister of industry and trade.

Netanyahu told delegates that he would protect the legal status in Israel of non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad, but that he would not fight current legislative initiatives to reinforce exclusive Orthodox control over conversions performed in Israel.

Federations traditionally have been the central fund-raising body in local communities. They support the institutions, services and programs they decide are the highest priorities, including day school education, nursing homes and Jewish community centers.

Half the money over the years typically went to the United Jewish Appeal for programs overseas, primarily Israel, though that portion has steadily been dropping in recent years.

The annual joint campaign by federations and UJA recently has raised roughly \$725 million. CJF and UJA are now holding talks on how to forge a closer partnership.

But the G.A. program participants, both lay and professional, called on federations to join with other institutions, particularly synagogues, to enlarge

their mission beyond fund-raising and service delivery.

They are demanding that federations be the anchor of a community-building guided by Jewish values, learning and tradition.

Rabbi Sidney Schwarz, president of the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, said Jewish renewal is "exploding" in the federation world. But he said it is a relatively well-kept secret.

"A lot of communities are starting to ask the right questions" about how to energize people about Jewish life and Jewish education," he said.

But the Jewish public at large still does not see federations as relevant.

"The demand is going through the roof" for programs on "how to combine Jewish values with engagement in the world," he said, noting that his institute alone is working with 90 different communities.

On the other hand, he said, "federations are gasping for air. Most federations are happy if they're not losing ground" in their campaigns.

Rabbi Devora Bartnoff, a member of the board of rabbis of Greater Philadelphia, said that one of the most important tasks for the community is to "bring in the unaffiliated."

"A successful organized Jewish community would have enough entrance points" to accommodate everyone who wants to come inside, from folk-dancing to studying to volunteering.

But Marshal Spector, a 36-year-old attorney from Portland, Ore., is seeking more.

"There is so much talk about

outreach, but once people come in" to the system, there has to be something "substantive, with meaning and purpose, to have them stay," said Spector.

Spector's name tag read "UJ, Young Leadership," but he wears other hats in the Jewish world, including board member of his federation and of his local day school, to which he plans to send his three young children.

The problem has been the religious institutions "kept what [they] did for themselves, and the federation world raised money," he said, adding, "The two have to come together."

Indeed, forging closer relations between synagogues and federations by eliminating negative stereotyping and power struggles was an important theme at the G.A.

A new handbook on the subject was made available, titled *Planning for Jewish Continuity: Synagogue-Federation Collaboration* and produced by the Jewish Education Service of North America, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and CJF in collaboration with the religious movements.

Pamela Gorelick, who appeared to be in her 20s, came to the G.A. from the Washington, D.C., area as a representative of UJA's Young Leadership division. She said she witnesses a "big problem of retention" within the system among her peers.

"A lot of people my age get turned off because they think there's so much emphasis on campaign" by the federation world.

Sometimes the system "loses sight of the fact that it also needs their involvement."

JNF to Shift Management, Resources

by Cynthia Mann

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish National Fund of America is moving to put its house in order following upheaval over its spending and accounting practices.

In its most dramatic move, the JNF will launch a search for a replacement for Samuel Cohen, the organization's top professional, who is shifting to the post of senior executive vice president.

The decision was made recently during meetings with regional and national leaders that were closed to the media.

JNF also decided to:

- Form a new committee charged with nominating new lay leaders.
- Establish a task force to see

how best to increase the amount of JNF money that gets sent to Israel.

The disclosure that JNF spends much more money for programming in the United States than it does in Israel is part of what triggered a recent public storm around the charity.

- Hire an accounting firm to audit this year's spending and to review accounting procedures.

Cohen and JNF President Milton Shapiro said in a telephone interview after the meetings on Nov. 19 that accountants would also review the agency's management structure, both nationally and regionally. JNF has 234 regions across the country.

The actions follow revelations from an internal investigation that has shaken the charity's public image and threatened to hurt its capacity to raise money.

The probe, which included a partial independent audit, found no malfeasance by the organization.

Nonetheless, it found "management, accounting and fund-raising inefficiencies, as well as errors in JNF's financial statements."

The inquiry also pointed to the fact that only roughly 20 percent of the money it spends actually makes its way to Israel. The accounting system had obscured that fact.

JNF historically has described its central mission as reclaiming and developing the land of Israel. Officials now concede that the extent of their programming outside Israel was not widely known.

In 1994, of \$26.9 million in total expenditures, \$5.5 million arrived in Israel. At the same time, \$6.3 million of so-called "Israel programming" actually was used for educational purposes in the United States and another \$4.5 million was spent in the United States on Zionist education.

Cohen, in the telephone interview, said that there is "a clear consensus" that JNF should "forward much more money to Israel."

Surveys of scores of JNF representatives from across the country taken at the conference found that leaders want to see 50 percent of the funds go to the Jewish state.

To that end, said Cohen, all programming will be "re-examined."

Israeli Border Police Caught on Video Beating Palestinians

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Two Israeli border policemen who were videotaped beating Palestinians at a roadblock in northern Jerusalem have been placed in detention.

The incident, which occurred several weeks ago, was recorded on video by a Palestinian who happened to be nearby. The video was broadcast worldwide recently.

The tape showed scenes of the two soldiers kicking and beating six Palestinians who had attempted to enter Israel without the proper work permits.

Israeli leaders were quick to condemn the incident.

"We cannot accept it. It is unpardonable," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters. "It flies in the face of the strict standards of conduct that are kept by the overwhelming majority of

Israeli soldiers and police." He added that the two would be brought to trial and that "the full weight of the law will be applied against them."

Palestinians and human rights workers said similar beatings by Israeli security forces were frequent.

Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani ordered the immediate suspension of the two soldiers, pending an investigation of the incident.

The two soldiers, David Ben Abu, 20, and Tsahi Shmaya, 19, were questioned for five hours by the justice ministry's division for the investigation of police.

The commander of the border police, Yisrael Sadon, disclosed that three other border police were transferred from their posts recently for beating Palestinians near the West Bank town of Kalkilya.

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WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

For Non-Orthodox in Israel, Conversion Issue is 'Time Bomb'

by Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's assurances to diaspora Jews that a new Knesset bill would not invalidate non-Orthodox conversions performed outside Israel have done little to calm the fears of many non-Orthodox Israelis.

For the more than 100,000 non-Jewish immigrants who have been granted Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return, as well as for the dozens of non-Jewish children adopted by Israelis, the expected Knesset bill would close the official door to all but Orthodox conversions.

Last year, that door opened a crack when the Supreme Court said there was no legal reason why non-Orthodox conversions should not be recognized in Israel.

However, the court did not explicitly recognize such conversions, saying that it would be up to the Knesset to pass the appropriate legislation.

Orthodox parties in the governing coalition, which joined the Netanyahu government on the condition that the Knesset take up legislation invalidating non-Orthodox conversions, are now pushing for the measure.

Netanyahu told American Jewish leaders gathered in Seattle recently, "We have Orthodox conversions in Israel. That won't change."

For those most directly affected in Israel, the conversion issue is a ticking time bomb, according to leaders in the Reform

and Conservative movements.

"As many as a quarter of Russian immigrants aren't Jewish, not to mention hundreds of immigrants from other countries, as well as adopted babies," said Anat Galili, a Reform movement spokeswoman. "What

"If the convert works in a place that is open on Shabbat, he is expected to find another job. Parents of adopted children must promise to keep the mitzvot and send their children to Orthodox schools."

Rabbi Gil Nativ

happens when they or their children want to get married? Sure, they can go abroad to Cyprus or elsewhere and have a civil marriage, but that just pushes the problem of another generation."

Israeli Jews must be legally recognized as Jews according to Orthodox tradition in order for their marriages to be officially authorized by the Chief Rabbi. The rabbinate, which is Orthodox, has sole control over marriages in Israel.

While the Chief Rabbinate acknowledges the problem, it provides no easy solutions.

Of the some 10,000 people who apply for Orthodox con-

versions each year, only about 400 complete the process, according to the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem.

"Some want to marry a Jew, some want to be able to stay in Israel, and the only way they can do that is by becoming Jewish," said a spokesperson at the Haifa Rabbinate.

"The future of the Jewish people is at stake, so we cannot convert people who are not 100 percent sincere."

Rabbi Gil Nativ of the Masorti/Conservative movement acknowledges the need to weed out insincere converts, but maintains that the rabbinate's criteria are simply too stringent.

"In the past decade," Nativ said, "the rabbinate has hardened its stance."

"For them, either you become a convert to Orthodoxy, or you don't convert at all," Nativ said. "The rabbinate won't convert someone unless he promises to move to an Orthodox neighborhood or send his child to an Orthodox or ultra-Orthodox school."

"If the convert works in a place that is open on Shabbat, he is expected to find another job. Parents of adopted children must promise to keep the mitzvot and send their children to Orthodox schools."

"Whereas some converts are eager to assume an Orthodox lifestyle and therefore accept the rabbinate's criteria, the vast majority object to these standards," he said.

Said one young adoptive Catholic-Jewish marriages are so common, he said, because members of both religious groups tend to live in the same geographic areas.

The consultation was organized by the Interreligious Information Center, the New York Catholic Archdiocese and the New York regional associations of Reform and Conservative rabbis.

gress, would not say why their application did not get earlier consideration.

But he said the application would be considered by the membership committee of the World Jewish Congress' board of governors at its next meeting, in the spring.

Rabbis and Priests Battle Inter-marriage

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — An unusual Catholic-Jewish session on intermarriage has produced a joint statement "urging the deterrence" of such unions.

In a statement issued recently, 83 rabbis and priests also recommended that clergy foster discussion between couples of different faiths as they prepare for marriage, "making it clear that syncretism will not be

possible and that very painful decisions may have to be made regarding family life."

Participants in the consultation also recommended that an informal committee be established to regularly discuss common concerns about intermarriage.

Jews who marry Christians disproportionately marry Catholics, according to sociologist Egon Mayer, who did not par-

Gay Jewish Group Seeks Inclusion

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — The World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, in an effort to become more integrated into the mainstream Jewish communal world, has applied for membership to the World Jewish Congress.

The group has been seeking WJC membership for the better part of two years, but the application did not move forward until its leadership met with WJC officials recently, said Jack Gilbert, president of the gay and lesbian group.

The sense that their application was not enthusiastically received by the WJC was no surprise, he said in an interview.

"The record of the wider community supporting our work is very poor."

"As we build our relationship with the wider Jewish community and begin to be seen as an expert organization advocating for a section of the community which people need to reach out to, we will expect wider support for our work."

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Con-

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OBITUARIES

HELENE EDELMAN
NORTH KINGSTOWN — Helene Edelman, 76, of the Scalabrini Villa, 860 North Quidnessett Road, founder and proprietor of the former Bevarito Beauty Salon located on the east side of Providence, died Nov. 18 at the villa.

Born in Fall River, Mass., a daughter of the late David and Rebecca (Kortick) Preblud, she had lived in Providence for most of her life before moving to Scalabrini Villa three years ago.

She had previously worked as a hairdresser at the Wayland Manor in Providence.

She leaves a sister, Betty Mastroianni of North Kingstown, two nieces, two great-

nieces and two great-nephews.

A graveside funeral service was held Nov. 19 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

BARNEY MARINSKY

PROVIDENCE — Barney Marinsky, 89, of 434 Wayland Ave., a manufacturer's representative for various furniture companies before retiring five years ago, died Nov. 23 at Rhode Island Hospital. He was the husband of Goldie (Lecht) Marinsky.

Born in London, England, a son of the late Isaac and Deborah (Dworkin) Marinsky, he came to the United States as a young boy

and was a lifelong Providence resident. He was a member of the DeMolay, the National Home Furnishings Association, and the Citizens Military Training Corps.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, David Marinsky of Wichita, Kan.; a daughter, Ellen Allen of Altamonte Springs, Fla.; a brother, Harry Marinsky in Italy; a sister, Rose Cohen of Providence; and six grandchildren. He was brother of the late Jacob Marinsky and Alice Nathanson.

A graveside service was held Nov. 26 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

Israeli Rabbi Not Optimistic About Her Future on Council

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — Rabbi Na'amah Kelman has been trying for seven years to be seated on the Jerusalem Religious Council.

But even though Israel's High Court of Justice ruled recently that she, as a Reform rabbi, must be allowed to serve on the Orthodox-controlled body, she does not expect it to happen any time soon.

"When Moshiah comes, I'll be on the council," Kelman said, invoking the Messiah, during a recent visit to New York. "When she comes, she'll seat me."

The council would rather be inactive than allow her to participate, said Kelman, who immigrated to Israel in 1976 and was the first woman to be ordained as

a rabbi in the Jewish state.

Kelman, who was in New York teaching Torah to a group of New Israel Fund supporters, now works as the director of the department of education for the Israeli Progressive Movement, a counterpart to North America's Reform movement.

The Jerusalem municipal body has been inactive since she and Ehud Bandel, a Conservative rabbi, were nominated to the local policy body by the left-wing Meretz Party.

The local religious councils, which control the municipal funding for religious causes, including synagogues, ritual baths and kashrut, have historically been composed of only Orthodox members.

When non-Orthodox rabbis

were nominated several years ago, the councils in several cities, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, stopped working in order to avoid including them.

A ruling from the High Court about 18 months ago said the Reform and Conservative representatives had to be seated on the councils. That ruling has been ignored, which led the court to take up the matter again.

Jerusalem's chief rabbi, Yitzhak Kolitz, said it was "inconceivable" that persons who did not abide by halachah, or traditional Jewish law, could become part of a body whose task was to provide services based on that system.

(JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

Chicago Jewish Community Mourns Cardinal Bernardin

by Abigail Pickus
JUF News

CHICAGO (JTA) — The day before Cardinal Joseph Bernardin was laid to rest recently, leaders of the Chicago Jewish community bid him a final farewell.

A Jewish memorial tribute was held on Nov. 19 at the Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago where the archbishop's body lay in state.

Bernardin, who led Chicago's Roman Catholics for the past 14 years, was 68 years old when he died.

Bernardin's initiative led partnerships between the Catholic archdiocese and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, the Chicago Board of Rabbis, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies and the American Jewish Committee.

As a result of this interfaith relationship, a Catholic-Jewish Scholar's Dialogue, a center for the Study of Eastern European Jewry and educational program to teach Catholic school children about Judaism all began during Bernardin's tenure.

It was the culmination of the exchange that brought Bernardin to Israel in March 1995 as a leader of a local Jewish-Catholic delegation made up of representatives from the archdiocese and collaborating Jewish organizations.

The Jewish participants in the Israel trip paid homage to Bernardin at the memorial tribute.

"Cardinal Bernardin's brotherly embrace has led to a new era in Jewish-Catholic relations. We must never forget that this tribute would have been impossible only 14 years ago. We have bridged the chasm and begun a new journey," said Rabbi Peter Knobel, past president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis.

Chicago's Jews and Catholics intend to continue their partnership.

"Our sadness gives way to the determination not to let this work cease. We need to work harder than we ever have before because only then will we truly live a memorial to our brother, Joseph," said Rabbi Herman Schaalman, past president of the Council of Religious Leaders.

"Cardinal Bernardin's brotherly embrace has led to a new era in Jewish-Catholic relations. We must never forget that this tribute would have been impossible only 14 years ago."

Rabbi Peter Knobel

Soon after his appointment as archbishop in 1982, Bernardin pledged to promote Catholic-Jewish relations, telling the Chicago Jewish community, "I come to you as your brother, Joseph."

"It was then that he set the tone for a relationship which the Chicago Jewish community has treasured," Michael Kotzin, the director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, told a cathedral filled with Catholics and Jews.

Chuck Buerger Dies at 58

by Michael Davis
Baltimore Jewish Times

BALTIMORE (JTA) — Charles "Chuck" Buerger, a publishing iconoclast who built a mom-and-pop community newspaper in Baltimore into a North American Jewish publishing chain, has died.

He was 58 years old.

At the time of his death, Buerger oversaw operations for six Jewish weeklies across North America as well as three glossy lifestyle magazines.

Buerger almost completely rebuilt the seven-paper newspaper empire that his grandfather, David Alter, amassed earlier in the century. Only two of the Alter papers survived the Depression, including the *Baltimore Jewish Times*, which was founded in 1919.

In family hands continuously since the post-World War I days, the paper came into full flower after Buerger arrived on the scene in 1972 and immediately began to shake established norms for the Jewish press.

Starting with Gary Rosenblatt's appointment as editor of the *Baltimore Jewish Times* in 1974, the duo began to experiment with the idea that a Jewish weekly could be an engaging magazine, filled with news from home and abroad, without shirking its essential role of providing prosaic community news.

Over a period of about two

decades, Buerger and Rosenblatt established what became a weekly institution in this tight-knit Jewish community of 90,000.

They, joined by others, would go on to acquire and overhaul existing Jewish community papers in Detroit and Atlanta in the 1980s, before Rosenblatt left in 1993 to become publisher and editor of *New York Jewish Week*.

In the 1990s, Buerger, who would become president of Waterspout Communications, a holding company, created two weeklies in South Florida and took over management of the *Western Jewish Bulletin* in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Buerger always employed a simple business strategy: Spend money to make money. Reinvestment in staff and resources resulted in steady circulation and advertising growth. During the economic boom of the 1980s, the Baltimore and Detroit papers routinely published 200 pages-plus each week.

"Chuck certainly put people and product above profit," said Gary Press, publisher of the two South Florida weeklies, in West Palm Beach and Boca Raton-Delray Beach. "Recently, Chuck told me he was the least bottom-line-oriented guy I would ever work with. Maybe that's why everything he touched became so successful."

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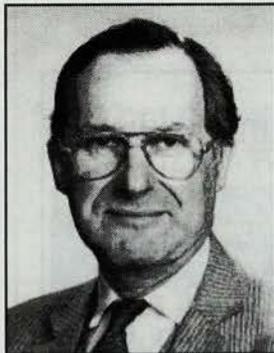
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Bouncing His Way to The Olympics

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

He flies through the air with the greatest of ease... all right, it's not exactly flying... and it is more difficult than he makes it look, but when David Popkin bounces up and down on the trampoline, he seems to defy gravity.

Popkin was in Providence last weekend with the Skyriders Big Air Show, a trampoline troupe which put on demonstrations at the Rhode Island Ski and Travel Show.

While trampoline is a fun recreational activity, it also happens to be a sport — and Popkin is one of the best in the country.

A member of the United States National Trampoline Team, Popkin hopes that his sport will be included in the Olympics in the year 2000 — something that has been under serious consideration.

Popkin's interest in trampoline developed from his experience in gymnastics.

"I started in gymnastics when I was 6 years old," said Popkin. "When I was 10 or 12, I made a decision to either stay with gymnastics or switch to the trampoline. I found the trampoline to be more fun; it was easier to do

flips and twists."

Trampoline was not only fun for Popkin, but the skills he developed came in useful. He was recruited by several colleges to join their diving programs.

"My family was always very supportive, but there was a question of how practical it would be," said Popkin. "As it turned out, trampoline opened a lot of doors for me."

Popkin ended up going to Columbia University (which doesn't offer athletic scholarships). In the two years he competed on the diving team, he ranked in the top 10 in the Ivy League. However, after his second season, he quit the team.

"I felt like it wasn't for me," said Popkin.

The New Jersey native will graduate from Columbia in December, with a degree in economics and philosophy.

Because he's a full-time student, he's only able to practice trampoline a couple of days a week. When training for a competition, he practices six days a week.

"It's difficult to balance real life with a tough training schedule," said Popkin.

In Popkin's sport, there are

very few Jewish athletes and many of the meets take place in parts of the country that are predominantly Christian.

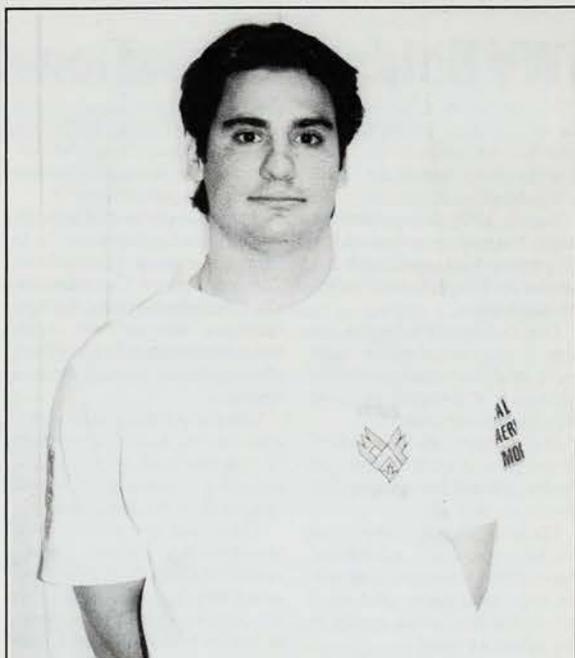
"I've been to competitions in Texas or southern Alabama where they say, 'May Jesus give us power for this meet,'" said Popkin. "It makes me feel uncomfortable."

Popkin, who comes from a kosher home, recently had a chance to "return" to his Jewish roots. At his grandmother's synagogue, the cantor, who had been there a long time and was very popular, didn't get along with the new rabbi. Several congregants, and the cantor, decided to leave the temple and start a shul of their own. Popkin lent his time and support to the effort. The experience brought back memories.

"I was young when my grandfather died," said Popkin. "It was nice to go back and talk to people who knew him."

Popkin has seen the significance of religious freedom in his coach, who is a Russian immigrant.

"He's a practicing Jew, but in Russia he wasn't allowed religious freedom," stated Popkin.



DAVID POPKIN hopes to represent the United States in the sport of trampoline in the 2000 Olympics.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

After he graduates, Popkin would like to open a trampoline school. He also will concentrate on his goal of competing in the

Olympics.

"I'm planning like the sport of trampoline will be included in the Olympics," said Popkin.

'Today I am a Mensch!'

What do you give the woman who has everything, for her 50th birthday? Upper West Sider Susan Ballenzweig decided that she wanted to be bat mitzvah for her birthday.

On Nov. 23, 200 of Ballenzweig's family and friends attended her bat mitzvah ceremonies at the West End Synagogue (a Reconstructionist congregation), followed by a kiddush luncheon and a trip, en masse, to the Off-Broadway interactive comedy, "Grandma Sylvia's Funeral."

"I knew my husband, Howard, would give me anything I wanted for my birthday," said the mother of teen-age girls Rachel, 17 and Ruth, 13. "I surprised him, but when my daughter Ruth was preparing for her bat mitzvah last June, I realized I'd always regretted not having my own. When I was 13, it just wasn't common. I am very active as a volunteer at the temple, and

last year I was honored for my services. I gave a speech about my commitment to Judaism, and this crystallized my desire to take this spiritual journey."

The Reconstructionist movement, founded by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, is credited with being the first to allow a woman to be called to the bima to read from the Torah. In 1922, Kaplan's eldest of four daughters, Judith (subsequently well-known teacher of Jewish music), became the first bat mitzvah.

Rabbi Avi Winokur, the West End Synagogue's leader, and Cantor Nancy Abramson, conducted Ballenzweig's bat mitzvah services on Nov. 23, at 10 a.m.

"My first challenge was to sing in public, which I've never done before," Ballenzweig reported. "My next challenge was to find a place to hold my party that would be totally unexpected and unconventional."

When Ballenzweig read an article about Mary Wilson of The Supremes joining the cast of "Grandma Sylvia's Funeral" for six weeks, this past summer, she said she came up with the idea of buying out the house of the hit show as a perfect way to cap

off her celebration.

She realized that some of the show's themes coincided with the d'var Torah portion she would be reading that day which tells of Jacob's disputes with his father-in-law. "I liked reading about how the show was experimenting with a non-traditional casting idea, putting a black actress in the role of a Jewish yenta, and all the challenges this raised. When I read that I quoted my daughters and said 'Cool.'"

Ballenzweig decided to keep her friends and family in the dark about where they were going after the kiddush luncheon which will feature a six-member klezmer band, The West End Klezmerim.

After lunch she loaded everyone on two buses and transported them to the SoHo Playhouse, 15 Vandam St., for a special 3:45 p.m. command performance of "Grandma Sylvia's Funeral," which has been celebrating its own second anniversary and coming of age as a theatrical institution this month.

Grandma's usual kosher mitzvah meal, consisting of bagels, cream cheese, lox spread, tuna fish and white fish salad, vegetables and dip, dessert and a beverage, was changed to Mitzvah Dessert Buffet.

If you would like to attend "Grandma Sylvia's Funeral" with or without 200 friends, call the box office at (212) 691-1555.



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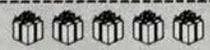
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